

A scenic view of a lake and mountains framed by trees, with a wooden bench in the foreground. The image is used as a background for the report cover.

NORTH SAANICH PARKS MASTER PLAN

PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

February 2024

Version 2- March 2024

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

WHO PARTICIPATED?



80 Open House Attendees
Six Stakeholder Sessions



TOP 5 STRENGTHS

- 1 Variety and quantity of parks and spaces
- 2 Trail System
- 3 Natural Environment
- 4 Maintenance of the parks and trails with limited resources
- 5 Environmental impacts

TOP 5 CHALLENGES

- 1 Waste Disposal
- 2 Ecosystem protection and management
- 3 Insufficient signage
- 4 Availability of washrooms
- 5 Parking at beach accesses

TOP 5 SUGGESTIONS

- 1 Address waste disposal in parks
- 2 Protect and enhance the natural environment through invasive species management and naturalization of parks and open spaces
- 3 Expand wayfinding and interpretive signage at parks, trails, and beach accesses with similar online resources
- 4 Provide more washrooms
- 5 Improve parking and boat launch opportunities

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1. ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

1.1 ABOUT THE PROJECT

The District of North Saanich is preparing a Parks Master Plan to meet the needs of the community. The purpose of the project is to strategically guide staff work and Council decisions on parks policy, planning, capital improvements, and management over the next 10 years (2024-2034). The plan will guide the future planning, design, protection, and maintenance of existing and new park infrastructure and amenities.

The Parks Master Plan is being informed through a multi-phased engagement process to ensure the plan reflects the community's vision and meets local interests and needs. This document summarizes input gathered from the Phase 1 community engagement period, including contributor sessions, a public open house, and a community survey.

1.2 PROJECT PROCESS

The project began in spring 2023 with a project initiation and site visit to key parks, trails, and beach accesses in the District.

Preliminary findings were highlighted in a State of the Parks report. The report provides a comprehensive overview of the parks and trails within the District of North Saanich and offers insights into the District's natural assets, demographics, and environmental considerations that relate to the management and planning of the outdoor recreation spaces.

Phase 1 of community engagement began in fall 2023. Opportunities for engagement in Phase 1 included:

- Visioning Workshops with Staff, Mayor and Council, First Nations and Community Stakeholders
- Pop Ups
- Community Survey
- Open House

Findings from Phase 1 Engagement will be used to inform the draft Parks Master Plan, which will be presented in the next round of engagement in early 2024.

Phase 2 of community engagement will take place in the spring of 2024. Opportunities for engagement in Phase 2 will include:

- Open House
- Community Engagement – Input to Draft Parks Master Plan

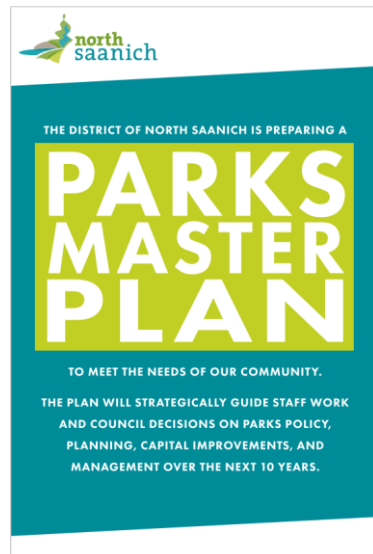
Following community review, a final Parks Master Plan will be prepared and presented to Council in spring 2024.



1.3 PROMOTION AND OUTREACH

Promotion of the engagement process was important to raise awareness and encourage participation. The following were the communication methods:

- **District Webpage:** a landing page on connectnorthsaanich.ca/parks-plan described project information, engagement events, and had a link to the community survey.
- **District of North Saanich social media platforms:** regular posts informed community members about the process through the District’s social media channels (Facebook, Twitter).
- **Media Release:** advertising was issued to the local newspapers, including the Peninsula News Review to promote participation in the survey and open house.
- **Stakeholder Outreach:** The District used their existing contacts with stakeholders, staff, and neighbouring municipalities to participate and promote the engagement activities.
- **Community Posters:** Posters and signage were placed at key locations in the community including:
 - Municipal Hall lawn
 - Fickle Fig
 - St. John’s Church
 - Deep Cove Market
 - Co-op gas station (Deep Cove)
 - The Roost
 - Wain Road pickleball courts
 - Pat Bay picnic area (bulletin board)
 - Panorama Recreation
 - All major North Saanich parks, trail entrances, and beach accesses



2. ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The engagement approach provided a variety of opportunities to reach a broad audience of users and stakeholders in the community. The following were the engagement events.

2.1 ONLINE SURVEY

An online community survey was hosted on *Connect North Saanich* from November 7th to December 17th. There were **209 respondents** who answered 20 questions related to where and how respondents use parks and their satisfaction and interests for the future. The findings are summarized in **Section 3.2**.

2.2 OPEN HOUSE

A public open house was hosted on November 21, 2023 from 3 to 8pm at Municipal Hall. **Approximately 80 people attended.**

The open house included 10 poster boards with information on the project purpose and current state of the parks. Attendees were given opportunities to provide their input on the locations they frequently visit, the strength and challenges of the existing system, and ideas for the future.

Findings from the public open house discussed in **Section 3.3**.



2.3 VISIONING WORKSHOPS

First Nations and contributors were identified early in the project planning process, and they were invited to visioning workshops.. Six visioning workshops were hosted as follows:

1. **Tseycum First Nation** – November 15th
2. **Parks Advocacy Groups** – October 30th
 - Friends of North Saanich Parks
 - Friends of Dominion Brooks Park
3. **Environmental Organizations** – Nov 7th
 - Peninsula Streams Society
 - Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition
4. **Community Associations (Group 1)** – Nov 8th
 - North Saanich Residents Association
 - The Terraces Neighbourhood Association
 - Woodcreek Strata
 - Eagle Ridge Strata
 - Eaglehurst Residents Association
 - Bazan Bay Community Association
 - Dean Park Estates Community Association
 - Lands End Residents
5. **Community Associations (Group 2)** – Nov 14th
 - Save North Saanich
 - Property Responsibility on the Waterfront (PROW)
 - McTavish Neighbourhood Community Group
6. **Commissions** – December 5th
 - Planning Commission
 - Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee
 - Agriculture Commission
 - Stewardship Commission
7. **Mayor & Council** – February 26th

The following parties were invited to participate in visioning workshops but were unable to attend:

- Pauquachin First Nation
- Eagle Ridge Strata

Workshops were conducted virtually. The consulting team shared a brief presentation with information on the project purpose and key findings from the State of the Parks report. The presentation was followed by a facilitated discussion on the strengths and challenges of the current parks system, and objectives and ideas for the Parks Master Plan. Findings from the sessions are summarized in **Section 3.4**.

2.4 ENGAGEMENT POP-UPS

To promote the project and engagement activities, District staff facilitated community “pop-ups” at key locations in the community. Staff were equipped with a District banner and information cards that promoted the survey and open house.

Pop-ups were conducted at the following locations:

- The Roost – November 15th
- Fickle Fig – November 16th
- Deep Cove Market – November 17th
- Panorama Recreation Centre – November 18th

The information card that was distributed is shown below.



3. WHAT WE HEARD

This section describes what was heard from the community during the engagement, including key themes and input from the various sessions.

3.1 KEY THEMES

The key themes from community engagement activities are summarized below.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT

- Desire for more management of invasive species through maintenance strategies and staff resources and expertise
- Appreciation for the volunteer organizations that remove invasive species

NATURALIZATION

- Support for naturalizing parks and open spaces to protect the environment and reduce maintenance burden
- Interest in interpretive materials and signage to inform the public about natural systems

“Put more resources toward eradicating invasive species from parks, and more towards greater public understanding of natural systems. Determine how parks can be used to help fight climate change.”

WAYFINDING AND INFORMATION SIGNAGE

SIGNAGE

- Desire for more regulatory signage that identifies rules such as cyclist speeds, sharing the trail with cyclists and equestrians, cleaning up after dogs, and staying on the trail
- Desire for wayfinding signage at parks, trails, and beach accesses
- Desire for interpretive signage to highlight natural, cultural, and historical significance

“Increasing use needs to account for all users - avoid conflicts through signage/education.”

OTHER RESOURCES

- Opportunity for collaboration with First Nations providing information on cultural significance
- Desire for an interactive online map that provides information on the park and trail system, including jurisdictions and ownership
- Participants expressed the value of the District's existing *Guide to Parks, Trails and Beach Accesses*, and suggested that it be updated once the Parks Master Plan is complete

"Look for opportunities to educate park users about wildlife, natural features, park history, ecological concerns, etc. using signage, website, guided walks, etc."

WASTE DISPOSAL

- A desire for waste receptacles at all parks, trail entrances, and beach accesses (though others expressed an opposing need for signage on pack in/pack out)
- A need for dog waste bags at trails and key parks to prevent dog waste and encourage owners to clean up

"Additional garbage cans so a) dog owners can dispose of doggie bags instead of leaving them hanging from a tree or dropped on a trail ... b) citizens who find garbage on the trail can dispose of it easily".

DOGS IN PARKS

OFF-LEASH AREAS

- Many participants are dog owners and appreciate the District's parks and trails that are welcoming to dogs
- Cy Hampson Park is highly valued and used by dog owners, and people travel from across the peninsula to bring their dogs there
- Desire for more dog off-leash areas, specifically in the north of the District
- Dog owners are concerned about the regulation of dogs in public places being implemented in other communities, including the District of Saanich Dogs in Parks Policy, and expressed their concern for this type of regulation in North Saanich

"Cy Hampson [Park] has become a "de-facto" dog park, but is still considered multi-use. A designated, fenced, off-leash dog park would be nice".

ENFORCEMENT OF DOGS IN PARKS

- Desire for more enforcement of dogs in parks, including fines for leaving waste or having a dog off-leash in an on-leash area
- Some dog owners identified the need for better enforcement of on-leash dog policies to ensure their dogs have a safe place to walk

“Off-leash dogs are a problem, even when park signage states that dogs must be under control, they often are not. Given the massive increase in dog ownership, there needs to be a change in how dogs are controlled because the status quo is not working”.

TRAIL EXPANSION AND CONNECTIVITY

- Many respondents use the trail network to avoid travelling on high-speed corridors that lack sidewalks
- Desire for expanding trails to connect with each other, parks, and other key destinations in the community
- As more types of users are on the trails, there is a desire for more separation through wider trails and multi-use pathways to ensure safety of users and to enable all types of users on the trail
- Desire from equestrian riders to continue to have access to trails
- Preference to implement boardwalks on trails where there are sensitive or saturated areas

“The trail system in North Saanich is one of the best features of the community. It needs to be kept up and expanded where possible”.

ACCOMMODATING EQUESTRIANS

- Desire to protect existing park and trail access for equestrians and to acquire more such opportunities
- Interest in hitching posts at trail and park entrances
- Desire for more equestrian access to public beaches that are currently inaccessible to horses
- Desire for a public equestrian riding ring and allowing horse riding in unused park areas

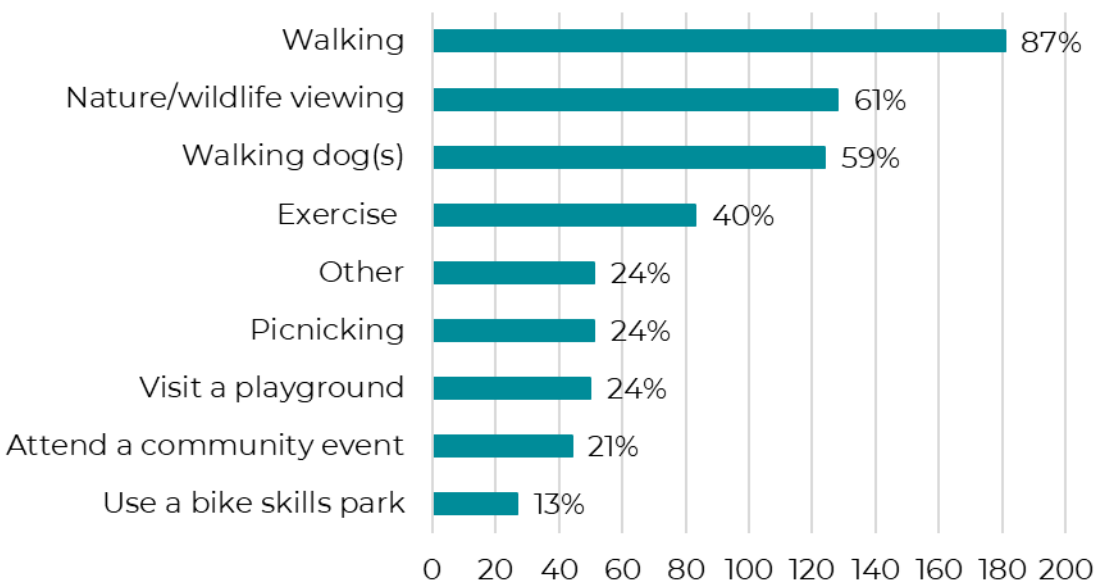
“Equestrian access to parks and trails is actively being eroded and restricted over time. Create parks and trails where equestrians can safely access, ride, hitch and water horses, and remount. Create trails that connect parks so equestrians and vulnerable road users alike, can commute and connect to amenities and other parks away from the paved road system where motorists speed”.

3.2 SURVEY FINDINGS

The following pages summarize the input from the online survey. The x axis shows the number of respondents. For consistency, the percentages shown are of the total respondents. The “n” below the tables indicates how many people responded to that question.

3.2.1 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

HOW PEOPLE USE PARKS IN NORTH SAANICH



n = 209

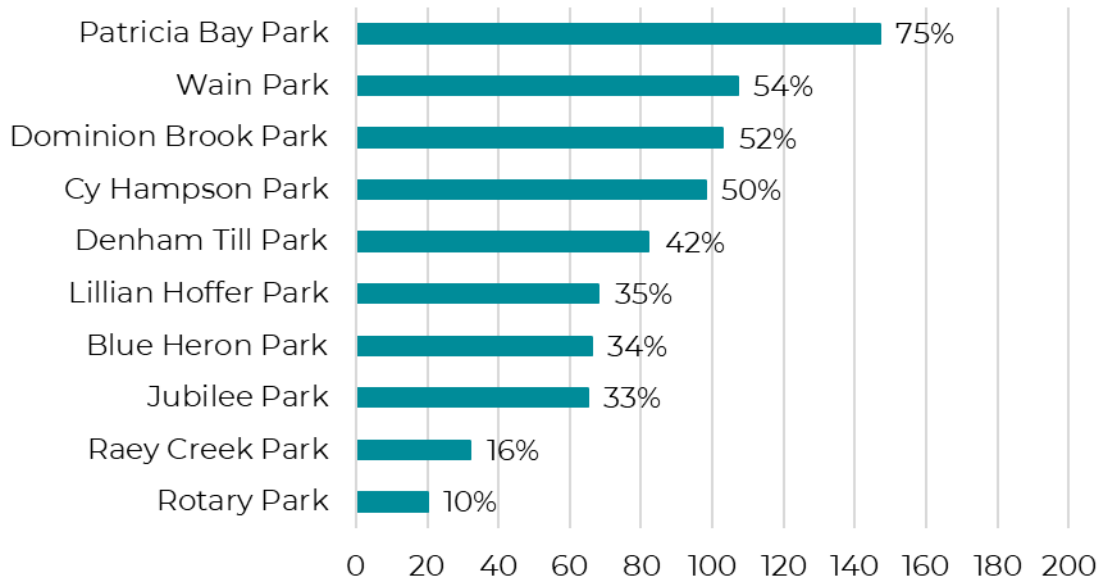
Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Most participants use parks to walk (87%), for walking dogs (59%) and nature and wildlife viewing (61%)
- Responses for “other” included forest bathing, socializing, horse riding, and volunteering

MOST VISITED COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks are typically larger parks of at least one hectare that include several park amenities and facilities such as playgrounds, sport courts, trails, picnic areas, and open spaces.



n = 197

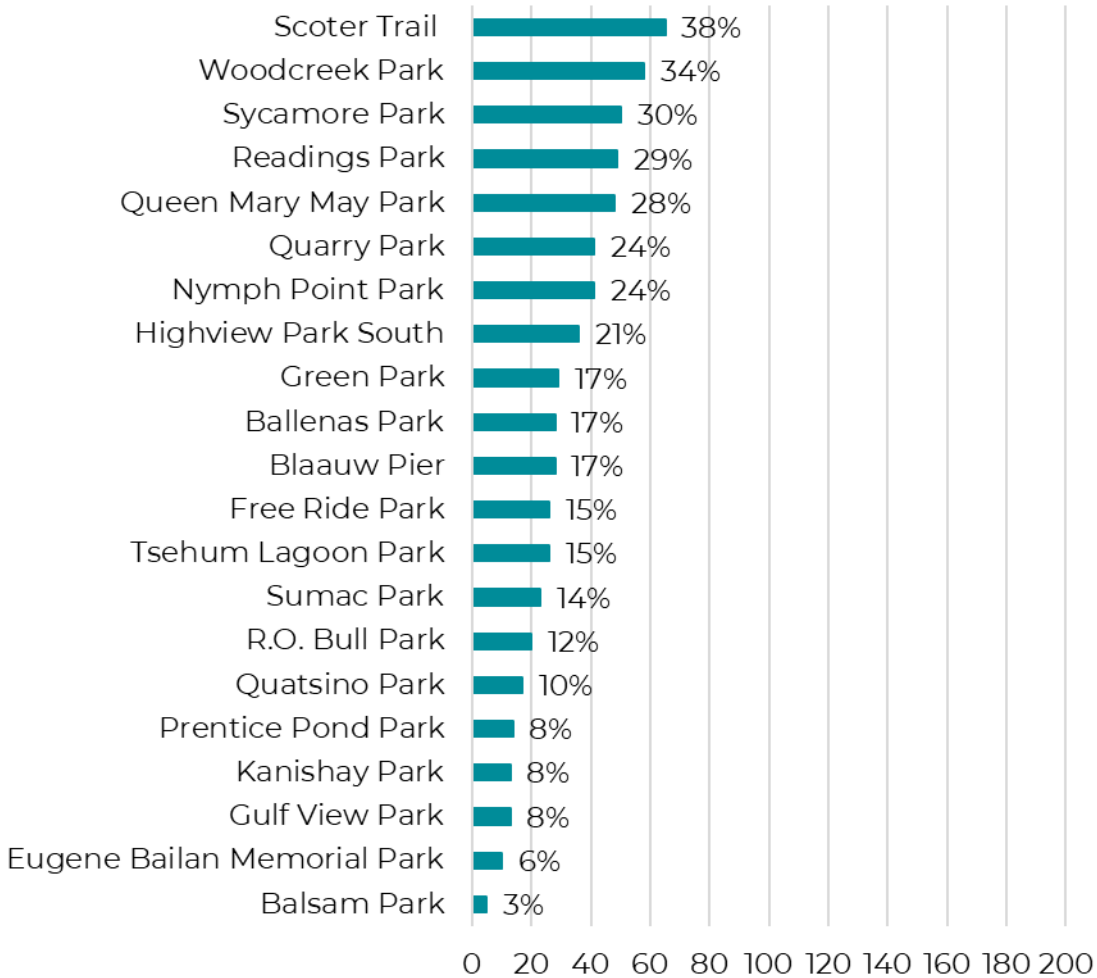
Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Patricia Bay Park (75%) is the most visited Community Park.
- Wain Park (54%), Dominion Brook Park (52%) and Cy Hampson Park (50%) are other frequently visited community parks.

MOST VISITED NATURE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PARKS

Nature Parks are typically large parcels that are dominated by natural features such as forests and watercourses. Neighbourhood Parks are typically small parks that serve a small catchment area and provide limited park amenities.



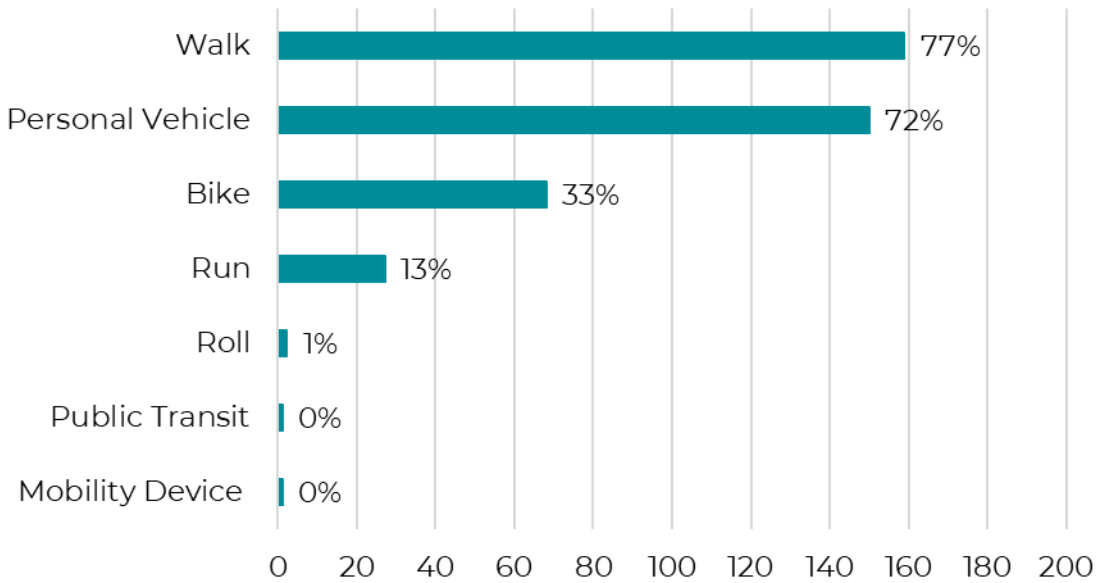
n = 169

Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Scoter Trail (38%) is the most visited Nature Park.

MODES USED TO ACCESS PARKS



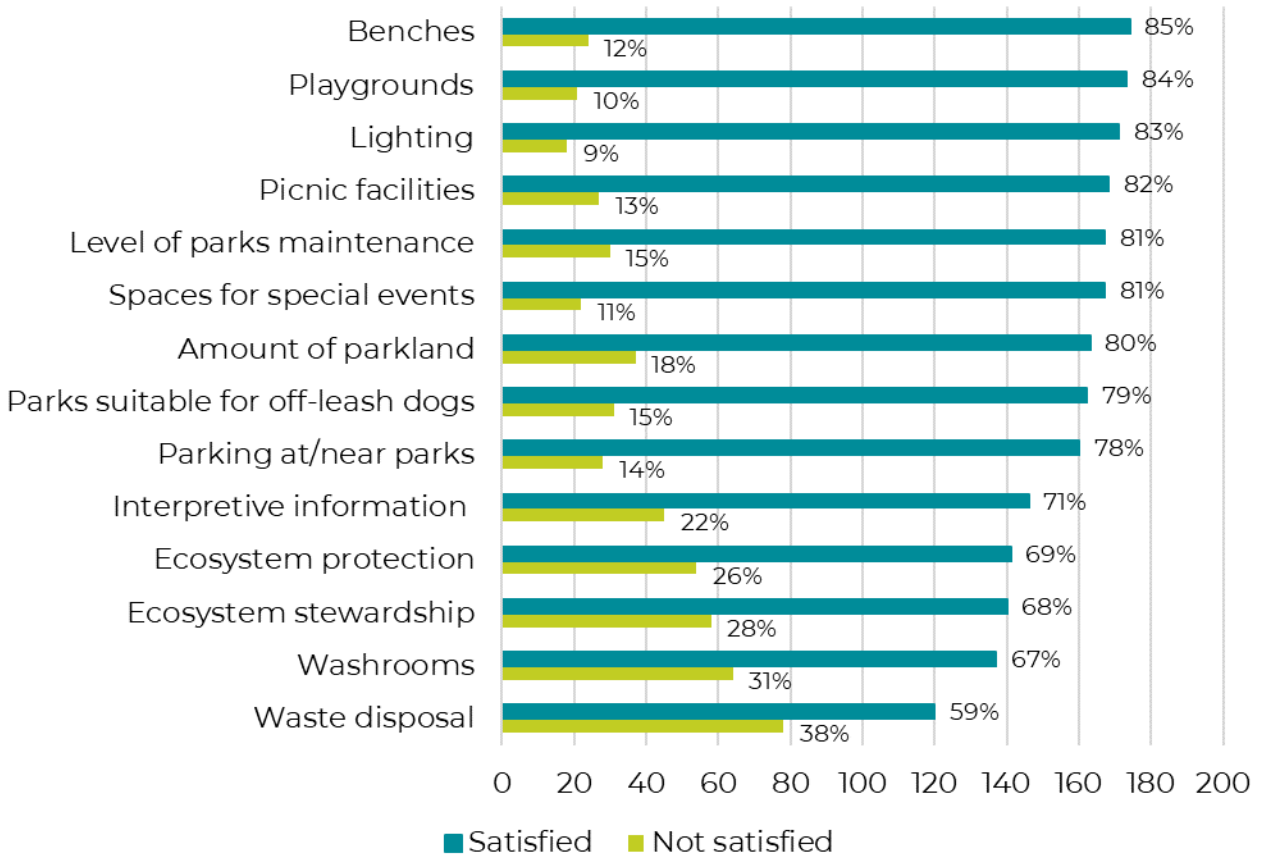
. n= 207

The 0% reflects one respondent since numbers are rounded

KEY FINDINGS

- Users predominantly walk (77%) or drive in a personal vehicle (72%) to access parks.

SATISFACTION WITH PARK FEATURES

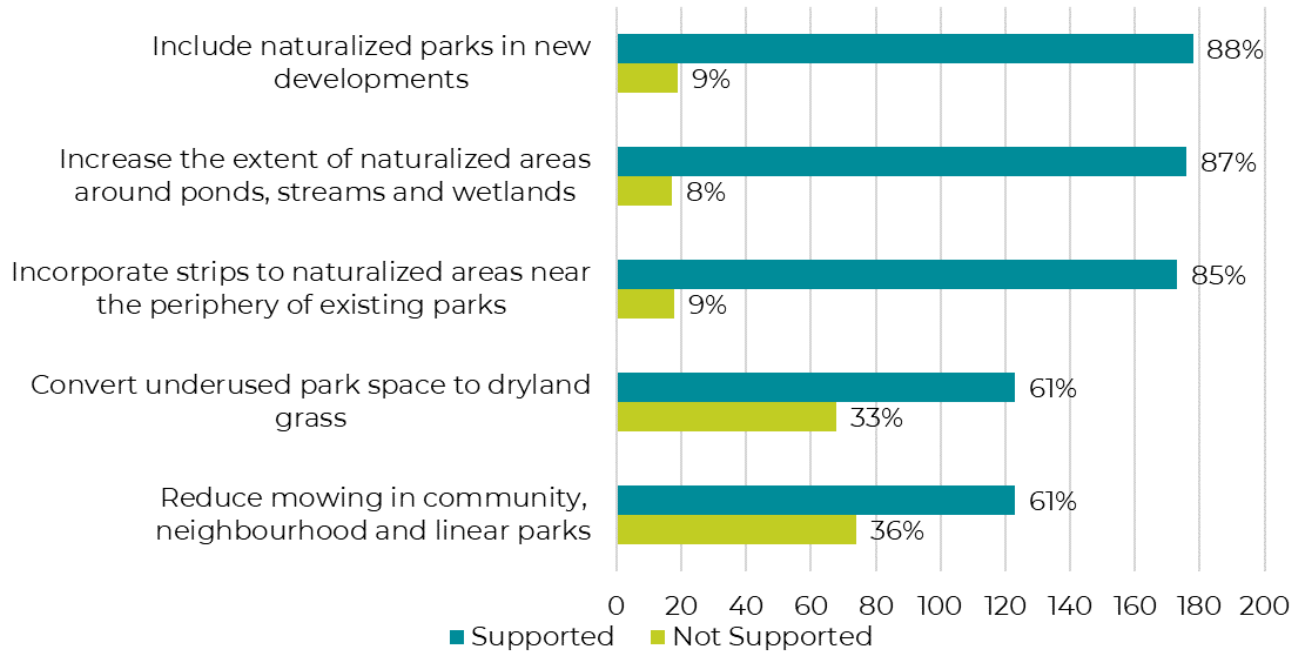


n = 205

KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents are generally satisfied with most aspects of the parks and park amenities.
- Waste disposal in parks received the highest dissatisfaction at 38% and 31% of respondents expressed dissatisfaction with washrooms.

SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE APPROACHES



n = 203

KEY FINDINGS

- Participants expressed high support for including naturalized parks in new developments (88%), increasing the extent of naturalized areas around ponds, streams and wetlands (87%), and incorporating strips of naturalized areas near existing parks (85%).
- Reducing mowing and converting underused park space to dryland grass received less support.

ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS, OR NEW FACILITIES FOR PARKS

Participants were invited to share additional thoughts related to parks improvements or additions. The following were the key themes of comments from five or more respondents.

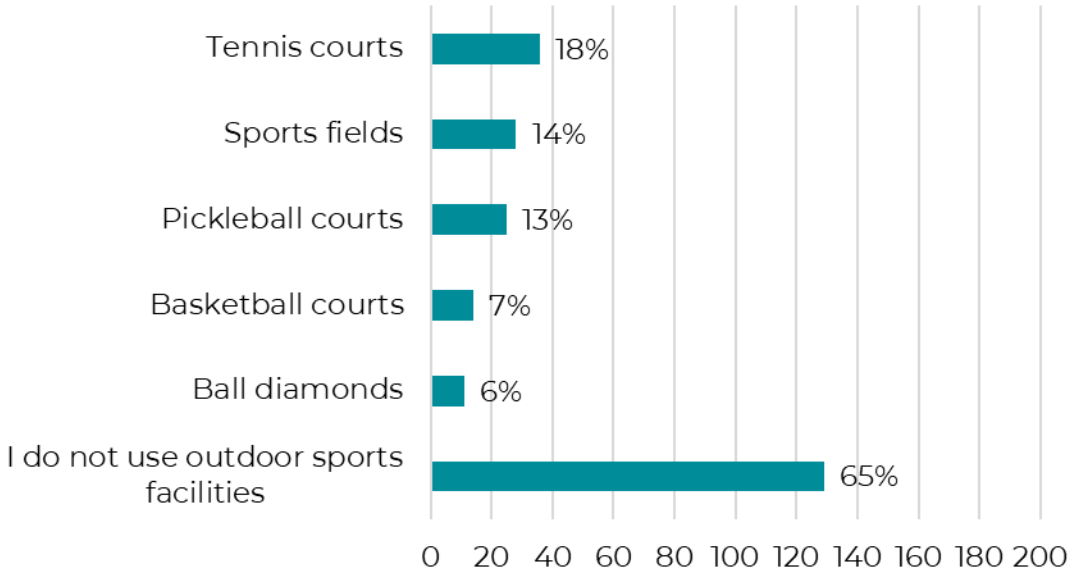
THEME	# OF COMMENTS
Waste disposal	26
Park amenities and upgrades	24
Washrooms	17
Off-leash areas	17
Trail expansion and connectivity	16
Environmental protection	16
Equestrian amenities	15
Signage, wayfinding, and education	12
Invasive species management	8
Maintenance	7
Enforcement of dogs in parks	6
Vehicle parking	5
Naturalization	5

KEY THEMES AND COMMENT SUMMARY

- 26 participants expressed the desire for more waste disposal opportunities, including dog waste bags.
- 24 participants identified desires for upgrades to existing park amenities and new amenities – including more seating and picnic opportunities, upgraded playgrounds, a waterpark, and lighting.
- Keeping Cy Hampson as an off-leash dog park is important to many residents (17).
- More washrooms at parks are desired (17).
- Other considerations expressed by participants were connecting parks to the trail network, protecting the environment through the preservation of natural areas, and considering equestrians in park access and amenities.

3.2.2 OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES

USE OF OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES



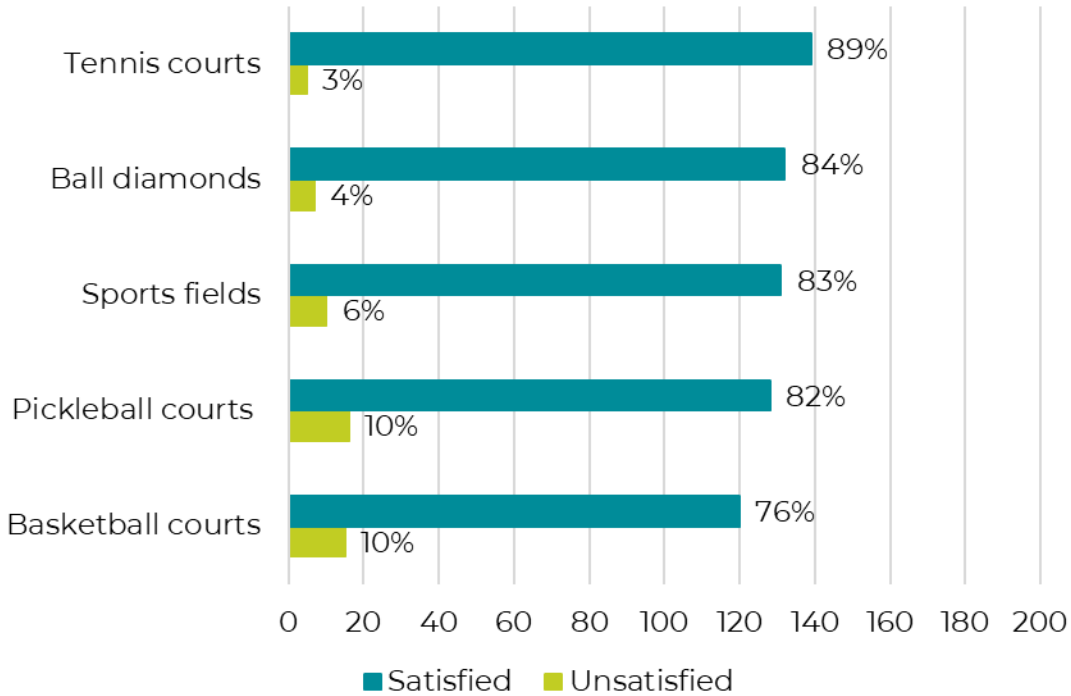
n = 19

Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Relatively low numbers of respondents use the sports facilities
- 65% of respondents do not use the District's outdoor sports facilities

SATISFACTION WITH OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES



n = 157

Many participants rated satisfaction with facilities even though they indicated that they did not use the facilities.

KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents are generally satisfied with the District’s outdoor sports facilities.
- Basketball courts at Wain Park were identified by some participants as in need of an upgrade.

ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS, OR NEW FACILITIES FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

Participants were invited to share additional thoughts related to recreation facility improvements or additions. Comments from five or more respondents are summarized below.

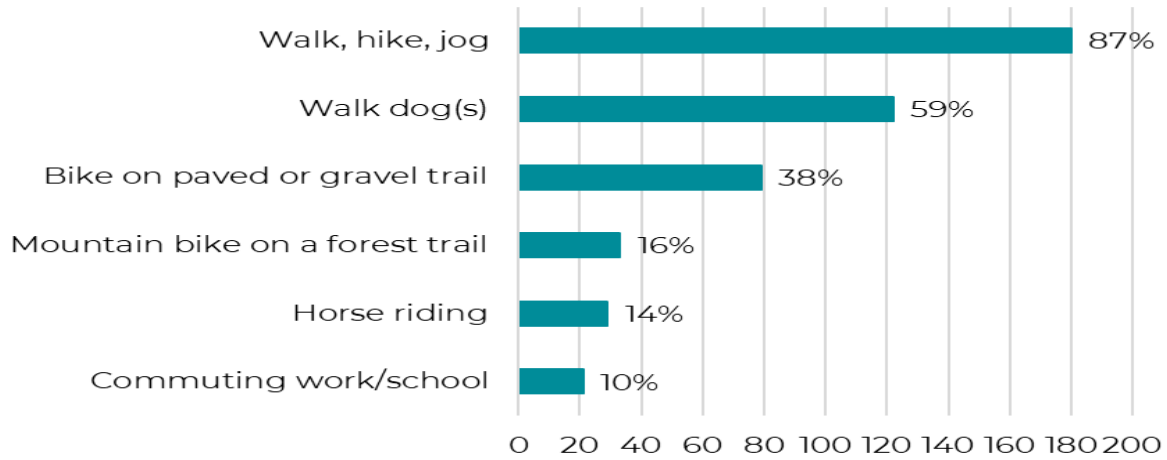
THEME	# OF COMMENTS
Pickleball courts	23
Amenities and upgrades	20
Equestrian amenities	6
Washrooms	6

KEY FINDINGS

- 23 participants expressed the desire for more pickleball courts but indoors or sound controlled
- 20 participants identified new amenities or upgrades, including upgrading the basketball court at Wain Park and new amenities to accommodate outdoor yoga, track running, BBQs in parks.
- 4 participants identified the importance of preserving the natural environment and to refrain from using artificial turf

3.2.3 TRAILS

USE OF TRAILS



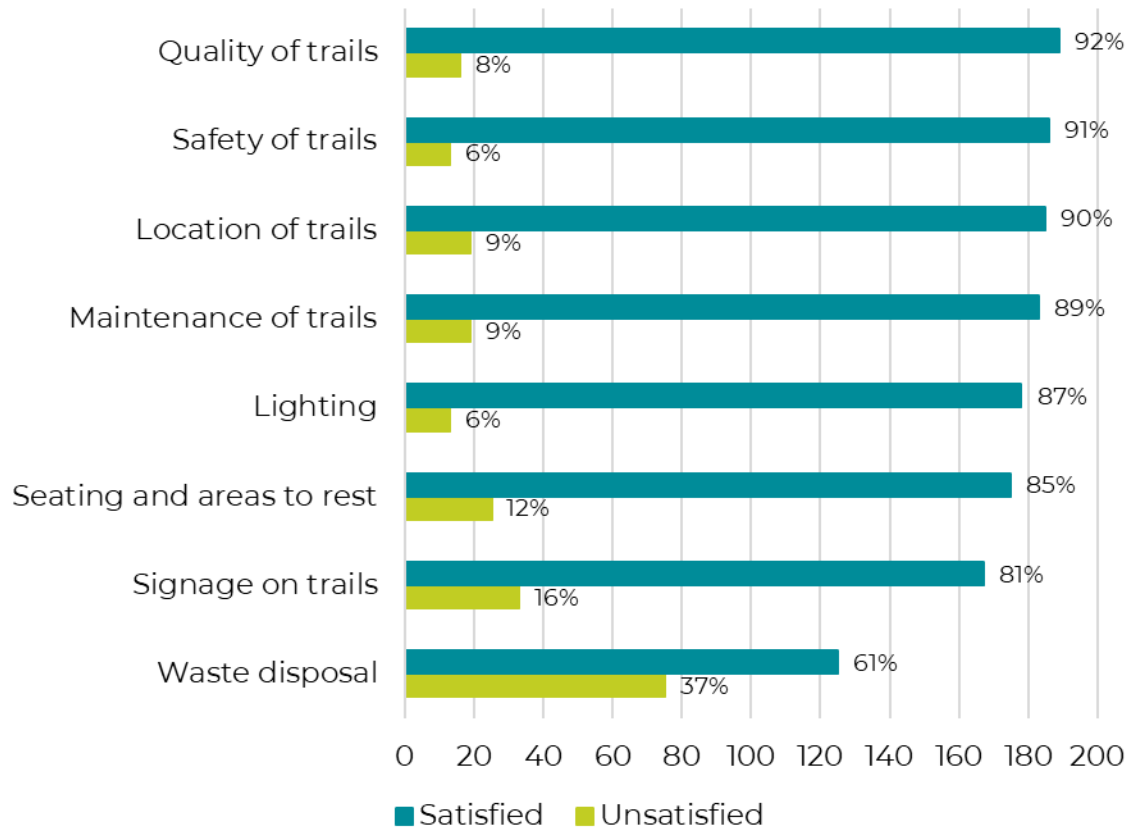
n = 208

Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Most trail use is for walking, hiking, or jogging (87%) or walking dogs (59%)
- 14% of respondents were equestrians

SATISFACTION WITH TRAIL FEATURES



n = 205

KEY FINDINGS

- Respondents are generally satisfied with the District’s trail features, especially the quality (92%), safety (91%), and location (90%) of trails
- Waste disposal on trails had the highest dissatisfaction rate (37%)

ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS OR NEW FACILITIES FOR TRAILS

Participants were invited to share additional thoughts related to trail improvements or additions. Comments from five or more respondents are summarized below.

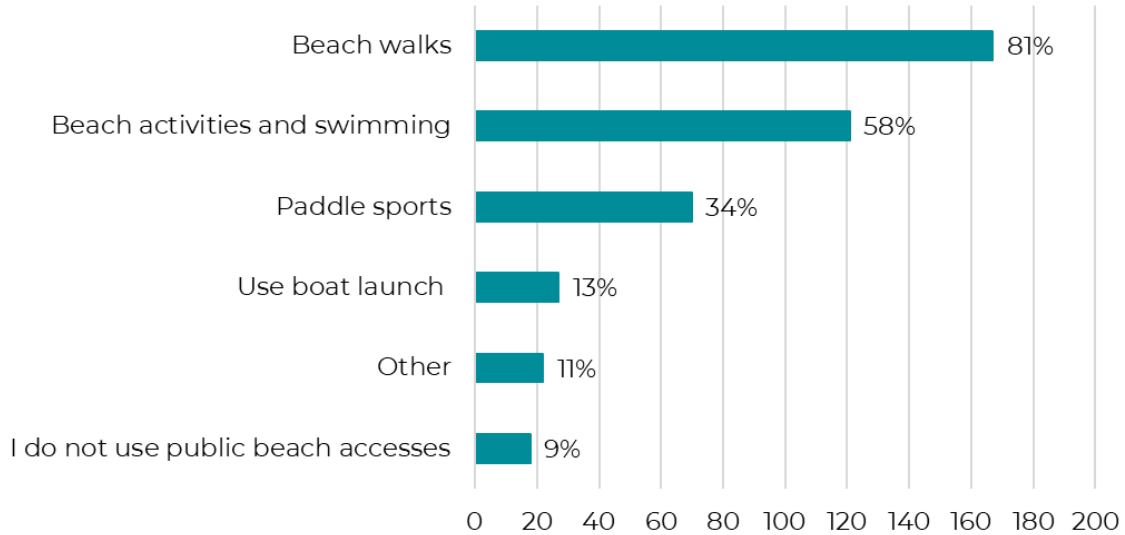
THEME	# OF COMMENTS
Trail expansion and connectivity	38
Signage, wayfinding, and education	16
Equestrian amenities	12
Surface material	11
Maintenance	10
Waste disposal	9
Environmental protection	6

KEY FINDINGS

- 38 respondents expressed the desire for expanding the trail network to improve connectivity to parks, beaches, and key destinations.
- 16 participants expressed the need for signage and public information on how to share the trails with multiple modes, especially between cyclists and equestrians. Participants identified a desire for current trail maps online and at trail heads.
- 12 equestrians expressed the desire for accommodating horses on trails, including hitching posts, wide trails, and the surface material used.
- 11 participants discussed concern about the gravel material on trails, noting that it can be dangerous and slippery when loose.

3.2.4 BEACH ACCESSES

USE OF BEACH ACCESSES



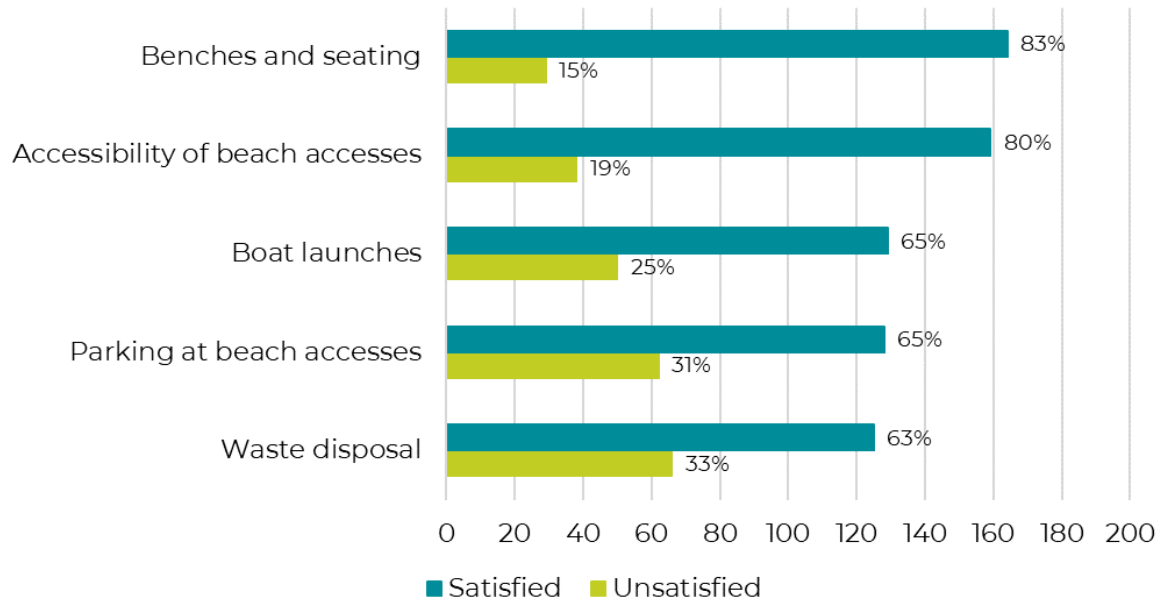
n = 207

Participants were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of participants that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

KEY FINDINGS

- Beach accesses are predominantly used for beach walks (81%)
- “Other” uses were identified as watching wildlife, picnicking, horse riding and meditation

SATISFACTION WITH BEACH ACCESS FEATURES



n = 198

KEY FINDINGS

- Participants have high satisfaction with benches and seating at beach accesses (83%)
- Waste disposal, parking, and boat launches have the highest dissatisfaction

ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS OR NEW FACILITIES FOR BEACH ACCESSES

Participants were invited to share additional thoughts related to public beach improvements or additions. Comments from five or more respondents are summarized below.

THEME	# OF COMMENTS
Boat launch	24
Vehicle parking	18
Waste disposal	12
Accessibility	11
Watersport accommodations	8
Shoreline protection	6
Seating	5

KEY FINDINGS

- 24 participants identified the desire for a boat launch in North Saanich at Pat Bay or elsewhere on the west side
- 18 participants would like improved parking facilities at beach accesses, with some wanting larger vehicle parking for boat trailers
- 8 participants desire easier access to the water for paddle sports

FINAL COMMENTS ABOUT PARKS AND TRAILS IN NORTH SAANICH

Participants were invited to share any remaining input related to parks and trails in North Saanich. The following is a summary of themes expressed by five or more respondents.

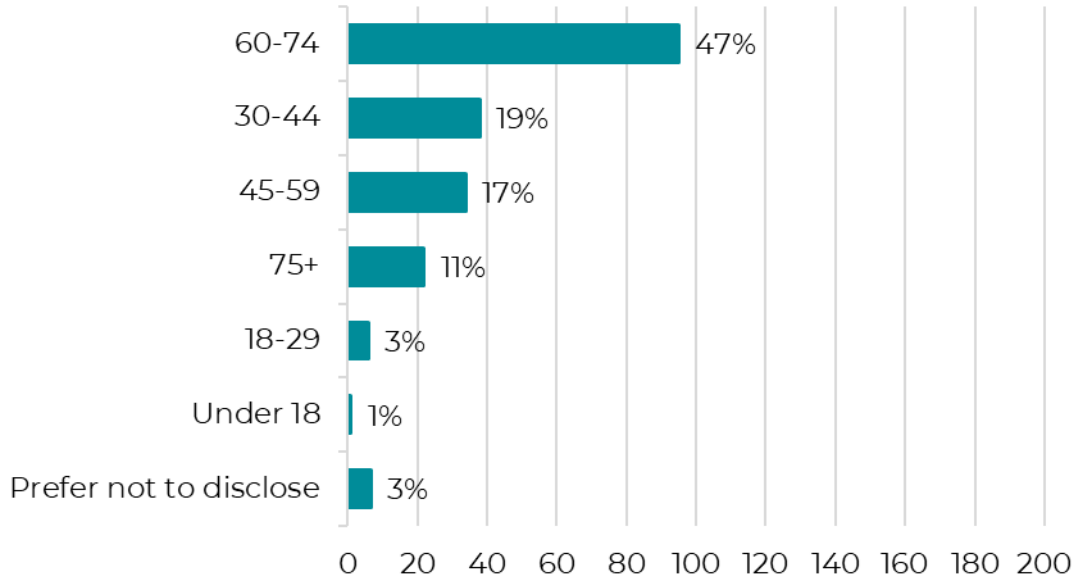
THEME	# OF COMMENTS
Off-leash areas	13
Environmental protection	11
Equestrian accommodations	11
Maintain level of maintenance	10
Trail expansion and connectivity	9
Wildfire management	9
Maintenance and staff resources	8
Naturalization	7
Invasive species management	6

KEY FINDINGS

- Off-leash areas for dogs (13) are appreciated and there are desires for more
- Protecting the natural environment is important to participants (11), including wildlife, trees and shoreline protection
- There are concerns that cutting back on mowing (10) could increase ticks, reduce dog paths, and increase wildfire potential (9)
- The equestrian community expressed the desire to be accommodated through amenities and permission to use trails and beaches
- Participants appreciate the level of maintenance with limited resources (8)

3.2.5 WHO WE HEARD FROM

AGE OF RESPONDENTS

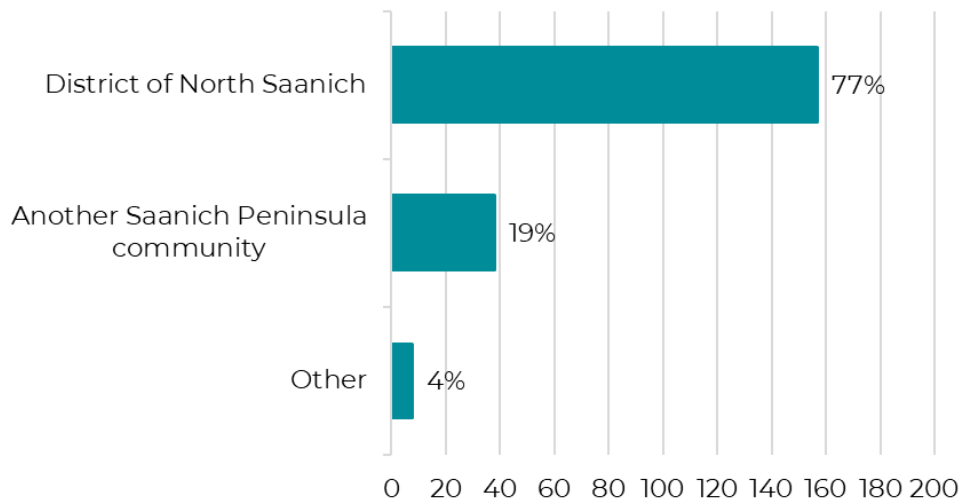


n = 203

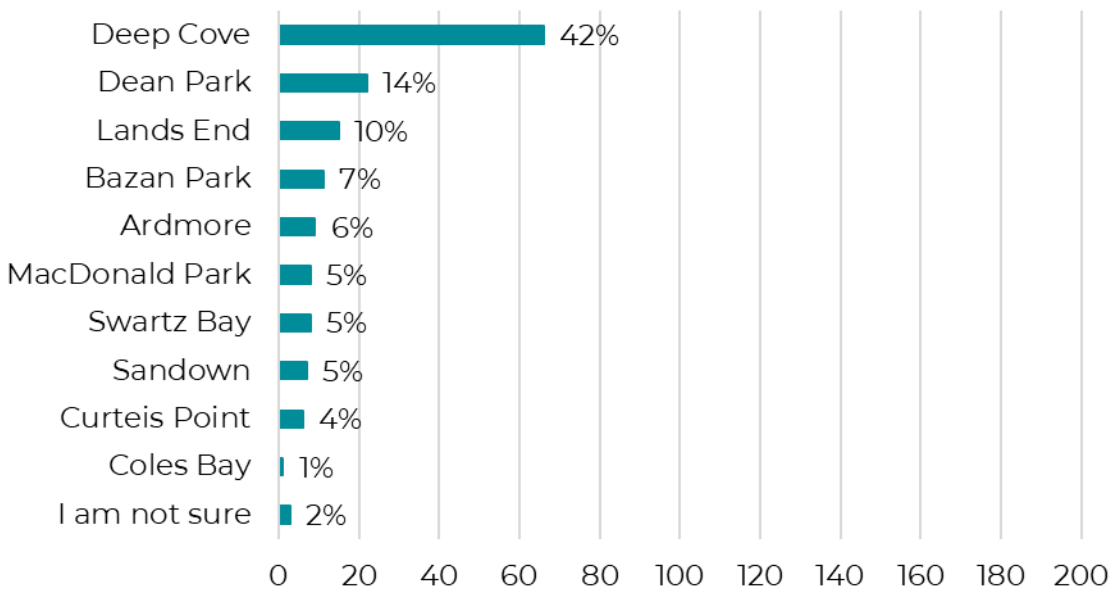
KEY FINDINGS

- 47% of respondents were 60-74 years old

WHERE RESPONDENTS LIVE



n = 203



n = 156

KEY FINDINGS

- 77% of respondents live in North Saanich, with 42% of respondents living in the Deep Cove neighbourhood.

3.3 OPEN HOUSE FINDINGS

The key findings from the open house boards are summarized below.

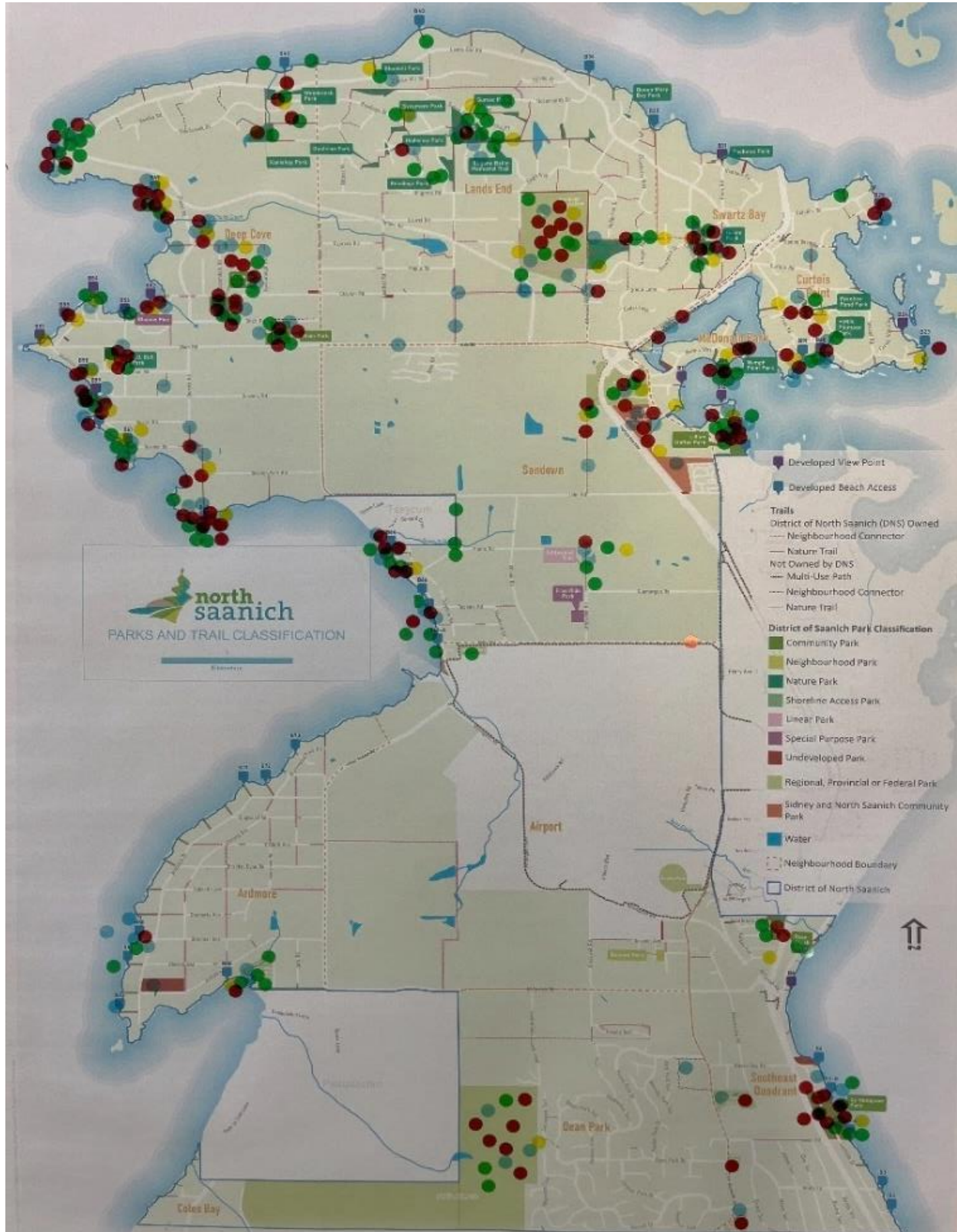
PARKS CLASSIFICATIONS

Indicate which parks, trails, and beach access you frequent in North Saanich.

The locations below received the largest numbers of dots:

- Horth Hill Regional Park – 23
- Warrior Point and Cy Hampson Park – 18
- Denham Till Park – 17
- North Scoter Trail – 15
- Moses Point and Lillian Hoffar Park – 14
- Chalet Beach, Green Park, John Dean Provincial Park, Beach Access #59 – 13
- HMS Plumper Park – 12
- Danton Trail and Nymph Point Park – 11
- Sumac Park and Blue Heron Park – 10
- Wain Park and Beach Access #61 – 9
- RO Bull Park – 8

Image of Engagement Board – Parks Visited



What are the strengths of the parks and trail system in North Saanich?

- High support for Cy Hampson allowing dogs off-leash
- Parks and trails are well maintained
- Appreciation for the amount of natural parkland and landscapes that attract wildlife and visitors
- Connected trail system that supports a variety of users (hikers, dog walkers, equestrian riders, and cyclists)
- Quantity and variety of parks

What are the challenges of the parks and trail system in North Saanich?

- Invasive species management
- Minimal parking for vehicles with no enforcement of parking restrictions
- Maintenance of trees, including protecting tree roots on trails
- Lack of facilities, including washrooms, benches, and waste disposal at parks and trails
- Need improved wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Conflicts among cyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians on multi-use trails
- Gravel material on trails can be slippery on steep inclines or when wet

PARKS OPERATIONS

In what ways is the District doing a good job in parks operations?

- Trail maintenance is good, including trail surfaces, clearing, and slip resistant materials on stairs
- Efforts to remove invasive species, including support from volunteer organizations

In what ways is the District not keeping up with parks operations?

- Insufficient staff resources and equipment to keep up with maintenance and address invasive plant species
- Desire for waste disposal facilities to minimize litter at parks and beaches

NATURALIZATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Where/how is the District doing a good job to protect and enhance the natural environment within the parks system?

- *Supporting volunteer organizations to remove invasive species*

Where/how could the District improve its approach to environmental protection?

- Focus on native plants
- Provide more park interpretation (signs/information) to inform users what is being protected and the environmental values
- Do not use of artificial turf in parks

- Naturalize parks to protect the environment and reduce demand on resources for mowing

VISION AND IDEAS

What words or phrases should be considered in the vision for this plan?

- Environmental protection, biodiversity, resilience
- Natural heritage, ecosystems, habitats, waterways
- Cultural heritage, acknowledging and informing users of the First Nations history and relationship with the natural environment
- Inclusivity of demographics, cultures, abilities, and uses

What improvements or additions are desired for the parks and trail system?

- Continue to expand and develop trail network
- Desire for a boat launch at Pat Bay or elsewhere on the west side, and accessible kayak/paddleboard launches at beach accesses
- Update and make parks information more accessible, including an online, interactive map, consistent information across heritage sites and parks, and interpretive signage at entrances
- More off-leash dog areas
- Improved facilities for equestrian users including horse trailer parking at trail entrances, safety on roads to connect to trails, education on sharing trails and roads with horses
- Conduct a Forestry Plan
- Better clarity on ownership of parks system between jurisdictions

3.4 STAKEHOLDER SESSION FINDINGS

The key findings from the stakeholder sessions are summarized below for each question:

What are the strengths of the parks and trails in North Saanich?

- Positive relationship between parks volunteer organizations and District staff
- Diversity and quantity of parks and trails
- Diversity of species in parks (birds, mature forests, plants)
- Trail system is excellent and trails are well maintained

What are the challenges of the parks and trails system in North Saanich?

- Waste left by users in parks
- Impacts of recreation use on the trees and environment
- Extent of invasive species and challenges keeping up with their removal
- Limited parking, signage, washrooms, and waste disposal at parks, trails, and beach accesses
- Challenges accommodating multiple perspectives on dog management
- Lack of interpretive information at parks, trails, and beach accesses
- Wildfire risks in natural and naturalized parks

- Limited universal accessibility to many trails and beach accesses
- Few beach access locations to easily launch watercraft and lack of a boat launch at Pat Bay or elsewhere on the west side
- Lack of consideration for the wildlife in parks

What should we consider in the vision of the plan?

- Focus on climate mitigation and environmental preservation
- Increase capacity with volunteer organizations and partners
- Add more neighbourhood parks as the District develops
- Increase visitor information on the parks system
- Opportunity for reconciliation with First Nations
- Improve physical accessibility
- Create more community gathering places

What specific additions or improvements should the District consider?

- More naturalization of parks to reduce maintenance needs and allow more native species and root development
- Improved signage (wayfinding, interpretive, and regulatory)
- First Nations cultural recognition
- Opportunities for stormwater management (ponds, rainwater management)
- Easier access for paddling and swimming
- New boat launch at Pat Bay or elsewhere on the west side
- More play and picnic areas
- Strategy for land donations

4. NEXT STEPS

This engagement summary concludes the Phase 1 engagement process. The findings from this process will be used to inform the draft *Parks Master Plan*. Once a draft is prepared, a second phase of engagement will take place.

APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS

What, if any, additions, improvements, or new facilities would you like to see the District complete in the next 10 years related to parks and open space?

<p>On trails such as the one from Wain Road that traverses to John road avoid putting down gravel/road mix. It makes it very dangerous to ride a bike because it doesn't pack down especially when it is laid down in the Spring and rain won't compact it. Don't add more garbage bins. It adds to taxpayers dollars for the collection staff and visitors should take their garbage home with them.</p>
<p>An update to the bathroom at Wain Park, although it's great that there is one there at all. That bathroom also needs better signage because a lot of people don't even realize that building is a bathroom.</p>
<p>More off leash dog areas that include forested trails (not like looking for fenced in dog parks; I want to be able to walk a forested trail with my off leash, under control, dog</p>
<p>I love the fact that my girl and I can walk in our neighborhood and not have to worry about people yelling that we shouldn't be here as I've heard of happening in saanich. To even on leash dogs. It's wonderfully relaxing.</p>
<p>I do not want to see the kind of legislation that has been pushed through in Saanich with regard to dog management. This is an overreach and a waste of municipal resources. Individuals are more than capable of being respectful of each other and the environment.</p>
<p>More garbage disposals on/near trail heads. Cy Hampson has become a "de-facto" dog park, but is still considered multi-use. A designated, fenced, off-leash dog park would be nice.</p>
<p>open up the Sandown Lands with public trails and use the land for planting interesting trees, shrubs etc.</p>
<p>MORE PARKING IS REQUIRED ESPECIALLY AT CY HAMPSON PARK. ALSO NEED CLEAR ENTRANCE AND EXISTING SIGNS FOR THE MAIN PARKING LOT AS CARS ENTERING AND LEAVING BOTH SIDES HAVE CAUSED ACCIDENTS IN THE PARKING LOT</p>
<p>banning dogs from parks The leave droppings, they snarl others with leashes, some bite and attack.</p>
<p>New park and trail additions. Connect Ardmore with John Dean Provincial park. Acquire natural park area to promote conservation of land.</p>
<p>Create a water park for children and Pickleball Courts for seniors.</p>
<p>More walking trails. No more signage or man made interference. Let nature be our guide and solace.</p>
<p>Off-leash dogs are a problem, even when park signage states that dogs must be under control, they often are not. Given the massive increase in dog ownership, there needs to be a change in how dogs are controlled because the status quo is not working. There need to be areas that are deemed no-dog areas, both for the enjoyment of people and preservation of nature (plants, birds, animals), or if that cannot be done, at the very least, on-leash at all times, with heavy patrolling, ticketing. I use parks to relax & enjoy nature, often my relaxation is turned into stress by entitled dog owners who allow their dogs to run amok. I often feel driven away, unable to use my local parks because of this. Then all you will see at parks are people with dogs, and it then becomes a self-reinforcing occurrence that only people with dogs use parks, therefore all park regulations then end up benefiting them, because they are the only park users. Everyone else has been driven away.</p>
<p>Add garbage bins. Maintain or add parking (do not take away spots or start charging fees to park).</p>

<p>New facilities? Improvements?</p> <p>There are some beautiful places in North Saanich. Most aren't overdeveloped yet (getting there). There is no pay parking. They are small (which is also a challenge). Challenges: Management is 'liability' driven. Heavy handed cutting of trees that might pose a hazard that are left in piles of firewood. Not smart system management of the ecosystem. Horth Hill looks like a graveyard of firewood. Parks are getting more isolated by development. Moses Point was destroyed when the developer of a subdivision clear cut the forest to the water line. There needs to be a buffer between population and wilderness. So, trail systems can be maintained thoughtfully ... and not paved to make it accessible for all...there are going to be places that wheelchairs just aren't going to be able to go easily. And that should be ok. My observations of the current park amenities: I worry that when we cater only to the people's demand for amenities that the park ecosystem and wildlife will suffer. We need to go amenity 'lite'.</p>
Please do not take away our leash free areas.
We desperately need a horse park in North Saanich. Somewhere people with horses can go and get off the roads. The bridle trail in Horth Hill needs a lot of work. The trail is so wash out in parts with big roots sticking up - dangerous for horses and people
More enforcement of leash rules for dogs - as a dog owner I find it very disruptive to have off leash dogs rush at my on leash dogs in on leash areas
Beach accesses need upgrading and expanding. No more building on public land by waterfront owners
Build the Reay Creek bridge and link it to existing paths.
More benches, better lighting, better washroom facilities, better connection between parks
more nature preserves ...
More park trails
trail maps. additional garbage receptacles and pick-up.
Opening beach accesses
Systematic approach to park expansion
I would like to see the removal of ivy. I would also like to see less dry branches laying around. the forest floor. It would be nice to have disposal containers for doggie bags on the trails.
Disposal sites for pet litter (like that in Horth Hill, but with an actual disposal/collection) especially on high pet traffic trails. Too many people leaving poop bags behind. More washrooms near playground parks.
Many beach access locations like Coal Point Viewpoint, Meldram Drive Viewpoint, etc. could be cleaned up to be more attractive and actually *allow* beach access.
I would like to see greater respect for and attention paid to the waterfront intertidal areas. Too much benefit and courtesy is paid by the municipality to the waterfront property owners and vastly insufficient respect and resources given to inter tidal areas. The intertidal areas support the web of life both in the water and upland areas. Concrete retaining walls and other structures such as docks destroy ecosystems and downgrade the environment.
Additional linear parks (trails) and beach accesses. Picnic table or benches adjacent to Wain Park tennis courts
I'm very happy with the parks and trails as they are now. District parks staff do a great job!
Immediate remedy to parking and seating/picnic amenities
Right of way access to small beaches are not parks

<p>Proper ecosystem protection along all creek corridors More large/diverse park areas - examples of regionally ecological or historical significance Improved bike corridors to parks Boat launch Integrating various conservation/remediation groups in regards to goals and projects Recreate habitat by providing incentives for unused ALR to be replanted in forests Development amenity package contributing cash or land to promote ecosystem values</p>
<p>Redoing the playground at Denham Till park, improving perking and adding washrooms and more adult fitness equipment at Jubilee park.</p>
<p>Garbage cans at the start/end of trails so the 'poo bag flingers' will hopefully dispose in a can and not the trees/or side of paths.</p>
<p>Greater interpretive signage to highlight natural, cultural and historical significance. Increase amount of parkland and connecting trails to areas that are underserved.</p>
<p>More parking off road, to many people living or visiting to accommodate all vehicles off the road.</p>
<p>Equestrian trail and park users need to be considered in the overall NS Parks Master plan. Equestrian facilities and horse owners are plentiful in North Saanich. Where is the preservation of equestrian access, bridle paths and park amenities for horse riders? The road safety for vulnerable road users (horses, their riders or side-walkers, people on bike, people walking, people rolling or on scooters or assistive mobility devices) attempting to get to and from parks, via roads in the district, is atrocious. Roads like John Road that connect to trails which lead to parks are wholly unmonitored and the shoulders have massive ditches which pose safety risks to vulnerable road users attempting to preserve their own lives as motorists SPEED past.</p>
<p>Ongoing maintenance of trail system and parks</p>
<p>Continue considering places for dogs to be allowed off leash.</p>
<p>We have some of the best parks in the region we should make our parks some of the best to visit, but low ongoing maintenance.</p>
<p>Addition of poop bags at Dominion Brook</p>
<p>The playground it excellent at Jubilee but very outdated at Denman Hill. It would be great to see Denman Hill refreshed especially since it is within walking and biking distance of many family homes, along with the school.</p>
<p>Attention to ivy removal</p>
<p>Walking and horseback trail on old racetrack property</p>
<p>Washrooms, garbage cans, splash pad, new play equipment not next to an airport and in a park NS owns. Rentable or bookable picnic shelter</p>
<p>Playground upgrade needed at denham park. And garbage cans!</p>
<p>As a horse owner, I feel like spaces for horses to share trails while also being safe for everyone is an important consideration. There are less and less options for horse owners to utilize natural trails in the south island region.</p>
<p>More access for horse back riders</p>
<p>Trails/Parks for us that ride horses. I have MS so I have some issues besides riding.</p>
<p>Ensure that lots of space for off leash dog walking is allowed</p>
<p>Higher level of ecosystem protection - signage / education, and more dog control (on leash only), education Stewarts on weekends rotating in popular parks to talk about ecosystems, flora, fauna and aves (birds) and the importance of protecting these. Signage about these ecosystems, etc, invite associations to do free talks like the Rocky Point Bird Observation group, nature conversancy of Canada, habitat conservation trust, etc.</p>

Assuming there will be some more multi-level housing, perhaps some community garden spaces for those residents, or rooftop gardens as a requirement of condo buildings.
Add space thought and time for the equestrian community as a whole. Keep equestrians as part of the overall plan.
More horse trails and signage regarding safety/sharing trail with horses
educational signs for cyclists and walkers regarding horse activities in park
more space for people to trail horses
Finish off trail in Dean park That runs below Ravensview. You built a trail a few years ago that goes no where and just ends in the middle of the forest. What was the plan here? Run out of \$ or lack of planning?
Add garbage cans and empty them. Keep trails natural. No gravel. No fencing. No stairs.
Additional garbage cans so a) dog owners can dispose of doggie bags instead of leaving them hanging from a tree or dropped on a trail (obviously most dog owners do not do this, only a few) b) citizens who find garbage on the trail can dispose of it easily
More inclusion of Equestrian spaces and trails. As we urbanize these are becoming hard to find and increasingly dangerous for horses and their riders.
Covered areas for family gatherings etc.
Denham till Park hasn't been updated in years, it's not suitable for all ages, this park sees lots Of families visiting it but it's only big enough for maybe 5 kids at a time, with 1 picnic table. It could use a new upgraded playground.
It would be nice to see better bathrooms by playgrounds, updated playgrounds, more picnic areas or covered picnic/bbq area that could be reserved for special events.
More accessible trash bins to encourage dog and other waste pick up
Improvements to Denham Till - garbage and washrooms
Washroom at Airport playground
Improvements to basketball courts at the pickle ball courts
Need more space and access for safe horseback riding. Believe it or not but the equine community puts a ton of money into the community and local businesses. Let's be fair to those people too. Safety is imperative.
The group of volunteers clearing the parks do not seem to know what they are doing. Small secluded parks are now being cleared.
My only concern is if Off Leash Dog parks/ares and rules are further restricted like Saanich has done! It's horrible taking away off leash dog ares! Dogs need to run off leash!
Maintain these invaluable assets (shoreline is rather rare, too) by controlling invasives (I would be happy to volunteer) and limiting short-cut trails that cause erosion. Unlike most, I think that charging for parking is fine if (and only if) there is frequent public transport to a given park.
Garbage cans at parks like Denham Hill please, more parking needed at Cy Hamson
My biggest concern is invasive species management in North Saanich parks and neighbourhood connector trails. I know there is a very dedicated volunteer group, but they're mostly seniors, and although they do good work, the problem is at such a level that much more serious measures need to be taken.
Asset replacement
Lighting for walking dogs and garbage disposals on pathways
More equestrian access and opportunities

More off leash dog park options.
More horse friendly spaces would be welcomed. There is a huge equestrian community in North Saanich. Designated trailer parking would be ideal
Signage for trails used by Riders, to educate the public on how to pass a horse on a trail. Especially important for cyclists
regulations to prevent encampment situations, more community events held in parks.
More horse riding areas. Please keep denham till playground as is. It's so perfect for younger children.
more fully fenced off-leash areas for dogs
Water/splash park. Pit washrooms.
Please add some lighting to Cy Hampson park. There are no lights there, which makes for dog walking after working hours in the winter quite dangerous. I don't expect the whole park to be lit up, but a few lights by the parking lot that stay on from sunset until 8 or 9 pm would be great! Please add more secure gates/ double gates to Cy Hampson. The main entry gate at the ocean side of the park is currently not functioning properly as it swings open in the wind. Park goers have rigged a cord around it to keep it shut when it should be shut, but this should not have to be a permanent solution. Cy Hampson is very heavily used, can often feel very busy, and sometimes there isn't enough parking. This is because it is the only fenced, off-leash park in the area. Fencing another park and designating it as off-leash would take some traffic away from Cy Hampson.
Some of the parks I visit in North Saanich would definitely benefit from more garbage receptacles, and more frequent emptying of the ones already there - especially Lillian Hoffar and the Blue Heron Trail.
more garbage cans in parks, washroom in larger parks, more funds and resources for park staff
the parks need to be protected from climate change. need more water retention. plant trees, plants that will live with the dryer environment. Work to remove invasive plants and trees that are taking over many parks. Don't plant trees that have no chance of living like those on Nymph point.
Addition of permanent toilet facilities at the north saanich free ride park.
Spear grass removal at Cy Hampson.
It would be beneficial to the natural environment to have property owners responsible for invasive plants trees, shrubs from encroaching onto park land.
Continue to have off-leash dog areas. Cy Hampson park is an amazing place for dogs and their humans to meet and socialize.
Reduce mowing by planting trees where the park fields are not totally used, for example at Denham Till. Washrooms at Jubilee Park, sooner rather than later.
CyHampson-a little muddy
more indigenous place names! more mini gathering spaces eg: picnic tables, gazebos, small play equipment, and spaced more frequently within walking distance of more neighborhoods. Even just roadside pockets where people can gather and eat, maybe play some music (how about that new grass by the bus stop at w saanich/birch rd?) also we shouldn't have to get in the car and drive for the kids to go play! these things should be nearby
Native plantings, shoreline restoration
Professional and extensive invasive plant removal and management is necessary. Volunteers can do some but they are not necessarily trained to do the work so that the impact is lasting. Pond repair and restoration in Dominion Brook Park. Current water leaking creates a muddy mess in the open area.

<p>Pond is overgrown which encourages invasive plants to persist. More care and protection of horticulture where it exists in parks (Dominion Brook Park, Denham Till, Wolf Orchard, Noble Garden etc.) Lots of interpretative signs to inform users about the history and what we are protecting in our parks and why people need to tread lightly. First Nations information on place names, ethnobotany, cultural heritage, places of importance to their communities.</p>
<p>Dominion Brook Park - improvements to the pond and protection of the history and horticulture of the Park, and addition of dog waste dispensers.</p>
<p>"Tiny forests" If there is any interest pls contact me for links</p>
<p>More green space is always welcome. More garbage collection is also welcome, in particular dog/bag management, whatever that may look like.</p>
<p>Dominion Brook Park needs better dog care and reminders for pet waste</p>
<p>Continue to add connections to trail system, with possible emphasis on agricultural land, similar to networks founding Britain and Europe</p>
<p>An asphalt pumps track /jump line at the freeride park so kids can use it year round.</p>
<p>To open more beach accesses, particularly on the south side of the Peninsula for summer swimming (& ensure that those that exist are kept accessible and not overgrown by the neighbours' hedges or other obstacles) To identify and open new parks or trails To repair and restore the pond in Dominion Brook Park and to highlight the historic value of this park and its gardens (growing up in North Saanich, these gardens were spectacular in the 1960's and were the site of many picnics, painting classes, and gatherings)</p>
<p>I come from a colder province. Even there, with winter 8 months a year, the bigger parks have real washrooms with running water. I don't understand why here, with rare freezing temperatures the idea of putting septic into the parks is frowned upon. Over the life of a park I am sure that proper washrooms are both more economical and environmental than having portapotties or people pooping in the woods. I read about septic services not to be in parks in the near 130 page overview but think this is a badly thought out stance. Please review it.</p> <p>Also, I have volunteered in Dominion Brook park. It is a historical gem that needs protection and education. It needs protection from free range animal poop. The volunteers should not be needing to kneel in dog poop or drag hoses through excrement when watering in new plantings all summer.</p> <p>Please, get on board. Provide signage to clean up after your dog. If purchasing baggies is too costly just provide a receptacle like at Centennial park where people can bring and leave baggies for dog poop. Remove the garbage more frequently.</p> <p>DBP needs protection from parents allowing their kids to blow off steam and some outside time. If these people knew that the trees are special, old and not easily replaceable I would hope they would teach their kids to respect the space.</p> <p>Furthermore it needs education about the value of the collection. We have an arboretum in our midst! The 100 year old plantings and people with the foresight to start this and who continue to protect the space need recognition.</p> <p>The big old trees need easy to read and informative signage. It is our job to teach the public about the importance of trees and nature and the breadth of the collection.</p>

<p>Also, some educational and volunteering promotion through the schools and with the schools should be encouraged. The average age of the volunteers in the park must be in their late 70's. They have a love of plants and community that the younger folk don't yet have. But we need to protect what we have, educate, promote and encourage the other generations to care about these spaces.</p>
<p>We drive from Victoria to the North Saanich Bike Park about 3-5 times per year. We donate our time and money. It is a fantastic amenity! Please invest in this park and put in proper bathroom facilities. It would be great to have more seating too. It's such a busy place! My kids hate the portapotty and refuse to use it it's gross!! My kids (both under 11) pee in the bush instead.</p>
<p>The parking area isn't very safe with parents, kids, bikes, dogs and speeding traffic burning past. More signage and traffic enforcement is needed on sunny weekend days.</p>
<p>The speeding wouldn't be tolerated at any park or school. I guess this park is a bit forgotten/overlooked by the municipality. It would be great to have more events.</p>
<p>We love coming out for several hours. We spend \$\$\$ at the Fig or Thirfty's. It's an amenity that should be celebrated by North Saanich more than it is. There are riders if all ages. We bring our elderly grandparents for a picnic and the kids and us parents ride!</p>
<p>It's an excellent place to get more women and girls on bikes. Love it!@</p>
<p>More washrooms, more trail systems, lighting on trails. More playgrounds or games at existing parks</p>
<p>more dog-free spaces</p>
<p>Please build a washroom for North saanich freeride park</p>
<p>More Pickleball courts</p>
<p>I would prefer the parks to be more 'wild' in nature. I really do not like the new manicured nature in parks like Quarry park and R.O. Bull park</p>
<p>having to scroll to see the last column in #5, #8 and #11? really? relative to the parks report - it seems the regional/provincial parks are out of scope? i.e. John Dean? Panorama? any parks with numbers of users benefit from toilets and waste bins - however until it is clear that the parks are being overwhelmed with use now, kindly don't add "parks" - it feels like planners feel a need to add because you can, rather than because there's need - and the idea that a walk in the woods (park) requires a maintained trail is very odd to me as someone who grew up with bush as my playground</p>
<p>More facilities for adult softball or slowpitch baseball</p>
<p>1. Habit restoration with native plants is very important to me. I would like to see new spaces set aside for nature first, people second. I would like to see habitat restoration projects become more frequent and change larger areas (District initiated but volunteer completed.) 2. Food security is very important to me. I would like to see boulevard / flower garden / other similar beds planted with food crops amongst the flowers and ornamental bushes. Signage would encourage passers by to pick the food crops and weed the beds. Something like "Adopt a Highway" might work or a "little library" of garden hand tools. 3. Dogs need open spaces to run and play with other dogs. Cy Hampson Park accomplishes this very well. I do not have a dog. When I go to Cy Hampson I know that I am going into an area that is off-leash. Too many dog owners have their pets off leash on trails, bike paths, school yards, and other spaces. I am so tired of hearing a shouted "He's friendly" because the owner doesn't have the dog under control. I am not a frail senior or a short child but I do not like to have my walk disturbed by a pet owner's selfishness and</p>

<p>discourtesy. This is a particular problem on beaches and in natural areas where the animals chase wildlife or defecate on the intertidal zone. I have been jumped upon and bitten (by dogs, not owners) and there is no recourse. So, I would like to see more off leash areas for dogs AND more fines for irresponsible owners.</p> <p>4. I am a big fan of effective signage. I believe that people do read interpretive signs and learn to appreciate the area as a result. I am in favour of multi-lingual signage and realize that it is expensive to maintain.</p> <p>5. Generally people will pick up litter from a beach if they have a garbage can at the top of the beach access to put it in. Realizing that such garbage cans can become dumping grounds for household waste, would it work to have no cans but garbage pick ups once a month at beach accesses? Or have a garbage hot line that can be called when garbage is brought up from the beach? (Rereading this I see that I haven't really thought it through.)</p> <p>6. Some playgrounds have themes. I think the new play areas around the airport are great.</p> <p>7. A couple of benches in Cy Hampson Park at the very north and very south corners would help elderly who want to walk to the park but can't make it all the way to the existing picnic tables.</p>
<p>I would like to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hire professional horticulturists to remove invasive plants - get dog poop bag dispensers - better handicapped access ramps no stairs to enter and exit - more land used for parks - more regular garbage pickup in parks - more off- leash areas - more ecosystem protection using signs and barriers to preserve parks for future generations - I would like to see more frequent mowing in the parks to prevent weeds from seeding
<p>More COVERED picnic areas would be great!</p>
<p>See the continuance (with replacement/creation) of age-appropriate playgrounds in each neighbourhood area. Continuance of the great trail system. The addition/improvement of washrooms in each neighbourhood area.</p>
<p>Natural parks like horth hill and Dean park</p>
<p>bikeable trails</p>
<p>1. We need more pickleball courts to accommodate the rapidly growing number of players. Please do NOT eliminate the Wain Road courts. They serve a valuable purpose and are in a great location. Technology around paddles and balls is making the game quieter. 2. In the Dean Park neighbourhood, we need more trails. Most streets are dead ends with no connections between them for pedestrians. In its lack of wisdom, a previous NS council decided to sell the land between two streets that was designated for a walkway. 3. The Centre for Plant Health (west side) is a huge property and a walking trail should be created around the perimeter, connecting with the path behind Panorama at the north end, and connecting with East Saanich Road on the south end. Yes, a fence would be required to keep people from straying onto land actively being used by the Centre, but there is ample room. I have walked the entire perimeter, and there is plenty of room for a trail. Please negotiate with the federal government. This is taxpayers' property and we should be able to access it.</p>
<p>A public boat launch on the west side. For access and ocean safety from winds.</p>
<p>Upkeep on better rest room facilities, and parking with signage/directional. No pickleball courts!</p>
<p>Parks should be for the enjoyment of everyone. Tearing up part of Cy Hampson</p>
<p>More off leash parks. North saanich purchase more land for green space and parks. Protect public access to foreshore.</p>

<p>Add more park land at Moses Point. The District should purchase additional land to the west of the existing trail to protect forest and beach in that area for public use. Moses Point is a landmark feature of North Saanich and the foreshore is also a critical area for marine life.</p> <p>Consider acquiring some of the foreshore and/or upland areas of 1580 Lands End Road for park purposes. This is one of the last big undeveloped waterfront properties in NS. Could be a fabulous community park and waterfront walkway.</p> <p>Look for opportunities to educate park users about wildlife, natural features, park history, ecological concerns, etc. using signage, website, guided walks, etc.</p>
Bathroom at the free ride park, please!!!!
Interactive online information about parks. Information about native plant species, invasive plant remediation, history, importance to our local First Nations neighbours. Enable the use of third party mapping apps.
More off leash dog access. Many people don't have their dogs registered so there is likely a large underestimation of the percentage of population using off leash dog facilities.
Leave Cy Hampson as a dog park!!
I do not want to see more development in the sense of asphalt, but some better signage would be appreciated.
garbage container at Denham Till and washrooms at Wain Park
It would be great to have proper washroom facilities at the North Sannich Freeride park.
Give beach access closer parking. too many people with small children have too far to gain access to beach after parking their car
facilities, notably at the Patricia Bay Park and adjacent (Holy Trinity) playground encourage patrons to leave all their garbage and offer no possibilities of recycling a portion of it.
micro-parks where there are lots available
accessibility, accessibility, accessibility
more containers for garbage at cy hampson lighting in a couple of spots more parking on the water side
more, more, more!
Cy Hampson - needs more parking for cars and bikes/scooters.
Recycle receptacles and sperate poo/garbage pins. Double safety gates for dogs
Vital to increase and enhance existing spaces to help address the effects of climate change
more naturalized spaces
Great volunteer groups (like FNSP) and Sandown but please continue supporting these groups with Green Team as we need more volunteers and support to combat ivy at Sandown and all over in order to keep our trees healthy and drawing down carbon/ providing shade/ water retention and human health / biodiversity of plants/animals and birds.
Need more garbage disposal over in Horth Hill Park so don't have to carry dog waste
kids playgrounds

Question 9: What, if any, additions, improvements, or new facilities would you like to see the District complete in the next 10 years related to outdoor recreation amenities?

Wain Road park basketball court could use a major upgrade
More trails to enable better access from A to B in some areas.
NOTHING I CAN THINK OF
New trails and parks. Connect Ardmore with John Dean Provincial Park to create trail connectivity through to Central Saanich.
Create more pickleball courts.
Maintain existing trails and parks. No more man made areas or interference.
Due to the associated noise, Pickleball courts should either be moved to remote areas far from housing or enclosed.
Less rather than more.
A multi-use large park that caters to the equestrians in the area. There is a huge horse population in North Saanich and very few places to ride off the roads
N/a
Put pickle ball courts inside
pickleball should be an indoor thing (ridiculously noisy sport) ... the rest are fine
None sufficient now
Wain Park seems to be underused.
See above comment re addition of a picnic table at Wain Rd Tennis courts
I don't wish to see any new facilities; the ones we have are superb and I haven't seen any overcrowding at local facilities.
Grouping of activities in central locations Better parking and access to facilities Maintenance seems inconsistent More marine options - seems like the District relies on Sidney or others to provide services
More pickleball courts!
Build an indoor pickle ball facility. Shut down the courts on Birch Rd. for pickleball and use for other activities that are more suitable
Equestrian trail and park users need to be considered in the overall NS Parks Master plan. Equestrian facilities and horse owners are plentiful in North Saanich. Parks in the district should have mounting blocks, hitching posts, bins to hold manure and watering troughs to be used by equestrian park users.
More tennis courts
Fix the ball diamonds at Wain park, fix the basketball court
Basketball upgrade at Wain road park
n/a
More inclusive cross walks for equestrians and horse back riders
Being able to ride my horses. I have MS so this is mainly the only way for me.
A pickle ball court near Pat Bay would be excellent
Indoor pickle ball courts to reduce noise from these. We live about 1/2km from the courts and can hear them and the players. Fields that are used for dog training and dog playing - more signage about owner responsibilities (picking up after dog, having dog under control, sharing the park). Fines for not picking up after your dog and disposing of the bag properly.
Equestrian trails and safer road access

Remove pickle ball courts
Continue to support local sports associations. Add to new running track. I.e. hi jump run up, long jump run up, javelin run up, hammer cage tune up. Swim dock at local beach. Or swim area at Peninsula rock produces large query pond for community swim in fresh water.
I think the growing demand for Pickleball Courts could be addressed. Also, people use many sports fields as off-leash dog parks and do not clean up after their dogs, and then young people play in these fields. Maybe signage to address dog owners on these fields would help, but I'm not sure.
New basketball courts at wain rd park you only have one basket there.
Washrooms built on the airport trail.
no comment
An all weather play ground with a covered area to get kids outside on rainy days, or keep them sheltered from the sun on sunny days.
Please put sound proofing on the North Side of Wain Rd Pickleball court
Pit washroom and Water Park
none
increase number of pickleball courts to better meet demand
Move Pickleball from Wain rd park location
more washrooms/porta-potties in large parks for the kids and older adults to use.
Natural areas are more important
Control of invasive species. ie, bring in and fund weekend invasive removals with Victoria Green Team volunteers or Peninsula Streams
Additional bike park
Pickle ball should be moved indoors or away from residential areas as it seems to cause a lot of issues.
I don't use the sports courts or fields but believe they are important.
There are an enormous amount of people now playing pickleball and very little has been done to keep up with the demand of more courts, both indoor and outdoor. The amount of seniors who are playing, keeping fit, thereby using the medical system less, really should be taken into account when asking whether more courts are necessary.
Washroom for North saanich bike park
Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in North America, and currently more people play Pickleball than tennis. We are going to need more courts as the popularity increases. Some covered outdoor courts would very much suit our climate in North Saanich.
More Pickleball courts.
I am really happy with the installation of new turf fields at blue heron - well done!!
not much... since things like the tennis courts at Parklands have fallen into disuse and disrepair - it's hard to support a "if you build it they will come" attitude. I appreciate the need to forecast and try to stay a bit ahead - and I expect there is a legitimate demand for pickle ball and some other facilities, but I also expect those are minimal - AND most of all I'm concerned that more "facilities" is not simply a matter of capital costs, they can be significant in terms of on-going maintenance and I would expect to see any analysis of expansion to include the impact of long term maintenance on budgets and taxes.
create a new softball or slowpitch diamond for adults
PLEASE DO NOT PUT DOWN SYNTHETIC GRASS!! Think of the microplastics!
Outdoor spaces for yoga classes

More sports specific courts/areas; maybe consolidated in a low density area to diminish the pickle-ball noise issues!
Washroom facilities
Mire Pickleball courts
bikeable trails, and paved shoulder on Lands End road, as well as Mctavish Road
As mentioned above, create more pickleball courts, indoor and outdoor, for this growing sport.
A public boat launch.
A public equestrian facility
No more pickleball courts!
Parks should be for the enjoyment of everyone. Tearing apart Cy Hampson park to erect a pickleball court would serve only a few, not everyone. As has been proven in many municipalities across BC these courts are invasive and noisy and should be located where they will not disrupt the peace of our beautiful parks.
Do NOT use current green space and parks for more single use facilities like pickle ball.
Pickle ball has turned out to be very noisy at Wain Park. Would like to see the courts moved to a more remote area, maybe the Wain Road side of the park nearest to the Fire Hall? Or enclose them to provide soundproofing? Maybe upgrade the basketball court at Wain Park. It is pretty basic but I often see small groups of young people having a casual game there, especially on summer evenings. I don't play basketball myself but it's nice to see that court getting used.
North Saanich has no central place for outdoor community events (a place that could be reserved for small events, like kids' birthday parties, neighbourhood potlucks, educational events, etc.). Sure would be good to help us draw the neighbourhoods together.
Neutral
No new needed. Keep up the good work
Cy Hampson needs a flushing toilet. Outdoor shelter with firepit or BBQ. Example: Island View BEach has it.
Orioritize which parks are more used and for what acitivities. then determine if more amenities are needed
more pickleball courts
sound control around pickleball courts

Question 12: What, if any, additions, improvements, or new facilities would you like to see the District complete in the next 10 years related to trails?

More trails where off leash dogs are welcome
You guys to an amazing job on the trails, thank you so much for your work! Super relaxing to walk in at the end of the day.
More trails would be great. Also a bridal trail along Birch (extending the partial trail), Tatlow and Wain would be lovely. If that is not possible, speed humps and other methods to slow traffic should be made. Or, police should monitor more often and hand out big tickets.
More trails, access to Sandown Park.
MORE BENCHES
in many neighbourhoods there is urgent need for sidewalks to make waking in the 'hood safe.

We live in Dean Park and walking on our roads is fraught by the amount of traffic. These are the most important trails, since they start at our front door.
Connect Ardmore with John Dean
Create more walking trails and pickleball courts
Your map with pins was impossible to use.
With North Saanich being as large as it is, travel by car is my primary way of getting to some of the more distant trails. Parking on the sides of roads, near ditches, close to driveways, is often concerning for me. I'd like to see more parking (just even for a car or two) designated at more of the trails and beach accesses.
Please include more waste receptacles at trail heads (especially at the North end of the Pat Bay trail where the new parking has been added).
There needs to be a more proactive plan to save ecosystems or to protect wildlife (wildlife was finally mentioned on page 48 in your parks plan). We are losing species through our ignorance and lack of responsible management. People should not trump the ecosystem. The drainage put in by the parking lot at Horth Hill has negatively impacted the low lying forest to the south of it. It only serves to provide a dry trail and not look after the trees and plants. Wildlife is not identified or protected in the parks. Big issue for me. Not even mentioned in planning for parks (or in the developments for housing). We need to provide sanctuary for wildlife and ecosystems. That is what parks are for. We should plan parks holistically to ensure there are wildlife corridors. So, trail systems can be maintained thoughtfully ... and not paved to make it accessible for all...there are going to be places that wheelchairs just aren't going to be able to go easily. And that should be ok. More determined removal of invasive species eg. ivy. So, education and information for the public is essential (at each park and on our district website). The trees/canopies/forests should be overseen by environmentalists and professional foresters (who manage 'systems' as opposed to arborists who work on individual trees). Parks are getting more isolated by development. Moses Point was destroyed when the developer of a subdivision clear cut the forest to the water line. There needs to be a buffer between population and wilderness.
A large horse park - multi-use with dog walkers. Somewhere we can trot and canter our horses without worrying about cars
Again, enforce leash laws for dogs in on leash areas
More trails. All right of ways opened.
Finish the Reay Creek bridge project. It will provide a safer alternative to Canora Road for cyclists and pedestrians to access Sidney.
more resources dedicated to parks and beaches.
Reduce bike speed on walking trails. Peloton bikers make curvy trails dangerous to walkers.
Add more, maintain the existing, add signage when necessary.
more trails to connect the various parks
Remove ivy and other invasive plants but especially ivy. It is really bad in Horth Hill Park and along the Clayton trail. Remove hazardous woody debris to prevent forest fires
I would love to see more beach access trails completed on the right of ways that have no trails on them. I think it is a bad idea to allow those public accesses to be ignored and overtaken by other uses!
Simply more trails.

<p>When some trails were established, 20 or 30 + years ago they had super views and view points. In the intervening time trees have grown and the views of the water and islands have been lost. Views are a very important component of hiking in North Saanich and they need to be preserved. Removing trees and clearing brush is required.</p> <p>When trails are regavelled the material is very loose and has a drop off on either side that can be very tricky and dangerous to cycle on. A warning sign relating to new gravel would be highly desirable and prevent unnecessary risk.</p>
<p>Continued addition of gravel on trails to improve drainage and create a more even walking surface. Continued development of new trails along unopened rights of way.</p>
<p>Some dog walkers leave droppings (or worse, bags apparently containing droppings!) along pathways. Perhaps additional garbage cans would help, but I fear inconsiderate owners would simply continue to be inconsiderate.</p>
<p>Interconnectedness of trail systems both for recreation and access to services</p> <p>Better parking</p> <p>Covered areas for rain and/or sun</p>
<p>Designate specific trails for mountain bikes. Better signage in parks regarding usage.</p>
<p>More benches.</p>
<p>More graveled trails to reduce mud.</p>
<p>Equestrian trail and park users need to be considered in the overall NS Parks Master plan. Equestrian facilities and horse owners are plentiful in North Saanich. Parks in the district should have mounting blocks, hitching posts, bins to hold manure and watering troughs to be uses by equestrian park users. Trails should also be built and maintained with CONNECTIVITY in mind, so that equestrians and all vulnerable road users can use multi-use paths and trails to get to and from amenities in North Saanich, without having to use roads where speed and motorized vehicles create very dangerous conflict situations.</p>
<p>Additional multi-use trails wherever possible</p>
<p>some trails need more gravel to cover low muddy spots or tripping hazards such as exposed roots</p>
<p>I have a concern about the debris left by fallen trees. Leaving the trunk is acceptable, however, dying branches piled up to eventually rot appears to be a fire hazard to me. This is really evident in our dry summers.</p> <p>The occasional garbage bin at trail heads would go a long way to prevent people from leaving dog disposal bags on the ground or in trees along the trails.</p>
<p>When new trails are designed would like them to include horseback riding.</p>
<p>Please promise to continue to allow horses in the parks, especially trails that the horse community built in the first place.</p>
<p>More access for Equestrians and maybe tie up stations for equestrians</p>
<p>Being able to ride my horses. I have MS so this is mainly the only way for me.</p>
<p>Maintain trails to keep horses off the road. Drivers in North Saanich are crazy</p>
<p>The trail system in North Saanich is one of the best features of the community. It needs to be kept up and expanded where possible.</p>
<p>I don't understand why the district puts such a heavy layer of gravel on the trails, it's difficult to walk on and dangerous to ride on. My sister fell off her bike because of this gravel once. Would like to see pea gravel or something different that is used that is safer.</p> <p>Because many of the trails are quite popular, would also recommend on leash dogs only - and non-retractable leashes. It's a shared trail and also dogs run into the bush to poop and/or chase after wildlife and birds. Am fairly tired of dogs running up and jumping on people or running up and barking at people where the owner doesn't have any recall on the dog.</p>

<p>Also, owners with dogs on a leash have no choice but to pick up after their dogs because they can see them at all times! No more excuses of not seeing your dog poop on the trails and leaving it. Please provide more garbages so owners have more places to dispose of doggy bags. It would be nice to not see so many poop bags flung into the trees. It's unfortunate that the bad owners ruin it for the good owners.</p>
<p>same as above</p>
<p>stop putting road base/crush on trails that packs hard and prevents water getting to roots of trees and is hard for horses to walk on</p>
<p>Please see above regarding trail below Rsvensview. Why did you build a trail to no where and just stops at a tree?</p>
<p>Leave trails natural. No gravel or stairs. Add garbage cans to all parks.</p>
<p>Add more, if that is possible. These trails are a fabulous feature of North Saanich.</p>
<p>More access for horses and better signage to remind people the rules around horses on trails.</p>
<p>Continued multi use for trails including horseback riding 🐾</p>
<p>More trails and better maintenance of existing trails</p>
<p>As noted above, addition of trash bins...</p>
<p>There needs to be more trails that are safe.</p>
<p>Light at Cy Hampton park. Keep Off leash dog areas!</p>
<p>As above (maintenance to prevent invasives and to deter creation of short-cuts causing erosion)</p>
<p>More information on trail access and how they link up. There are many trails in North Saanich suitable for cycling/jogging but it would be good to have maps of trails that could link up and provide a route (circular or otherwise) as is done in other parts of the CRD. More /wider trails to accommodate bikes and walkers/joggers, not just single track trails</p>
<p>Again, my biggest concern is invasive species. In my neighbourhood, Ardmore, there is ivy growing rampant. Ivy leaches the soil of nutrients, makes it hard for native groundcover to thrive, and it can choke a tree to death over time. My brother is an arborist, and he has seen hundreds if not thousands of trees that have fallen due to being laden with ivy. I see trees as our (North Saanich and the planet!) biggest asset in terms of global warming, and considering the heat dome we had here a few years ago I felt lucky to have large trees on my property. I have also spent weeks, cumulatively, removing ivy from our acreage.</p>
<p>Firstly, I want to say that I have been riding my horses on our trails for 20+ years and aside from losing trails over the years due to development, I love our trail networks. The only reason I ticked extremely dissatisfied on one, is because of the fact that the taxpayers paid over a million dollars (perhaps it was 2?) for the Scoter Trail North Beach Access and the muni refused to maintain the trail access from logs jamming the trail head. Every year, community members have to go and clear the log jams, yet millions were spent to allow the public a soft access to the beach - only to be met with a pile of logs preventing them from getting on. It is the only point on the bay where disabled people can get onto the beach. And, of course the only spot where, anyone riding horses or carrying kayaks, people with small children, elderly etc. can get onto the beach. Every year, members of our community end up opening up a path. I even saw a wheel chair out on the sand on a sunny day this past year. When we paid millions for this, a plan for safe and ease of access/egress for all should have been in the plan. It still could be! I had to rescue a man who was stuck in the logjam just 2 months after the beach access was opened.. I just think that there could be a permanent solution so that all people and horses as well of course, not just athletic able bodied people could have ease of access and egress from that beautiful beach access the Muni just put in 3 years ago now (I can't remember the exact</p>

date). This is the only soft access to Pat Bay in it's entirety. This needs to be treasured and taken care of! Aside from that, I've spent 100's of hours on our trails throughout the district on my horses, and I love the trails. They are magical!
More trails... And better Trail post
Lighting near trails
More equestrian access and opportunities
More connecting trails and widening trails to allow room For pedestrians and bikes to Safely yield to horses
the friends of north saanich are doing a great job, more of them would be great.
Less signage please
Creating better surface in trails. slopes are very slippery
Materials used for surfacing trails to be modified as we've seen lots of areas that form pebble like substance which is very slippery almost from the initial application and certainly with rain, the problem gets worse. Perhaps creation of stairs in some instances might be better
improve the signs in the parks to give background on the flora and fauna. Trail maps in parks would help. Where possible improve surfaces to eliminate trip hazards.
Better signs in parks. What to look for while in the park. Washrooms and garbage cans. Hire more parks staff. Get them more equipment. A water truck may help when were are in drought situations. Look to follow the best practices that Saanich uses for parks.
More signage
washrooms at all trailheads, cell coverage in all areas of parks, the water storage at the top of Mt Newton could be used for racket sports
more *separated* trails alongside busy roads, like there is along part of birch rd (should extend this to denham till park!) there are an essential and cost-effective transport tool that saves lives and fits in within north saanich's natural image What happened to plans for a John Rd trail to pat bay??? If the new mcdonald park rd pathway were also extended up to John Rd, this would be a GREAT link for the deep cove and tseycum communities. Wayfinding signage on all trails! "No exit" signs should clarify if there is a pedestrian/cyclist thru route, and signage at the end should indicate the connecting road. junctions of trails (eg cypress at heather) should have road name signage as well Work towards re-establishing defunct rail routes as cycling routes (eg missing link between tatlow-wilson, and from the flight path to mainwaring-aldous)
If areas are prone to flooding, implementing boardwalks for those areas
I support mulit-use trails but suggest adding cautionary signs about sharing the trails and trail etiquette to improve safe use. If budget can be found, add garbage cans at trail heads to reduce the amount of dog waste on trails or left in bags.
Find an alternative to the crunchy gravel. Actually leave certain areas where invasive Himalayans don't pose a problem, eg the Scoter trail. They can be cut back so they are not a hazard and they will still produce berries. They are a food source. Yes, I understand that birds spread the seeds but they are a food source for the birds too.
Continued maintenance of existing trails. maybe more garbage collection
Improve surfacing material on trails, use crushed gravel, which packs down to a safe usable surface, even on slopes
To continue to maintain and add to trails and parks
Given the large number of parks and trails in NS, to create a Parks Commission (as was

done in the past) that can monitor the state of NS parks and make recommendations to Council for new parks or trails
Would be great to have a walking trail from the airport to Deep Cove School area (the bike lane is great but not very pedestrian friendly - cars zoom by).
In the late spring when weeds are at maximum growth weeds can overgrown on to the trails. This can be a concern for tick bites.
Please keep in mind that both able body and handicapped people use the parks and trails. One never knows when an accident or stroke or lifestyle issue may turn their life and abilities upside down. Include space for people in wheelchairs and babes in strollers. Increase signage for high visibility and people with vision impairments.
More and better mountain bike trails are needed My family would come to ride and camp even though we are from Victoria.
See #9
More land allocated to walking/Hiking trails.
Garbage cans would be nice
I really like the idea of bike repair tools being available at central stopping points. Is there anything you can do about the packs of racing cyclists who use the Lochside Trail? My driveway is on a curve and if I pull out when the road is clear but suddenly a pack comes around the curve I often have to endure nasty comments. I have often seen members of 'the spandex crowd' arguing with motorists (when it looked like the cyclists were in the wrong). Time trials on Tuesdays are fine because that is their time and they need a place to practice but the Lochside Trail is meant to be a shared trail otherwise. Cyclists riding 2 and 3 abreast and therefore riding into the car lane is a common problem, too but I don't know what North Saanich can do about this.
SECTIONS OF SCOTER TRAIL AT PAT BAY HAVE BEEN POORLY FINISHED....making for very uncomfortable walking, at least for us active seniors. It used to be better before it was extended. PLEASE, PLEASE complete these sections like the rest of the trail, with a top-dressing of unwashed screenings.(possibly will require removal of some of the road base which otherwise would migrate through the finish) It's the only trail in North Saanich we've used that hasn't been finished. We'll be so thankful as we use this trail often.
Please keep the amazing trail systems and add to them if possible!
Add to the network .
Paved Shoulder on Lands End Road, and McTavish Road
Find a way to create more trails in the Dean Park neighbourhood. Since I moved into this neighbourhood 27 years ago far more people are walking, but most people don't want to walk in John Dean Park. They want easier walks around the neighbourhood. But this neighbourhood was designed for cars, not pedestrians. There must be a way to change this. THINK please!!!
more signage at trailheads
Purchase more land for trails, green space and parks. Keep it rural.
Continue improving trail connectivity by acquiring land for trail extensions. Provide directional signage at key access points. Consider adding some interpretive signage to enhance trail-users' experience.
It is hard to find information online about the location of trails. I use an old map of the peninsula from 1995 to locate them. Comes back to the need for interactive, app-based maps. Also, show people how they interconnect -provide examples of 2km, 5 km, 10 km, 15 km, 20 km walk/runs that actually go places using the amazing interconnectivity of the trails. Show them that you can go see some pretty special places via the these trails.
We need an access to Dean Park from Coles Nay area. Best location is south side of Paquachin from west Saanich to end of Alec road

Continue to add off leash dog access.
improved mapping that i could access on my phone. Many of the trails show only "approximate" details on existing maps.
Protect exposes tree roots in Horth Hill Park
More mountain bike trails.
More where possible.
More continuous trails for gravel bike tours
Put in as many trails using unused road right-of-ways as possible making many connections within North Saanich
More
along littlewood trail, glamorgan and the forest at Sandown
Keep up surface (compst)
The trails near Horth and Cloake hills need more attention. Erosion and root exposure are prevalent. Plus there is a lot of dead vegetation that should probably be removed (fire hazard) and replanting should occur.
better signage/wayfinding along trails - not just at trailheads
Littlewood trail has some overhead hazards periodically but District has been quick to respond when alerted.
New trail along North perimeter of Sandown property to connect with Littlewood Trail allowing a full loop with Canadian Tire area and Glamorgan Road for cycling, walking, horse riding. Would be well utilized and bring more community involvement + awareness with Sandown Reg Ag, nature, birding, riparian zones and forest.
maintain the inter-connectedness of trails and parks, including short road access points.
Horth Hill needs more signs especially on trails to and on the top of the hill.
Leash dogs on Horth Hill

Question 15: What, if any, additions, improvements, or new facilities would you like to see the District complete in the next 10 years related to beach accesses?

Boat launch
It would be great to add a boat launch if there were space for one, with parking included, so that it takes some of the heat off of the Tulista boat launch, which is currently overloaded during peak times and seasons.
Make them easier for older people with mobility issues to access.
more seating and garbage disposals at beaches
MORE BENCHES
most benches in North Saanich are very uncomfortable.
Have a boat launch at Pat Bay
Create more boat launching beach access.
More access, better parking facilities (at least road base, mud isn't good for anyone)
Please consider adding fresh water taps/outdoor showers to wash off feet and dogs at beaches. Add garbage bins. Maintain or add parking (do not take away spots or start charging fees to park).

<p>Beach accesses and viewpoints are currently tiny little patches of earth between residential landowners who do their best to keep people away from their beach. To the point of blocking beach accesses with their garden refuse or fencing. If this is supposed to be a public access to our lovely coast or the view then we need to make sure it is available to the public. North Saanich used to be a vacation location back in the early 1900's, where everyone could enjoy having a picnic on the beach at sunset without landowners' concrete breakwater looming over them.</p> <p>Keep it as 'natural' as possible. This is not Sidney.</p> <p>We need stronger protection for the coast and the species above and below the high tide line.</p>
<p>Open all of them and maintain existing stairways</p>
<p>I moved here in 2019 and was dismayed at how difficult it is to access beaches. There is no or limited parking at beach access areas, poor maintenance of stairs, no or limited garbage disposal, no kayak (or any kind of boat) areas. The Towner Beach is impossible to access - no parking AT ALL, poor signage. This applies to many other beach access areas. I appreciate waterfront property owners desire for privacy, but the ocean and beaches are public and should be easily accessible to North Saanich taxpayers. There are significantly more inland properties than oceanfront properties, to emphasize the obvious.</p>
<p>Add a public boat launch. Add parking, maintain and enforce current parking regulations.</p>
<p>The Chalet Beach Trail stairs need improvement. Sewage leaks there. I wonder if angle parking at Chalet Beach would be better.</p>
<p>Signage and dedicated parking as well as better mobility access!</p>
<p>There are more beach access locations that could be developed. There are very few places to put a kayak in, on Saanich Inlet. Create more access points for mobility challenged individuals.</p>
<p>Greater respect for the beaches and beach users. See above comment.</p> <p>No Parking signs at beach accesses should be enforced.</p>
<p>More accesses that allow easy launching of kayaks and paddle boards</p>
<p>If we do have the financial ability to invest in new facilities, it is a boat launch in the Saanich Inlet that is desperately needed.</p>
<p>Sell off some Rights' of Way Accesses and create fewer larger better serviced beach areas</p> <p>Create better moorage sites, (moorage buoys) and marine services - piers, launches</p> <p>Remediate foreshore that have been impacted by encroachment by upland owners</p> <p>Restore tidal habitats</p>
<p>Love to have another boat launch!</p>
<p>More safe parking and at least one new accessible boat launch</p>
<p>Better, safer accessibility for equestrians and their horses to beach front for swimming.</p>
<p>The road safety for vulnerable road users (horses, their riders or side-walkers, people on bike, people walking, people rolling or on scooters or assistive mobility devices) attempting to get to and from parks, via roads in the district, is atrocious. Roads like John Road that connect to trails which lead to parks are wholly unmonitored and the shoulders have massive ditches which pose safety risks to vulnerable road users attempting to preserve their own lives as motorists SPEED past.</p>
<p>Boat launch is very important in this section, especially access to Saanich inlet.</p>
<p>I hope that neighbourhood beaches continue to feel welcoming to people who do not live within walking distance.</p>
<p>Garbage bins should be provided for dog disposal bags. There are too many bags left behind and I suspect it is because there is no where to deposit them.</p>
<p>Boat launch</p>

More access for equestrians to use beaches and trailer parking
Beach access needs to be protected.
It's actually really great! So many little beach spots around the area is amazing. Parking can't be helped due to residential. I wouldn't want to see any expansion of beaches or building along the shoreline to protect the ecosystems more.
Need a small ramp at pat bay. Maybe clear logs and post at west Saanich access in pat bay middle area. Pave 40' out to launch kayaks and dinghies to heavy to lift down current path.
Add parking to tulista boat ramp. Add local residents pricing for launch.
Expand marinas to accommodate more boats.
Developer Deepcove marina with boat ramp and parking across street in private vacant land.
Beach access
Garbage cans at the beach accesses. Better parking.
More regular garbage disposals
there is more garbage in the summer.
Maintain or enhance the number of locations with beach access.
more access points; more parking
Build more Launching ramps for small boats such as kayaks, small sailing dinghies and canoes at all parks that access the ocean.
Again, the only reason I said unsatisfied was because of the difficulty accessing our only soft access trail at the newly renovated Scoter Trail North Beach Access. I love all of our other accesses even though some are steep and slippery or have weird stairs- but the Scoter Access is the only one I use because I always took my horse for walks on the beach. The only thing I would have liked to have seen was garbage cans at some of the trail heads. I haven't been to the Scoter North Parking lot lately, but I used to pick up garbage every time I was there because there were no cans. There might be now though. We lost a massive amount of parking space during the Scoter North Reno. Not just the parking lot itself, but alongside W.Saanich Road as well. There were a number of really nice pullouts which are gone or tiny now. The only other thing is that at a number of the beach accesses in other areas have extremely limited parking space to pull over, and I know a lot of local residents were unhappy about that. I used to like to go and take pictures of the sunsets from other beaches, and it could be hard finding room to pull over and park and also not park in front of someone's property. But Pat Bay is my home away from home, and the Scoter North access is really the only one I go to anymore.
Garbage, Parking and Boat launch
Creation of additional boat launches and increased parking for boat trailers for lengthier time
More available street parking. Many areas are marked 'no parking, residents only'
The parking area on W Saanich Rd by the Scoter trail. This is a very dangerous area for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.
Drivers have to back out onto W Saanich Rd on a curve, through a bike lane
better public boat launch on the saanich inlet
Boat launch needed on inlet side of North Saanich
Access to some beaches is sometimes a little hazardous with debris washed up after storms, especially large logs
Is there a power boat launch in North Saanich? only use sidney's launch
More parking for beach access.

<p>As a boating community there is a serious lack of adequate boat launch sites for kayaks and larger boats. Small boat ramps could be built in a number of locations. They should include fresh water taps to rinse salt water off, washrooms, short term parking for trailers and ideally nearby parking for long term storage of boats of all sizes on land. Boats could be launched with small shared hand trucks and winches (e.g. Jericho Vancouver) to avoid the need to buy a truck just to tow the boat with. Storing on land reduces pressure on marinas and prevents growth on hulls and oil/gas leaks in water and could provide areas to clean boat hulls to reduce use of copper based paints that kill marine ecosystems. Tide grids that support fin keel sailboats would be a great asset for small quick repairs (e.g. Burrard Civic Marina in Vancouver).</p>
<p>At least one good boat launch is overdue.</p>
<p>More signage, especially in the Ardmore area</p>
<p>more garbage cans</p>
<p>Shoreline restoration. So much of the shoreline has been lost to residential disruptions. I would like to see the district hold those who damage the shorelines accountable by having these areas replanted and restored. Many wealthy home owners seem to feel like the shore is theirs to alter, and a verbal warning is not enough considering the losses to important shoreline areas. I would like to see the shores renaturalized, but not only in the parks but all over the district.</p>
<p>This is a complex question. North Saanich beaches are small. They are not "destination" beaches and will not benefit from the provision of additional facilities/parking etc. The balance now is about right. At the height of the summer the beaches are busy, well used and much enjoyed by visitors, as they should be. An example of how to ruin a lovely local bay is the installation of the giant aluminum stairway at the end of Downey. I don't know it's history but I hope such a project will never again be on the books.</p>
<p>To ensure that road parking by beach accesses is available and isn't compromised by the neighbours - eg. Glywood Park Road in Ardmore Access to good swimming beaches should be open to all residents of NS</p>
<p>You could put a bench at the top of the trail or at the top of the stairway leading to the beach.</p>
<p>There needs to be some discussion and solutions along Madrona for people who want to use the beaches but don't live there. Will there be parking spots planned? Could there be some solution to both local home owners and others? I live in Dean Park and don't mind sharing the park and roads.</p>
<p>Another boat launch</p>
<p>North Saanich needs a boat launch on the North or West side of the peninsula. We have been promised a ramp ever since IOS was built!</p>
<p>Garbage disposal at beaches would be really nice</p>
<p>A canoe launch at the North end of Scoter Trail would be really nice.</p>
<p>A decent public boat launch. And a public sauna at one of the beaches!!!</p>
<p>Washroom facilities and garbage cans</p>
<p>improved access for launch of paddle powered craft</p>
<p>Better boat launches on the west side</p>
<p>boat launch in Pat Bay better beach access better parking better signage</p>
<p>Foreshore must be protected for PUBLIC ACCESS</p>

<p>We really need a boat launch on the Patricia Bay side of North Saanich. When building long staircases to/from beaches, provide benches along the way where older visitors can rest on the upward climb and enjoy the view.</p>
<p>North Saanich has so few beautiful beaches. Many of our beaches are actually storm drain outfalls, and in the winter, you sit on a tiny beach (if you are unlucky and it is high tide), next to a waterfall of dirty water gushing out and splashing right next to you. Our most beautiful beach, and a tourist destination in and of itself, Moses Point Beach, is at risk due to 'improvements' to prevent erosion. Since trees were cut down, I see the necessity of erosion control measures, but can we not (i) raise the standards of the build to ensure that the natural beauty of the beach is maintained? Native plantings? Natural rocks?, and (ii) when you visit the beach, you come down some partly eroded stairs, past a broken metal chainlink fence. It kind of screams "You people are not welcome". Could we change this?</p> <p>It is important that we support these beach accesses, as another issue is that some homeowners yell at you if you walk along the beach, well below the high tide mark. They seem to think that their property rights extend god knows how far into the Pacific. So, anything that makes our few beaches more welcoming would be, well, welcome!</p>
<p>We desperately need a boat launch on the inlet side</p>
<p>Beaches with off leash dog access is crucial. Swimming is immensely important for many dogs and their owners.</p>
<p>Good access points for kayak launching are few. The proposed improvements to the Briarwood access are positive, however it would be nice to see more access points on the east of the peninsular and improved access at Moses Point, the latter of which is one of our most special places. A good kayak access needs few steps (shallow incline and deep treads) or ideally no steps, and a place to park for dropoff, and then a place to park while paddling.</p>
<p>more wherever possible.</p>
<p>Create at least one wheelchair accessible beach access</p>
<p>Need at more places</p>
<p>Cy Hampson needs 6-8 stairs to the beach access to make it safe.</p>
<p>We do not need excessive parking at beach accesses. Do not provide more parking for our beach access at Briarwood/Glynwood. Keep fossil fuels to a minimum / police the visitors. Do not upgrade the road.</p>
<p>I am fairly new to the area and was drawn here by the ready access to so many wonderful places to walk and ride (horses). As this area becomes more well known and used by urbanists, wear and tear is inevitable. In general, greater effort (money?) needs to be allocated to our green spaces/lungs. Vital to adapting to climate change.</p>
<p>I don't understand how the blocked access at Glenelg in Ardmore can happen.</p>
<p>parking will be difficult to manage. on summer weekends, many people use NS beaches, so parking is crowded on small streets.</p>
<p>garbage collection at Tyron Beach</p>
<p>parking tickets for residents who do not leave at beach</p>

Question 17: Do you have any final comments about parks and trails in the District of North Saanich you would like to share?

<p>I think that it is imperative that this Project review and report back on the 2110 Parks Master Plan and identify which of the recommendations were implemented and those which were not.</p>
--

District should be supportive in assessing the opportunity for a trail around Sandown and necessary provide funding for this trail.
The interactive map was very cumbersome. It was not easy to navigate the pin and then it seemed to do so you had to submit a comment. This part of the survey was extremely poor and frustrating.
I love the trails and parks and how usable they are as a dog owner who loves to walk in nature with them and hope that doesn't change! Overall, I am quite satisfied with the parks in North Saanich and there's not much that I would recommend changing.
Incorporating unmowed & naturalized areas increases the prevalence of ticks and speargrass. Since I use parks primarily to walk my dog I don't support dry unmowed grass
THEY ARE A GREAT ASSET TO THE VITALITY OF THE DISTRICT
Look at additional acquisitions/ formalize existing North Saanich into more trails
It makes no sense for 4 levels of government to manage our parks. While the CRD and BC Parks do a good job, it seems very wasteful for their parks to be managed so remotely. Parks Canada is atrocious - parks should be for recreation, not some obscure nature experiment.
Trails need to maintain especially trimming out the blackberry bushes to make them safe to walk.
Very pleased to see no mow idea.
Please don't make the parks or trails less accessible in any zeal to protect the environment or ward off "climate change". People and dogs need their public spaces. Our tax dollars support these programs and it is devastating when they are stripped from us in the name of political posturing.
Obviously people cherish this area and we have a duty to preserve as much of the wilds that we have left. It will serve us in the fight against climate change, it will provide respite and promote mental wellbeing and physical health and most importantly, it will save the little we have left for our children's children.
Please protect our horse and equestrian population in North Saanich by providing some park land that is geared towards the horse community like Langley has the Campbell Valley Park and Aldergrove Regional Park. Great recreational area for the horse community there!
Speargrass is sadly too predominant here for me to support less mowing in late summer, at least. I'd like to support it but running with my dog along paths would be impossible with the speargrass unless it's mowed down
Open up all accesses, right of ways. This is why we live here
nature looks after itself when we use native species
They are FANTASTIC!!
*I couldn't get your mapping function to work.....so no input there. *larger context of Saanich Peninsula is missing.... * has north Saanich the staff and capacity to implement properly.
Fire is always a concern and should be factored in to any plan.
Communities/citizens near these parks should have a NS Council supported system for protecting the access, environmental health and sustainability of these parks. The number of N Saanich residents not living on waterfront far exceeds the number of those living on the waterfront and they need to not only have assured access, but be involved in ensuring protection.
Utilize/Water access between civic address 8669 Lockside drive and 8657 Lockside drive

<p>Lots of street widening (with well-marked bike lanes) for safer conditions for pedestrians and pedestrians, especially West Saanich Rd, Wain Rd, and a dozen other main thoroughfares.</p>
<p>I would not like to see more parks with “facilities” in North Saanich. Keep parks low maintenance.</p>
<p>We use the CY Hampton park multiple times a day because it includes our 4 legged family members as well as our human family members. It is an amazing community gathering area that we cherish and love. Please allow us to continue using it (off leash with our fur babies). It is maintained perfectly by North Saanich and we have no complaints. It is perfect as is. Thank you</p>
<p>I support mowing as it may help alleviate fire risk. Also as there are so few sidewalks in North Saanich (are there any?) people walking must use roadsides for safety when vehicles approach. Long grass makes this difficult.</p>
<p>Purpose driven parkland is both a function of any development and evidence of municipal priorities</p>
<p>Love all the trails and the new addition to the Jubilee Park. Concern about the parking at the gravel Scoter lot on north end of trail- lots of yahoos speeding around the corner when people pulling out of the parking lot. Thank you for keeping NS beautiful!</p>
<p>Put more resources toward eradicating invasive species from parks, and more towards greater public understanding of natural systems. Determine how parks can be used to help fight climate change and implement strategies for expanded park acquisition.</p>
<p>Consider how many equestrian facilities, barns, horse owners and riders live in and come to North Saanich. The equestrian sector is a huge economic driver on the Peninsula. Equestrian access to parks and trails is actively being eroded and restricted over time. Create parks and trails where equestrians can safely access, ride, hitch and water horses, and remount. Create trails that connect parks so equestrians and vulnerable road users alike, can commute and connect to amenities and other parks away from the paved road system where motorists speed.</p>
<p>Thank you for doing an excellent job in maintaining the trails so they can be used and enjoyed on a year-end basis by many people.</p>
<p>Generally very satisfied,use Dominion Brook daily</p>
<p>Since my family has had a confirmed case of Lyme disease that was quite distressing, I do appreciate some mowed areas in parks.</p>
<p>The trail system in North Saanich is wonderful--it is one of the reasons we live in North Saanichl. Please do not change the multiuse nature of these trails.</p>
<p>The one concern I have regarding park maintenance is leaving the trimmed branches and fallen trees and branches that have to be cleaned up piled on the sides of the trails where they dry out and are waiting to help fuel the fires which are bound to happen in our community. Kelowna found that out the hard way a few years back.</p>
<p>Our parks are so amazing and I use them at least four days a week.</p>
<p>Please include equestrians in the near future. We barely have any parks we can actually ride in now a days. Maybe incorporate a trail just for horse back riders as dog walkers and bikes already have loads of trails to use.</p>
<p>Being able to ride my horses. I have MS so this is mainly the only way for me.</p>
<p>I think the District is on the right track - it is a rural district so lots of natural space, protection of ecosystems and wildlife / birds are high on my list. More on leash dogs requirements so trails are more shared, not allowing development to flatten wildlife habitat, not allowing rampant tree cutting for development purposes (there would be some kind of control), reducing the building envelope for development to encourage less destruction of the forest or other natural areas, requirement of developers to contribute</p>

<p>more to parks and trails when building new subdivisions.</p> <p>Requiring on leash dogs on trails, parks and beaches. Sorry, I am not a dog hater (I've been a dog owner myself), but not everyone loves dogs running at them or jumping on them and it's become clear that too many owners don't respect others or the wildlife/parks around them.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to do this! I have a lot of high hopes for this new council.</p>
<p>please include horse activities equestrians in your plans for parks roads and trails.</p>
<p>It would be nice to see focus on improving one or two main parks to be primary large community park/hub area for community events/sports events/playground etc.</p>
<p>More horseback riding trails that are safe.</p>
<p>Thank you for maintaining these valuable parks, which are essential to the quality of life here.</p>
<p>One of the joys of living in North Saanich is walking our dog and interacting with other dog people, of which we find are the majority of park users in places like Horth Hill, Cy Hampson, Dominion park. Please don't change dog rules or add restrictions like Saanich has done. I would support increased fines for people who don't pick up dog excrement or dispose of poop bags as this would enrage non-dog owners.</p>
<p>With the exception of sports fields, and perhaps small areas around picnic tables, why are we mowing any areas. it should all be left as natural as possible.</p>
<p>I am not clear on what you mean by "underused" park space. If it is treed park space, then I would not support converting it to dryland grass.</p> <p>Also, in terms of "underused" parkland, so I am told, at the southwest corner of Ardmore Drive that was donated to the district by a private individual. It is unmarked, and I think many people still believe it's private land. I have heard that after an allotted amount of time, North Saanich can choose to develop this land somehow. It would be a huge mistake to do anything that caused the removal of trees. With so much private development we are losing a lot of tree cover in the district, and we are also losing trees due to climate change (principally Western cedar). I think of the development that's been happening on the southeast corner of Horth Hill for the last few years and it really upsets me. The same amount of square footage could have been allotted in a much more ecologically friendly way, with the housing more concentrated, rather than set-apart single family dwellings. And Moses Point is another terrible shame. But this is getting into zoning concerns and not parks. Anyway, you get my drift: save the trees!</p> <p>If the district has money to spend, I would love to see some of it targeted on invasive species removal, giving paid work to students or new immigrants. I'd rather see that than more money going to playgrounds, for instance. When I was a kid we played in the forest and on the beach, and were happy with a simple swing set and jungle gym at my local park. Kids would be better served being taught to use their imagination in a natural environment than being given fancy equipment.</p>
<p>I'm not sure I understand the meaning of converting or naturalizing. We have to think about the risk of fire as well. So things do need to be maintained. I guess the only thing I'd like to mention since we are under a new mayorship now, is that 2 years ago, a motion was passed to ensure that horses and the equestrian community were specifically included as an active part of the districts active and participating population. There are literally hundreds of horses and horse owners in this rural district (who pay realllly high taxes and contribute to our local economy), and we just need to be included in these plans. The equestrians built the trails here, and are always keen to work with the muni and want to keep the conversations going and to help in any way possible. The trails we have here are</p>

<p>a hidden gem and we want to keep them open for our use as well. They are gorgeous and we are grateful to be able to ride our horses on them. Aside from the Scoter log jam nightmare. I have nothing negative to say! We are fortunate to be in the most beautiful spot on the entire peninsula. xo</p>
<p>Don't forget the horseback riders as we originally built many of these trails, especially on Horth Hill</p>
<p>Under-utilized park space should be used to construct gravel trail loops for walking, exercising, and horseback riding</p>
<p>greater fines for off leash and smokers</p>
<p>Public Equestrian riding ring and converting unused park areas for horse riding. Keep trails and parks available for horses :) Also converting unused park areas to natural grass or wild flower areas for pollinators. Another idea is a campaign for people to turn their own lawns to support pollinators and native plantings which is not park related I know.</p>
<p>Would be nice to have a couple of the more high usage parks be water and maintained at a higher level. Pat Bay, Jubilee</p>
<p>Generally our hiking group (Peninsula Hikers) uses all trails in North Saanich all year round and we have come to know which trails are easier than others but overall, trails are well maintained. Signage could always be improved however</p>
<p>Many of the parks do not need as short of grass in meadows and water fronts.</p>
<p>Other than playing fields, parks can have longer grass. This will reduce the evaporation and give grass a better chance in warmer months.</p>
<p>Use of fire smart, planting more deciduous trees and not more highly flammable trees.</p>
<p>As I live in Dean Park near the entrance, I use that park daily for walks and XC skiing in winter. Track setting on the road would be great to have when conditions permit (snow). A snowmobile could be used to set tracks and also compact snow for walking or snow shoeing to preserve ski tracks.</p>
<p>Please maintain the current level of dog off leash options.</p>
<p>I am a frequent (several times per week) user of Cy Hampson Park - it is a wonderful place for dog socialization, and we have made many friends there as well. It is truly a social hub for dogs and their owners, as well as for people who want to walk on the paths and look at the view. The beach there is rocky, and not really suitable as a beach destination for families with small children, but is perfect for dogs. This amazing place has been a godsend for us and our dogs, all throughout the year. We keep our dogs away from bird nesting areas and family beach areas in spring/summer, so this is one of the few places for dogs to go and have fun during those times. Please don't change it!</p>
<p>I am the Rector's Warden at Holy Trinity Church and we see the need for washroom facilities at Jubilee Park continually. When we are in the hall on the weekend there is usually at least one family that knocks on the door or wanders in to use our facilities. This is not a problem and we don't mind in the least, but it points out the necessity for facilities at the park: we are not always there and it is totally unreasonable for a parent to escort their child, across West Saanich Road, to the waterfront toilet. If they have other children at the park, they either have to leave them with someone to watch, or take the entire family across West Saanich Road which is unsafe in any number of ways. They also use our parking as overflow.</p>
<p>If there is evidence of people walking off the trail areas (around flooding etc) I hope that this would be mitigated to avoid trail widening and destruction of natural areas. Boardwalks allows areas that are naturally saturated to remain, but keeps traffic off these areas reducing damage</p>
<p>We are fortunate to have so many wonderful parks and trails in the District. Rather than add more parks, I would like to see the District allocate sufficient resources to properly</p>

maintain our parks and trails to a high standard, effectively manage invasive species, and renew existing infrastructure when needed.
All of the suggestions in the section above are excellent. I am strongly in favour of reciprocity from developers. Provision for increased opportunity for small naturalized areas should be part of the permit process.
The pond in Dominion Brook Park is becoming overgrown, and leaks badly which causes a downhill mess.
NS is lucky to have so much wonderful green space - I hope we can protect it and look for ways to incorporate even more public green space in our community.
Thanks to all of the people who work so hard to keep our parks, trails and green spaces in good condition and try to find that balance between preservation and use. Also, good to see the District working with the Nations!
We use the trails every day and are very grateful for them. They are an asset to our community and help make North Saanich a special place to live. Please try to incorporate new trails and/or small and medium sized nature parks as the future development of the community continues.
I worry that increasing naturalized areas means that the grass might be kept long and be a fire hazard. I am all for natural meadows and reducing mown areas but worry about long grass being a fire risk and/or in wetter spots a magnet for mosquito breeding. Should you endeavour to decrease mown areas in wetspots please also include bat houses to mitigate mosquito populations.
Also, as a master gardener, I understand that the native plants that once thrived here- cedar, ferns, salal etc are finding the heat and dry in the summer not conducive to their needs. I hope these new naturalized areas that you are envisioning are not full of natives that now need watering. I believe that the parks department should be looking at incorporating some of the mediterranean plants from Australia, New Zealand and Chile that are both pollinators and becoming more appropriate to our climate. Go to HCP for ideas along this vein.
I am concerned that not mowing may increase the potential for fire.
Important to highlight the history of the parks so that residents can appreciate the historical context and commit to maintaining that history and sustaining its longevity.
I really appreciate the parks and trails in North Saanich. A couple of things would be much appreciated - washrooms at jubilee park - I am there frequently and there are no facilities. It is a very long walk to the outhouse at pat bay for small children. And second - garbage cans would be appreciated at parks in North Saanich
perhaps I lead a sheltered life... during my 40 years as a resident, I have NEVER heard anyone say - we really need more (of any trails, parks etc.) I have heard that needs and interests change over time, for example converting Blue Heron ball fields into soccer pitches seemed reasonable, more toilets and waste bins are logical, and I expect tennis vs pickle ball will be controversial (as change often is)... but in the end North Saanich is rural - it doesn't need paved walkways like Victoria (or even Sidney), and we don't have an industrial or retail tax base to speak of, so anything you do (or plan) is on the tax backs of residents - so please, consider a minimalist approach!
by reducing the mowing this would increase the rise in vermin and wildfires
Can we move away from grass altogether and replace it with a native low-growing plant?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - hire horticulturists to remove invasive plants - the pond at dominion park needs maintenance - get dog poop bag dispensers - better handicapped access ramps no stairs to enter and exit
We use many of them and we enjoy them greatly. Thank you, North Saanich.

They are one of the main reasons that we moved here (25 years ago), love living here and do not plan to move away!!
North Saanich enjoys the many access points to beaches and foreshore that already exist, consider improving "ease of launch" for human powered craft particularly for "wind sheltered" potential Launch Sites.
North Saanich is surrounded by water put we have no public launch. We must go to Sidney and launch in dangerous windy conditions on occasion.
No more pickleball courts!
No 16 This is not a clear question. Of course everyone would support this. But what exactly does it mean.
I think we are getting phenomenal service from the four existing Parks staff. If it's not possible to get more staff to assist them, then reducing lawn mowing might free up some of their time for other parks maintenance work. Maintaining forest cover in the District is very important. I would like to see a lot more trees being planted in NS parks and along trails, of species that are more likely to survive as the climate changes (i.e. not cedar or arbutus).
Please consider the Tseycum and Paquachin neighbours. Let's rename some of our parks to reflect the Indigenous heritage, both past and present, as settlement has not erased their presence. One thing I have seen others across the country do to encourage reconciliation is to have a third way, a neutral space, such as a Knowledge Keepers Table. Expecting First Nations Elders to venture into colonial spaces is a big ask, and at the same time, settlers need to be trusted to be invited into their own governance structures. So, this third way of the Knowledge Keepers Table could be a way for us to learn from our neighbours.
I cannot stress how important off leash dog areas are, in particular, Cy Hampson. What has been overturned in saanich has to be taken into account. Cy Hampson dog Park is critical in it's current use as an off leash dog park.
Leave Cy Hanson as a dog park only!!!
We feel very fortunate to live in a district that has the number of well maintained parks that we have in North Saanich
Yes. Cy Hampson Park could use more parking spaces. some people leave their cars their all day in the park.
I would like to see YYJ cease its policy of maximizing horizontal parking and paving; Please continue expanding trails, notably a route from the Ardmore area to link up with the YYJ terminal and hence a closer route to Sidney; Beach access: this is delicate because expanding access near residences can facilitate access, but also encourage drinking, drug use and noise while eroding residential privacy. If parking is sited at a reasonable distance there is less tendency for people to indulge as they would have to carry their supplies a fair way. It is imperative that recycling bins be provided. Alternatively I would recommend removing garbage containers and instruct users to "pack it out with you." That works fine in national parks! I have also noted a growing trend of roadside littering. This needs to be stomped on firmly!
More pickleball courts! Please don't overdo things. For example, the beach access at the end of Downey isn't anywhere as pleasant looking as the beach access you have used to illustrate the "state of the parks" report. Also avoid excessive signage. Keep changes / developments as simple and natural as possible.
Parks and open space: Parking lots are solely needed to accommodate high park usage - Cy Hampson (both sides) parking is inadequate, as is Dominion Brook and Pat Bay. Washrooms and garbage collection should also be a high priority.

<p>Outdoor recreation amenities: Playground structures in existing parks need to be upgraded to meet code standards.</p> <p>Trails: Garbage cans, especially on high use trails.</p> <p>Beach access: parking, ease of access</p> <p>The District staff do an excellent job of maintaining parks and trails given the limited staff and resources. Definitely a department that requires staff growth!</p>
<p>Increasing use needs to account for all users - avoid conflicts through signage/education</p>
<p>Parks and open space: more</p> <p>Trails: more</p> <p>Beach access: more</p> <p>Keep up the great work!</p>
<p>Improve signage by showing where the trails end within the road name on the sign post.</p> <p>General signage for the Lochside Trail needs improvements</p>
<p>Need fenced-in off leash dog park for larger dogs. Must be a flat area so as to easily keep watch on dogs and for people with mobility issues. Provide benches. Fenced-in area also keeps dog safe from chasing rabbits near roads.</p>
<p>Keep Cy Hampson off leash</p>
<p>Parks are essential for peace of mind and ideally places for peoples of all ages.</p>
<p>Please keep the Cy Hampson Park off-leash and keep the porta potty - very necessary for me.</p>
<p>I love natural sites, only native-to-that-site and therefore suitable vegetation maintained. This is a delicate operation, hard to achieve.</p> <p>There's no one formula, for each site in each spark. There has to be considerable study.</p>
<p>Parks and open space: a flat, off-leash dog park with benches at the north end of the municipality - perhaps on an underdeveloped pocket park - so that dog walkers with limited mobility can see their dogs at all times.</p> <p>Trails: along gazetted road allowance north of Tseycum Reserve from W. Saanich Rd. to Jolun Rd.</p> <p>Along, but outside of, the northern boundary fence of Sandown from McDonald Park Rd. to the treed section of Sandown, then along western border to join up with littlewood trail and Munro Rd.</p> <p>Below the 'welcome to north saanich' signs: "A horse-friendly community" (funds may be available from Sunset Riding Club)</p> <p>Would a study be advisable on fire hazards on trails when clippings are thrown onto existing foliage rather than being removed?</p>
<p>We have quite a few, but for our large population, we need more.</p>
<p>Parks and open space: start a park acquisition fund to provide for more wild areas. Both north and south areas. Do not sell land given to municipality for parks as has happened in the past.</p> <p>Outdoor recreation activities: co-operative with the recreation commission for any new planned outdoor amenities.</p> <p>Trails: require trails in all new subdivisions - open to the public and multi-use. Do not limit equestrian use of existing or new trails.</p> <p>Question 13: dryland grass - this is a good carbon capture method. It would be dependent upon how dangerous a fire could start.</p> <p>Cy Hampson Park should not be used for pickleball as there would be conflicts with parking. The cost to taxpayers is also prohibitive. Park already has heavy use.</p> <p>The Parks dept does a good job with their limited staff.</p>
<p>I spent many many hours cutting ivy off the trees. it needs more attention!</p>
<p>Cy Hampson Park should be left as an off leash park. People travel miles to go to that park. Best park in B.C.</p>

<p>Cy Hampson should remain off leash. Large portion should be gravel as the flooding can be an issue in the winter months. Also, many dogs prefer doing their pees and poops on gravel.</p>
<p>Maybe improve some steep stairways to beach access. Please put a bike trail up McTavish</p>
<p>Considering size/tax base of North Saanich, the District is doing a fabulous job. A forest plan, climate adaptation plan and more integration with indigenous ways of thinking would be beneficial</p>
<p>In favour of additional energy, funds, emphasis on removing invasive species and enhancing the natural environment.</p>
<p>thank you! appreciate all your efforts to support sustainable/healthy/diverse areas.</p>
<p>our parks and trails attract people to NS, to live and visit. They are great.</p>
<p>i love our current parks and love the fact that most are available for use by off leash dogs. My dog thanks North Saanich.</p>
<p>no artificial turf</p>

APPENDIX B: LETTERS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

Sunset Riding Club

Registered Office:
1365 Laurel Road, North Saanich, B.C. V8L 5K8
Tel: (250) 656-5318



History of Trails in North Saanich

A fatal accident on Birch Road in the late 1970s prompted several parents of children attending Deep Cove Elementary School to organise a meeting to discuss safety on the roads where children walked to that school. The mayor produced a map showing various unopened road allowances and undeveloped trails in the District, and Sunset Riding Club agreed to undertake the task of opening them up. A potential trail network was approved by Council in 1982. Council agreed to survey these, and in 1983 Sunset Riding Club organized volunteer groups to clear them. (At the time North Saanich did not have a specific member of staff in charge of parks and there were no *official* trails.)

A council member was assigned to liaise between Sunset and Council. It turned out that there were so many possible trails that it was decided to apply for various government grants each summer to employ workers to open them up. The first government grant was in 1985. Jo Doman of Sunset Riding Club was named the official Trails Coordinator and this continued until a parks commission was formed. By 1992, when Jo Doman resigned, there were 39 trails completed, covering 15 kilometres.

Apart from volunteer hours on these projects by Sunset members, the Club also: paid for the upgrading with gravel of various trails; paid for horse and rider road signs; painted individually labelled trailhead signs; pounded fence posts (with a machine!) along the John Road trail above the Highway; printed a one-page booklet in 1985 (which could be picked up at the municipal hall) showing the trails at that time, and in 1992 an up-dated hand-drawn map with illustrations showing grades, etc., which was copied by the District and made available to the public. (A printed booklet was later published by the District.)

Jo Doman
Jan 30, 2021

(The above is my best recollection of events)

Sure, extra savings are often needed to handle some of the overload and keep everyone moving as quickly as possible. The Canada Day long weekend was unfortunately marked by the elimination of extra sailings due to a mechanical refit taking longer than expected.

People have to realize with any mode of transportation, mechanical issues can surface at any time. The fact it frequently happens on a long weekend is just a terrible coincidence. So knowing it's going to be an extremely busy time and the potential is there for long waits, why should people be surprised to be stuck at the terminal for hours?

People decide to take their chances and then complain bitterly when it doesn't work out. We're at the point where you can count on it being busy all the time and ferries departing with plenty of vehicles left behind. It's a fact of life now, just like it is in B.C. Parks where there are too many people vying for the same finite space for recreational activities.

There is no real solution other than patience and planning ahead to make a reservation. If you decide to test your luck and it doesn't work out, you only have yourself to blame.

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YOUR VIEW

Trail system is an asset for North Saanich

Sunday morning I had the good fortune to be out on a short run (there is no other kind when you're over 70).

Coming down Hillgrove near my home a group of eight on horseback were headed up the road towards me. They parted as the dog and I ran through them. I commented on how fortunate I was to be on the set of "Yellowstone", which aroused a chuckle and I believe a "Yee-ha."

When I got home I couldn't help thinking of how great it is to have the trail system we enjoy in North Saanich. In my estimation, it is the single biggest asset our municipality has.

It is important to know that the horse community had a very large role in its development. We owe people like Jo Doman and the Sunset Riding Club a tip of the hat for the foresight they had 40 years ago to envision

trails that would link nearly every corner of North Saanich.

I love the fact that I can now walk across horseback riders who are with exceptional courteous and accommodating when the kids see a mound of "horse" it does not repel them in the least.

Ray North S

Drivers should be in buses at terminal

I can sympathize with Stanley Tromp that it is not "fun" standing in an unsheltered lineup for a BC Transit or Translink bus at the BC Ferries' terminals.

Rather than having to build something new, however, why not simply get the bus drivers at each end to be in their buses once the ferry arrives? I take the ferry back and forth to Vancouver for regular doctor appointments and in many cases, there is a bus sitting there, no driver around and people have to line up and wait for this situation to change.

While coming home from one of my recent

trips, a rather rude driver would not even tell me which of the two buses was a number 70 or 72 and went off somewhere after securing his bus.

Instead of waiting for him to return, I took a cab home which defeated the purpose of trying to promote transit use in this region.

Vince Kreiser
North Saanich

Disappointed in byelection turnout

Congratulations to Kristine Marshall on winning the recent byelection for councillor in North Saanich and thank you to both Ryan

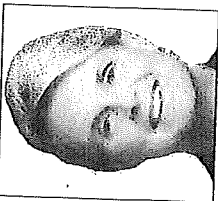
Lay and Ramon Farmer for being to run.

That being said, I am dismayed by the fact that there was only a 16% turnout of voters.

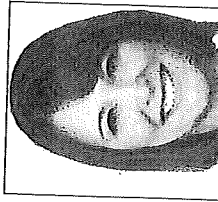
I certainly understand if people are put by recent events and the current fractious behaviour we have experienced, but apathy change anything.

As I see it, 84% of the residents of our municipality have given up the right to vote about any council decisions in the future.

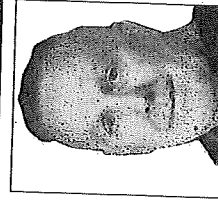
Mary North S



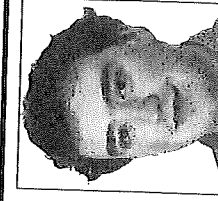
Sue Hodgson
Publisher
250-656-1151 ext. 6
suehodgson@peninsulanewsreview.com



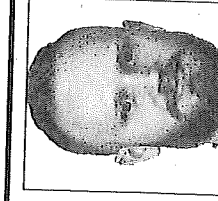
Katherine Engqvist
Managing Editor
778-746-4014
katherine.engqvist@blackpress.ca



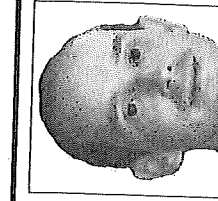
Chris Campbell
Assignment Editor
250-480-3252
chris.campbell@blackpress.ca



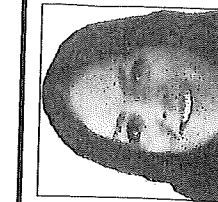
Justin Samanski-Langille
Multimedia Journalist
250-656-1151 ext. 2
newsroom@peninsulanewsreview.com



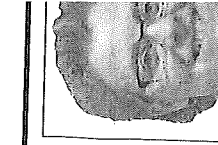
Jake Romphf
Multimedia Journalist
250-480-3214
jake.romphf@blackpress.ca



Brendan Mayer
Multimedia Journalist
250-480-3225
brendan.mayer@blackpress.ca



Josie Hadley
Multimedia Marketing Consultant
250-656-1151 ext. 4
josie.hadley@peninsulanewsreview.com



Lisa Morrison
Circulation Coordinator
250-656-1151 ext. 4
circulation@peninsulanewsreview.com

delivered to NS Aug 8/23

Felice Mazzone - head planner &
Mays' OCP advisory committee

In the preparation of the OCP, I wish to address a segment of North Saanich population which has been an entity for over 60 years. "The equestrian community".

This is a group who does not ask for funds from the district but were in fact, ~~are~~ responsible for the trail system that everyone enjoys today.

The Sunset Riding club, and particularly resident Jo Doman, lobbied Council for unused road allowances, and new subdivisions to have land set aside for public riding and hiking trails. Initially club members manually opened up the trails, provided funds and did the upkeep of the trail system.

A brief history. Sunset Riding club was started in the early 1960's by a group of horse owners in North Saanich. The goals were:

- provide a riding ring
- establish trails in all areas
- provide education in care of the horse
- improve riding skills in various disciplines
- hold riding events for club members and outside horse enthusiasts

The club was incorporated in 1970.

Funding for the activities was raised by manning a food booth at the old Saanich Fairgrounds

At the time, most horse were kept on small holdings, with the exception of a few breeding farms. There were no arenas or boarding stables. Members ranged in age from young children to seniors. At that time there were about 150 members.

Riding ring was built at 10690 W. Saanich Rd. The yearly rent was 6 tons of local hay. Members built ditches, fenced and surfaced the ring so that it could be used year round. The Victoria Saanich Pony club used the ring for their activities as well.

As well as raising funds to support the club and trail upkeep, the club raised funds for the start-up of Riding for the Disabled.

A census of horse numbers during that time showed about 500 horses in all areas of NS. A recent count (2021) showed about 200 horses.

The types of horses, and horse activities have changed over the years. Many horses are now housed in boarding stables with indoor arenas. Only those riders living fairly close to trails are able to enjoy them. Due to increased traffic, and drivers who are unaware how rapidly a horse can become frightened and leap into the path of a car or bicycles few riders go onto busy roads.

It should be noted that:

Horses are included under the Agriculture Act.

SUNSET RIDING CLUB

c/o 1365 Laurel Rd.
North Saanich, B.C.
V8L 5K8
June 4, 1998

Mayor and Councillors
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

(Incorporated in 1970.)
↓

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Sunset Riding Club was founded over thirty years ago. Two of its mandates were to explore, develop and maintain riding trails, and to maintain a riding ring. As there were no riding rings in North Saanich, members constructed a riding ring on West Saanich Road, south of Downey. Trails were developed throughout the area and in the early 1980s the Club was appointed Trails Committee by the District. For a period of ten years it opened up new trails on municipal land, either by applying for government grants or by organizing work parties of members and other volunteers. When the Parks Commission was formed, it took on this task. Every year the horse population has increased, new clubs have been started, and numerous rings and riding stables have been built. Property values and rents have risen. For this and other reasons the members of Sunset are no longer leasing the ring and have decided to change their focus.

Trails in North Saanich are very well used. It was not realized *how* well used they would be and that some of them should have been initially constructed to an all-weather standard. Ideally, all trails should be constructed that way. Then, not only do muddy sections not get potholed but, with a covering of woodchips/gravel/Geotech, the trail surface would not get worn down and tree roots would not become exposed. Municipal staff have fixed up many such sections of trails, but with budget restraints it will take some time to complete all the work that needs to be done. This is where Sunset comes in.

The members of Sunset Riding Club have voted to donate to the District a sum of up to \$2,000.00 this year for materials to upgrade to all-weather standard sections of trails which are most in need. These trails will be agreed upon beforehand between municipal staff and the Club. The Club is prepared to donate an amount each year as long as it is able.

There is one condition: these trails should be identified as bridle/hiking trails, not just hiking trails. In the introduction to the new and very attractive "Guide to Trails, Parks and Beach Accesses in North Saanich" it is stated that there is a well-developed network of hiking and bridle trails. The Club is delighted that bridle trails are mentioned, but the only identified bridle trail in North Saanich is in Horth Hill Park - a CRD park. The revised Community Plan recognizes equestrian trails as part of the outdoor recreation needs of the population. Sunset feels sure that this present Council



DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

Municipal Office: 1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, B.C. Phone: (250) 656-0781
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2639, Sidney, B.C. V8L 4C1 Fax: (250) 656-3155
e-mail: admin@district.nsaanich.bc.ca

June 22, 1998

Ms. Jo Doman, President
Sunset Riding Club
c/o 1365 Laurel Road
North Saanich, B.C.
V8L 5K8

Dear Jo:

Re: Donation for Equestrian Trails

Thank you for your letter of June 4, 1998 in which your organization offered to donate a sum of up to \$2,000 this year for materials to upgrade equestrian trails in North Saanich to all-weather standards, and to continue such donations in subsequent years as long as the Club is able. Your offer was accepted with gratitude by North Saanich Council at its June 15, 1998 meeting. Needless to say, the municipality is delighted with your offer and is prepared to work with your organization to identify the trails which should receive priority for all-weather upgrading. Council was also agreeable to including a horseshoe logo on the posts identifying the trails as well as adding this logo to the recently-printed Parks brochure. With respect to the latter item, it was suggested that this could be investigated in conjunction with the next printing.

With respect to prioritizing the trails that would benefit from all-weather upgrading and adding the horseshoe symbol to the posts, we suggest that your organization work with the Parks Commission. A copy of our letter to the Parks Commission is attached. It was also suggested that a number of local youth employment initiatives could be pursued to obtain the labour with which to carry out some of the work; for example, the Community Youth Employment Program (CYEP), a program instituted by the Peninsula Community Association. The Youth Empowering Endeavours in Sidney/North Saanich (YEES) was also suggested as a group which may be willing to assist.

On behalf of the District, we wish to extend our thanks once again for your generous offer of assistance to upgrade our trails. We look forward to working with the Sunset Riding Club to commence work on the trails.

Yours truly,

Joan E. Schill
Administrator

c.c. Parks Commission



DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

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June 22, 1998

Mr. Dennis Fimrite, Chair
North Saanich Parks Commission
8670 Emard Terrace
Sidney, B.C.
V8L 1K4

Dear Mr. Fimrite:

Re: Sunset Riding Club Donation for Equestrian Trails

At its June 15, 1998 regular meeting, Council received a letter (copy attached) from the Sunset Riding Club offering to donate a sum of up to \$2,000 in the current year for material to upgrade equestrian trails to all-weather standards, and to continue such donations in subsequent years as long as the Club is able. North Saanich Council accepted the offer with gratitude and suggested that the Sunset Riding Club work with the Parks Commission both to identify the trails most requiring this upgrading and to amend the Parks brochure and Parks sign posts to identify equestrian trails.

With respect to upgrading the brochure, it was suggested that this could be investigated in conjunction with the next printing. Adding the logo to the Parks sign posts can be discussed in conjunction with the Club to determine how it could best be accomplished. In relation to the upgrading of the trails themselves, Council suggested that a number of local youth employment initiatives could be examined to obtain the labour with which to carry out some of the work; for example, the Community Youth Employment Program (CYEP), a program instituted by the Peninsula Community Association, and YEES, who have assisted the District on previous projects.

Yours truly,

Joan E. Schill
Administrator

Enclosure

c.c. Sunset Riding Club ✓
Mary Cully, Commission Secretary
Tom McColm, Director of Services and Parks

SUNSET RIDING CLUB

c/o 1365 Laurel Road
North Saanich, B.C.
V8L 5K8
September 28, 1999

Mayor and Councillors
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

We are pleased to advise you that the members of Sunset Riding Club voted to ~~donate the sum of \$1250.00 this year to the District for the upgrading of the trail between John Road and Munro Road~~ - this was of course after discussions with District parks staff as to which trail needed to be upgraded this year and the cost involved.

We would like to commend Tom McColm, Cliff Halliday and parks staff for the work they completed last year with ~~our donation on the trails between Clayton Road and Wain Road, and between Hedgerow Road and Cascara Road~~. Both used to be absolute swamps in winter and now are a delight to ride and walk on.

We also thank staff for marking the trail head posts with the horseshoe logo as well as the hiker.

We feel there has been great cooperation between all parties, and we look forward to the same in the future.

Yours truly,

Josephine Doman
President

Sunset Riding Club

Sunday, October 3, 1999. Trail ride-a-thon in aid of the Victoria Riding for the Disabled Association. (Description of VRDA?)

18 horses - Peruvian Pasos, ponies, thoroughbreds, ^{horse} quarterhorses, arabs and mixtures. Young and old horses and riders - oldest a 29-year old Arab/Quarterhorse X. Western and English riding. One walker accompanied her young daughter riding a pony. The pony completed the ride - the mother didn't and hitched a ride home!

Riders from Victoria parked their trailers at the Donkey Sanctuary at Rip Tide Farm, then joined the main contingent of local riders who met in Horth Hill parking lot.

Weather fabulous. 2 hour trail ride on trails in North Saanich - hilly and rocky - not an easy ride.

Everyone completed it safely. Many riders amazed at the network of trails, which meant a very safe ride as very little road work. A cell phone rang during the ride. The caller obviously asked the rider where she was and she replied: "Somewhere in North Saanich - I have absolutely no idea where."

A rest period halfway through the ride on the meadow next to Fisher's Pond in Green Park was very welcome.

Last stop was at the President's house on Laurel where coffee, tea, pop and donuts were served - with apples for the horses.

We raised over \$800 in pledges. Sunset members between them raised \$469.75.

"It was a super turnout and everyone has been so generous, including the people who let us ride through some of their private trails," quotes the Prez.

First prize (for most money pledged), which was a print of a horse's head donated by North Saanich artist Jack Mackay, went to Josephine Nestor; second prize of a gift certificate from The Feed Barn went to Joyce Wallbridge.

VRDA is always looking for volunteers. Programme at Withy Windles on Wilson Road in North Saanich. Phone ~~Laura at 652-6341.~~

Belle 656-7472

Sunset Riding Club was instrumental in developing the trails in North Saanich many years ago. Last year the members made a donation to upgrade trails to all-weather, multi-use standard. The two trails chosen by Sunset and North Saanich's parks staff were between Clayton and Wain Roads and Cascara and Hedgerow Roads. This year another donation upgraded the trail between John and Munro Roads. "These trails are now a delight to walk and ride on", quotes the Prez.

50

Sunset Riding Club Newsletter

October 1999

Well done, members! Between us we raised \$514.75 for the Victoria Riding for the Disabled Association at the Ride-a-thon. Non-members contributed \$296.00, making a total of \$810.75. Jo Nestor won the print of a horse's head donated by Jack Mackay for having the most pledges. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it such an enjoyable ride. We were blessed with super weather and everything went smoothly except at the start when yours truly led the gang up the wrong trail from Horth Hill parking lot. Read the complete write up, written by Heather Warren, in November's Pacific Horse magazine. Left behind at my house was a red padded Paddock Apparel vest. Any takers?

Our donation to the District of North Saanich this year of \$1250.00 was spent on upgrading the trail between John Road and Munro Road. It is now complete, except for wood chips. The bridge across the creek on that trail now sports different non-slip finishes such as rubber strips and asphalt roofing. This is an experiment to see which finish is safest, as it is generally felt that the chickenwire currently on all bridges is too slippery, especially when horses are shod. Please phone the parks staff at the municipal hall (656-0781) with your comments, or phone me if you wish and I will pass them on.

Is anyone interested in a seat on the North Saanich Parks Commission? There will probably be vacancies next year and I think we need a horse person on board. Watch out for adverts in the Review calling for applications.

The municipal election is on November 20. There are many important issues to be considered when voting for a new council, but Sunset members have one interest in common - horses! Let's make sure we elect a council which is supportive of the horse community. There are eight new candidates and three incumbents running for six seats. The mayor is in by acclamation. There is an all candidates meeting at the Seventh Day Adventist Church (near the airport) at 7.30 p.m. on November 9. Come and hear what the candidates have to say.

At the same time as the election there will be a non-binding opinion poll organized by CRD Parks to find out if the public is willing to pay a flat rate of \$6.00 (in North Saanich; \$10.00 in some other municipalities) on top of the regular CRD levy to purchase lands which have been identified as regionally significant natural areas. One of these is Mel Baldwin's property - a beautiful treed area next to Horth Hill Park, through which many of us ride regularly (we used it on the Rideathon). Attached is a leaflet which has just been released explaining this initiative. A second flyer is due out in November.

(over)

Sunset Riding Club

Newsletter

September 2000



All the barbed wire is now cleared from Clayton trail thanks to Pam Earl, Jeannette Price and Pip Sumison.

The Canada Day Parade went off without incident. Six horses and two minis pulling buggies entered - a good turnout.

Thanks, folks.

The Ride-a-thon in aid of Victoria Riding for the Disabled will be held this year on Sunday, October 1. Ride lasts about 1 1/2 - 2 hours. Refreshments provided at end of ride. Meet in Horth Hill Park at 11 a.m. Riders from John Road and south who are not trailering phone Lorrene at 656-4086 to make arrangements to join the main group. Please bring donations with you. If you require a receipt for income tax purposes, fill in name and address on attached form and I will distribute receipts later. This year we have first, second and third prizes. For more info. phone Jo at 656-5318.

Xmas craft fair: White House Stables, 9774 West Saanich Rd., on Nov. 19 from 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Come out and support local artisans.

Congratulations to Tracy Wilkinson who qualified for and competed in the B.C. Summer Games in the reining class.

The Littlewood Connector (sounds like a rapid transit connection, eh? Come to think of it, it is - for horses!) The easement for a 5 m. wide trail along the west border of Rip Tide Farm was registered in favour of the municipality on August 30, so those of you from John Road south will be able to easily access the network of trails north of Wain Road. It is taking some time to get everything in place and because there is no money left in the Parks budget we will have to wait until next year for it to be constructed. The trail will cost about \$20,000 in all and will be put in to all-weather standards. The section next to Rip Tide has to be fenced on both sides. Sunset members at this year's AGM voted to make a donation towards fencing, and we also have a volunteer with a mechanical fence post pounder. We may need volunteers to help clear the trail as well - anything we can contribute will reduce the overall cost. We have waited many years for this access but our time has finally come!

Anybody like to organize an event? Phone Jo at 656-5318.

A - Z of horse terms

Azorturia (Monday Morning Disease) - a condition brought on by showing horses

So

Sunset Riding Club

Newsletter

October 1999

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(over)

RECEIVED

June 15, 2001

JUN 14 2001

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH
1620 MILLS ROAD
NORTH SAANICH, BC
V8L 5S9Keith & Kelly Green
1208 Tatlow Road
North Saanich, B.C.
V8L 5P3North Saanich Council
Municipality of North Saanich
1620 Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.
V8L 5S9

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

We are homeowners residing on the section of Tatlow Road between Wain and West Saanich Roads, and would like to bring to your attention the average speed of vehicles using this road.

Having lived at our present address for over ten years, we have watched the quantity of traffic utilizing the road increase substantially. With the amount of new homes in the area this is to be expected. Since the black topping of the road in recent years, however, the speed of those vehicles has also increased substantially. Previously the road was chip-sealed and there was unevenness to the grade, which kept speeds within an acceptable range. Since the road was surfaced with asphalt this is no longer the case.

Tatlow Road, as you likely are aware, is narrow and has a beautiful canopy due to many long-standing trees located within a few feet of the pavement on either side. In order to maintain the trees, residents do not wish to have the road widened. For most of the distance, there is adequate closed hard shoulder to allow walkers to get off the road surface. North Saanich has done a good job of keeping hedgerows clipped back to ensure this continues to be an option. In some areas, however, there is no safe shoulder and the increased speed of the traffic along the entire road has become a concern for the area residents, particularly for those of us with children and animals.

Early last month our concern was heightened when a speeding vehicle struck and killed our puppy only a couple of feet from our 8 year old son. The driver did stop afterward, but had made no effort to evade or brake prior to the impact. He stated that there was no time, though he acknowledged his previous awareness of a child and animal on the verge. He stated he was only travelling the normal speed of average traffic on the road. This is likely the truth. The average speed is very fast. Whether or not the driver should have automatically slowed and given some extra care when he became aware of a young child and dog ahead is not the full issue.

For several weeks now we have been visually monitoring the speed of the vehicles past our home. It is, for the most part, far beyond the 50km maximum posted. A few days of having the Speed Watch Trailer in place, had only a minimal impact. Even that was not all positive. On at least one occasion, a vehicle full of teenagers raced repeatedly up the road in what appeared to be an attempt to get the digital display on the trailer as high as possible.

With the number of new homes in the area, there has also been an increase in the number of children. There are no fewer than a dozen children aged below 12 in our immediate vicinity. Most are between the ages of 8 and 10; the age when we would like to feel we can allow them some freedom in the

Children Playing Signage

As previously stated, no record or recollection from staff can confirm the previous existence of this signage. The sign as outlined in the Manual of Standard Traffic Signs and Pavement Markings published by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways is referred to as an SP-3 playground ahead sign (see attached) and is utilized to warn motorist of public play grounds. It does not appear to justify placing this sign in an area where no public playground exists. Doing so may establish a practice permitting any resident to request similar signage in their neighbourhoods. This may lead to complacency by motorists if signs started to appear in many areas. There are no standard warning signs, which identify children on roadways except for school zones and public parks.

Monitor and Enforce Speed Limits on a Regular Basis

In May of 2001 a file was created at the Sidney/North Saanich RCMP Detachment concerning this matter. Practice is for the file to be handled by a specific constable who will then notify all RCMP staff of the situation. This was done in May asking for emphasis on the 4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. time frame. All statistics are then to be recorded and filed in order to ascertain if a significant problem exists. RCMP policy on speed enforcement requests is for police to set up these enforcement procedures as staff time permits. These requests from the public are quite frequent throughout all areas of Sidney and North Saanich and with other regular policing duties, make it extremely difficult to provide a concentrated emphasis of speed enforcement in one area. The speed watch volunteer program also supplements these concerns and can provide additional data of support.

Constable Harvey has been assigned to this file and was unable to provide any significant statistics to confirm a real speeding issue on Tatlow Road at time of this report. The RCMP are prepared to monitor the situation over the next several months and will share the information obtained with the District.

Covering the Open Ditch on the North Side of Tatlow Road from Alder to Heather

When this section of Tatlow Road was overlaid in 1999, 70 meters of the ditch on the north side were piped in, in order to widen the narrowest portion of the road; it also provided an adequate shoulder for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclist use. The remainder of the street was not identified as needing pipe work as the existing shoulder width was not narrowed during paving. The existing shoulder on the north side is quite narrow, averaging anywhere from 30 cm – 60 cm for 340 meters. This does make it hard for pedestrians to walk on the shoulder and virtually impossible for cyclists and equestrians to use without actually using the paved portion of the road.

The cost to pipe in this 340 m of ditch to provide an adequate shoulder would be at least \$35,000 and possibly more depending upon any design constraints.

The SP-2 should be installed per the Pedestrian Crossing Control Manual.

SP-3 PLAYGROUND AHEAD

SP-3



(60 x 60)

The SP-3 PLAYGROUND AHEAD sign warns motorists of a nearby public playground, where the presence of children, on or near the roadway, could create a hazard to the motorist.

In special cases, where speed zone is desirable a SP-7 30 km/h tab may be used in conjunction with an SP-3 sign. Refer to the SP-7 sign descriptions for more information regarding the establishment of a 30 km/h playground speed zone.

A SP-17 NO PASSING tab should be erected below SP-3 signs where the traffic approaches an established crosswalk on a two-lane roadway. If a SP-7 tab is also required, the SP-17 tab shall be mounted below a secondary SP-3 and erected a suitable distance in advance of the primary assembly.

Refer to the SP-17 sign description for more information regarding its use.

The sign should be installed per the *Pedestrian Crossing Control Manual*.

SP-4 SCHOOL CROSSWALK

SP-4L



(60 x 75)

The SP-4L/R SCHOOL CROSSWALK signs indicates to motorists the location of school crosswalks.

School crosswalks should be installed in accordance to the *Pedestrian Crossing Control Manual*, in consultation with school and municipal authorities, as required.

Crosswalks should only be installed if they meet the appropriate warrant criteria.

A marked crosswalk shall always be indicated both by pavement markings and signs or traffic signals. At raised right channelizations, SP-4 signs are not required.

Installation guideline: Condition C, Table 1, (Appendix).

W-122

W- 126 HORSE AND RIDER SIGN

The W-126 HORSE AND RIDER sign warns motorists of potential horseback riders on the roadway. This sign may be used on narrow or winding roadways where horseback riding is known to take place.

The W-126 sign shall be installed just prior to the start of any roadway used for horseback riding.



Mayor and Councillors
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

August 5, 2001

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Since the last section of Tatlow Road was widened and paved, the temptation to speed has proved irresistible to motorists. Five families who are members of Sunset Riding Club have horse farms along Tatlow between West Saanich and Wain Roads. They all have to use Tatlow in order to access the trails.

We are aware that speeding is not limited to this road but is an ongoing problem everywhere.

Along certain sections of Tatlow there is nowhere to get off the paved road. Several of our members have had close calls with vehicles and have reported offenders to the R.C.M.P. Over the last few weeks R.C.M.P. presence has increased - in fact, for the last few days there have been 40 R.C.M.P. officers in evidence, complete with 36 horses. However, the horses were not ridden along Tatlow, which is a pity because I am sure it would have had a great effect on the speed of motorists.

This matter of speeding was raised at our Annual General Meeting and I was asked to write to you and ask for your help. Several suggestions were made by our members. There is a general belief that one can exceed the speed limit by 10 k.p.h. with impunity. One suggestion would be to lower the speed limit to 40 k.p.h. with the addition of horse signs. Or perhaps a horse sign with the words "30 k.p.h. when horses on road". Or, as in Elk/Beaver Lake, "Horses - 30 k.p.h."

We are prepared to help pay for any signs.

Thank you in anticipation.

Yours truly,

Josephine Doman, President

October 31, 2001

Mayor and Councillors
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Once again the members of Sunset Riding Club are pleased to make a donation towards the construction/upgrade of trails. The enclosed \$1,600 is earmarked for the purchase of fence posts and wire for the 'Littlewood Connector', which will run from John Road to Wain Road. We will also be providing a mechanical fence-post pounder and operator to install these posts.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone on staff for their perseverance in acquiring easements through the various pieces of government property. This trail will be a boon for riders, cyclists, hikers and dogwalkers who wish to reach Horth Hill park from John Road south and vice versa.

Yours truly,

Josephine Doman
President



DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, B.C. V8L 5S9
Phone: (250) 656-0781 Fax: (250) 656-3155 e-mail: admin@district.nsaanich.bc.ca

March 4, 2002
DNS File: G-198 & G-257

Josephine Doman, President
Sunset Riding Club
1365 Laurel Road
North Saanich, B.C.
V8L 5K8

Dear Ms. Doman:

RE: Littlewood Connector Trail - Donation

On behalf of the District of North Saanich, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the ~~Sunset Riding Club's donation of \$1600.00 towards fencing materials and the in-kind post-pounding services of Mr. Brian Dunic for the Littlewood Connector Trail.~~

Work is now in completion on the first phase of this project (the link from Littlewood to McDonald Park West). It is hoped that all Land Agreements will be in place for completion of the entire trail in 2002.

~~It is generous donations such as your organizations that enable our small community to enhance our parks and trails system for the general enjoyment of the public. Again thank you very much.~~

Yours truly,

Brian Robinson, ASCT
Works Superintendent

BR/ds

cc: Sandy Joyce, Municipal Clerk

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DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, B.C. V8L 5S9

Phone: (250) 656-0781 Fax: (250) 656-3155 e-mail: admin@district.nsaanich.bc.ca

March 11, 2003

File: 1.4.7/8.11

Ms. J. Doman, President
Sunset Riding Club
1365 Laurel Road
North Saanich, B.C. V8M 5K8

Dear Ms. Doman:

Re: Signage on Tatlow Road

Thank you for your letter dated February 24, 2003 regarding signs on Tatlow Road.

At the meeting held on March 3, 2003, North Saanich Council adopted a resolution to receive your correspondence and to authorize the installation of the signage as requested by the Sunset Riding Club. It is our understanding that your club will provide the signs and work with Staff regarding the installation of such signs.

I trust the above is satisfactory. Please contact Brian Robinson, Works Superintendent, at 655-5481 regarding the installation of the signs.

Sincerely,

Sandy Joyce
Municipal Clerk

cc: Brian Robinson
Works Superintendent

Ms Bonnie Ripple
Operations Manager
Ministry of Highways
Suite 240 - 4460 Chatterton Way
Victoria, B.C.
V8X 5J2

August 22, 2003

Dear Madam,

DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH - LITTLEWOOD TRAIL CONNECTOR -
'THE MISSING LINK'

At this year's Annual General Meeting of Sunset Riding Club (SRC), I was asked by the members to write and request that some action be taken to enable the final section to be completed of the Littlewood Trail Connector, which has been in stasis for a year now.

Following is a background history of this trail, and enclosed are two maps: one showing the proposed trail right-of-way on an aerial photograph, and one pre-Wain Road overpass 1990 map, showing a larger section of this area of North Saanich.

- (1) There is no public access north/south between John Road and Wain Road except for the Pat Bay Highway, a dangerous route for hikers, horseriders, recreational cyclists, school children crossing Highway 17 to reach North Saanich Middle School and Parkland Secondary School, etc.
- (2) An existing length of road right-of-way north of John Road, (which lined up with other sections of Littlewood Road) merely accessed the formerly-government-owned Greenbelt farm (prior to 2000 this property was leased to Mr. Gene Jackson and known as Riptide Farm).
- (3) Members of SRC living on John Road and south had permission to ride through this farm to access North Hill Regional Park and North Saanich's network of trails.
- (4) SRC was appointed as official trails co-ordinator by the District of North Saanich (DNS) and continued to act in this capacity for ten years until the North Saanich Parks Commission was established.
- (5) At Official Community Plan hearings and at Capital Regional trail meetings, SRC urged that a recreational trail route from John Road to Wain Road be identified and secured when the opportunity arose. The District identified such a trail in its 1983 and subsequent Official

Community Plans.

- (6) In 1994, several properties were expropriated or partially expropriated at the eastern end of Wain Road in order to build the Wain Road overpass.
- (7) Upon completion, approx. one to one-and-a-quarter acres remained.
- (8) In May 2000, after the provincial government decision to sell the Greenbelt property, the DNS obtained a statutory right-of-way along the western property line of the farm from the British Columbia Assets & Land Corporation (Peter Norman) specifically to construct a trail.
- (9) August 2000 - in preparation for trail construction in 2001, it became apparent that the trail alignment would pass through jurisdictions of several government agencies, namely: the Ministry of Transportation & Highways; the Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks; and the B.C. Transportation Financing Authority (BCTFA). The final 150+ meters, being on fee-simple land owned by the BCTFA, would require an additional statutory right-of-way to complete the trail through this section.
- (10) Construction of the trail through McDonald Provincial Park (West) and within the Highway 17 right-of-way were approved in principal.
- (11) March 2001 - application made by DNS for Provincial Capital Commission Greenways funding in the amount of \$15,000.00.
- (12) May 24, 2001 - application made by DNS to BCTFA to obtain statutory right-of-way across their land.
- (13) August 10, 2001 - application forwarded by DNS to Doug Beaumont, Ministry of Transportation & Highways Property Services, and Phil Cristie, BCTFA.
- (14) Sept. 25, 2001 - PCC Greenways grant of \$15,000.00 approved.
- (15) Oct.31, 2001 - SRC makes cash donation of \$1,600.00 for fencing materials, plus machine and operator to pound in posts along trail.
- (16) Nov. 13, 2001 - B.C. Parks approves trail alignment through McDonald Park (West).
- (17) Dec. 2001 - trail constructed from Littlewood Road, through Greenbelt farm and McDonald Park (West).
- (18) Jan. 11, 2002 - letter to DNS from Highways Property Manager, Gary Morley, showing proposed right-of-way through fee-simple lands.
- (19) Feb. 28, 2002 - the above letter referred by DNS to Mike McGrenere, Manager of Property Development & Marketing, Ministry of Highways, to prepare a road dedication by a plan.
- (20) June 28, 2002 - permit granted to construct trail along Highway 17 right-of-way.
- (21) July 2002 - trail completed along Highway 17 right-of-way.

(22) August 14, 2002 - DNS referred all pertinent information to Ministry of Highways District Technician, Bob Webb, so that Ministry could establish as-built drawings of Wain Road overpass.

(23) August 22, 2003 - no further responses to date after several requests over the last year from Brian Robinson, Works Superintendent, DNS, for action on this matter.

Owners of the adjacent property, Brad Dinney and Laura Foxgord, (members of SRC) have on several occasions expressed their interest in discussing the purchase of the remaining land once the requirement has been met for the trail right-of-way. Because of the configuration of the Wain Road overpass, the remaining expropriated property has no road access. Over the last few years, there have been several site visits by groups of provincial government staff to assess the property. In July 2003, Laura Foxgord contacted Bob Webb, Ministry of Highways District Technician, and faxed a map showing the area in which they were interested. To date there has been no response. A copy of their map is also enclosed.

There has been excellent co-operation between private and public stake-holders in this matter. Brian Robinson of the DNS has diligently pursued this matter for the benefit of the residents of North Saanich and other users of this vital connecting trail. We would like to see this last section completed to all-weather standards so that the public can enjoy it this coming fall and winter. Funding for its construction has been in place for a year and only awaits a green light.

Your prompt response will be appreciated.

Yours truly,

Josephine Doman
President

c.c. Mr. Murray Coell, M.L.A., Saanich North & the Islands
Mayor and Council, District of North Saanich
Brian Robinson, Works Superintendent, District of North Saanich

Mayor and Councillors
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

May 25, 2004

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

LITTLEWOOD CONNECTOR

What an awesome trail we now have from John Road to Wain Road! I have walked my dogs (licensed of course) and ridden my horse on it, and it is a credit to the North Saanich engineering department and works crew. Thanks to all.

I am sure I speak for all trail users when I say "Thanks!" to Brian Robinson in particular for his persistence with senior government departments in establishing this vital connection. Residents on John Road and south now have a pleasant and safe access north to Horth Hill Park and our extensive network of trails.

The adjacent gravel pit is on agricultural land in the middle of a sheep farm, a dairy farm, and riding stables, and the sudden blasts have created problems over the years. One of our members, who is next door to the trail and gravel pit, has been in discussion with the new blasting contractor, who seems eager to co-operate. In addition to legal requirements, the contractor has agreed to phone the neighbours and to post the date and time prior to the actual blasting.

Yours truly,

Josephine Doman
President

Mayor and Council
District of North Saanich
Mills Road
North Saanich, B.C.

October 27, 2004

Dear Mayor and Council,

Attached is a map on which I have indicated a designated linear park leading from Hedgerow Road to the north east corner of Horth Hill Park.

In light of the fact that the adjacent property to the south has been sub-divided and is currently being developed, I believe this would be an opportune time to construct this trail before any houses are built. Obviously this would mean co-ordinating construction with CRD Parks in order to connect up with the Sunset Bridle Trail within Horth Hill Park. I have spoken to Brian Robinson and have also met on site with Trisha Bland, CRD Parks, so they both have a heads up on this.

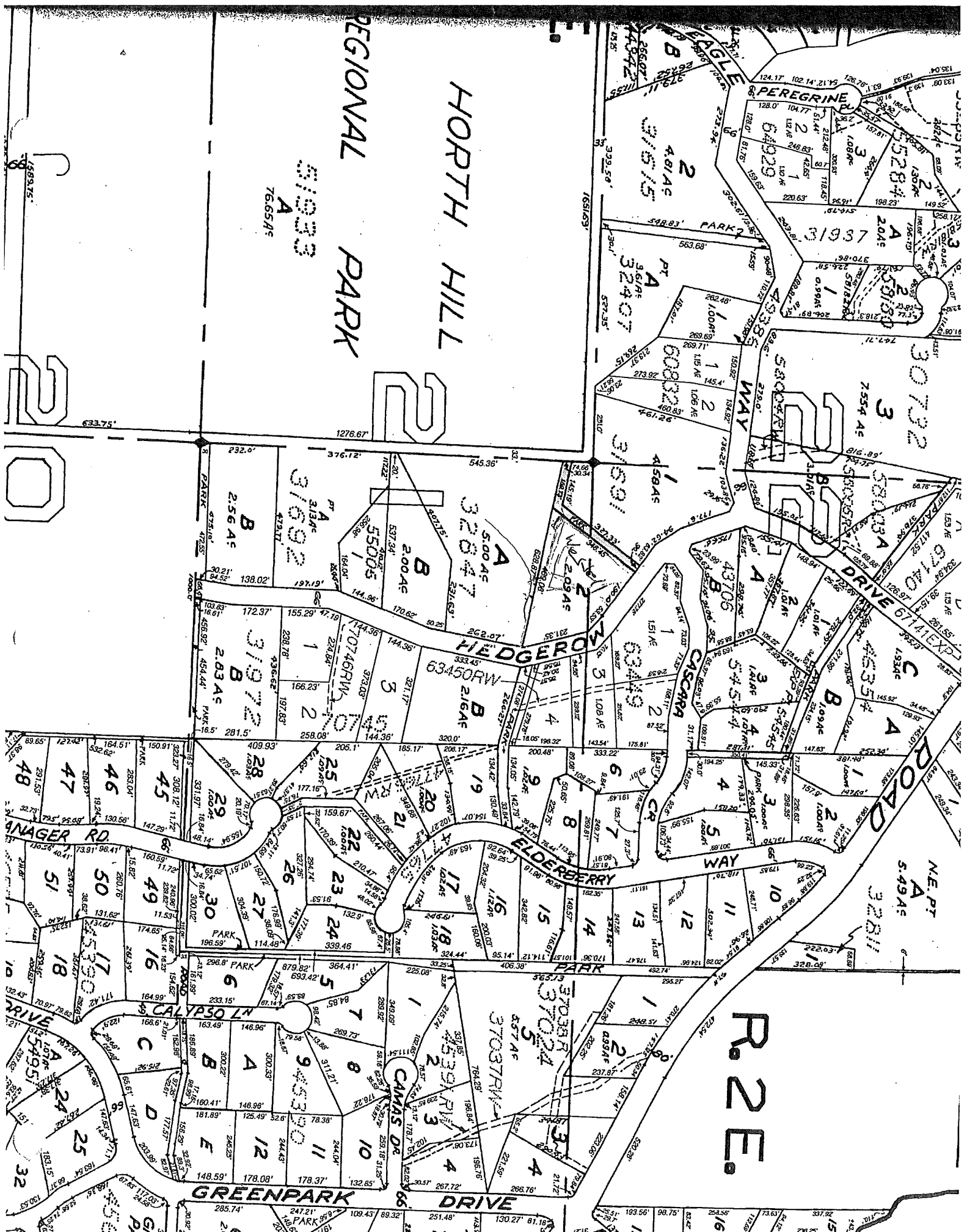
I have spoken to a couple of families that I know in that neighbourhood, and Lenora Scromeda (11330 Hedgerow) and Bert and Amanda Minter (11349 Hedgerow) have expressed their support for a trail leading to the Park in this area, especially as it starts opposite Cascara trail and would complete loops with other trails. (Mayor Daly could also utilise this trail!)

If Sunset Riding Club can help in any way, please let us know.

Yours truly,

Josephine Doman
President

copies to: Brian Robinson, Works Superintendent
Christine Morissette, Manager, CRD Park Services (North),
Trisha Bland, CRD Park Operations Supervisor (North)



HORTH HILL

REGIONAL PARK

61933
A
76.65 AC

31692
A
313 AC

31972
B
2.83 AC

32847
A
5.00 AC

55005
B
2.00 AC

63450 RW
B
216 AC

63449
B
108 AC

54545
B
1.00 AC

54535
B
1.00 AC

N.E. PT
A
5.49 AC

R. 2 E.

GREENPARK DRIVE

DRIVE

MANAGER RD.

DRIVE

DRIVE

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DISTRICT OF NORTH SAANICH

1620 Mills Road, North Saanich, B.C. V8L 5S9
Phone: (250) 656-0781 Fax: (250) 656-3155 e-mail: admin@district.nsaanich.bc.ca

June 28, 2004
File: 8.3.3

Ms. J. Doman, President
Sunset Riding Club
1365 Laurel Road
North Saanich, BC V8L 5K8

Dear Ms. Doman:

Re: *Littlewood Connector Trail*

Thank you for your letter dated May 25, 2004 expressing your appreciation for the recent development of the Littlewood Connector trail.

At the meeting held on June 21, 2004, the North Saanich Council adopted a resolution to receive your correspondence and to retain it on file for future reference. Council requested that Staff ensure that the blasting being done in this area is done in accordance with all regulations pertain to blasting.

Again, thank you for your correspondence and please contact the undersigned at 655-5453 should you have any further comments regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Sandy Bowden
Municipal Clerk

cc: Brian Robinson
Works Superintendent

Sunset

Mike Hicks, Chair
CRD Parks Committee
P.O.1000,
Victoria, B.C. V8W 2S6

March 29, 2016

Dear Chairman Hicks,

I was reminded at North Saanich Committee of the Whole meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016, that one cannot take anything for granted.

During a presentation by Carolyn Stewart of CRD Parks of the proposed draft Regional Trails Management Plan, I was shocked to learn that the unpaved sections of the Lochside Regional Trail would be paved, the trail designated for use by bicycles and pedestrians, and horses banned. And I thought I was just at this meeting to request that the unpaved section of the Lochside Regional Trail remain unpaved! Where on earth did this huge change come from? Who decided on this?

In the 1970s or 1980s users of this railway right-of-way were encouraged to write letters so that this could become a permanent multi-use (I repeat MULTI-USE) regional trail, under the aegis of the CRD. Many individuals, groups and clubs from all areas wrote, and we were gratified when this was acquired. I sat on the Regional Trails Committee as the representative of Sunset Riding Club between 1991 and 1993 with Councillor Bill Turner of the District of North Saanich. I attended meetings where we discussed how this was going to be implemented. Part of the proposed trail went along Willingdon Road by the airport. Now horses are not even allowed on the new paved trail round the airport.

The horse community is not as organized as is the bicycle community. I think it is a laudable idea to have a network of bicycle trails for commuting and for recreation. But it is hardly equitable to now exclude a group which has been using this right-of-way for decades, long before cycling became so popular. Equestrians are taxpayers too and have as much right to share in capital regional facilities as any other group. Equestrians need a safe place to ride. This section passes through Agricultural Land Reserve and is surrounded by horse farms and riding stables. Accommodation should be made for equestrians along the Lochside Trail wherever they currently ride, so that they too can link up with other trails in adjacent municipalities.

I know there have been protests about this change. Over 400 people have physically signed one petition, and there are about 1600 signatures on another on-line petition.

Leave the Lochside Trail as a multi-use trail. All it needs is a little tender loving care to its surface to make it suitable for all-weather use. Don't pave it.

Yours truly,

Josephine Doman
President

c.c. Mayor and Councillors, District of North Saanich
Carolyn Stewart, Mike Walton, Brett Hudson – CRD Parks
Horse Council
D.Screech, J. Brownoff, B. Isitt, N.Jensen, R. Kasper, S. Price, L. Seaton,
K. Williams, R. Windsor, B. Desjardins

Points for the Parks Master Plan 2023

Friends of North Saanich Parks

Hire an ecologist for the Parks Department as a staff member or several—this is our top priority request: one could have two staff ecologists shared with the District as a whole.

- 1) Allow for the District collection of necessary ecological, archeological, horticultural and historical information on all municipal parks, for example, the soils, the understory vegetation, the stands, the wildlife, shell middens, riparian area descriptions, ephemeral streams, as well as catalogue the flowers, trees and shrubs located in the vintage gardens, and the logging or clearing history. Share this with volunteer groups working in the parks. This should lead to better management decisions.
- 2) Form an invasive species removal program stemming from the District-modeled on Saanich. Within Saanich's Invasive Species Removal Plan is a process for negotiation with difficult neighbors and volunteer groups.
- 3) Determine rare flora and fauna in all parks.
- 4) Provide Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping for the parks—which will also give rare vegetation association patterns.
- 5) Provide more public washrooms—for Lillian Hoffar and Denham Till for example.
- 6) Prepare a District Vegetation Restoration Plan to adjust for the mortality of Grand fir and Western redcedar and in some cases Douglas fir.
- 7) Share the North Saanich park plan guidelines for staff so volunteer groups working in the parks know the guidelines for the District Staff.
- 8) Consider hydrology of the parks—and provide a natural water system to sustain them with runoff retention.
- 9) Increase park acquisitions: This will aid in buffering the natural ecosystems, sustain biodiversity and increase canopy; parks should be chosen to insure forest connectivity.
- 10) Use a climate change lens in planning for parks.
- 11) Have a very long term plan for the parks (100-300 years) that considers the natural life cycle of trees, shrubs and herbs. This should also aid in planning to sustain the canopy.
- 12) Prepare a plan for vandalism of park indigenous species.
- 13) Use natural cycles to prepare District operations planning—pruning, mowing for example.
- 14) Develop and install interpretive signs for a few parks that explain such things as cultural history (e.g., indigenous activity at Lillian Hoffar, farmstead at Denham Till), ecological significance, logging history, etc. Add a map of the trails to the signs.
- 15) Adopt the '3-30-300 goal' which stipulates that everyone should be able to see at least 3 trees from their home; there should be 30% tree canopy cover in each neighbourhood; and 300 metres should be the maximum distance to the nearest high-quality public green space.

- 16) Identify areas within parks that are to be protected from development (e.g., recreational infrastructure, parking, easements).
- 17) Increase seating options (e.g., benches, stone walls) in areas of interest to allow for extended appreciation.
- 18) Install garbage cans in each well-used park such as Nymph Point, Denham Till, Green Park and so forth.
- 19) For those volunteer groups working in municipal parks establish clear park boundaries.
- 20) On a specific level, test the QR displayed on park signs as we have received complaints they are not working.
- 21) Establish educational opportunities for the public, District staff and volunteer groups related to the municipal parks and their unique features-flora and fauna, history or cultural features.

NSRA COMMENTS RECEIVED REGARDING THE PARKS MASTER PLAN (as of Nov. 9th , 2023)

Apologies for the formatting, but the comments were cut and pasted from numerous sources.

What are the strengths of the parks and trails system in North Saanich? What are the challenges?

- Lots of parks
- lots of space in parks
- almost all parks in North Saanich are off leash which my dog and I love
- booklet showing trails is available from North Saanich office

our Parks staff members deserve recognition for their excellent work in keeping local trails in good shape. In particular, the restoration and improvements to Danton Trail (from Chalet Rd to Rosborough) were much appreciated by residents — levelling the path made it accessible for young parents pushing strollers and for seniors with canes.

I worry that when we cater only to the people's demand for amenities that the park will suffer. We need to go amenity 'lite'

Of all the things needing fixing in the world, the Parks and Trails in North Saanich are the least requiring any fixing

Please don't citify our parks. If people need more amenities then go to a park in Victoria. If there is money in the budget that needs to be spent, use it on maintaining what we have. 3 Keep our district rural.

My one suggestion as far as beach access would be that there needs to be better signage to indicate the trail heads from the beach end of the trails, particularly in the Lands End area.

Garbage bins- no

2. What are your observations of the current park amenities and park activities? Are they sufficient? What is missing or lacking?

- families may appreciate more washrooms in parks
- need a place in Horth Hill and other dog parks for people to leave plastic bags for people who forget to bring them.
- Signage in Horth Hill is confusing, since the map is rotated from sign to sign as one progresses along the trails.
- Could use more signage in Horth Hill on the trails to the top of the hill and on trails on the top of the hill. The last time I went up there I got lost.
- Some signs in Horth Hill don't accurately point in the direction of the trail name.
- doggie fountains with water bowls would be an asset. May not be too expensive in parks that have access to water system.

3. What are your observations of the beach accesses and viewpoints?

- not well marked

What are the strengths of the parks and trails system in North Saanich? What are the challenges? Strengths: There are some beautiful places in North Saanich. Most aren't overdeveloped yet (getting there). There is no pay parking. They are small (which is also a challenge). Challenges: Management is 'liability' driven. Heavy handed cutting of trees that might pose a hazard that are left in piles of firewood. Not smart system management of the ecosystem.

Horth Hill looks like a graveyard of firewood. Parks are getting more isolated by development. Moses Point was destroyed when the developer of a subdivision clear cut the forest to the water line.

There needs to be a buffer between population and wilderness. Wildlife is not identified or protected in parks. Big issue for me. Not even mentioned in planning for parks (or in development for housing).

We need to provide sanctuary for wildlife and ecosystems. That is what parks are for. We should plan parks holistically to ensure there are wildlife corridors. So, trail systems can be maintained thoughtfully ... and not paved to make it accessible for all...there are going to be places that wheelchairs just aren't going to be able to go easily. And that should be ok. 2.

What are your observations of the current park amenities and park activities? Are they sufficient? What is missing or lacking?. For example, putting in artificial turf is bad bad bad. Bowker Creek by Oak Bay High was almost recovering from pollution and development when they put in artificial turf. It is degrading and poisoning Bowker Creek now. There is no plan to save ecosystems or to protect wildlife (it's never mentioned in parks plans). We are losing species through our ignorance and lack of responsible management. People should not trump the ecosystem. The drainage put in by the parking lot at Horth Hill has negatively impacted the low lying forest to the south of it. It only serves to provide a dry trail and not look after the trees and plants. More determined removal of invasive species eg. ivy. So, education and information for the public is essential (at each park and on our district website).

3. What are your observations of the beach accesses and viewpoints? Beach accesses and viewpoints are currently tiny little patches of earth between residential landowners who do their best to keep people away from their beach. To the point of blocking beach accesses with their garden refuse or fencing. If this is supposed to be a public access to our lovely coast or the view then we need to make sure it is available to the public. North Saanich used to be a vacation location back in the early 1900's, where everyone could enjoy having a picnic on the beach at sunset without landowners' concrete breakwater looming over them. We need stronger protection for the coast and the species above and below the high tide line.

4. What is working well and what could be improved? The trees/canopies/forests should be overseen by environmentalists and professional foresters (who manage 'systems' as opposed to arborists who work on individual trees). Obviously people cherish this area and we have a duty to preserve as much of the wilds that we have left. It will serve us in the fight against climate change, it will provide respite and promote mental wellbeing and physical health and most importantly, it will save the little we have left for our children's children.

I walk the trails daily. 1. We will not have parks and trails if the deadwood is left to burn. I see cigarette butts and hidden campers. I pass people

smoking cigarettes and pot. The risk of fire is a dire situation. My solution is to allow local residents to "help themselves" to the deadwood. There are many in North Saanich who would benefit from low cost firewood. Choose one day a month and charge a nominal fee if you feel the need to oversee. Ask for proof of residency so we can serve locals first. 2.

Some connector trails like the one from Wain Road to John Road get covered with road base in the spring. It doesn't get hardened up with no rain, so it becomes treacherous for biking because of the loose gravel.

The lack of marine access is a rapidly growing problem on the Saanich Peninsula. As private marinas close their boat launch facilities to convert valuable property to other uses, the District of North Saanich has been searching for a solution. The District Parks plan should consider an option for a boat launch on the Saanich Inlet side of the Peninsula.

A number of options exist but options like the unused northern portion of the Pat Bay float plane base—was halted by the Victoria Airport Authority which has the lease for this Provincially owned land.

While the Authority and the Province might yet be persuaded, there are two other attractive possibilities: a private site at Queen Mary Bay near Swartz Bay (no longer available), and the federal property adjacent to the Institute of Ocean Sciences (IOS). A fourth option—on the Tsartlip First Nation reserve at Brentwood Bay—has been closed for repairs and redevelopment. Another option would be on the District owned parkland near the Sea Plane base. Other road access points on the Inlet could also be considered.

The survey failed to address some key issues such as the boat ramp.

The survey design was a real problem for me. The interactive map didn't work and I tried to figure it out and I kept on receiving emails from the District when highlighted an area. It got so frustrating that I didn't finish the survey.

The Project Team should have received stakeholder input before developing the survey. The survey would then have included more relevant topics and questions. It seems as if the survey was taken off the shelf from other projects and wasn't focussed on North Saanich issues.



Peninsula Streams Society
9860 West Saanich Road
North Saanich, BC V8L 4B2
250.363.6596
peninsulastreams@gmail.com

North Saanich
Municipal Hall
1620 Mills Road
North Saanich, BC
V8L 5S9

ATTN: Ben Martin
CC: Mayor And Council

Dec 7, 2023

RE: Parks Master Plan Engagement – Project Priorities

Dear Mr. Martin,

On behalf of the Peninsula Streams Society, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to engage with the recent Parks Master Plan stakeholder workshop as an environmental stakeholder. For our organization, our goals remain the same: 1.) restoration of stream and shoreline habitats to mitigate the impacts of historic changes, and 2.) protection against future threats including the increasing need for development and the impacts of climate change. For our Mission, it is also critical that we engage with the community through stewardship and education.

For stream priority projects, we would like to continue to focus on **Reay, Chalet, Tseycum, and Ten-Ten Creeks** by improving instream and riparian habitats, reconnecting floodplains, and building green stormwater infrastructure like urban wetlands and rain gardens. For shorelines, our focus is the protection of forage fish shoreline habitats. Our volunteers and partners have positively identified many beaches in North Saanich as spawning and burrowing forage fish habitats. Some of the most productive beaches anywhere on our coast are in North Saanich and as a community, we need to use every tool we have to ensure their ability to persist into the future. Importantly, this means creating space for beaches to adapt to Sea Level Rise through forward-looking planning for managed retreats.

Looking to the next three years our top priorities are to protect and restore three of the most productive shorelines in North Saanich and on our coast including **Tryon Beach, Nymph Point Beach, and Lillian Hoffar Beach** through beach nourishment, backshore marine riparian improvements, and implementation of conservation tools such as coastal covenants. We are pleased that North Saanich is interested in supporting and partnering on these important shoreline protection projects at Tryon, Nymph Point, and Lillian Hoffar beaches. We are seeking imminent large-scale grant funding in partnership with the Pacific Salmon Foundation that would center North Saanich and these sites as case studies of Nature-Based Solutions. This includes developing guidance tools, mapping resources, and scalable on-the-ground restoration demonstrations.

We anticipate federal and other funding would cover over 70% of this program's expenses, and **request financial support from North Saanich in the value of \$60,000 planned to be spent over the next three years.** Please see the attached proposed project scope for more information.

North Saanich's contribution will help us leverage significantly larger funds to deliver some on-the-ground priorities in shoreline restoration and conservation in North Saanich Parks and build greater capacity to continue assisting North Saanich with their ecological protection initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kyle Armstrong".

Kyle Armstrong
Executive Director
Peninsula Streams Society
250 508 8456



Saanich Peninsula Environmental Coalition

Protecting nature by building community

Bob Peart and Ian Bruce comments
November 7, 2023

Introduction to your report

- Outline better the connection to the OCP process because it is a question the public has.
- Outline the essential connection of nature to human mental, spiritual and physical health. Essential in today's society to get away from the crazy world we are exposed to.

1. Tsehum Harbour

- Incorrect. *1 park that is owned by Parks Canada and maintained by the CRD (Tsehum Lagoon Park) --- page 13 reference to MBS...*
- The correct reference is Shoal Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary and the key federal organization is the Canadian Wildlife Service within Environment and Climate Change Canada. It is jointly located within North Saanich and Sidney.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/migratory-bird-sanctuaries/locations/shoal-harbour.html>

- 1.6 Chart is wrong reference re above. Pls change.
- Change all your maps accordingly
- Very important are Tyron Beach, Nymph Park and Lillian Hoffar park.
- Tsehum Harbour Lagoon is a special ESA of some sort. This designation helped with the removal of a derelict boat. Identify it in your report.
- Reference the proposed SHMBS Integrated Management Plan with Sidney. What is its status?

2. A Bioregional Framework for the Saanich Peninsula (2021)

Pleased to see the reference to Bioregional Framework for the Saanich Peninsula. However, your whole report requires a broader peninsula-wide system context. Example:

- purposely link with the Central Saanich process.
- Cross border streams like Reay Creek
- Beaches.
- Connectivity with the trail network

3. Current Tree Bylaw

- Need to reference the current tree bylaw, particularly re tree canopy and the recommendation for a peninsula-wide community forest mapping strategy

4. Engagement Process

- You need a concerted effort to have input from children, youth and families.....currently missing,
- The current survey misses this demographic completely...figure out how to connect with them and get their input.

5. Marine Zone Designation.

- Sidney has a 300 metres marine zone designation approved in their recent OPP
- Would hope that North Saanich would do the same.
- Very important for derelict vessels, etc
- What is the connection with the Saanich Peninsula Harbours and Waterway Initiative? Explain.

6. Chart 2.1 Strengths – Challenges

- A good summary
- Public washrooms are important --- ex Lillian Hoffar
- The issue/challenge re invasive species should be emphasized more.
- Connectivity is and will be a challenge. Identify it more.
- The importance of a natural assets inventory isn't emphasized enough. Without this inventory, you will be challenged to determine the role of parks in natural asset management to improve North Saanich's infrastructure.

7. Park Types

- Glad to see a Systematic approach – very important
 - However, base it more ecological zoning/vegetation types not just user interests and size.
 - This approach will be better for identifying gaps.
- Lillian Hoffar – needs to be a nature park not a community park. Excellent birdwatching and place to explore vegetation types, etc
- Might there be an 'agriculture park' designation to pick up Sandown? Sandown is an important natural space and although not a park in the traditional sense it performs many park-like functions.
- the 3/30/300 approach. Used in Saanich and found useful. Not perfect but a good long term analysis model.

8. Gap Analysis

- Largely agree with your analysis.
- The climate landscape lens needs to be stronger. Stress the importance of 'backcasting' from the future landscape type in your planning. Don't just go forward from today's landscape.
- Improve/include data on red and blue listed species.
- I question this reference – please confirm. *Within the sanctuary federally protected habitat of Marbled Murrelets.*

Lastly the report needs a section on staffing/capacity.

- How many FTEs and budget will be required to deliver on this proposed system.
 - Chart outlining Required, optimum, basic levels for comparison.
- If you can't deliver on what the system needs why bother doing it all.
- Also, the need for a staff biologist/ecologist as part of this FTE analysis.

Observations and Comments from the Stewardship Commission

The State of the Park report confirms what many of us already know – in North Saanich we are very fortunate to have a large number of hectares in the District dedicated to parks and trails, with ready access by most residents, especially when you include all parks, such as trails and nature parks.

Some new parks may be needed, as noted in the Report (for instance new neighbourhood parks if there are new large developments). But the Report does not identify the need for new parks as an overarching priority for the next ten years. We agree. Rather understanding, maintaining and preserving what we have is essential.

The Report states that it is “offering insights into the natural assets, demographics, and environmental considerations that collectively shape the management and planning of its outdoor recreation spaces”. (page 4, Executive Summary).

Our parks are much more than “outdoor recreation spaces” We also need to recognise parks for their intrinsic value; for what they represent, their function in the environment, their link to our history and our culture, so that we can identify what we should protect and how it should be maintained.

Parks have multiple values and make a range of contributions to our community, including outdoor recreation, but also protection of cultural assets of both settlers and First Nations; ecological assets such as habitats, ecosystems, wildlife corridors and natural assets such as watershed, waterways, shorelines, tree and canopy cover, carbon sinks.

We suggest that heritage, defined both ecologically and culturally, be added to the considerations that shape the planning and management of our parks. Broadly defined heritage is what a community inherits from the past that we value and want to preserve for future generations. Parks are an important legacy of natural and cultural heritage of the area.

Perhaps most importantly, including heritage can provide context for action toward Reconciliation – an opportunity to address the gap in our recognition and understanding of First Nations heritage within our Parks and rebalance our stories of history in the District to include the stories and heritage of the neighbouring First Nation communities within the context of our parks system.

More broadly, an awareness and appreciation of both cultural and natural heritage contributes to pride of place, strengthens community interest in what we protect and conserve, and helps us understand its value to our well-being and the health of our environment.

The natural and ecological assets in the District are part of larger systems that go beyond Park boundaries. North Saanich still lacks a forest management plan or a natural asset management plan. As all these plans are developed, thought needs to be given as to how they will integrate with the ten-year Parks Plan. For example:

How are the parks and public lands the district owns being included in considerations about the forest canopy? Can this be the genesis for the development of an overall tree/forest management plan that includes inventory, targets, and development of forests on these areas? How are natural assets in parks and public lands identified? What are the management considerations for a natural asset within a municipal park?

The Parks Plan should address the issue of capacity of the District to do what needs to be done in a timely manner. With only 4 parks staff, the District is limited in what it can maintain. And maintenance demands are growing with increased use. We may not know the users/hectare of parkland but we do know that the District's natural assets are assets for the Peninsula. Sidney is our commerce area. North Saanich is (one of) Sidney's parks area.

Staff levels should not be the limiting factor for the future, quality or safety of our Parks. Adequate resources are needed over the next ten years to properly care for the Parks that we have, including park maintenance, restoration and renewal.

- Address invasive plant species (restore habitats and ecosystems)
- Properly care for variety of park assets
- Protect against overuse; protect sensitive areas and ecosystems
- Maintain and renew infrastructure
- Monitor and enforce regulations (for instance, rules for horses and dogs)

All the needs and wants of the community need to be costed and clearly communicated. For example, the Report highlights interest in more community gathering places but where? Could Sandown and/or Noble Gardens be considered? Any priority projects need to be matched to potential funding sources beyond the tax base, such as looking at options for philanthropic support, granting organisations.

Some undeveloped beach accesses cannot provide easy or safe access to beaches (too steep, unstable slopes etc.) The District could consider looking at trade-offs between some undeveloped beach accesses and the opportunity to purchase parkland elsewhere to meet community needs.

Finally, our community and park visitors need to know and understand our parks and their assets – what we are preserving and what they contribute to our community. Site-specific knowledge encourages public respect for what is being conserved, protected or restored; provides a basis for public to understand the cause and effect of their behavior in our parks. This is important in light of increased use of our Parks, and increased evidence of higher use having some damaging effects. Knowledge will help garner support to maintain them.

Education/public information opportunities :

- Improve on-line information accessibility and content (compatible with mobile devices, interactive maps, searchable attributes, inclusive and consistent information across all information sources)
- Similarly update published Parks and Trails guide (new parks, trails amenities, consistent information with online information sources)
- Add more site-specific interpretative information signs so that information is readily available to Park users when they visit
- Celebrate First Nation heritage in place names, signage and interpretation
- Work with volunteer groups and local knowledge holders to provide educational opportunities (Friends of Dominion Brook Park, Friends of North Saanich Parks, Peninsula Streams, First Nations)
- Consider exploring options for inviting research programs from university/college
- Information and programming with schools in the District