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REPORT TO REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018

SUBJECT **Matthews Point Regional Park Management Plan – Initial Public Participation Report**

ISSUE

To present the initial round of public engagement for the development of a management plan for Matthews Point Regional Park.

BACKGROUND

The Matthews Point management planning project was initiated by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board in October 2017.

A project webpage and an initial public participation process was established to gather input and suggestions for consideration in advance of drafting a management plan for the park.

The initial public participation process was conducted between October 14 and December 2, 2017 and included a web-based comment form, an open house held November 18, and outreach to key First Nations and to stakeholders such as park neighbours, key island groups, and two organizations that hold a conservation covenant on the park lands, as well as the public. Twenty-five people engaged directly with CRD staff (20 through the open house and 5 through meetings/phone discussions) and 19 comment forms were received.

The Initial Public Participation Report summarizes the key input received (Attachment 1). Input received includes First Nations traditional knowledge, local knowledge, and public opinions and suggestions regarding goals, activities, access, and issues. Although a small number of people directly participated in this initial engagement process, some of the people who participated were involved in the park's acquisition, some are very knowledgeable about the park, and all are keenly interested in the park's management.

The overwhelming theme that arose from the comments received related to the desire to keep the park natural and not to over-develop it. People feel it is appropriate to link park trails to the Matthews Shore Access trail and adjacent beach and to Bluff Park as many of them will also go to these areas from Matthews Point Regional Park.

CONCLUSION

Information received will be reviewed, considered and incorporated as appropriate in the drafting of the management plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Capital Regional District Board that this report be received for information.

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Submitted by:	Mike Walton, PhD, Senior Manager, Regional Parks
Concurrence:	Larisa Hutcheson, P.Eng., General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services
Concurrence:	Robert Lapham, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

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Attachment: Attachment 1 – Matthews Point Regional Park Management Plan Process - Initial Public Participation Report