



# PARKS AND TRAILS STRATEGY



## ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

### CONTENTS

1 Introduction .....	2
1.1 Purpose and Key Goals .....	2
1.2 Survey Participation.....	2
1.3 First Nations Consultation .....	3
1.4 Publicity and Outreach .....	3
2 Results .....	5
3 Next Steps .....	14

### APPENDICES

- A – Online Survey 2 Report
- B – Engagement Materials

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PURPOSE AND KEY GOALS

Building upon the success of the Round 1 engagement, the Round 2 engagement objectives included:

- Present a summary on ‘what we heard’ from Round 1;
- Share how the feedback influenced the creation of the draft vision and goals and provide a range of materials for people to review and understand the draft plan;
- Seek feedback on the draft vision, goals and actions for the Parks and Trails Strategy through an online survey;
- Understand what may be missing from the vision, goals, and actions.

## 1.2 SURVEY PARTICIPATION

### ONLINE SURVEY

The second online survey was open for 4 weeks (April 4-April 28, 2022) and asked for feedback on the draft vision, goals and actions.

The Get Involved software documented 472 visits to the survey however, only 175 registered and submitted survey responses.\*

*\*People must be registered with Get Involved to complete an online survey.*

### WHO WE HEARD FROM

The online survey required respondents to indicate their postal code as a way of gauging responses across the RDN. Postal codes from Nanaimo, Gabriola and Parksville were most frequently indicated, followed by Nanoose and Qualicum area postal codes.

It is important to note that the question did not specifically ask, which electoral area the respondents live in, therefore some Nanaimo or Parksville area postal codes could be from Area C or Area G. Similarly, 6 of the “Outside RDN” respondents’ postal codes indicate Ladysmith, which could include those in Area A.

Postal Codes indicated by Survey 2 respondents:

Outside RDN	Bowser	Errington/ Coombs	Gabriola	Lantzville	Nanaimo	Nanoose	Parksville	Qualicum
12	2	4	42	3	44	23	28	17

The survey asked for the age range of household residents, not specific age. 55% of survey respondents are from households with seniors, above age 65, followed by households with residents 50-64 age range (40%). Approximately 12% of respondents indicated having children 14 years or younger in their homes, and 4% indicated having youth aged 15-19 at home.

Approximately 7% of respondents completed the survey on behalf of a stewardship or local organization. The organizations listed are: Mid Island Climbers Association, Vancouver Island Trail Association, Corcan Meadowood Residents Association, Yellow Point Ecological Society, GaLTT (Gabriola Land and Trails Trust) and GORCA (Gabriola Off Road Cycling Association), Save Estuary Land Society, Mid-Island ATV Club.

In addition, GaLTT provided a written summary of comments further to the online survey.

### 1.3 FIRST NATIONS CONSULTATION

Letters were sent to the Snuneymuxw (SFN), Snaw-Naw-As, Qualicum First Nations and Mid Island Metis Nation to provide an update on the project and welcome their contribution and perspective on the draft plan.

Parks staff also attended the March 29<sup>th</sup> SFN/RDN staff to staff monthly meeting where staff provided an overview of the draft goals and actions and requested their feedback.

### 1.4 PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH

The second round of public engagement made use of the following avenues to advertise and reach residents:

#### PROJECT WEBPAGE

The RDN Get Involved platform was used as the landing page for the project, including sharing information on the project timeline, background documents and access to the online survey.

Email notifications to RDN Get Involved subscribers were sent to notify residents and solicit survey participation.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

The project was advertised on the RDN social media platforms of Facebook and Instagram stories. One or two weekly posts invited residents to review the draft material and complete the online survey. The summary of Facebook engagement is below (no analytics are available for the Instagram stories):

- Week 1: **Post 1** - April 4 FB: Post reach 3122, post engagement 208, 31 likes, 37 (look at) comments, 35 link clicks, 21 shares, 71 other
- Week 2: **Post 1** - April 12 FB: 72 post reach, 9 engaged, 8 likes, 1 other Twitter: 256 impressions, 9 engagements, 7 link clicks, 1 retweet, 1 comment – retweeted 205 impressions, 2 engagements, 2 link clicks
- Post 2** - April 18 FB: 64 post reach, 54 engaged, 7 likes, 3 link clicks, 38 other; Twitter 294 impressions, 11 engagements, 1 detail expands, 8 link clicks, 1 retweet, 1 like
- Week 3: **Post 1** - April 23 FB: 727 post reach, 21 engaged, 6 likes, 1 love, 4 link clicks, 3 shares, 5 other; Twitter 317 impressions, 13 engagements, 4 detail expands, 7 link clicks, 1 retweet, 1 like
- Week 4: **Post 1** - April 27 FB: 580 post reach, 11 engaged, 4 likes, 4 link clicks, 3 other

**Post 2** - April 28 FB: 662 reached, 25 engaged, 6 likes, 6 clicks on link and 2 shares. 2 negative clicks (Hide); Twitter: 228 impressions, 11 engagements, 4 detail expands, 5 link clicks, 2 retweets

### **EMAIL NOTICES TO STAKEHOLDERS**

The same stakeholder list that was developed during the first round of engagement was used to notify stakeholders that the project had resumed and feedback on the draft was being sought. In addition, POSAC members and Electoral Area Directors were sent email notices and invitations to participate in the online survey.

### **POSTERS & PRINT ADVERTISEMENTS**

Lawn signs were placed at both regional and community parks and trail heads (70) around the Regional District and at community and recreation centers. An additional 70 posters were also put up in the RDN's 54 conventional buses and at some bus shelters over the last 2 weeks in April.

A news release was sent out on April 4 and newspaper ads were placed in the local papers over a period of 3 weeks.

- RDN monthly newspaper ad: Gabriola Sounder, Nanaimo News, PQB News (April 6)
- Standalone newspaper ad: Gabriola Sounder, Nanaimo News, PQB News (April 13 & 20)

An ad was also placed in the District 69 Active Living Guide.

### **VIDEOS & SUMMARY PACKAGE**

To ensure people had multiple ways to ingest and understand the draft material, Video Shorts and a full-length compiled video were created to help communicate the draft vision and goals.

A Summary PDF package was also created to offer a brief format for reviewing the full content presented in Chapter 5 of the Draft strategy.

### **OTHER OUTREACH**

Parks staff also made in-person appearances at community events to speak directly to residents and encourage survey participation.

Gabriola Island - Friday, March 22

- Ferry line-ups
- Madrona Marketplace
- Earth Day Celebration at The Commons

Englishman River Regional Park - Saturday, March 23

- Science in the Park event

Benson Creek Falls Regional Park - Saturday, March 23

- Doumont Trail Clean-Up, Nanaimo Mountain Bike Club

## 2 RESULTS

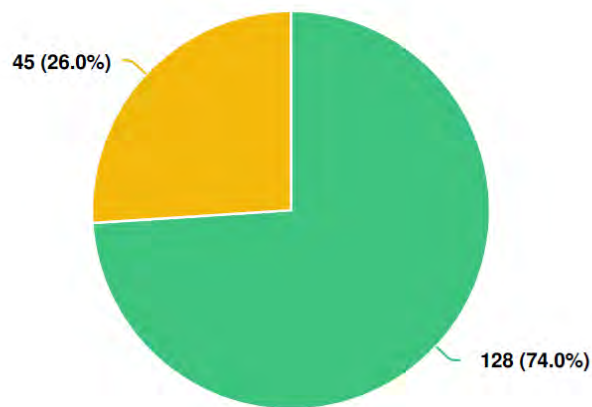
The following sections describe the key results from the online survey. The full survey results are included at the end of this summary in the Appendix.

### KEY FINDINGS FROM THE ROUND 2 ONLINE SURVEY:

#### Vision:

Three-quarters (74%) of respondents felt the Vision is complete.

#### Q1 In your opinion, is this vision complete?



#### Question options

● Yes

● No, please explain:

*SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT*

Of the 26% that felt it is not complete, the following were the most frequently noted reasons, listed in order:

- It should speak more directly to land, wildlife and environmental protection.
- It should speak more directly to conservation and restoration, specifically in relation to climate change mitigation.
- It should acknowledge and include First Nations.

Other comments noted it does not include outdoor recreation, active transportation or equitable access to parks and trails across the RDN.

### General Support for the 7 Goals:

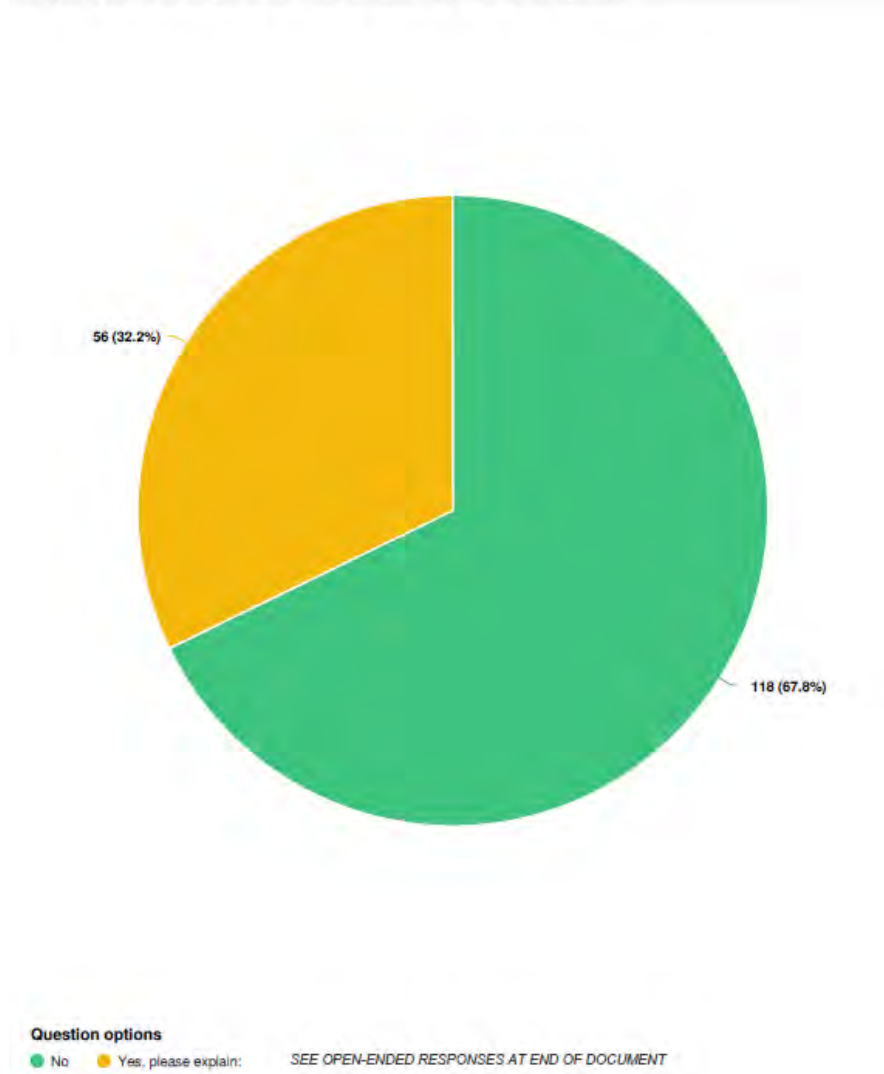
All seven goals are generally well supported by survey respondents, with over 90% of respondents selecting support, strongly support or neutral for each goal.

When asked if anything is missing from the goals, approximately 1/3 (32%) of respondents said yes and offered general comments on what is missing, unclear or of high importance in the goals.

The most frequently noted general comments regarding the seven draft goals fall under the following themes:

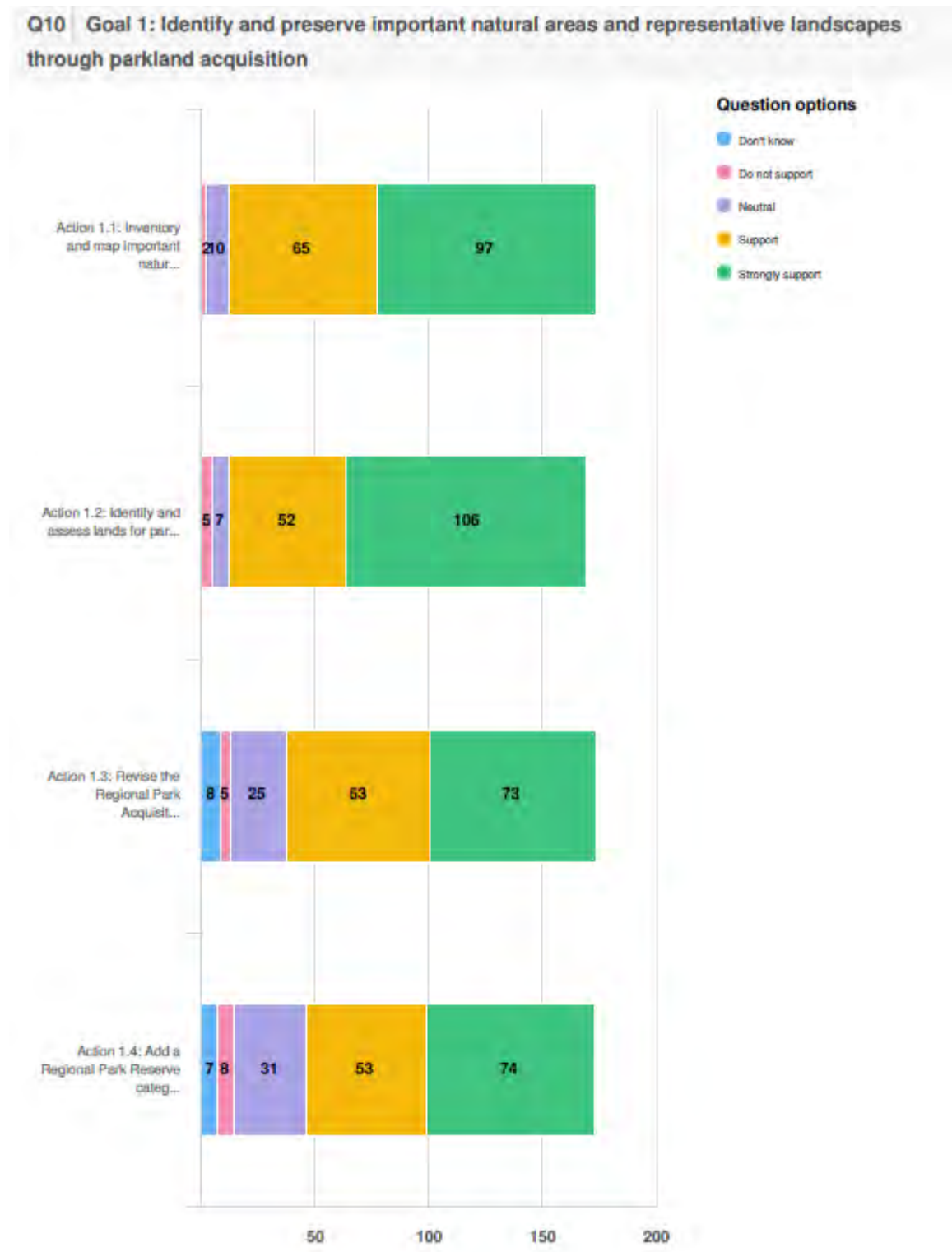
- Preserving parkland and acquisition considerations.
- Providing a diversity of recreational opportunities for a wide variety of park users (e.g. equestrians, ATVs, dogs, kayakers, rock climbers, trail runners, hikers, mountain bikers).
- Acting on First Nations consultation and representation in parks.
- Making use of local knowledge, resources, volunteers.
- Multi-jurisdictional trail linkages and active transportation planning.

Q9 Do you think anything is missing specific to the seven goals?



Survey participants were asked to provide feedback on the draft actions related to each goal.

**Goal 1 – Actions:**

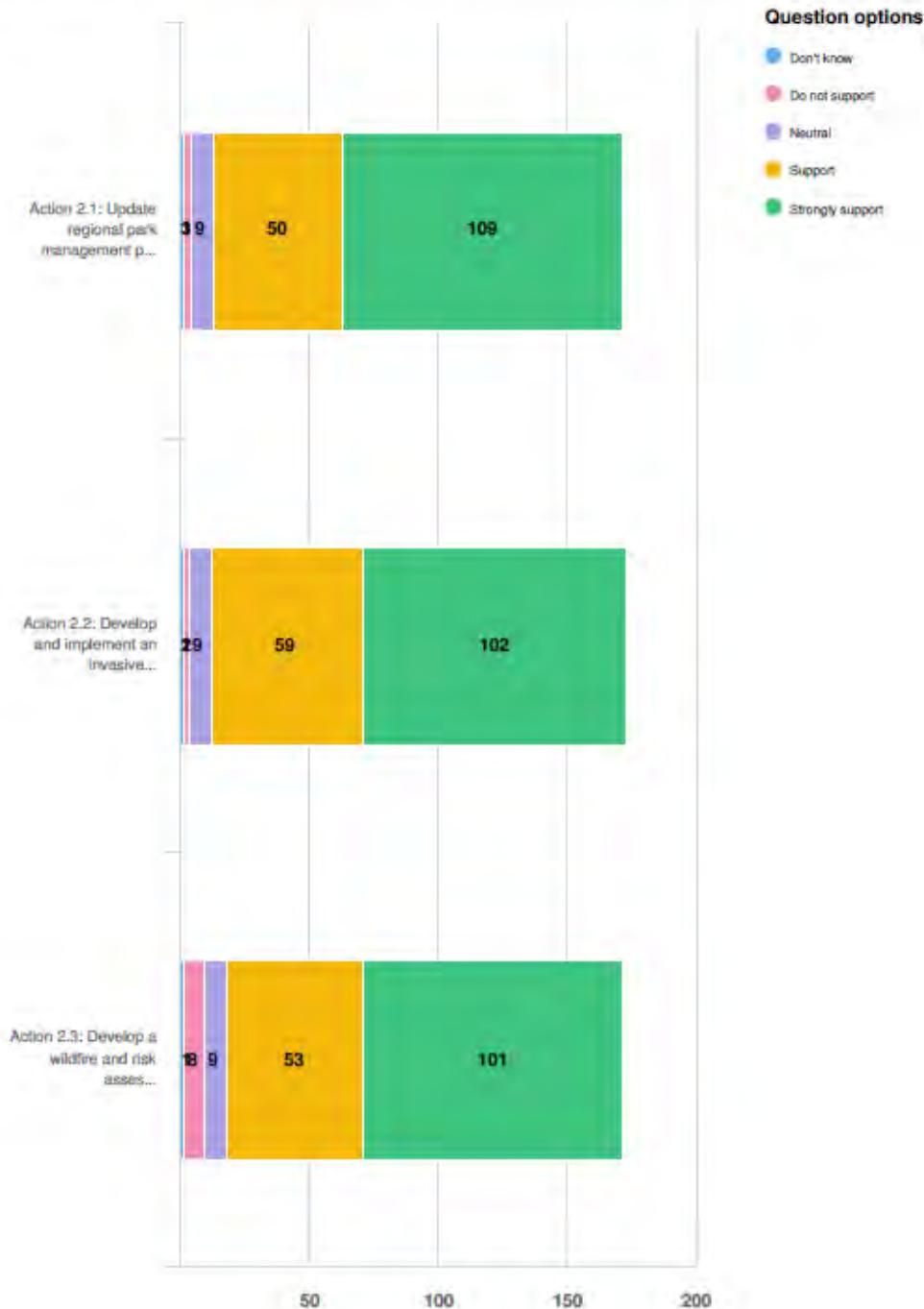


Approximately 16% of respondents offered comments specific to the actions under Goal 1. The most frequently noted comments regarding the actions under Goal 1 fall under the following themes:

- Ensure a coordinated approach across jurisdictions (with Province, municipalities, etc.).
- Landscape representation and protection of conservation lands, not only parklands.
- Clarity on the "Reserve" category.
- Include recreational opportunities, not just natural areas.
- Include funding aspects.

**Goal 2 – Actions:**

**Q12 Goal 2: Protect and enhance important natural parkland areas through management and restoration**



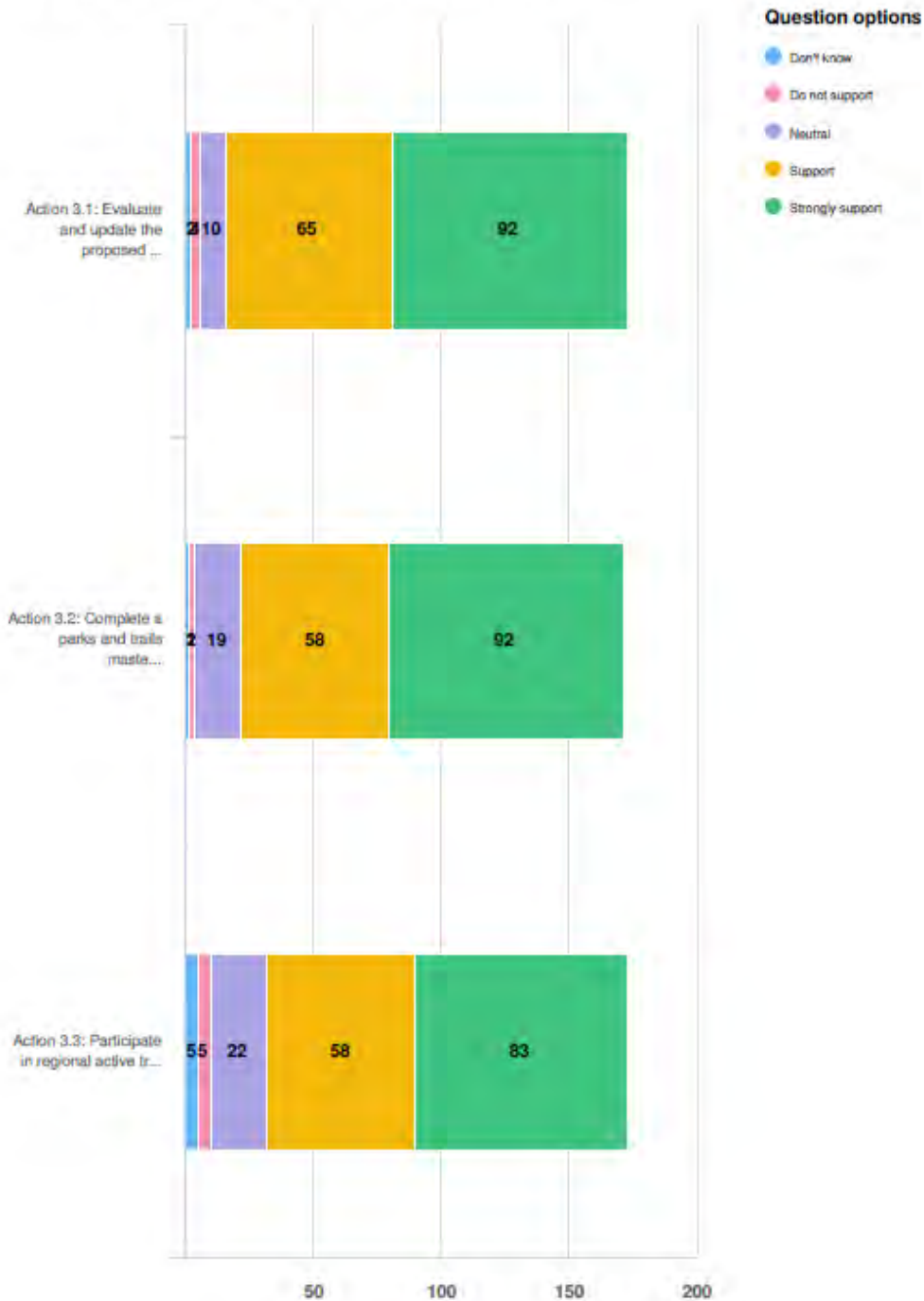


Approximately 17% of respondents offered comments specific to the actions under Goal 2. The most frequently noted comments regarding the actions under Goal 2 fall under the following themes:

- More clarity around fire risk and management.
- Invasive species management considerations.
- Need for an implementation plan.

**Goal 3 – Actions:**

**Q14 Goal 3: Enhance and develop trail connections**

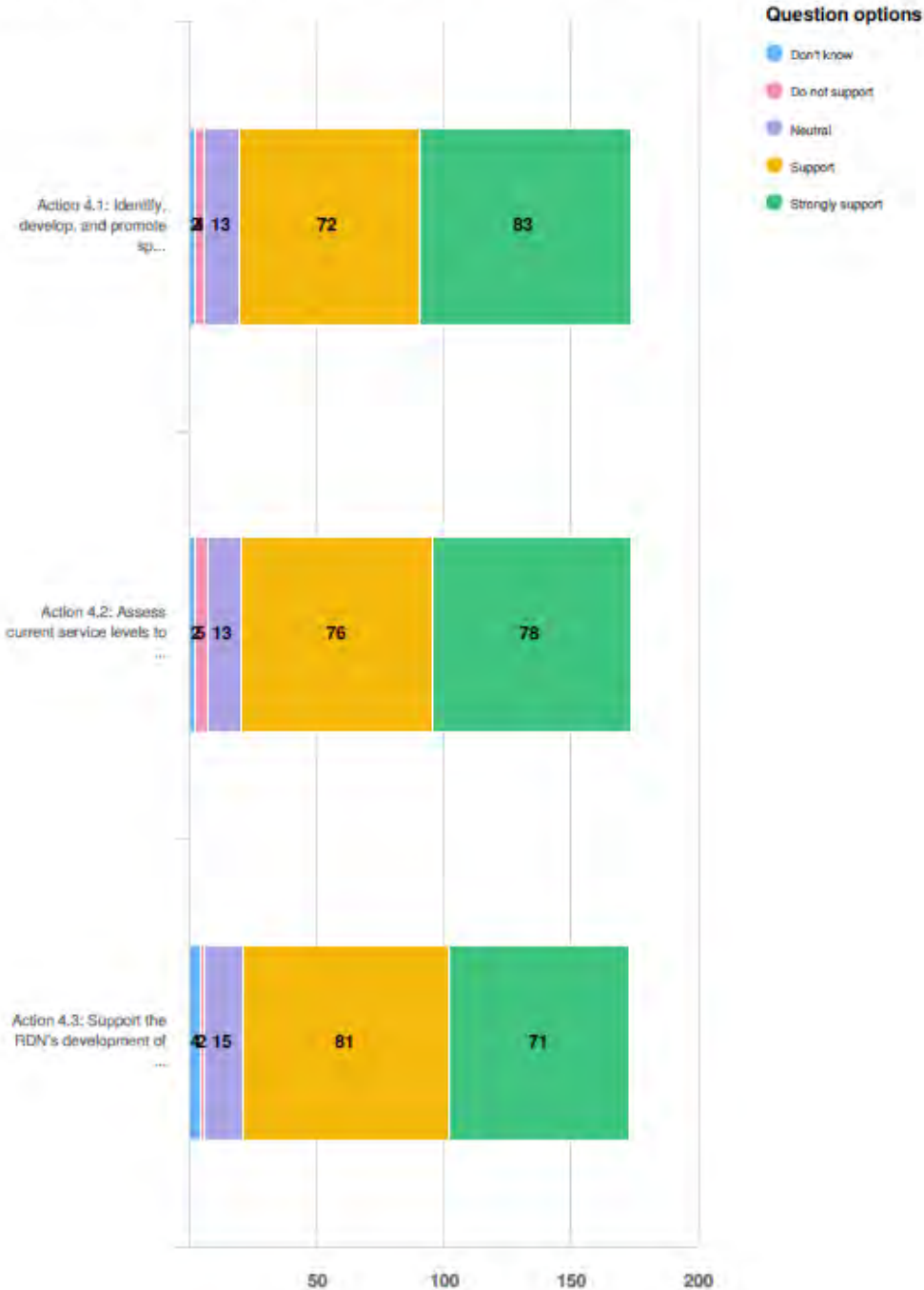


Approximately 21% of respondents offered comments specific to the actions under Goal 3. The most frequently noted comments regarding the actions under Goal 3 fall under the following themes:

- The importance of regional trail linkages, across jurisdictions and with local partnerships.
- Offer trails for accessibility as well as user-specific trails.
- Active transportation considerations.
- Explore Rail to Trail potential.

**Goal 4 – Actions:**

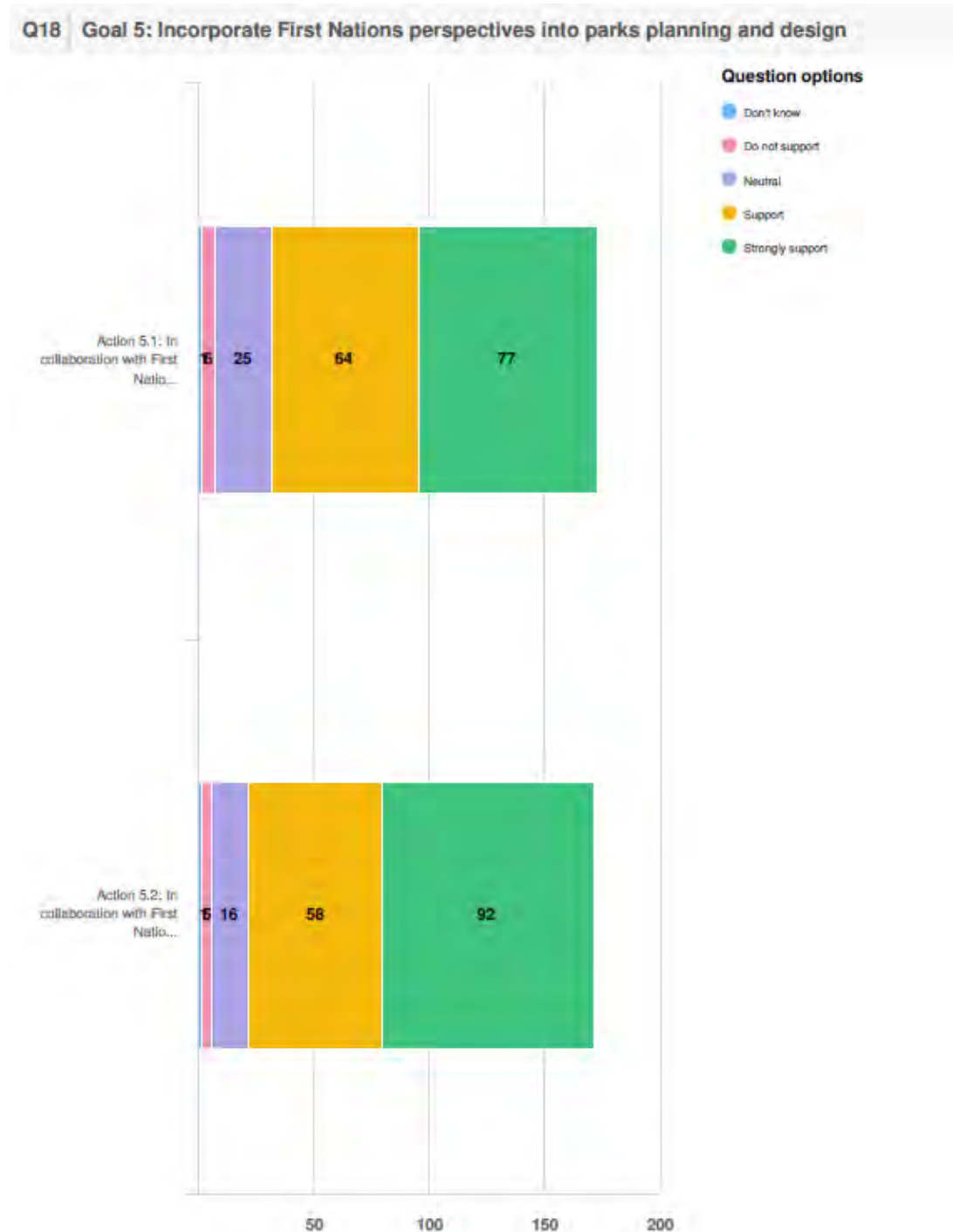
**Q16 Goal 4: Provide parks and trails with well-maintained and diverse amenities**



Approximately 14% of respondents offered comments specific to the actions under Goal 4. The most frequently noted comments regarding the actions under Goal 4 fall under the following themes:

- Need to balance access for all with rustic natural parks, as well as user-specific parks and trails.
- Focus on maintaining existing parks and trails well and clarifying levels of maintenance needed.
- Matching funding and services with community needs.

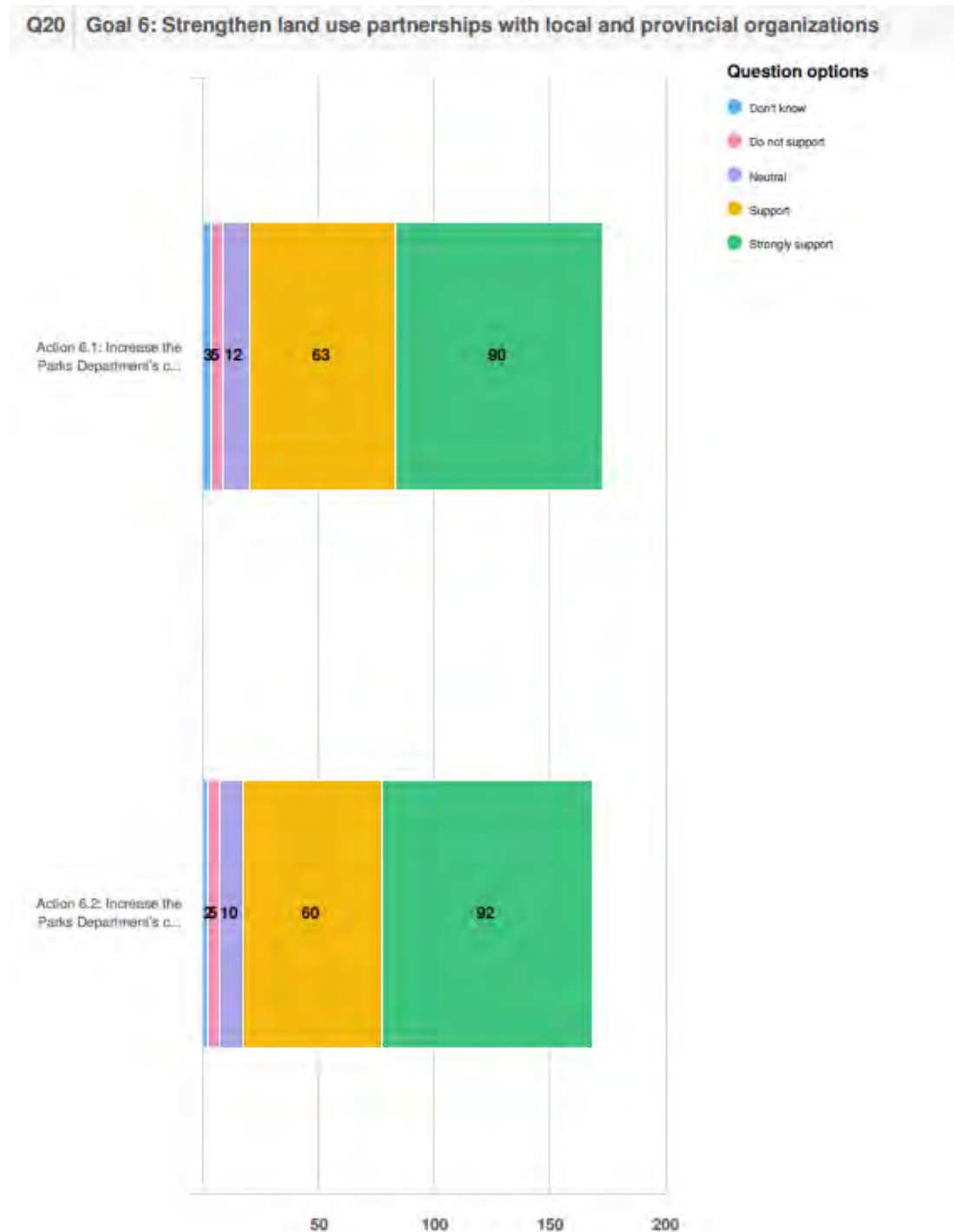
**Goal 5 – Actions:**



Approximately 18% of respondents offered comments specific to the actions under Goal 5. The most frequently noted comments regarding the actions under Goal 5 fall under the following themes:

- This goal is foundational and requires upfront and ongoing communication.
- Collaborate on natural areas protection in general.
- Interest in cultural interpretive centres or educational opportunities in parks.

**Goal 6 – Actions:**

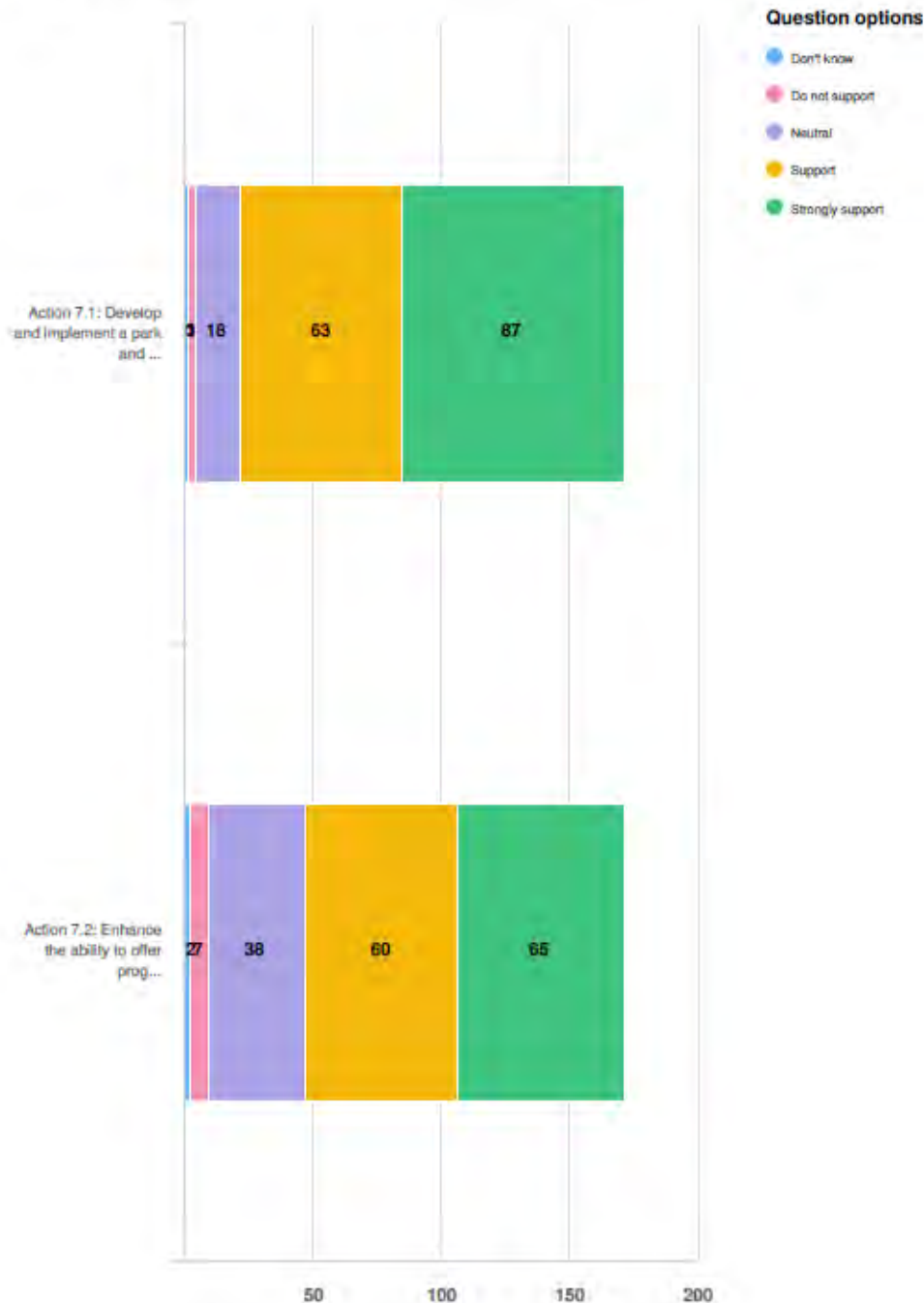


Approximately 12% of respondents offered comments specific to the actions under Goal 6. The most frequently noted comments regarding the actions under Goal 6 fall under the following themes:

- Partnerships should focus on environmental protection and land acquisition.
- Clarify what "increase the Parks Department's capacity" means.
- Foster local partnerships with people in the specific communities.

**Goal 7 – Actions:**

**Q22 Goal 7: Increase volunteering and learning opportunities within the parks and trails system**



Approximately 13% of respondents offered comments specific to the actions under Goal 7. The most frequently noted comments regarding the actions under Goal 7 fall under the following themes:

- Ensure clear, well-organized information is available to groups.
- Ensure new park infrastructure for programs is low cost and sustainable.

### **Additional General Comments:**

Over 60 additional general comments on the draft Parks and Trails Strategy content were provided by survey respondents. The comments fall under the following main topics, listed in order of decreasing frequency. The number of comments attributed to each topic is indicated in brackets.

- Keep up great work (9)
- Access to more parks (9)
- Trail related comments (9)
- Ensure natural parks are protected (8)
- Park maintenance focus (7)
- Activity-specific park and trail acquisition, design, maintenance (6)
- Multi-jurisdictional approach important (6)
- Active transportation (5)
- Volunteer Interest (4)
- User safety and education (3)

## **3 NEXT STEPS**

1. Revise draft vision, goals and actions to clarify and reflect input received.
2. Prepare the implementation plan that assigns a general cost and timeframe to delivering the actions outlined.
3. Present the Parks and Trails Strategy to the sub-committee on July 27, 2022, for feedback.
4. Incorporate this feedback into the final plan which will be presented to the Regional Parks and Trails Committee on September 7, 2022.
5. Refer the Parks and Trails Strategy to the Regional Board for approval and adoption.

**RDN PARKS**  
*naturally*  
PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

# PARKS AND TRAILS STRATEGY



## ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

### APPENDIX A - Online Survey 2 Report

# #2 - RDN Parks and Trails Strategy: Draft Vision, Goals and Actions

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## SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

02 April 2022 - 01 May 2022

### PROJECT NAME:

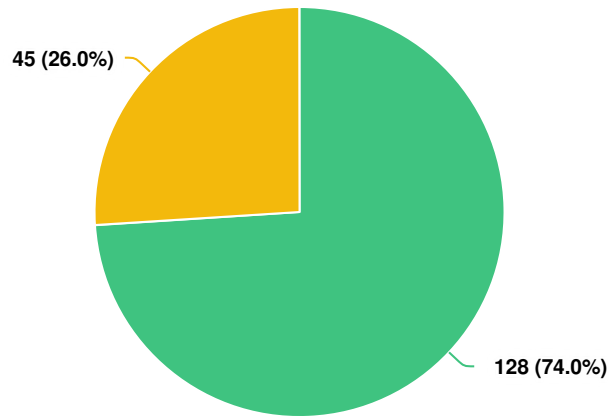
RDN Parks & Trails Strategy





SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q1** In your opinion, is this vision complete?

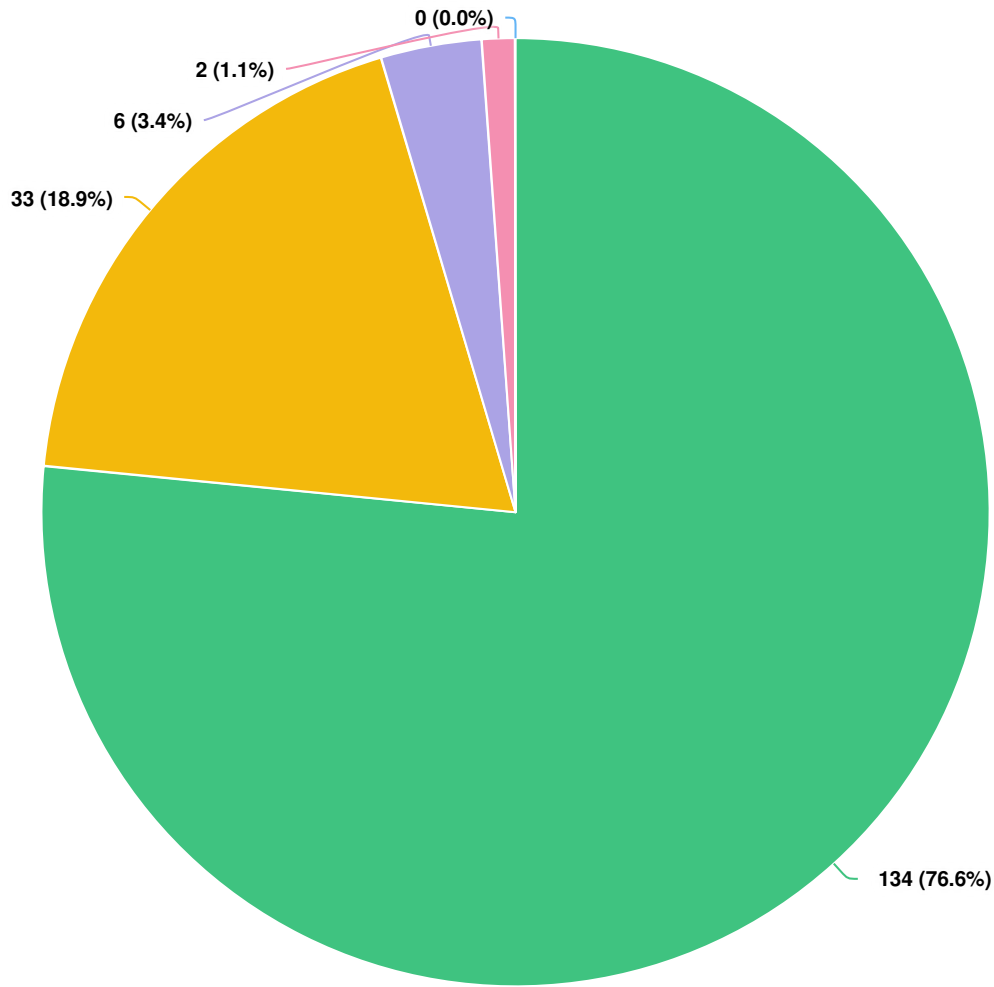


**Question options**

- Yes
- No, please explain: *SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT*

*Optional question (170 response(s), 5 skipped)*  
*Question type: Radio Button Question*

**Q2 | Goal 1: Identify and preserve important natural areas and representative landscapes through parkland acquisition (view video)**

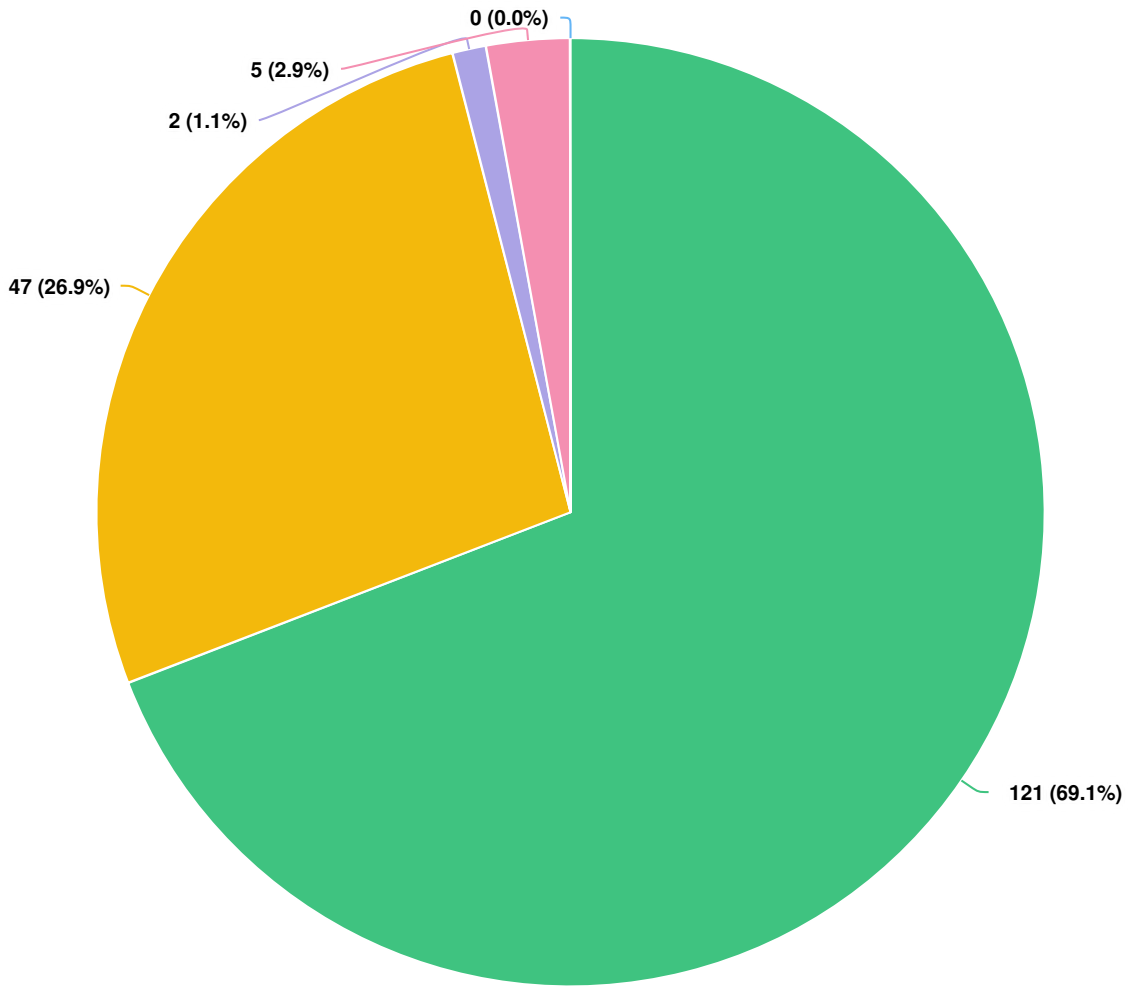


**Question options**

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Don't know

Optional question (172 response(s), 3 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q3** | Goal 2: Protect and enhance important natural parkland areas through management and restoration (view video)

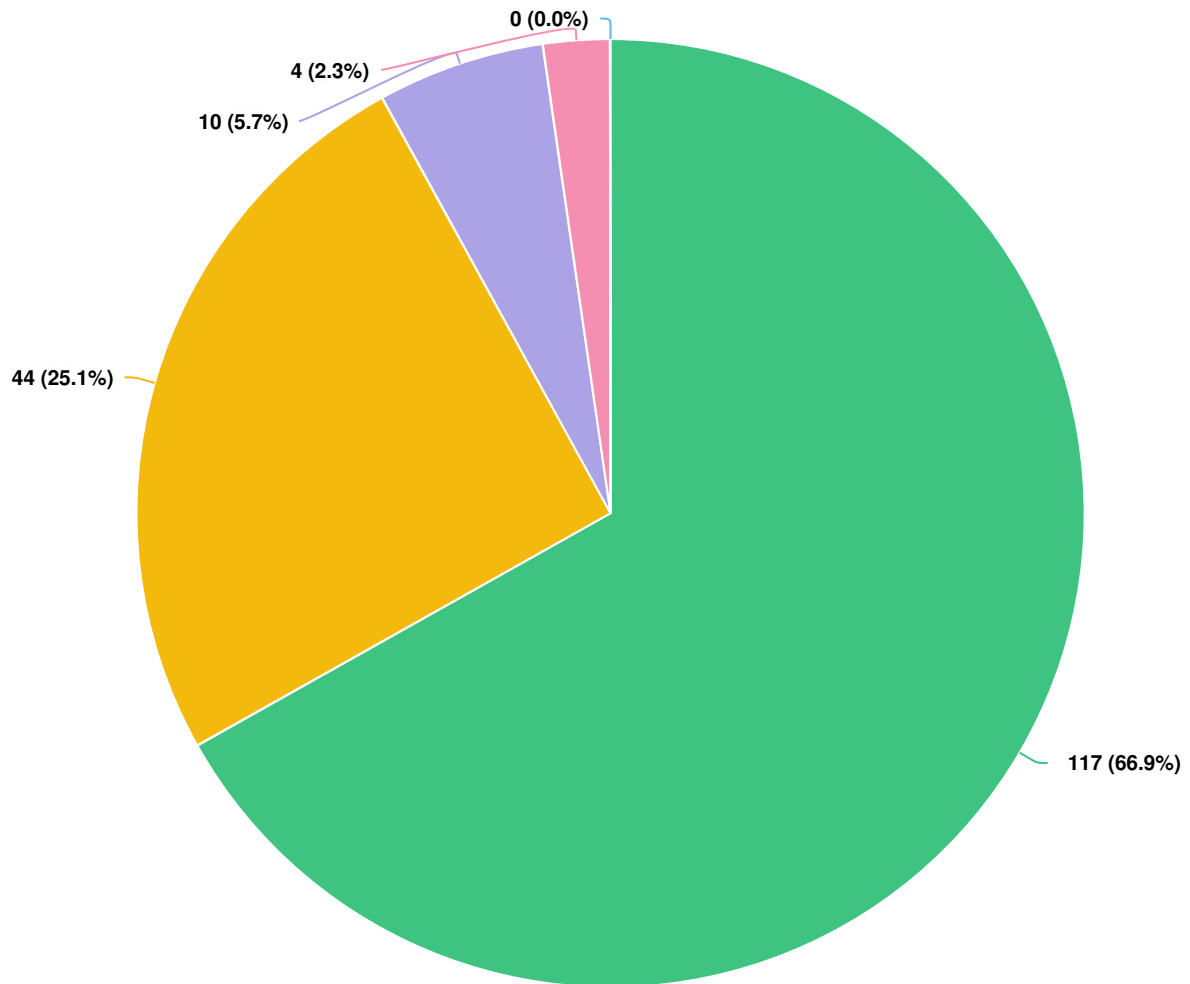


**Question options**

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Don't know

Optional question (172 response(s), 3 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q4** Goal 3: Enhance and develop trail connections (view video)

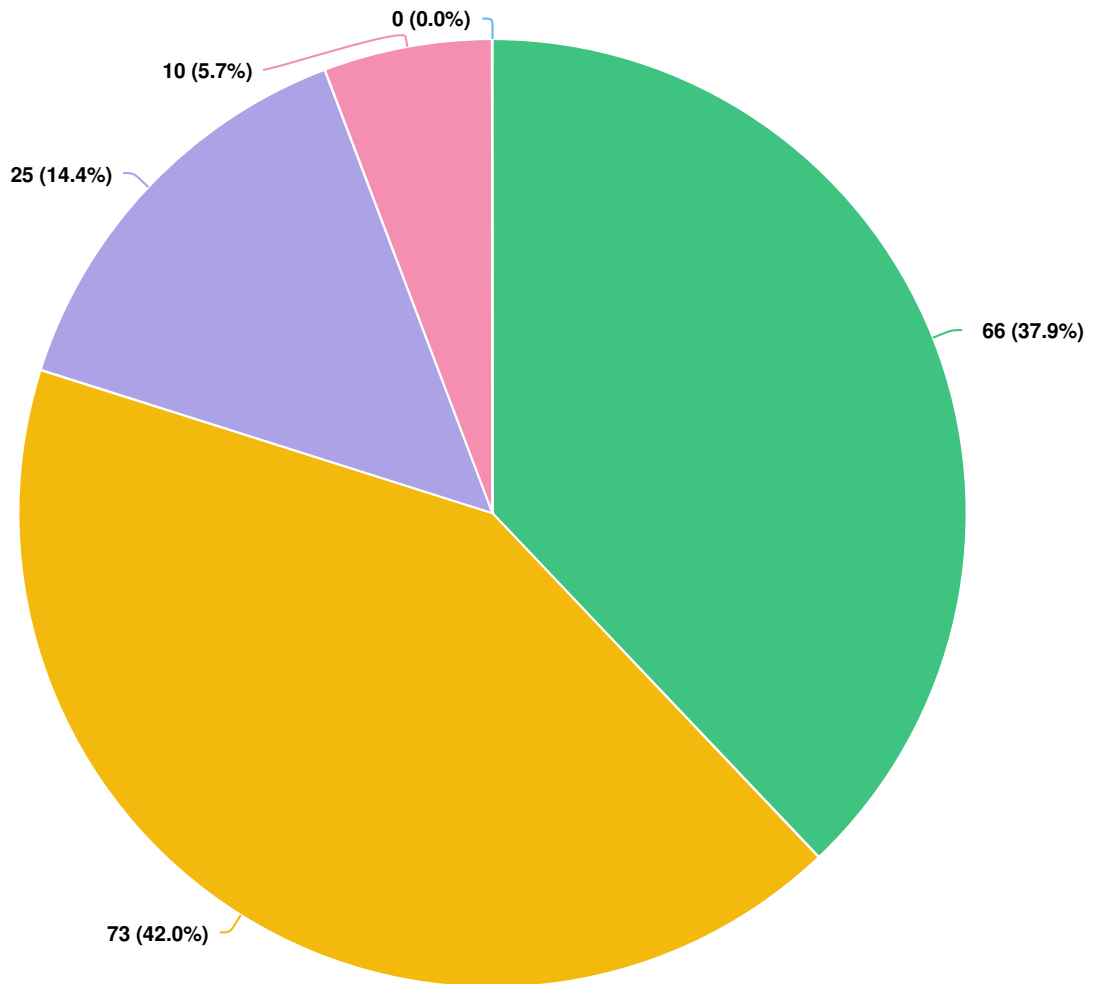


**Question options**

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Don't know

Optional question (172 response(s), 3 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q5** | **Goal 4: Provide parks and trails with well-maintained and diverse amenities (view video)**

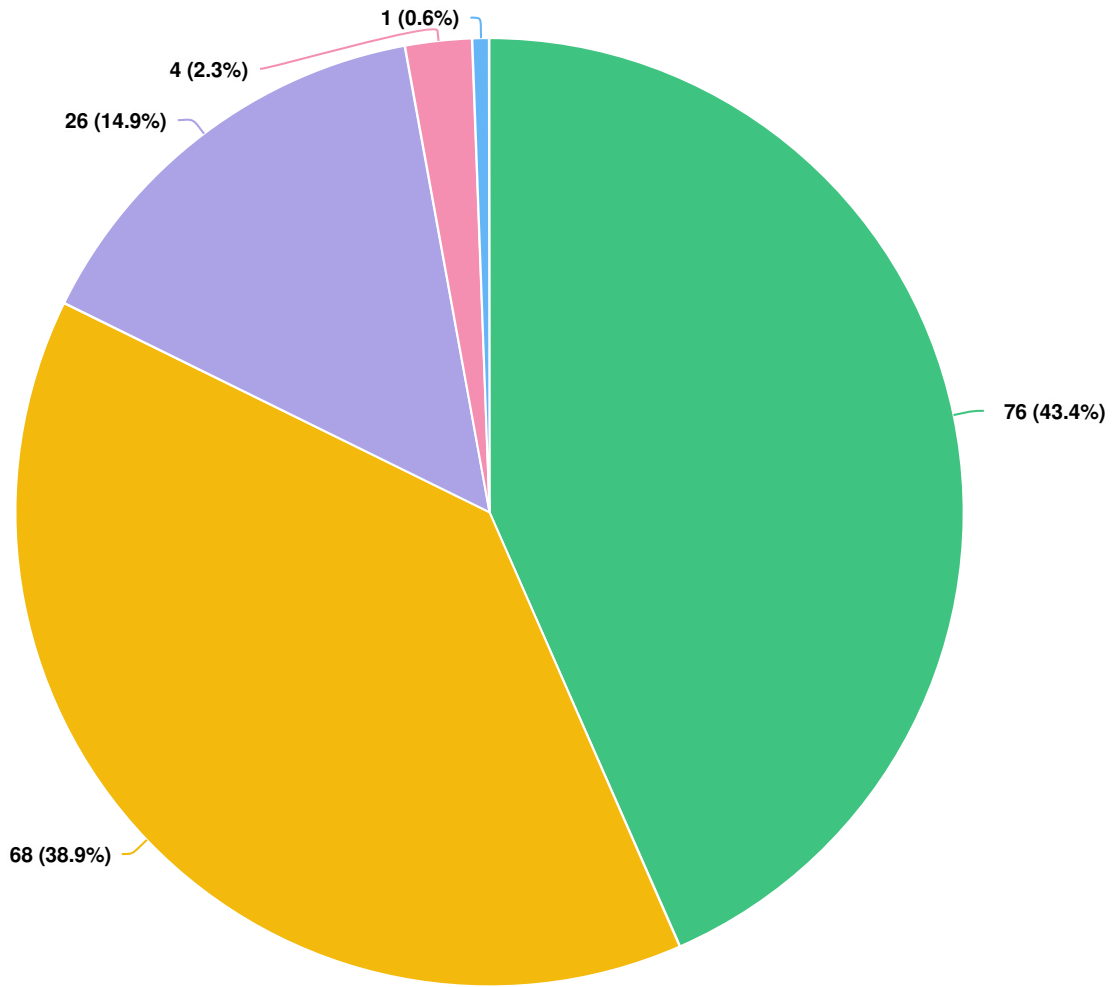


**Question options**

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Don't know

Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q6** | Goal 5: Incorporate First Nations perspectives into parks planning and design (view video)

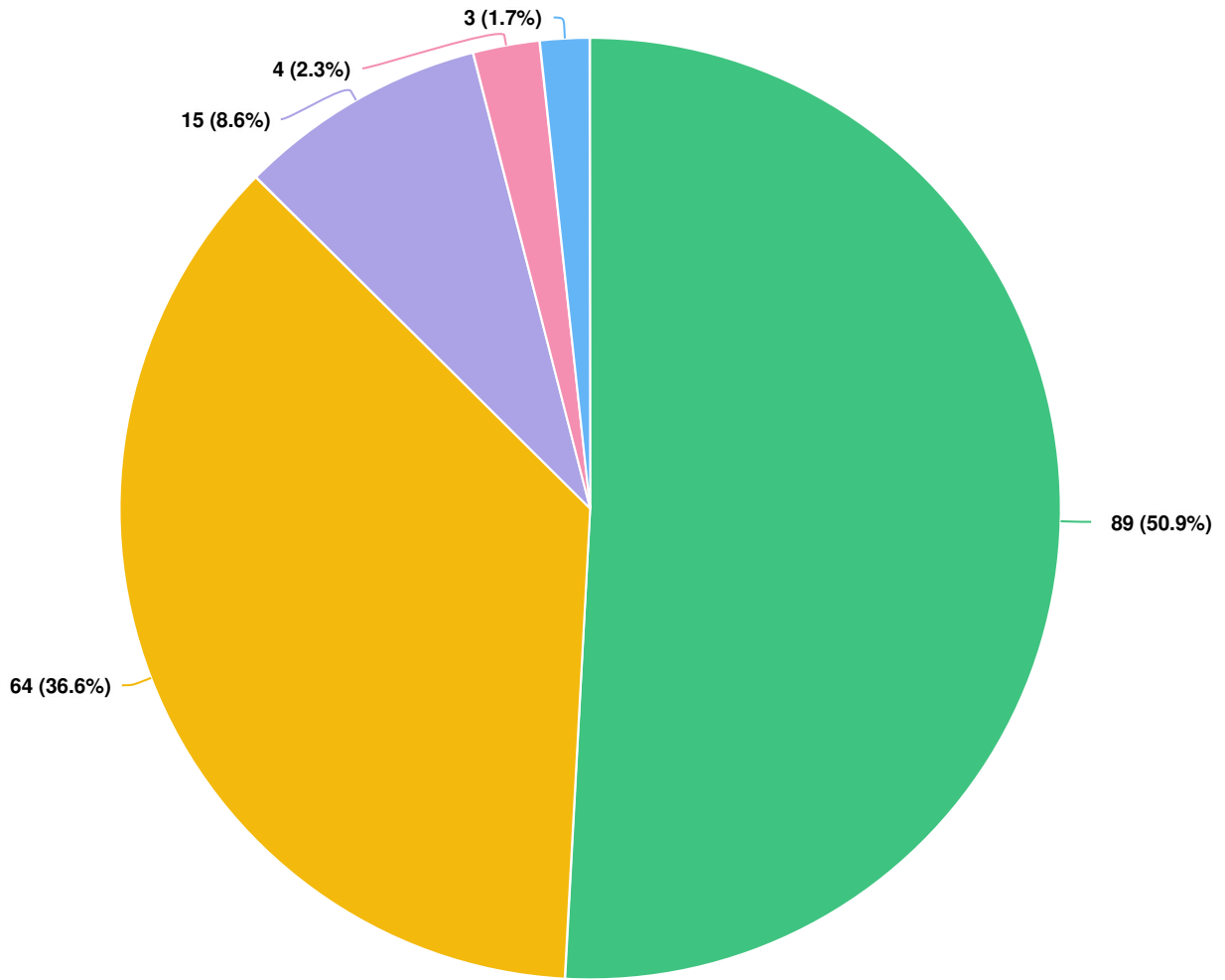


**Question options**

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Don't know

Optional question (172 response(s), 3 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q7 | Goal 6: Strengthen land use partnerships with local and provincial organizations (view video)**



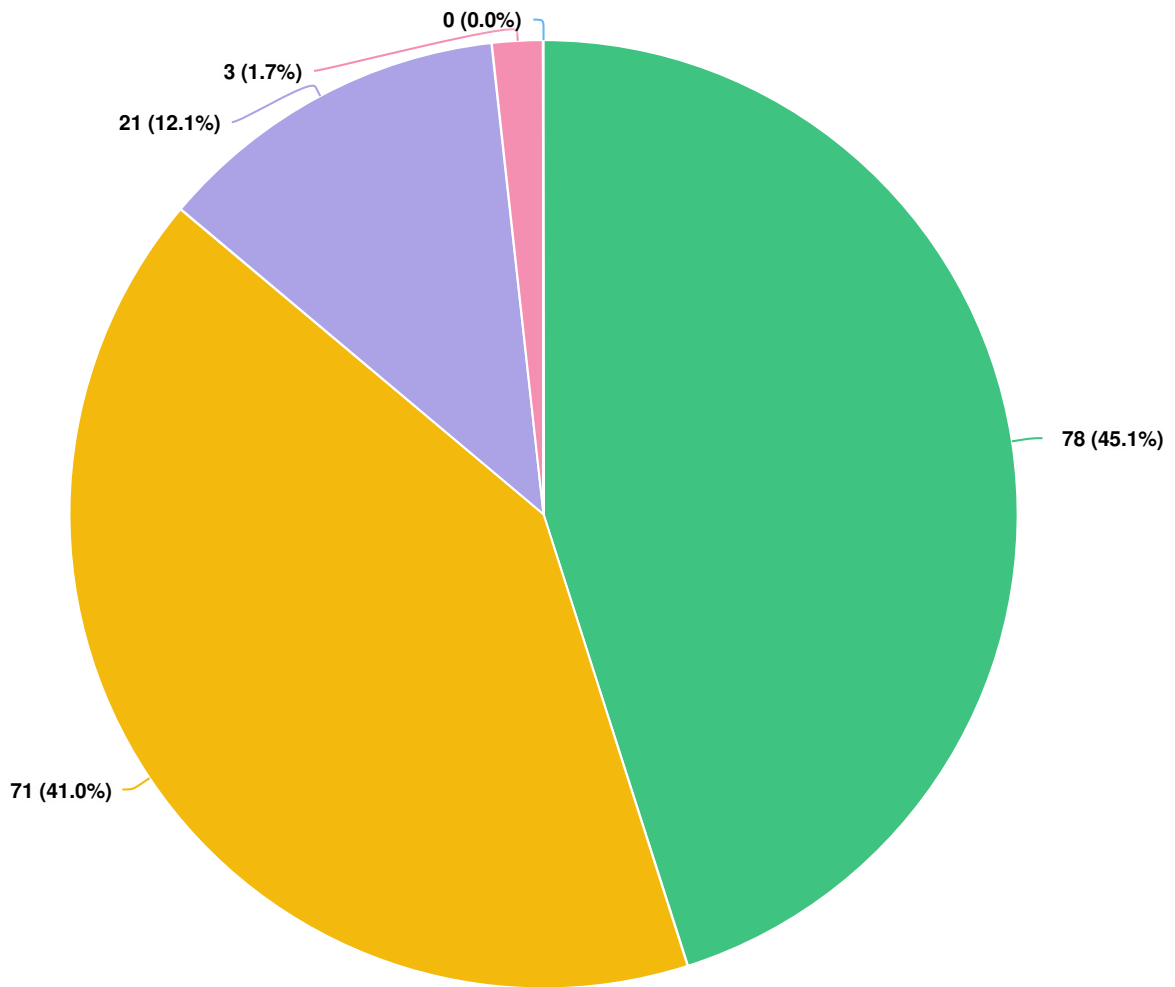
**Question options**

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Don't know

Optional question (172 response(s), 3 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question



**Q8** | Goal 7: Increase volunteering and learning opportunities within the parks and trails system (view video)

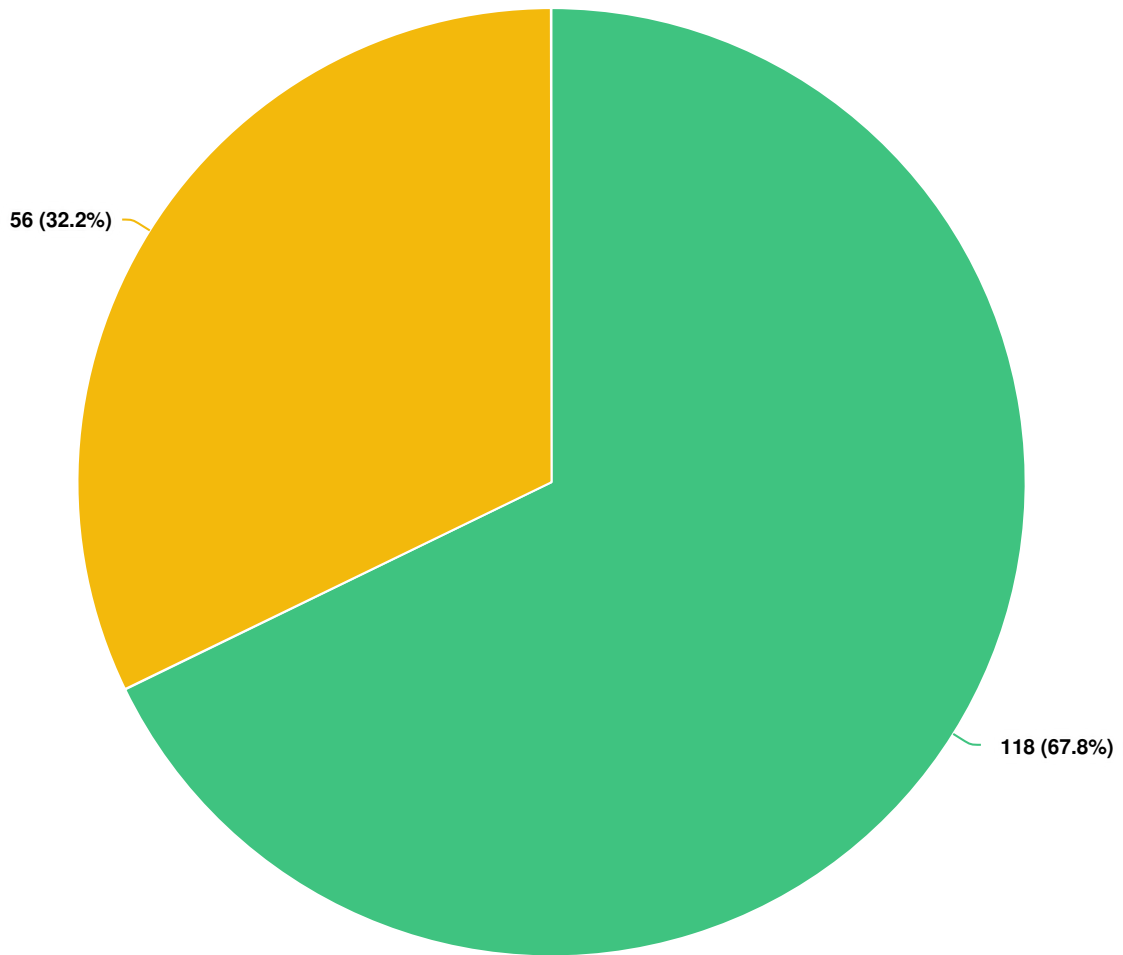


**Question options**

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Do not support
- Don't know

Optional question (170 response(s), 5 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q9** Do you think anything is missing specific to the seven goals?



**Question options**

- No
- Yes, please explain: *SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT*

*Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question*

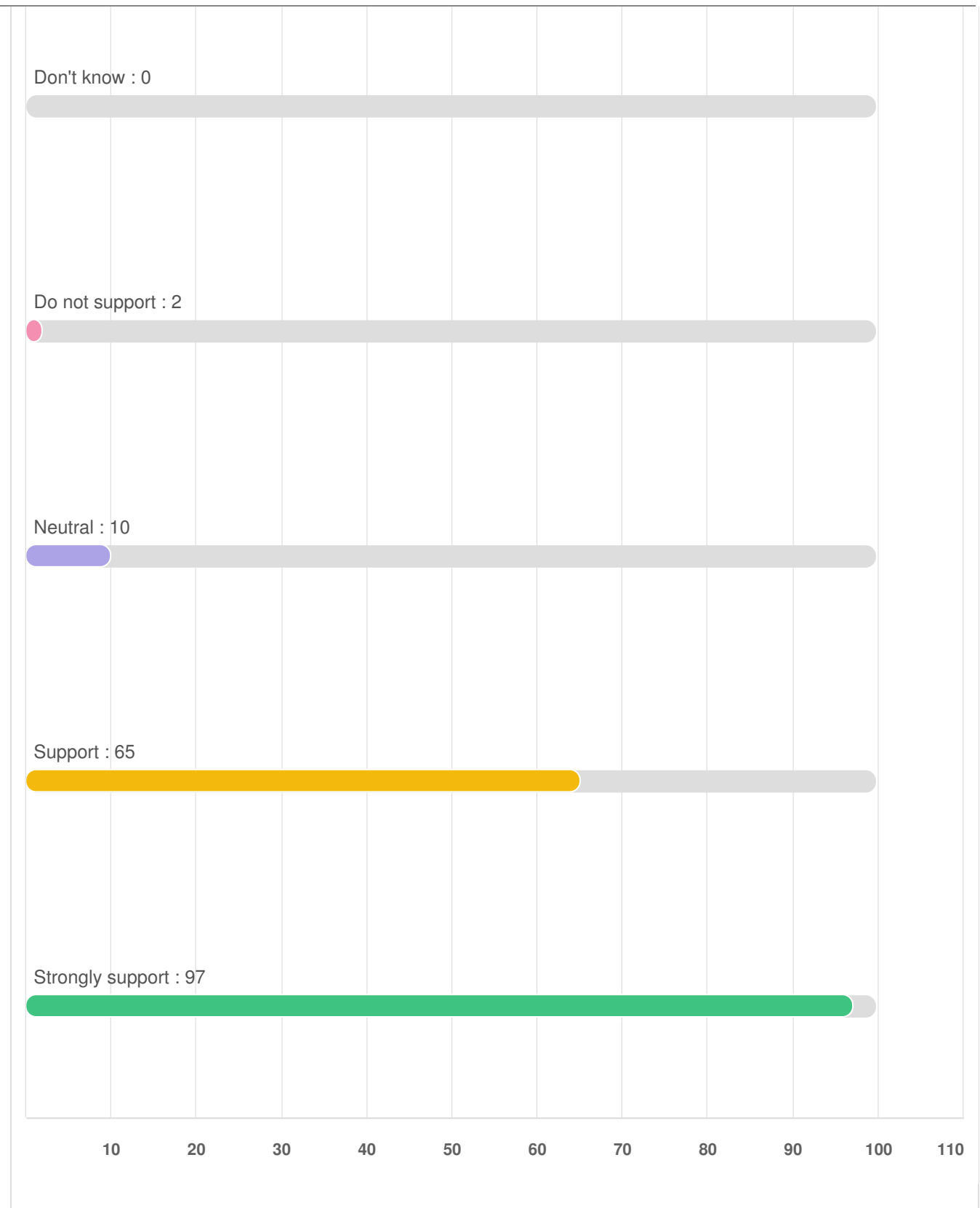
**Q10 | Goal 1: Identify and preserve important natural areas and representative landscapes through parkland acquisition**



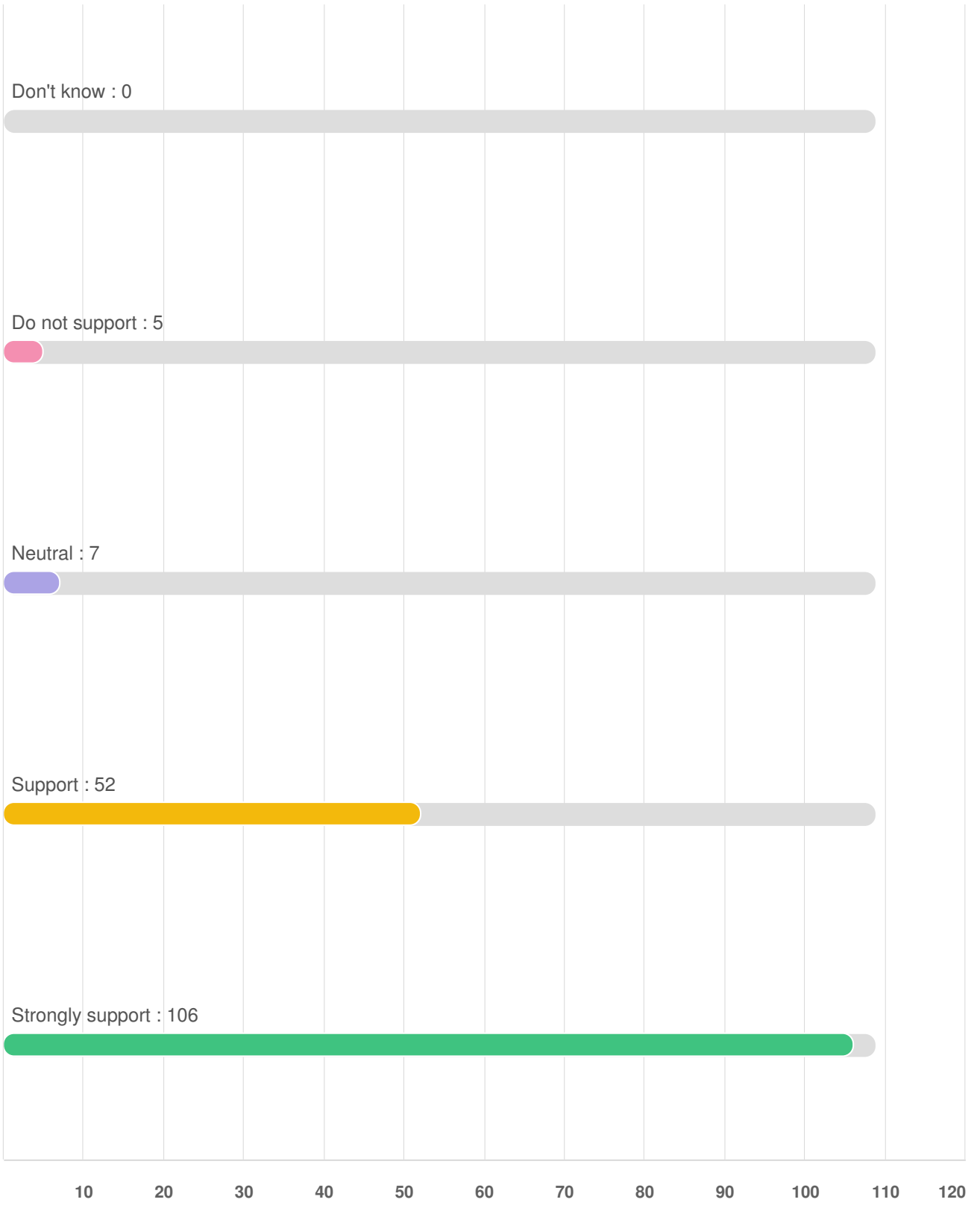
Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
 Question type: Likert Question

**Q10 | Goal 1: Identify and preserve important natural areas and representative landscapes through parkland acquisition**

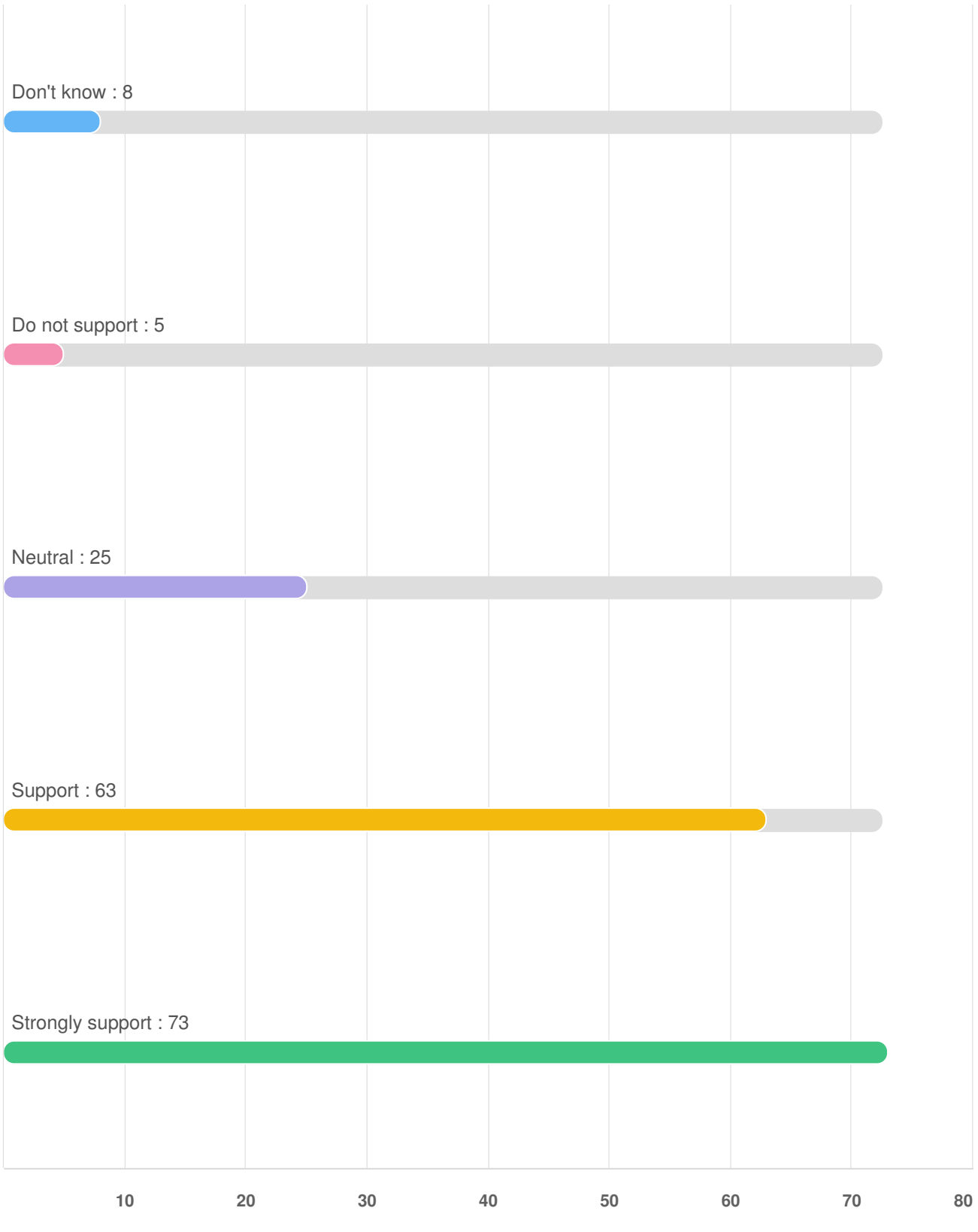
**Action 1.1: Inventory and map important natural areas within the Regional District of Nanaimo and assess how existing parks contribute to natural areas preservation.**



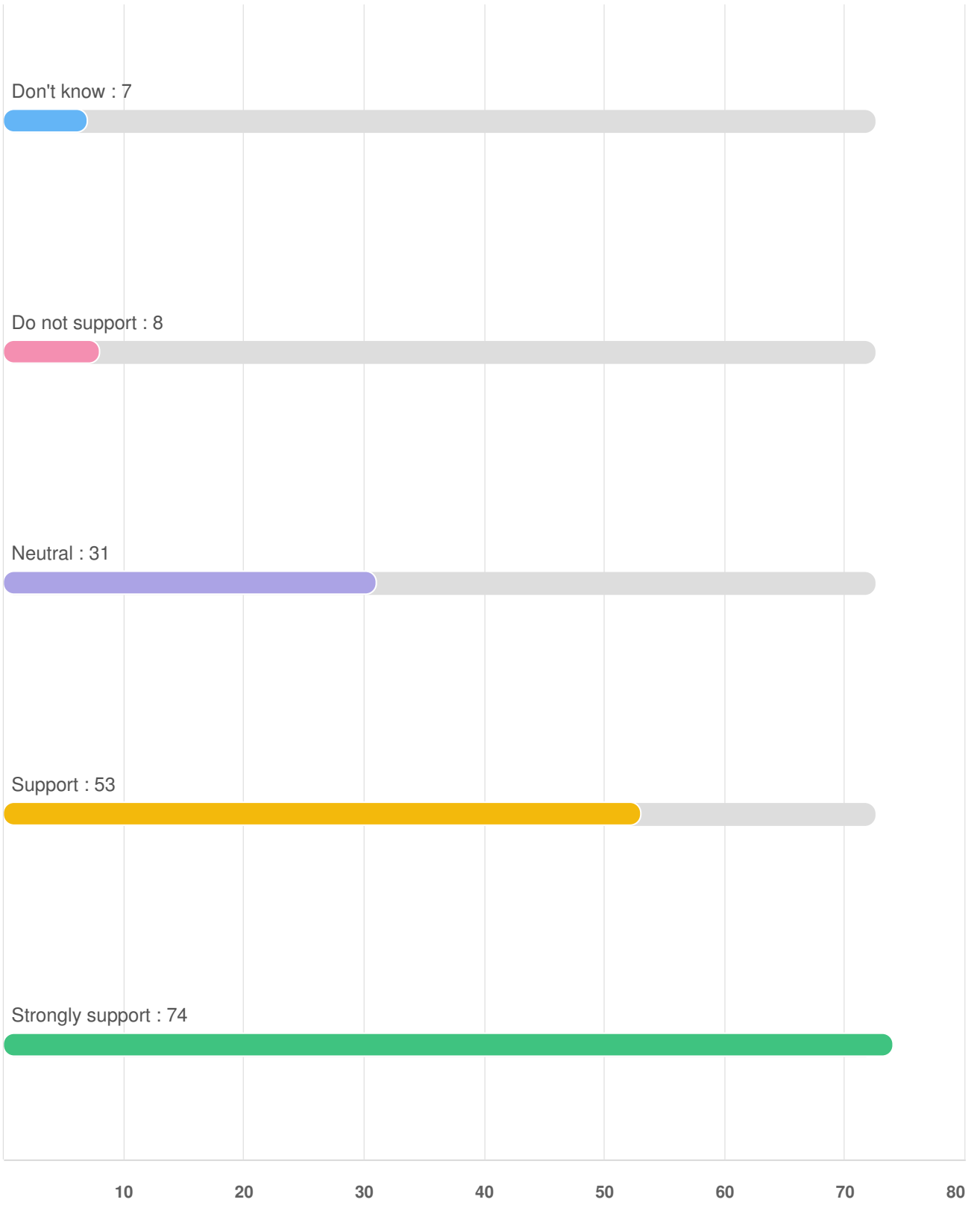
**Action 1.2: Identify and assess lands for parkland acquisition that contribute to enhanced biodiversity in the region.**



**Action 1.3: Revise the Regional Park Acquisition Criteria and Rating Framework to better guide strategic regional parkland acquisition.**

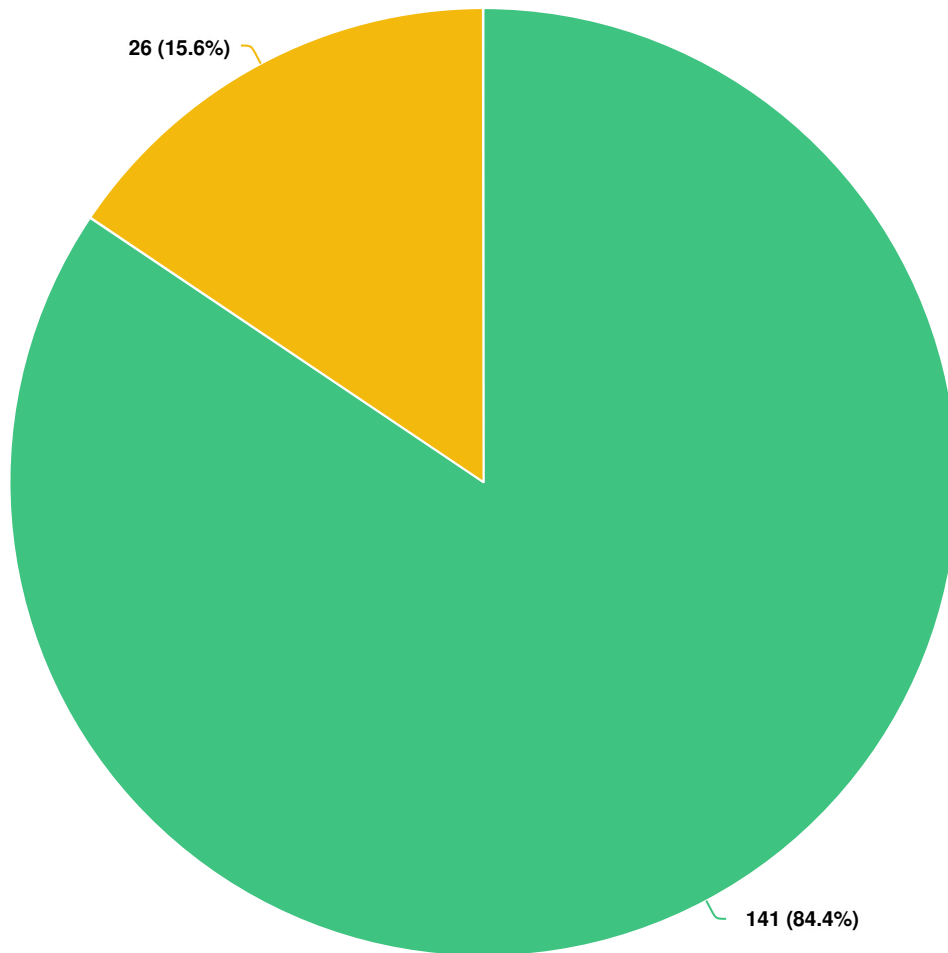


**Action 1.4: Add a Regional Park Reserve category to the regional park classification system.**





**Q11 | Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 1?**



**Question options**

- Yes, please explain:     No    *SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT*

*Optional question (164 response(s), 11 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question*

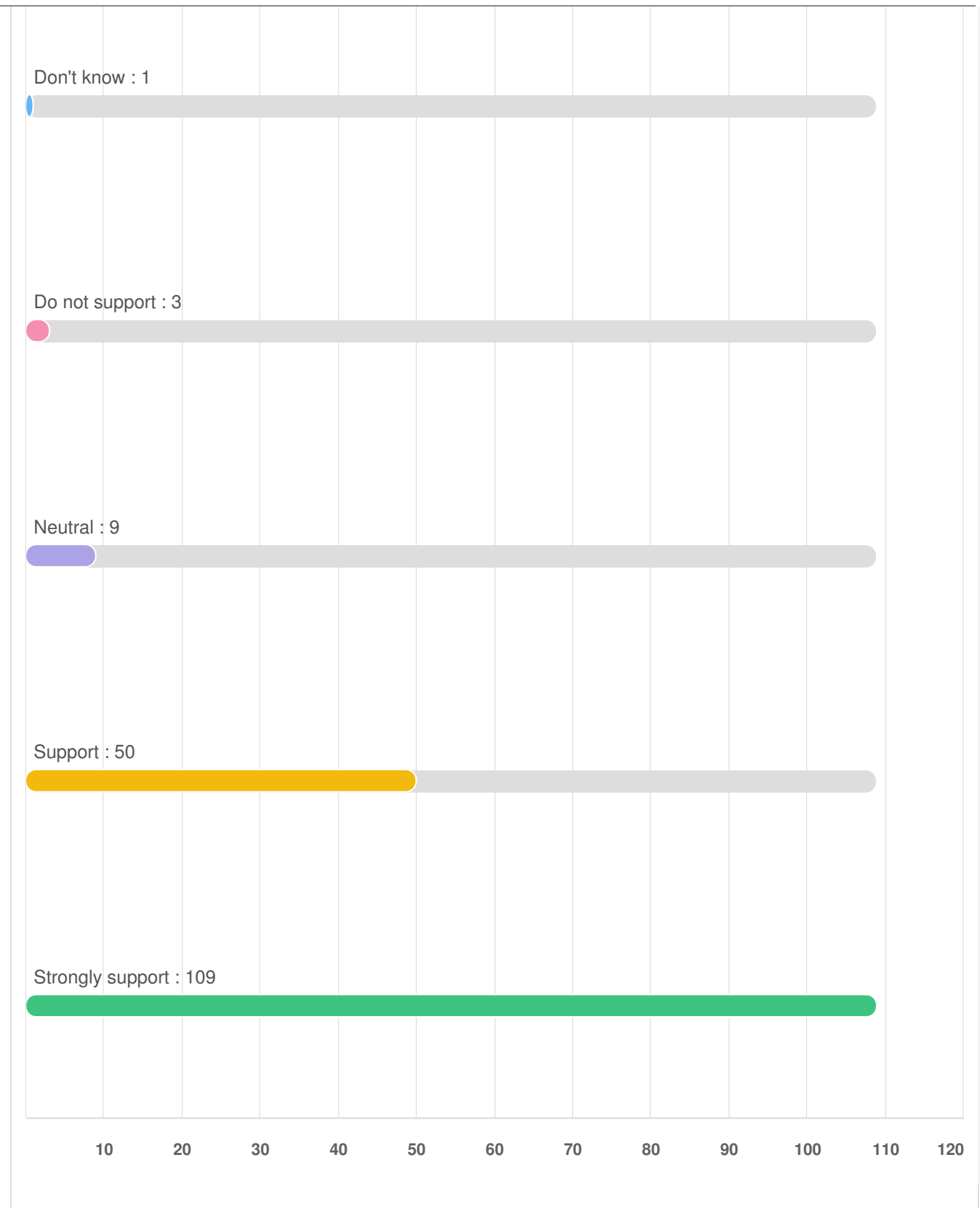
**Q12 | Goal 2: Protect and enhance important natural parkland areas through management and restoration**



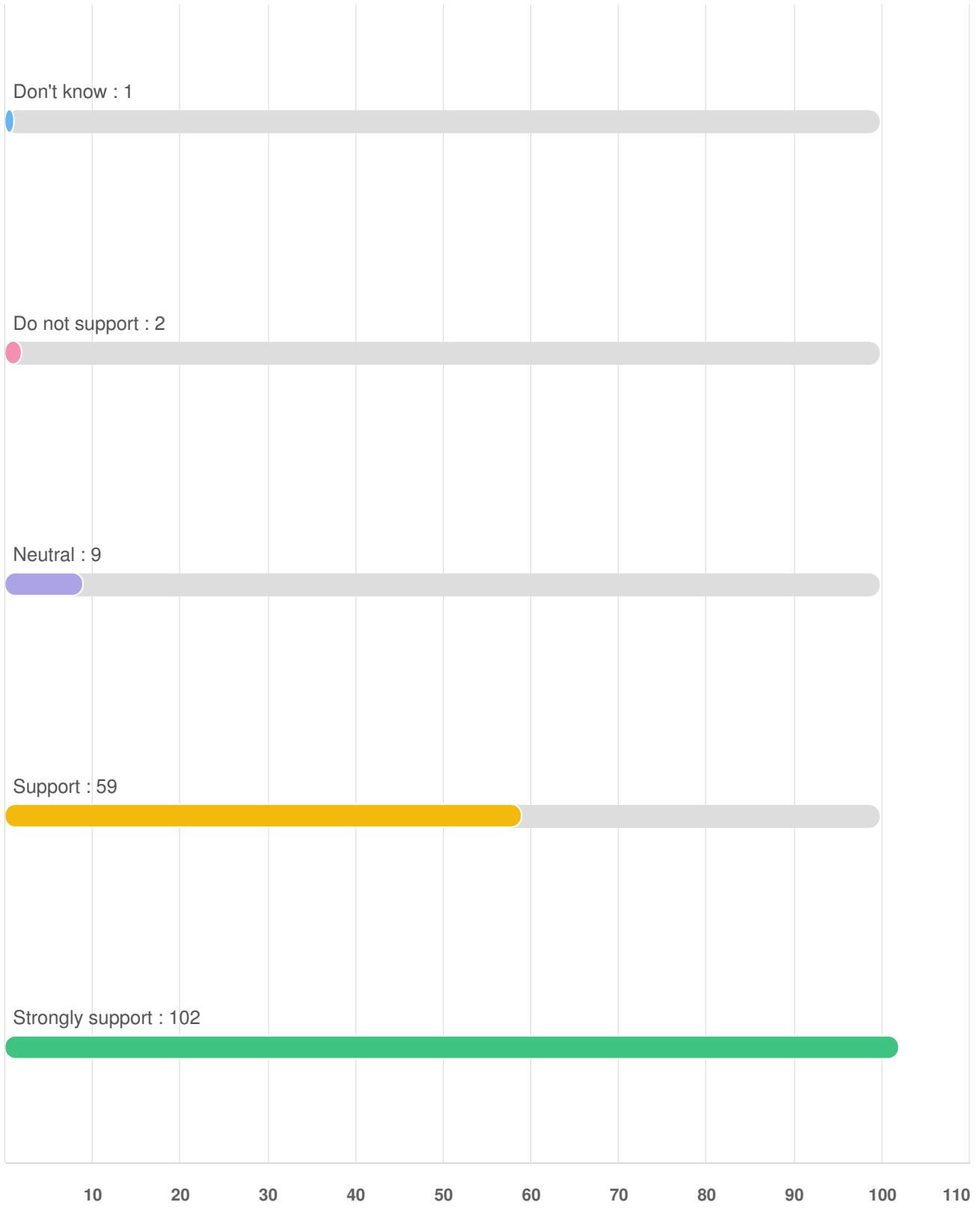
Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
 Question type: Likert Question

**Q12 | Goal 2: Protect and enhance important natural parkland areas through management and restoration**

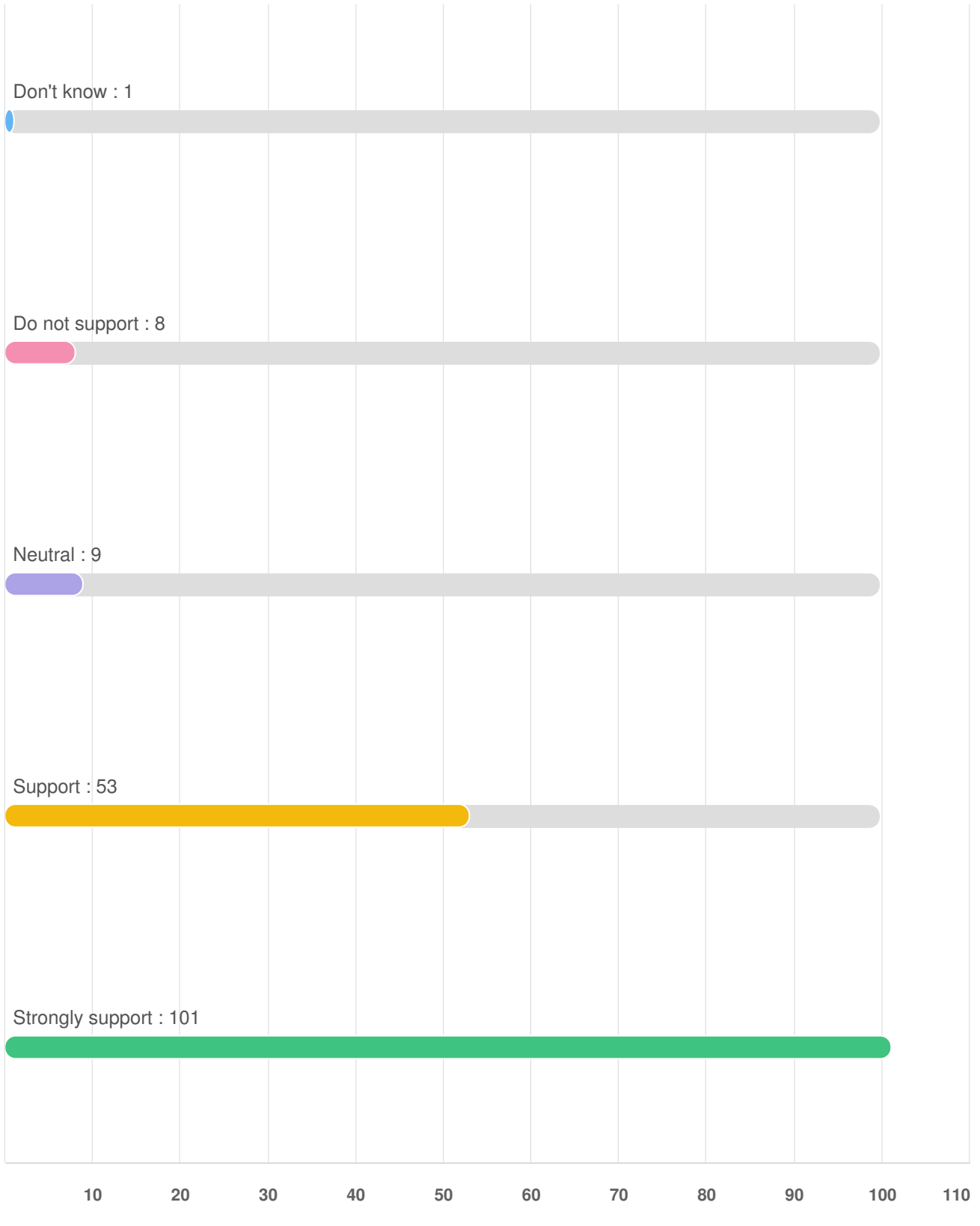
**Action 2.1: Update regional park management plans and prioritize key action items related to sensitive ecosystem preservation.**



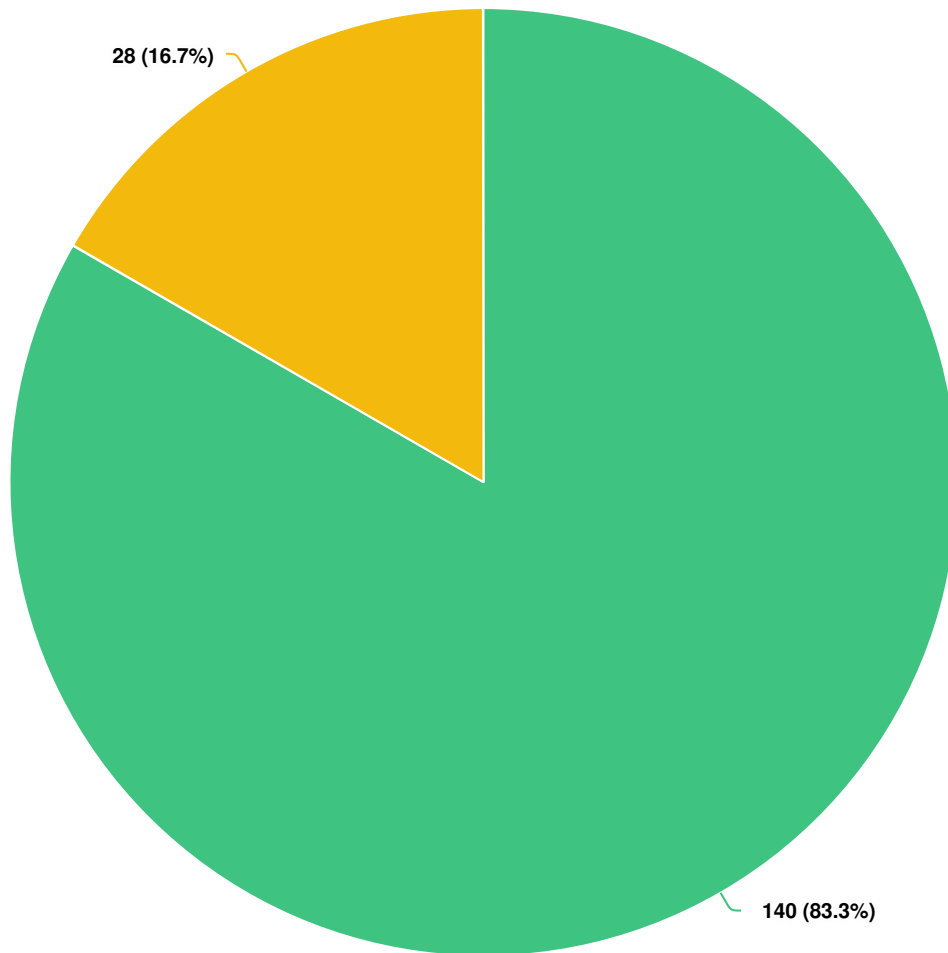
**Action 2.2: Develop and implement an invasive species management strategy to rehabilitate and enhance natural ecosystems and biodiversity in parks.**



**Action 2.3: Develop a wildfire and risk assessment strategy to mitigate fire risk in regional and community parks.**



**Q13** Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 2?

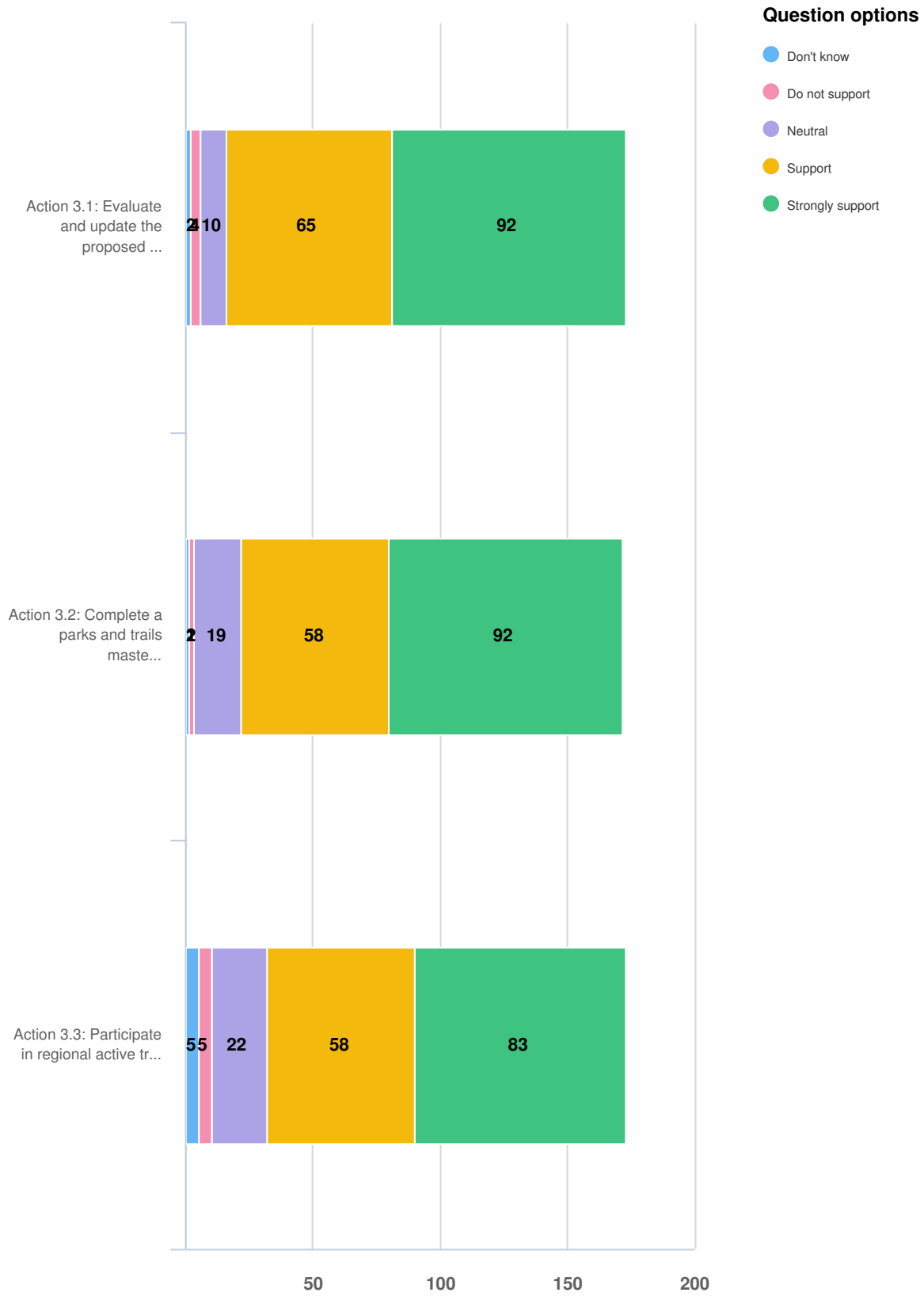


**Question options**

- Yes, please explain:
- No *SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT*

*Optional question (165 response(s), 10 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question*

**Q14 Goal 3: Enhance and develop trail connections**

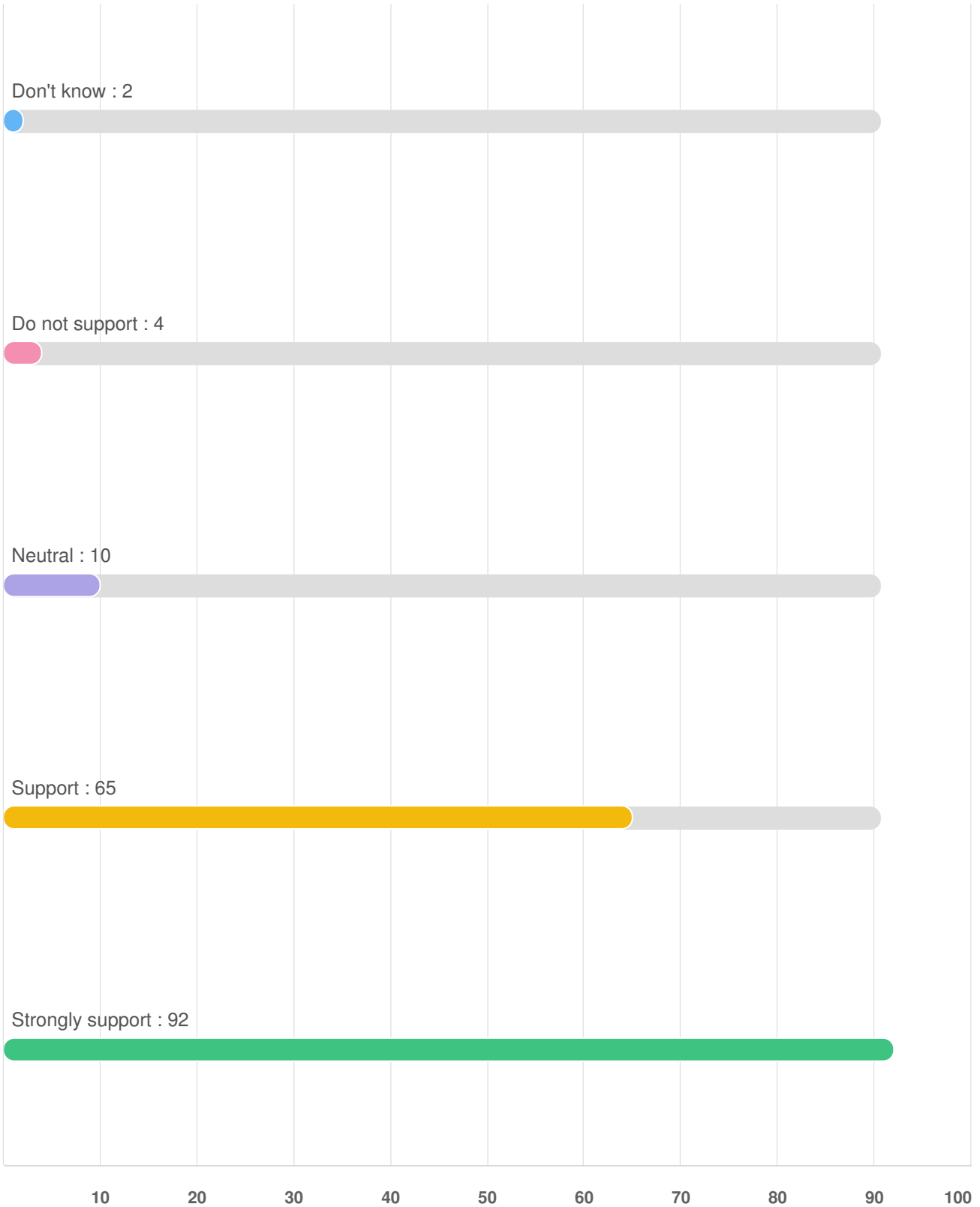


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Question type: Likert Question



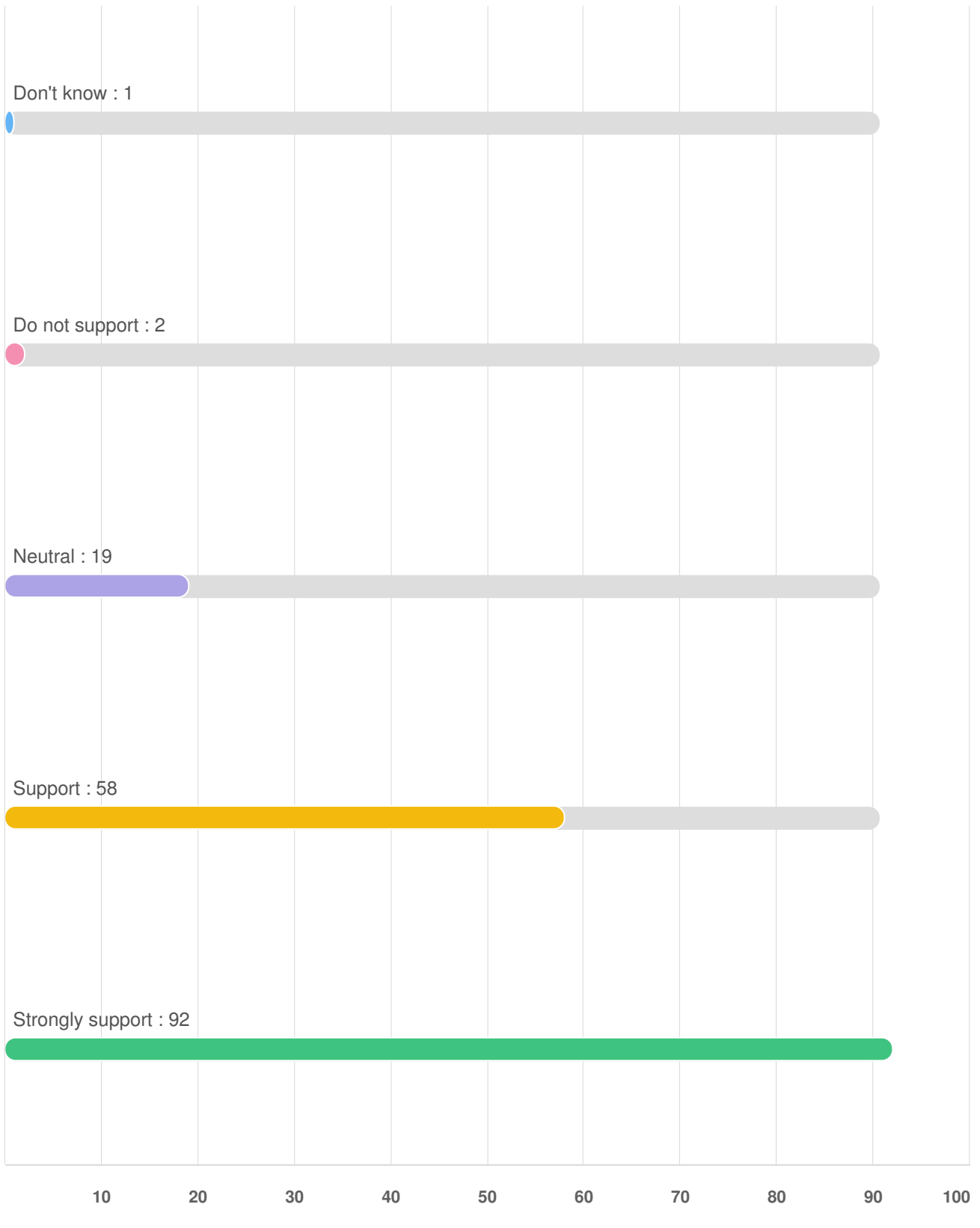
**Q14 | Goal 3: Enhance and develop trail connections**

**Action 3.1: Evaluate and update the proposed Regional Trail Network to reaffirm regional trail priorities.**

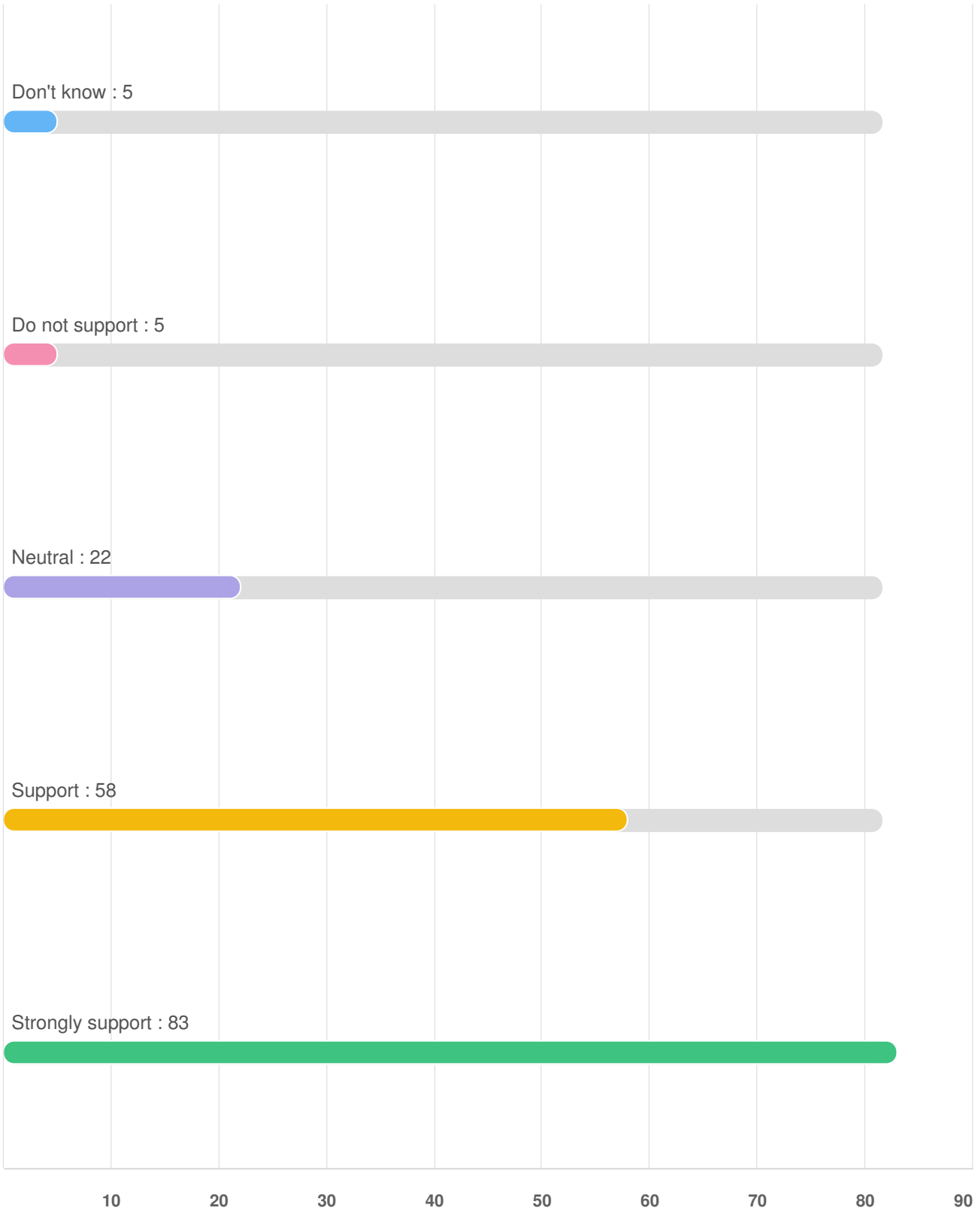




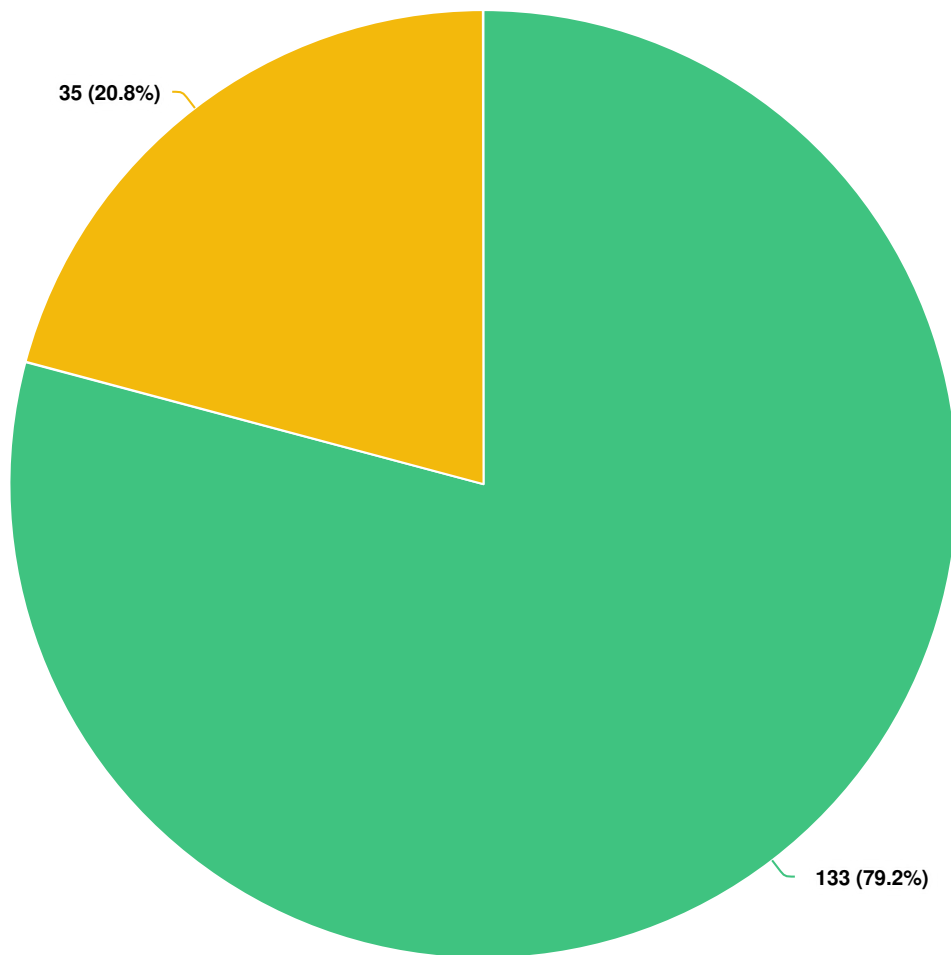
### Action 3.2: Complete a parks and trails master plan for each electoral area.



**Action 3.3: Participate in regional active transportation planning initiatives to convey the local and regional trails interests.**



**Q15** Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 3?



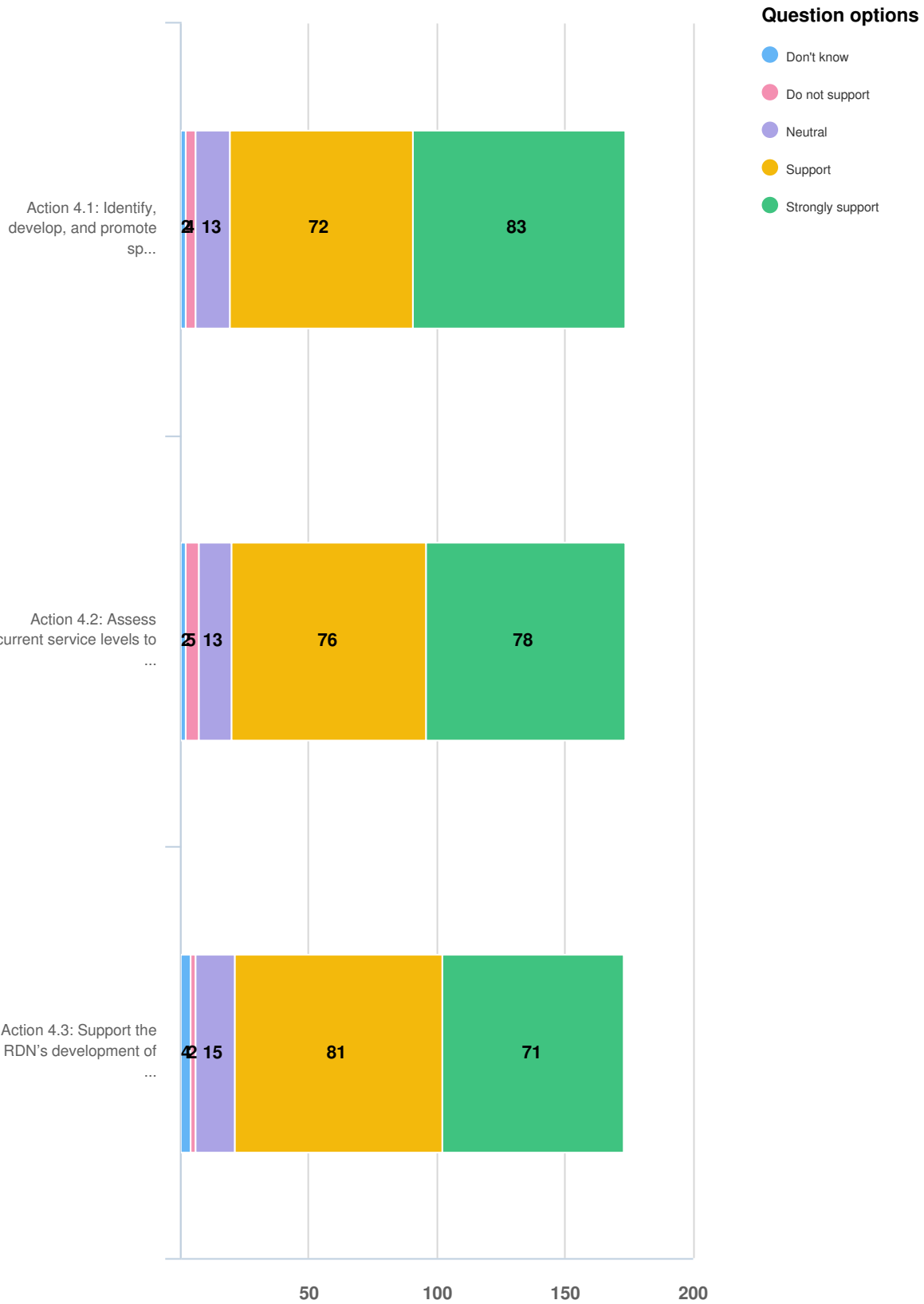
**Question options**

- Yes, please explain:
- No

SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT

Optional question (165 response(s), 10 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

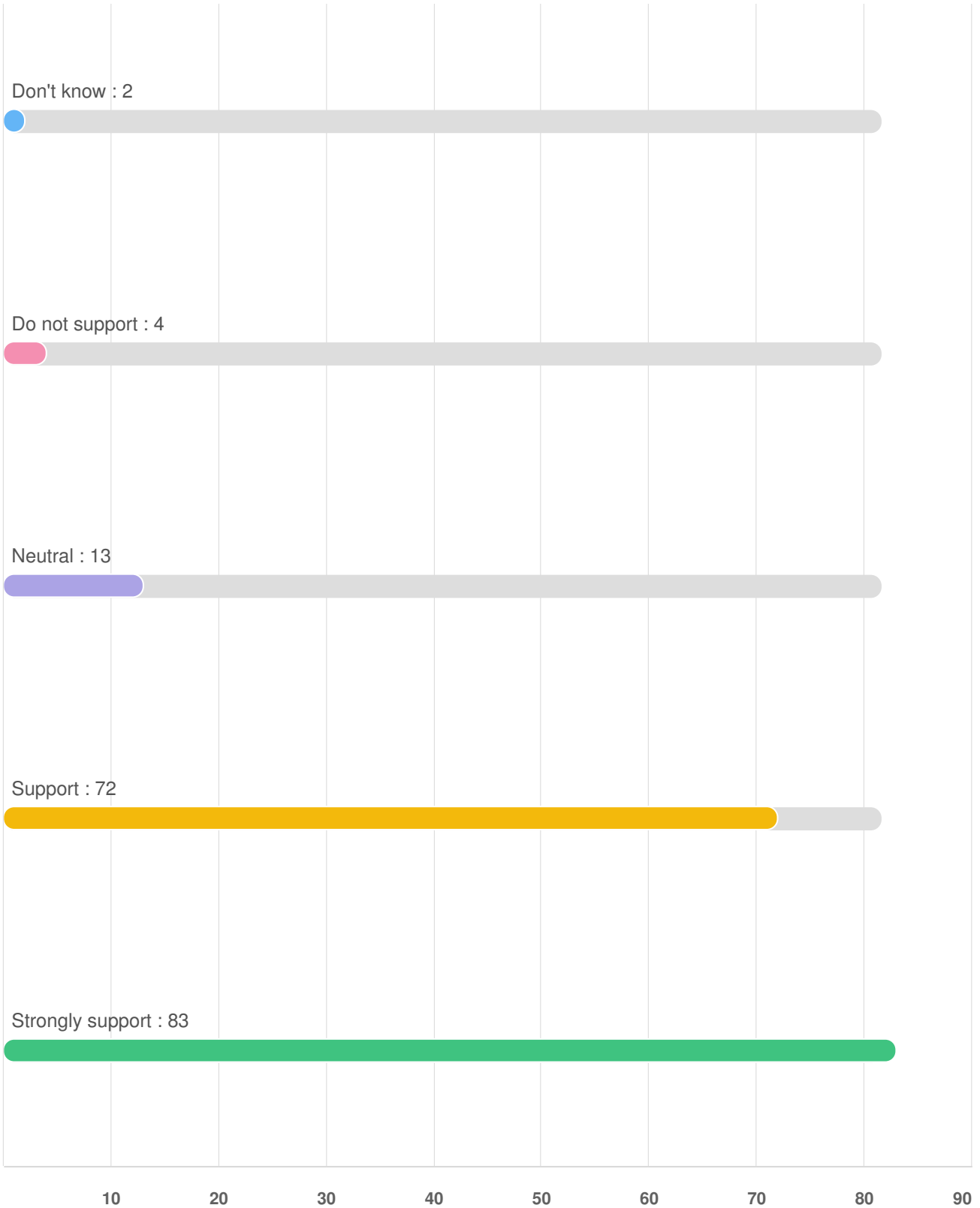
**Q16 Goal 4: Provide parks and trails with well-maintained and diverse amenities**



Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
 Question type: Likert Question

**Q16 | Goal 4: Provide parks and trails with well-maintained and diverse amenities**

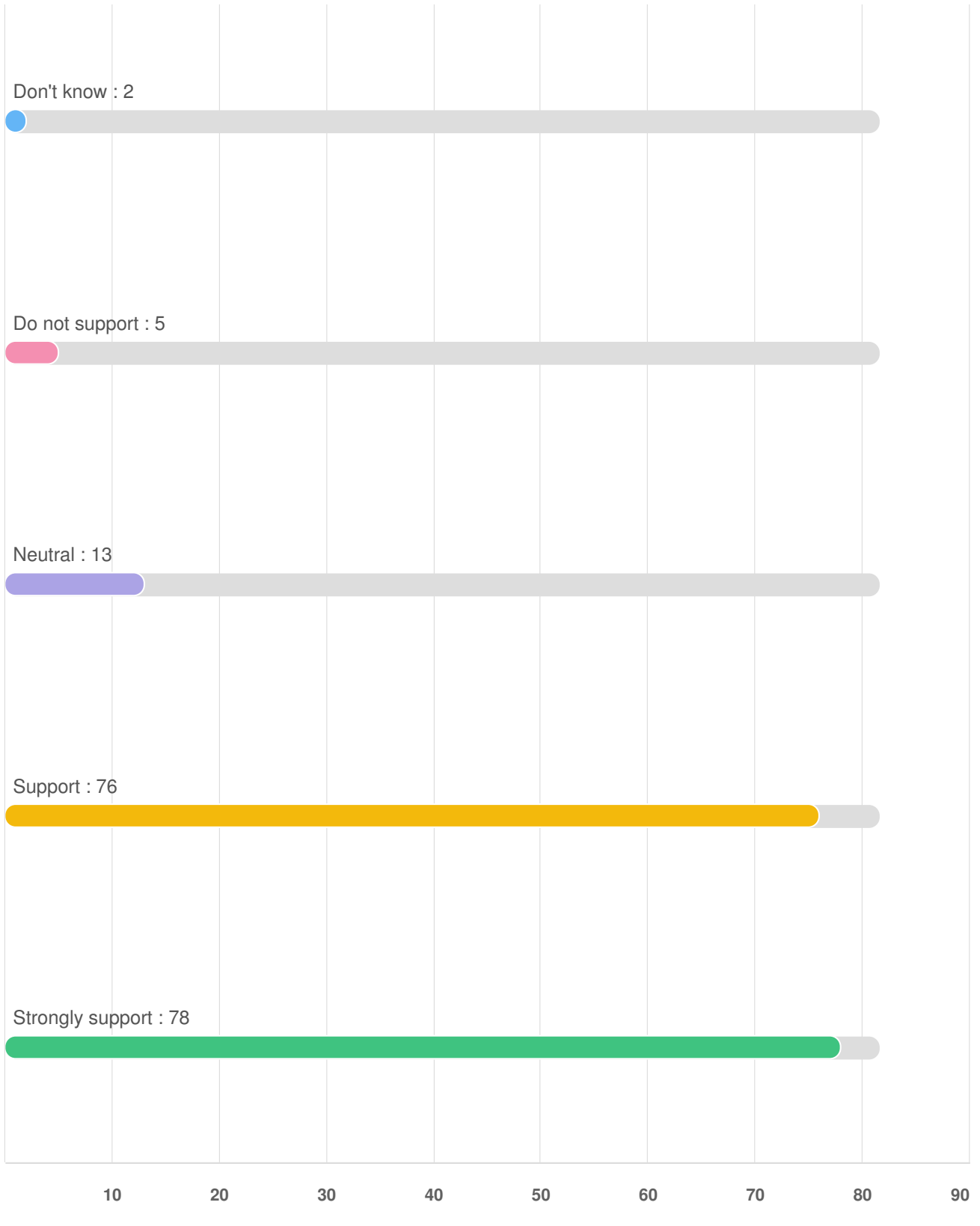
**Action 4.1: Identify, develop, and promote specific areas in the parks system where access for all ages and abilities is available.**



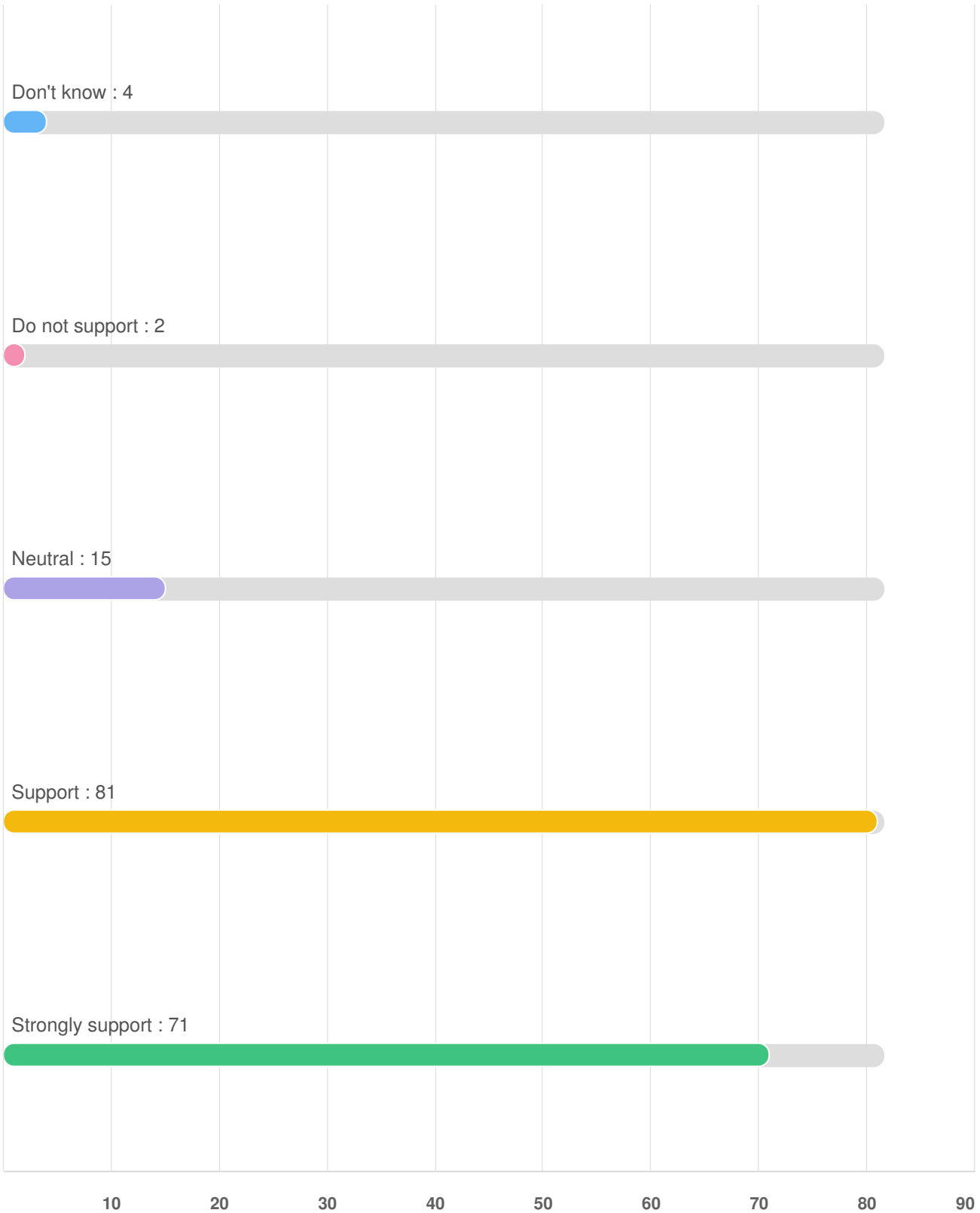




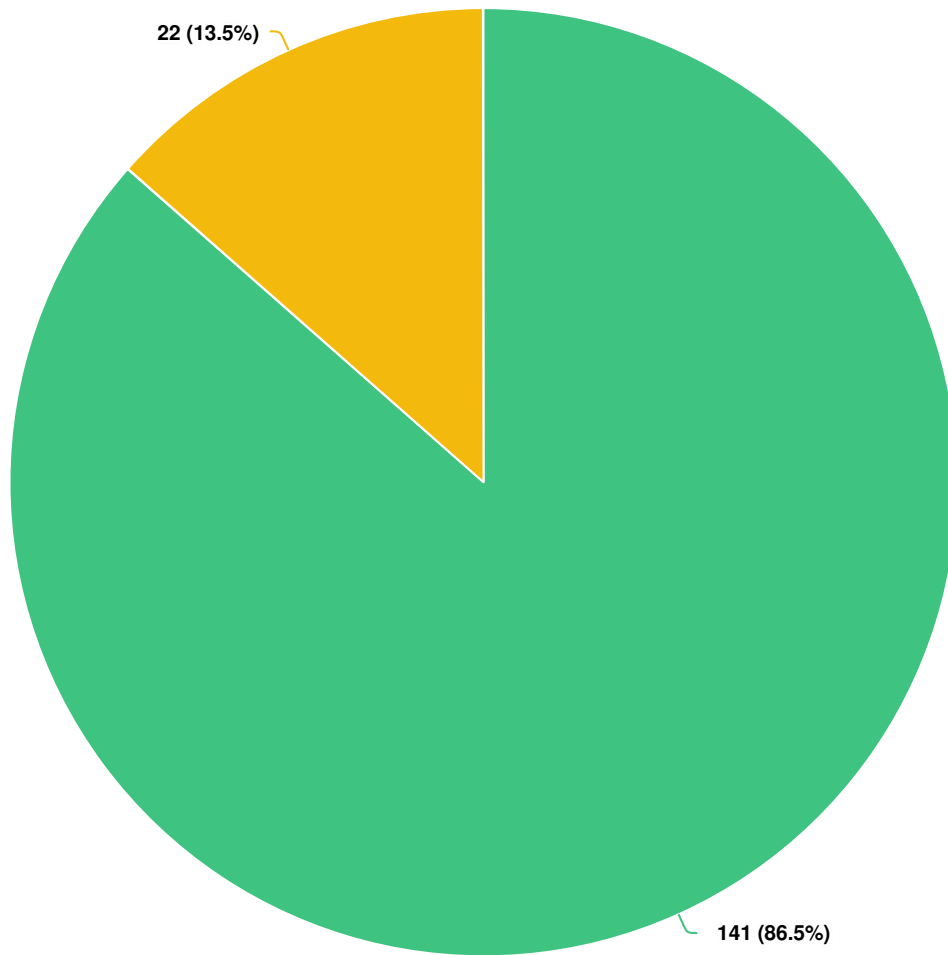
**Action 4.2: Assess current service levels to ensure operating funds are sufficient to meet public expectations.**



**Action 4.3: Support the RDN’s development of an asset management system to inform short and long-term budget planning for park asset maintenance and renewal.**



**Q17** Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 4?



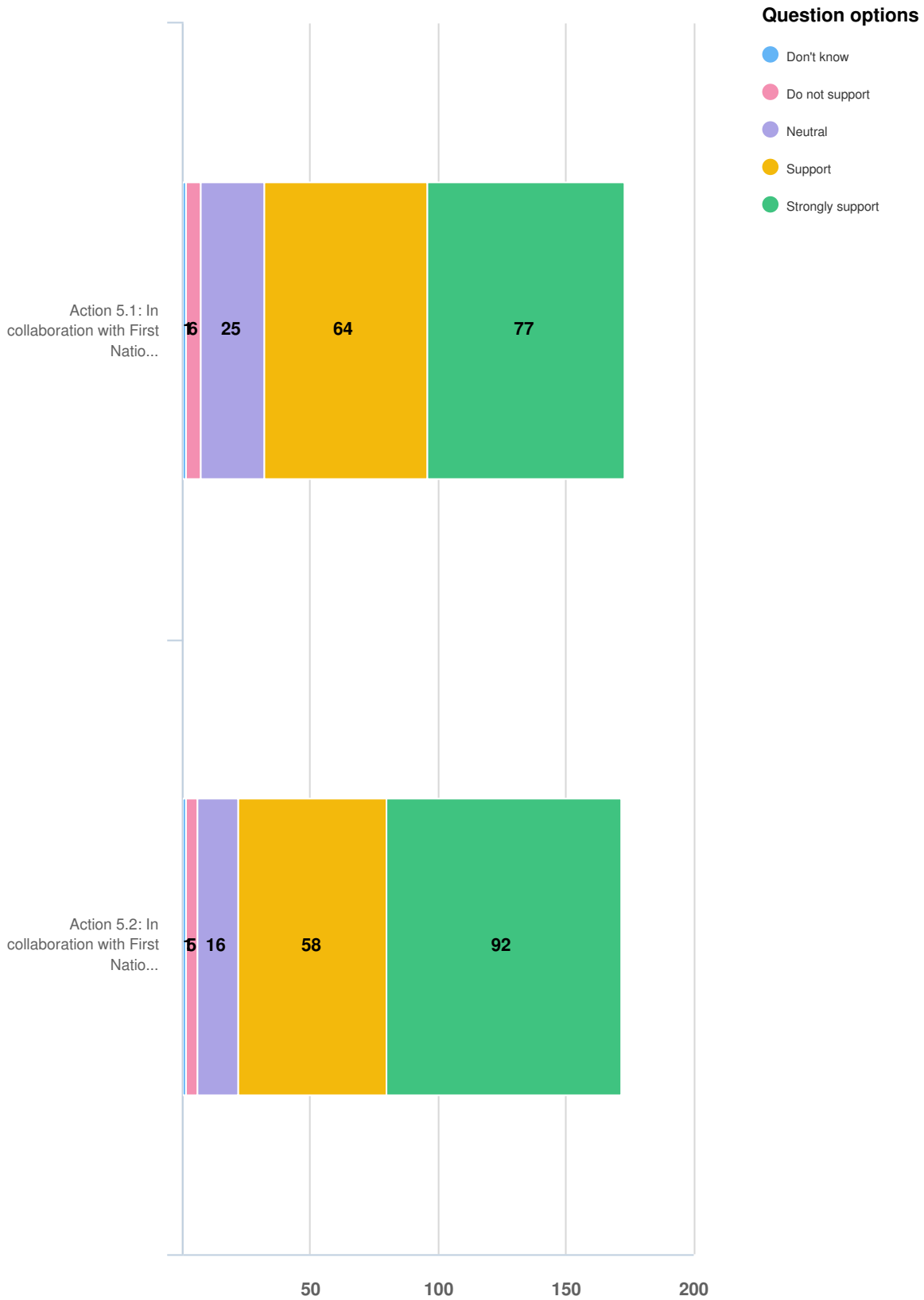
**Question options**

- Yes, please explain:
- No

SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT

Optional question (160 response(s), 15 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

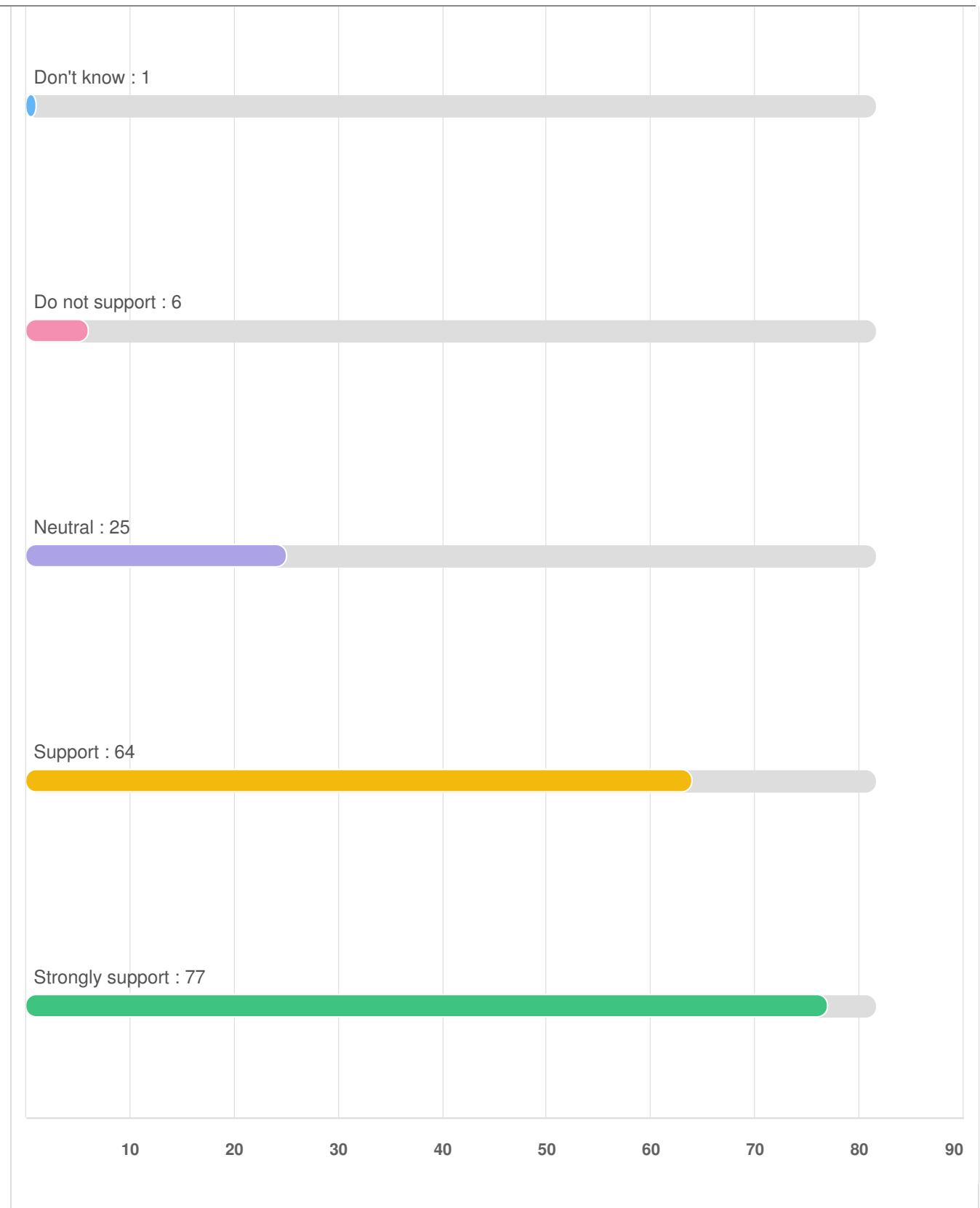
**Q18 | Goal 5: Incorporate First Nations perspectives into parks planning and design**



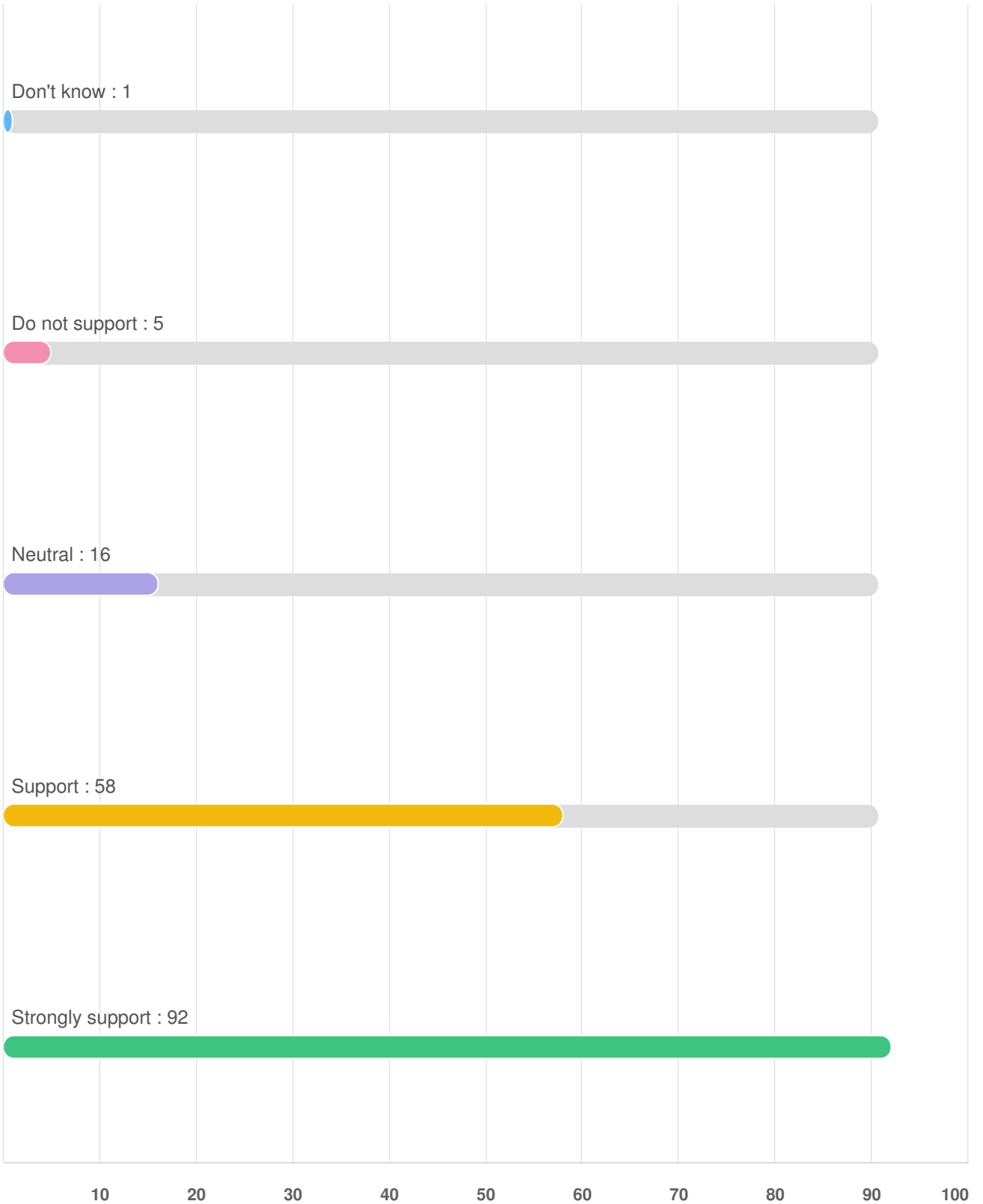
Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
Question type: Likert Question

**Q18 | Goal 5: Incorporate First Nations perspectives into parks planning and design**

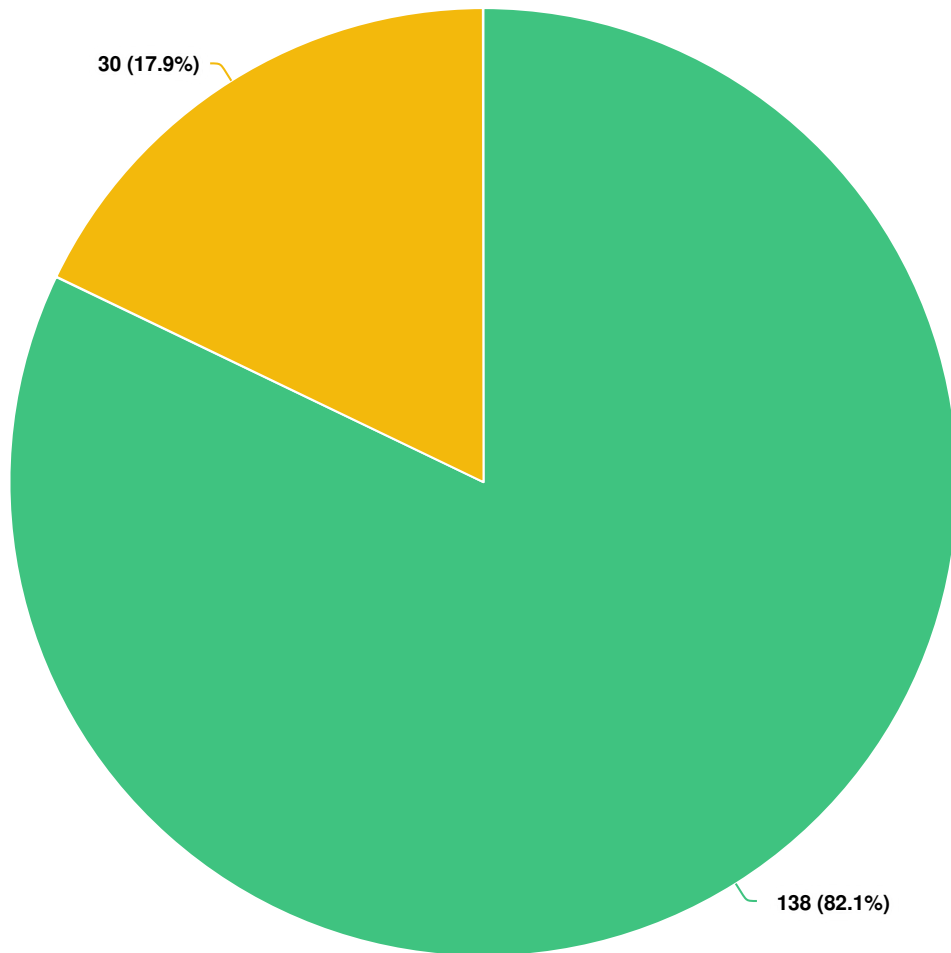
**Action 5.1: In collaboration with First Nations, explore opportunities to incorporate the cultural significance of sites into park naming, design, and development.**



**Action 5.2: In collaboration with First Nations, explore opportunities to protect important cultural areas.**



**Q19** Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 5?



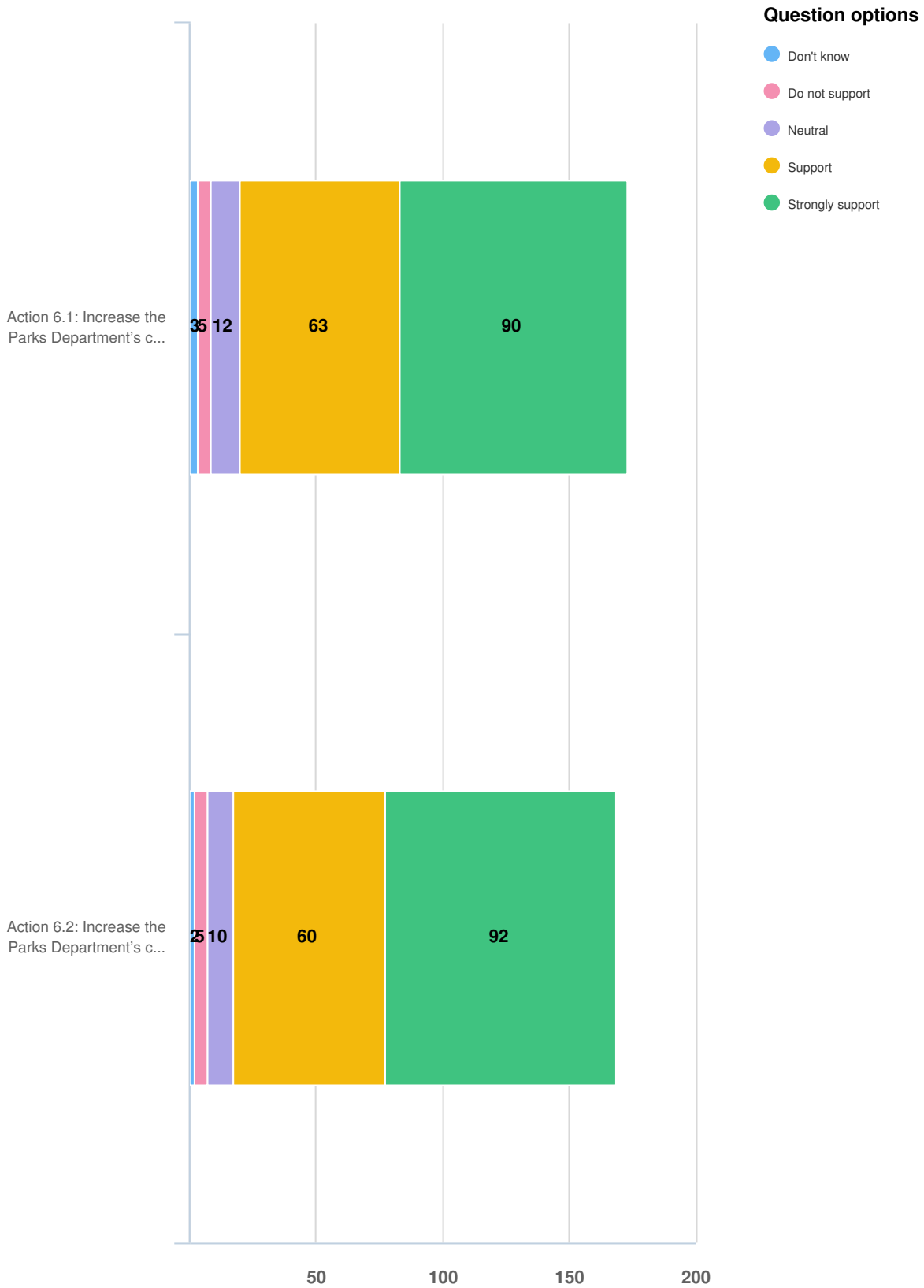
**Question options**

- Yes, please explain:
- No *SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT*

*Optional question (165 response(s), 10 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question*



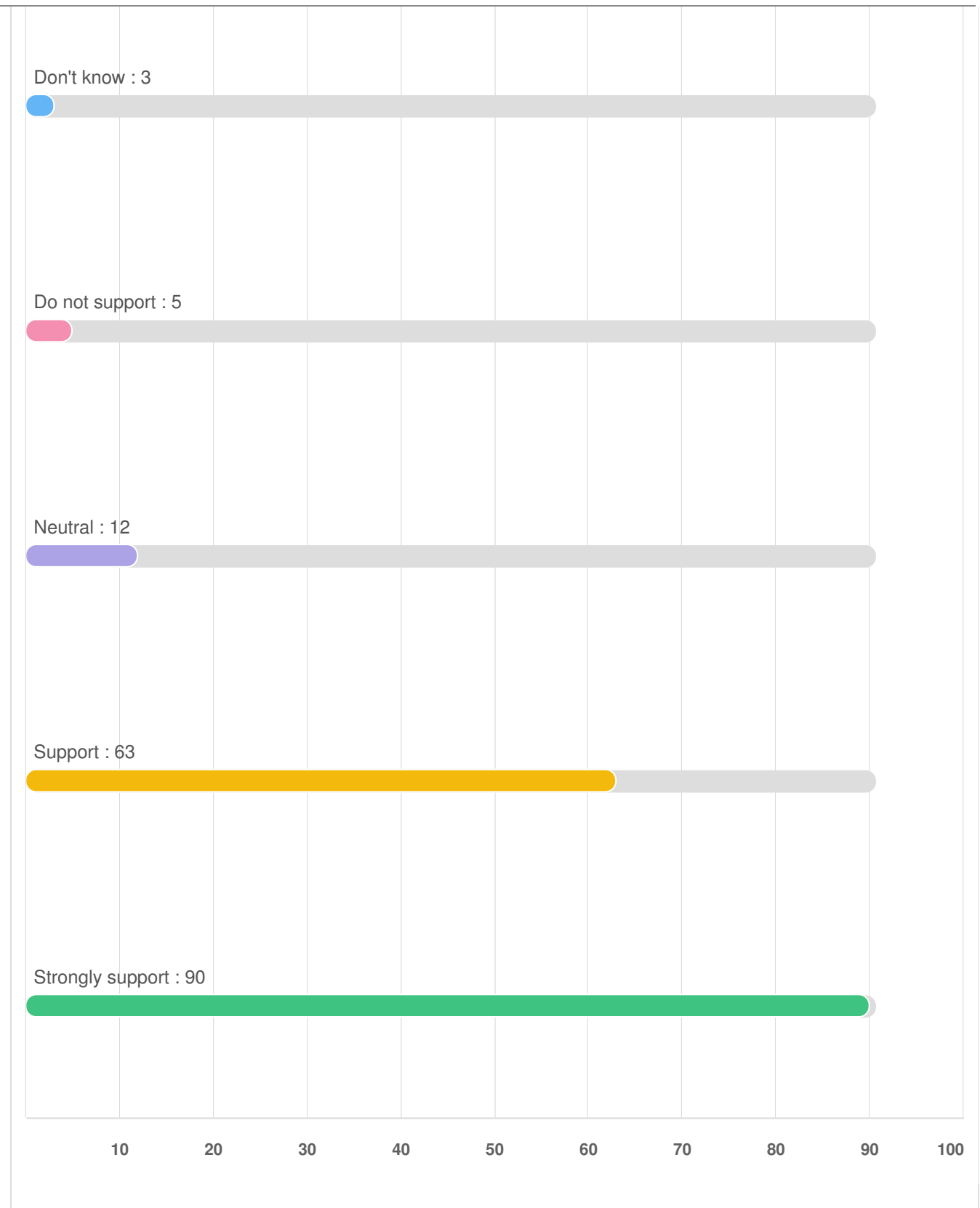
**Q20** Goal 6: Strengthen land use partnerships with local and provincial organizations



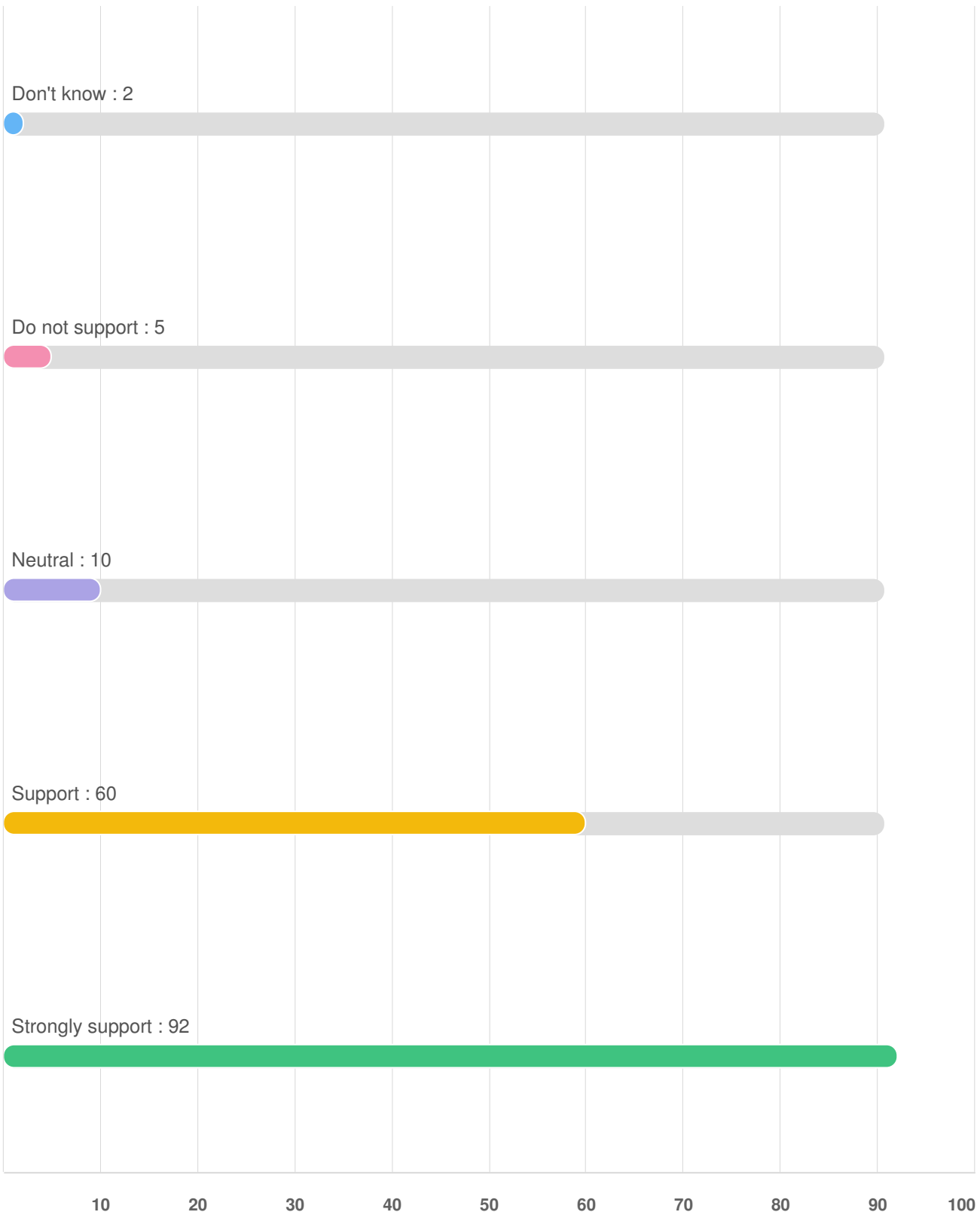
Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
Question type: Likert Question

**Q20 | Goal 6: Strengthen land use partnerships with local and provincial organizations**

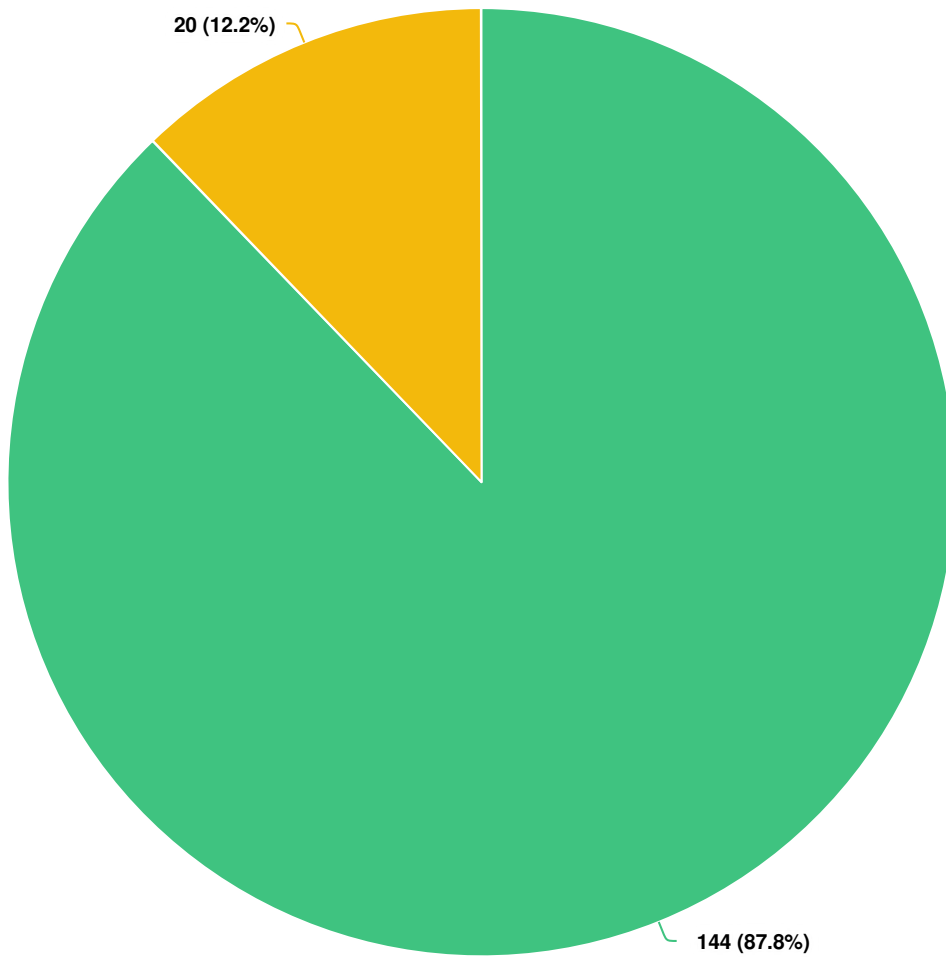
**Action 6.1: Increase the Parks Department's capacity to manage land use agreements with private and public agencies for recreational and conservation purposes.**



**Action 6.2: Increase the Parks Department’s capacity to identify and foster partnerships with not-for-profit organizations for acquisition, management, and maintenance of parks and trails.**



**Q21** Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 6?



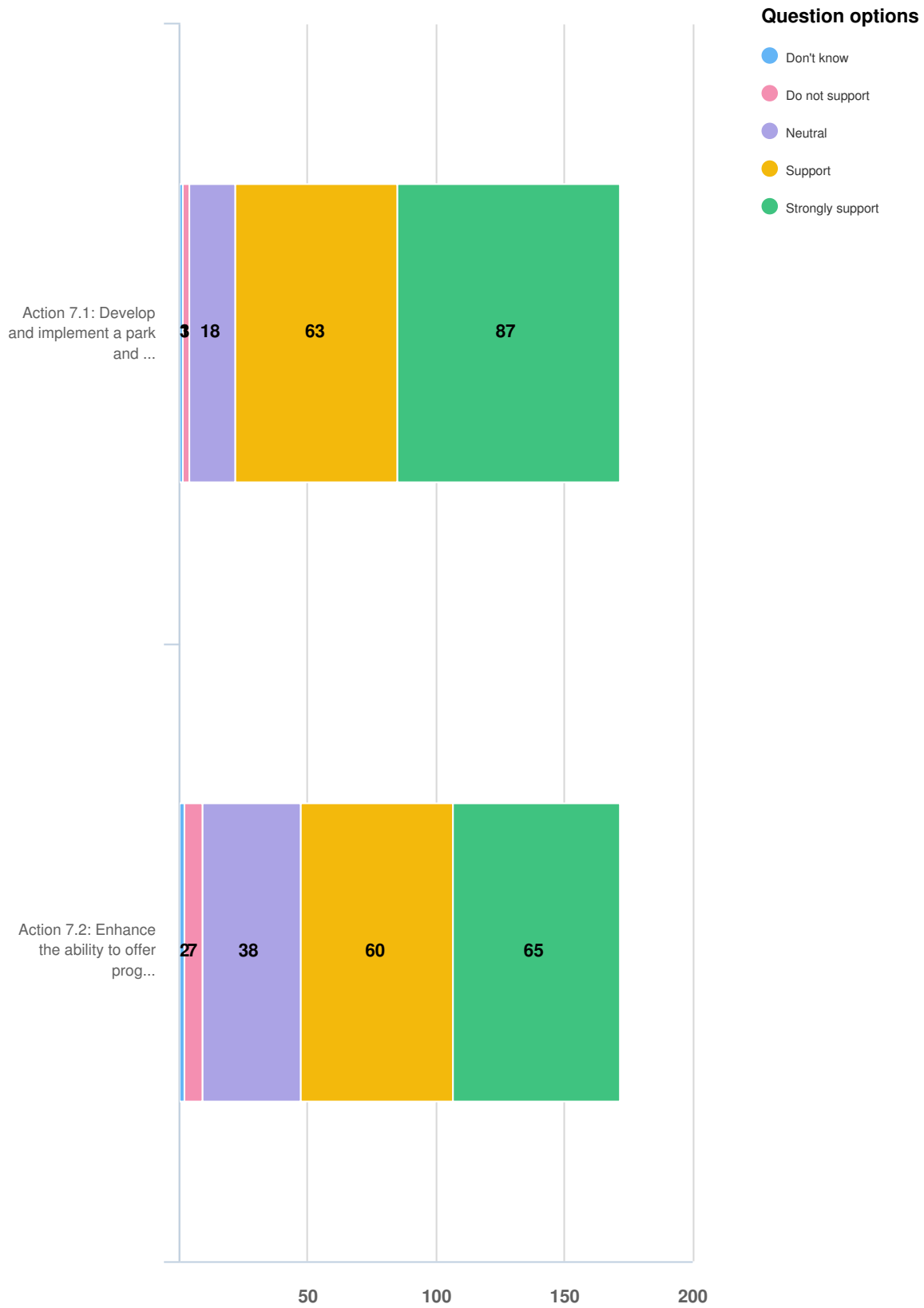
**Question options**

- Yes, please explain:
- No

SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT

Optional question (161 response(s), 14 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

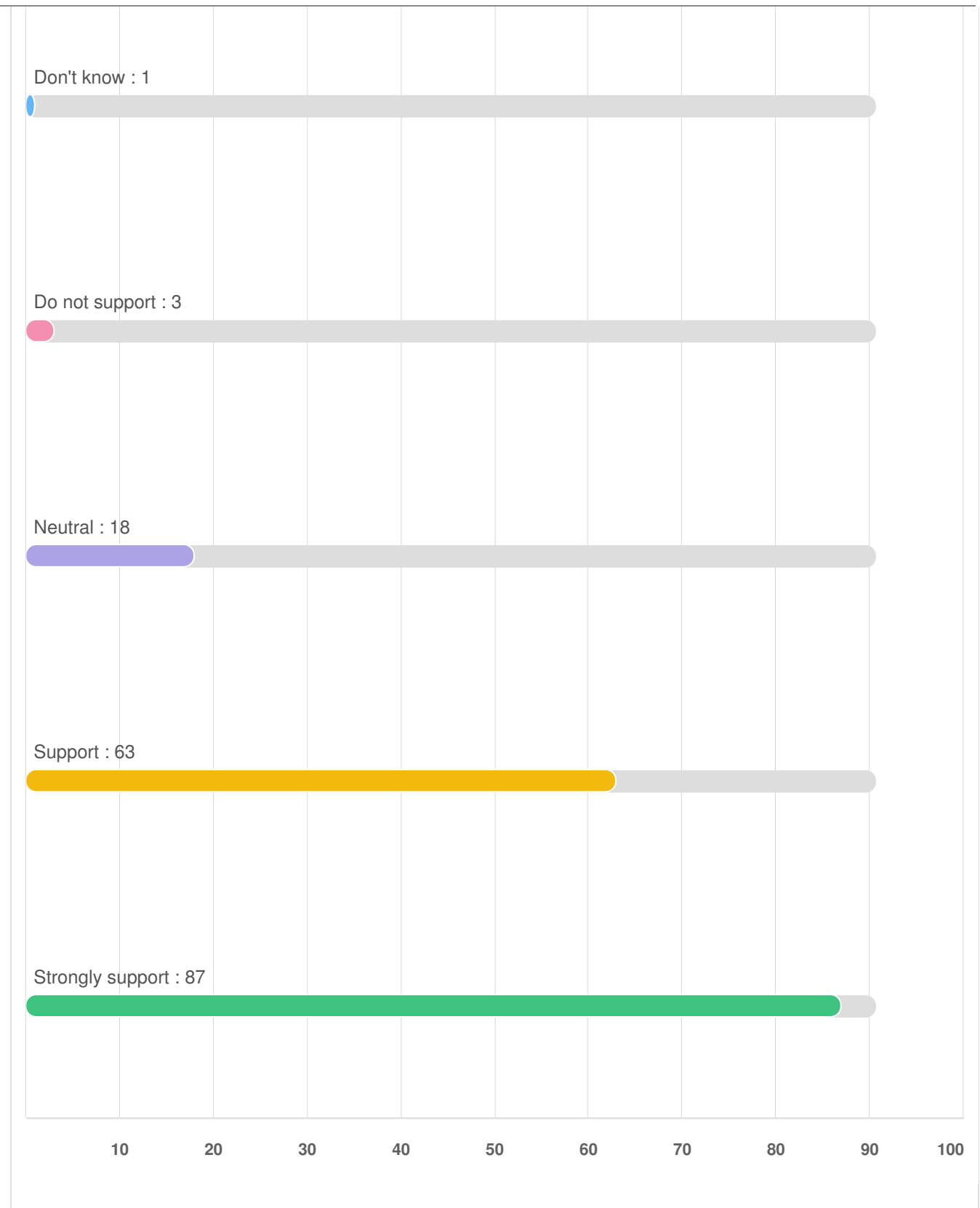
**Q22 | Goal 7: Increase volunteering and learning opportunities within the parks and trails system**



Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
Question type: Likert Question

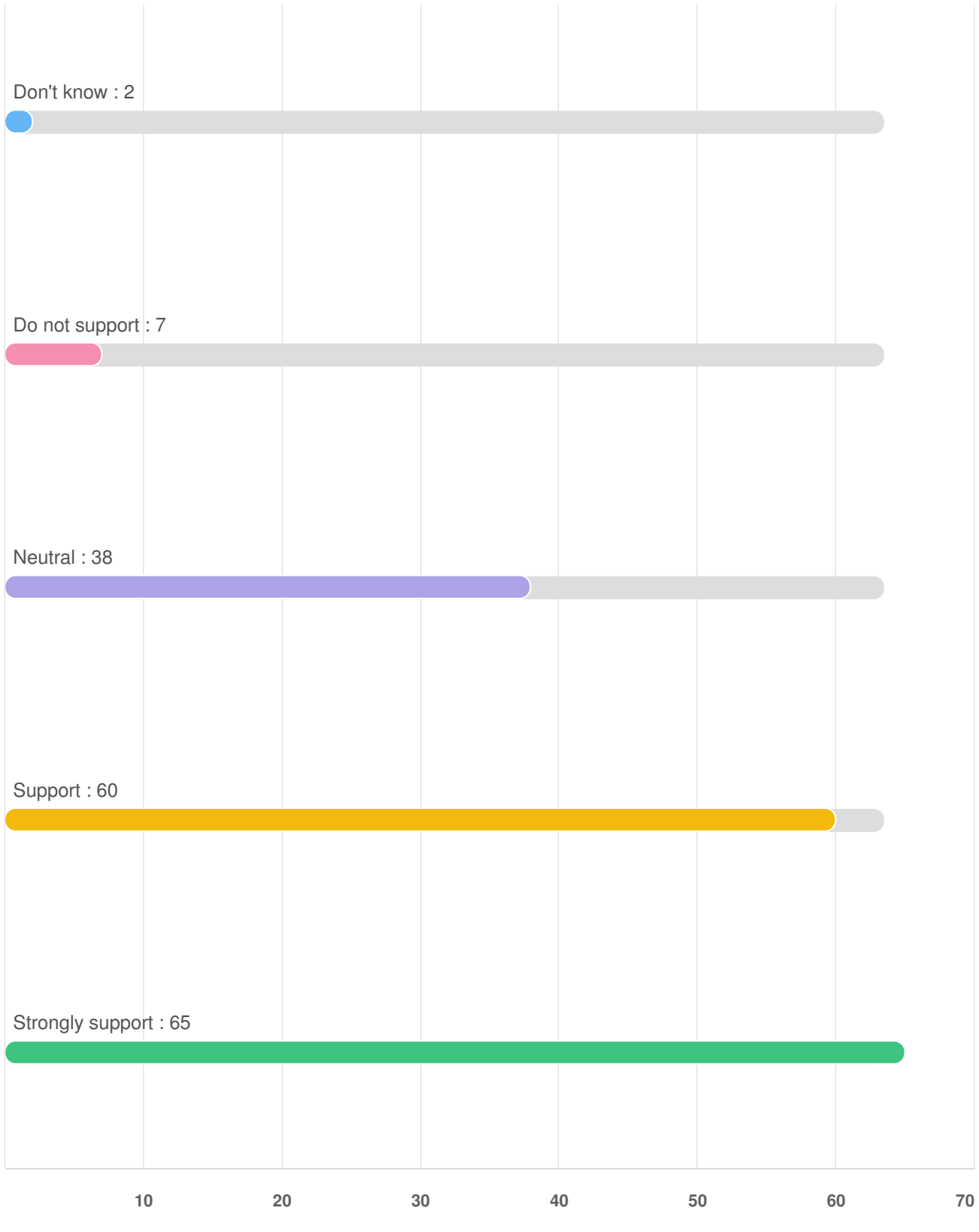
**Q22 | Goal 7: Increase volunteering and learning opportunities within the parks and trails system**

**Action 7.1: Develop and implement a park and trail volunteer program to strengthen the Parks Department’s capacity for coordinating and supporting volunteer-led stewardship projects.**

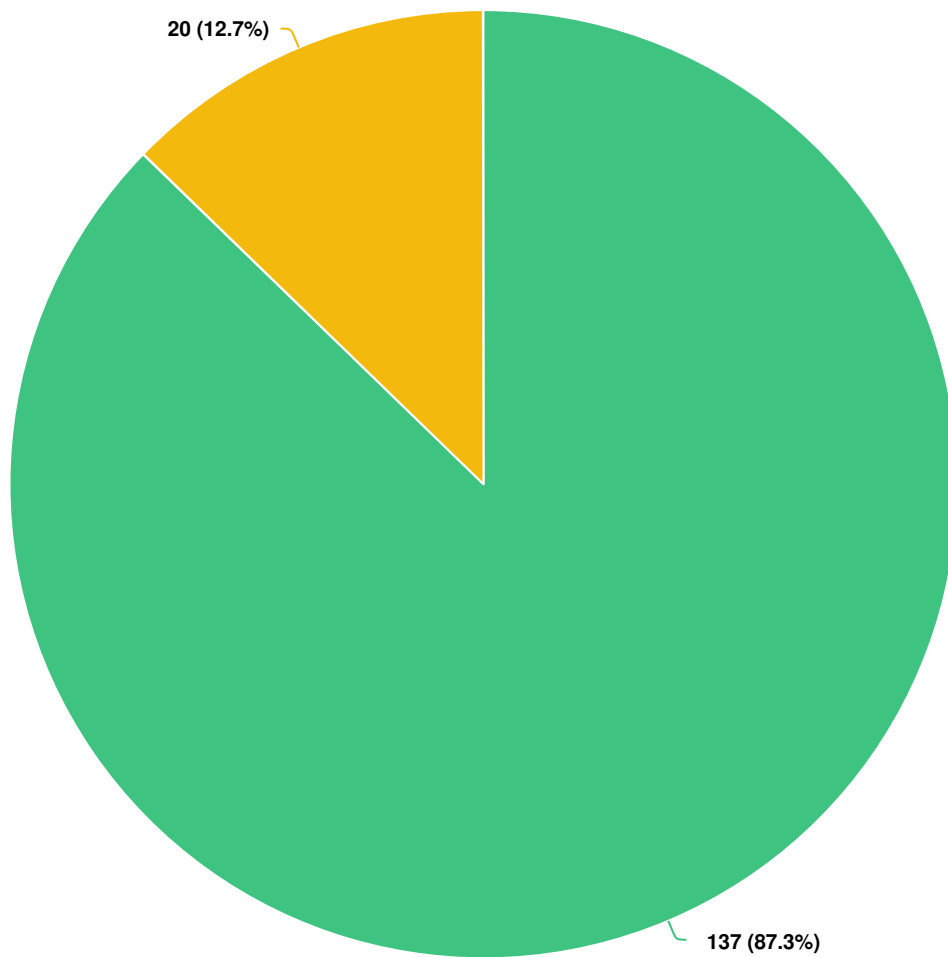




**Action 7.2: Enhance the ability to offer programming and educational opportunities by identifying and developing additional infrastructure at key parks.**



**Q23** Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 7?



**Question options**

- Yes, please explain: *SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT*
- No

*Optional question (154 response(s), 21 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question*

**Q24 | Do you have any other general comments about the RDN Parks and Trails Strategy project?**

As a representative of Mid Island Climbers Association (MICA), we would like to be included in the park/trail volunteer program for areas within RDN parks where rock climbing activities exist. Although it's not yet complete, thus far this plan appears to be more thorough than the 2005-2015 plan.

we appreciate what you plan to do and wish all of us well in this pursuit

I'm glad for what you're doing but building and development permits need to be slowed down to allow parks to grow, and the neighboring developments need to be harmonized with parks.

I am skeptical but live in hope that this will not just be an optical exercise. We live in a beautiful place yet just in the 20 years I have been here, we have lost a lot. I fear for the future.

Need for managed access (not unfettered access) to private forest lands, and trails on those lands

Don't be afraid to incorporate the 'do nothing' option when appropriate

What about planned giving and dedication of estates? Include interpretation of park assets

This project needs to include the acquisition, maintaining and preservation of land geared towards specific activities such as trail running, hiking, mountain biking and rock climbing. People live on the island for their activities and ensuring generations to come can use the land is primordial

I like the plan, and feel that the RDN has a clear view forward. I love the idea of more active transportation, and I hope it will continue to develop. There are obviously key social issues that may impede

development in some areas. More education on the purpose and use of parks is a great start, and the volunteer program definitely has potential. Just simple things like leaving plants and their parts where everyone can enjoy them, not disturbing wildlife, picking up after ourselves, etc. - what used to be common sense, but needs re-introduction. The other is safety within parks. There are some areas and some parks where I don't feel comfortable passing, especially as a woman alone. Maybe more presence of bylaw officers in parks. I haven't been in a park bathroom for a while, but one thing that disturbs me is when the building housing facilities has an exterior door that can be locked by anyone from the inside. Westwood Lake washroom and change rooms had such a door last time I was there. I think it poses significant risk in that a woman or child could be trapped in there with an assailant. It's always bothered me.

Keep up the good work! We have all really discovered our beautiful parks during Covid lock downs. You have more fans of our parks than ever in these coming years.

Emphasis on park maintainence

thank you for all you do - I support all the items truly but understand limited funding is available to do everything for everyone, esp. in a large, forested & rugged region. There is importance in the investigative, mapping and governance needs, but they also take time and energy on the ground ,and in an already overworked department, like all local government is.. best to you all - we enjoy so many aspects of your hard work and dedication, while maintaining difficult balance of development demand on our lovely island. Crystal

It would be great to get local community groups involved with the ability to maintain areas and keep trail networks in good order.

Wish to reemphasize the need for the RDN to understand how it's parks and protected areas fit within the Provinces strategy for landscape representation within an all encompassing system of parks and natural areas. Cooperate and coordinate.

With the increasing population and increased use of natural areas, there is a need to protect areas now, while they are still available. There is also a conflict between conservation and recreation - as seen on Mount Benson. It may be that some areas should be

conserved without any public access.

Don't get bogged down in reports and strategies. Get on with it work cooperatively. Empower employees.

Better understanding of trail user relationships. Education in this area for all user groups is important

I am very pleased to see the great effort put into this project. Again as a returning Islander, it continues to impress me that the RDN has made so many updates, acquisitions and improvements during my tenure away.

Rewilding is a key phrase in United Nations objectives for natural spaces. More and more people are becoming ill from the studied effects of electro smog. Skip connectivity focus. Trails and parks are to "get away". If people need WiFi stay out.

thank you for this opportunity.

Please do not forget the Yellow Point Trail which would be a fabulous connection from the south island to the north. If built, it would also mitigate the problem of requiring a bridge to cross the Nanaimo River for the TransCanadaTrail. Cooperation with CVRD and MoTI would be required but a steering committee to address these cross boundary issues has already been set up. Contact Pamela Walker at 250 245-9155 for more information. Alternately, contact Director Keith Wilson of Area A who is a member of this steering committee.

My only concern is that we should not turn our natural areas into a landscape of paved trails and bathrooms. A natural environment as possible is best if we want to ensure the needs of wildlife, not just the wants and needs of humans.

why is Kipp rd park not shown on the regional map & the gpsed trails in it

Way too bureaucratic language used hard to actually understand what you are really planning to do and why a member of the general

public would be able to comment

I would like to see more emphasis on the Trans Canada Trail. It's unfortunate that the trail is still interrupted when it reaches the Nanaimo River. A pedestrian/cycle bridge over the river should be a top priority.

Please focus on the diversity of Canada. Incorporate First Nations but not more than all the other cultures here as well. It should all be balanced, while for sure recognizing that First Nations were here first. But I don't think parks etc. should be all about First Nations.

You took out the beach access stairs a few years ago from Joyce Lockwood Park Gabriola Island and force people to go down a muddy slope. People are very angry about this! Especially people with mobility issues.

This is a touch selfish but I would love to work with someone to develop an all access path into our inaccessible neighbourhood park. And also arrange it to be mowed regularly. The lack of access is the reason is neither mowed for our use not accessed by folks with walkers / wheelchairs or aging knees. Clamshell Road is the park I am talking of. I would also like to work to rename it either Seafood District Park or Tle:Txw , the first nations name for the area we live on Gabriola Island.

Create a rating system for difficulty of access for steep trails accessing remote beaches.

Joyce Lockwood Park needs safe beach access stairs NOW we have waited too long.

The RDN was asked to take on this park on behalf of the people of Gabriola because the Islands Trust cannot hold land, not necessarily because Gabriolans figured we needed The RDN's input.

I am concerned about increase traffic and people in forested areas near housing with the increase yearly risk of forest fires. People camp and do not practice safe use, so it seems unwise to attract them to certain areas, particular the remote areas with housing not covered

by proper fire fighting such as Horne Lake. There is significant risk to homeowners in the Spider Lake and Horne Lake areas due to the risk of forest fires.

There are a number of trails where dogs harass wildlife. There needs to be strong communication about this risk to wildlife.

I'm happy to see this project going forward with updates to goals and specific actions required ,particularly including attention to diversity of users abilities/cultures. Inclusion of protection of the wildlife and natural values is important to me as well as the vision of a parks/trails system which allows all to use most of these spaces

I believe the parks and trail systems contribute greatly to the health and well being of everyone and should be developed and well maintained and provide opportunities for the public to learn about the various eco systems.

Parks and trails are definitely important for people's physical, mental, and social well being. Parks and trails promote active lives and active transportation.

Keep up the good work!

Because acquiring new park lands will only get harder and appropriate lands will become scarcer, I see this as the priority. Developing parklands can be done anytime once the lands have been secured.

I appreciate you are doing this planning; it is important. I encourage you to incorporate the principle of subsidiarity into your planning.

Enjoy our Parks and trails. Keep up the good work.

No

Hamilton Marsh needs to be protected as a wetland area. Trails along

---

the Englishman River need to be realigned so they are not so close to the water that erosion and overuse are dangers.

See above, Thanks for all your work!

Would appreciate toilet facilities at trail heads.

Intentions are good, but without a dramatic change in people's behaviours, and their wants and needs as far as housing and transportation go, our natural world and parks will continue to be eroded. A Parks and Trails Strategy has to be done in context of everything else going on around it.

Bike and hike trails from community to community. From Victoria to Comox would be a great day / week trips to travel and stay in the community along the way.

Identify RDN parkland that can never be used as a park or preservation area and remove it from the parkland list i.e. RDN Area F.

Try and tie trails together instead of having to drive to each individual one.

You need to take the lead in recharacterizing Vancouver Island as one big plantation available primarily (with government approval) for the use of logging companies. You need to persuade yourselves and provincial agencies that the economics of the Island are in fact dependent on proper tourist growth and required recreational infrastructure. You need to demonstrate a complete change in attitude and stop this inertia and actually take immediate actions that result in immediate additional recreational access. I plead.

Thank you for your work!

We are missing an outstanding opportunity if we do not provide ATV routes through our regional landmass. The Trans-Canada Trail for instance only permits walking and biking. We are excluding a large



portion of our community when we restrict access (or at least provide ORV trails). Shared-use trails are what it is all about. The horseback community must also be accommodated. Not all trails need be shared use, but consideration should be given to at least some of the trails as being shared-use.

To add to my comments of goal 3... Just some general comments and thoughts, mostly regarding areas for parkland: - Wesley Ridge: most of Wesley Ridge is Crown land. In my opinion BC Parks should make it a park to connect Cameron Lake to Spider Lake (minus a few private property by Spider Lake). But since BC Parks is not stepping up why not the RDN? An official network of trails could be developed based out of existing trails. Maybe an agreement with E&N railway for a multi use path and trestles restoration. - Little Qualicum River Regional park: This park could be expanded maybe by getting into a lease agreement with the Provincial Government to include CDF Land Use Order Schedule 2. And if Mosaic Forest would be open to sell some of their land by the river than there could be a continuous park to the estuary. This area has lots of recreation opportunities that is just waiting to be developed. - Lighthouse Country: All Crown land referred in CDF Land Use Order schedule 1 could maybe become a Regional Park through an agreement with the Province. If including the woodlot to the east of that land, there could be a continuous park from Big Qualicum River, or even Dunsmuir, all the way to Cook Creek. There is tremendous recreation opportunities and many trails already exists, probably in excess of 40km. - Hamilton Marsh: Private forest land, but I think the RDN should again try to purchase this land. - Hammerfest trails: No sure how open Mosaic would be about selling this area, or how open the mountain biking community would be to make the area an official park. - Maybe RDN could enter in agreements with Mosaic to offer more front country camping opportunities on their land. ie: develop campsites on Shelton Lake, Boomerang Lake, etc. -etc

Please provide a 'high level' budget with each goal or action, to let us know what order of magnitude the park budget may increase/decrease and effect on taxation. Any way of promoting donations for park acquisition or facility building? particularly for trails or facilities - something tangible - that people can really identify with.

Stop ruining our nature trails hard with a cover of gravel and limestone crush.

Big thank you for incredible work being done and planned.

One way or another lifestyles are going to change and Mother Nature is the final arbiter. You are going to need to go "all in" when it comes to humans relation to the natural world. RDN is, or should be, on the forefront of the conversation. Doing things "on the cheap" or "kicking the can down the road" is no longer an option. Do the right thing. Be bold. Catering to the powerful and vested interests behind extractive behaviour is wrong and deadly.

Like the ideas of identifying and mapping all trails as well as future park spaces and ecologically sensitive areas for acquisition. Not sure if anything is missing yet. There are a lot of great ideas here.

I like the the idea of incorporating volunteers- gets more buyin

Reducing transportation related greenhouse gas emissions should be included in the Parks and Trails mandate.

Trails should be looked at both for hiking/walking and include cycling, particularly if the trail is used for connectivity.

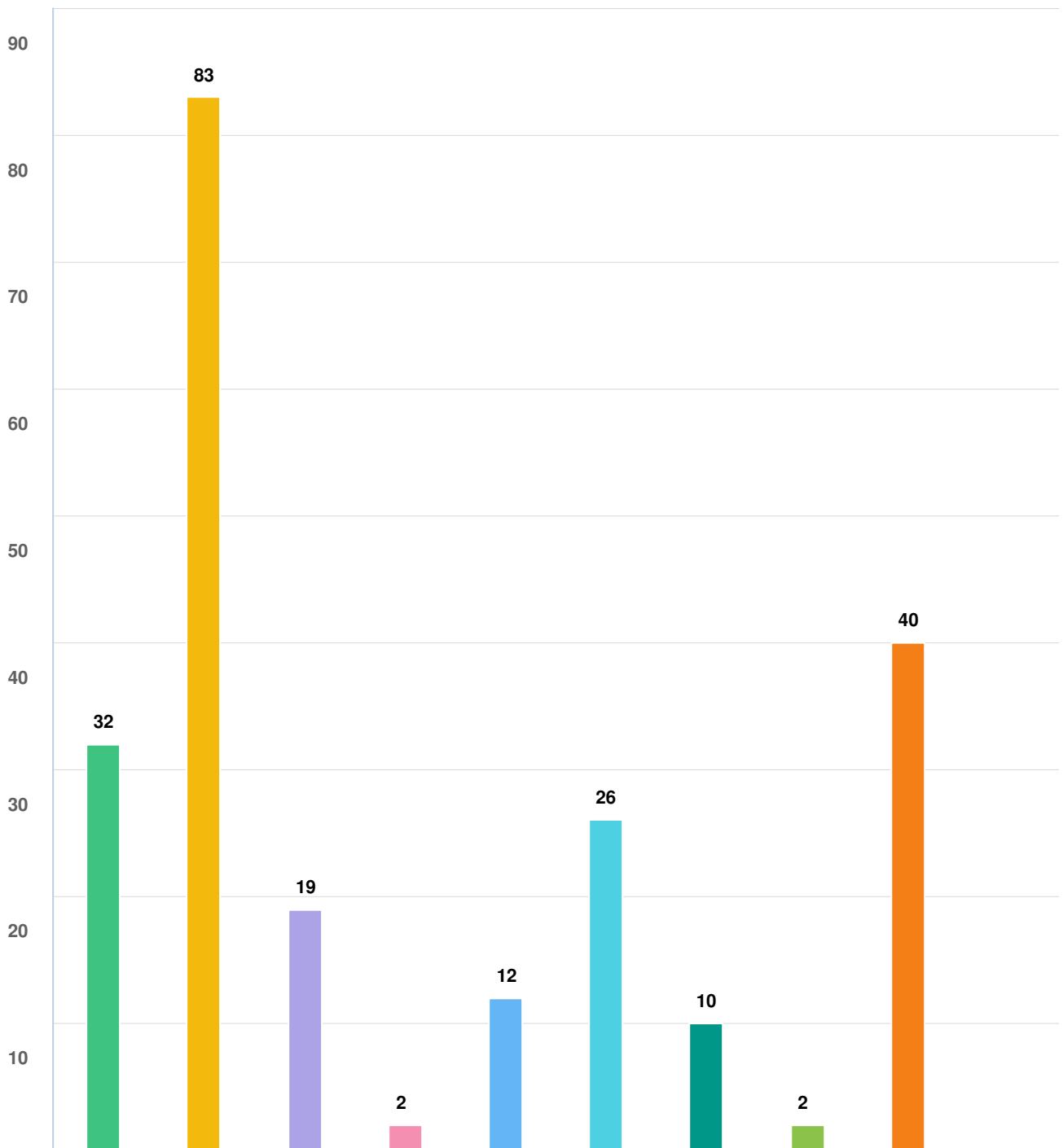
my main concern is with the 707 on Gabriola Island it is growing back into a beautiful place and the people that use it would like to see it left alone, thank you

As in building successful restaurants providing parking for many parks is very important. Again, one has to think "how do you build community" if people from different areas are confounded by where to park their vehicle. Concentrate on replacing and adding low-maintenance trees and shrubs to most parks - ones that don't interfere with private properties "on the other side of the fence". If pathways are to be included in the design really analyze whether they need to be hard surface concrete or asphalt (impermeable). At the 1:23 and 4:50 point in the video, playground equipment is shown, yet I don't think there was any mention in the verbal commentary.

**Optional question** (62 response(s), 113 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

**Q25 How did you hear about this survey? (check all that apply)**

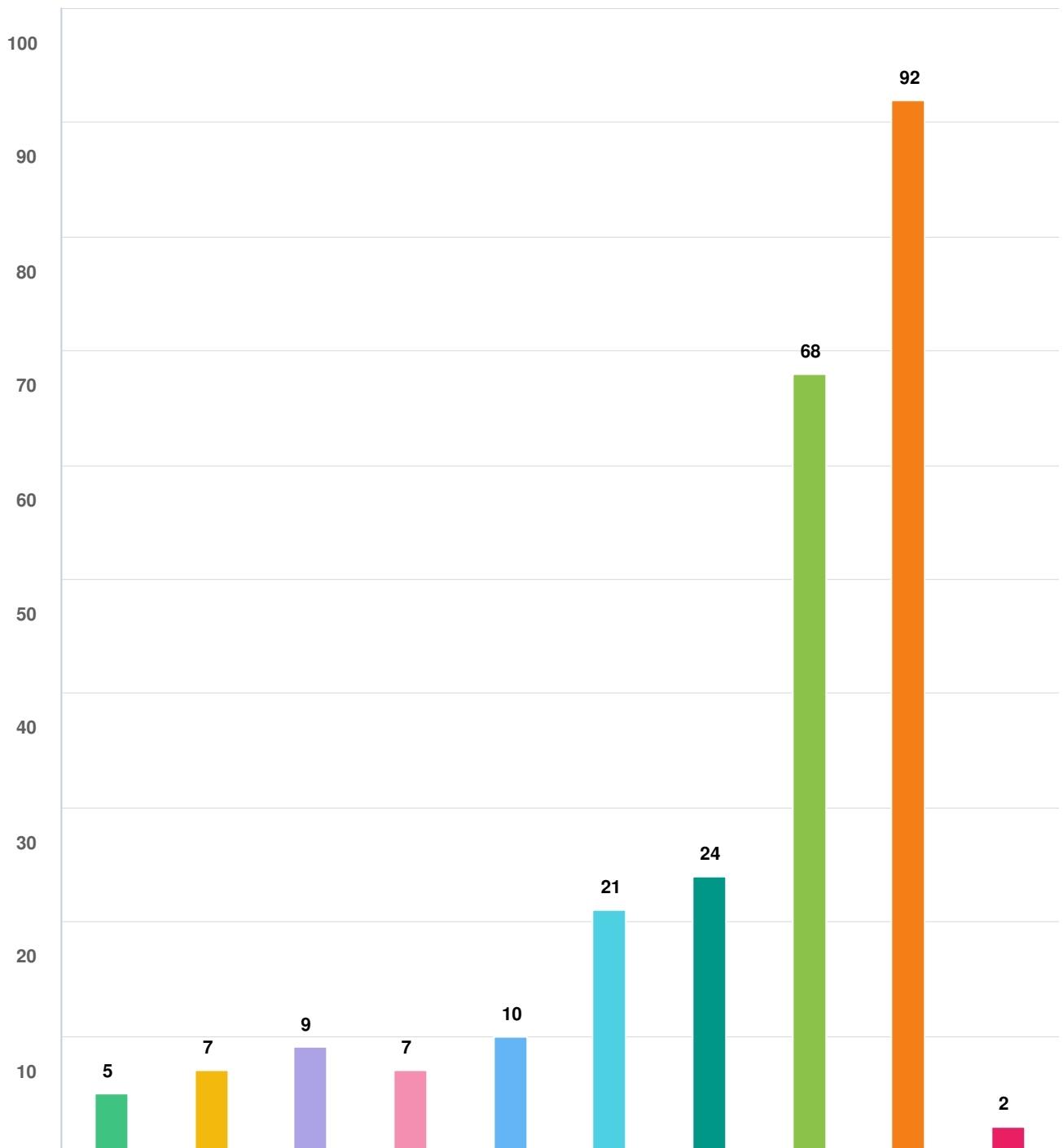


**Question options**

- Poster at a recreation facility
- Other (please specify):
- RDN Instagram
- RDN website
- RDN Facebook
- Get Involved RDN
- Poster on a bus
- Poster at a park
- RDN email notification
- Word of mouth

Optional question (172 response(s), 3 skipped)  
 Question type: Checkbox Question

**Q26 Please share the age range of residents in your household (check all that apply):**

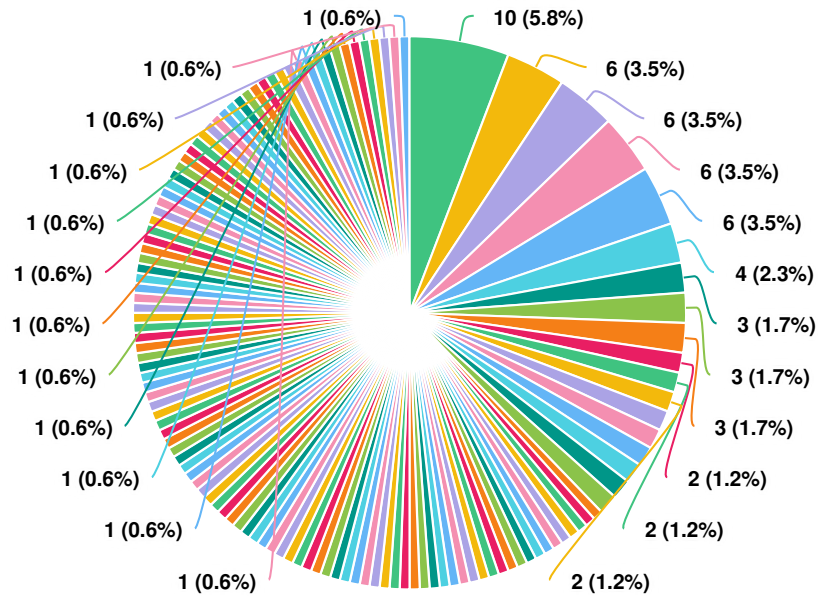


**Question options**

- 85 years and over
- 65 to 84 years
- 50 to 64 years
- 40 to 49 years
- 30 to 39 years
- 20 to 29 years
- 15 to 19 years
- 10 to 14 years
- 5 to 9 years
- 0 to 4 years

*Optional question (172 response(s), 3 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question*

**Q27 Please provide your Postal Code:**



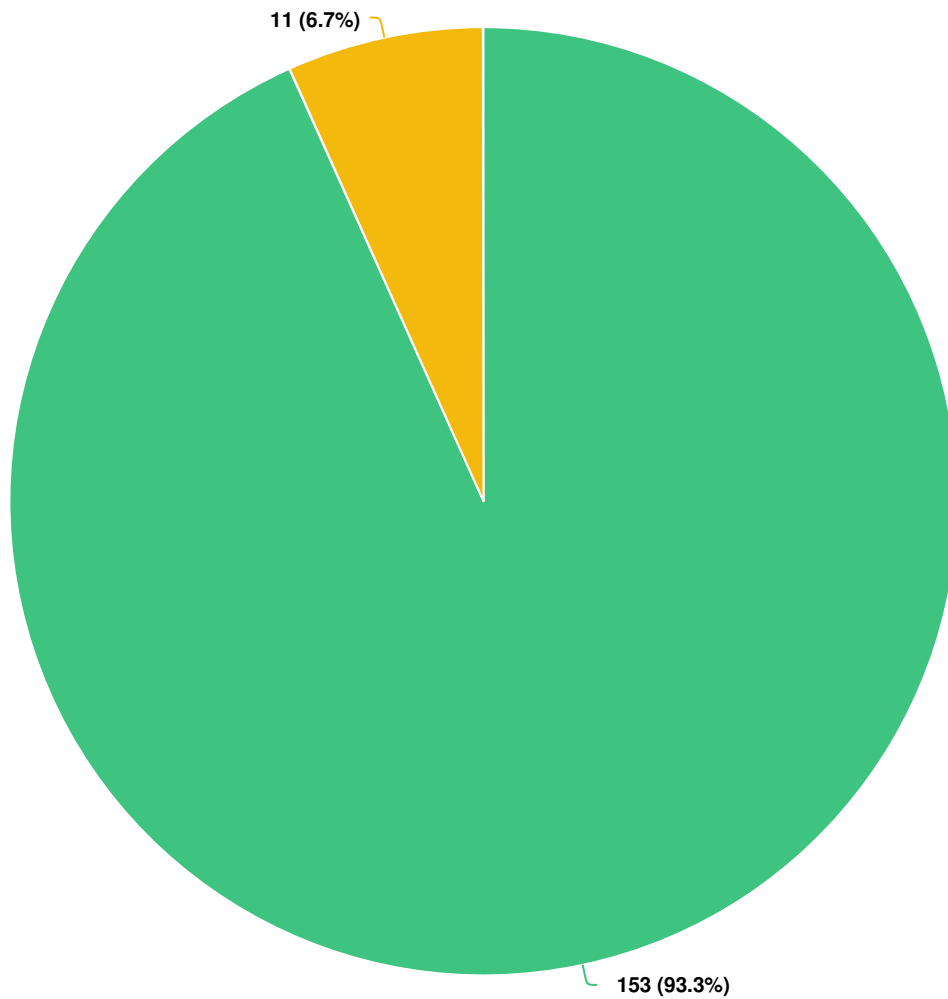
**Question options**

- Nanaimo, BC, V9I4L7
- Nanaimo, BC, V9T5R5
- Nanaimo, BC, V9X1S7
- Ladysmith, BC, V9G1P1
- Parksville, BC, V9P1Z3
- Parksville, BC, V9P2C4
- Nanaimo, BC, V9T0G6
- Ladysmith, BC, V9G1K2
- Mill Bay, BC, V0R2P4
- Courtenay, BC, V9N8S7
- Nanaimo, BC, V9P9B3
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2V2
- Coombs, BC, V0R0C3
- Nanaimo, BC, V9R5B1
- Nanaimo, BC, V9P9B2
- Parksville, BC, V9P2E8
- Nanaimo, BC, V9S0B1
- Parksville, BC, V9P1X3
- Parksville, BC, V9P1X8
- Parksville, BC, V9P1X3
- Parksville, BC, V9P1X8
- Nanaimo, BC, V9V1E2
- Nanaimo, BC, V9T6B3
- Nanaimo, BC, V9X1G8
- Parksville, BC, V9P0B6
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2V1
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2V1
- Nanaimo, BC, V9H6J3
- Nanaimo, BC, V9V1H9
- Chemainus, BC, V0R1K2
- Nanaimo, BC, V9R4T9
- Nanaimo, BC, V9V1E2
- Nanaimo, BC, V9T2B7
- Nanaimo, BC, V9X1G8
- Parksville, BC, V9P0B6
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2V1
- Nanaimo, BC, V9R6G9
- Nanaimo, BC, V9S5T4
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2S4
- Nanaimo, BC, V9T2B7
- Nanaimo, BC, V9X1J5
- Parksville, BC, V9P2H5
- Nanaimo, BC, V9P9E4
- Nanaimo, BC, V9S5C4
- Parksville, BC, V9P2V7
- Nanaimo, BC, V9X1N8
- Nanaimo, BC, V9P9E4
- Nanaimo, BC, V9S5T4
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K1B1
- Parksville, BC, V9P2P7
- Parksville, BC, V9P2Z3
- Nanaimo, BC, V9P9K8
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2T6
- Nanaimo, BC, V9X1J5
- Parksville, BC, V9P2H5
- Nanaimo, BC, V9T0L1
- Qualicum Beach, BC, V9K2V1
- Parksville, BC, V9P1B5
- Parksville, BC, V9P2G4

▲ 1/3 ▼

Mandatory Question (172 response(s))  
Question type: Region Question

**Q28** Are you representing a local organization, stewardship group or non-profit society with your responses?

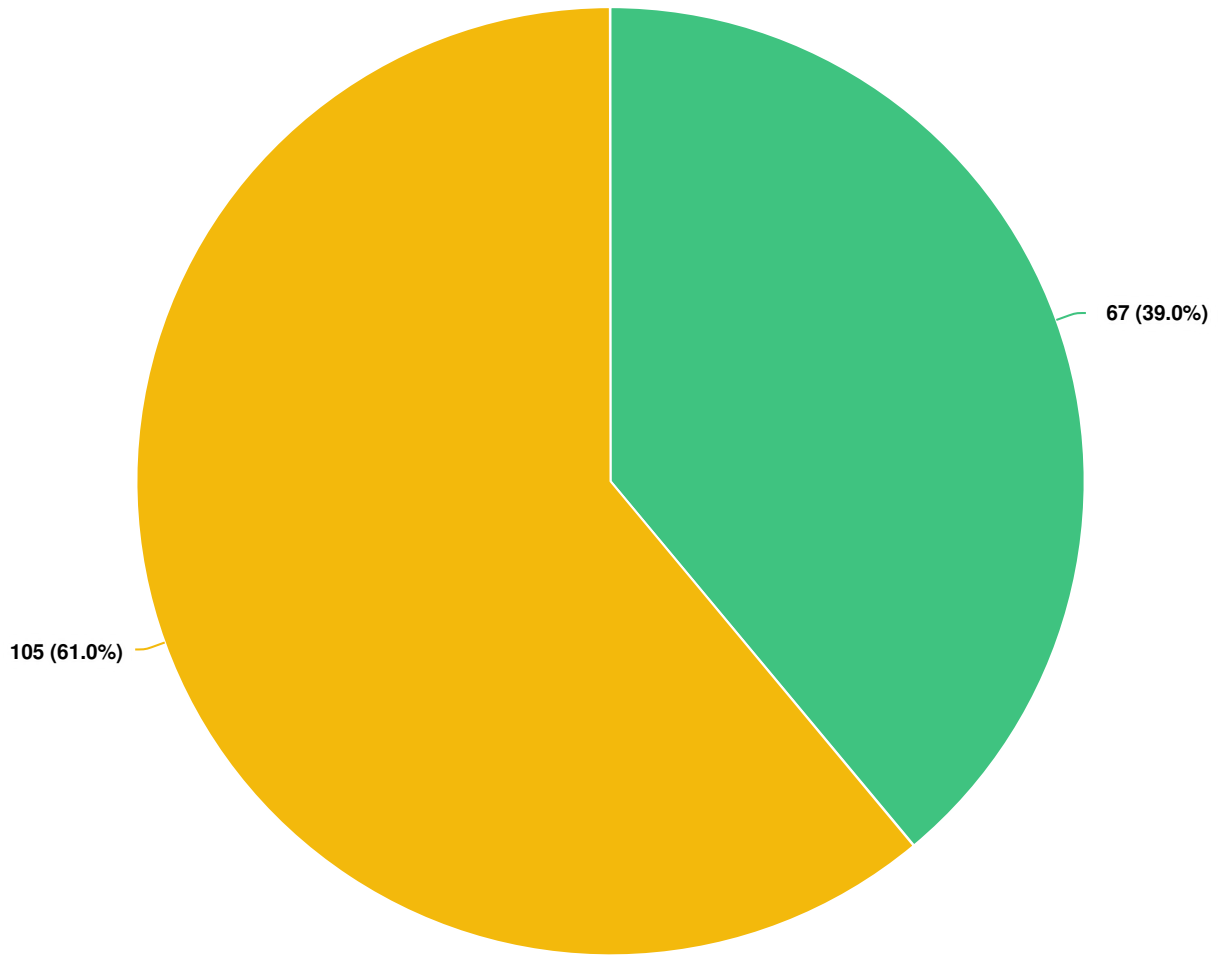


**Question options**

- Yes, please indicate the name of the group/organization:
- No *SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT*

*Optional question (162 response(s), 13 skipped)*  
*Question type: Radio Button Question*

**Q29** Did you participate in the first round of public engagement for the Parks and Trails Strategy?

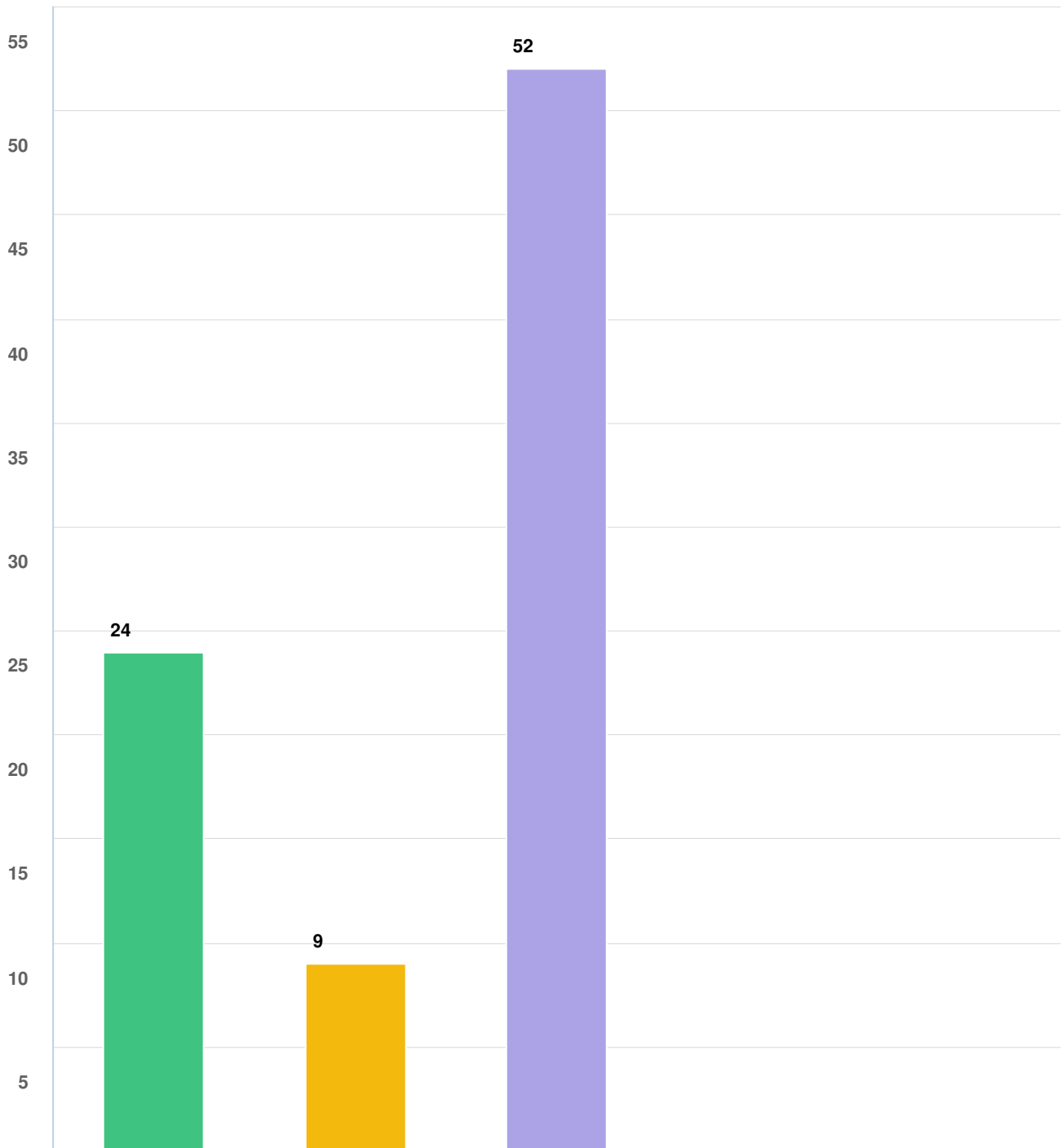


**Question options**

- No
- Yes

*Optional question (169 response(s), 6 skipped)*  
*Question type: Radio Button Question*

**Q30** If you answered Yes to the previous question, how did you participate in the first round of public engagement? (please check all that apply)



**Question options**

- Responded to the Telephone Survey
- Completed a Stakeholder Interview
- Completed the Online survey on Get Involved RDN
- Attended a Stakeholder Workshop
- Attended an Open House

Optional question (64 response(s), 111 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question



### Q1 | In your opinion, is this vision complete? (Other (please specify))

Accessible trails continue to "wash out" due to rain. There is no way to stop this- and I don't want that- what I think is continued & more maintenance is important so this will never be "complete".

over emphasizes making parks accessible by residents. There needs to be a recognition that park space not for human enjoyment and use is necessary

Too wordy, this is not an aspirational vision. It's ,ore like a mission statement.

Our Parks are for everyone: accessible, connected, preserved, protected, supported and promote healthy living.

A specific focus on First Nations and their land is needed

too may trees have been cut along trail and rivers causing erosion

I live next to Barclay community park which is completely overgrown an inaccessible. Lithe property is derelict and useless green space at this time.

Could include specific information on riparian assessment and stream health management.

Could include specific language to support of wildlife and native vegetation in land management strategies.

I like the statement, but perhaps it needs 'restoration' added to the adjectives. As eluded to in the goals, some areas that are overused or have been degraded may need to be restored to functionality. Enhanced does not fully describe what is required in some circumstances. 'Restore' allows for 'closure' of areas for a period of rest or while restoration takes place.

it looks good except there needs to have indigenous recognition included at the vision level

Nanaimo and area is experiencing and will experienced an increase in population and yet there have not been any real new parks established in recent decades.

does not mention outdoor recreation

it currently notes "draft" therefore it is not complete and subject to changes, for which may then be too late to comment on the changes

You took out the beach access stairs a few years ago from Joyce Lockwood Park Gabriola Island and force people to go down a muddy slope. People are very angry about this! Especially people with mobility issues.

I would like to see and hear a commitment to recognizing aboriginal title and history within the lands as well as a desire to encourage dialogue and consultation with local First Nations.

There needs to be more emphasis on trail development as part of actively transportation.

Need to add to the last sentence after word of "health" (, safety).

The presence of off leash dogs represents a risk to residents.

I agree wholeheartedly with the RDN Parks and Trail Strategy. The vision is admirable and needed. The only problem I have with it is that I think the parks and trails should be spread equally among the different regions and communities. Having been a parks board commissioner under two different directors, I know that there are communities without access to parks and trails unless they drive a car out of their community. It is vital that residents can use active transportation to access their local trails and parks. All area should be considered equitably when building new parks or trails.

No realization of the financial constraints. No goal to improve efficiency of current services.  
No plan to increase resident access to local beaches. There are identified properties set aside throughout Nanoose to provide beach access. Many of these properties need a path down to the beach. These should be prioritized for funds before new lands are acquired.

There is no mention of improvements in the French Creek area, where local development is accelerating at a rapid pace while park improvements and community amenities lag far behind

Too little attention being paid to accommodate people and their pets. Also no effort being made to open existing public access points so everyone can enjoy waterfront

The vision is in the right direction, but in these times of accelerated development, we need parks and natural environments more than ever. I would like to see the efforts to acquire and save more natural landscapes supersede other concerns.

It doesn't speak about non-human inhabitants (e.g., wildlife) and it shouldn't be considered to be implied in the preservation of 'natural areas'.

Would be strengthened by adding "expanding" system

too much emphasize on management and not enough on wilderness and letting nature take its course.

Vision statements are meaningless (nice words, but no action). Parks and Trails need to be considered in the greater context. The continued logging and sprawling new development in the RDN needs to be addressed. Currently, natural areas are being decimated. The few protected and park areas are just the scraps left to make us feel like we are doing something.

More protections are needed against user impacts, particularly for sensitive habitats

I would like to see policies that make it difficult/impossible to develop natural lands without regional and community approval, as well as a transfer of public benefit. Meaning no natural land destruction unless it is of significant benefit to the community/public.

Also, if we had a default policy that would require any up-zoning (increasing density) to have all the new density locked into a non-profit covenant in perpetuity. This would build systemic affordable housing for the long run, and provide an additional negotiation position for the region - for example the RDN might allow the non-profit covenant to be dropped if significant lands were donated to the public commons (parks/nature-preserve/etc).

No use of Gabriola volunteers.

It is filled with platitudes and the need to "investigate" and prepare plans. Nothing concrete involving very focussed measures that could be taken NOW to make recreational life far better. Some of these platitudes have been content of other plans FOR YEARS. IN fact area plans showed more focus on particular actions for particular areas such as Boat Harbour trails. NOTHING has occurred. Recreational trails in (eg) CEDAR are abysmal.

Vision and needs are always changing.... I think your goals, approach and vision is wonderful but true vision evolves with your core values and goals.

The word "are" in this statement "important natural areas are preserved, enhanced, and maintained" reads as though this has been fully achieved. A more accurate statement may be "Important natural areas are "being" preserved etc. which reflects an ongoing process.

Personally I think it's impossible to see a vision complete. When I do things I have a vision but it never comes out exactly as I thought it would.

Visions will require change as the populations continues to skyrocket with growth and impacts of climate change affects waterways and green space. The demand for green space will increase with time and will be challenging with governments allowing paving over natural landscapes for more subdivisions.

Ok, I'm being picky here, but "complete is too categorical. RDN's effort is a good one, probably as complete as it can be but, as they say, the devil is in the details.

I am particularly worried about the partnerships and and degree of emphasis on practices which can be extractive, disruptive, or abusive to the landscape and its natural denizens. It is a conundrum, sure, but human activity is behind the degradation of the environment that we are now experiencing on a global, as well as a local level.

There needs to be more of a sense of urgency, without panic, when it comes to protecting and preserving our landscape over things like "sharing" and "developing."

Again, this is tricky stuff. I agree with RDN that public access to the natural world is essential for community health and awareness of the issues we face regarding the environment (the planet is on fire, guys) but priorities must be firm and the health of the landscape HAS to be number one. NO exceptions.

Bottom line: Every significant step in human progress has occurred by expanding the sense of "family" beyond the hearth. By this I mean recognizing the importance and value of "the other" ... other ethnic and cultural groups, particularly other species, other lifestyles, other watersheds. This cannot, however, be a blanket acceptance of any and all ideas that we are particularly prone to with the rise of social media and its exploitation for personal gain and greed.

To repeat:

Priorities must be firm and the health of the landscape HAS to be number one. NO exceptions.

Still a bit vague

I don't know about areas outside of where I live, so don't feel qualified to answer this question.

Active transportation should be explicitly integrated into the vision.

The vision should include comments about connectivity and opportunities for activities for all residents in the RDN.

Please leave it alone

Needs to make mention of using the land and vegetation to help deal with climate change. Need to replace trees that are removed or fail. Vision makes little mention of "building community" by providing space for individuals and groups to exercise, with and without formal facilities provided by government.

Last sentence needs modification:

Regional and Community Parks and Trails in the RDN support the health and wellbeing of all residents in the region while protecting local nature.

There should be explicit acknowledgment of First Nations & our occupation of First Nations land, and reconciliation & Indigenous legal orders/sovereignty, within the vision.

### Q9 | Do you think anything is missing specific to the seven goals? (Other (please specify))

#### Preserving parkland and acquisition considerations.

Show all and possibly rank potential land acquisition opportunities in the near future. ie within this planning period. DL 117 above seablush drive and Hillview is crown land and which is currently advanced mature fir in the CDF and CWHvm1 endangered ecosystems. The District lot should be protected as old growth recruitment before the entire lot is harvested. This lot meets all of your goals.

I think there should be category of acquisition that is for primarily for conservation and the expectation should be for limited or no access to these areas.

the island is under considerable pressure to grow, adding more residents and housing options. there needs to be strong commitment to incorporate trails, parks and conservation within development projects. i appreciate the development is mostly happening outside of the rdn and the parks are largely within the rdn.

Perhaps this is addressed further on...very important to consider noise as an impact.

Plan ahead for an increased population that will need more parks and wild lands. Our parks are overused already.

More efforts required to access, protect and expand access to special areas, like the water. Recognize those lands are more expensive but once gone into private development will be lost forever

1. more emphasis is required on preserving areas where there is development, currently and planned. The trail approach strikes me as being one of focussing on areas where there is no current development - ie "the easy areas".

2. extending the above, there needs to be increased focus on making accessibility possible without the need to drive to the location. Very few areas have access to park (trail, etc) areas from residents front doors. This includes walking trails, bike-ways, etc

Again, developing park amenities should not be favoured over acquiring new park lands.

maintain wilderness as much as possible.

I would like to see a specific effort towards a continuous trail (or network of trails) that allow travel across the RDN. For example there are several areas where it is necessary to travel on the freeway - this is unacceptable for many reasons (safety/enjoyment/tourism/etc). I would like to see a clear plan to fix this problem, allowing off-main-road travel (small roads & trails) from the Cowichan Trail at Ladysmith all the way to the north end of the RDN.

Also, I think the RDN should have goals to protect the natural mountain landscapes we have, including the encouragement of nature-sensitive hiking & biking trails in the back country (and camping in select areas, for example near Nanaimo Lakes).

Emphasis on accessibility for all. Preservation for wild life and native fauna.

e.g. there once was a beautiful trail from Hwy 4 up to Rousseau Ridge. Logging destroyed it. RDN needs to work with logging companies so they leave large buffers around sensitive areas. 15 m buffers are not enough. They've logged whole steep hillsides practically to the shore of Englishman River. It's got to stop. Developments such as Craig Bay were built on top of aboriginal settlements and sensitive ecosystems. Why!? Work with other departments to stop the sprawl and excessive logging. Practice sustainable logging. Remove all the escaped cut logs cluttering and destroying eel grass beds and shorelines. Educate and fine people for all the dog poo and urine that is polluting the environment. Remove the invasive species, not just in the park, but enforce the bylaws that apply to private land too. Forbid the sale of fireworks in the RDN. Improve the road access to trailheads i.e. make the forest companies maintain the road, put back the culverts, and allow access on more than weekends. There is so much opportunity to expand tourism if the logging roads were used in a better way.

The short message, is you can't build better park system in a vacuum. What happens in other departments of the RDN affects everything. Important and rare ecozones are being lost to private development despite all the visions and nice words. Protect estuaries and shorelines. Build smaller footprints.

Improving beach access on existing identified properties in Nanoose.

Support biodiversity and climate change goals in the management of existing parks and the assessment and acquisition of future park lands

#### **Take action on First Nations consultation and representation in parks.**

The goal of incorporating 1st nations perspectives is laudatory, but 100% missing in action. Focus needs to identify locations that have been / are of significance to 1st nations and showing them to residents. As an example. I have lived here 20 years. I do not know of one place where the RDN has created any type of 1st nations interpretive information - but am aware from friendships of many locations with deep historical and cultural significance. It is time to move from good words to action.

For areas where you will consult with FN that consultation should be the first step. Expecting to superimpose FN values on an existing framework is not appropriate.

The only thing I would comment on is the first nations signage. Either the naming has to be something that all people can pronounce or there needs to be phonetically bracketed pronunciations.

In addition to the laudable goal of including First Nations perspectives into Parks planing, RDN should look at the Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area movement and work with local First Nations to develop reciprocal partnerships that centre Indigenous sovereignty (like the Settlement Lands on Denman Island for example)

#### **Multi-jurisdictional trail linkages and active transportation planning.**

Linkages with adjoining municipalities and the Provincial Parks system.

Needs to be greater connection to active transportation planning.

Active transportation should be explicitly integrated. both as a means for users to access parks and to ensure that appropriate trails serve active transportation in the best way possible, with the values of safety and efficiency foremost.

#### **Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities.**

Focus on maintaining and increasing access for rock climbers, trail runners, mountain bikers and hikers
Healthy, active lifestyles
Maintain diverse access for cyclist and equestrians.
Access to trails for horses, so enlarged parking lots at trailheads.
Increased access to all modes of transport. There is great emphasis on walking and biking. However, there is no mention of accessibility for the ATV riding group. As already evidenced in the North Vancouver Island communities there is a great financial benefit in providing some routes that are ATV accessible. Local ATV clubs have already been working with private landowners for access to the vast majority of private lands between Sooke and Campbell River. That will happen this year. But how does an ATV rider get to food, fuel and accommodations in a community?
There is no mention of dogs. I feel nanaimo needs to have more trails where dogs can run off leash, or at least hang on to the ones we currently have!
I believe there should also be another beach or two where dogs can swim all year, or certain hours where they are welcome at most beaches.
Need to have more signage along trails outlining the need for dog owners to ensure their pet is leashed.
It seems the RDN thinks it is maintaining trails by covering natural dirt trails with limestone crush. This is most prohibitive to people like myself with knee & hip issues. We do not use walkers or scooters or motorized wheelchairs. We are able to walk on soft natural ground trails and as they are getting covered over with gravel or limestone crush I am left with no place to walk anymore. I am not the only one with type of mobility issue.
Please do not overlook the needs of responsible boaters using non-motorized/self-propelled boats. As a kayaker and canoeist, please ensure that parks adjacent to water are provided with amenities that will encourage and facilitate easy and adequate access to launch a kayak, canoe, dinghy, or small sailing vessel.
Insufficient mention of providing for let's say athletic facilities i.e. "jungle gyms" and playground equipment for young children. Basketball pad and basket for older kids, space for portable badminton net, pickleball court in appropriate location, and some form of seating (picnic table) for guardians.

### **Make use of local knowledge, resources, volunteers.**

I am ambivalent on Goal 5 in regard to amenities. Any amenities should be to ensure accessibility as opposed to Disneyfying natural spaces. Also in Goal 8 I would like to expand beyond volunteering to local employment opportunities. People, particularly those living in rural communities are the stewards of their parks but they get very little community benefit from potential local work opportunities. Please don't hide behind 'regional contract standards', they will benefit the big island communities to the detriment of the small island communities like Gabriola and Lasqueti. In small communities our economies are part of our ecosystem and are equally fragile.

It might be helpful to add "Continuing Refinement of Plans and Priorities" by adding an on-going Citizen/User Advisory Group to the program.

Get community and community partner feedback incorporated into major works such as fire suppression strategies. Do not rely only on contractor recommendations. They may not understand all the ramifications.

**Other Comments**

it depend on what you actually end up doing under all these goals

I do not support the Horne Lake regional trail. We are a privately owned local community at Horne Lake, and fire safety is a primary risk to us in recent years. There is no fire services at Horne Lake and the more people that are brought to this area the more risk there will be to our homes. There is also no public access allowed to the water front at Horne Lake other than at the campground. We've seen much more issue with trespassing on our private property over recent years with increased people coming to the lake. This includes illegal camping, which will happen along a remote trail, and this also increases the fire risk. I also do not agree with the proposed appropriation of our Horne Lake strata corp lands for this trail.

Please do not remove the island railway system. This should be used primarily for the use of trains.

the survey is too general and non specific to specific areas. if we accept the too large general direction on all RDN parks it may not be applicable to "all" RDN parks.

You took out the beach access stairs a few years ago from Joyce Lockwood Park Gabriola Island and force people to go down a muddy slope. People are very angry about this! Especially people with mobility issues.

As a newcomer to Nanaimo, I could find no parking area or walkway to access Brannen Lake. Also there is no signage at the Jack Point parking lot.

The plan for the 707 on Gabriola is looking at cutting down 88% of the trees in the park hoping to prevent fires. This is ridiculous. Gte rid of the deadfall and dead trees before making this kind of recommendation.

Ensure and provide fire safety and enforcement of rules for use of parks and trails in light of increasing fire risk during summer.

i mentioned it in my comment of the vision.

1. To encourage more volunteer engagement, create an organizational template that will encourage and make it easy for people to form a "Friends of XX Park" non-profit society.

2. Include the E&N Corridor in all your trail planning. Be open to the possibility that the voting members of the Island Rail Corridor foundation might one day agree that the restoration of a rail is never going to happen, and it's better to convert the whole trail to a walking/cycling trail.

3. Establish an agreement with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure that will make it far easier and cheaper for local communities to build safe, separated trails alongside existing roads, within the public right-of-way. As a great example of what has been achieved in the Comox Valley Regional District, see <https://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/projects-initiatives/past-current-projects/denman-cross-island-trail>

4. As I read it, the mapping of possible new trails is a future activity. I just want to flag the need for a train from Cable Bay Trail to Joan Park, and from Joan Park to Cedar-by-the-Sea.

5. I'm sure it's there, but I also want to flag the importance of decent buffer zones alongside trails. As thing stand, in the City of Nanaimo, the Cable Bay Trail has zero buffer protection against totally industrialized land-use on the west side.

Fire control of derbies.



There are many areas, where MORE than plans and generic "coordinative" actions are expressed. These platitudes are a recipe for doing NOTHING. I've tried for 7 years to ask for RDN help/MOE/provincial agency help to render even gazetted beach accesses passable. It is despicable that there is only one Boat Launch, for eg, in CEDAR, when there are so many beach accesses and so many volunteers willing to help to render them passable. The RDN has only provided some stairs for one access (short) in my sojourn here. Which is why we use our home only as a base, and travel mainly to Alberta for recreational activities. The parks department RDN is an abysmal failure and unfortunately typifies the stereotypical view of most of civil servants.

We need stairs to the beach access at sunny beach and breakwater rocks to slow erroneous to the bank

Goal 6 should be goal 1

Are there detailed descriptions defining terms such as "management" in Goal 3, "well-maintained and diverse amenities" in Goal 5, and "land use partnerships" in Goal 7? These definitions would be very different in designated important natural areas than types of parks & trails.

Again it's impossible to know if anything is missing until final outcomes are reached.

Well, again, it is a matter of degree and priority. In general, I think this is a well-thought-out plan.

Be careful of priorities!

Human activity must be monitored, understood, and ameliorated.

Please also assess opportunities for nature based solutions to extreme events (such as drought, flooding) so our communities have more resilience as they grow

As with most things, the devil is in the details.

funding- how? augmentation of \$ plan

Please leave it alone

### Q11 | Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 1? (Other (please specify))

#### **Ensure a coordinated approach across jurisdictions (with Province, municipalities, etc.).**

Determine how the natural areas within the region contribute to the Provincial Parks strategy for preservation of representative landscapes.

Can we agree first on what we want our Regional Government to focus on with respect to the goals for parkland acquisition specific to our community needs. There are Federal, Provincial, Regional and Local governments all spending money & resources on parklands for varying public purposes, and then private money is going into others with perhaps more limited benefits for the public as a whole, but is a need for an identifiable smaller group.

The 'how' and 'who' of those involved with the inventory and mapping of important natural areas. Is the work a collaborative process with MABRRI and VIU, local stewardship groups and knowledgeable experts? Would designations as "OECM's or "PA's" be sought?

#### **Landscape representation and protection of lands, not only parklands.**

Higher elevation, subalpine areas need to be included in representation.

Some natural areas and landscapes are inaccessible and should still be preserved, but they may not be easily used by the public. Should accessibility be a consideration?

Designation of areas as wilderness/natural, with "no-go" areas.

The RDN needs to protect areas that are not just parks.

See previous note. You've mentioned biodiversity above; perhaps add re. re climate change (eg., lands that add to the resiliency of the region to withstand and adapt to climate change effects)

#### **Clarity on the "Reserve" category.**

1.3 is not clear, not exactly sure what the result will be or how decisions can be evaluated as conforming to the policy?

1.4 suggests that acquired land would not be available to public use until it amenities are developed at a later date? Couldn't this "reserve" land be accessible as natural land by the public immediately after acquisition? and/or allow local volunteers to create minimally-invasive trails?

I didn't see it anywhere, but I'm wondering exactly what is the definition of a 'Regional Park Reserve' category? Is this land that isn't yet acquired or developed as a park, but is being held in 'reserve' for future development?

#### **Include recreational opportunities, not just natural areas.**

Not all parks are simply for enjoying nature or preserving biodiversity. Some parks are accessways for reaching the foreshore, vital paths to residents. (For example, Mudge island accesses, or cedar boat ramp)

Designated ORV routes.

Areas offering recreational opportunities should be included in the inventory, not just natural areas for preservation.

Identify opportunities to enhance active transportation on RDN lands and in partnership with other land managers.

Regional parks should be "closer to population". Ideally a goodly number of regional parks should be withing walking distance of residential communities - one shouldn't always have to drive or take a long bike ride to be able to enjoy a regional park. Or, they should be near a bus route.

### **Include funding aspects.**

Levy additional fees against new developments to increase financial capacity

I would like to see some actions associated with funding added to this Goal. Specifically those outlined in the existing Regional Parks Plan, and in particular, and the action re: exploring the potential for establishing a Regional Parks and Trails Acquisition Fund similar to the Acquisition Fund established by the Capital Regional District.

### **Other Comments**

Inform local towns (eg Parksville) of potential goals so they stay away from those areas for development permits.

You took out the beach access stairs a few years ago from Joyce Lockwood Park Gabriola Island and force people to go down a muddy slope. People are very angry about this! Especially people with mobility issues.

Seems like a lot of work for a feel good study that actually accomplishes very little. There is no financial component in any of this. Without that, it's easy to say these are good ideas. See if they are still supported when taxes have to go up x \$\$.

i'm just shocked that 1.1 and 1.2 haven't already been done a decade ago or more. Surely the RDN must have the data?

See above. A lot of "planning" and putting togethert principles - nothing concrete for particular areas. Typical of my experience of the RDN. In fact, this inaction seems to now be institutional. I see the Nanimo River Bridge and this ridiculous "negotiation" of leases/access between the RDN and other government departments as excuses for inaction and lack of impetus. Where are the well meaning civil servants? Of course I support the objectives - who wouldn't. But no point in all of these objectives, with implications that the "plans" and "strategies" will be years in the formulating, with no concrete action. And you speak of assessing natural areas? Well logging (all of which is clear cut and destructive and inconcsitent with any environmentally responsible policy) appears bent on destroying any possible areas you could be looking at for parks acquisition. But no doubt RDN response will be that this isn't in its sphere of competence. The typical excuse for not taking firm and effective collaborative actions with provincial agencies.

I do have concerns identifying private property as park. This can limit a land owners ability to do anything with their land.

**Q13 | Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 2? (Other (please specify))**

**Sensitive ecosystem preservation.**

Action 2.1 -- the management plans also need to look at park utilization and focus -- beyond just prioritizing sensitive ecosystems. 'Parks' are meant to be explored and used by the public. We may need a separate 'Nature Reserve' category for areas acquired for protection only.

not sure if there is enough emphasis on the water bodies in our parks. protecting fish habitat, etc.

also what about species at risk. animals, insects, amphibians, birds. we need to protect their habitats.

Have the "key action items related to sensitive ecosystem preservation" you've noted to "prioritize" been identified? Such as species at risk, support of biodiversity, habitat and breeding windows for work, tree planting, strengthened tree removal policies?

**More clarity around fire risk and management.**

Obviously I strongly support wildfire risk assessment and possible mitigation but it is a complex question with more than one answer and needs to be assessed for each area individually. FN knowledge can be helpful for this.

The strategy addresses fire, but increasingly sensitive ecosystems are in wetlands or areas where erosion or landslides will occur as weather/climate patterns continue to shift. Perhaps eluding to this possibility allows RDN to undertake remedial or mitigative actions.

There must be no onus re fire risk on neighboring lands.

Not just a risk assessment but an enforcement plan. If you invite more people into certain areas, how will the risk be controlled?

Coastal Douglas fir trees do not burn like other trees. If we protect the trees, we will not need to do any fire mitigation measures. What we need is a tree protection bylaw.

i haven't read the draft plan in detail, but hope that re. 2.3 there is some mention of using/managing fire to mitigate fire risk. Many ecosystems rely on some level of fire to stay healthy.

What is missing is what the RDN means by "wildfire and risk assessment strategy". Most fires on Vancouver Island are human caused such as open burning, the use of engines or vehicles, dropping burning substances such as cigarettes, or any number of other human-related activities that can create a spark to ignite a fire. Cool green forest landscapes should not be tampered with by managers who make conditions worse with their ideas about fuel management and building roads for fire trucks as a solution for landscape fire management planning.

Wildfire risk management to be done in coordination with local group's expertise.

With respect to Action 2.3, the strategy should not only mitigate fire risk, it should also consider maintenance of ecological values. In some cases (e.g. maintenance of Garry oak ecosystems), it may be appropriate to use fire as a management tool.

I'm concerned that action 2.3 might lead to overzealous removal of living and decaying plant material to the harm of ecosystems. I also think that there will be a need to increase staffing to adequately deal with all the unauthorized trail building through sensitive areas.

I just want to speak to this section, particularly 2.3. As you are aware, a significant number of people are living in community green spaces. I live above Millstone I and II, and even as I look out over the bank today, I can see a huge pile of debris from a recent settlement, or maybe it still is a settlement, it's hard to tell. Every year some sort of habitation develops here, sometimes these are transitory, while others settle in. I am extremely concerned about the possibility of a significant fire event from one of these settlements. I would greatly appreciate a fairly regular surveillance of this area, and action to relocate the people living on the bank (and other secluded green spaces) during high fire risk seasons. I am aware there is an application for 675,000 for helping vulnerable citizens, and am hopeful this will help cut down on settling in parks.

Do not "manage" the 707 on Gabriola for "fire mitigation." Let nature do it.

### **Invasive species management.**

While I think invasive species management absolutely require a strategy, it is a much broader area than just parks - to the point where a focus on parks is likely to fail if the policy is not pursued with equal focus region wide. As well, I think most residents (and perhaps RDN staff?) think of things like Broom and Himalayan Blackberry when contemplating invasive species yet the impact of bullfrogs and rabbits is arguably of even greater impact on local flora and fauna.

Will invasive species removal be accompanied by replanting of native vegetation?

Need to expand the list of invasive species. I see programs for removing plants like broom and Japanese Knot Weed, but never tansy ragwort which is poised to make much of our hay land un useable due to the fact that it is lethal to animals who eat the hay that contains it.

Not sure if it is "missing" but I have a concern about timing of invasive species. This year there was cleanup at Buttertubs for instance which seemed to decrease some small bird nests in the sanctuary. 🙄. Last year some tree clearing just about wiped out a great horned owl nest at Rathrevor.

### **Other Comments**

You took out the beach access stairs a few years ago from Joyce Lockwood Park Gabriola Island and force people to go down a muddy slope. People are very angry about this! Especially people with mobility issues.

Before talking about cutting down 88% of the trees in the 707, have a community meeting and talk to the people who use the park. This is a "community park" and any decisions about the park should be made by the "community that uses the park", not some RDN consultant.

Financials.

again, I'm just shocked that these things haven't already been done, known, already part of the strategy.

You are missing a concrete action plan needed for anything effective - insisting that the province address clearcut logging or your plans for plans per the above) will mean nothing.

How and when.

**Q 15 | Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 3? (Other (please specify))**

**Explore Rail to Trail potential.**

One obvious goal would be to take over the train line to create a walking biking trail. I know this has implications and issues with the snow and was band. Still it would help and is obvious.

Work with the Island Corridor Foundation to convert existing rail to trail where possible, to connect the missing links.

Somehow being involved in trail conversation example rails to trails.

**Regional trail linkages, across jurisdictions and with local partnerships.**

Identify critical linkages to enhance the Regional Trail Network for future acquisition or development.

It would be useful to specifically set out a goal of establishing trail corridors, e.g.. Morrell Sanctuary to Benson Creek over Mount Benson.

Connecting trails is very important and in some cases may involve using roads. In rural areas this would include working with MOTI. The trails should connect and so should all departments at all government levels.

This must be done in conjunction with MoTI and with CVRD to ensure a cohesive flow up and down the island. As MoTI own the roads, we cannot do much without their support and guidance.

How about a goal of 'assist local organizations in creating digital and paper maps outlining transportation corridors'? As an example, on Gabriola, we're working on developing a map of cycling trails across the island and could use the assistance (financial and technical) of RDN resources.

Maybe ya'll are already working on a complete north-south trail network? I want to encourage such efforts if not already in motion. There are sections of our region that are hostile to cycling/walking - for example everyone is forced onto the freeway north of Ladysmith & north of Lantzville.

Purchase land or easements when needed, to preserve existing trails that cross private land. Galtt on Gabriola has done this and it has greatly benefited the community. There should be a positive way for landowners to donate a trail or for communities to pay for an easement when there is an important trail everyone wants to preserve.

Trail connectivity should be included as trails can form a walking transportation corridor. Emphasis should also be put on trails that are circular in nature vs in and out on the same trail.

Once again, I think trails should be built equitably. I live in a community that has no community trails. We don't even have a crosswalk to cross the highway. Ideally, trails that connect communities, or, communities to parks would be great.

**Offer trails for accessibility as well as user-specific trails.**

Identify guidelines for wheelchair accessibility and make these available to the public.

ATV access?

This goal speaks to trail connections, but I would also like to see a plan to develop trails for a variety of activities. ie: a multi day hiking trail, or a canoe route, etc. This would mean the development of backcountry rustic campsites only accessible for the specific activity in question. This is also linked to goal 4 (diverse amenities). I understand this can be challenging in the RDN where most of the land is private forest land, but that also ties up with goal 6 (partnership).

Clarify criteria for when multi-use trails, including those accessible for disabilities, are and are not appropriate.

If enhancement means more limestone crushed trails then you have excluded people who need places to walk not just for places for dogs to poop.

#### **Active transportation considerations.**

Not all areas have embarked on active transportation planning so it will be challenging to achieve 3.3. May need to do it independently.

Even stronger support for active transportation would be amazing. To make it possible to access our parks by bike and other active means & reduce local dependence on cars (so a focus on bikes and buses would be amazing)

Climate change objectives should be incorporated into the actions somehow. Perhaps into Action 3.3. at the end, could add: "and the interests of the region in achieving carbon neutrality by 2050" or something similar.

#### **Other Comments**

Do you have a good inventory of unsanctioned trails and their use? These trails are very important to local people. It seems the RDN ignores current use of unsanctioned trails. eg in nanoose a tiny off leash dog park, when the locals use the unsanctioned trails in the woodlot and private forest land. the dog park was never use. big waste of money and very poor planning.

I had the unhappy experience of being on the regional parks boards several years ago. To say I was underwhelmed at the effort and attention spent on community parks and the needs in the area represented would be an understatement. At the time, it was clear that there was no true commitment to any kind of cohesive development of parks and associated facilities within the RDN - yet all the same high level vision and objectives outlined in the current plan were in place.

In particular, at both the regional and community levels the overwhelming impression was that ecological preservation and implementation of parks and recreation facilities was a distant 2nd to development plans.

Ensure all stakeholders are actively consulted. RDN has not initiated any discussion with Horne Lake Strata Community since 2018. There was 1 email March 2020. Nothing since then.

Financials.

I support the regional trails system but for the concerns I have above , I do NOT support the Horne Lake regional trail

i am confused by the transportation planning. is that so people can get to the parks to enjoy them?

These are very global and not specific enough for many of the public to comment on.

You took out the beach access stairs a few years ago from Joyce Lockwood Park Gabriola Island and force people to go down a muddy slope. People are very angry about this! Especially people with mobility issues.



work with the logging companies so they will stop destroying existing trails. and logging within feet of existing trails and sensitive habitat.

Concrete actions that could be taken now. We don't need more platitudes. You need to address items that could be tabled now - in conjunction with provincial agencies. Beach accesses. Boat launches. Boat Harbour - you did not have the courtesy to address the hundreds of weeks of volunteer funded work on concrete suggestions to acquire the railbed Boat Harbour trail to the coast. How are we to have any confidence that any of these generic actions will bring any result.

For continuity and to enhancement what is being purposed, it would be beneficial for governments to ensure developers pro-actively consider these goals as priorities when considering projects.

All good ideas in theory, for sure.

Habitat and habitat restoration is key for all of us (critters included).

Timeline for all of this to happen. Most of this info is readily available thru local user groups, etc.

Have to get really serious about this idea of trails or abandon it. The QB to Parksville is substandard as it is totally uninviting to many who might be interested in walking it. With separation from traffic - vehicles and cyclists - it will never garner the numbers to make it worthwhile. Landowners and developers must be advised that they have to up their game to assist in developing networks of appealing paths and trails. "Community" is built on the activities that (good) facilities enable.

There hasn't been any consideration to wildlife? We're stressing existing wildlife and causing fragmentation of their habitat. We should have some considerations in place as we link all these trails.

### Q17 | Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 4? (Other (please specify))

#### **Need to balance access for all with rustic natural parks, as well as user-specific parks and trails.**

Need to attain a reasonable balance between natural areas and areas of mass access

Specific activities such as mountain biking rock climbing, trail running, hiking, walking.. not just age and abilities

It might be that ease of access to an area of environmental sensitivity isn't something we should promote depending on the values therein.

Kudos, I always like to see the word 'accessibility' in trail development and planning. Assigning a % of trail inventory goals to be 'accessible' - allows for both promotion of same, and opportunities for educational materials to be produced.

Also, I am a proponent of Natural Capital Asset Management - hoping it is an RDN goal.

assess integrated trail systems to see that they are accessible to equestrians.

Parks, trails and recreational areas are often in areas of rough terrain. Maybe some just can't be accessed by everyone. That is OK as long as there are some

If RDN's aim is a trail system where access for all ages and abilities is available then please leave then as dirt trails. Limestone crush is ugly and prohibits people with knee and hip issues from any natural place to walk.

Add emphasis to SOME areas in parks fully accessible. I believe that the more rustic/natural areas are very necessary too.

#### **Focus on maintaining existing parks and trails well and clarifying levels of maintenance needed.**

Need to maintain existing parks and trails taking into account increased use. For example with the increased use of the Mount Benson trails, there is substantial erosion so some trail hardening is required - as a preference to restricting use, or having people develop their own trails as is happening now.

Well maintained are the key words. Whatever you do there must be a maintenance budget and staff to maintain it. A trail with a low spot creates a puddle, this is a hazard and creates damage to the surrounding areas as people go around to avoid it. If they ride a bike straight through it makes the problem worse. Thoughtful planning and quality implementation are worth it.

Cities often seem to think we need high-quality (bordering on luxurious) amenities, when we often only need very simple/minimalistic trails (for example often simple/rough volunteer maintained trails are enough and we don't need paving and lights and benches, etc). Look to save money on luxuries in order to acquire/protect more land.

"Public expectations" is a loaded term; they can sometimes be higher than the park/trail/environment can withstand and/or public resources (budget) can support.

#### **Matching funding and services with community needs.**

4.2 -- seems to imply that we only do what's possible within the existing budget. We may need to expand services and hence, the budget to meet those service requirements.

As described above, I think there is a huge gap between objective and desire and funding support at the RDN (and community level). I see many projects being undertaken that clearly have long term "expense drag" (to use a term from my working days). However, in practice it is obvious that many projects are completed that do not have the needed ongoing expense included in budgets.

I think there needs to be a fundamental reset and recognition that some projects need to be completed that will not require long term expense to maintain. By this I mean trail systems where boardwalks, bridges and other capital intensive work is completed, but within a few years the facilities become so broken down they are unable to be used. There needs to be a better balance of the KISS and capital intensive projects. I would go so far as to add that I find that many capital intensive projects, such as the Coombs to Parksville rail trail, are so user unfriendly that most people I know avoid using them.

I know I sound like a broken record, but I live in the most densely populated area of area A and we have no parks or trails. While it is so important to budget, it is equally important to realize that the tax dollars collected in one community for parks and trails should at least be of some benefit to that community.

#### **Other Comments**

The language is too vague to understand exactly what specific actions the finances would address. We do not need total access everywhere for all ages and mobility types.

You took out the beach access stairs a few years ago from Joyce Lockwood Park Gabriola Island and force people to go down a muddy slope. People are very angry about this! Especially people with mobility issues.

enforce existing bylaws in line with achieving the other goals.

Most of this info should already be in hand. Further "studies" only prolong the time needed for active management of the parks, etc.

Ensure that development active transportation amenities are guided by the key values of safety and efficiency.

Please add a fire pit to sunny beach like joe walker park

What do the experts say about providing recreational facilities for an aging society? Is it money well spent? Four tennis courts at Ballenas Secondary sit idle 95% of the time, yet a segment of our community are crying for pickleball courts.

### Q19 | Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 5? (Other (please specify))

#### **This goal is foundational and requires ongoing communication.**

Perhaps this should be the first goal. Shuffle the rest down. If this isn't done the reconciliation may be a token phrase only.

It is too general, First Nations must be an ongoing part of the process, it must be about their perspectives NOT only incorporate

Ask FN first don't go with an agenda.

i am not sure. the best way to answer this question is to ask the affected indigenous people.

I hope that First Nations have been asked what they think are the most important goals and ways to meet the visions and goals.

I am worried that this becomes tokenism. We need to start from the premise that these are unceded, sacred ancestral lands and the FN should be represented at the governance and planning tables. And we need to be prepared for them to say no to certain uses.

This is the partnership that should be at the top of the "partnership ladder."

I exaggerate for the sake of clarity here (but not too much): Rich white guys with power, money and influence have defined the conversation long enough.

If the First Nations are merely going to be "just another one" of the myriad groups with vested interest in RDN's role in the environment that gets listened to, then you can be sure that the same well-healed, primarily white and greedy voices will have an outsized voice.

Be bold.

Put the First Nations at the head of the table.

Do the right thing.

More specific action related to having First Nations at the table for all decisions, part of the process.

#### **Interest in cultural interpretive centres or educational opportunities in parks.**

don't just name areas, create sites that celebrate and describe them !!!! Establish interpretive centres at locations that are used to show how and why they were used.

Need cultural interpretation and awareness

I think it's important to add an education piece for the public in terms of indigenous contribution, perhaps an explanation of cultural areas, or design elements etc that can be read at the park

#### **Collaborate on natural areas protection in general.**

Action 5.2 should not be limited to cultural areas. It should also include natural areas. With reconciliation, there is a unique opportunity to work with First Nations to protect sensitive areas.

We must protect and respect First Nations cultural areas but also maintain parks and reserves for all to enjoy.

Incorporate First Nations knowledge in maintaining health and diversity of parks.

It might be valuable to address and state - a retroactive collaboration to review existing Parks and Trails - be evaluated by First Nations, and included in all Master Plans as they are reviewed and implemented.

It is my understanding that many First Nations archeological sites are confidential. I am confused as to how to protect such sites if on the other hand they might have to be marked to identify "important cultural areas".

Emphasis should be placed on preserving archeological sites.

This is a political statement. Where traditional knowledge can be directly related to parks and recreation activities there is a role

Involve First Nations in the active management of parks that they may have a particular interest in.

Again, just want to boost this goal but also strengthen it so that RDN honours its reciprocal responsibilities to local First Nations — I strongly support work that will acknowledge not just Indigenous knowledge but the fullness of RDN's ethical responsibilities to care for lands as good relatives and visitors in Coast Salish lands and waters. Specifically, this means working closely with local First Nations to identify lands and waters to protect and to cis user doing this in ways that involve co-management or the Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area model.

### General

5.2 -- just from experience, be careful not to step into the ongoing 'treaty negotiations' process re: land ownership and governance.

cost effective signage. Encourage First Nations to stop selling fireworks in the RDN.

Park naming should not be only a First Nations name. Most names are unpronounceable. This can be problematic in a number of way but particularly for emergency services. If First Nations names are to be used they should be use in conjunction with an english name.

We must be aware that First Nations have so much on their plates. Because of the abuse caused by white settlers, they have many more important issues to worry about. Having said that, many band members would benefit most from active transportation routes as some have limited access to other modes of transportation.

I don't support consulting with First Nations to the point where it holds up planning and also I think Canada belongs to everyone now (even if it didn't originally) so we need to incorporate all groups and ethnicities etc. in things like naming parks, culturally significant area preservation etc. Not just First Nations.

There are many examples of developments on other First Nations lands that exploit in a sustainable fashion tourist/residence access to First Nations lands; and in a manner that benefits First Nations economically. If your plans don't have immediate suggestions to halt clearcut logging to implement good options - this will be a waste. We know from the example at Spruston that logging seems to be the immediate First Nations agenda and all the trail work and effort to clean up will be for nothing unless the RDN realizes this.

You took out the beach access stairs a few years ago from Joyce Lockwood Park Gabriola Island and force people to go down a muddy slope. People are very angry about this! Especially people with mobility issues.

Financials.

### Q21 | Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 6? (Other (please specify))

#### Foster local partnerships with people in the specific communities.

Local contracting especially in Island communities (Gabriola and Lasqueti). Sending workers from the big island to do what we already do as volunteers seems like a poor use of resources. Decentralize budgets to local areas and contract with local agencies to get the work done (e.g., Gabriola Land and Trails Trust).

on paper, the RDN and city of Nanaimo support nice-sounding environmental objectives and initiatives, but in reality, development continues to destroy the remaining ecologically rare or native ecozones on the Island.

Both are no-brainers. There are a plentiful supply of groups willing to enter into such arrangements, and their goals frequently are in lock-step with the parks strategy.

This is very important especially in rural areas. Make the process straightforward. Welcome help and input.

#### Clarify what "increase the Parks Department's capacity" means.

How is the Parks department's capacity being increased?

And as previously mentioned "manage land use agreements with private and public agencies for recreational and conservation purposes" is a different kettle of fish for ecologically sensitive areas than other types of parks & trails and would require different management plans.

I don't have an issue with working with other groups or agencies but oppose significant new hiring.

"Increase the Parks Dept's capacity" needs to be explained. What does this mean in actual action, other than hiring more staff?

Stop adding more staff and realign existing resources

#### Partnerships should focus on in environmental protection and land acquisition.

Be careful.

There is a point at which we must sublimate our natural desire for human comfort, human access, and human use of the landscape in lieu of working WITH nature and in subservience to nature.

People have been sounding the alarm about human impact for generations now. The calls to mitigate what they once called "the greenhouse effect" go back at least to the sixties.

The conversation around the natural world is robust, long-standing and goes back to the early days of Earth Day celebrations in the seventies and well beyond (Rachel Carsen, E.O. Wilson, James Lovelock, Edward Abbey, Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Thoreau, and more all the way back to Francis of Assisi).

Some scientists are already throwing up their hands in dismay and saying effectively: "We've warned you and now we are warning you in the most strident of terms. You're not listening. I give up. Good luck in the history books."

Be careful.

In recent years I hope, but don't know, that the RDN took a leadership role in obtaining the financial support to acquire land in the Englishman River and French Creek estuary. We need the RDN to take a leadership role in protecting such lands not approving development permits for multi-family housing on sensitive and hazardous lands.

Land clearing in wetlands and beside existing parks is happening all the time. The most recent example is on Tiesu Rd in Area A. A large plot of land that butts up to Hemer Park was recently clearcut causing disruption to the flora and fauna in the park. Somehow, we must be able to control clearcutting on private lands in order to protect park boundaries.

Liaise with Provincial Parks counterparts to determine opportunities to work more closely on the acquisition and preservation of lands that contribute to the diversity of the Provinces landscapes.

The goal should be to encourage anything that protects and preserves the local environment or restores what was here. At one time the Englishman River was one of the top Steelhead rivers in the province. Today, the run is minuscule, but there is little being done to identify that, much less try to recover from the damage done. The same is true in most areas. The Mt Arrowsmith Biosphere is a great initiative, but it is remote - we need to focus more on what is near where we live.

#### **Other Comments**

Under 6.1, ADD "...for recreational, ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION and conservation purposes."

I don't support because too low on the priority list to ever see funds. If it is high enough on the priority list to get money, buy the property first so not forever held to an agreement created under the circumstances and needs as recognized on that day. Recently we have seen many of these non-profits face challenges to survive without the government being backed into a corner to either abandon the agreement, or buy out the non-profit.

The public may have very strong views about which organizations are involved. No BC Wildlife Federation for example!

The need to consider and integrate with the plans of adjacent Regional Districts

Need to establish consistent standards for trail development/maintenance and ensure all partners heed those standards

You could also include private corporations into potential partnerships such as access through private lands and sponsorships.

Is this within the Parks Dept's current mandate? Do we want the dept to become a 'contract manager' rather than a Parks/Reserves manager? These are two very different roles.

**Q23 | Do you think anything is missing specific to the actions of Goal 7? (Other (please specify))**

**Ensure clear, well-organized information is available to groups.**

There is no apparent (to me at least) place to find where the action is needed and how groups can help.

Must be well organized and coordinated. Teaching respect for other people and the environment seems to be much needed. Work with the schools.

Volunteers are a great asset when it comes to controlling invasive species in the park and mitigating vandalism. Bins for ivy and broom, daphne and other invasive (more invasions thanks to us white settlers) could be placed at the entrance to each park to encourage visitors to pull and dispose of invasive.

Islands do not need to be managed from 'away', set the standards, provide a budget and allow local implementation.

I strongly support encouragement and facilitation of volunteer/community lead efforts. I am personally trying to find groups that I may volunteer to help build local trails and I am finding it very difficult to find and contact them! I am not entirely sure if lack of newsletters are the primary issue, but rather an easy way to find and volunteer for efforts (and create new groups/efforts) - and possibly to get permission for groups to work on trails? although I don't personally have knowledge on that aspect (yet).

I would appreciate more details about this initiative. There are a number of existing stewardship groups for volunteer led collaboration.

This sounds useful when dealing with community parks and infrastructure decisions.

Specifically work with schools to involve youth in volunteer activities.

**Ensure infrastructure for programs is low cost and sustainable.**

Identify low cost educational programs with little if any infrastructure requirements.

Ensure infrastructure is developed and maintained in a sustainable manner that minimizes negative impacts

" Additional infrastructure " sounds like possible kiosks, shopping or WiFi opportunities. Only signs and toilets please.

Financial component.

spending money on expensive 'educational' signs along trails is not necessary. They get vandalized anyway. Don't bother. People need education around their dogs, around how to shit in the forest, around how not to destroy the environment they are walking through, about forest fires, etc. This can be delivered when they get their property assessment.

We do not need infrastructure at every park.

Develop strategies and ensure adequate funding and infrastructure to recruit volunteers and acknowledge and celebrate their contributions



**Other Comments**

I don't support anything that is both needed and dependent on volunteers or donations. If its needed and within the scope of the RDN, RDN should budget and do without relying on volunteers. That said, to enhance something beyond what is necessary to fund with public dollars, authorize volunteer organization to carry out the project when shown to have the capacity to complete the project.

You took out the beach access stairs a few years ago from Joyce Lockwood Park Gabriola Island and force people to go down a muddy slope. People are very angry about this! Especially people with mobility issues.

I support volunteering opportunities as long as too much responsibility does not shift to volunteers.

7.1 needs to include volunteer opportunities to help maintain trails since RDN resources are inadequate.

AGain, too many goals and not enough specifics. Dealing with the goals (if other "projects" of the RDN is anything to go by) will take years and years and recreation possibilities will continue to be underwhelming.

# PARKS AND TRAILS STRATEGY



## ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

### APPENDIX B – Engagement Materials

- Link to Video Summary:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Zy-rap43OE&list=PLgGjWNlsXIR9--Fa50o91kiQCczVi\\_Zzb](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Zy-rap43OE&list=PLgGjWNlsXIR9--Fa50o91kiQCczVi_Zzb)
- Summary Sheet Package (follows)

# RDN PARKS *naturally*

## PARKS AND TRAILS STRATEGY



### Contents

Planning for the Future of our Parks and Trails.....	3
The Role of RDN Parks .....	4
Existing RDN Parks and Trails System.....	5
Existing RDN Parks and Trails System Map.....	6
Trends and Challenges.....	8
Where are we at in the Process.....	10
Public Engagement .....	11
Engagement Outcomes .....	12
Vision.....	13
Goals.....	14



# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PARKS AND TRAILS

## Purpose of the Plan

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is creating a Parks and Trails Strategy (PTS) to guide the development and management of the RDN's regional and community parks and trails for the next 10 years.

### The Plan:

- presents an overview of the current regional and community parks and trails system;
- identifies trends and challenges that influence parks and trails; and
- summarizes the desires and aspirations for the parks system that were voiced during the project's public engagement process.

From here, the Plan puts forward a **vision** and a series of **goals and actions** that will guide the future direction of both regional and community parks services.

The final plan will offer actionable **implementation recommendations** to guide the RDN in delivering regional and community parks and trails services efficiently, effectively, and sustainably.





# THE ROLE OF RDN PARKS



**2038**

SQUARE KILOMETERS

Includes the municipalities of **Nanaimo, Lantzville, Parksville, and Qualicum Beach**, as well as **seven unincorporated Electoral Areas**



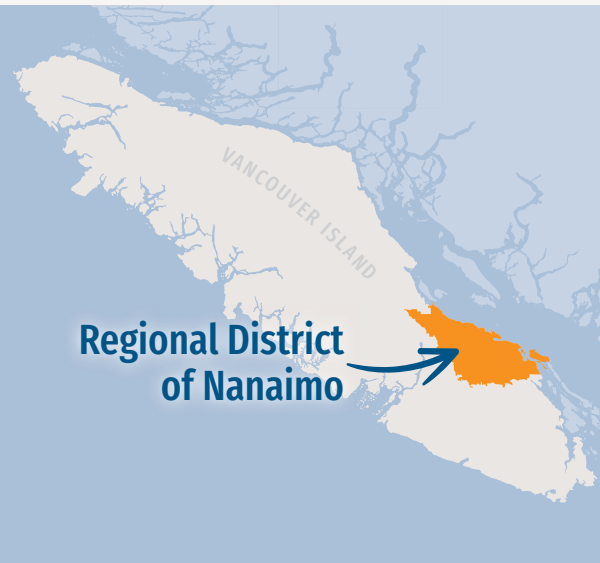
**170,000+**

POPULATION (2021 Census)



**47.2** AVERAGE AGE OF RDN RESIDENTS

(Average age of BC resident is 41.4 years)

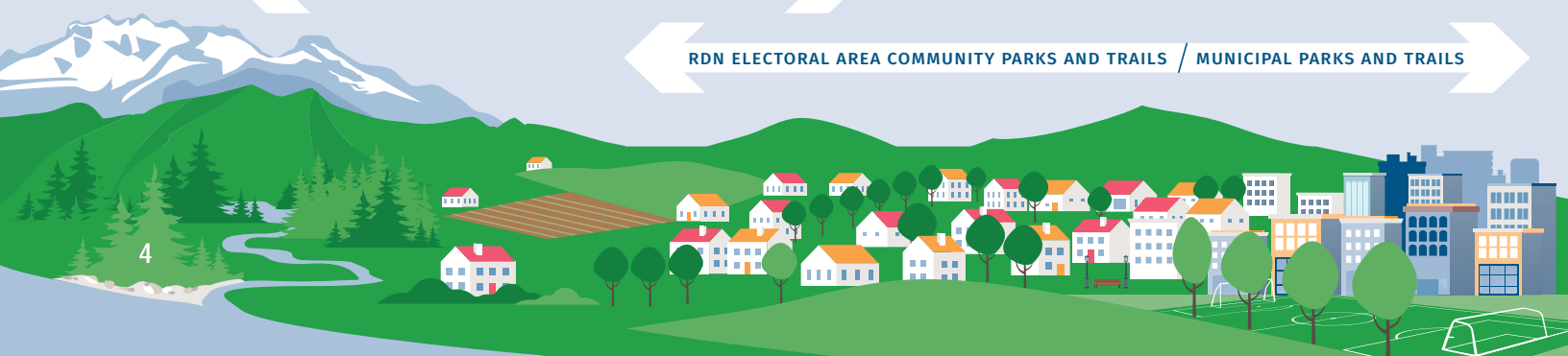
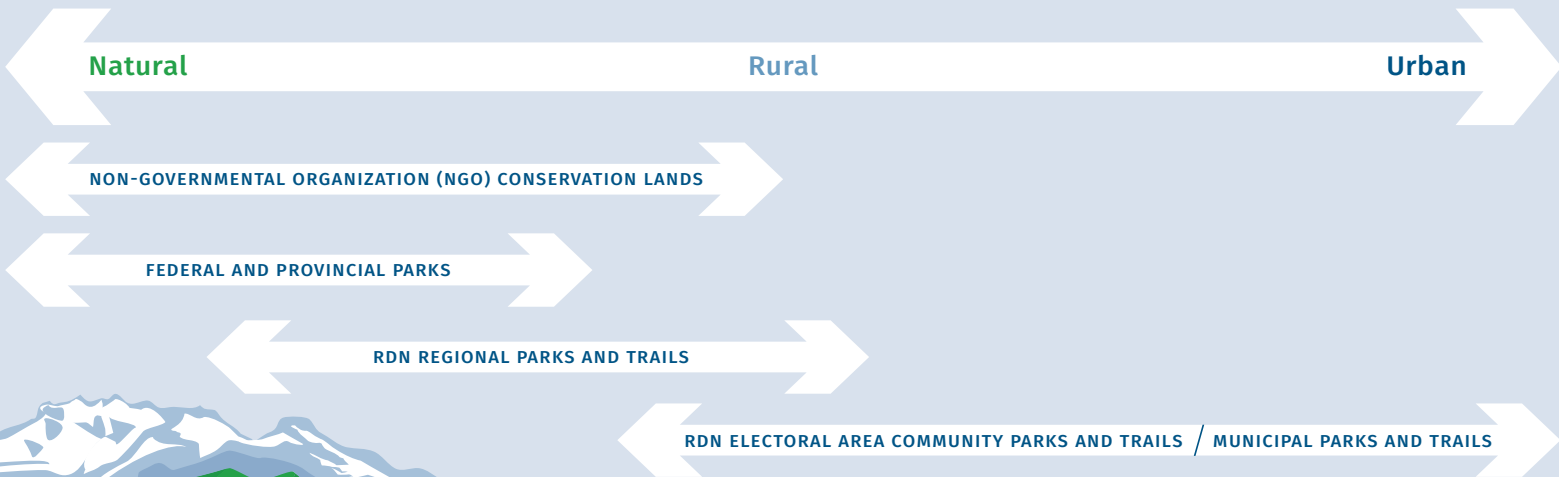


Over the last two decades, the Regional District of Nanaimo's parks and trails system has expanded throughout the region and plays an important role in the greater context of parks, trails, and protected areas.

The Regional District protects and manages more than 2050 hectares (20.5 sq. kilometers) of natural areas in 12 regional parks and ten regional trails as well as over 750 hectares (7.5 sq. kilometers) of community parks and trails.

The RDN Parks Service is one of several providers of parks, protected areas and trails within the Regional District of Nanaimo.

Four municipalities, the Islands Trust, three First Nations communities, the Province of BC, adjacent Regional Districts, and non-governmental conservation organizations all contribute to the local network of parks and natural areas.



# EXISTING RDN PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM

## REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS



**9** REGIONAL NATURAL AREAS

2,034 hectares



**10** REGIONAL TRAILS

85 km of developed trail



**2** REGIONAL RECREATION AREAS

Descanso Bay Regional Park & Horne Lake Regional Park



**1** REGIONAL CONSERVATION AREA

Little Qualicum River Estuary Regional Conservation Area

## COMMUNITY PARKS AND TRAILS



**38** COMMUNITY TRAILS

11 km of developed trail



**175** COMMUNITY PARKS

(763 hectares), of which 91 are developed parks



**4** RDN PARKS REQUIRE DOGS TO BE ON-LEASH

Moorecroft Regional Park, Descanso Bay Regional Park, Horne Lake Regional Park & Coats Marsh Regional Park

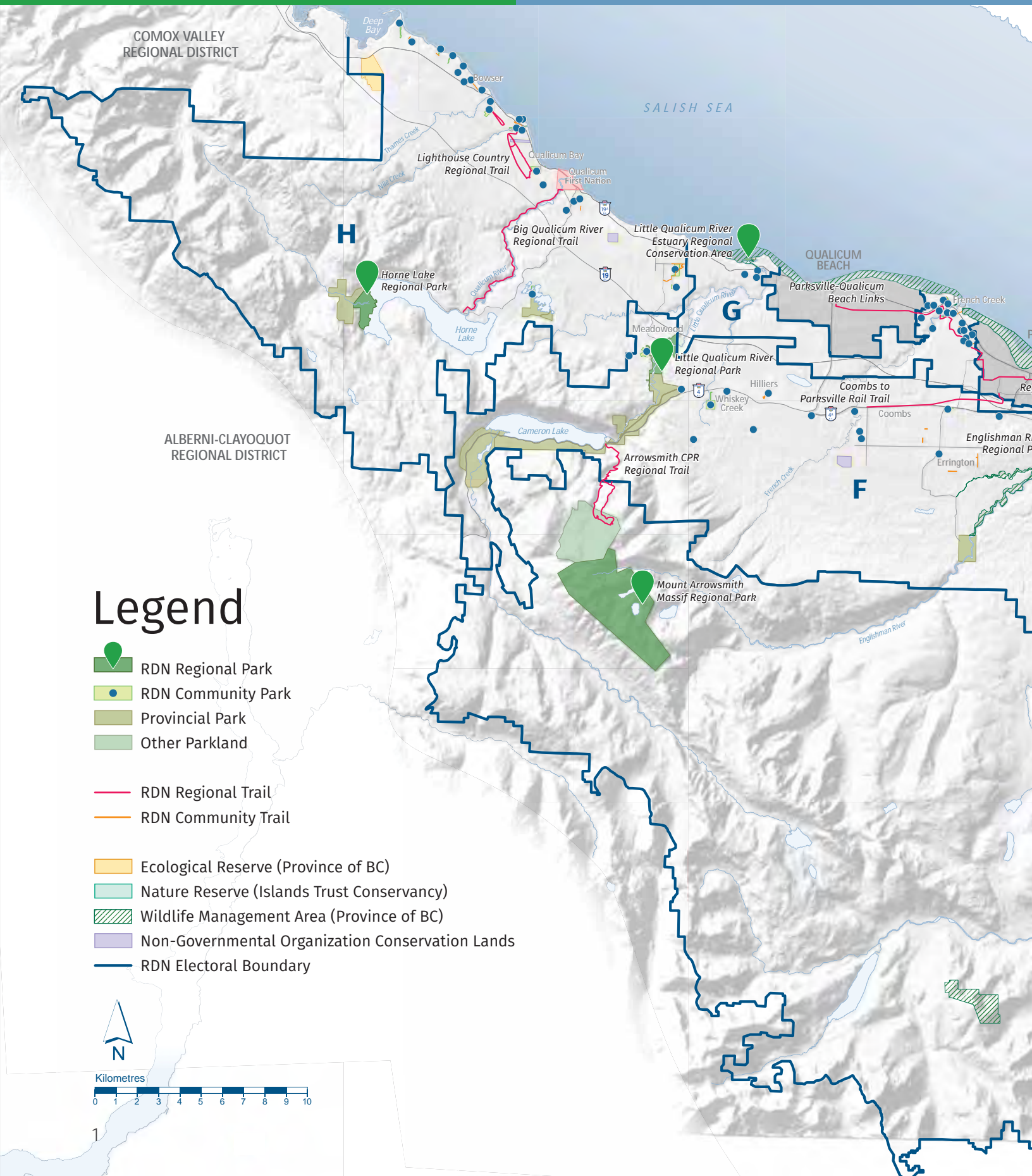
*In most RDN parks dogs can be off-leash if they are under control.*

## Making it happen - the delivery of the RDN Parks Service

With a vast land base and diverse jurisdictions in the RDN, management and delivery of parks and trails is complex. The RDN Parks Service carries out many roles and responsibilities, works closely with many partners, and works within the context of multiple regulatory policies.

Operations & Maintenance	Planning & Design	Land Acquisition & Tenures	Community Engagement & Public Relations	Development & Capital Projects	Promotion & Mapping
Budgeting, Funding & Asset Management	Special Use Permits	Campground Operations	Recreation Programming (within parks)	Volunteer Support & Community Partnerships	Land Conservation & Management

# EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM



## Legend

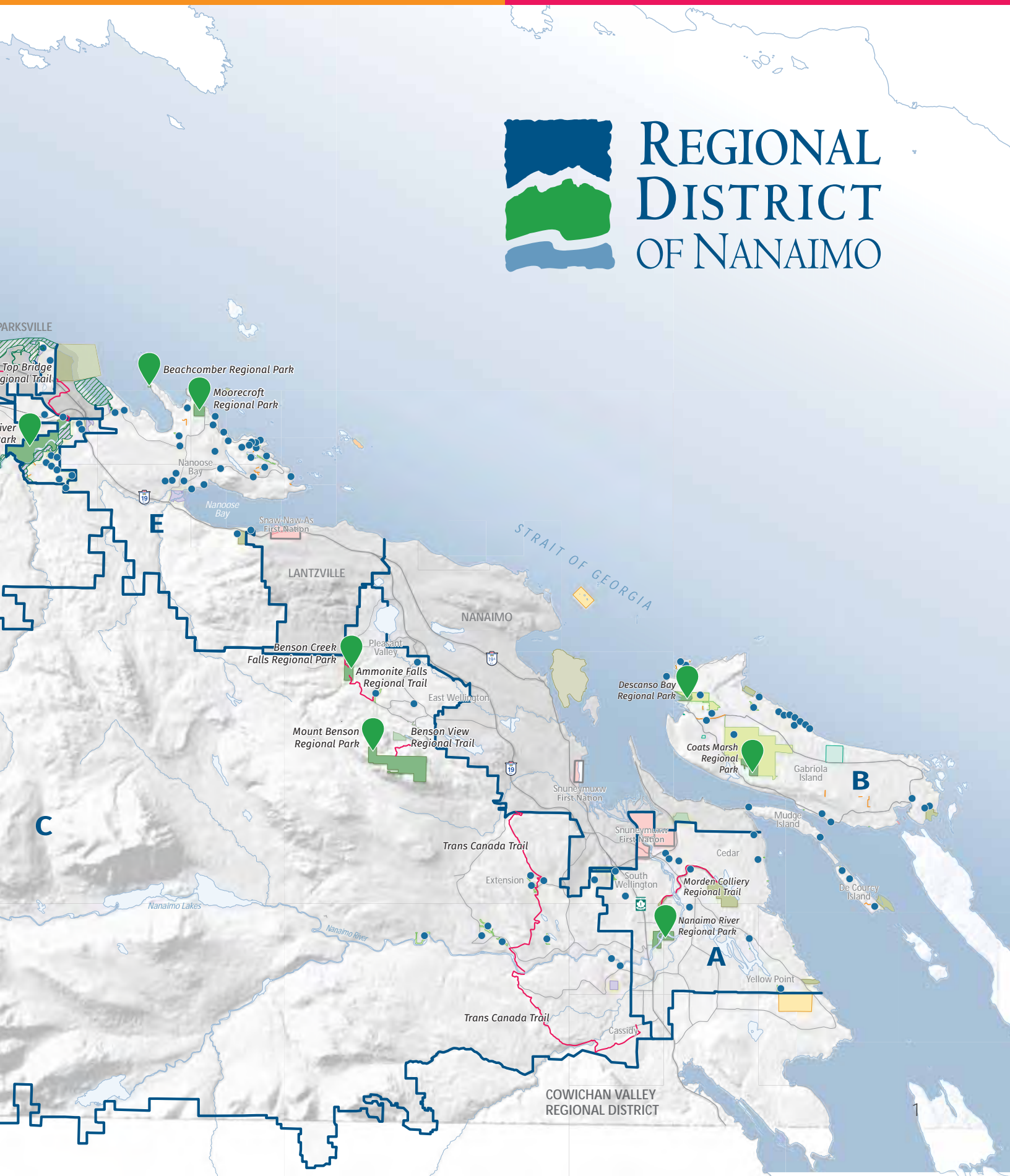
-  RDN Regional Park
-  RDN Community Park
-  Provincial Park
-  Other Parkland
-  RDN Regional Trail
-  RDN Community Trail
-  Ecological Reserve (Province of BC)
-  Nature Reserve (Islands Trust Conservancy)
-  Wildlife Management Area (Province of BC)
-  Non-Governmental Organization Conservation Lands
-  RDN Electoral Boundary







# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO



# TRENDS & CHALLENGES

## Competition for land

A growing population will increase demand for the protection of additional important natural areas, access to nature, and recreation opportunities. Land prices are high and are expected to continue to increase.



**Challenge:** Continue to strategically add land to the regional and community parks and trails system.

## Increasing demand for trails

Regional and Community trail connections enhance active transportation and walkability in RDN communities.

The Provincial Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure manages roads and undeveloped road allowances in the RDN electoral areas.



**Challenge:** Clarify regional and community trail priorities and how they connect to the active transportation network.

## Supporting and expanding the social benefits of the parks and trails system

Volunteers are critical to the ongoing stewardship and enhancement of parks and trails. Strong relationships with non-profit organizations and active community members can have a significant and lasting impact on the quality of parks in our region.

Parks also serve as outdoor classrooms and learning environments. The RDN provides outdoor park programming and works with schools, post-secondary education institutions, and community groups to deliver education in parks.



**Challenge:** How to expand volunteering, educational and cultural programs within sustainable operational budgets of the RDN Parks Service.

## Honouring Cultural Significance

Community and regional parks are often located on land rich in archeological, cultural, and ecological significance. Incorporating Indigenous cultural and historical perspectives and preserving and protecting culturally significant areas is a priority for the RDN as part of its ongoing commitment to reconciliation.



**Challenge:** Incorporating First Nations perspectives into park planning and design.





## Addressing climate change and natural hazard risk

Hotter and dryer summers, wetter falls and winters, increased fire risk, extreme weather events, rising sea levels and storm surge damage, and increased flooding. These changes directly impact parks and trails and the natural ecosystems they protect.

Wetter conditions and an increase in unpredictable storm events affect park and trail maintenance with more risk of erosion, wood debris clean-up from windstorms, and damage to park infrastructure.

Changing climate patterns also affect how park visitors use parks. With warmer spring and summer seasons, parks and trails may see longer peak use seasons. Certain parks see increased use in extreme heat events when visitors flock to the ocean, river, and lake parks to cool down.



**Challenge:** Adapt to the impacts of climate change by promoting ecosystem resilience, and protecting facilities and infrastructure.

## Shifting demographics and park user expectations

An aging population highlights the importance of providing opportunities for the elderly and those with mobility challenges to get outside and be active.

Housing in the region remains affordable compared to major cities in BC. Lower housing prices are attractive to young families and implies a trend towards more young children and teens moving to the area.

Whether serving an elderly population or growing numbers of young children, accessible design enables all park visitors to enjoy the outdoors.

RDN Parks and Trails see a diversity of park visitors with varying recreational interests. Planning for a range of park and trail experiences will serve the increasing demand for variety in RDN parks and trails.

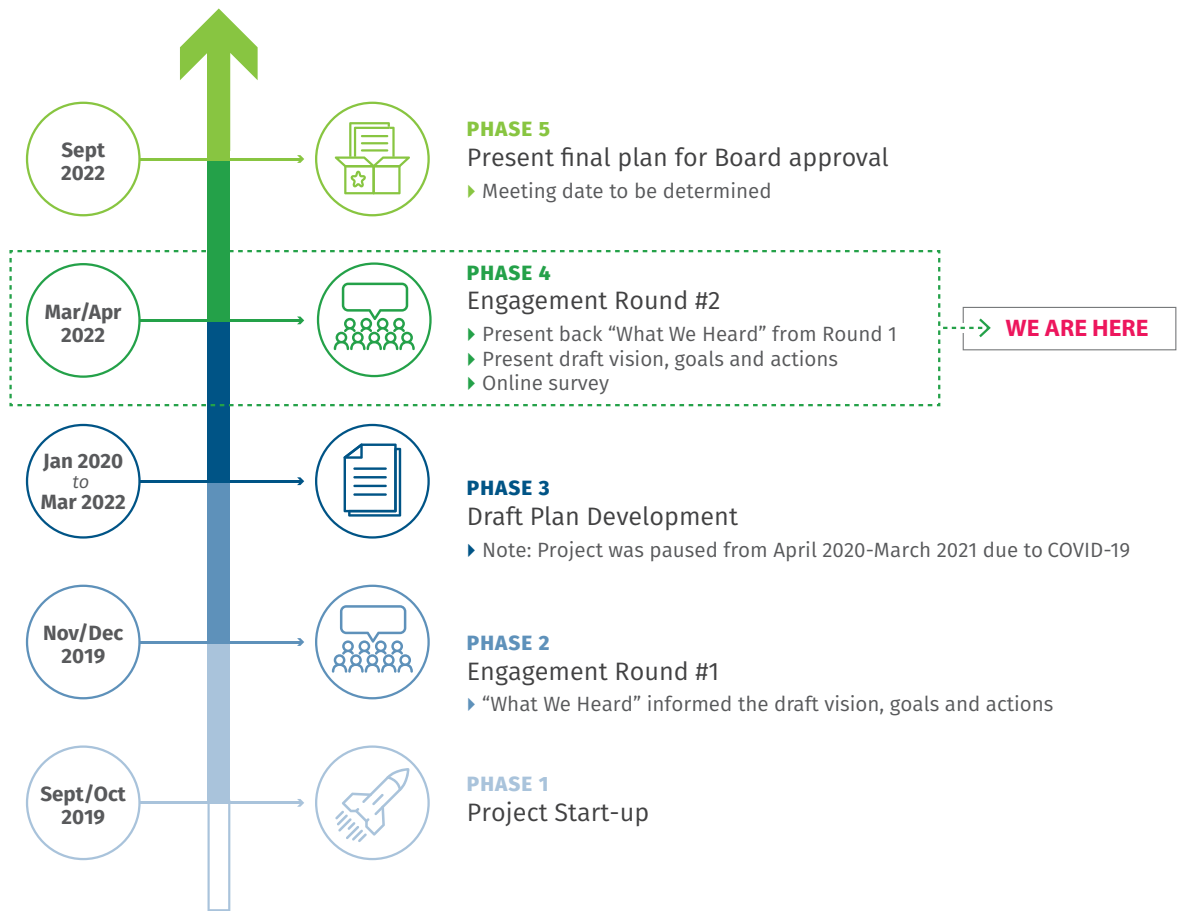


**Challenge:** Continue providing a parks and trails system relevant to residents throughout the region.



# WHERE ARE WE AT IN THE PROCESS?

## PROJECT TIMELINE



Thank you to everyone that participated in the first round of public engagement in 2019/2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The public and stakeholder input that was provided was used to understand what people think of existing parks and trails and to draft a vision for the future. The draft vision, along with seven goals and supporting actions form the basis of the Parks and Trails Strategy and will guide RDN parks and trails over the next 10–20 years.

*We are now in Phase 3 of the project, and we want to hear from you again!*






### *Did we get it right?*

The RDN invites residents to review the draft vision, goals and actions and complete an online survey by April 28, 2022.





# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

## Round 1 Information in

 <p><b>Phone Survey</b></p> <p><b>200</b></p> <p>interviews were conducted</p> <p><i>from Nov. 25 - Dec. 4, 2019</i></p>	 <p><b>Online Survey</b></p> <p><b>439</b></p> <p>responses</p> <p><i>from Nov. 25, 2019 - Jan. 4, 2020</i></p>	 <p><b>Open Houses</b></p> <p><b>122</b></p> <p>people attended</p> <p><b>3</b> open houses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 52 in Qualicum</li> <li>▶ 37 in Nanaimo</li> <li>▶ 33 in Gabriola</li> </ul> <p><i>Took place Dec. 2, 3, 4, 2019</i></p>	 <p><b>Stakeholder Interviews</b></p> <p>13 phone interviews were conducted with partner organizations and local government to seek further information</p> <p><i>Took place Jan. 2020</i></p>  <p><b>Stakeholder Workshops</b></p> <p>Stakeholder workshops were held with community stakeholder groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ 37 attended in Qualicum</li> <li>▶ 25 attended in Nanaimo</li> <li>▶ 10 attended in Gabriola</li> </ul> <p><i>Took place Dec. 2 &amp; 3, 2019 and Jan. 22, 2020</i></p>
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-  Opportunities and issues were identified
-  Draft vision, goals and actions were developed

## Round 2 Present draft vision, goals & actions

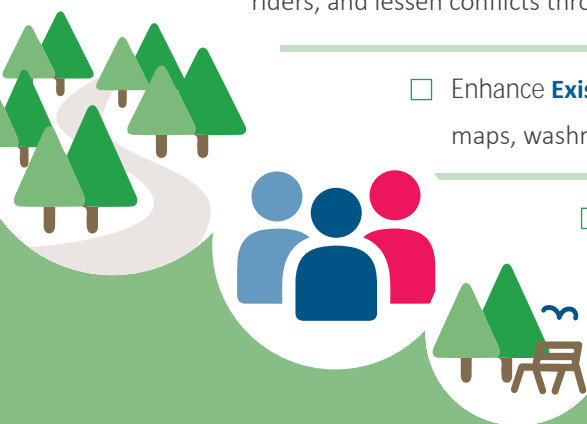
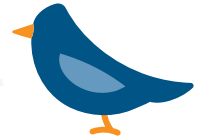
 <p><b>Online Survey</b></p> <p><i>April 4 - April 28, 2022</i></p>	 <p><b>Virtual Engagement Platform</b></p> <p><a href="http://getinvolved.rdn.ca/rdnparkstrails">getinvolved.rdn.ca/rdnparkstrails</a></p>	 <p><b>Engage with First Nations</b></p>	<p>Confirmation of draft vision, goals and actions</p>	 <p><b>Final Parks and Trails Strategy</b></p>
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**WE ARE HERE**

# ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

Using surveys, stakeholder workshops and interviews, as well as community open houses throughout the region, feedback was collected to better understand what the community thinks of existing parks and trails. The responses highlighted the following key aspirations for the future:

- Pursue a balanced approach with **Parkland Acquisition** that identifies gaps in the current parks system and guides future acquisition opportunities;
- Concern for the Environment**, protect natural areas and special ecosystems;
- Build and maintain **Trail Connections** in the community;
- Meet the Needs of Various User Groups** like walkers, cyclists, horseback riders or ATV riders, and lessen conflicts through better education about shared trails;
- Enhance **Existing Park Amenities** including trail signage, maps, washrooms, and access to ocean and river front;
- Build **Partnerships and Stewardship** opportunities with local organizations and **Volunteer** groups to provide the experiences the community desires.



The key community values that emerged through the public engagement process provide a strong foundation for a guiding vision statement for the Parks and Trails Strategy.

*interconnected preservation  
accessibility diversity connection  
wildlife conservation natural active  
healthy ecosystems education*



# VISION

The Vision for RDN parks and trails provides an overarching guide for all park projects and parkland acquisitions over the next 20 years.

*Regional and Community Parks and Trails in the RDN provide welcoming and diverse opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to connect with nature and each other.*

*Important natural areas are preserved, enhanced, and maintained through strong local partnerships and volunteer initiatives.*

*Regional and Community Parks and Trails in the RDN support the health and wellbeing of all residents in the region.*

Seven goals with specific actions will guide the RDN towards achieving this vision.



# GOALS



## GOAL 1: Identify and preserve important natural areas and representative landscapes through parkland acquisition

Preserving important natural areas is critical to human and environmental well-being. The RDN has a crucial role to play in acquiring natural areas as parkland, enhancing the area’s long-term sustainability and increasing the quality of life for all residents.

To achieve this goal, existing and potential parks and important natural areas will be inventoried, mapped, and assessed to determine how they contribute to enhanced regional biodiversity.

Identifying these important natural areas will help guide strategic parkland acquisition.

<b>Action 1.1</b>	Inventory and map important natural areas within the Regional District and assess how existing parks contribute to natural areas preservation.
<b>Action 1.2</b>	Identify and assess lands for parkland acquisition that contribute to enhanced biodiversity in the region.
<b>Action 1.3</b>	Revise the Regional Park Acquisition Criteria and Rating Framework to better guide strategic regional parkland acquisition.
<b>Action 1.4</b>	Add a Regional Park Reserve category to the regional park classification system.



# GOALS



## GOAL 2: Protect and enhance important natural parkland areas through management and restoration

The RDN has an essential role in managing parkland to balance recreation with preserving natural habitats, landscapes, and cultural features.

To support the ongoing protection and enhancement of parkland, the RDN will:

- Update and create park management plans to prioritize preservation of sensitive ecosystems;
- Implement an invasive species management strategy to enhance natural ecosystems by removing invasive plant species that often out-compete native plants; and
- Develop a wildfire and risk assessment strategy to reduce the risk of wildfires.

These management actions will help protect and enhance the important ecosystems within our parks.

<b>Action 2.1</b>	Update regional park management plans and prioritize key action items related to sensitive ecosystem preservation.
<b>Action 2.2</b>	Develop and implement an invasive species management strategy to rehabilitate and enhance natural ecosystems and biodiversity in parks.
<b>Action 2.3</b>	Develop a wildfire and risk assessment strategy to mitigate fire risk in regional and community parks.

# GOALS



## GOAL 3: Enhance and develop trail connections

Trails that connect people to nature and link community destinations contribute to personal wellbeing by reducing stress and anxiety, encouraging social interactions, and opportunities for fitness.

The first step to enhance trail connections throughout the region is to update and reaffirm the priorities of the current regional trail network plan.

This regional trail plan also relies on a well-connected local trail system. To achieve this, park and trail master plans for each electoral area will be developed to identify gaps and priorities in the community trail system and align with district-wide active transportation initiatives.

These actions will support the strategic development of trails throughout the region.

### Action 3.1

Evaluate and update the proposed Regional Trail Network to reaffirm regional trail priorities.

### Action 3.2

Complete a parks and trails master plan for each electoral area.

### Action 3.3

Participate in regional active transportation planning initiatives to convey the local and regional trails interests.



# GOALS



## GOAL 4: Provide parks and trails with well-maintained and diverse amenities

As the parks and trails system has grown, so has the inventory of amenities and assets. Well-maintained and safe amenities require ongoing assessment of service levels to ensure operating funds and resources are sufficient to meet public expectations.

Access to greenspace is a significant contributor to health and wellbeing, and it is essential that parks and trails are safe, accessible, and welcoming to all residents.

An accessibility audit will identify parks and trails where access for all ages and abilities is available and prioritize potential upgrades. Promoting these accessible parks and trails will allow more people to get out and enjoy the outdoors.

<b>Action 4.1</b>	Identify, develop, and promote specific areas in the parks system where access for all ages and abilities is available.
<b>Action 4.2</b>	Assess current service levels to ensure operating funds are sufficient to meet public expectations.
<b>Action 4.3</b>	Support the RDN's development of an asset management system to inform short and long-term budget planning for park asset maintenance and renewal.

# GOALS



## GOAL 5: Incorporate First Nations perspectives into parks planning and design

Situated within the traditional territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, parks are often located on land of archeological, cultural, and ecological significance.

As part of its ongoing commitment to reconciliation, RDN is committed to building strong relationships with local First Nations, incorporating Indigenous cultural and historical perspectives, and preserving and protecting culturally significant areas.

In collaboration with First Nations, opportunities to incorporate and promote the history and cultural significance of sites into park design and development can be identified and opportunities to protect important cultural areas can be explored.

### Action 5.1

In collaboration with First Nations, explore opportunities to incorporate the cultural significance of sites into park naming, design, and development.

### Action 5.2

In collaboration with First Nations, explore opportunities to protect important cultural areas.



# GOALS



## GOAL 6: Strengthen land use partnerships with local and provincial organizations

Land use agreements and local partnerships are integral to the RDN's park system.

Many public trail and beach access opportunities exist through agreements with private landowners and provincial organizations.

Not-for-profit organizations are important partners in acquiring, managing, and maintaining parks and trails through ongoing monitoring, trail maintenance, and development activities.

The parks division needs increased capacity to manage these many agreements and partnerships.

The region's continued parkland acquisition and management success depends on solid partnerships with local and provincial organizations.

### Action 6.1

Increase Parks Division capacity to manage land use agreements with private and public agencies for recreational and conservation purposes.

### Action 6.2

Increase Parks Division capacity to identify and foster partnerships with not-for-profit organizations for acquisition, management, and maintenance of parks and trails.

# GOALS



## GOAL 7: Increase volunteering and learning opportunities within the parks and trails system

Volunteers are critical to the ongoing stewardship and enhancement of parks and trails. There is a need for an improved volunteer program that supports volunteers and community groups to get out, be active, and learn in our parks.

Parks can serve as great outdoor classrooms and learning environments. This opportunity can be promoted and enhanced by expanding park programming and ensuring funds are available to address any programming barriers in our parks and trails.

Additional resources, infrastructure, and coordination are required to increase volunteerism, recreation programming, and learning opportunities in RDN Parks.

### Action 7.1

Develop and implement a park and trail volunteer program to strengthen the Parks Division's capacity for coordinating and supporting volunteer-led stewardship projects.

### Action 7.2

Enhance the ability to offer programming and educational opportunities by identifying and developing additional infrastructure at key parks.





For more information about the Regional Parks and Trails Strategy, links to videos and to register to complete the survey, visit the link below or scan the code.

[getinvolved.rdn.ca/rdnparkstrails](https://getinvolved.rdn.ca/rdnparkstrails)



The results from the second survey will be used to confirm the draft vision, goals, and actions.

Complete the online survey by April 28th to share your thoughts.



REGIONAL  
DISTRICT  
OF NANAIMO

Get Involved RDN!

250-248-4744

recparks@rdn.bc.ca

[rdn.bc.ca/parks-services](https://rdn.bc.ca/parks-services)