

# Public Comments

## Mount Geoffrey Planning Public Open House

### June 13, 2015

To view the related open house information boards, visit [www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/mountgeoffrey](http://www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/mountgeoffrey)

## 2. Draft Park Visions

**Do you agree with the draft visions?**

Yes	No	Some, not others
12	0	1

**Additional Comments:**

- In general the situation is good. Please use a light touch regarding more control and management.
- Important to prevent trail erosion and conserve water.

## 3. Mount Geoffrey Key Values

**Are there any other key values that should be considered?**

- Good idea on cultural values – both First Nation and Leaf House and orchard. Besides the architectural value, it also is a historic vision of how homesteaders, settlers and visitors lived in the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- Cultural: Wild land is a cultural value on Hornby Island. Ecological: Newts? Some trees are first growth.
- Yes to preserving Leaf House and orchard.
- I have strong support for preservation of the Leaf House and restoration of the orchard.
- I live very near the mountain and hope to appreciate continued “good neighbor” relationship, especially of quiet natural sound environment.
- Would prevention of forest fire be an ecological value? Meaning monitoring and controlling ladder fuel build up. I think so.
- Add to Cultural Values: Used for logging late 19<sup>th</sup>, first half of 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Eg: springboard notches in stumps, logging railroad.
- Single white pine not stand. (Alder/sword from Jessies/colts ? CHI – Study of Crown lands.

## 5. Trail Network

**Do you agree with the proposed strategies for maps and signs?**

Yes	No	Some, not others
6	0	1

**Comments for improving visitor orientation on trails:**

- Easy to get lost on trails, key intersections could show “the way out” (agreed on by two other people).
- Getting “lost” is part of the fun (though “exit” signs might be good)!
- Many visitors get lost on the trails above the stairs. All maps vary, very little signage.

**Do you agree with the proposed strategies for the trail network?**

Yes	No	Some, not others
8	0	2

**Comments on how to ensure the sustainability of the trail system with limited resources:**

- Please investigate if any suitable spot to connect lower and upper trails up without increasing erosion.
- Strongly support trail linking Fords Cove Trail to Bench Trail (near Fords cove).
- I see some room for trail expansion. Would like to see re-line of Hell’s Kitchen, last bit of upper 4-dead and steep bit of Jesse’s. Let’s fix intersection of Hell’s Kitchen, 4-Dead and Purgatory.
- Great to see the improvements on logging railroad and Jesse’s Trail – have made them rideable for all levels.
- Connect “Back 40” with other trails.

## 6. Recreational Experience

**Do you agree with the proposed strategies for park improvements?**

Yes	No	Some, not others
17	0	1

**Additional Comments:**

- Maybe dogs on leash everywhere, because numbers are increasing so much.
- Dogs on leash on both provincial parks and regional parks.
- Dogs should be able to walk OFF leash on park trails. Owner and dog need exercise.
- Properly trained dogs do not cause problems off leash.

- Dogs on leash are more likely to have problems with other dogs on leash.
- DOGS ON LEASH ONLY PLEASE.

**Do you agree with the proposed strategies for providing a safe and quality recreational experience?**

Yes	No	Some, not others
12	0	0

**Additional Comments:**

- Dogs off leash on outer run trails not a good ? on such narrow trail
- No motorized traffic please.
- Prohibit all motorized traffic.
- No motorized vehicles. Need signs.

## 7. Natural Environment

**Do you agree with the proposed strategies to manage risk from wildfire?**

Yes	No	Some, not others
22	0	0

**Additional Comments:**

- No smoking on mountain (agreed with by another).
- No smoking on mountain or only in designated safe areas (agreed with by another).
- Allow limited access for residents to remove dead fall for use as firewood? Reduces fuel on mountain.
- No smoking.
- No smoking anywhere.
- There is **no** current ladder fuel management. It is badly needed.
- Have dead fall available for firewood in community.
  - Provided its removal does not degenerate the environment and encourage motorized access (added by another).

**Do you agree with the proposed strategies to protect Mount Geoffrey's Environment?**

Yes	No	Some, not others
13	0	0

**Additional Comments:**

- No motorized vehicles on any of the trails (except for maintenance). Strongly agreed by another.

- No motorized vehicles except for maintenance.
- How do you maintain park regulations prohibiting camping and camp fires? I was not aware you had employees to do this.
- Maintenance done by motorized vehicles done only with the utmost sensitivity and respect for ecosystem.

## 8. Cultural Values

**Content for First Nations cultural values is under development. Do you have any comments at this time?**

- Strongly support First Nations values/education/presentation of sites.
- Invite/encourage KFN and Hornby youth to be involved in this process. Build a sense of stewardship and relationships between the youth from both communities (“YES!” added by another).
- I have always understood Hornby was a summer (9 month of the year!) use only area for KFN not a permanent village...?
- Increase KFN info on brochure. Encourage connection with Hornby Island & KFN.
- (?). Perhaps signage. Build awareness of First Nations use of Hornby Island.

**Content for the Leaf House and orchard is under development. Do you have any comments at this time?**

- Hornby Island Conservancy are looking at the Leaf House and orchard?
- I would like to see the orchard maintained. It is the original orchard planted by George and Mary Ford.
- ACTIVELY pursue collaborative efforts to preserve, maintain and utilize Leaf House and Ford orchard for public use.
- Yes, the Leaf House should be maintained for historical value. Orchard as well! (“Ditto!” added by another).
- Yes! Maintain Leaf House. Permit maintenance and harvest of heritage fruit trees (“Yes, Same” added by another).
- Rent Leaf House to caretaker in exchange for maintaining community orchard (“Yes!” added by two others).
- Maintain as natural history exhibit/art space.
- Potential uses: Nature interpretive centre. Admission by donation (“Yes!” added by another”).
- Provincial Government should get it’s act together and stop thinking of ways to cut taxes for the rich and start thinking about the needs and wishes of most BC people to preserve environmental and cultural values.

- Please – the Leaf House warrants proper, consistent maintenance of architectural and heritage value (in time).
- Yes, preserve Leaf House and orchard. Support First Nation cultural values!
- PRESERVE BOTH Government should consider it an honour to put resources into these unique sites.

## 9. Regional Park Addition

**Do you agree with the proposed strategies for the conservation covenant area?**

Yes	No	Some, not others
15	0	0

**Additional Comments:**

- Keep buying for conservation and watershed when opportunity presents.
- Yes – Keep grass mowed for habitat and fuel reduction

## 10. Crown Land Management and Future of Crown Lands

**Do you agree with the proposed strategies for the crown lands?**

Yes	No	Some, not others
20	0	1

**Additional Comments:**

- There is no mention of MOT crown lands which are used by the public for beach access in many places across the island! They should be noted and protected in some way, perhaps as regional parks. There should at least be some discussion/process around their future.
- Preserve Crown land forests for recreational and ecological values. Groundwater recharge a priority!
- Extend one of the parks to include at least some of the Crown lands.
- Most important to secure/protect Crown lands for the future. Convert to a park.
- Please protect the forest on the Crown lands.
- Standing dead trees and Ladder fuels are a serious fire risk. I support a plan to permit cutting of dead/dying material by designated responsible individuals.
- Outlaw motor bikes on Crown Land, or make adjacent Crown land par of Mt Geoffrey Park. Have encountered motor bikes on Mt. Geoffrey park, they tend to ruin trails!
- Yes protect the Crown lands.

- No motorize vehicles please.
- Yes! Apply for increased protection/management/tenure whenever possible. HEART of the island.

## 11. Next Steps

**Did we miss anything? Please provide us with any further comments:**

- No trail to top for cell tower implementation. Allowed in class A parks.
- Tribune Bay Provincial Park entrance to the park for beach and tennis court. Please create a parking area for that use – other parking area is often full in the summer, dangerous on the road.
- Mount road (eg Big Rock) need access restrictions. Still accessible for walking/wheelchair, but not motorized.
- First nations involvement seems to be lacking (I'm noticing all of the “to be developed’s on many of the displays). I'm wondering what more could be done to bolster their involvement. Do they need more resources in order to be able to involve themselves in a more timely way? I'm left wondering about the nature of their participation so far. I'm impressed with the K'omoks' vision and values poster and look forward to hearing more of their perspectives on the plans for the area (“YES!” added by another).
- Behalf of CHI. Would like to see interpretive signage in rainforest loop (plants as focus).