



Community Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan 2023

Juan de Fuca Electoral Area



*The CRD conducts its business within the traditional territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to **BOKÉĆEN** (Pauquachin), **MÁLEXEŁ** (Malahat), **P'a:chi:da?ah**t (Pacheedaht), **Pune'laxutth'** (Penelekut), **Sc'ianew** (Beecher Bay), **Songhees**, **STÁUTW** (Tsawout), **T'Sou-ke**, **WJOŁEŁP** (Tsartlip), **WSIKEM** (Tseycum), and **x^wsepsəm** (Esquimalt), all of whom have a long standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.*





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NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

We of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission are pleased to present this new strategic plan. The purpose of this document is to prioritize what we'll focus on, to inform decisions, and to guide administrative actions related to community parks.

We are proud to be part of the process that brings beautiful parks to our communities. There are now 26 community parks. Some of the more notable ones are Seagirt Ponds and Copper Mine Park in East Sooke; William Simmons Memorial Park in Otter Point; and Priest Cabin, Fishboat Bay, and Sheringham Point Lighthouse Trail in Shirley.

Most recently we acquired Admiral's Forest in Otter Point as a Natural Area Recreation Park. The Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society advocated for the purchase and raised funds to help the vision come to fruition. Building on this, we hope to encourage more public participation and other examples of community involvement (such as the work and wisdom contributed by Seagirt Ponds Preservation Society and Friends of Coppermine Park Society).

Our parks complement the regional, provincial and national parks in the Electoral Area. However, as the region develops, community parks will become increasingly important.

The Regional Director, the parks staff, and the Advisory Commission would like to thank the community for their continued support and for their assistance in developing this strategic plan.

Yours truly,



*Sid Jorna, Chair
JDFEA Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission*

WE'LL FOCUS ON

We asked residents to help us identify priorities for the strategic plan. Here's what we'll focus on over the next decade.

Maintenance

We'll upkeep parks, trails, and amenities.

98% of households indicated that we should include **maintenance** in the strategic plan.

Environmental Stewardship

We'll preserve and restore nature.

91% of households indicated that we should include **environmental stewardship** in the strategic plan.

Capital Planning

We'll identify, prioritize, and plot capital projects.

86% of households indicated that we should include **park and trail development** in the strategic plan.

Foreshore Access

We'll examine opportunities for more public access to the ocean and lakes.

96% of households indicated that we should include **water access** (i.e. beach access) in the strategic plan.

Acquisition

We'll acquire parkland as our population grows.

87% of households indicated that we should include **acquisition** in the strategic plan.

Findings from the Public Input Survey (2022).



MAINTENANCE

We'll upkeep parks, trails, and amenities.

As of 2022, we have 80 hectares of parkland within 26 parks, 8.6 KM of designated trails, picnic shelters, tables, benches, playgrounds, sport courts, ball diamonds, wooden staircases, beaches, docks, and a boat launch.

Maintenance levels differ depending on park type.



Short Term

- Adjust the maintenance schedule to focus more attention on intensive recreation parks.

Ongoing

- Review and adjust the maintenance schedule as necessary.
- Assist volunteers to help keep parks clean.

When Appropriate

- Extend the contract term for auxiliary staff.
- Hire full-time maintenance staff.
 - Install garbage bins at intensive recreation parks and popular trailheads.

Keep Track of

- Resources allocated to maintenance (dollars and staff time).
- Support provided to volunteers.
- Maintenance requests and actions taken.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

We'll preserve and restore nature.

The majority of our parkland is undeveloped and natural. Some of our parks consist of lakes, ponds, coastline, and forest.

Ongoing

- Protect environmentally sensitive areas.
- Manage invasive species.
- Restore native vegetation.
- Respect and protect cultural heritage sites.
- Work with First Nations, CRD Regional Parks, community groups, and other agencies on preservation and restoration initiatives.

When Appropriate

- Partner with First Nations as well as community and non-profit organizations to promote environmental awareness and education.

If Feasible

- Install interpretive signs.
- Acquire parkland and work with other agencies to protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Keep Track of

- Resources allocated to environmental stewardship (dollars and staff time).
- Support provided to promote awareness and education.
- Restoration projects.
 - (Number of trees and plants planted; hectares of parkland restored.)



CAPITAL PLANNING

We'll identify, prioritize, and plot capital projects.

Capital planning enables us to:

1. *Identify what the community wants.*
2. *Prioritize what we really need.*
3. *Set realistic time frames and expectations.*

Short Term

- Establish a routine for capital planning.

Ongoing

- Identify (and validate the need for) potential capital projects.
- Involve First Nations in capital planning during the development and enhancement of parks.
- Determine the implications of potential capital projects.
 - (E.g. capital cost, future maintenance costs, environmental impacts, heritage conservation.)
- Explore ways to fund potential capital projects.
- Inform the public about upcoming capital projects.

When Appropriate

- Allocate resources for capital projects.
- Search for (and pursue) external funding.
- Renew and refurbish aging infrastructure.

Keep Track of

- Dollars spent on capital projects.
- Capital projects completed.



FORESHORE ACCESS

We'll examine opportunities for more public access to the ocean and lakes.

Residents would like more access to the ocean and lakes.

Ongoing

- Identify potential foreshore access sites.
- Investigate the feasibility of potential sites.
- Consider potential impacts on the environment and cultural heritage in collaboration with First Nations.
- Prioritize feasible sites with the Area Director and Advisory Commission.
- Engage First Nations, stakeholders, and surrounding landowners.
- Determine realistic time frames for development.
 - (Based on financial realities and other capital project needs.)

When Appropriate

- Enhance foreshore access.

If Feasible

- Acquire parkland on the coast.
- Acquire parkland with lakes.
- Work with the Government of British Columbia to enable foreshore access on provincial rights of way (where suitable).

Keep Track of

- The location of foreshore access sites.
- Resources allocated to develop foreshore access.



ACQUISITION

We'll acquire parkland as our population grows.

We can purchase parkland, accept parkland through donation, and obtain parkland through subdivision.

Short Term

- Develop guidelines to help us decide when to acquire parkland or accept cash-in-lieu.

Ongoing

- Involve First Nations in the visioning of new parks and linear corridors.
- Work with neighbouring local governments to connect parks and linear corridors.

When Appropriate

- Investigate the feasibility of new parkland to respect and protect cultural heritage sites and traditional cultural practices.
 - Defer parkland in favour of cash-in-lieu at the time of subdivision if the land in question doesn't provide value to the community.
- Ensure that Official Community Plans identify community parkland needs.

If Feasible

- Purchase desirable parkland when opportunities arise.
- Connect existing parks and trails.

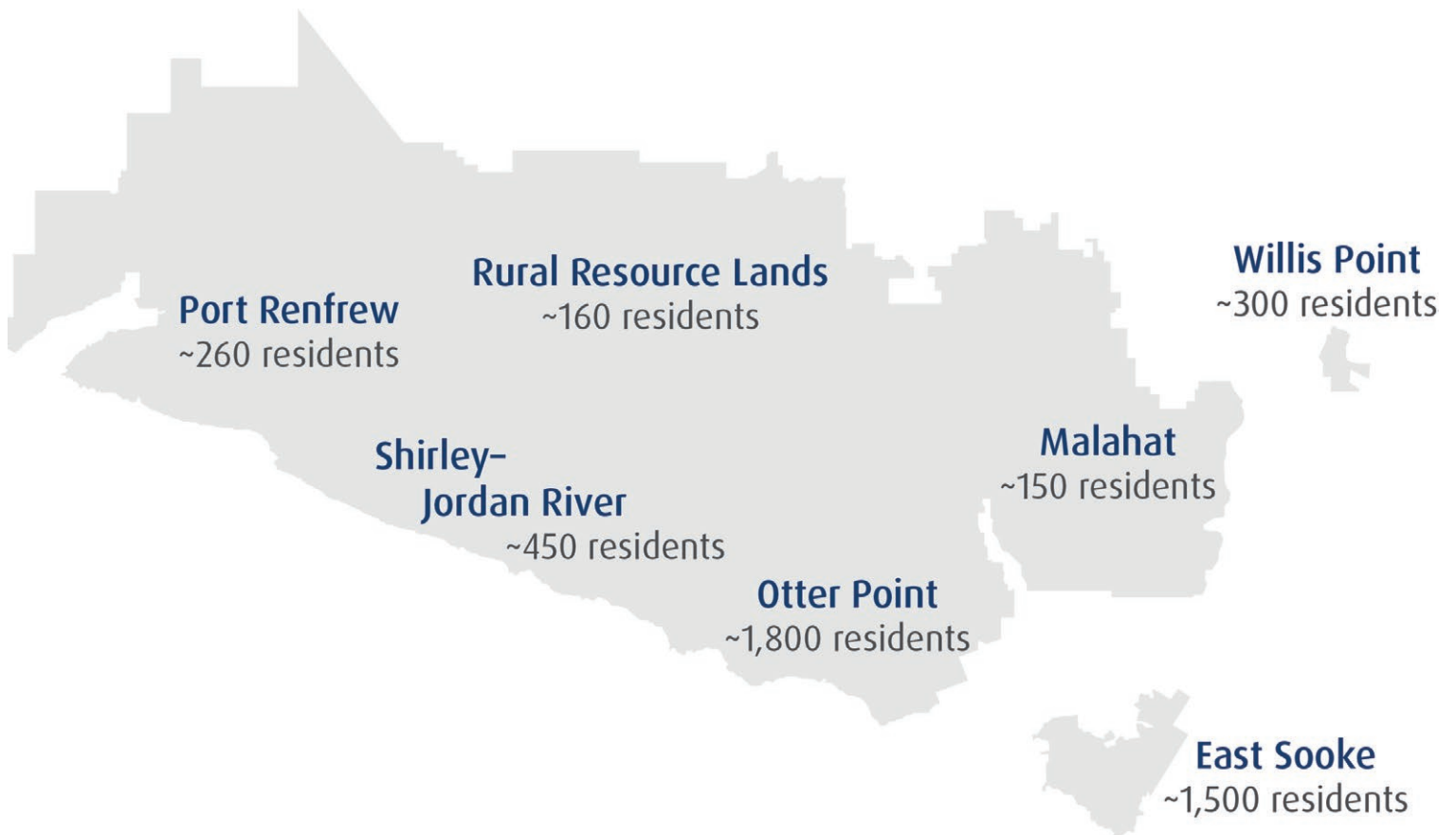
Spread Awareness of

- New parks and linear corridors.



COMMUNITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area is comprised of six communities and a large rural area.



Port Renfrew

Considerations

- Connect neighbourhoods (including Pacheedaht First Nation).
- Enhance public gathering spaces.
- Renew aging playground equipment.
- Develop more recreational amenities for children and youth.

~260
Population

Intensive Recreation Park

Natural Area Recreation Park

Nature Park

Special Preservation Park

Regional Park

Provincial Park

National Park



Shirley-Jordan River

Considerations

- Develop a park with amenities for children and youth.
- Acquire parkland to preserve nature.
- Acquire parkland for community use if residential development occurs.

~450
Population

Intensive Recreation Park

Natural Area Recreation Park

Nature Park

Special Preservation Park

Regional Park

Provincial Park

National Park



Otter Point

Considerations

- Develop trails within parks.
- Connect neighbourhoods and parks with trails and linear park corridors.
- Develop recreational amenities for children and youth.
- Provide a dock at Kemp Lake.
- Work with the District of Sooke and CRD Regional Parks to extend trails into Otter Point.

~1,800
Population

- Intensive Recreation Park**
- Natural Area Recreation Park**
- Nature Park**
- Special Preservation Park**
- Regional Park
- Provincial Park
- National Park



East Sooke

Considerations

- Acquire parkland for community use.
- Connect neighbourhoods and parks with trails and linear park corridors.
- Renew aging playground equipment.
- Refresh the ball diamond.
- Develop recreational amenities for children and youth.

~1,500
Population

- Intensive Recreation Park**
- Natural Area Recreation Park**
- Nature Park**
- Special Preservation Park**
- Regional Park
- Provincial Park
- National Park



Malahat

Considerations

- Acquire parkland for community use.
- Acquire linear park corridors to connect neighbourhoods.

~150
Population

Intensive Recreation Park

Natural Area Recreation Park

Nature Park

Special Preservation Park

Regional Park

Provincial Park

National Park



Willis Point

Considerations

- Acquire parkland and trails if opportunities arise.
- The *Willis Point Fire Protection and Recreation Facilities Commission* manages the community hall, sport court, and playground (not the responsibility of the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission).

~300
Population

Intensive Recreation Park

Natural Area Recreation Park

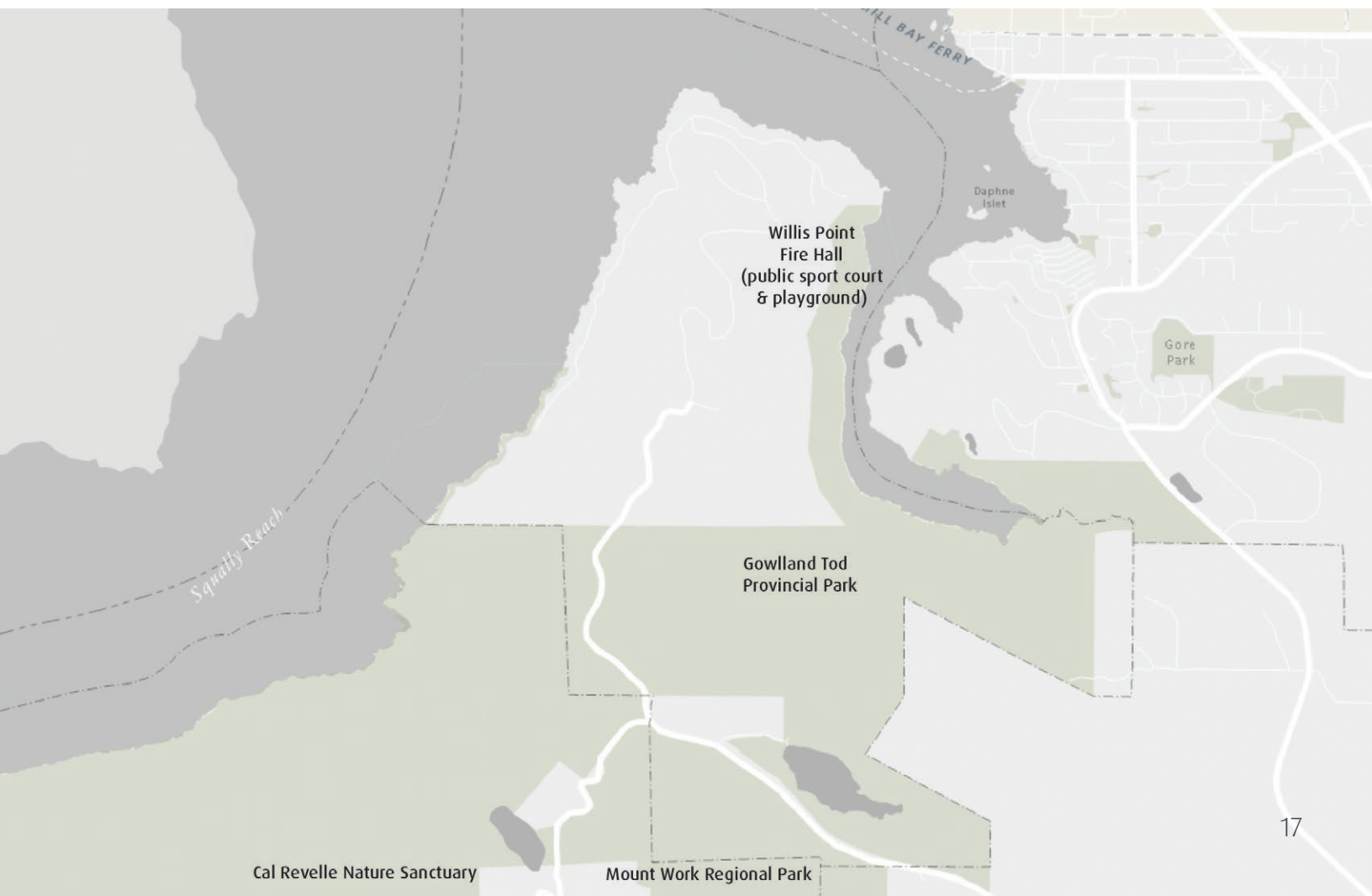
Nature Park

Special Preservation Park

Regional Park

Provincial Park

National Park



Rural Resource Lands

Considerations

- Advocate for preservation.
- Acquire parkland for community use if residential development occurs.
- Support community groups who wish to develop recreational amenities (such as hiking and mountain bike trails).

~160
Population

Intensive Recreation Park

Natural Area Recreation Park

Nature Park

Special Preservation Park

Regional Park

Provincial Park

National Park





COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATIONAL AMENITIES

Profiles for each community park and recreational amenity are presented on the following pages.

Our department supports recreation by:

- Providing community parks.
- Supporting community organizations.
- Contracting independent instructors to offer subsidized programming.
- Offering existing indoor spaces for programming.

We classify our community parks into the following types:



Lot 64 Marine Trail

Recreational Amenity in Port Renfrew

The Marine Trail goes from the south end of Queesto Drive to the beach. Another trail starts at the same location and meets up with Parkinson Road.



Beach



Trail



Trailhead



Lot 64 Tennis Courts

Recreational Amenity in Port Renfrew

The tennis courts were renovated in 2021 and pickleball lines were added. There are also two basketball hoops. Access to the courts is available from Klannanith Street.

 Parking Lot

 Tennis Court



The Park in Port Renfrew

Intensive Recreation Park in Port Renfrew

0.21 ha

The Park in Port Renfrew has a variety of playground equipment and passive green space. Most of the playground equipment will likely require renewal during the span of this strategic plan.



Manicured Garden



Picnic Table



Playground Equipment

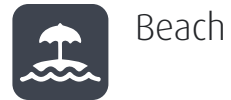


First Creek Park

Nature Park in Shirley-Jordan River

5.81 ha

Access is limited to First Creek Park (also referred to as The Shores). The park was acquired through development in 2007. A trail runs from the end of Petrel Drive to the beach.



Fishboat Bay

Nature Park in Shirley-Jordan River

3.13 ha

Fishboat Bay Park offers beach access to its visitors. Street parking is available at the end of Fishboat Bay Road. There is a trail (and a staircase) from the cul-de-sac to the beach. The CRD contracts a portable toilet service on a seasonal basis. The park was acquired in 1999 through development.



Beach



Portable Toilet
(Seasonal)



Trail



Wooden
Staircase



Priest Cabin

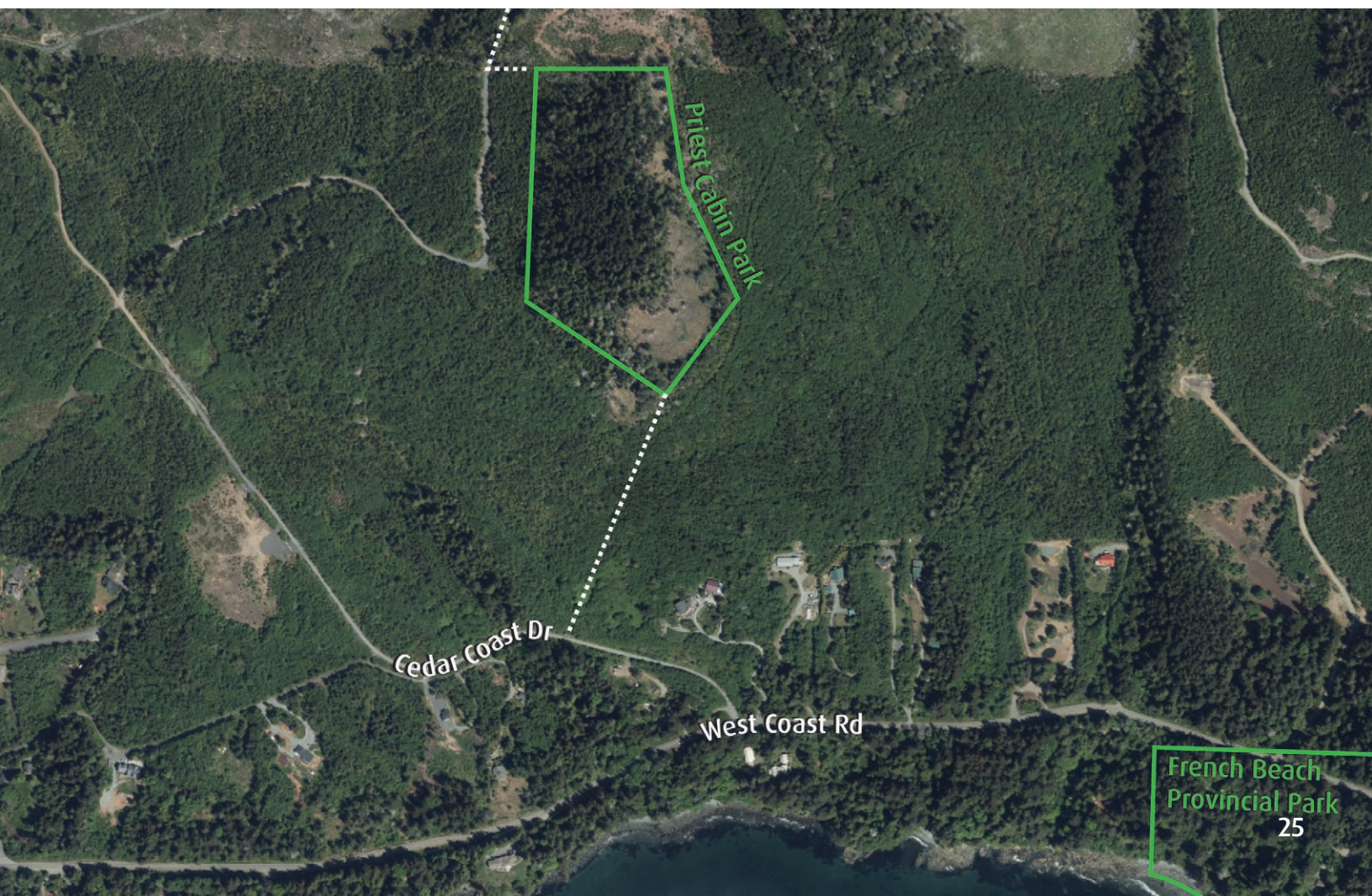
Nature Park in Shirley-Jordan River

6.88 ha

While there is a trail from Cedar Coast Road to Priest Cabin Park, access is currently limited. There is potential to enhance access to the park and beyond. The park was acquired through development in 1993.



Trail

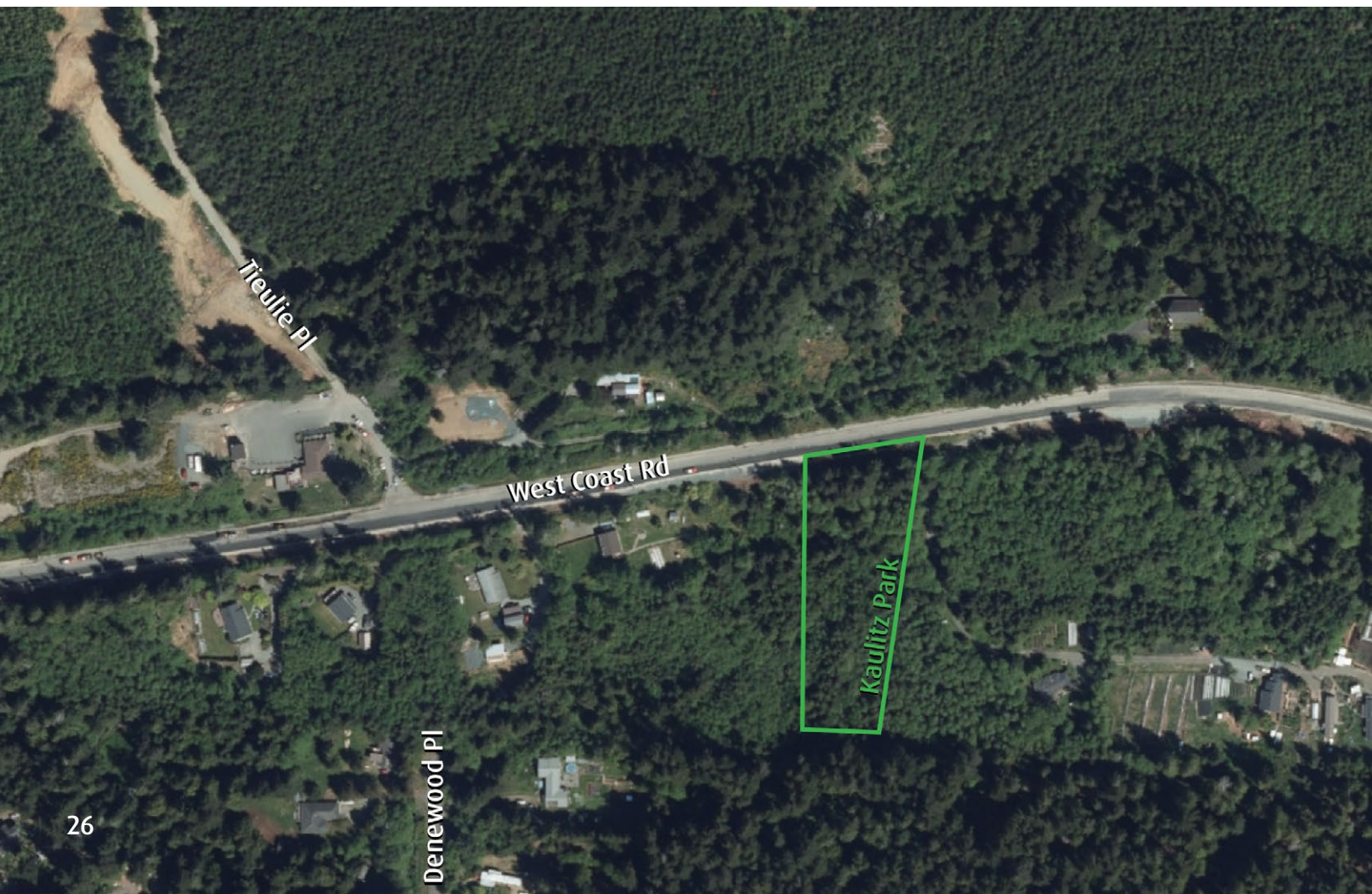


Kaulitz

Special Preservation Park in Shirley-Jordan River

0.68 ha

The CRD acquired Kaulitz Park through development in 1991.
There is no designated access into the park.







Sheringham Point (Trail)

Natural Area Recreation Park in Shirley–Jordan River

3.1 ha

Sheringham Point Park Trail is 2.9 KM. There are two parking lots—both have informational and directional signage. A portable toilet is located at the parking lot at the end of Sheringham Point Road. The trail was acquired through development in 2008. While there is a public trail to the lighthouse (south of Lighthouse Point), it is not managed by the CRD.

-  Parking Lots
-  Portable Toilet (Seasonal)
-  Trail
-  Trailheads



Otter Point

Nature Park

1.83 ha

Otter Point Park was acquired by the CRD in 1994. The park is mostly comprised of coastal cliffs and provides visitors a tremendous view of the ocean. Street parking is not permitted on the portion of West Coast Road adjacent to the park.



Bench



Picnic Table

Otter Point Access

Nature Park in Otter Point

0.19 ha

This parkland was acquired in 2004 and was named to encourage Otter Point Park visitors to park at the end of Otter Ridge Drive. There is not a designated crossing area for pedestrians to cross West Coast Road.



Trail



Elrose II

Nature Park in Otter Point

0.51 ha

Elrose I

Intensive Recreation Park

0.82 ha

Corby

Nature Park

1.68 ha

Brotherstone

Nature Park

1.02 ha

These parks were acquired through development from 1982 to 2004. Elrose I has a ball diamond (meant for casual use) and a picnic table. Elrose II, Corby, and Brotherstone do not have designated access points. There is potential to connect these parks and develop trails within them.



Ball
Diamond



Picnic
Table



Amanda Place

Special Preservation Park in Otter Point

0.51 ha

The CRD acquired Amanda Place Park through development in 2008. The park is not accessible for community use and has therefore been categorized as a Special Preservation Park.

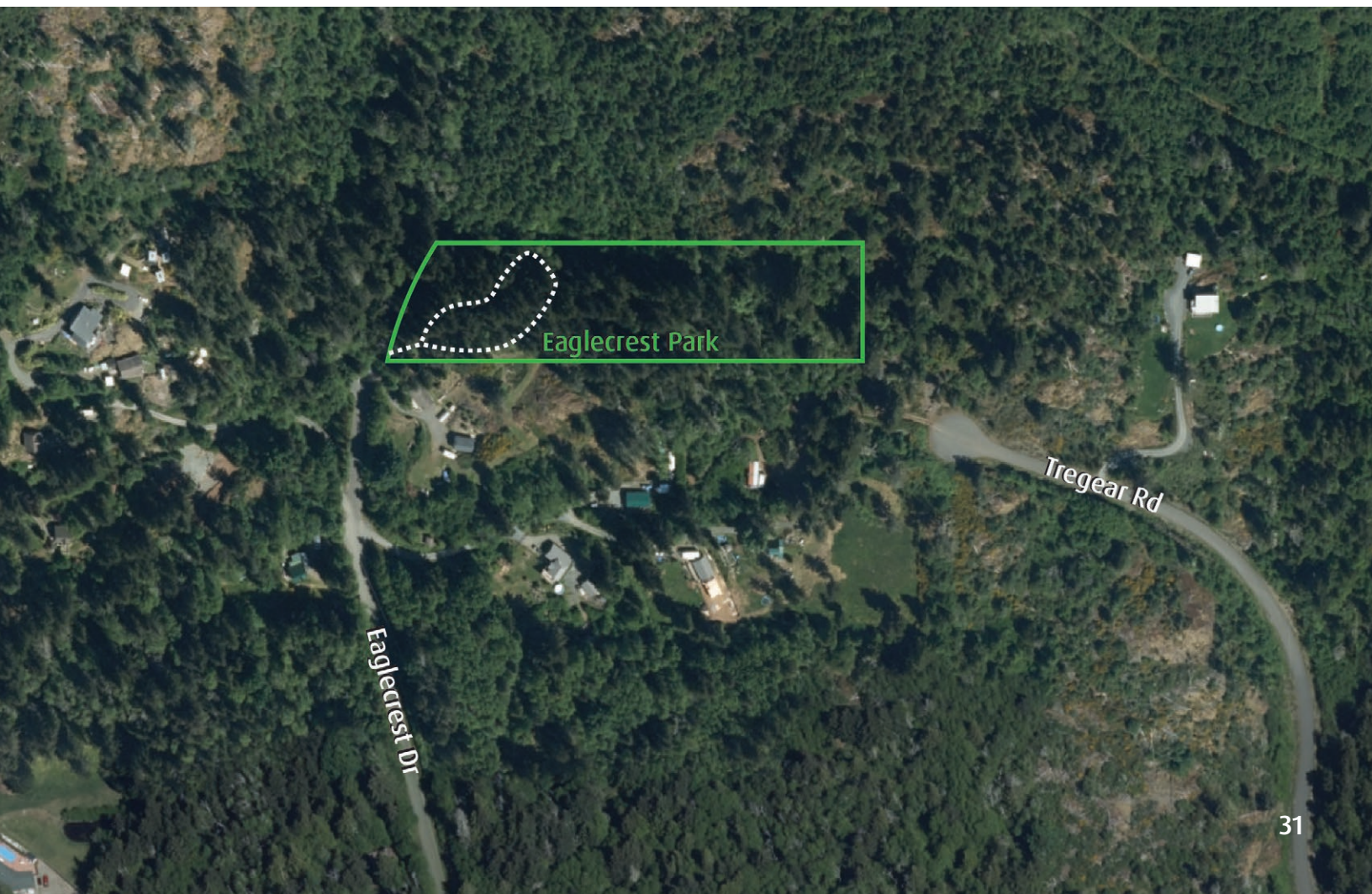


Eaglecrest

Natural Area Recreation Park in Otter Point

1.42 ha

Eaglecrest was acquired through development in 1983. A trail with a short loop is accessible from the top of Eaglecrest Drive.



Admiral's Forest

Natural Area Recreation Park in Otter Point

23.4 ha

The CRD purchased Admiral's Forest in 2022 (during the development of this strategic plan). There is potential to designate existing trails within the park.



Carpenter Road

Nature Park in Otter Point

0.97 ha

Carpenter Road Park was acquired through development in 1994. The trail is approximately 200 metres and there's a bench that overlooks a wetland.



Bench



Trail



Wooden Staircase



Kemp Lake Boat Launch

Recreational Amenity in Otter Point

The boat launch at Kemp Lake Boat was developed in 2019. The site includes a picnic table, a year-round portable toilet, and parking for approximately 6 to 8 vehicles (without trailers). Motorized boats are not permitted on Kemp Lake.



Boat Launch



Parking Area



Picnic Table



Portable Toilet (Year-round)



Wieland Trail

Recreational Amenity in Otter Point

The first phase of the Wieland Trail was developed in 2013. The trail begins at William Simmons Memorial Park and has the potential to be extended.



Butler

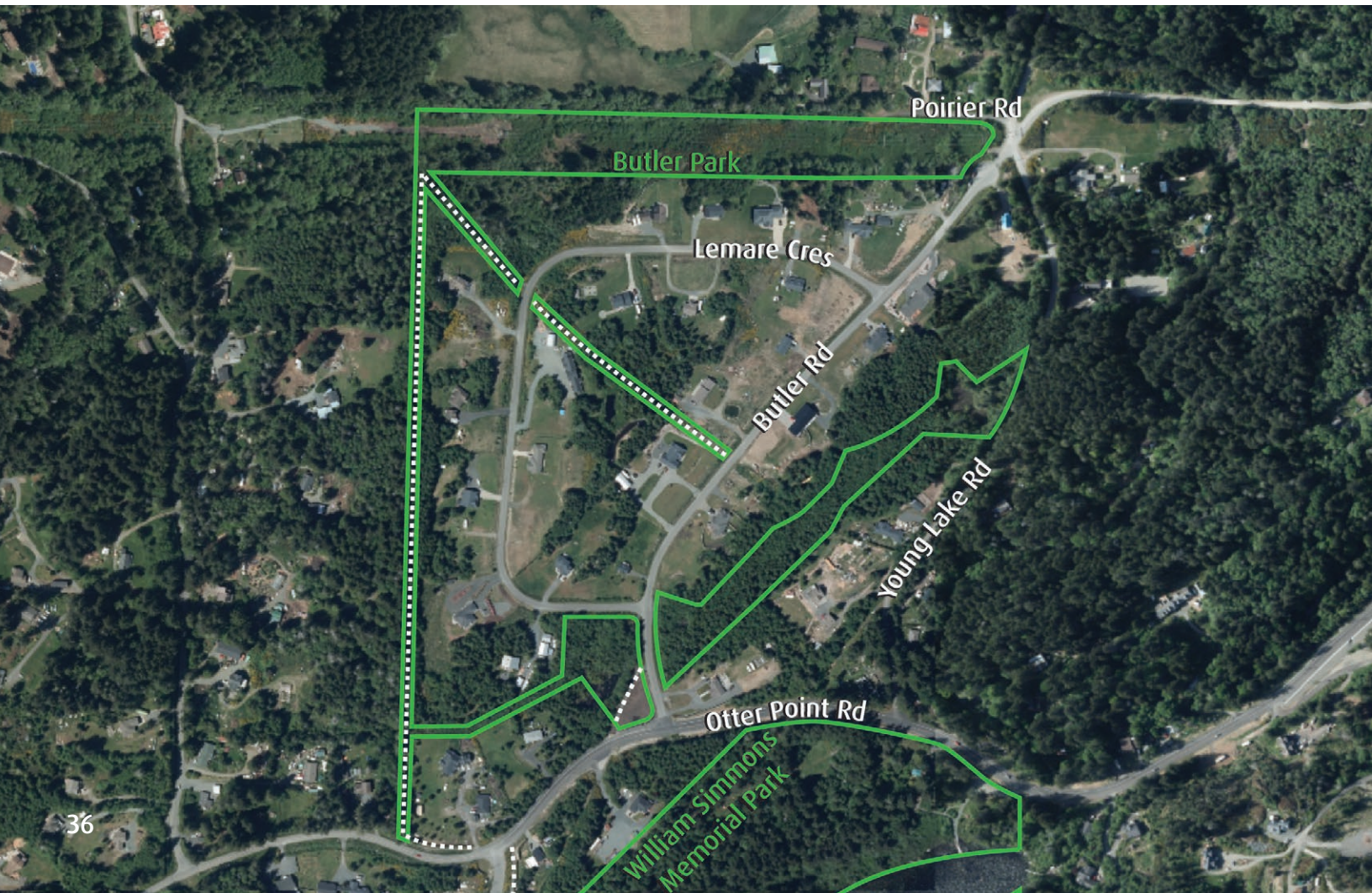
Nature Park in Otter Point

6.5 ha

The trail in Butler Park was developed in 2010. There is potential to extend the trail.



Trail



William Simmons Memorial

Natural Area Recreation Park in Otter Point

6.6 ha

William Simmons Memorial Park was donated to the CRD in 2007 with adjacent land purchased in 2008. The park offers trails, two docks, and a picnic shelter. Parking lots are located off of Butler Road and Otter Point Road.



Docks



Parking Lot



Picnic Shelter



Picnic Tables



Portable Toilet (Year-round)



Trail



Trailhead



DeMamiel

Special Preservation Park in Otter Point

3.1 ha

DeMamiel was acquired through development in 2010. There is potential to develop a trail through DeMamiel; however, the southwest boundary is a salmon-bearing stream.



Seagirt Ponds

Nature Park in East Sooke

7.24 ha

Seagirt Ponds offers residents a place to enjoy nature. The park was acquired in 2006. There is a parking lot off of Seagirt Road and benches along the trail. The trail is also accessible from East Sooke Road.



Benches



Parking Lot



Trail



Trailhead



Copper Mine Park

Intensive Recreation Park in East Sooke

1.25 ha

Copper Mine Park was acquired in 1985. The playground was built by the community in 1986 and its original equipment is currently still in use. The picnic shelter was built in 2019 and the sport court was renovated in 2022. The playground and ball diamond should be candidates for renewal during the span of this strategic plan.



Ball
Diamond



Bleachers



Parking
Lot



Playground
Equipment



Picnic
Shelter



Portable Toilet
(Year-round)



Sport
Court

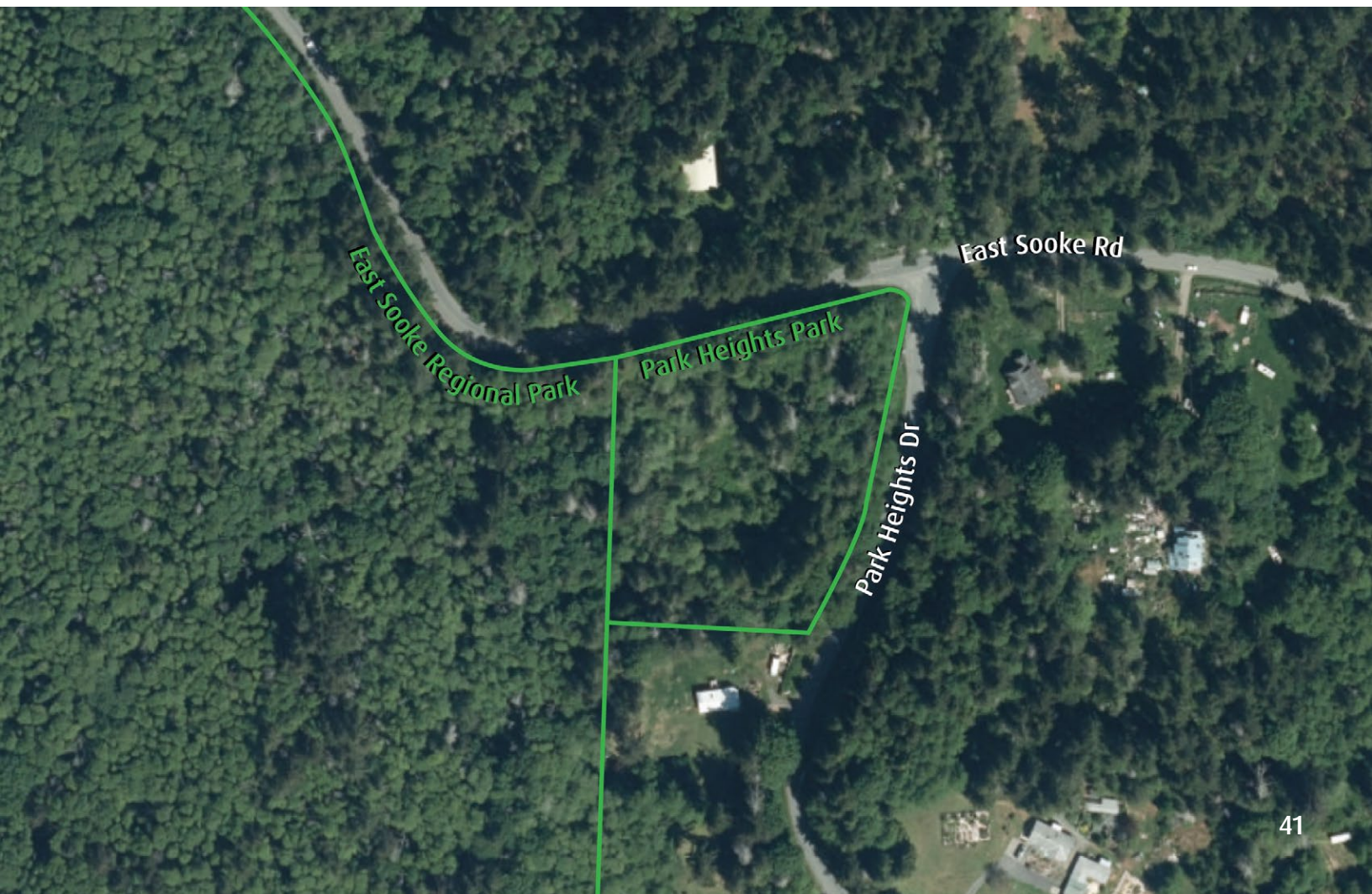


Park Heights

Special Preservation Park in East Sooke

1.2 ha

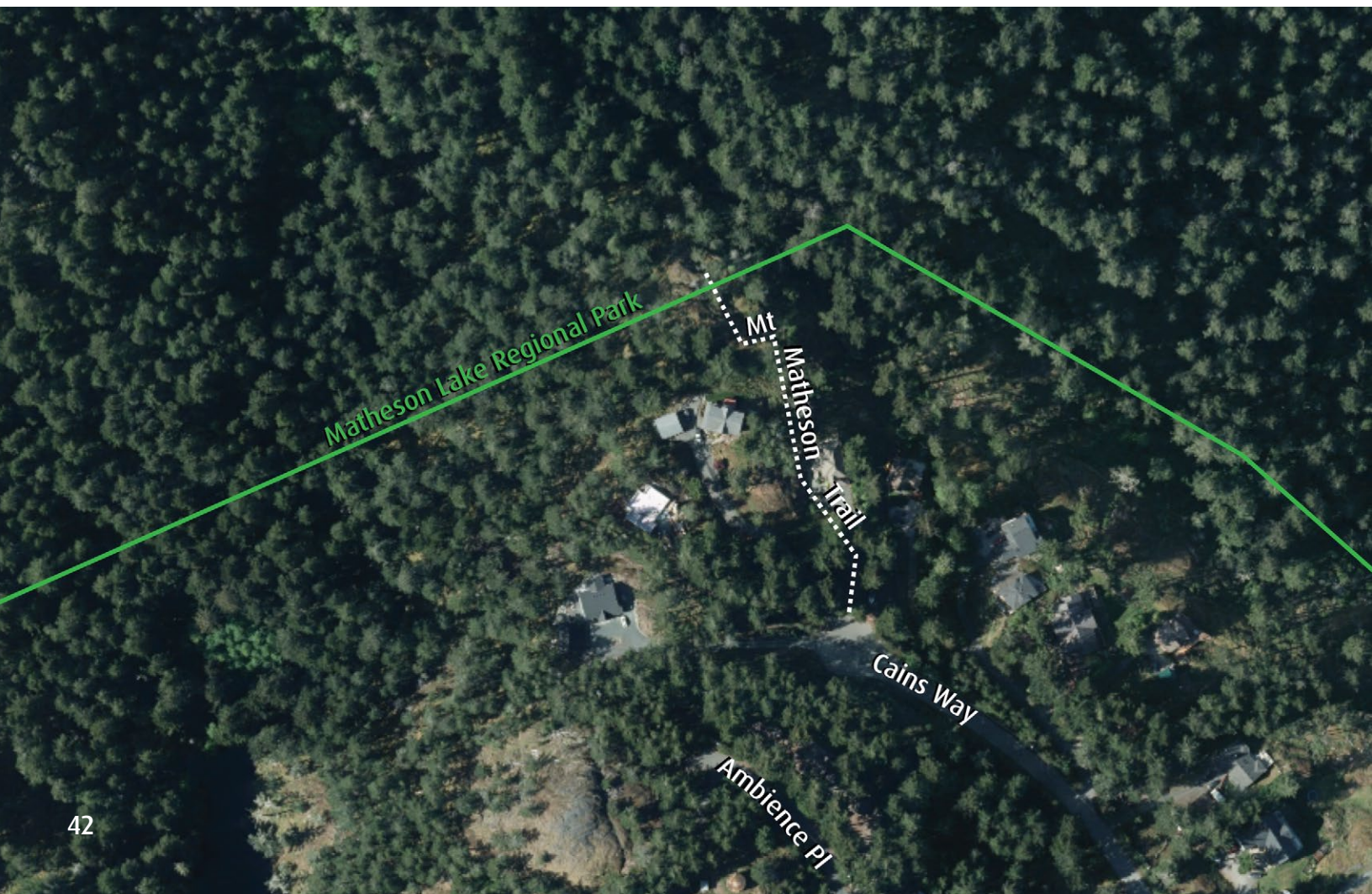
There is no access to this park and it serves as a preservation park. It was acquired in 1983 through development.



Mt. Matheson Community Trail

Recreational Amenity in East Sooke

This recreational amenity was established between 2005 and 2013. The trail connects the end of Mt. Matheson Road (Cains Way) to Matheson Lake Regional Park.



Becher Bay

Nature Park in East Sooke

0.06 ha

Becher Bay Park was acquired through development in 2012.
Access to the park has not been developed.



Aspen Road

Special Preservation Park in Malahat

1.02 ha

The CRD acquired this property through development in 2007.
This parkland does not have any signage or amenities.





ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

The following sections present the results of our engagement efforts in 2022.

First Nations Discussions

We reached out to seven First Nations and we met with four.

Public Input Survey

We heard from 356 households (representing 762 people).

Stakeholder Interviews

We held one-on-one discussions with 15 stakeholders.

Public Feedback Survey

59 people provided feedback on the draft strategic plan.

First Nations Discussions

The Juan de Fuca Electoral Area is on the traditional territories of the following First Nations:

- P'a:chi:da?ah̓t (Pacheedaht) First Nation
- Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay) First Nation
- T'Sou-ke Nation
- STÁUTW̓ (Tsawout) First Nation
- W̓SIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation
- W̓JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) First Nation
- MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat) First Nation
- Pune'laxutth' (Penelakut) Tribe

We met with Sc'ianew First Nation, T'Sou-ke Nation, and WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council (representing the Tsartlip and Tseycum First Nations) through joint meetings with CRD Regional Parks; we met individually with Pacheedaht First Nation. We'll continue to reach out to all eight First Nations to strengthen ongoing dialogue.

Here are the recurring themes that we learned from our initial conversations:

- **There is a lack of recreational opportunities for children and youth.**
- **There is a lack of connectivity between parks and First Nations communities.**
- **First Nations would like to help plan and locate new parks and trails.**

Public Input Survey

We asked local residents a series of questions about their preferences and behaviours related to community parks and recreation. We'll use the results to inform decisions and planning.

We hosted the survey on the CRD's online engagement platform (getinvolved.crd.bc.ca) and hard copies were available upon request. To promote the survey, we mailed postcards to households via Canada Post Neighbourhood Mail, we advertised in local newspapers, and we paid to boost our social media posts.

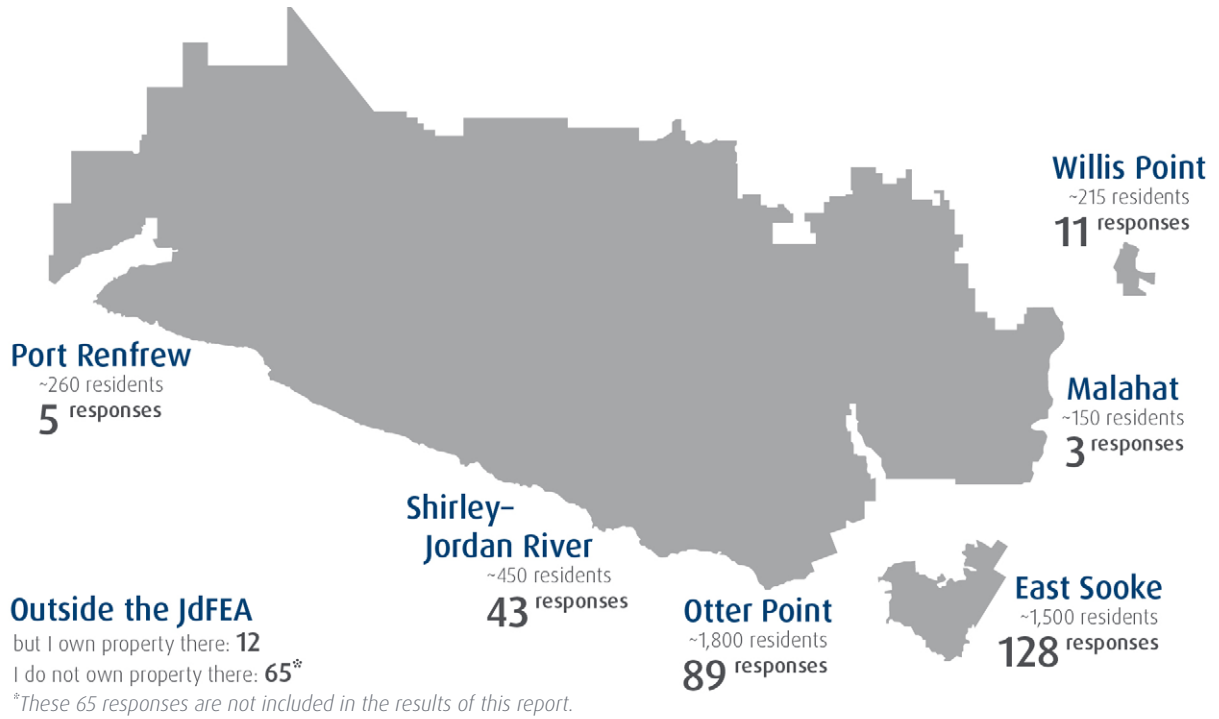
In total, we received 356 responses from households, representing 762 people—that's 14% of the population. The level of response gives us a $\pm 5.4\%$ margin of error with 95% confidence. In other words, if we were to do the same survey 20 times with the same level of response, the results would be within $\pm 5.4\%$ on 19 occasions.

We conducted this survey throughout March and April of 2022.

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Responses by Location

Where do you live?



Household Types

What type of household do you live in?



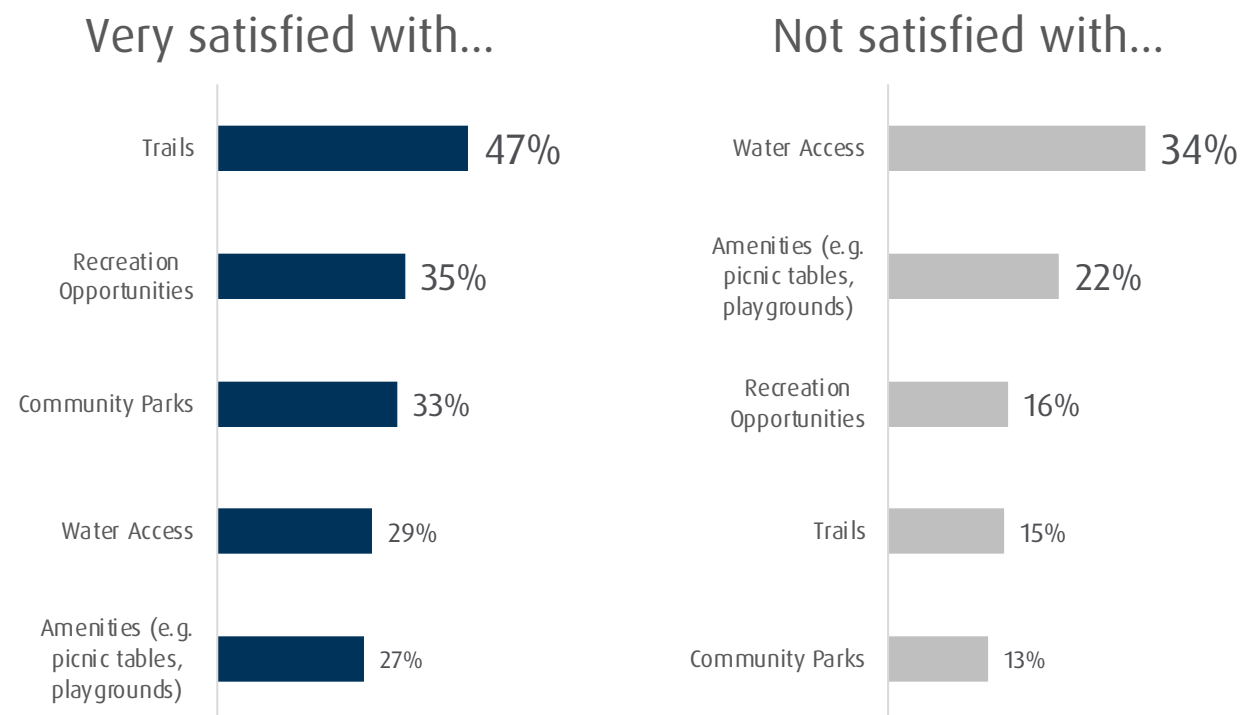
Overall Satisfaction

Overall, how satisfied are you with parks and recreation opportunities in the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (JdFEA)?



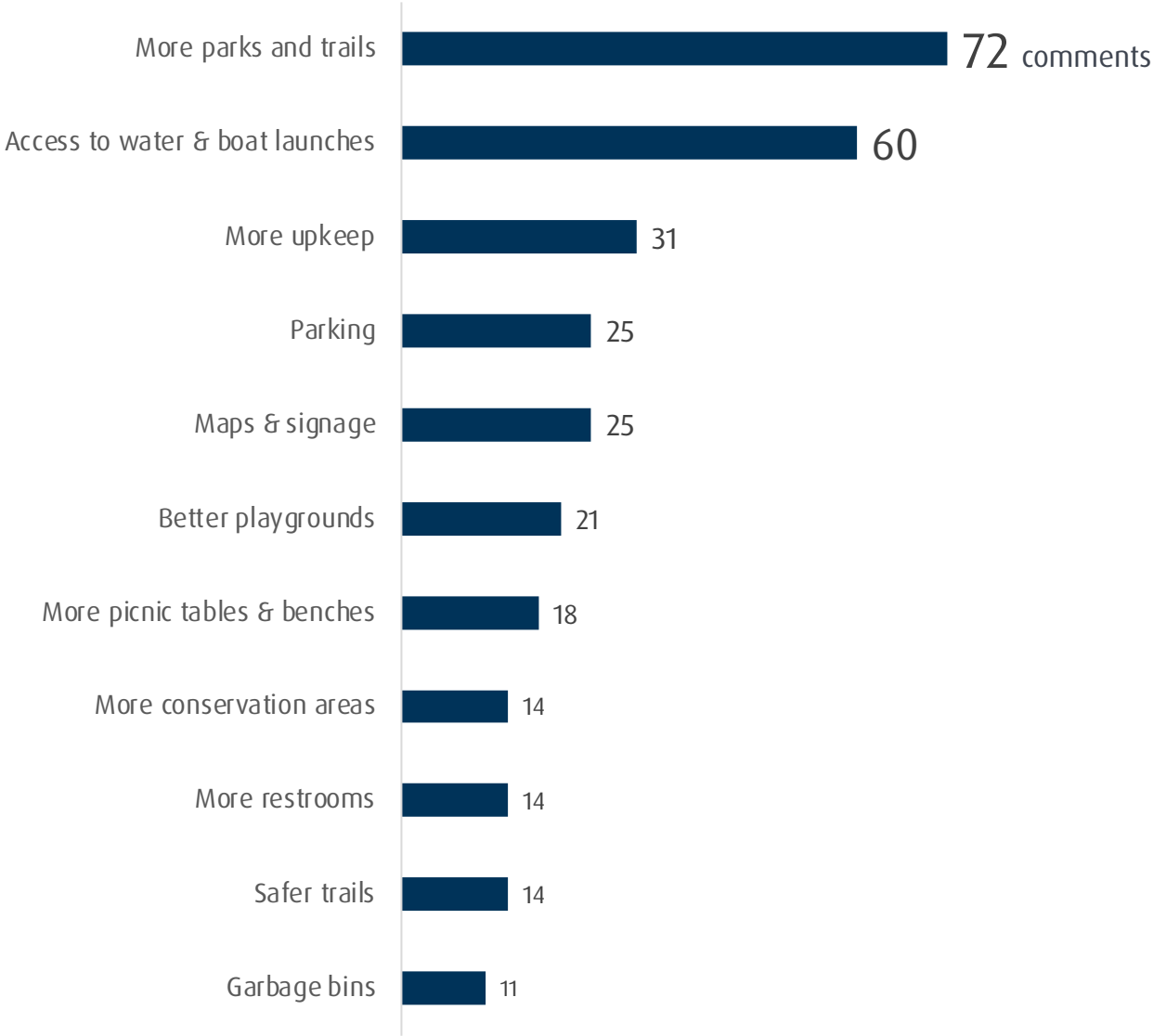
Satisfaction with...

How satisfied are you with each of the following?



Ideas for Improvement

How could we do better?



Potential Planning Topics

How important are each of these topics to you?

The percentages indicate "Very Important".

Park and Trail Maintenance

Upkeep existing parks and trails

75%

Water Access

Ensure appropriate access to the ocean and lakes

74%

Park Acquisition

Add new parks

65%

Climate Action & Environmental Stewardship

Protect and enhance natural and built assets

60%

Connectivity

Connect park and trail networks

49%

Parks and Trail Development

Develop more usable spaces and amenities at existing parks

47%

Signage and Awareness

Enhance communication efforts

42%

Partnerships

Strengthen relationships with community groups

41%

Volunteerism
Support volunteerism

39%

Geographic Equity
Strive for a balance of spaces and opportunities throughout the JdFEA

37%

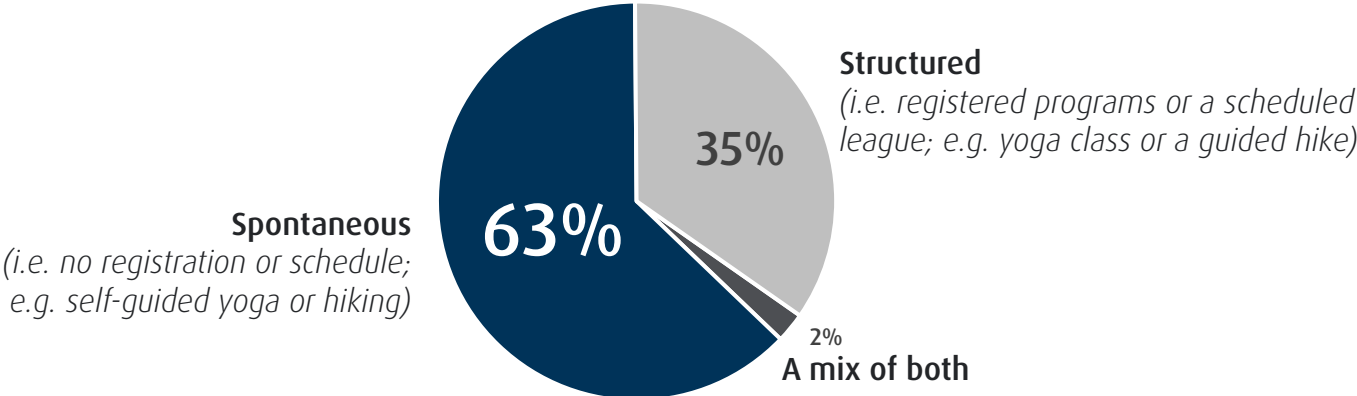
Recreation Programming
Support structured recreation opportunities

25%

Spontaneous vs. Structured Recreation

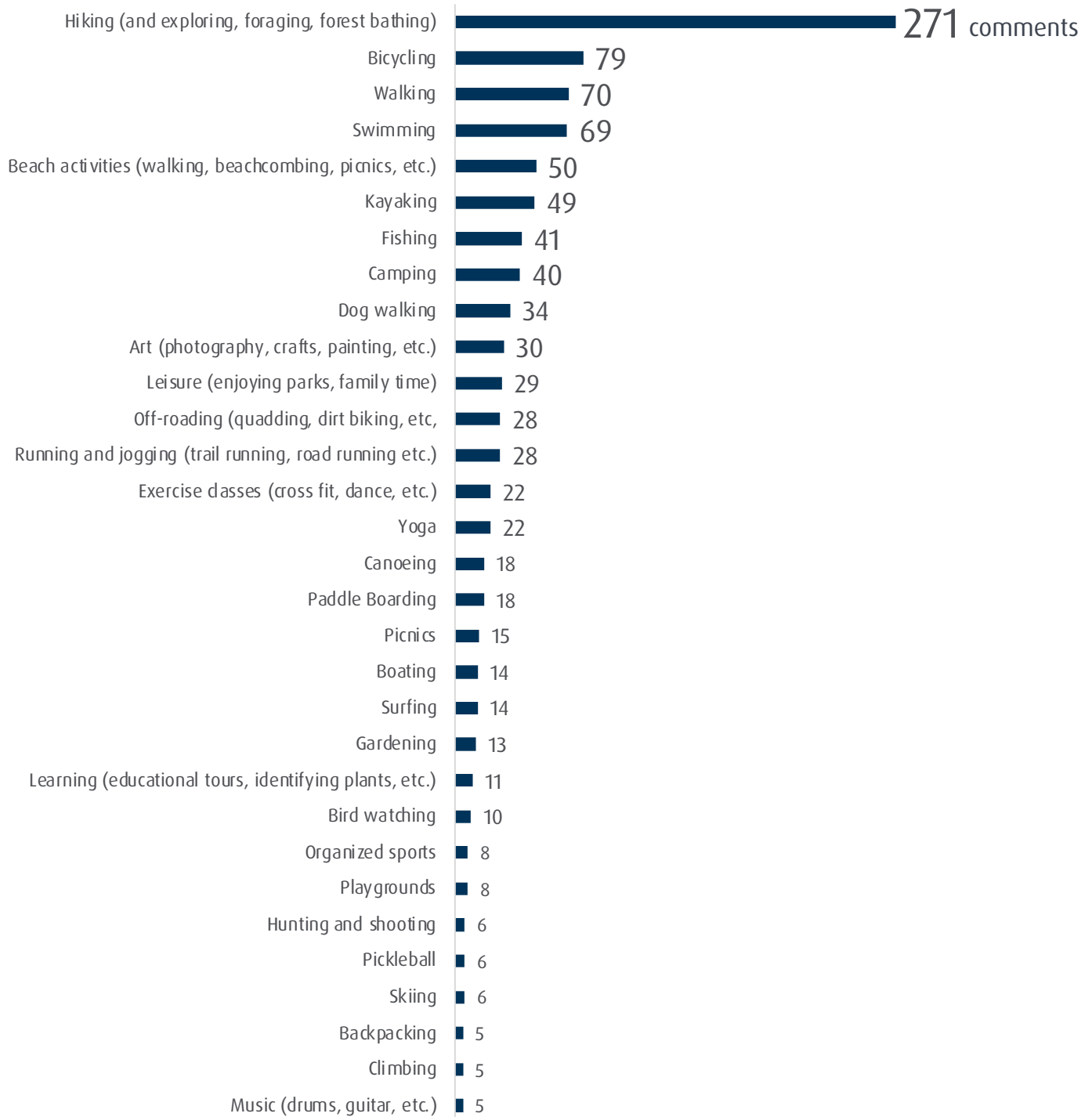
Do you prefer to participate in structured or spontaneous recreation activities?

Do you prefer to participate in **structured** or **spontaneous** recreation activities?



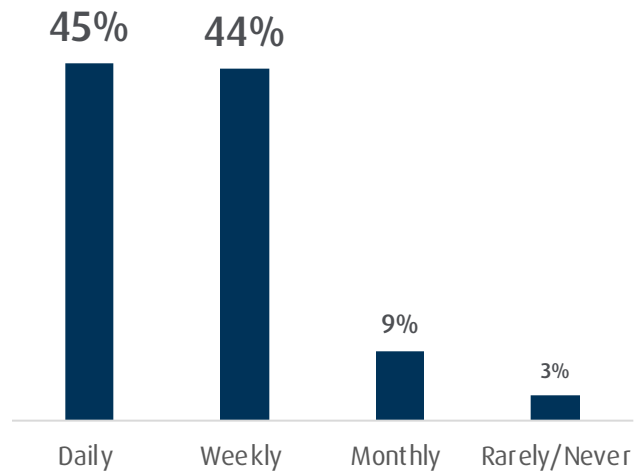
Activity Preferences

What are your favourite recreation activities?

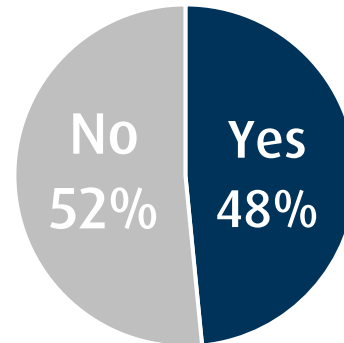


Participation Frequency

How often do you participate in recreation activities?



Do you participate in recreation activities as often as you would like?



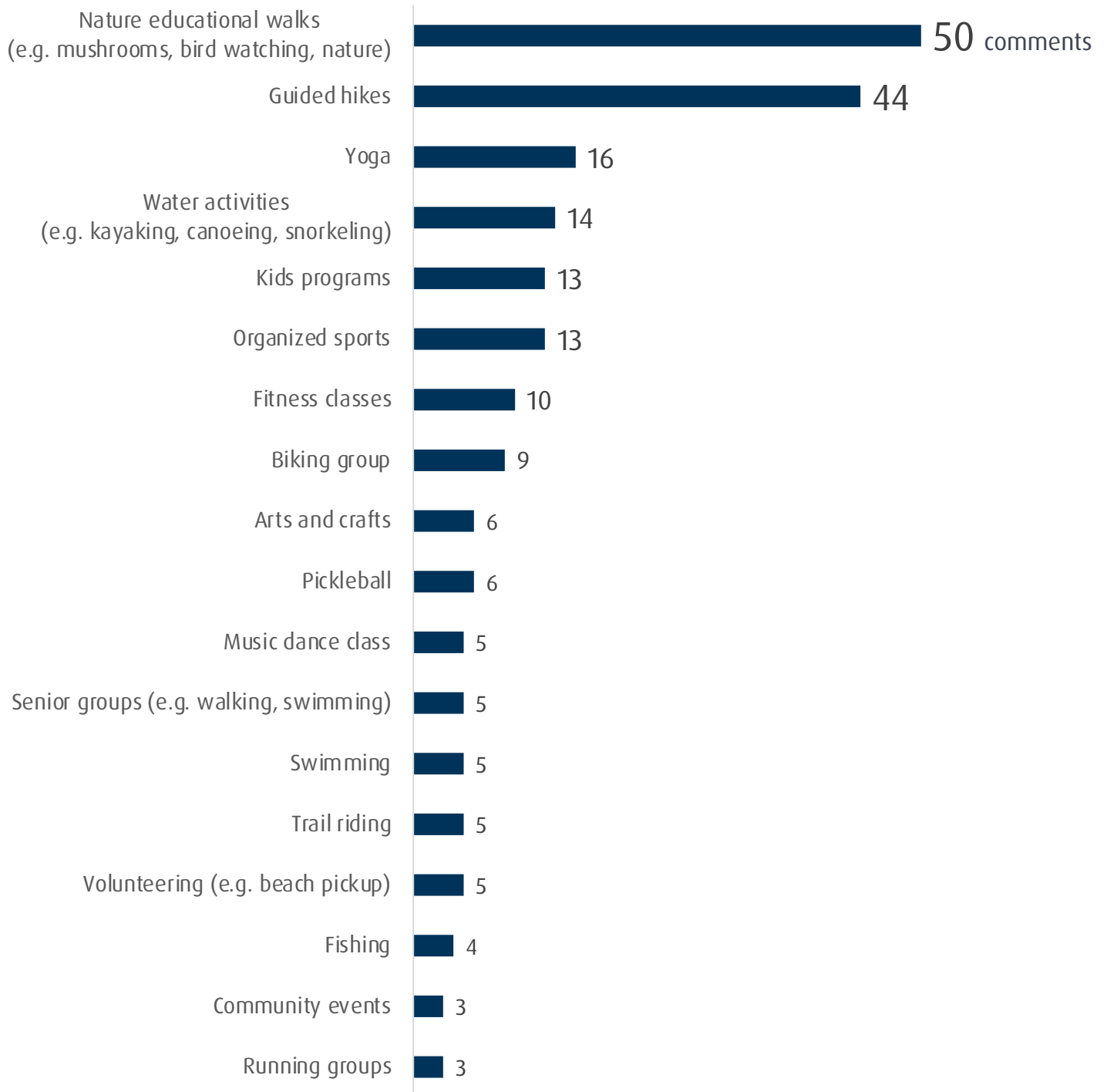
Participation Barriers

If no, why don't you participate as often as you would like?



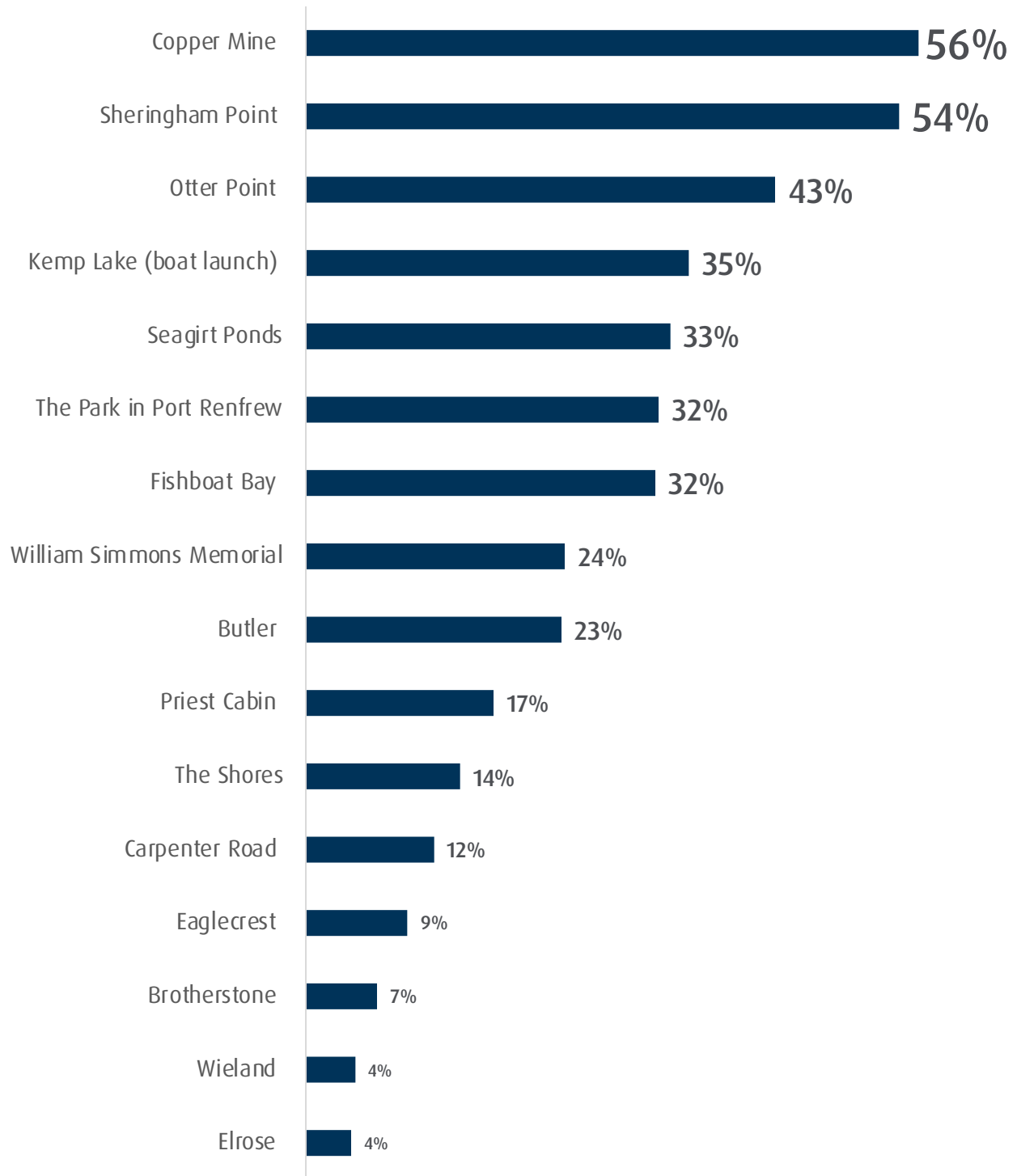
Program Ideas

What types of recreation programs would you like to participate in?



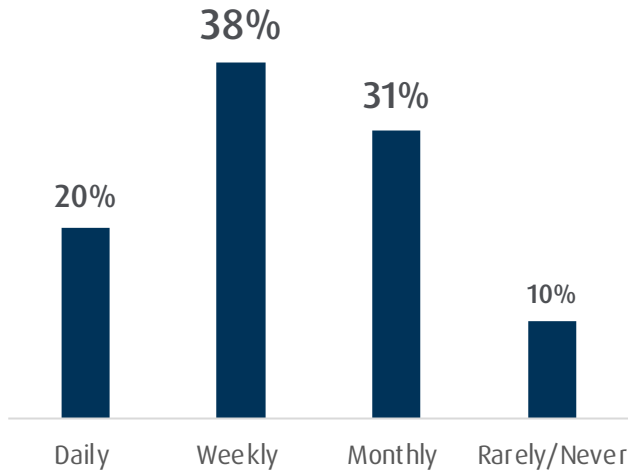
Community Park Visitation

Which community parks have you visited recently?

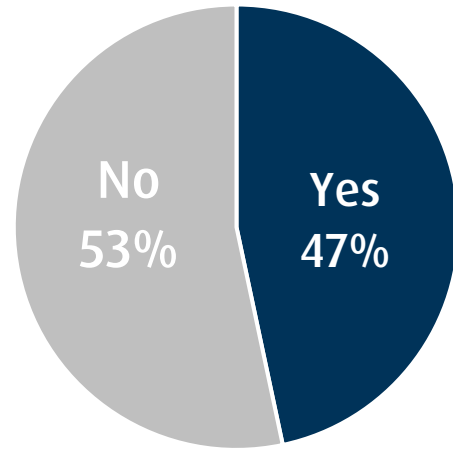


Visitation Frequency

How often do you visit community parks?

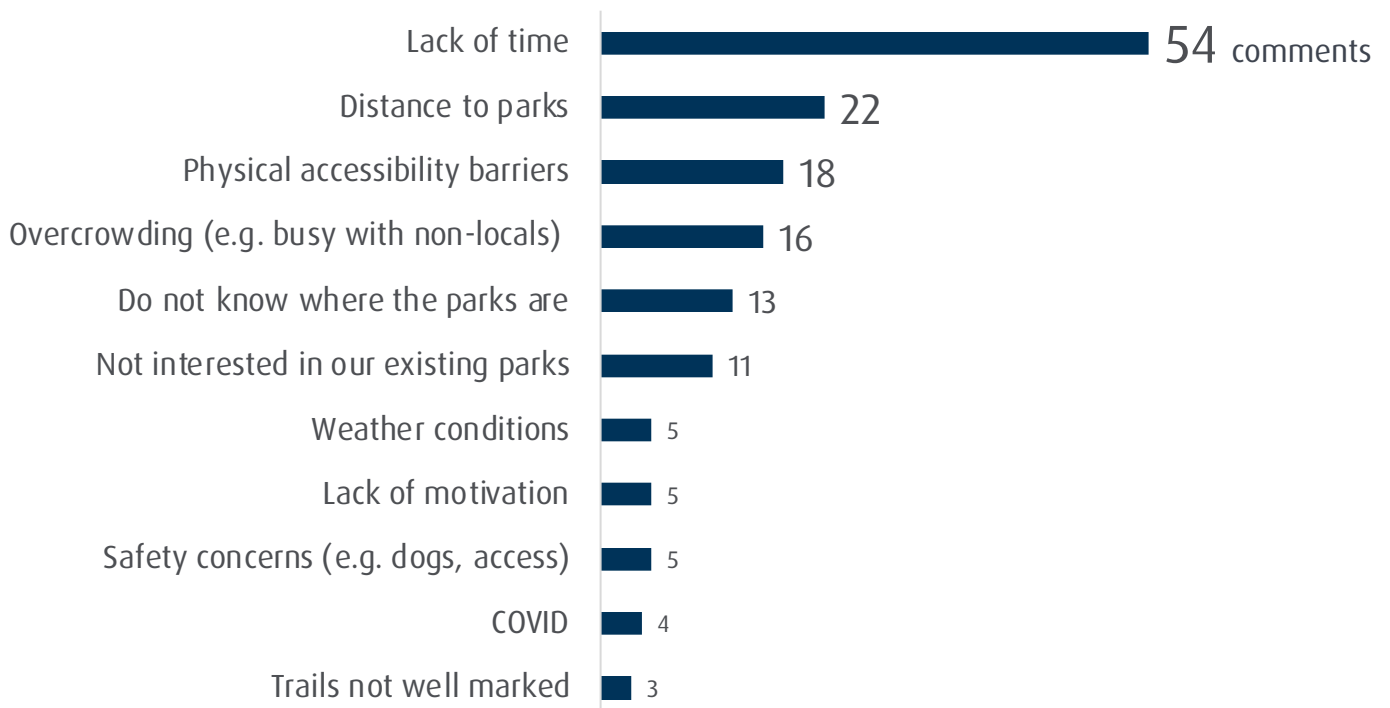


Do you visit community parks as often as you would like?



Visitation Barriers

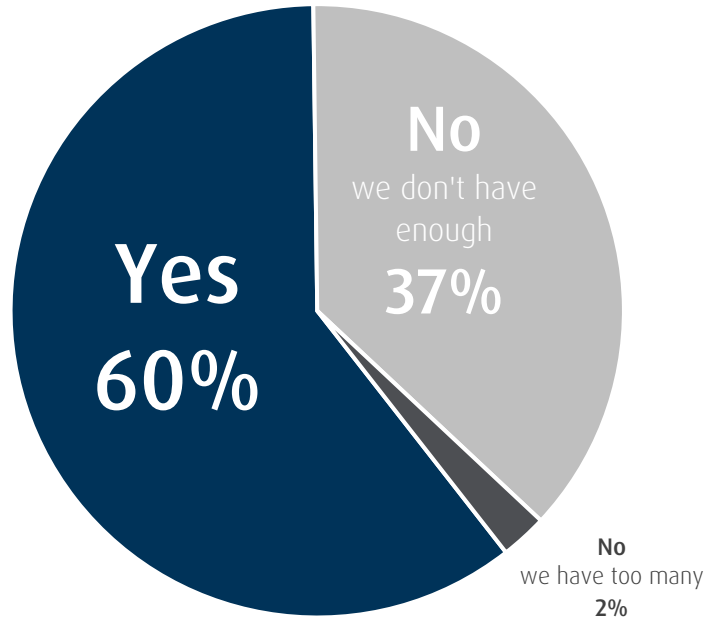
If no, why don't you visit community parks as often as you would like?



Existing Amenities

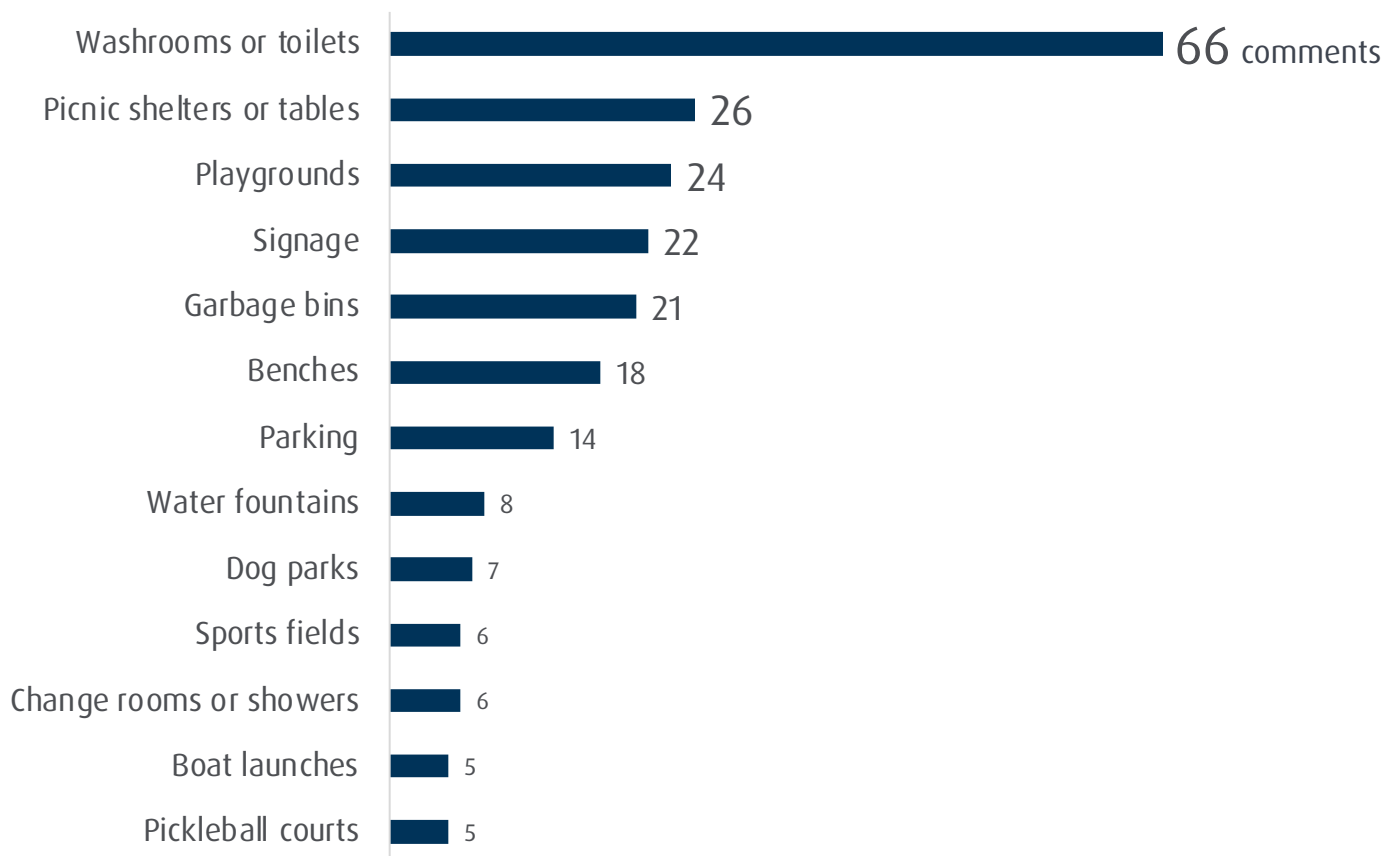
Do we provide an appropriate level of amenities at our community parks?

Amenities are dedicated spaces or structures aimed to enhance park and trail experiences such as benches, picnic tables, washrooms, playgrounds, sport fields, courts, skateparks, etc.



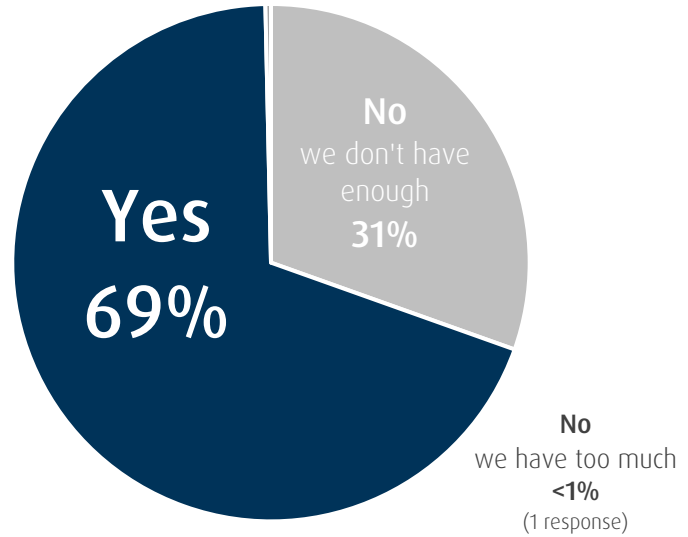
Amenity Preferences

If funding were available, what types of amenities would you like to see more of?

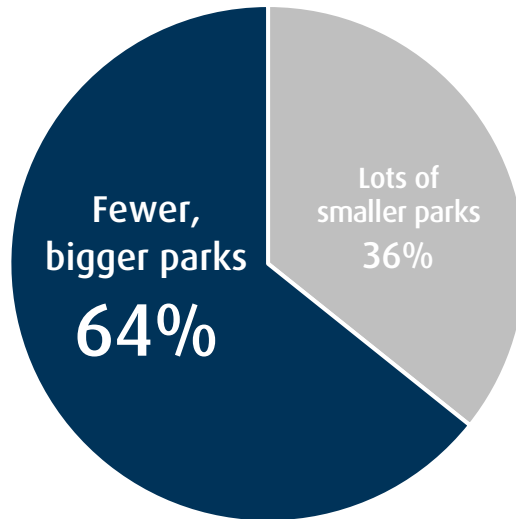


Park Acquisition

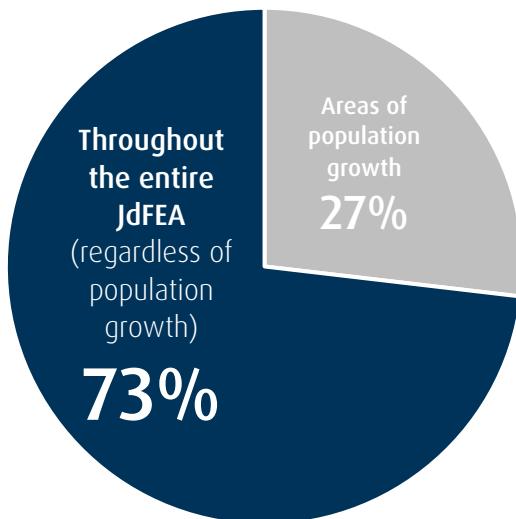
Are you satisfied with the amount of community parkland that we currently have?



For new community parkland, would you prefer lots of smaller parks or fewer, bigger parks?

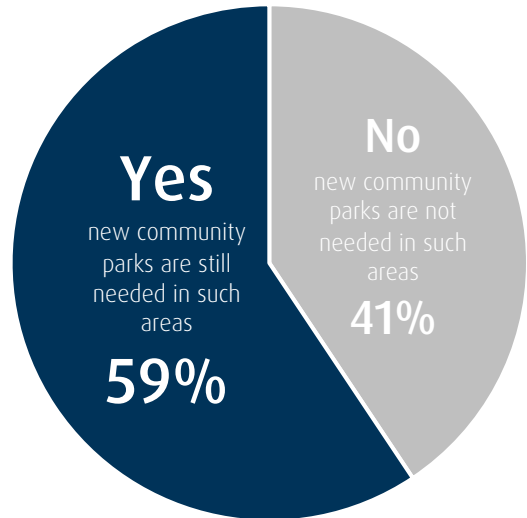


Should we aim to acquire community parkland throughout the entire JdFEA or focus on areas of population growth?

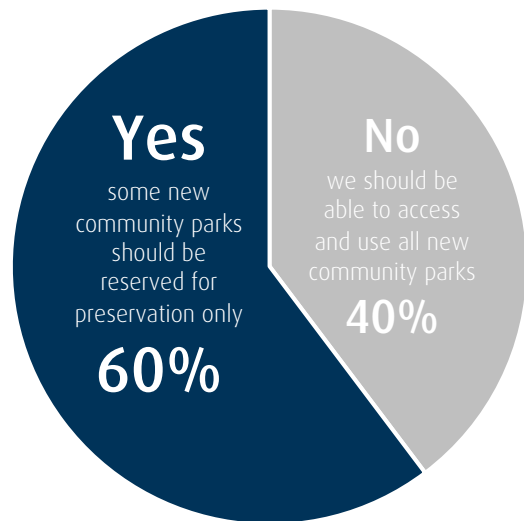


Park Acquisition (continued)

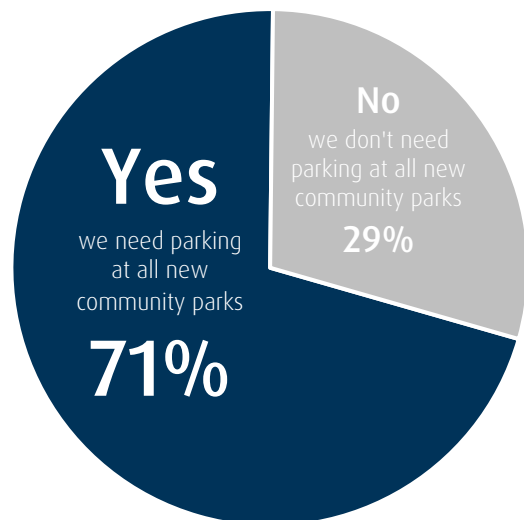
If an area is well served by Regional and/or Provincial Parks, is there still a need for new community parks in that area?



Should we acquire new community parks for the sole purpose of nature preservation?

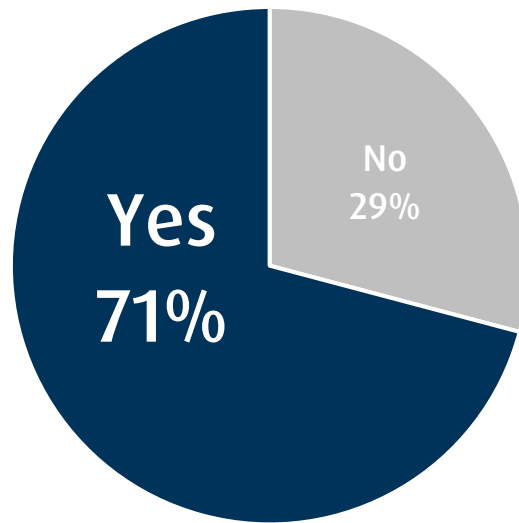


Is vehicle parking an important factor for us to consider when contemplating new community parkland?

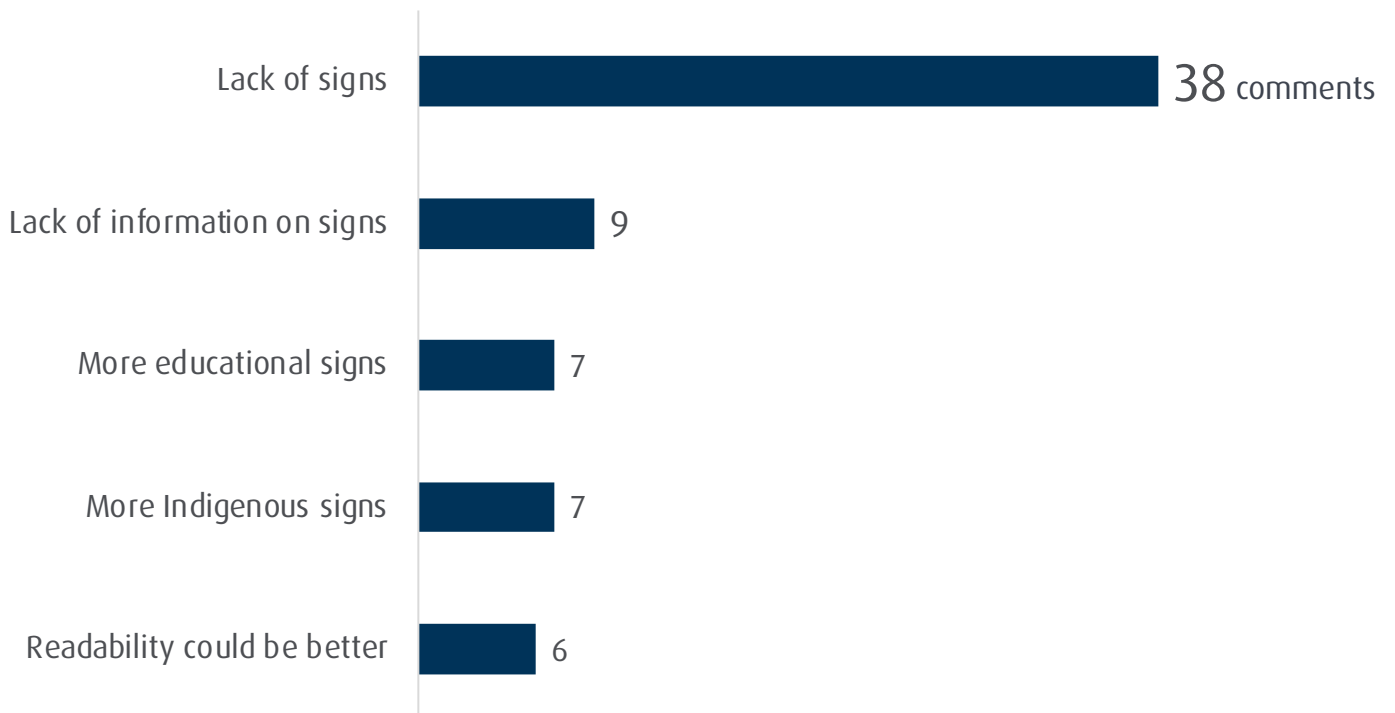


Signage

Are you satisfied with signage at our community parks?

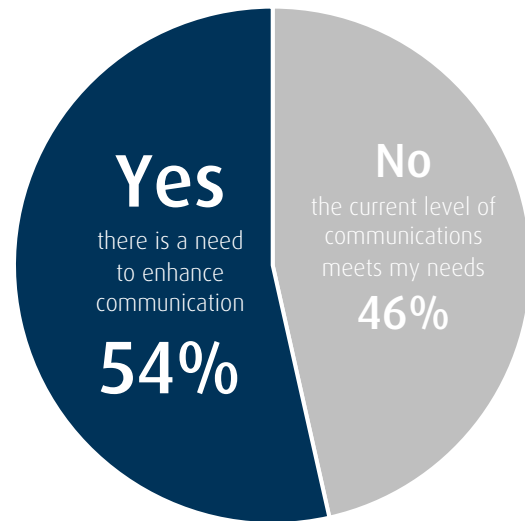


If not, why?



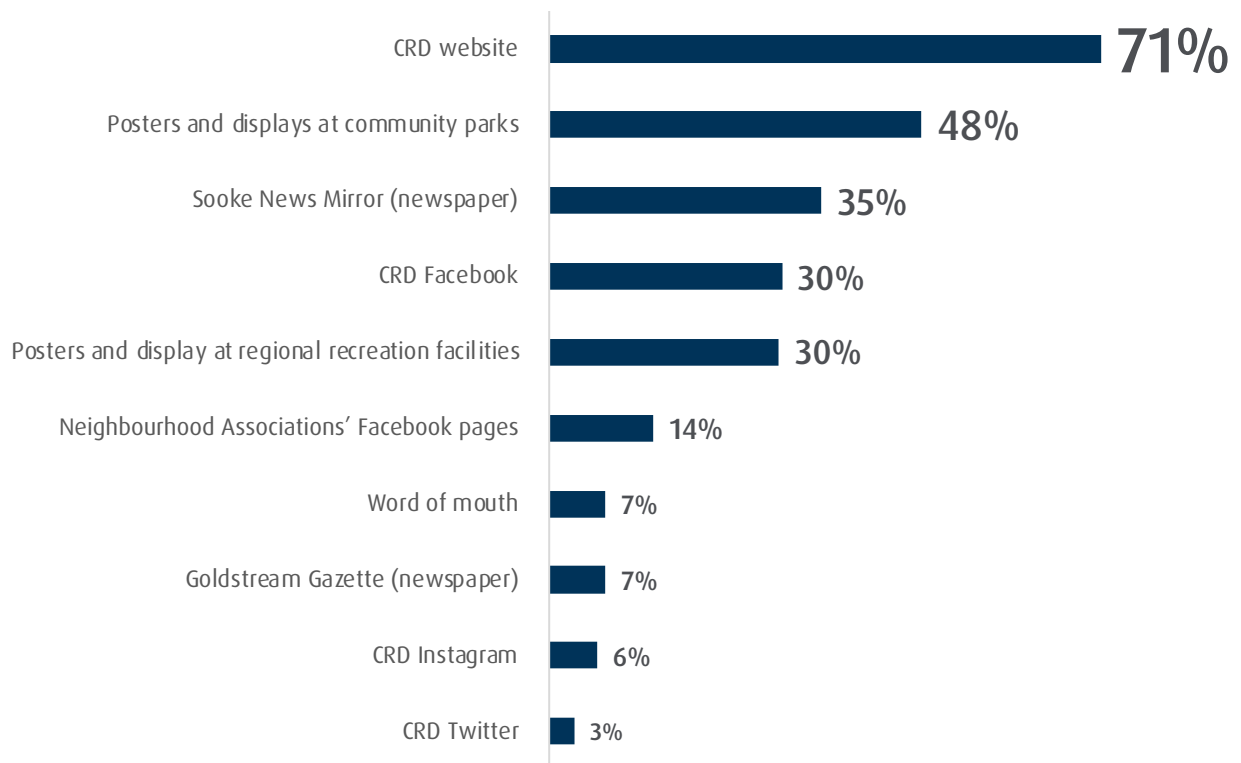
Communications

Would you like to see more information about community parks and recreation?



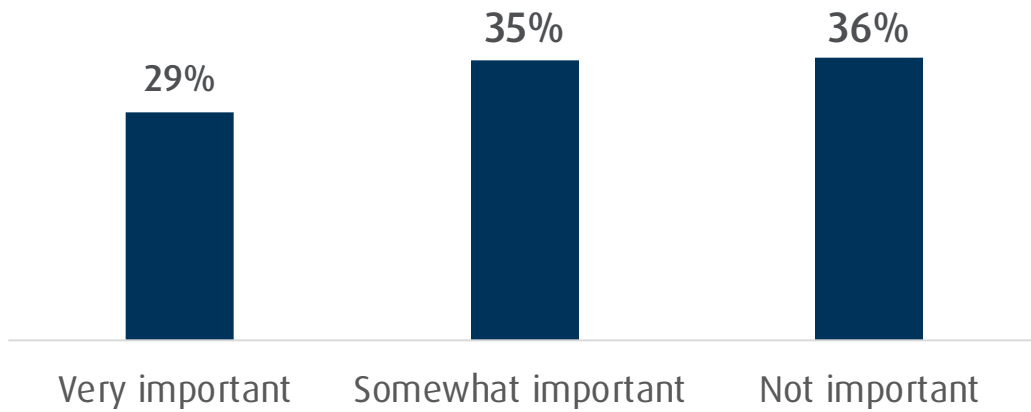
Which communication platforms would you like us to use to distribute information about community parks and recreation?

Please select up to three.



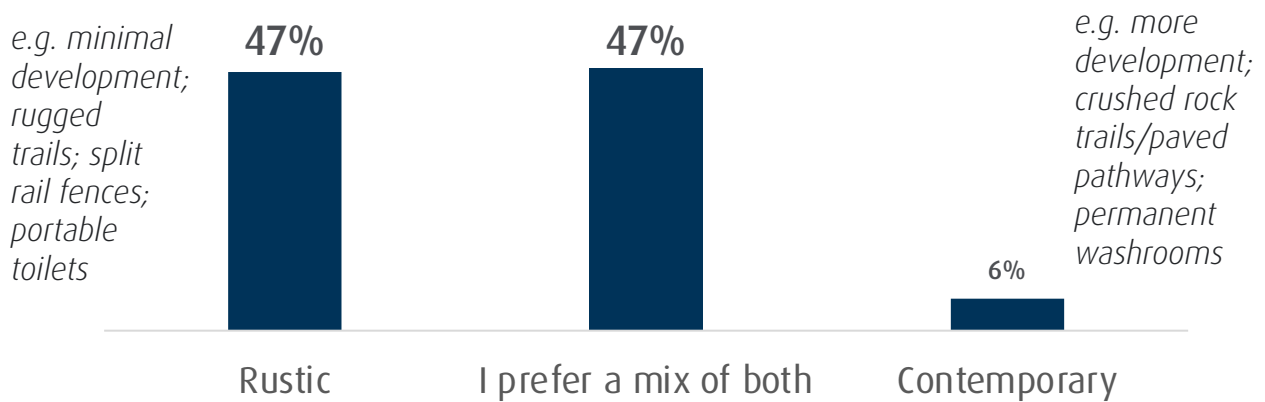
Fishing Opportunities

How important is it for us to support opportunities for fishing in community parks?



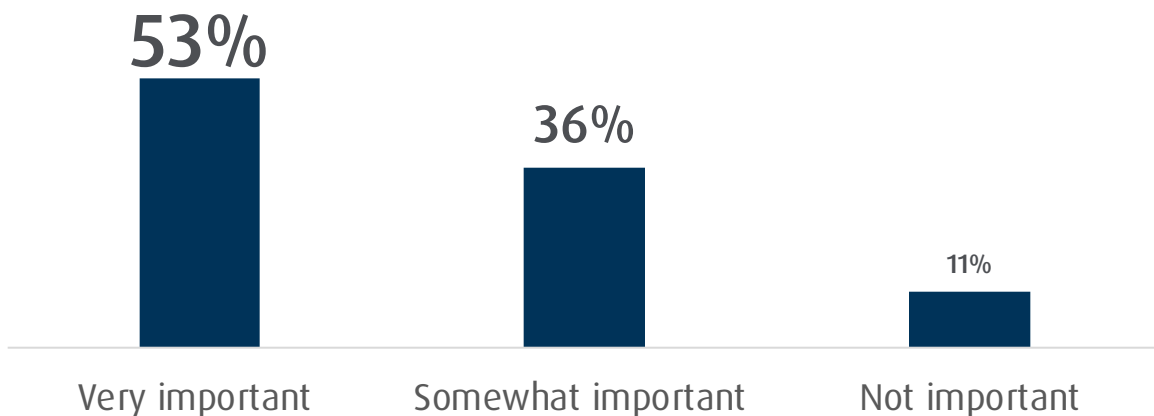
Park Aesthetics

Do you prefer rustic or contemporary-style development within community parks?



Equitable Geographic Access

How important is it for all JdFEA residents to live within close distance to a community park?



General Comments

What else would you like to share?

Here is a selection of our open-ended comments categorized by theme (and edited for spelling, punctuation, and brevity).

Park Benefits

*People need outdoor spaces for their **mental and physical health**.*

Acquisition

*Acquire more parkland to **preserve forests** and wildlife habitats.*

*Ensure that **developers provide parkland** as the population increases.*

***Acquire as much land as possible** and just hold it if there is no money to do anything with it.*

*Consider acquiring some already disturbed areas for **mountain biking**.*

Amenities

***Parking** is important for accessibility, especially for seniors, young families, and people with disabilities.*

*Some of our **playground equipment is very old**.*

*We need an **off leash dogs area**.*

*I would like more park spaces **designed for people to gather**.*

Access

*Open up **more beach access** to the public with big signs to show people where they are.*

*Despite being surrounded by forests, **I have to drive** to my nearest usable park.*

Awareness of Parks

*Make an **interactive park map** on the CRD website so that you can click on a park and information about that park would pop up.*

Volunteers

***Adopting a park** gives a community a reason to look after and respect the parkland area.*

*I would help with **clean-up initiatives** like removing plastic and styrofoam from our beaches.*

Spending

*Before investing significantly in new opportunities we should **take care of existing parks**.*

*With the rate of development, **prioritize funds to purchase land** rather than improving signage or facilities in existing parks.*

*It is not unprecedented for a Regional District to **borrow money to acquire parkland**.*

Stakeholder Interviews

We conducted one-on-one discussion sessions with 15 stakeholders, including representatives of community groups and members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. The following are summarized comments and themes from the discussions.

Community parks should serve local residents.

When asked about the role of community parks (as opposed to regional or provincial parks), most stakeholders conveyed a similar message—that community parks should serve the needs of local residents (before the needs of visitors).

Preservation is important.

Most stakeholders (but not all) would like their community parks to play a significant role in preserving nature.

Lack of maintenance at intensive recreation parks.

A few stakeholders strongly expressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of staff presence at intensive recreation parks.

Playgrounds are due for renewal.

Both playgrounds (Copper Mine and Renfrew) were identified as aging and out-of-date. When asked if we are in the business of providing playgrounds, all stakeholders said yes.

Park use increased during the pandemic.

Many stakeholders pointed out the importance of public outdoor spaces. When asked about usage trends, everybody said that foot traffic increased during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Invasive species need to be managed.

A few stakeholders expressed concern with invasive species in community parks. It was said that the management of invasive species shouldn't be placed solely on volunteers.

Volunteers can be leveraged.

All stakeholders were in favour of supporting volunteers to help with park-related initiatives such as clean-ups, restoration, and recreation programs.

Expectations are rising but funding is a challenge.

A few stakeholders suggested that the public might be willing to pay more for better park maintenance and amenities.

Mountain biking is growing in popularity.

Representatives from biking groups foresee a continued demand for mountain biking trails.

Low sense of community.

One stakeholder expressed that our communities lack a sense of community. It was suggested that each community should have at least one neighbourhood-style park with features that attract people to gather.

Can't have enough beach access.

Unprompted, about half of the stakeholders expressed their dissatisfaction with the lack of ocean access sites.

Public Feedback Survey

We posted the draft version of this strategic plan on the CRD's online engagement platform before it was officially endorsed by the Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. We asked the public to read the draft plan and provide feedback—59 people did.

Focus Areas

Our draft plan presents five topics for us to focus on. Please indicate your level of agreement.

Maintenance

We'll upkeep parks, trails, and amenities.

- 47 respondents strongly agreed; 12 somewhat agreed.

Environmental Stewardship

We'll preserve and restore nature.

- 32 respondents strongly agreed; 18 somewhat agreed; 4 were unsure; 3 somewhat disagreed; 1 strongly disagreed.

Capital Planning

We'll identify, prioritize, and plot capital projects.

- 31 respondents strongly agreed; 13 somewhat agreed; 11 were unsure; 4 somewhat disagreed.

Foreshore Access

We'll develop more public access to the ocean and lakes.

- 33 respondents strongly agreed; 9 somewhat agreed; 5 were unsure; 7 somewhat disagreed; 5 strongly disagreed.
- The statement was changed to "We'll examine opportunities for more public access to the ocean and lakes."

Acquisition

We'll acquire parkland as our population grows.

- 52 respondents strongly agreed; 2 somewhat agreed; 2 were unsure; 3 somewhat disagreed.

Written Feedback

Please share any feedback you may have.

- 25 respondents advocated for mountain bike trails.
- 10 advocated for environmental protection.
- 2 advocated for more ocean access.
- 1 advocated for garbage cans.
- There were only two comments that addressed something specific in the plan—both comments expressed concern about a statement on page 23 that has been deleted due to their feedback. The deleted statement was: There’s potential to establish a trail throughout the length of First Creek Park. These respondents said that a trail could erode sediment on the creek’s banks, which could cause slides. The sentence was removed.

What advice do you have as we implement the plan?

- *As someone who visits the shores frequently please be aware that the amount of water in the creek has washed away most of the existing trail. This does not seem like a viable area to build a trail and upkeep it if nature seems to wash it away every winter.*
- *Be as ready as you can for future opportunities to acquire more parkland. As the saying goes, they’re not making anymore green space.*
- *Not every park needs to be developed for broad public use. Leave some areas protected for wildlife and biodiversity.*
- *Consult residents in proximity to the parks you wish to construct.*
- *Do not build anything in riparian areas.*
- *Ensure all new lands and trails are accessible to all users types.*
- *Designate land for mountain biking.*
- *The annual operating budget is far too low.*
- *Please ensure that more parks are acquired, not just only small fragments but larger areas of land with ecological integrity, particularly shorelines.*
- *It’s important that the island doesn’t end up looking like Langford.*
- *I don’t have a dog, but judging by the amount of dog poo in bags that I see thrown into the bush in parks, I see the need for more convenient locations for garbage cans.*



The CRD would like to thank the following First Nations, community groups, and individuals for contributing to the development of this strategic plan as well as residents who participated in the surveys.

First Nations

Pacheedaht First Nation
Sc'ianew First Nation
T'Sou-ke Nation
WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council

Community Organizations

606 Water Group
East Sooke Community Hall
East Sooke Neighbourhoods Association
Friends of Coppermine Park Society
Friends of Seagirt Ponds Preservation Society
Juan de Fuca Community Trails Society
Kludahk Outdoor Club
Otter Point Community Park Restoration
Port Renfrew Chamber of Commerce
Sheringham Point Lighthouse Preservation Society
Sooke Bike Club
Sooke Region Museum & Visitor Centre
South Island Mountain Bike Society
Southern Vancouver Island Area Girl Guides

Juan de Fuca Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Sid Jorna, Chair
Valerie Braunschweig
Bob Croteau
James Gaston
Sandy McAndrews
Scott McKay
Patricia Sloan

