

2. Survey Results, Trail Use

Seal Bay Park survey responses

During summer 2015, CVRD staff surveyed park visitors in the park to learn what they appreciate most about Seal Bay Park and want to see preserved and what they think needs improvement over the coming years. A questionnaire was also posted on-line and promoted in the local newspaper and on facebook.

As of January 8, 2016, 241 residents have completed the in-park and on-line questionnaire. Following are highlights of the results.

Most visitors drive to the park, 10% walk or bike

91% of questionnaire respondents say they drive to the park or share a ride. However, a significant number, 10%, either bike or walk.

Bates Road parking lot is busy weekends

81% of respondents say they do not usually have a problem finding parking. 19 % say they do. Many of those who say they do, indicate that parking is usually a problem on weekends.

Walking or dog-walking are the most popular activities

51% respondents say when they visit the park, they most often walk (without dog), while 39% visit the park to walk their dogs. 24% jog, 15% bike and 18% say they ride their horse. Note that the percentages do not add up to 100% since some people indicate more than one activity.

48% visit the park at least once a week or more often

20% of respondents say they visit the park almost daily in the summer, 28% once or twice a week, 26% once or twice a month. The remaining 25% visit the park every other month, once or twice a year or very irregularly.

Steady visitor use continues through the off-season, with 13% visiting the park almost daily, 30% once or twice a week, and 23% once or twice a month. 34% visit the park every other month or less frequently in the off season.

Conflict with other users is low

A majority, 73%, of respondents, say they never experience conflict with other users. 24% say once in a while, and 4% say every few visits. No one indicated “every second visit or so” or “almost every visit”.

Trails on water side most popular

45% usually use the trails on the water side; however, many use a variety of trails. The Swamp loop (35%) and horse-bike loop (32%) are the most popular trails on the inland side of Bates Road.

Park a destination for residents from across the valley

28% of survey respondents say they live in the City of Courtenay, 25% live in electoral area ‘B’, 15% are from the Town of Comox, 14% are visitors from outside the valley, 10% come from electoral area ‘C’, 5% from Cumberland and 4% from electoral area ‘A’.

Residents are generally satisfied with Seal Bay Park

Overall satisfaction rating is high with 55% rating the park at 5, 16% give it a rating of 4.5 and 24% give it a 4. Only 5% rate the park at 3 or lower.

Park values and park improvements

The survey also asked park visitors what they like most about the park and what they would like to see improved. Responses to those questions are summarized on panels 3 and 8.



Trail use statistics

Trail counter data shows that the trails on the water side are the most popular.

Sunday tends to be the busiest day in the park on all trails; however, trails are also well used on other days of the week.

