



# Matheson Lake & Roche Cove Regional Parks

## Management Plan Initial Engagement Report

Capital Regional District | February 2021



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# 1. Executive Summary

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board initiated three regional park management planning processes in May 2020 for East Sooke, Mount Work and Matheson Lake/Roche Cove regional parks. The project scope and engagement process for the Matheson Lake and Roche Cove Regional Parks Management Plan were provided to the Board in June 2020 and the project was started thereafter.

Two rounds of engagement opportunities are scheduled as part of the preparation of the park management plan for Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks. The aim of the engagement process is to inform First Nations, stakeholder groups and the public about the park management planning process; to seek input and information from affected individuals and groups; and to discuss various interests and ideas about these lands. This report includes a summary of the first round of engagement completed and responses received.

First Nations, stakeholders and the public were notified of opportunities for engagement. An online survey was available from August 17-September 18, 2020 and meetings and interviews were held between July and November 2020, with First Nations, government agencies and stakeholder groups.

Initial conversations have taken place with T'Sou-ke and Scia'new First Nations and the CRD is looking forward to further dialogue and building a government to government relationship. Meetings were also held with seven government agencies. Two interviews were conducted with stakeholder groups holding a park-related tenure or agreement, and eight interviews were held with stakeholder groups representing local conservation, recreation or service delivery interests in the parks. Agencies with specific expertise also provided information relevant to the park management planning process. Additionally, 495 online survey responses and 17 written comments were received from the public and interest groups.

## 2. Introduction

Regional Parks is developing a joint management plan for Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks. In May 2020, the CRD Board approved initiation of the planning process for these parks, as well as for East Sooke and Mount Work regional parks. The project scope and engagement process were accepted by the Board on June 24, 2020. Public, stakeholder and First Nations engagement was undertaken through the summer and fall of 2020. Feedback from the initial engagement period is summarized in this report and will be used to inform the next step of drafting the management plan. A second round of engagement will be undertaken upon completion of the draft plan.

## 3. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to summarize the initial engagement process and to highlight responses and key themes received related to the development of a management plan for Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks. Although many of the opportunities for engagement were combined with the East Sooke Regional Park management planning process due to the proximity of the parks and the concurrent planning processes, this report only summarizes the engagement process for Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

## 4. Engagement Period

The engagement process accepted by the CRD Board in June 2020 includes two rounds of engagement opportunities scheduled as part of the preparation of the park management plan for Roche Cove and Matheson Lake regional parks. This report includes a summary of the initial engagement activities completed and responses received until the end of January 2021.

The first round of First Nations, stakeholder and public engagement for the development of the Matheson Lake and Roche Cove Regional Parks Management Plan commenced in June 2020 with the launch of a project webpage. Communication materials were prepared and circulated between June and September 2020. An online survey was available on the CRD website from August 17-September 18, 2020. Interviews and meetings occurred between June 2020 and January 2021.

## 5. Focus of Engagement

CRD Regional Parks is committed to involving First Nations, stakeholders and the public in the development of park management plans. The aim of the engagement process is to inform First Nations, stakeholder groups and the public about the park management planning process for Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks, to seek input and information from affected individuals and groups, and to discuss interests and ideas to assist Regional Parks with future decision making about these lands. Other goals of the engagement process include information sharing, dialogue and discussion, building ongoing

relationships, developing understanding and trust, and producing management plans that reflect organizational needs and public interests.

The initial engagement process allows interested community members to actively contribute to the planning for a park before the plan is written. Initial engagement is one of the early steps in the planning process and is used to gather traditional and local knowledge about the parks, learn what is important to people, identify issues and seek a range of suggestions for what should be considered in developing the park management plan.

## 6. Who Was Engaged

### 6.1. First Nations

The Scia'new and T'Sou-ke First Nations have been invited to participate in the management planning process, as Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks are part of the Nations' traditional territories and expressed area of interest. Initial conversations have taken place with each Nation and the CRD is looking forward to further dialogue and building a government-to-government relationship.

### 6.2. Government Agencies

Various government agencies with direct or overarching jurisdiction, or a related interest in the parks, have been invited to provide input and expertise in the management plan. These include: the District of Sooke; District of Metchosin; the CRD Juan de Fuca Electoral Area; BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development; BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN); and BC Transit. These agencies received written notification of the project, and a request for an interview or provide relevant information.

### 6.3. Stakeholders

Stakeholders are groups with park-related tenures or agreements, or individuals and groups with higher degrees of interests or expertise in the parks, their environment and their management.

Stakeholders with direct park-related tenures or agreements were contacted in writing requesting their participation in the management planning process. These stakeholders include: the Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC, which manages the fishery stocking program; the Mt. Matheson Conservation Society, which holds a statutory right of way with the CRD on community trail access from Cains Way; and the Sooke Salmon Enhancement Society, which holds the rights to Matheson Dam.

Groups known by Regional Parks to be actively involved in local conservation, recreation and service delivery, or groups recommended by other stakeholders, were selected to provide input through interviews. These groups include: Coexisting with Carnivores Alliance; Habitat Acquisition Trust; Rocky Point Bird Observatory; the Land Conservancy of BC; Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue; Juan de Fuca

Emergency Program; Metchosin Search and Rescue; Sooke Bike Club; Metchosin Equestrian Society; South Island Climbing Association; South Island Mountain Bike Association; and the Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition.

Stakeholders with specific expertise related to the parks were contacted to provide relevant information. These groups or individuals were selected from existing contact lists, and other public agency networks such as: BC Conservation Officer Service; CRD Volunteer Park Stewards; Sooke Region Museum and Visitor Centre; and relevant CRD departments.

## 6.4. User Groups

A broad range of user groups known by Regional Parks that may have an interest in the park management plan project were selected to be notified by email about the engagement process and opportunities for input. The identified user groups were selected from a contact list maintained by Regional Parks based on whether they have a local or regional scale focus, represent a recreation, conservation, youth, or accessibility interest, and are currently active. Private businesses were not selected to be contacted; however, park permit holders and individuals requesting to be updated about the project have been added to the selected list. The list currently includes approximately 75 contacts and will be added to upon request. For protection of privacy reasons, the list has not been included in this report.

## 6.5. General Public

The general public in the CRD were notified of the park management plan project and opportunities on how to provide input. Park neighbours, including property owners and occupants within 300 metres of the park boundary, were also directly notified of the project. Park visitors and residents of the surrounding communities of East Sooke, Metchosin and Sooke were also notified.

# 7. Engagement Methods

The project scope and engagement process for the Matheson Lake and Roche Cove Regional Parks Management Plan were approved by the CRD Board in June 2020. A number of tools and approaches were used to engage First Nations, public, user groups, stakeholders, and agencies in the project. The following sections describe in more detail the engagement methods used to inform the public about the project, to gather information, views and opinions, and to discuss stakeholder interests.

## 7.1. Website

A project webpage was established on the CRD website in June 2020 and will be updated for the duration of the management planning project ([www.crd.bc.ca/project/roche-cove-and-matheson-lake-management-plan](http://www.crd.bc.ca/project/roche-cove-and-matheson-lake-management-plan)). The webpage includes an overview of the management planning process, the

current status of the plan, opportunities for engagement and staff contact information. Information about the parks is also included.

Between June 22, 2020 and January 11, 2021, there were 1,060 number of visits to the project webpage.

## 7.2. Online Survey

An online survey was made available through a link on the project webpage and on the CRD website from August 17 to September 18, 2020. The survey included 26 questions with both quantitative and qualitative responses. To accompany the survey, an information booklet was also posted on the project webpage that provided additional context about the management planning process, an overview of the park’s environmental features, cultural heritage, visitor uses, and direction to the project webpage and survey. Options were made available for completing the survey by phone or in writing.

## 7.3. Letters/Emails

Direct written outreach, by letter and email was sent to First Nations, government agencies, stakeholders, user groups and the public informing them of the project and opportunities for input.

Eight letters were sent to First Nations, government agencies and stakeholder groups with a direct interest in the parks, such as a tenure or agreement. There were 696 letters mailed to park neighbours (Appendix A). Email notices were sent to approximately 75 user groups plus 20 stakeholders with specific interest or expertise related to the parks.

## 7.4. Social Media

Social media posts were made on the CRD’s Facebook and Twitter accounts during August and September 2020, directing people to the project webpage and online survey. These posts went out to 6,623 followers on Twitter and 3,607 followers on Facebook.

Facebook ads were boosted throughout the survey process, with a link to the project webpage to complete the online survey. The targeted demographic for these ads were people living in the region aged 18-65+. Table 1 outlines the level of engagement with the Facebook ads.

| Facebook Ads     |               |                   |             |
|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Dates            | Reach         | Post Engagements* | Link Clicks |
| August 18 - 22   | 6,722         | 414               | 108         |
| September 1 - 5  | 8,536         | 596               | 71          |
| September 8 - 12 | 5,112         | 439               | 36          |
| September 14-18  | 7,330         | 499               | 53          |
| <b>Totals:</b>   | <b>27,700</b> | <b>1,948</b>      | <b>268</b>  |

Table 1: Facebook Ads (*\*Post engagements refer to someone liking, sharing, commenting on or otherwise engaging with the post.*)

## 7.5. Advertising

A media release was issued by the CRD on August 18, 2020 outlining the management planning process and encouraging the public to complete the online survey. Multiple news outlets received the media release. An article was published in the Times Colonist on August 18, 2020.

Print ads were published in multiple newspapers during August and September 2020, while the online survey was available. The ads directed readers to the project webpage to complete the online survey. Ads were posted in the *Goldstream News Gazette* and *Saanich News* on September 9 and 16, 2020 and September 10 and 17, 2020 in the Victoria News (Appendix B).

Posters were placed at various entrances to Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks notifying park visitors about the management planning process and directing them to the webpage and online survey.

Postcards were mailed to approximately 2,500 residents in East Sooke, Metchosin and Sooke on August 20, 2020. The postcards directed recipients to the project webpage and informed them of the opportunity to complete the online survey (Appendix C).

## 7.6. Community Events

Staff hosted a booth at the Sooke Night Market on September 3, 2020 from 5-8 pm. The event provided an opportunity to set-up displays about the park management planning process and to speak with the public about opportunities for input, such as the online survey. Staff engaged directly with approximately 50 people.

## 7.7. Interviews and Meetings

Meetings were requested with T'Sou-ke and Scia'new First Nations, government agencies, and stakeholders with direct interest in the parks to share relevant information and to discuss ideas and issues pertaining to management of the lands.

Two online meetings were held with T'Sou-ke First Nation Leadership in July and October 2020. One online meeting was held with Scia'new First Nation Leadership in May 2020. Additional contact has been made by phone and email with both T'Sou-ke and Scia'new First Nations between June–October 2020 to check in and to facilitate opportunities for future meetings.

A meeting with representatives from each local government agency having jurisdiction in the parks was held, which included: District of Sooke, District of Metchosin, and the CRD Juan de Fuca Electoral Area.

Interviews were also requested with provincial government agencies having related interest or expertise related to the parks. Four interviews were conducted. All others contacted for interviews declined or did not respond to the request.

Interviews were requested with 14 stakeholder groups deemed to have local or specific interest in the parks, or at the recommendation of other key stakeholders. Five interviews were conducted with recreation-oriented stakeholder groups and two interviews were held with conservation-oriented stakeholder groups, and comments were received from one service provider. All others contacted for interviews declined or did not respond to the request.

Interviews were held with ten individuals or groups perceived to have expertise or direct knowledge relating to management of the parks, such as: CRD Volunteer Park Stewards, BC Conservation Officer Service, the Sooke Region Museum and Visitor Centre, and relevant CRD departments.

## 8. Limitations

The management planning process for Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks was initiated in May 2020 at the same time as the management planning processes for both East Sooke and Mount Work regional parks. While synergies and efficiencies were realized by launching the three projects together, it is possible that levels of engagement were affected by multiple planning processes occurring along the same timeline.

The Galloping Goose Regional Trail (GGRT) bisects Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks but is regulated by the Regional Trails Management Plan and is therefore not within the scope of the park management planning project. Participants may have provided input related to management of the GGRT that cannot be directly considered as part of the management plan.

Significant limitations to in-person engagement were experienced due to COVID-19 public safety measures. A COVID-19 Safety Plan was prepared and approved in September 2020 outlining protocols for in-person engagement. While one opportunity to host a booth at a community market was realized, many of the typical community events and open houses utilized during a management planning process were not feasible.

Technological tools were heavily relied on during this initial round of engagement due to COVID-19 public safety measures. Lack of access to, and knowledge of, technology can be a limitation to those wishing to participate. Communication materials offered alternatives to participating online, such as by phone or mail.

Finally, the project timeline and allocated resources constrain the project to an extent. Although the timeline for engagement spanned the summer months, when many are on vacation or have other priorities, opportunity for completing the online survey was available into September 2020 and meetings

and interviews have been accommodated throughout the summer and fall of 2020. Project financial expenditures were primarily focused on advertising, however, cost savings were realized by combining promotional material with the East Sooke Regional Park management planning process.

## 9. Responses

The following is a summary of the responses received through the initial engagement process.

### 9.1. First Nations

Both Scia'new and T'Sou-ke First Nations stated they have a strong interest in these parks in regard to the historical importance and current connection to their cultures. There was a recognition of traditional cultural use in parks and an interest in finding ways to highlight that connection in public education and information. Both Nations stated a strong desire to protect archaeological and cultural resources in the parks. High-level aspirations for future protection of lands and resources and for identifying ways to be involved in the parks were noted by both Nations, including employment, restoration, monitoring, continuation of harvesting and education. All parties stated an interest in continuing to find ways to work together to protect the lands for future generations and to maintain the cultural connection to homelands.

### 9.2. Government

Staff and elected officials from three local governments, three provincial government departments within BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and BC Transit responded to the request to provide information and ideas. Responses include comments relating to the following topics:

- **Natural environment:** a need for environmental protection and monitoring; removal of invasive species; negative impacts from increased visitation.
- **Social context:** protection and education of cultural heritage values; safety issues (Gillespie Road crossing); conflict between users (dogs, cyclists).
- **Facilities:** increased visitation puts pressure on facilities and maintenance; planned future expansion of transit routes would service both parks.
- **Land management:** opportunities for land acquisition and connectivity of protected areas; access to water is steep and rocky; risk of wildfire; need for coordinated emergency response protocols; need for increased and consistent enforcement (alcohol, dog management).

### 9.3. Stakeholders

Interviews were conducted with stakeholder groups holding a park-related tenure or agreement, including the Freshwater Fisheries Society and Mt. Matheson Conservation Society. Highlights from these responses include:

- **Natural environment:** maintain lake quality and aquatic habitat; remove invasive species.
- **Social context:** expand opportunities and programs for recreational fishing.
- **Facilities:** improve access to the lake.
- **Land management:** explore connectivity and land acquisition in vicinity of the parks; improve safety and emergency response.

Eight stakeholder groups having local conservation, recreation or service delivery interest in the parks were interviewed, which included: Habitat Acquisition Trust, Coexisting with Carnivores, Metchosin Search and Rescue, Metchosin Equestrian Society, South Island Climbing Association, Sooke Bike Club, South Island Mountain Bike Association, and Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition. The following summarizes the responses received:

- **Natural environment:** increased visitation and development pressures are impacting habitat.
- **Social context:** conflicts between users, especially on Galloping Goose Regional Trail (dog management); support for local accesses to parks; encourage modes of alternative transportation to access parks; tendency for unauthorized trail building to occur if recreational demand is not met; desire for mountain biking opportunities (especially beginner and family-oriented); recognize rock climbing destinations in parks; allow continued equestrian access.
- **Facilities:** improve signage; mark unofficial trails; trail condition is poor in many locations (erosion, lack of drainage).
- **Land management:** risk of wildfire; establish emergency response protocols; safety concerns (specifically at Roche Cove/Galloping Goose Regional Trail/Gillespie Road); volunteer groups are willing to partner but have limited resources.

Groups and individuals with specific knowledge or expertise related to the parks were interviewed, including: CRD Volunteer Park Stewards, Conservation Officer Service, Sooke Region Museum, and staff from relevant CRD departments. Responses are summarized as follows:

- **Natural environment:** increased visitation and development pressures impacting habitat; maintain/improve lake quality; conduct an inventory of plant and animals in parks; habitat for carnivores.
- **Social context:** determine which unofficial trails should be official; opportunities for educational programs; acknowledge rich cultural heritage; limit wildlife conflicts (education, signage, dog management, garbage facilities).
- **Facilities:** address trail maintenance issues (erosion, drainage), improve signage.
- **Land management:** safety concerns (specifically at Roche Cove/Galloping Goose Regional Trail/Gillespie Road); provide emergency response accesses.

## 9.4. Public and User Groups

### 9.4.1. Public comments

Comments were received from 17 residents and user groups. The main themes reflected in the comments include:

- **Natural environment**: pressures from increased visitation.
- **Social context**: desire for more mountain biking opportunities, conflicts between users (increased visitation, dog management).
- **Facilities**: improve signage, overflow parking issues on rural roads.
- **Land management**: wildfire risk, dog management.

### 9.4.2. Online survey

A 26-question online survey was available through the project webpage and highlighted on the CRD website from August 17 to September 18, 2020. A total of 495 online surveys were completed and submitted. The majority of respondents were above age 55 and most were residents of Metchosin. Details on survey methodology is provided in Appendix D. Response analysis of the online survey is provided in Appendix E. The main themes reflected in the comments include:

- **Natural environment**: keep the parks pristine, wild and beautiful; protect rich natural habitat and the variety of plants and wildlife.
- **Social context**: support for the variety of trails; the parks offer an appropriate level of recreational opportunities (primarily hiking, swimming, dog walking and cycling); accessible to community and to a range of abilities; highlight cultural heritage.
- **Facilities**: rustic trails; crowded parking; need for more washrooms.
- **Land management**: address environmental degradation, erosion and invasive species; improve trail maintenance and signage; pressure from increased visitation (overcrowding) and conflicts between user groups; desire for mountain biking opportunities; improve access to lake; address dog management issues; increase enforcement and improve etiquette messaging; expand park boundaries.

## 10. Conclusion

The initial public engagement for Matheson Lake and Roche Cove Regional Parks Management Plan commenced in June 2020. A variety of methods were used to engage with First Nations, stakeholders and the public, which included advertising, an online survey, meetings and interviews. Input has been received from T'Sou-ke and Scia'new First Nations, government agencies, a wide range of stakeholders, and over 500 members of the public. Comments received as part of the initial engagement process will help inform the preparation of a draft management plan for Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks. A second engagement opportunity will be provided on the draft plan.

# Appendix A – Letter to Neighbours



Regional Parks  
490 Alkins Avenue  
Victoria, BC V9B 2Z8

T: 250.478.3344  
F: 250.478.5416  
[www.crd.bc.ca/parks](http://www.crd.bc.ca/parks)

**FILE COPY**

August 13, 2020

File: 6130-30

Dear Park Neighbor:

**RE: PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT FOR EAST SOOKE REGIONAL PARK AND ROCHE COVE & MATHESON LAKE REGIONAL PARKS**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) recently initiated projects to develop a park management plan for East Sooke Regional Park and for Roche Cove and Matheson Lake regional parks. As a neighbor to these parks, the CRD invites you to participate in the park management planning process. Please see the attached map showing the locations of the three regional parks.

The CRD public engagement process provides two key opportunities to provide input through the planning process. First, we are interested in receiving information and suggestions from the public before the management plans are drafted. To collect that information, park specific comment forms will be posted to the project webpages between August 17 and September 18, 2020.

The project team will consider all input received as we begin drafting the park management plans in early 2021. We anticipate that the draft management plans will be completed in summer 2021. At that time, another review and comment opportunity will be provided. Depending on the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, a decision will be made about whether we can also host in-person meetings to discuss the draft management plans.

We invite you to participate in one or both of these park management planning processes. Please feel free to pass this information on to others whom you think might be interested in being involved.

For up to date information please visit the project webpages at:

East Sooke Regional Park: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/east-sooke-management-plan>.

Roche Cove & Matheson Lake: <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/roche-cove-and-matheson-lake-management-plan>

If you have any questions or are interested in receiving additional information about the processes please contact the following:

East Sooke Regional Park - Lynn at 250.360.3369 or [lwilson@crd.bc.ca](mailto:lwilson@crd.bc.ca)

Roche Cove and Matheson Lake regional parks - Emma at 250.642.8102 or [etaylor@crd.bc.ca](mailto:etaylor@crd.bc.ca)

Sincerely,

Emma Taylor  
Park Planner

Lynn Wilson  
Park Planner



## Appendix B – Print Ad



### **PROVIDE YOUR INPUT**

#### **East Sooke, Roche Cove & Matheson Lake Regional Parks**

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is preparing management plans for East Sooke, Roche Cove and Matheson Lake regional parks. These plans will provide strategic guidance for on-going management of these parks for the next 15-20 years.

The CRD is gathering initial input from the public on their interests, ideas and concerns. On-line comment forms will be available on the CRD website. Your suggestions will be considered in developing the draft management plans. Once the plans are drafted, they will be posted online for public review.

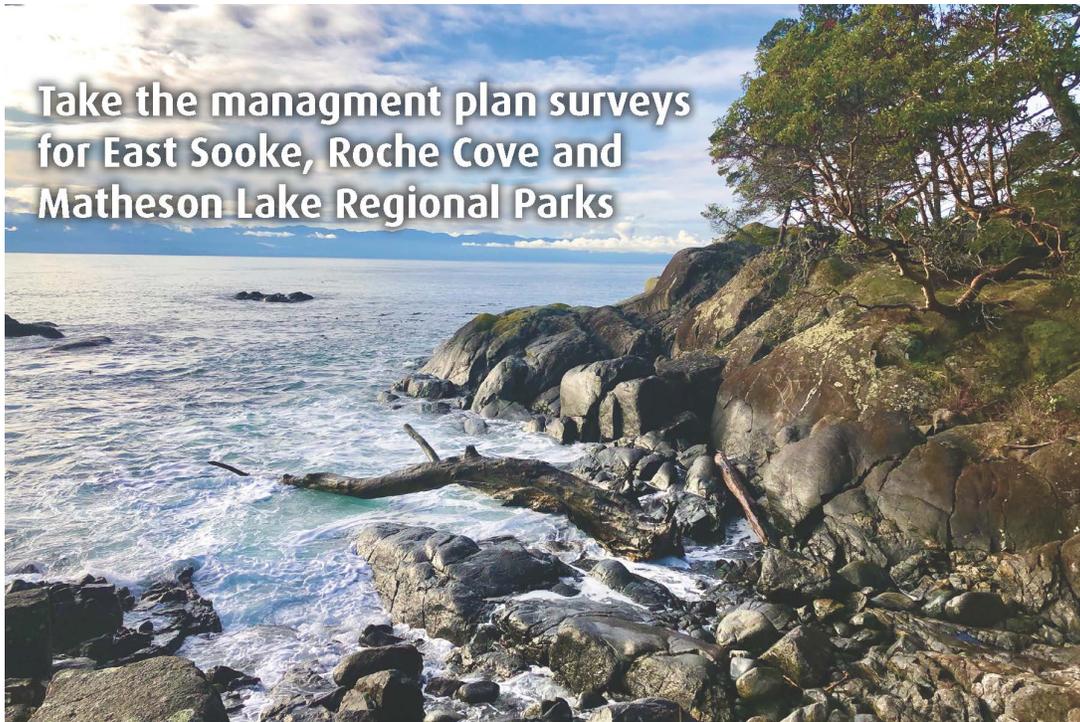
**Provide your initial input online between August 17 - September 18, 2020.**

**[www.crd.bc.ca/eastsooke-plan](http://www.crd.bc.ca/eastsooke-plan)**

**[www.crd.bc.ca/roche-matheson-plan](http://www.crd.bc.ca/roche-matheson-plan)**



## Appendix C – Postcard



### Take the CRD Regional Parks Survey!

Help us plan for the future of East Sooke, Roche Cove and Matheson Lake regional parks

By completing the survey you are helping the CRD to establish a vision and objectives for managing the parks and to understand priorities for environmental conservation, cultural heritage protection, recreation and facilities.

The deadline to complete the survey is September 18, 2020

[www.crd.bc.ca](http://www.crd.bc.ca)



## Appendix D – Online Survey Methodology Methods

A survey with 26 questions focused on visitor use patterns, respondents' opinions, and management directions related to Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks was available on the CRD website from August 17 to September 18, 2020. The questionnaire was designed to take 15-25 minutes to complete.

Some survey questions had multiple statements to be completed. Close-ended questions were measured through a five-point rating scale ranging from strongly support/completely satisfied to strongly oppose/not at all satisfied or by offering pre-determined categories. Close-ended questions were used to reduce the response burden for participants. Open-ended questions were also included to allow respondents to offer additional comments and clarify their responses, if they wished. Questions about participants' demographic characteristics (i.e., age, residency) were also added to the questionnaire.

### Analysis

The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25.0 (IBM 2017) was used to analyze descriptive statistics, which are reported as a percentage for all quantitative questions of the survey. To analyze the qualitative comments provided by participants in a replicable and systematic manner, content analysis was performed. Specifically, all qualitative data were categorized using codes, which allowed identifying code themes and response patterns. Both dimensions of a content analysis, quantitative (focused on counting and measuring) and qualitative (focused on interpreting and understanding) were used to offer insights on respondents' opinions about the Matheson Lake and Roche Cove Management Plan.

### Rationale

It is important to acknowledge that the aim of the survey was to offer an easy to access venue for the public to voice their opinions about what should be considered when drafting the Matheson Lake and Roche Cove Management Plan. The information obtained through this participation tool is not intended to be representative of the whole population of the island or the capital region. Hence, the data reported in this document will not be generalized to the broader population.

The survey was used to ensure that insights, concerns and experiences of participants interested in the Matheson Lake and Roche Cove management plan dialogue are documented and considered. The information retrieved through this participatory tool complement the insights provided by the other engagement approaches reported in this document. The data in this report should therefore be interpreted in conjunction with the overall engagement process outcomes.

## Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and Privacy Impact Assessment

All responses in the survey were voluntary, thus participants had the freedom to skip any question they did not wish to answer. All information was collected in compliance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (see <https://www.crd.bc.ca/freedom-of-information>). A Privacy Impact Assessment (CRD PIA #20-018) was developed for this project to ensure research involving humans was conducted in compliance with ethics and local legislation.

# Appendix E – Online Survey Responses

A total of 495 online surveys were filled out between August 17 and September 18, 2020. Below is a summary of the online survey responses.

## Section 1: Parks Values

### QUESTION 1: WHAT MAKES MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

A total of 454 qualitative comments were provided by respondents to the open-ended question about the importance of Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks to them. Each comment entailed multiple themes.

The most mentioned themes were:

- **Experiences:** respondents described experiencing the parks as pristine, wild and rugged, with beautiful sceneries, and with few people. Quietness and solitude were also mentioned as an important feature of their experience in such parks (Figure 2).
- **Outdoor recreation:** respondents mentioned the importance of a series of recreational opportunities (i.e., hiking/walking, swimming, the beach and biking) and valued the variety of rustic and connected trails present in the parks (Figure 3).
- **Natural environment:** respondents valued the richness in natural habitats (i.e., lake, ocean, forest), plants and wildlife that both parks offer (Figure 4).
- **Accessibility:** respondents noted the parks were close to home, the city, and easy to access (i.e., connection to Galloping Goose, easy to walk) (Figure 5).

The qualitative responses were coded to identify emerging themes and then quantified to evaluate their relevance. Below is a breakdown of the themes extracted from this qualitative question.

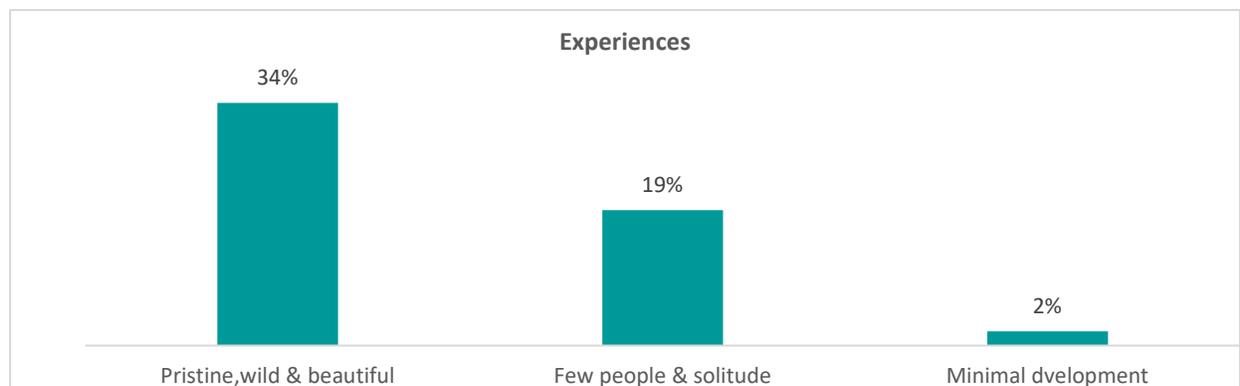


Figure 1: Reasons mentioned by respondents when referring to the importance of their **experience** in Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

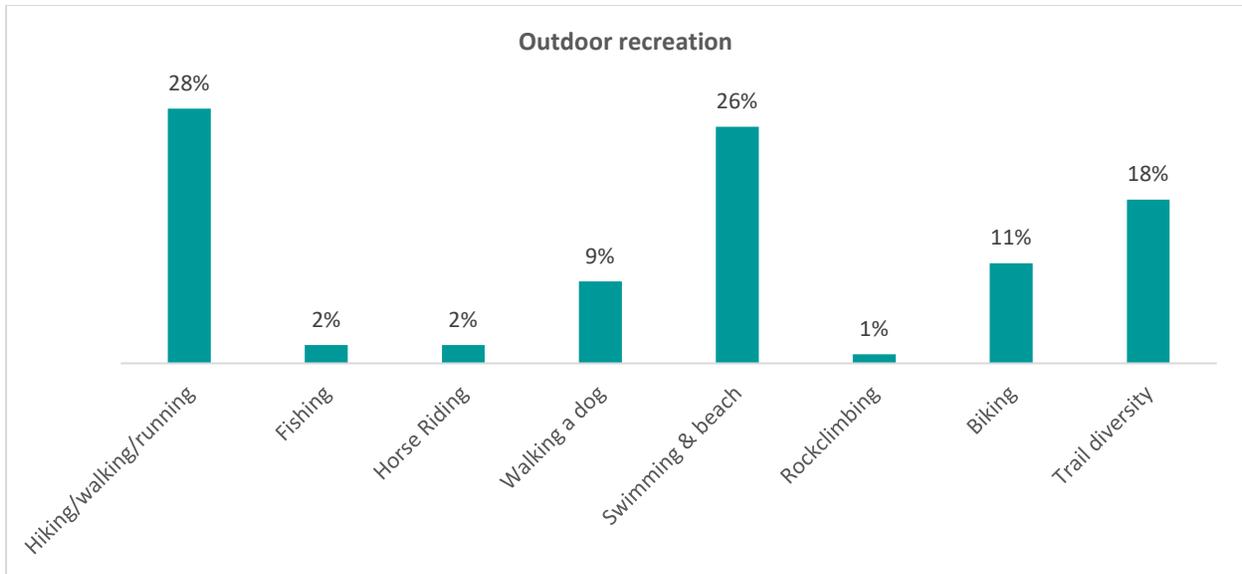


Figure 2: Reasons mentioned by respondents when referring to the importance of **outdoor recreation opportunities** in Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

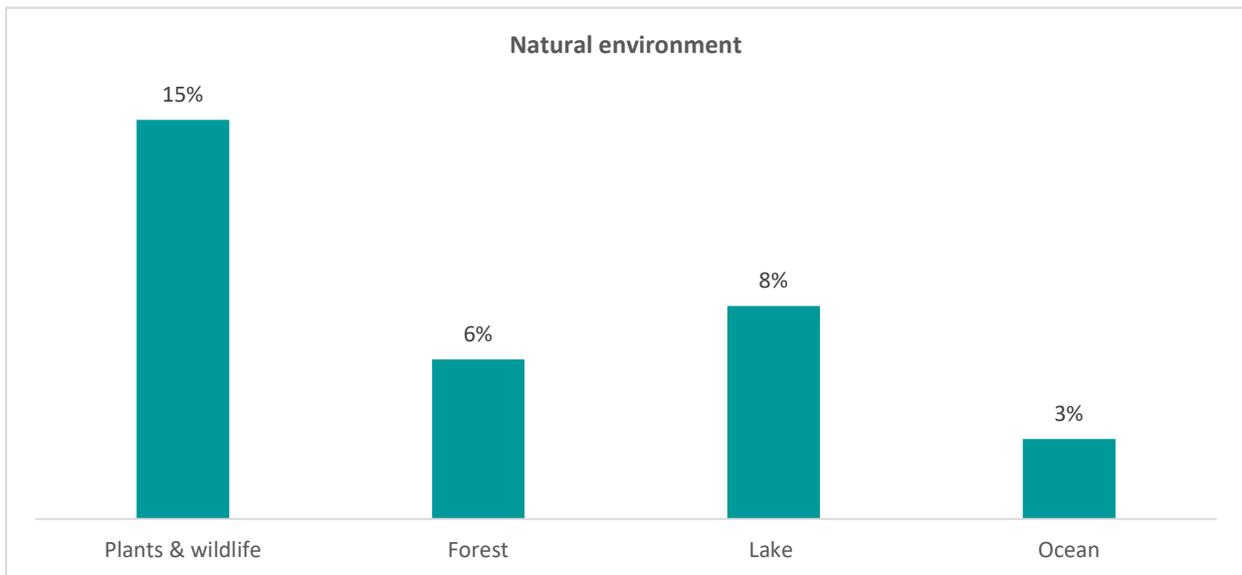


Figure 3: Reasons mentioned by respondents when referring to the importance of the **natural environment** at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

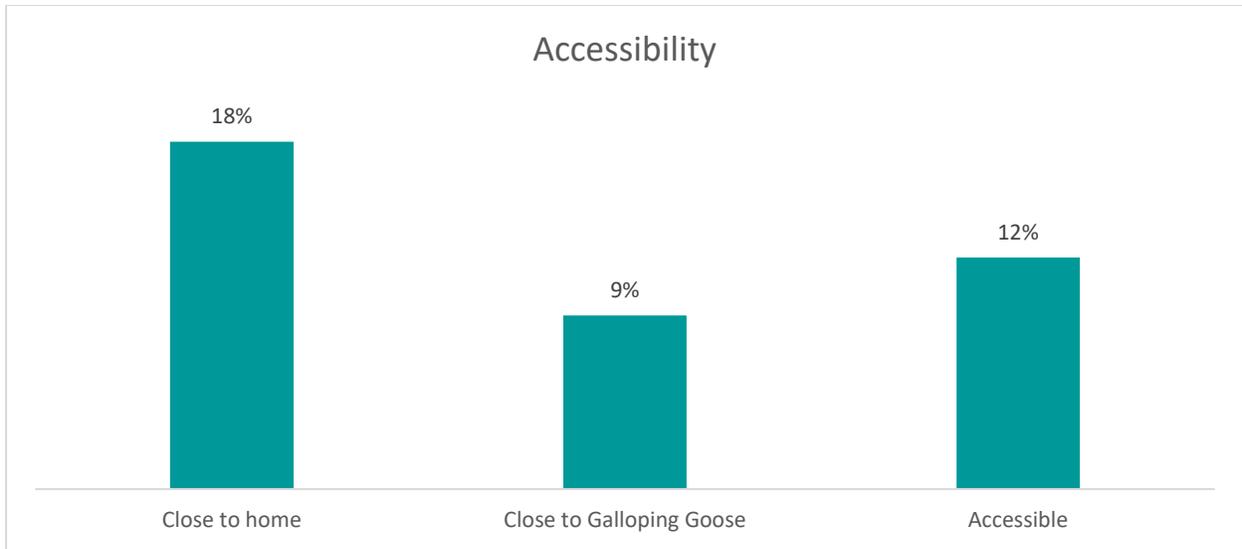


Figure 4: Reasons mentioned by respondents when referring to the importance of **accessibility** at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

## Section 2: Outdoor Recreation

### QUESTION 2: WHAT ACTIVITIES DO YOU DO IN MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS?

There were 495 responses. Most respondents engaged in walking/hiking, viewing plants and animals, swimming, walking a dog and cycling.

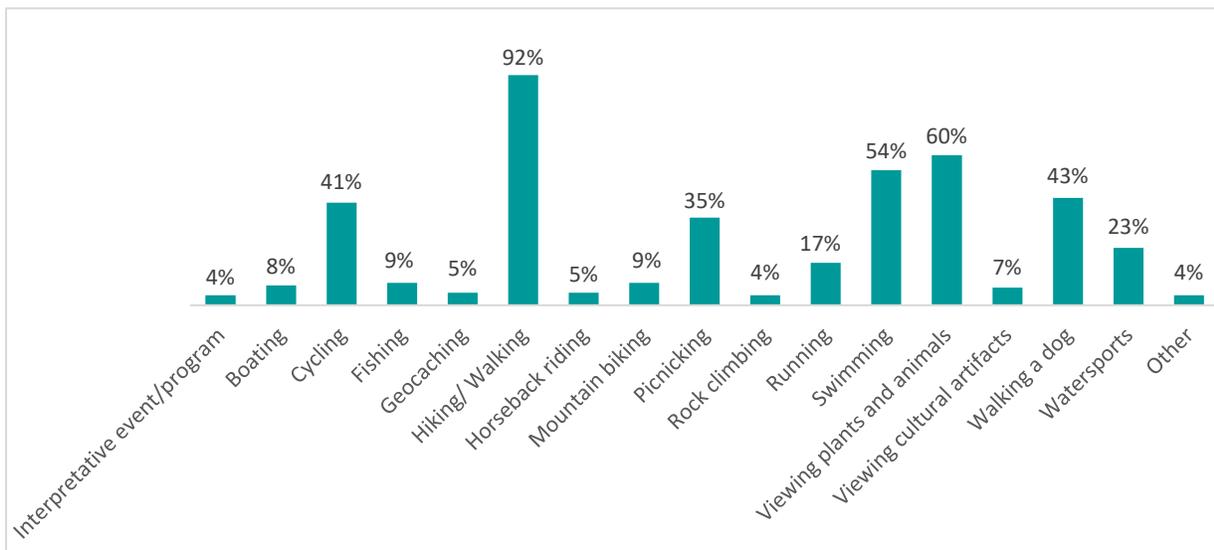


Figure 5: Types of activities conducted at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks by respondents.

### QUESTION 3: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE LEVEL OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED IN THESE PARKS?

There were 495 responses. The majority of respondents felt there was about the right level of outdoor recreation opportunities offered in these parks.

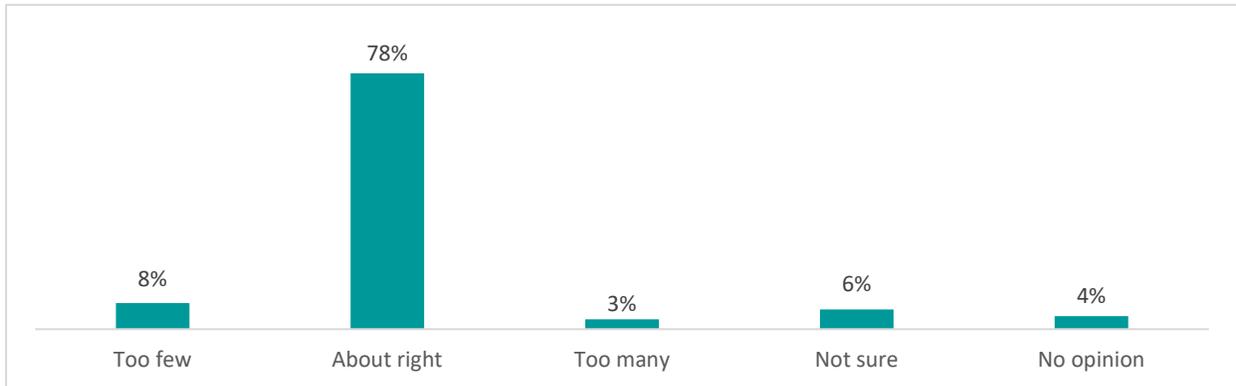


Figure 6: Respondents' perception of the **level of outdoor experiences** offered at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

## Section 3: Use Patterns

### QUESTION 4: WHAT ARE YOUR USUAL DESTINATIONS AT MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS?

There were 495 responses. Most respondents visited the Matheson Lake Loop trail, the Galloping Goose Regional Trail and Matheson Lake.

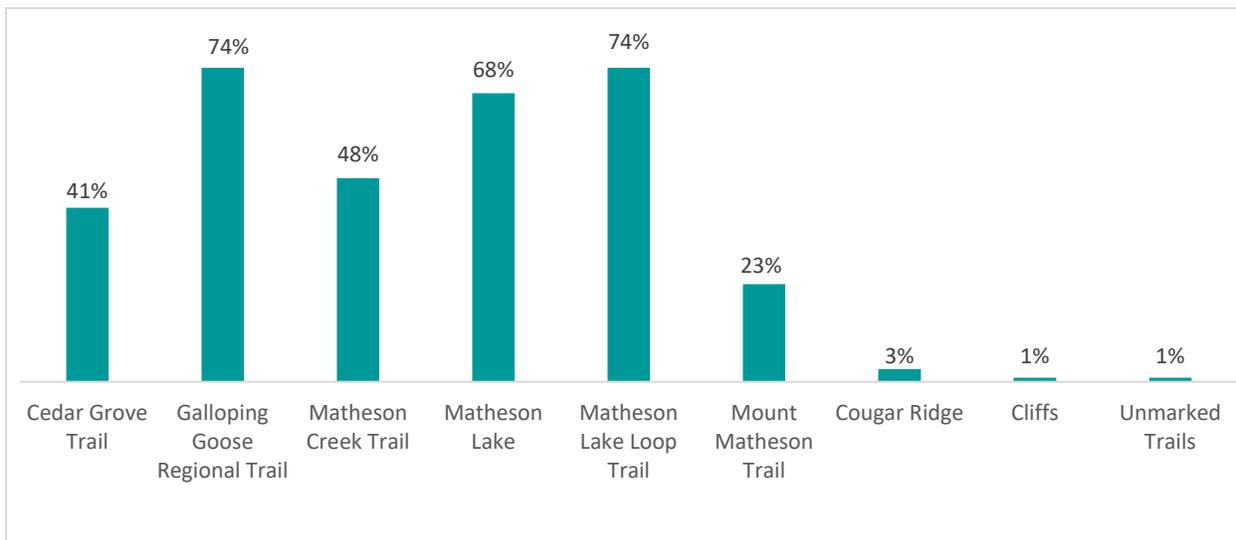


Figure 7: Park destination goal of respondents.

**QUESTION 5: APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU VISITED MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?**

There were 495 responses. Most respondents visited these parks frequently.

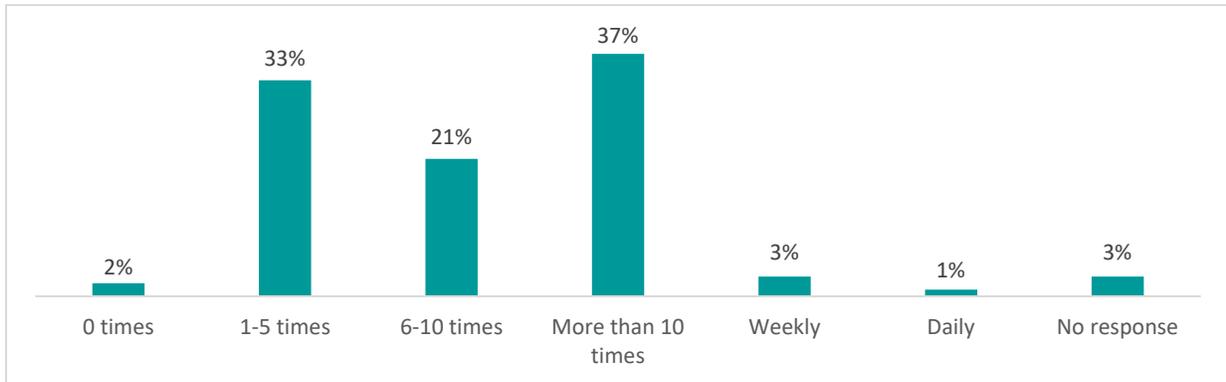


Figure 8: Frequency of visitation by survey respondents.

**QUESTION 6: APPROXIMATELY HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU SPEND IN MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS WHEN YOU VISIT?**

There were 495 responses. The majority of respondents indicate they spend between 1-2 to 3-4 hours in these parks.

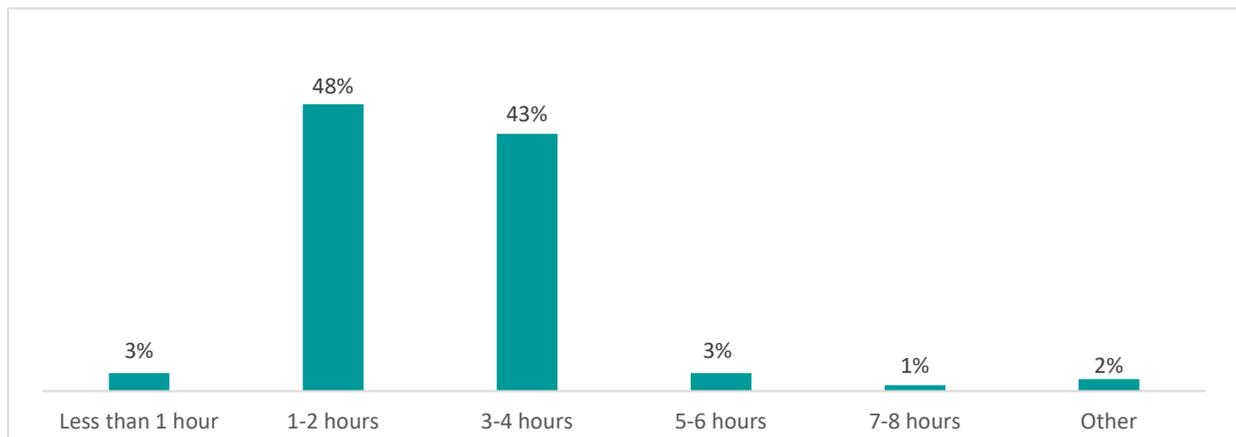


Figure 9: Breakdown of the amount of time spent in the park by respondents.

### QUESTION 7: WHAT DO YOU USE TO NAVIGATE WHEN INSIDE THE PARKS?

There were 495 responses. The majority of respondents used their experience and CRD wayfinding signs to navigate these parks.

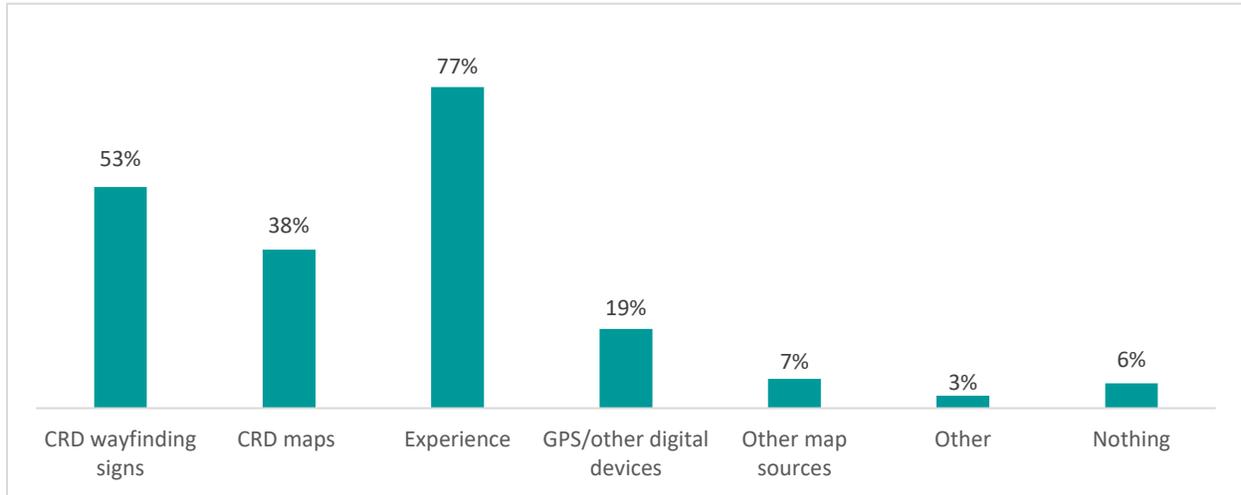


Figure 20: Tools used by respondents to navigate Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

### QUESTION 8: WHAT IS THE MAIN SOURCE OF INFORMATION YOU USE TO FIND OUT ABOUT MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS?

There were 495 responses. Nearly half of the respondents used the Capital Regional District website to learn about these parks.

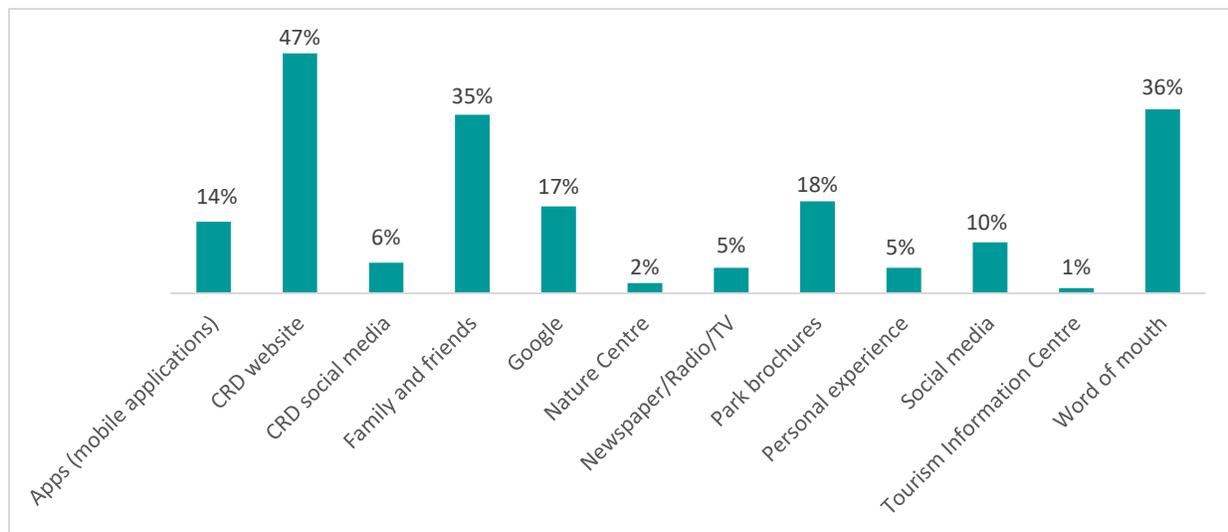


Figure 11: Breakdown of respondents' source of information about Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

**QUESTION 9: WITH WHOM DO YOU USUALLY VISIT MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS?**

There were 495 responses. The majority visited these parks in a group of family and friends.

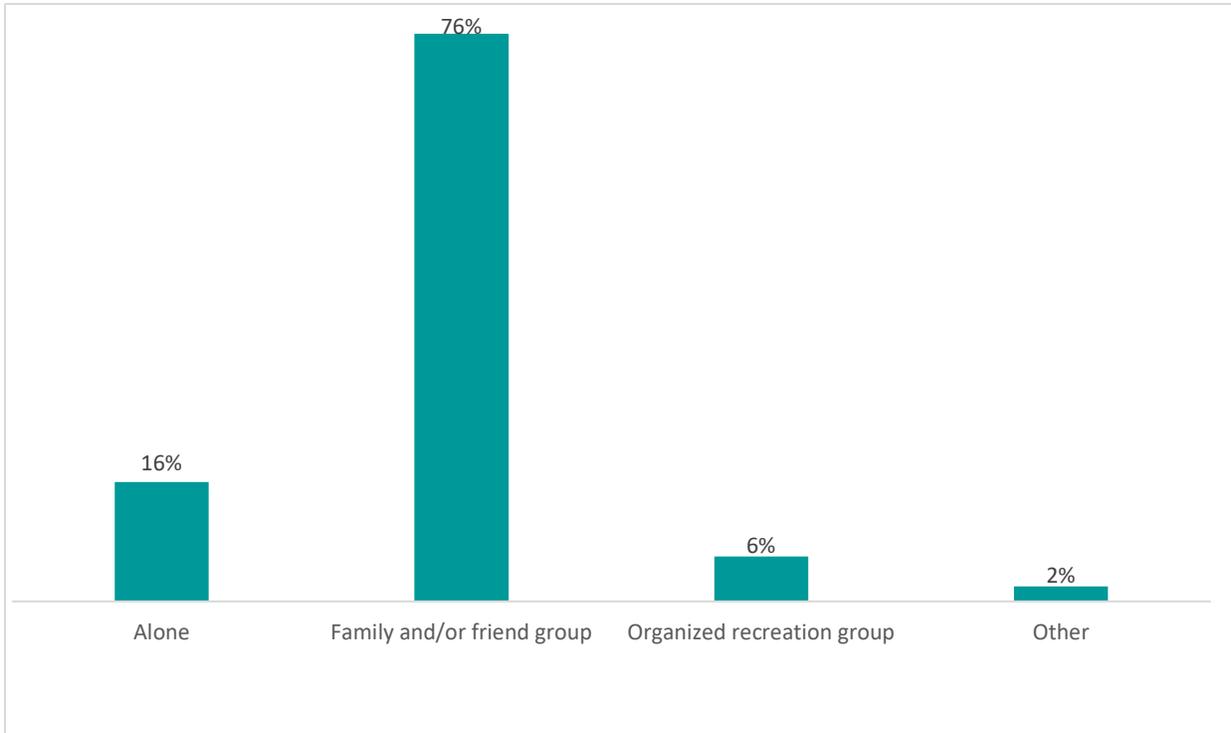


Figure 12: Breakdown of the group composition of respondents visiting Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

**QUESTION 10: DO YOU VISIT THE PARKS WITH A DOG?**

There were 495 responses. Most respondents visited these parks with one or two dogs.

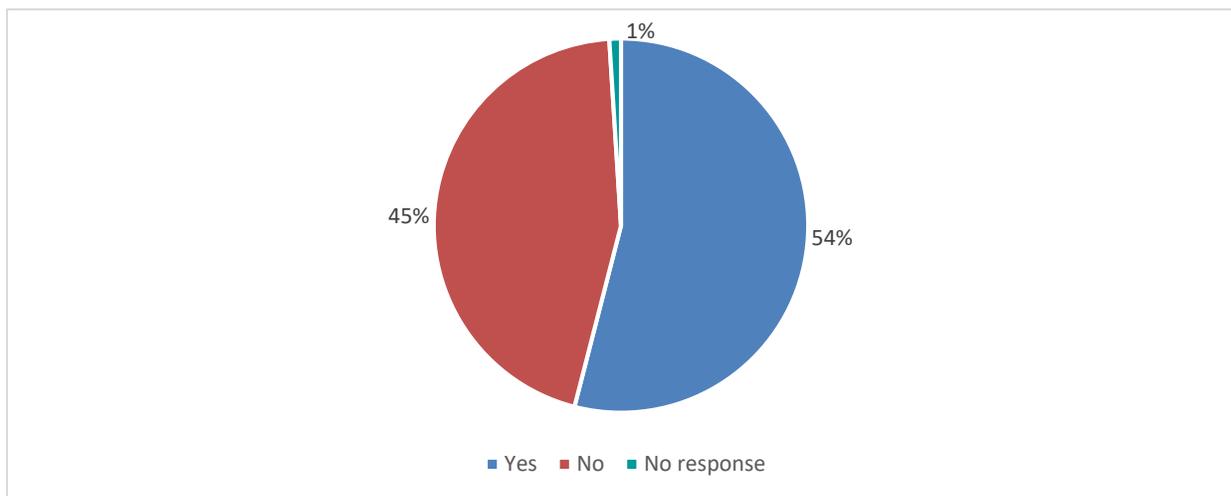


Figure 13: Respondents with dogs in Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

### QUESTION 11: HOW DO YOU WALK THE DOG IN THIS PARK?

There were 267 responses. Most respondents walk their dog both on and off leash in these regional parks. Only two respondents identified themselves as a commercial dog walker.

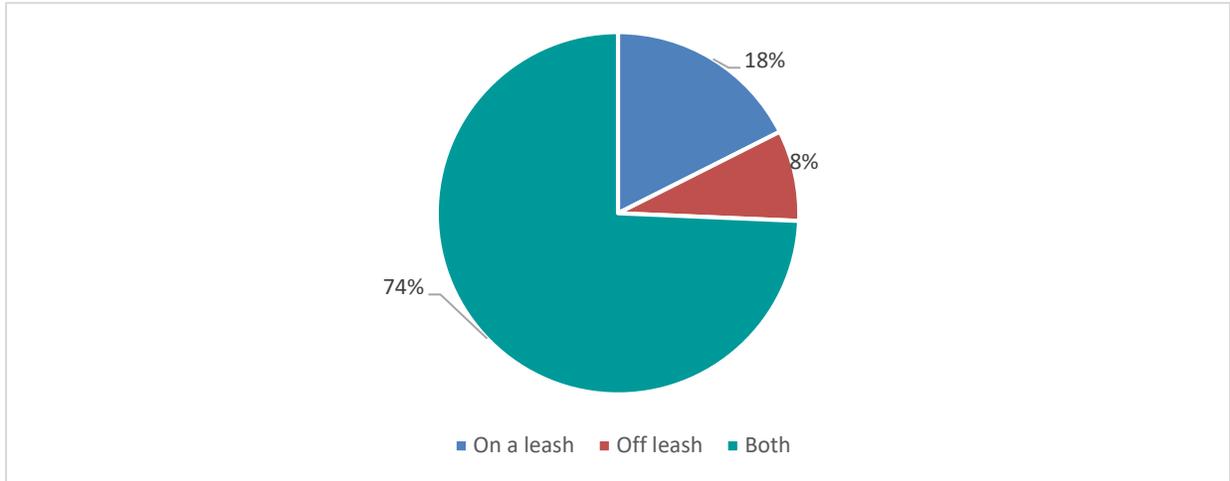


Figure 34: Respondents' methods of walking their dogs in Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

### QUESTION 12: WHICH MODE OF TRANSPORTATION DO YOU USUALLY USE TO ARRIVE TO MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS?

There were 495 responses. The vast majority use a car, followed by bicycles, to reach these parks.

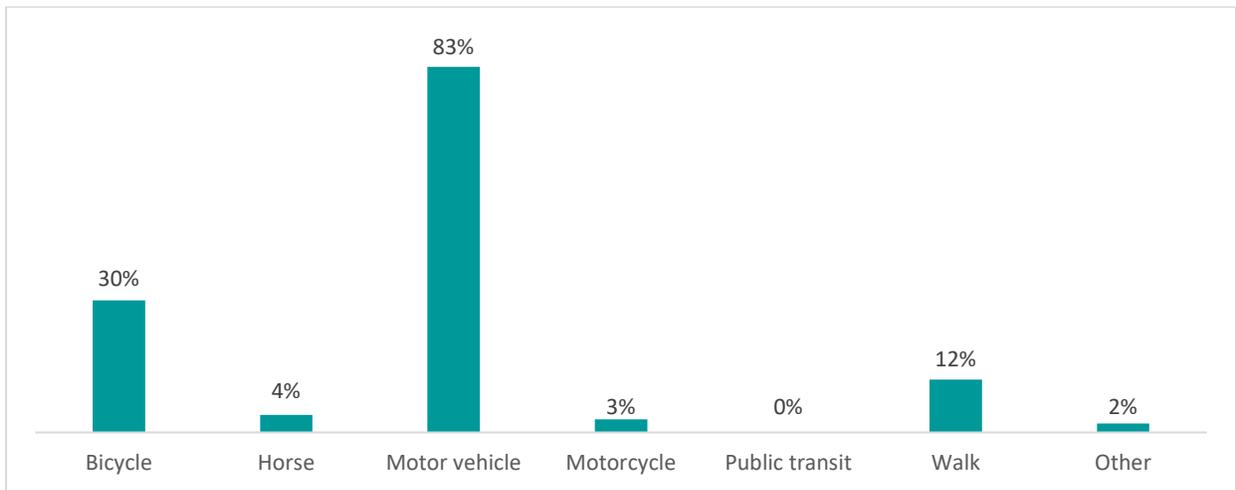


Figure 15: Breakdown of the mode of transportation used by respondents to reach Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

## Section 4: Management Implications

**QUESTION 13: PARK MANAGEMENT PLANS TYPICALLY INCLUDE POLICY DIRECTION AND/OR ACTIONS TO ADDRESS KNOWN ISSUES. PLEASE SHARE ANY ISSUES AT MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS THAT YOU BELIEVE NEED TO BE ADDRESSED THROUGH THE MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

A total of 344 qualitative comments were provided by respondents to the open-ended question about issues at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks. Each comment entailed multiple themes. The qualitative responses were coded to identify emerging themes and then quantified to evaluate their relevance.

The most mentioned themes were:

- **Natural environment:** respondents were concerned about environmental degradation, erosion and invasive species (Figure 17).
- **Social context:** respondents were mostly concerned about the increase in visitor use pressures in both parks and conflict between user groups (i.e., walkers versus cyclists versus dog owners). Respondents also mentioned as an issue some visitors' disruptive and illegal behaviours (i.e., loud music, drinking, smoking). Another social issue emerging from the comments was dog behaviour, where respondents complained about dog waste, and reported the presence of dog out of control harassing people and wildlife (Figure 18).
- **Land managements:** respondents pointed out that limited parking is available in both locations, and signage is lacking (i.e., wayfinding, visitor etiquette, rules). Several respondents suggested to improve trail maintenance in areas of recurrent flooding (Figure 19).

Below is reported a breakdown of the themes extracted from this qualitative question.

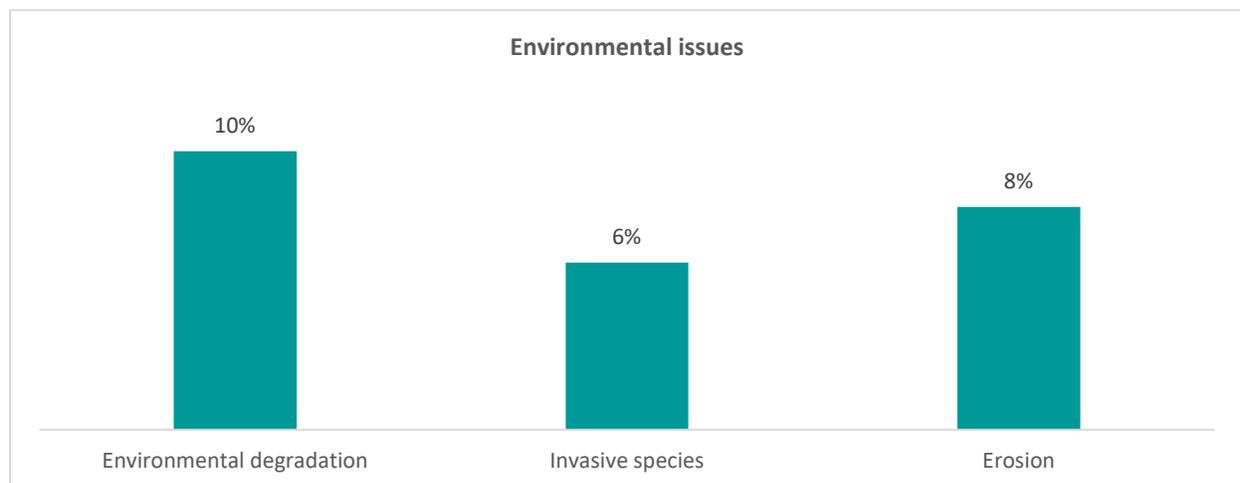


Figure 16: Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks **natural environment issues** noted by respondents.

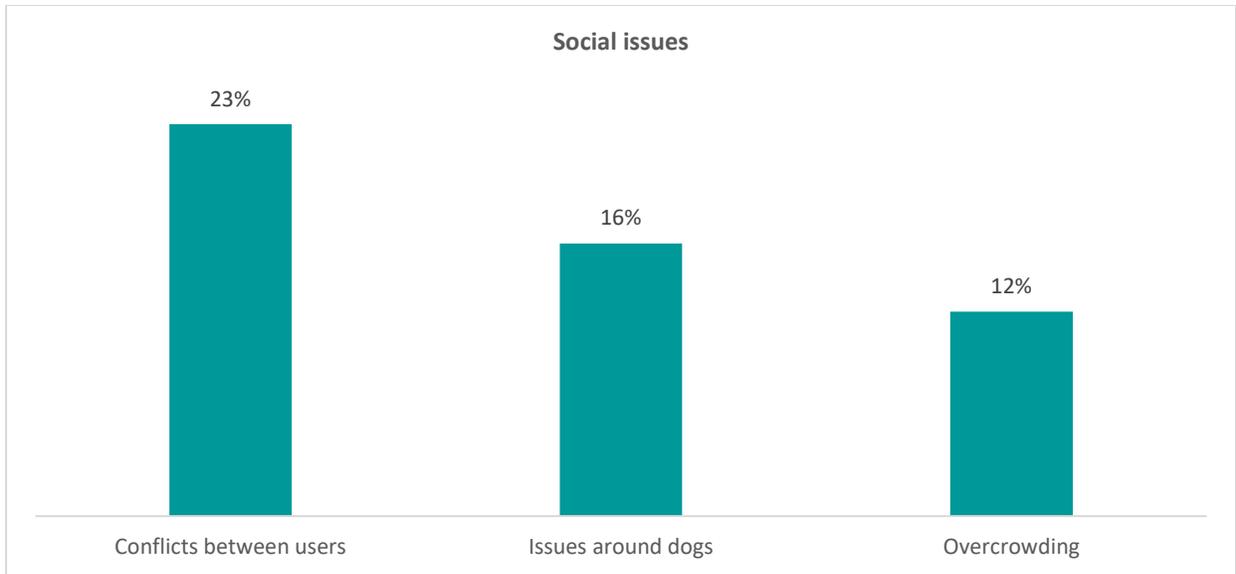


Figure 17: Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks **social context** noted by respondents.

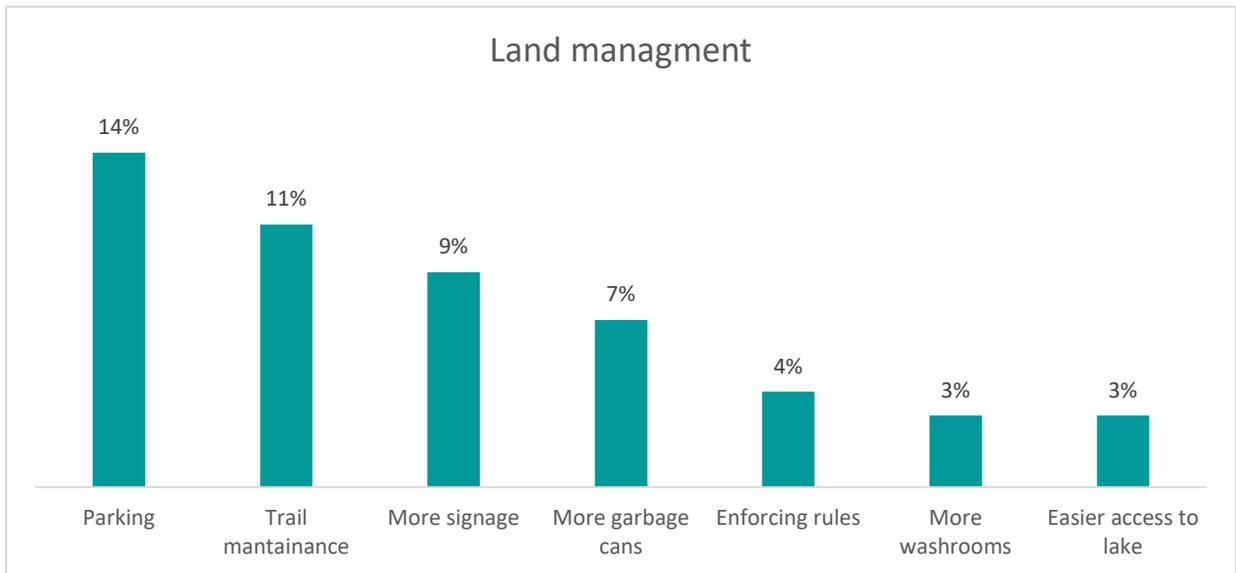


Figure 18: Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks **land management issues** noted by respondents.

**QUESTION 14: DID YOU KNOW THAT SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES AT RISK ARE PRESENT IN MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS?**

There were 495 responses to this question. The vast majority of respondents were aware of the presence of sensitive ecosystems and species at risk at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

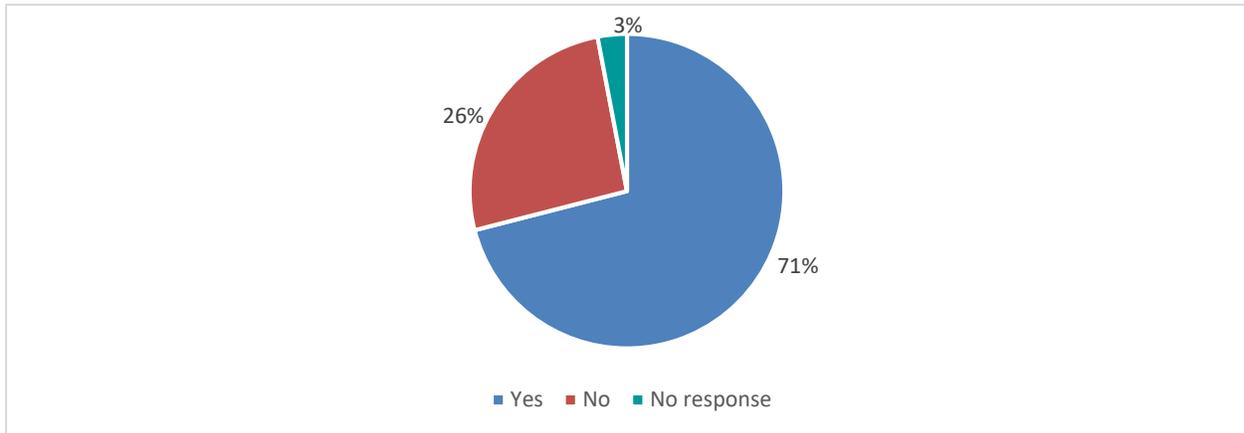


Figure 19: Respondents’ knowledge about sensitive ecosystems and species at risk at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

**QUESTION 15: WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO PROTECT SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES AT RISK IN THESE PARKS?**

There were 495 responses. The majority of respondents support all measures listed.

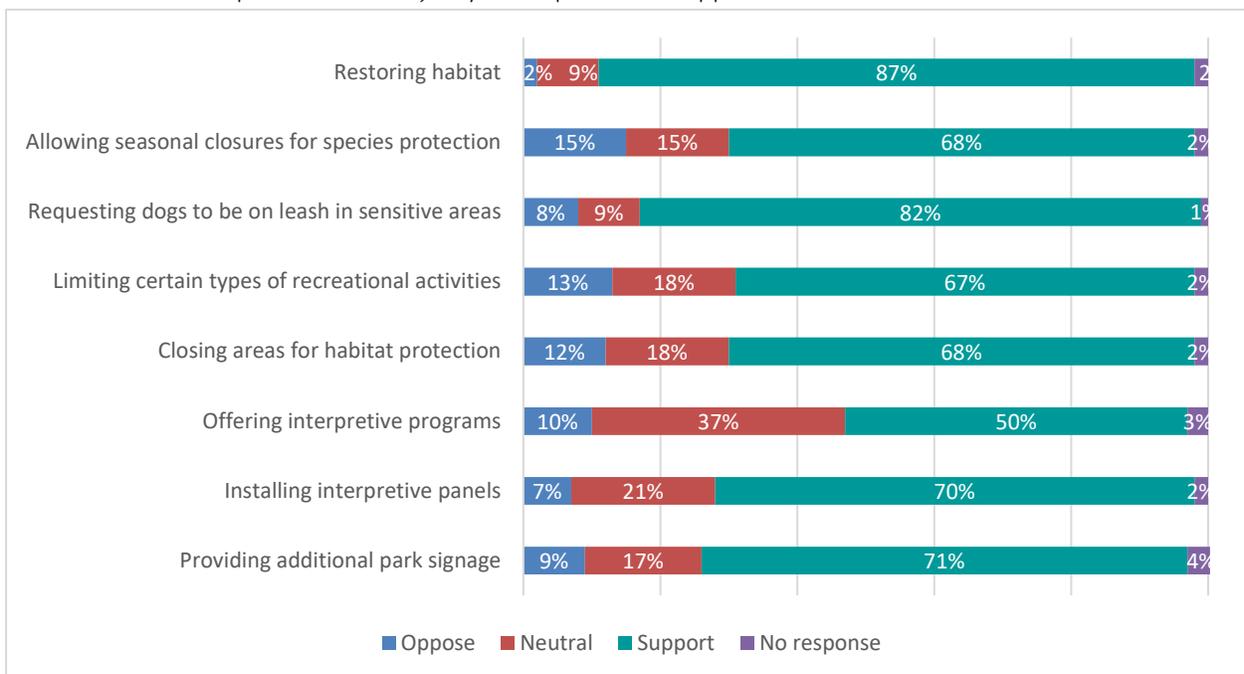


Figure 40: Breakdown of respondents’ support or opposition for **measures to protect sensitive ecosystems and species at risk** at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

**QUESTION 16: DID YOU KNOW THAT CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES ARE PRESENT IN MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS?**

Most of the 495 respondents did not know about cultural heritage sites in these parks.

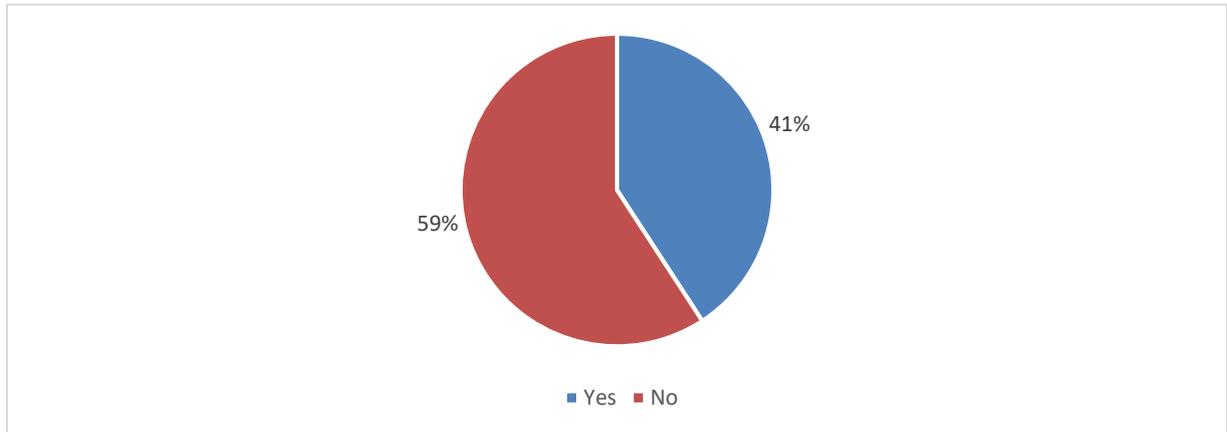


Figure 51: Respondents’ knowledge about **cultural heritage** at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

**QUESTION 17: WOULD YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE FOLLOWING MEASURES TO PROTECT CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES IN THESE PARKS?**

The majority of the 495 respondents support all measures listed.

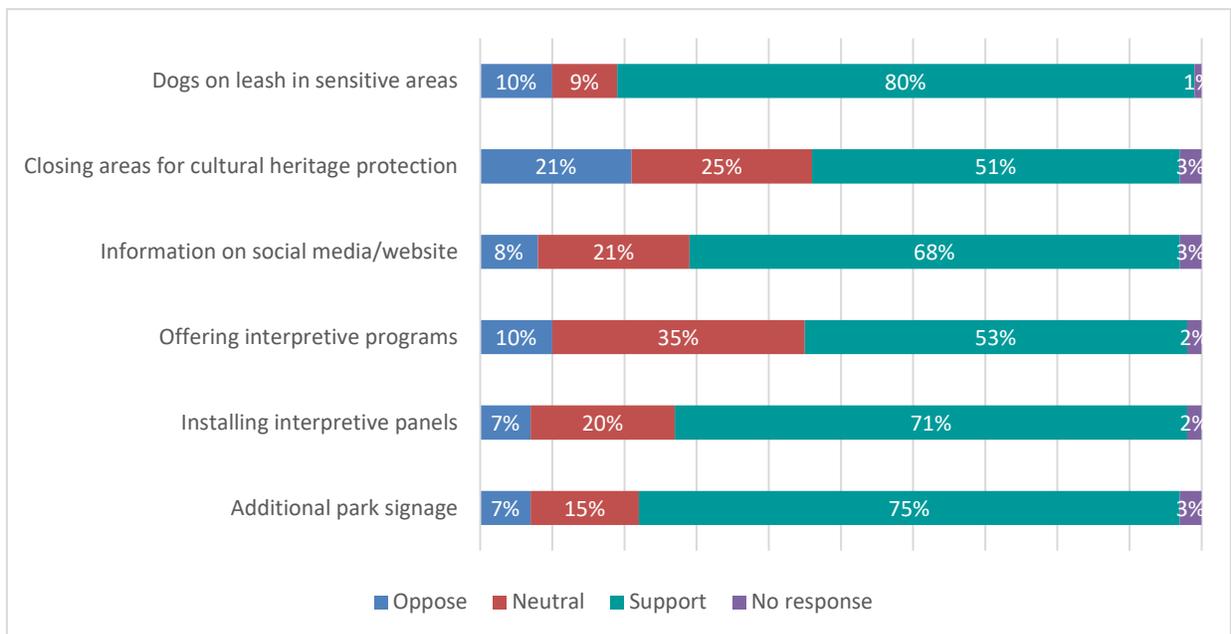


Figure 62: Breakdown of respondents support or opposition for **measures to protect cultural heritage sites** at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

## Section 5: Satisfaction

### QUESTION 18: IN MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS, HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THE FOLLOWING OFFERS?

There were 495 responses. The majority of respondents were satisfied with their experiences, outdoor recreation, trails, and overall cleanliness. Lower satisfaction was expressed for natural environment and species protection, parking, signage and mapping. Respondents were unsure how to comment on education/park nature programs and picnic tables.

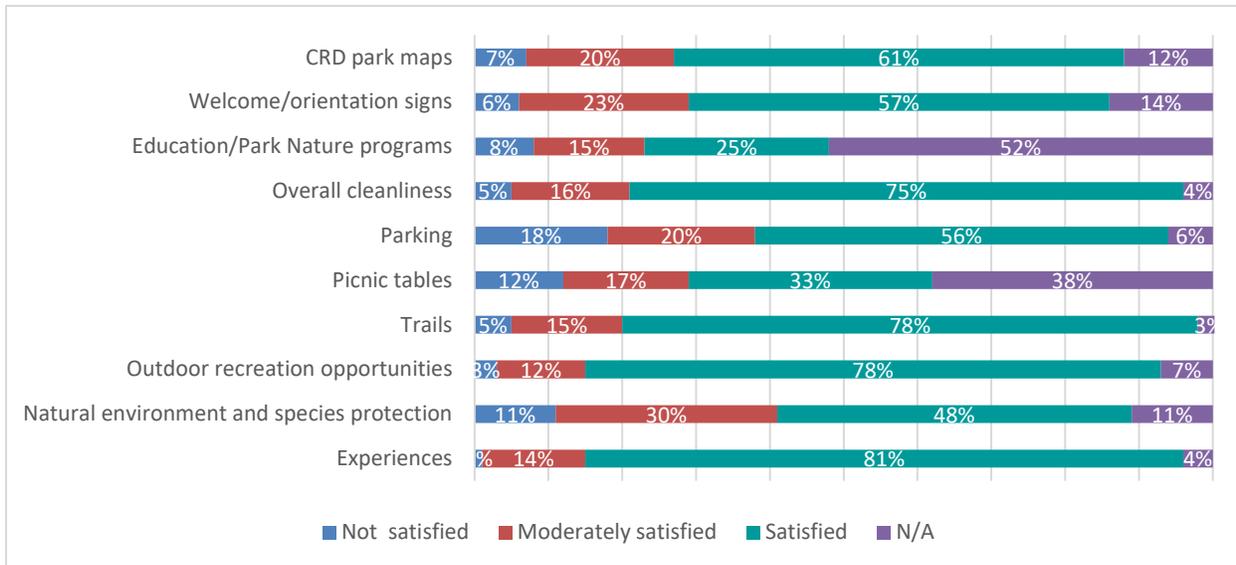


Figure 23: Breakdown of respondents' satisfaction with different offers at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

## Section 6: Carnivores

### QUESTION 19: HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A COUGAR, BEAR AND/OR WOLF IN MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS?

There were 495 responses. Most respondents have not seen carnivores in these parks.

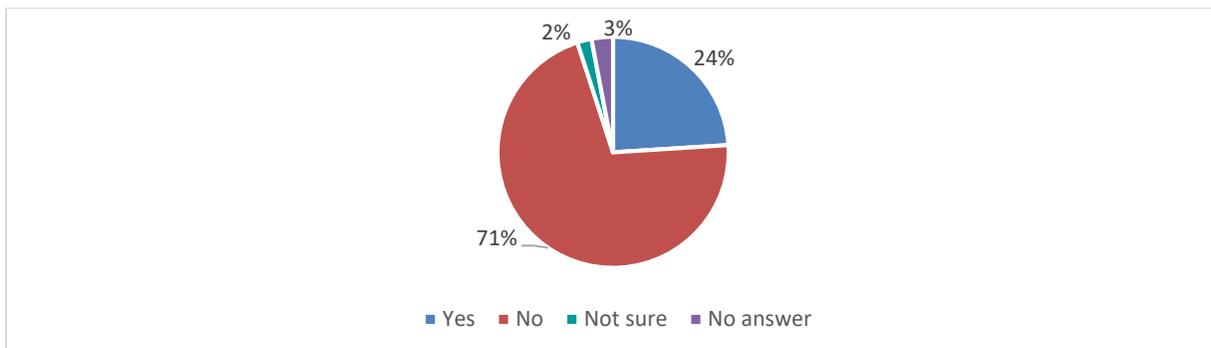


Figure 24: Respondents' sightings of cougars, bears and/or wolves in Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

### QUESTION 20: WHAT DID YOU SEE?

Of the 119 respondents who saw carnivores in these parks, the majority encountered bears.

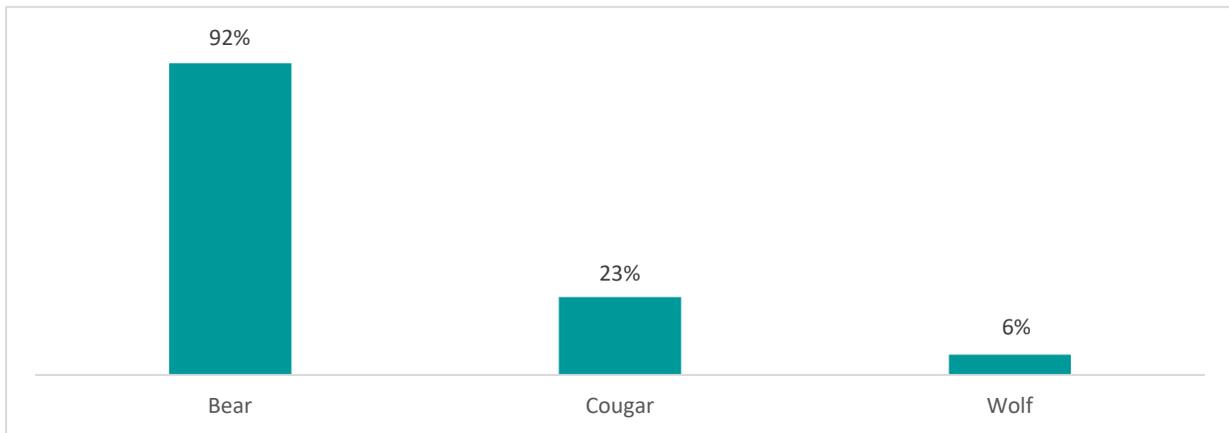


Figure 25: Respondents' sightings of cougars, bears and/or wolves in Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

### QUESTION 21: WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO PREPARE FOR POSSIBLY ENCOUNTERING COUGARS, BEARS AND/OR WOLVES?

There were 495 responses. More than half of the respondents stated they have read signs about carnivores in the park or travel in groups.

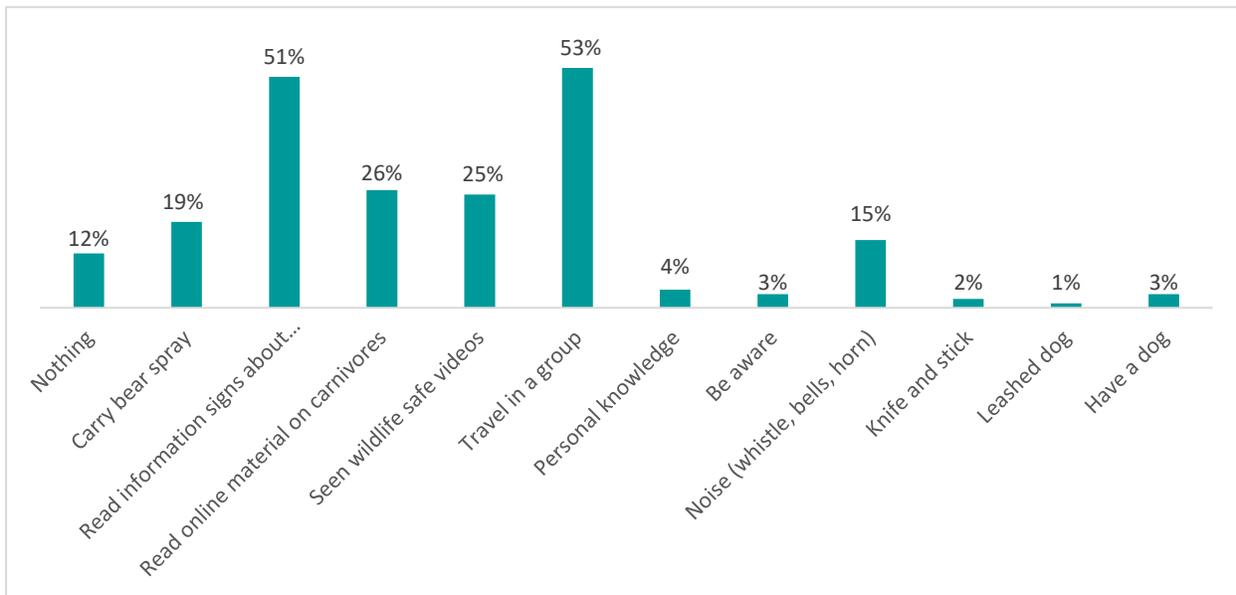


Figure 26: Breakdown of respondents' preparedness for encountering carnivores in Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

## Section 7: Other Comments

### QUESTION 22: DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENTS ABOUT MATHESON LAKE AND ROCHE COVE REGIONAL PARKS?

A total of 289 qualitative comments were provided by respondents to the open-ended question about final comments on Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks. Each comment entailed multiple themes. The qualitative questions were coded to identify emerging themes and quantified to evaluate such themes relevance.

The most mentioned themes were:

- **Natural environment:** respondents stressed the importance of maintaining the natural environment of these parks, suggested focusing on environmental protection, invasive species removal and erosion, and advocated for buying more land around these regional parks.
- **Social context:** once again, respondents mentioned conflicts between user groups and overcrowding as a main concern in both parks. Respondents used this section to express their support and opposition for dogs on-leash and off-leash. Respondents also mentioned the need to focus on cultural heritage through a First Nation lens.
- **Land management:** respondents were divided between increasing or not increasing parking in these parks, as visitation pressure is already high. Some respondents suggested adding signage about etiquette, the environment or for wayfinding. Other suggested more enforcement. Respondents also mentioned better trail management, where needed, and offering mountain biking opportunities. Some respondents wish a boat launch to facilitate access to the lake with paddle boards, kayaks, and boats. Finally, having more washrooms was also seen as important in these parks.

Some participants (11%) expressed gratitude for the opportunity to engage in the management planning process and toward the CRD for the upkeep of these parks.

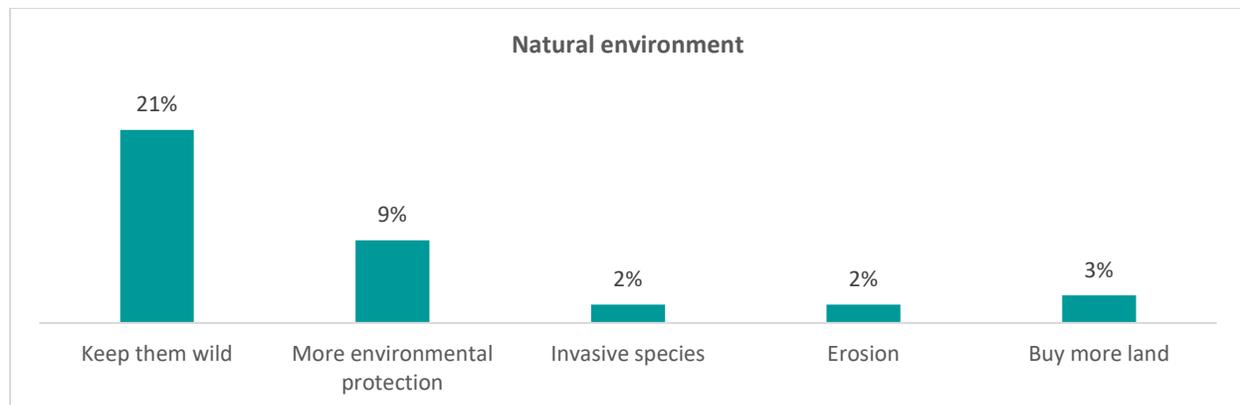


Figure 27: Breakdown of the final comments related to the **natural environment** at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

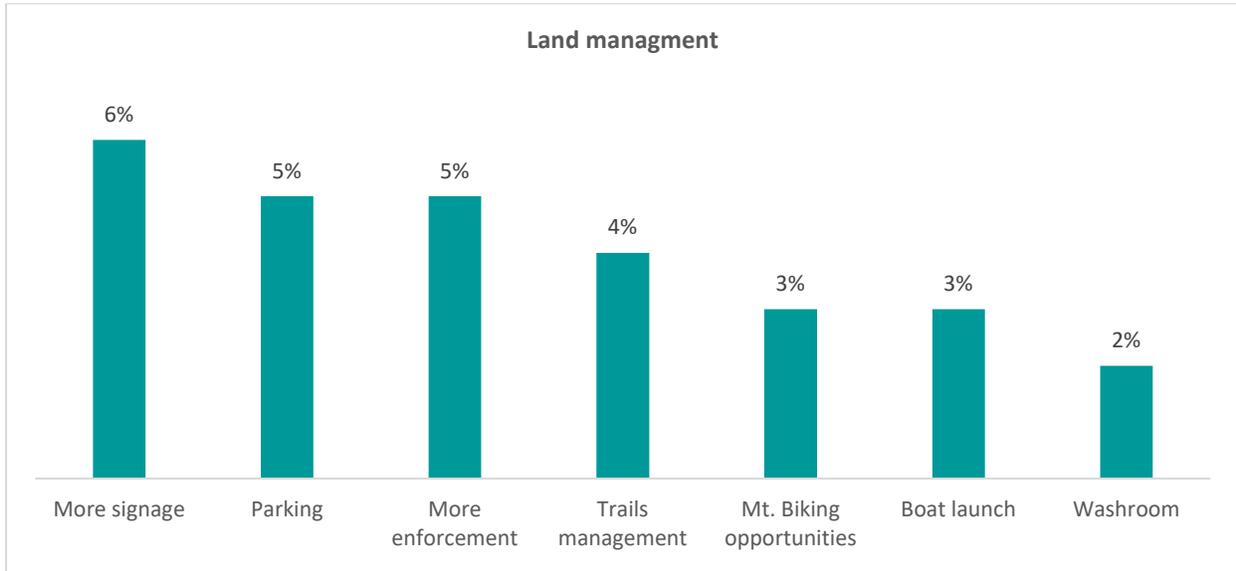


Figure 28: Breakdown of the final comments related to **land management** at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

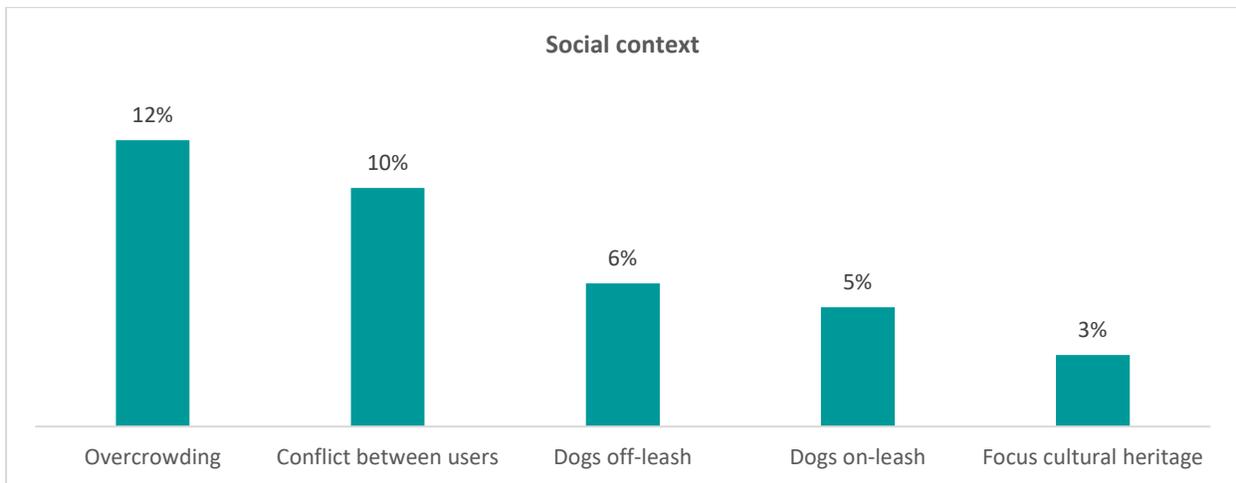


Figure 29: Breakdown of the final comments related to the **social context** at Matheson Lake and Roche Cove regional parks.

## Section 8: Demographics

### QUESTION 23: IN WHICH AGE CATEGORY DO YOU FALL?

There were 495 responses. Respondents to the survey were distributed similarly between the age categories 35-65+. There was low input to the survey from youth and younger adults.

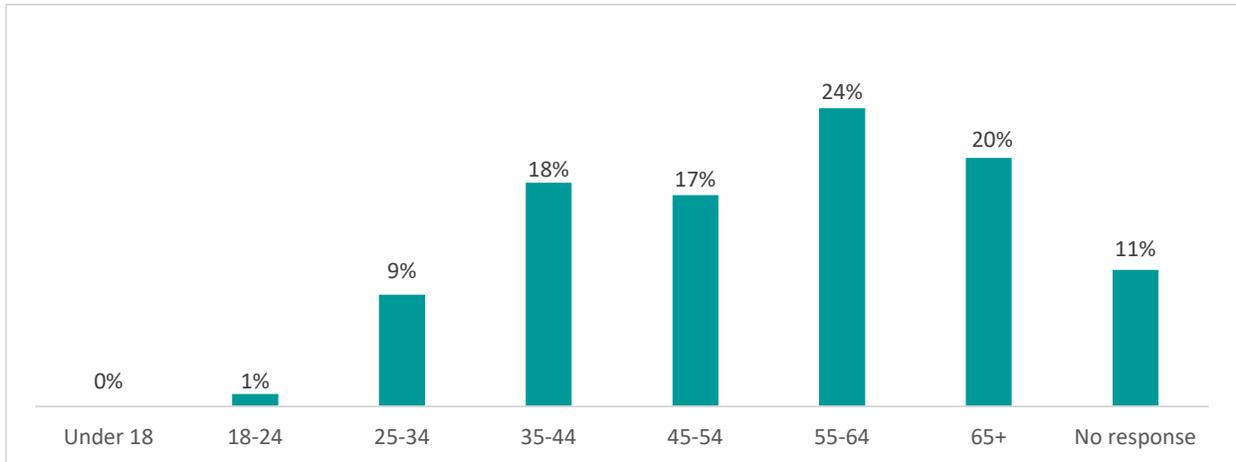


Figure 30: Age distribution of respondents.

### QUESTION 24: WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

There were 495 responses. Most respondents lived in Metchosin and Sooke, the municipalities closest to the parks, and in Victoria.

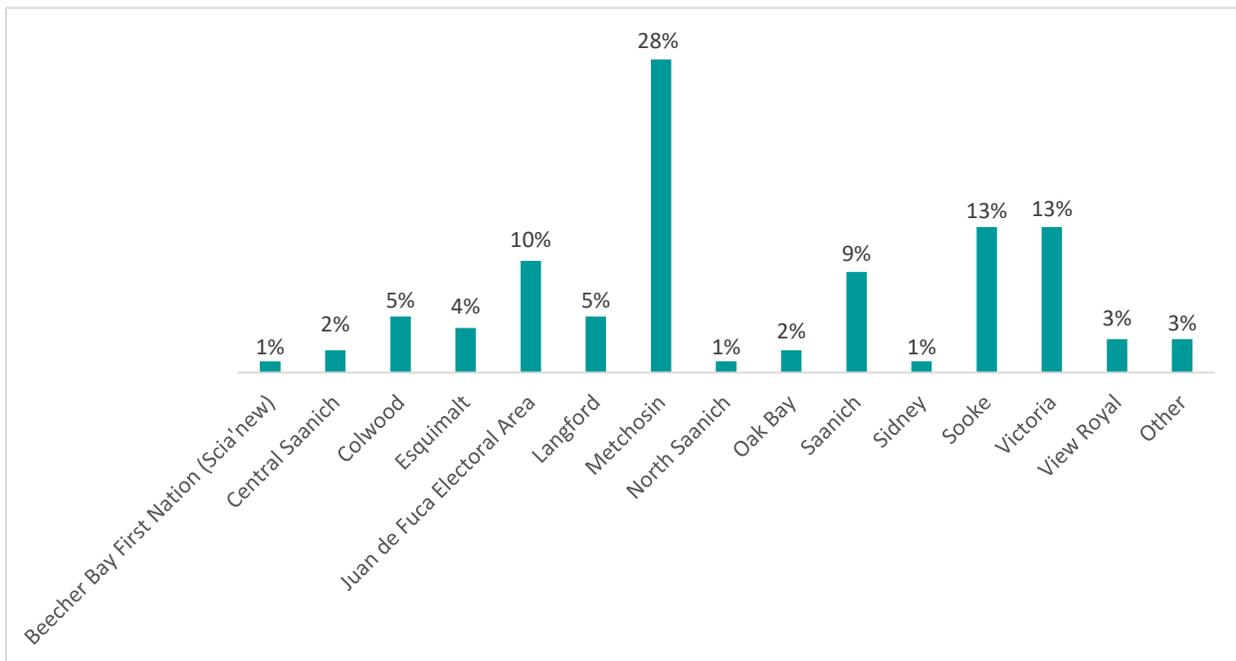


Figure 31: Breakdown of where visitors live.