

# Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan

## Public Engagement Report

Capital Regional District | June 2022



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# 1. Executive Summary

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board initiated an update of the Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012–2021 in December 2021. The Regional Parks Committee conducted a workshop to set the direction for the Strategic Plan update in January 2022 and the CRD Board approved this material for engagement in February 2022.

Engagement opportunities on the Strategic Plan update were provided between February and May 2022. The aim of the engagement process was to inform First Nations, stakeholder groups and the public about the park strategic planning process—to seek input and information from affected First Nations, agencies, stakeholder groups and individuals about the proposed vision, mission, values and key priorities to guide regional parks and trails over the next decade. This report includes a summary of the engagement process and responses received. A separate report is provided outlining engagement with First Nations.

Key stakeholder organizations were invited to participate in a series of focus groups on the Strategic Plan update in February 2022. In total, 44 stakeholder groups participated in one of five focus groups. Agencies with interest in parks and protected areas were invited to participate in a focus group or interview. Staff from seven agencies participated in a focus group and an interview. Three interviews were held with user groups who self-identified as having interest in the Strategic Plan update. An online survey was available between March 8 and April 4, 2022. A total of 1,228 surveys were completed. Three online information sessions were held with 26 members of the public participating.

Feedback received from the engagement process is highlighted in the Response section of this report. The Moving Forward section discusses the key concepts that were considered for incorporating into the updated CRD Regional Parks and Trails Strategic Plan.



## 2. Introduction

The Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021 has set the overall vision, goals and objectives for regional parks service delivery over the past 10 years. The 2012-2021 Strategic Plan was primarily led by a volunteer Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) and included extensive engagement with stakeholders, the public, government, First Nations and other park agencies. The Strategic Plan considered many of the trends, challenges and values that are still relevant today, such as increased visitation to regional parks and trails and the need for increased environmental protection. At the same time, many things have changed in the region since the adoption of the plan in 2012. For example, climate action and reconciliation with First Nations are key priorities of the CRD.

The CRD Board initiated an update of the Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021 on December 8, 2021 and a workshop was held with the Regional Parks Committee in January, 2022 to set the direction for the Strategic Plan update. On February 9, 2022 the CRD Board directed staff to seek input from First Nations, stakeholders, other agencies and the general public on a proposed vision, values, mission statement, and priorities and to apply a lens of conservation and protection of biodiversity to the priorities and process.

A new Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan will be brought forward in July 2022 that will set the direction for regional parks and trails over the next decade.

## 3. Purpose of the Engagement Report

The purpose of this report is to summarize the engagement process and to highlight responses and key themes received related to the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update.

The goal of engagement is to receive feedback from First Nations, stakeholders, user groups and the public on the proposed vision, values, mission, and key priorities that were approved by the CRD Board in February, 2022 to be considered in the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update (Appendix A). Feedback received through the engagement process from government agencies, stakeholder groups and the public is summarized and analyzed in this report and considered in the updated Strategic Plan. A separate report includes feedback received from First Nations.

The CRD is committed to involving First Nations, stakeholders, agencies and the public in the development of strategic plan. The aim of the engagement process was to inform First Nations, stakeholder groups, agencies and the public about the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update process, and to seek input and information from affected individuals and groups to assist the CRD with setting the future direction for regional parks and trails. Other goals of the engagement process included information sharing, dialogue and discussion, building ongoing relationships, developing understanding and trust, and producing a Strategic Plan that reflects organizational needs and public interests. The engagement process allowed interested individuals and groups to actively contribute to the Strategic Plan before the plan was updated. Engagement was one of the early steps in the update process and used to gather traditional and local knowledge about regional parks and trails, learn what is important to people,

identify issues and priorities, and to seek a range of suggestions for what should be considered in updating the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan 2022-2032.

## 4. Engagement Period

This report includes a summary of the engagement activities completed and responses received between February and May 2022 from stakeholder groups, government agencies and the general public. A separate report includes a summary of engagement with First Nations.

The engagement process for the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update commenced in February 2022 with a media release and the launch of a project site on the “get involved” webpage: [www.getinvolved.crd.bc.ca](http://www.getinvolved.crd.bc.ca) (hereafter ‘project webpage’). Focus groups and interviews were held between February and March 2022. An online survey was available from March 8 to April 4, 2022. Information sessions were offered online on March 1, March 16 and April 1, 2022. Communication materials were published through the engagement process on the project webpage, on social media and in newspapers. Engagement with First Nations was facilitated by a consultant beginning in February 2022.

## 5. Who Was Engaged

### 5.1. First Nations

Fifteen First Nations whose traditional territory lies within the CRD boundary were invited to participate in the Strategic Plan update process. A separate engagement report outlines the First Nations engagement process.

### 5.2. Park Agencies

Six agencies with direct or overarching jurisdiction, or a related interest in the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update, were invited to provide input and expertise. These included: Parks Canada; Cowichan Valley Regional District; BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (BC Parks and BC Recreation Sites and Trails); Islands Trust Conservancy; and BC Parks and Recreation Association. Representatives of these agencies received written notification of the Strategic Plan update and an invitation to participate in an interview and/or focus group session to share information and provide feedback.

### 5.3. Stakeholders

A total of 85 stakeholder groups were identified for participation in focus groups. Three broad categories of stakeholder groups to be invited to participate in the focus groups were identified, as follows: cultural/social interests, conservation interests and outdoor recreation interests. A balance of stakeholders from each category were invited to each focus group to promote a diversity of perspectives in the discussion. A list of the stakeholder groups selected to participate in the focus groups is provided in Appendix B.

### 5.4. User Groups

Approximately 200 user groups known by the CRD to have an interest in regional parks and trails were notified by email about the Strategic Plan engagement process and opportunities for input. The user groups were selected

from a master contact list maintained by Regional Parks and includes organizations that may represent a recreation, conservation, youth, or accessibility interest, and are currently active. Private businesses were not selected to be contacted.

Additional groups identified through the snowball sampling technique that did not meet the stakeholder selection criteria but who self-identified as having a special interest in participating in the Strategic Plan update were invited to participate in an interview. These user groups included:

- South Island Disc Golf Society
- Vancouver Island Slackline Association
- Local experts.

## 5.5. General Public

An online survey was made available to the general public through a link on the project webpage between March 8 and April 4, 2022. The survey included 16 questions with both quantitative and qualitative responses. A total of 1,228 surveys were completed. Survey methodology is outlined in Appendix B and survey responses are included in Appendix D.

The general public in the CRD were notified of the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update via media releases, newspaper advertisements and social media. The public was directed to the project webpage and had the opportunity to register to receive notifications about the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update. Between February 9, 2022 and May 1, 2022, there were approximately 2,400 visits to the project webpage, with 1,228 visitors engaging by taking the survey, 1,400 informed by viewing photos, downloading documents, and visiting the FAQ page, and 2,200 becoming aware about the project by viewing at least one page (Figure 1). Visitation peaked in March and April 2022 when the online survey and information sessions were available.

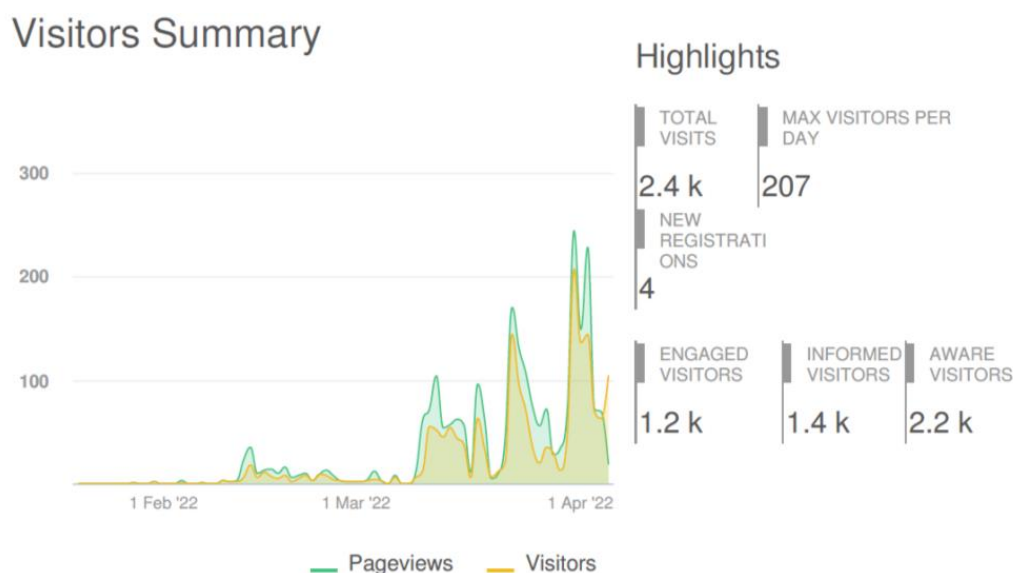


Figure 1: Visitation to project webpage between February 9 and May 1, 2022.

## 6. Engagement Methods

The project scope and engagement process for the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update were approved by the CRD Board in February 2022. A number of tools and approaches were used to engage First Nations, agencies, stakeholders, user groups and the public including: focus groups, interviews, an online survey, public information sessions, advertising, a project webpage and social media. The engagement methods are outlined in detail in Appendix B.

## 7. Responses

The following is a summary of the feedback received related to the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update.

### 7.1. First Nations

See separate First Nations engagement report.

### 7.2. Park Agencies

A focus group and an interview were held with staff representatives from Cowichan Valley Regional District, Islands Trust Conservancy, Parks Canada (Gulf Islands), BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, and the BC Parks and Recreation Association. While these agencies preferred not to offer comments about the values and principles, vision, mission and priorities proposed for the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan as it was beyond their capacity and role, comments and suggestions were offered about how to strengthen partnerships, align desired outcomes between groups, clarify roles and responsibilities of the different agencies and enhance information sharing.

### 7.3. Stakeholders

#### 7.3.1. Feedback about the Values and Principles

Overall, stakeholders were supportive of the proposed values and principles. Minor changes to the wording and additional values were offered by stakeholders, including leadership, partnership, stewardship, connectivity, education, and accountability.

#### 7.3.2. Feedback about the Vision

Stakeholders suggested the proposed vision statement encompasses too many ideas and concepts, potentially making it difficult for CRD Regional Parks to achieve. Stakeholders indicated that the term 'exceptional' is too subjective to be included in the vision. Stakeholders also pointed out the importance of including the word 'compatible' in front of outdoor recreation. Stakeholders proposed moving some of the important concepts into the mission and value statements, such as cooperation, respect, resiliency, and cultural heritage. The following new concepts were proposed by stakeholders to strengthen the vision: connectivity, active transportation, inspiring stewardship and education. These concepts are already present in the Regional Parks Strategic Plan 2012-2021 and stakeholders suggested they become prominent in the updated plan.

### 7.3.3. Feedback about the Mission

Stakeholders suggested the mission statements could be simplified and should better reflect the dynamic relationship between conservation and compatible outdoor recreation. The function of regional trails for active transportation was suggested to be highlighted, as well as the role the CRD plays in providing environmental education and leadership. Additionally, stakeholders stressed the importance of incorporating a lens of First Nations reconciliation, accessibility, equity, and climate action in all the services the CRD provides, where feasible.

### 7.3.4. Feedback on the Priorities

Stakeholders reviewed a series of priority statements that focused on the following themes: conservation and recreation; access and equity; climate action and resiliency; and reconciliation. The proposed themes were generally supported and aligned with stakeholder's views. However, the priority statements were deemed by some stakeholders as too complex and needing to be broken down. While the compatibility of conservation and outdoor recreation was debated, stakeholders shared common views towards the role of both conservation and compatible outdoor recreation in developing nature stewardship. Stakeholders indicated the need for incorporating research, best practices and education to ensure protection of biodiversity and to provide quality compatible outdoor recreation opportunities. Other suggestions offered by stakeholders included: more responsive park management and planning; expanding land acquisitions; buffering development; active transportation and transit opportunities; consideration of commercial activity in parks; improving facility design; improving transparency and accountability; and taking a leadership role in research, collaboration, and promotion of parks through marketing and communications. Prioritizing reconciliation with First Nations was supported by stakeholders and perceived as most appropriate to determine through direct engagement with First Nations. Stakeholders expressed general interest in learning about cultural heritage and reconciliation activities, where appropriate.

### 7.3.5. Additional Comments

Stakeholders were given the opportunity to add any further comments about regional parks and trails. The majority of the comments were about general support and appreciation for regional parks and trails and about opportunities to network with other stakeholder groups. Other comments focused specifically on: obtaining clarification about regional park bylaws and management processes; different levels of government jurisdiction across the region; impact of humans and increasing visitation; land acquisition criteria; and specific facility development, among others. It was stressed by the facilitator that the focus group was on the Strategic Plan update and those important comments would be noted and redirected to the appropriate planning processes concerning regional parks and trails. Comments from the stakeholder focus groups are listed by theme in Appendix C.

## 7.4. User Groups and Public

A total of 1,228 online surveys were completed and submitted. The main themes reflected in the comments include:

- Respondents' age was evenly split between categories, with the exception of younger people whose participation was lower. The majority of respondents to the survey live in Saanich (27%), Victoria (19%) and Langford (11%) and are couples with dependent children (41%), followed by parent(s) with one or more dependent children (28%) and adults living alone (14%).

- The majority of participants to the survey responded that it is very important to have the proposed values and principles of conservation (80%) and recreation (80%) in the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan, followed by resiliency (74%), equity (66%), accessibility (62%) and reconciliation (58%).
- More than half of the respondents to the survey identified stewardship (52%) and education (43%) as additional values to be included in the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update.
- The majority of respondents (83%) support to strongly support the proposed vision for the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan.
- All five mission statements proposed for the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan obtained more than 65% of respondents support to strongly support.
- When asked what should the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan give priority to over the next 10 years, the themes that scored the highest support were: land acquisition (High=66%), biodiversity protection (High=58%), and providing buffers between parks and urban development (High=50%). All other priorities scored lower, ranging between medium-high to medium-low priority.
- Respondents were given the opportunity to provide comments about how CRD Regional Parks can support reconciliation with First Nations. A total of 734 comments were received. The opportunities most commonly identified by respondents were: promoting the sharing of Indigenous knowledge through education, interpretation, and programming (n=266) and consulting First Nations directly in regard to regional parks and trails management (N=153) so to ensure their priorities are met.
- Respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments about regional parks and trails. A total of 932 comments were received, with many providing multiple feedback statements and suggestions about the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update. For conservation, respondents were concerned about the overuse and impacts they witnessed in the regional parks and trails (n=65) and suggested to focus on biodiversity and ecosystem preservation (n=132) and land acquisition (n=100). For outdoor recreation, respondents suggested, in general, to offer more opportunities to recreate in regional parks and trails (n=83), with some specific stakeholder groups advocating for more disc golfing (n=138), mountain biking (n=120) and horse riding (n=47) opportunities. Respondents (n=113) took also the opportunity to express their appreciation towards the CRD and the possibility to participate in the survey.

#### 7.4.1 Additional Input from User Groups

Three interviews were conducted with representatives from user groups who self-identified as having interest or knowledge in the Strategic Plan update. The main themes reflected in these interviews were: compatible outdoor recreation; stewardship; decision-making processes; conservation and protection of biodiversity; research and evidence-based decision-making.

A total of 15 public comments were submitted to the [parksplanning@crd.bc.ca](mailto:parksplanning@crd.bc.ca) email. The main themes reflected in these submissions include: the engagement process; park development and park uses; conservation; regional trails; climate change; health and well-being; and governance.

The feedback obtained aligned with previous comments provided by stakeholders through the focus groups and by the public through the survey.

#### **7.4.2 Additional Input from Municipalities**

A letter was received from the District of Metchosin, dated May 3, 2022, regarding the Strategic Plan update (Appendix E). The main themes reflected in this submission include: conservation and biodiversity lens, protection of wildland areas, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and securing habitat for apex predators.

## **8. Moving Forward**

The Regional Parks Committee held a workshop in January 2022 to set the direction for engagement on the Regional Parks Strategic Plan update. At its February 9, 2022 meeting, the CRD Board proposed a renewed vision, mission, values and principles, and strategic priorities based on the themes of conservation & recreation, access & equity, climate action & resiliency, and reconciliation. This material was presented to First Nations, stakeholder groups and the public for feedback between February and May 2022. At its meeting of April 20, 2022, the Transportation Committee recommended the Plan be called Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan and that specific content relating to regional trails be included. This emphasis on the regional trails function of the CRD regional parks service has been strengthened throughout the Plan and particularly through the concepts of connectivity, mobility, active transportation and accessibility.

While engagement results indicated overall support for the proposed vision, stakeholder feedback suggested the desired future state of regional parks and trails should be simplified in an attempt to make the vision more obtainable. Based on this feedback, the concept of cooperation has been removed from the vision but inserted into sections of the Plan that address stewardship and partnerships. The concept of respecting Indigenous cultural use and cultural heritage has been strengthened. Stakeholder feedback about the vision suggested adding concepts of connectivity, active transportation, inspiring stewardship and education. The vision has been amended to add the concept of connectivity to reflect the function of regional trails, active mobility in general, and the importance of connected greenspaces. The vision has also been amended to add the concept of inspiring stewardship, of which an element is education. A glossary has been included in the updated Strategic Plan to clarify terms used throughout the document.

Throughout the engagement process, the values of conservation and outdoor recreation received the most support. The other proposed values and principles (accessibility, equity, reconciliation and resiliency) received support as well. Refinements to the wording of the values and principles has been done in an attempt to better reflect their meaning. The additional values and principles of accountability, connectivity, education, leadership, partnerships, and stewardship were suggested by stakeholders and incorporated into the public survey questions. The public survey results indicate strong support for including education and stewardship as values in the updated Strategic Plan. The values of accountability and connectivity received less support overall but have been included as they provide a stronger foundation for the Plan and were themes heard throughout the engagement process. These values and principles have been developed and incorporated into the updated Strategic Plan. Edits to the values and principles have also been made to better reflect the role of regional trails in the CRD.



While more than 65% of public survey respondents support or strongly support all five mission statements proposed for the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan, stakeholders suggested the mission statements should be simplified to better reflect the dynamic relationship between conservation and compatible outdoor recreation, reflect the function of regional trails for active transportation, as well as how regional parks provide opportunities for environmental education and stewardship. The mission statements have been revised to highlight these core functions of the service. All other concepts originally proposed in the mission statements have been removed as they are adequately represented elsewhere in the Plan and their importance is not lost.

The engagement materials presented a series of priority statements that focused on the following themes: conservation & recreation; access & equity; climate action & resiliency; and reconciliation. Overall, the engagement process indicated that the priority statements were deemed as too complex and needing to be broken down or streamlined.

Overall, the engagement process highlighted that prioritizing reconciliation was perceived as most appropriate to determine through direct engagement with First Nations. The engagement process also revealed general public interest in learning about cultural heritage and reconciliation actions, where appropriate. The priorities for reconciliation have been given prominence in the Plan and the proposed actions support ongoing engagement with First Nations to determine how to strengthen relationships, respect Indigenous laws and cultural use, and make tangible progress towards reconciliation. Continued efforts by the CRD to deliver cultural awareness education and adhere to cultural heritage protection are also included in the Plan.

The main topic of interest and importance throughout the engagement process was the dynamic between conservation and recreation. Many common views were expressed about the role of both conservation and compatible outdoor recreation in developing nature stewardship. The Plan attempts to focus on how conservation and recreation may be compatible to achieve the mutual goal of nature stewardship and how to address causes of tension between conservation and outdoor recreation through improving research, planning and monitoring to improve transparency, protection of natural assets and cultural heritage, and improve outdoor recreation experiences. The concepts of conservation and visitor experience have been addressed separately in the Plan in order to ensure each is given due consideration and the duality between the concepts does not detract from their importance. The conservation priorities of land acquisition and environmental restoration and monitoring are highlighted in the Plan, and were the priorities with highest rates of support by public and stakeholders. The outdoor recreation priorities of developing partnerships, incorporating best practices/improving facility design, and doing responsive park planning are highlighted in the Plan, and were the priorities with the highest rates of support by public and stakeholders. Also, knowledge sharing, improved communication and education are key elements raised in the engagement process and have been incorporated into the Plan.

Climate action and resiliency ranked of high interest to participants in the engagement process. The key priorities suggested by participants include: buffering urban development with new park land, working with government agencies to connect green spaces and apply a climate action lens to service provision. These aspects have been incorporated into the Plan.

Of the priorities presented under the access and equity theme, feedback received through the engagement process indicated the highest level of support for providing accessibility to parks and trails for people of different ages, abilities and incomes and for enhancing connectivity between communities and parks. The role of regional trails and transit in providing low-barrier access between communities and parks was highlighted throughout the engagement process, and have been incorporated into the Plan.

In addition to the input received through the engagement process, staff have also incorporated relevant priorities and actions from related CRD strategies and corporate commitments into the updated Strategic Plan. These related CRD strategies underwent separate engagement processes and have been approved by the CRD Board. Staff expertise has also been incorporated into the updated Strategic Plan to refine terms, review for consistency and alignment between divisions.

How the input received to date from First Nations has been incorporated into the Strategic Plan update is included in a separate report.

## 9. Limitations

The CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update was initiated in December 2021 and the delivery of an updated Strategic Plan was set for June/July 2022. It is possible that such a short timeline may limit the engagement abilities of participants. Significant limitations to in-person engagement were experienced due to COVID-19 public safety measures. Many of the typical community events and open houses utilized during a planning process were not feasible. Technological tools were heavily relied on during this engagement process due to COVID-19 public safety measures. Lack of access to, and knowledge of, technology can be a limitation to those wishing to participate. Finally, the project timeline and allocated resources constrain the project to an extent.

## Appendix A: Engagement Materials

CRD

### Regional Parks Strategic Plan Update 2022



March - April, 2022  
Public Input

### Vision 2032

We work cooperatively and respectfully to steward and expand an exceptional system of regional parks and trails that is rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage, resilient to change, connects people to nature and provides healthy outdoor experiences for all.



### Mission



Ensure regional parks and trails are resilient by delivering a sustainable service that is adaptable and takes action on climate change.



Foster stewardship of ecological and cultural resources by informing, engaging and collaborating with the public, volunteers, partners, and First Nations.



Provide access to regional parks and trails that facilitates healthy, safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences for all.



Secure a diverse and connected system of regional parks and trails that protect and restore the integrity of our region's biodiversity and cultural landscapes.



Work with First Nations in taking care of the land and water.

# Values and Principles



**Accessibility** – We provide access to nature for all ages and abilities



**Conservation** – We work together to protect, restore and celebrate the region's natural and cultural landscapes



**Equity** – We work together to ensure regional parks and trails are inclusive and maintained as a common good



**Reconciliation** – We are committed to work towards reconciliation with First Nations



**Recreation** – We offer outdoor recreation experiences that improve our health and well-being



**Resiliency** – We take action on climate change by being adaptive and using resources sustainably with a view to benefiting future generations

# Additional Values and Principles:

Leadership

Partnership

Stewardship

Connectivity

Education

Accountability



### Conservation & Recreation

- Conserve biodiversity
- Enable outdoor recreation
- Work with partners
- Foster stewardship



### Access & Equity

- Enhance health & well-being
- Promote complete and connected communities
- Ensure economic fairness
- Accessibility & equity lens



### Climate Action & Resiliency

- Align sustainable service delivery with climate action
- Advance regional active transportation
- Develop partnerships
- Acquire and manage natural areas



### Reconciliation

- Incorporate First Nations reconciliation objectives
- Provide space for cultural use
- Strengthen engagement
- Support shared prosperity



## **KEY PRIORITY STATEMENTS REGIONAL PARKS STRATEGIC PLAN**

**February 2022**

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### **Conservation & Recreation**

- Take action to conserve biodiversity through acquiring land, restoration and monitoring of ecosystems across the region (UN; LAS; RGS, 2.1; RPSP, p.9)
- Enable users to recreate and have outdoor recreation experiences that are enjoyable, safe and compatible (RPSP, p.9 & 12)
- Work with partners in taking care of the land and water and providing sustainable outdoor recreation (Board, #6d & #6b-1 & #6b-2; RPSP, p.10; LAS)
- Foster stewardship through program delivery, knowledge sharing and leading by example (RPSP, p.10)

### **Access & Equity**

- Enhance health and well-being by providing nature and outdoor recreation experiences for all ages and abilities (Board, #6e; RPSP, p.9)
- Promote complete and connected communities by ensuring recreation, parks and green space can be easily accessed by transit, walking or cycling (RGS, 3.1 & 4.1; RPSP, p.9)
- Ensure economic fairness by managing regional parks and trails as a common good (RGS 5.1; Revenue, p.4)
- Strengthen an accessibility and equity lens in service delivery

### Climate Action & Resiliency

- Align sustainable service delivery and infrastructure improvements with climate action (RGS 7.1; CAS, 1.1 & 5.1; RPSP)
- Advance regional active transportation opportunities that contribute to greenhouse gas reduction (CAS, 3.7; RPSP; RGS, 4)
- Develop partnerships for the long-term consistent and connected management of green space and ecosystem services (RPSP; Board, #5a-5).
- Strategically acquire and manage natural areas to address climate mitigation, urban containment and access to green space for a growing population (RGS 7.1, CAS, 5.1; RPSP)

### Reconciliation

- Incorporate First Nation worldviews, knowledge and reconciliation objectives in the management of natural assets and cultural heritage (Board, #3a-3 & #6d; RPSP; FNSR; RNTF, p.44-45)
- Provide space for cultural and ceremonial use, food and medicine harvesting, traditional management practices and reclaiming Indigenous place names (Board, #3a-3 & #6d; RPSP; FNSR; FNTF, p.44-45)
- Strengthen engagement with First Nations in service delivery initiatives (Board, #3a-3 & #6d; RPSP; FNSR; FNTF, p.44-45; LAS)
- Seek partnerships, share information and deliver fair and equitable services in working with First Nations on achieving their economic goals (Board, #3a-3 & #6d; RPSP; FNSR; FNTF, p.44-45)

#### Reference Abbreviations:

Board	Capital Regional District 2019-2021 Board Priorities
CAS	Climate Action Strategy 2021
FNSR	First Nations Statement of Reconciliation
FNTF	First Nations Task Force Final Report, 2018
LAS	Land Acquisition Strategy 2020-2021
RGS	Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), Bylaw No. 4017, 2018
RPSP	Regional Parks Strategic Plan (RPSP) 2012-2021
Revenue	Draft Revenue Generation Strategy, 2021
UN	United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

## Appendix B: Engagement Methods

### Interviews

Interviews were offered by CRD Regional Parks staff to representatives from park agencies with interest in the region who could not attend a focus group, and with experts or representatives from user groups who did not meet the stakeholder selection criteria and self-identified as having interest in the Strategic Plan update. Four interviews were conducted in February and March 2022. Interviews were held by phone or virtually by Zoom or Teams and lasted approximately one hour. CRD staff took notes during the interviews for later analysis and review.

### Project Webpage

A project webpage was established on the CRD's Get Involved online platform in February 2022 and was updated for the duration of the Strategic Plan update (<https://getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/regional-parks-strategic-plan-update>). The project webpage includes an overview of the Strategic Plan update process, the proposed vision, values, mission statements, and priorities accepted by the CRD Board for engagement, as well as outlines opportunities for input, CRD staff contact information, frequently asked questions (FAQs), and key documents informing the Strategic Plan update.

### Information Sessions

Three online information sessions were held via the Zoom platform on March 11, March 16 and April 1, 2022. Each session included a presentation about the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update and a question and answer session. Each webinar lasted one hour. A total of 26 participants attended the three webinars.

### Letters/Emails

Email notices were sent to approximately 200 user groups with potential interest or expertise related to regional parks and trails. Email notices were also sent to seven park agencies with a direct interest in the Strategic Plan update.

A project email account was created for receiving comments and inquiries about the Strategic Plan update: [parksplanning@crd.bc.ca](mailto:parksplanning@crd.bc.ca). A total of 15 email submissions were received from members of the public or individuals representing a user group or special interest group. One letter was received from the District of Metchosin (Appendix F). Delegations and written submissions provided to the CRD Board are not included in this report.

### Social Media

Social media posts were made on the CRD's Facebook and Twitter accounts during February, March and April 2022, directing people to the project webpage and online survey. These posts went out to 7,813 followers on Twitter and 5,500 followers on Facebook. As well, some stakeholder and user groups shared information and links to the project webpage on their own channels. 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+. Figure 2 outlines the level of engagement with the Facebook ads.

Reach	Reactions	Shares	Link Clicks	Comments
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19,356	44	25	911	7
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Figure 2: Facebook Ad Engagement

## Advertising

Two media releases were issued by the CRD on February 9 and March 18, 2022 outlining the Strategic Plan update and engagement process, and encouraging the public to complete the online survey. Multiple news outlets received the media release. An article was published by Black Press Media on March 11, 2022.

Print ads were published in multiple newspapers during March and April 2022, while the online survey was available (Figure 3). The ads directed readers to the project webpage to complete the online survey. Ads were posted in Black Press Media papers and the Times Colonist (Figure 4).

Publication	Date
Oak Bay News	March 10, 2022
Peninsula News	March 10, 2022
Sooke News Mirror	March 10, 2022
Goldstream News Gazette	March 10, 2022
Saanich News	March 10, 2022
Times Colonist	March 8, 2022

Figure 3: Newspaper Ad Dates

**Public Feedback Opportunity**



**The Capital Regional District Is seeking Input on the  
Regional Parks Strategic Plan Update**

*CRD Regional Parks protects and manages over 13,300 hectares of natural areas in 32 regional parks and three regional trails on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands.*

The updated Regional Parks Strategic Plan will set the direction for regional parks and trails over the next decade, defining the vision for our regional parks and providing guidance for the CRD to consistently achieve desired outcomes.

Learn more, attend information sessions and take the survey online at: [getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/regional-parks-strategic-plan-update](https://getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/regional-parks-strategic-plan-update)



Figure 4: Newspaper Advertisement



## Online Survey

An online survey was made available through a link on the project webpage from March 8 to April 4, 2022. The survey included 17 questions with both quantitative and qualitative responses. Some survey questions had multiple statements to be completed.

Close-ended questions were measured through a five-point rating scale ranging from strongly support to strongly oppose 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 the option to offer additional comments and clarify their responses. Questions about participants' demographic characteristics (i.e., age, residency) were also included in the questionnaire.

## Analysis

The Engagement HQ's analytics framework provided by the Get Involved platform was used to analyze descriptive statistics, which are reported as a percentage for all quantitative questions of the survey. Content analysis was performed to analyze qualitative comments provided by participants in a replicable and systematic manner. Specifically, all qualitative data were categorized using codes, which allowed identifying code themes and response patterns.

## Rationale

It is important to acknowledge that the aim of the survey was to offer an easy-to-access venue for the public to provide input about the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update. The information obtained through this participation tool is not intended to be representative of the whole population of 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 CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update 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 choice 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 #21-055) was developed for this project to ensure research involving humans was conducted in compliance with ethics and local legislation.

## Stakeholder Focus Groups

Focus groups are an ideal participation methodology to involve stakeholders in providing feedback on a defined topic through facilitated discussion. Participants are encouraged to engage on topics as well as to respond to and reflect on narratives conveyed by other participants in the group.

Key stakeholder groups were invited to participate in one of five focus group sessions to provide feedback on the proposed vision, values, mission, issues and key priorities to be included in the Strategic Plan update. A diversity of perspectives and experiences was sought for participation in each focus group. Each focus group aimed to include 18-20 participants representing different stakeholder interest groups.

Staff developed objective criteria to select key stakeholders for participation in a series of focus group discussions about the Strategic Plan update in February 2022. Stakeholder groups were selected from a master contact list compiled by Regional Parks. The master contact list is updated by staff based on local knowledge, previous contacts, past participation in engagement activities, referrals, and general interest inquiries. The master contact list currently identifies approximately 200 stakeholder groups in the CRD, British Columbia and Canada potentially interested in the CRD's regional parks management and projects.

The rationale and criteria for stakeholder selection were provided in the stakeholder engagement report provided to the February 9, 2022, CRD Board meeting. The rationale was to achieve a diversity of perspectives and experiences for participation in focus groups discussions about the Strategic Plan update. The following selection criteria were applied to evaluate the suitability of stakeholder groups for participation in the focus groups:

- being located in the CRD (yes=1 or no=0).
- representing a broad outdoor recreation, conservation/nature and/or cultural/social interest (yes=2 or no=0).
- having knowledge and experience related to CRD Regional Parks (yes=2 or no=0).
- having an interest and experience in working in multi-stakeholder groups (yes=1 or no=0).
- self-identifying as a First Nation (yes=1 or no=0).

Similar criteria have been successfully applied by the CRD to engage a diversity of stakeholder groups in previous engagement processes, including, recently, the Mountain Biking Advisory Committee and the Land Evaluation project.

A snowball technique was also used to expand the list of possible interest groups. Snowball sampling is a recruitment technique in which invited stakeholders are asked to assist in identifying other potential subjects that may have been missed from initial screening. The same criteria used to select the initial stakeholders was applied to potential subjects for consistency in selection.

Stakeholder groups receiving a score between five and seven were selected to be invited to participate in focus groups. A list of the stakeholder groups invited to participate in focus groups about the CRD Regional Parks & Trails Strategic Plan update are included in Table 1. Of the 88 stakeholder groups invited, 44 participated in a focus group session.

Targeted emails/phone calls were used to invite stakeholders to the focus groups. Through the invitation, CRD staff explained the purpose of the focus group and requested confirmation of interest to participate. If no interest was expressed, other stakeholder groups representing a similar interest, but possibly having lower scoring criteria, were invited to participate to ensure representativeness in opinion across groups participating to the focus groups. An online poll was circulated to all interested stakeholder groups offering a range of 18 possible dates and times to participate in a focus group. Dates and times for the five focus group sessions were selected by CRD staff based on the availability of participants.

A total of five focus groups were conducted with stakeholders in February 2022. Each focus group was held virtually on Zoom and lasted approximately two hours. The focus groups were attended by 44 stakeholder groups: 27 representing outdoor recreation groups, 12 representing conservation groups, and 5 representing community groups.

An additional focus group was conducted with representatives from seven park agencies with interest in the region. This focus group was held virtually on Zoom and lasted approximately one hour. Representatives from five agencies attended.

The focus group sessions were taped for later analysis and review by CRD staff. The results of the focus group sessions will be used to inform further public engagement, to incorporate into the Strategic Plan update, and will be provided to the Regional Parks Committee and CRD Board for consideration.

Table 1: Stakeholders selected to participate in focus groups

Community Interests	Stakeholder Group [* indicates the stakeholder group participated]
Economic	Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce Tourism Victoria Urban Development Institute Tourism Association Vancouver Island
Community	<b>Greater Victoria Placemaking Network*</b> Creating Community Wellness Society South Island Prosperity Project Parks and Recreation Foundation Victoria Metchosin Foundation Victoria Foundation Community Social Planning Council

	Sooke Region Communities Health Network
Education	<b>Royal BC Museum*</b> YMCA-YWCA of Vancouver Island Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea
Accessibility & Equity	Victoria Disability Resource Centre <b>Community Living Victoria*</b> SPARC BC Power To Be <b>Building Bridges Community Support*</b>
Youth & Family	Post-secondary Student Societies <b>Camosun College Student Society*</b> Family Services of Greater Victoria
<b>Conservation</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>
Nature Stewardship	<b>Victoria Natural History Society*</b> <b>Greater Victoria Nature Hood*</b> Gorge Waterway Action Society (GWAS) <b>Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary*</b> Raincoast Conservation Foundation Pacific Wild Alliance Salt Spring Island Conservancy Galiano Conservancy Association
Land Stewardship	Greater Victoria Greenbelt Society <b>Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT)*</b> <b>The Land Conservancy (TLC)*</b> Ancient Forest Alliance Land Trust Alliance of British Columbia
Wildlife	<b>Juan de Fuca Salmon Restoration Society*</b> SeaChange Conservation Society Wilderness Committee <b>Peninsula Streams Society*</b> <b>Goldstream Volunteer Salmon Enhancement Association*</b> Rocky Point Bird Observatory World Fisheries Trust Watershed Watch Salmon Society <b>Coexistence with Carnivore Alliance*</b>
Invasive Species	<b>Coastal Invasive Species Committee*</b>

Experts	University of Victoria* Camosun College <b>Royal Roads University*</b> Vancouver Island University University of British Columbia
<b>Outdoor Recreation</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>
Rock Climbing	South Island Climbing Association (SICA)* Climbers' Access Society of British Columbia*
Hiking & Running	Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society* <b>Alpine Club of Canada*</b> Vancouver Island Trail Association <b>Kludahk Outdoors Club*</b> <b>Juan de Fuca Community Trails Association*</b> <b>RunVictoria*</b> Outdoor Club of Victoria <b>Victoria Club Tread*</b> <b>Salt Spring Island Trail &amp; Nature Club*</b>
Geocaching & Orienteering	Victoria Orienteering Club*
Horse Riding	Backcountry Horsemen of BC - South Vancouver Island* Capital Regional Equestrians* Elk Beaver Lake Equestrian Society*
Dog Walkers and Associations	Capital Region Association of Dog Professionals* Citizen Canine Dog Owners Association*
Mountain Biking & Cycling	Sooke Bike Club* South Island Mountain Biking Society (SIMBS)* Dirty Girlz Bike Club* Capital Bike (formerly Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition and Greater Victoria Bike to Work Society)* Wheelhouse Cycling Society* Cycling BC*

Water Sports	<p><b>Surfrider Foundation Vancouver Island*</b></p> <p>Victoria City Rowing Club</p> <p><b>Rowing BC*</b></p> <p>Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC</p> <p>Amalgamated Conservation Society</p> <p>Diving Industry of Victoria Association</p> <p><b>South Island Sea Kayaking Association*</b></p> <p>Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club (VCKC)</p> <p><b>Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association*</b></p> <p><b>(snowball)</b></p>
Youth & Community	<p><b>Victoria Youth Paddling Club*</b></p> <p><b>Greater Victoria Youth Rowing Society*</b></p> <p>KidSport</p> <p>YMCA/YWCA Vancouver Island</p> <p>Outdoor Recreation Council of BC</p>

## Appendix C: Focus Group Responses

Focus group recordings were transcribed and any personal information that would make persons or organizations recognizable was removed. All the comments provided during the focus groups are listed in Table 2. Comments are divided based on the proposed strategic plan material, listed in no particular order, and grouped into broad categories for the purpose of analyzing themes.

Table 2: Stakeholder comments grouped by theme

Comments about vision, mission, and values statement	
General	Strongly support, surprised to see climate change above recreation in list
	Hard to oppose. Mother statements. How can we support these values through implementation?
	Vision is nebulous
	Mission statement needs to put collaboration first before 'informing...'. Mission – doesn't speak to interrelationship. Need cohesive statement, interdisciplinary statement
Prioritization	Necessary to establish priorities, alternative is conflicting needs
	Many issues/barriers. How are we going to get to vision given current reality? ie. Wear and tear on parks, huge problems, lack of parks west of Sooke, FN, Forestry, tourists, lack of understanding, small land base protected.
	Recognize all priorities are good but how do they interact? How do we deal with conflict? Need to prioritize values? Have a framework for decision-making. How can conservation be paramount?
	Doing nothing is prioritizing status quo
First Nation	Important to include reconciliation
Equity & Accessibility	Equity, inclusiveness, access needs to be broadened (i.e. support different languages)
	Hard to use parks without car. No car = no access to parks. No bus service. Need transit to trailheads, buses should have bike racks, multiple trailheads, access parks at various points. Accessibility should not = owning car.
	Agree with what is presented but not prioritized. Support accessibility but not at cost of sustainability.
Climate change & resiliency	Transportation corridor/use not reflected. Need land for trails – guide us to come together. Land is not for all uses. Climate change is major challenge
	Consider “regenerative” sustainability principles, not just protection but “enhancement” of environmental, social and cultural aspects
Conservation & Biodiversity Lens	Regional parks are faced with impossible task of providing conservation and recreation. There is no vast land base to resolve the tension



	Lens of conservation most important, define the top interest, give guidance to Board. But land isn't pristine, baseline is rapidly changing due to development and logging, need higher respect for recreation. Main focus is to conserve environment. Trail degradation from use needs to be managed by creating alternate routes around sensitive areas
	Board motion to have lens of conservation and biodiversity is not represented here. Should be the overarching principles. Agree. What does it mean 'lens of conservation and biodiversity'?
	Vision and values – where is biodiversity value highest? Not all use is appropriate everywhere. Buffer zones are needed. Conflict with wildlife is highest at boundaries of parks. Need corridors for connectivity, connect islands of nature
	All-important but need to be focused on conservation and biodiversity. Need to look forward. We are on verge of crisis and collapse. Need protection. Challenge is need walls around growth. Find places with natural integrity, stop development, have buffer zone, connected natural areas.
	A way to protect areas by making them controlled access. If left to public will, uncontrolled, then degradation will occur and ecology will be undermined. Way to manage ecological impact is: control access/use ex: Thetis Lake has massive use, CRD controls where people walk with well-defined trails and split rail fences.
	Thetis Lake is a recreation park with fishing, swimming etc. what about maintaining the environment there? CRD spends huge money on aerator at Elk Beaver Lake but not addressing invasive fish species. How do we correct this in the Vision?
	Observed people not understanding what they're doing in parks i.e. not prepared to be in nature (flip flops). Many rogue trails. Population growth increasing Victoria to Otter Point, clear cuts everywhere are squeezing out animals. Put animals first in some places. It's a problem
	Wilderness really acts as corridor for wildlife habitat, a greenbelt, and some parks could be long term regeneration of logged land.
<b>Land Acquisition</b>	Seems CRD is tackling not enough land buying. CRD is an urban environment not a wilderness environment. Commercial interests are taking wilderness away.
	Grateful for CRD parks. If CRD doesn't buy it then it will get developed. Protected in perpetuity it becomes natural.
<b>Recreation</b>	Add to recreation 'connection to nature' or 'relationship to nature'
	Tension between bikers and hikers, e-bikes, mountain bikes. Margin is fuzzy. Damaging to the environment. Trails should be for both biking and hiking. Need to rely on respect and a hierarchy of users (ie. yield to hikers), not more regulations. Damage to trails from users is a concern.

	Need for studies trails and access. Sees increase population and use. People use apps and maps to discover new places, most use in front country parks, day trips, easy access areas. Objective should be to create sustainable trails. Many old existing trails are down watercourses, eroded and braided. Need to create exciting trails, flows trails that are interesting to the user. This should be in front country areas where facing pressure. Concentrate human use away from wilderness areas and areas of ecological sensitivity, wildlife.
	Condense areas for recreation then set aside rest for wilderness.
<b>User Groups</b>	Where is mention of non-motorized recreation? Absence of clarity, Strategy needs to include self-contained wording to clarify and have no assumptions on this. Same with word Inclusive – what does this mean?
	Where are motorized sports going to go? May be conflict if don't offer an opportunity for them. Agree that need to clarify non-motorized. Motorized sports use Tanksy and logging roads. They are a nuisance but need somewhere to go. Mission statement needs to clarify excludes motorized recreation. Supports no motorized use, environmental protection is key. More accessible places have more damage.
	Orienteering requires off trail walking, can lead to tension. Group tries to keep minimal impact but technically nowhere allowed to go in parks.
	"Compatible" uses, concerned with dogs. Should provide dog parks. Dog parks not great for all dogs, sterile environment, dogs need stimulation, should enforce behavior like we do with motorized use, but enforcement costs \$. Dog professionals self-police, educate. Good example of underutilized partner of CRD.
<b>Communication</b>	Evolution of signage, biking should be restricted to certain trails, there is a sense that biking inherently leads to degradation. Need clarity on rules
<b>Education &amp; Etiquette</b>	See increase in number of emergency responses in parks. Educating people is missing from material. Need to create respect for nature. Garbage, accidents etc. all result of lack of education
	Agree with everyone. Need to add etiquette messaging. Elk Lake has large conflict between users but it doesn't need to be there. Result of lack of education and etiquette. Yield signs not enough, not working.
	CRD education is not accessible to most people using social media. Opportunity to partner with stakeholders to promote messaging through their group forums which are more trendy and effective. Outreach needs to focus on etiquette, trail standards, no rogue trail building, and unsanctioned trails are due to people being bored with the experience or the trails not functioning for their purpose.
<b>Stewardship &amp; Partnerships</b>	Multifunctionality: ability to have different uses, different by season etc... A way of addressing conflict. Need to foresee conflict between uses and beings. Create stewards: how successful has CRD been in creating stewards? I.e. through

	interpretive programs, kid programs. Are we growing a new generation of stewards? Need to create stewards of all ages and abilities.
	Pleased that we are communicating with FLNRO and MOSAIC. Access agreements are needed over forest land, some parks have no access. Higher levels of government need to end long term logging tenures.
<b>Comments about priority statements</b>	
<b>General</b>	'Enabling' users is too passive. Consider 'Promote' recreation. Making people aware of facilities and park use contributes to healthy lifestyle. Give people a push, be more direct, sell or 'market' the facilities.
	'Enable' is interesting choice of word, support it. Implies the idea that CRD helps groups take part in their activity. "take action" seems above and beyond what CRD Parks' role is. Enable is a good balance between priorities. Strongly support the "enable users to recreate" statement. This applies to surfing at Jordan River. Groups do water quality testing at Jordan River to ensure it is 'safe' to be in water
	Provide space is vague. Opportunity?
	Regional Growth Strategy and current strategic plan include goals for access to parks. Complete communities, parks should be accessed within close proximity to neighborhoods by walking and biking. Do gap analysis on this. Municipal role to coordinate park acquisition. Everyone should have access to nature. How to restore land? Evaluate other values of land if protected. Also need broaden regional trail network, include other municipal trails.
	Suggests Connectivity – where is this concept? Connectivity. System being connected for all creatures and humans for different purposes i.e. Transportation and species habitat. Connectivity doesn't indicate transportation strongly enough. Need transportation lens on trail network
	The themes/categories for priority statements will never be perfect, but it all makes sense. Could separate out transit. Transit is applicable to accessibility and equity as well as climate. Ex. Size of parking lot at Thetis is concern. Teenagers have hard time accessing parks.
	In the vision what does 'exceptional' mean? Each activity will have a different definition of what is an exceptional system. I.e. Langford has a 'world class' climbing park but what does it mean. Nothing has happened for climbing in CRD parks for over 20 years.
	8 sets of priorities seems too much. Need a clear statement upfront what is #1 priority. Would not want to be held accountable to achieving this list if I was manager. Too many challenges to address.

	Provincial government, CRD and municipal agencies all deal with climate change, collapse of biodiversity, deal with growth/development. Contentious issues, have to make tough choices. Need to direct growth elsewhere
	CRD needs to be accountable for implementation. Also, access and conservation could be counter-active. Need a framework for transparency and accountability. Ex: wilderness area vs recreation area, spectrum of ecosystem vs. human priorities. Develop accountability table that outlines what takes priority. Strengthen this classification framework
	Classification system can address these issues. Rowing is grandfathered in. Levels of classification can be more specific, talk about habitat, recreation.
<b>Conservation &amp; Recreation</b>	Overarching goal should be to connect us with nature and to enjoy nature. Enjoying nature is what connects us all to the place and to each other. "Create and maintain recreation infrastructure such that users can recreate and enjoy nature." 'Take action' is strong, 'enable' is not strong enough
	Biodiversity – does this mean 'representative ecosystems' or 'species at risk' or? How is ecosystem representation targeted? Does it also mean acquire land for recreation? Nature needs half – also needed to be more specific to how it applies to each neighborhood in region. Rare butterfly on edge of highway only needs small space. Nature's needs are different for different species. Need to be informed about what species need to survive.
	Where is 'lens of conservation and biodiversity'? Seems implicit. Need more explicit statement? Is conservation meaning exclusion zones, has exclusionary connotation. Need to define what this means. Or does it mean stewards and a relationship with environment? Conservation implies protecting environment over other interests. Support creating kid stewards. Add Education to mission and values. Conservation – hard to define but necessary. Doesn't need to connote exclusion. Use metrics or principles or Mitigation Framework to capture conservation values. Statements need to connote respect and understanding of what each species needs
	Recreation and conservation theme seems odd – conservation and recreation seem opposite. Conservation and recreation are not compatible. The plan implies they are but not sure how
	Conservation and recreation are not a contradiction. The values are determined by a relationship to and ownership of an area. A fear response imagining recreation causes degradation is not helpful. Which is more important conservation or recreation? Pure conservation = no recreation. 'Balance' between them. Where there are high conservation values, limit recreation. Depending on the location the outcome might be different depending on factors

	<p>Conservation and recreation – go hand in hand but cause challenges. Characterized as priorities, get handle on ‘balance’. Use the term loosely. How are they reconciled? Use ‘no net losses of biodiversity to define this. Or Mitigation Framework (how you achieve no net loss: try not to disturb, if yes then minimize disturbance, if no then restore, if can’t then offset or compensate elsewhere.”</p> <p>Use this framework to set goals</p>
	<p>‘Promotion’ idea is used by BC Parks to diffuse use in high volume areas by attracting people to lesser known parks. Highlight diversity of spaces.</p>
	<p>Bullet #1 Conservation &amp; Recreation theme – sounds like ecological reserves.</p> <p>Bullet #2 change to create new trails and opportunities (frame more positively)</p>
	<p>Recreation is mechanism to inculcate caring for nature</p>
	<p>We impact nature by being here, driving, using trails</p>
	<p>Add transportation to Conservation &amp; Recreation theme heading. No. 3. Need to recognize transportation function of parks and trails, not just bike and pedestrian trails. Galloping Goose history as rail line, now recreation corridor, conflicts arise. Uses changes, need thought. MOTI should be in charge of transportation. CRD takes over different functions beyond Regional Parks.</p>
	<p>Conservation &amp; recreation – access to recreation and create buffers on or outside park. Work with municipalities on this. Concentrate use in front country, set aside vast areas with lower density activity</p>
	<p>Conservation should be upfront in Plan. Be clear that conservation and biodiversity is primary objective. Recreation has to be compatible with the primary objective of conservation and biodiversity. Under the foster stewardship statement- add education.</p>
	<p>Put recreation first then conservation 2<sup>nd</sup> and add buffer zones, use infrastructure to keep people in right place</p>
	<p>If live in urban areas then focus is recreation. If live in Sooke then conservation is key.</p>
	<p>Conservancy groups establish exclusion zones with their land acquisition – how to find the balance between human use and conservation</p>
	<p>What about engaging all the animals and plants who don’t have a voice? How do you incorporate their input? Ask them what they need. Bring in experts to speak for the species.</p>
	<p>Like the idea. Recreation is viewed in opposition to conservation but equally strong values for recreation. Need to break down silos. We will get further together. Create a culture of conservationists through recreation.</p>
	<p>Conservation focus on endangered species. Does CRD have a Species at Risk plan? Applying a biologist’s lens and looking at climate mitigation: there is nothing to access if nature is destroyed or degraded. Be more explicit about what</p>

	conservation means for CRD. What is CRD's commitment to conservation? What is CRD's approach to climate mitigation?
	Conservation is high priority but need to fund more land for recreation use. Acknowledge intent to offer users/taxpayers what they want and expect. Conservation is strongest value but people expect to do the activity they love. This goes towards raising/inculcating stewards.
	See this dynamic between human use and conservation. The activity is an opportunity to connect to nature (not just exercise). Build appreciation and awareness about connecting with nature, create allies for environment
<b>Land Acquisition</b>	Emphasis on what kind of land is acquired i.e. Land for trail runners, mountain biking etc. Need to know what land needs to be conserved.
	Setting direction for land acquisition? What about this? What is land acquisition criteria and why not more land purchased west of Sooke. Values for climate mitigation, biodiversity, combat rapid rate of destruction. Value for different values, ie. Recreation. Logged forests can be restored, not pristine to begin with as history of logging over past 1-200 years. Strategic direction for land acquisition is missing from material. Current criteria is for intact ecosystems only.
	CRD is trying to do the impossible. Need more public space through land acquisition. Now operating with limited land base. Closing areas to recreation might push pressure to other places. Dilute people. Don't close things off.
	Urban development adjacent to park boundary is issue. Ex. JDF trail has windfall from adjacent clear-cut. No buffer to protect park values. Adjacent development needs to protect the park values. Lack of buffers around parks. Discuss buffers with municipalities. I.e. View from Sea to Sea Park to Central Mountain detracts from park vista value.
	Support offshoots from Galloping Goose to various destinations. Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail is very steep. Need contiguous areas. I.e. South Side of Mt. Wells Park.
	Fiscal responsibility for managing and opening banked parks and trails. Is fiscal responsibility a value/principle?
<b>User groups</b>	Where can e-bikes go? Need to address the dangers of high velocity e-bikes on trails, particularly the Galloping Goose. Offer more bike parking
	Support overnight kayaking, need overnight parking, boat launches, marine rescue considerations, Island View Beach ideal location
	Aging, need suitable facilities for older folks and equestrians. Maybe separating bike paths from other recreation uses.
	Could have restricted areas, provide access only to groups participating in program, like Sooke watershed tours

	Access and equity. Our Group's mission statement is "enhance health and wellbeing..."very similar to what is listed in priority statement. Support increasing parking fee if transit is provided.
	Parks are for everyone, not just bikers or mountain climbers. CRD could raise level of enjoyment of all, put in amenities like allow snack bars (but too away as led to garbage), and more water fountains. Thetis and Elk – amenities needed.
	Example is rowing at Elk Lake. I don't take it for granted. Need to work to maintain public support. Advocacy – role to ensure members understand conservation values. Groups are leaving CRD because the park culture is not supportive of their objectives. Need to understand complexity of multi-stakeholder interests or will lead to alienation of stakeholder groups. Create space for users rather than force out.
	Concerned by whether CRD should be everything to everybody. CRD has an established stakeholder following. Majority could say rowing doesn't fit in CRD parks therefore it is no longer allowed. Concerned if certain uses get taken away. Rowing does not seem to be reflected here in this material. Need to consider 'sport'. Needs to be acknowledged so expectations are set. Talk about how sport complements/supports conservation, accessibility, health. Ex: rowing boathouse has reduced footprint. There are shared values.
	Inherent competition between user types e.g. Events (triathlons) vs. individual users. Identify certain parks for multiple users, need communication plan. Recognize it is annoying when events are on, need transparent communication. Review what is the rationale for allowing or not allowing events through permit system.
	Is there appetite to include sport as well as recreation? Sport can live under umbrella of recreation but also 'sport for life' and 'competition'. Challenge of being sport host or event host: sense is they are working against /counter to CRD park values. Not much support for events. Competition seems an unwelcome activity in CRD parks. Rowing society and user group includes UVic, Youth Rowing, Claremont Sport, Rowing Canada. Elk Beaver Lakes have 100s rowers a day including coaches, volunteers, regattas, events. We understand pressures that events have: safety, parking, impact on other users. If rowing is included as recreational use in park then identify where does 'sport' fit in? where does sport tourism fit in CRD parks?
	More education about horse impacts on environment, we are good stewards with eyes on ground.
Education	"Shaping" experience. Currently there are no park stewards present in parks, obvious trail damage, lack of trail improvements, need trail standards. Need to set expectations for maintenance.

	Consider streamlining users into parks (i.e. Mt Work), develop facilities for certain user groups, but problem is users become territorial, consider rotating uses around system. Issue is lack of transit, hard for youth to access parks (i.e. Elk Lake) as no transit, busy highway.
	Prioritize education, more than 'informing'. Next generation – need to increase awareness of nature. CRD's approach is too casual, need to create future leaders to care about parks
	Where is education in this material? 'foster stewardship' implies education but not clear. 'leading by example' what does this mean? Focus should be on etiquette (ie. no fires, no waste, dogs) to achieve conservation. Education should focus on species, biodiversity.
	Education is a big part. Give more consideration to education as a priority. People value things when they understand them. Education should be part of plan now and going forward. Increasing population requires more education, more publicity about programs
	Education. Often push back to plans when brought to public and controversy results if not enough education about plan. Opportunity to educate? How does the plan apply to problems on the ground? How are people enrolled in this plan? Educate public about why the priorities in plan are important.
<b>Management &amp; Infrastructures</b>	Need evidence-based research program (involving partners)
	Need to see a commitment by CRD to create and maintain infrastructure for all themes. Add 'strengthen maintenance of park infrastructure'. Maybe under access & equity. Need a "variety" of outdoor recreation to "connect with nature"
	A priority should be to have updated all management plans for all parks and have a schedule for renewal. Also should have a standard for facilities. Set renewal targets for management plans, need to capture changing trends, set a commitment to update plans and address changes.
	Management plans are not flexible enough, too 'set in stone', need to incorporate changes every 1-2 years. Planning is always behind, not dynamic enough. What about holding a forum?
	Need safe access (link to infrastructure)
	Support expanding facilities for recreation.
	Concerned about implementation of past plans ie. Concerned that trail in Mill Farm has not been completed
	Concern with management when looking at land's carrying capacity and heavy recreational use. Need to be practical.
<b>Communication</b>	More signage. Education is more than signage, more interpretation, learn from experts



	CRD has good data and mapping but how is data linked to park webpage?
<b>Stewardship &amp; Engagement</b>	Prompt relationship with partners, foster stewardship and partnerships with stakeholders. Need way to maintain relations with stakeholders (annual renewal sessions). Groups have used and maintained sites for decades. Strengthen relationship with groups like SICA. Elk Beaver Advisory Committee is example. Need data collection and data sharing
	A disconnect between strategic plan and management plan engagement, need ongoing involvement of stakeholders in implementation. Be responsive to needs of stakeholders. Review of strategic plan is opportunity for input, how do we input ongoing through implementation?
	Need involvement through all processes from strategic planning to tactile planning and infrastructure development, program evaluation.
	Promoting activities (ie. Songhees Friendship Centre, climbing activities with FN youth & Vic Native Friendship Centre) – build relationships and trust. Rec leaders interested in getting support to collaborate on enhancing recreational opportunities
	Friends of Parks model, could expand this concept to monitor the state of the park system, monitor invasive species, etc.
	Cross pollinate across groups i.e. Volunteers, organizations, users. More than just a website, need to share contact and get people together.
	Individual users vs. stakeholder groups. Values are different. Focus on groups as stewards or champions. Stakeholder groups can support delivery of CRD messages. Not just CRD's responsibility. Need a marketing strategy to educate public on what are CRD's values and goals. Also need champions to connect people with the cause. Success through partnerships.
	Events. Need social networking bench/platform to showcase when events are occurring, like a community intranet for people to know what is happening in parks. Hold stakeholders in the process, have more engagement that lasts.
	Targets – commit to climate action and conservation. Need species monitoring targets. Other models? Copy or learn from other methods and organizations. Collaborate, student partnerships, policy development to action/implement on the ground. Sharing knowledge/partnerships is key.
<b>First Nation</b>	Reconciliation – build bridge between First Nations and non-indigenous people (through park signage, sharing info, traditional uses, learning from First Nations cultures). Reconciliation, CRD has role to lessen cultural divide. Show our common interest in parks
	Support of land acquisition for treaty and reconciliation. Collaboration and reconciliation. Co-Learning with First Nations, have deep ties with places. True partnership to steward. Economic development will be challenge! Commercial

	enterprise i.e. harvesting. How to deal with this or balance it? Be aware of emerging theme, anticipate and avoid breakdown of relationship with First Nations
	Interrelation between First Nations and conservation. Many interrelationships in the material. Consider info graphic or diagram to represent material to show interconnections
	Need to extend land acquisition goal to recreation and FN priorities.
	Reconciliation #1 “management of natural assets...” too limited. Extend to land acquisition. “Provide space for” is vague. Important concept but needs clarifying.
	Reconciliation #1 FN lens TEK tied to conservation – should move up under Conservation theme?
	Regional Growth Strategy struggled with Douglas Treaty rights. Some reconciliation is above Regional Parks plan.
	Reconciliation – what about indigenous language? Names of mountains, Alpine Club created interactive map. Also use First Nations plant names and uses. This is educational opportunity. Names tell stories, words have power. History can be told through naming. This should be separate bullet. First Nations tree names, used as medicine, First Nation parks and place name.
	Use DRIPA as lens through which everything is viewed/considered. A decolonizing lens. Fostering stewardship – get at the root of what it means. What is CRD’s responsibility to align conservation and recreation.
	Reconciliation seems like appendage to conservation and management. What about ‘co-management’ of parks. Land acquisition is an opportunity for co-management. Transition crown lands to First Nations. FN collaboration should occur through all goals.
<b>Climate change &amp; Resiliency</b>	What can we do for climate change? We can make change on environmental stewardship by taking action on invasive species, this is doable. But how do we mitigate damage to infrastructure from climate change?
	Active Transportation – make it easier to get around without cars. Trend is more parking lots, and bigger ones, this contradicts climate action. Also need to consider mitigation efforts that do not destroy nature (i.e. Flood mitigation, hard/built approach vs. natural methods).
	Existing land base – recognize small tradeoffs for larger gain ie. Paving trails is bad but reduces car use, therefore net positive. Larger picture.
	Parks would benefit from transit service, more bike stands, carpooling. If parking is problem then people are discouraged from visiting and might find alternatives. Increase trail connectivity. I.e. Sooke Hills Wilderness Trail does not link to rest of park. Reduce car dependency. Give options. Not just access by relying on car

	'Urban containment' under climate action, what is this? The idea of 'containment' is supportable, but short of buying land, how is this achieved? Lofty goal, how does Parks achieve it? Might be beyond Regional Parks' mission/ability. Too big for Parks service alone. Separate out 'urban containment by...' highlight in Vision, at higher level or clarify HOW to achieve this. Ex. Land acquisition criteria would be different to achieve urban containment than to achieve conservation of natural areas
	Connectivity (network, transportation lens). Urban containment may be more municipal than Regional parks.
<b>Accessibility</b>	As an aging member, accessibility and inclusion are priorities. Problem with aging population is how do you make parks accessible to older people? Could be another conflict between conservation/recreation
	Accessibility for all ages and abilities good, but accessibility is not extensive. People with access issues want increased access to parks to address health and well-being
	There is room for improvement. How can it be implemented? Curious about last Strategic Plan accomplishments, specifically about planning and opening land banked parks and trails and the classification system
	Access and equity - need access to parks by transit. Reality is that car use is high. Address car parking overflow where there is no transit.
	Tension about events creating times when park is over capacity. Need to partner with Transit. People with disabilities rely on vehicles, lack of spots for disabled car parking
	Access and equity – go farther than 'apply lens'. Identify and understand barriers to accessibility in parks and trails.
	Students have seat on Transit Commission. There is a limited envelope of funding and competing priorities. Hard to change transit routes because of this.
	Accessibility can balance with conservation from equestrian rider perspective. Preserve access to parks. Access is getting limited with development in region. Need more consultation. Promote leave no trace concept through their equestrian group. Willingness to work with all users. Users are also eyes on ground and can share information when see habitat loss.

## Appendix D: Online Survey Responses

A total of 1,228 online surveys were filled out between March 8 and April 4, 2022. Below is a summary of the online survey responses.

### Section 1: Values & Principles

#### QUESTION 1: How important is it to have each of these proposed values and principles in the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan?

- **Accessibility** – we provide access to nature and communities for all ages and abilities
- **Conservation** – we protect, restore and enhance the region’s biodiversity
- **Equity** – we keep regional parks and trails inclusive and maintained as a common good
- **Reconciliation** – we commit to reconciliation with First Nations
- **Recreation** – we offer compatible outdoor recreation experiences that inspire nature stewardship and that improve our health and well-being
- **Resiliency** – we take action on climate change with a view to benefitting future generations

The majority of participants to the survey responded that it is very important to important to have the proposed values and principles of conservation (80%) and recreation (80%) in the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan, followed by resiliency (74%), equity (66%), accessibility (62%) and reconciliation (58%).

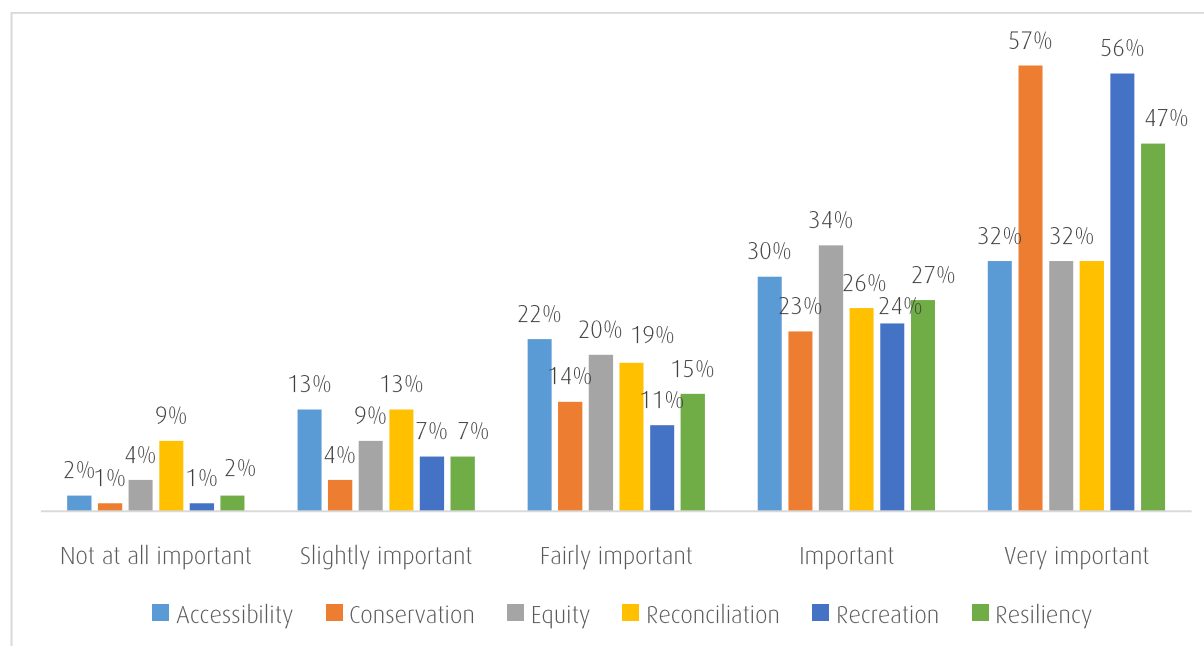


Figure 1: Percent breakdown of respondents' opinion about the importance of the proposed values and principles in the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan.

## QUESTION 2: Should any additional values be included in the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update? Check all that apply.

More than half of the respondents to the survey identified stewardship (52%) as an additional value to be included in the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update. Education (43%) was also recognized by most respondents as an additional value to be included. All of the other values proposed are supported by approximately 30% or less of the respondents (Figure 2).

A total of 93 comments were offered by respondents in the category 'Other'. Such comments either refer to the values already proposed in the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan or to themes not related to values (e.g., enforcement, land acquisition, etiquette, etc.). Respondents also suggest to define the additional values proposed so to clarify their meaning.

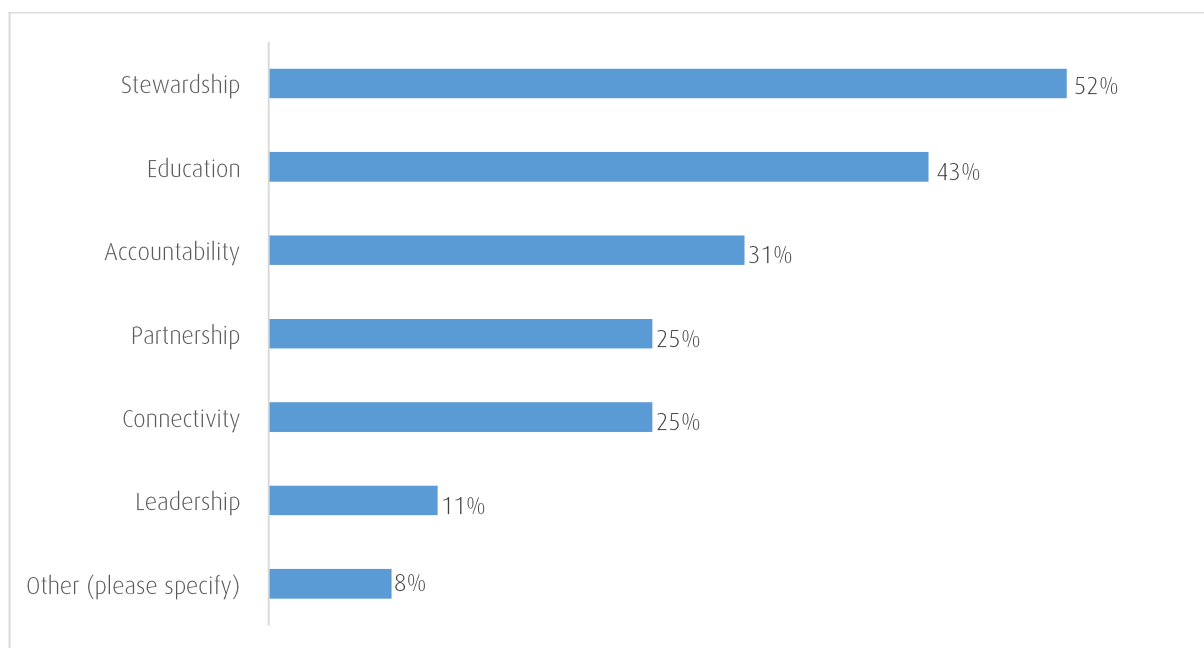


Figure 2: Percent breakdown of respondents' opinion about which additional values could be included in the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

## Section 2: Vision

### QUESTION 3: Do you support or oppose the proposed vision statement: "We work cooperatively and respectfully to steward and expand an exceptional system of regional parks and trails that is rich in biodiversity and cultural heritage, resilient to change, connects people to nature and provides healthy outdoor experiences for all"?

The majority of respondents (83%) support to strongly support the proposed vision for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

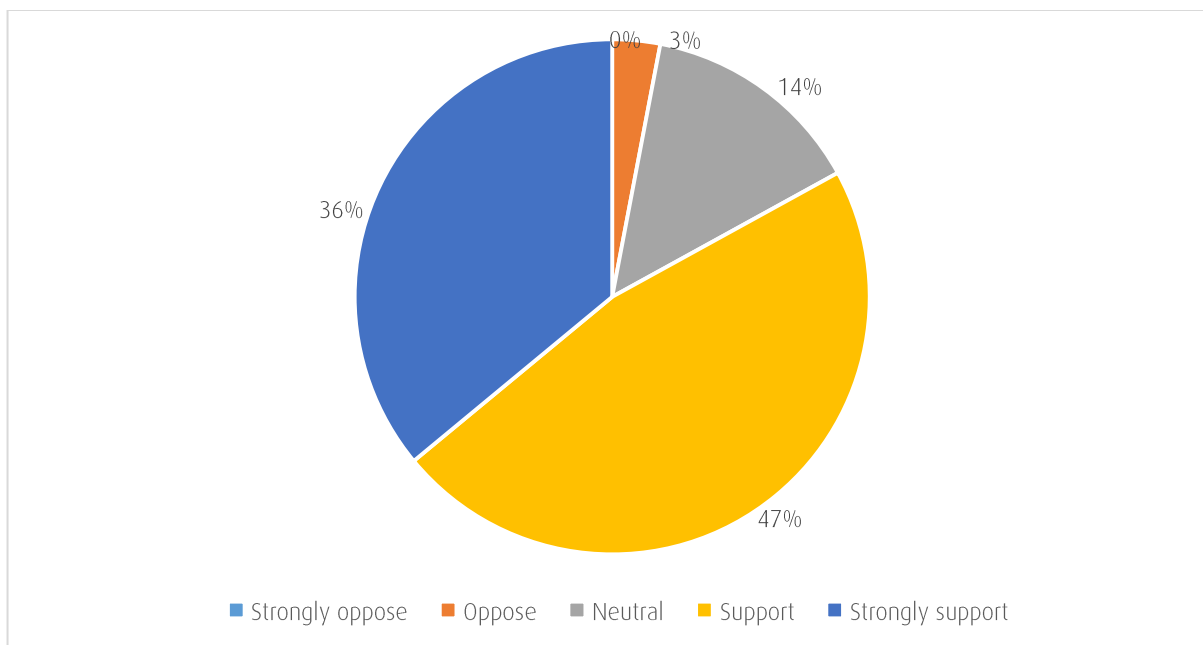


Figure 3: Percent breakdown of respondents' opinion about the vision proposed for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

Those who did not support the proposed vision (3%) believe that the statement includes too many concepts (n=14), is too complicated (n=11), misses some ideas (n=8) or is unobtainable (n=6). Other comments offered by those opposing the vision (n=20) believe that the statement is vague, open to interpretation and/or is trying to please too many and opposing interests.

## Section 3: Mission

### **QUESTION 4: Do you support or oppose the proposed mission statement: "Ensure regional parks and trails are resilient by delivering a sustainable service that is adaptable and takes action on climate change"?**

Most respondents (74%) support to strongly support the proposed mission statement for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

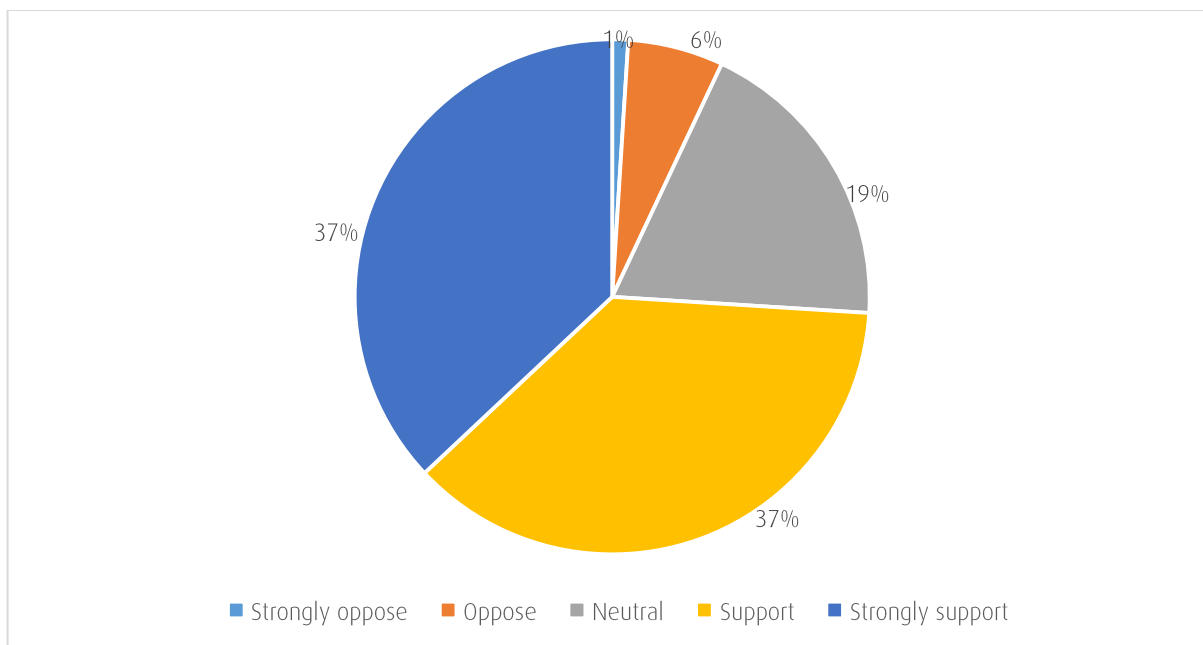


Figure 4: Percent breakdown of respondents' opinion about the mission statement "Ensure regional parks and trails are resilient by delivering a sustainable service that is adaptable and takes action on climate change" proposed for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

Those who do not support the proposed mission statement (7%) believe that the statement is unobtainable (n=25), includes too many concepts (n=21) and is too complicated (n=16). Other comments offered by those opposing the mission statement (n=41) stated that the meaning is unclear and open to interpretation. Some respondents questioned the importance of having climate change as a mission statement in the Regional Parks Strategic Plan update since it is out of scope and being a result of good park management. Additionally, some participants expressed the need to clarify the terminology used in the mission statement, such as what "delivering sustainable service" means.

**QUESTION 5: Do you support or oppose the proposed mission statement: "Foster stewardship of ecological and cultural resources by informing, engaging and collaborating with the public, volunteers, partners, and First Nations"?**

Most respondents (79%) support to strongly support the proposed mission statement for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

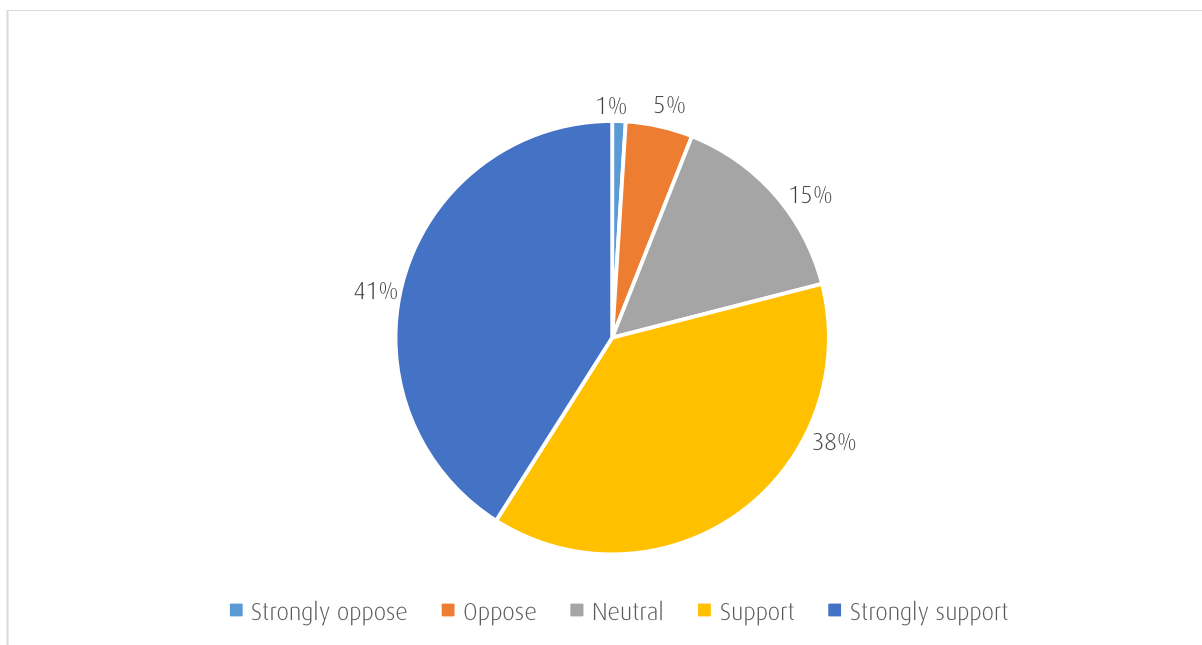


Figure 5: Percent breakdown of respondents' opinion about the mission statement "Foster stewardship of ecological and cultural resources by informing, engaging and collaborating with the public, volunteers, partners, and First Nations" proposed for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

Those who do not support the proposed mission statement (6%) believe that the statement is unobtainable (n=17), too complicated (n=16) and misses ideas (n=14). Other comments offered by those opposing the mission statement (n=30) are that its meaning is too general and politicized, as well as open to interpretation. Some respondents do not support separating people in different groups and suggest to use more inclusive language that encompasses all groups.

**QUESTION 6: Do you support or oppose the proposed mission statement: "Provide access to regional parks and trails that facilitates healthy, safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences for all"?**

Most respondents (81%) support to strongly support the proposed mission statement for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.



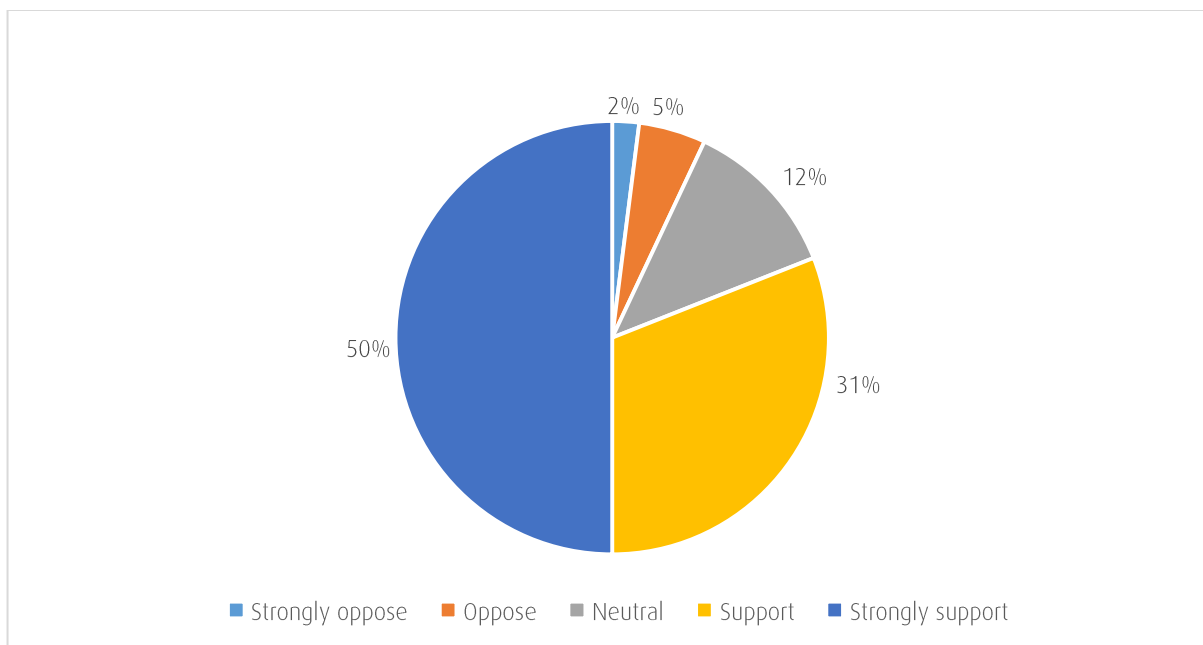


Figure 6: Percent breakdown of respondents' opinion about the mission statement "Provide access to regional parks and trails that facilitates healthy, safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences for all" proposed for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

Those who do not support the proposed mission statement (6%) believed that the statement misses ideas (n=14). Other comments offered by those opposing the mission statement (n=61) provide insights on such missing ideas as respondents specified that the statement as proposed is oriented solely towards recreation, without any element of biodiversity conservation. Respondents also feel that the statement could be misinterpreted and be highly subjective. Especially the terminology "for all" is criticized as respondents feel that while regional parks should be for all, not all outdoor recreation should be accommodated everywhere in regional parks.

**QUESTION 7: Do you support or oppose the proposed mission statement: "Secure a diverse and connected system of regional parks and trails that protect and restore the integrity of our region's biodiversity and cultural landscapes"?**

Most respondents (84%) support to strongly support the proposed mission statement for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

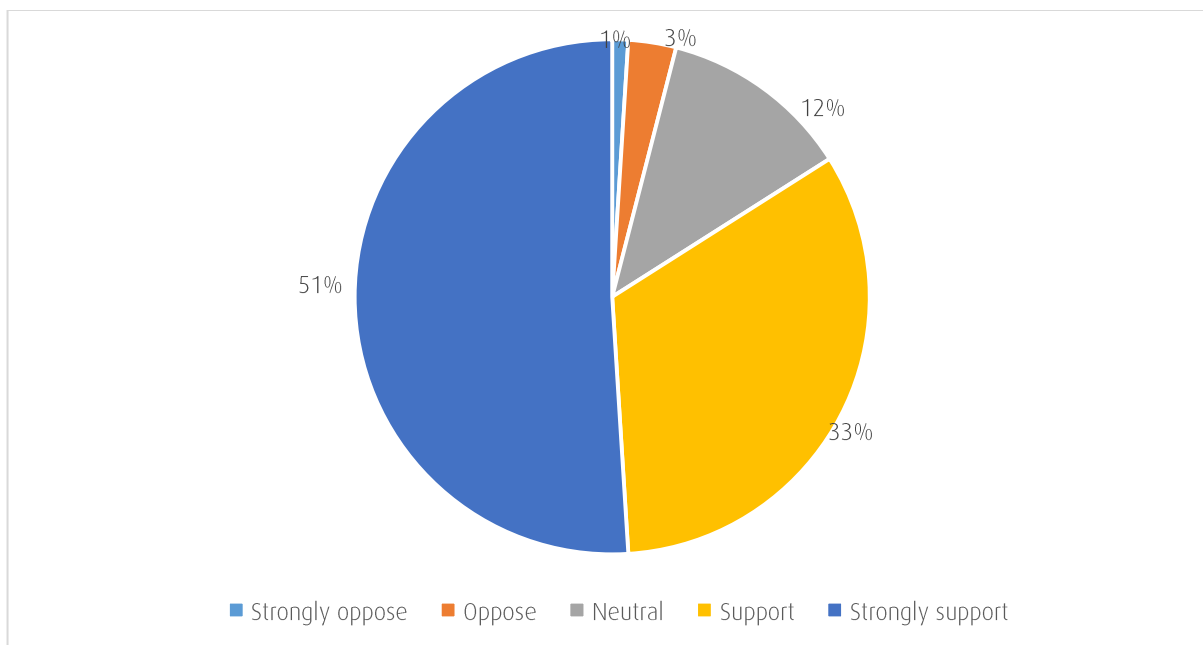


Figure 7: Percent breakdown of respondents' opinion about the mission statement "Secure a diverse and connected system of regional parks and trails that protect and restore the integrity of our region's biodiversity and cultural landscapes" proposed for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

Those who do not support the proposed mission statement (6%) believe that the statement is too complicated (n=11) and unobtainable (n=10). Other comments offered by those opposing the mission statement (n=30) are about concerns around limiting recreational use for biodiversity protection. Respondents feel that parks should have a dual mandate of providing recreation and conservation, thus separating these concepts in two mission statements creates antagonism rather than balance between these components. Respondents also feel that the statement is vague and that some terminology is unclear, especially the term "cultural landscape".

#### **QUESTION 8: Do you support or oppose the proposed mission statement: "Work with First Nations in taking care of the land and water"?**

Most respondents (69%) support to strongly support the proposed mission statement for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

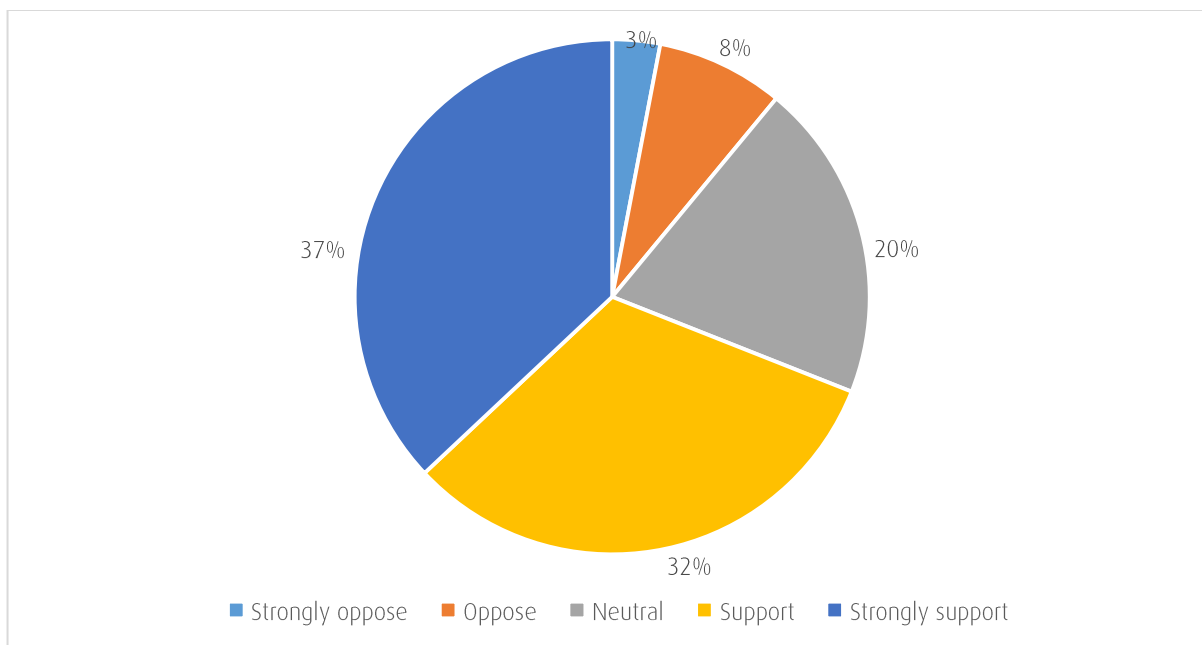


Figure 8: Percent breakdown of respondents' opinion about the mission statement "Work with First Nations in taking care of the land and water" proposed for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update.

Those who do not support the proposed mission statement (11%) believe that the statement is unobtainable (n=36) and misses ideas (n=29). Other comments offered by those opposing the mission statement (n=59) are that the wording used is limiting because respondents believe everyone should care of and benefit from the land and water within the regional parks and trails system. Respondents are also concerned that this statement singles out a group, thus clashes with the idea of fostering stewardship across diverse groups proposed in the first mission statement. Some respondents suggest to focus the mission statement on building lasting relationships with First Nations and to commit to stewarding the land and water in alignment with First Nations traditional knowledge and practices.

## Section 4: Priorities

### QUESTION 9: "What should the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan give priority to over the next 10 years for conservation and compatible outdoor recreation"?

Based on respondents feedback on conservation and compatible outdoor recreation (Figure 9), high priorities with more than half of the respondents support were:

- acquire more land (High=66%)
- protect biodiversity (High=58%)

Additional high priorities identified by respondents were:

- undertake environmental restoration and monitoring (High=44%)
- develop partnerships with outdoor recreation groups (High=41%)
- provide compatible outdoor recreation experiences (High=38%)

All of the other priorities listed in the survey were evaluated by participants as high/medium to medium priorities.

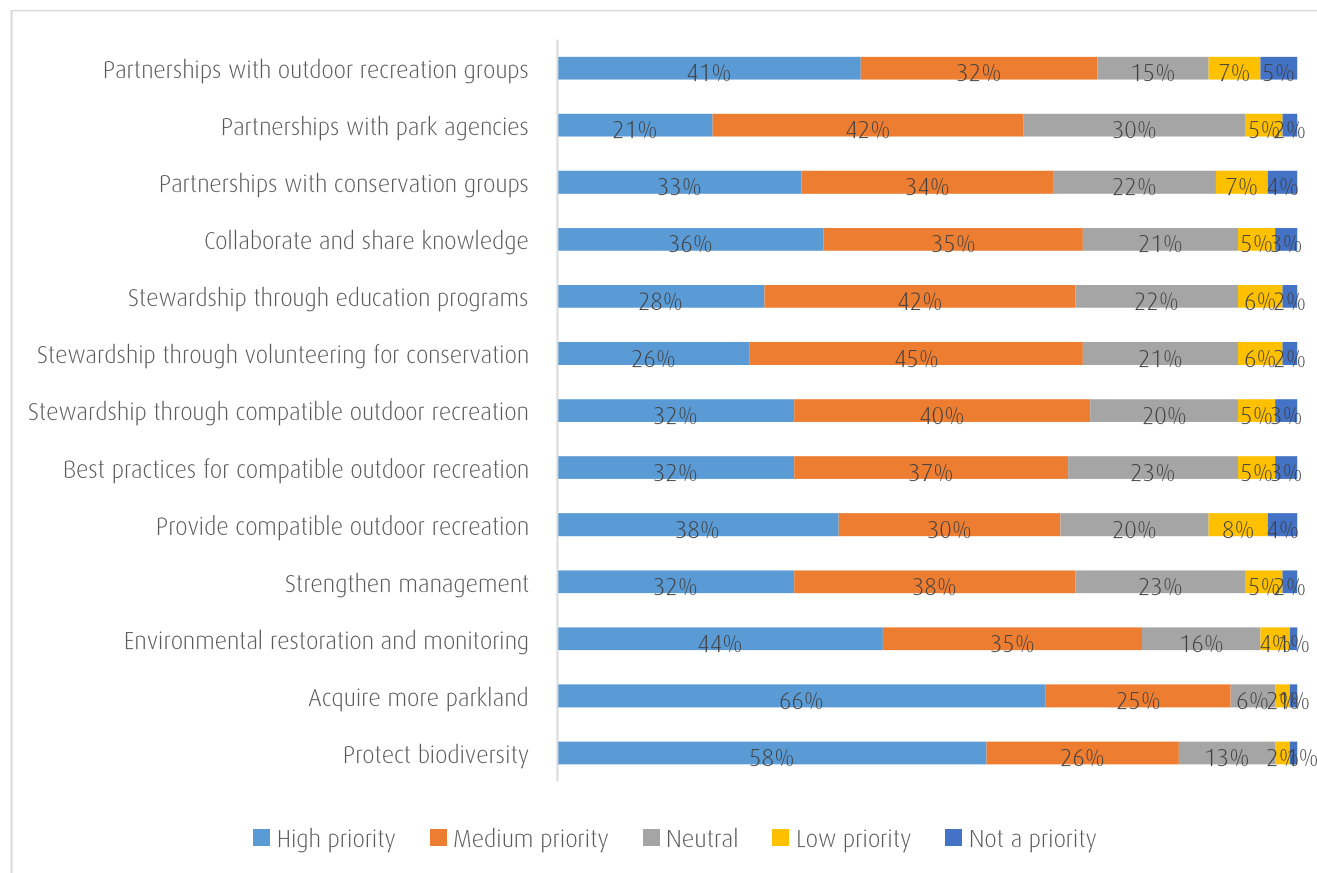


Figure 9: Percent breakdown of respondents' opinion about CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan priorities over the next 10 years for conservation and compatible outdoor recreation.

### QUESTION 10: "What should the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan give priority to over the next 10 years for access and equity"?

Based on respondents feedback on access and equity (Figure 10), high priorities identified by respondents are:

- provide accessibility to parks and trails for people of different ages, abilities and incomes (High=40%)
- enhance connectivity (High=39%)

All of the other priorities listed in the survey were evaluated by respondents as high/medium, medium or low priorities.

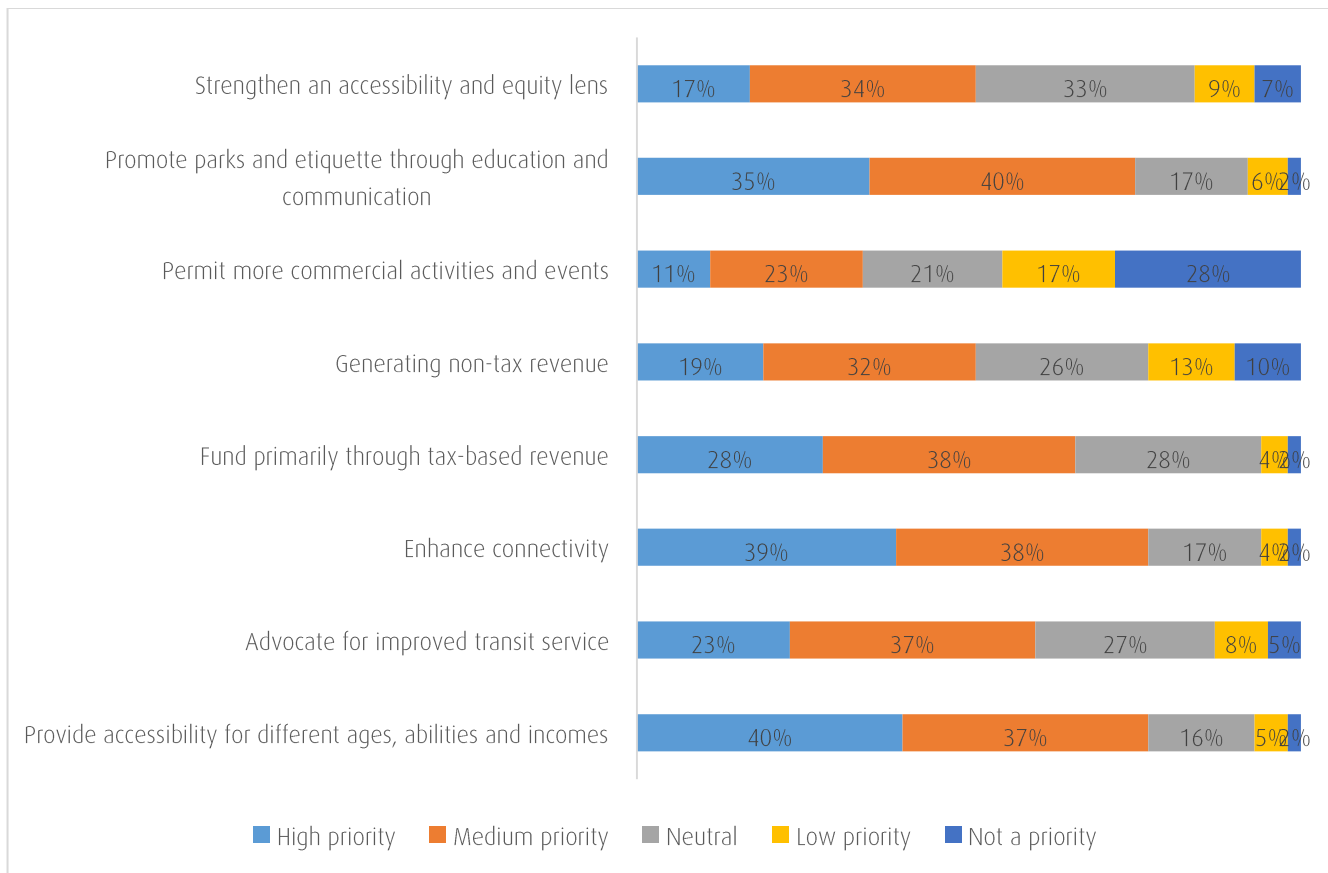


Figure 10: Percent breakdown of respondents' opinion about CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan priorities over the next 10 years for access and equity.

### QUESTION 11: "What should the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan give priority to over the next 10 years for climate action and resiliency"?

Based on respondents' feedback on climate action and resiliency (Figure 11), high priorities identified by respondents are:

- Provide buffers between parks and urban development (High=50%)
- Work with government agencies to connect green spaces (High=45%)
- Apply a climate action lens (High=41%)

All of the other priorities listed in the survey were evaluated by participants as medium priorities.

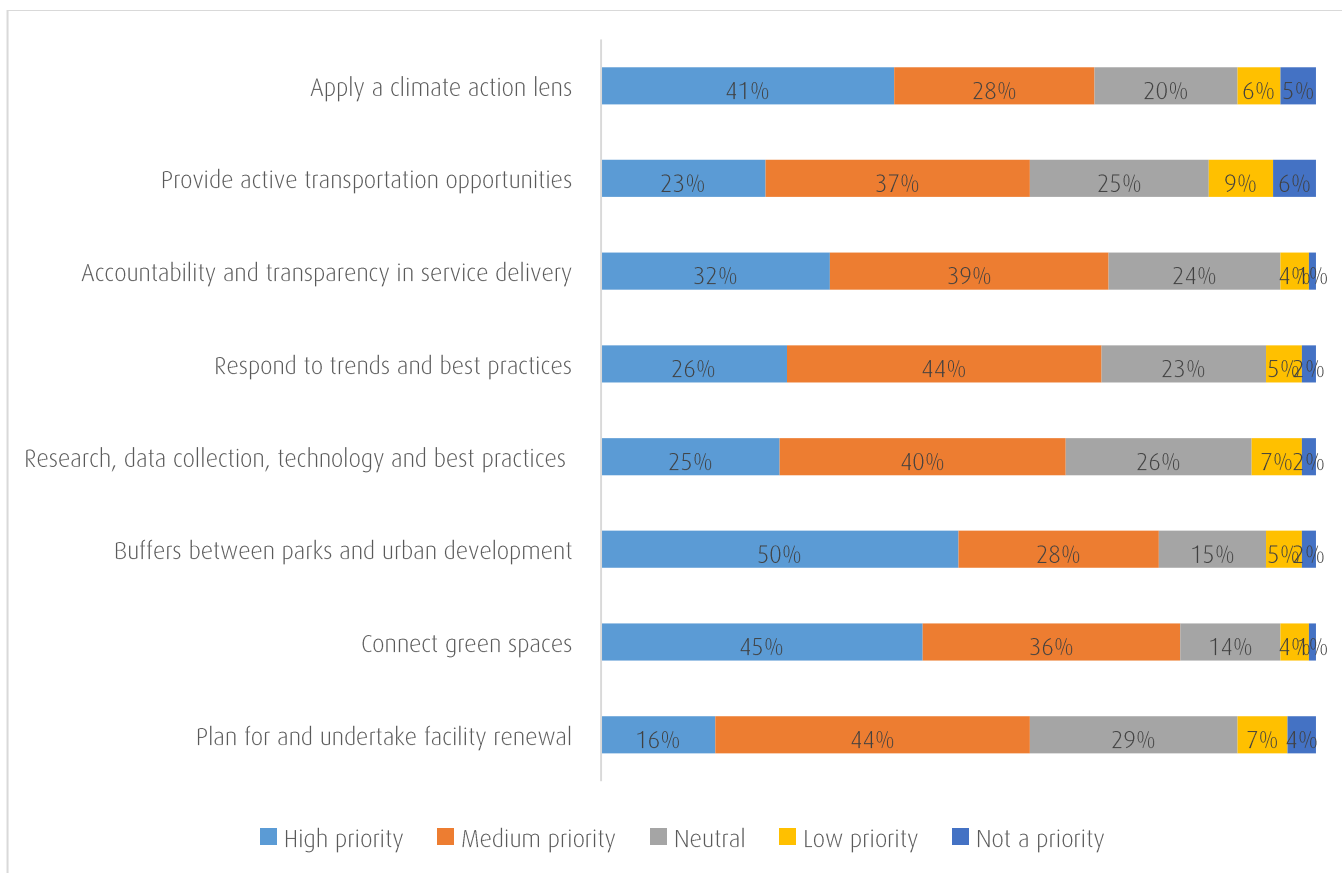


Figure 11: Percent breakdown of respondents' opinion about CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan priorities over the next 10 years for climate action and resiliency.

## QUESTION 12: "What do you see as opportunities for how CRD Regional Parks can support reconciliation with First Nations"?

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide comments about how CRD Regional Parks can support reconciliation with First Nations. A total of 734 comments were received, with many providing multiple suggestions about the possible opportunities CRD Regional Parks could support in the spirit of reconciliation. The most suggested opportunity identified by respondents (n=266) is promoting the sharing of Indigenous knowledge through education, interpretation and programming in CRD Regional Parks. Another suggestion offered by respondents is that CRD Regional Parks engages and consults First Nations directly in regard to regional parks and trails management (N=153) so to ensure their priorities are met. Using Indigenous place names (n=105) and strengthening partnerships and collaborations with First Nations followed as a suggestion (n=90). Other recommendations provided by participants to the survey in relation to First Nations are to support cultural traditional uses (n=77), provide employment (n=52) or foster economic prosperity in other ways (n=48), and implement resource management practices (n=42). It is important to highlight that some respondents (n=53) feel that reconciliation is better suited to other levels of government or other CRD activities and departments rather than Regional Parks.

## Section 5: Demographics

### QUESTION 13: "In which age category do you fall"?

Respondents age was evenly split between categories, for the exception of younger people whose participation was lower (Figure 12)

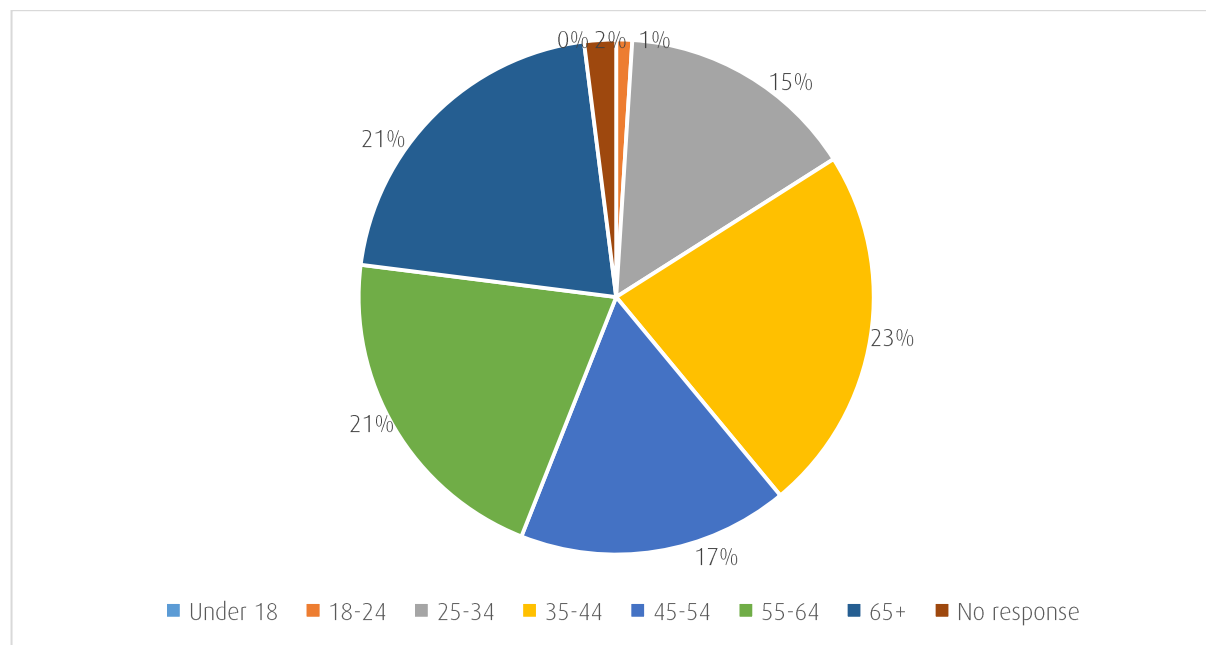


Figure 12: Age distribution of those who took the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update survey.

### QUESTION 14: "Where do you live"?

The majority of respondents to the survey live in Saanich (27%), Victoria (19%) and Langford (11%).

Municipality of Residence	Respondents Rate
Beecher Bay First Nation (SC'IANEW)	0%
Central Saanich	5%
Colwood	3%
Esquimalt	4%
Esquimalt Nation	0%
Highlands	2%
Juan de Fuca Electoral Area	3%
Langford	11%
Metchosin	3%
North Saanich	4%
Oak Bay	4%
Pacheedaht First Nation	0%

Pauquachin First Nation (BOKÉĆEN)	0%
Saanich	27%
Salt Spring Island Electoral Area	1%
Sidney	1%
Songhees Nation	0%
Sooke	4%
Southern Gulf Island Electoral Area	2%
T'Sou-ke Nation	0%
Tsartlip First Nation (WJOŁŁP)	0%
Tsawout First Nation (SÁUTW)	0%
Tseycum First Nation (WSIKEM)	0%
Victoria	19%
View Royal	3%
Other (please specify)	4%

Table 13: Residency of those who took the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update survey.

### QUESTION 15: “Please indicate the type of household in which you live”?

The majority of respondents to the survey are couples with no dependent children (41%), followed by parent(s) with one or more dependent children (28%) and adults living alone (14%).

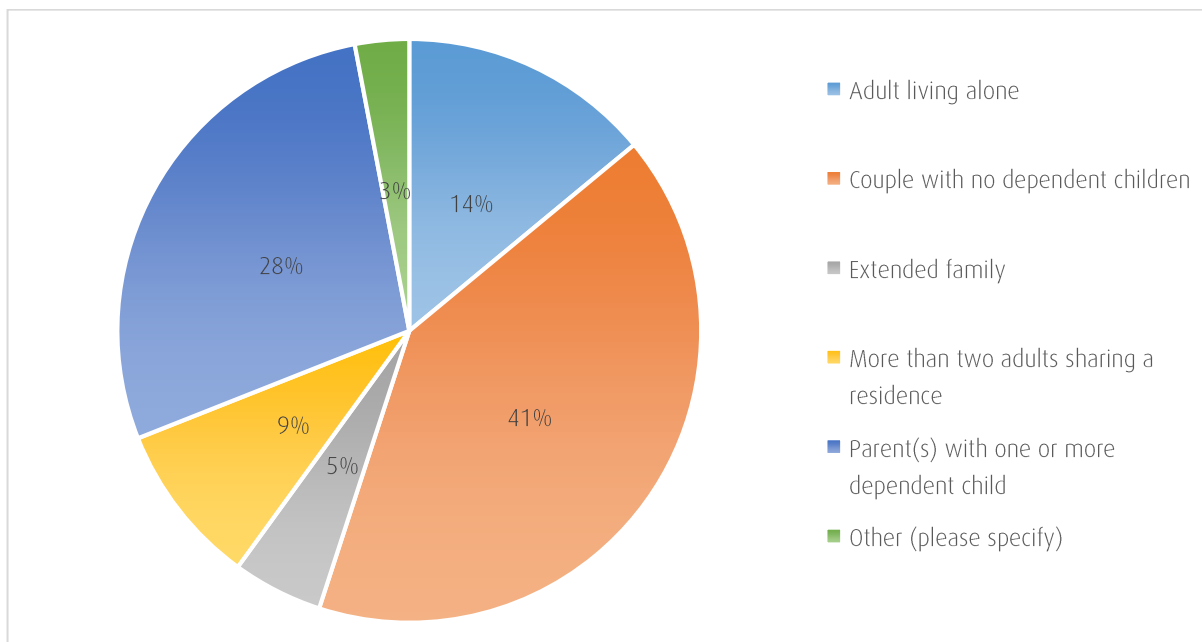


Figure 14: Household distribution of those who took the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update survey.



## Section 6: Other Comments

### **QUESTION 16: “Do you have any other comments about your regional parks and trails?”**

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide additional comments about regional parks and trails. A total of 932 comments were received, with many providing multiple feedback statements and suggestions about the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update. Most respondents’ comments focused either on conservation or outdoor recreation themes. For conservation, respondents were really concerned about the overuse and impacts they witnessed in the regional parks and trails (n=65) and suggested to focus on biodiversity and ecosystem preservation (n=132) and land acquisition (n=100). For outdoor recreation, respondents suggested in general to offer more opportunities to recreate in regional parks and trails (n=83), with some specific stakeholder groups advocating for more disk golfing (n=138), mountain biking (n=120) and horse riding (n=47) opportunities. Respondents also offered suggestions on how to improve regionals parks and trails management (n=52), advocated for more and improved facilities (n=52) and stressed the importance of providing more education (n=52) and better accessibility (n=42). Another emerging theme was dog management, with some respondents advocating for dog off-leash opportunities (n=21), while others reporting issues related to dog out of control and the need for leashing policies (n=62). Respondents (n=113) took also the opportunity to express their appreciation toward CRD Regional Parks and the possibility to participate in the survey.

## Appendix E: Letter from District of Metchosin



### DISTRICT OF METCHOSIN

File No. 0360-20-08

May 3, 2022

**CRD EXECUTIVE OFFICE**  
*Received*

**MAY 16 2022**

Board of Directors  
Capital Regional District  
625 Fisgard Street  
PO Box 1000  
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Dear CRD Board Directors:

**Re: CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan**

The District of Metchosin Environmental Advisory Select Committee through Metchosin Council would like to provide input to the proposed vision, mission, values, principles, and priorities for the CRD Regional Parks Strategic Plan update. We recognize that the Board directed a lens of conservation and biodiversity be applied to the process and Plan. We support that position.

We recognize that CRD Regional Parks are varied in size, ecological composition, and function. Our concern is the protection of the wildland portion of CRD Regional Parks that now or could in the future provide habitat to the large mammals, including predators, which would naturally perform their ecosystem functions in these areas. Examples would be the Sooke Wilderness Park, the Sea-to-Sea Wilderness Park and much of East Sooke Park.

We would like to see a separate vision and mission statement for these wildland areas within a park or encompassing the whole park. Specifically, we are concerned with two critical ecological functions that must be maintained within the wildland area of CRD Regional Parks: sequestering carbon and supporting biodiversity. Ecosystems that sequester carbon are being lost at an alarming rate, yet these ecosystems are critical for mitigating climate change.

Supporting biodiversity ensures the ecosystem continues to ensure clean air and clean water. Maintaining biodiversity in wildland parks must take into consideration all living things, from micro-organisms to apex predators.

Given the continual land conversion on southern Vancouver Island, wildland parks are increasingly important refuges for apex predators. Human contact must be minimized to support the ecosystem as a whole and ensure that the apex predators continue to live and breed within the wildland parks. Applying maximum protection to the wildland areas also ensures the future of these areas for carbon sequestration.

4450 Happy Valley Road, Victoria, B.C. V9C 3Z3  
Administration Office (250) 474-3167 Fax 474-6298  
Building Inspection Department (250) 474-3196 Fax 474-6298

Thank you for your consideration in applying maximum protection to wildland ecosystems within the CRD Regional Parks as part of your CRD Regional Parks management plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Reams", written over a circular stamp or seal.

John Reams  
Mayor

cc. Larissa Hutcheson  
General Manager, Parks & Environmental Services