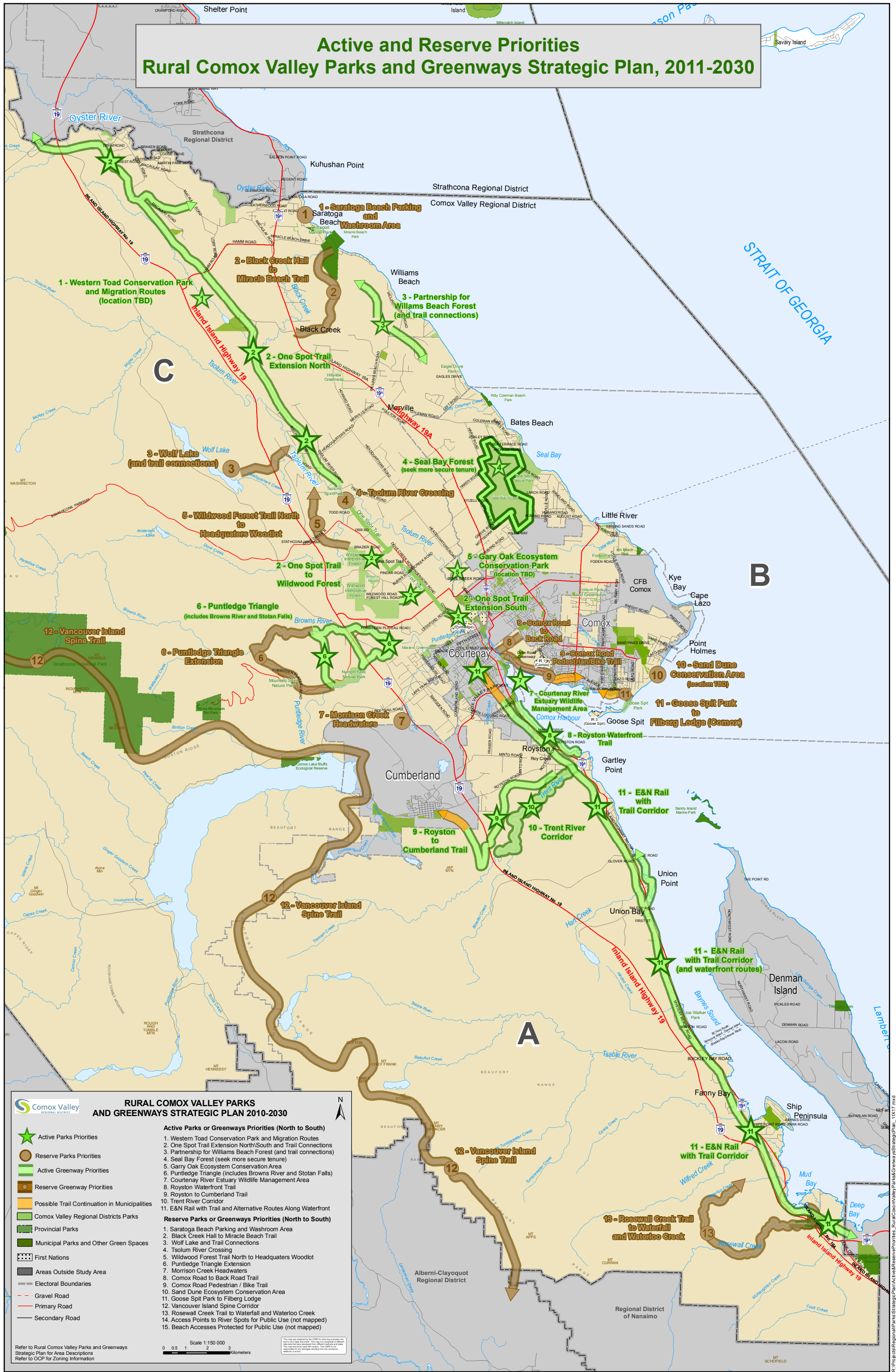


Appendix 1: Comox Valley Parks and Greenways Strategic Plan Active and Reserve Priorities

Active and Reserve Priorities
Rural Comox Valley Parks and Greenways Strategic Plan, 2011-2030



RURAL COMOX VALLEY PARKS
AND GREENWAYS STRATEGIC PLAN 2010-2030

- ★ Active Parks Priorities
- Reserve Parks Priorities
- Active Greenway Priorities
- Reserve Greenway Priorities
- Possible Trail Continuation in Municipalities
- Comox Valley Regional Districts Parks
- Provincial Parks
- Municipal Parks and Other Green Spaces
- First Nations
- Areas Outside Study Area
- Electoral Boundaries
- Gravel Road
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road

- Active Parks or Greenways Priorities (North to South)**
1. Western Toad Conservation Park and Migration Routes
 2. One Spot Trail Extension North/South and Trail Connections
 3. Partnership for Williams Beach Forest (and trail connections)
 4. Seal Bay Forest (seek more secure tenure)
 5. Garry Oak Ecosystem Conservation Area
 6. Puntledge Triangle (includes Browns River and Stotan Falls)
 7. Courtenay River Estuary Wildlife Management Area
 8. Royston Waterfront Trail
 9. Royston to Cumberland Trail
 10. Trent River Corridor
 11. E&N Rail with Trail and Alternative Routes Along Waterfront
- Reserve Parks or Greenways Priorities (North to South)**
1. Saratoga Beach Parking and Washroom Area
 2. Black Creek Hall to Miracle Beach Trail
 3. Wolf Lake and Trail Connections
 4. Tsolum River Crossing
 5. Wildwood Forest Trail North to Headquarters Woodlot
 6. Puntledge Triangle Extension
 7. Morrison Creek Headwaters
 8. Comox Road to Back Road Trail
 9. Comox Road Pedestrian / Bike Trail
 10. Sand Dune Ecosystem Conservation Area
 11. Goose Spit Park to Filberg Lodge
 12. Vancouver Island Spine Trail
 13. Rosewall Creek Trail to Waterfall and Waterloo Creek
 14. Access Points to River Spots for Public Use (not mapped)
 15. Beach Accesses Protected for Public Use (not mapped)

Refer to Rural Comox Valley Parks and Greenways Strategic Plan for Area Descriptions
Refer to OGP for Zoning Information

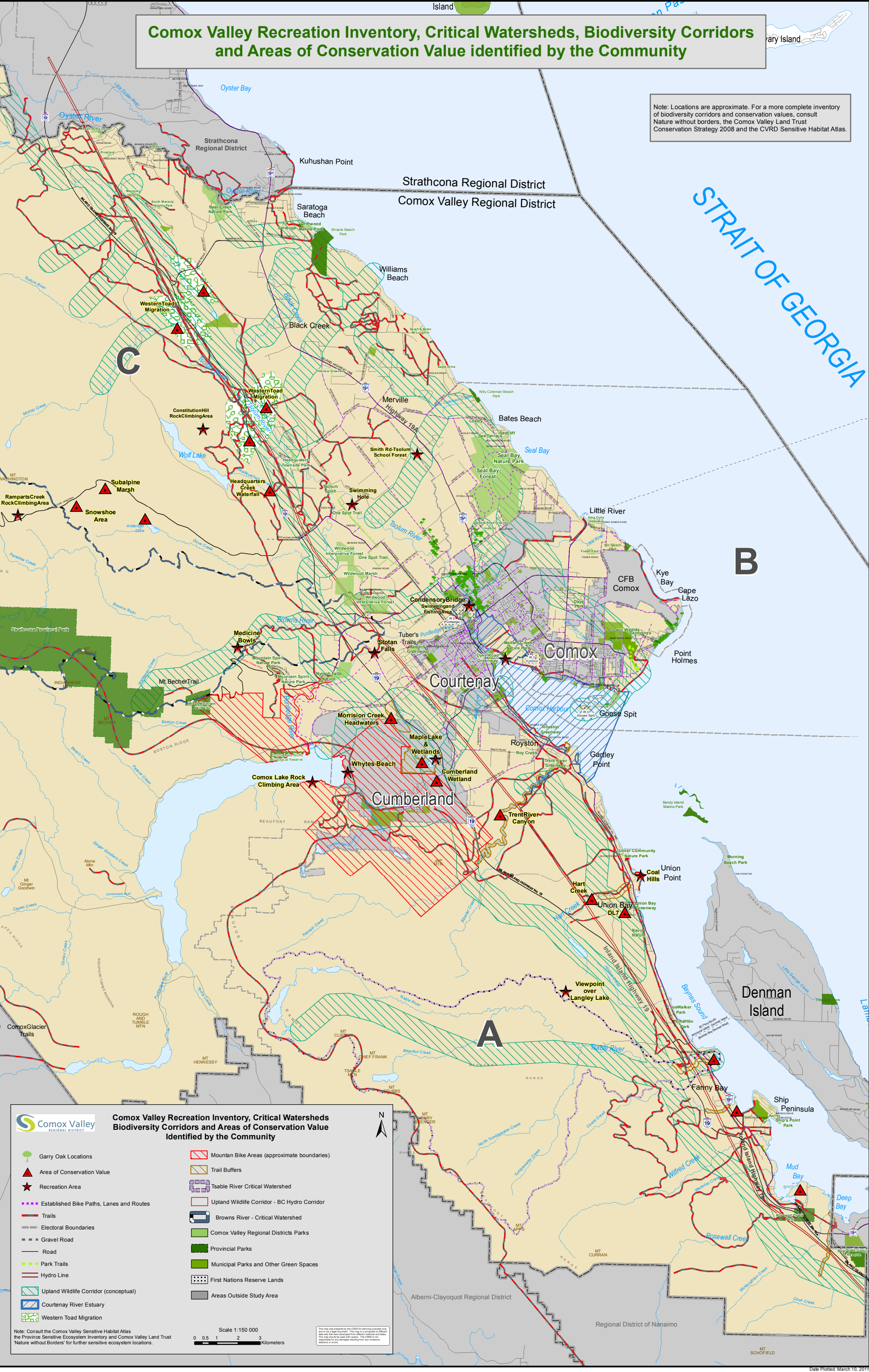
Scale 1:150 000
0 0.5 1 2 3 Kilometers

This map was prepared by the CRD for planning purposes only and is not a legal document. The CRD is not responsible for any errors or omissions. The CRD is not responsible for any damages resulting from any reliance on this map.

Appendix 2: Comox Valley Recreation Inventory, Critical Watersheds, Biodiversity Corridors and Areas of Conservation Value Identified by the Community

Comox Valley Recreation Inventory, Critical Watersheds, Biodiversity Corridors and Areas of Conservation Value identified by the Community

Note: Locations are approximate. For a more complete inventory of biodiversity corridors and conservation values, consult Nature without borders, the Comox Valley Land Trust Conservation Strategy 2008 and the CVRD Sensitive Habitat Atlas.



Comox Valley Recreation Inventory, Critical Watersheds Biodiversity Corridors and Areas of Conservation Value Identified by the Community

- | | |
|--|--|
| Garry Oak Locations | Mountain Bike Areas (approximate boundaries) |
| Area of Conservation Value | Trail Buffers |
| Recreation Area | Tsalie River Critical Watershed |
| Established Bike Paths, Lanes and Routes | Upland Wildlife Corridor - BC Hydro Corridor |
| Trails | Browns River - Critical Watershed |
| Electoral Boundaries | Comox Valley Regional Districts Parks |
| Gravel Road | Provincial Parks |
| Road | Municipal Parks and Other Green Spaces |
| Park Trails | First Nations Reserve Lands |
| Hydro Line | Areas Outside Study Area |
| Upland Wildlife Corridor (conceptual) | |
| Courtenay River Estuary | |
| Western Toad Migration | |

Note: Consult the Comox Valley Sensitive Habitat Atlas the Province Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory and Comox Valley Land Trust 'Nature without Borders' for further sensitive ecosystem locations.

Scale 1:150 000
0 0.5 1 2 3 Kilometers

This map was prepared by the CVRD for planning purposes only and is not a legal document. The map is a composite of different data sets and has been prepared from different sources and dates. This map should be used with caution. The CVRD is not responsible for any omissions resulting from any omissions, errors or omissions.

Appendix 3: Open House Flipchart Notes

Other Priority Areas Identified by the Public at the Open Houses

Number	Description
1	Does the One Spot extension include the trail that runs along the river on the old Headquarters Townsite? Passes abandoned concrete building, lots of apple trees.
2	Trail to link to Macaulay Heights Park
3	Connect Miracle Beach Provincial Park to Black Creek Hall
4	Rosewall Creek – trail along creek to waterfall and possible connection to Waterloo Creek
5	Crossing the Tsolum? Connecting One Spot Trail and Tsolum Spirit Park and One Spot Extension North. What type of bridge? Horse friendly?
6	TimberWest land (trail connects through Wildwood Park/Burns Road to Dove Creek, then Firetrail through Leaky's and Macey's woodlots and other trails. Is TimberWest able to participate?
7	Bog on Strathcona Parkway past Anderson Lake chain-up area.
8	Proposed Puntledge Triangle Trail should follow the Browns River to Medicine Bowls and continue down access road to link with Mountain Spirit Nature Park and Coltsfoot Creek Park (13) and back to town along Puntledge Trails/1 st Ave Park and Malcolm Morrissey
9	Comox Lake to Forbidden Plateau. Existing Mountain biking trails as per map at Dodge City Cycles
10	Connect Goose Spit Park to Filberg Park in Comox with walkways
11	Is Browns River Falls included in acquisition # 9? If not, it should be.
12	Morrison Creek Headwaters
11	Stotan Falls and the Browns River Canyon (Canyon Crown land) to confluence with the Puntledge River
14	Regional Park between 1 st Hill and rail road grade. Condensory Bridge and Anderton (swimming, fishing, tubing, parking, access to One Spot and riverway concept).
15	Gas pipeline right of way to Wildwood Forest

Appendix 4: Compilation of Open House Questionnaire Responses

September 15, 16 and 20, 2010 Open House Survey Responses Comox Valley Parks and Greenways Strategic Plan

What area of the regional district do you live in?

Please circle the area you live in.

a) Electoral Area 'A' (Baynes Sound portion)	A Baynes	3
b) Electoral Area 'A' (Denman or Hornby islands)	A Den/Horn	0
c) Electoral Area 'B' (Lazo North)	B	8
d) Electoral Area 'C' (Puntledge-Black Creek)	C	32
e) City of Courtenay	COURTENAY	23
f) Town of Comox	COMOX	8
g) Village of Cumberland	CUMBERLAND	
h) Other:_____	OTHER	
	Total	74

1. VISION FOR COMOX VALLEY PARKS AND GREENWAYS (PANEL 4)

The six components of the proposed vision (presented on open house panel 4) are:

- a. Protect a diverse range of landscapes
- b. Build a network of greenspaces linked by riparian, biodiversity or recreation corridors
- c. Connect parks and communities with multi-use trails
- d. Provide a range of outdoor experiences and offer interpretive information and programs
- e. Be responsive to park users and the public
- f. Obtain secure tenure to ensure protection of parks and greenways into the future.

Do you agree with these six components of the vision? If not, what would you change?

AREA A - BAYNES SOUND

YES NO COMMENTS

3

AREA B – LAZO

YES NO COMMENTS

6

2

Give highest priority to component C "greenways"

Just about everything start with the focus, the premise, the direction, the aim - too narrow, too parochial, too bureaucratic, too expensive

Not every trail needs to be multi-use and connected to a community - may just be wording.

Please do not forget about neighbourhood parks and the recreational aspect of accessible beach walks.

AREA C - PUNTLEDGE-BLACK CREEK

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO COMMENTS</u>
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29	But what provisions will be made to prevent the "public" and "park users" from coming onto private land camping there, etc. The Kettle Valley rail was a disaster at 1st for those who lived there.
----	---

My only concern is with d.) - interpretive info and programs - supply info via maps, internet, etc. but limit programs - cost concerns - would prefer to see the resources kept for acquisition and maintenance.

I would like specifies as to how the public will be involved, not lip service!

Adding something about providing accessible experiences would be appropriate.

a. Protect a diverse range of landscapes – Yes

b. Build a network of greenspaces linked by riparian, biodiversity or recreation corridors Yes. Explore the possibility of using tax incentives as Denman and Hornby Islands have just started to do. You cannot afford to purchase all the lands in the CVRD that are traditionally used for these purposes. You need to create some form of tax incentive so that these valuable spaces can be maintained under private control but are protected. Also you need to request that the provincial government provide 'indemnification' to private property owners for providing the public with access to traditionally used spaces. WE DO NOT HAVE THE MONEY TO PURCHASE ALL OF THE SPACES THAT NEED TO BE 'CONSERVED'. Nonetheless, these special spots need to be conserved and access needs to be maintained in perpetuity. It is time for governments to be thinking outside of the box here. 'Indemnification is not possible' is NOT the answer I am looking for.

c. Connect parks and communities with multi use trails - Yes. signs, doggy poo bag stations, lines down the middle or..... Spend the money on land for a few years to just safeguard and obtain more of these multi use trails and parks.

d. Provide a range of outdoor experiences and offer interpretive information and programs - No

d. If you provide the parks and trails, people will come up with their own outdoor experiences. So for now, don't waste money on interpretative signage or programs, focus most spending on getting the parks and trails. Then if anyone comes forward complaining about a lack of these interpretative programs ask them to help volunteer to do them. You're putting way too much stuff around, I doubt if parks and trail users value it all that much and it becomes a target for vandals. (Garbage cans and out houses are sometimes needed and welcomed however.)

e. Be responsive to park users and the public -We are unsure what you mean by this. I think it is a good component to put in here, to be responsive to park users and the Public but we don't actually think that's what you do, at least for certain you are not doing this at Goose Spit with regards to beach fires. The beach fire restrictions at the Spit are nonsensical. It is understandable to prohibit fires during fire season, but after fire season they should be allowed again, and held over, as it were, to make up for the fire season. Stopping the fires in early September is not fair. September when you have the cool evenings and you would like to sit by a fire. October is also a great time to sit out. Once the threat of fire season is gone and the weather is wetter you could save money by not having a "ranger patrol" there would be a lot less people to be

concerned with and this would give the people who don't enjoy crowds a chance to enjoy their parks too. Closing the park too early in the season or too early at night means you can't go down and sit by a fire and watch the full moon rise. It means you have to limit all your picking and singing round the fire to before "closing time" which is very early. Having restrictions to so few fire rings means you have to go down really early and stake one out. This causes a feeling of competition and inequality amongst park fire ring users separating them into have and have nots. It eliminates the possibility of spontaneously deciding to go to the Spit after a Parks & Greenways Strategic Plan meeting or when out of town friends and relatives drop over a bit later in the day. Sure you can go to the spit but you have to sit out in the cold because other more organized parties have all the few designated spots. There were 18 spots originally. (Well originally there were as many as people wanted, then there were 18 and then only 9 and now only none for the rest of the year.) More people are moving here all the time and so even if we retain 18 it is still a reduction. You already have 'no fires' everywhere except Goose Spit, (and we don't agree with that either!). So if you are going to limit fires to Goose Spit alone don't be so niggling with all the limits and if you are going to limit everything like Mad at Goose Spit regarding fires, let there be fires on other beaches. As one protestor at the Rally so cleverly said "Nobody likes a cold weenie."

e. continued. ... be responsive to Park Users and the Public - If it means spending a lot of money on interpretative programs see our comments for the previous letter, D. Be especially responsive to wildlife and the forest.

f. Obtain secure tenure to ensure protection of parks and greenways into the future. - Yes this is the most important.

MUNICIPALITIES

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
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29	1	There needs to be more emphasis on biodiversity protection than what is expressed in the vision. Parks tend to be "islands" of protection but without connectivity through biodiversity corridors, ecological integrity suffers. We need more protection of ecosystem functioning.
----	---	--

But I would bump c) connecting multi-use trails to the head of the list.

Emphasize conservation which you do.

c) multi-use trails should be non-motorized.

Emphasis on connectivity (cycling routes)

Integration with "Natures without Borders" report.

I agree 100%. My only concern is once land speculators, developers, and realtors get involved everything will change and we will be grateful if we get 10% of the proposed areas protected.

It's not that I don't agree that the 6 components described are important. However, I think the vision should be simplified so that it can be more easily understood. I also think that obtaining secure tenure is the primary thing, which would allow the rest to follow.

2. ADDING 'CONSERVATION AREA' AS A PARK CLASSIFICATION (PANEL 5)

Regional district parks are classified according to their primary use. The 1986 Comox Valley Parks Plan established six categories of parks (defined on open house panel 5): coastal recreation parks, shoreline protection parks, nature parks, community nature parks, beach access parks and greenways.

To allow the regional district to acquire land primarily for the purpose of protecting sensitive ecosystems, rare or endangered species and their habitat, 'conservation area' is proposed as a new additional classification.

Do you agree with adding conservation area as a park classification to provide an increased level of protection for sensitive, rare, or threatened ecosystems?

If not, what are your concerns with adding this classification/type of park?

AREA A - BAYNES SOUND

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
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3

AREA B – LAZO

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
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6	2	This should be being done by the provincial government - we should try to lever their support for doing this locally.
---	---	---

Like many people I do not trust the Regional District to do anything. I want waste and sewer be lone (?) spre..by (?) on greenway.

Support is yes and no. It is important that the public is made aware of the costs in "managing" conservation areas. Typically conservation covenants require monitoring components and enforcement. Perhaps regional district's role should be clearly limited, or defined, to those areas mapped as SEI. Many areas may be marginal in terms of "to protect".

Green spaces are important to protect, even within rural neighbourhoods.

AREA C - PUNTLEDGE-BLACK CREEK

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
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31		We have an awesome array of habitats in the Comox Valley - portions of which have not yet been destroyed. Most of that have survived are fragmented and may soon be lost. It is of upmost importance to do whatever we can to preserve a diversity of habitats.
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Somewhat concerned about cost of acquisition of lands.

Conservation areas will need monitoring - could be a warden system as in ecological reserves.

I'm concerned that maximum budget also be available to be used to secure areas threatened by development. There is a big need to ensure animals and people can get to and through these places without needing to go by car. (and for wildlife and children, without having to go too close to cars.) I would hope there would be no need to ban people from places they already go (or to attract them to places they don't.)

MUNICIPALITIES

<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
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31		Absolutely! Where are the ecological reserves in the Comox Valley - areas dedicated to protection of biodiversity over human use.
----	--	---

Maintain a mix of access for all users. E.g. walkers, dog owners, cyclists, etc.

In support, but with that said, I might be concerned that some farm areas should be exempt for being forced into 'giving' up acreage against their will.

But not to the exclusion of pedestrian/cycling public.

Excellent idea.

Yes, absolutely, sensitive ecosystems must be protected! They must be protected by law. No trading, no money in lieu. No money in exchange.

I think it is essential!

Concerns would include balancing where funding is allocated to ensure balance between protected land and accessible parks.

I do agree that conservation and protection of sensitive ecosystems is very important, however, I think that some access for the purpose of education and bringing visibility to the environmental issues facing our landscapes is important; so where conservation areas exist I believe some limited access and interpretation should be made available. Otherwise the public simply doesn't understand the importance of funding conservation areas.

3. PRIORITY AREAS FOR NEW PARKS AND GREENWAYS (PANELS 7 AND 8)

- a) Depending on funding, the regional district may be able to acquire anywhere from a handful to a dozen new parks and greenways in the next ten years. Please rank your ten most important areas to protect in order of importance with '1' being the most important. If you think important areas were missed, please add them to the list and then rank your top ten areas. (Note those areas ranked '1' got a score of 10 points, those ranked '2' got a score of 9 points, those ranked '3' got a score of 8 points down to those ranked '10' scoring 1 point. Total points for each area are shown below).

	AREA A BAYNES SOUND Score	AREA B – LAZO Score	AREA C - PUNTLE DGE- BLACK CREEK	MUNICIP ALITIES Score	RANK	TOTAL SCORE incl. munic.	RANK Incl. munic.	TOTAL SCORE w/o munic.	RANK w/o munic.
Western Toad Conservation Area (to protect Western Toad breeding and/or migration areas)		4	141	100	7	245	5	145	5
One Spot Trail Extension North and South and opportunities for connecting loops	6	46	172	122	6	346	3	224	2
Partnership with future First Nation owners to maintain Williams Beach Forest Trails	2	19	147	63	14	231	7	168	4
Wolf Lake (camping and recreation area)		10	78	47	15	135	15	88	10
Strathcona Parkway Marsh and Ponds Conservation Area		8	76	82	12	166	12	84	12
Seal Bay Forest (seek more secure tenure from Province – currently CVRD holds a ten year licence that can be cancelled on short notice)	9	56	186	188	2	439	1	251	1

	AREA A BAYNES SOUND Score	AREA B - LAZO Score	AREA C - PUNTLE DGE- BLACK CREEK	MUNICIP ALITIES Score	RANK	TOTAL SCORE incl. munic.	RANK Incl. munic.	TOTAL SCORE w/o munic.	RANK w/o munic.
Sand Dune Ecosystem Conservation Area	3	12	83	84	13	182	10	98	9
Garry Oak Ecosystem Conservation Area	16	9	86	96	8	207	8	111	8
Puntledge Triangle Trail Corridor	8	40	64	135	4	247	6	112	7
Stotan Falls		21	60	126	5	207	9	81	13
Courtenay River Estuary Wildlife Management Area (partner with the Province, First Nations and the Nature Trust to protect the estuary)	16	36	159	210	1	421	2	211	3
Royston Waterfront Trail	12	31	41	95	9	179	11	84	11
Royston to Cumberland Trail	11	12	42	87	11	152	14	65	15
Trent River Corridor	7	16	57	85	10	165	13	80	14
E&N Rail with Trail Corridor	1	15	99	148	3	263	4	115	6
Coal Hills Waterfront Trail and Hart Creek		4	18	42	16	64	16	22	16

OTHER AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE PUBLIC AT THE OPEN HOUSES

Morrison Creek Headwaters
East Courtenay to Courtenay Trail
Trail through proposed Raven Dvlpmnt to Seal Bay
Walkway along Dyke to Comox
Cumberland Mountain biking trails
Forbidden Plateau Trails
connect Goose Spit to Filberg Park
coastal recreational greenway - all along coast from the boundary of the SRD to the boundary with RDN
signature farm "demonstration farm - animals/gardens
signature "marine park" area to reflect/balance CVRD and island setting.
TimberWest Burns to Dove Creek Trail
Tsolum River crossing
One Spot R/N at Tsolum River (Webb's old property)

OTHER AREAS IDENTIFIED BY THE PUBLIC AT THE OPEN HOUSES
Vancouver Island Spine corridor
Marine Park on Clarkson Drive
Public park day use area at Saratoga Beach
Harvard Road Beach Access Trail
Cumberland to Forbidden Plateau corridor
Little River Marsh - plants birds
Pond on Clarkson Road
Lands - any between Driftwood Estates and Black Creek
Millard Creek Greenway and Trail
Green area at the confluence of Sandpiper Drive and Millard Road in south Courtenay
Millard/Sandpiper Park
walking, cycling trail across from Dyke Road to Back Road with wildlife viewing platforms
Walking, cycling, horse riding trail along Lazo and Knight Road
All beach access areas must be protected from encroachment.
walking, cycling trail from old sawmill site all the way to Goose Spit
Seal Bay continuation - more for bicycles
Courtenay to Cumberland trail
Partnership with future First Nation owners to maintain Wildwood and Browns Forest Trails and Pipeline Right of Way.
Stotan Falls & Browns River Falls Canyon lands
Wildwood Forest and Pipeline Right of Way that connects to it. Why did you leave them off this list?
The Boy Scout Camp as part of the Puntledge Triangle, it could use some protection. Here would be the place for interpretative programs perhaps?
Beach Access Points maintained - some clearing and signage periodically required
Other: Access points to River Spots historically used by the Public.
Tuber's Trail' and the trails along the Hydro lands at the end of Powerhouse Road and access through the Taylor's Farm access road on the other side of the Puntledge River to the fishing trails along that side opposite the fish hatchery low head dam.

AREA A - BAYNES SOUND

COMMENTS -none

AREA B – LAZO

COMMENTS

Support and encourage City of Courtenay to acquire right-of-way and build trail from East Courtenay to connect with River walkway, then connecting to One Spot Trail and Royston Trail. Get people out of their cars. Walkway along the Dyke to Comox needed as well.

Courtenay estuary is the heart and soul of everything in the CV. Focus on estuary and First Nation partnership.

Signature farm idea "demonstration farm - animals/gardens - this farm could be obtained/developed as part of the One Spot Trail or add onto fairgrounds property to add farm/garden base. Re Ministry of Transportation should become more of an "active" partner in maintaining public access along dedicated r-o-w's. Monitor trespass issues, sign for public knowledge, participate in key regional district initiatives over and above their current role in offering tenures.

Harvard Road is a nicely treed access to a good walking beach that connects several kilometers of fine beach walks. It is important that this be designated parkland so that the trails can be maintained, as the MOT discourages any public improvements and use.

Harvard Road beach access is located off Debby Road in the Little River area. It is an excellent treed public beach access which ought to be designated as a public beach access park.

AREA C - PUNTLEDGE-BLACK CREEK

COMMENTS

Obtain lease for the whole of One Spot Trail access over river to connect to Tsolum Spirit Park.

No bridge over the Tsolum.

I want to be sure that the Browns River Falls are included in the Puntledge Triangle Park

TimberWest wants to develop Wolf Lake.

TimberWest land between Burns and Dove Creek Road. Would TW be willing to donate this trail? One Spot trail crossing at Tsolum Spirit Park. Finalize details of right-of-way at One Spot and Tsolum River crossing with property owners.

Saratoga Beach is becoming busier each year. Preservation of an area will ensure that the public will have continued access and the resorts will not sell out to private land owners when or if the sewers become available.

I am very interested in the greenway from Hamm Road to the Oyster River being secured.

Little River marsh - plants, birds; Pond on Clarkson Road - plants, nesting ducks, frogs, shotedg in walter ; please phone for location 250-337-8180

Wildwood Forest trails includes the Terasen Pipeline Right of Way. The Pipeline runs parallel to Piercy Rd. For 1.5 km up to where it connects to the Wildwood Forest trails. (On the other side of Piercy Road, the pipeline runs along the front of the properties to the corner of Condensory and Piercy Roads where they intersect with the One Spot Trail.) Wildwood Forest trails run through our crown land all the way to Dove Creek neighbourhood where they connect with Burns Rd., Forest Hill Rd., Wildwood Rd. and Stapley Rds. respectively. These trails are therefore close to the One Spot trail on both ends. Wildwood trails run close to the BC Hydro Line and so links up a huge area for wildlife movement that is also links the 4 rivers, the Puntledge, the Browns, the Tsolum and Dove Creek. Wildwood trails were built by FRBC forestry projects, the horse club has recently done a lot of work on the Pipeline Right of Way, (though they did a bit of "improvements" that did not take into account the natural wetlands and the usual flow of water from these areas, due to lack of piping under the new gravel work on the trail) but their project nevertheless is a good one and represents 'considerable time and expense to raise the trail above seasonal flooding. The Regional District Parks people worked on these trails, I'm surprised they were not included on your list. Local neighbours also have worked a lot on some features for BMX bikes over the years. This network of trails is used by walkers, walkers with dogs, trail runners, horse riders, Mt bikers, ATV's, dirtbikes, BMXers. Bear, deer, cougars, Pileated Woodpeckers, Flickers, hawks, owls, humming birds, squirrels, tree creepers, songbirds, grouse, eagles, ravens, frogs, salamanders, newts, ducks, raccoons , snakes etc. also use these trails, There is an astoundingly beautiful large second growth forest, all under grown with salal (pickers harvest here). At the Dove Creek end there are oodles of sword ferns under the well spaced forest, there is a lot of really tall wild honeysuckle that climbs the trees along the trail. There are a few wetlands with giant "Bog Lilies (a new sanitized name for Skunk cabbage.) For Bikers the trails

here are easy and a good place to take children, oldsters and occasional or other new riders. There is a nice length Loop relatively flat but offers a wild feel that can't be found at the airport, etc.

The people and animals who live along Piercy Rd. live on a seriously high speed feeder road connected to the Inland Island Highway. These trails afford a safe byway away from the danger and noise of traffic and provide a way that helps link the trails at Browns River and Nymph Falls (and the delightful and safer back route of the Logging Road) to the One Spot Trail. This trail complex also is adjacent to the quieter Forbidden Plateau Rd area which you can hike or ride up to Woods Mountain and the Forbidden Plateau which links through these trails the front country with the back country. The Piercy Rd. trail complex also links up with the Cumberland and Dove Creek trail complexes.

MUNICIPALITIES

COMMENTS

3. Important headwaters to Morrison Creek, in conjunction with Cumberland and Courtenay

13. Should link "Triangle" trails back into Malcom Morrisey and Puntledge Park, then along old rail track.

"Other": make plans for a trail through proposed Raven Development between Veterans Memorial Parkway to Seal Bay.

Connect Goose Spit to Filberg Park with walkways. Then continue to the Marina Park. Much of the area is available now with minimum work and cost. Great return to increase safe access to these parks (x2)

Connectivity. Conservation does not have to be the prime focus of a 'parks and greenways' plan. There are a number of other organizations whose prime focus is conservation (i.e. land trusts, conservancies, etc.)

I am new to the area, so am not best to comment. I do, however, value ecosystem conservation and connectivity.

The opportunity exists to "horse-trade" with the private timber companies to preserve the alpine of the island. Allowing some development in exchange for 'alpine rec areas' to help establish the Spine Trail would create incredible opportunities.

I have chosen 10, but can't begin to rank them.

Multi-use trail (green corridor) connecting Cumberland with (cycle) trails around river, lake and Forbidden Plateau hillside that are already in place.

The values of the regions for the following suggestions would be part conservation, part tourism and part improving quality of life for those who live here. We know some special vistas in our valley, where tourists and residents alike could spend refreshing and peaceful times. These are: 1. A walkway along the estuary to enjoy one of the world's most beautiful views. 2. a walkway or path with viewpoint for relaxing along Back Road, overlooking the valley. Visitors have often told us they are so disappointed that they drive past the breathtaking views and can't even stop to enjoy it. 3. A cliff walk and viewpoint is often a favourite attraction of coastal communities. 4. We really need to have more beach treks. Many visitors and travelers love to hike such trails, but go elsewhere to find them.

Millard Creek Greenway and Trail - an East West Trail connecting the waterfront to Happy Valley and eventually Cumberland following and protecting much of Millard Creek.

There is a small green area at the foot of Millard Road overlooking the estuary that would make a great little park for many to enjoy, especially those who walk the Courtenay riverway trail. It has sadly suffered severe erosion during the last few years due to weather and lack of stabilization. The existing green area needs to be preserved from vehicles parking on top of it, erosion control measures need to be taken, and thoughts about what would be pleasing to the eye need to be

considered. The estuary has such ecological and historical importance - an interpretive sign would be a welcome addition to help educate the frequent visitors that stop for the restful view.

Millard/Sandpiper Park: Propose a small park at the end of existing "heritage trail" / river walk at Millard and Sandpiper roads. Currently an undeveloped area overlooking the estuary. Many people visit the area daily walking, cycling, etc. and there is no seating, beach access or interpretive information. Beach erosion is a problem due to in part car parking too close to bank. This is a sad end to a beautiful walk, and would be a natural transition to the continuation of the Royston Waterfront Trail. Info on the First Nations fish traps and estuary biodiversity would be important.

Walking and cycling trails are important to allow us safe travel. We keep our vehicles off the road only if we feel safe when walking or cycling. - Beach access is important for those of us who do not live on waterfront which is the majority of taxpayers. - Personally, I feel all the above mentioned on panel 7 and 8 are important as no. 1 or 2 and should all be implemented maybe in stages. It is important that these areas be specified as no development areas and it must be made absolutely clear to developers that no, absolutely no changes will be tolerated. It is also very important that the Regional District demand cooperation from Courtenay, Comox, and Cumberland in the implementation of the Rural Comox Valley Parks and Greenways Strategic Plan. - Finally: adequate walking-cycling lanes must be created and maintained along rural roads. There are shoulders not fit to walk on, never mind cycling. That is unacceptable. Anderton, Lazo, Knight Road, etc, take a look!!!

Seal Bay - continuation for bicycles. We love the bike trails but would like to see more access to trails for bikes.

We started cycling on a new paved trail by a new neighbourhood by the parkway from the E&N tracks (we have tried to cycle beside them - it's too rough) and we were so disappointed that this lovely wide, winding trail just stopped. It should go through the woods all the way to Cumberland before it's too late (all developed/private/no trees).

4. FUNDING THE PARKS AND GREENWAYS STRATEGIC PLAN (PANEL 9)

What mechanism(s) do you support to fund acquisition of new parks and greenways in the electoral areas of the Comox Valley? Please circle the one which best reflects your position.

	AREA A - BAYNES SOUND	AREA B - LAZO	AREA C - PUNTLEDGE- BLACK CREEK	MUNICI- PALITIES,	Total	Total Without Municipalities
a) a parkland acquisition fund with contributions from a special tax levy for the next ten years,		1	5	4	10	6 (15%)
b) development cost charges paid by developers,		1		2	3	1 (3%)
c) a combination of the above,	3	5	22	19	49	30 (77%)
d) other mechanism(s),		1	1		2	2 (5%)
e) none of the above. I do not wish to see an increase in parks and						

	AREA A - BAYNES SOUND	AREA B - LAZO	AREA C - PUNTLEDGE- BLACK CREEK	MUNICI- PALITIES,	Total	Total Without Municipalities
greenways in the Comox Valley.						
					64	39

4.1 IF YOU ANSWERED “A PARKLAND ACQUISITION FUND”, WHAT LEVEL OF ANNUAL TAX WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND?

	AREA A - BAYNES SOUND	AREA B - LAZO	AREA C - PUNTLEDGE- BLACK CREEK	MUNICI- PALITIES	TOTAL	TOTAL WITHOUT MUNICIPALITIES
a. \$10 per year for the average household,		3	2	1	6	5 (13%)
b. \$20 per year for the average household,	1	1	6	4	18	8 (21%)
c. \$35 per year for the average household,		2	9	6	17	11 (28%)
d. \$50 per year for the average household	2	1	12	12	27	15 (38%)
e. Other (specify amount):			1 (\$100)	1 (\$200)		
					112	89

4.2 IF YOU ANSWERED “OTHER MECHANISM(S)” TO QUESTION 4, PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILS:

AREA A - BAYNES SOUND
COMMENTS - None

AREA B – LAZO
COMMENTS

No tax increase on property! Create a circle of friends of parks to stimulate new ideas for funding, operation and management. I.e. industry, school district, FN, military, BC Hydro, etc.

Increased use of volunteers for maintaining existing trails, etc., to enable capital use for acquiring new parkland/trails.

AREA C - PUNTLEDGE-BLACK CREEK
COMMENTS

\$ 50 total.

Transfer of development rights, purchase of development rights.

At least \$50.

The provincial government should, based on population/size of regional districts, provide a per capita \$ amount specifically for park acquisition. This could come from all the extra \$ saved due to the HST!!!

How about RD sponsored fund raising efforts i.e. lecture

series, outdoor film nights, photo contests, art shows, interpretive walks, races... to help raise money and awareness for our Park / green way acquisition project.

_: Provide Tax incentives for Land Alienation for Wetland Protection.

-: Provide Tax Incentives to Private owners where linking trails run through their lands or if their land is of high ecological value. (As per Denman and Hornby Islands). If necessary build fences and encourage native plant screening for privacy. Also Tax incentives or other incentives (helping to fund irrigation or ? Gold stars? for farmers to preserve sensitive lands and corridors on the ALR land (a specific sort of Private land with specific situations. _ : Start Regional Park Planning w/ Municipalities (Cross Border Parks & Greenways Planning) – Condensory Bridge Park.

MUNICIPALITIES

COMMENTS

All communities (including municipalities) must be included (in funding parks and trails).

Actually, since I don't own property in the valley, I probably shouldn't answer that question.

I think it's worth it. I even support municipal residents paying a tax, as long as the money is well spent.

I would like to see a formal interpretive program.

Partner with CV Land Trust and CCCFS.

Announcing or publicizing a trust fund to accept donations of land or monies to purchase parks.

We prefer development charges, no exceptions, no leniencies, every development pay up front. It has been just too easy for developers to weasel out of at least reduce these charges for whatever reason.

There should be a discount for seniors of \$35, \$50 for all others.

Reduce senior's contribution - \$50 for other households.

\$20 low end. It should be based on the value of your property, the way taxes are.

Or it could be an ongoing tax levy rather than just for 10 years. I believe that Courtenay, Comox, Cumberland and the CVRD should plan and fund parks as a regional. Or at least parks acquisition should be done at the regional level (as has been done in Nanaimo). It doesn't make sense to have it all broken up - people use parks all over the place (and care about them, and are willing to fight for them). I also think it is important to let people know their recreation areas could be shut down by the landowners if they are not purchased and made into parks. The threat of losing access to these areas would be a strong motivator to get people to commit and fund parks.

5. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE TO TELL US ABOUT PARKS AND GREENWAYS IN THE COMOX VALLEY?

AREA A - BAYNES SOUND

COMMENTS

I would like to see appropriate speed zones and/or calming or speed bumps at the Royston Greenway Park on Marine Drive.

All parks should have speed zones of 30 km/hr

AREA B – LAZO

COMMENTS

Thanks for your thought and plans - lobby governments, prov. and fed. for more \$

Extending the One Spot Trail to Northy Lake is more important than bridging the Tsolum at Tsolum Spirit Park at this time.

Much more discussion and brainstorming is needed. No more RD bureaucracy - you are out of control now!! Need to involve FN in "every" discussion and planning. Keep greenways natural for animals and some people. 100% opposed to this empire building plan.

On the Regional Growth Strategy Development Plan Map, the area of Seal Bay Park between the roads a water front is not designated as parkland. It is zoned as Rural Settlement Area and conflicts totally with these maps, or any other, understanding I have ever had.

I am much more aware of the many parks now in existence. I need to get out and experience them! I would like to volunteer for park maintenance in my neighbourhood.

As many as possible of the trails and corridors should be completely multi-use in design. All non-motorized recreational pursuits, including horseback riding, should be included.

Volunteers would be willing to participate in local park and beach access maintenance. Minimal organization would be required. What do you mean by "King Coho Greenway"? Is this the present public beach access?

AREA C - PUNTLEDGE-BLACK CREEK

COMMENTS

Why are property owners along the One Spot allowed to drive people off the right-of-way?

Thank you very much for planning ahead for this. The organization of this particular open house is excellent.

I hope and trust that this plan will be followed during the next ten years.

Do not look at parks as inviolate. There are ways to be self-supporting and preserve recreation, i.e. timber harvesting. Gasp!!

Please maintain a 'multi-user' i.e. hiking, bicycling and horseback riding for use in the trail extensions.

It would be nice to see an interactive map of parks and greenways on the district website.

Important to ensure core ecosystem protection areas are linked through wildlife corridors

I would like to see initiatives to work with private owners who allow public access to their lands. We need to find ways to support this generosity (e.g. tax incentives) and solutions to problems (e.g. liability) that arise for those owners.

Fight the gas'n go on Dyke Road.

Overall, I appreciate the idea/plan. Hoping to find a solution that works for us with respect to Tsolum Crossing. Great presentation.

We love the parks and feel future expansion is a great idea.

Would appreciate more sensitivity by the CVRD with regards to neighbouring land owners when considering greenway trails.

The One Spot Trail is great. I am concerned that most access is by vehicle or treacherous bike ride up Headquarters Road to the Tsolum Spirit access point. Can recreational corridor and/or bike trail and/or horse/hiking trail be added in this area? Very well done process and presentation of info.

I hope this process doesn't go on forever; I would like to see the One Spot Trail project accomplished in a timely fashion! My special interest is acquiring rights to the trail from Oyster River to Endall Road and thus, a wonderful trail all the way to Courtenay.

This is to me the most important issue in the growth plan. Without our parks and natural environment, we are just another parking lot!

Do you have any info or consideration for accessible parks and trails. With an aging population, wheel chair users and strollers, etc. - it is essential to consider this for some of the parks (not all).

Should be horse-friendly when possible. Parking areas need to be incorporated, i.e. One Spot

Please stop allowing developers to "buy" changes to existing community plans by them offering bribes in the form of token greenspaces!!

Could you republish your old brochure (type) on all the RD parks in the Comox Valley?

'-: The Valley was logged by railway and the railway grades run all through it. These grades are well compacted, well made, well drained, straight, flattish corridors. For the most part trees don't readily grow on the railway grades because of the compaction. These should be left there ever they are still existing and be made where possible to link up. If this alone were possible, it would ensure the linking network we require for people and animals. It would be good land to put in our trail network because they would be much less expensive to maintain as a lot of work was done by the Railway Grade Makers and 50 years worth of logging trains rolling on them. These grades already link the valley except where they have been lost due to previously poorly planned subdivision. If only their preservation had been a DCC requirement back then many suburban dwellers in this valley would not want or need to put their bikes on their cars and drive to recreate somewhere else but instead could get on the trails right from their homes. This is a situation 'that could be made better for all the new subdivisions that everyone is so insistent we put absolutely everywhere in this valley. Consider protecting these logging grades rather than postage stamp sized 'parks'. Wild life could make better use of them as well.

'-: Try to lease the entire One Spot Trail, (all of it.)

MUNICIPALITIES

COMMENTS

The Courtenay River "canal", including the slough, is perhaps the most underappreciated recreation area in this valley. I strongly recommend steps to protect this gem, the riparian areas, to clean up the old Tsolum channel.

Join the four jurisdictions into one planning group for linkage and development of parks and greenways

I enjoy biking through the RD parks in the area and I am always pleased to find them so clean and well cared for. I also am in favour of more interconnections between parks by bike paths or multi-use greenways.

The key is trail links between park nodes. All trails should cross municipal borders.

1. Linkage = has value so that a person hiking, riding horseback, cycling, etc. can have a variety of avenues for short, med. And long trips without dead ends.
2. Multi-purpose = always to include horseback riders.
3. Once green space is gone, it is gone 'paved paradise'
4. Some areas for ATV motor cross not to omitted but considered if ATV drivers consider trail footing and other users.
5. Horse trailer parking.

Would like to see more emphasis on recreational greenways/trails/community paths/linear parks. We need to meet the needs of an aging population, most of whom want to remain active; particularly.

The parks and greenways in the Comox Valley make this a desirable and healthy area to live in. They also draw visitors to the area and are beneficial to the economy. Protecting and increasing these areas can only contribute to the overall environmental integrity of the valley - which also contributes to social and economic wellness. More parks and more greenways and better protection!

They are a major reason that people like to live in the area. The trails or corridors are our new "hedgerows" of biodiversity. They can be for recreation but also for commuters who want to walk and cycle, both for daily chores and to access the parks. Thus these trails should be extensions of the walking and cycling routes in Courtenay, Comox and Cumberland.

I am very concerned about the definition of "greenways". I assumed it to mean a network of trails, paths, corridors, largely separate from the road system, to connect parks and communities. The greenway map of Comox and surrounding RD indicates that every major road leading to the water is a greenway, even if you have to walk on the road itself, often narrow and busy. We surely need to have an overall definition of "greenways" for the whole valley. I understand that some "greenways" which are mostly trails, have need of a few "greenway street links", but whole stretches of roads cannot be called "greenways", otherwise the term is meaningless.

Great start - let's get on with it.

Interpretive boards are so important on these trails to educate the people about history, culture, nature and protection.

We love Lazo Marsh, Goose Spit, Point Holmes and all the beaches in between. We love Seal Bay Park, Sandpiper Park is a special place but please keep Frisbee warriors and other sports out of this ecologically sensitive area. - We are also concerned about the farm along Knight Road and hope that the farm will never be developed. There is a definite trend to bring houses and build houses along Knight Road bordering the farm. Where is it going to stop? There are more and more houses being set up along Dyke Road! we need a waling, cycling trail there, not houses. If it's true that ocean levels rise these houses will be in the water 20 years from now and who will pay for the damage, the taxpayers of course!

I am really happy this is happening and feel it is an essential component of the development of the area both for 'livability' and encouraging healthy lifestyles and protecting ecosystems and habitat for flora and fauna. I appreciate having the opportunity to give my ideas and feedback.

I have really appreciated the maintenance you have done on the One Spot Trail as well as in the Wildwood trail system. I enjoy those areas immensely as a hiker and a horseback rider. A sincere THANK YOU!

I especially like the idea of connecting parks and communities with multi-use trails. There should be a variety of levels for mountain bike trail use - more easy trails for beginners and those with limitations. Speed limits should be reduced on roads by parking, crossings and entrances-exists of parks and greenways. This is a problem at Seal Bay and probably other areas. Reduce speed limit near all parks and recreation areas.

Bike racks. Bike to Goose Spit safely. Connecting trails for bikes to be able to bike town safely.

I use trails for horseback riding and hope to continue in the future. I hope to see more trails and improvements made so everyone has access to trails. I would like to see multi-use trails.

That's why we moved here! Comments - I am a horseback rider as well as a walker/biker. I have ridden horses for 20 years and moved to the Comox Valley to continue this. Horse riders are losing many local areas to ride with development roads are busier, trails harder to find. The expansion plans of the One Spot are extremely exiting - and including horse access with multi-use trails is so important for us!

They definitely need to be connected. We have beautiful Lewis Park then it just ends and students from Vanier/youth to Linc have to walk on the highway or Headquarters (there is a bad section that needs to be fixed - floods with water on the road- students must get soaked by passing traffic). There should be designated walking/cycling paths like at the airpark ALL OVER THE CITY, ALL CONNECTED. The E&N is a great place to start - all the way to the park south of Walmart. That should connect all the way to Royston, that all the way to Buckley Bay... I think of Saskatoon's amazing river park that is used by all, every season. It is a social event. Yet you can come across all kinds of wildlife.

I believe that parks, recreation facilities, conservation areas, and alternative transportation infrastructures such as greenways should be planned for and funded at a regional level, as people from Comox mountain bike in Cumberland, and I live in Courtenay but swim at Stotan Falls and run on the trails all over the Regional District. the discussion of priorities should be heard and commented on by all Comox Valley residents. Also, as we work toward a more compact and sustainable settlement pattern, I believe parks and greenways and alternative street design all have a major part to play in creating viable and attractive alternatives to our current car dependence. As our cities get denser, greenways incorporating pedestrian and cycling paths, public gardens and urban gathering spaces, tied into larger trail systems that lead out to the countryside, would enhance the pleasure and convenience of town living - making it more appealing than the unsustainable suburban settlement patterns which are currently the norm.

Appendix 5: Telephone Survey Responses

Comox Valley Regional District

2010 Parkland Survey

Summary of Results

Presented On: November 4, 2010
Contact Person: Mary Bacica
Job Number: 10-0149

Methodology

- For this study, a telephone survey was conducted with 312 CVRD residents living in Area A (excluding Hornby and Denman Islands), Area B and Area C between September 7th to 13th, 2010 from Synovate's fully supervised telephone interviewing facility in Vancouver.
- The sample was stratified to ensure a minimum number of residents were surveyed from each of the three areas within the CVRD. Unweighted sample sizes in each area are: Area A=100, Area B=102, Area C=110. Residents were asked to confirm their community/neighbourhood to ensure their responses were classified to the correct region.
- At the data processing stage, results were weighted by age within gender (based on residents aged 35+ in Areas A, B and C as a proxy for decision makers) and by region to match actual population in these areas.
- Margins of error on the total sample size of 312 residents are +/-5.5% at the 95% level of confidence (19 times out of 20). When analyzing subgroups, the margins of error are wider.
- When comparing results between Areas A, B and C, a shift of 14 percentage points is generally required to be considered statistically significant.

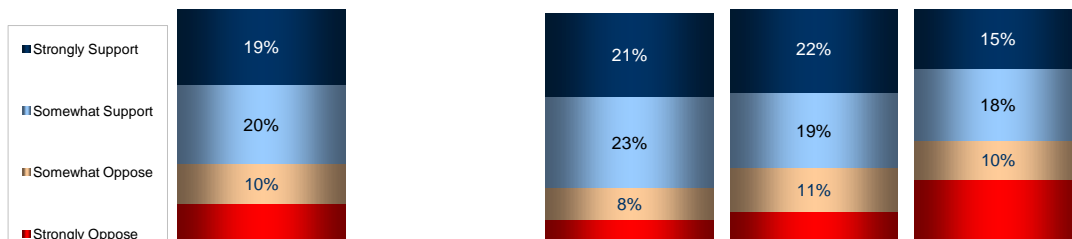
Highlights

- ***The first question residents were asked was whether they would support a new property tax to help buy parkland in the Comox Valley. Reactions are divided.*** Specifically, 39% say they support the idea, 42% say they are opposed, while 16% say it depends on the tax amount and 3% are undecided. Opposition tends to be more strongly held than support, with 32% “strongly opposing” the new tax versus 19% who “strongly support” it.
- ***This strong initial opposition is most prominent among residents who are infrequent/non-users of the existing parks and trails in the CVRD*** (i.e. 47% of those who use the parks/trails less frequently than once or twice a month are strongly opposed versus 32% in total).
- ***Regardless of their initial support for or opposition to the new property tax in response to the first question,*** if the proposal to buy parkland proceeds, the majority of residents (76%) say they would be willing to pay \$10 per year in additional taxes for this purpose. At a yearly increase in taxes of \$20, 67% of residents are on board, but at an additional \$35 per year in taxes willingness to pay is 39%. One-quarter of residents are not willing to pay any increase in taxes to allow the District to buy parkland.
- ***Current park/trail usage is highly correlated with the willingness to pay additional taxes to allow the District to buy parkland.*** Not surprisingly, the more frequently residents use the parks and trails the greater their willingness to pay additional taxes to fund the purchase of more parkland.
- ***From a list of six types of parkland, residents put top priority on the protection of rare ecosystems (such as Garry Oak meadows, sand dunes, wetlands, mature forests or wildlife corridors).*** Specifically, 30% of residents say protecting rare ecosystems is the most important priority and 54% in total think it is at least of some importance.
- The next most important priority for residents is new trail corridors (like a trail from Royston to Cumberland), with 18% prioritizing this over other types of parkland and 46% giving it at least some level of importance.
- Of the least importance to residents are special recreation features (like the climbing area at Comox Lake or the swimming area at Stotan Falls).
- ***While there is no clear consensus on the issue, residents tend to lean towards a park acquisition approach that ensures that the majority the parkland purchased by the District has trails and is open and accessible to the public.*** Currently, 45% want the majority of parkland acquired to have trails and be open to the public, while 26% think that the majority of parkland acquired should have limited recreation opportunities and no or few trails to protect sensitive ecosystems. Another 16% want all parkland acquired to have trails and be fully accessible to the public. Residents who initially opposed the acquisition of parkland by the District are more apt to want all parkland purchased to be fully accessible to the public (28% versus 6% who initially supported the proposal).

- A LARGE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS USE PARKS AND TRAILS IN THE COMOX VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT ON A REGULAR BASIS**— 74% use parks and trails once or twice a month or more often. Specifically, 20% use a park or trail almost daily, 35% once or twice a week, and 19% once or twice a month. 9% only use parks and trails twice every six months, 4% once a year or less, and 13% rarely or never.

Position On CVRD Collecting New Property Tax To Buy Parkland

Q1. In general, do you support or oppose the Regional District collecting a new property tax to help buy parkland?
Would you say you are strongly or somewhat in support/opposed?

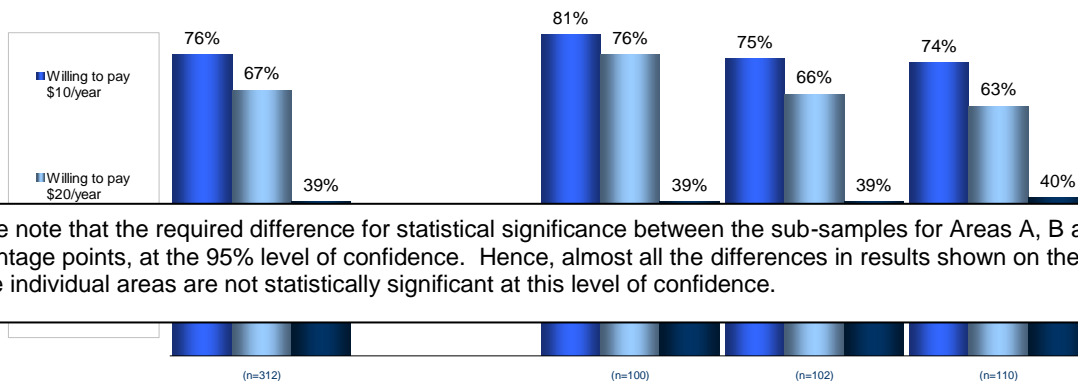


Amount Willing To Pay To Allow CVRD To Buy Parkland

Q2. The amount of the new property tax would impact the type and amount of land the Regional District could buy and also impact the time it would take before the District could acquire a particular parcel of land. If this proposed idea proceeds, would you be willing to pay \$20/year in additional taxes to allow the Regional District to buy parkland?

Q2a. IF YES TO \$20: Would you be willing to pay \$35/year?

Q2b. IF NO TO \$20: Would you be willing to pay \$10/year?



Please note that the required difference for statistical significance between the sub-samples for Areas A, B and C is +/-14 percentage points, at the 95% level of confidence. Hence, almost all the differences in results shown on the bar graphs for the individual areas are not statistically significant at this level of confidence.

Please note that percentages are cumulative and will not add to 100%. e.g. Someone who is willing to pay \$20/year would also be willing to pay \$10/year and someone who is willing to pay \$35/year would also be willing to pay the lesser amounts of \$20 or \$10.

Results In Questionnaire Format

CVRD PARKS ACQUISITION SURVEY

Results

The Comox Valley Regional District is developing a 10 year plan to expand its system of parks and trails, which includes both protecting a diverse range of landscapes and providing parks and trails for recreation. To achieve this vision, the Regional District is considering a new property tax to help buy parkland. All monies raised by this tax would go directly toward funding the purchase of new parkland in the Comox Valley.

- 1. IN GENERAL, DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE REGIONAL DISTRICT COLLECTING A NEW PROPERTY TAX TO HELP BUY PARKLAND? PROBE WITH: WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT IN SUPPORT/OPPOSED?**

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AREA A</u>	<u>AREA B</u>	<u>AREA C</u>
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE	312	100	102	110
	%	%	%	%
STRONGLY SUPPORT	19	21	22	15
SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	20	23	19	18
SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	10	8	11	10
STRONGLY OPPOSE	32	26	33	34
DON'T KNOW	3	3	3	4
DEPENDS ON THE TAX AMOUNT	16	18	13	19
% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT IN SUPPORT	39	44	41	33

- 2. THE AMOUNT OF THE NEW PROPERTY TAX WOULD IMPACT THE TYPE AND THE AMOUNT OF LAND THE REGIONAL DISTRICT COULD BUY AND ALSO IMPACT THE TIME IT WOULD TAKE BEFORE THE DISTRICT COULD ACQUIRE A PARTICULAR PARCEL OF LAND.**

IF THIS PROPOSED IDEA PROCEEDS, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PAY \$20 PER YEAR IN ADDITIONAL TAXES TO ALLOW THE REGIONAL DISTRICT TO BUY PARKLAND

- 2A. IF WILLING TO PAY \$20/YR ASK: WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PAY \$35 PER YEAR IN ADDITIONAL TAXES?**

- 2B. IF NOT WILLING TO PAY \$20/YR ASK: WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PAY \$10 PER YEAR IN ADDITIONAL TAXES?**

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AREA A</u>	<u>AREA B</u>	<u>AREA C</u>
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE	312	100	102	110
	%	%	%	%
NOT WILLING TO PAY EVEN \$10	24	18	25	26
Willing to pay \$10/yr (Total)	76	81	75	74
Willing to pay \$20/yr (Total)	67	76	66	63
Willing to Pay \$35/yr (Total)	39	39	39	40

(Please note that percentages in questions 2, 2a, 2b are cumulative and will not add to 100%. E.g. Someone who is willing to pay \$20/year and would also be willing to pay

\$10/year and someone who is willing to pay \$35/year would also be willing to pay the lesser amounts of \$20 or \$10.)

NOW I'D LIKE YOU TO THINK JUST ABOUT THE TYPES OF PARKLAND THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SHOULD CONSIDER BUYING.

3. I'd like you to think about your top three preferences if the Regional District could buy parkland right now. First, which would be the most important type of parkland for the District to buy? Would it be...

3a. And which would be the next most important type of parkland for the Regional District to buy?

3b. And which would be the third most important type of parkland for the Regional District to buy?

Unweighted sample size=312 (Total)

Unweighted sample size=100 (Area A)

Unweighted sample size=102 (Area B)

Unweighted sample size=110 (Area C)

Most Important (Q3)	Total Importance (Q3, 3a, 3b)
---------------------------	-------------------------------------

PROTECTION OF RARE ECOSYSTEMS SUCH AS GARRY OAK MEADOWS, SAND DUNES, WETLANDS, MATURE FORESTS OR WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.

Total	30%	54%
Area A	25%	54%
Area B	28%	59%
Area C	36%	49%

New trail corridors like a trail from Royston to Cumberland, a trail from the Courtenay riverway to Royston, etc...

Total	18%	46%
Area A	30%	58%
Area B	16%	43%
Area C	12%	41%

NEW LARGE PARKS WITH TRAIL SYSTEMS SIMILAR TO SEAL BAY OR NYMPH FALLS PARKS.

Total	12%	40%
Area A	9%	35%
Area B	15%	45%
Area C	11%	40%

ACCESS TRAILS TO POPULAR HIKING AND/OR MOUNTAIN BIKING DESTINATIONS SUCH AS THE GLACIER TRAIL THAT PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE COMOX GLACIER, THE BOSTON RIDGE TRAIL TO FORBIDDEN PLATEAU OR A TRAIL UP INTO THE BEAUFORT RANGE, ETC.

Total	11%	36%
Area A	11%	30%
Area B	9%	27%
Area C	12%	48%

BEACH ACCESS TRAILS TO COMOX VALLEY BEACHES FROM THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOODS.

Total	8%	31%
Area A	6%	44%
Area B	12%	31%
Area C	4%	23%

SPECIAL RECREATION FEATURES LIKE THE CLIMBING AREA AT COMOX LAKE OR THE SWIMMING AREA AT STOTAN FALLS

Total	2%	16%
Area A	-	10%
Area B	3%	19%
Area C	3%	17%

ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE IMPORTANT/NONE OF THE ABOVE/DON'T KNOW

Total	20%
Area A	19%
Area B	17%
Area C	23%

4. The Regional District is thinking of acquiring some parkland that has limited recreation opportunities and no or few trails, but that protects a sensitive ecosystem such as a wetland or a wildlife migration corridor. Which of the following best describes your views on this?

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AREA A</u>	<u>AREA B</u>	<u>AREA C</u>
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE	312 %	100 %	102 %	110 %
I SUPPORT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT ACQUIRING SOME PARKLAND WITH LIMITED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND NO OR FEW TRAILS IN ORDER TO PROTECT SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS <u>AND THIS SHOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE MAJORITY OF PARKLAND ACQUIRED</u>	26	20	28	27
I SUPPORT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT ACQUIRING SOME PARKLAND WITH LIMITED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND NO OR FEW TRAILS IN ORDER TO PROTECT SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS, <u>BUT THE MAJORITY OF PARKLAND ACQUIRED SHOULD HAVE TRAILS AND BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC</u>	45	49	50	38
I DO NOT SUPPORT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT'S THINKING- <u>ALL PARKLAND ACQUIRED SHOULD HAVE TRAILS AND BE FULLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC</u>	16	19	13	18
DEPENDS	2	1	-	5
NONE OF THE ABOVE	10	12	8	12
DON'T KNOW	-	-	1	-

D1. Generally, how often do you and others living in your household use the existing parks and trails in the Comox Valley Regional District?

	<i>2010 Resident SURVEY</i>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AREA A</u>	<u>AREA B</u>	<u>AREA C</u>
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE	530 %	312 %	100 %	102 %	110 %
Almost daily or more often	7	20	18	28	13
Once or twice a week	22	35	23	38	40
Once or twice a month	32	19	22	17	20
Twice every six months	12	9	6	10	10
Once a year or less	11	4	4	3	5
Rarely or never	16	13	27	5	12
Don't know/refused	-	-	1	-	-

D2. Current accommodation:

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AREA A</u>	<u>AREA B</u>	<u>AREA C</u>
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE	312 %	100 %	102 %	110 %
Rent	5	7	6	3
Own your home	94	93	94	95
Refused	1	-	-	2

D3. Assessed home value:

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AREA A</u>	<u>AREA B</u>	<u>AREA C</u>
Among homeowners only	294 %	92 %	98 %	104 %
Less than \$150,000	2	2	4	-
\$150,000 to less than \$300,000	11	17	6	12
\$300,000 to less than \$500,000	42	41	42	42
\$500,000 or more	34	28	42	31
Don't Know/Refused	11	12	6	15

D4. Age:

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AREA A</u>	<u>AREA B</u>	<u>AREA C</u>
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE	312	100	102	110
	%	%	%	%
<35	7	2	8	9
35 – 44	14	6	17	15
45 – 54	30	25	23	42
55 – 64	27	30	32	20
65 or over	22	37	20	13
Refused				

D5. Yrs lived in the CVRD:

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AREA A</u>	<u>AREA B</u>	<u>AREA C</u>
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE	312	100	102	110
	%	%	%	%
3 yrs or less	4	8	1	4
4-6 yrs	9	10	6	10
7-10 yrs	13	16	9	14
11-20 yrs	33	34	33	31
More than 20 yrs	42	32	51	40
Don't Know/Refused	-	-	-	1

D6. Household composition:

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AREA A</u>	<u>AREA B</u>	<u>AREA C</u>
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE	312	100	102	110
	%	%	%	%
Single with no children	12	9	14	11
Couple with no children	43	58	45	33
Family with children (includes single parent HH)	36	22	31	49
Other	8	11	9	4
Refused	2	-	1	3

S1. Gender:

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AREA A</u>	<u>AREA B</u>	<u>AREA C</u>
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE	312	100	102	110
	%	%	%	%
Male	50	46	54	48
Female	50	54	46	52

S3b. Region:

SEE DETAILED TABLES FOR COMMUNITIES/NEIGHBOURHOODS

	<u>TOTAL</u>
UNWEIGHTED SAMPLE SIZE	312
	%
Area A	25
Area B	38
Area C	38

Detailed Computer Tables

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 1

S1. GENDER:

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area			Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
	Total	A	B	C	Sup	Opp	/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Male	155 50%	35 46%	63 54%	56 48%	54 44%	72 56%	28 45%	54 49%	29 47%	45 56%	17 42%	59 48%	61 60%	29 45%	48 50%	42 50%	36 54%	37 47%	49 48%	70 53%	155 100%	-
Female	157 50%	41 54%	55 46%	61 52%	68 56%	57 44%	34 55%	56 51%	32 53%	35 44%	23 58%	64 52%	40 40%	36 55%	47 50%	42 50%	31 46%	41 53%	53 52%	62 47%	-	157 100%

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 2

S3a. Could you please tell me if you live in:

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area			Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
	Total	A	B	C	Sup	Opp	/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Area A	54 17%	54 70%	-	-	23 19%	19 14%	7 11%	14 12%	12 20%	20 25% GH	9 22%	21 17%	13 13%	5 7%	10 10%	15 18%	24 36% NOP	19 25% T	18 17%	16 12%	25 16%	28 18%
Area B	115 37%	-	115 98%	-	48 40%	50 39%	32 51% IJ	45 41% J	20 33%	19 24%	12 30%	45 37%	45 45%	29 45%	27 28%	36 42%	24 35%	19 25%	36 35%	60 46% R	61 39%	55 35%
Area C	83 27%	-	-	83 71%	25 21%	41 32% E	15 24%	30 28%	18 30%	20 25%	10 26%	36 30%	24 24%	21 32% Q	38 40% PQ	15 17%	10 14%	24 31%	21 21%	38 29%	42 27%	41 26%
Other/Not Sure	60 19%	23 30% C	3 2%	34 29% C	25 21%	19 15%	9 14%	21 19%	10 16%	20 26%	9 22%	19 16%	19 19%	10 15%	20 21%	19 23%	9 14%	15 19%	27 26% T	17 13%	27 17%	33 21%
Don't Know/Refused	1 *	-	-	1 *	-	1 *	-	-	1 1%	-	-	1 *	-	-	-	-	1 1%	1 1%	-	-	-	1 *

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 3

S3b. And in which specific neighbourhood or community do you reside?

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area			Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
	Total	A	B	C	Sup	Opp	/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Area A -----	77 25%	77 100%	-	-	34 28%	26 20%	14 22%	18 16%	17 28%	28 35% H	14 35%	29 24%	20 20%	6 10%	19 20%	23 27%	28 42% NOP	26 33% T	26 26%	25 19%	35 23%	41 26%
Union Bay	32 10%	32 42%	-	-	17 14% F	8 6%	5 7%	8 7%	9 16%	11 13%	7 17% L	8 6%	10 10%	-	10 10%	9 11%	14 20%	9 11%	14 13%	10 7%	16 10%	16 10%
Fanny Bay	23 7%	23 30%	-	-	10 8%	9 7%	6 10%	5 4%	2 3%	10 13% HI	4 10%	9 7%	6 6%	2 2%	7 7%	8 9%	7 10%	10 13% T	8 8%	5 4%	10 6%	13 8%
Royston	19 6%	19 24%	-	-	7 6%	7 5%	3 5%	5 5%	4 7%	5 7%	3 8%	11 9%	3 3%	5 7%	2 3%	5 5%	7 10%	6 7%	4 4%	9 7%	7 5%	11 7%
Buckley Bay	3 1%	3 4%	-	-	-	3 2%	-	-	1 2%	2 2%	-	2 1%	1 1%	-	-	2 2%	1 2%	2 2%	1 1%	1 1%	2 2%	1 *
Area B -----	118 38%	-	118 100%	-	48 40%	52 40%	33 53% IJ	45 41% J	20 33%	21 26%	12 30%	47 38%	46 46%	29 45%	27 28%	38 45% O	24 35%	19 25%	39 38%	60 46% R	63 41%	55 35%
Little River	24 8%	-	24 20%	-	12 10%	11 8%	4 6%	11 10%	4 7%	6 7%	1 3%	3 3%	13 13% L	7 11%	9 9%	5 6%	3 5%	3 4%	8 8%	13 10%	10 7%	13 9%
Seal Bay	20 6%	-	20 17%	-	7 6%	11 9%	9 14% IJ	7 6%	1 2%	3 3%	1 3%	9 7%	7 7%	3 5%	4 4%	7 8%	5 8%	3 4%	6 6%	11 8%	13 8%	7 5%
Bates Beach	17 5%	-	17 14%	-	4 3%	8 6%	8 13% IJ	7 6%	1 2%	1 1%	2 4%	10 8%	5 5%	2 3%	4 4%	5 6%	5 8%	2 3%	7 6%	8 6%	10 6%	7 5%
Lazo North	12 4%	-	12 11%	-	3 3%	4 3%	3 4%	4 4%	3 4%	3 3%	2 5%	6 5%	4 4%	2 3%	1 1%	5 6%	4 7%	2 3%	4 4%	6 5%	6 4%	6 4%
Balmoral Beach	7 2%	-	7 6%	-	7 6%	-	3 4%	3 2%	2 3%	-	-	3 2%	3 3%	4 6%	1 1%	2 2%	-	1 2%	2 2%	4 3%	1 1%	6 4%
Tsolum	5 2%	-	5 5%	-	2 2%	3 3%	1 2%	1 1%	2 3%	1 1%	-	3 2%	1 1%	-	-	5 6%	-	-	1 1%	5 4%	4 3%	1 1%
Meadowbrook	5 2%	-	5 5%	-	4 3%	1 1%	1 1%	-	1 2%	3 4%	1 1%	1 1%	3 3%	3 5%	1 1%	-	1 1%	3 4%	1 1%	1 1%	3 2%	2 1%
Grantham	4 1%	-	4 4%	-	-	3 2%	-	-	1 2%	3 4%	1 2%	-	3 3%	-	1 1%	1 2%	2 2%	1 1%	1 1%	2 2%	3 2%	1 1%
Falcon Park	2 1%	-	2 2%	-	-	2 2%	-	1 1%	1 2%	-	-	2 2%	-	-	-	1 2%	1 1%	-	-	2 2%	2 1%	-
Other Area B	21 7%	-	21 18%	-	8 7%	9 7%	5 8%	11 10% J	3 5%	2 2%	4 11%	10 8%	6 6%	7 11%	5 5%	6 7%	3 4%	3 4%	10 9%	8 6%	10 7%	10 7%
AREA C -----	117 38%	-	-	117 100%	39 32%	51 40%	15 25%	47 43% G	24 39%	31 39%	14 35%	47 38%	35 34%	29 45% Q	49 52% PQ	23 27%	15 23%	33 42%	37 36%	47 36%	56 36%	61 39%
Black Creek	52 17%	-	-	52 44%	18 15%	25 19%	5 7%	18 16%	11 19% G	18 22% G	7 18%	23 19% M	8 8%	11 17%	24 25% PQ	8 9%	8 12%	13 17%	16 16%	21 16%	22 14%	30 19%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 3

S3b. And in which specific neighbourhood or community do you reside?

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area	Sup	Opp	Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
	Total	A	B	C			/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Merville	32 10%	-	-	32 28%	10 9%	18 14%	7 12%	10 10%	7 11%	8 10%	2 6%	12 10%	12 12%	8 13%	13 14%	7 8%	4 6%	12 16%	8 8%	13 10%	13 9%	19 12%
Saratoga Beach	11 4%	-	-	11 10%	4 3%	1 1%	-	10 10%	-	1 1%	1 3%	4 3%	6 6%	3 5%	4 4%	4 4%	1 1%	2 2%	5 5%	4 3%	9 6%	2 1%
Dove Creek	10 3%	-	-	10 8%	3 2%	4 3%	2 4%	3 3%	3 4%	2 2%	1 3%	2 1%	7 7%	3 5%	3 3%	4 5%	-	2 3%	2 2%	5 4%	7 4%	3 2%
Forbidden Plateau	5 2%	-	-	5 5%	4 3%	2 1%	1 1%	3 3%	1 2%	-	2 4%	2 2%	-	3 5%	1 2%	-	1 1%	3 4%	-	2 2%	1 1%	4 3%
Oyster River	3 1%	-	-	3 3%	-	1 1%	-	-	1 2%	1 2%	-	3 2%	-	-	3 3%	-	-	-	3 3%	-	3 2%	-
Marsden	2 1%	-	-	2 1%	1 *	-	-	1 1%	-	1 1%	-	2 1%	-	-	1 1%	-	1 1%	-	2 2%	-	-	2 1%
Lake Trail	1 *	-	-	1 1%	-	1 1%	-	-	-	1 1%	-	-	1 1%	-	-	-	1 1%	-	-	1 1%	1 *	-
Other Area C	1 *	-	-	1 1%	-	1 *	1 1%	1 1%	-	-	1 1%	-	1 1%	-	-	1 1%	1 1%	-	1 1%	1 *	-	1 1%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 4

The Comox Valley Regional District is developing a 10 year plan to expand its system of parks and trails, which includes both protecting a diverse range of landscapes and providing parks and trails for recreation. To achieve this vision, the Regional District is considering a new property tax to help buy parkland. All monies raised by this tax would go directly toward funding the purchase of new parkland in the Comox Valley.

Q1. In general, do you support or oppose the Regional District collecting a new property tax to help buy parkland?

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area	Sup	Opp	Daily	1-2/ Week	1-2/ Month	Less Often	\$300-							10 or less	11-20	21+	M	F
		A	B	C			/More				<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Strongly support	60 19%	16 21%	26 22%	18 15%	60 50%	-	15 24%	21 19%	12 20%	13 16%	9 23%	25 21%	21 21%	12 19%	19 21%	19 22%	10 15%	15 19%	20 20%	25 19%	28 18%	32 21%
Somewhat support	61 20%	18 23%	22 19%	21 18%	61 50%	-	10 16%	24 22%	15 24%	12 15%	5 13%	27 22%	17 17%	14 22%	21 22%	13 15%	13 19%	21 27%	19 18%	21 16%	26 17%	35 22%
Somewhat oppose	30 10%	6 8%	13 11%	12 10%	-	30 24%	8 14%	6 5%	12 19%	5 6%	4 11%	10 8%	10 10%	5 7%	5 5%	14 16%	7 10%	10 12%	7 7%	14 11%	13 8%	18 11%
Strongly oppose	99 32%	20 26%	39 33%	40 34%	-	99 76%	14 23%	34 31%	13 22%	38 47%	10 25%	34 28%	35 35%	21 32%	31 33%	23 28%	22 33%	23 30%	27 27%	47 36%	59 38%	39 25%
Depends on the tax amount	51 16%	14 18%	15 13%	22 19%	-	-	12 19%	21 19%	5 9%	13 16%	9 22%	23 19%	14 14%	8 13%	15 15%	15 18%	13 20%	9 11%	24 24%	18 14%	25 16%	26 17%
Don't Know/Refused	11 3%	3 3%	3 3%	5 4%	-	-	3 5%	4 3%	4 6%	1 1%	2 6%	4 3%	3 3%	5 8%	4 4%	1 1%	2 2%	1 1%	4 4%	6 4%	5 3%	6 4%
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT SUPPORT	122 39%	34 44%	48 41%	39 33%	122 100%	-	25 40%	46 42%	26 44%	25 31%	14 36%	52 42%	38 38%	26 40%	40 43%	32 38%	23 34%	36 46%	39 38%	47 35%	54 35%	68 43%
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT OPPOSE	129 41%	26 34%	52 44%	51 44%	-	129 100%	23 37%	39 36%	25 41%	42 53%	14 36%	44 36%	45 45%	25 39%	36 38%	37 44%	29 43%	33 42%	34 34%	61 46%	72 46%	57 36%

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 5

Q2/2a/2b. The amount of the new property tax would impact the type and the amount of land the Regional District could buy and also impact the time it would take before the District could acquire a particular parcel of land. If this proposed idea proceeds, would you be willing to pay \$20 PER YEAR in additional taxes to allow the Regional District to buy parkland./Would you be willing to pay [\$35/\$10] per year in additional taxes?

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area			Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or			M	F
	Total	A	B	C	Sup	Opp	/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	U	V
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Willing to pay \$35/year	123 39%	30 39%	46 39%	47 40%	83 68% F	9 7%	32 51% IJ	51 47% J	19 32%	21 26%	15 37%	52 42%	46 46%	35 54% Q	35 37%	34 40%	19 28%	33 43%	44 44%	45 34%	55 35%	68 43%
Willing to pay \$20/year	211 67%	58 76% D	79 66%	74 63%	113 93% F	42 32%	46 74% J	82 75% J	40 67%	42 52%	27 68%	91 74%	68 68%	42 65%	62 66%	61 72%	46 68%	52 67%	71 69%	88 67%	104 67%	106 67%
Willing to pay \$10/year	238 76%	62 81%	88 75%	87 74%	117 96% F	61 47%	51 83% J	94 86% J	48 80% J	44 55%	33 84%	101 83%	74 74%	52 81%	70 74%	65 77%	51 75%	60 77%	77 76%	101 77%	112 72%	126 80%
Not willing to pay \$10/Don't Know about paying \$10	75 24%	15 19%	30 25%	30 26%	4 4%	68 53% E	11 17%	16 14%	12 20%	36 45% GHI	6 16%	21 17%	26 26%	13 19%	25 26%	20 23%	17 25%	18 23%	25 24%	31 23%	43 28%	31 20%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 6

Now I'd like you to think just about the types of parkland the Regional District should consider buying.

Q3. I'd like you to think about your top three preferences if the Regional District could buy parkland right now. First, which would be the most important type of parkland for the District to buy? Would it be...

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area			Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
	Total	A	B	C	Sup	Opp	/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Protection of rare ecosystems	94 30%	19 25%	33 28%	42 36%	41 33% F	26 20%	14 22%	39 36% J	25 41% GJ	16 20%	17 42%	36 29%	26 26%	22 34%	28 29%	26 31%	18 27%	21 26%	30 30%	43 33%	40 26%	54 34%
New trail corridors	56 18%	23 30% CD	19 16%	15 12%	31 25% F	15 11%	15 24%	20 19%	12 20%	9 12%	4 10%	30 24%	16 16%	9 13%	21 22%	15 18%	12 18%	13 17%	20 19%	23 18%	24 16%	32 20%
New large parks with trail systems	37 12%	7 9%	18 15%	13 11%	18 15%	18 14%	10 16%	9 8%	9 15%	9 11%	7 18%	14 11%	14 14%	9 14%	11 11%	11 12%	7 10%	15 19%	9 9%	13 10%	15 10%	22 14%
Access trails to popular hiking and/or mountain biking destinations	33 11%	8 11%	11 9%	14 12%	8 7%	16 12%	4 6%	13 12%	7 12%	9 11%	6 14%	14 12%	11 11%	8 12%	11 12%	8 9%	6 10%	8 10%	12 12%	13 10%	22 14% V	11 7%
Beach access trails	24 8%	5 6%	14 12% D	5 4%	11 9%	10 8%	6 9%	9 8%	5 7%	5 6%	2 6%	3 3%	13 13% L	3 5%	8 9%	6 8%	6 8%	6 8%	9 9%	9 7%	18 12% V	6 4%
Special recreation features	7 2%	-	4 3%	3 3%	2 2%	5 4%	2 3%	5 5%	-	-	-	5 4%	2 2%	5 8% P	1 1%	1 1%	-	2 3%	2 2%	3 2%	3 2%	4 2%
All of the above are important	17 6%	2 2%	6 5%	9 8% B	8 7%	4 3%	4 6%	7 7%	2 4%	3 4%	2 4%	6 5%	1 1%	3 5%	6 6%	5 6%	3 4%	2 2%	6 6%	9 7%	11 7%	7 4%
None of the above	37 12%	10 13%	11 10%	15 13%	2 1%	31 24% E	6 10%	6 5%	1 2%	24 30% GHI	1 4%	11 9%	15 15%	5 8%	8 8%	10 11%	13 19% O	11 13%	14 14%	11 9%	19 12%	18 12%
Don't Know/Refused	7 2%	3 4%	3 2%	2 2%	2 2%	5 4%	1 2%	1 1%	-	5 6%	1 1%	3 3%	3 3%	-	1 2%	3 4%	3 4%	1 1%	1 1%	6 5%	4 2%	4 2%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 7

Q3a. And which would be the next most important type of parkland for the Regional District to buy?

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area			Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
	Total	A	B	C	Sup	Opp	/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
New trail corridors	49 16%	11 15%	24 20%	13 11%	27 22% F	13 10%	7 11%	16 15%	15 24%	11 13%	9 24%	16 13%	18 18%	12 19%	11 12%	17 20%	8 12%	15 19%	12 12%	21 16%	20 13%	29 18%
New large parks with trail systems	46 15%	8 11%	19 16%	19 16%	19 15%	10 8%	6 10%	16 15%	14 23%	10 13%	6 16%	11 9%	17 17%	12 18%	15 16%	11 13%	8 12%	6 7%	16 16%	24 19% R	22 14%	24 15%
Access trails to popular hiking and/or mountain biking destinations	41 13%	8 10%	9 8%	23 20% BC	19 15%	14 11%	13 21% J	15 14%	6 10%	6 8%	3 8%	24 20%	11 11%	13 20% Q	16 17% Q	7 8%	4 6%	14 18% S	8 8%	18 14%	17 11%	24 15%
Protection of rare ecosystems	40 13%	14 18% D	17 15%	9 8%	25 21% F	11 8%	11 18% J	17 15%	7 11%	6 7%	7 19%	15 12%	13 13%	7 11%	15 16%	12 14%	6 10%	9 12%	16 16%	15 11%	21 14%	19 12%
Beach access trails	40 13%	16 20% C	7 6%	17 14%	9 7%	22 17% E	4 7%	18 17%	9 15%	8 10%	5 11%	19 15%	12 11%	8 12%	7 7%	10 12%	14 22% O	14 18%	12 12%	13 10%	18 12%	21 13%
Special recreation features	19 6%	2 3%	9 7%	8 7%	8 7%	8 6%	3 5%	8 7%	4 7%	4 5%	3 8%	12 10% M	2 2%	4 6%	9 9%	4 5%	3 4%	2 3%	8 8%	9 7%	13 8%	7 4%
None of the above	17 5%	3 4%	12 10% D	2 1%	4 3%	12 9% E	7 11% J	5 4%	3 4%	3 3%	2 5%	4 4%	9 9%	-	7 7%	5 6%	4 7%	5 6%	8 8%	4 3%	12 8% V	5 3%
All/None/DK/Refused in Q3	61 20%	15 19%	20 17%	26 22%	12 10%	40 31% E	11 18% I	14 13%	4 6%	32 40% GHI	4 9%	20 17%	19 19%	9 14%	15 16%	18 22%	18 27%	13 17%	21 20%	27 20%	33 21%	29 18%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 8

Q3b. And which would be the third most important type of parkland for the Regional District to buy?

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area	Sup	Opp	Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
		A	B	C			/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
New large parks with trail systems	43 14%	12 16%	16 14%	15 13%	27 22% F	8 6%	12 19% J	16 14%	10 16%	6 7%	8 19%	22 18%	9 9%	7 11%	17 18%	12 14%	7 11%	10 12%	16 16%	17 13%	21 13%	22 14%
Access trails to popular hiking and/or mountain biking destinations	38 12%	7 9%	12 10%	20 17%	17 14%	14 11%	6 10%	16 14%	9 15%	8 9%	5 12%	19 15%	10 10%	2 3%	13 13%	18 21% NQ	7 10%	9 12%	8 8%	21 16%	18 11%	21 13%
New trail corridors	38 12%	10 13%	9 7%	20 17% C	21 17%	13 10%	6 10%	15 14%	9 15%	8 10%	4 10%	16 13%	14 14%	10 15%	14 15%	6 7%	8 12%	10 12%	18 18% T	11 8%	19 12%	19 12%
Protection of rare ecosystems	34 11%	8 11%	19 16% D	6 5%	13 10%	15 12%	7 12%	10 9%	9 15%	8 10%	5 14%	14 11%	12 12%	12 19% Q	8 8%	10 12%	4 6%	11 14%	7 7%	17 13%	12 7%	23 14%
Beach access trails	34 11%	14 18% D	16 13% D	5 4%	15 12%	10 7%	7 12%	13 12%	7 12%	7 9%	5 14%	15 12%	11 11%	7 11%	12 13%	8 10%	6 10%	10 13%	8 8%	17 13%	14 9%	20 13%
Special recreation features	24 8%	6 7%	10 8%	9 7%	8 6%	12 9%	3 4%	12 11% J	7 12% J	2 3%	5 13%	6 5%	7 7%	10 16% O	4 4%	6 7%	5 7%	7 9%	7 6%	11 8%	10 7%	14 9%
None of the above	22 7%	2 2%	4 4%	15 13% BC	5 4%	5 4%	3 4%	9 8%	3 5%	7 8%	2 4%	6 5%	7 7%	8 12% P	6 6%	1 2%	7 10% P	4 5%	10 9%	8 6%	17 11% V	4 3%
All/None/DK/Refused in Q3 or Q3a	78 25%	18 24%	32 27%	28 24%	15 13%	52 40% E	18 29% I	19 17%	6 10%	35 44% HI	6 14%	25 20%	28 28%	9 14%	22 23%	24 28%	23 34% N	18 23%	28 28%	31 23%	44 29%	34 21%

Proportions/Means: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)**Table 9**

Q3/Q3a/Q3b. Total of Most Important/Next Most Important/Third Most Important

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area	Sup	Opp	Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
		A	B	C			/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	Total	A	B	C	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Protection of rare ecosystems	169 54%	42 54%	69 59%	58 49%	78 64% F	52 40%	32 52% J	66 60% J	40 67% J	29 36%	30 75% LM	65 53%	52 51%	41 64% Q	51 54%	48 56%	29 43%	41 52% U	53 52%	75 57%	72 47%	96 61%
New trail corridors	143 46%	44 58% CD	51 43%	48 41%	79 65% F	41 31%	28 45%	51 47%	36 59% J	28 35%	17 44%	62 51%	48 48%	31 48%	46 49%	38 45%	28 42%	38 49%	50 49%	55 42%	63 41%	80 51%
New large parks with trail systems	126 40%	27 35%	53 45%	47 40%	63 52% F	36 28%	28 45%	41 37%	33 54% HJ	25 31%	21 53%	47 38%	40 40%	28 43%	43 45%	34 40%	22 33%	30 39%	41 41%	55 42%	58 38%	68 43%
Access trails to popular hiking and/or mountain biking destinations	112 36%	23 30%	32 27%	57 48% BC	44 36%	44 34%	23 37%	45 41%	22 36%	22 28%	14 35%	58 47% M	32 32%	23 35%	40 42% Q	32 38%	17 26%	32 41%	28 28%	52 40%	56 36%	56 35%
Beach access trails	97 31%	34 44% D	37 31%	26 23%	34 28%	42 33%	17 28%	39 36%	20 34%	20 25%	12 31%	37 30%	35 35%	19 29%	28 29%	25 29%	26 39%	30 39%	29 28%	38 29%	50 32%	47 30%
Special recreation features	50 16%	8 10%	23 19%	20 17%	18 14%	25 19%	8 12%	25 23% J	12 19% J	6 8%	8 21%	23 19%	11 11%	19 29% PQ	13 14%	10 12%	8 12%	11 14%	17 16%	23 17%	26 17%	24 16%
All of the above are important	17 6%	2 2%	6 5%	9 8% B	8 7%	4 3%	4 6%	7 7%	2 4%	3 4%	2 4%	6 5%	1 1%	3 5%	6 6%	5 6%	3 4%	2 2%	6 6%	9 7%	11 7%	7 4%
None of the above	37 12%	10 13%	11 10%	15 13%	2 1%	31 24% E	6 10%	6 5%	1 2%	24 30% GHI	1 4%	11 9%	15 15%	5 8%	8 8%	10 11%	13 19% O	11 13%	14 14%	11 9%	19 12%	18 12%
Don't Know/Refused	7 2%	3 4%	3 2%	2 2%	2 2%	5 4%	1 2%	1 1%	-	5 6%	1 1%	3 3%	3 3%	-	1 2%	3 4%	3 4%	1 1%	1 1%	6 5%	4 2%	4 2%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 10

Q4. The Regional District is thinking of acquiring some parkland that has limited recreation opportunities and no or few trails, but protects a sensitive ecosystem such as a wetland or a wildlife migration corridor. Which of the following best describes your views on this?

1. I support the Regional District acquiring some parkland with limited recreation opportunities and no or few trails in order to protect sensitive ecosystems AND THIS SHOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE MAJORITY OF PARKLAND ACQUIRED

2. I support the Regional District acquiring some parkland with limited recreation opportunities and no or few trails in order to protect sensitive ecosystems, BUT THE MAJORITY OF PARKLAND ACQUIRED SHOULD HAVE TRAILS AND BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

3. I do not support the Regional District's thinking-ALL PARKLAND ACQUIRED SHOULD HAVE TRAILS AND BE FULLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area			Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
	Total	A	B	C	Sup	Opp	/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Option 1	81 26%	15 20%	33 28%	32 27%	39 32% F	22 17%	13 21%	32 29%	18 29%	18 22%	20 51% LM	21 17%	27 27%	19 29%	24 25%	23 27%	15 22%	20 25%	32 31%	29 22%	40 26%	41 26%
Option 2	142 45%	38 49%	59 50%	44 38%	69 57% F	42 33%	36 57% J	49 45% J	34 56% J	23 28%	14 35%	65 53% K	48 48%	30 46%	45 48%	43 50% Q	24 36%	35 45%	39 39%	67 51%	58 37%	84 53% U
Option 3	51 16%	14 19%	15 13%	21 18%	8 6% E	36 28%	4 7%	22 20% G	7 11%	18 22% G	5 12%	23 19%	11 11%	11 17%	12 13%	10 12%	17 26% OP	15 19%	13 13%	23 18%	32 21% V	19 12%
Depends	7 2%	1 1%	1 *	5 5%	3 3%	2 2%	1 2%	1 1%	2 3%	2 3%	-	4 3%	1 1%	2 3%	3 3%	1 1%	1 2%	-	3 3%	3 3%	4 2%	3 2%
None of the above	32 10%	9 12%	9 8%	14 12%	3 2%	26 20% E	7 11% I	4 4%	1 1%	20 25% GHI	1 2%	9 7%	13 13% K	4 6%	11 11%	8 10%	9 13%	8 10%	14 14%	9 7%	21 13%	11 7%
Don't Know/Refused	1 *	-	1 1%	-	-	1 1%	1 1%	-	-	-	-	1 1%	-	-	-	-	1 1%	-	1 1%	-	1 1%	-

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 11

Now we have a few statistical questions to help classify your responses

D1. Generally, how often do you and others living in your household use the existing parks and trails in the Comox Valley Regional District? Would you say..

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area	Sup	Opp	Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or	11-20	21+	M	F
	Total	A	B	C			/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less			U	V
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Almost daily or more often	62 20%	14 18%	33 28% D	15 13%	25 20%	23 18%	62 100%	-	-	-	5 13%	29 24%	20 20%	9 13%	24 25%	19 22%	11 16%	17 22%	23 22%	23 17%	28 18%	34 22%
Once or twice a week	109 35%	18 23%	45 38% B	47 40% B	46 37%	39 31%	-	109 100%	-	-	14 34%	48 39%	38 38%	44 67% OPQ	30 31%	20 24%	15 23%	29 37%	32 32%	48 37%	54 35%	56 35%
Once or twice a month	60 19%	17 22%	20 17%	24 20%	26 22%	25 19%	-	-	60 100%	-	10 26%	23 18%	13 13%	6 9%	21 23%	22 26%	12 17%	12 16%	23 22%	25 19%	29 18%	32 20%
Twice every six months	27 9%	5 6%	11 10%	11 10%	14 11%	9 7%	-	-	-	27 34%	3 9%	10 9%	11 11%	7 11%	6 6%	10 11%	5 8%	10 12%	4 4%	13 10%	14 9%	13 8%
Once a year or less	12 4%	3 4%	3 3%	6 5%	4 3%	5 4%	-	-	-	12 15%	2 4%	3 2%	3 3%	-	3 3%	2 2%	7 10% P	4 4%	3 3%	6 4%	9 6%	3 2%
Rarely or never	41 13%	21 27% CD	6 5%	14 12%	7 6%	29 22% E	-	-	-	41 51%	5 13%	10 8%	14 14%	-	11 12%	11 13%	17 26% OP	7 9%	16 16%	17 13%	22 14%	19 12%
Don't Know/Refused	1 *	1 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1%	-	-	1 1%	-	-	1 1%	-	-	1 *

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 12

D2. Which of the following best describes your current accommodation? Do you...

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area			Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
	Total	A	B	C	Sup	Opp	/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Rent	16 5%	6 7%	7 6%	4 3%	9 7%	6 4%	2 3%	6 6%	4 7%	4 5%	-	-	-	7 11%	3 4%	3 3%	3 4%	4 5%	2 2%	10 8% S	5 3%	12 7%
Own your home	294 94%	71 93%	111 94%	112 95%	113 93%	122 95%	60 97%	103 94%	56 93%	74 92%	39 100%	123 100%	100 100%	58 89%	90 95%	82 97%	64 95%	74 95%	99 98% T	120 91%	149 96%	145 92%
Don't Know/Refused	2 1%	-	-	2 2%	-	1 1%	-	-	-	2 2%	-	-	-	-	1 2%	-	1 1%	-	-	2 2%	1 1%	1 *

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 13

D3. Into what range would you say the ASSESSED value of your home falls? (AMONG HOMEOWNERS ONLY)

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area	Sup	Opp	Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
	Total	A	B	C			/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	294	71	111	112	113	122	60	103	56	74	39	123	100	58	90	82	64	74	99	120	149	145
Unweighted Base	294	92	98	104	116	118	58	87	62	86	42	120	92	26	68	97	102	68	97	128	119	175
Less than \$150,000	7 2%	2 2%	5 4%	1 *	5 4%	1 1%	1 2%	3 3%	0 1%	2 3%	7 18%	-	-	3 6%	1 1%	-	2 4%	-	1 1%	6 5%	4 3%	3 2%
\$150,000 to less than \$300,000	33 11%	12 17%	7 6%	13 12%	9 8%	13 11%	4 7%	10 10%	10 17%	8 11%	33 82%	-	-	5 9%	11 13%	7 9%	9 13%	2 3%	16 16%	15 12%	12 8%	20 14%
		C																R	R			
\$300,000 to less than \$500,000	123 42%	29 41%	47 42%	47 42%	52 46%	44 36%	29 48%	48 47%	23 40%	23 31%	-	123 100%	-	26 44%	40 44%	31 38%	26 41%	32 43%	37 38%	54 45%	59 39%	64 44%
					J	J																
\$500,000 or more	100 34%	20 28%	46 42%	35 31%	38 34%	45 37%	20 34%	38 37%	13 23%	28 38%	-	-	100 100%	23 41%	26 29%	36 44%	15 24%	32 43%	34 34%	35 29%	61 41%	40 27%
			B													Q		T			V	
Don't Know/Refused	32 11%	9 12%	6 6%	17 15%	9 8%	19 15%	6 9%	3 3%	10 18%	12 17%	-	-	-	-	12 13%	7 9%	11 18%	9 12%	11 11%	11 9%	13 9%	19 13%
				C					H	H												

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 14

D4. Into which of the following age groups do you fall?

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area			Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or			M	F
	Total	A	B	C	Sup	Opp	/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	U	V
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
25 - 34	21 7%	2 2%	9 8%	11 9% B	5 4%	8 6%	2 3%	20 18% G	-	-	2 4%	4 3%	13 13% L	21 33%	-	-	-	5 6%	3 3%	14 10% S	16 10% V	5 3%
35 - 44	44 14%	5 6%	21 17% B	18 15% B	21 17%	17 13%	7 11%	24 22% IJ	6 9%	7 9%	7 18%	22 18%	11 11%	44 67%	-	-	-	17 22% T	15 14%	12 9%	13 8%	30 19% U
45 - 54	95 30%	19 25%	27 23%	49 42% BC	40 33%	36 28%	24 38%	30 27%	21 35%	20 25%	12 32%	40 32%	26 26%	-	95 100%	-	-	24 30%	41 40%	31 23%	48 31%	47 30%
55 - 64	85 27%	23 30%	38 32% D	23 20%	32 26%	37 29%	19 30%	20 19%	22 36% H	23 28%	7 18%	31 25%	36 36% K	-	-	85 100%	-	23 29%	23 23%	39 29%	42 27%	42 27%
65 or over	67 22%	28 37% CD	24 20%	15 13%	23 19%	29 23%	11 18%	15 14%	12 19%	29 37% GHI	11 28%	26 22%	15 15%	-	-	-	67 100%	10 13%	20 20%	37 28% R	36 23%	31 20%
Don't Know/Refused	1 *	-	-	1 1%	-	1 1%	-	-	-	1 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 15

D5. How many years have you lived in the Comox Valley Regional District?

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (.000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area			Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
	Total	A	B	C	Sup	Opp	/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Mean	21.6	20.6	22.3	21.6	19.8	22.8	20.5	21.7	21.2	22.7	25.5	20.8	20.5	18.5	19.3	21.5	28.0 NOP	6.6	16.5 R	34.5 RS	22.8	20.5
SD	14.8	17.5	12.5	15.0	13.5	14.8	15.1	14.9	12.6	16.0	15.2	14.1	15.2	11.5	11.9	13.8	20.0	2.7	3.0	13.6	15.4	14.1
SE	0.8	2.0	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.9	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.5	2.4	0.3	0.3	1.2	1.2	1.1
3 years or less	12 4%	6 8% C	1 1%	5 4%	8 7% F	2 1%	3 6%	5 5%	-	3 4%	-	7 6%	3 3%	3 5%	4 4%	4 4%	1 2%	12 15%	-	-	3 2%	8 5%
4 - 6 years	27 9%	8 10%	7 6%	12 10%	10 8%	11 9%	3 5%	14 12%	3 5%	7 9%	1 3%	14 11%	8 8%	8 13%	7 7%	9 10%	3 5%	27 34%	-	-	13 8%	14 9%
7 - 10 years	40 13%	12 16%	11 9%	16 14%	18 15%	20 15%	10 16%	10 9%	10 16%	10 12%	1 3%	10 8%	20 20% KL	10 15%	13 14%	11 12%	6 9%	40 51%	-	-	21 13%	19 12%
11 - 20 years	102 33%	26 34%	39 33%	37 31%	39 32%	34 27%	23 36%	32 29%	23 38%	24 29%	17 43%	37 30%	34 34%	18 27%	41 43% P	23 27%	20 30%	-	102 100%	-	49 31%	53 34%
More than 20 years	132 42%	25 32%	60 51% B	47 40%	47 38%	61 47%	23 36%	48 44%	25 41%	36 45%	20 51%	54 44%	35 35%	26 39%	31 32%	39 46%	37 55% O	-	-	132 100%	70 45%	62 39%
Don't Know/Refused	1 *	-	-	1 1%	-	1 1%	-	-	-	1 1%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

CVRD Parks Acquisition Survey (WEIGHTED DATA)

Table 16

D6. Which of the following best describes your current household composition...

		Region			Prop Parcel Tax		HH Park Usage				Assess Value (,000)			Age				Yrs Lived in CVRD			Gender	
		Area	Area	Area	Sup	Opp	Daily	1-2/	1-2/	Less	\$300-							10 or				
	Total	A	B	C			/More	Week	Month	Often	<\$300	<\$500	\$500+	<45	45-54	55-64	65+	less	11-20	21+	M	F
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Total	312	77	118	117	122	129	62	109	60	80	39	123	100	65	95	85	67	78	102	132	155	157
Unweighted Base	312	100	102	110	122	126	60	92	65	94	42	120	92	29	72	102	108	74	99	138	123	189
Single with no children	36 12%	7 9%	16 14%	12 11%	16 13%	15 12%	7 11%	11 10%	8 13%	11 13%	10 26% LM	14 11%	4 4%	7 11%	7 8%	8 9%	14 21% OP	7 10%	7 7%	21 16% S	23 15%	13 8%
Couple with no children	136 43%	45 58% D	53 45%	39 33%	48 39%	63 49%	26 42%	36 33%	23 39%	50 62% GHI	18 46%	50 41%	47 47%	7 10%	30 32% N	57 68% NO	42 62% NO	34 44%	42 41%	59 45%	75 48%	61 38%
Family with children (includes single parent households)	111 36%	17 22%	37 31%	57 49% BC	46 38%	39 30%	19 31% J	56 51% GJ	24 39% J	12 15%	9 23%	51 42% K	41 41% K	50 77% OPQ	46 48% PQ	13 15% Q	3 4%	29 37%	43 42%	40 30%	46 30%	65 41% U
Other	24 8%	8 11%	11 9%	5 4%	11 9%	7 6%	10 16% HJ	6 5%	5 8%	4 5%	2 4%	7 6%	8 8%	2 3%	9 9%	6 7%	7 11%	7 9%	9 8%	8 6%	7 5%	17 11%
Don't Know/Refused	5 2%	-	2 1%	4 3%	1 1%	5 4%	-	1 1%	1 1%	4 5%	-	1 1%	-	-	3 3%	1 1%	1 1%	-	1 1%	3 2%	4 2%	2 1%

Proportions/Mean: Columns Tested (5% risk level) - B/C/D - E/F - G/H/I/J - K/L/M - N/O/P/Q - R/S/T - U/V

Copy of the Questionnaire

CVRD PARKS ACQUISITION SURVEY

QUOTAS BY AREA:

	<u>Quota</u>
1. Area A – (excluding Denman & Hornby Islands)	100
2. Area B	100
3. Area C	100

INTRODUCTION:

Hello, I am calling on behalf of the Comox Valley Regional District. We are conducting a short survey for the Regional District to seek resident opinions about parkland. May I ask you a few questions? Thank you.

IF RESPONDENT ASKS ABOUT LENGTH: The survey should take about 7 to 8 minutes.

IF RESPONDENT ASKS WHO YOU ARE: I am calling from Synovate, a research firm. We are conducting the survey on behalf of the Comox Valley Regional District.

IF RESPONDENT WANTS TO CONFIRM THE VALIDITY OF THE SURVEY: You can call Leigh Carter, General Manager of Public Affairs at the Comox Valley Regional District during regular business hours at 250 334 6063 or toll free at 1 800 331 6007.

First, are you one of the decision makers in the household who is 18 years of age or older?

IF NO, ASK: May I speak to a decision maker? **RE-INTRODUCE AS NECESSARY**

1. Yes **CONTINUE**
2. No

TRY TO ARRANGE CALLBACK, IF POSSIBLE

S1. **Record GENDER:**

1. Male
2. Female

S2. Does anyone in your household work for any of the following? **READ LIST**

1. Comox Valley Regional District
2. A local municipal government, including fire or rescue service or recreation service
3. Market research, media or advertising

TERMINATE

**TERMINATE
TERMINATE**

DO NOT READ:

4. None of the above/"no" to all

CONTINUE

S3a. Could you please tell me if you live in: **READ LIST**

1. Area A
2. Area B
3. Area C
4. Or in Courtenay, Comox or Cumberland

DO NOT READ:

5. Other/Not Sure

S3b. Which specific neighbourhood or community do you reside? **READ LIST IF NECESSARY. ONLY READ LIST IN THE AREA YOU ARE DIALING**

Area A

1. Buckley Bay

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| 2. Denman Island | TERMINATE |
| 3. Fanny Bay | |
| 4. Hornby Island | TERMINATE |
| 5. Minto | |
| 6. Mud Bay | |
| 7. Royston | |
| 8. Union Bay | |

Area B

9. Balmoral Beach
10. Bates Beach
11. Falcon Park
12. Grantham
13. Lazo North
14. Meadowbrook
15. Seal Bay
16. Tsolum
17. Little River

Area C

18. Arden
19. Black Creek
20. Forbidden Plateau
21. Lake Trail
22. Marsden
23. Merville
24. Mount Washington
25. Puntledge
26. Saratoga Beach
27. Williams Beach
28. Dove Creek
29. Oyster River

30. Other (specify)

31. Courtenay, Comox or Cumberland TERMINATE
--

The Comox Valley Regional District is developing a 10 year plan to expand its system of parks and trails, which includes both protecting a diverse range of landscapes and providing parks and trails for recreation. To achieve this vision, the Regional District is considering a new property tax to help buy parkland. All monies raised by this tax would go directly toward funding the purchase of new parkland in the Comox Valley.

5. IN GENERAL, DO YOU SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE REGIONAL DISTRICT COLLECTING A NEW PROPERTY TAX TO HELP BUY PARKLAND? **PROBE WITH:** WOULD YOU SAY YOU ARE STRONGLY OR SOMEWHAT IN SUPPORT/OPPOSED?

1. STRONGLY SUPPORT
2. SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
3. SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
4. STRONGLY OPPOSE

DO NOT READ:

5. DON'T KNOW
6. DEPENDS ON THE TAX AMOUNT

THE AMOUNT OF THE NEW PROPERTY TAX WOULD IMPACT THE TYPE AND THE AMOUNT OF LAND THE REGIONAL DISTRICT COULD BUY AND ALSO IMPACT THE TIME IT WOULD TAKE BEFORE THE DISTRICT COULD ACQUIRE A PARTICULAR PARCEL OF LAND.

IF THIS PROPOSED IDEA PROCEEDS, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PAY **\$20 PER YEAR** IN ADDITIONAL TAXES TO ALLOW THE REGIONAL DISTRICT TO BUY PARKLAND

- | | |
|--------|------------------|
| 1. YES | GO TO Q2A |
| 2. NO | GO TO Q2B |

- 2A. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PAY **\$35 PER YEAR** IN ADDITIONAL TAXES?

- | | |
|--------|-----------------|
| 1. YES | GO TO Q3 |
| 2. NO | GO TO Q3 |

- 2B. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO PAY **\$10 PER YEAR** IN ADDITIONAL TAXES?

1. YES
2. NO

NOW I'D LIKE YOU TO THINK JUST ABOUT THE TYPES OF PARKLAND THE REGIONAL DISTRICT SHOULD CONSIDER BUYING.

6. I'd like you to think about your top three preferences if the Regional District could buy parkland right now. First, which would be the most important type of parkland for the District to buy? Would it be...**READ LIST. RANDOMIZE. ONE RESPONSE ONLY.**

1. **New trail corridors** like a trail from Royston to Cumberland, a trail from the Courtenay riverway to Royston, a trail from Courtenay to Oyster River, etc.
2. **NEW LARGE PARKS WITH TRAIL SYSTEMS** SIMILAR TO SEAL BAY OR NYMPH FALLS PARKS.
3. **PROTECTION OF RARE ECOSYSTEMS** SUCH AS GARRY OAK MEADOWS, SAND DUNES, WETLANDS, MATURE FORESTS OR WILDLIFE CORRIDORS.
4. **ACCESS TRAILS TO POPULAR HIKING AND/OR MOUNTAIN BIKING DESTINATIONS** SUCH AS THE GLACIER TRAIL THAT PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE COMOX GLACIER, THE BOSTON RIDGE TRAIL TO FORBIDDEN PLATEAU OR A TRAIL UP INTO THE BEAUFORT RANGE, ETC.
5. **SPECIAL RECREATION FEATURES** LIKE THE CLIMBING AREA AT COMOX LAKE OR THE SWIMMING AREA AT STOTAN FALLS
6. **BEACH ACCESS TRAILS** TO COMOX VALLEY BEACHES FROM THE SURROUNDING NEIGHBOURHOODS.

DO NOT READ:

7. ALL OF THE ABOVE ARE IMPORTANT
8. NONE OF THE ABOVE
9. DON'T KNOW

GO TO Q4

GO TO Q4

GO TO Q4

- 3a. And which would be the next most important type of parkland for the Regional District to buy? **RE-READ LIST AS NECESSARY. RANDOMIZE. ONE RESPONSE ONLY.**

- 3b. And which would be the third most important type of parkland for the Regional District to buy? **RE-READ LIST AS NECESSARY. RANDOMIZE. ONE RESPONSE ONLY.**

The Regional District is thinking of acquiring some parkland that has limited recreation opportunities and no or few trails, but protects a sensitive ecosystem such as a wetland or a wildlife migration corridor. Which of the following best describes your views on this? **READ LIST. ROTATE**

1. I SUPPORT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT ACQUIRING SOME PARKLAND WITH LIMITED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND NO OR FEW TRAILS IN ORDER TO PROTECT SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS AND THIS SHOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE MAJORITY OF PARKLAND ACQUIRED
2. I SUPPORT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT ACQUIRING SOME PARKLAND WITH LIMITED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND NO OR FEW TRAILS IN ORDER TO PROTECT SENSITIVE ECOSYSTEMS, BUT THE MAJORITY OF PARKLAND ACQUIRED SHOULD HAVE TRAILS AND BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
3. I DO NOT SUPPORT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT'S THINKING-ALL PARKLAND ACQUIRED SHOULD HAVE TRAILS AND BE FULLY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC

DO NOT READ:

4. DEPENDS
5. NONE OF THE ABOVE
6. DON'T KNOW

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Now we have a few statistical questions to help classify your responses

- D1. Generally, how often do you and others living in your household use the existing parks and trails in the Comox Valley Regional District? Would you say....**READ LIST**

1. Almost daily or more often
2. Once or twice a week
3. Once or twice a month
4. Twice every six months

5. Once a year or less
6. Rarely or never

DO NOT READ

7. Don't know

D2. Which of the following best describes your current accommodation? Do you...? **READ LIST**

1. Rent **GO TO QD4**
2. Own your home

DO NOT READ:

3. Other (SPECIFY) **GO TO QD4**
4. Refused **GO TO QD4**

D3. Into what range would you say the assessed value of your home falls? **READ LIST**

1. Less than \$150,000
2. \$150,000 to less than \$300,000
3. \$300,000 to less than \$500,000
4. \$500,000 or more

DO NOT READ:

5. Don't Know/Refused

D4. Into which of the following age groups do you fall? **READ LIST**

1. 18 - 24
2. 25 - 34
3. 35 - 44
4. 45 - 54
5. 55 - 64
6. 65 or over

DO NOT READ:

7. Refused

D5. How many years have you lived in the Comox Valley Regional District?

ENTER IN NUMBER OF YEARS

0. Less than 1 year

D6. Which of the following best describes your current household composition...? **READ**

1. Single with no children
2. Couple with no children
3. Family with children (includes single parent households)
4. Other

Appendix 6: Agency and public comments received during Jan. 17 – Feb. 28, 2011 comment period

Comments from electoral area residents (13):

(Note: where residents did not indicate their street address, it is assumed that they live within an electoral area).

1. Congratulations on this forward-looking plan! I have for months been trying to urge various agencies and people (MP, MLA, Area 'C' rep., regional district, K'omoks First Nation) into getting behind extension of the One Spot Trail (priority 2) without much success. But now I am heartened to see this included in the plan. I have one suggestion: since the extensions are sizeable undertakings in their own right, how about prioritizing them separately? My own preference would be to give the southward extension highest priority, providing a safe link to Courtenay for pedestrians and cyclists.
2. I agree 100% with your proposed new parks and greenways strategic plan, specifically the active priorities listed on table 4 of "new parks and greenways, 2011-2030", and tables 5, the list of "reserve priorities for parkland acquisition". I am particularly glad to see the Western toad breeding and migration areas; the Garry Oak ecosystem purchase and/or conservation covenants; the Courtenay River estuary, and since I am an avid cyclist now that I am retired, the "One Spot," E&N Rail with Trail" and "Royston Waterfront Trail" continued south from the Courtenay riverway for walking and cycling purposes. I would be willing to pay \$10 per \$100,000 of property assessment per year to help secure and construct these parks and greenways in the coming years.
3. Although I don't live in the areas included in the report I do frequent many of them in my walks around the Comox Valley. The plan is full of good ideas which I support. It will take political will at many levels to make it happen. I support a levy on property tax for park acquisition
4. As per my conversation with Brian Allaert today, I am leaving my feedback for the proposed One Spot Trail Extension. We, my husband and young family, live on Railway Ave right along the proposed trail extension sight. Our property line is approx. 50 feet away from the logging grade. Both our house and our barn are at the back of our property, and therefore not far away from the proposed site. We decided to move out to Railway from Alberta because of the peace and quiet. Our concern for this trail was one of our major concerns when we lived in rural Alberta:quads and dirtbikes. How are you going to guarantee that I will not be hearing quads and dirtbikes ripping by constantly throughout the day and evening through the warmer months? We have used this trail, along the river, where there is no residences, and have come across dirt bikes as we were trying to cycle, thereby eating their dust after they went by. These were kids on the dirtbikes. It is so quiet here sometimes you don't even know you have neighbours. We really do not want this peace and quiet disturbed for a trail that some other people who do not live along here felt it would be good for us and the community at large. You do not live here. They tried to make a trail like this in Alberta about an hour from where we lived, but without any type of marshalling, it has now turned into a perfectly manicured quad and dirt-bike trail. Horses and cyclists no longer can use it because of all the quads. My second concern would be privacy. How can you guarantee that my privacy will be ensured as it is now? There is dense forest behind us, and we are far back from the road. We LOVE this privacy. Thirdly, I have often seen teenagers out here getting high on pot along the trail, am I going to be subjected to this as well, with 2 young kids at home? Fourthly, we have dogs, a horse, chickens, turkeys, cats and ducks. How are you going to guarantee their privacy and that they will not be disturbed or hurt? Fifthly, I would NOT want to have a new parks fee put on the property taxes for a trail extension that I do not want, going through essentially my back yard.

Furthermore, has anyone done a feasibility study to see if this area is even worth pouring money into-most of it is bog. Horses and cyclists are not going to be using boardwalk. What would happen if a horse and a cyclist met on the bog-would the horse have to jump into the bog to get around the cyclist, or would the cyclist have to take the bog? It appears to me that you are pushing this ahead without really knowing the area or asking the residents specifically who will be affected by it. Thank you.

5. Thank you for giving the public a chance to comment. I think extending the current walk/bikeways like the One Spot and riverway is a good idea to encourage recreation and bike commuting. I would also like to see a clean-up of the old saw mill property; perhaps incorporated into a greenway along the Dyke. I'm concerned about the sale of land around Stotan Falls. We need to still have public access to the river but also encourage respectful use (garbage/recycling cans available). These special falls are a gem of the valley. They must not be lost. Either to private business or garbage. Please make a pathway (perhaps along the Comox Logging Road) to encourage bike/walk access to the Puntledge and Stotan Falls. Thank you.
6. Hello, I've already spoken with Brian Allaert regarding the One Spot Trail extension in Merville, and would like to add my written comments/feedback as well. To start, I am completely and utterly opposed to the current plan for the trail. The proposed trail would split my property in half, severely limiting the use of my property. I bought the property in March of 2010, and the reason I purchased it was to clear part of the land and farm it (raising cattle and sheep). The trail would pass directly in front of where my barn site is, and would clearly interfere with and limit my ability to use that portion of the land. This would ruin the plans I have for my property. This is not to mention the fact that the trail would pass in front of my house, and have an enormous, negative impact on my privacy. My property is at 1818 Spike Road. To re-iterate, I would like it very clearly known that I oppose the trail plan completely. I have spoken with several neighbours, and many feel the same way. I have mentioned that there is a very clear alternative to the proposed trail, by putting it along Railway Road, and extending it through the Timberwest property that exists at the end of Railway, along the river. This area is already used by many people out here, and has several trails already in use throughout. Thank you.
7. In my opinion, this is just another tax grab put forward by the 3 Amigos. Or is it the 3 Stooges. We have plenty of park space now, enough to handle the Enviro- minority groups who believe the land exists for their use alone.

I hope you plan on a referendum before you decide to raise my taxes again. I pay water tax, carbon tax, property tax, HST tax, gas tax transportation tax ad nauseam. Let's fix up the broken issues before you decide to jam us with another one. Fix the water supply at Comox Lake first and throw out the meters that Paul Ives and the other water "drips" decided the Regional District needed 2 or 3 Years ago. These also are being pushed down our throats. Meters will triple our water bills but that doesn't matter to the "bosses". All this in the name of so called conservation. Most of us believe there is no shortage.

In the name of sanity, Axe this Rural Comox Valley Parks and Greenways Strategic Plan.
8. I am more than happy for a levy to buy more parkland, it's about time we started to save green spaces. Good for you.
9. Dear sirs, My wife and I support the regional parks plan and am willing to pay extra property taxes to support the plan.
10. This is another one of Ives million dollar projects it starts out as \$18.00 dollars and it will climb out of site this might be all right with some one that is working when you are on a fixed pension there is no

more money left. I am not in favour of spending all this money for this project. Try raising money by getting people to donate or have a raffle tell Ives he will be up for re-election soon along with Phelps.

11. To whom it may concern, I have reviewed the CVRD parks plan and fully support the implementation strategy put forward in the strategic plan and accompanying map.

I also fully support the new acquisition tax levy to acquire new parks and greenways, I would gladly pay much more to conserve the Valley's nature parks, greenways & sensitive ecosystems and the wildlife they support.

12. Regional District Parks Plan Input February 27, 2011: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. I commend the individuals and organizations who have committed time to the creation of this well-written document. I particularly applaud the inclusion of discussion on the economic value of green spaces, which notes that the economic value of land for ecological services is more than intense usages. I offer the following random comments on the issues raised in this draft parks proposal:

1. I fully support taxation dedicated solely to parks acquisition, up to several hundred dollars per year, and suggest that opposition from farmers to the funding formula of so many dollars per \$100,000. /property could be solved with a maximum cap per property. I would also echo the call for quick action to obtain as much land as possible now, with definitive numbers of acres to be aimed for yearly; servicing park spaces can come later.
2. I fully support the creation of an organization to fund-raise solely for conservation land acquisition in the area. This would afford an opportunity for memorial contributions, estate bequests, fund-raising drives, etc.
3. The goal of 17% total protection - where does that come from? The widely used 12 – 15% is not based on science, but was a figure arbitrarily suggested some years ago. I would suspect a figure to ensure sustainability of habitat is much higher than 17%.
4. No changes to Official Community Plans (OCP) should be permitted to accommodate developers. OCPs reflect the desires of the majority of taxpayers and should be respected. As well, where cash-in-lieu formula is used in subdivision applications, money MUST go to land purchase elsewhere. (p. 59).
5. Look at rezoning in sensitive areas and prevent another Gas'n Go Planning travesty.
6. Provincial government should be lobbied to give more resources to the district. Their decision to permit TimberWest lands to be sold should be challenged. Is it too late to obtain the lands named as important proposed additions to Strathcona Park in the 1988 Larkin Report, *Strathcona Park, Restoring the Balance* (as quoted in October 10/07 letter to Comox Valley Record from Ken Rodonets, Comox District Mountaineering Club)?
7. With global warming projected to flood and obliterate current marsh and tidal habitats, it is critical to protect other floodplains or nearby buffer areas. What are the plans of the regional district for these projections? How will protected areas be replaced in this event? As well, should building in the floodplain be continued?
8. Buffer zones for creeks and other sensitive areas should be taken to the maximum. Adding a few extra feet to a creek setback, for example, adds up to acres and acres of extra habitat over a large area.
9. We need bylaws so that where trees are cleared off for development of a property, they should be replanted elsewhere, perhaps in a restoration area. The wholesale tree clearing that went on at the site of the new North Island Trade Centre and Lannan Forest was sad to see.
10. Sensitive areas need buffer zones, especially where residential development backs onto such lands. Human intrusion depletes the value of the area for habitat; for example, domestic cats

venturing into nearby green spaces kill millions of birds across North America annually, seriously depleting songbird numbers – can the Regional District consider a campaign to make people aware of this concern, stressing keeping cats indoors and belling them, as well as spaying to keep numbers down?

11. Wildlife corridors – how can they be maintained near roads? What is the plan for maintaining corridors in urban areas? How can deer and other creatures safely cross the Lerwick Parkway for example? What about larger animals like cougars and bears? How can we keep them safe from human intrusion?
12. Litter such as plastic beer rings and plastic bags can be a death trap for wildlife and aquatic species; I find them on beaches, in woods, in ponds. Perhaps signage and information sheets as well as clean-up campaigns?
13. The goal of restoring ecosystems is commendable (p. 58), and I would urge as well the ‘creation’ of pond and marshes, and the plantings for what could one day be old growth forest. Loss of wetlands to development has been one of the factors driving amphibian numbers spiraling downward. I am aware that ponds and marshes on private land are being drained all over the district, with a corresponding loss of amphibians and the magic ‘night music’ of the tree frogs. How can this be stopped? Can an inventory be done of existing ponds and frog habitats, and some sort of protection enacted, especially on proposed subdivisions? Can an education campaign help, especially through schools? This is an urgent issue.
14. The proposed upgrade to the train corridor – although I support the idea of walking trails, I would mention that in walking this area myself, I have been delighted to see garter snakes crossing the tracks, which tell me that there are also food species, insect communities, etc. This is thrilling to see such wild creatures in the middle of town, and I am concerned that the removal of blackberry and other ‘wild’ thickets will spell a slow death to these creatures. Railway right-of-ways are natural wildlife corridors, and naturalists are reconsidering the blackberry, formerly considered invasive, for its cover for wildlife. Is there a way to leave a natural area for the creatures? These last little bits of wild land in town are charming, and if the trail must be replanted, I would suggest that this ‘wildness’ be incorporated into the theme, with native plantings that continue to attract insects and provide cover, without requiring insecticides and aggressive fertilizing. I would suggest that the entire design of the track redevelopment be done with consultation from a wildlife landscaper, so that features such as stone piles, sunning stones, wild grasses, etc., be incorporated so that the areas continues to provide safe habitat for wild creatures.
15. Where animals inhabit an area that will be developed, surely we can have a process to remove the creatures to another location, rather than see them flee out onto roads, etc. and be killed. Can this become standard for any development application approval?
16. Areas where ATVs and mountain bikes are allowed should be monitored for wildlife harassment, erosion, vegetation destruction.
17. Since hedgerows are some of the most productive wildlife habitats and certainly one of the most beautiful landscape features, both in rural and urban settings, I would suggest they be planted wherever possible on public lands. I would like to see farmers be encouraged by grants, etc., to plan them – see Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust for more information on such programs.
18. Our attitude to beavers should be reconsidered and revised on a regional basis. As email correspondence below indicates, policies to protect beavers and provide them with habitat can have lasting benefits to our community. They provide essential roles in creating new marshy areas, etc. Flooding can be prevented through the use of devices like pond levelers, which involve inserting a long pipe through the beaver dam. The pipe has a large cage to prevent the beavers from plugging it, and once submerged, it prevents flooding by reducing flow and depth of water.

This email was sent to me by Mr. Adrian Nelson of the Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals, Burnaby, B.C. (604-435-1850), in response to a query I sent him (I served as a director for this organization for a number of years).

Beavers - Date: Mon, 7 Feb 2011

I have been at a beaver management conference all last week in Oregon, which was attended by biologists, ecologists, civic planners and engineers from all over the world. It's amazing how many places are starting to realize the benefits of beavers and are actually working on re-locating and re-colonizing areas for beavers to move into. Hopefully BC will soon come around to the fact that beavers can be the answer to many of our problems.

As for beavers burying into levies and posing a problem of breaching and flooding - If the bank/ levy has been built properly it will contain a core of rock or something a beaver cannot dig through. However if these have been built poorly and are solely made of dirt then they have more of a problem than just beavers. If the city wants to leave them this way instead of reinforcing them with a proper core then it's as simple as laying galvanized mesh under the soil. This will help to stabilize the bank, allow plants to grow through, and prevent beavers or any other animal from borrowing through the bank. However it's of more concern that these banks haven't been built properly in the first place.

As for beavers in the water supply this is something North Americans have scared themselves into believing. The thought is that beavers could contaminate the water supply with giardia, commonly referred to as "beaver fever". In fact at the conference none of the international attendees sited this as a concern and they felt that it was because in other languages beaver and fever don't rhyme.

Giardia is in fact not as common in beavers as it is in animals such as raccoons, and is even found in domestic dogs, cats, and cattle, not to mention a greater risk of contamination from humans. Unless the city is trapping and killing all kinds of animals around the water supply then killing beavers alone will not protect the water supply. However if the water supply is being treated properly there is no risk of giardia. The bigger concern here is it seems the city isn't properly treating its water if they feel one animal could contaminate it.

In Oregon and Washington they are relocating beavers into watersheds because of their ability to clean up and replenish water supplies. They slow flow rates down, allowing nitrates, phosphorous and carbons to settle and replenish aquifers and surrounding habitat equating to more water being available later in the year. On the east coast of the US they are even looking at using beavers for sewage treatment in the form of nutrient farming.

Trapping is only a temporary solution as proved by having to trap year after year. Simple flow devices and deterrents will not only save beavers but save the city time and money. This has been proven for many, many years.

Beavers are also being relocated to help strengthen salmon stocks, an important thing for us here in BC. We spend millions of dollars creating salmon habitat by placing large woody debris, creating side channels, and slowing stream flows. Something beavers do for free.

Adrian Nelson

Thank you for your attention to my concerns. I hope to hear from you at some point regarding answers to the questions raised above.

13. No way if you want to spend all that money have a raffle or donation. We are taxed to death now and have no more money left.

Municipal residents (4)

(not subject to the proposed parkland acquisition tax):

1. Director and Board members, Take a look out of your second floor window: our Valley is GREEN. I do not support tax dollars buying more greenspace which will not create any employment for the Comox Valley. Thank you.

2. While your Strategic Plan may be attractive to all the special interest groups that made up your "Citizens Resource Group", I do not find it the least bit attractive and I do not support it. The reason I do not support this plan is because of its financial implications. As usual the special interest groups are trying to achieve their plans on the backs of the taxpayers. And yes, it is only \$20 a year for my house, but so is every other project that comes along. \$20 here and \$20 there and soon we are not going to be able to live in the Comox Valley. Stop adding to our tax burden and start finding solutions that don't always include a tax increase.

3. Please be advised that I am opposed to the latest proposed tax levy of \$5 per \$100,000 of assessed property value towards the acquisition of new parks and greenways. As a taxpayer in the City of Courtenay I object to paying yet more tax for green space in the rural areas without there being **more transparent** "due process"! A telephone survey of 312 people in the CVRD is not an adequate sample of opinion! A total of 74 people commenting on any vision the RD might have is not an adequate sample of opinion!

The ability of the RD staff to make decisions must be tempered until there is a realization that they do not operate independent of the municipalities in the spending of all our monies (vis-a-vis the purchase of land in the city of Courtenay for a homeless shelter).

4. Great to see the plan and public input. In the past it seems like much of the CVRD Parks work has been in the north and east. This may reflect why much of the future priorities reflect those areas as people are more aware. I feel the south should be one of the first areas for future work. A priority should be placed on the extension of the Courtenay riverway trail from Millard Nature Park to Royston (Royston Waterfront Trail) as initial work should be relatively inexpensive, it looks like it's ready to go, and will see lots of use as it's an extension of the already successful existing trail.

I would be pleased to help out in any way required: talking to neighbours, co-ordinating volunteers, marking route, building trails.

Summary of Agency Referral Comments

First Nations

K'ómoks First Nation – *Comments to be submitted prior to the March 14, 2011 electoral areas services committee meeting and will be provided at that meeting.*

Kwiakah First Nations – *No comments received.*

Laich-Kwil-Tach Treaty Society (incl. We Wai Kai Kum) – *No comments received.*

Homalco (Xwemalhwu) Indian Band – *No comments received.*

We Wai Kai – *No comments received.*

Federal Departments and Agencies

Fisheries and Oceans Canada – *No comments received.*

Provincial Ministries and Agencies

Agricultural Land Commission

Of the active priorities identified in Table 3 over half (6 of the 11) apply to land located within the ALR. Moreover, many of the areas identified on the strategic plan map are located within the ALR. We therefore consider it important that significant emphasis is placed on the need to take agricultural considerations into account when planning parks and greenways within the ALR and suggest that the plan be strengthened in this regard.

In the case of the trails that are located wholly or in part within the ALR, in particular the One Spot trail, the Commission's approval will be required. In the case of parks and most other proposed uses the Commission's approval will not be required, these uses being permitted in terms of the BC Regulation 171/2002. Nevertheless, given the importance of agriculture to the regional economy (specifically identified in the growth strategy and also in a number of places in this strategic plan), the Commission considers it important that the plan identify a process that provides for a balancing of agricultural and environmental considerations notwithstanding the focus of the plan on environmental and recreational values. We believe that an assessment of agricultural values would be helpful in the determination of the overall priorities of the strategic plan having regard to both considerations. Moreover solutions that satisfy both interests may be found (e.g. possibly with regard to the proposed Western Toad Conservation Park). We also suggest that more emphasis is given in the plan to the need to work with private land owners in the implementation of the strategy. Where the focus is on protection rather than on public use it may be possible to avoid the acquisition of property if support can be obtained from affected landowners.

In support of the above comments, specific edits were provided that have been incorporated into the final plan.

BC Parks, Ministry of Environment – *No comments received.*

Ecosystem section, Ministry of Natural Resources Operations –

Overall this sounds like a well considered, if ambitious plan. Consider partnership agreements with land trusts and conservation organizations, registered with the Surveyor General, that can hold conservation covenants. Conservation covenants require environmental appraisals and surveying. An alternative is a natural areas tax exemption program as mentioned in the plan. I liked to see that there was strong emphasis on partnerships and community buy-in.

As for the acquisitions plan, it is wonderful that the CVRD is interested in securing the parcels included in the plan. Confirm that the sits are supported in the Comox Valley Conservation Strategy. The Comox Valley lies in the transition of the Coastal Douglas-fir and Coastal Western Hemlock biogeoclimatic zones so there may be opportunities to preserve red-listed plant communities. Current terrestrial ecosystem mapping should be checked.

I recommend that a brief management statement is prepared for each property before it is acquired to consider flood, erosion and other management issues. It is also important to consider the conservation values of any properties especially where there may be red-listed species and ecosystems. Some form of higher level bio-inventory should be considered in the planning process to ensure the intended uses and the location, design and construction of improvements will be appropriate. Examples of these may include the One Spot Trail extension, Courtenay River Estuary, Puntledge triangle trail, the Royston to Cumberland trail, the Garry Oak ecosystem and Western toad breeding and migration areas. Once the land has been acquired more detailed management plans should be completed that lay out the management objectives, actions and responsibilities for the future.

Crown land authorizations, Ministry of Natural Resource Operations – No comments received.

Recreation Sites and Trails BC, Ministry of Natural Resource Operations – No comments received.

Ministry of Agriculture

Reviewing the map with the Active and Reserve Priorities (North to South) 17 out of the 24 listed appear to be completely or partially within the Agricultural Land Reserve. Only 2 in the active category are outside the Agricultural Land Reserve. This has important implications for planning as designations of trails within the Agricultural Land Reserve requires approval from the Agricultural Land Commission. While parks are permitted in the Agricultural Land Reserve they can create problems for adjacent farms and may require some mitigation measures. I suggest that you overlay the Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries on the Active and Reserve Priorities map. I further suggest you include a definition for the Agricultural Land Commission Act in the glossary on page 44. This Act can have as much influence on the proposed park priorities as the other government acts listed in the glossary.

The ‘Guide to Using and Developing Trails in Farm and Ranch Areas’ provides a framework for working with farmers to minimize the impact of trails in farming areas. Action 15 on page 40 the last paragraph is also an issue to farmers. Interactions between trail users, livestock and possibly farm equipment are often cited as a liability concern.

Some planning tools, such as density bonus and density transfer do not apply within the Agricultural Land Reserve.

Unopened Road Rights-of-way are a concern in the Agricultural Land Reserve. These corridors pose specific problems for farmers as a conduit for disease transference, trespass and issues of liability. The impacts on farms can be much greater than on residential properties.

Conservation covenants and Development Permit Areas are not always compatible with the agricultural integrity of a parcel. All covenants require approval from the Agricultural Land Commission prior to being noted on title.

Careful consideration of parks, trails and wildlife corridor priorities in the Agricultural Land Reserve coupled with meaningful consultation with the farm community needs to take place prior to implementation of the Rural Comox Valley Parks and Greenways Strategic Plan.

In support of the above comments, specific edits were provided that have been incorporated into the final plan.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

The Ministry has no concerns with the plan and will continue to work with the CVRD in their pursuit to acquire trails and parks via Ministry right of ways.

Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation – No comments.

Local Government

Comox (Town of)

While it is recognize that the priorities in the parks and greenways strategic plan are focused on parks and greenways that primarily serve residents of electoral areas A, B and C, some of the priorities are seen as regionally significant. The following three opportunities, not prioritized in the Strategic Plan, have regional benefits.

Dyke Road in Area B – In the strategic plan, the Courtenay River estuary is stated as Area A's top priority, and it is the third and fourth highest ranked priority for Areas C and B respectively. It is noted that a greenway connection along Dyke Road through Area B is absent from the Strategic Plan's map. Designation of this relatively short distance as a priority for implementation would facilitate Comox residents' ability, using established trails in Courtenay, to connect to the wider network of both existing and proposed trails and greenways for the Royston Area, Royston to Cumberland trail and the One Spot Trail. Recognizing this area as a priority would be synergistic with the objectives of cyclists as well as walkers, would promote wildlife viewing along the estuary, particularly promoting the use do the wildlife lookout on Dyke road, and would facilitate both commuter and recreational cycling along this corridor.

Waterfront to Goose Spit – Listed as an additional area of interest, but not currently priority of the Strategic Plan, is the connection by walkway of Goose Spit Park to Filberg Park in Comox. Achieving a waterfront walkway is a long-standing goal of the Town's Official Community Plan. Comox continues to add components of this long-term objective as land comes available for waterfront access.

Lazo Road linking Filberg Park/MacDonald Wood with Lazo marsh and Point Holmes waterfront – While it is recognized that this Strategic Plan is not intended to capture all of the locations where greenways, walkways or greenway connection potential exist between jurisdictions, we would ask that the Strategic Plan recognize Comox's Lazo Road greenway, that has been designated in the Town's OCP and portions secured through development on land

within the Town's boundaries, for the ability to mutually plan interconnected trail systems benefitting area residents with linkages in a more extensive, interconnected greenway and parks system in the Comox Valley.

Courtenay (City of)

A number of actions the plan identifies are strongly aligned with the City of Courtenay's vision for its own Parks Master Plan which is soon to be initiated. Some elements identified in the CVRD's plan will be helpful to us as the City of Courtenay goes forward (e.g. identification of a very comprehensive set of selection criteria).

As for specific areas:

- It is encouraging to see that the E&N Rail with Trail and the Royston-Courtenay waterfront trail are CVRD resident priorities as those are corridors we will also be targeting in our parks plan. As you know, the City has begun the implementation of the first segment of the Rail with Trail within the region.
- The identification of a potential park (the Condensory Bridge/ Anderton area) and trail connection (Cumberland-Courtenay Connection) identified by the public will be taken into consideration as the City of Courtenay formulates its parks plan.
- The City of Courtenay looks forward to working closely on any greenway/ park network connections as opportunities arise (Action 5)

As for policy:

The City endorses the Comox Valley Sustainability Strategy and would be happy to work towards achieving a number of the policies that overlap in that document and the CVRD parks plan.

Cumberland (Village of)

For the Royston to Cumberland Trail, please show the trail connecting to Dunsmuir as per the Village of Cumberland's parks plan.

I think the spine trail is fine as shown- again there are some portions of the rail bed running along the lake but I just need to show potential for a trail north to south.

Islands Trust

Please note that the Islands Trust Area and jurisdiction of the Denman Island Local Trust committee extends to the high water mark of Vancouver Island in some areas abutting the Comox Valley Regional District. However, the zoning bylaw of the Denman Island Local Trust Committee only extends to the 30 m bathymetric line of Baynes Sound, approximately mid-channel.

In the list of "Additional Areas of Interest Identified by the Public", a "signature marine park" is listed. Should the CVRD pursue establishment of a marine park, if it is within the Islands Trust Area we look forward to early consultation and collaboration.

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – No comments.

Regional District of Nanaimo

Please label the Regional District of Nanaimo at the CVRD's southern boundary. Same for Alberni Clayoquot RD. Other suggested changes: direct the bottom end of the Vancouver Island

Spine brown swath a bit to the west so the arrowhead sits in Alberni-Clayoquot; and put an arrowhead on the south end of the E&N Rail Trail swath, with the arrowhead sitting just inside our Region.

Please comment that the Rail Trail represents the CVRD's potential Trans Canada Trail connection via the Regional District of Nanaimo. The RDN's 2005-2015 Regional Parks and Trails Plan states the intention to hook up to CVRD's rail with trail.

Strathcona Regional District

The following resolutions were passed by the Strathcona Regional District's Committee of the Whole at their February 24, 2011 meeting:

THAT the Comox Valley Regional District be advised that the Strathcona Regional District supports the proposed Comox Valley Parks and Greenways Strategic Plan.

THAT the Comox Valley Regional District be requested to identify the Strathcona Regional District as a participant on the proposed "Open Space and Ecosystem Task Force" of the Strategic Plan.

CVRD Branches

Financial Services – *No comments.*

Property Services Branch

The plan should convey that growth will be directed to the core settlement areas identified in the RGS. Consequently, there will be limited opportunity to obtain park dedications at time of subdivision or public amenities in other areas.

Zoning Bylaws can establish setbacks from environmentally sensitive features such as watercourses and nest trees. Setbacks may be used to create buffers if, and where, environmentally sensitive areas and/or features are identified. In the absence of the identification of these features zoning setbacks cannot be "tweaked" on a case-by-case basis to afford protection to specific features. Zoning is black and white - it is only through the rezoning process that we can identify features and establish related buffers through building setbacks.

Reference to zoning as a possible mechanism to protect wildlife corridors. Zoning is intended to regulate land use, not to protect features unless specifically specified in the *Local Government Act* (LGA) – such as LGA provisions to use zoning to protect cultural heritage resources. Although the distinction might seem unnecessary, it is important to recognize that we cannot zone for natural heritage conservation under the current LGA.

With respect to the Courtenay River Estuary – planning staff has prepared a report for the Board recommending a new development permit area through which use of the foreshore will be regulated.

The LGA makes provision for a development proponent to offer public amenities, such as greenspace, when additional density is proposed and when both the development proposal and the acquisition of a specific amenity are in the public interest.

In support of the above comments, specific edits were provided that have been incorporated into the final plan.

Strategic and Long Range Planning

Strategic plan should reference alignment with parks and greenway plans for Cumberland, Courtenay and Comox. Strategic plan content and goals to be addressed in electoral areas official community plan review.

Other

Agricultural Community Advisory Panel

1. Parks funding for acquisitions and operations - Money should be raised by taxation in the entire region including Courtenay, Comox and Cumberland. All Valley residents use rural parks - not just rural residents. It is important to not to burden farmers with increased taxes. Valley farmers already are farming in a high cost area and need to remain competitive with other B.C. producers to remain in business.
2. Fencing policy - The fencing policy in agricultural areas must recognize the needs of farmers and not impose a financial burden on farmers.
3. Trails and walkways - Routes on right of ways that bisect farmland should be negotiated so as not to impact farming operations.
4. Private property and trespass - The Regional District needs a program of education, signage and enforcement to prevent trespass and vandalism on properties adjacent to parks and trails.
5. Environmental concerns - Farmers are concerned about the possible spread of disease and invasive plants along trail corridors.
6. Size - Large parks are more efficient to fund and administer.
7. Trail extensions - Connecting the One Spot Trail to Courtenay and a shoreline walkway between Comox and Courtenay should be a higher priority in the short term than extending other trails.
8. Consultation - It is important that the Regional District consult with farmers before introducing policy that impacts farming operations. This consultation could use the existing AAC or a separate committee could be formed. Prior consultation should reduce conflicts by allowing input before the policy is formed, rather than after the fact.

Comox Valley Economic Development Society – No comments received.

School District #71 (Comox Valley) – No comments received.

Submission from the Comox Valley Conservation Strategy Community Partnership to the Electoral Areas Services Committee, February 4, 2011

Introduction:

The Comox Valley has experienced a continuous loss and fragmentation of critical ecological areas. 150 years ago the Comox Valley was a pristine ecological wonder, with a plentiful supply of old growth douglas fir forests, over 500 hectares of Garry Oak stands and completely intact ecosystems. Wildlife, fish and native plants were in abundance.

In recent years studies have shown that less than 1% of the original old growth Douglas-fir and Garry oak stands remain and mature second growth forests, wetlands and other sensitive ecosystems are disappearing at an alarming rate. (42% documented loss or fragmentation of sensitive ecosystems between 1992- 2004, *Nature Without Borders Report*)

In response to these losses a Comox Valley Conservation Strategy (CVCS) was developed by the Comox Valley Land Trust which is currently being promoted and implemented by a Community Partnership of 16 local environmental and resident groups. The Community Partnership is operated by the CVCS steering committee made up of environmental professionals and representatives from these groups.

The CVCS steering committee has reviewed the draft Parks Plan information provided by the CVRD and delegated steering committee member Jack Minard and project manager David Stapley to provide a written submission and attend the Feb. 14 EASC meeting as a delegation.

Summary:

The overall vision, goals, objectives as stated in the draft parks plan are fully supported by the CVCS and align with the conservation goals and principles as outlined in “Nature Without Borders.” The choices for park land acquisition have been based on a set of environmentally sound criteria that balances the need for conservation ecosystems and human needs for recreation. Most of the actions as outlined in the implementation section appear to work well with the goals and objectives of the plan. However there are four critical shortcomings to the plan. If these are not addressed achievement of the Plan’s vision and goals is unlikely to occur.

These four areas are:

- Funding plan for land acquisition
- Development of a regional approach for improved Connectivity
- Development of Partnerships with Land Conservancies and Non Government Organizations
- Creation and Implementation of Conservation Planning tools

We are making the following recommendations to address the shortcomings in these four areas:

1) Funding Plan

The plan estimates that the cost of acquiring the priority sites is 4.3 million dollars. Recent information coming from the province identifying the cost of securing ownership of Seal Bay Park is \$10 million dollars. The Town of Comox in partnership with The Nature Trust of BC recently purchased land at a cost of \$5 million dollars to secure additional parkland at the mouth of Brooklyn Creek.

The plan for purchasing land has been spread over a 20 year period. Unfortunately, history has shown that due to increased population and development pressure many critical areas for conservation have been lost. An assumption is being made that none of these sites will be lost or fragmented due to development or resource extraction over the next 20 years. This seems optimistic given historical patterns. These factors lead us to conclude that the Parks Plan must take a more aggressive approach to park land acquisition. This would require increasing the recommended tax levy to at least 10 dollars per 100,000 of assessed value, and set the plan on a 10 year time frame.

2) Development of Partnerships with Land Conservancies and NGOs

The plan should direct Parks staff to aggressively pursue partnerships with Land Conservancies and NGO's to leverage acquisition funds. Tax levies and DCCs are a big portion of projected income and can provide substantial leverage for NGO partnership funding planning. A coordinated approach with the CVRD, Land Conservancies and NGO's could greatly increase the amount of money available through increased donations and access to foundations and senior levels of government for land conservation grants.

The telephone poll conducted in the development of the draft Parks Plan indicates that parks are highly valued and that 39% of the population is willing to be taxed at a rate of 10 dollars per 100,000. This information shows that development of strong partnerships with conservancies and NGOs with the purpose of developing a large donor base for parkland acquisition could be very successful in generating funds.

3) Development of a Regional Approach to achieve Connectivity

Natural areas that link parks and sensitive ecosystems and habitats must exist in order to achieve the goal of long term protection of biodiversity, wildlife and the diverse range of ecosystems in the Comox Valley. To achieve connectivity goals it will require a coordinated regional approach that includes parks and other departments of local government creatively working together with NGOs and other stakeholders.

The Parks Plan needs to direct the CVRD to take the lead and initiate the establishment of a multi-stakeholder Open Space and Ecosystem Task Force as described in the draft Parks Plan and Sustainability Strategy.

4) Create and Implement Conservation Planning tools

The Parks Plan identifies a number of planning tools that will increase the capacity of the CVRD to acquire parkland and conserve critical ecological areas. These tools are successfully in use by other local governments. The Plan should direct staff to create and implement these tools rather than simply “explore” them.

Specific text changes to draft Parks Plan

We are requesting that the following text changes be made to the following sections of the plan to address the topics raised in the Summary above. (deleted text is highlighted and stroked through, added text is highlighted, bolded and in italics)

Section 5 Goal 1: Protect and connect native ecosystems over time, objectives:

2. Seek to protect ~~representative samples~~ **the full range** of native ecosystems so that each is represented in the Comox Valley within the regional district park system.

3. Protect sensitive and threatened habitats (wetlands, marshes, beaches, **foreshore**, streamside corridors, old growth and mature second growth forests, heron rookeries, eagle nest sites, etc.).

Section 7: Implementation Strategy

Action 6: Implement a tax levy for parkland acquisition..

An estimated \$4.3 million are needed to acquire all eleven priority areas and to implement the parks

and greenways strategic plan. To raise sufficient funds over the **ten** year period of the plan requires a

tax levy set at **\$10** per \$100,000 of assessed property value. The tax levy will be dedicated specifically to parkland acquisition and will come into effect in 2011. The tax impact on the average household (assuming an average home value of \$365,000) would be **\$36** annually.

Action 9: Actively encourage bequest, gifts of land and financial contributions with **Land Conservancies.**

Partnerships

The successful establishment of parks and greenways requires partnerships with private landowners, **Land Conservancies and other NGO's**, and other government agencies and First Nations.

Action 16: **Initiate and participate in a multi-stakeholder Open Space and Ecosystem Task Force to develop strategies for ecosystem protection, overseeing and coordinating local and regional work on parks, trails, ecosystem protection and restoration.**

Action 20: Develop a policy for fencing along park boundaries

At times, park use may warrant putting a fence along a park boundary. The regional district will develop a fencing policy or guidelines that identify circumstances under which the regional district may share costs for a fence with adjoining neighbours. The policy would also provide guidelines for form and type of fence. It would not restrict park neighbours from building their own fence if desired. **Planning for wildlife movement must be considered when fencing is being considered.**

Action 22: ~~Explore creating~~ **Create a park zoning capability within the RD**

Action 23: ~~Explore~~ **Identify and implement other planning tools such as density bonusing and density transfer to encourage the protection of greenspace**

Action 24: ~~Explore~~ **Create a natural areas tax exemption and / or other incentives to encourage protection of greenspace on private property**

Appendix 7: Tools for Acquiring Parkland and Protecting Greenspace

The regional district has a number of tools at its disposal to acquire parkland. A large number of these tools are well used while others are underutilized or under development.

Planning Tools

Inclusive Zoning for Parks

As per the Rural Comox Valley Official Community Plan, 1998, bylaw # 2042, parks, recreation and open space areas are a permitted use in any designation and any zone. This gives the regional district the flexibility to establish parks in any area without having to rezone the property.

Density Bonus/Amenity Zoning

The *Local Government Act* allows local governments to agree to a developer building more units on a property than would otherwise be permitted under the zoning bylaw if the development benefits the community, possibly through the provision of amenities such as affordable housing, a community dock or property for a community hall or a firehall. This is referred to as density bonussing or amenity zoning. Until 2007, the Comox Valley Regional District allowed density bonussing in RU-8 and RU-20. There is still a possibility to use density bonussing as part of the rezoning process for large developments. Examples of park dedication that were the result of density bonussing is Eagle Drive Park and Mountain Spirt parks in Area ‘C’ and Little River Nature Park in Area ‘B’. Increased density (in the form of smaller lot sizes) in the neighbourhoods around these three parks allowed for

dedication of a larger area of greenspace as park.

Density bonussing is not possible, nor appropriate in agricultural areas.

Park Zoning

Local governments may zone areas as park prior to their dedication. This tool may be used for developments over large areas of land where the developer is donating parkland but the parkland will not be transferred to the local government until the development is built out. Establishing park zones for public greenspace allows the regional district to clearly identify its long term intentions and priorities for public greenspace within a development area. Park zoning decreases costs and increases certainty for developers as they design their development from the very start to integrate the identified greenspaces.

There is great potential for the regional district to increase its use of park zoning as a planning tool.

Density Average, Density Transfer,

Density averaging allows the developer flexibility in terms of the configuration of the lot sizes while maintaining the same number of lots allowed in a given zone. For example, rather than creating four equal size parcels, the developer may create three small and one larger parcel. Density averaging is only allowed in specific zones.

Under density transfer, a landowner could relocate the development potential from an interior property to a waterfront lot. In this manner, the interior lot could become

publicly-owned property for trail access or a community hall. Density transfer can be considered on a case-by-case basis through bylaw amendment application.

The Comox Valley Official Community Plan could include guidelines that are required for a density transfer application to be successful.

Similar to density bonussing, density averaging and density transfer are not possible and would not be appropriate within the agricultural land reserve.

Park Dedication / Offer of Cash-in-Lieu at Time of Subdivision

As per the *Local Government Act 941(4)*, landowners applying for subdivision approval may be required to transfer a percentage of the subdivision lands to the regional district for use as parkland. Up to 5% of the land to be subdivided may be set aside as parkland. Alternatively, cash in lieu of the land (i.e. 5% of the appraised value of the parent parcel after rezoning and recognizing its subdivision potential) can be substituted to purchase land elsewhere. Where a parks and greenways plan exists, the choice between land or cash lieu with the regional district.

Dedications of land at time of subdivision are made for other public purposes, including school sites (up to 10%), pathways, access to water (when waterfront is involved) and drainage easements. In some cases these can add to public greenspace. For example, the local government and school board may enter into an agreement to determine what proportion of the total dedicated land will be used for park purposes and how much for school purposes.

Dedication requirements do not apply to the consolidation of existing parcels; a subdivision where only 1 or 2 additional lots

are being created; or a subdivision where the lots being created are larger than 2 hectares.

This last exemption is known as the “large lot” exemption. The 5% parkland dedication is only triggered upon further subdivisions of less than 2 hectares, yielding smaller parkland areas. This “large lot” exemption creates smaller and more scattered parks potentially of less value to the community than if parks had been dedicated from the original subdivision.

The majority of regional district parks were obtained at time of subdivision. Examples include Huband Park, King Coho Greenway, Loxely Park, Bracken Park and Ship’s Point Park.

Development Cost Charges

Local Governments can pass bylaws that allow for the collection of funds from developers to offset some of the costs that local governments would otherwise have to pay to build new infrastructure to service the new development. If a local government has adopted a development cost charge (DCC) bylaw, DCCs are payable at the subdivision or building permit application stage whichever comes first. The Town of Comox, City of Courtenay and Village of Cumberland have DCCs for parks and other public services. The regional district has DCCs for the sewage and water supply systems and will explore developing a bylaw that will allow it to charge DCCs for parks.¹

The purpose of DCCs for parks is to ensure that new residential development assists in the provision of new park area and park improvements to meet its residents’ needs.

¹ The Rural Comox Valley Official Community Plan, 1998, bylaw 2042, states that development cost charges shall be considered for adoption and implementation as a means to provide funding for the purchase of recreational lands, natural open space, and the development of these parcels for the benefit of the community.

Future DCCs for parks would go into a regional reserve fund and support implementation of the parks and greenways strategic plan.

Philanthropy

Private Land Donations, Bequests and Life Estates

A number of regional district parks are the result of the generosity of Comox Valley residents who donated their land to the regional district as parkland. A donation of land is a voluntary transfer of title from the donor to the recipient during the donor's lifetime. A bequest of land is a gift made in a will. In either case, the donor can attach conditions to the transfer of title such as 'conservation of the land as natural parkland' or allow the regional district to sell the land and use the proceeds to purchase more valuable parkland elsewhere in the valley.

The regional district offers a tax receipt for land donations. In some cases, it is a tax benefit to the donor to have the donation recognized as having 'ecological significance' by Revenue Canada. Examples of lands donated to the regional district for parks are Foden Park, Glover Community Nature Park and an addition to Mt. Geoffrey Park. Examples of parks that involved an ecogift are Bear Creek Nature Park and Lazo Wildlife Park.

Individuals may also donate land to the regional district as a 'life estate'. That means the donor retains the right to live on the land until the end of their lifetime and while the donors are alive, the regional district pays all or a portion of the property taxes. An example of a life estate is Sarah and Brian McLoughlin Park.

Land Grants, Leases and Statutory Rights-of-Way

Crown Land Grants

In the past, the Province commonly offered grants over Crown land to local governments for park purposes or protection of a drinking water supply area. In the last ten years or so, the Province has not offered grants of Crown land without having a 'sponsoring ministry' to pay fair market value for the land. Prior to this requirement coming into force, the regional district obtained land grants from the Province for a number of parks including Seal Bay Nature Park and Mt. Geoffrey Park on Denman Island.

Licenses or Leases over Crown Land

The Province leases land to local governments for park purposes. There are three types of leases. Licenses of occupation give non-exclusive use for usually a maximum of ten years. Examples of parks under license of occupation are Dyke Road Viewing Platform (20 year licence), Goose Spit Park, Seal Bay Forest and Union Bay Greenway.

A lease transfers more exclusive rights to the regional district and is typically concluded for up to 30 years. The only regional district park under a Crown land lease is Nymph Falls Park which is leased to the CVRD for a 20 year period.

To date, whenever a license of occupation or a lease over Crown land expired, the regional district was able to renew the agreement with the province for a similar length of time as the original agreement. Licenses or leases over Crown land are usually granted by the Province to local governments at a nominal rate.

In some instances the regional district does not have a formal license or lease for use of

the park but has a permit to build and maintain trails on Crown land. An example of this is Wildwood Interpretive Forest. See table 1 on pages 15 to 18 for land tenures over existing regional district parks.

Undeveloped Road Rights-of-Way

The regional district has concluded a number of statutory right-of-way agreements with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to develop and maintain trails within provincial road rights-of-way. A number of these provide important trail connections to schools or community amenities increasing the walkability of neighbourhoods. Others provide access to the beach or an existing park. Examples of statutory rights-of-way over unopened roads include Avonlee Greenway and Lamb Road (part of Eagle Drive Park). Where unopened road rights-of-way pass through farmland, development of a trail requires approval of the Agricultural Land Commission. Consultation with farms bordering the proposed trail is key to a successful trail project.

Utility Corridor Right-of-Ways

The regional district parks department can work with the owner of a utility corridor (i.e. regional district sewage and drainage department, B.C. Hydro, or gas companies) to develop trails within the corridor. This would typically require a statutory right-of-way agreement to allow the regional district to build and maintain a trail in the corridor. A formal partnership of this nature has not been realized to date; however, many utility corridors in the Comox Valley already serve as informal community trail systems.

Agreements with private landowners

The regional district may enter into agreements with private landowners for

access over private land for park purposes. Land may be leased from a private property owner to complete an important trail connection or provide access to a park. For example, the regional district could have an agreement with a private landowner to build and maintain a trail that crosses their private land to provide a connection to an existing park.

Trails on Private Forest Land

There are opportunities for the regional district to reach agreements with private forest companies to protect public use of trails on private forest land. While the trails may need to be moved every few years to accommodate harvesting plans, agreements could protect long term access to popular recreation areas.

Parks and Greenways Acquisition Fund

A number of regional districts set aside money in a special fund for the acquisition of parkland. The Comox Valley Regional District has a parkland acquisition reserve fund. As permitted under the *Local Government Act*, contributions to the fund are made when the district accepts cash in lieu rather than 5 percent of the land at time of subdivision. Contributions to the parkland acquisition reserve fund are irregular. At current levels, the fund does not give the regional district significant purchasing power.

A reserve fund can also be enhanced through a tax levy dedicated specifically to parkland acquisition. Metro Vancouver, the Capital Regional District, Nanaimo, Cowichan Valley, Central Okanagan, and East Kootenay regional districts have done this.

Municipal Involvement in Regional Park Acquisition and Operation

Currently, regional district park acquisition and capital projects are entirely funded by the three electoral areas. This is true of the smaller community parks that serve the immediate neighbourhood as well as the larger parks (Seal Bay, Nymph Falls, and Goose Spit parks and One Spot Trail) that serve a larger population. At the open houses, a number of residents suggested that the four local governments review how parks that serve the entire region are funded. In a number of regional districts in the Province, (e.g. MetroVancouver, Capital Regional District, Regional District of Nanaimo, Central Okanagan Regional District and the Central Kootenays Regional District), the electoral areas and municipalities contribute to a regional parks service function and jointly fund acquisition and maintenance of regionally significant parks. The smaller community parks within these regional districts continue to be funded by only the electoral areas.

In the Comox Valley, the regional parks service was active at the time of completion of the 1986 Comox Valley Area Parks Plan, (bylaw 902), which identified priorities for acquisition of regionally significant parkland. The regional parks service was repealed in 2008 due to over 35 years of inactivity.

Bylaw 902 defined regionally significant parks as those parks that serve a regional population, that provide recreation resources strongly related to natural and renewable resources, and that provide a regionally significant recreational resource where there is a perceived deficiency of the resource and where the facilities ease or absolve the burden of providing similar services elsewhere.²

² Comox Valley Area Parks Plan, bylaw 902, 1986, p. 7-8.

The 1986 parks plan also stated that “regional parks should complement the existing recreational services provided by municipalities within the study area by providing more regionally significant parks. The regional park system could include regional parks within a municipality...” In 1986, Goose Spit Park, Seal Bay Park and Capes Park (the latter is now within the City of Courtenay) were funded through the regional parks service with participation from the municipalities and electoral areas. Today, Goose Spit Park and Seal Bay Park are funded through the electoral areas ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’ community parks service.

Short-term borrowing

If a parkland acquisition fund with regular and predictable annual contributions is in place, the regional district can consider short term (up to 5 years) borrowing to serve immediate and threatened parkland interests. Short-term borrowing allows the regional district to respond to opportunities to purchase private property when the land comes on the market and before the opportunities may be lost. Using a debt servicing term of only 5 years would enable the CVRD to capitalize on reduced loan interest rates.

Dividing off Public Interest Portion of Land Purchased

If the regional district’s purchasing power was enhanced through a parkland acquisition fund, the district could purchase land, subdivide off the public interest portion (e.g. a trail corridor) and re-sell the remainder of the property. Alternatively, the district could put a statutory right-of-way on the property where it wants to locate a park or trail and re-sell the entire property with the statutory right-of-way on it.

This is not applicable to land within the agricultural land reserve where the minimum

parcel size is 20 hectares and any subdivision should result in a net benefit to agriculture.

Purchase at Fair Market Value

The regional district can purchase land at “fair market value” as was the case with the addition to Foden Park. Given land prices, purchases are often undertaken in partnership with other jurisdictions and/or land trusts. Future land purchases would focus on achieving the goals of this strategic plan. At the same time, other areas of interest identified in the Official Community Plan or brought forward by the public may be acquired if the opportunity for funding partnerships arise.

Conservation Covenants

Under section 219 of the *Land Titles Act*, private property owners can place a conservation covenant on their land or a portion of their land. A conservation covenant is a legal agreement between a landowner, an authorized land trust and/or a local government. This legal agreement remains attached to the title of the property in perpetuity and defines allowable and restricted uses for the property. The landowner still holds title to the land and can continue to live on and use it, restricting or allowing public access, but keeping to the agreed restrictions in the covenant. The land trust or local government that holds the covenant may help design the limits of future use and development.

In order to ensure that these long term agreements are kept, the organization that holds the covenant has the legal responsibility of protecting, monitoring and

defending the terms of the covenant. An annual site visit and report are often done, creating an on-going record of the land’s condition.

Normally, a conservation covenant restricts uses, developments or practices which would damage the natural or cultural features of the land.

Covenants can be tailored to meet the landowners wishes, the land’s unique natural and cultural values, and the goals of the land trust or local government signing it.

In the case of land within the agricultural land reserve, covenants have to be approved by the Agricultural Land Commission.

An example of a conservation covenant within the regional district parks and greenways system is the Masters Greenway. The covenant protects the natural features of the land in perpetuity while allowing public access.

Partnerships with First Nations

The regional district recognizes that some of the priorities identified in this strategic plan may have been or will be identified through the treaty process and that the outcome of that process will influence what areas the regional district can actively pursue as parks or greenways. In areas where First Nation and regional district interests in greenspace overlap, the regional district may explore possible partnerships. The regional district may also work with First Nation to promote an understanding of First Nation culture through appropriate interpretation within regional district parks and greenways.

Appendix 8: Regional District Parks and Greenways Policies

From the Proposed Regional Growth Strategy, Bylaw No. 120, 2010

Objective 2-A: Identify and map areas for conservation.

Supporting policies:

2A-1 Local governments should adopt regionally consistent terminology, as set out above, to create a policy framework to support protection of conservation, environmental features and watersheds in OCPs.

2A-2 All local governments are encouraged to regularly update environmental mapping. This will facilitate the production of mapping that depicts critical information such as sensitive ecosystems, watercourses and riparian areas, parks and greenways, and working landscapes including ALR.

2A-3 Use a sensitive environmental atlas as a common method of collecting and displaying conservation and environmental information

2A-4 OCP updates should include mapping of regional environmental features.

2A-5 Ground-truthing and mapping should be considered as part of the planning updates and development approvals process. OCPs, rezonings and other permitting processes, should seek to collect such information wherever possible.

2A-6 Working with private landowners, environmental organizations and upper-level governments, local governments should encourage and assist in the sharing of mapping and ground-truthing.

2A-7 Work with the K'ómoks First Nation so that environmental mapping reflects K'ómoks First Nation's unique traditional ecological knowledge, cultural heritage and traditional use of the area. Additionally, the K'ómoks First Nation and all parties to the RGS should partner in the development of the estuary management plan for the Courtenay River.

2A-8 Recognize the ecological and cultural significance of the Courtenay River estuary, the Courtenay River estuary management plan is in the process of being updated through multi-jurisdictional cooperation, including numerous stakeholders, senior governments, local governments and the K'ómoks First Nation. When completed, this plan will form one of the key "additional studies and projects", as noted in Part 5 of this RGS, that will assist in implementing the RGS.

2A-9 The RGS supports the implementation of local government parks and greenways plans and policies to establish a network of interconnected local and electoral area parks and greenways in order to protect recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and natural ecosystem functions.

Objective 2-B: Frame environmental protection and policies around the principles of precaution, connectivity and restoration.

Supporting Policies:

2B-1 Local governments should work together to adopt consistent actions and policies for environmental and natural resource protection, through OCPs, zoning and other mechanisms, that promote the principles of precaution, connectivity and restoration.

2B-2 OCPs should explore the development of clear definitions and guidelines for *ecological greenways* and to work with neighbouring local governments to create region-wide linkages.

2B-3 Explore and encourage the practice of restoration of urban and rural ecosystems to increase ecological functions.

Objective 2-D: Ensure access to parks, recreation areas.

Supporting Policies:

2D-1 All local jurisdictions should work together to coordinate local and regional greenway network connections.

2D-2 Require new developments to link to, improve or expand the existing greenway network.

Comox Valley Sustainability Strategy 2010-2050

The sustainability strategy sets targets for ecosystems protection and park creation.

Implementation of the parks and greenways strategic plan will contribute to achieving the following goals, objectives and action items in the strategy:

Goal 5.2. Conserve and restore ecosystems.

Objective 5.2.1: Conserve currently unprotected sensitive ecosystems.

Actions:

- k. Inventory and assess conservation funding initiatives that are currently in use by local governments. Based on this assessment, identify opportunities for additional conservation funding strategies.
- l. Consider opportunities for land acquisitions to support the protection of key areas (possibly through a local government park acquisition fund or through a partnership with a local conservation organization).

Goal 5.4.: All citizens have access to recreational opportunities.

Objective 5.4.1.: Ensure widespread access to a variety of recreational parks and greenways and the target that by 2020 50% of municipal residents live within 2.5 km of a larger conservation area or large natural park area. Actions:

- b. Create a region-wide parks and trails network, linked by inter-community greenways, that addresses social and ecological needs.
- c. Where applicable, require new developments to include greenways that connect to a regional greenways network.
- e. Pursue opportunities to jointly acquire land to meet park needs in municipal and electoral areas.

Goal 4.3: Increase walking, cycling, transit use and other forms of alternative transportation.

Objective 4.3.2.: A regional network of greenways is created including dedicated pedestrian and cycling commuter routes that connect people to services, neighbourhoods and each other across jurisdictional boundaries.

Action:

- b. Ensure that regional parks and greenways planning integrates greenway connectivity between all jurisdictions and new development projects.

Rural Comox Valley Official Community Plan, 1998 bylaw 2042:

C.12 Parks and Recreation Policies

C.12(a) The goals, objectives and policies of the Comox Valley Area Parks Plan (1987) shall be supported.

C.12(b) Parks, recreation and open space shall be a permitted use in any designation and any zone.

C.12(c) Land and water areas with high recreational potential shall be identified and designated for uses which retain or provide for public accessibility.

C.12(d) Development Cost Charge bylaws shall be considered for adoption and implementation as a means to provide funding for the purchase of recreational lands, natural open space, and the development of these parcels for the benefit of the community.

C.12(e) Acquisition and/or protection of environmentally sensitive areas, stream protection setbacks, greenbelts, parks, trails and community recreational facilities may be achieved through legislated mechanisms such as, but not limited to:

- .1 *density bonusing, density averaging or density transfer*;
- .2 development permit area designations,
- .3 *restrictive covenants* and easements;
- .4 land trust agreements;
- .5 dedicated road right-of-way;
- .6 park dedication;
- .7 zoning setbacks; and
- .8 return to Crown of watercourses.

C.12(f) Where an owner of land being subdivided must provide park land pursuant to Section 941 of the Municipal Act, the owner shall provide cash-in-lieu as provided for under Section 941(1)(b) unless the subject property contains land identified as an area of park/trail interest as outlined schematically in the Comox Valley Area Parks Plan, and/or the Regional District identifies that the land has features which are attractive for park, trail park access, or *greenways* purposes.

C.13 Greenways Policies

C.13(a) The development of an integrated Comox Valley trail and park system that minimizes recreational/residential and recreational/agricultural conflicts and prioritizes environmental protection in trail and park design, management and use, shall be promoted.

C.13(b) A network of non-motorized recreation and commuting trails linking communities, public lands and parks shall be created.

C.13(c) The Regional District shall work cooperatively and seek partnerships with land owners, non-governmental organizations, citizens, local governments and others to plan and implement a valley-wide *greenways* network. The Comox Valley Greenways Concept Plan (October 1997), identified in Appendix E, shall provide a basis for the *greenways* network.

C.13(d) Senior government, public utilities and crown corporations shall be consulted with respect to opportunities and appropriate agreements for trails and *greenways* to be developed on lands affected by their mandates.

C.13(e) Appropriate trail design, development, and management standards shall be established and implemented to ensure that environmental values are protected and the potential for land use conflicts is minimized.

C.13(f) *Working landscapes* shall be recognized as important greenspaces and public access shall be as provided at the discretion of the private land owner.

From Bylaw no. 2194 Electoral Area 'A' Greenways Plan (January 31, 2000):

Greenways Vision for Electoral Area 'A' p. 1

From input attained through the workshops and the mailouts there was a consensus within the three communities of Fanny Bay, Royston, and Union Bay regarding the natural systems of the Electoral Area. Natural systems of Electoral Area 'A' including creeks, rivers, estuaries and Baynes Sound should be preserved as a valued ecological resource. The Greenways Plan should enhance the existing rural and waterfront oriented character through connecting communities and improving community amenities in specific areas, such as, the Royston waterfront, the Union Bay waterfront and the Ship Point area.

1.2 Greenway Goals for Electoral Area 'A'

In addition to the goals set out in the Comox Valley Greenways Plan (October 31, 1999), residents identified a number of goals specific to Electoral Area 'A'.

A. Preservation Goals

- .1 Preserve creeks, streams, estuaries as a valued ecological resource for the future;
- .2 Maintain non-motorized access to creeks, streams, estuaries and in highly sensitive areas minimize public access;
- .3 Capitalize on existing landmarks; the Ship Wrecks in Royston, the Coal Hills in Union Bay and the Estuaries at Ship Point near Fanny Bay;
- .4 Protect existing bird nesting sites; .5 Protect outdoor heritage and aesthetic resources.

B. Enhancement Goals

- .1 Enhance waterfront access, for example, signage indicating beach access points;
- .2 Improve ecological diversity through protecting ecological corridors;
- .3 Create an Ecological and Recreational Greenway System to link communities, public lands and parks;
- .4 Add value to the community through the implementation of a Greenway System;
- .5 Establish an identity for the Greenway System;
- .6 Provide educational opportunities to increase stewardship of the area's natural resources.

C. Implementation Goals

- .1 Balance economic land use with conservation of environmentally sensitive areas and the provision for recreational amenities.
- .2 Minimize Impacts of the new Inland Highway;
- .3 Promote responsible agricultural and forestry practices that comply with recognized codes of practice;
- .4 Maintain clean water in Baynes Sound for shellfish, fishing and quality of life;

- .5 Secure a clean water supply for the area;
- .6 Work with the Regional District, and the public to ensure their contribution to defining a collective vision.
- .7 Seek partnerships in developing a Greenway System.

2.0 Greenway Policies for Electoral Area ‘A’ Greenway Policy Introduction

Community Greenways are typically linear greenspace corridors that connect natural areas. Greenways create linkages between human development and natural systems. Greenways protect aquatic areas, provide habitat for wildlife and provide for recreational opportunities. This section outlines policies in addition to the Local Area Plan that support a greenway system for Electoral Area ‘A’. The greenway system may include the following components outlined in more detail:

- 2.1 Ecological greenways (more description in plan)
- 2.2 Aquatic habitat greenways in rural settlement areas
- 2.3 Fisheries sensitive areas in working landscapes

Upland habitat greenways

Working landscape biodiversity corridor

Recreational greenways:

Recreational greenway sites

Recreational greenway trails

Recreational greenway roads

3.0 Proposed ecological and recreational greenways for electoral area ‘A’

Listed on p. 5 – 6:

3.1 Proposed aquatic habitat greenways (eight major streams and three lesser creeks. Major ones: Millard Creek, Roy Creek, Trent River, Washer (Hart) Creek, Hindoo Creek, Coal (Wilfred) Creek, Waterloo Creek and Rosewall Creek.

3.2 Proposed fisheries sensitive areas in working landscapes (streams that flow through agricultural land)

Proposed upland habitat greenways (E&N r-o-w)

Proposed recreational sites: Coal Hills area and District lot 7.

Proposed greenway trails: Foreshore greenway from Courtenay River Walk to Rosewall Creek Park in south; Inland highway greenway : multi-use; Hydro r-o-w greenway for a multi-use trail; old collieries rail r-o-w greenway:

Proposed greenway roads: Marine Drive in Royston

From Union Bay Local Area Plan, bylaw 3 2193, adopted Jan. 31, 2000

p. 17, C.12(j) The following areas are a priority in accordance in the Greenways Plan for Electoral Area ‘A’:

Foreshore linear park

Union Point Park

Riparian corridor for Hart and Schmidt Creeks
Old Collieries Rail r-o-w Greenway

From Royston Local Area Plan, electoral area 'A', bylaw #2366

p. 32 parks 5.3

development of a community waterfront park shall be encouraged and should incorporate scenic views, native vegetation, open fields, a children's playground, seating areas, and picnic space.

creation of pocket parks

in consultation with local mountain bikers, an appropriate location for a mountain biking trail park shall be identified and development plans prepared.

p. 33 greenways 6.2 and 6.3

enhance existing trails

link greenways with cultural, natural and recreational points in the community with greenways

connect greenways with an emerging regional network of greenways

ensure farming and forestry activities are recognized and protected in the creation and formalization of greenways

provide greenways that link community nodes such as the Village Core, the waterfront, Royston elementary School, and Fallen Alders Community Hall, as well as parks, heritage and recreation sites.

bike and pedestrian lanes along the old island highway

Map 2: Proposed trails and greenways:

Cultural recreation sites: shipwrecks, Royston Warf, historic railroad bridge site, natural heritage site – fossils, Fallen Alders Hall and Playing Fields, historic train station site

From Electoral Area 'B' Greenway Plan, bylaw #2152, adopted Feb. 28, 2008

The primary purpose of the Greenways Plan for Area B is to identify in more detail the locations for proposed greenways, and to provide policies for the implementation and management of ecological and recreational greenways. (p.2)

Parks, Recreation and Greenways Objectives: Part Two, Sections C.11, C.12, and C.13.

No specific areas identified in plan – see local area plans.

From Anderton Local Area Plan, bylaw #2153, adopted August 27, 2001

No specific areas identified, route identified on map in Electoral Area 'B' Plan.

From Quenville Huband Local Area Plan, bylaw #2443, adopted Feb. 23, 2004

p. 13 – pocket parks and other forms of green space amongst residential developments

p. 22 - multi-use greenways

map 4: greenways shown along Waveland Road, Quenville Road, Huband Road, and along beach/waterfront

From Croteau Beach Local Area Plan, bylaw #2973, adopted June 28, 2007

p. 10-11:

9. Parks and Open Space

Suggested Parks and Open Spaces Objectives

informal neighbourhood trails for local residents

maintain waterfront accesses and road right-of-ways, preferably as parks

waterfront accesses for low key pedestrian waterfront access

pathway through the neighbourhood between Macdonald Wood Park and Goose Spit Park

From Electoral Area 'C' Land Use Plan, Greenways Plan and Saratoga/Miracle Beach Local Area Plan, bylaw# 2100, adopted Oct. 25, 1999

p. 11:

.4 In Saratoga/Miracle Beach after development there shall be approximately 30% in parks, schools, greenways and stormwater management lands. Lands will be provided by dedication at subdivision, through development cost charges to purchase open space or by other means.

.6 Development in the residential designation should be planned, family friendly, accessible community that is similar in character to the current residential areas of Saratoga/Miracle Beach. Lot Approximately 30% of the property should be green space in the form of a park, golf course, recreation or habitat greenways, and/or possibly a community centre.

p. 14:

C.12 Parks and Recreation Policies

C. 12 (a) Active recreation sites are encouraged in the Saratoga/Miracle Beach LAP as follows:

.1 ... centrally located...

.2 in the existing playing fields and playgrounds...

.3 at a future new middle or high school in the area

.4 at existing beaches and foreshore areas; and

.5 by maintaining the existing private Pacific Playground golf course

p. 15 Greenways Plan, .. policies

p. 17 Proposed Ecological Greenway locations:

The following major greenway routes shown on the map combine aquatic and upland values:

.1 Puntledge and Browns River greenways

.2 Tsolum River greenway

.3 Oyster River greenway

.4 Lazo/Oyster greenway

.5 Merville/Headquarters greenway

.6 Black Creek greenway

Many other small aquatic greenways will follow stream corridors.

p. 18 Proposed recreational greenways:

Greenway trails – along Comox logging r-o-w along the Inland Island Highway. Local and East/West trails will extend this system using a combination of greenway roads and unopened road r-o-w to create a series of interconnected loop circuits through the Plan Area. for non-motorized recreation only

Greenway roads –

p. 19 Proposed Recreational Greenway locations:

- .1 Puntledge River Trail on both sides
- .2 Brown River Trail
- .3 Puntledge Triangle (with connections to Wildwood area)
- .4 Bevan/Maple Lake Trail loop
- .5 Comox Logging Railway Trail
- .6 Headquarters Creek Trail
- .7 Oyster River Trail
- .8 Hamm Road Trail and Macaulay loops
- .9 Lazo/Oyster Trail (with Saratoga/Miracle Beach Loops)
- .10 East Coast Trail
- .11 Merville/Headquarters Trail
- .12 Piercy Road Trail
- .13 Inland Island Highway Trail

Proposed cycling network plan:

- .1 Lake Trail Road into Courtenay
- .2 Piercy Road and extension
- .3 Condorsory Road into Courtenay
- .4 Headquarters Road into Electoral Area B and Courtenay
- .5 Merville Cross Valley connection from the Sackville Road area to Howard Road, Headquarters Road (north) and to the Inland Island Highway
- .6 Island Highway between Howard Road and Miracle Beach Drive
- .7 Proposed Miracle Beach Connector
- .8 Miracle Beach Drive
- .9 Proposed Road from existing fire hall at Saratoga Beach to Miracle Beach Drive (proposed Yed Road)

...

From Mt. Washington Local Area Plan, bylaw # 2368, adopted Oct. 29, 2001

p. 24: Recreational Greenways

Trails and viewpoints on map 4 – exact location to be determined during detailed design stage
The regional district and the resort will work together to implement the recreational greenways identified on map 4.

Ecological greenways identified on map 3.

From Marsden-Arden Local Area Plan (not adopted) draft Sep. 2001

Pocket parks

Facilities along Puntledge River (a river front park)

Appendix 9: Parks and Sustainability

Sustainable Communities

Parks and greenways are an integral part of sustainable communities. Public greenspace provides many invaluable benefits to communities including environmental, social, health and economic benefits. A number of the most important of these are summarized below.

Environmental Sustainability

Ecological systems provide many invaluable services such as protecting drinking water, cleaning the air, preserving biological diversity, regulating climate, and controlling flooding.

The process of calculating the value of these ecological services is complex, but when it is done by economists, the values invariably exceed the values accruing from converting land to more intensive uses.³

Protecting drinking water

There is a clear link between the quality of water coming out of a watershed and the extent of parkland and forests in the area. Approximately one-third of the world's largest cities obtain a significant proportion of their drinking water directly from protected areas.

Natural filtration processes clean water when it is absorbed into the soil rather than redirected over the surface, pavement, driveways or parking lots into a main body of water. In a highly developed watershed, with its impervious surfaces and lack of vegetation, as little as 15 percent of rainwater infiltrates the soil and approximately 55 percent becomes surface

runoff carrying sediment and pollutants to surface water bodies.⁴

Natural infiltration greatly decreases the cost of making water potable. Approximately 50 to 60 percent of the variation in operating treatment costs can be explained by the percent of forest cover in the source area.⁵

Controlling flooding

When natural areas are replaced by development, the natural sponge is removed and has to be replaced with built infrastructure to redirect stormwater runoff. This is both more expensive and less effective than the natural mechanisms.

Cleaning air

Forests and soils improve air quality by removing particulates from the air. Forests also reduce CO² in the atmosphere by absorbing it while they grow. Recreational greenways provide people with options to walk or ride their bicycles reducing vehicle use and emissions.

Regulating local climates

Large parks with extensive vegetation can produce air temperature reductions as great as 6° C compared to nearby areas with little vegetation.

Preserving biological diversity

The diversity of species is the result of a long evolutionary process that provides indispensable ecological services including food, industrial products, and medicinal benefits. Once extinct, species and their many properties and benefits are lost forever.

³ John L. Crompton. 2007. Community benefits and repositioning. National Recreation and Park Association. Ashburn, Virginia, p. 144.

⁴ Ernst, C. 2004 Protecting the Source. San Francisco: Trust for Public Land.

⁵ Ibid

Large parks and greenspaces aid in sustaining biological diversity. However, for most species, isolated park sites are too fragmented to sustain them over the long term. The fragmentation means that there are likely too few individuals of a species in a small park and that inbreeding is inevitable. Ecological greenways link park and open space areas and, if wide and wild enough, may facilitate the movement of animals between them.

Health and Social Sustainability

Reducing environmental stress

Empirical research in recent years has consistently produced evidence that spending time in nature enhances health.⁶

An individual's surroundings influences their outlook on life, sense of well-being and attitude and behaviour toward others. Parks and natural vegetation are known to have a restorative effect on individuals by fostering psychological well-being.⁷ "Even short-duration leisure contact with nature might be important to many urbanites in fostering restoration from mild stressors such as daily hassles or annoyances."⁸

This confirms what visitors to Goose Spit Park already know. When interviewed as part of an in-park survey in summer 2008, the one thing that park visitors mentioned most commonly about what they liked about Goose Spit Park was 'peacefulness', and 'a place to relax'.

⁶ Frumkin, H. 2001. Beyond toxicity: Human health and the natural environment. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine* 20(3), 234-244.

⁷ John L. Crompton. 2007. Community benefits and repositioning. National Recreation and Park Association. Ashburn, Virginia, p. 165.

⁸ Ulrich, R.S., R.F. Simons, B.D. Losito, E. Florito, M.A. Miles, and M. Zelson. 1991. Stress recovery during exposure to natural and urban environments. *Journal of Environmental Psychology* 11, 201-230

Creating community by creating a sense of place

A key requirement for sustainable communities is that they give residents a sense of place. Parks contribute to this through their roles in facilitating socialization between residents and providing a place for friends and families to spend time together.



Physical health

Besides facilitating positive emotional and social experiences, parks also have the potential to improve physical health. A growing number of studies show that routine physical exercise is shaped by people's surroundings.⁹ People who live or work in activity-friendly environments are more likely to be physically active and, as a result, healthier. The U.S. Centre for Disease Control determined that creating and improving places to be active can result in a 25 percent increase in the percentage of

⁹ Henderson, K.A. 2007. Urban parks and trails and physical activity. *Annals of Leisure Research*. 19(4), 201-213.

people who exercise at least three times a week.

While proximity of parks and trails promotes active living in communities, research has shown that in areas where land use makes it difficult to walk to destinations and where there are relatively few recreational resources, obesity rates are higher.¹⁰ Physical inactivity has also been linked to other serious health problems such as heart disease, breast cancer, colon cancer, high blood pressure, and depression.

Economic Sustainability¹¹

Property values

Studies on real estate values have repeatedly shown that parks and greenways increase nearby property values. The increased value is derived from easy access to greenspace and views enjoyed by adjacent owners. Many people are willing to pay a larger amount of money for a home located close to greenspace. For example, the City of Surrey found that properties bordering a greenway are higher in value by as much as 20%.¹² The higher value of these residences means that their owners pay higher property taxes. This increases local tax revenues and can help offset greenway acquisition costs.¹³

¹⁰ Frank, L.D., T.L. Schmid, J.F. Sallis, et al. 2005. Places to walk: Convenience and regular physical activity. *American Journal of Public Health*, (93) 1519-1521.

¹¹ From National Parks Service. 1990. Economic Impacts of Protecting Rivers, Trails and Greenway Corridors.

¹² *People, Place, Potential*. BC Healthy Communities newsletter. Vol. 11, March 2009.

¹³ John L. Crompton. 2007. Community benefits and repositioning. National Recreation and Park Association. Ashburn, Virginia, p. 55. According to Crompton, if the incremental amount of taxes paid by each property that was attributed to the presence of a nearby park was aggregated, it was sufficient to pay the annual debt charges required to retire the bonds used to acquire and develop the park

Expenditures by residents

Spending by local residents on parks and greenways related activities helps support recreation oriented businesses and employment as well as other local businesses that are patronized by park users.

Commercial benefits

Proximity to parks and greenways often provide business opportunities, locations and resources for commercial activities such as recreation equipment rentals and sales, lessons, and other related businesses.

Tourism

Parks and greenways improve the overall appeal of a community to prospective tourists and new residents. Parks and greenways could be major tourist attractions in the Comox Valley generating expenditures on accommodation, food, and recreation oriented services. For example, it is estimated that Myra Canyon, a popular cycling and hiking route along a stretch of the former Kettle Valley Railway, receives 50,000 visitors each year generating \$5million in economic benefits for the Central Okanagan.¹⁴

Corporate relocation

Evidence shows that the quality of life of a community is an increasingly important factor in corporate relocation decisions. Parks and greenways are often cited as important contributors to quality of life. Attracting new businesses is the basis for economic growth and diversification of the region.

Reduction of public infrastructure costs

Vegetated areas absorb rainfall reducing the incidence of flush floods that result from rainwater hitting pavement and being directed into creeks and streams and built stormwater systems. Consequently, more

¹⁴ ww2.ps-sp.gc.ca/publications/news/2004/20040826_e.asp

vegetated areas in a neighbourhood save on investments in built structures to manage stormwater and prevent flooding.

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