

# RDN PARKS *naturally*

## PARKS AND TRAILS STRATEGY



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# APPENDIX A

Round 1 Engagement Summary

**Regional District of Nanaimo**

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# Parks and Trails Strategy

## Round 1 Engagement Summary

LEFS  
ASSOCIATES

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Round 1 Engagement Summary

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PURPOSE AND KEY GOALS

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

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

## 1.2 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATION

### 1.2.1 PHONE SURVEY

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

Questions for the phone survey focused on regional parks issues.

### 1.2.2 ONLINE SURVEY

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

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

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

### 1.2.3 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

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

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

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

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

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

## 1.2.4 OPEN HOUSES

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

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

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

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

## 1.2.5 STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

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

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

## 1.3 PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH

### 1.3.1 PROJECT WEBPAGE

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

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

### 1.3.2 SOCIAL MEDIA

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

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

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

## SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN STATISTICS

### Facebook Events

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

### Facebook Posts

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

### Instagram Posts

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

### 1.3.3 EMAIL NOTICES TO STAKEHOLDERS

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

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

### 1.3.4 POSTERS

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

### 1.3.5 OTHER OUTREACH

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

## 1.4 WHO WE HEARD FROM

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

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



## 1.5 EVALUATION METRICS

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

### 1.5.1 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

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

## 2 RESULTS

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

### 2.1 PHONE SURVEY RESULTS

Key Findings from the online survey include:

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

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

## 2.2 ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

Key Findings from the Round 1 online survey include:

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

### Questions about regional parks and trails

#### Visits

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

#### Activities

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

#### Barriers to Visiting

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

#### Valued Benefits

The top three benefits valued by survey respondents were:

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

### General Satisfaction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Quantity and Quality Satisfaction

Most survey respondents were either very or somewhat satisfied with:

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

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

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

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

### Spending on Improvements

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

### Priorities for New Additions to Regional Parks

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

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

75% Acquisition, 25% Improvement (38%)

50% Acquisition, 50% Improvement (35%)

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

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

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

#### Comments:

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

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

Areas of note mentioned in the comments were:

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

Some example of comments on these topics are:

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

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

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

## 2.3 STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP RESULTS

Workshop participants indicated that they value the following:

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

With regards to Regional Parks and Trails workshops participants valued:

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

With regards to Community Parks and Trails workshop participants valued:

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

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

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

Workshop participants felt that RDN was doing well at:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Considerations unique to Gabriola Island include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Reconciliation

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

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

## 2.4 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE RESULTS



Key Findings from the Public Open Houses:

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

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

Park features/parks most valued:

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

Trail features/trails most valued:

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

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

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

## 3 CONCLUSIONS

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

### Key Community Values

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

### Key Issues and Opportunities

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

### Some Key Vision Words

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

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

## 4 NEXT STEPS

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

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

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

# APPENDIX A – PHONE SURVEY

December 2019

# Parks and Trails Strategic Plan - Community Survey

 **LEES+Associates**  
Landscape Architects and Planners



**MUSTEL GROUP**  
MARKET RESEARCH

## ➤ Foreword

### Background

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

### Methodology

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

## ▶ Executive Overview

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



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# Detailed Findings



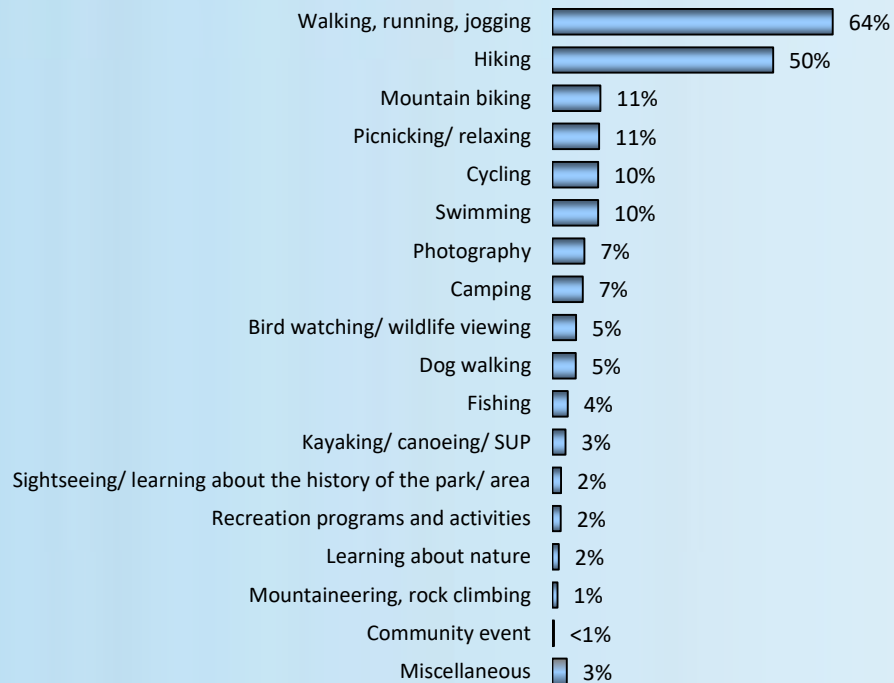
## ➤ Regional Parks Visited in Last 12 Months (By Region)

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

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

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

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

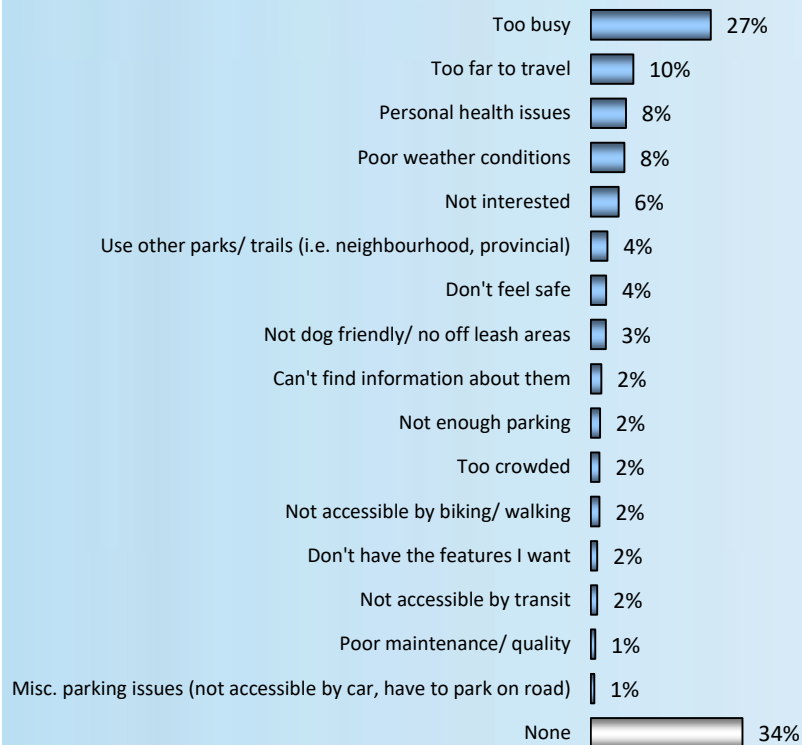


- Walking, running, jogging and hiking are the most common activities while at the parks or trails.
- These activities are followed by mountain biking, picnicking/relaxing, cycling and swimming. A variety of other activities are also listed.
- Nanaimo residents being younger than those from other communities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

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

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

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

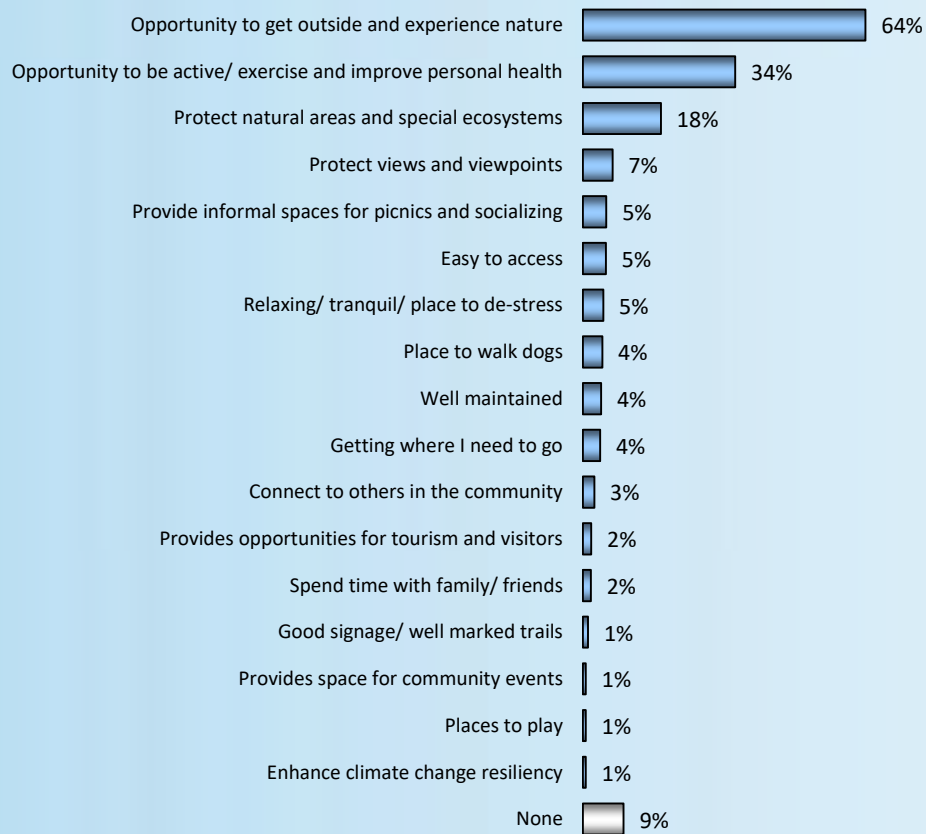


- Time commitments is the most common barrier to visiting regional parks or trails more often, followed by travel distance, personal health issues, weather, and lack of interest (lack of interest cited more so by older residents from outside Nanaimo).
- Small groups also cite safety issues, not being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

Base: Total (n=201)

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

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

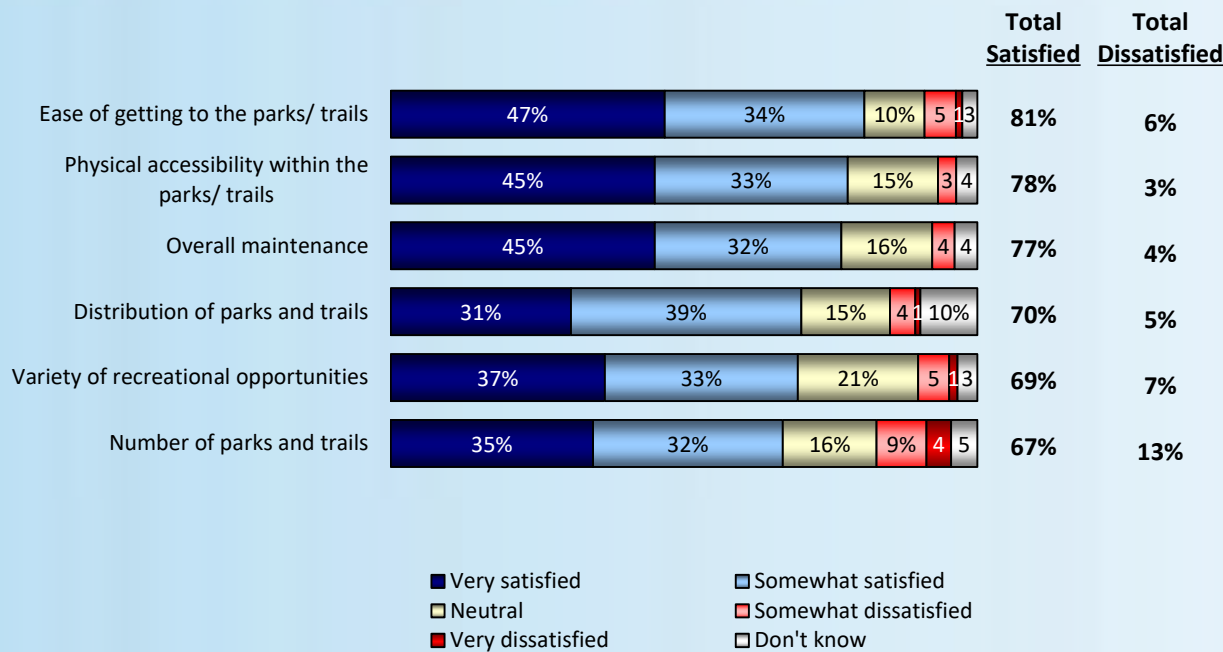


- Residents were also asked what benefits of the parks and trails they value most. The opportunities to experience nature is the most common response, followed by opportunities to be active and improve their personal health.
- A sizeable group also appreciate that the parks protect natural areas, special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

Base: Total (n=201)

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

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

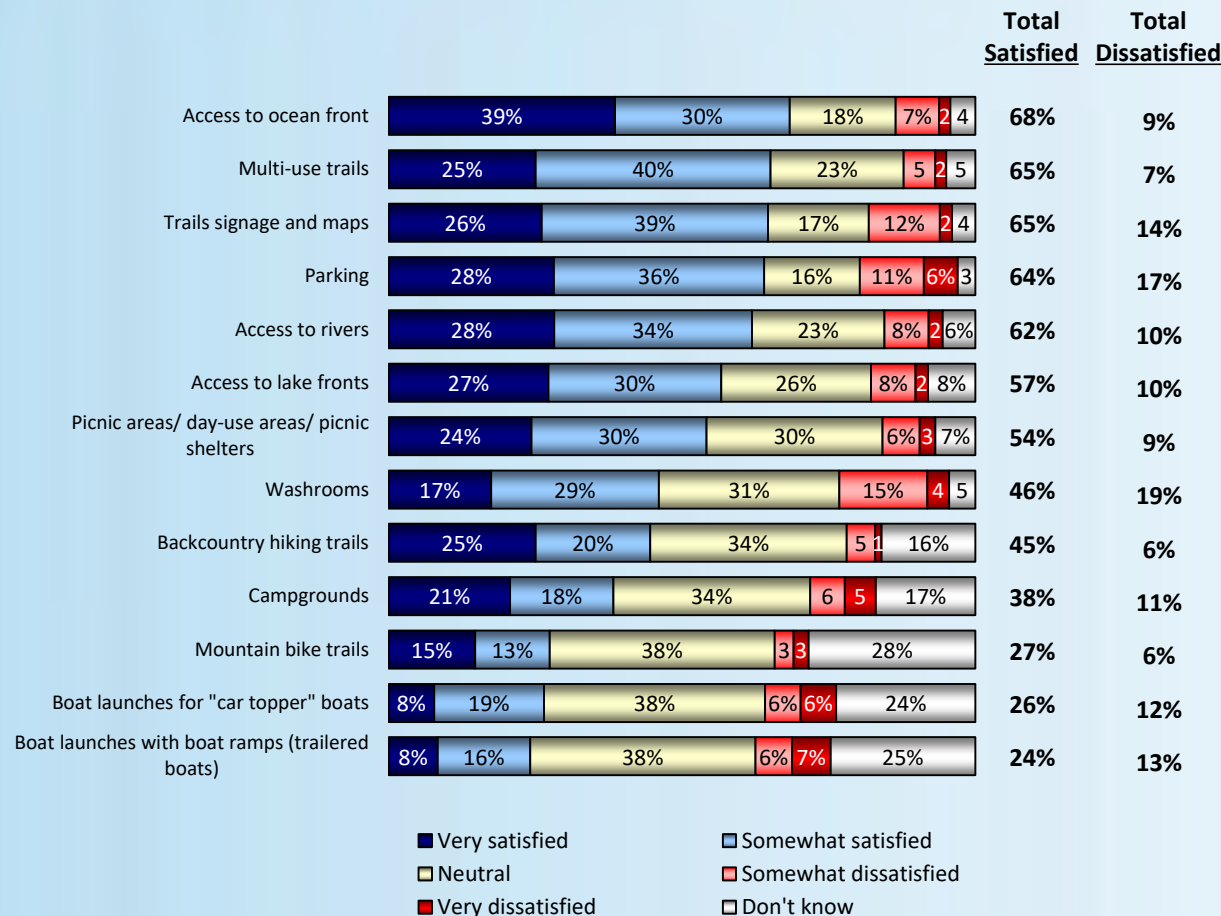


- The majority of residents are satisfied with various aspects of the regional parks and trails, with satisfaction levels being highest with the *ease of getting to the parks/trails, physical accessibility within the parks/trails, and with overall maintenance.*
- There is slightly more criticism of the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

Base: Total (n=201)

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

## ➤ Satisfaction with Quality/Quantity of Specific Features

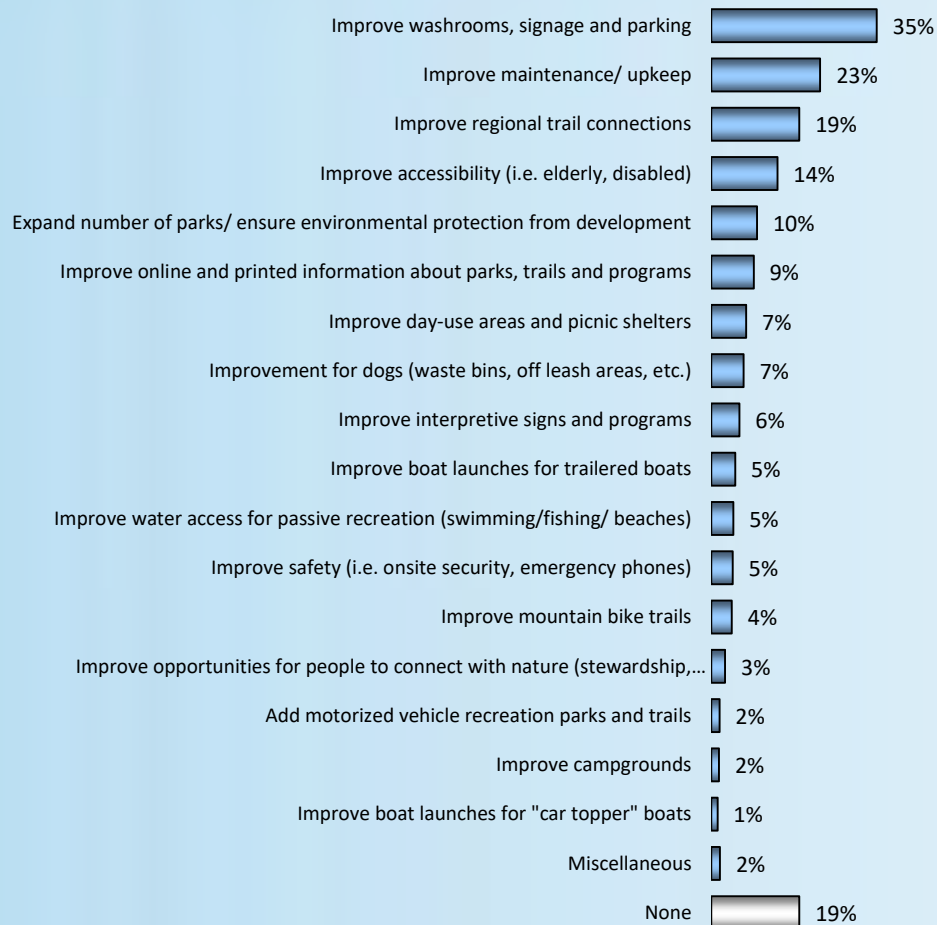


- In terms of the quantity and quality of specific features, residents are most satisfied with access to the ocean front, multi-use trails, signage/maps, parking, and access to rivers (although small groups do express dissatisfaction with some of these aspects).
- On most other features, the dissatisfaction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

Base: Total (n=201)

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

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



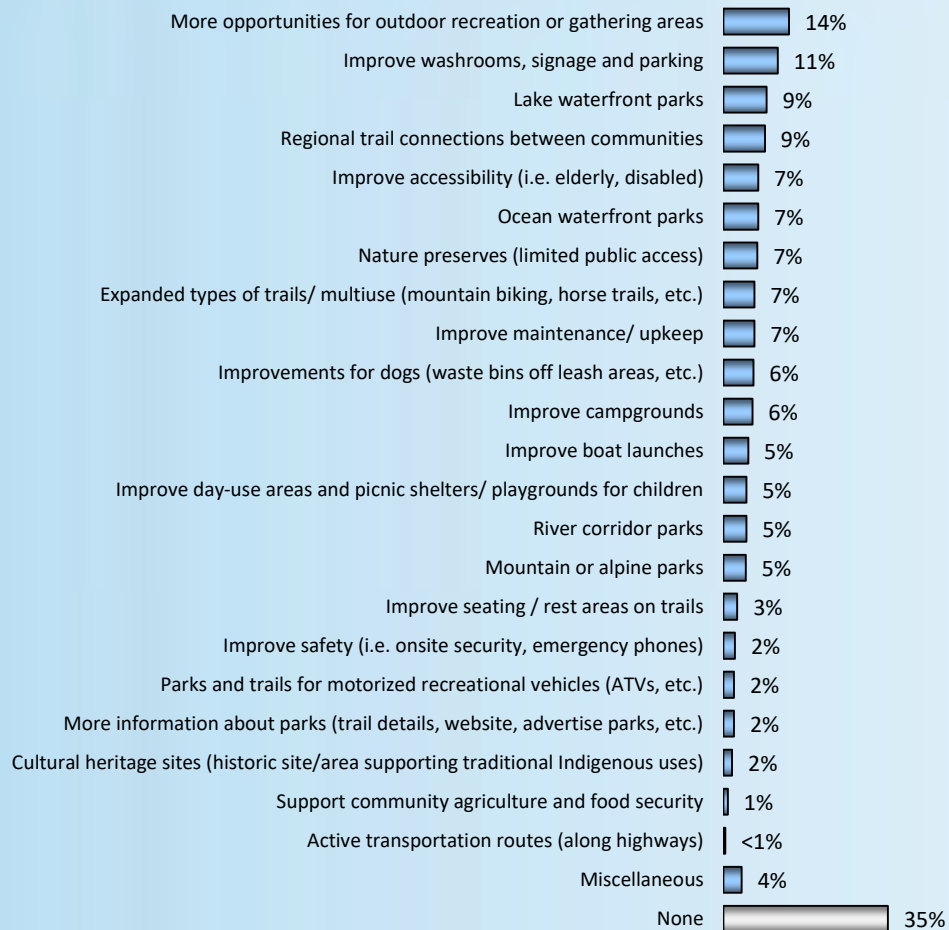
Base: Total (n=201)

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

Q.7) If you could pick three things, what should be the focus of spending on regional parks and trails improvements over the next 10 years?



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



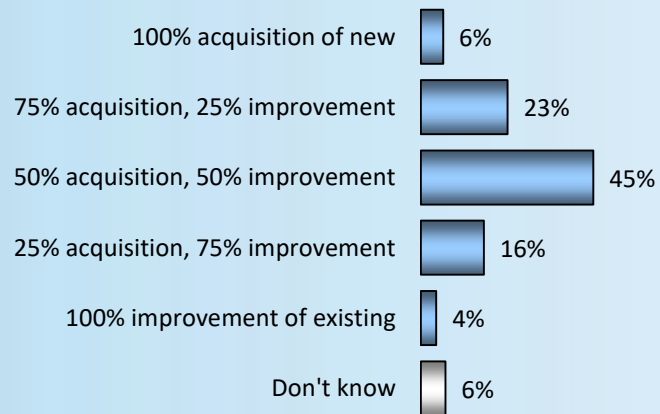
Base: Total (n=201)

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

Q.8) If there are new additions to the regional parks and trails, what would be your top three priorities?



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



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

Base: Total (n=201)

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

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

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

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

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

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



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# Demographics

## Demographic Profile

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

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

## ➤ Area of Residence

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



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# Questionnaire



## Regional District of Nanaimo - Parks and Trails Strategy

### Telephone Version- November 21, 2019

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

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

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

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





2. What activities do you do while you're there? [Check all that apply. Read list only if necessary]
- mountain biking
  - walking, running, jogging
  - recreation programs and activities
  - mountaineering, rock climbing
  - Fishing
  - Camping
  - kayaking/canoeing/SUP
  - picnicking/relaxing
  - community event
  - swimming
  - bird watching/wildlife viewing
  - cycling
  - learning about nature
  - hiking
  - Other (please specify)
3. Is there anything that keeps you from visiting REGIONAL Parks and Trails more often? [Check all that apply]
- Too crowded
  - Not interested
  - Don't feel welcome
  - Don't feel safe
  - Don't have the features I want
  - Nothing
  - Not enough parking
  - Poor maintenance/quality
  - Can't find information about them
  - Too busy
  - Too far to travel
  - Personal health issues
  - Not accessible by biking/walking
  - Not accessible by transit
  - Other (please specify)
4. What benefits of REGIONAL Parks and Trails do you value most? [List not read- used for coding only]
- Enhance climate change resiliency
  - Provides space for community events
  - Opportunity to be active/exercise and improve personal health
  - Protect natural areas and special ecosystems
  - Connect to others in the community
  - Provide informal spaces for picnics and socializing
  - Opportunity to get outside and experience nature
  - Getting where I need to go
  - Places to play
  - Protect views and viewpoints
  - Provides opportunities for tourism and visitors
  - Other (please specify)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 Do you identify as:

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

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

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

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

- Yes
- No

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

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



# APPENDIX B – ONLINE SURVEY

# Survey Report

11 November 2019 - 07 January 2020

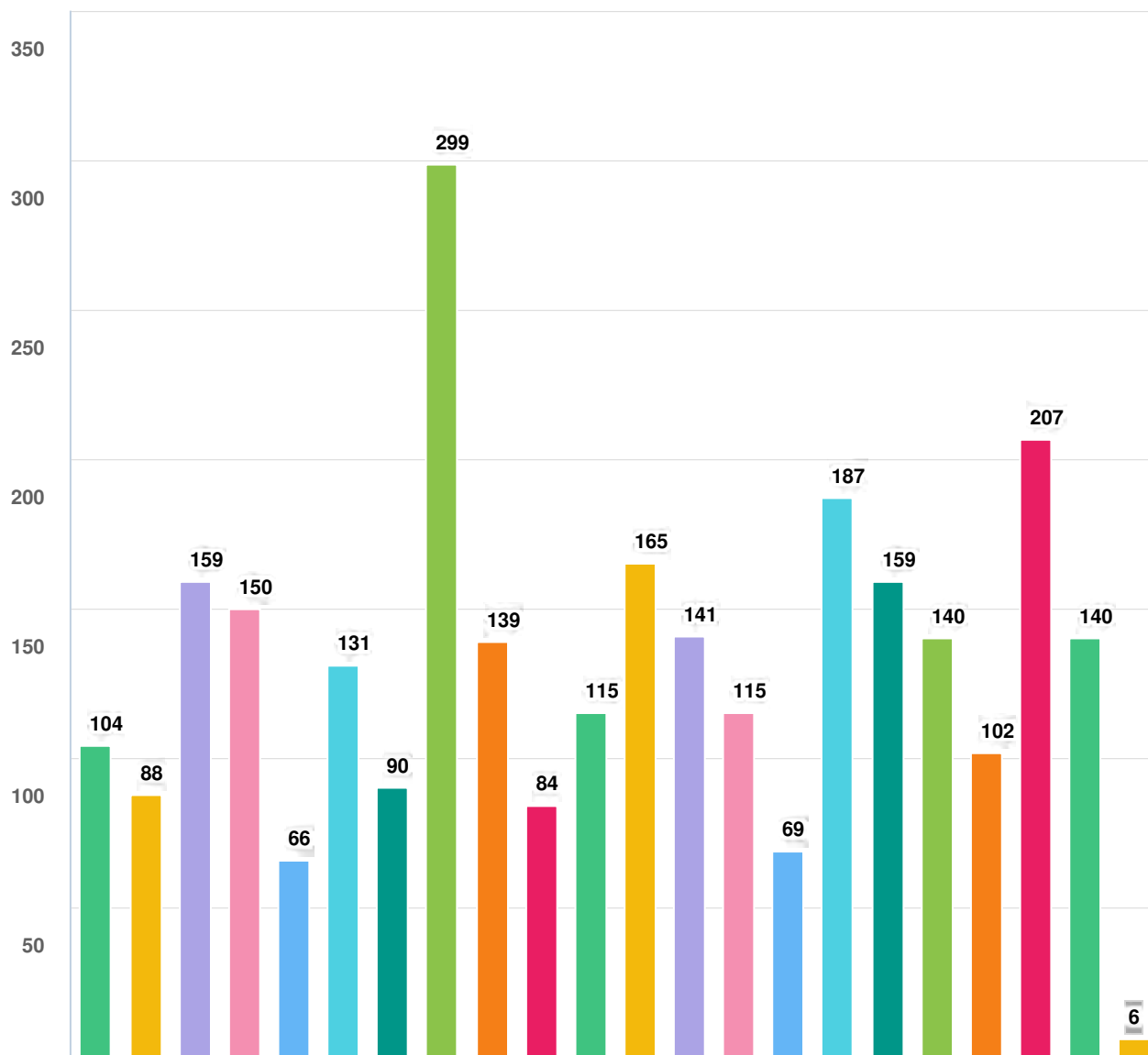
# Parks & Trails Strategy Survey #1

PROJECT: RDN Parks & Trails Strategy

**Get Involved RDN**



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

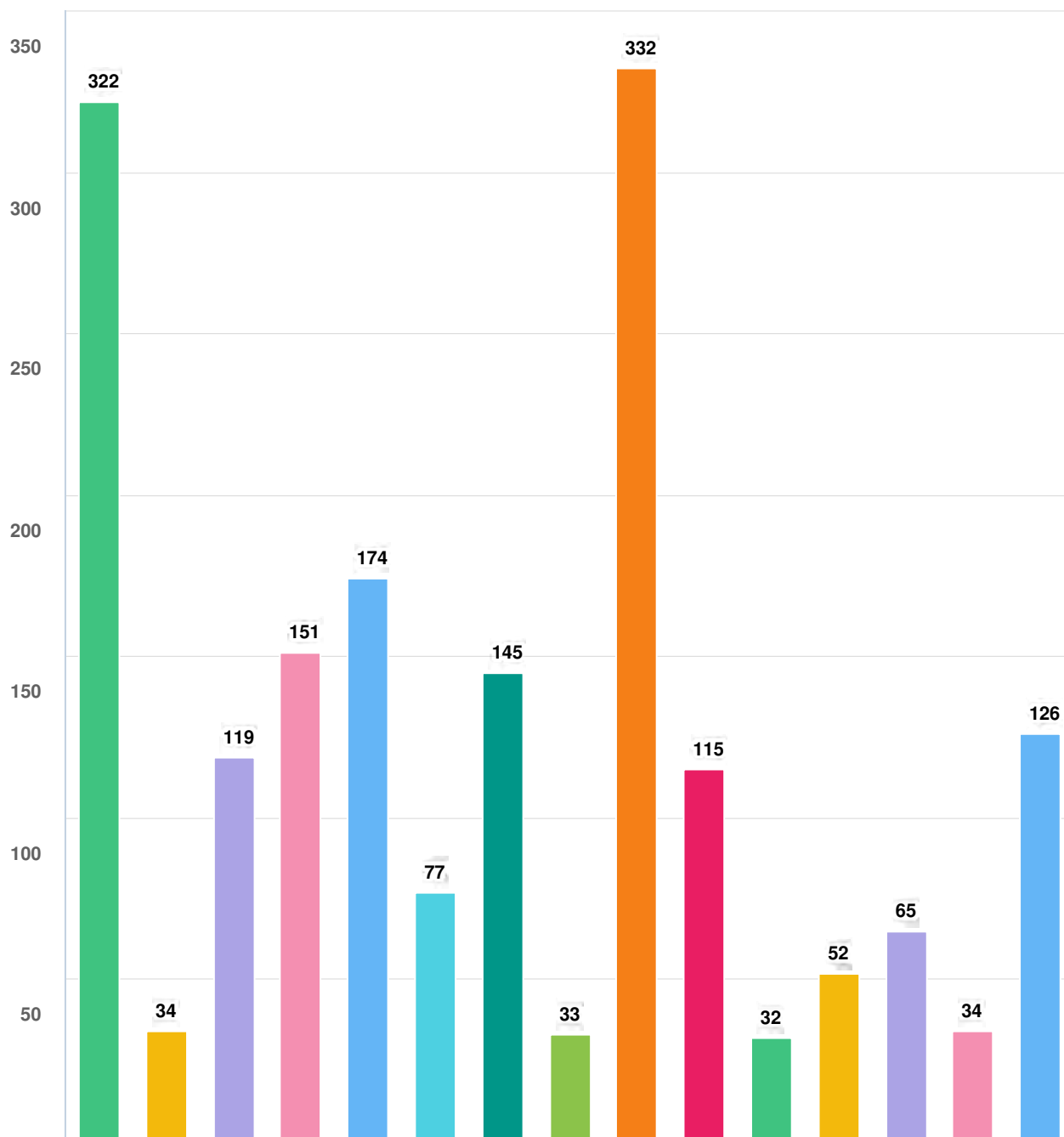


**Question options**

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

*Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)*

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



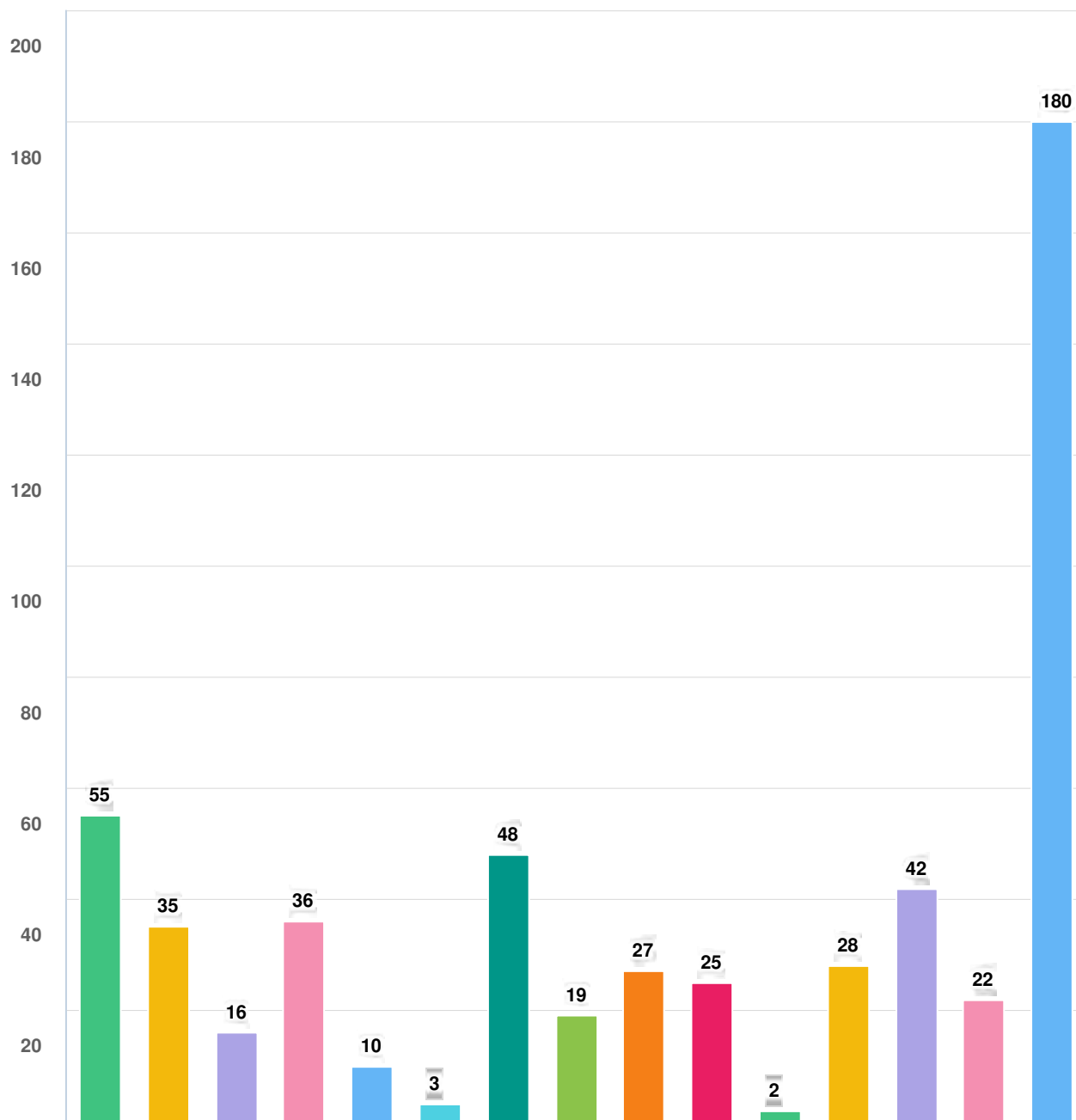
**Question options**

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

*Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)*



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

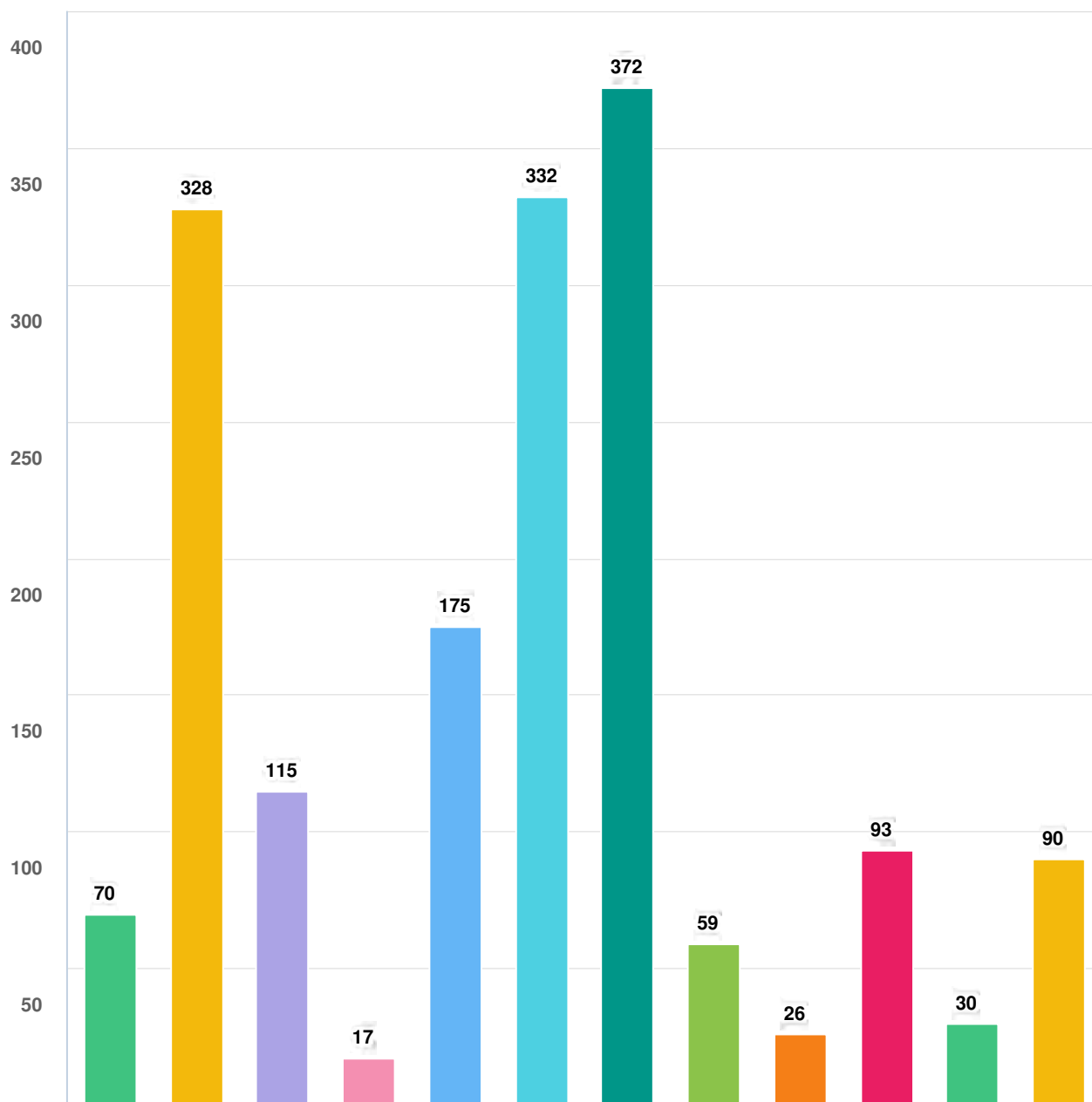


**Question options**

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

*Optional question (387 responses, 82 skipped)*

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



**Question options**

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

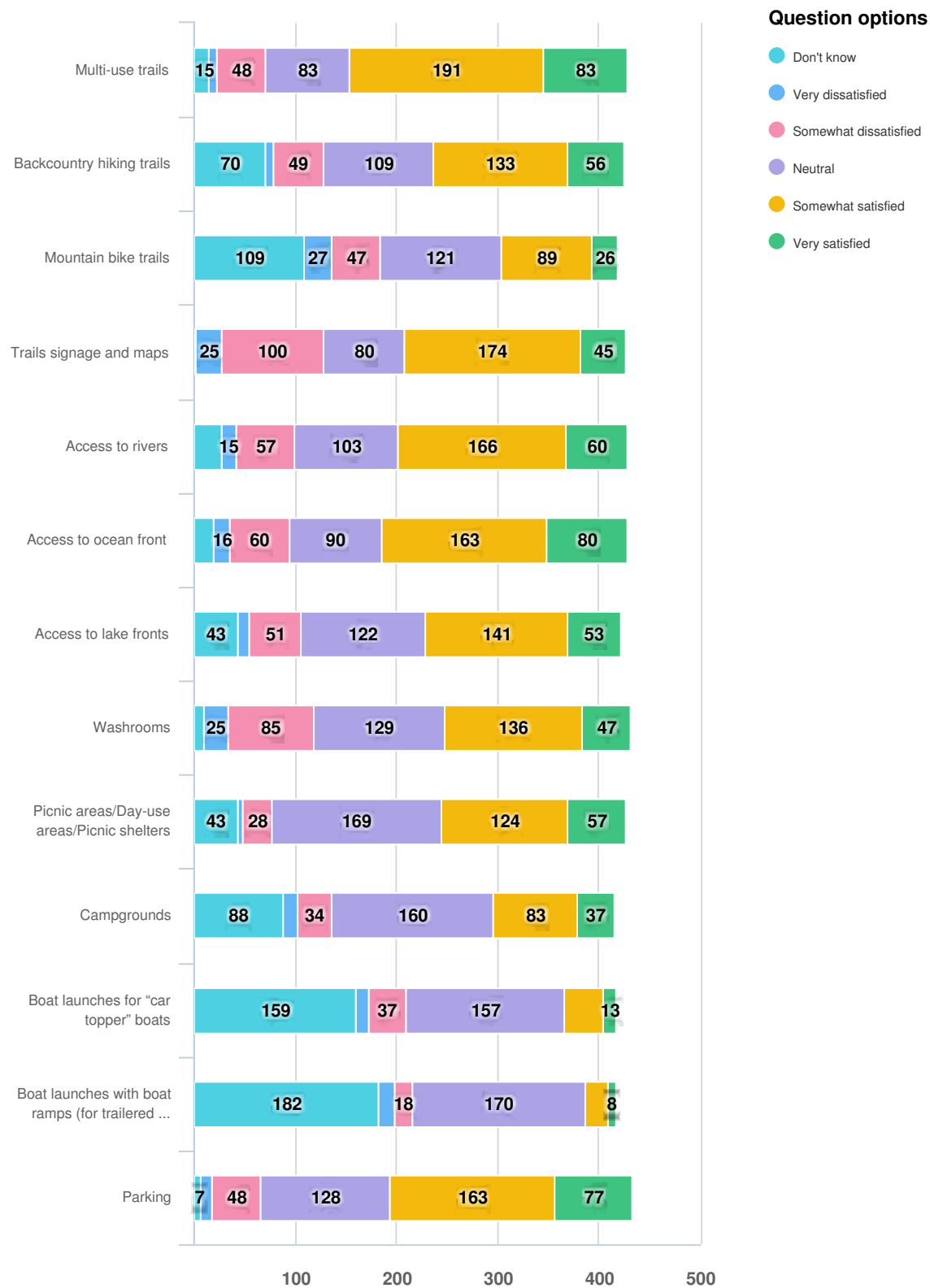
*Optional question (441 responses, 28 skipped)*

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



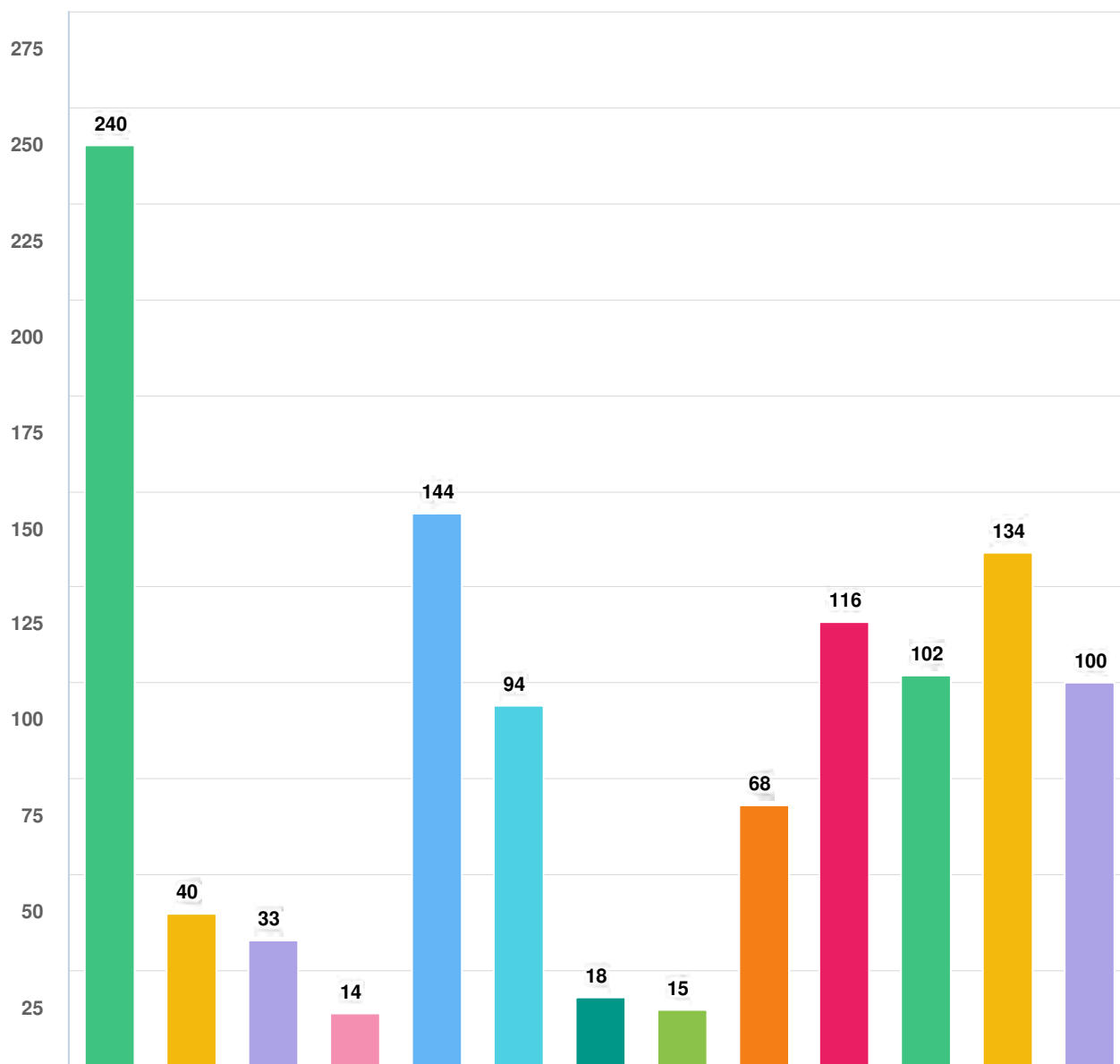
Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)

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



Optional question (438 responses, 31 skipped)

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

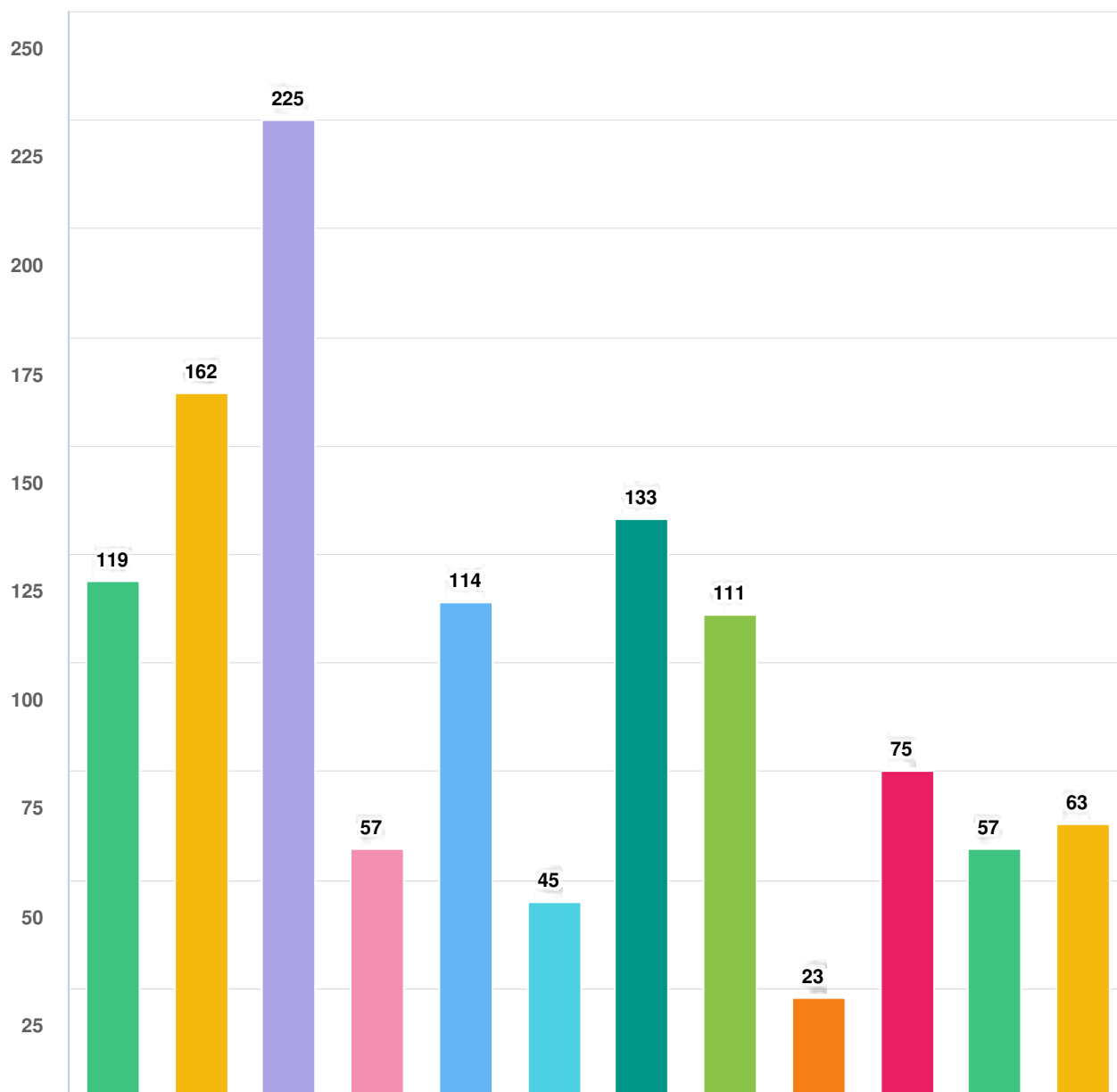


**Question options**

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

Optional question (436 responses, 33 skipped)

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

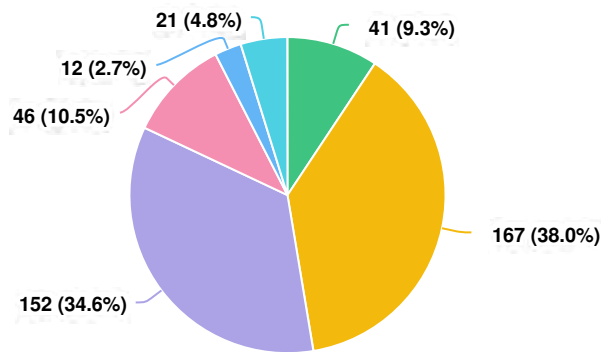


**Question options**

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

*Optional question (435 responses, 34 skipped)*

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

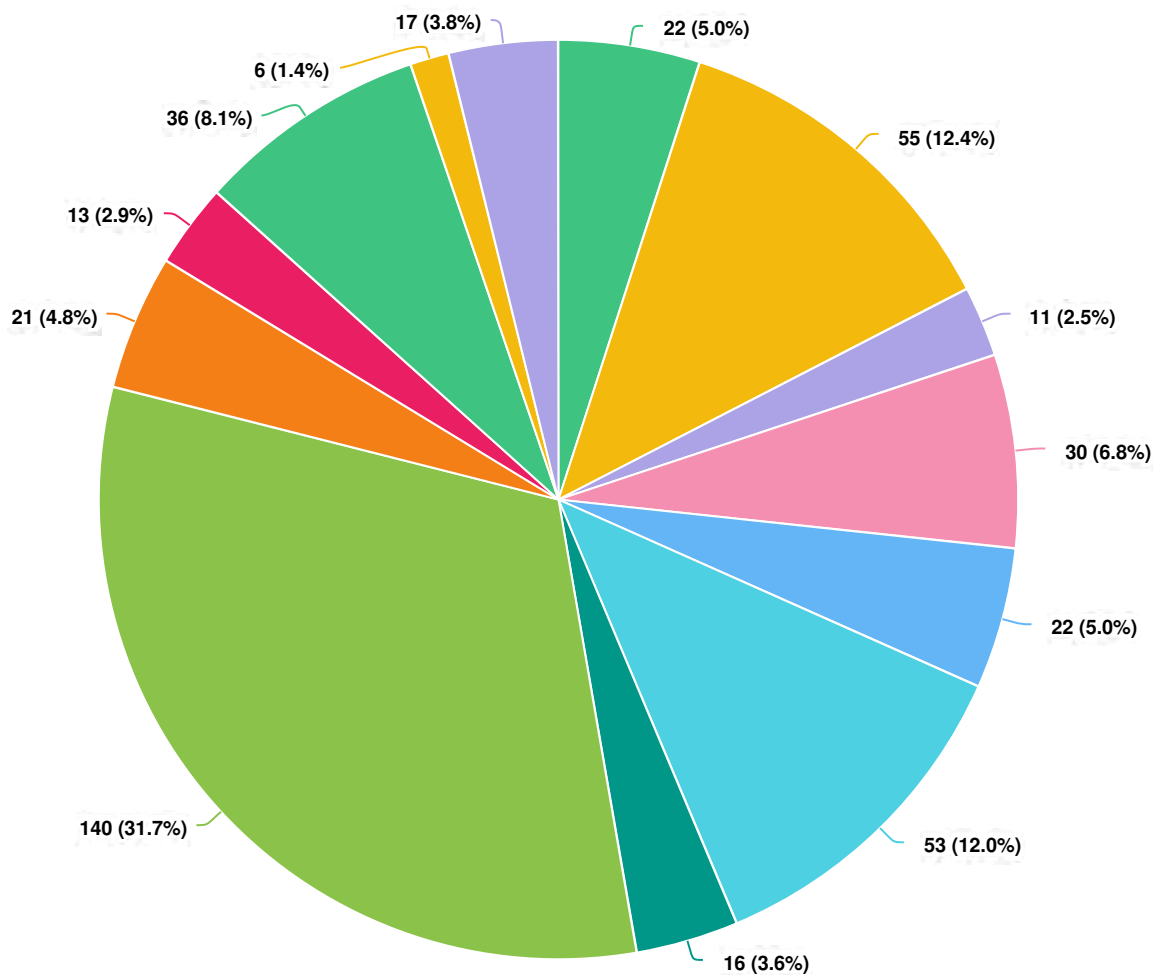


**Question options**

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

Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)

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



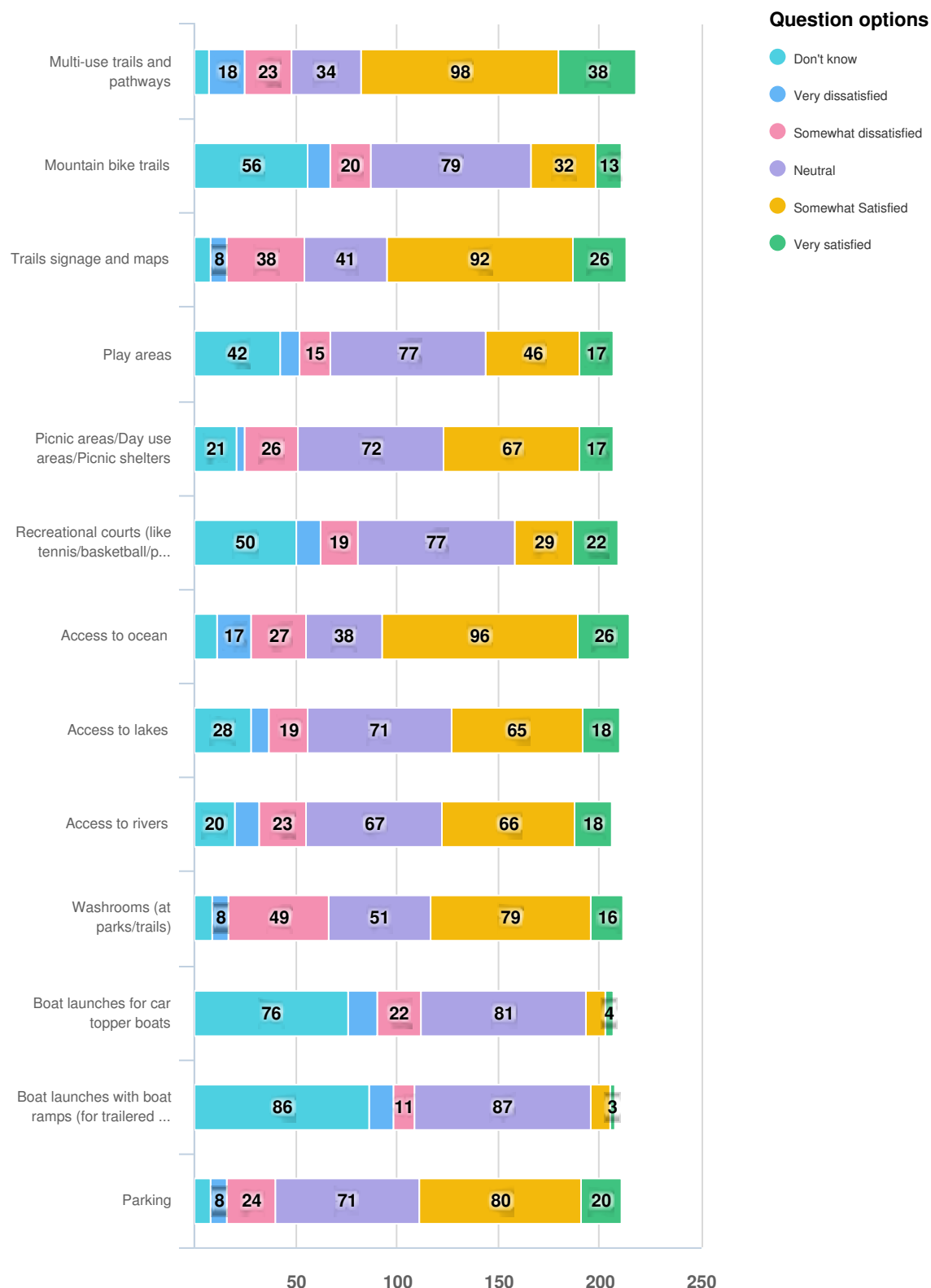
**Question options**

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

(442 responses, 27 skipped)

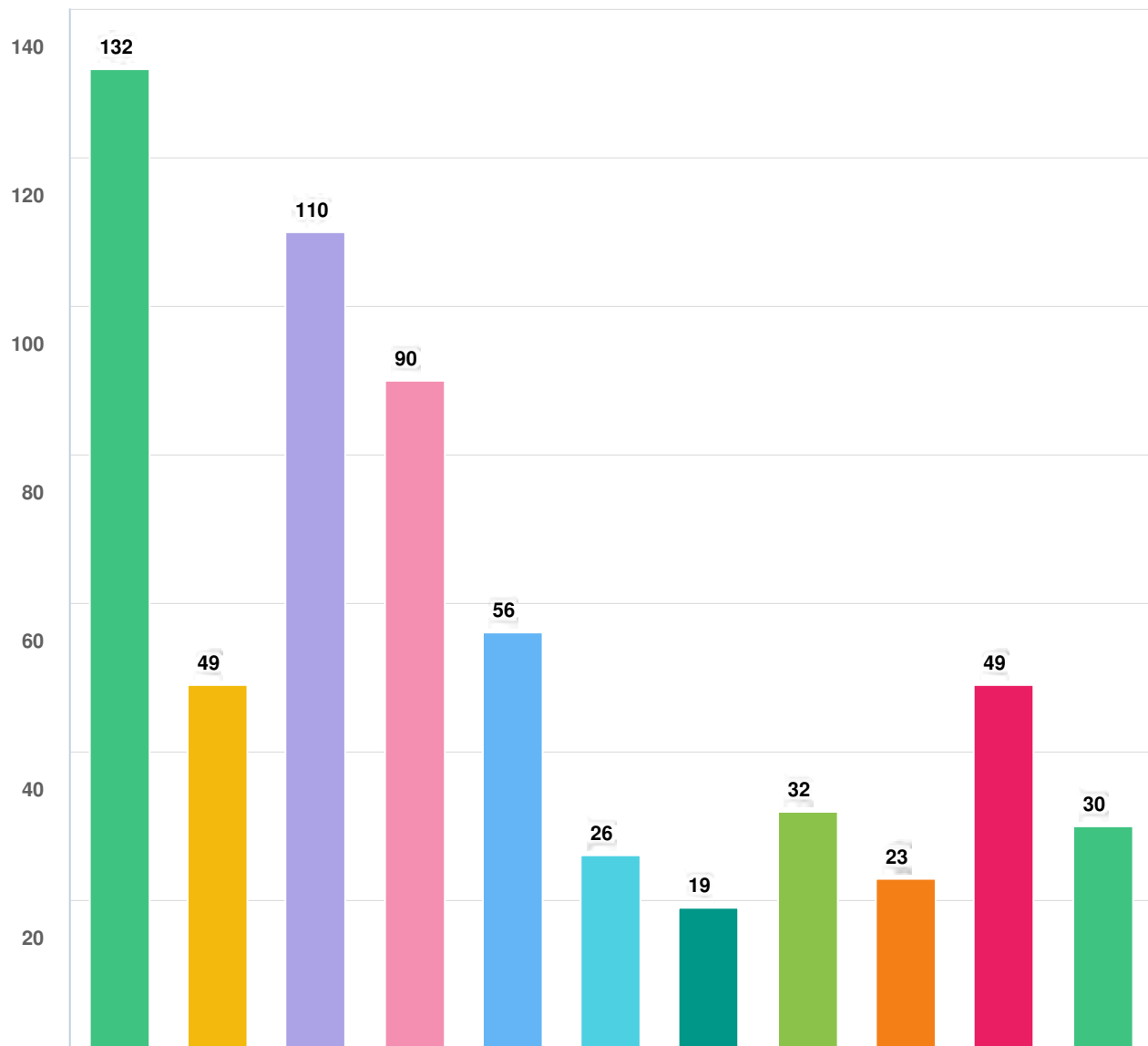


**Q11** The following questions ask about community parks and trails. Community parks and trails serve residents outside municipalities and are funded by each respective electoral area. These parks tend to be smaller properties and can function as playground...



Optional question (222 responses, 247 skipped)

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



**Question options**

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

*Optional question (225 responses, 244 skipped)*

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

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

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

Pixdiver  
11/25/2019 05:09 PM

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

ChristineLeger  
11/25/2019 05:52 PM

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

DJensen  
11/25/2019 07:20 PM

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

Barbara Smith  
11/25/2019 07:50 PM

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

EJJ  
11/25/2019 07:51 PM

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

Naida  
11/25/2019 08:05 PM

no

Boo boo  
11/25/2019 08:31 PM

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

Nathanjroper  
11/25/2019 08:42 PM

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

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

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

tommycycle  
11/26/2019 10:19 AM

no

Mike Robert  
11/26/2019 01:29 PM

no

helenakreowska  
11/26/2019 04:24 PM

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

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

wright\_kelsey

12/01/2019 11:59 AM

they own these access points . We need far more access to ocean frontage. We also need publicly owned ocean boat launches. There are only 2 boat launches between Deep Bay and French creek. That is ridiculous considering we are an island.

Don't forget about the outskirts. We pay taxes, stay involved in our communities, and try really hard to provide great rural style lives for our families. We commute to work and don't want to drive after school and weekends. How about adding community parks, connecting trails, and great outdoor feature spaces like a bike park in an area like H. Kids will have more to do outside. Also, lets look at connecting our communities with trails. Wouldn't it be great to see trails like the lighthouse community trail connecting the whole region, giving us a space to walk our kids from strollers to grandparents with walkers. Imagine being able to ride a bike to school in Bowser without having to be on the hwy. Thanks for listening.

Bill Wrathall

12/01/2019 02:16 PM

I note recently that many of the unsightly orange tags are removed from the trees along the Englishman River Trail. Tags that remain are placed at trail junctures and on existing marker posts. This is appreciated and thank you! However, most of the tags are not numbered. The signage 'near' the trail head on Allsbrook Road may be better served if placed at the trail head where the notice boards are situated. I also encourage using sign posts with maps rather than nailing tags into the trees.

emily

12/01/2019 07:12 PM

Parks are so awesome and wonderful! lets preserve more land! We can always fix up parks but once land has been logged or houses been put all over it it is hard to get back

Betty Wright

12/02/2019 11:01 AM

I am passionate about protecting areas that need to be recognized as special habitat for wildlife. And I will certainly continue to participate in the fund raising activities to protect the French Creek Estuary.

HelenD

12/02/2019 11:09 AM

We need to preserve more natural areas, for many reasons. Every opportunity should be taken to preserve and increase parkland.

Tom Cameron

12/02/2019 05:34 PM

The RDN is investing, responsive and active in planning for the future of the parks and trails system. Thanks

KTMNorth

12/02/2019 06:44 PM

Please include shared use where possible that includes horses on trails, and also carefully consider where e-bikes will be permitted.

Bready

12/02/2019 07:23 PM

This survey was not easy to find. I went to a open house and was told to do survey online. Yes I managed but was frustrated

Hello

12/02/2019 08:08 PM

If you do not get more parkland and nature trails now there will be nothing left. Nothing. No trees, no nature reserves and no water.

Rossupnorth

12/02/2019 09:06 PM

As far as land acquisition or the creation of new regional parks, the Thames Creek and Nile Creek drainages should be given priority.

KDL

12/03/2019 01:23 AM

need more areas to view nature and wildlife

Tuckshok

12/03/2019 06:12 AM

Would love to see the RDN extend the e & n rail trail throughout the district. Having an effective plan for reducing our emissions is vital and a

Davm444

12/03/2019 11:31 AM

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

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

grgids

12/03/2019 01:46 PM

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

nameste.anne

12/03/2019 01:47 PM

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

kate.s.evans

12/03/2019 02:11 PM

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

Rob Brockley

12/03/2019 03:50 PM

Look for opportunities to connect trails, thereby creating walking loops

Jenni Gehlbach

12/03/2019 04:22 PM

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

Derrill29er

12/03/2019 04:59 PM

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

johnpeirce

12/03/2019 05:19 PM

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

Wilfrid Worland

12/03/2019 06:00 PM

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

Sharleneh

12/03/2019 10:14 PM

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

Kelly Bilquist

12/04/2019 06:24 AM

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

cmizar

12/04/2019 07:37 AM

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

pjwoods

12/04/2019 07:56 AM

Please continue to allow horses on trails

Bonnie Olesko

12/04/2019 08:05 AM

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

dherlinx

12/04/2019 08:17 AM

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

ryanguy

12/04/2019 09:09 AM

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

Survey2020

12/04/2019 09:19 AM

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

Cahen 2

12/04/2019 10:24 AM

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

Brian

12/04/2019 12:07 PM

The RDN should take on the Lantzville foothills park.

MS

12/04/2019 12:36 PM

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

Save Estuary Land Society

12/04/2019 02:11 PM

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

kkrauza

12/04/2019 03:27 PM

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

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

Stollerson

12/04/2019 04:57 PM

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

Alyssa Semczynsyn

12/04/2019 05:21 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 06:00 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 06:27 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 06:30 PM

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

Renee

12/04/2019 06:32 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 07:58 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 08:05 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 08:10 PM

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



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

12/04/2019 09:07 PM

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:18 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:19 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:22 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:23 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:27 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:28 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:31 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:33 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 09:44 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 10:02 PM

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

Anonymous

12/04/2019 10:30 PM

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

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

Anonymous

12/05/2019 07:52 AM

bank....

The RDN has a real opportunity to become a regional mountain bike hub and mountain bike tourist destination. I feel that more more trails, better maintenance and improved marketing would bring more people in.

Anonymous

12/05/2019 07:59 AM

They are treasures and should continue to be invested in, appreciated, and respected. I have encountered multiple deer carcasses while out running, hiking, or biking on the trails and it has been quite disturbing. My dog always seems to find them - typically beside parking areas for the trails. If there is something that can be done to minimize this (or rectify if it happens) that would be greatly appreciated.

Anonymous

12/05/2019 08:22 AM

I would like to see a walking/cycling trail that connects Parksville to Qualicum using the existing railway line starting at The Bottle Depot on the Alberni Highway and ending at Qualicum Beach Airport. We use the Coombs trail at least a couple of times a week which is great. Thank you!

Anonymous

12/05/2019 08:33 AM

With the increasing population and people's love of the outdoors it is SO important to increase the number and size of the parks we have or they will be loved to death.

Anonymous

12/05/2019 08:37 AM

Fer fuck sakes can't you dispose of the biosolids in a non recreational area? What kind of an impression do you think that gives to the many visiting cyclists who come to the Doumont trails. The excuse that it is fertilizing the trees is feeble at best. Root systems are shallow and the fiber is weak. Take a walk out there and look for yourselves.

Anonymous

12/05/2019 08:40 AM

I would love to see a few longer trails along waterfront areas/ riverfront areas. There are some absolutely gorgeous trails in the area but I find most of them are very short (only a couple km or less). A few trails that are at least 5 km would be such a welcome addition!

Anonymous

12/05/2019 08:43 AM

They are great. we just need to protect the remaining pieces of natural beauty we have here on the east coast. BUY land !! =)

Anonymous

12/05/2019 08:47 AM

It is important to get Mosaic or Island Timberlands to finally allow and finish the bridge over the Nanaimo River. This is ridiculous that they have blocked this, especially since they are now benefiting from this land in terms of real-estate development. I've come across a number of visitors to the area who want to "ride their bikes" on the Transcanada Trail but discover later (because of poor signage) that they can't make it over to Spruceton Road. The trail also become very inaccessible to various types of bikes because of poor trail maintenance. There is an element of tourism that is not being developed that other communities on the Island seem to recognize but in the Nanaimo River area is being held back. There is also a major historic significance to the region in the trails around Extension and Nanaimo River, but is being lost. Interpretive signage is badly needed, but is obviously ignored or not seen to be important. Extension Ridge trail would be a great place for even some simple signage explaining the large number of coal mines in that region that played an important part of why our region are developed and settled. Few people understand this, I feel.

Anonymous

12/05/2019 08:53 AM

Doing a great job in some ways, I think that the mount Benson area needs some serious acquisition and development for mountain biking and hiking.

Anonymous

12/05/2019 08:57 AM

Gold mine of opportunity that we waste on DnD and logging.

Would like to see multi use trails developed much like the Cowichan Valley Regional District has created linking communities together.

Anonymous

12/05/2019 09:04 AM

Better signage and enforcement to keep motorized vehicles away from areas they should not be.

Anonymous

12/05/2019 09:06 AM

More mountain bike trails!!!

Anonymous

12/05/2019 09:17 AM

Expand E and N Trail and other connecting trails that are dual purpose for both transportation and recreation. Also, protect the mountain bike trail areas and quit spraying sewage where people play. There are plenty of locations that are not high use recreationally where that can be done instead. It's an embarrassment when biking tourists come here.

Anonymous

12/05/2019 09:49 AM

Work with Federal Government to acquire military rifle range lands off of Nanaimo Lakes Road. The range is too close to the city and should be moved to a more remote location. This area of land has many great viewpoints and trails so it would be great to have legal access to them.

Anonymous

12/05/2019 09:50 AM

The RDN or Nanaimo city needs to acquire more land around Westwood lake. I understand a deal could be made. The National Defence Gun range needs to be moved and the RDN needs to turn it into park or give it back to first Nations.

Derek Kilbourn

12/05/2019 10:25 AM

It is great to see the RDN taking an overview strategic look at Parks and Trails within the whole RDN. It would be even better to have similar strategies completed within Electoral Area B involving stakeholders, POSAC, and users of the parks, and involving other protected area owners (like Provincial Parks, MOTI, or Islands Trust Fund) involved. Development of existing facilities needs to be a priority, and it was refreshing to hear Yann say at the Gabriola meeting that there is work being done to ensure there's funding in place to replace existing infrastructure. I really hope that this will include the portable at Rollo, as it's the only indoor community recreational space we have which is owned by the RDN, rather than the school board, a non-profit, or private business.

Anonymous

12/05/2019 10:40 AM

Please complete Huxley Community Park before starting any new projects. The skatepark should be RDN priority for Area B.

conwayp7

12/05/2019 11:20 AM

Region needs a comprehensive approach to bike lanes

Heidi

12/05/2019 11:43 AM

staging and better maps that show when your riding with traffic and not. the kinsole trestle trail( tgt )is my most absolute favourite not too strenuous beautiful area but this took time to find if it was only easier and closer to have a similar ride close here that is bikable.

Jenny

12/05/2019 11:52 AM

I hope the skatepark will be built soon. The youth of Gabriola continue to ask about a youth access space. Thank you

Scott Manson

12/05/2019 01:46 PM

The Parkway Trail is designated as a "recreational trail", and as such gets very little maintenance (repair of cracks, snow and leaf clearing, etc.). I would

jmowatt  
12/05/2019 01:48 PM  
like to see its status be changed to "commuter trail" (like the E&N Trail) so that it gets more frequent attention.  
i think the RDN should hire a mountain biker that knows the trail network around the city and discover whats out there and how to promote the trails

Carly Dawn  
12/05/2019 04:14 PM  
Finish Huxley Park!

Andrews  
12/05/2019 04:38 PM  
Within the climbing community there has been talk of the climbing areas at the Nanaimo river being acquired by the city. As a member of the climbing community it would be greatly appreciated if this was considered. Also there is a tonne of great climbing around town that would be great to have a little more information on which areas are considered ok to climb at. Maybe some signs and information online so members of the community can avoid trespassing in areas that are currently not owned by the city. Thank you for all the hard work. The parks are wonderful in my opinion.

Meliss378  
12/05/2019 05:11 PM  
Support local biking trails. Paid trail builders. More signage. Bathrooms at trailheads

Mikefoulds  
12/05/2019 06:48 PM  
In this day and age... you dump biosolids in an area where people recreate... you should be ashamed of yourselves!!!

nicolelamb  
12/05/2019 10:10 PM  
I would love to see Nanaimo River (Dark Side/ Sunnyside) protected, and for aquisition of the Roberts Roost area.

ashleytjohnston  
12/06/2019 12:06 AM  
The Cedar by the Sea area of Area A is very underserved in terms of community parks. A playground somewhere in this area would greatly enhance the area for the many young families who are beginning to populate the area. Ideally some kind of park or playground would be put in by the beach. However, unless the property next to the boat ramp was acquired (it is for sale) there may not be sufficient room. The cedar boat ramp is also in dire of repairs. The beach in Cedar by the sea by the boat ramp is greatly underutilized and could be a crown jewel for the whole Cedar area. If a playground, sports court, or picnic shelter was not possible at the beach in Cedar there appears to be ample room at the Cable Bay trail.

Dave Saunders  
12/06/2019 06:33 AM  
Nanaimo is well known for its hiking and mountain bike trails, efforts should be put into maintenance and signage of existing trails and parking. Land use agreements or purchasing new park space should be a priority for our expanding city and eliminating the spraying of human waste in areas like the Doumont trail system. With climate change problems and new technologies I think as a regional district we have to move beyond this practice.

MS  
12/06/2019 07:01 AM  
I would like to see French Creek Estuary Land become a Park. I support the acquisition of French Creek Estuary Land as a park. I support the Environmental Law Centre at Uvic on a monthly basis. French Creek Estuary is important: ir has ecological value, for diversity of wildlife & habitat, older growth forest, big trees and water conservation. It has value to the community as a place to walk, connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of the area. I do not want land to be developed that could be protected from being paved over - forever. It can be a hit with tourism, if tourism is

K&S

12/06/2019 08:07 AM

sustainable. Helps biodiversity, for resident and migrating birds and their food sources.

Please save the Estuary French Creek.

Phil Martin

12/06/2019 08:12 AM

Where's our skateboard park?

Anthony

12/06/2019 08:38 AM

please make the French Creek Estuary Lands into park land and protect it from development.

Oceanlife

12/06/2019 08:55 AM

French creek estuary is an important ecosystem that is vital to many birds fish and mammals it needs protection.

Someonenew

12/06/2019 09:25 AM

Protecting the French Creek Estuary should be a priority

Kathy Cameron

12/06/2019 09:25 AM

Please save French Creek estuary lands . Commit to protecting as much land / waterways as possible for future generations.

skdch

12/06/2019 09:52 AM

Make French Creek Estuary Lands a Park to preserve this ecosystem for all to enjoy and for the plants and animals to be sustained.

Sandy Stirling

12/06/2019 09:55 AM

As you may have noticed from my responses, my biggest concern and hope is that the French Creek Estuary is saved from development. As you know, the Save French Creek Society is very pro-active in trying to prevent the sale of this ecologically sensitive land to a developer in Surrey. They have done their homework! The acquisition of French Creek Estuary Land provides a wonderful opportunity for the RDN to protect sensitive ecosystems, support community partnerships, enhance the health and well-being of its residents, improve livability, reduce infrastructure costs, and meet the growing public desire for natural spaces. I sincerely hope that the powers that be in the RDN consider the value of helping to acquire this land and keep it as a protected, beautiful, natural, ecologically sensitive park. Thank you!

Derrick

12/06/2019 10:02 AM

I would like to see Hamilton Marsh Land become a Park (the whole 360 hectares) because of its ecological value, especially as a bird migration flyway & stop over, diversity of wildlife & habitat, mature forest and water conservation. The ecological system is comprised of both the marsh and surrounding forest land. It is valuable to the community as a place to walk, connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of the area. I would like also to see French Creek Estuary Land become a Park, because of its ecological value, diversity of wildlife & habitat, older growth forest, big trees and water conservation. It's valuable to the community as a place to walk, connect with nature and enjoy the beauty of the area.

ejpeeters

12/06/2019 10:43 AM

Allowance and consideration for ATV/ORV access from back-country to amenities (food, fuel, accommodation). ATV staging area. (parking lot).

RuthGo

12/06/2019 10:53 AM

I strong support the acquisition of the French Creek Estuary Lands. This would certainly enhance the opportunities for citizens to enjoy and appreciate the natural beauty of our area. It's also such a vital resource for the wildlife,

dhaynes

12/06/2019 10:57 AM

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

Consider the French Creek preserve

Otts3009

12/06/2019 11:01 AM

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

Marlene Dunbrack

12/06/2019 11:02 AM

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

4halls

12/06/2019 11:31 AM

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

No

12/06/2019 12:14 PM

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

Lbezoo

12/06/2019 12:39 PM

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

Cmpitt

12/06/2019 12:43 PM

Save french creek estuary and eagle trees

jjoeve

12/06/2019 01:40 PM

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

mjmkelly

12/06/2019 02:00 PM

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

Sheelagh.rmt

12/06/2019 02:22 PM

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

keithhorton

12/06/2019 05:32 PM

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

Fred Collins

12/06/2019 07:05 PM

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



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

12/08/2019 11:34 AM

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

peterisnow

12/08/2019 12:23 PM

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

Hskinner

12/08/2019 07:30 PM

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

DaCat

12/08/2019 09:28 PM

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

bBaker

12/08/2019 09:45 PM

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

cds22

12/08/2019 09:49 PM

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

marty

12/09/2019 09:02 AM

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

denisesusan7

12/09/2019 03:55 PM

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

I love French Creek Estuary

12/09/2019 10:53 PM

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

ColumbiaBeachRes13

12/09/2019 11:59 PM

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

Liane Watson

12/10/2019 11:24 AM

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

Virginia Ebbels

12/10/2019 02:55 PM

and water conservation.

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

Evelyn Lepin

12/10/2019 04:10 PM

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

Green T

12/10/2019 09:03 PM

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

Rueggeberg

12/11/2019 07:27 AM

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

HelenMc

12/11/2019 08:39 AM

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

James Dunderdale

12/11/2019 08:54 AM

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

seanwood

12/11/2019 10:24 AM

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

lyvonne

12/11/2019 01:44 PM

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

John Gambrill

12/11/2019 07:35 PM

Good work in 707 park on Gabriola Much appreciated.

Robertsalli

12/12/2019 10:56 AM

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

duane

12/12/2019 10:59 AM

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

Linda McPhie

12/12/2019 11:02 AM

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

Westcoast

12/12/2019 11:31 AM

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

Al

12/12/2019 11:54 AM

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

C Coupland

12/12/2019 12:11 PM

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

terry1

12/12/2019 12:16 PM

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

Jbannatyne

12/12/2019 12:34 PM

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

Jbannatyne

12/12/2019 12:42 PM

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

Maple Lane

12/12/2019 01:09 PM

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

MNowosad

12/12/2019 01:13 PM

no more intrusive trails pls, more spaces for wildlife.

Mike Kervel

12/12/2019 01:26 PM

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

SueWilsonParksville

12/12/2019 03:52 PM

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

Meghan.Walker

12/12/2019 04:17 PM

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

Dunner

12/12/2019 04:38 PM

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

Joan mantei

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

12/13/2019 07:59 AM

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

jenrod41751

12/13/2019 11:03 AM

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

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 11:07 AM

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

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 11:16 AM

Keep it up folks, Thanks for your efforts.

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 11:25 AM

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

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 11:34 AM

kees langereis

12/13/2019 11:44 AM

None

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 11:50 AM

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

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 12:08 PM

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

Terry Taylor

12/13/2019 12:10 PM

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

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 12:23 PM

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

Jbannatyne

12/13/2019 12:46 PM

Regional Trail to connect west of river.

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

Standard12

12/13/2019 01:56 PM

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

cviti

12/13/2019 02:39 PM

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

jbeever

12/13/2019 03:25 PM

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

RedOsier

12/13/2019 05:20 PM

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

alisont

12/13/2019 05:53 PM

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

PJHB

12/13/2019 06:14 PM

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

jkinos

12/13/2019 09:08 PM

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

LonnyBarr

12/13/2019 09:32 PM

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

Phylsranch

12/13/2019 09:47 PM

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

Melvis129

12/14/2019 12:23 AM

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

Kmatt

12/14/2019 12:50 AM

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

sylvia185

12/14/2019 11:15 AM

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

Timothy Maika

12/14/2019 01:40 PM

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

Trailrider

12/14/2019 02:13 PM

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

Ichuntley

12/14/2019 03:20 PM

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

whaleboneguesthouse

12/14/2019 03:27 PM

to the marsh prohibited.

Please only restrict motorized vehicles. Electric bikes provide access to parks for people with accessibility challenges. Repair the beach access points on Gabriola Island.

Diana

12/14/2019 04:24 PM

The more natural areas preserved, the better.

Garycroome

12/14/2019 08:00 PM

Ongoing concern for the location of the DND lands in close proximity to well used recreational areas, and residential. Is there any way the RDN can consider offering a land exchange to allow weapons training to occur away from busy trails and growing residential areas?

Woodlotguy

12/15/2019 08:02 AM

Appreciate the opportunity. Thanks for listening.

VG Dare

12/15/2019 08:53 AM

Clearcutting in the vicinity of trails should not be allowed. Maintaining forested areas adjacent to rivers should be a priority as should protecting watersheds through land acquisition. Promote "friluftsliv", the Nordic concept of outdoor living: <https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20171211-friluftsliv-the-nordic-concept-of-getting-outdoors>. Resist "improving" natural areas.

Mary Ann

12/15/2019 09:04 AM

Thanks for the survey.

limerick

12/15/2019 06:19 PM

Little Qualicum River floodplain - lots 6, 7, 8 of DL 76. This area is partly privately owned and partly crown land and located adjacent to DL 10. DL 10 is owned by the Town of Qualicum Beach supposedly for preservation and protection of clean water source. There is a rudimentary trail within these forests but not accessible for some people. This area needs protection because of its ecological value. The best use for this land is conservation instead of recreational park, particularly the lower elevation that it is a sensitive ecosystem.

cpollak

12/15/2019 08:19 PM

People should not have to get in a vehicle to be able safely to access a trail system -- including horse access in areas with equestrian activity. While the RDN should prioritize purchase of relevant properties, the onus should be increased on developers to design new residential communities with built-in multi-use green corridors, before too many communities become hopelessly isolated due to poor development of private properties and blocking of potential corridors and connectors.

rdn updates

12/15/2019 10:45 PM

Increases to educational opportunities for public to appreciate nature and get out to use existing trails and parks.

James Windram

12/15/2019 11:27 PM

Keep up the good work and when eco-sensitive areas are threatened with development support the protection of these lands.

Whitesl2

12/16/2019 08:47 AM

Provide additional information on the parks available and their access points.

Rickw

12/16/2019 09:32 AM

The beautiful parks in this area are something we should all be proud of and not take for granted. As the area grows and becomes more populated, appropriate consideration should be given to maintaining and growing our



drclough

12/16/2019 09:34 AM

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

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

M Newall

12/16/2019 10:29 AM

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

Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society

12/16/2019 10:30 AM

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

cath77

12/16/2019 10:33 AM

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

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 10:36 AM

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

Claytonnanoose

12/16/2019 10:36 AM

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

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 11:11 AM

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

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

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 11:35 AM

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

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 11:48 AM

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

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 11:57 AM

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

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 12:20 PM

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

Jbannatyne

12/16/2019 12:41 PM

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

Islandsun

12/16/2019 12:47 PM

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

raysan

12/16/2019 12:58 PM

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

Nancy

12/16/2019 12:59 PM

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

mfherrmann

12/16/2019 01:22 PM

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

Claudia Brann

12/16/2019 01:49 PM

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

Marlana

12/16/2019 02:04 PM

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

Carol-rae

12/16/2019 02:47 PM

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

m.p.mcculloch

12/16/2019 03:13 PM

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

Maryjean

12/16/2019 03:50 PM

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

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

kjp

12/16/2019 03:50 PM

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

Mary-Jane Bowie

12/16/2019 04:12 PM

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

Dyan

12/16/2019 05:21 PM

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

Cheryl

12/16/2019 07:20 PM

justine

12/16/2019 07:34 PM

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

RandyYoung

12/16/2019 08:12 PM

Ratepayers are devastated by the increase in expenditures.

surfgirl

12/16/2019 08:22 PM

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

Benandbriar

12/16/2019 09:46 PM

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

Sunshine Goldsberry

12/16/2019 10:30 PM

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

Estragon

12/17/2019 04:21 AM

Protection of habitat is of primary importance to me

Louskinner

12/17/2019 06:47 AM

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

Louise Otto

12/17/2019 06:52 AM

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

Jbannatyne

12/24/2019 11:18 AM

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

Jbannatyne

12/24/2019 12:02 PM

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

Jbannatyne

1/04/2020 04:24 PM

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Jbannatyne

1/04/2020 04:39 PM

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Jbannatyne

1/04/2020 04:56 PM

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Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 10:02 AM

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

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 10:51 AM

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Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 11:07 AM

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

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 11:12 AM

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

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 11:22 AM

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

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

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 12:01 PM

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

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 12:21 PM

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

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 12:43 PM

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

Jbannatyne

1/06/2020 12:51 PM

Keep it up folks. Thanks for the efforts.

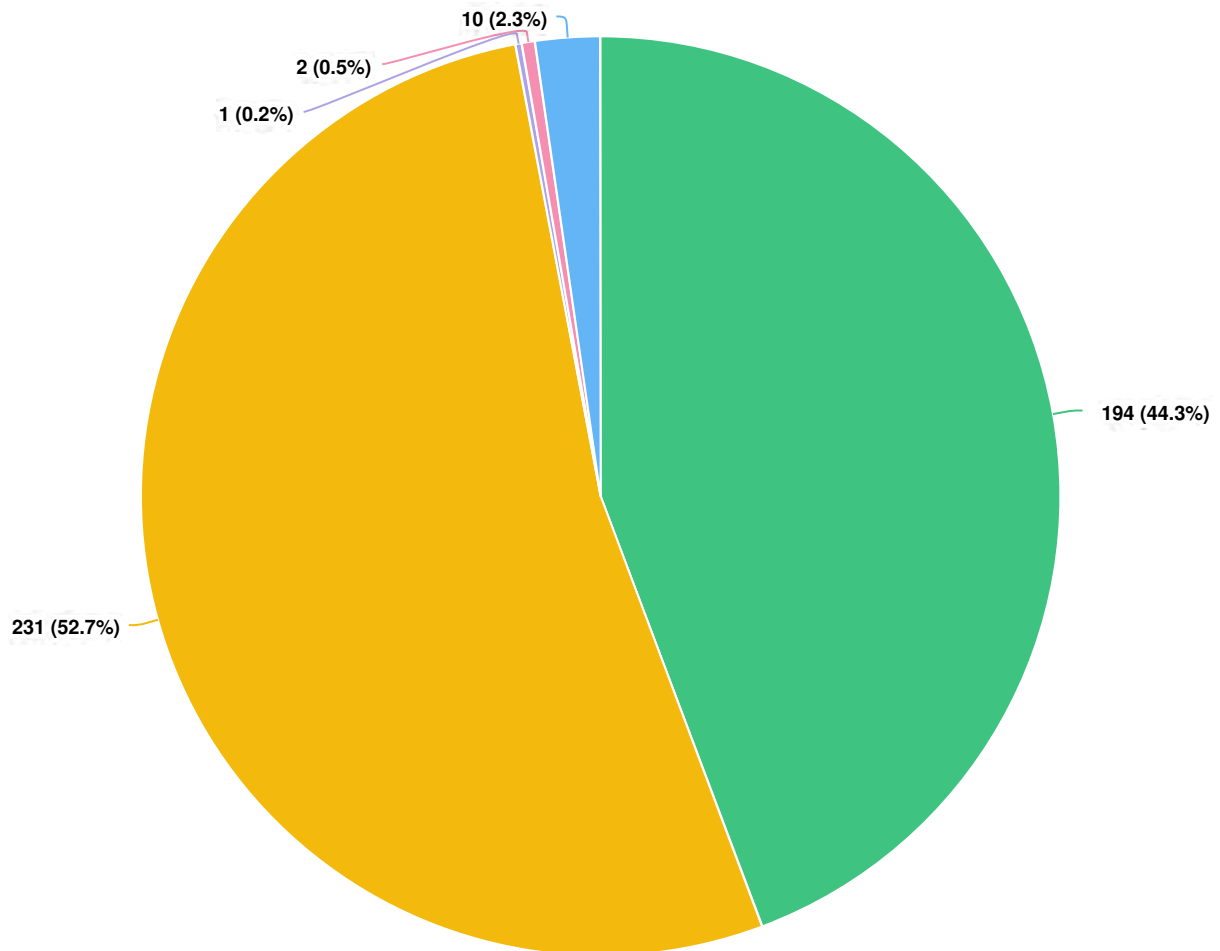
cory

1/06/2020 02:55 PM

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

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

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



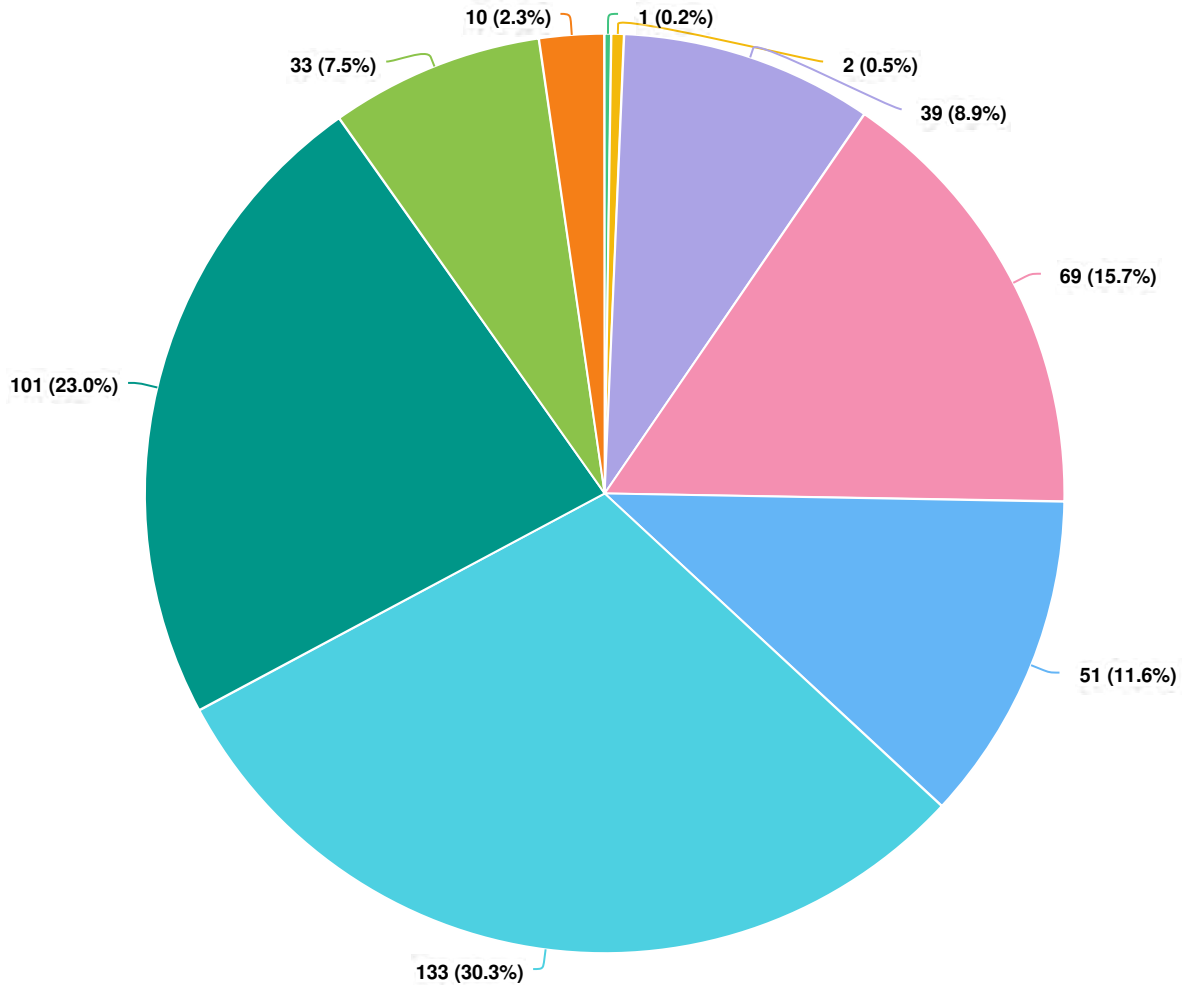
**Question options**

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

Optional question (438 responses, 31 skipped)



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

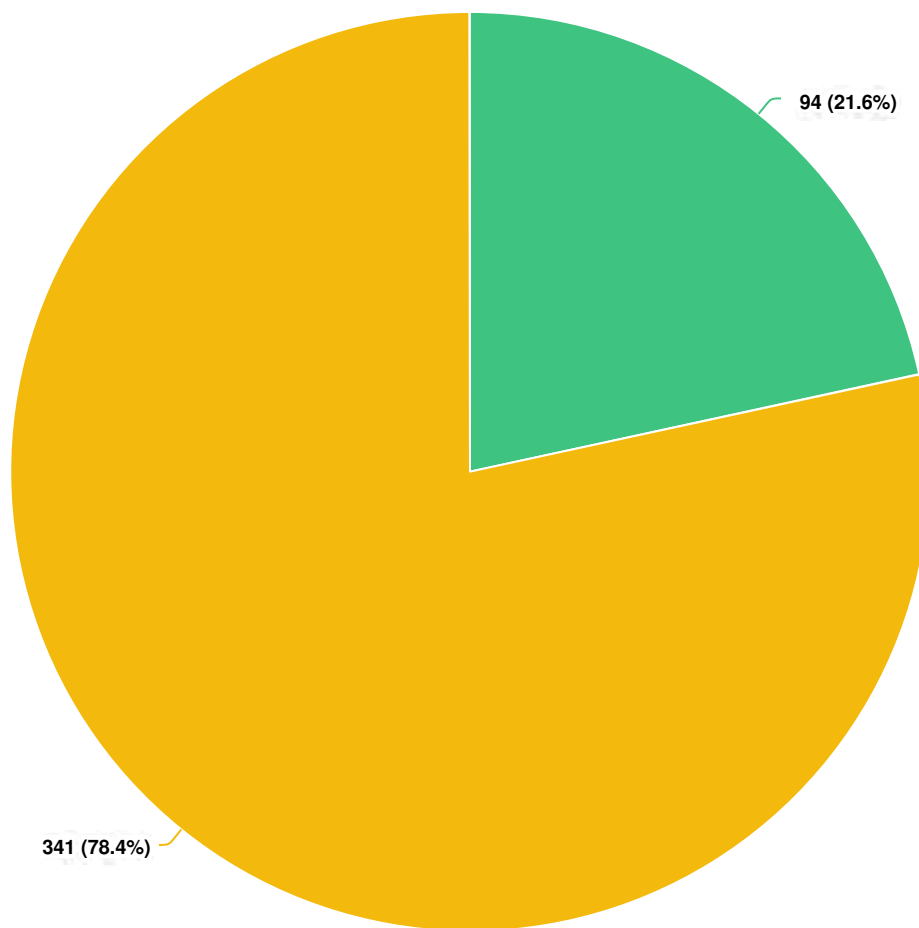


**Question options**

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

Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)

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

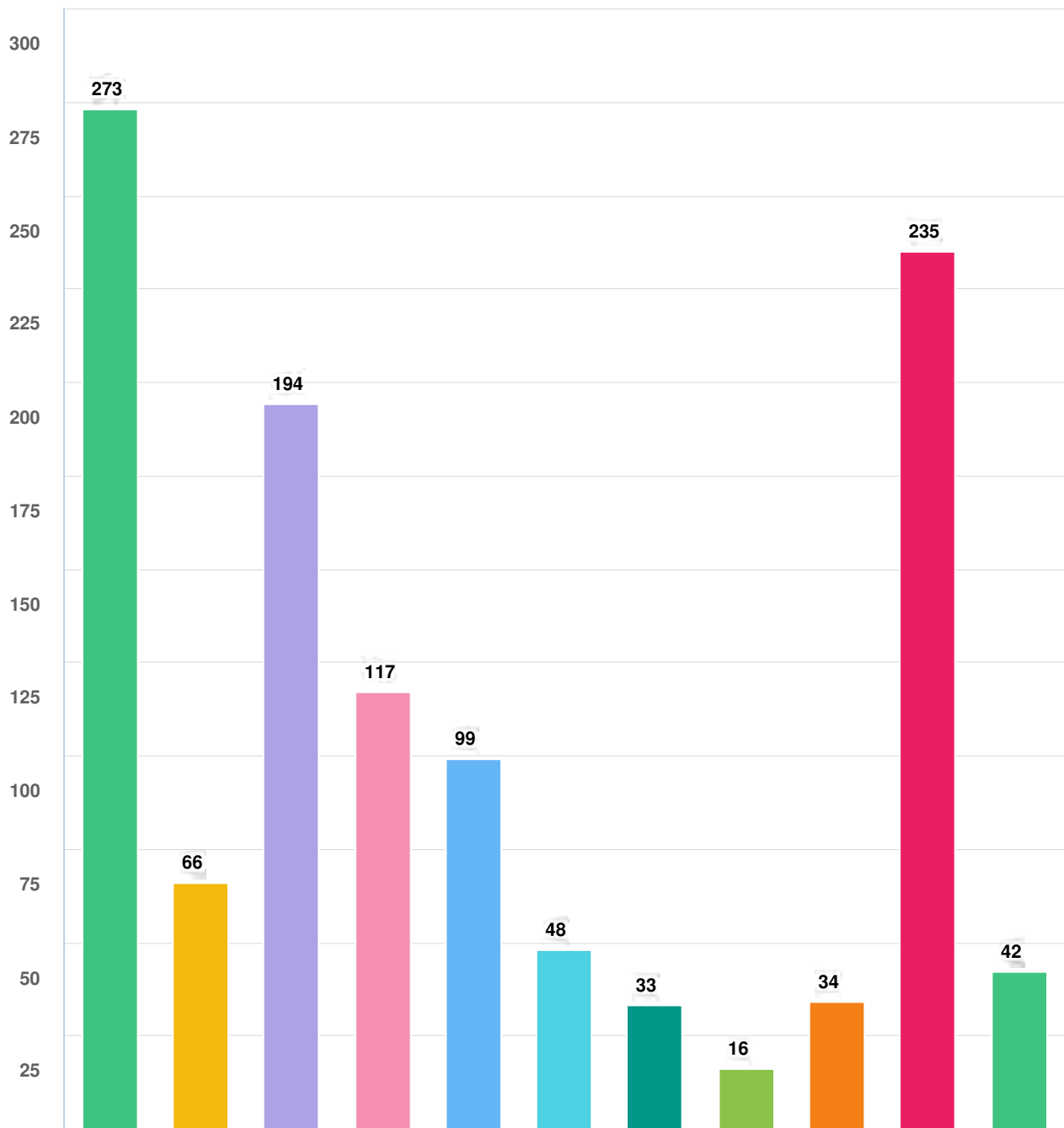


**Question options**

- No
- Yes

*Optional question (435 responses, 34 skipped)*

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



**Question options**

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

Optional question (439 responses, 30 skipped)

# APPENDIX C – WORKSHOP DETAILED NOTES

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

### DISCUSSION #1

#### Important Places/Valuable Features:

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

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

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

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

### **Issues and Challenges:**

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

## DISCUSSION #2

### Accessibility to many users?

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

## How to encourage more use?

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

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

### DISCUSSION #3

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

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

### Improve Existing Vs. Acquisition

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

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

### Conservation vs. Recreation

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

### Improve Regional Parks vs. Improve Community Parks

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

- Case by case basis
- Youth=more staff time

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Reconciliation**

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

# **RDN Parks & Trails Strategic Plan**

## **Round 1 - Community Engagement**

### **Gabriola Workshop Notes**

Workshop Date: January 22, 2019

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

Workshop Attendees: total: 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Conservation



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

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

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

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

### **DISCUSSION #2**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **DISCUSSION #3**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**DISCUSSION 4**

**Vision:**

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

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

# APPENDIX D – OPEN HOUSE DETAILED NOTES

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

### VISIONING EXERCISE

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

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

##### Responses

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

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

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

### Responses

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

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

- Best ideal parks & Trail systems

## OPEN HOUSE BOARD COMMENTS

### DEC 02 2019-QUALICUM BEACH

#### Priorities

- Preserve the French Creek Estuary

#### AREA H

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

#### Vision

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

#### Value Most Parks



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

### **Value Most Trails**

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

### **Regional**

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

### **Area G1**

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

### **G2**

- Preserve wildlife in estuary

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

### **Regional PKS**

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

### **Elect. Area A**

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

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

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

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

#### **Elect Area C**

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

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

What do you value most?

#### **Parks**

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

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

## Trails

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

## Vision

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

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

## DEC 04 2019-GABRIOLA ISLAND

### Area B

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

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

### Regional Parks

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

### Value Parks

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

### Value Trails

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

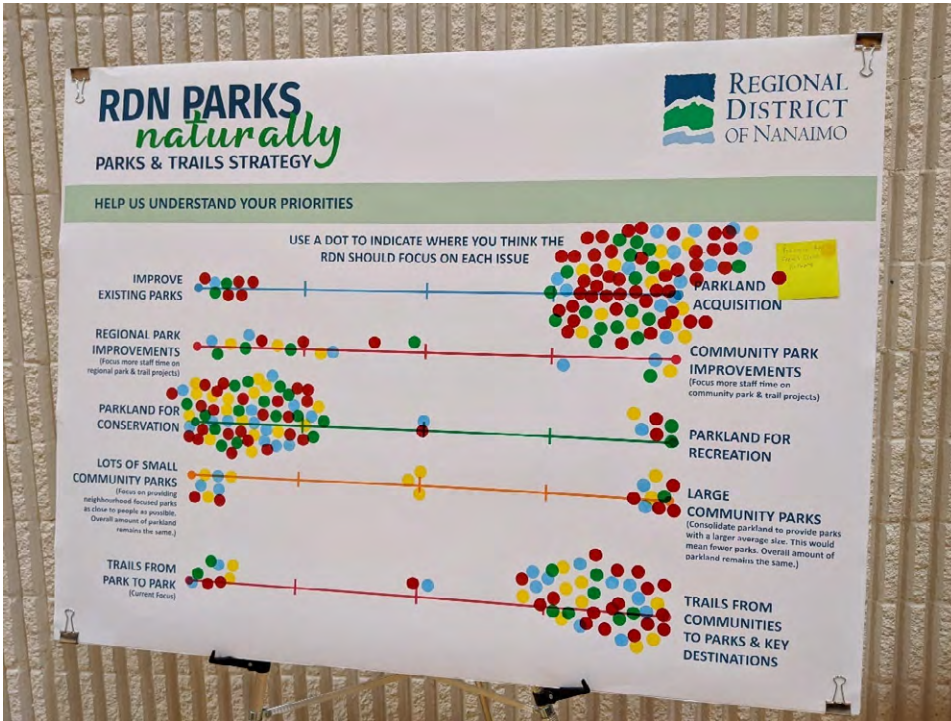
- Vision – Parks and trails are part of the sustainability plan for carbon reduction approach for climate change
- Connectivity
- Multi-use trails are very important but need appropriate signage
  
- Easy access for kayaks
- Ramps for solo paddlers
- A regional park in Gabriola dedicated to conservation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

# APPENDIX E – ENGAGEMENT MATERIALS AND PHOTOS



Qualicum Beach Workshop and Open House – December 2, 2019





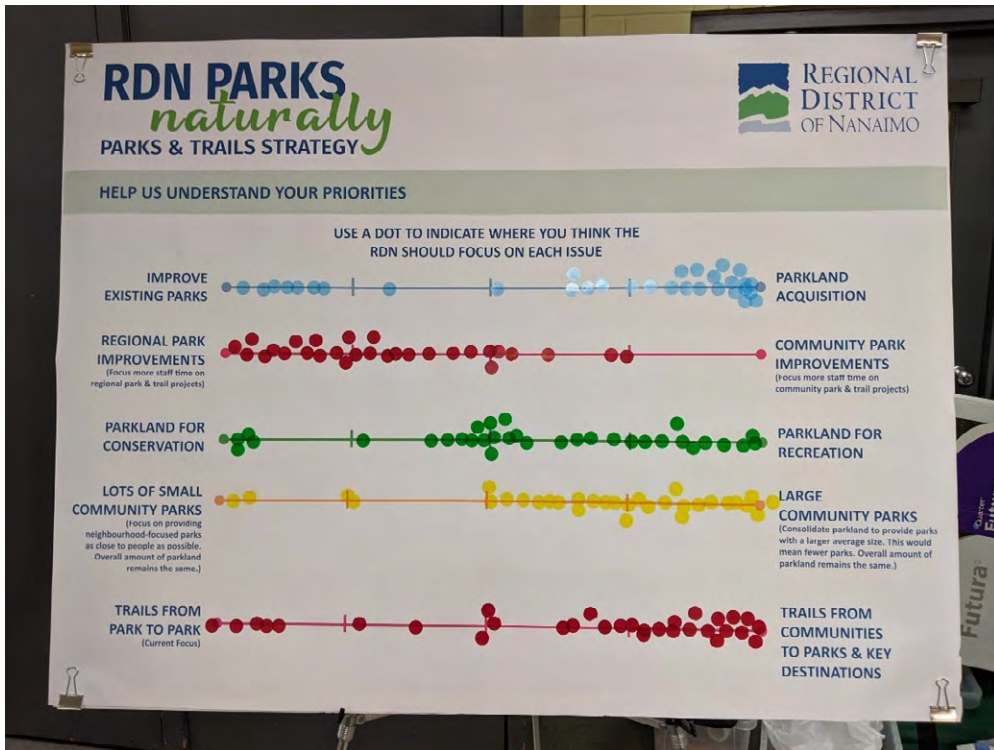




Beban Social Centre Workshop and Open House – December 3, 2019







**RDN PARKS naturally**  
PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

TELL US ABOUT: WHAT YOU LOVE, WHAT'S MISSING, OR WHAT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

**PARKS & TRAILS MAP: ELECTORAL AREA C (2 OF 2)**

COMMUNITY PARKS PORTFOLIO  
ELECTORAL AREA C

Sheet 2 of 2  
Extension / Nanaimo River

Legend

- Electoral Area C Boundary
- Electoral Area / Municipal Boundary
- Source/Use First Nation
- Community Park / Trail
- Regional Park / Trail
- Provincial Park
- Other Parkland
- Church
- Fire Hall
- School

Note: CP - Community Park, CT - Community Trail, RP - Regional Park, RT - Regional Trail

Pink outline indicates developed community parks

**RDN PARKS naturally**  
PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGY

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

TELL US ABOUT: WHAT YOU LOVE, WHAT'S MISSING, OR WHAT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

**PARKS & TRAILS MAP: ELECTORAL AREA C (1 OF 2)**

COMMUNITY PARKS PORTFOLIO  
ELECTORAL AREA C

Sheet 1 of 2  
East Wellington / Pleasant Valley

Legend

- Electoral Area C Boundary
- Electoral Area / Municipal Boundary
- Source/Use First Nation
- Community Park / Trail
- Regional Park / Trail
- Provincial Park
- Other Parkland
- Church
- Fire Hall
- School

Note: CP - Community Park, CT - Community Trail, RP - Regional Park, RT - Regional Trail

Pink outline indicates developed community parks

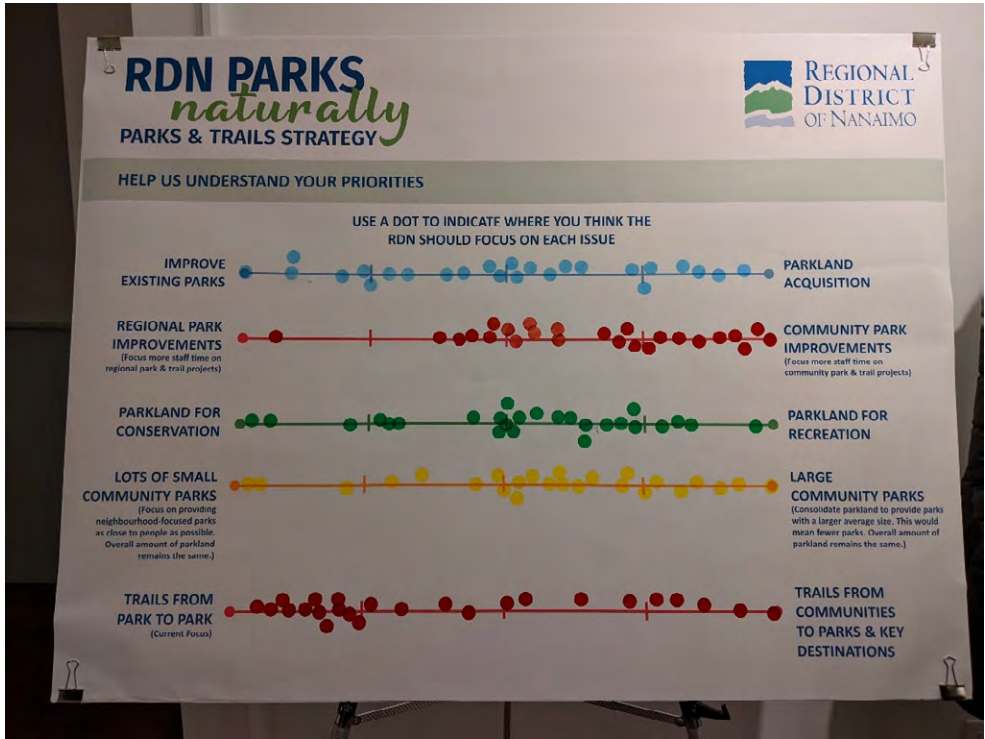


Gabriola Island Open House – December 4, 2019









# APPENDIX B

Round 2 Engagement Summary



# 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

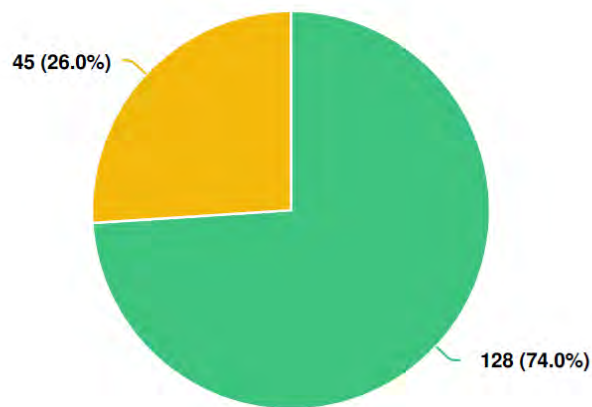
The following sections describe the key results from the online survey. The full survey results are included at the end of this summary in the Appendix.

### 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:

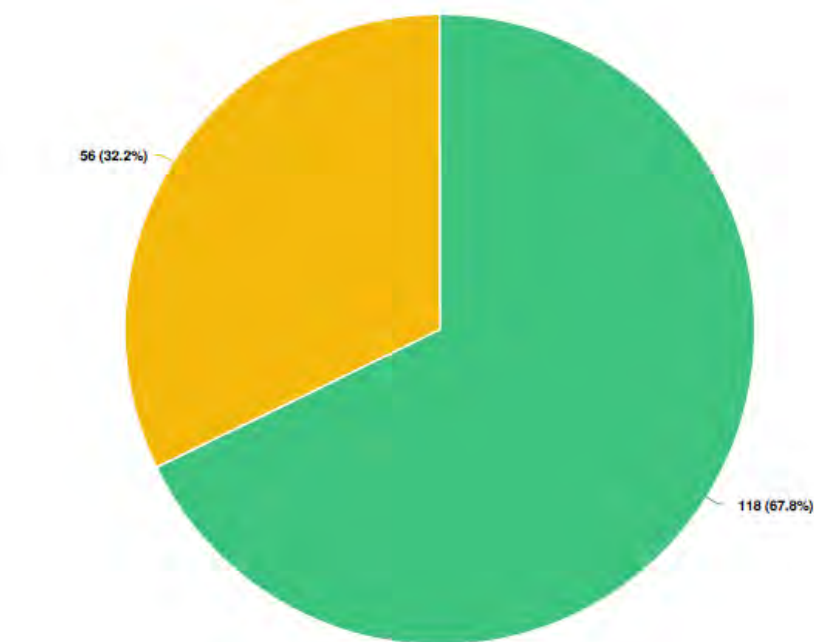
All seven goals are generally well supported by survey respondents, with over 90% of respondents selecting support, strongly support or neutral for each goal.

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?



**Question options**

● No ● Yes, please explain:

SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT



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

**Goal 1 – Actions:**

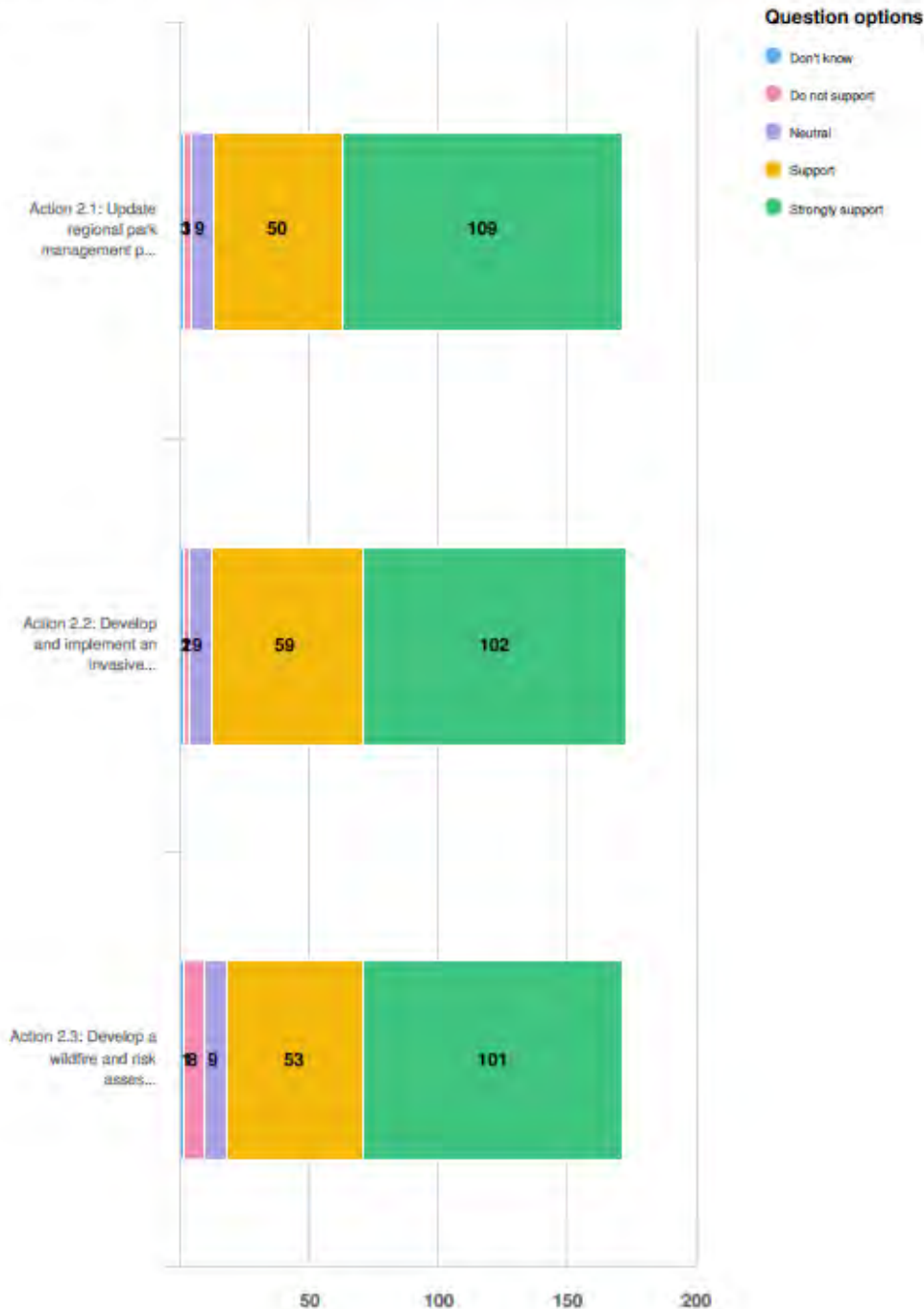


Approximately 16% of respondents offered comments specific to the actions under Goal 1. The most frequently noted comments regarding the actions under Goal 1 fall under the following themes:

- 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**

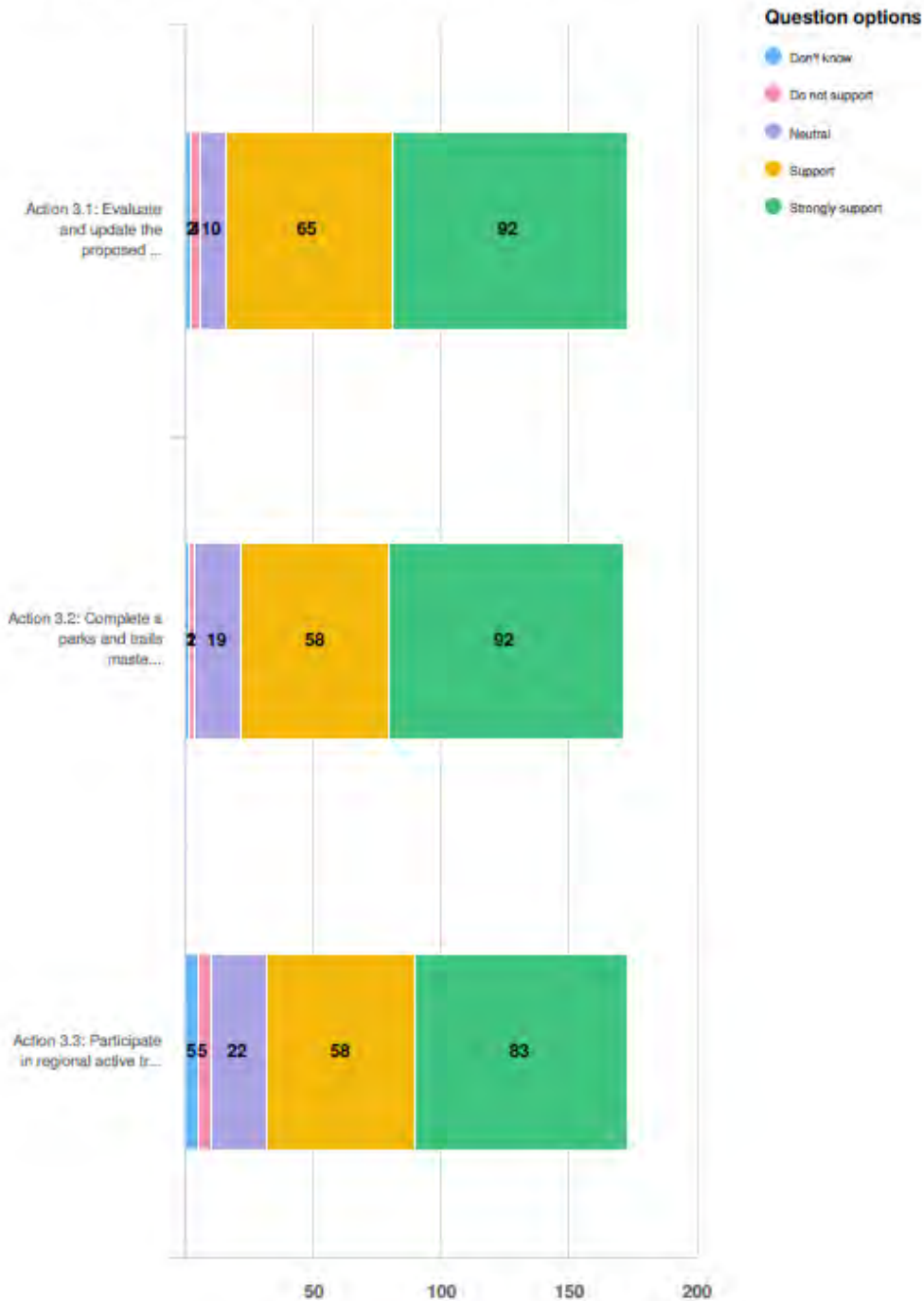


Approximately 17% of respondents offered comments specific to the actions under Goal 2. The most frequently noted comments regarding the actions under Goal 2 fall under the following themes:

- 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**

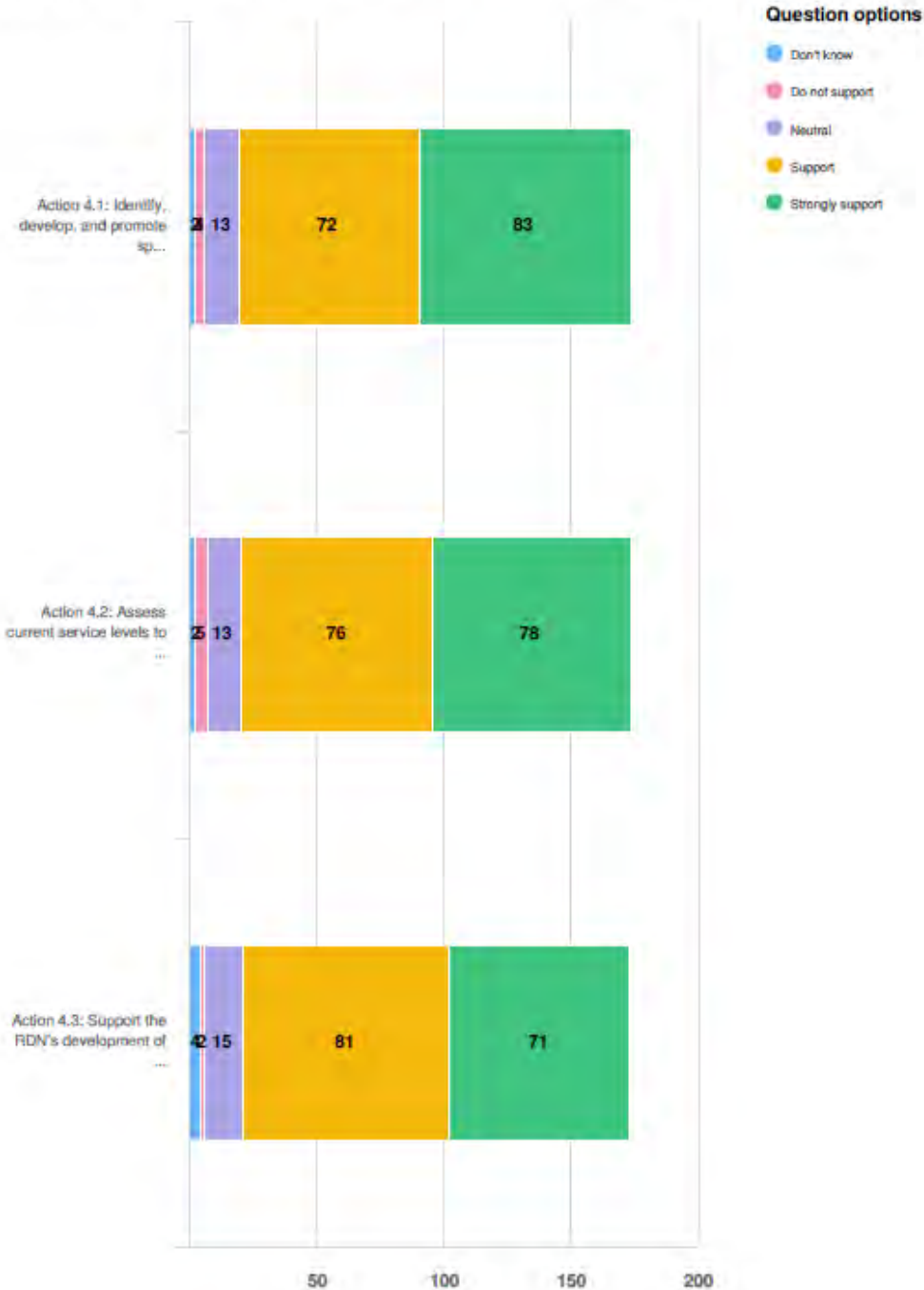


Approximately 21% of respondents offered comments specific to the actions under Goal 3. The most frequently noted comments regarding the actions under Goal 3 fall under the following themes:

- 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:**

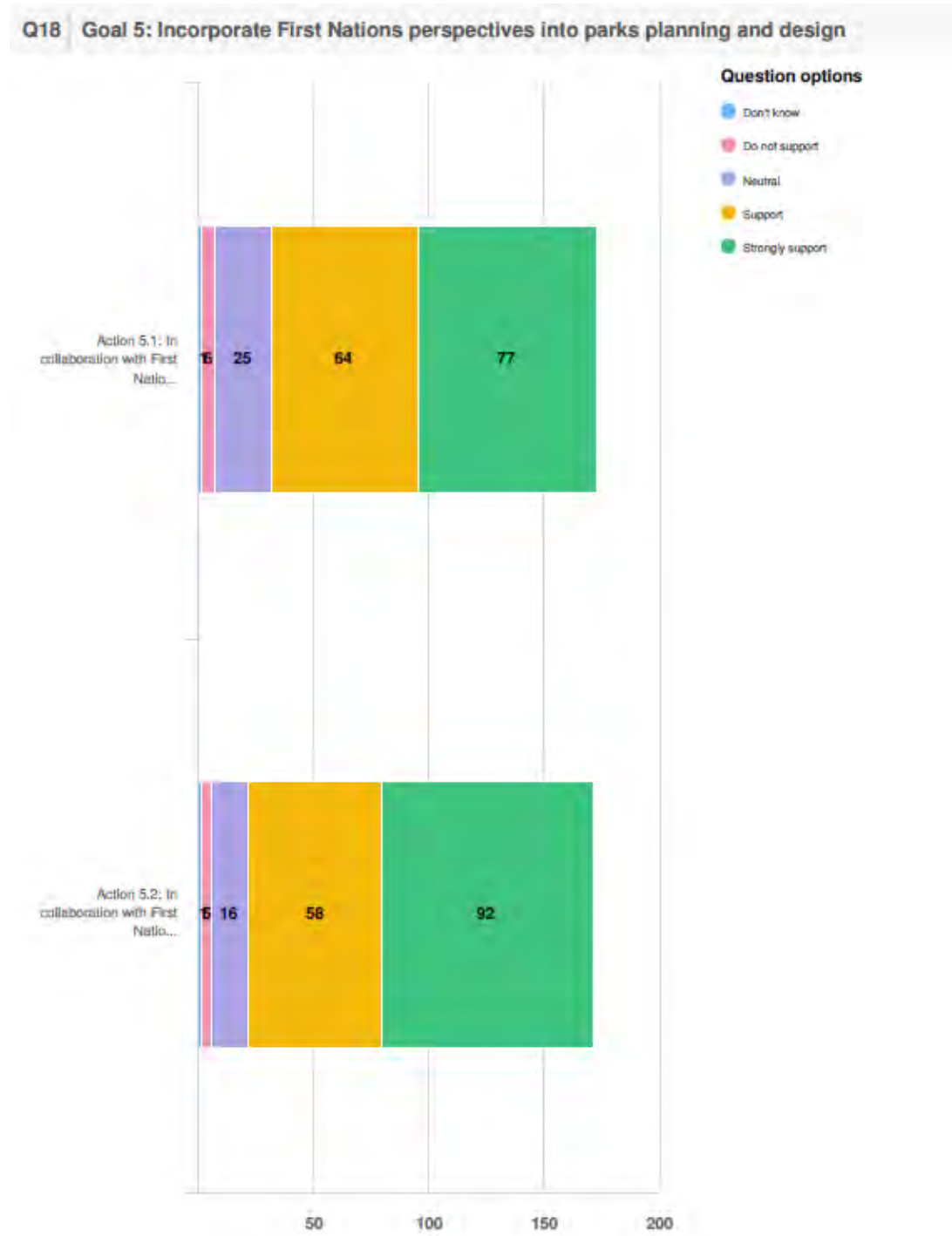
**Q16 Goal 4: Provide parks and trails with well-maintained and diverse amenities**



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.

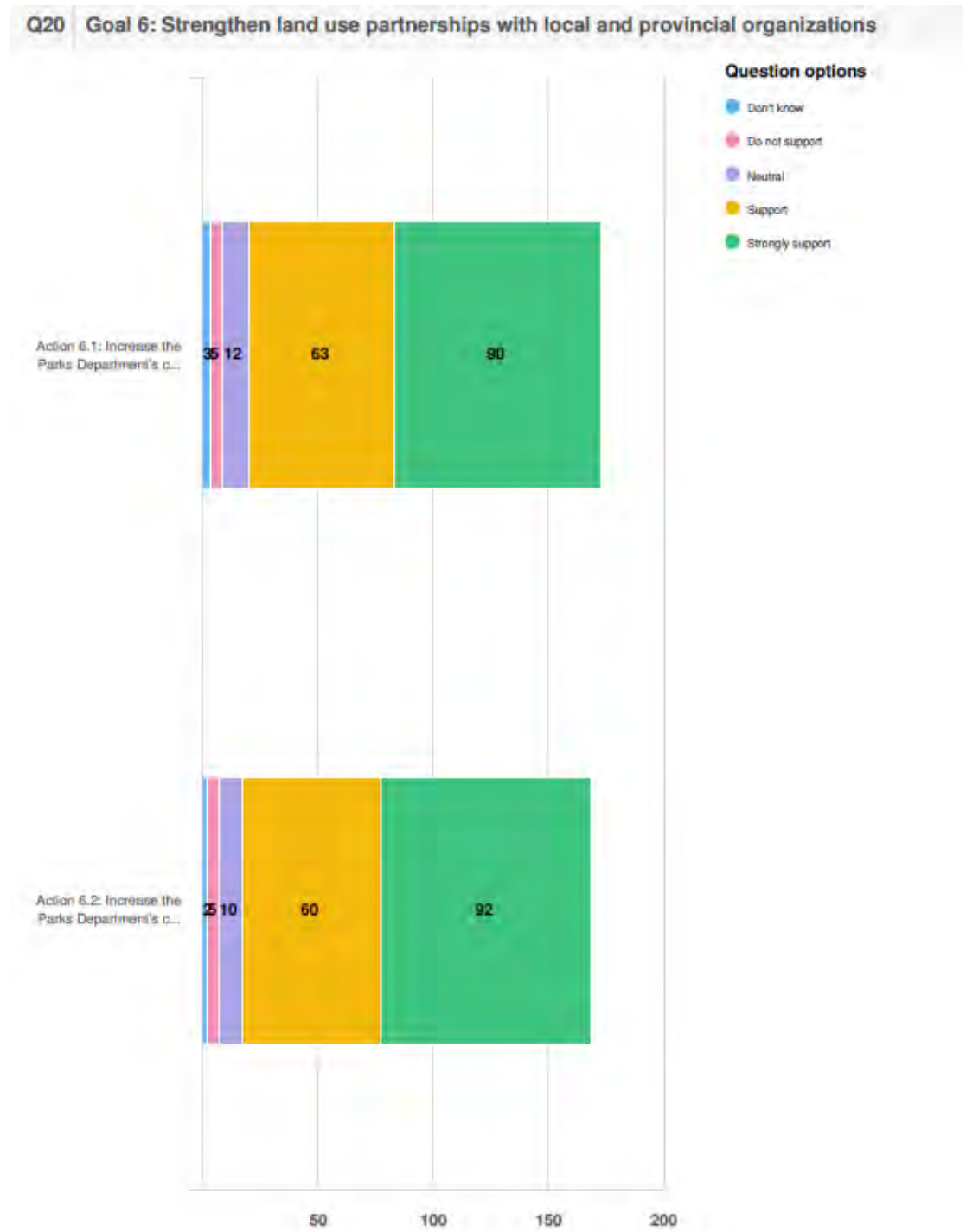
**Goal 5 – Actions:**



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:**

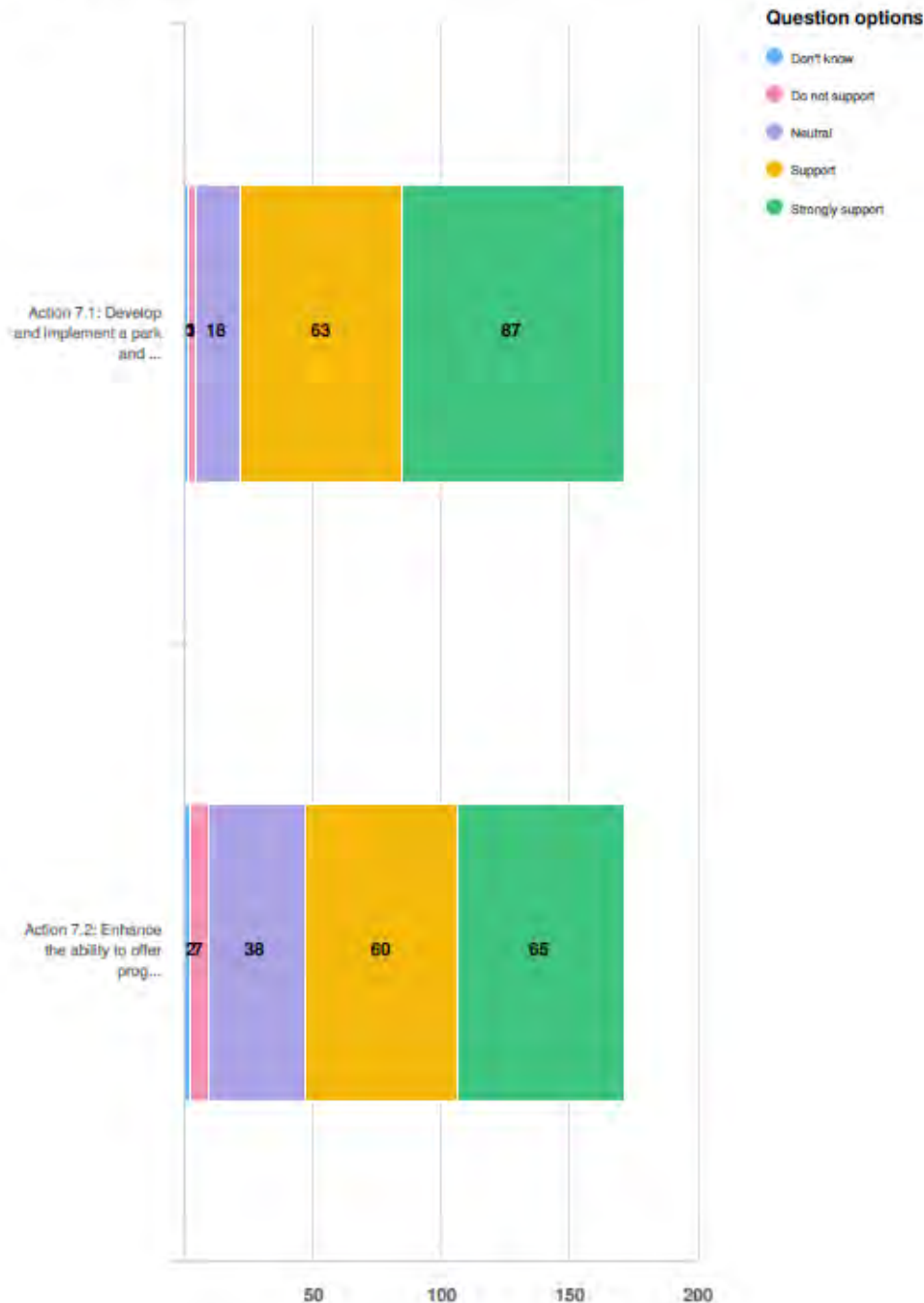


Approximately 12% of respondents offered comments specific to the actions under Goal 6. The most frequently noted comments regarding the actions under Goal 6 fall under the following themes:

- 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

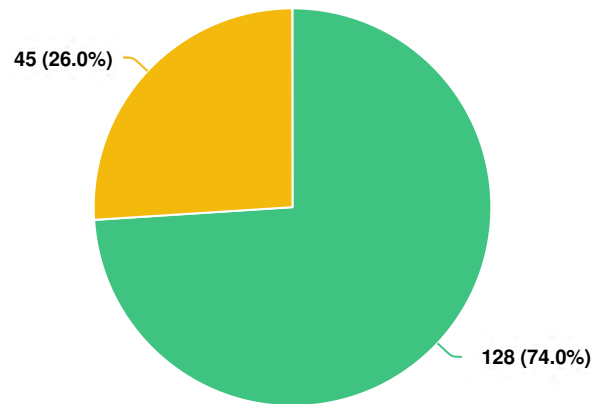
### PROJECT NAME:

RDN Parks & Trails Strategy



SURVEY QUESTIONS

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

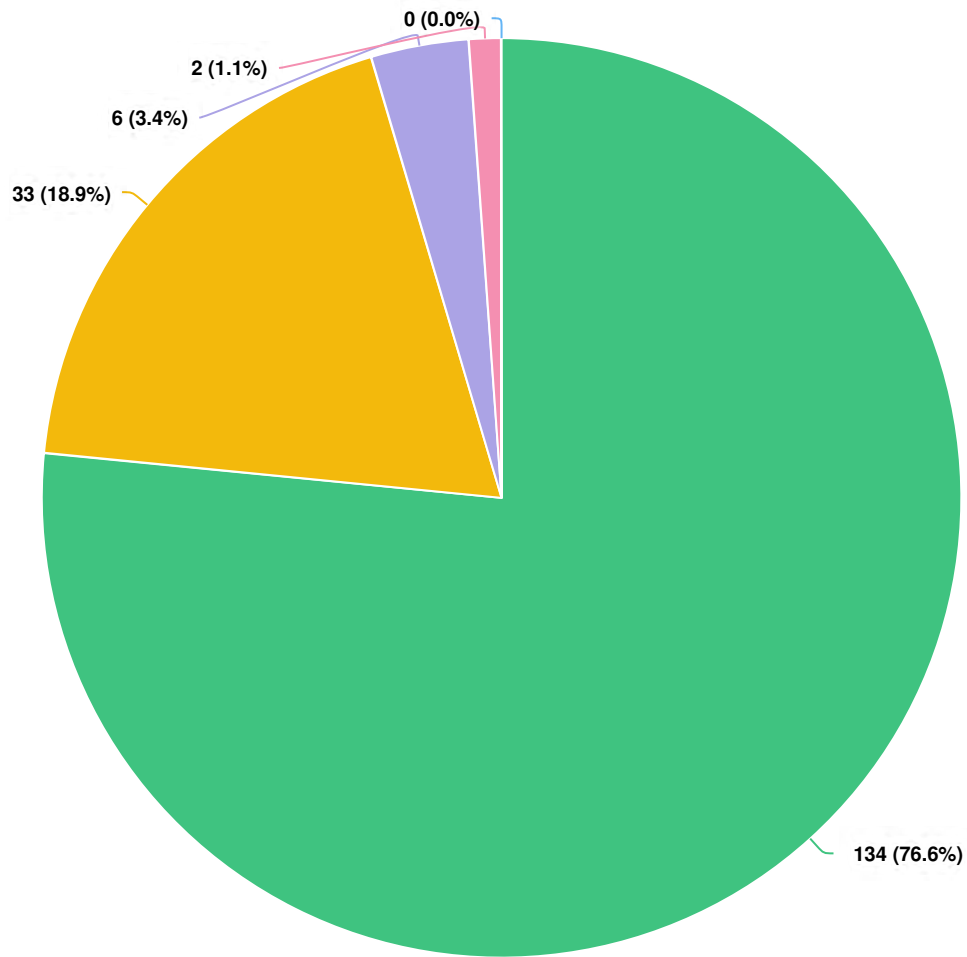


**Question options**

- 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)**

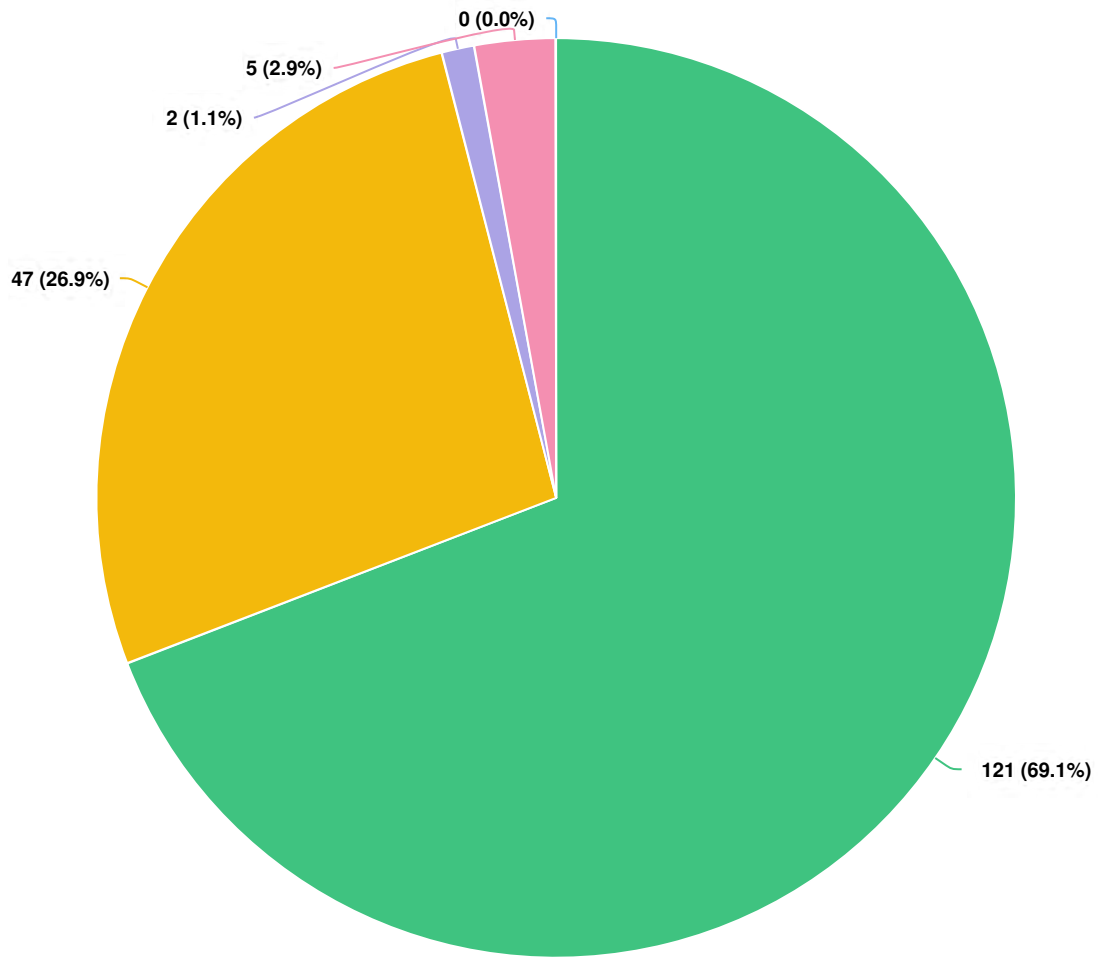


**Question options**

- 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)

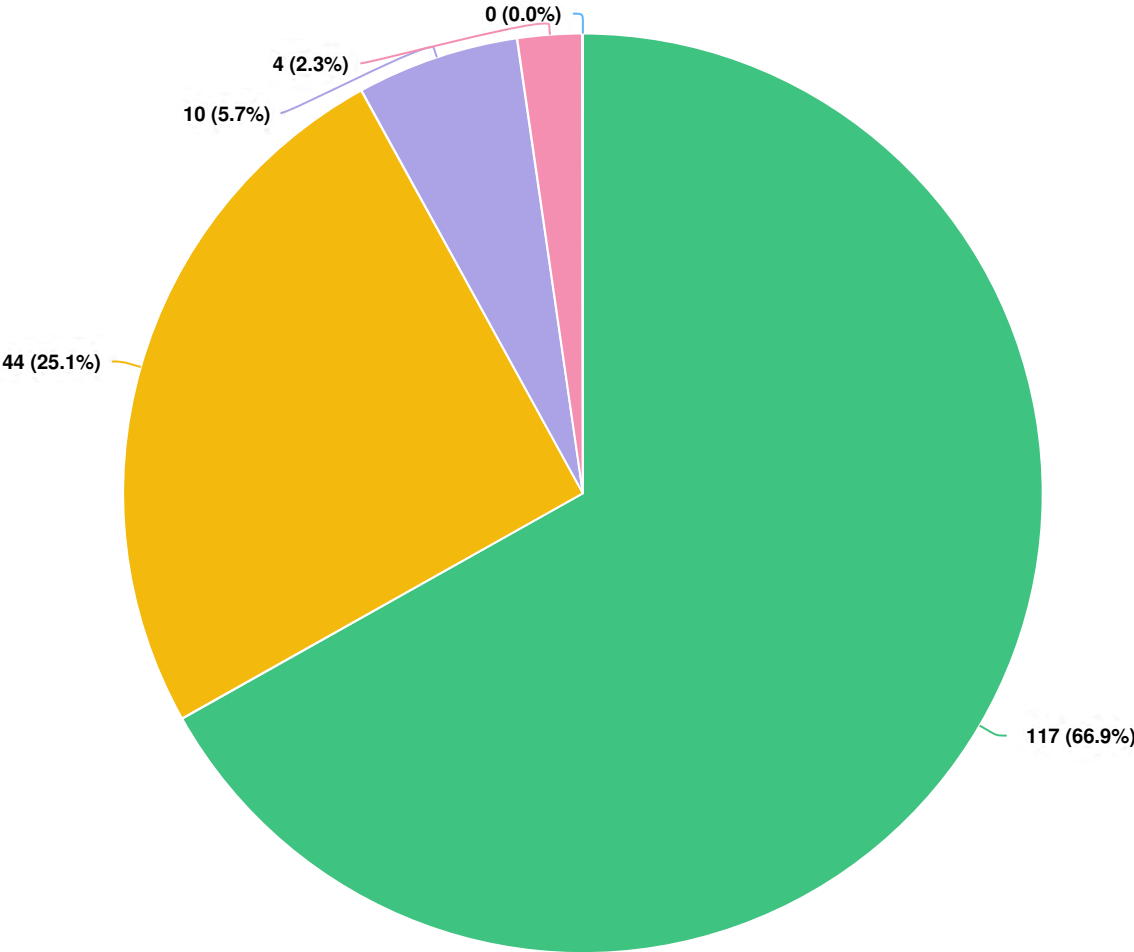


**Question options**

- 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)**

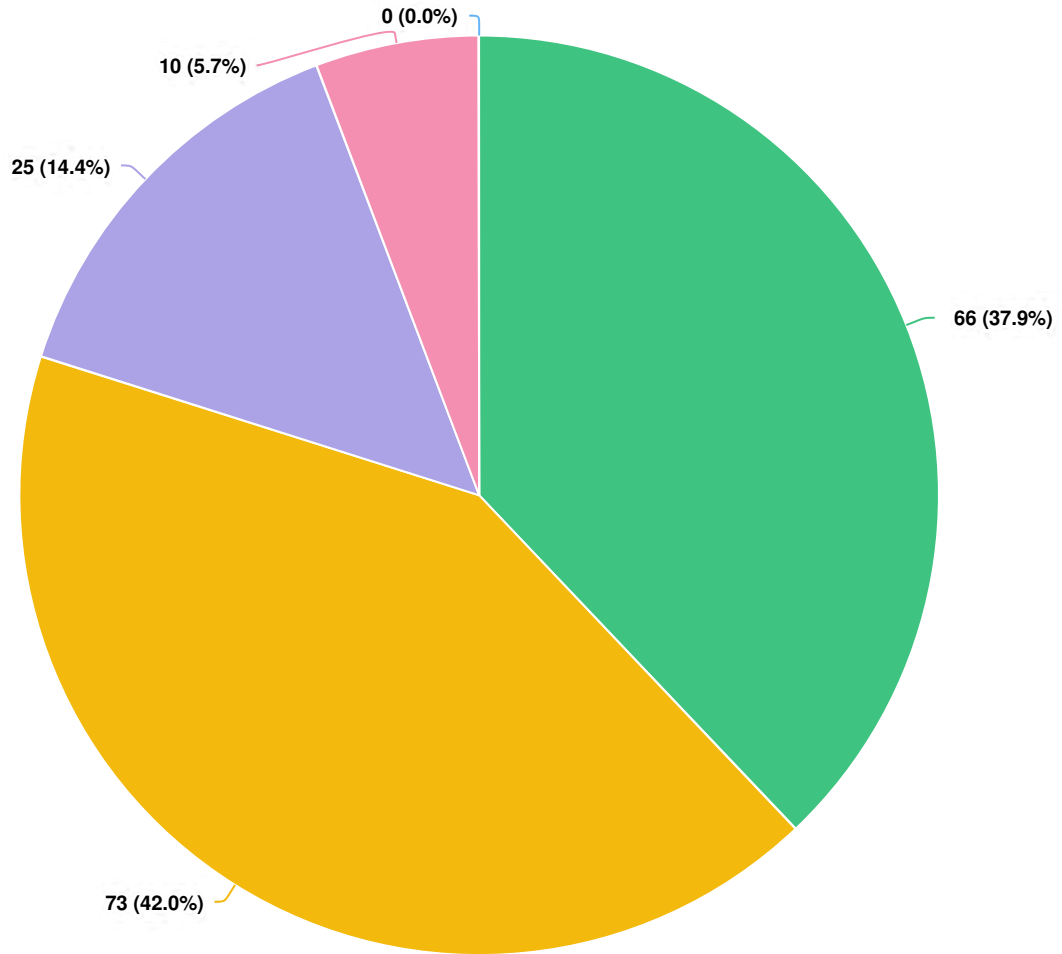


**Question options**

- 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)



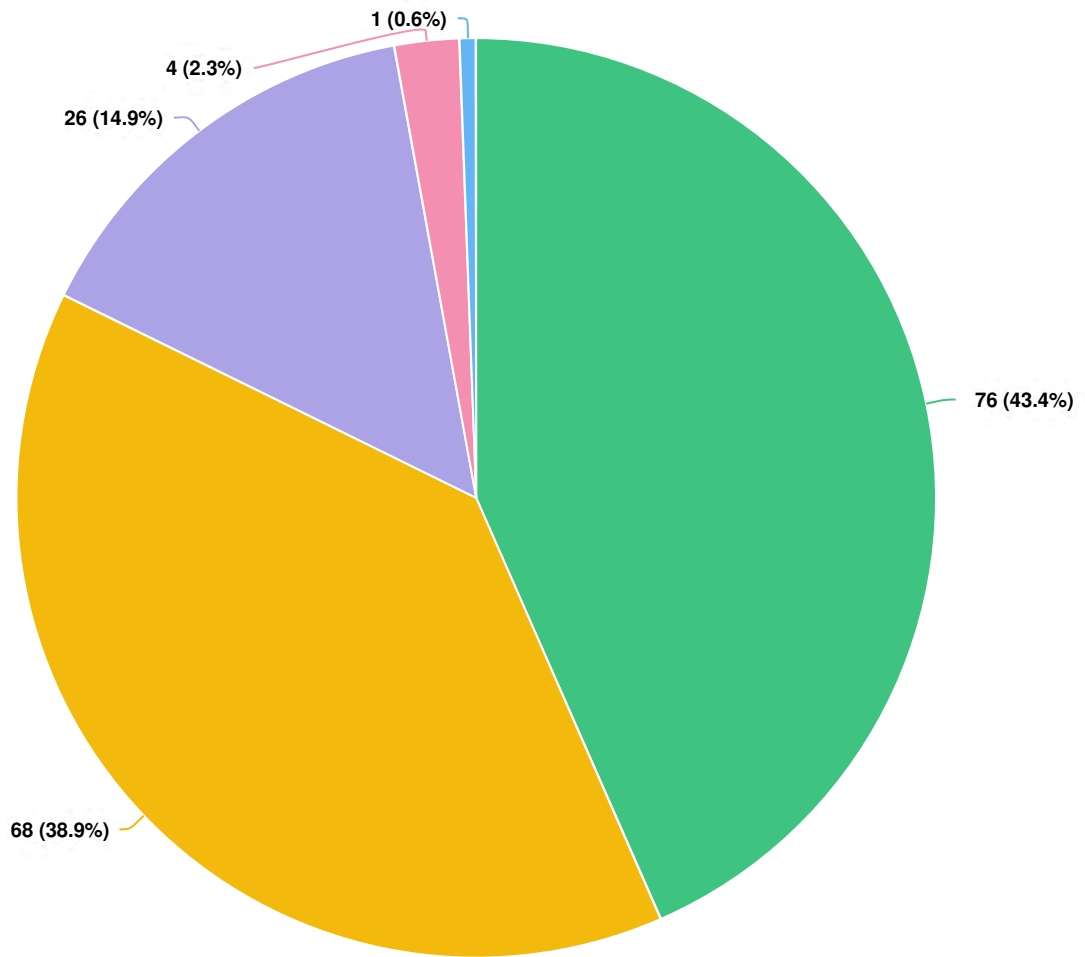
**Question options**

- 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)

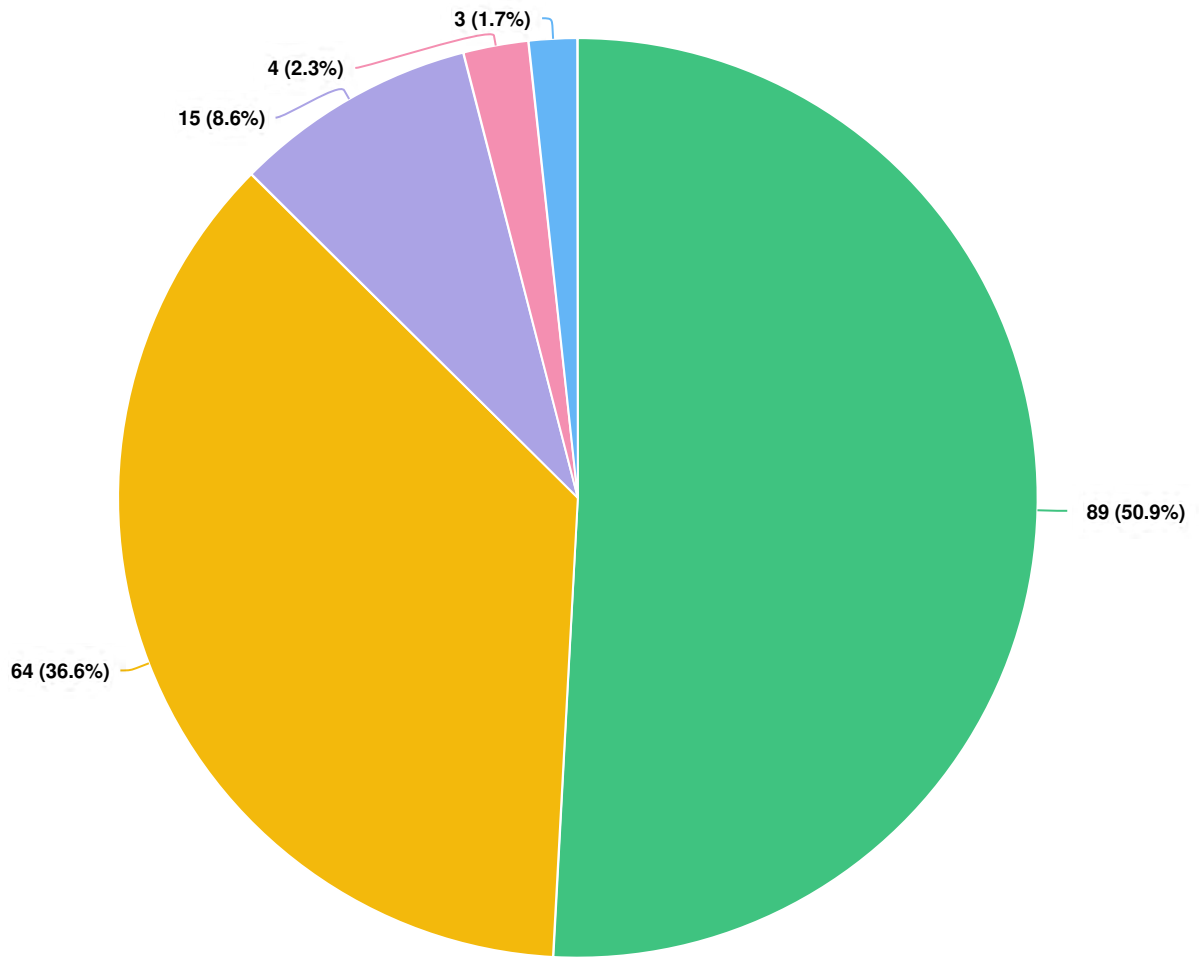


**Question options**

- 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)

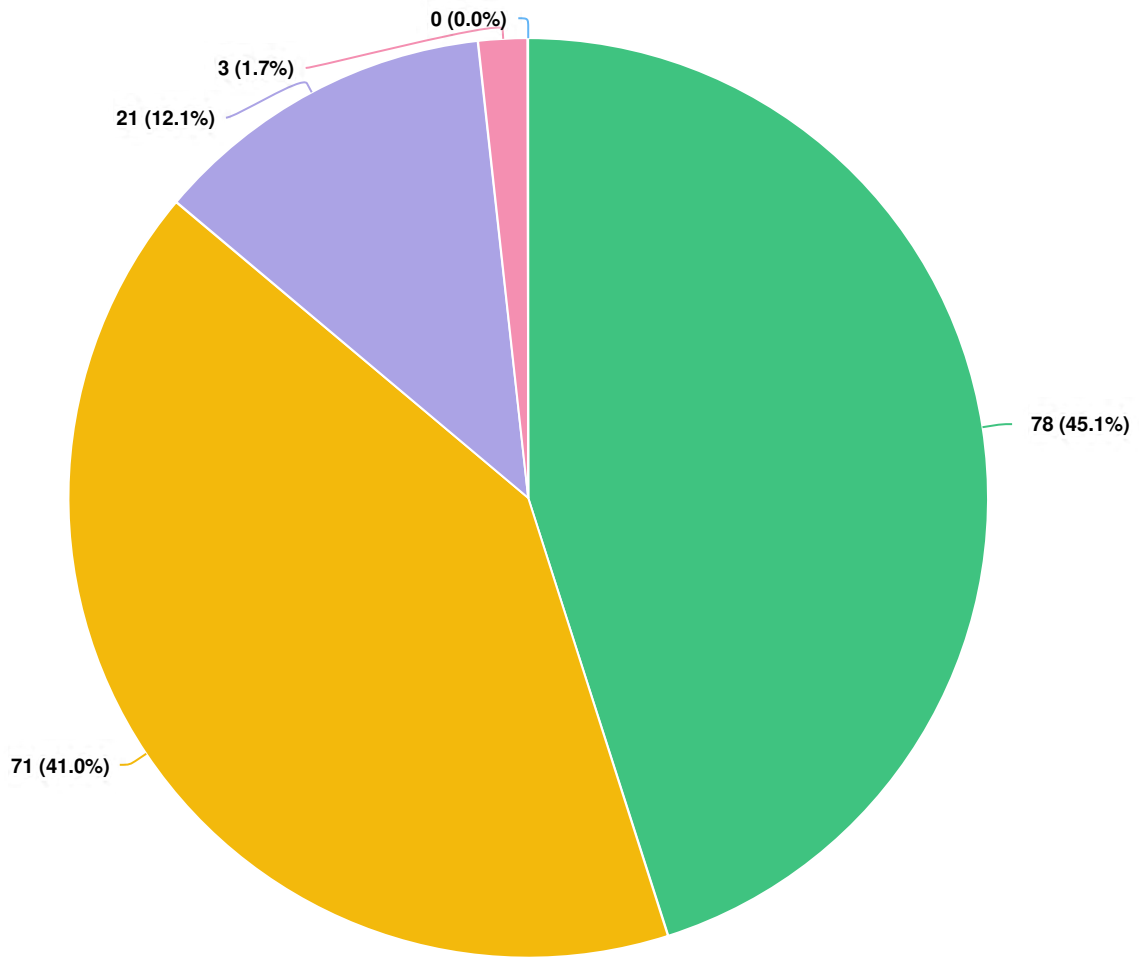


**Question options**

- 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)

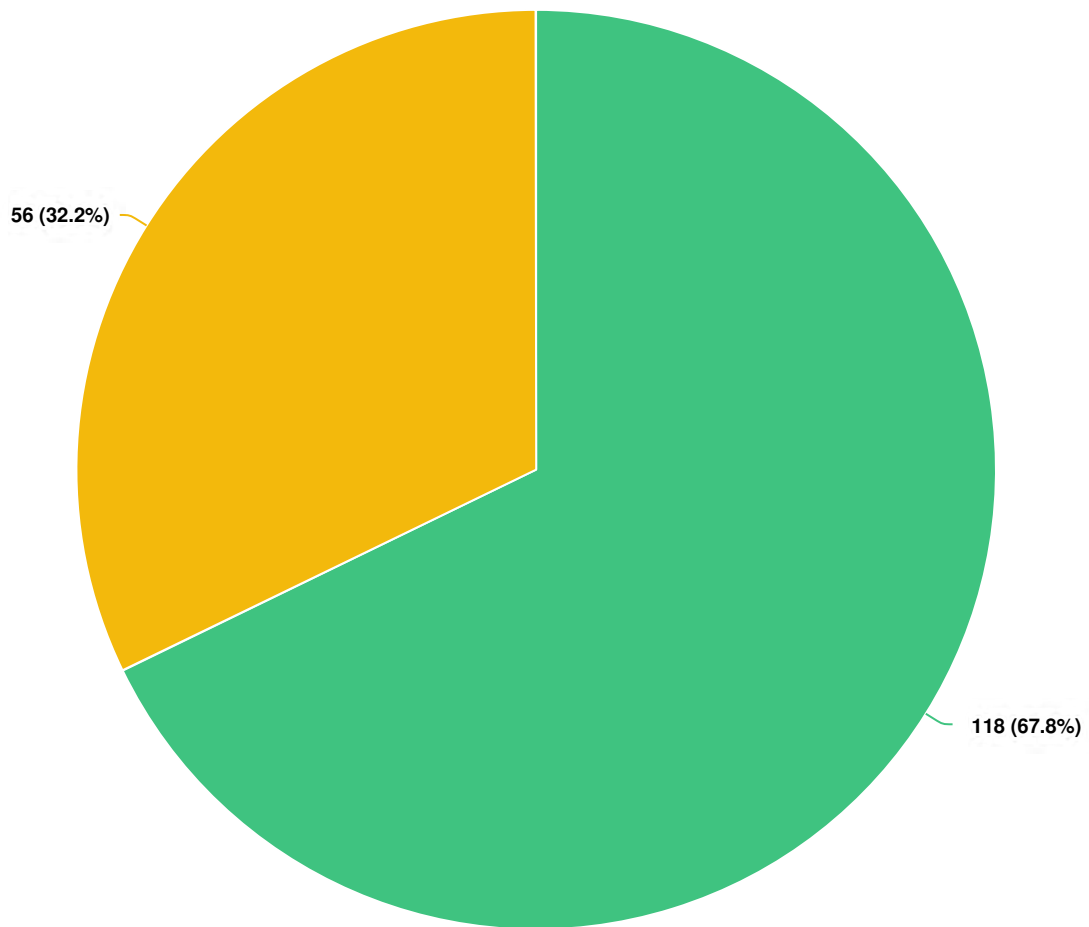


**Question options**

- 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*

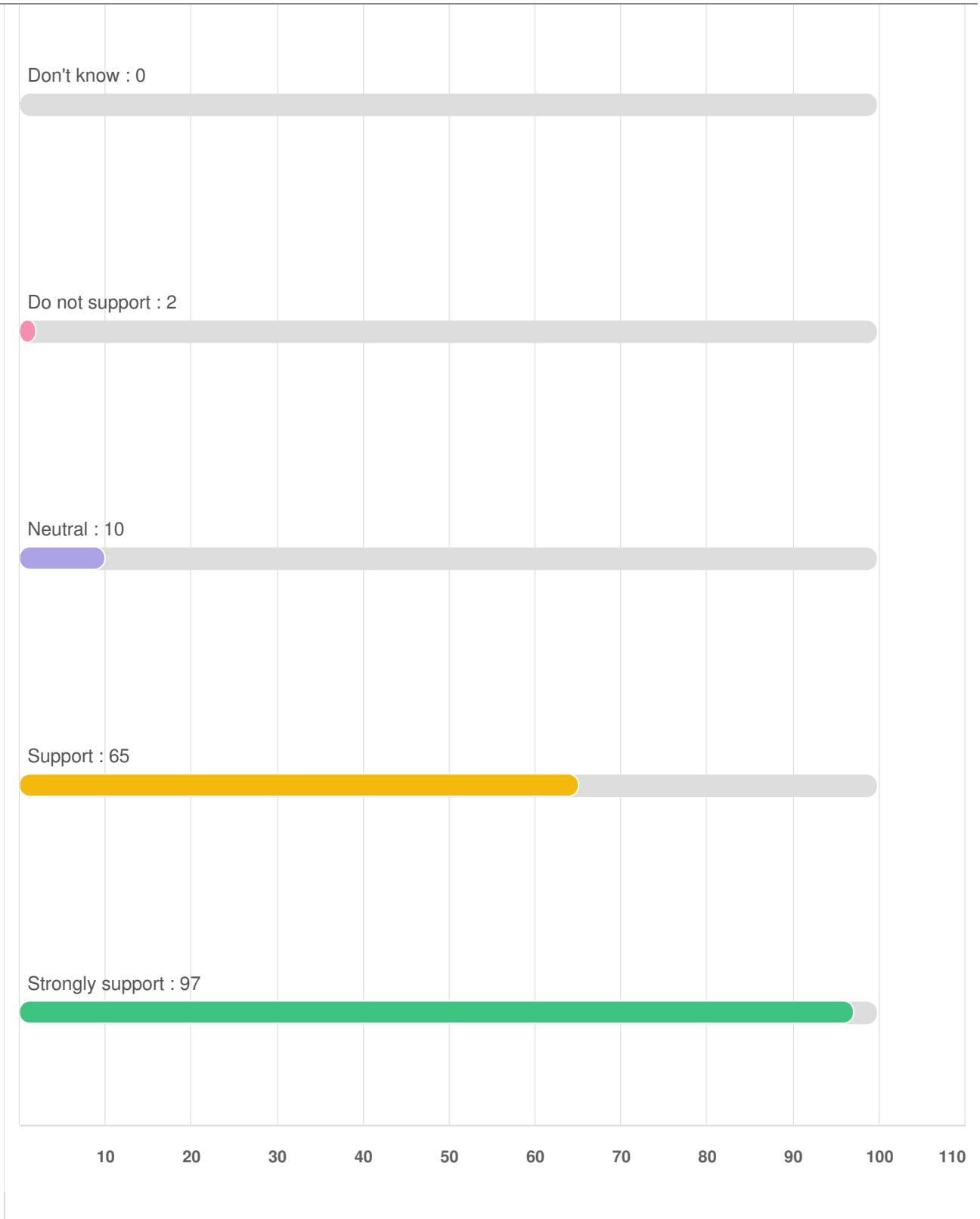
**Q10 Goal 1: Identify and preserve important natural areas and representative landscapes through parkland acquisition**



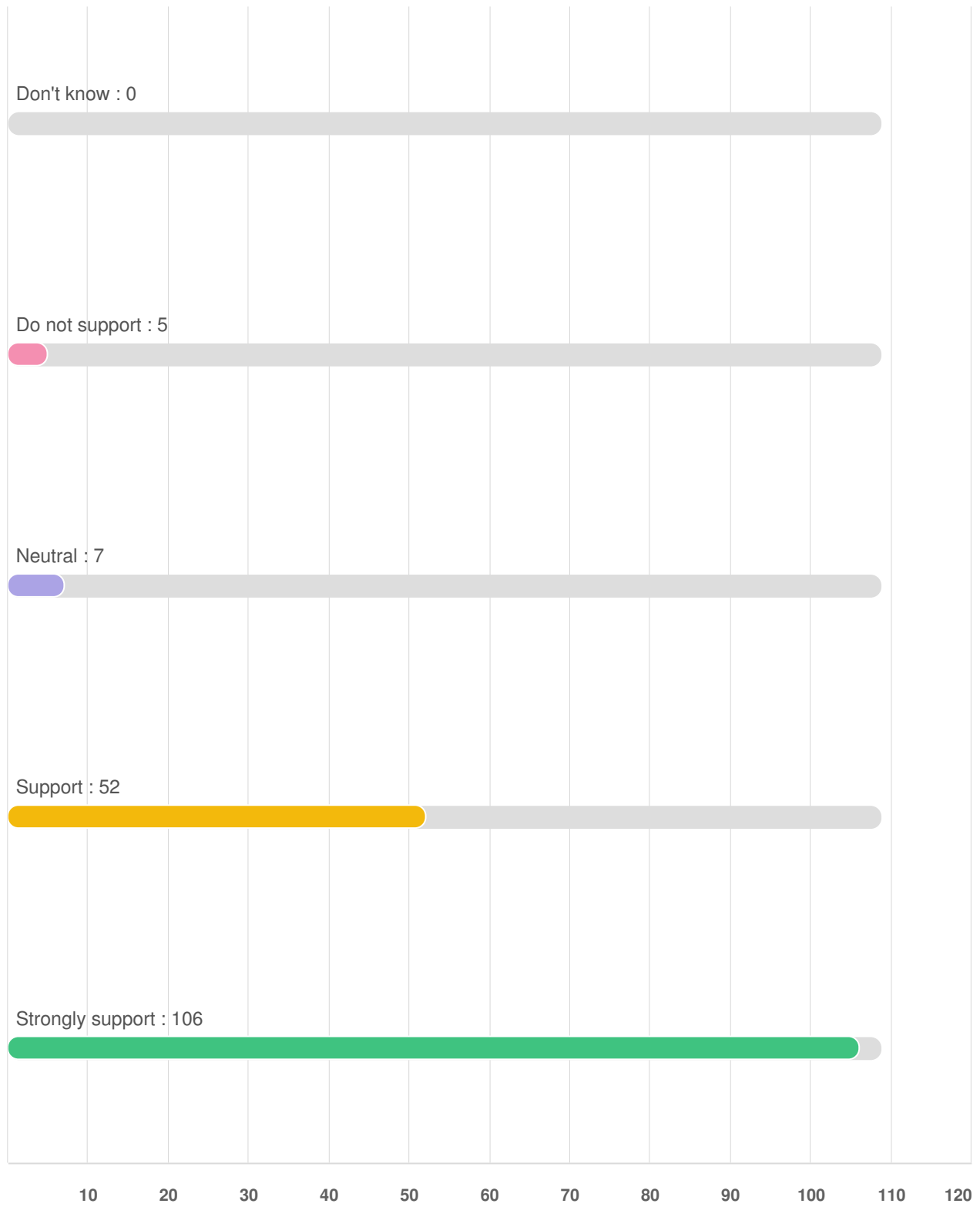
Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
Question type: Likert Question

**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.**

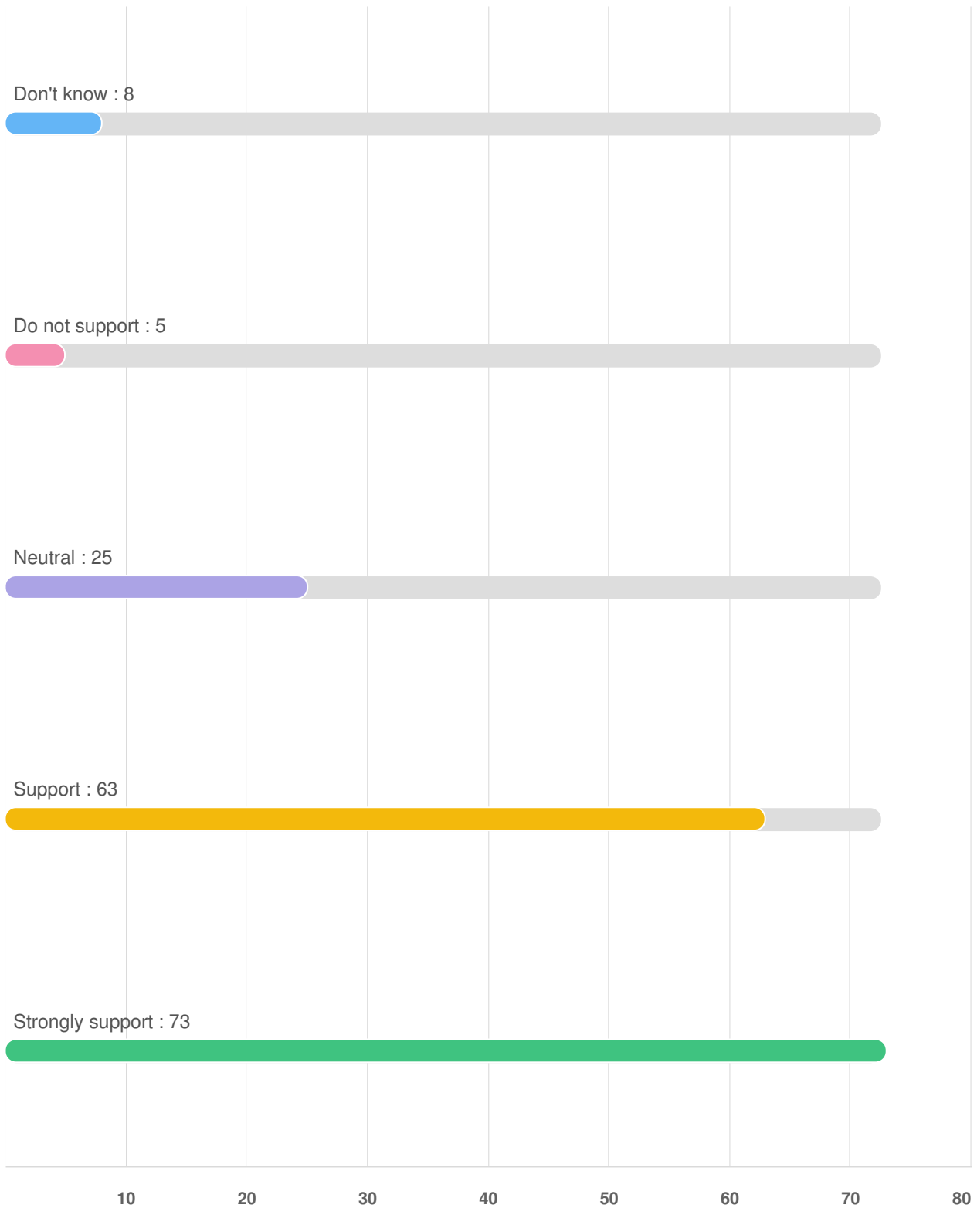


**Action 1.2: Identify and assess lands for parkland acquisition that contribute to enhanced biodiversity in the region.**

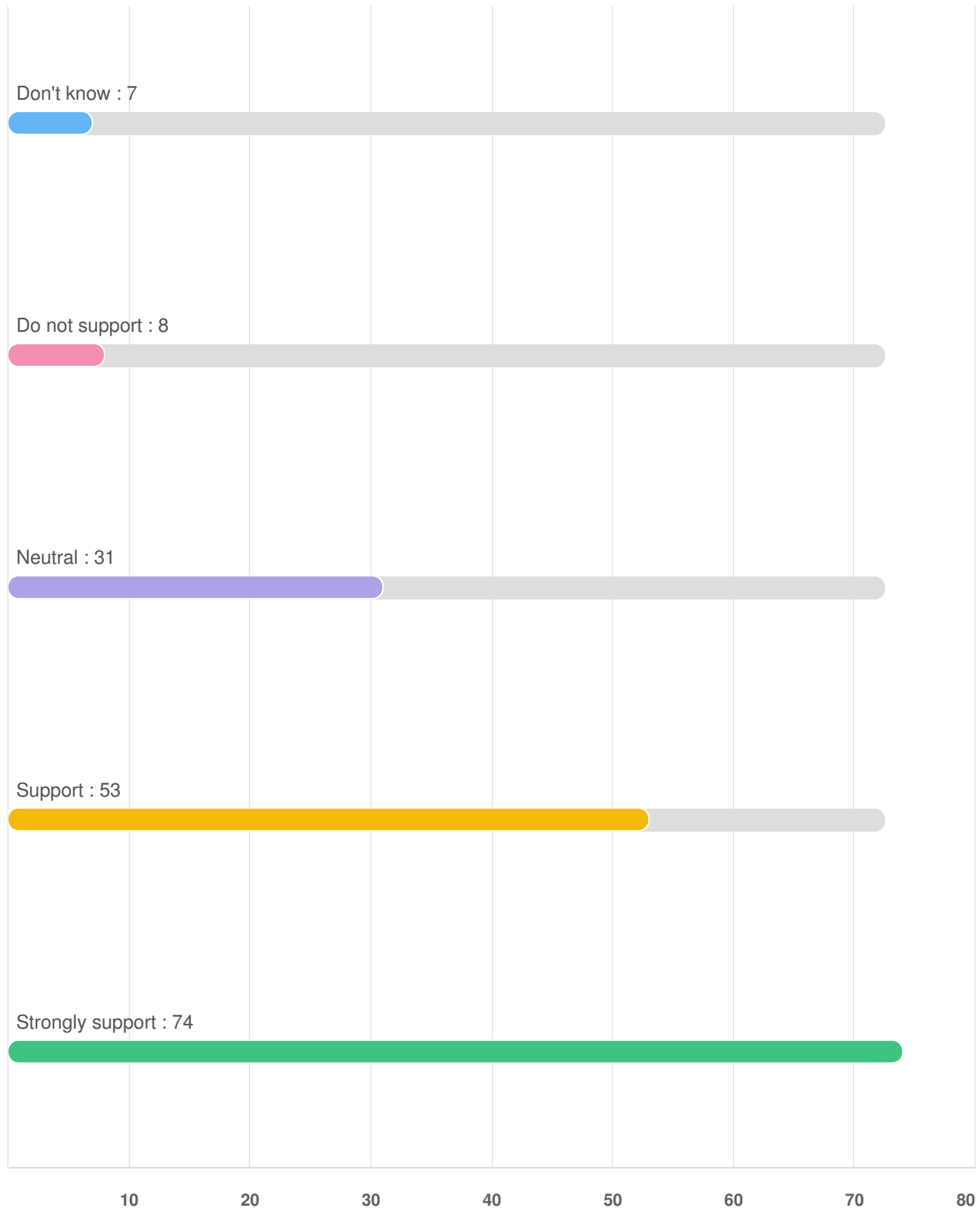




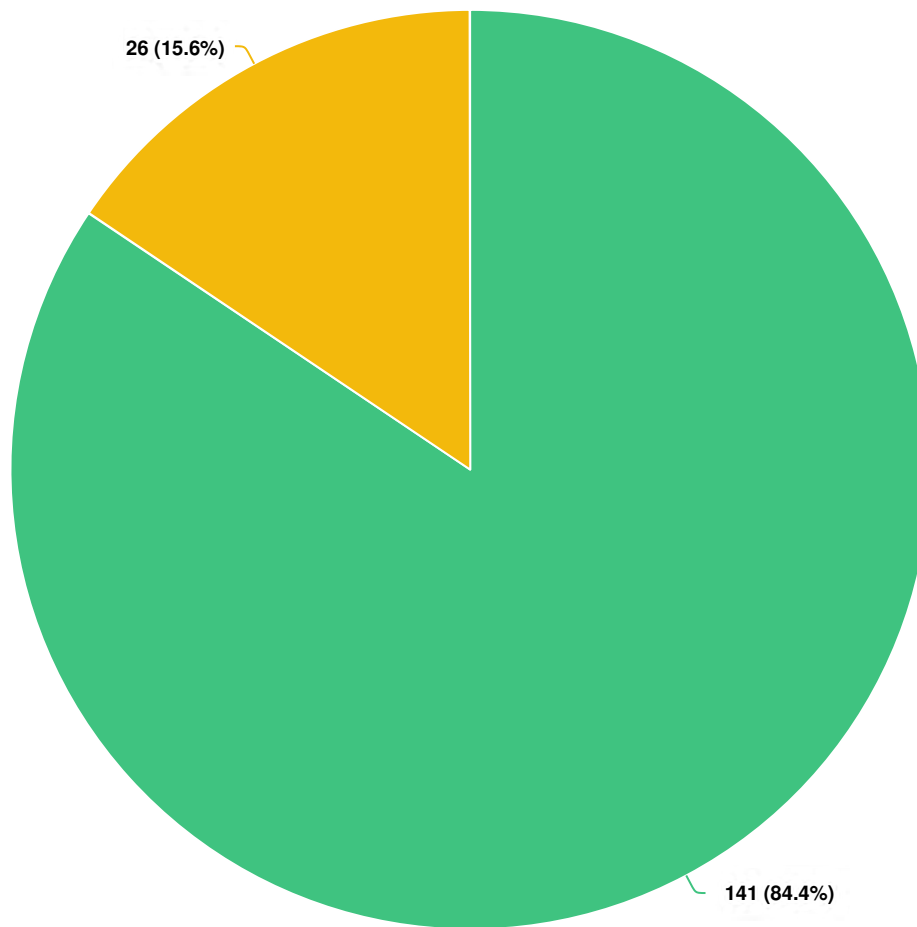
**Action 1.3: Revise the Regional Park Acquisition Criteria and Rating Framework to better guide strategic regional parkland acquisition.**



**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*

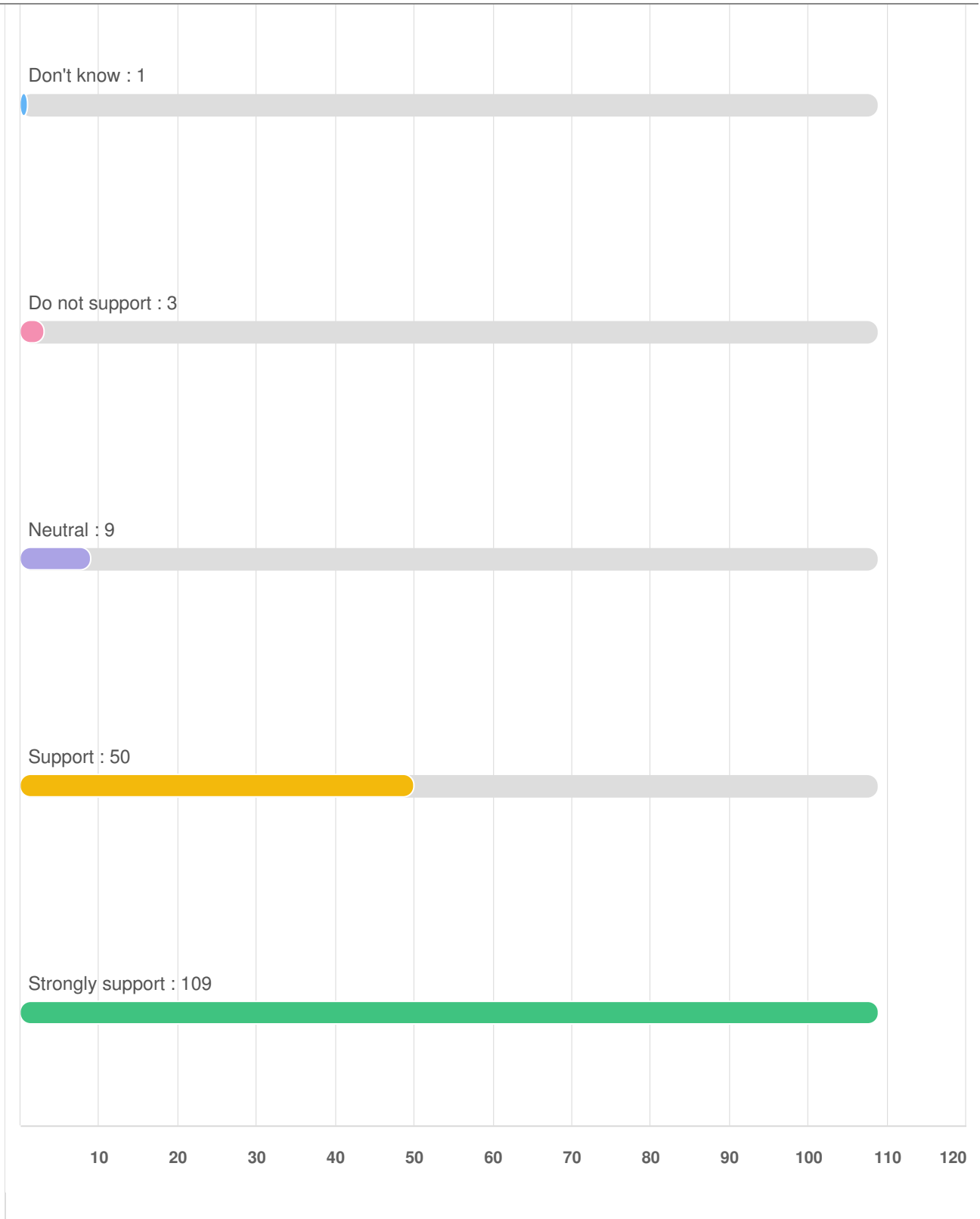
**Q12 | Goal 2: Protect and enhance important natural parkland areas through management and restoration**



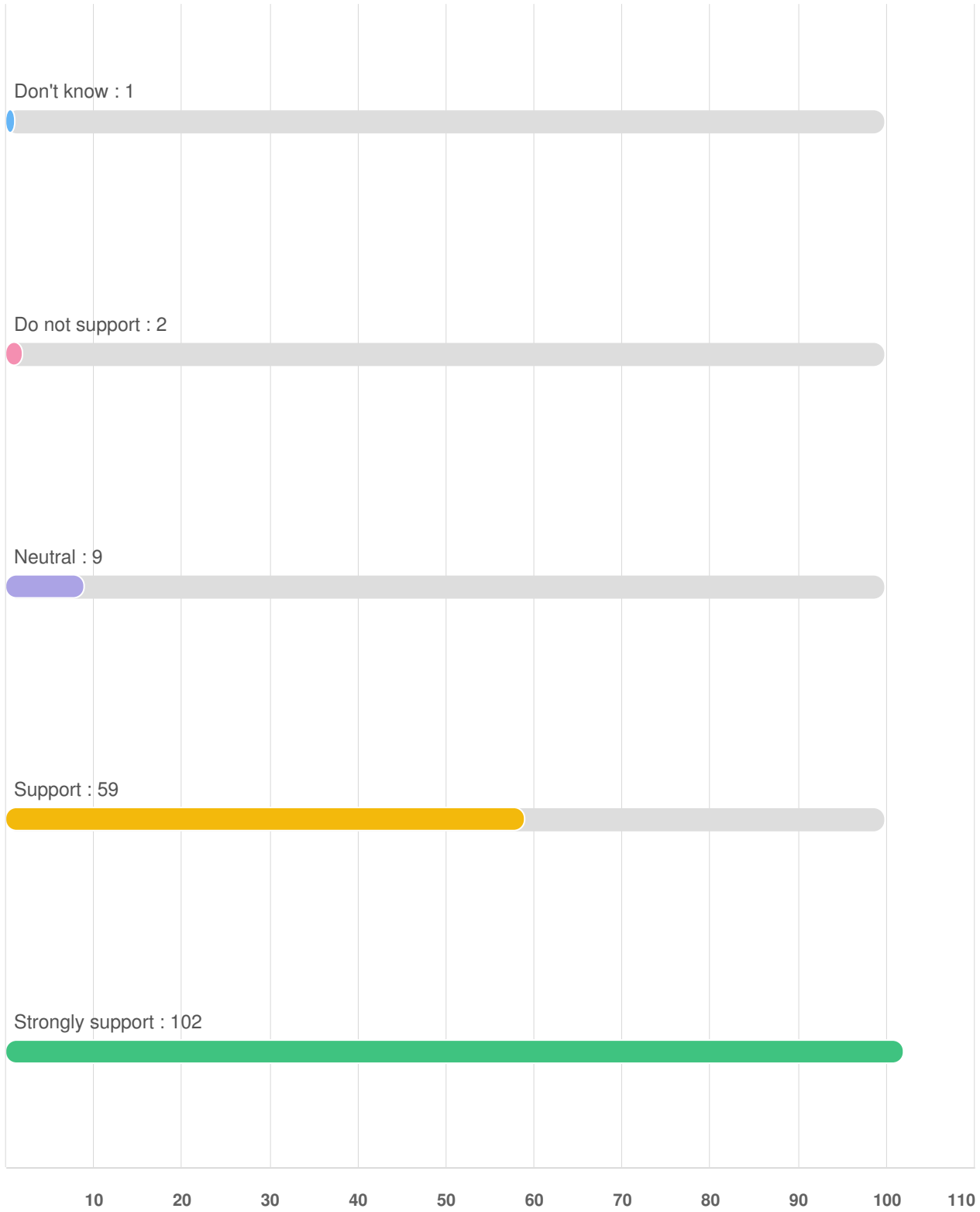
Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
 Question type: Likert Question

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

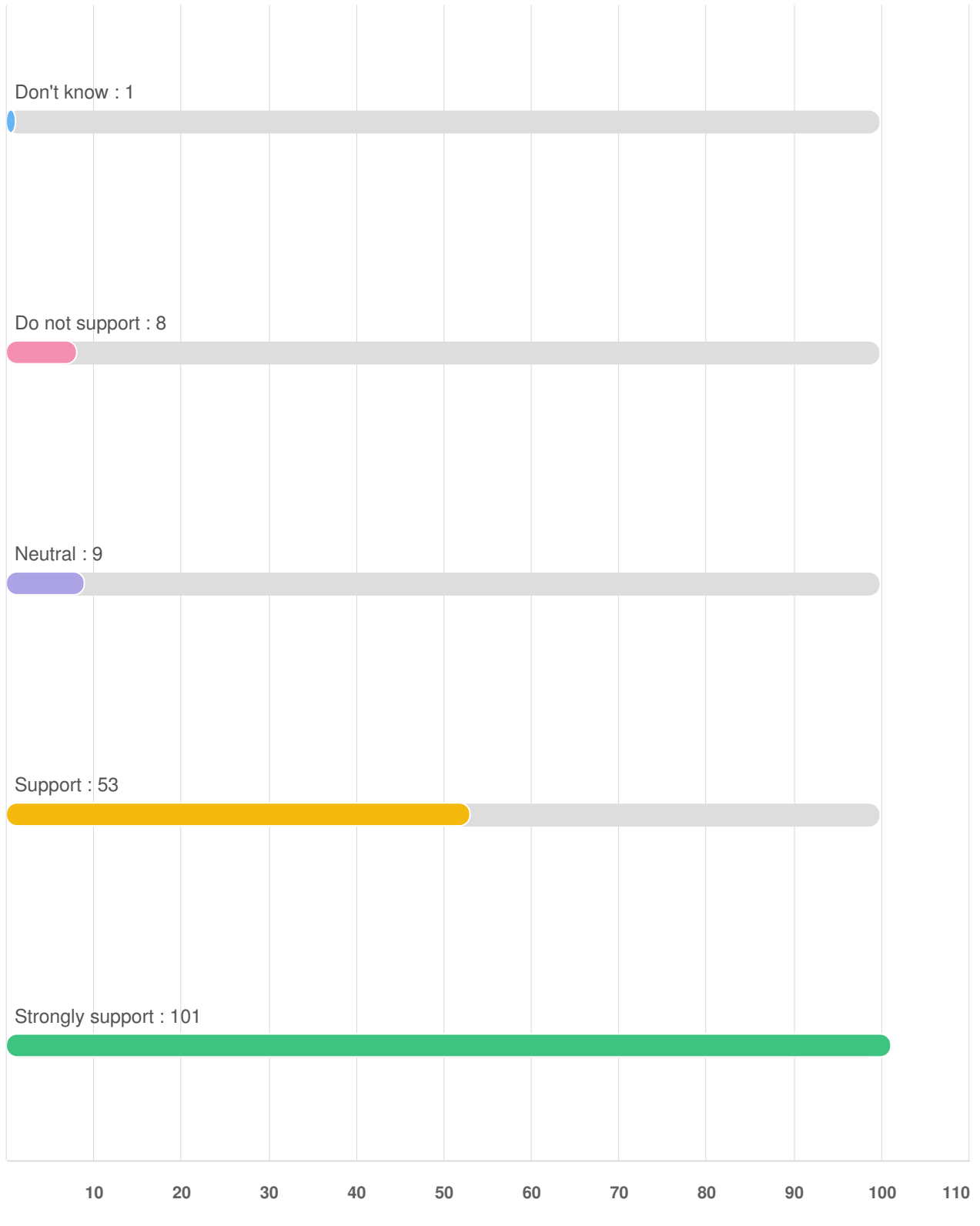
**Action 2.1: Update regional park management plans and prioritize key action items related to sensitive ecosystem preservation.**



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

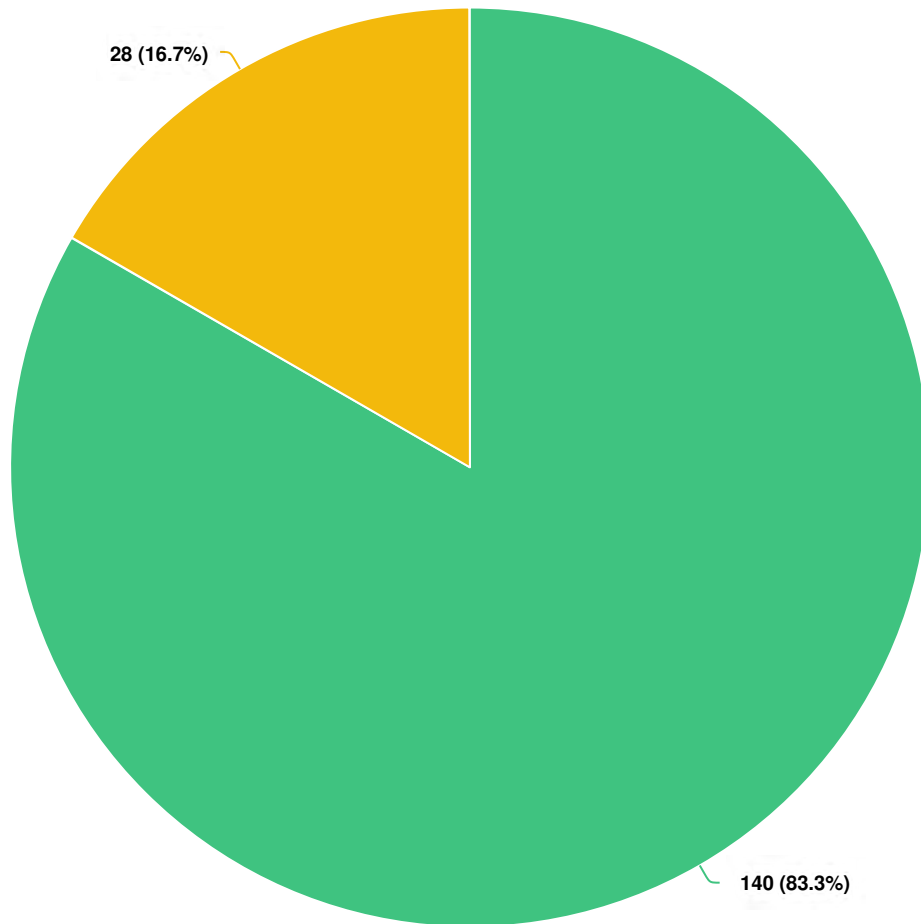


**Action 2.3: Develop a wildfire and risk assessment strategy to mitigate fire risk in regional and community parks.**





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

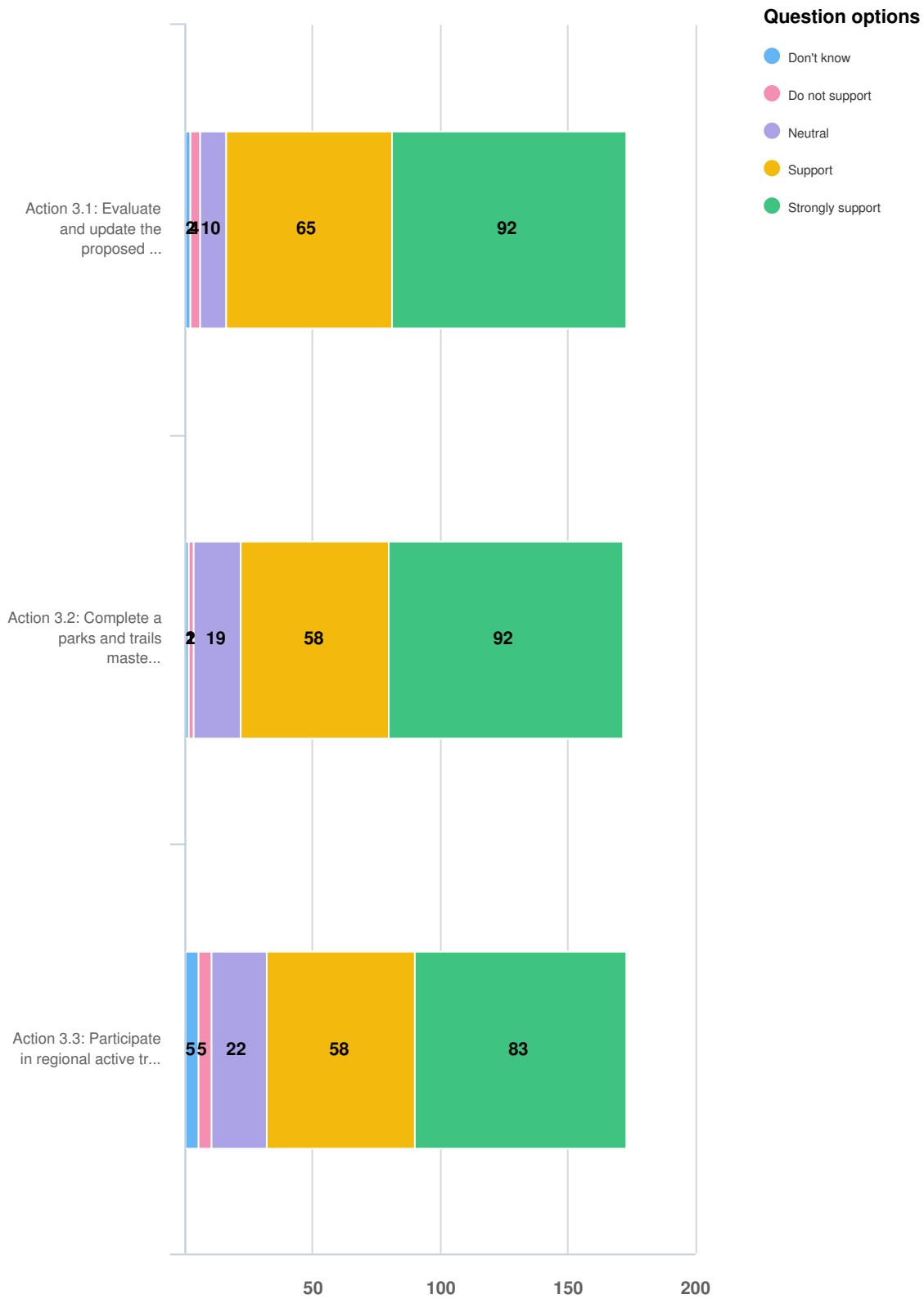


**Question options**

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

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

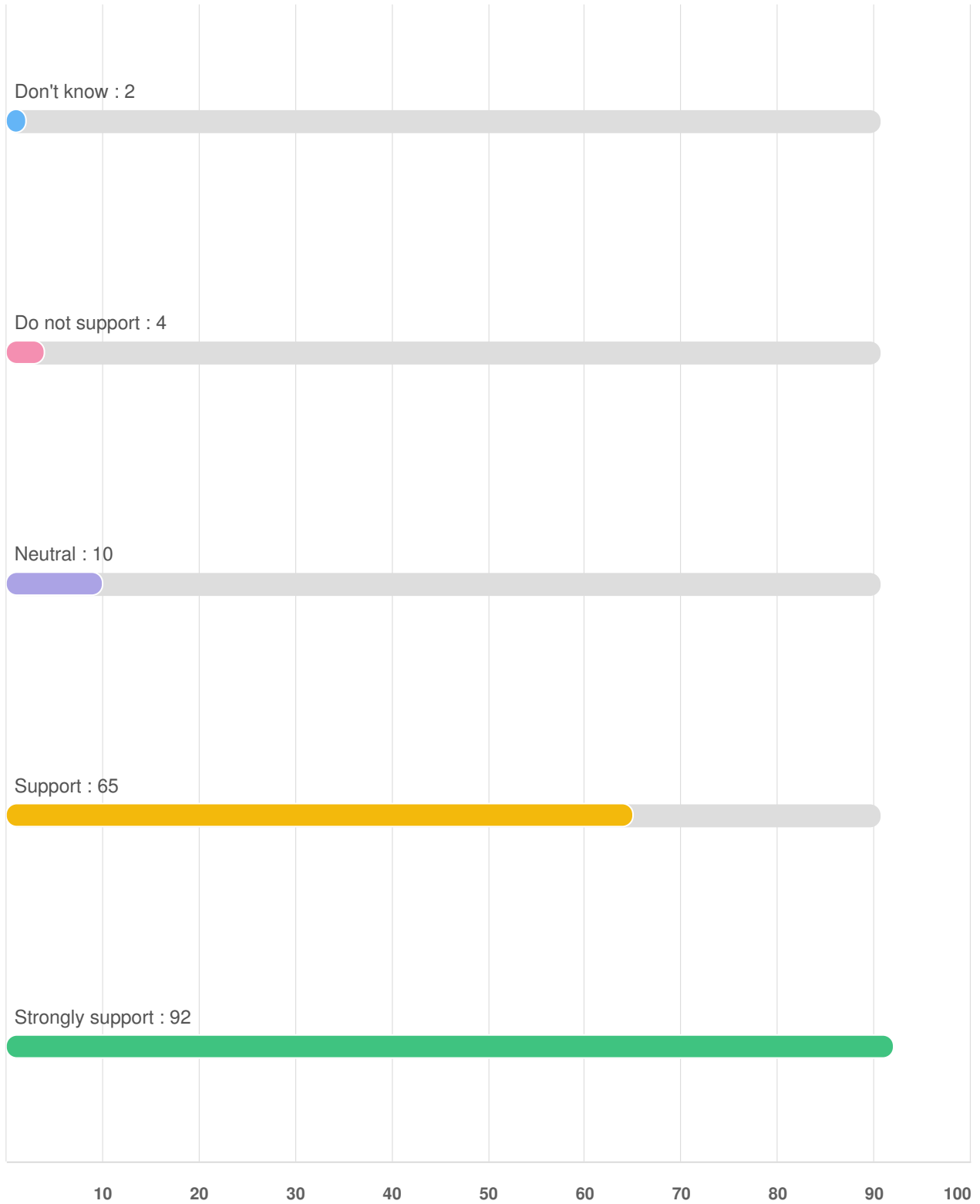
**Q14 Goal 3: Enhance and develop trail connections**



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

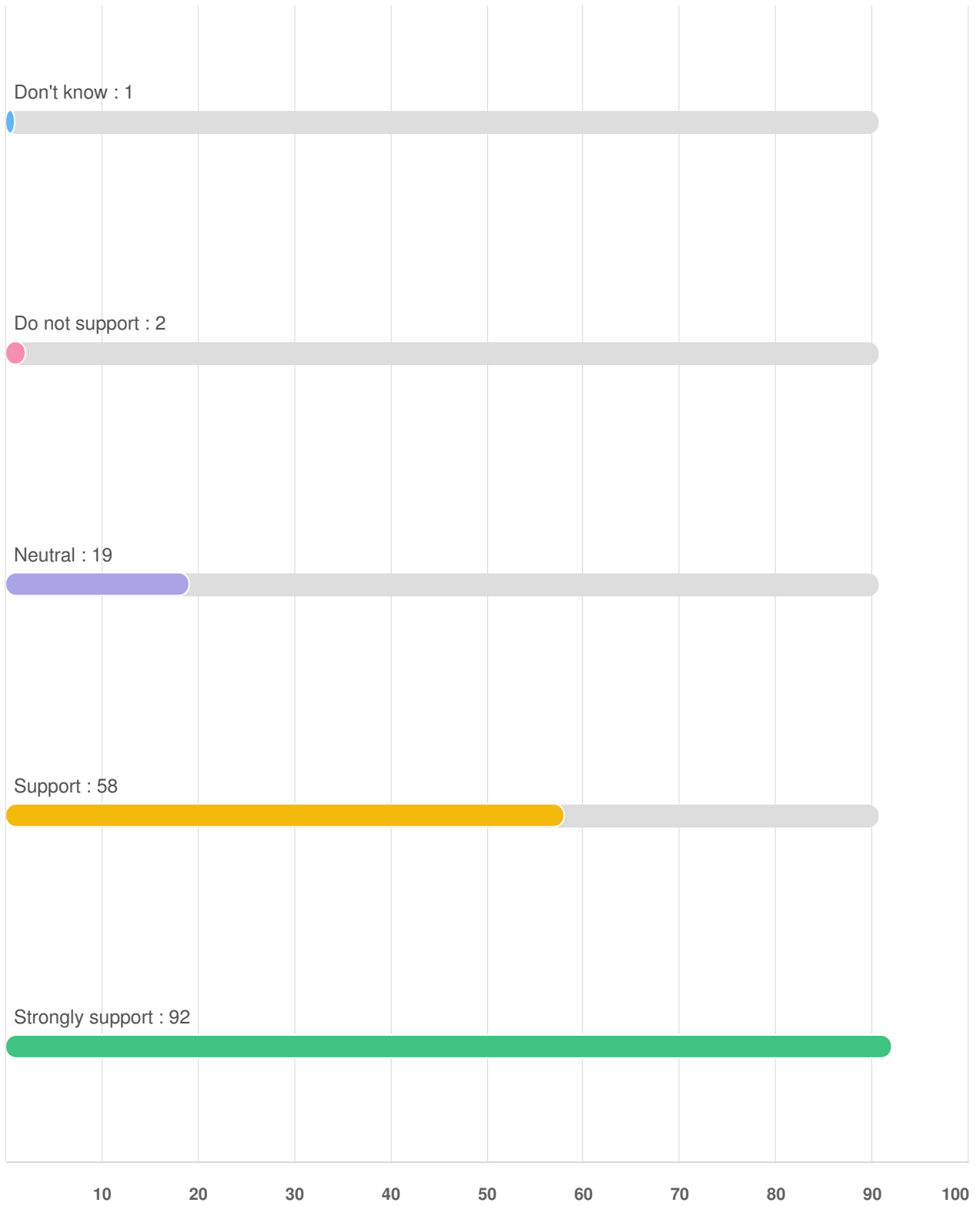
**Q14 | Goal 3: Enhance and develop trail connections**

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

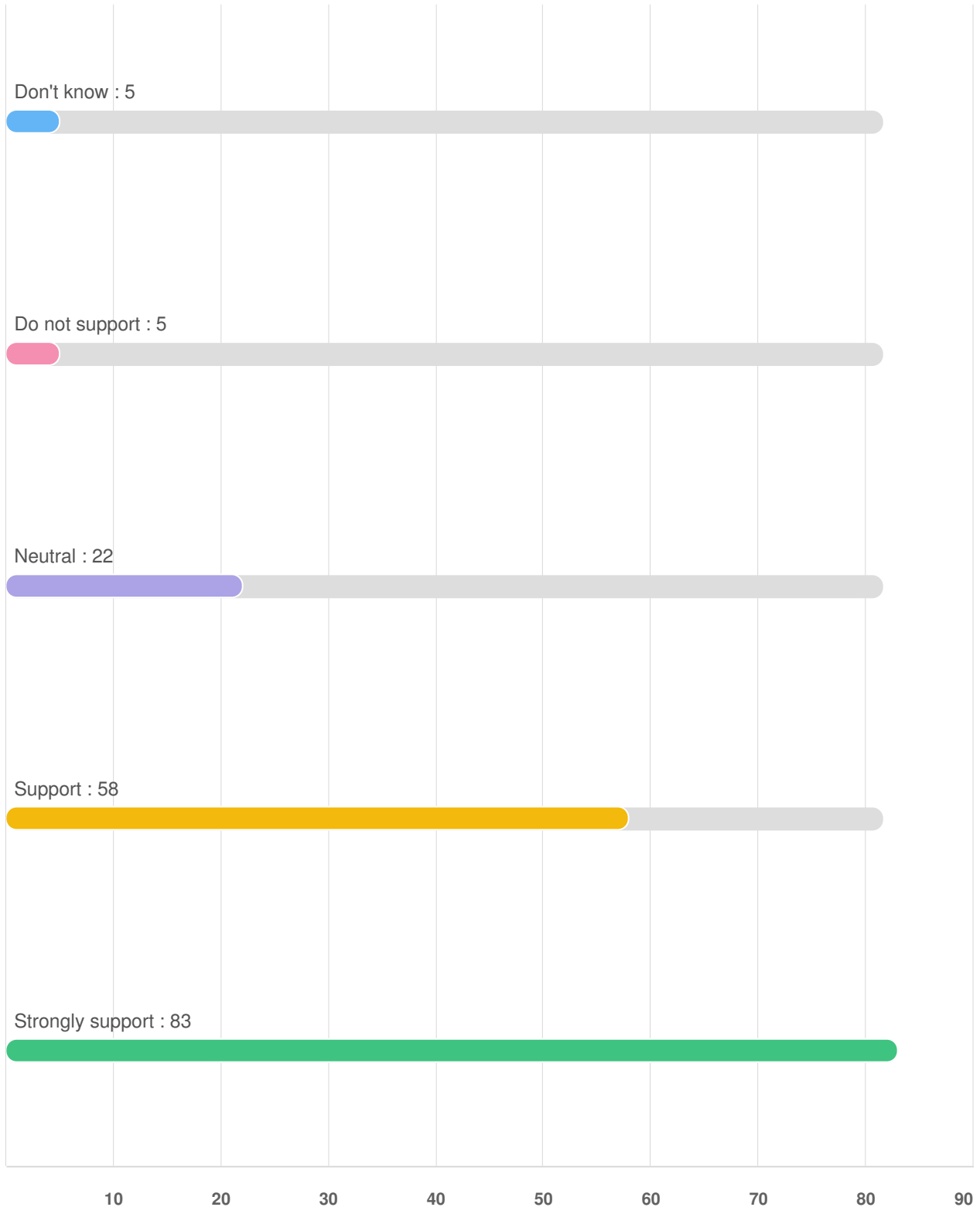




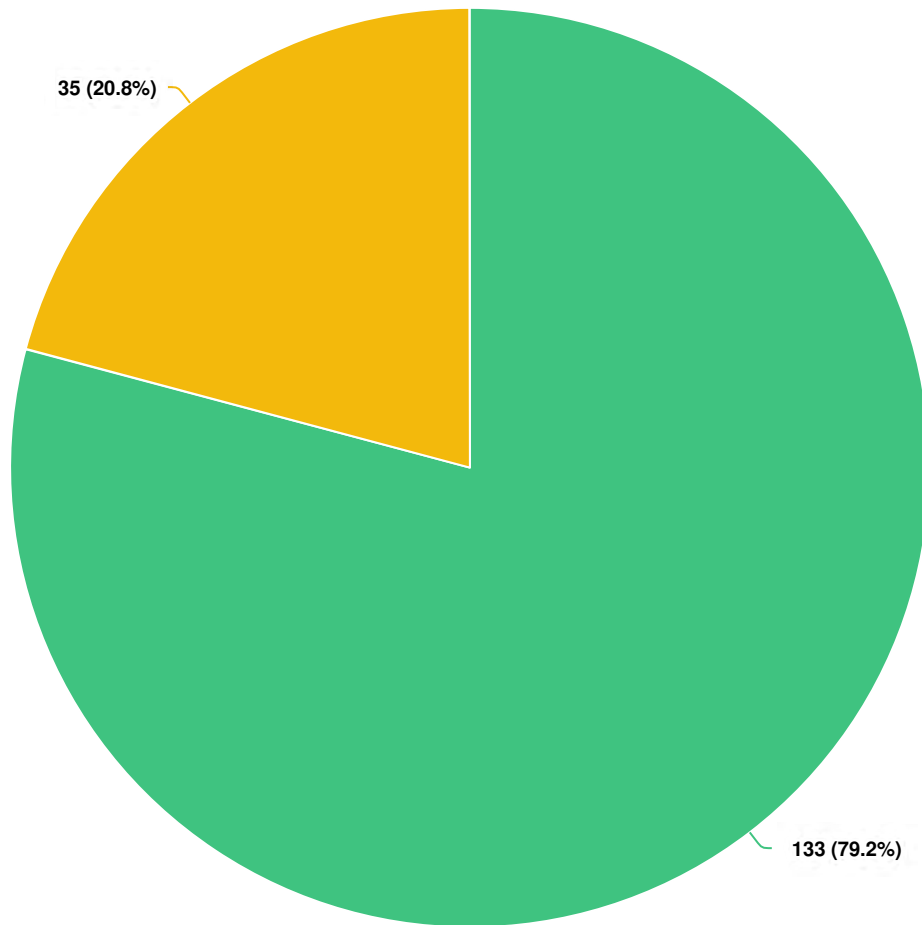
### Action 3.2: Complete a parks and trails master plan for each electoral area.



**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?



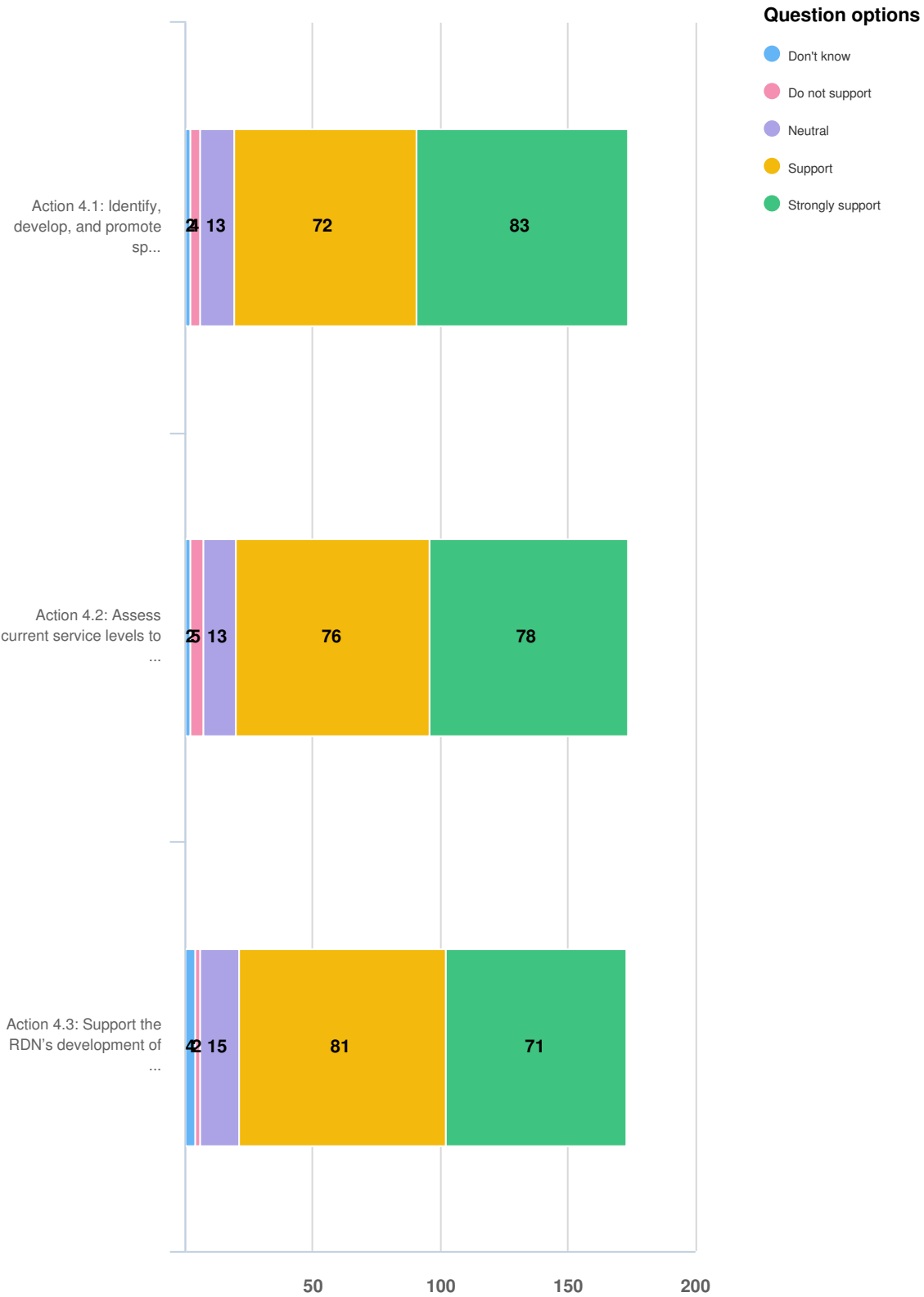
**Question options**

- 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**

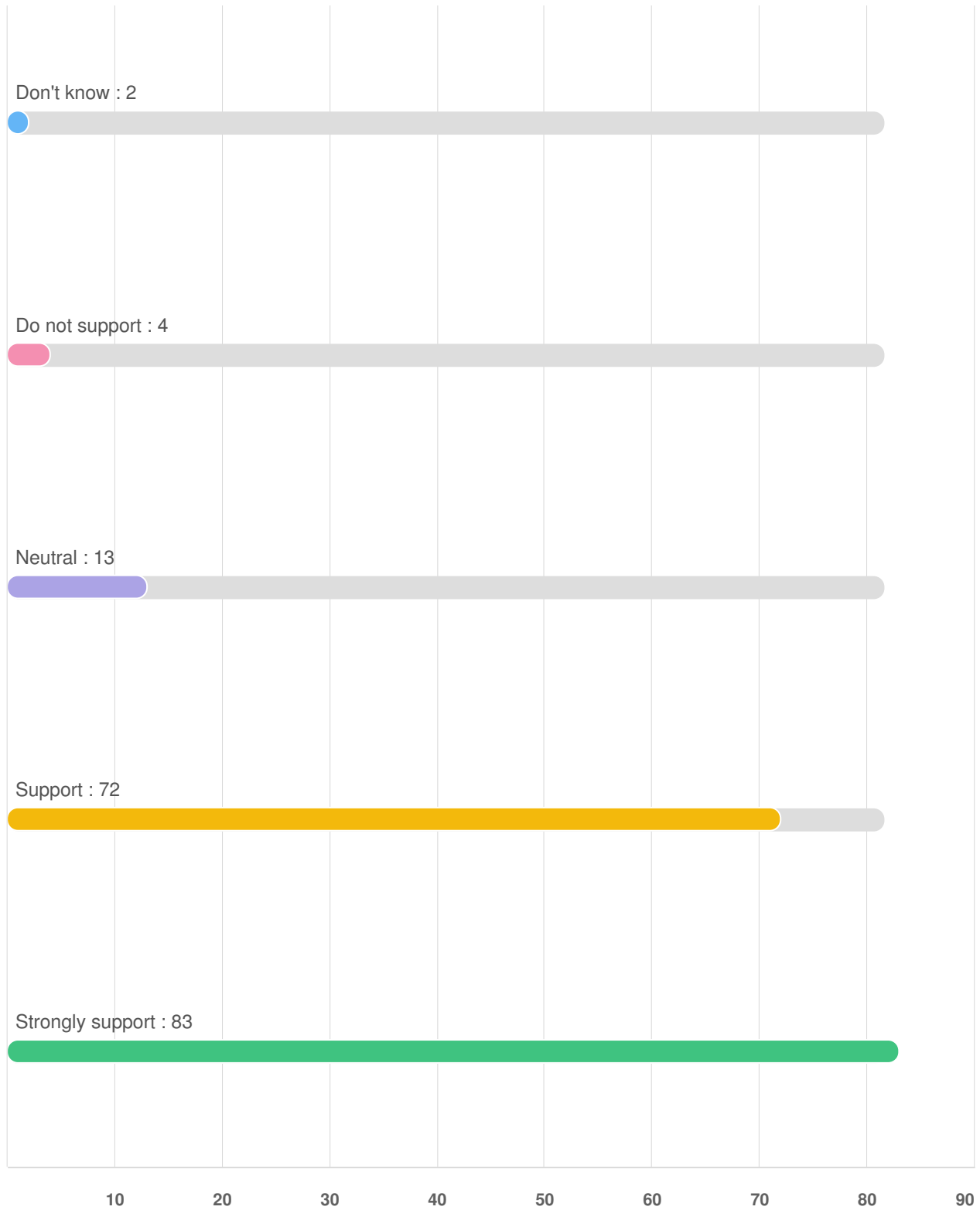


Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
 Question type: Likert Question



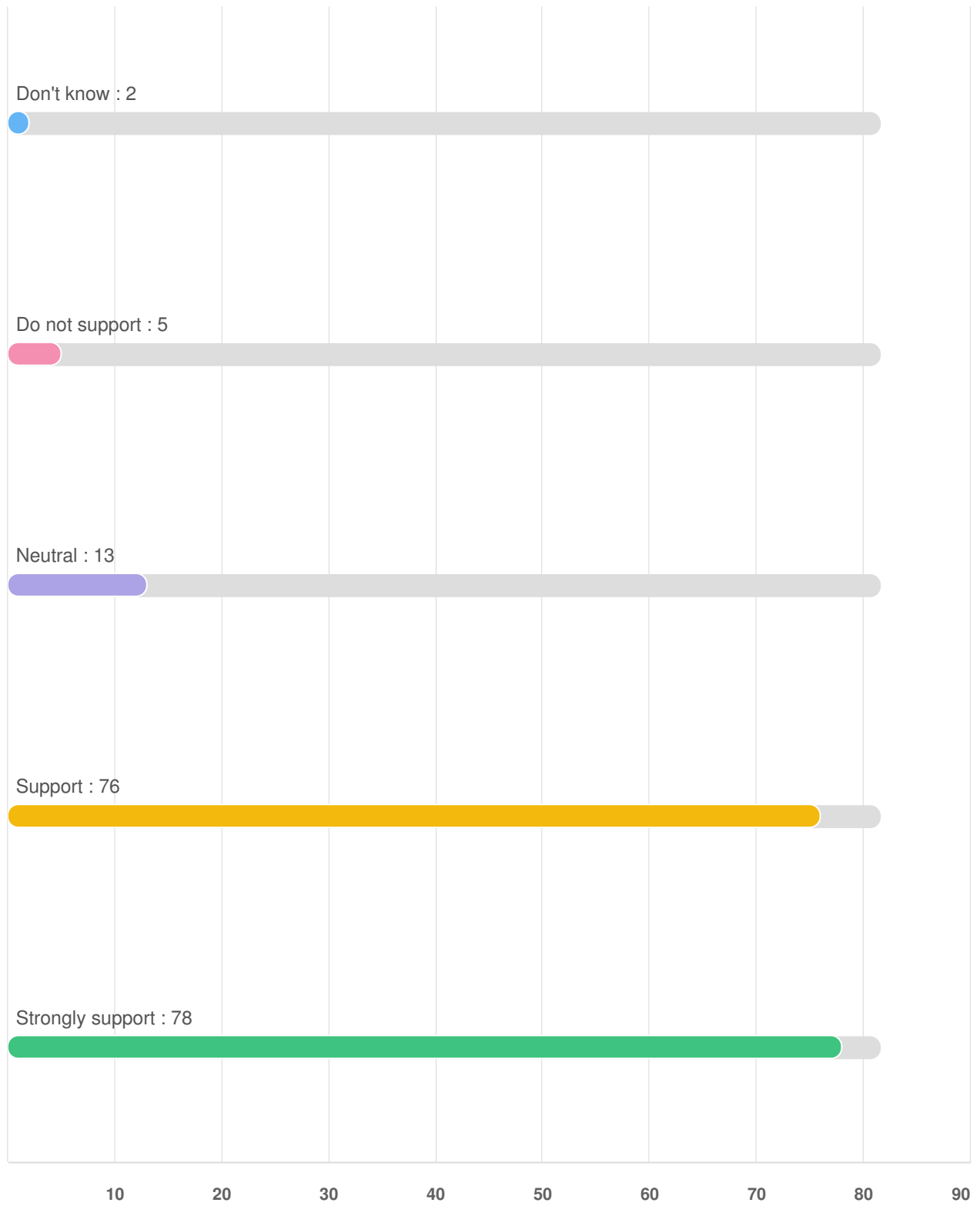
**Q16 | Goal 4: Provide parks and trails with well-maintained and diverse amenities**

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

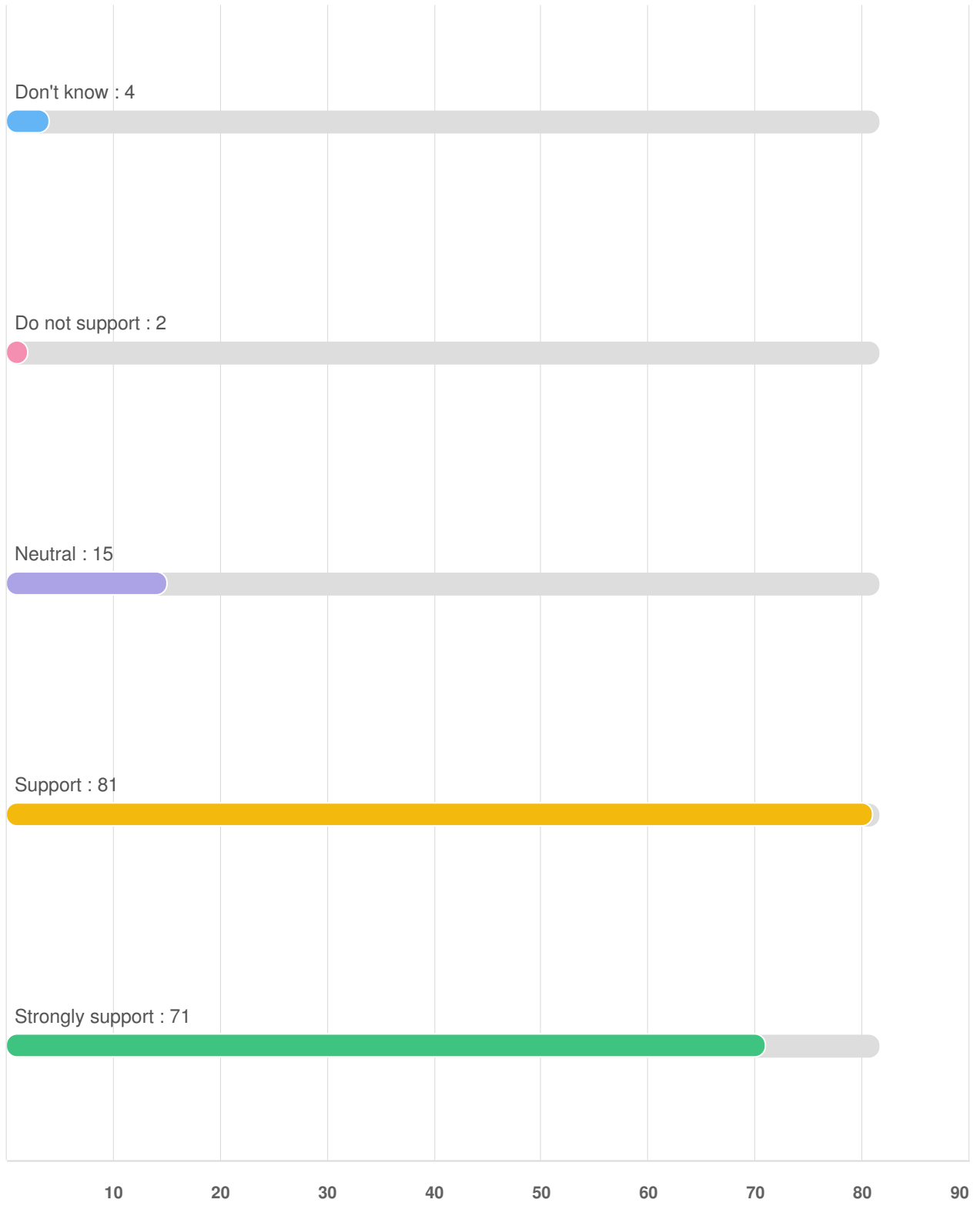




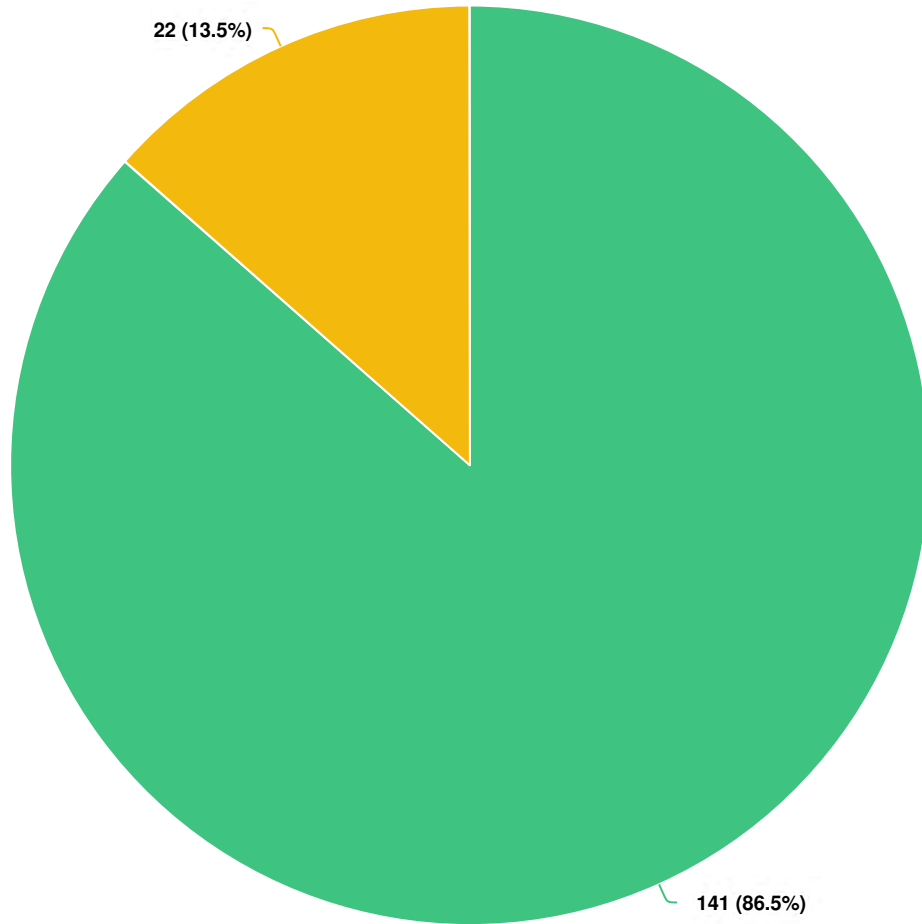
**Action 4.2: Assess current service levels to ensure operating funds are sufficient to meet public expectations.**



**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?



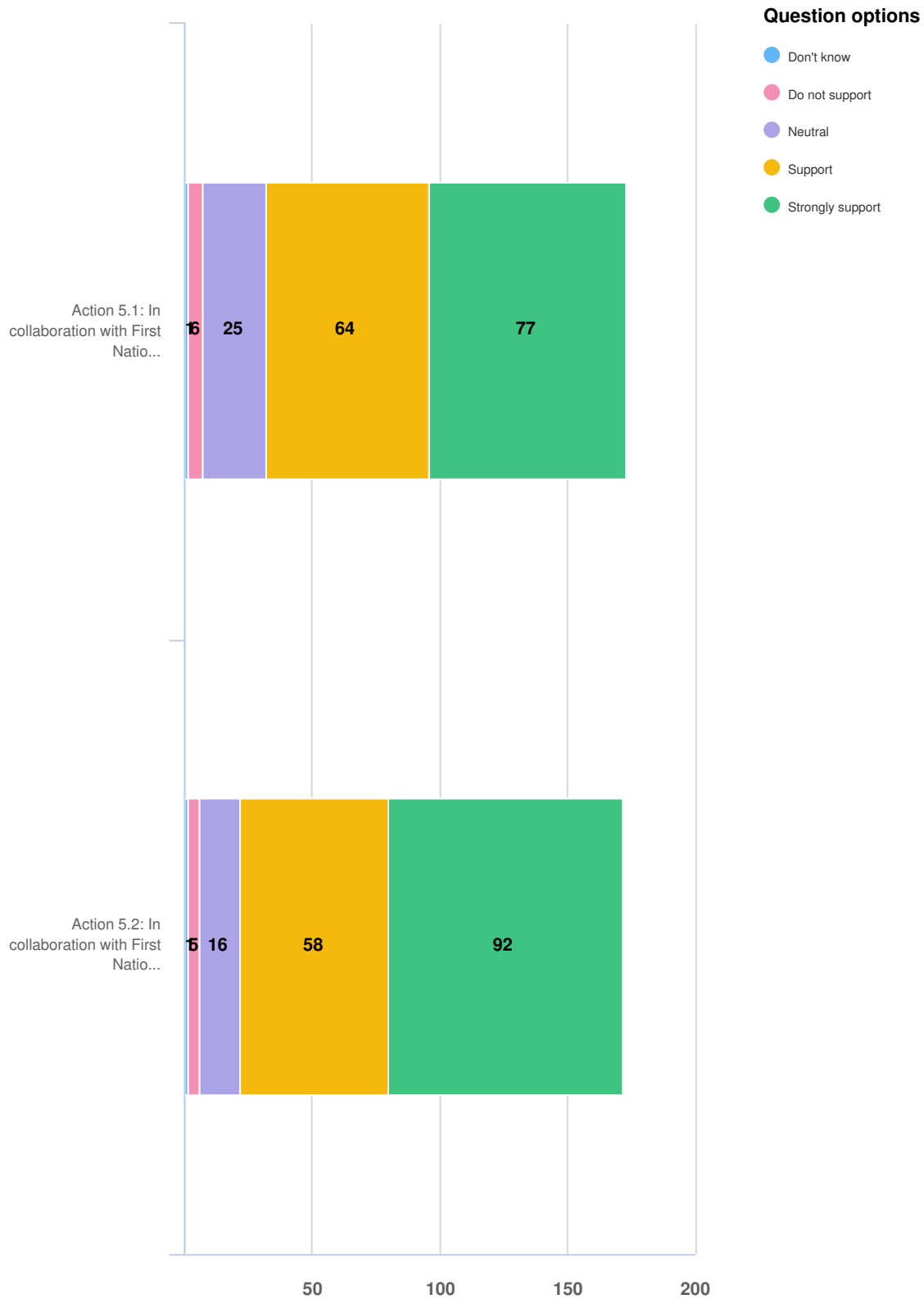
**Question options**

- Yes, please explain:
- No

SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT

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

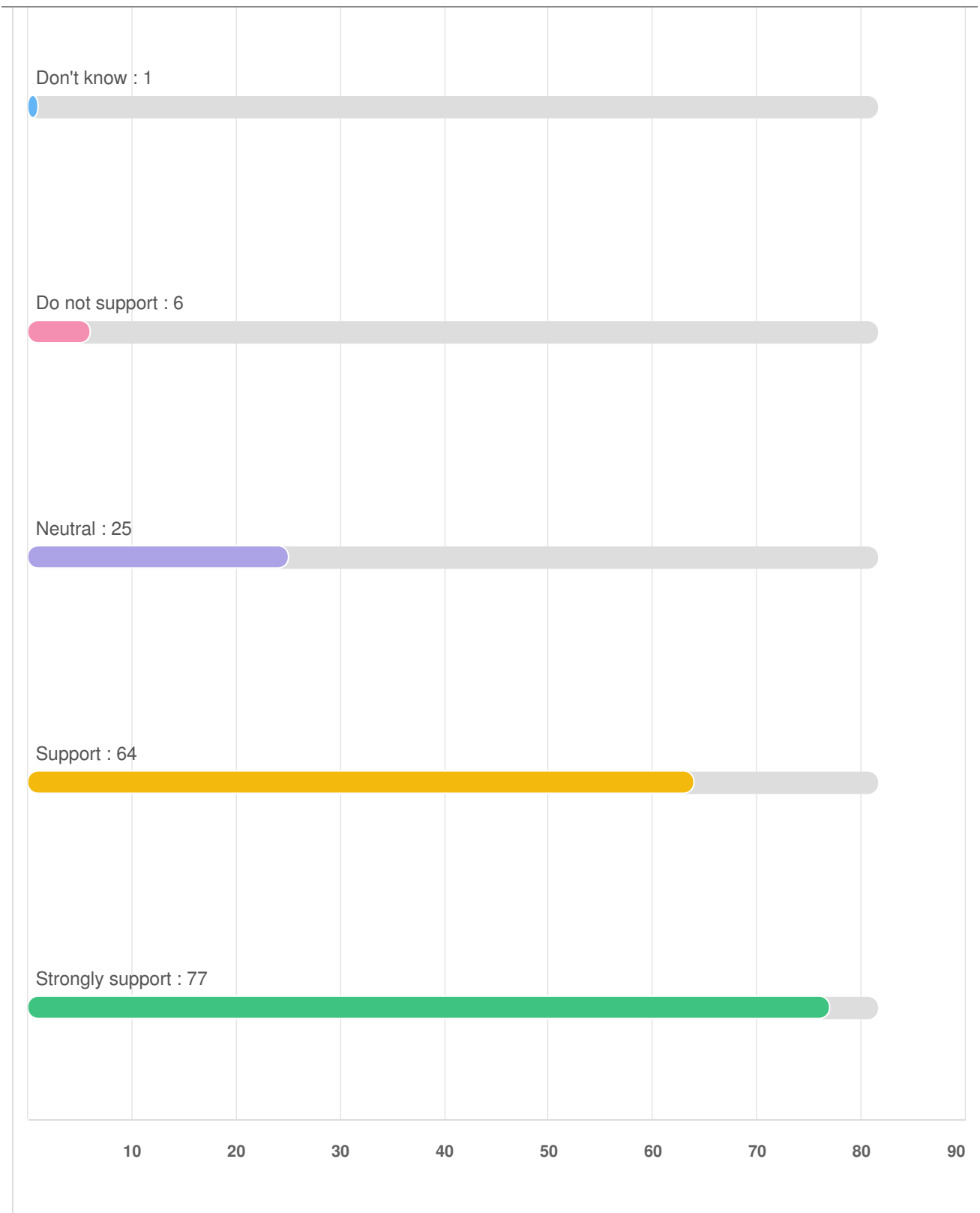
**Q18 Goal 5: Incorporate First Nations perspectives into parks planning and design**



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

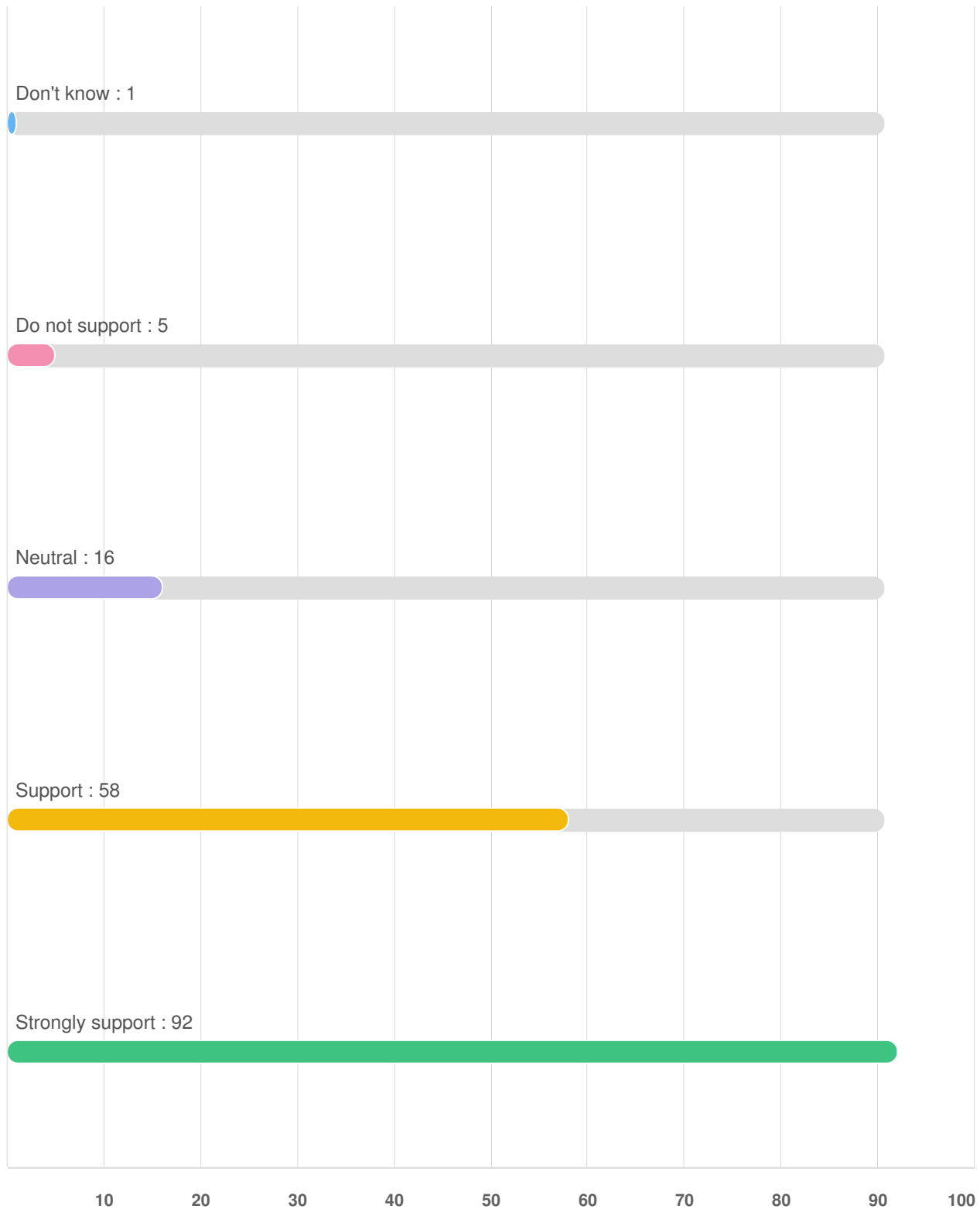
**Q18** | **Goal 5: Incorporate First Nations perspectives into parks planning and design**

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

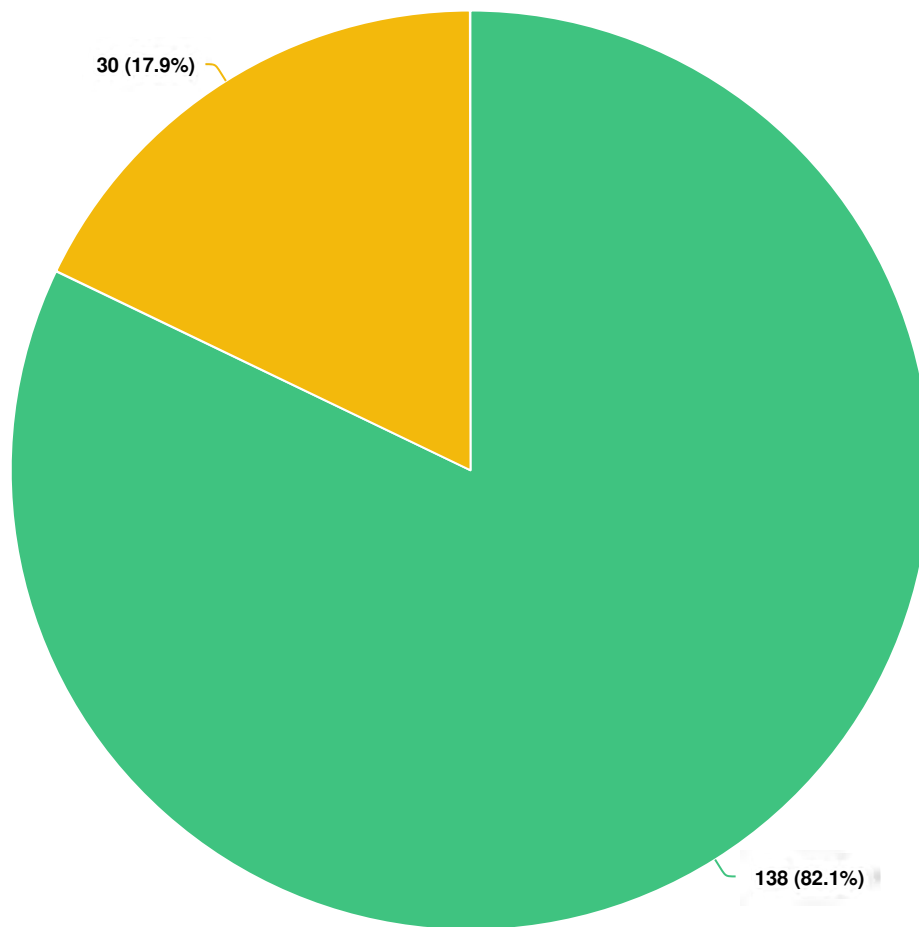




**Action 5.2: In collaboration with First Nations, explore opportunities to protect important cultural areas.**



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



**Question options**

Yes, please explain:

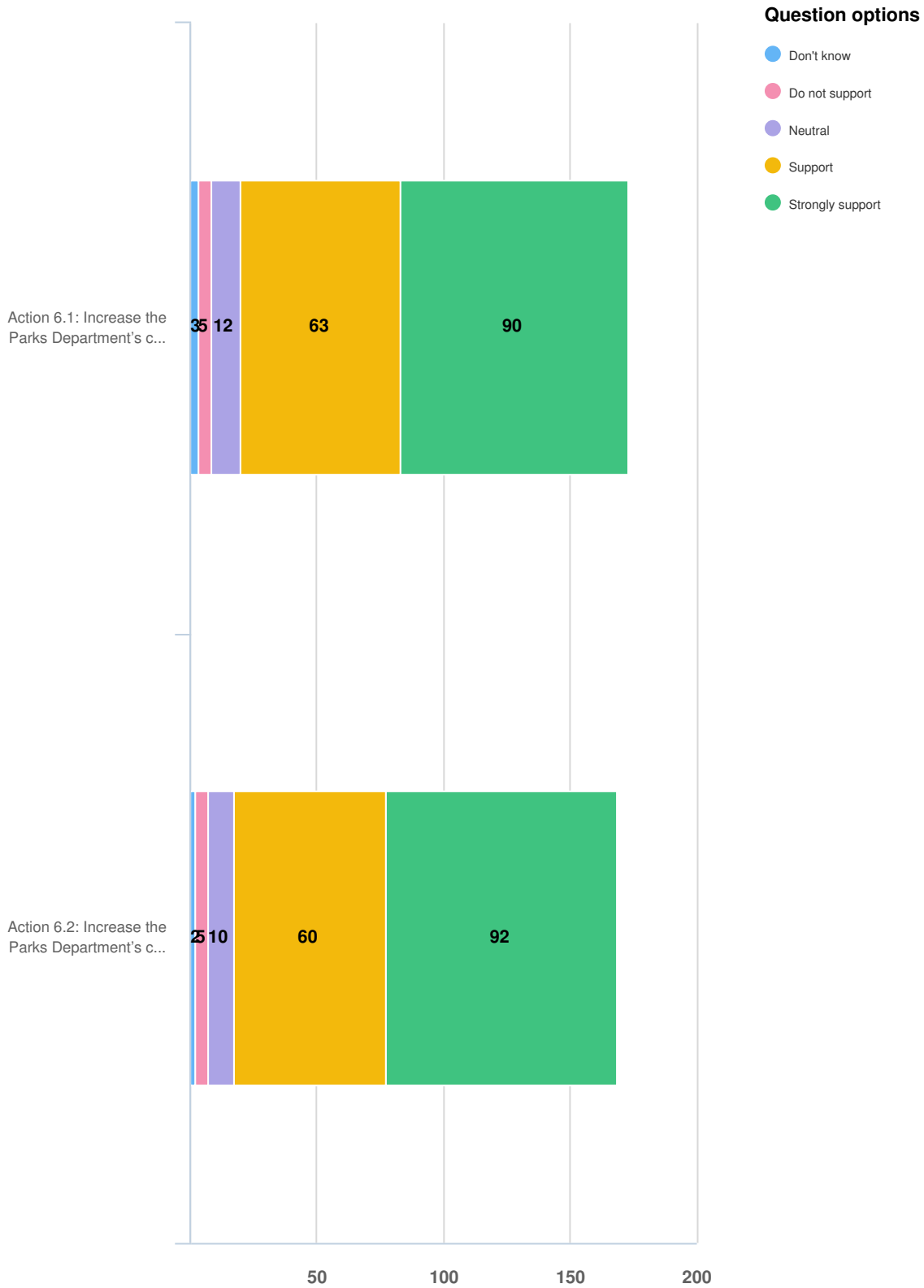
No

*SEE OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES AT END OF DOCUMENT*

*Optional question (165 response(s), 10 skipped)*

*Question type: Radio Button Question*

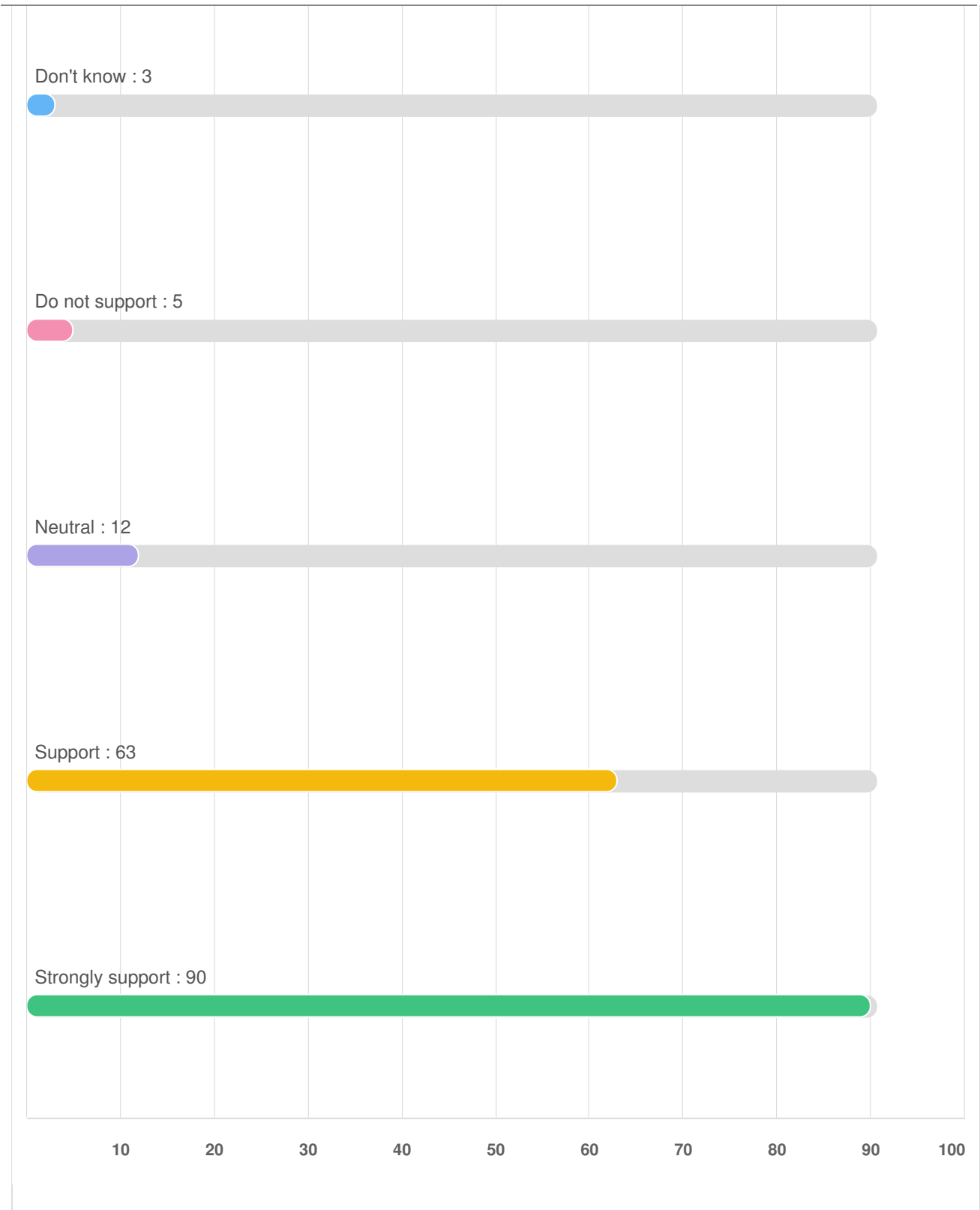
**Q20 Goal 6: Strengthen land use partnerships with local and provincial organizations**



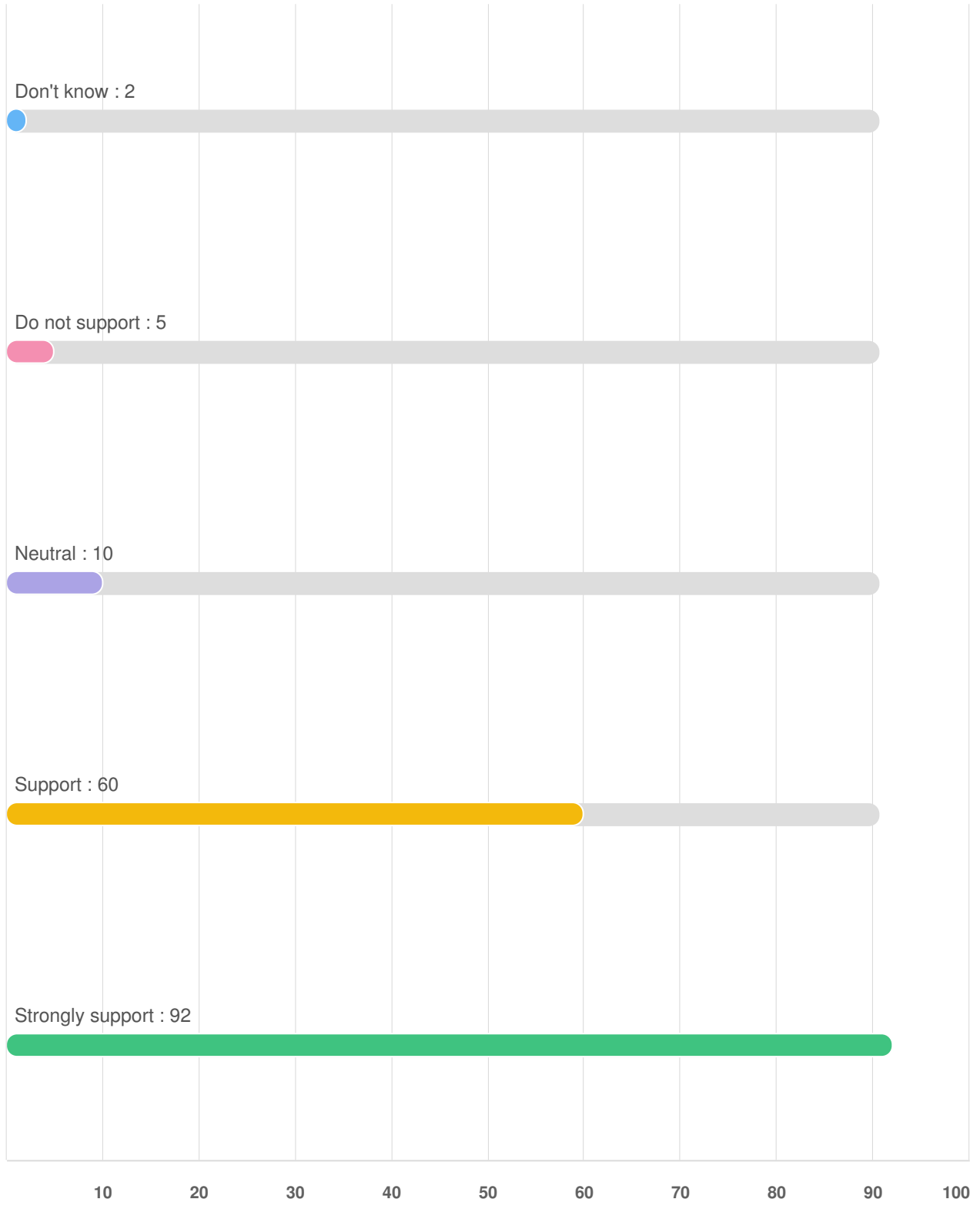
Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
 Question type: Likert Question

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

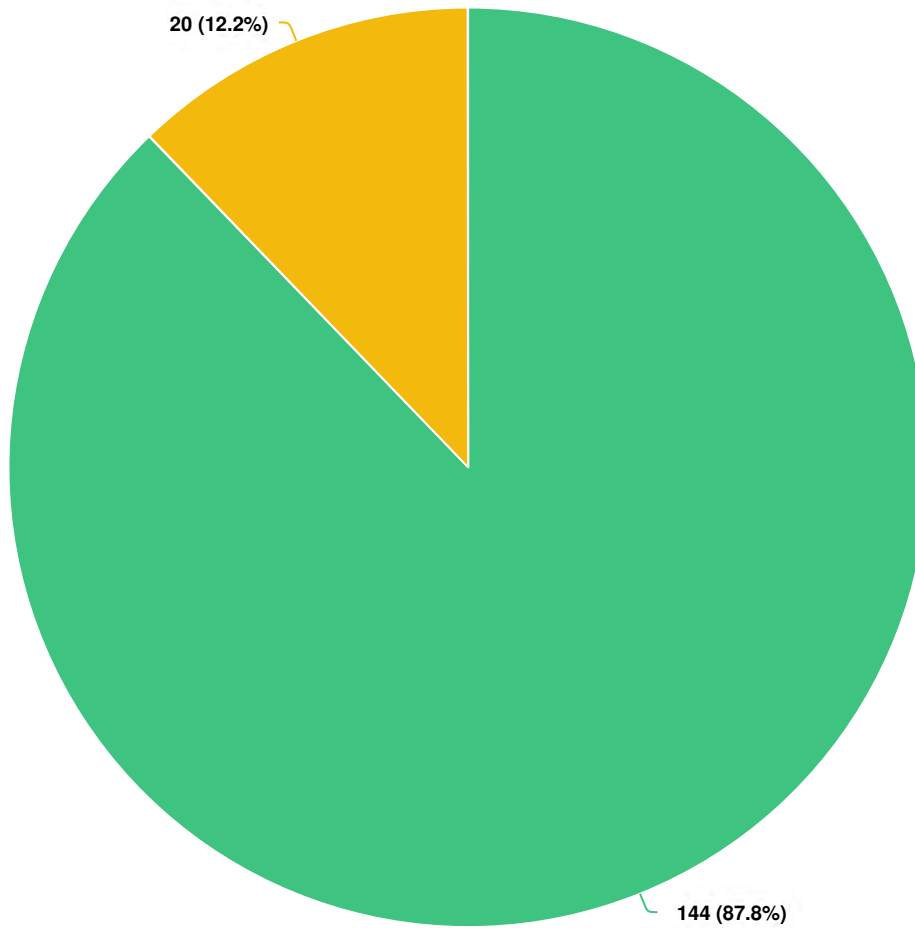
**Action 6.1: Increase the Parks Department's capacity to manage land use agreements with private and public agencies for recreational and conservation purposes.**



**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?

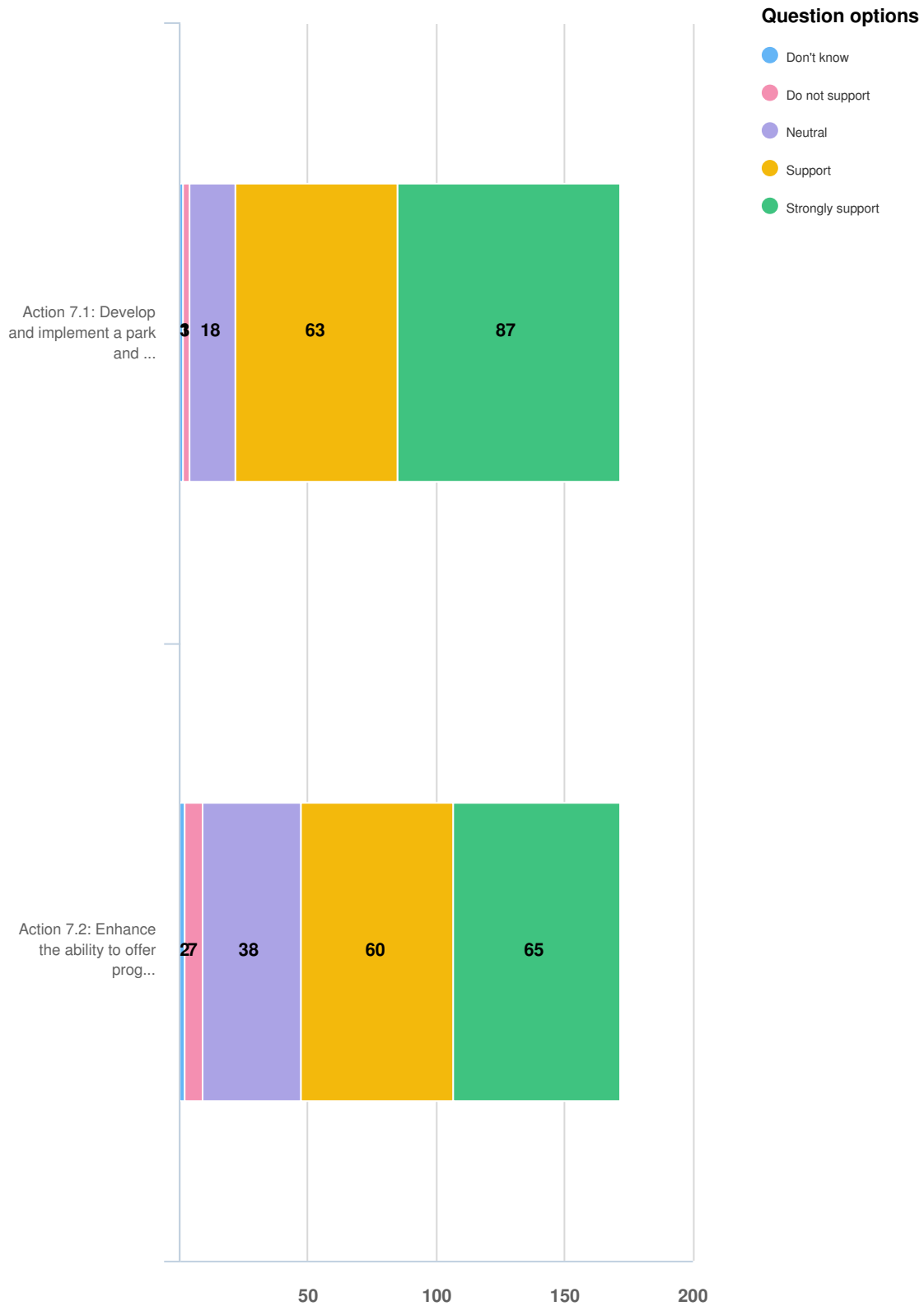


**Question options**

- 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**

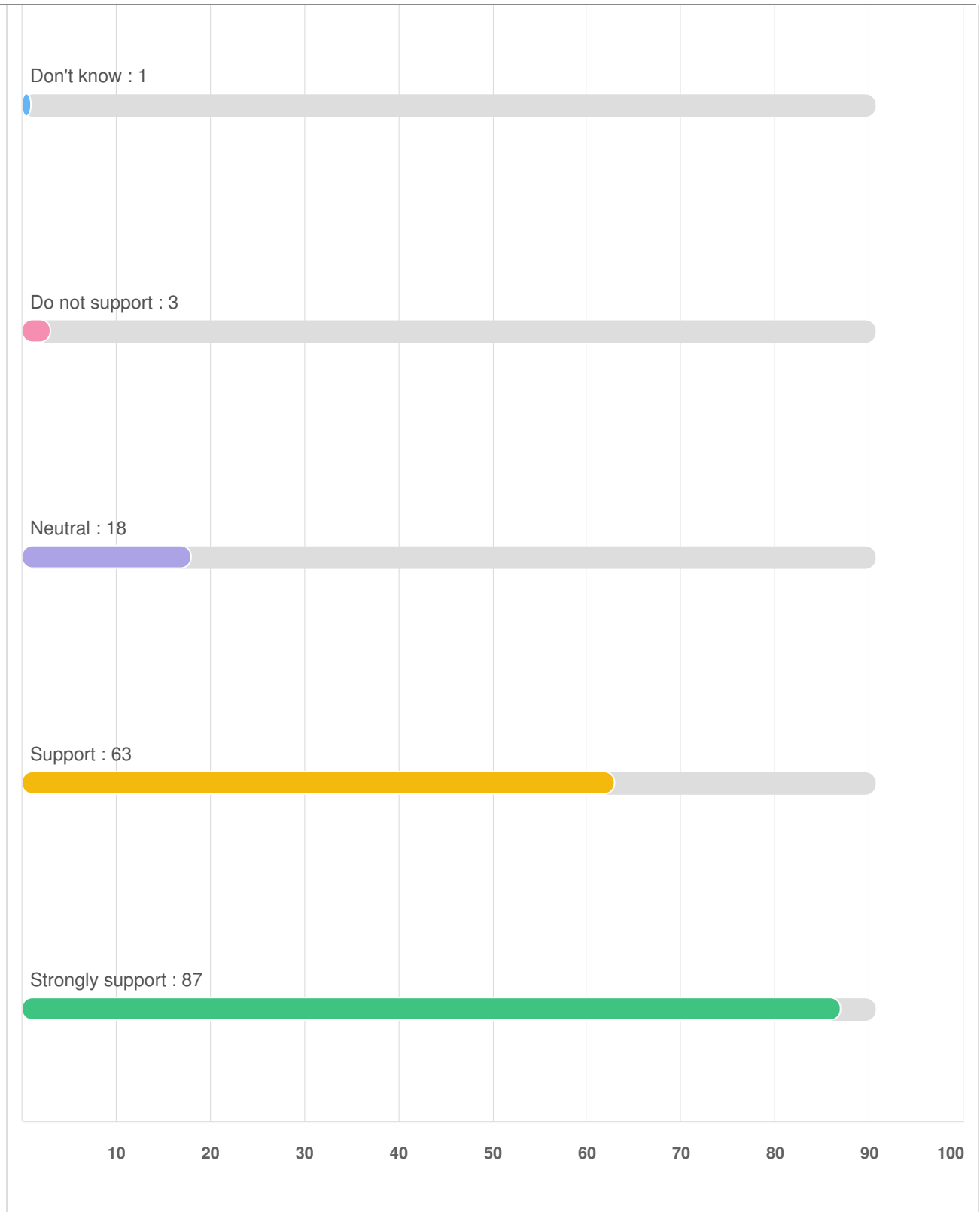


Optional question (171 response(s), 4 skipped)  
Question type: Likert Question

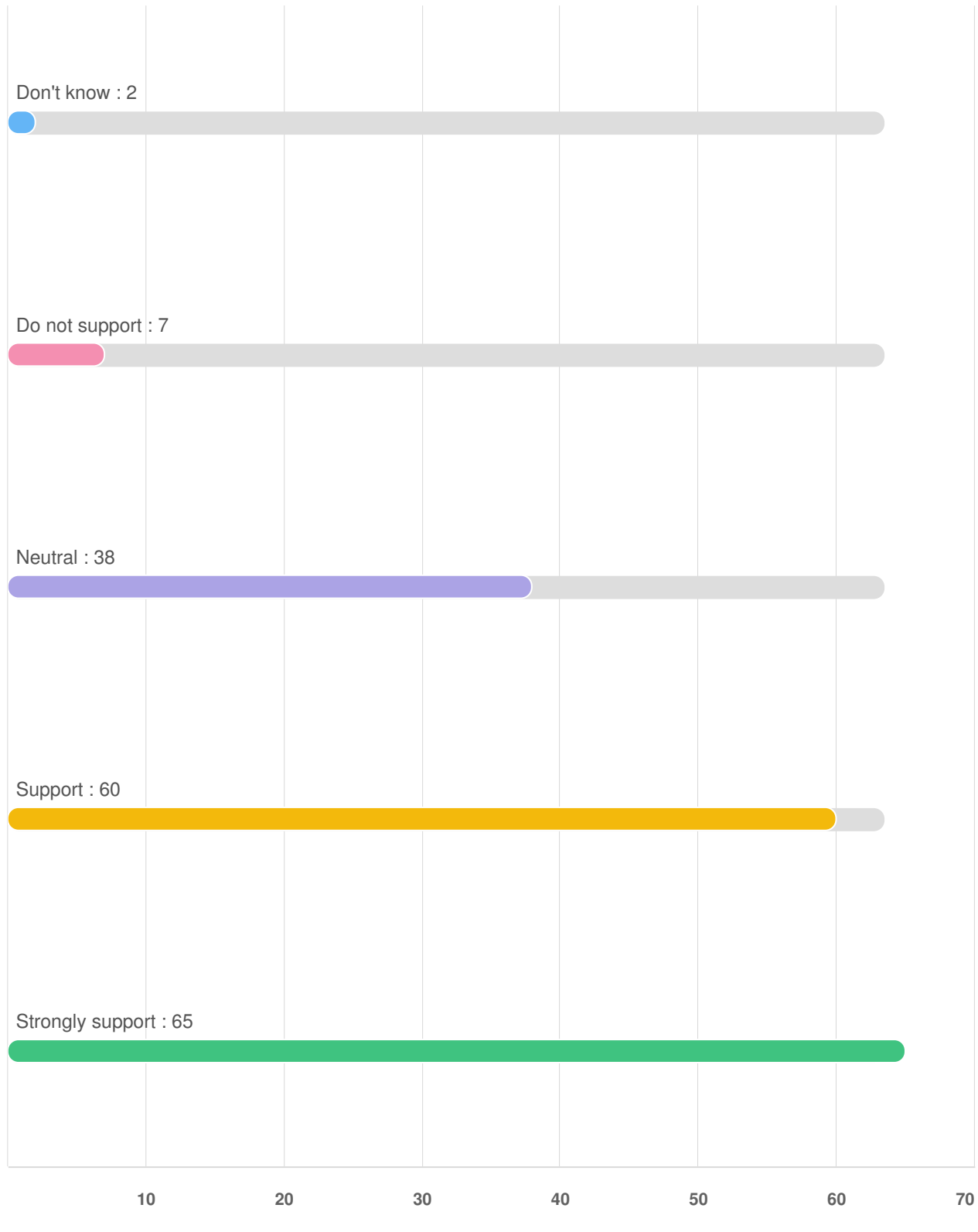


**Q22 | Goal 7: Increase volunteering and learning opportunities within the parks and trails system**

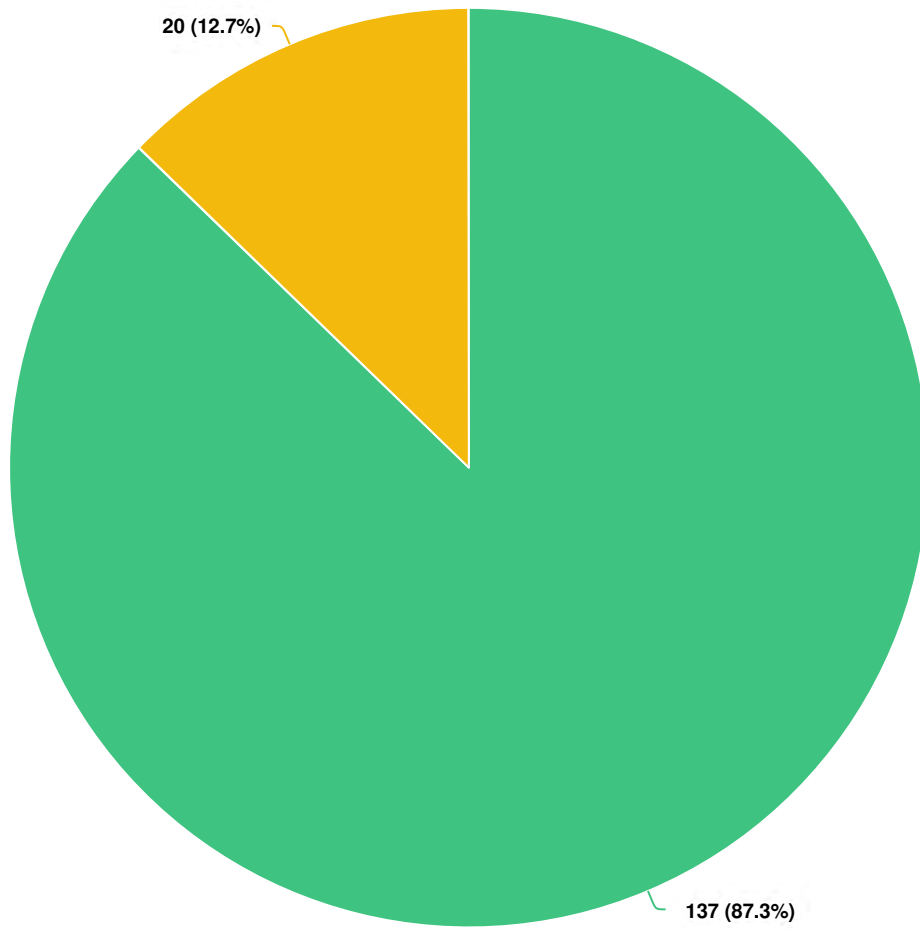
**Action 7.1: Develop and implement a park and trail volunteer program to strengthen the Parks Department's capacity for coordinating and supporting volunteer-led stewardship projects.**



**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.

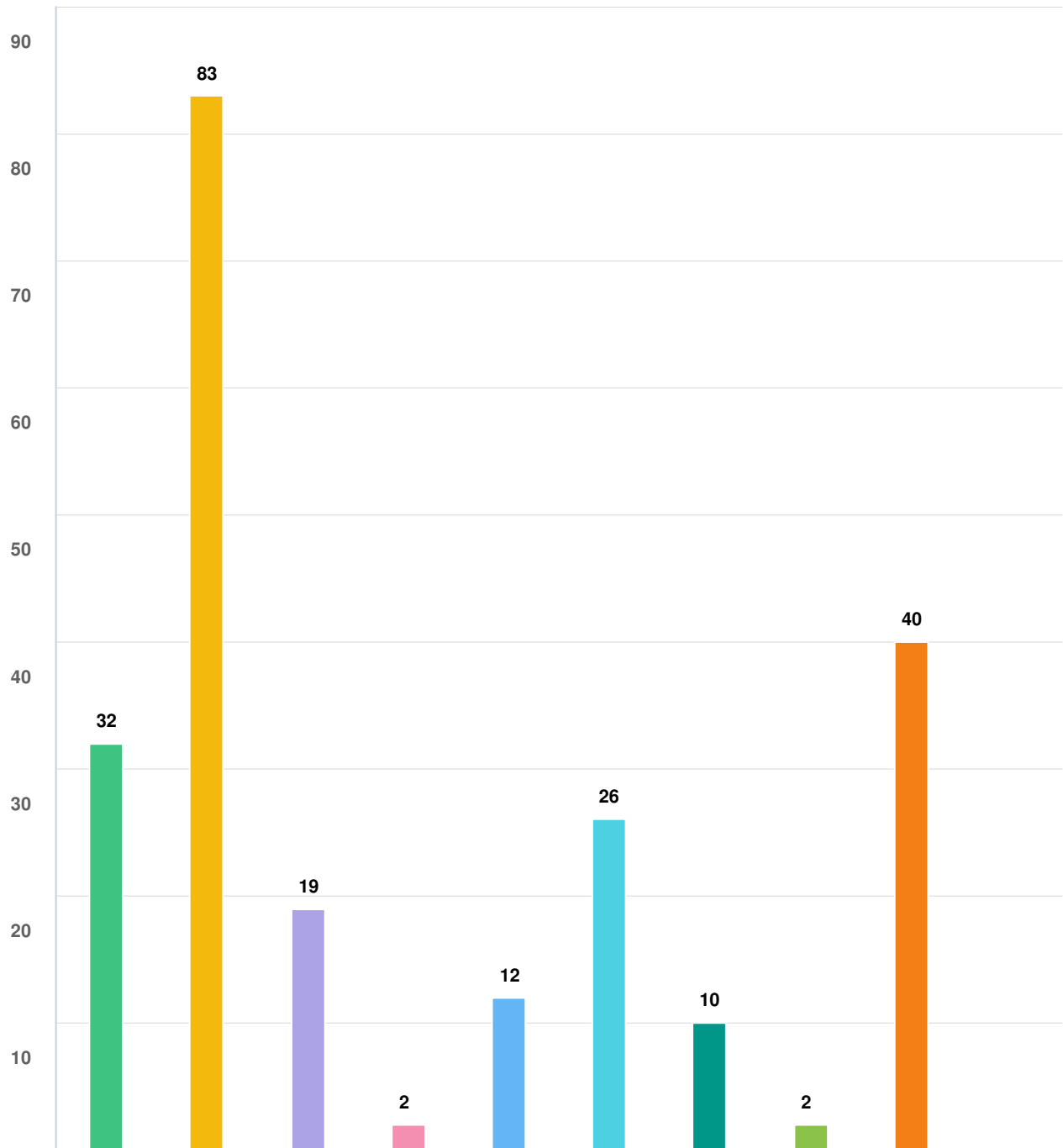
my main concern is with the 707 on Gabriola Island it is growing back into a beautiful place and the people that use it would like to see it left alone, thank you

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)

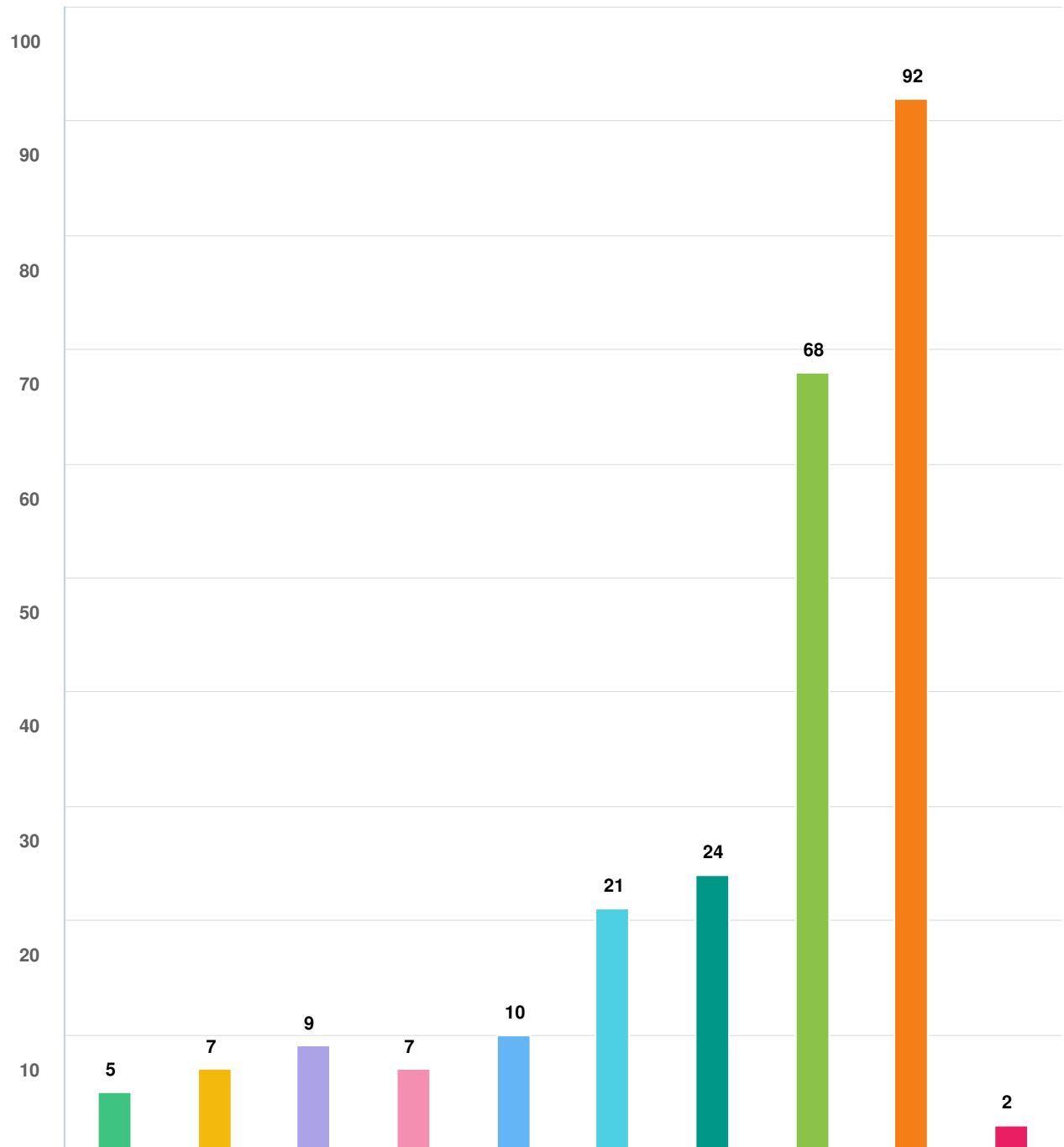


**Question options**

- 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):



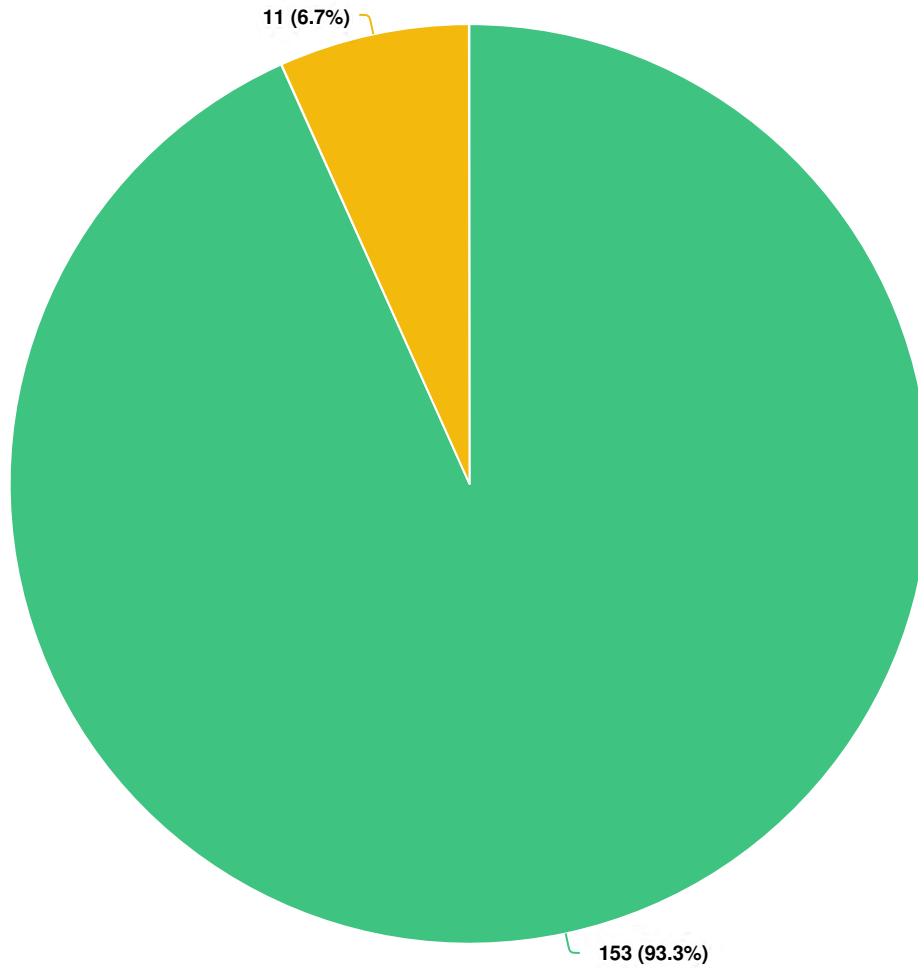
**Question options**

- 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*



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



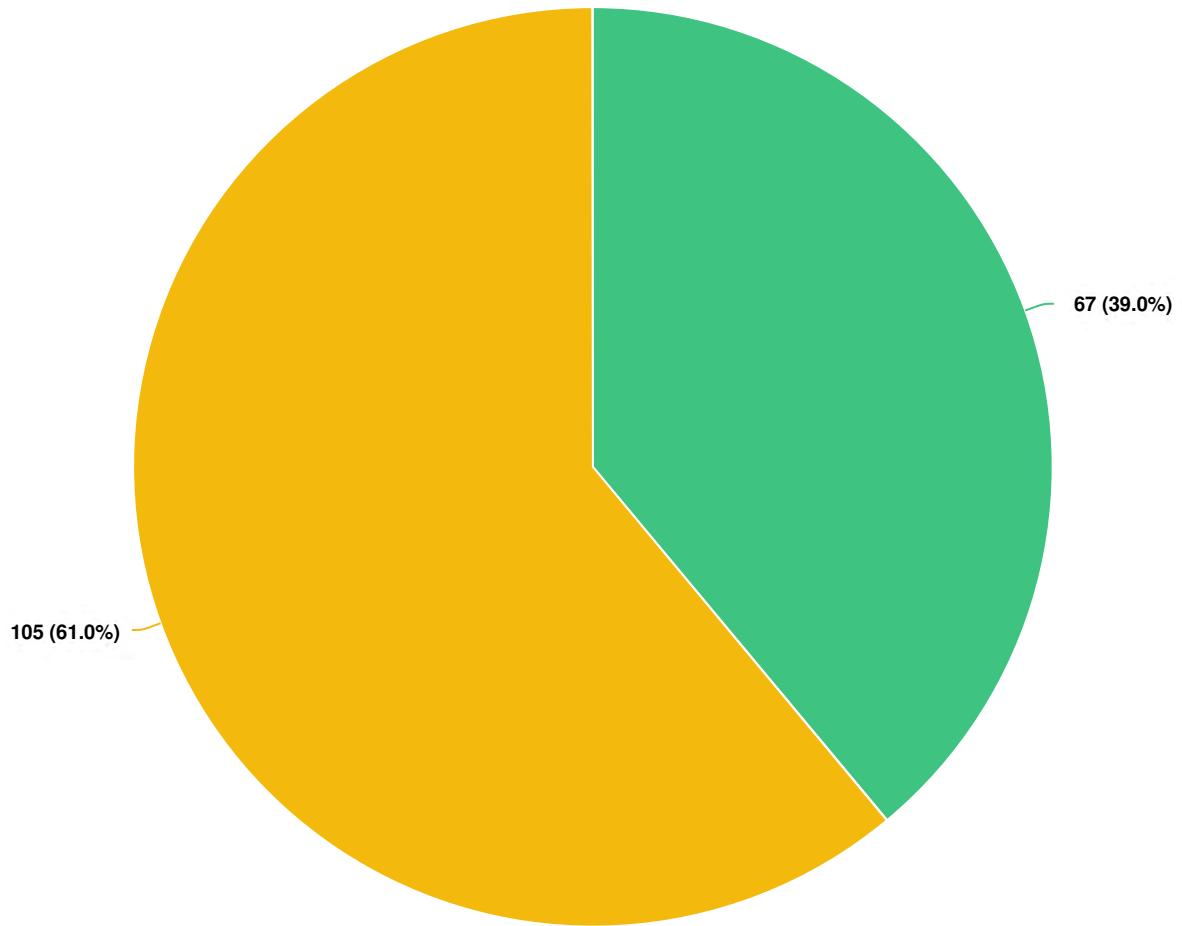
**Question options**

- 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?

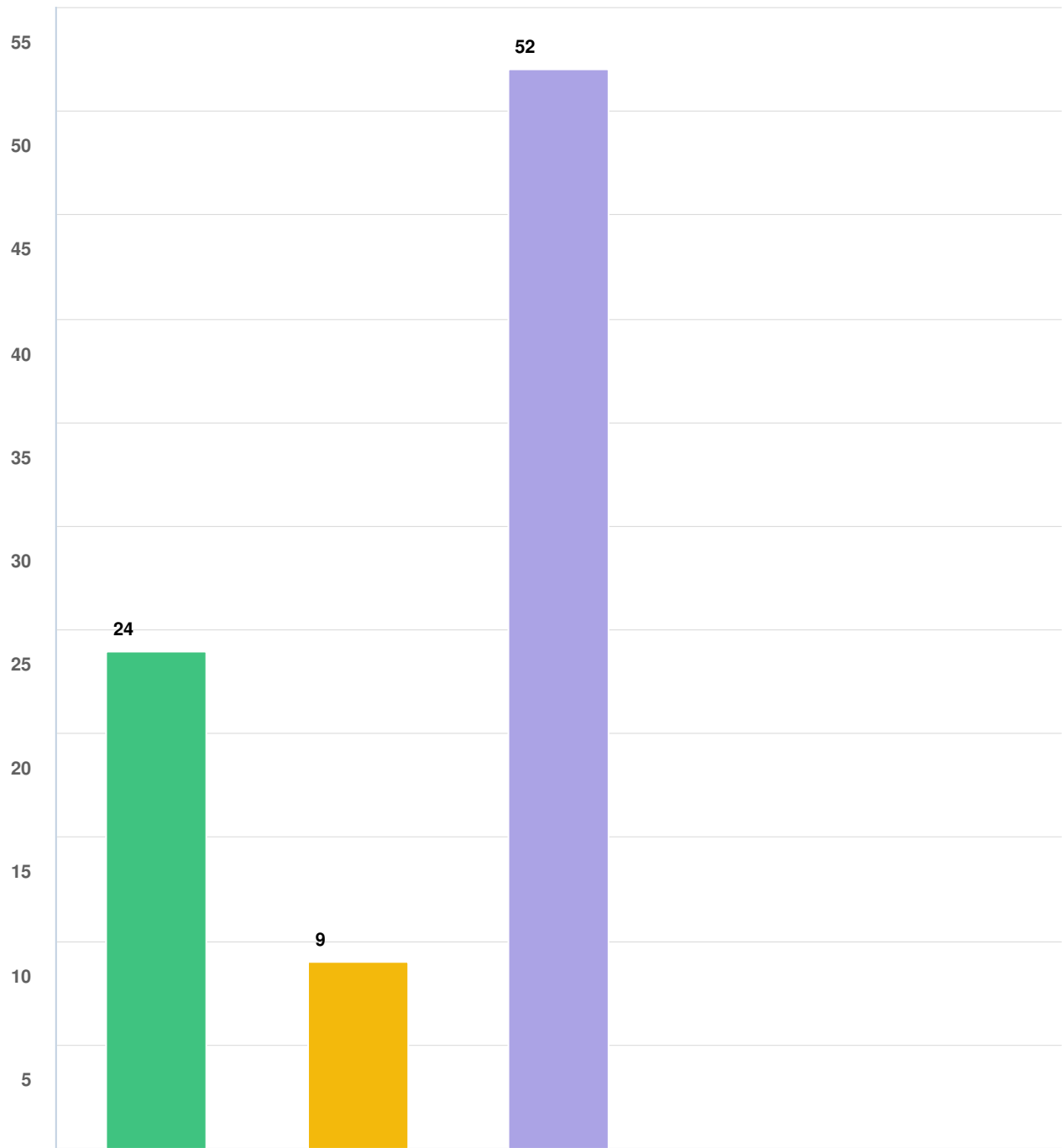


**Question options**

- 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 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 unuseable 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 recreationa+A2:A33I 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=PLgGjWNIsXIR9--Fa50o91kiQCczVi\\_Zzb](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Zy-rap43OE&list=PLgGjWNIsXIR9--Fa50o91kiQCczVi_Zzb)
- Summary Sheet Package (follows)

# RDN PARKS *naturally*

## PARKS AND TRAILS STRATEGY



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# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PARKS AND TRAILS

## Purpose of the Plan

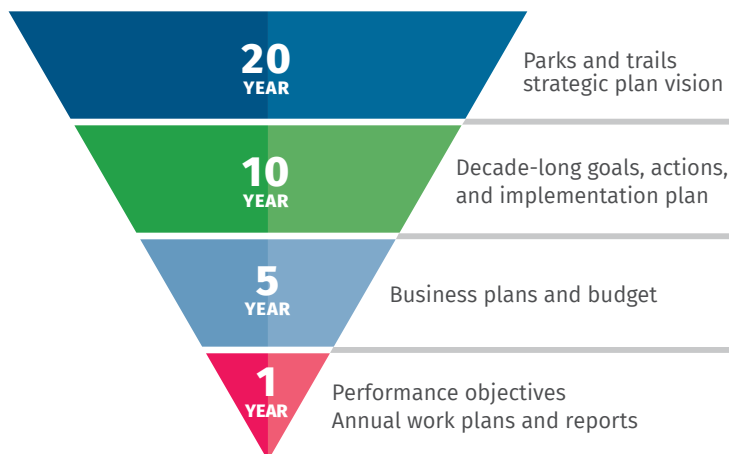
The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is creating a Parks and Trails Strategy (PTS) to guide the development and management of the RDN's regional and community parks and trails for the next 10 years.

### 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**



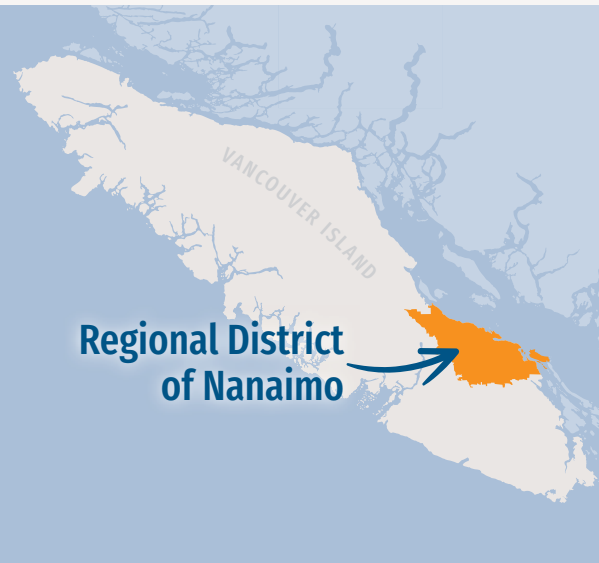
**170,000+**

POPULATION (2021 Census)



**47.2** AVERAGE AGE OF RDN RESIDENTS

(Average age of BC resident is 41.4 years)

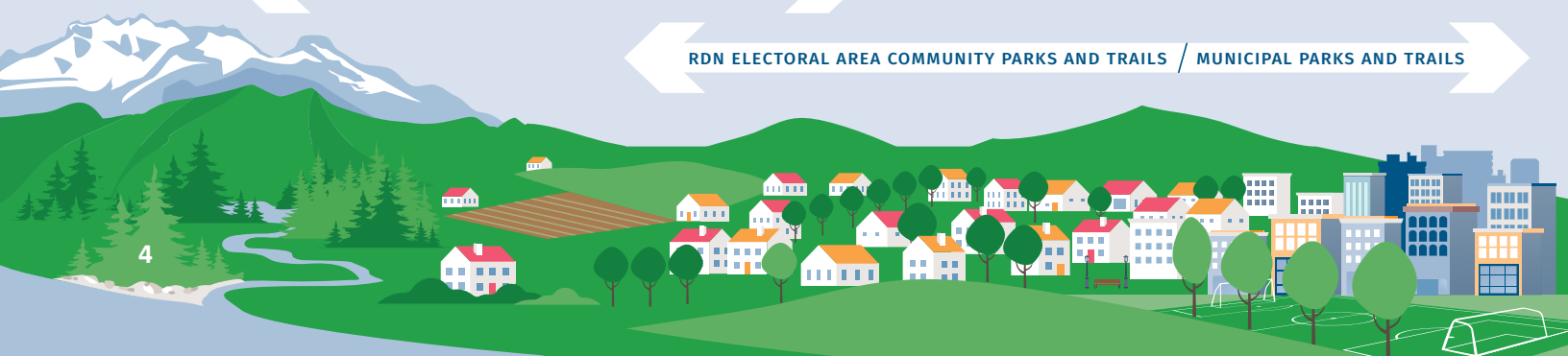
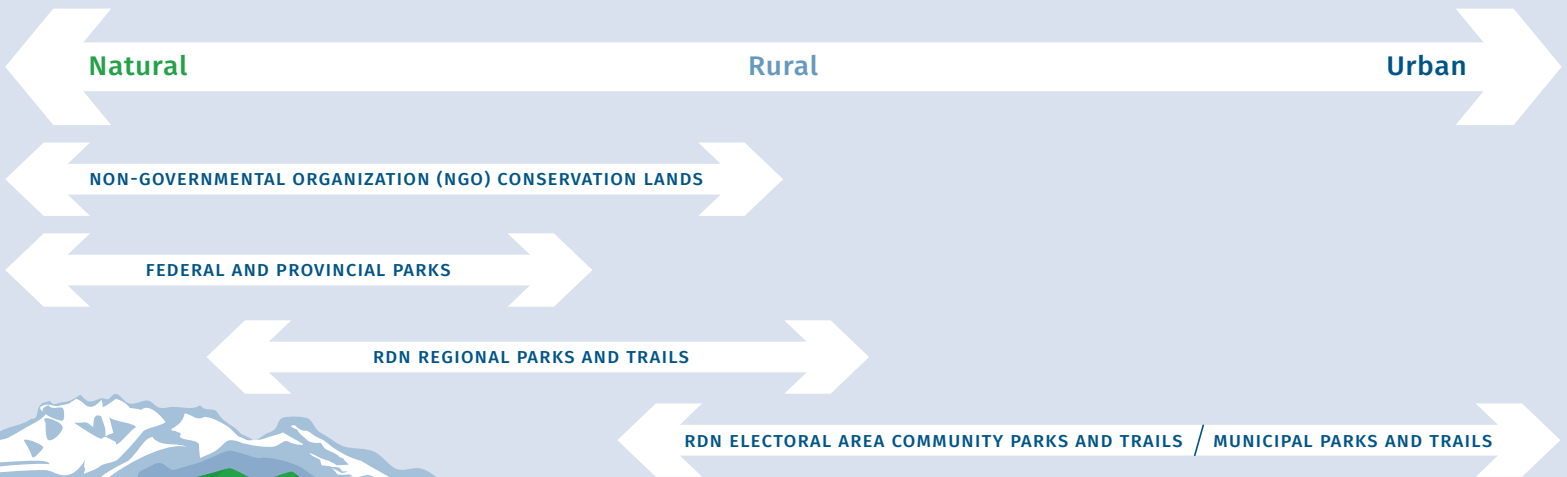


Over the last two decades, the Regional District of Nanaimo's parks and trails system has expanded throughout the region and plays an important role in the greater context of parks, trails, and protected areas.

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

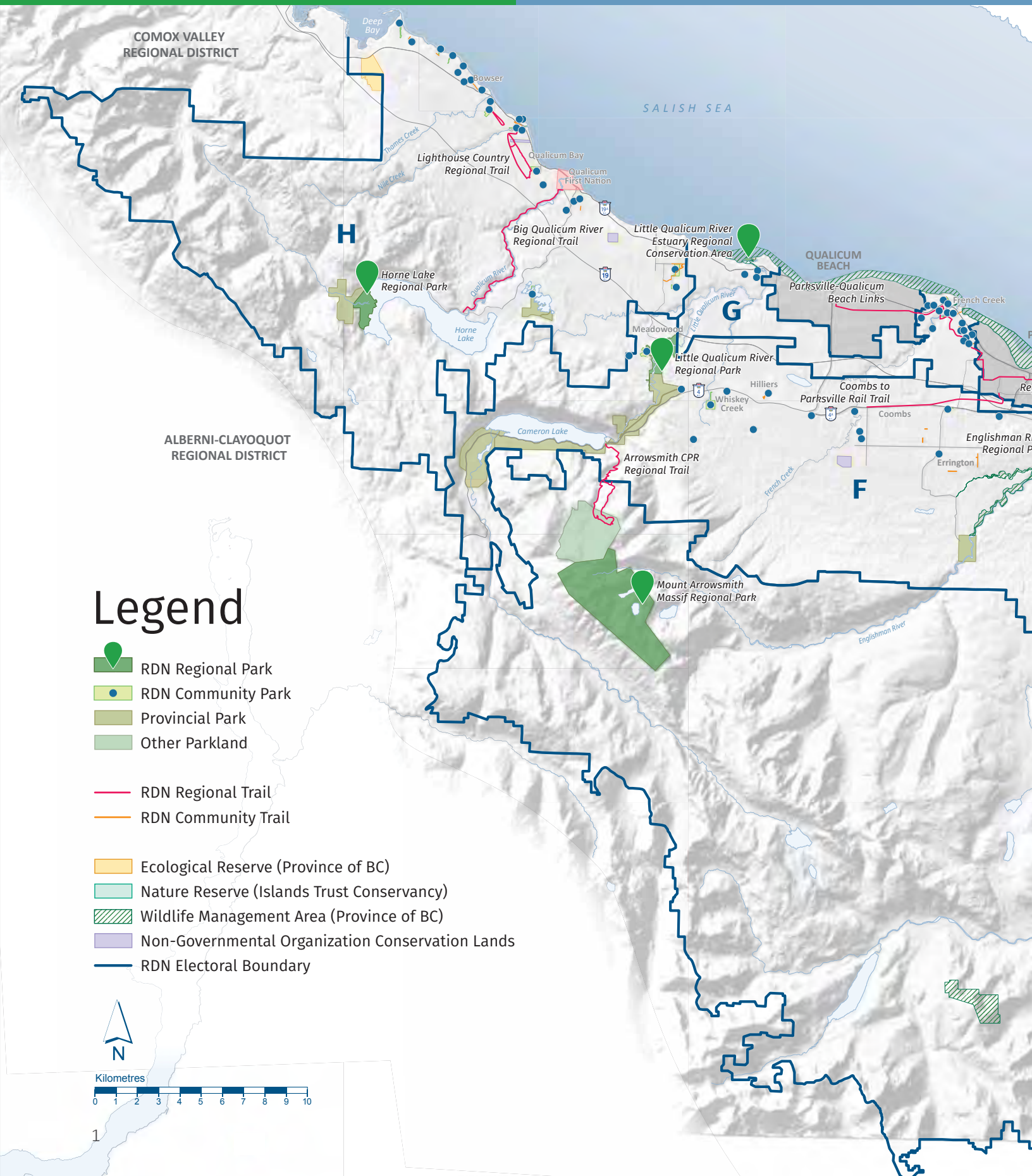
*In most RDN parks dogs can be off-leash if they are under control.*

## 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



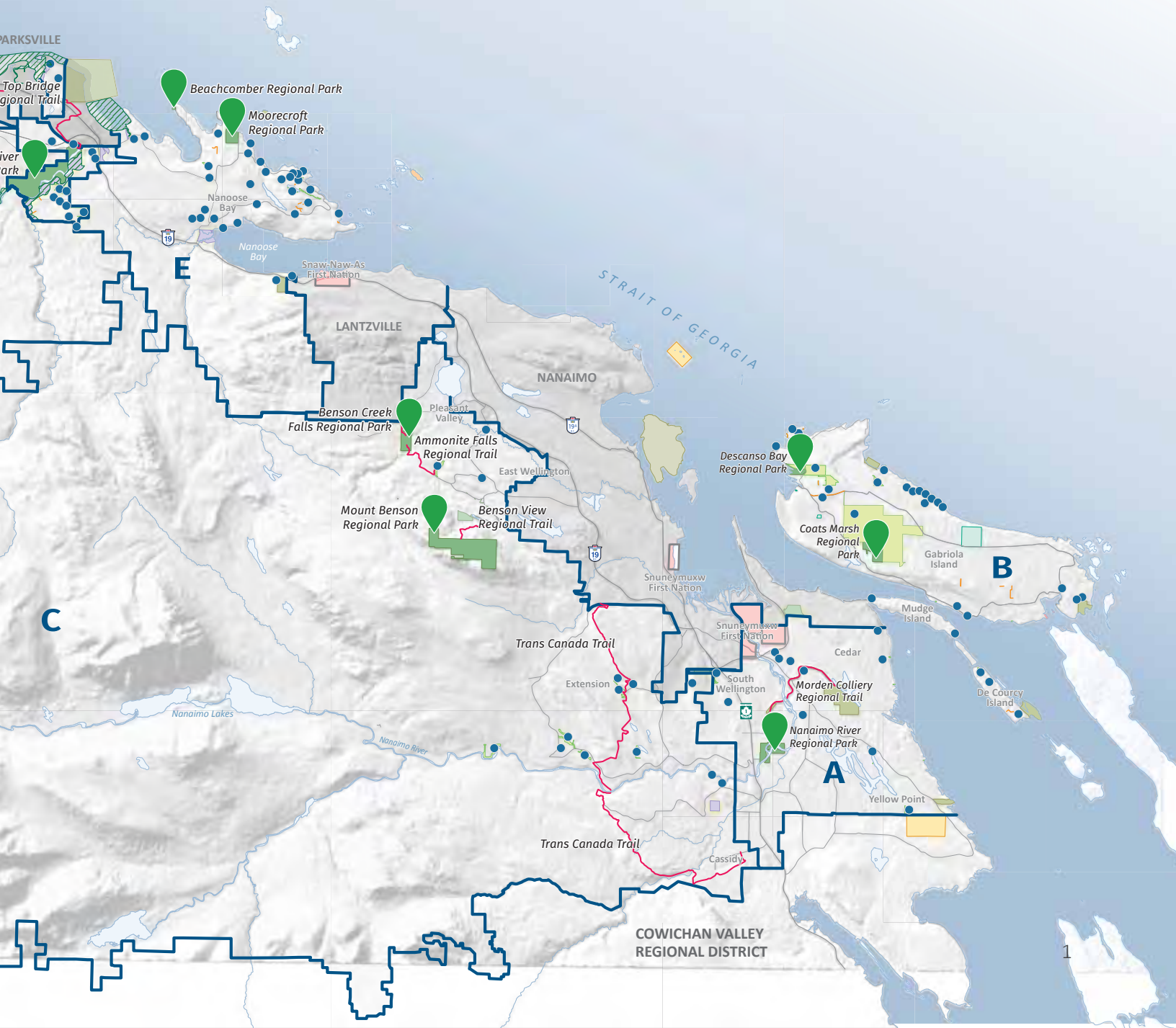
## Legend

- 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.

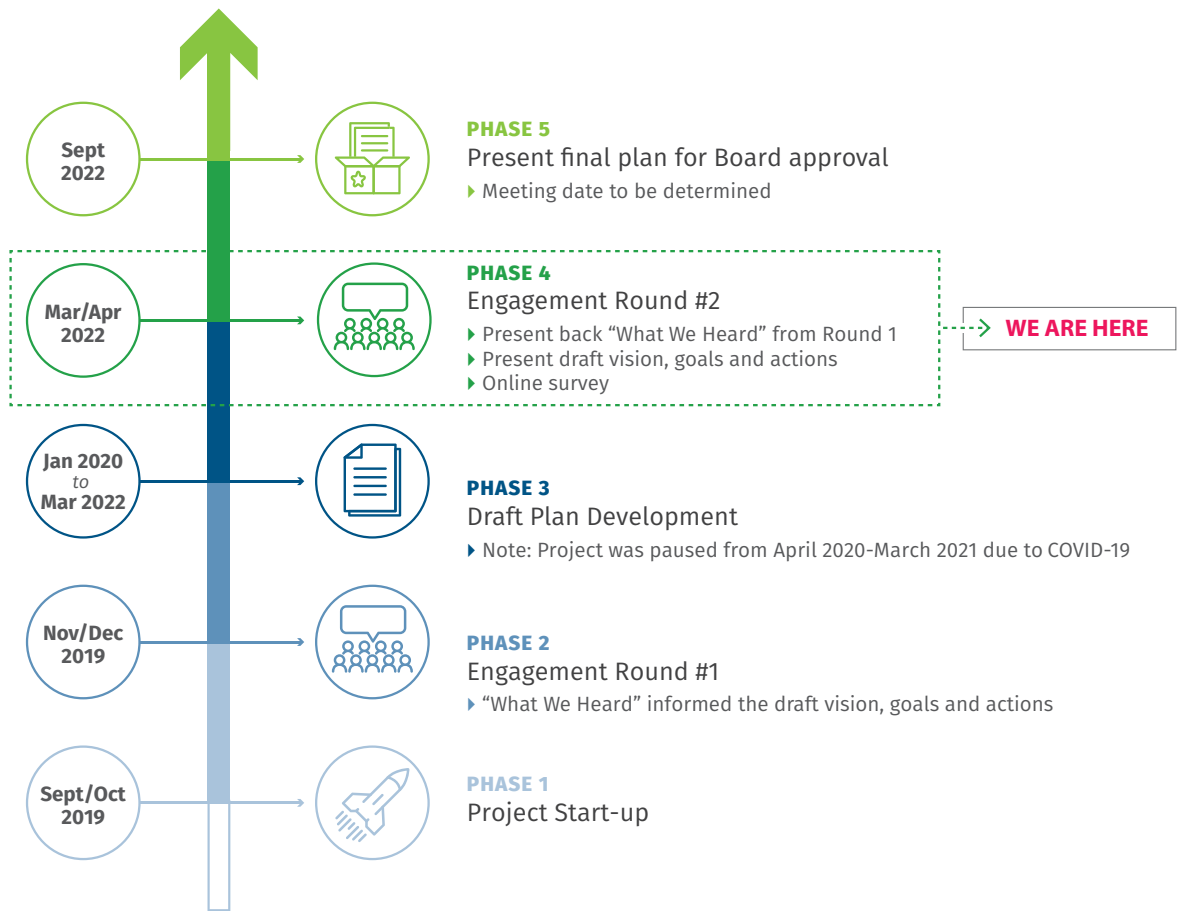


**Challenge:** Continue providing a parks and trails system relevant to residents throughout the region.



# 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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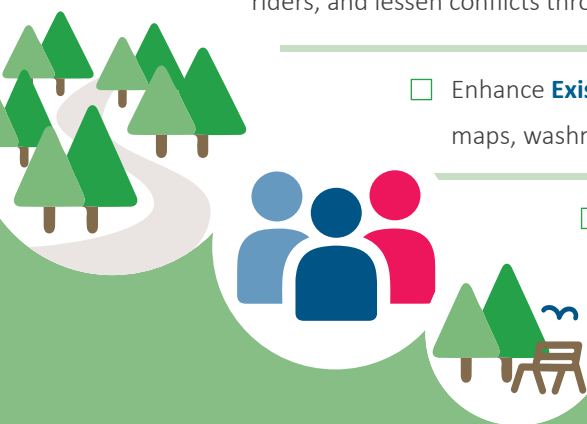
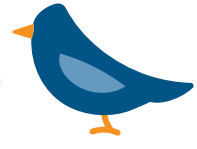
**WE ARE HERE**



# 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.



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

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.





# 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.

<b>Action 6.1</b>	Increase Parks Division capacity to manage land use agreements with private and public agencies for recreational and conservation purposes.
<b>Action 6.2</b>	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

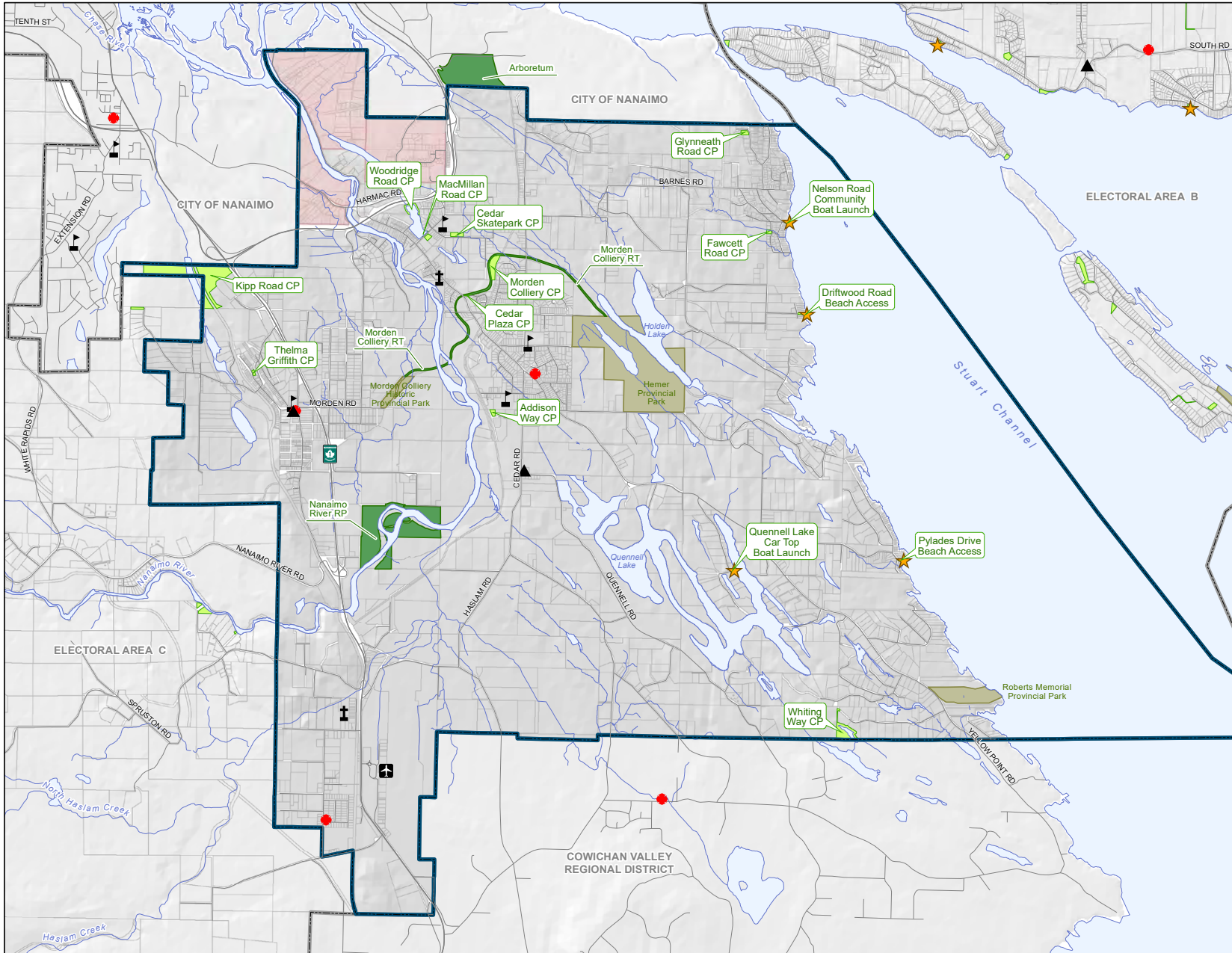
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# APPENDIX C

Electoral Area Maps







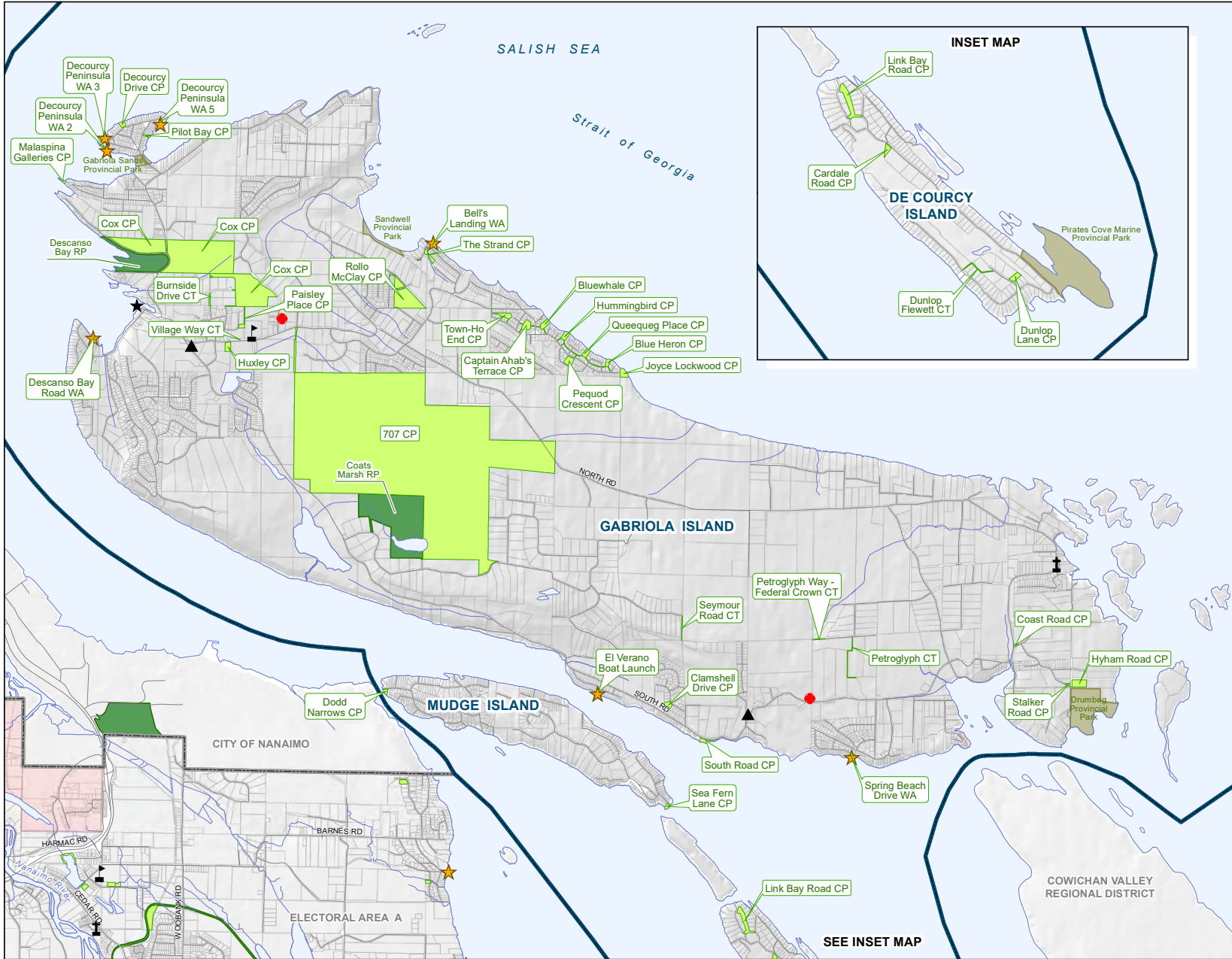
**COMMUNITY PARKS PORTFOLIO**  
**ELECTORAL AREA A**  
 REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NANAIMO

**Legend**

- Electoral Area A Boundary
- Electoral Area / Municipal Boundary
- Snuneymuxw First Nation
- RDN Improved Water Access
- Community Park / Trail
- Regional Park / Trail
- Provincial Park
- Airport
- Church
- Community Hall
- Fire Hall
- School

Note:  
 CP - Community Park  
 CT - Community Trail  
 RP - Regional Park  
 RT - Regional Trail





**COMMUNITY PARKS PORTFOLIO**  
**ELECTORAL AREA B**

**Legend**

- Electoral Area B Boundary
- Electoral Area / Municipal Boundary
- Snuneymuxw First Nation

- RDN Improved Water Access
- Community Park / Trail
- Regional Park / Trail
- Provincial Park

- Church
- Community Hall
- Fire Hall
- School
- Gabriola Island Ferry Terminal

Note:  
 CP - Community Park  
 CT - Community Trail  
 RP - Regional Park  
 RT - Regional Trail







**COMMUNITY PARKS  
PORTFOLIO**  
**ELECTORAL AREA C**

Sheet 1 of 2  
East Wellington /  
Pleasant Valley

**Legend**

- Electoral Area C Boundary
- Electoral Area / Municipal Boundary
- Snuneymuxw First Nation

- Community Park / Trail
- Regional Park / Trail
- Provincial Park
- Other Parkland

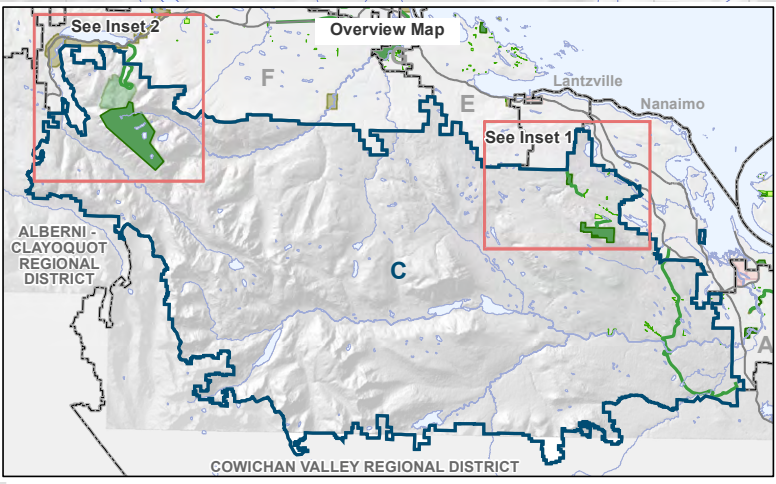
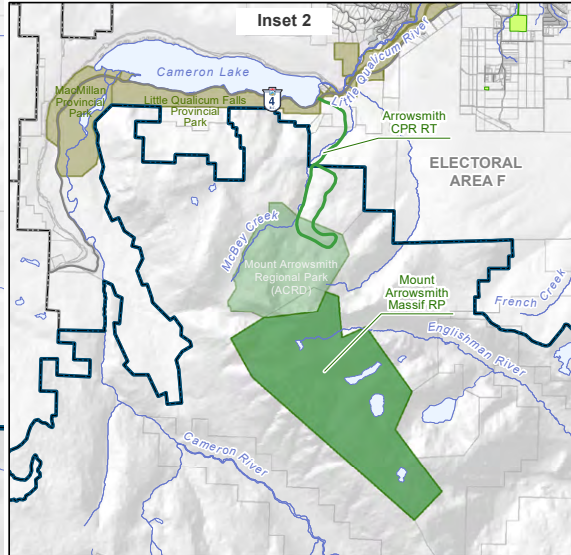
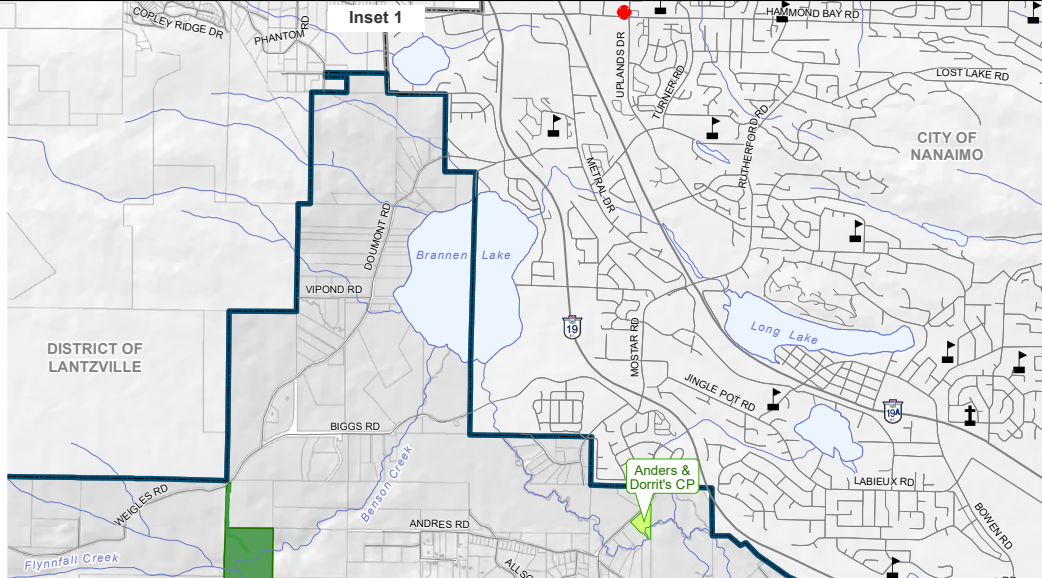
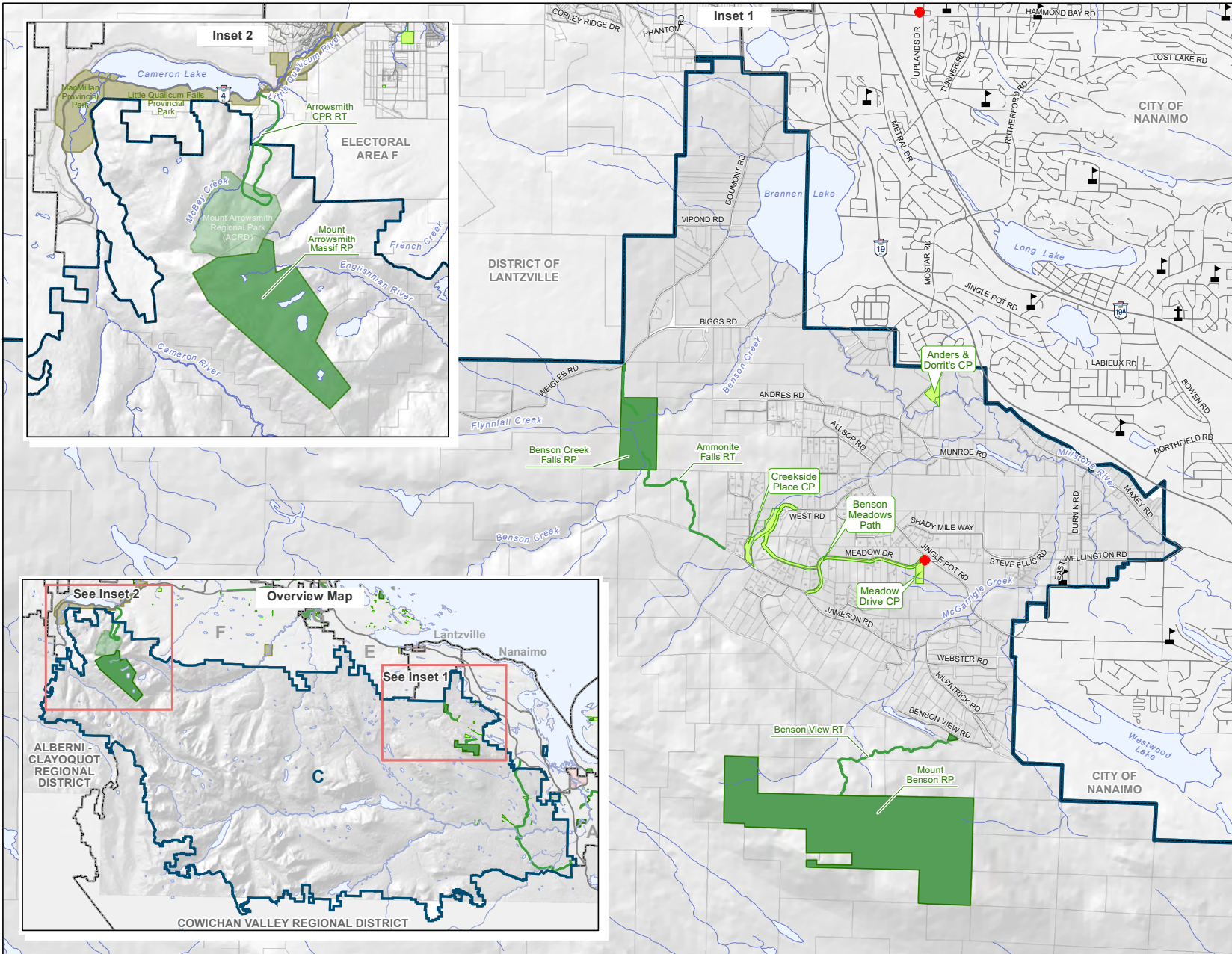
- Church
- Fire Hall
- School

Note:  
CP - Community Park  
CT - Community Trail  
RP - Regional Park  
RT - Regional Trail



0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

February 2020





**COMMUNITY PARKS PORTFOLIO**  
**ELECTORAL AREA C**

**Sheet 2 of 2**  
**Extension / Nanaimo River**

**Legend**

- Electoral Area C Boundary
- Electoral Area / Municipal Boundary
- Snuneymuxw First Nation

- Community Park / Trail
- Regional Park / Trail
- Provincial Park
- Other Parkland

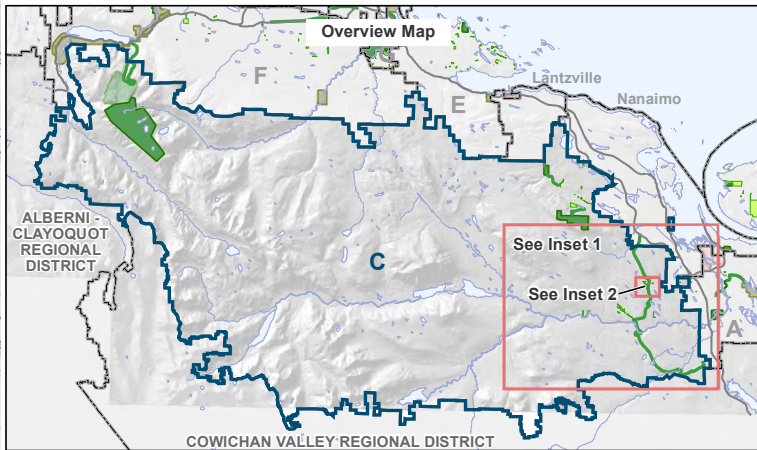
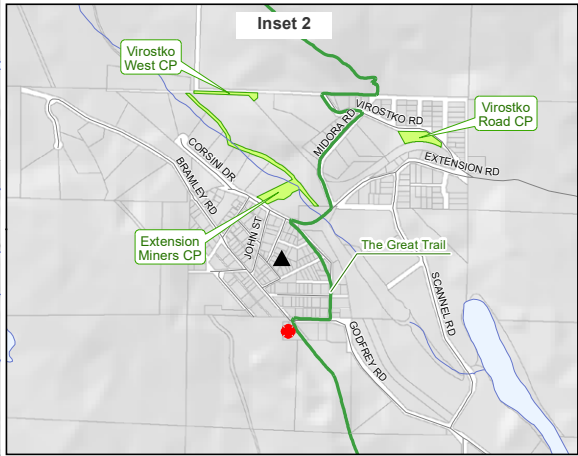
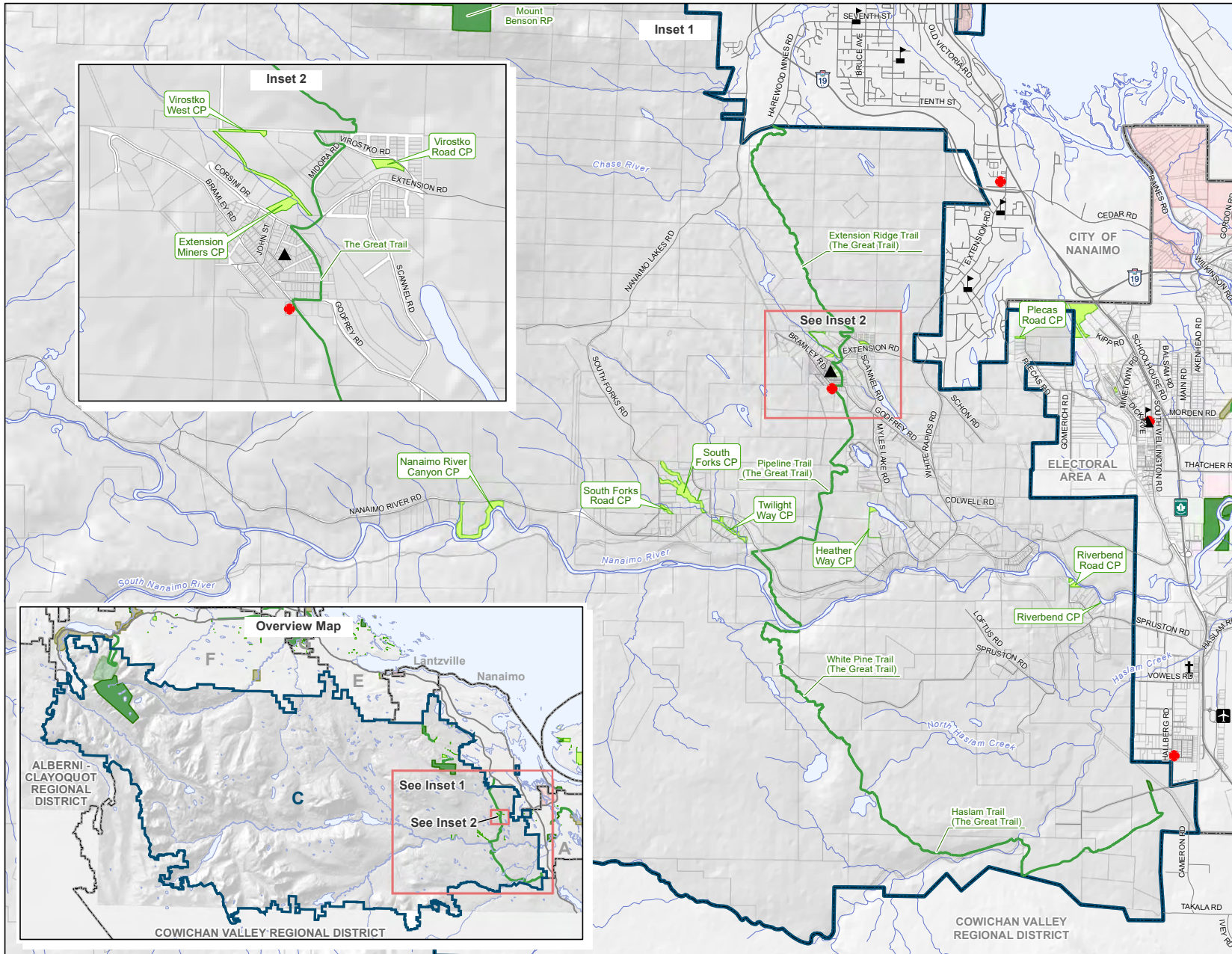
- Airport
- Church
- Community Hall
- Fire Hall
- School

Note:  
 CP - Community Park  
 CT - Community Trail  
 RP - Regional Park  
 RT - Regional Trail



0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers

October 2019



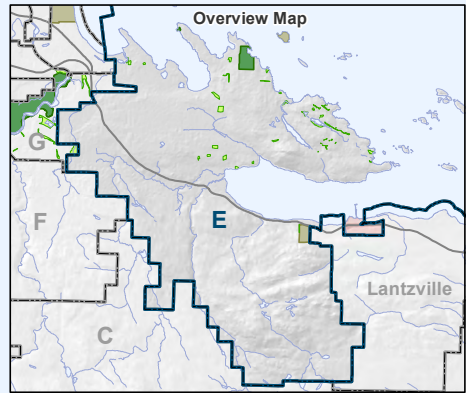
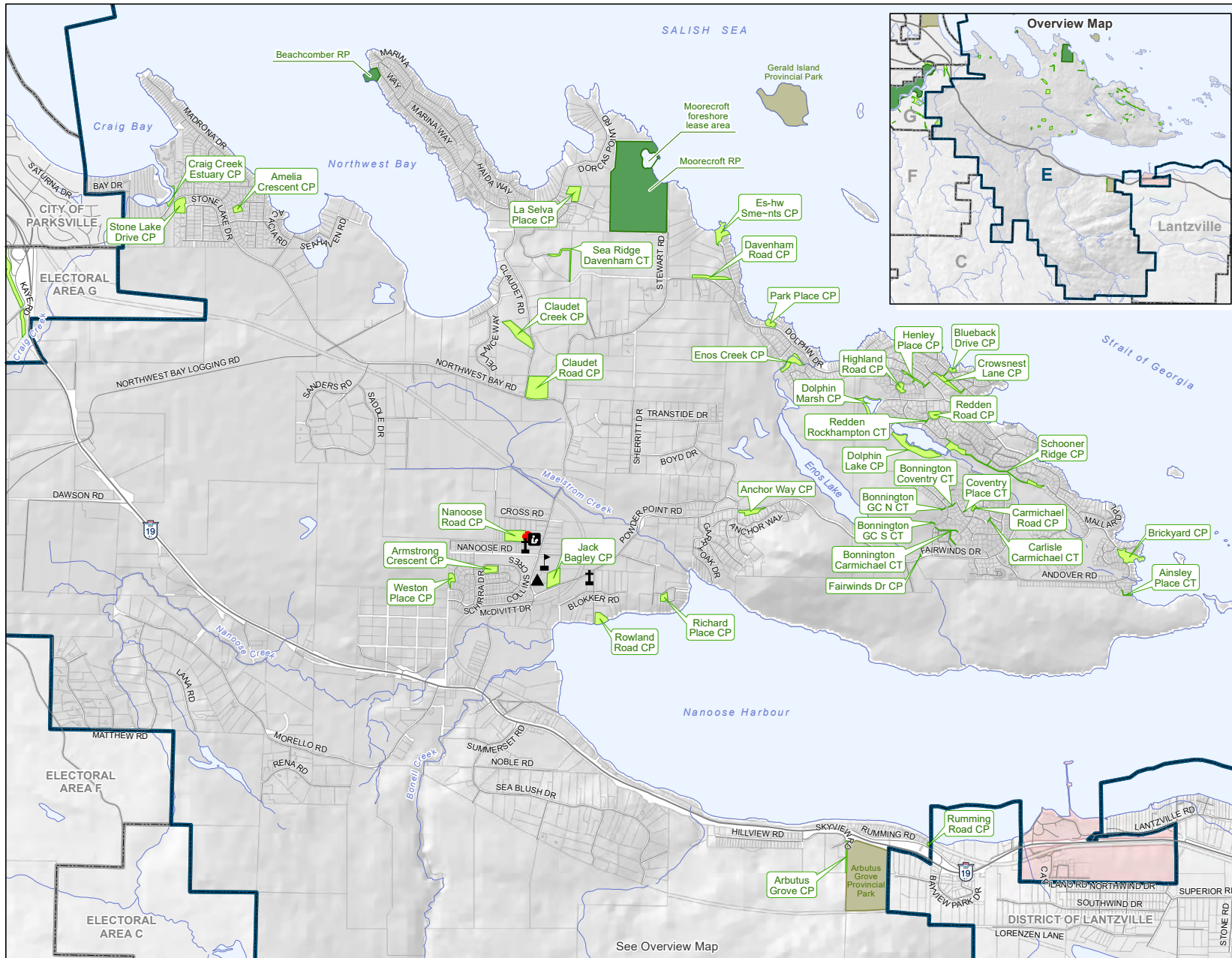
Inset 1

Inset 2

See Inset 2

Overview Map





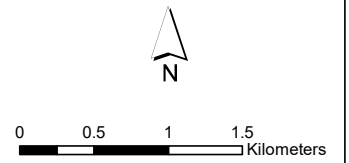
**COMMUNITY PARKS PORTFOLIO**  
**ELECTORAL AREA E**

- Legend**
- Electoral Area E Boundary
  - Electoral Area / Municipal Boundary
  - Snaw-naw-as (Nanooose) First Nation

- Community Park / Trail
- Regional Park / Trail
- Provincial Park

- Church
- Community Hall
- Fire Hall
- Library
- School

**Note:**  
 CP - Community Park  
 CT - Community Trail  
 RP - Regional Park  
 RT - Regional Trail







# COMMUNITY PARKS PORTFOLIO

## ELECTORAL AREA F

Sheet 1 of 2

### Legend

- Electoral Area F Boundary
- Electoral Area / Municipal Boundary

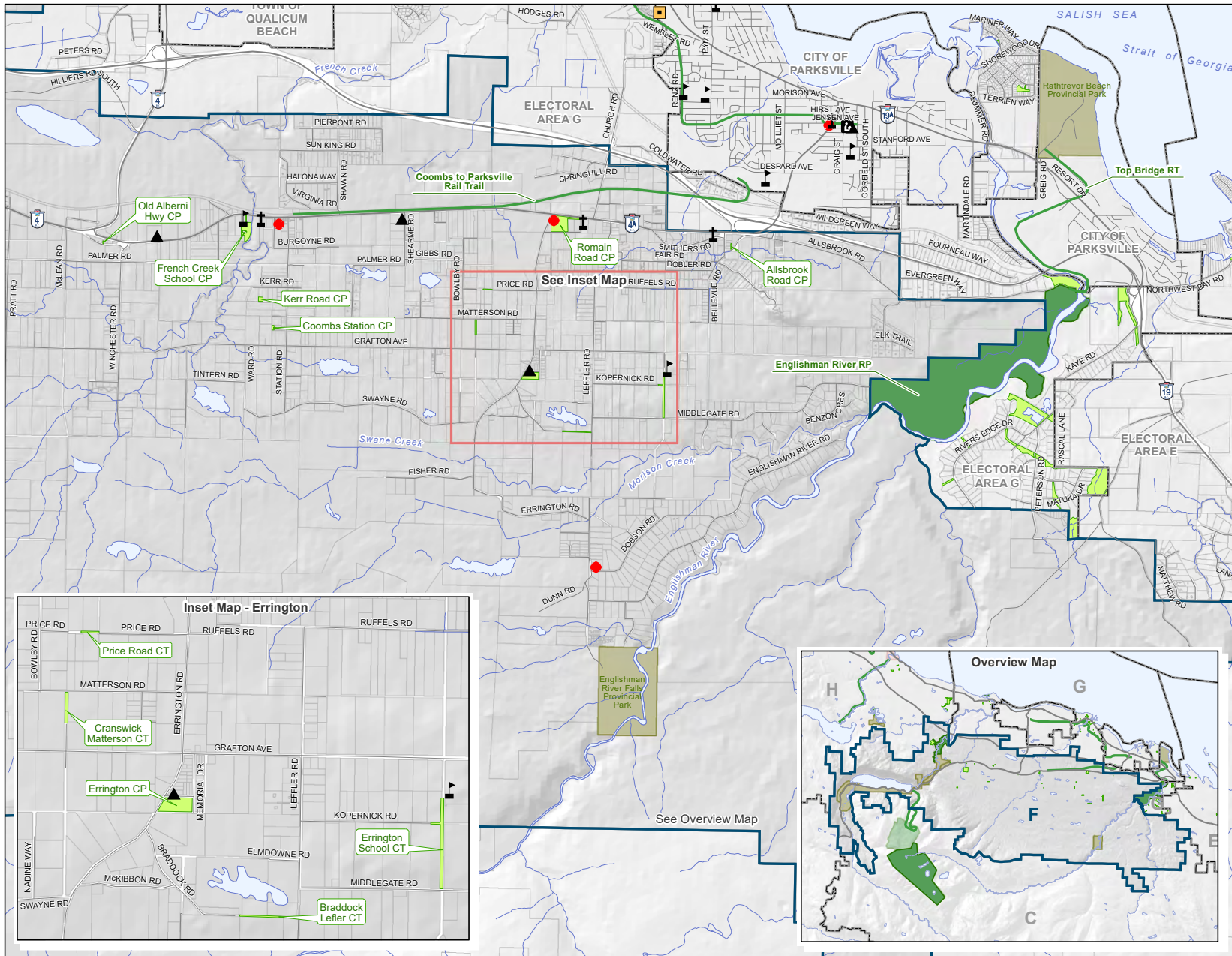
- Community Park / Trail
- Regional Park / Trail
- Provincial Park
- Other Parkland

- Church
- Community Hall
- Fire Hall
- Library
- School
- Oceanside Place Arena

Note:  
 CP - Community Park  
 CT - Community Trail  
 RP - Regional Park  
 RT - Regional Trail



0 0.5 1 2  
 Kilometers





# COMMUNITY PARKS PORTFOLIO

## ELECTORAL AREA F

Sheet 2 of 2

### Legend

- Electoral Area F Boundary
- Electoral Area / Municipal Boundary

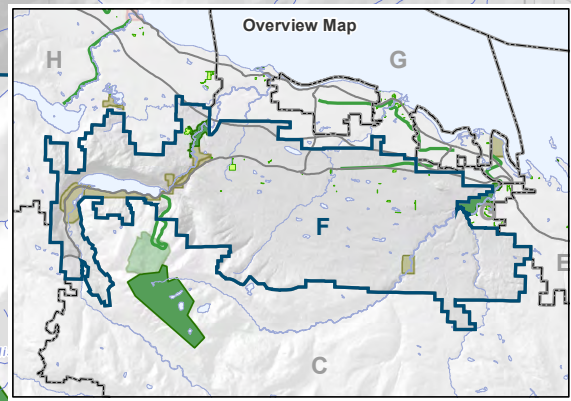
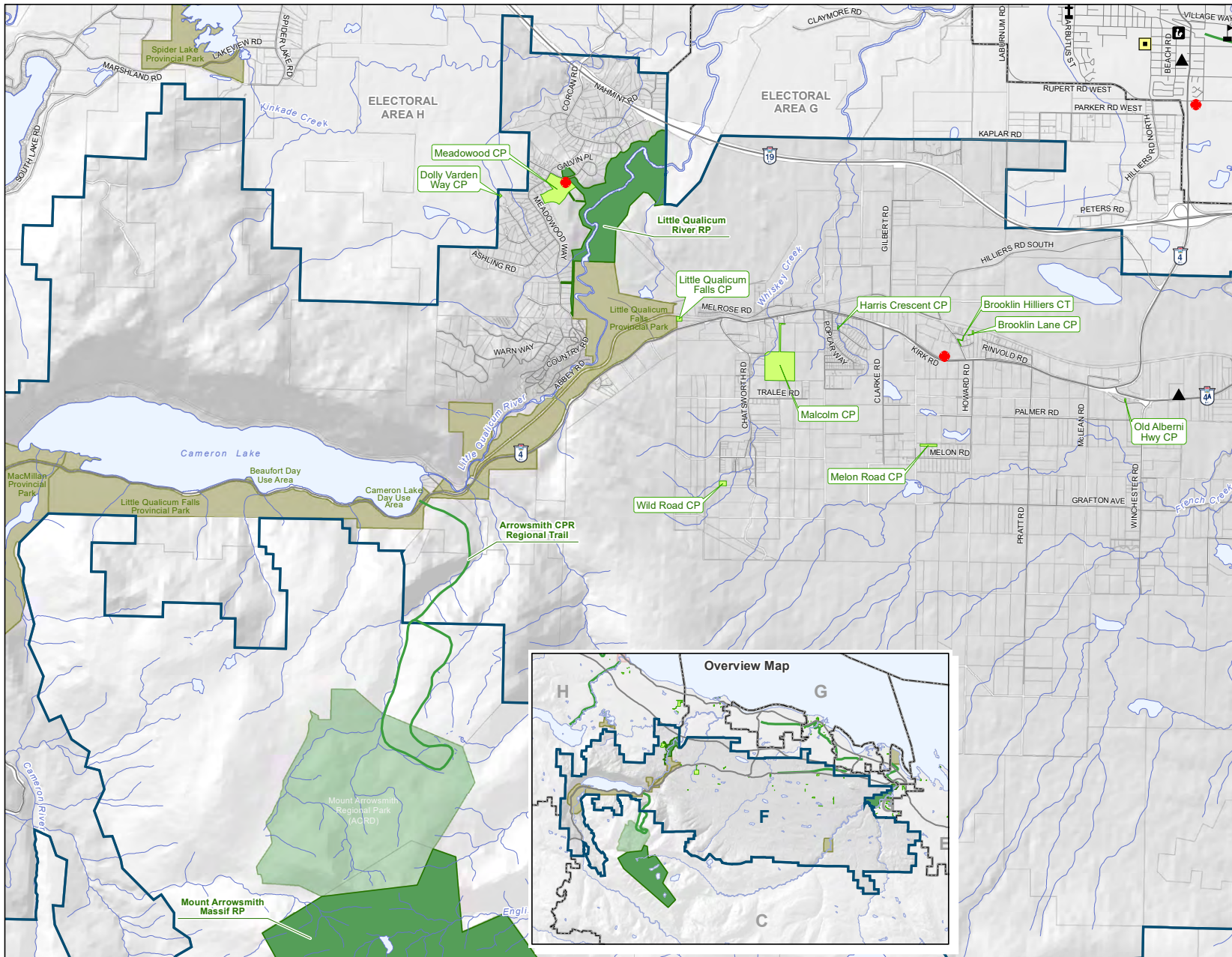
- Community Park / Trail
- Regional Park / Trail
- Provincial Park
- Other Parkland

- Church
- Community Hall
- Fire Hall
- Library
- School
- Ravensong Aquatic Centre

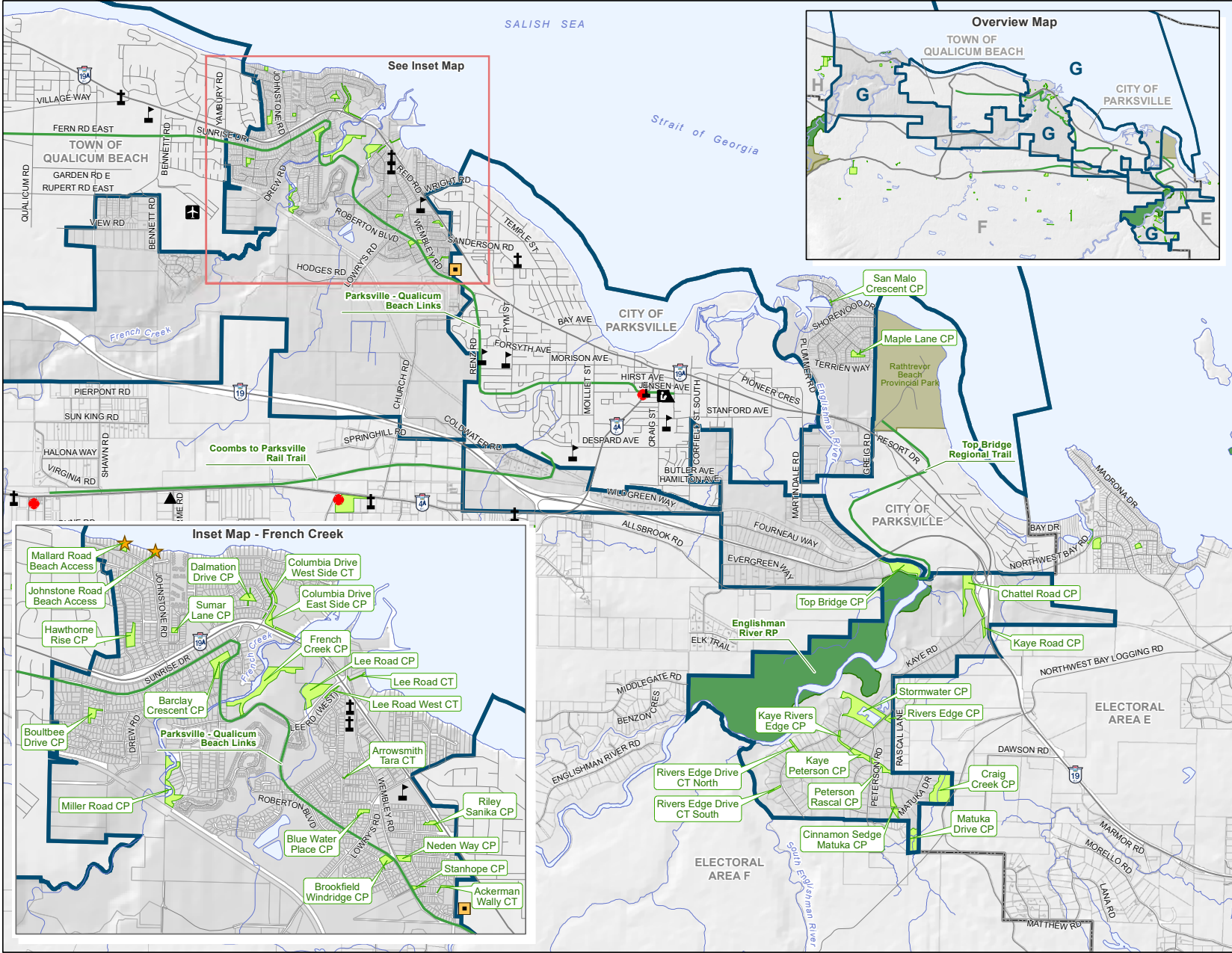
Note:  
 CP - Community Park  
 CT - Community Trail  
 RP - Regional Park  
 RT - Regional Trail



0 0.5 1 2 Kilometers







**COMMUNITY PARKS PORTFOLIO**  
**ELECTORAL AREA G**  
 Sheet 1 of 2

**Legend**

- Electoral Area G Boundary
- Electoral Area / Municipal Boundary

- RDN Improved Water Access
- Community Park / Trail
- Regional Park / Trail
- Provincial Park

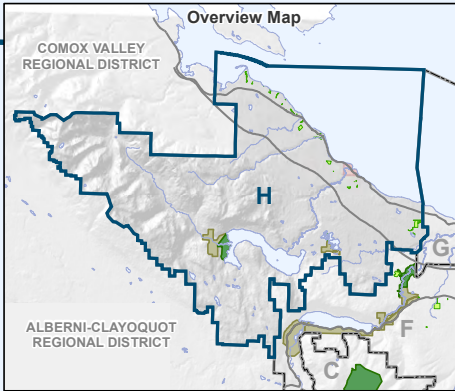
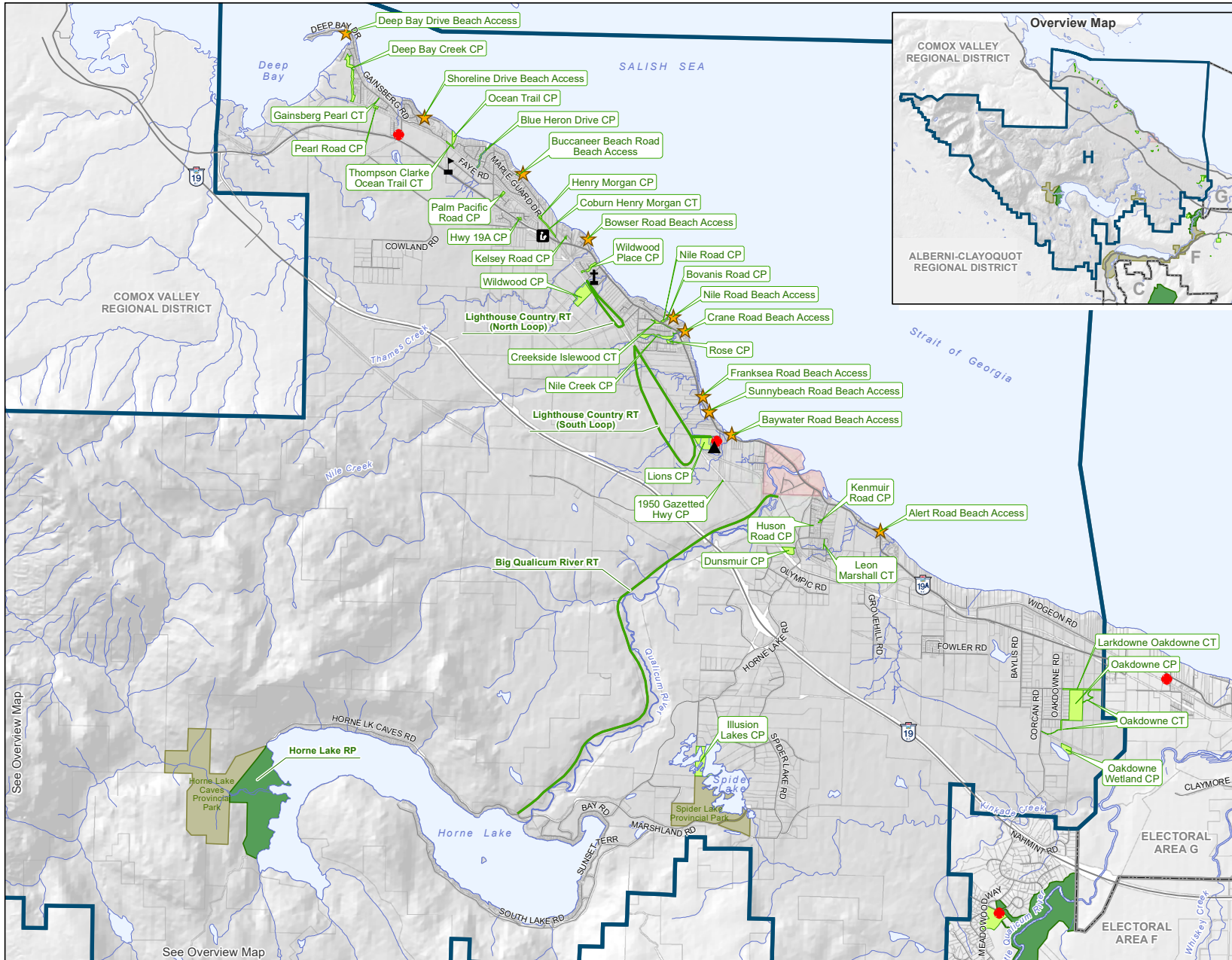
- Airport
- Church
- Community Hall
- Fire Hall
- Library
- School
- Oceanside Place Arena

Note:  
 CP - Community Park  
 CT - Community Trail  
 RP - Regional Park  
 RT - Regional Trail









**COMMUNITY PARKS PORTFOLIO**  
**ELECTORAL AREA H**

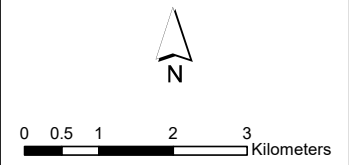
**Legend**

- Electoral Area H Boundary
- Electoral Area / Municipal Boundary
- Qualicum First Nation

- RDN Improved Water Access
- Community Park / Trail
- Regional Park / Trail
- Provincial Park

- Church
- Community Hall
- Fire Hall
- Library
- School

Note:  
 CP - Community Park  
 CT - Community Trail  
 RP - Regional Park  
 RT - Regional Trail



See Overview Map

See Overview Map

# APPENDIX D

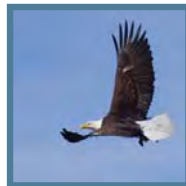
RDN Regional Park Acquisition Criteria  
and Rating Framework (2009)

# Regional Park Acquisition Criteria & Rating Framework



A Study for the  
Regional District of Nanaimo  
Recreation & Parks Department

FINAL REPORT 17 JUNE 2009



**HB** LANARC

PLANNING DESIGN SUSTAINABILITY



**Acknowledgements**

The authors extend thanks to Tom Osborne and Wendy Marshall (RDN Recreation and Parks Dept.) for their oversight and contributions to this project.

Harriet Rueggeberg, Land use/Environmental Planner  
Kelsey Cramer, Student Intern  
HB Lanarc Consultants Ltd.



**A Proposed**  
**REGIONAL PARK ACQUISITION**  
**CRITERIA AND RATING FRAMEWORK**  
**For the Regional District of Nanaimo**

17 June 2009

Acknowledgements

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**Appendix 1: Regional Parks Acquisition Criteria and Rating Framework Score Sheet**



## 1. INTRODUCTION

The goal of the Regional Parks & Trails Plan 2005-2015 (RPTP) for the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is to secure for all time a system of regional parks and trails that:

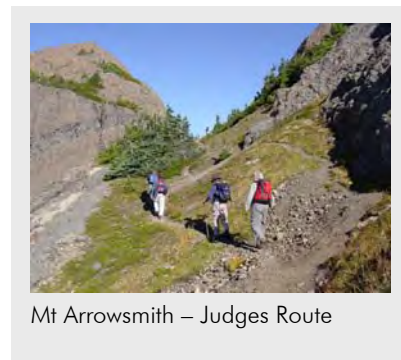
- Represents key landscapes and ecosystems of the Region;
- Encompasses unique natural, historic, cultural and archaeological features;
- Assist in protecting watersheds and important habitats as part of the RDN's broader land use planning mandate;
- Promotes the enjoyment and appreciation of regional parks and trail in a manner that assures their qualities are unimpaired for generations to come;
- Provides education and interpretation of the Region's natural features;
- Links components within the system as well as with other parks and trails in the Region and adjacent Regional Districts;
- Provides opportunities to all RDN residents to access and enjoy regional parks and trails; and
- Assists the economy of the Regional District by attracting tourists and generating revenue, as appropriate, to support the parks and trails system.

The Plan (p. 29-30) identifies several criteria to guide acquisition of lands for future regional parks:

- Priority sites from past plans;
- Regional significance;
- Level of public interest;
- Gaps in representation with respect to key landscapes, sensitive ecosystems, and distribution across all electoral areas;
- Availability for acquisition; and
- Opportunities that arise.

In addition, future trail planning and development are to be guided by the following criteria (p.36-37):

- Links to parks and open spaces;
- Links to communities;
- Gaps within and links to existing trails;
- Existing corridors;
- Availability; and
- Level of public interest and support.



Mt Arrowsmith – Judges Route

### **Regional Context**

Since adopting the Regional Parks and Trails Plan, the RDN Recreation and Parks Department has received a variety of acquisition proposals from landowners, community groups and corporate interests. The existing criteria have been useful in assessing these proposals, but have been found wanting in clarity in some cases or missing significant parameters in others.

### **Municipal Context**

In addition, the RDN wishes to derive a clear definition of “regional significance” that could be applied to municipal parks, as well as to community parks in the electoral areas, for the potential purposes of:

- Including costs of applicable improvements in existing “regionally significant” municipal and electoral area community parks in the calculation of a future Regional Park Development Cost Charge (RP-DCC);
- Considering whether potential future sites located within municipal boundaries are “regionally significant” and could therefore be included in acquisition cost estimates in the calculation of a future RP-DCC; and/or
- Considering whether existing or future parks within municipal boundaries that meet “regionally significant” criteria could be the subject of a cost-sharing and/or co-management arrangement between the municipality and the RDN.

## **1.1 Objectives**

The objectives of this study are to:

1. Review, revise and expand upon the criteria for assessing properties proposed for regional park acquisition based on the goals of the Regional Parks and Trails Plan.
2. Establish a method for applying the acquisition criteria in an objective and replicable manner when assessing sites proposed for acquisition.
3. Clarify criteria for determining parks or park sites within municipalities, or existing electoral area community parks, that are of "regional significance".

## **2. METHODS**

1. Criteria for acquiring land for new parks or conservation areas were researched and summarized. The focus was on agencies with a regional (or greater) mandate and with goals similar to those of the RDN’s regional park system, and included:
  - other regional districts in BC.
  - BC Parks and Parks Canada.
  - county, regional and state agencies in the US and other countries.
  - land trusts and similar nongovernment agencies.

The assembly and review of acquisition criteria was not intended to be exhaustive, but rather to compare the range of characteristics that are being considered in park acquisition by other agencies to those currently used by the RDN. We also sought ideas for criteria that would be relevant to the RDN context and which RDN staff may be implicitly using already.

Methods for scoring or rating potential acquisitions against a set of criteria were also researched.

2. A list of potential acquisition criteria was compiled based on the RDN’s existing criteria and examples from elsewhere. Two possible rating schemes were also framed.
3. The draft criteria and rating schemes were ‘tested’ with Parks staff on a sample of current land acquisition proposals. This led to several revisions to the criteria and a preferred rating system based on staff’s needs.
4. A draft report that presented the criteria and rating system was prepared and circulated to municipal staff, and a meeting held with these municipal staff to discuss the proposed framework.
5. After receiving comments, this report was finalized.

### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 Review of Acquisition Criteria from Elsewhere

Explicitly stated acquisition criteria used by local governments were rather difficult to find in a search of related documents. In some cases, acquisition criteria were inferred from goals and objectives in park master plans and other planning documents.

Explicit criteria were more commonly found in the literature published by land trusts, perhaps because this is a major focus of the mandate of land trusts.

#### 3.2 Proposed Acquisition Criteria

Our review resulted in 20 acquisition criteria grouped under the following headings:

- Conservation values
- Recreation values
- Socio-political values
- Affordability
- Other.

The 20 proposed criteria are described in Table 1. The occurrence of equivalent criteria in use by other agencies is summarized in Table 2.

The 20 proposed criteria include all but two of the criteria currently included in the RPTP. The excluded criteria are:

- *Opportunities that arise*: "...sometimes the opportunity simply arises through development applications, donation or sale to acquire a 'prime' parcel that meets the goals of the regional parks and trails system – even when the parcel may not have been previously identified as being of interest. These opportunities should not be foregone." (RPTP 2005:30) Though this is a legitimate policy, it is not a criterion against which a proposed site can be assessed. Therefore, we recommend that this factor not be included as an assessment criterion but certainly be retained as a RPTP policy.
- *Regional significance*: "Potential sites must be of interest to the whole region; more localized sites may be considered within the community park mandate" (RPTP 2005:29). "Regional significance" is a vague characteristic to quantify on its own. In effect, most of the criteria in the following list collectively define "regional significance"; e.g., public interest, landscape representation, conservation value, recreation value, etc. Attempting to assess "regional significance" in addition to these other criteria might be considered double-counting. Our recommendation is to remove "regional significance" from the assessment criteria list but retain the term as part of the Plan's general policies.

Note, however, that this argument differs from the need to define "regional significance" with respect to municipal parks for the purpose of determining future regional park development cost charges (DCCs). This is discussed in detail in section 4.



Hamilton Marsh

Table 1: Proposed Criteria for Regional Park Acquisition

Criteria	Description (RPTP = Regional Parks & Trails Plan 2005-2015)
<b>Conservation Values</b>	
1. <i>Landscape representation*</i>	<p>“Key landscapes” identified in the RPTP (p.25) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Forests</u>: generally well represented in the Regional Park system, except for drier Garry oak/Arbutus woodlands.</li> <li>▪ <u>Rivers/streams</u>: fairly well represented in the Regional Park system; however, their importance as wildlife and recreational corridors makes them an ongoing priority.</li> <li>▪ <u>Lakes</u>: somewhat represented in the system, and in high public demand.</li> <li>▪ <u>Ocean/coastline</u>: somewhat represented and in high public demand.</li> <li>▪ <u>Mountain/alpine</u>: low representation, moderate to high public demand.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, <u>unique landscapes</u> that may stand out as local or regional landmarks (e.g., knolls, waterfalls, canyons, etc.) are considered to be important landscape features to be represented in the regional park system.</p>
2. <i>Sensitive ecosystem representation*</i>	<p>Sensitive ecosystems are based on the “Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory for southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands” (SEI, 1997), and encompass: <u>Coastal bluffs</u>; <u>Terrestrial herbaceous</u> communities; <u>Older forest</u>; <u>Woodlands</u>; <u>Cliff/ dune/ spit</u> communities; <u>Wetlands</u>; <u>Riparian areas</u>; <u>Flooded fields</u>; and <u>2<sup>nd</sup> growth forest</u> (RPTP 2005:25).</p> <p>Specific sites that represent these ecosystems were identified in the SEI. Preserving and managing these identified sites within regional parks can be one of the best ways of ensuring the survival of these ecosystems and their ongoing contribution to regional biodiversity.</p> <p>However, it is well known that the SEI missed many sites that represent these ecosystems, particularly those less than 1 ha in size. Therefore, proposed sites should be assessed not only for the presence of <u>known</u> (i.e., SEI-based) Sensitive Ecosystems but also for the presence of any of these sensitive ecosystems. Assessment by a qualified environmental professional (QEP) <u>may</u> be required to determine presence of Sensitive Ecosystems.</p> <p>Note that “flooded fields” and “2<sup>nd</sup> growth forests” are considered “important ecosystems” (i.e., they provide habitat, ecological functions, etc.) but are not as sensitive, rare and/or threatened as the other six ecosystems. The rating system tries to reflect this relative significance of a “sensitive” vs. “important” ecosystem.</p>
3. <i>Endangered species</i>	<p>This criterion relates to the presence or likely presence of a “<u>red-listed</u>” (designated extirpated, endangered, or threatened in BC) or “<u>blue-listed</u>” (considered to be of special management concern in BC) species, subspecies or plant communities. Assessment by a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) <u>may</u> be required to inform this criterion, if there is insufficient baseline data to allow staff to assess.</p>
4. <i>Key habitat or wildlife corridor</i>	<p>A proposed site may be part of a significant wildlife corridor (e.g., waterway, wetland complex, ridgeline, interconnected forest habitats or meadows), or contains habitat that support species of management concern (e.g., wintering grounds, staging area, nesting habitat/bird colonies). Assessment by a QEP <u>may</u> be required.</p>
5. <i>Cultural, historic or heritage value</i>	<p>Protecting sites of historic, archaeological or cultural significance is a consideration in regional park acquisition, along with the ability to display and interpret the feature to the public. Interpretive opportunity may depend on such factors as: significance to the history of the region; accessibility to and/or viewability of the feature (e.g., the feature may be on</p>

Criteria	Description (RPTP = Regional Parks & Trails Plan 2005-2015)
	a steep slope or bluff but can be readily seen from a valley bottom or other viewpoint); and physical condition of the feature and/or the ability to restore it.
6. <i>Water source protection</i>	Protection of watersheds and aquifers that form all or part of a community water supply is an important function that a regional park can play.
<b>Recreation Values</b>	
7. <i>Trail or park connectivity</i>	A proposed site may connect readily to an existing park or fill in an important gap in the regional park and trail system, thereby augmenting a regional recreational corridor.
8. <i>Experiential value</i>	A proposed site may support existing recreational opportunities (e.g., hiking trails, kayaking destination, caving) and/or have the ability to support activities that are in high demand (e.g., rock climbing, bird watching, kayaking) if appropriate support facilities were put in place.
9. <i>Educational value</i>	Due to its natural features and the presence of, or ability to construct structures such as trails, boardwalks, signage, shelters or buildings, a proposed site may offer opportunities to inform the general public or support education programs about the natural or cultural history of the Region, thereby raising awareness and a sense of stewardship about these values.
10. <i>Scenic value</i>	Scenic value depends on the presence of a quality viewscape and the 'viewability' of that viewscape from places that people can access; e.g., from roads/highways, accessible viewpoints, communities, the water.
11. <i>Accessibility</i>	Consider whether the site can be accessed readily by vehicle or public transportation.
12. <i>Complements and/or is of utility to the parks and trails system</i>	<p>A proposed site may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add to/enhance and/or protect (act as a buffer to) an existing park.</li> <li>• Provide space for services or facilities (parking, washrooms, fire protection, water security) to the park/trail system.</li> </ul>
<b>Socio-political Values</b>	
13. <i>Geographical equity*</i>	The regional park and trail system should be represented across all electoral areas (RPTP 2005:29). Besides filling in gaps on an electoral area basis, it is desirable to distribute regional parks on a north-central-south sub-regional basis.
14. <i>Priority sites from past Plans*</i>	<p>"There are 10 priority sites identified in the 1998 and 2003 Acquisition Programs that have still not been secured. These sites remain primary considerations in future acquisitions. Other sites identified in the 1995 Parks System Plan but not prioritized will also be considered if other criteria apply." (RPTP 2005:29)</p> <p>While past identification and prioritization should continue to be a criterion, it is only one of many in the 2008 context. The sites identified from previous plans should be assessed against <u>all</u> of the criteria to ensure that these sites do not displace other sites of equal or greater value as regional parks.</p>
15. <i>Level of public interest*</i>	"This is an obvious criterion gauged through public input in this review process, as well as past and future interaction with the residents of the Region." (RPTP 2005:29)
16. <i>Level of Threat</i>	This is an 'urgency' criterion that tries to take into consideration whether the site may be sold for other purposes, lost to potential development activities, or subject to irreversible degradation through public or private use/misuse - and how imminent any of these threats may be.

Criteria	Description (RPTP = Regional Parks & Trails Plan 2005-2015)
<b>Affordability</b>	
17. Availability for acquisition	The willingness of the landholder to sell and/or donate the land can be the linchpin in a property acquisition. A “0” score here is likely cause for a significant delay if not abandonment of the proposal.
18. Acquisition Cost	<p>Cost is an obvious factor in any land acquisition. Aspects to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Assessed value.</li> <li>▪ Asking price relative to assessed value. Some agencies have a maximum amount over assessed value that they are willing to pay from both a pragmatic as well as principled perspective (e.g., TLC – 10%?).</li> <li>▪ Price negotiability.</li> <li>▪ Whether other potential funding partners are interested and the capacity of those funding partners.</li> <li>▪ Potential for partial or full donation, with or without tax credit.</li> <li>▪ In the case of Crown land, whether the land can be acquired under a long-term lease as a “nominal rent tenure” or equivalent.</li> <li>▪ In the case of more ‘expensive’ properties (e.g., waterfront), whether the property lends itself to being subdivided and a portion that does not contain appreciable conservation, recreation or socio-political values sold for sufficient funds to significantly offset the cost of the property.</li> </ul>
19. Maintenance Cost	Parks with a lot of buildings, landscaping and other infrastructure (e.g., campsites) tend to be “high maintenance” compared to parks that can be enjoyed in a more-or-less natural or undeveloped state (trails and a few signs only are needed).
<b>Other</b>	
20. Size	A minimum size is desirable for consideration as a regional park in order to meet the goals of the regional park and trail system. However, the minimum desirable size may vary based on the features and land values associated with those features. A minimum size of 5 acres (2 ha) is desirable if it contains lake or coastal waterfront, and a minimum of 50 acres (20 ha) in all other cases.

\* indicates a criterion currently in the RPTP.



Wallace Point



The Notch



Table 2: Park land acquisition criteria use by other agencies

	1. Landscape representation	2. Sensitive ecosystem / biodiversity	3. Species at risk	4. Key habitat/ wildlife corridor	5. Historic/ heritage/ cultural value	6. Watershed protection	7. Trail/ park connectivity	8. Experiential value	9. Educational/ research value	10. Scenic value	11. Accessibility	12. Complementarity /utility to system	13. Geographical equity	14. Priority sites from past Plans	15. Level of public interest	16. Level of Threat	17. Availability for acquisition	18. Acquisition cost or Partnership potential	19. Maintenance cost	20. Size
<b>Governments:</b>																				
Auckland Reg'l Council (NZ)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓					
BC Parks		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓					
Capital Regional District	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓			✓	✓					✓	✓		
Central Okanagan Reg District	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓
Cowichan Valley Reg District	✓	✓						✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Metro Vancouver (GVRD)		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓		✓			✓	✓		
Minn-STPauls Metro Council	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓				✓
Parks Canada	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓				
Sarasota County, Florida		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓							
SE Michigan Council of Gov'ts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	
<b>Land Trusts/ NGOs:</b>																				
BC Trust for Public Lands	✓	✓	✓												✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nanaimo Area Land Trust		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	
The Nature Trust of BC	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓							✓	✓		
Greenlands Challenge (Ont MNR & NCC)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Lakes Region Conserv. Trust (New Hampshire)		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓	
Mohawk Hudson I and Conservancy (New York)	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓			✓	✓		
World Land Trust		✓	✓	✓											✓	✓	✓	✓		

### 3.3 Proposed Rating System

A system for assigning a score or rating to each criterion was developed, modeled after systems used by BC Parks (“Land Evaluation and Acquisition Framework”), the BC Trust for Public Lands, and the Nanaimo and Area Land Trust. It rates a prospective site against each criterion on the basis of 1 to 10, where:

Level to which site meets criterion:									
Low	Low-Medium		Medium			Medium-High		High	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rating									

0 = no value or Acquisition Not Recommended  
 ? = insufficient information to make an assessment

Table 3 demonstrates how each criterion would be scored on a scale of 1 to 10. This system allows a relatively ‘fine grain’ rating in that there is wide score range, as compared to a scale of say 1 to 3. It also treats all criteria equally - i.e., criteria are not ‘weighted’ by having different scales or maximum possible scores. The only exception is the “size” criterion, where the maximum possible score is 5 – to acknowledge but also reduce the importance of parcel size relative to other more critical values.

**Table 3: Proposed Ratings for Acquisition Criteria**

Criteria	Ratings
<b>Conservation Values</b>	
1. Landscape representation*	<p><i>Landscapes represented by the proposed site are:</i></p> <p>(1) Low = already well represented in the park system and there is not much public demand for more.</p> <p>(5) Medium = somewhat represented and there is moderate demand for more; or may have some value as a unique landscape.</p> <p>(10) High = not well represented in the park system and in high demand, or represents a strikingly unique landscape with high landmark value.</p>
2. Sensitive ecosystem representation*	<p><i>The proposed site contains:</i></p> <p>(1) Low = very small portion of an important or sensitive ecosystem (SE).</p> <p>(3) Low Medium = part of an important ecosystem or small portion or very small representative of a SE.</p> <p>(5) Medium = an important ecosystem, part of a designated SEI site or an equivalent SE that may have some disturbance.</p> <p>(10) High = a designated SEI site or equivalent SE of significant size and in pristine condition, more than one SE, or at least one significantly-sized SE + important ecosystem.</p>
3. Endangered species	<p><i>In the proposed site:</i></p> <p>(1) Low – a blue-listed species is <u>suspected</u> to occur based on specific habitat characteristics occurring on the site.</p>

Criteria	Ratings
	<p>(5) Medium – 1-3 blue-listed species are <u>known</u> to occur.</p> <p>(10) High – at least one red-listed is known or suspected or 3 or more blue listed species are known to occur.</p>
4. <i>Key habitat or wildlife corridor</i>	<p>The proposed site has:</p> <p>(1) Low – limited wildlife habitat/corridor significance (e.g., peripheral to known habitats).</p> <p>(5) Medium – moderate wildlife corridor or habitat significance.</p> <p>(10) High – known wildlife corridor or critical habitat.</p>
5. <i>Cultural, historic or heritage value</i>	<p>The proposed site contains:</p> <p>(1) Low – a minor heritage feature and provides limited opportunity for historical/cultural interpretation.</p> <p>(3) Low Moderate – contains a heritage feature that requires significant restoration but which would once restored, provide some opportunity for interpretation and appreciation.</p> <p>(5) Moderate- contains a heritage or cultural feature that requires some restoration but that once restored, would provide considerable opportunity for interpretation and appreciation.</p> <p>(7) Moderate High – contains a heritage feature of considerable interest from the surrounding community or regional population.</p> <p>(10) High – a heritage feature of considerable interest from the surrounding region and has some provincial or even national heritage value.</p>
6. <i>Water source protection</i>	<p>The proposed site encompasses or overlays, and would thereby protect:</p> <p>(1) Low – a minimal amount of a community watershed or aquifer.</p> <p>(5) Medium – a considerable area of a community watershed or aquifer.</p> <p>(10) High – almost all of a watershed or aquifer serving a community.</p>
<b>Recreation Values</b>	
7. <i>Trail or park connectivity</i>	<p>The proposed site:</p> <p>(1) Low – is isolated but might be connectable to the regional park/trail system within 10-20 years.</p> <p>(5) Moderate – is connectable to park/trail system within 5 years.</p> <p>(10) High – enhances existing park and/or connects directly to the trail system.</p>
8. <i>Experiential value</i>	<p>The proposed site:</p> <p>(1) Low – contains one or two features with limited experiential value or would require considerable investment to provide an experience</p> <p>(3) Low Mod – could support some high demand experiences with some investment</p> <p>(5) Moderate – supports existing high demand experiences to moderate extent or moderate potential to do so with some investment</p> <p>(7) Mod High – supports existing high demand experiences already</p> <p>(10) High - supports existing high demand experiences already and has potential to support more</p>

Criteria	Ratings
9. <i>Educational value</i>	<p>The proposed site:</p> <p>(1) Low – contains few features that offer opportunities for educational interpretation.</p> <p>(5) Moderate – has some features of educational and interpretive value and can support a moderate amount of infrastructure and use for this purpose.</p> <p>(10) High – contains significant features of interpretive value, and has facilities or can support facilities for intensive public interpretation and education.</p>
10. <i>Scenic value</i>	<p>The scenic value of the proposed site is:</p> <p>(1) Low –seen from limited viewpoint(s), pleasant but not spectacular panorama.</p> <p>(5) Moderate –viewable from a limited no. of viewpoints, rewarding view.</p> <p>(10) High – breath-taking and seen from many places and/or by many people.</p>
11. <i>Accessibility</i>	<p>The proposed site is:</p> <p>(1) Low – difficult to access by vehicle (e.g., long rough logging road), or greater than 10 minute walk to enter park.</p> <p>(5) Moderate – within a 5-10 minute walk of an accessible parking area over a public trail system.</p> <p>(10) High – readily accessible by car.</p>
12. <i>Complementarity and/or utility to the parks and trails system</i>	<p>The proposed site provides:</p> <p>(1) Low – limited enhancement or utility purpose</p> <p>(5) Moderate – moderate enhancement or utility purpose</p> <p>(10) High – significant enhancement and/or utility purpose in providing service space for an existing park or as a hub on the trail system.</p>
<b>Socio-political Values</b>	
13. <i>Geographical equity*</i>	<p>The proposed site:</p> <p>0 – does not fill a geographical gap, and indeed may increase the imbalance among electoral areas or sub-regions.</p> <p>(1) Low – addresses disparity to a very limited extent.</p> <p>(5) Moderate – provides some balancing of geographical representation.</p> <p>(10) High – contributes significantly to balancing geographical representation.</p>
14. <i>Priority sites from past Plans*</i>	<p>The proposed site:</p> <p>(1) Low – contains part of an unprioritized sites identified in the 1995 Parks System Plan</p> <p>(3) Low-Mod - partially includes a priority site OR one of the other sites identified in the 1995 Parks System Plan</p> <p>(5) Moderate – Contains part of a priority site.'</p> <p>(8) Mod High - satisfactorily encompasses a priority site</p> <p>(10) High - satisfactorily encompasses a priority site + complementary high value land.</p>
15. <i>Level of public interest*</i>	<p>The proposed site is subject to:</p> <p>(1) Low - minor localized public interest</p> <p>(5) Moderate - measurable public interest from more than local area</p> <p>(10) High - Significant public interest from a wide area in the Region.</p>

Criteria	Ratings
16. Level of Threat	The proposed site is under: (1) Low – low threat from pending development or degradation (>10 years). (5) Moderate – threat of development or severe damage within 5-10 years. (10) High – development or irreversible damage is imminent; “protect now or never”.
<b>Affordability</b>	
17. Availability for acquisition	(1) Low – landholder is mildly interested under the right conditions and/or price and/or there are encumbrances on the land that limit its availability or usability as a future park. (5) Moderate – landholder is moderately motivated to sell the land for park purposes; may be a few encumbrances of minor importance. (10) – landholder is highly motivated to sell with partial donation, no encumbrances.
18. Acquisition Cost	The cost of the proposed site is: 0 – astronomical, clearly over-priced and non-negotiable. (1) Low – Negotiable and within maximum limit, little or no potential for cost sharing with funding partners. (5) Moderate – Negotiable to a moderate price with good potential for some cost-sharing or partial donation by owner. (7) Mod High – Negotiable and very fair, high potential for cost-sharing with funding partners and/or partial donation by owner. (8-9) High – is Crown land and the Provincial or Federal government is willing to provide long-term tenure at a relatively nominal fee. (10) Very High – Owner (private or Crown) is willing to donate the entire site.
19. Maintenance Cost	The proposed site would require: (1) – a significant amount of staff time and financial resources to maintain the on-site structures (5) – a moderate amount of staff time and financial resources to maintain the on-site facilities and structures (10) – very little staff time and financial resources to maintain.
<b>Other</b>	
20. Size	(5) The proposed site is: - a minimum of 5 acres if it contains lake or coastal waterfront, or - a minimum of 50 acres in all other cases. (0) The proposed site does not meet the above minimum desirable size.
	<b>MAXIMUM POSSIBLE SCORE: 195</b>

### 3.4 Test Case

Appendix 1 contains a sample checklist based on the proposed criteria and rating system. An example application is shown using one of the sites currently in the RPTP priority list – Gainsburg Swamp; the scores reflect a preliminary ‘test run’ conducted by the author with RDN parks staff, and are intended only to illustrate the potential use of the criteria and rating framework.

## 4. ASSESSING “REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE”

“Regional significance” becomes an independent assessment factor when considering parks and potential park sites within municipalities for the purposes of including them in Regional Park DCC calculations and/or considering joint RDN-municipality administration.



Harewood Plains

### 4.1 Existing Municipal and EA Community Parks

When the RDN initially proposed establishing a RP-DCC, municipal staff noted that some of the existing municipal parks could be considered “regionally significant” in that they draw a high proportion of users from outside the municipal boundaries. The same can be said for some community parks in the electoral areas. Municipal and RDN staff suggested that the costs for major improvements to these municipal and community parks should be included in the calculation of a RP-DCC.<sup>1</sup>

For this purpose, regional significance would be defined by the following:

- the municipal or community park reflects the goals of the RPTP, and scores highly in the acquisition criteria relating to Conservation Values, Recreation Values and Size; and
- the municipal or community park attracts a high level of interest and use from outside the municipality or immediate community.

In other words, for the purposes of a future Regional Park DCC, a “regionally significant” municipal or community park is a ‘natural’ park that has proven to be a significant attraction or destination for users from outside the municipality’s boundaries or beyond the immediate community. Playing fields or other ‘active’ recreational facilities that may attract users from the region do not fit the “Regional Park” mandate. Examples might include Linley Valley and Westwood Lake Parks in Nanaimo, the Brown Property in Qualicum Beach, Top Bridge Municipal Park in Parksville, Top Bridge Community Park in Area G, and the future Foothills property in Lantzville.

It is not the intent to “take over” these parks as regional parks; the RDN has neither the capacity nor desire to do so. Identifying their regional significance would be solely for the capacity to include costs of planned major improvements in calculating a future RP-DCC calculation.

### 4.2 Potential Park Sites within Municipalities

In theory, a regional park and trail system should “know no municipal boundaries”. To date, potential sites for future regional parks have been identified only in the electoral areas. However, there is no reason why proposed sites within municipal boundaries could not be considered “regionally significant” for the purposes of:

- a) including the cost of acquisition in calculating a RP-DCC; and/or
- b) at the municipality’s request, considering a cost-sharing and/or co-management arrangement between the municipality and the RDN.

Given its current commitments to existing regional parks and the backlog of potential sites in electoral areas, it is highly unlikely that the RDN would seek to acquire a site within a municipality

<sup>1</sup> See “Development Cost Charges for Regional Park Acquisition and Improvement : a study for the RDN” (Lanarc Consultants Ltd., 2007), page 11.

independently – i.e., without at least the involvement if not the leadership of the municipal government.

However, for the purposes of either (a) or (b), regional significance would be defined, and the RDN could become involved, if the site reflects the goals of the RPTP and scores highly in all of the regional park acquisition criteria.

### 4.3 Summary – Using the Criteria and Rating Framework

For the purpose of applying the Regional Park acquisition criteria and rating framework, the criteria can be divided into 3 groups -

Group A	Group B	Group C
<b>Conservation</b>	<b>Socio-political</b>	<b>Affordability</b>
1. Landscape representation 2. Sensitive ecosystem rep'n 3. Endangered species 4. Key habitat/wildlife corridor 5. Cultural, historic, heritage value 6. Water source protection	13. Geographical equity 14. Priority sites from past Plans 15. Level of public interest 16. Level of threat	17. Availability for acquisition 18. Acquisition Cost 19. Maintenance Cost
<b>Recreation</b>		
7. Trail or park connectivity 8. Experiential value 9. Educational value 10. Scenic value 11. Accessibility 12. Complements or of utility to parks & trails system		
<b>Other</b>		
20. Size		

- and then applied in the following contexts:

CONTEXT	CRITERIA		
	Group A	Group B	Group C
1. Assess and prioritize <u>current</u> proposed sites in electoral areas being considered for regional parks.	✓	✓	✓
2. Assess <u>new</u> sites in electoral areas as they are proposed – evaluate/prioritize against current proposed sites.	✓	✓	✓
3. Assess <u>existing municipal and community</u> parks for their “regional significance” – to include costs of applicable improvements in RP-DCC calculations.	✓ + *		
4. Assess <u>potential</u> park sites <u>in municipalities</u> for “regional significance” for purpose of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. including acquisition cost in RP-DCC calculation; or</li> <li>b. considering cost-sharing and/or co-management between municipality and RDN</li> </ul>	✓	✓	✓

\* + level of use by people from outside municipality.

## **5. STUDY CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This study has drawn upon a review of park planning and management literature to derive a more comprehensive list of criteria for assessing proposals for park land acquisition than currently exists in the Regional Parks and Trails Plan 2005-2015. It also has developed a preliminary system for rating site proposals against these criteria.

The proposed system is intended as an initial step in creating an acquisition assessment framework that the RDN can use with confidence. It is also intended as a tool to assist the RDN and member municipalities in building a park and trail system that is truly “regionally significant”.

It is recommended that this proposed system be:

- Continue to be reviewed by RDN staff, municipal representatives and the RPTAC.
- Applied on a preliminary basis to all the current acquisition proposals to confirm that the system makes sense intuitively as well as to identify further refinements.
- Continue to evolve over time to increase its functionality as a tool for assessing park acquisition proposals.



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**APPENDIX A**

**RDN Regional Parks Acquisition Criteria and Rating System – SCORE SHEET**  
 DRAFT 28-Oct-08

<b>Proposed Site:</b>	Gainsburg Swamp (trial run)
<b>Assessed by:</b>	
<b>Date of assessment:</b>	27 Oct 2008

<b>Low</b>	<b>Low-Med</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Med-High</b>	<b>High</b>
1	2 3 4	5 6	7 8	9 10

0 = No value or acquisition not recommended

? = insufficient information to assess

Criteria	Rating Scheme	Points	Comments to support assigned points
<b>Conservation Values</b>			
1. Landscape representation*	Landscapes represented by the proposed site are: (1) Low = already well represented in the park system and there is not much public demand for more. (5) Medium = somewhat represented and there is moderate demand for more; or may have some value as a unique landscape. (10) High = not well represented in the park system and in high demand, or represents a strikingly unique landscape with high landmark value.	9	
2. Sensitive ecosystem representation*	The proposed site contains: (1) Low = very small portion of an important or sensitive ecosystem. (3) Low Medium = part of an important ecosystem or small portion or very small representative of a SE. (5) Medium = an important ecosystem, part of a designated SEI site or an equivalent SE that may have some disturbance. (10) High = a designated SEI site or equivalent SE of significant size and in pristine condition, more than one SEs, or at least one significantly-sized SE + important ecosystem.	9	
3. Endangered species	In the proposed site: (1) Low – a blue-listed species is <u>suspected</u> based on specific habitat characteristics occurring on the site. (5) Medium – 1-3 blue-listed species are <u>known</u> to occur. (10) High – at least one red-listed is known or suspected or >3 blue listed species are known to occur.	8	
4. Key habitat or wildlife corridor	The proposed site has: (1) Low – limited wildlife habitat/corridor significance (e.g., peripheral to known habitats). (5) Medium – moderate wildlife corridor or habitat significance. (10) High – known wildlife corridor or critical habitat.	9	
5. Cultural, historic or heritage value	The proposed site contains: (1) Low – a minor heritage feature and provides limited opportunity for historical/cultural interpretation. (3) Low Moderate – contains a heritage feature that requires significant restoration but which would once restored, provide some opportunity for interpretation and appreciation. (5) Moderate- contains a heritage or cultural feature that requires some restoration but that once restored, would provide considerable opportunity for interpretation and appreciation. (7) Moderate High – contains a heritage feature of considerable interest from the surrounding community or regional population. (10) High – a heritage feature of considerable interest from the surrounding region and has some provincial or even national heritage value.	3	? Needs research
6. Water source protection	The proposed site encompasses or overlays, and would thereby protect: (1) Low – a minimal amount of a community watershed or aquifer. (5) Medium – a considerable area of a community watershed or aquifer. (10) High – almost all of a watershed or aquifer serving a community.	9	
<b>Recreation Values</b>			
7. Trail or park connectivity	The proposed site: (1) Low – is isolated but might be connectable to the regional park/trail system within 10-20 years. (5) Moderate – is connectable to park/trail system within 5 years. (10) High – enhances existing park and/or connects directly to the trail system.	9	

Criteria	Rating Scheme	Points	Comments to support assigned points
8. <i>Experiential value</i>	The proposed site: (1) Low – contains one or two features with limited experiential value or would require considerable investment to provide an experience (3) Low Mod – could support some high demand experiences with some investment (5) Moderate – supports existing high demand experiences to moderate extent or moderate potential to do so with some investment (7) Mod High – supports existing high demand experiences already (10) High - supports existing high demand experiences already and has potential to support more	6	Limited capacity to support people use
9. <i>Educational value</i>	The proposed site: (1) Low – contains few features that offer opportunities for educational interpretation. (5) Moderate – has some features of educational and interpretive value and can support a moderate amount of infrastructure and use for this purpose. (10) High – contains significant features of interpretive value, and has facilities or can support facilities for intensive public interpretation and education.	9	
10. <i>Scenic value</i>	The scenic value of the proposed site is: (1) Low –seen from limited viewpoint(s), pleasant but not spectacular panorama.  (5) Moderate –viewable from a limited no. of viewpoints, rewarding view. (10) High – breath-taking and seen from many places and/or by many people.	5	
11. <i>Accessibility</i>	The proposed site is: (1) Low – difficult to access by vehicle (e.g., long rough logging road), or greater than 10 minute walk to enter park. (5) Moderate – within a 5-10 minute walk of an accessible parking area over a public trail system. (10) High – readily accessible by car.	9	
12. <i>Complementarity and/or utility to the parks and trails system</i>	The proposed site provides: (1) Low – limited enhancement or utility purpose (5) Moderate – moderate enhancement or utility purpose (10) High – significant enhancement and/or utility purpose in providing service space for an existing park or as a hub on the trail system.	7	
<b>Socio-political Values</b>			
13. <i>Geographical equity*</i>	The proposed site: 0 – does not fill a geographical gap, and indeed may increase the imbalance among EAs or sub-regions. (1) Low – addresses disparity in geographical representation to a very limited extent. (5) Moderate – provides some balancing of geographical representation. (10) High – contributes significantly to balancing geographical representation.	8	
14. <i>Priority sites from past Plans*</i>	The proposed site: (1) Low – contains part of an unprioritized sites identified in the 1995 Parks System Plan (3) Low-Mod - partially includes a priority site OR one of the other sites identified in the 1995 Parks System Plan (5) Moderate – Contains part of a priority site. (8) Mod High - satisfactorily encompasses a priority site (10) High - satisfactorily encompasses a priority site + complementary high value land.	10	
15. <i>Level of public interest*</i>	The proposed site is subject to: (1) Low - minor localized public interest (5) Moderate - measurable public interest from more than local area (10) High - Significant public interest from a wide area in the Region.	2	Could change if Province comes back with another development proposal
16. <i>Level of Threat</i>	The proposed site is under: (1) Low – low threat from pending development or degradation (>10 years). (5) Moderate – threat of development or severe damage within 5-10 years. (10) High – development or irreversible damage is imminent; “protect now or never”.	4	Could change if Province comes back with another development proposal

Criteria	Rating Scheme	Points	Comments to support assigned points
<b>Affordability</b>			
17. Availability for acquisition	(1) Low – landholder is mildly interested under the right conditions and/or price and/or there are encumbrances on the land that limit its availability or usability as a future park. (5) Moderate – landholder is moderately motivated to sell the land for park purposes; may be a few encumbrances of minor importance. (10) – landholder is highly motivated to sell with partial donation, no encumbrances.	5	Majority of land is Crown; Province needs to be asked if willing to provide long term lease at nominal rate.
18. Acquisition cost	The cost of the proposed site is: 0 – astronomical, clearly over-priced and non-negotiable. (1) Low – Negotiable and within maximum limit, little or no potential for cost sharing with funding partners. (5) Moderate – Negotiable to a moderate price with good potential for some cost-sharing or partial donation by owner. (7) Mod High – Negotiable and very fair, high potential for cost-sharing with funding partners and/or partial donation by owner. (8-9) Very High – is Crown land and the Provincial or Federal government is willing to provide long-term tenure at a relatively nominal fee “in the public interest”. (10) High – Owner (private or Crown) is willing to donate the entire site.	9	See note about approaching Province; this score assumes best case scenario.
19. Maintenance cost	The proposed site would require: (1) – a significant amount of staff time and financial resources to maintain the on-site structures (5) – a moderate amount of staff time and financial resources to maintain the on-site facilities and structures (10) – very little staff time and financial resources to maintain.	8	Assumes fairly extensive boardwalking will be needed and require maintenance.
<b>Other</b>			
20. Size	(5) The proposed site is: - a minimum of 5 acres if it contains lake or coastal waterfront, or - a minimum of 50 acres in all other cases. (0) If the proposed site does not meet the above minimum desirable size.	5	
	<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>	143	
	<i>Out of Total Possible Points of:</i>	195	

# APPENDIX E

Community Parkland Acquisition Criteria,  
excerpt from RDN Community Parks & Trails  
Strategic Plan, Electoral Areas E,F, G and H  
(2014), pages 53-60

### 3.5 Community Parkland Acquisition Criteria

One of the challenges encountered when planning for community parks and trails is evaluating whether new acquisitions fit the needs of the overall system. To support this evaluation, community parkland acquisition criteria are proposed. These criteria will:

- Support RDN Staff and POSAC members in evaluating potential community park and trail acquisitions and making decisions about whether proposed parkland should be added to the system or if cash-in-lieu should be considered;
- Help identify appropriate classification for potential community park dedications;
- Provide developers a set of clear criteria to review in advance of proposing dedications; and
- Increase consistency and objectivity of assessments over time.

Table 26 is a Community Parkland Evaluation Criteria Checklist that provides a set of proposed criteria and value questions to be asked when evaluating potential community parkland acquisitions.

The checklist is organized under 6 categories and is designed to align with the proposed parks classes (See **Section 3.2.1: Proposed Community Park Classes**). The 6 categories are described as follows:

- **General Demographics & Public Values:** These values typically apply to all types of community parks. Parks that score high in this category may be well suited for acquisition and addition to the community parks system.
- **Neighbourhood Park Values:** These values are desirable for establishing neighbourhood parks with amenities. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for neighbourhood parks.
- **Ecological Park Values:** These values include protection and enhancement of natural environments. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for ecological park development.
- **Linear Park Values:** These values include connectivity and trail potential. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for trail development.
- **Water Access Values:** These values pertain to water sites. Parks that score high in this category may be most suitable for water access development.



*Neighbourhood park values*



*Ecological park values*



*Linear park values*



*Water access values*

## COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGIC PLAN ELECTORAL AREAS E, F, G, & H

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- **Affordability:** These values include costs for acquiring, developing and maintaining park properties and typically apply to all community parks. Parks that score high in this category will be more cost effective.
- Where review identifies potential parkland to be low in all or most of the above categories, alternatives to acquisition (e.g., cash-in-lieu) should be considered.

The CPTS recommends that this checklist be incorporated with Policy C1.5: *Review of the Consideration of Park Land in Conjunction with the Subdivision Application Process* and also used during the Rezoning Review process.

Evaluators using the table will review the criteria and decide if the subject site provides:

- **High Value:** If the site would be a significant asset or fully fulfill the evaluation criteria
- **Moderate Value:** If the site would be a good or moderate asset or partially fulfill the evaluation criteria
- **Low Value:** If the site would be a low or negative asset or does not fill the evaluation criteria



**COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGIC PLAN  
ELECTORAL AREAS E, F, G, & H**

**Table 26: Proposed community park land and trails evaluation criteria checklist**

Category 1: General Demographic & Public Values				
Proposed Criteria	Evaluation Criteria	Assigned Value/Quality (check column)		
		High Value	Moderate Value	Low Value
1) Population Density	Is the site located in an area with substantial existing or anticipated residential density where there will be a high demand for community park?			
2) Existing Park Access	Will the acquisition provide parkland to a neighbourhood that is currently underserved by parks and recreation opportunities?			
3) Level of Public Interest	Is there a known community interest for park development in the area?			
4) Neighbouring Property Impacts	Could park development in this area have a significant negative impact on existing properties in terms of property value, privacy, noise or other undesirable impacts?			
5) Encumbrances	Is the site reasonably free of encumbrances that would impact part development such as such as geotechnical, floodplain, environmental and underground utilities?			
<b>Overall Rating (high, moderate, low) for Category 1 =</b>				

Parks with a majority of high value ratings for Category 1 are valuable potential properties for the community parks system overall, as they fill gaps and/or provide parks services that are in demand. These properties should be considered for community park acquisition. Parks with moderate or low value ratings should only be considered for acquisition where there are high scores in one or more of the other categories.

## COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGIC PLAN ELECTORAL AREAS E, F, G, & H

Category 2: Neighbourhood Park Values				
Proposed Criteria	Evaluation Criteria	Assigned Value/Quality (check column)		
		High Value	Moderate Value	Low Value
6) Usable Space	Does the site provide at least 0.5 acres of usable park area?			
7) Slope	Are there gentle slopes for most of the site that would support a variety of active recreation opportunities?			
8) Location	Is there a significant residential population within walking distance (1 km) to the park location?			
9) Recreation Potential	Is the site suitable to provide recreational amenities that appeal to the surrounding community?			
10) Accessibility	Is the site easily accessible to surrounding population, e.g. is it connected to public roads, trails and access routes?			
11) Cultural, Historic or Heritage Values	Does that site contain any valuable cultural, historical or heritage features that warrant protection?			
12) Education or Interpretive Values	Does the site provide features with educational or interpretive value and would support interpretive development?			
<b>Overall Rating (high, moderate, low) for Category 2 =</b>				

Parks with a majority of high value ratings for Category 2 are potential properties for classification as neighbourhood parks as they fill gaps and provide opportunity for amenities. These properties should be considered for neighbourhood park designation.

**COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGIC PLAN  
ELECTORAL AREAS E, F, G, & H**

**Category 3: Ecological Park Values**

Proposed Criteria	Evaluation Criteria	Assigned Value/Quality (check column)		
		High Value	Moderate Value	Low Value
13) Sensitive Ecosystem Protection	Does the site include significant sensitive ecosystems that warrant protection?			
14) Unique Landscape Features	Are there unique or representative landscape features such as significant trees, rock formations, water features or other features that warrant protection?			
15) Endangered/ Protected Species	Are there known blue- or red-listed species occurring on the site or within the surrounding area?			
16) Potential Habitat or Wildlife Corridor	Does the site have potential to maintain or form a wildlife corridor that connects natural features?			
<b>Overall Rating (high, moderate, low) for Category 3 =</b>				

Parks with a majority of high value ratings for Category 3 are potential properties for classification as nature parks as they protect unique or sensitive features. These properties may warrant consideration for natural park designation or protection through other means.

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Category 4: Linear Park Values				
Proposed Criteria	Evaluation Criteria	Assigned Value/Quality (check column)		
		High Value	Moderate Value	Low Value
17) Trail Route Connection	Does the site form a potential connection to the regional or community park trail system?			
18) Community Amenity Connection	Does the proposed site link community amenities or facilities to a neighbourhood (e.g. provides access to schools, retail areas, parks or other destinations)?			
19) Max. Slope	Does the route provide gentle grades for accessible trail?			
<b>Overall Rating (high, moderate, low) for Category 4 =</b>				

Parks with a majority of high value ratings for Category 4 are potential properties for classification as linear parks as they provide potential trail connections. These properties may warrant consideration for linear park designation.

**COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGIC PLAN  
ELECTORAL AREAS E, F, G, & H**

Category 5: Water Access Values				
Proposed Criteria	Evaluation Criteria	Assigned Value/Quality (check column)		
		High Value	Moderate Value	Low Value
20) Shoreline or Riparian Protection	Is the site near a water body or river corridor and capable of providing shoreline protection or enhancement?			
21) Accessibility	Is the site reasonably accessible with minimum need for stair or ramp construction?			
22) Small Development Footprint	Can the park be developed to provide water access with no or minimal tree or vegetation removal?			
23) Enhanced Access	Can water accesses be combined together, or with park land to provide enhanced public access?			
<b>Overall Rating (high, moderate, low) for Category 5 =</b>				

Parks with a majority of high value ratings for Category 5 are potential properties for classification as water access sites as they provide access points to water bodies – including the ocean, lakes, rivers, wetlands and streams. These properties may warrant consideration for water access designation.

## COMMUNITY PARKS & TRAILS STRATEGIC PLAN ELECTORAL AREAS E, F, G, & H

Category 6: Affordability				
Proposed Criteria	Evaluation Criteria	Assigned Value/Quality (check column)		
		High Value	Moderate Value	Low Value
24) Acquisition Costs	Can the site be acquired with little or no cost?			
25) Development Costs	Is the public investment required to develop the park to a suitable standard reasonable? Are there any unusual or extensive anticipated costs?			
26) Maintenance Costs	Are the amount staff time and financial resources required to maintain the park high or low?			
<b>Overall Rating (high, moderate, low) for Category 6 =</b>				

Parks with a majority of high value ratings for Category 6 may be considered for acquisition. Where parks score low in this category, considerations for off-setting costs or taking cash-in-lieu may be warranted.





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