

Island View Beach Regional Park

Report on Results

Step 2: Public Participation Process

Capital Regional District | September 2015



Capital Regional District | Regional Parks
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CRD
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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	i
1.0 Purpose of this Report	1
2.0 Public Participation	1
2.1 Purpose of Public Participation.....	1
2.2 Public Participation Process	2
2.2.1 Advertising.....	2
2.2.2 Media Coverage.....	3
2.2.3 Internet Coverage.....	3
2.2.4 Stakeholder Meetings	3
2.2.5 Staff Presence at Island View Beach.....	4
2.2.6 Response Form.....	4
2.2.7 Emails	5
3.0 Public Feedback.....	5
3.1 Public Feedback – Issues and Interests.....	5
3.2 How the Public Feedback will be Used	9
4.0 Summary.....	9
Appendix 1: Four-Step Public Participation Process.....	11
Appendix 2: Step 2 - Response Form	13
Appendix 3: Public Feedback	17
Appendix 4: Advertising and Communications.....	116
 <u>List of Maps and Tables</u>	
Map 1. Island View Beach Regional Park.....	ii
Table 1. Step 2 - Issues and Interests	5

Executive Summary

A Four-Step Public Participation Process to prepare a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park was approved by the Capital Regional District (CRD) Regional Parks Committee in May 2014 (see Appendix 1). Step 1 was undertaken during January and February 2015. The focus of Step 1 was to develop a common understanding of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park, and to add to the information base about the natural environment through public feedback. A [summary report](#) of the results of Step 1 went to the CRD Regional Parks Committee in March 2015.

Step 2 was undertaken from April through July, 2015. The purpose of Step 2 was to gather information about issues and interests that the public believes needs to be addressed in the park management plan, and to ensure there is an understanding by Regional Parks' staff and the CRD Regional Parks Committee members of the issues and interests. During Step 2, Regional Parks' staff met with seven stakeholder groups, and were available at Island View Beach Regional Park five times to listen to park visitors talk about issues and interests. The results of Step 2 will be used to identify the issues to be addressed during the community dialogue in Step 3, and in the preparation of the management plan during Step 4.

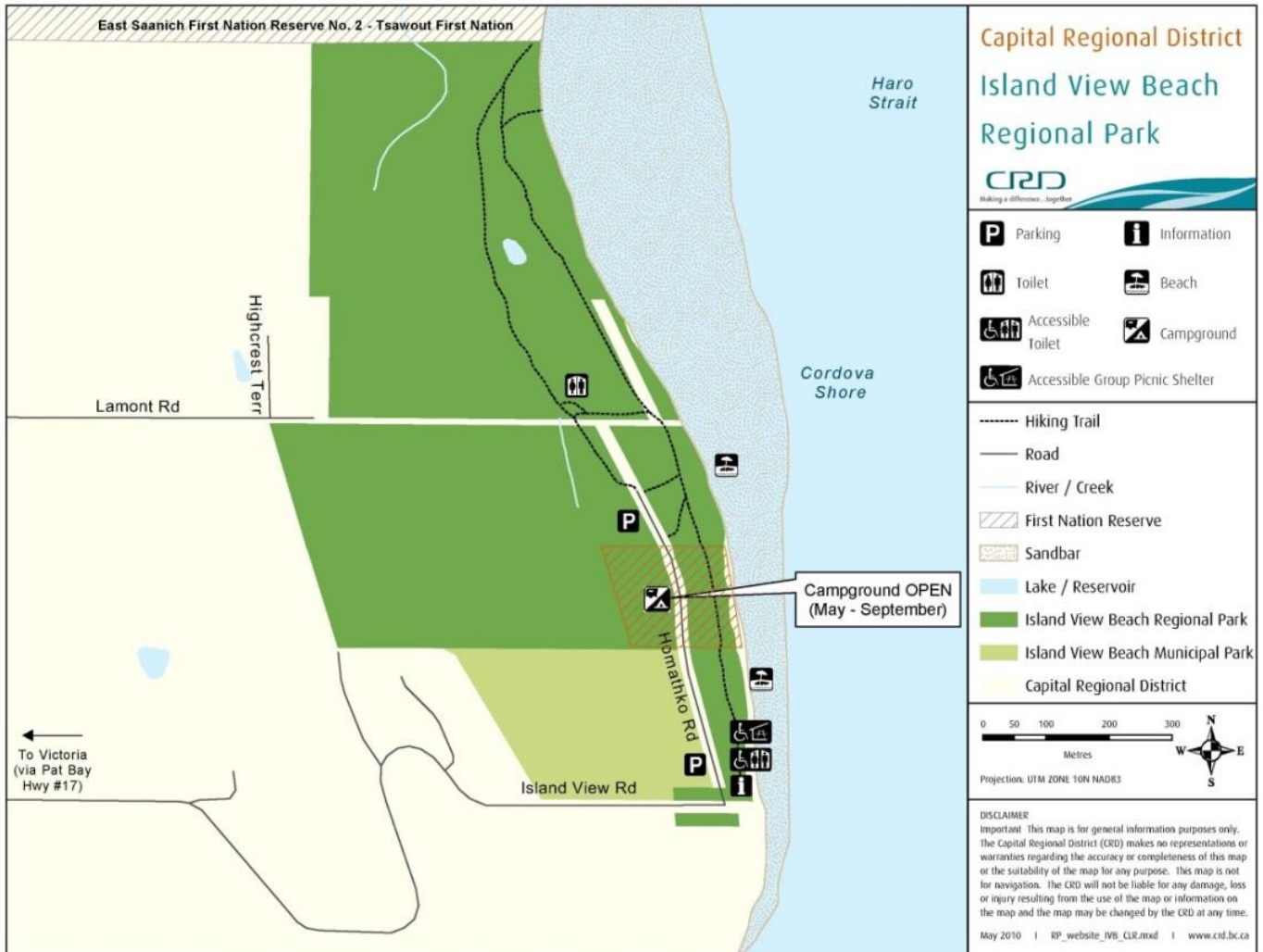
Regional Parks talked with the Tsawout First Nation about Step 2, but were unable to meet with them. Regional Parks will continue to engage with the Tsawout First Nation during Steps 3-4 of the process.

An online and paper copy response form was available between May 25 and July 31, 2015 (Appendix 2). The CRD received 73 completed response forms with 462 individual comments. Several email submissions were also received. Notes were prepared from each of the stakeholder meetings, and they were sent to the participant groups for verification of their accuracy. The verbatim comments from the response forms, the email submissions, and the stakeholder meeting notes are contained in Appendix 3. The comments received from the response form, the emails, and the stakeholder meetings indicate a wide range of public opinions exist about the issues and interests at Island View Beach Regional Park.

Targeted advertising and communications materials were developed to support Step 2 and to generate interest in meeting with staff in the park and in completing the response form (see Appendix 4).

The results from the public feedback indicate that the top three reasons given in the response form for visiting the park are for walking (with or without a dog), enjoying the park's natural environment, and to be at the beach. An analysis of the public feedback also indicates seven issues that should be addressed in the park management plan: camping, dogs, environmental stewardship, park infrastructure, park management, park operations, and visitor experience. The issues are not ranked in order of importance or priority. More detail is provided in Section 3 – Public Feedback.

Map 1. Island View Beach Regional Park



1.0 Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to document the results of Step 2 of the Four-Step Public Participation Process to prepare a management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The four-step process was approved by the CRD Regional Parks Committee in May 2014, and amended in January 2015. In April 2015, the process was again amended to extend the timelines and to include a Step 2 response form and staff sessions in the park. Step 2 also included meetings with stakeholder groups representing a diversity of interests in relation to the park. The purpose of Step 2 was to gather information from the public about issues and interests that should be addressed in the management plan. Step 2 activities were completed in April – July, 2015. Supporting information for Step 2 is contained in four appendices:

- Appendix 1 – Four-Step Public Participation Process
- Appendix 2 – Step 2 - Response Form
- Appendix 3 – Public Feedback
- Appendix 4 – Advertising and Communications

2.0 Public Participation

2.1 Purpose of Public Participation

Public participation in the CRD is guided by its Public Participation Framework. The Framework sets out the CRD's commitment to public participation, identifies a spectrum of public participation, and provides guiding principles and roles for public participation. Based on the CRD's Public Participation Framework, Regional Parks' commitment to the public during the Island View Beach Regional Park management planning process is that it will:

- Keep the public informed about the planning process;
- Work with the public to exchange information, ideas and concerns;
- Provide objective information written in plain language to assist the public in understanding the park management planning situation, issues and management direction;
- Provide opportunities for the public to review and comment on the information used for park planning and the draft park management plan; and provide feedback to the public on how their input was considered and influenced decisions in preparing the management plan.

This public participation framework respects that the final decision for approval of a park management plan rests with the CRD Board.

2.2 Public Participation Process

A four-step Public Participation Process to prepare a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park was approved by the CRD Regional Parks Committee in May 2014, and amended in January 2015. The four-step process was amended again in April 2015 to extend the timelines and to include a Step 2 response form and in-park sessions to listen to park visitors talk about issues and interests. A copy of the amended public participation process is included as Appendix 1. In brief, the four steps to prepare the Island View Beach park management plan are:

- Step 1 – Present information about the park’s natural environment and seek feedback;
- Step 2 – Identify park management issues and interests;
- Step 3 – Hold community dialogues;
- Step 4 – Prepare and present a draft plan, seek feedback, and prepare a final plan.

Step 1 of the public participation process gave direction to Regional Parks to present scientific information about the park’s natural environment and ecology. The purpose of Step 1 was to develop a common understanding of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park, and to add to the information base about the natural environment through public feedback. Step 1 was undertaken in January-February, 2015, and presented to the CRD Regional Parks Committee in March 2015. A [summary report](#) of the results is available on the CRD website.

The public participation process for Step 2 consisted of a response form and meetings with stakeholders and the public to gather information about issues and interests the public would like to see addressed in the park management plan. Step 2 also ensures that Regional Parks’ staff and the CRD Regional Parks Committee members have an understanding of the issues and interests that are important to the public.

Regional Parks contacted federal government staff with Environment Canada and Parks Canada, and provincial government staff with the Ministry of Environment, but were unable to meet with them. Regional Parks invited the Tsawout First Nation to participate in Step 2, but did not meet with them. The Tsawout First Nation indicated they have previously provided comments to the CRD about the park and they did not have any additional information to add at this time. Regional Parks will continue to engage with federal and provincial government staff and the Tsawout First Nation during Steps 3 and 4.

The results of Step 2 will be used to identify the issues to be addressed during the community dialogue in Step 3, and in the preparation of the management plan during Step 4.

2.2.1 Advertising

Step 2 meetings in the park were advertised through a media release, ads placed in the Peninsula News Review and the Times Colonist, the CRD website, and through CRD Facebook and Twitter (see Appendix 4). Posters advertising the five in-park meetings were also posted at Island View Beach Regional Park.

2.2.2 Media Coverage

There was no media coverage for Step 2 of the public participation process.

2.2.3 Internet Coverage

The number of public comments received via the internet from May 1 to July 31, 2015 was:

- Response forms completed – 73
- Website page views - 576
- Facebook shares – 7
- Facebook likes – 2
- Twitter – retweets – 4
- Twitter – favorite - 1

2.2.4 Stakeholder Meetings

Seven meetings with different stakeholder groups were held for Step 2. The purpose of the meetings was to gather information about issues and associated interests that the stakeholders felt should be addressed in the management plan. The small group meetings enabled individuals with similar interests to comfortably engage in discussions with Regional Parks' staff about issues important to them. Each meeting was facilitated by two Regional Parks' staff, and notes were taken at each meeting. The meeting notes were sent to each stakeholder group to verify their accuracy and are included in Appendix 3.

The seven stakeholder meetings were:

April 7, 2015: Royal BC Museum staff: 8 participants

June 23, 2015: Conservation interests: 5 participants

July 6, 2015: Central Saanich staff: 3 participants

July 14, 2015: Dog advocacy interests 4 participants

July 16, 2015: Conservation interests: 14 participants

July 21, 2015: Island View Beach neighbors 8 participants

July 28, 2015: Accessibility advocates: 2 participants

Additional stakeholders were contacted to try to set up meetings, but these meetings could not be scheduled. This includes the provincial and federal government, recreational interests, Friends of Island View Beach (see their written submission in Appendix 3), and the academic community. Each stakeholder meeting had the following format:

- Welcome and Introductions
- General explanation of the Four-Step Public Participation Process
- Detailed explanation of Step 2
- Identification of most important issues
- Identification of interests associated with each issue
- Discussion
- Wrap-up and next steps

2.2.5 Staff Presence at Island View Beach Regional Park

Regional Parks' staff were available at Island View Beach Regional Park on five occasions during June and July to listen to park visitors talk about issues and interests important to them. The five visits were on the following dates:

- **June 11, 2015 – 11-4 p.m.**
 - Parks staff talked with approximately 35 park visitors
- **June 20, 2015 – 12-5 p.m.**
 - Parks staff talked with approximately 55 park visitors
- **July 10, 2015 – 11-4 p.m.**
 - Parks staff talked with approximately 30 park visitors
- **July 18, 2015 – 12-5 p.m.**
 - Parks staff talked with approximately 30 park visitors
- **July 23, 2015 – 11-4 p.m.**
 - Parks staff talked with approximately 40 park visitors

2.2.6 Response Form

A Step 2 online and paper copy response form was available from May 25 to July 31, 2015. A total of 73 completed response forms were received, which contained 462 individual comments. The verbatim comments from the response form are included in Appendix 3

The response form was divided into four sections. The first section asked respondents about their primary reason for visiting the park; the second section asked respondents what is the most important issue that they thought needed to be addressed in the park management plan and why it was important to them; the third section asked for additional issues and interests; and the fourth section asked for any

additional comments. Respondents were also given the option of providing their name and email address to receive an electronic copy of the Step 2 report and to be informed of additional opportunities to become involved in the public participation process. This information has been retained separately from this report to maintain privacy and confidentiality.

The verbatim comments from the response forms are included in Appendix 3. The response form results provide an indication of the range of opinions held by the public about Island View Beach Regional Park. Readers are encouraged to review and consider the comments contained in Appendix 3.

2.2.7 Emails


Email submissions were received from the public during Step 2. This includes an email submission from the Friends of Island View Beach (FOIVB), and follow up emails from supporters of FOIVB. In addition, emails were received from some participants in the stakeholder meetings as a follow up to the meetings notes that were prepared for each meeting. All of the emails are included verbatim in Appendix 3.



3.0 Public Feedback

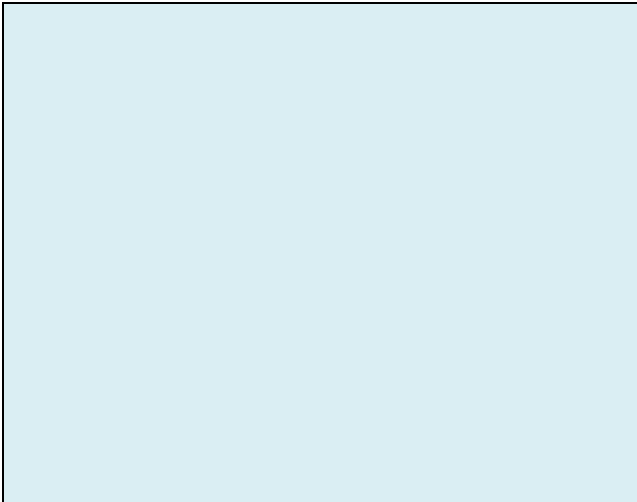
3.1 Public Feedback - Issues and Interests

Content analysis of the public feedback received from the response forms, the stakeholder meetings, and email submissions indicates seven key issues and associated interests that the public believes should be addressed in the Island View Beach Regional Park management plan. The issues are presented in alphabetical order and are not ranked in order of importance or priority. The interests associated with each issue are representative of the interests included in the public feedback, but are not necessarily exhaustive. The verbatim comments are included in Appendix 3.

Table1. Step 2 Issues and Interests

ISSUES	REPRESENTATIVE INTERESTS
<p>Camping</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extend the camping season • Add to the existing facilities and services • Change the campground layout • Change the campground operation • Add a campground host • Enforce existing rules • Remove the campground from the park • Privatize the campground

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the campground affordable • Don't change the campground at all
<p>Dogs</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the dog waste disposal problem • Promote and enforce responsible dog ownership • Let dogs run off-leash in the park as currently • Don't change existing rules for dogs • Vigorously address public and personal safety and comfort issues with dogs • Designate off-leash and on-leash areas for dogs • Develop a fenced off-leash "doggie park" • Designate park zoning to keep dogs out of some areas for public safety, personal preference, and environmental protection • Enforce existing rules for dogs • Strengthen dog bylaws • Regulate or prohibit commercial dog walkers
<p>Environmental Stewardship</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase efforts at ecological restoration and protection • Protect species at risk in the park • Remove invasive species • Implement park zoning that protects sensitive ecosystems and species • Control how park visitors access the sand dune and wetland ecosystems • Let people go wherever they want to if it doesn't harm wildlife • Restore the natural process that sustain the park • The mosquito control program is/isn't necessary and does/doesn't hurt the environment • The condition of the park environment is poor and the threats to it are high • The park is too small from an ecological perspective to be viable in the long-run



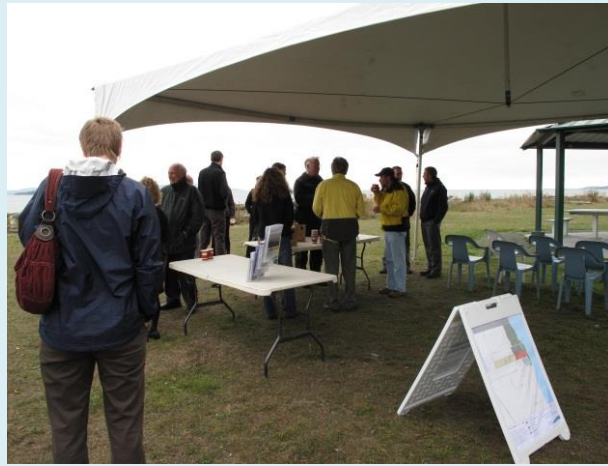
- Look at the park from a regional context
- The park is doing just fine and doesn't need special attention or resources
- The park is subject to dynamic ecosystems and climate change and this needs to be planned for
- The water management regime in the park needs to be assessed and addressed
- The park is for people, not wildlife
- The presence and location of species at risk needs to be documented and shared

Park Infrastructure



- Improve access to various areas of the park, including the beach and wetland area
- Increase the number of benches, picnic tables, gazebos, garbage cans, washrooms, and trails
- Improve the boat launch and improve and increase nearby parking areas
- Maintain overnight parking for kayakers
- Maintain the berm and ditch system
- Modify or remove the berm and ditch system
- Create loop trail opportunities, consider adding boardwalks and viewing platforms
- Take over control of the park roads from the District of Central Saanich
- Consolidate the parking areas and reduce the park development footprint
- Put better signage on the roads to provide clear directions to the park and for speed control

Park Management



- Acquire the adjacent private parcel to prevent it from being developed
- Work with adjacent landowners to develop a comprehensive environmental stewardship program that benefits all parties
- Work with park neighbors to develop an acceptable vision for the park
- Limit development in the park – keep it natural
- Don't let the park become commercialized
- Increase park resourcing and enforcement for better management outcomes
- The planning process needs to be transparent and accountable and listen to what people are saying
- Regional Parks needs to maintain a good relationship with the Tsawout First Nation
- Prohibit hunting in the park
- Partner with NGO's and others on activities and actions benefitting the park
- Work with Central Saanich to manage or transfer Island View Municipal Park, the road right-of-ways, and/or the Lamont Road outfall to the CRD
- This is a regional park, don't manage it to respond to only local interests

Park Operations



- Increase by-law enforcement at the park
- Increase maintenance of garbage cans and washroom facilities
- Keep the trails trimmed and maintained
- Provide a better or more consistent presence in the campground
- Keep beach campfires from occurring and clean them up quickly if they do
- Support the park operations staff, they are doing a good job
- Provide more waste containers and doggie bags

Visitor Experience



- Do not change the park – keep it the same as now
- Make changes to the park to improve conditions for park visitors and the environment
- Improve interpretive signs and increase educational efforts
- Partner with stewardship groups to increase community outreach and involvement
- Increase the conservation focus of the park
- Increase the recreational focus of the park
- Make some areas “dog-free” for people who don’t want to be around dogs
- Do not take away any opportunities that exist now
- Ensure the park is accessible to all
- Use the park as a regional showcase for this type of rare coastal ecosystem— educate, inform, and involve
- Provide modern amenities, like Wi-fi

3.2 How the Public Feedback will be Used

This report is a full record of Step 2 and will be presented to the CRD Regional Parks Committee in September 2015. The issues identified in Step 2 will be used to identify the issues to be addressed during the community dialogue in Step 3 and in the preparation of the management plan during Step 4. A copy of this report will be posted on the Regional Parks website and copies will be made available to all participants in Steps 3 and 4.

4.0 Summary

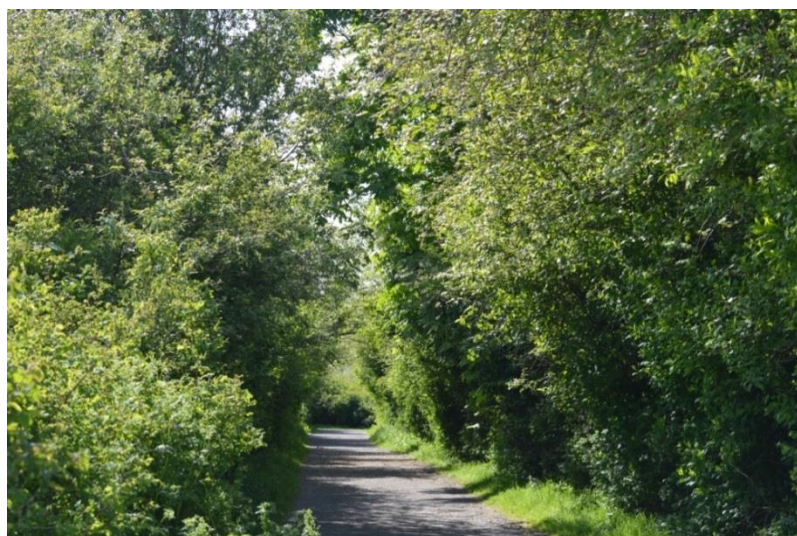
During April through July 2015, Regional Parks completed Step 2 of the approved four-step public participation process to prepare a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The purpose of Step 2 was to gather information from the public about issues and interests they feel are important to address in the management plan and to ensure that Regional Parks and the CRD Regional Parks Committee understand these issues and interests. The issues identified in Step 2 will be used during the Step 3 community dialogue to develop possible options for addressing them, and the information will contribute to the preparation of the park management plan during Step 4 of the process.

During Step 2, Regional Parks' staff met with seven stakeholder groups comprising a diversity of interests and perspectives, including conservation, municipal government, accessibility, dogs, adjacent landowners, and academics. Additional stakeholders were contacted to take part in Step 2, but these meetings were unable to be scheduled. Regional Parks discussed Step 2 with the Tsawout First Nation, and with federal and provincial government staff, but were unable to meet with them. Regional Parks will continue to engage with the Tsawout First Nation and senior levels of government during Steps 3-4 of the process.

Regional Parks' staff visited the park on five occasions during June and July, 2015. The purpose of these sessions was to listen to park visitors talk about any issues and interests they have with the park. Staff set up a tent and had display boards and other materials to share with the public, as well as response forms. Staff encouraged people to complete the response form, either online or by paper copy. Staff talked with approximately 190 people during the five in-park events.

An online and paper copy response form was available during Step 2 from May 25 to July 31, 2015. A total of 73 completed response forms were received, which included 462 individual comments. Several emails from the public were also received, including a submission from the Friends of Island View Beach. The Island View Beach Regional Park website received 576 page views, and there were several Facebook and Twitter shares and retweets. There was no media coverage of Step 2.

A content analysis of the public comments received indicates seven issues that the public believes should be addressed in the process to prepare a park management plan. Many different opinions were offered on how these issues should be addressed. The seven issues identified are: dogs, camping, environmental stewardship, park infrastructure, park management, park operations, and visitor experience. The interests associated with each issue are included in Table 1. The top three reasons given in the response form for visiting the park are for walking (with or without a dog), enjoying the park's natural environment, and to be at the beach.



**WORK PLAN
ISLAND VIEW BEACH REGIONAL PARK
MANAGEMENT PLANNING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS**

Guideline for Public Participation

Based on the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Public Participation Framework and the spectrum for public participation identified in this Framework, Regional Parks will work with the public throughout the planning process to ensure that issues and associated interests are acknowledged, understood, documented and considered in preparing the park management plan. The public is defined as park visitors, adjacent landowners, interest groups and residents of the region. This level and type of public participation in the planning process will also apply to Regional Parks' engagement with the federal and provincial governments, District of Central Saanich and Tsawout First Nation.

Regional Parks' commitment to the public is that it will:

- keep the public informed about the planning process
- work with the public to exchange information, ideas and concerns
- provide objective information written in plain language to assist the public in understanding the park management planning situation, issues and management direction
- provide opportunities for the public to review and comment on the information used for park planning and the draft park management plan; and
- Provide feedback to the public on how their input was considered and influenced decisions in preparing the management plan.

This public participation process respects that the final decision for approval of a park management plan rests with the CRD Board.

The Regional Parks Committee approved the public participation process on May 21, 2014, and amended it on January 21, 2015, and April 15, 2015.

Action	Objective	Form of Public Consultation	Amended Timeline
<p>STEP 1 – Provide Information and Seek Feedback</p> <p>Provide factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment found in the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional geographic setting • Natural features of the Park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecosystems - Terrain, hydrology - Species at risk (flora & fauna) 	<p>To assist in developing an understanding of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park and how this information will be considered in park management planning.</p> <p>To add to the information base on the natural environment through feedback.</p>	<p>Regional Parks staff will meet with federal and provincial government staff, District of Central Saanich Council and staff, Tsawout First Nation Land Use Committee and staff and the public to review natural environment information and seek feedback.</p> <p>Report to Regional Parks Committee on the feedback from the above involvement.</p>	<p>Winter 2015</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>

Action	Objective	Form of Public Consultation	Amended Timeline
<p>STEP 2 – Identify Issues and Interests Gather information about issues and interests.</p>	<p>To ensure there is an understanding by Regional Parks and the Regional Parks Committee of the issues and interests. To accurately define the issues that need to be addressed and to identify the interests associated with each issue. Interests are why people care about an issue, what motivates them, and what they deem important.</p>	<p>Regional Parks staff will meet with and interview adjacent landowners and interest groups, staff with federal and provincial governments, District of Central Saanich staff, and the Tsawout First Nation. Staff will visit the park to hear park visitors' issues and interests. A response form will be available to document issues and interests. Regional Parks staff will report to the Regional Parks Committee on the results of this work. A copy of the report on the results of this work will be provided to all participants and available on the CRD website.</p>	<p>Spring 2015 COMPLETE</p>
<p>STEP 3 – Community Dialogue Hold round table dialogue sessions.</p>	<p>To provide a forum for those people who have an interest in the management of Island View Beach Regional Park to come together to jointly identify and discuss the ecological, cultural and visitor values of the park and share their ideas and work together to identify and discuss how the park should be managed.</p>	<p>Hold round table dialogue sessions and invite the federal and provincial government, District of Central Saanich, Tsawout First Nation and the public to participate. Provide the results of Steps 1 and 2 to all participants in the round table. Report to Regional Parks Committee on the results of the round table dialogue sessions.</p>	<p>Fall 2015</p>
<p>STEP 4 – Present Draft Plan, Seek Feedback and Prepare Final Plan Regional Parks staff prepare draft management plan.</p>	<p>To submit a draft management plan for review and feedback and to complete a final management plan for the Regional Parks Committee's review and subsequent recommendation to the CRD Board for approval.</p>	<p>Meet with adjacent landowners and interest groups involved in Steps 1, 2 and 3 to review the draft plan and hear and record their feedback. Report to Regional Parks Committee on results of these meetings. Forward draft Management Plan to the federal and provincial governments, District of Central Saanich Council and the Tsawout First Nation for review and comment. Submit draft plan to Regional Parks Committee. Hold public town hall meetings at two locations within the CRD. Report to Regional Parks Committee on the outcome of the above work. Submit final park management plan to Regional Parks Committee for recommendation to CRD Board for approval.</p>	<p>Winter 2016</p>

Island View Beach Regional Park Step 2 to Update the Management Plan



RESPONSE FORM

Capital Regional District | Parks & Environmental Services

Thank you for agreeing to take part in Step 2 of the Island View Beach Regional Park public participation process by completing this response form. We appreciate your feedback!

The purpose of this response form is for you to identify the issues you think should be addressed in the park management plan and for us to understand why these issues are important to you.

The results of Step 2 will be presented in a report to the CRD Regional Parks Committee in September 2015 and will contribute to the Step 3 community dialogue session to be held later this fall. Completion of the response form should take between 5-15 minutes.

Your responses will remain anonymous and will only be used by CRD Regional Parks for planning purposes during the preparation of the management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

Background

In May 2014, the CRD Regional Parks Committee approved a four-step public participation process to guide the preparation of a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The four steps and timelines are:

- Step 1: Present scientific information about the park and seek feedback. **COMPLETED SPRING 2015**
- Step 2: Identify issues and interests in the park. **CURRENT STAGE**
- Step 3: Hold a community dialogue session to discuss how the issues could be addressed. **FALL 2015**
- Step 4: Prepare a draft management plan and consult before preparing a final plan. **WINTER 2016**

Please complete the response form by Sunday, July 31, 2015. Mail to 490 Atkins Ave., Victoria V9B 2Z8 | Email lwilson@crd.bc.ca | Fax 250.478.5416 | You can also fill out the form online at crd.bc.ca/parks.

1. To help us understand our park visitors better, what is your primary reason for visiting the park?

2.a. What is the most important issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?

2.b. Why is this issue important to you?

3.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?

3.b. Why is this issue important to you?

4.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?

4.b. Why is this issue important to you?

5.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?

5.b. Why is this issue important to you?

6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?

6.b. Why is this issue important to you?

7. Do you have any other comments you would like us to consider?

Thank you for your comments. We appreciate your contribution.

Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of the *Local Government Act* and is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The personal information will be used for purposes associated with the Island View Beach Regional Park public participation process. Enquiries about the collection or use of information in this form can be directed to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy contact: Angila Baines, Manager, Information Services, at 250-360-3639.

OPTIONAL:

Please provide us with your contact information if you would like to receive an electronic copy of the results of Step 2 and information on upcoming opportunities to become involved in the public participation process to prepare a management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. Your information is confidential and will only be used by the CRD during the public participation process.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Appendix 3 Public Feedback

Response Form

During Step 2 of the public participation process to prepare a management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park, 73 online and hard copy response forms were received with a total of 462 individual comments. The response form was available from May 25 – July 31, 2014. The response form (Appendix 2) contained seven questions; the first question asked respondents to state their primary reason for visiting the park; the second question asked respondents to state the most important issue that they felt needed to be addressed in the park management plan, and why it was important. The next four questions asked if there were any other issues that should be addressed in the park management plan, and why they were important. The last question asked for any additional comments. The verbatim responses, by question, are listed below. They are not ranked in order of importance or by subject matter. Not all respondents completed all questions.

TABLE 1: PRIMARY REASON FOR VISITING THE PARK

Q1: To help us understand our park visitors better, what is your primary reason for visiting the park?
1. A good place to take children. Also a nice place to kayak, enjoy birdwatching, go for a long walk on the beach or the trails, have a picnic, take some wonderful photos. My family, my friends and I have been visiting Island View for many years, all year round.
2. Beach walking.
3. Beach walking.
4. Beach, ocean front walking trail, scenery & maybe one day...camping!
5. Birding and the natural vegetation.
6. Birdwatching, walking.
7. Camping.
8. Camping at the beach.
9. Daily exercise without extreme walking challenges. Walking a small dog in safety. Appreciation

of the scenery and the surrounding views.
10. Dog walking, family walk.
11. Dog walking.
12. Dog walking.
13. Dog walking; bird watching
14. Easy access, multiple use, and great back area for walking.
15. Ecological research in a living classroom conducted by the Camosun Environmental technologies program.
16. Enjoy nature and wildlife.
17. For the beach.
18. For the ocean views.
19. For walking and running.
20. Going for a daily walk. Bringing the grandchildren to do beach activities during their visits.
21. I have been using the park for 21 years. It used to be a peaceful place for me to walk and see wildlife.
22. I have not 1 but 4 primary reasons for visiting the park: 1) to follow up on my exercise program for my heart; 2) to walk my dogs; 3) to enjoy the views and the changing seasons; and 4) to enjoy the sunrise and sunsets.
23. I like the natural setting. Camping.
24. I visit Island View, as I do many other public access beaches in the CRD to enjoy the solitude of the beach, walk the trails and show them off to visitors. I often take my lunch or dinner to the beach, snack on the food and gorge on the surroundings.
25. I walk my dog along the back trails and around to the berm along the ocean. Very occasionally I let her down on the beach to "herd" the waves. We also bring our grandchildren down to the

beach a couple times a year to look in the tide pools and walk on the sand.
26. I walk our family dog.
27. It is a large enough area to walk, run, and swim the dogs (as well as the grand children!) We use the off leash area during the fall, winter, & spring.
28. Jogging, enjoying the view, and hanging out.
29. Kayak to James Island. I also like to walk the beach and sometimes stop there for a swim.
30. Live in a condo in downtown Victoria. The campsite is <u>perfect</u> location for 2-3 night stays in our small RV as we train our cat to travel with us. Our cat uses a litter box <u>inside</u> the RV and does not go outside.
31. Love the beach and the nature trails, and walking the dog.
32. Lovely natural environment—great walking path. To enjoy people and dog watching.
33. Many reasons, all of similarly high importance - (daily) walking, beach use, bird-watching, scenery, observation of migrating whale pods, picnicking, beach-combing with children.
34. Recreation.
35. Sampling plant communities in the back dune area.
36. Self-walking with grandkids – all of the seaside activities.
37. Special treat for the dog, love the ocean.
38. To be by the water, and to walk my dogs.
39. To enjoy the beach and walk.
40. To enjoy the beach with grandchildren.
41. To enjoy the beach with our grandchildren.
42. To enjoy the beach.
43. To enjoy the diversity of the park environment; and walking without the disruption of autos,

bikes, and other wheeled vehicles.
44. To enjoy the natural environment.
45. To enjoy the tranquil park's amazing beach and campground and its trails and nature.
46. To relax in the natural environment.
47. To relax, take a break from work and the city.
48. To walk and enjoy the beauty of the park. To walk dogs at the park. To just go and relax and spend hours reading and viewing. Use the park as a meeting place.
49. To walk, play games, and watch the view.
50. To walk the dog daily.
51. Visitors to area; wanted to see the beach area and walk the dogs.
52. Waking daily on the beach with my dogs. Having a dog keeps me fit and healthy. A great place for dogs to socialize.
53. Walk the beach; eat lunch here every day.
54. Walking.
55. Walking – free and unrestricted.
56. Walking and enjoying the beach with my dogs.
57. Walking and enjoying the beach, occasionally we have a picnic on the beach.
58. Walking and having an enjoyable time with my dog.
59. Walking dogs.
60. Walking my dog and enjoying nature.
61. Walking my dog. Generally from the north parking lot out toward the north boundary on both the beach and inland trails.

62. Walking my dogs.
63. Walking my three dogs; exercise and beauty for us all.
64. Walking the dog.
65. Walking the dog.
66. Walking with my dad and kitesurfing.
67. Walking with our dogs, we go almost every weekend. We enjoy the beach, and we hope to try and use the camping area this year.
68. Walking, camping in RV.
69. Walks, playing at the beach, picnics.
70. We enjoy taking our dogs for walks along the beach. Also really enjoy the RV camping offered. My husband gets up at 5:00 AM to watch the sunrise on the beach.
71. We live here!

TABLE 2: WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE THAT YOU THINK NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED?

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
1. Weather permitting, extend the season for RV's from April or May 1 st to October 31 st .	It just is.
2. Keep the trail along the beach clear of shrubbery and wasps nests.	It just is.
3. Create more RV sites in the tenting area, size permitting.	It just is.
4. Overnight camp host for Friday and Saturday nights	I've been coming here for years to camp and it has gotten increasingly noisy and unruly and disruptive on Friday and Saturday nights. Campers

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
	in spots 13, 14, 15 are inviting all of their friends to party in the camp and on the beach in front.
5. I have been coming here to camp for years and it has always (in the past) been quiet and family oriented. It has been noisy and parties on the beach this year until well after midnight. Campfires and music, loud voices.	I enjoy the quiet at night after 10 pm.
6. Restoration of the marsh and protection of rare species.	Rare tidal marsh areas provide habitat for plant, insect and bird species and carbon sequestration.
7. Keep the park the way it is.	I like it natural and undeveloped.
8. Issues around dogs and impacts on wildlife – birds especially.	Pesticides are killing food for red-listed migratory birds; dogs destroy bird nests.
9. Do not change it (the park).	Being able to walk our dogs off leash.
10. We would appreciate it greatly if this park could remain opened until the last of September or Thanksgiving (camping).	We are retired and September is often a beautiful month weather-wise, and we would love to come and camp here then.
11. Accessibility in the park and onto the beach.	I have to use a wheelchair and I find it difficult to get from the parking lot to the berm because of all of the protruding rocks in the trail. I wish the trail surface was better. Also an accessible trail needs to be cleared between the logs to help me get to the beach. Now, I have to sit on the berm trail and watch my husband play ball with our dogs because I can't get down there.
12. Campsite showers, flush toilets, wireless internet and cell tower reception.	I think access to a campsite, the closest to Victoria, should have complete amenities. With the CRD budget, at least one campsite should be full service.
13. A second toilet at the other end of the	The first toilet is often too busy in the summer. Us

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
beach.	in the over 60's group need a second toilet.
14. CRD should purchase the 5.88 acre parcel so that the park is expanded and no development is allowed.	To maintain and expand the beauty of the park.
15. Leave the park the way it is.	I like the naturalness and I don't think it needs to be changed.
16. Preserving habitat for migrating shorebirds without disruption by dogs and people.	The beach is an important resting/feeding/stop-over place for migratory birds. It is the Tim Horton's for them. Without it, the birds can't fuel up to migrate, breed and sustain populations. I believe CRD Parks has a critical conservation role in protecting this area at certain times of the year.
17. A few more benches along the walking path, and a washroom at the far end (north end). But, do not over-develop or over-organize the park.	There are a high proportion of seniors in Sidney and on the peninsula needing flat walkways in scenic areas like this. The maturing baby boomers will add to the proportion of seniors.
18. While I have visited the beach area previously, this is my first overnight stay. Keep the campground open past the long weekend in September.	This is a great place to come and relax and enjoy the beach, the views, and the water.
19. I am very uncomfortable with dogs off leash.	Not all dogs are well controlled and I am very hesitant around dogs I do not know. I have been bitten, had dogs jump up on me, and have had to leave an off-leash area. I've been unable to picnic due to dogs' over-zealous "interest" in my lunch.
20. Please keep the park as it is—free for all.	Everyone really enjoys this park as is. Dog walkers are here every day of the year in all weather.
21. Keep the park the same, and do not commercialize or allow jet skis.	-----

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
22. Need an on-site volunteer campground host.	The hosts should post and keep current signs to inform about open campground sites. These signs are not being routinely updated at 11 a.m. (check-out time).
23. Currently the park is running well.	Need more camping time – keep it open longer.
24. Dog pooh bag dispenser!!!!	Because people don't pick-up after their dogs, especially in the back areas.
25. Leave it natural.	CRD wastes taxpayer money by "interfering" with natural areas to make them "user friendly."
26. Allowing dog walkers and dogs off leash, under voice control.	I want the dog walkers there because they are keeping things safe and populated.
27. One more gazebo.	For shelter if the weather is questionable. Don't paint the picnic tables! Stain instead. The paint peels off and looks bad.
28. It is difficult to access sandy areas due to the log layers and the big rocks. Maybe a level walkway access with a railing would help.	Ambulation problems due to aging!
29. Keep the beach and area as is!!	This beach is a wonderful amenity to our home. We consider it to be a part of our neighborhood.
30. Leave the park " <u>as is</u> "!!!	Because we believe the CRD is totally misguided and wrong with its conservationist agenda. The consulting done so far is faulty.
31. Installation of flush toilets and construction of environmentally based washrooms.	I believe that at this point in time, the CRD, in parks located near urban areas, should consider installation of flush toilets as a top priority.
32. Better toilet facilities would be appreciated.	Little children are hard to accommodate in the present toilet facility. The visual and odor are

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
	unpleasant for anyone. There are much improved vented eco-friendly systems available now.
33. Protect the wetland for migratory birds.	To preserve and restore the wildlife habitat.
34. Shared use; and to protect various environments present.	I walk with dogs, but would be happy with some non-dog areas and some free run areas as it is now.
35. Maintain access for <u>people</u> and well-behaved or controlled dogs. Extend access to the west side of the park, and include an interpretive trail with a boardwalk where necessary through the marsh area.	CRD has spent millions of taxpayer money to purchase the park land and the <u>people</u> must be allowed to enjoy the fruits of this.
36. Loose dogs are annoying. The size of some of these loose dogs is scary – they belong in zoos!	The dogs belong on leashes and should be muzzled, like they do in some other places.
37. Keep the park as it is – natural – with small accessibility measures for wheelchairs.	We need access to unspoiled nature.
38. Now it is dog poop everywhere - even on the logs to sit on; dogs running wild and jumping on you, dogs that bark non-stop. Dogs running in the water after wildlife and dog owners who think that it is funny. I often see people who open the door of their car to let their dog out to poop and then leave.	I see more parents with children moving in our area. Last spring a school bus with children with a few parents came to the beach- they were upset about all the dog poop everywhere-there was nowhere for their children to sit on the logs. There were loose dogs jumping on children scaring them-the comments were we are never coming here again-it is disgusting. It is not a park for dogs only; it is a people park. Children have a right to feel safe in the park. I walk at Centennial park when there are too many dogs at Island View. At Centennial Park there is no dog poop and they have notices to keep your dog on a leash at all times. There is even once in a while a dog catcher truck and the dog catcher tells people to have their dog on a leash. Centennial park used to

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
	be a big problem with dogs, but no more since the new by-law.
39. Year around beach access for off leash dogs walks.	Walking is a great exercise for my health and wellbeing. Island View provides a great place for long or short walks in a beautiful and peaceful environment. The beach is accessible.
40. The maintaining of a balanced ecosystem which satisfies the recreational users whilst improving/addressing the ecological habitats purpose and history.	The issue is important to both the recreational and scientific communities. The area is home to red and blue listed species as well as many recreational users. The plan that is put in place should be one that encourages a mutualistic relationship between the ecosystem and its users. By seeing these two differences as one intertwined opportunity, the park could support its ecological niche and its recreational users. Simply allocating one area for the natural environment and one area for recreational users is a Band-Aid solution to the larger issue. A design that weaves the recreational users and the riparian ecosystem together could provide more advantages to each aspect.
41. I hope it will stay much as it now is, with full public access. I know there are issues with the local farmers and I hope those can be resolved without having to make too many changes to the trails and beach.	I live close by and having a dog, I find this to be an absolute jewel for dog walking and taking visitors to the beach, and it would be very sad to lose access to it.
42. Keeping as much beach & trails open to the public.	We live locally & use the park almost every day.
43. Beach fires and garbage. When walking on the beach with our dogs in the past we have put out many campfires that have been smoldering. We also pick up any	The worry of a forest fire is a big concern, and broken glass from bottles that are left behind from parties.

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
garbage that has been left behind.	
44. Garbage collection and disposal.	I hate to see our park littered with garbage and dog feces....always much worse in the warmer months.
45. Control of dogs on the beach. Although signs indicate that dogs are to be leashed and 'passing through', many dogs are unleashed and not controlled. On a recent visit there were approximately 20 dogs around us on the beach.	I am not comfortable with dogs including pit bulls unleashed on the beach. I feel it is dangerous for children and there are far too many dogs. I strongly feel this is a safety issue.
46. Garbage pick-up seems lacking. Often containers are overflowing with litter and poop bags from dog owners who are diligent about picking up their dog waste.	I use the park on a daily basis. I talk with other users. There is room in this park for everyone provided that people act responsibly.
47. To continue to provide a year round off leash dog walking option for beach visitors.	I use the park a minimum of 5 days a week from Spring to Fall to exercise my pet, and a minimum of 3 days a week in the darker Fall/Winter months regardless of weather. It is an invaluable, accessible place for me to do this.
48. I think that people who have large RV units are unable to stay because tent trailers and small units are taking space in the RV lots. There are tent areas where small units could stay and still have the beach to enjoy.	I have seen many large RVs come to stay only to be turned around because there is nothing available, when I see small units that could go into the tent camping area using the RV sites.
49. Keeping it free of commercialism. This area is still wild and natural and is enjoyed by many people who do not need to be catered to by sellers and the impact of the commercial enterprises. It is important to encourage good stewardship of this area, i.e. the removal of the invading broom	This is a special place, important to my well-being, so far it is enjoyed by other people who appreciate the freedom to walk, to stand and enjoy the delights of the area, please don't change this too much.

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
<p>bush and other species that may be brought in to the area. Careful grooming of the vegetation along the sides of the trails, but to keep the natural look.</p>	
<p>50. Ensure that dog owners still have a place to exercise their pets without harming wildlife.</p>	<p>Because this is pretty much the only beach that is available to dog owners during the summer. And because I very much want to continue having Island View to be a safe place for wildlife. The two seem incompatible, perhaps, but they are not.</p>
<p>51. The dogs, or should I say the few careless dog owners, along with the Kennels and Dog Training groups. There is ample proof about the lack of some owners' abilities to bend over and pick up after their pets (I know I pick up 3 extra droppings each walk). The leash rule is not followed by most, and to mention it is to be able to take abuse. I know your dog is friendly but mine is afraid of big dogs especially a pack, so please control your pets. I do. Also in the winter months, large packs are brought to the picnic area and beach.</p>	<p>a) We should all feel comfortable and safe when walking with or without a dog; b) The children who are in the picnic area and beach should not have to dodge dog droppings; c) Owners should watch over their pets especially in the picnic and beach areas for clean-up and to prevent damage to the natural environment like letting dogs dig holes (these hole are hazards for children, pets and adults, two ways – tripping and the wasps make colonies in these holes and their stings are dangerous. Maybe the leash rule should be year round.</p>
<p>52. Keep it dog friendly.</p>	<p>Dogs need a safe place to run.</p>
<p>53. This is definitely not THE most important issue, but it's important to me. I hope that the park plan includes a couple of overnight parking spaces for people who have driven to Island View, launched their kayaks, and paddled them to camp on D'Arcy Island. I just hope you can provide some way to do this. It would be fine if I was permitted to park in one of the camping spaces overnight instead, but my</p>	<p>D'Arcy Island a spectacular place to camp and Island View Beach is a very nice launch point and distance to paddle there - a couple of hours in good conditions, past the lovely cliffs on James Island. There is no legal parking close to Island View Beach park, and the day use area doesn't allow overnight parking either.</p>

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
tent would be on D'Arcy Island.	
54. This park is unique. It has a biodiversity not found in many, if any, parks in the region. It has both a marine and a mixed marsh and forest environment. In addition it is not a gentrified, manicured, bark mulched pseudo-outdoor space. You get a sense of what it might have been at one time.	A "park" implies a space not unlike Beacon Hill Park. We need a new word that describes what happens in these spaces. This park is an interface of many differing outdoor experiences: sea, swamp, brush, forest, and field. To lose any of this through "improving" access would be sad.
55. That the CRD continues to allow dogs in an off-leash setting so that they can play, swim, run, etc. - during the fall, winter & spring. That it remains a dog friendly park/beach.	It is why I go there, why I tell tourists about the place - camping & RVs, and why we love it there.
56. Traffic on Island View Rd.	We have a family with children and pets that live on island view. We regularly use the busy road and don't find it to be safe.
57. Camping facilities need upgrading & should include the installation of electricity. The cost could easily be recovered by increasing the camping fees to match other parks.	I require electricity to operate a medical machine at night so camping here is now out of the question. Having come from Ontario where all the Provincial Parks as well as Municipal Parks have hydro, I am extremely disappointed with all BC Provincial Parks. The lack of hydro power, which is extremely important for a lot of people like me, excludes anyone with a handicap from camping in this park as well as others. In this day & age this is totally unacceptable! The government should move into the 20th century & keep up with the rest of Canada as far as camping is concerned. There are hydro lines near the park so there should be no problem continuing it into the camp ground. Just for your information, there are only five Provincial Parks in BC that do have hydro & they are all on the Mainland! A very sad situation

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
	for a province encouraging travel, outdoor activities & anything else promoting a healthy lifestyle.
58. Restoring natural areas to support wildlife.	There needs to be more done to enhance wildlife habitat to keep our region beautiful and we have a moral responsibility to protect the other species that inhabit this area (as well as migrants from other regions). There is too much development that needs to be balanced by protecting and restoring more natural areas.
59. Dog owners. Leaving bags of doggie do on the beach, and tossed into bushes. Letting dogs run unleashed.	I have had many dogs in my life and I like them very much but I don't want other people's dogs jumping on me or rushing up to a small child only to have the owner dismiss their dog's actions by saying the dog is friendly. I don't care how cute people's pets may be; I don't want them on me. If possible, please add more dog waste receptacles, possibly closer to the beach and/or post warning signs and fine people who do litter the beach with doggie do bags. We Do Not Need More Plastic In The Ocean!
60. The most important issue to me is there are no issues. The 1980s unchanged nature of Island View, its simplicity, the respect and co-operation of the visitors to one another and the park make this park a gem.	It is nature at its best.
61. Empty toilets more often. Put up more signs to pick up dog poop; it might help to address the ignorant people.	TOILETS WILL STINK LESS, AND THERE WILL BE LESS CHANCE OF STEPPING IN DOG DROPPINGS.
62. Dogs.	Signs posted about when and where dogs can be off leash, out of control or at the beach/in the water are hardly ever obeyed by dog owners. It

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
	makes enjoying the park challenging for people that like to not be jumped on or have their picnic food snatched away by "friendly" dogs. Also, dogs running free through preservation/rehabilitation areas despite signs posted.
63. You need information for park users, outlining the areas of the park, and the activities possible, trails, etc. I always feel that I don't know what the park contains, other than the beach immediately in front of the parking lot. How much of the beach is within the park? How are the boundaries marked? How far does the park go back from the beach?	So I could maybe use the park more, or walk through more of it.
64. Be sure erosion doesn't wash the soil away.	Because the sea gets pretty wild sometimes down there and there is danger to farmland (better maintenance of the parking lots and roads would also be good, although some definite improvements in past while; now just need to stay on top of it).
65. Keeping the park with the same space, accessibility and availability for dogs.	There's no such other park with the same space for dogs.
66. Imperative to protect the salt marshes and supporting wet meadow areas. Drainage must be strictly controlled and/or removed if possible.	Both habitats function like a nursery to the ocean dwellers and wet meadows support young of many terrestrial animals.
67. Number 1: to maintain the park as is; 2. to have the RV site open year around; 3. to maintain the present setup for walking dogs; and 4. the expansion of the beach walkways both north and south	These issues are important so that my family can access the park for years to come.

2.a. What is the <i>most important</i> issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	2.b. Why is this issue important to you?
68. Continue to allow tent and RV camping for residents and continue to keep fees low for camping so that all can afford to camp here.	Individuals and families need affordable opportunities to enjoy camping at this peaceful beach.
69. PARKS ARE FOR PEOPLE. The park requires responsible, thoughtful and accountable stewardship on the part of local government(s). ALL of the following numbered issues are of equal concern. Please do NOT rank the significance of the following "issues" as declining in importance.	Large sums of the community's tax dollars and direct labor have purchased, preserved and maintained the park over the years. People do not want to see the park neglected, degraded, downgraded, flooded or its access severely restricted to pursue a few individuals' questionable, supposedly "ecologically -driven" personal/political agendas.
70. Provide services desired by locals and tourists.	If there is nothing there for us to do and enjoy there is no point in spending money to keep it as a park.
71. The campsite should be open year around.	I would like to camp there in the winter.
72. Setting aside strictly managed conservation areas <u>with the means and will and staffing to enforce rules of access</u> , while maintaining more relaxed access in limited areas for recreational use.	We understand that areas of natural habitat must be maintained, and in some cases <u>re-created</u> where they've been damaged. But, if there is no <u>effective</u> enforcement, then this effort will be wasted.
73. More benches and more picnic kiosks	There is nowhere really to sit for a long spell except for logs now.

TABLE 3 – OTHER ISSUES THAT YOU THINK NEED TO BE ADDRESSED

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
1. More RV trailer spots as it is always full on weekends and close to full during the week.	I love to camp here – I love the quiet especially after 10 pm.
2. Another set of bathrooms on the far end of the RV park by campsite 15.	With no hookups, most RV'ers have to use the bathrooms here to some degree.
3. More police patrol on the weekends and less alcohol on the beach.	-----
4. Don't increase the cost of camping.	Because I'm poor.
5. I would like to see a campground host on the weekends to oversee the large groups of people having campfires on the beach, drinks and music going until after midnight.	-----
6. I would like to see another set of bathrooms down at the other end of the campground.	-----
7. Don't increase the cost of camping.	Because I'm on a fixed pensioner income and this is affordable now!
8. Off-leash dogs.	Off-leash dogs damage the plants, leave waste, and can scare young children. They also disturb nesting and migrating birds that use this area.
9. People's wants are put above the needs of the ecosystem.	Politicians need to weigh the costs to the environment more appropriately compared to people's desires. Think about what is left for the future.
10. More benches on the berm trail.	There are only two benches and they are well-used. If more were there, it would be handy and they would be used.

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
11. Keep the park rustic – don't overdevelop as I would prefer this park returned to a functioning salt marsh.	I am a conservationist – let's save the natural world.
12. Opening the flood gates – let's get the salt marsh functioning again.	-----
13. Dog owners pick up their dog's poop!	-----
14. As far as all the species we see here, we haven't been affecting them negatively because they're still here.	We so enjoy sharing spaces with people and different species. Lovely to study them and lovely to socialize, and lovely to see our dogs having fun and exercising for all.
15. More waterfront camping. How about a yurt?	-----
16. Possibly some benches around the fire site area. This is mostly for kids because adults bring chairs.	Safety, convenience.
17. Enjoy the wildlife and natural wildflowers and shrubs.	-----
18. Educating the public about rare species and ensuring they can enjoy the park without causing further environmental damage.	This park has significant rare species that need to be preserved and managed. If CRD Parks doesn't manage the area for conservation we will lose these species.
19. Keeping dogs under control – make leashed and off-leash areas, and a dog beach and not-dog beach areas.	Birds, plants, endangered species, personal safety. I have been jumped on by out-of-control, off leash dogs in this park whose owners are oblivious to their out-of-control dogs.
20. Remove some of the overnight parking spaces; they aren't used very much and I can't park and use the nearby trail to the beach.	I want to be able to get to the beach quickly from my car.

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
21. Put up signs for dog owners to pick up after their dog and provide more places to discard dog poop.	I want to preserve the park for dog owners to walk their dogs, but irresponsible owners will ruin it for responsible owners. I am okay with fining dog owners that do not pack out their dog poop to pay for CRD staff.
22. CRD needs to contact the Department of Fisheries regarding the number of crab boats offshore. I am concerned they will fish out the crabs, which would affect the birds. Island View Beach is a bird paradise.	Want to maintain the birds and the ecology needs to be balanced.
23. Sometimes garbage pick-up is insufficient.	-----
24. No fires on the beach.	For safety, and we don't want to see burnt driftwood and charcoal on the beach.
25. Not everyone picks up after their dogs. Not everyone picks up their garbage.	I like to have the beach kept natural.
26. Maybe another few picnic tables or benches off the pathway. Not all people can get onto the beach as they age.	So our family can spend more time having picnics here.
27. Wireless internet access to call 911.	This is a wheelchair accessible location and there are lots of seniors.
28. Leave nature as is – mother nature has its own plan.	-----
29. Please allow dogs in the park.	-----
30. The park space isn't being used enough.	The park should be used effectively throughout the whole year.
31. Maybe more picnic benches.	-----
32. There are adequate hours provided at the campground for running generators, but	Excessive and unnecessary noise of generators inhibits enjoyment of the park. The campground

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
these hours are not usually adhered to.	volunteer host should monitor generator use.
33. Would like a few more picnic tables (some covered) and benches.	Elderly people cannot carry chairs; they need to sit and rest.
34. Please continue to maintain the park vegetation in its current state and control the spread of invasive species.	Broom bushes, thistles, and the like can overtake the ground.
35. CRD transparency – this pre-plan was not called for. 36. Balance between conservation and usage (McCauley Park is a good example).	We live in the neighborhood; if the ditches are not cleaned up (don't make a berm along the ditch edges so the water will drain into the ditches), then we get bitten by mosquitoes.
37. This is not a wetland. This is not a bird sanctuary. This is the only beach park that we humans have around.	Because the CRD staff has an agenda that is not clear to the public. What is the CRD's agenda for the park?
38. Build trails in the area where the ditches are. This will create the balance between use and conservation (see McCauley Park example).	Because the park is under-utilized and it is the only beach park around.
39. That the CRD be transparent!	Our voices need to be heard and respected. There is no other regional park with a beach in our area.
40. This is not a wetlands or a bird sanctuary.	To try to classify this area as a natural wetland and bird sanctuary would be a misconception and misleading.
41. Keep this park and beach for the public. Build trails, provide adequate garbage containers and distribute doggy poo bags.	Keep the area clean and increase usage by the public.
42. Less politics and more transparency.	-----
43. Restrict dog areas and/or provide fenced areas for dogs. At least require dogs to be leashed.	I have a visual impairment and don't like stepping in dog poop!

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
44. More bathrooms please.	-----
45. Don't try to please everyone!	Park areas <u>must</u> be saved.
46. Keeping the trails that we already have.	I like walking and bird watching.
47. Keep the park for the greatest variety of users, wheel chair, beach combers, and horseback riders.	There are few such lovely parks by the beach.
48. Keep real estate out! Purchase the land next to the park.	We need more parks!
49. Let's be sure we encourage the birds; there are fewer eagles around these days.	Parks should have land, trails, wildlife.
50. There should be no commercial dog walkers. Some dog walkers have twelve dogs off-leash. There should be no off-leash commercial dog walkers allowed.	These off-leash dogs (sometimes in packs of twelve) swarm other dogs.
51. There should be a designated area for dogs to run.	Not all dog owners are mindful of keeping their dog under control or of cleaning up after it. And, if this is a bird sanctuary on the migratory path then they (the birds) don't need to be chased away by dogs.
52. Ongoing quality maintenance and supervision of the toilets on a daily basis with lock up each evening, throughout the <u>entire</u> year.	Health, cleanliness, sanitation, vandalism.
53. Dogs on leash should be enforced. Issue fines if it isn't followed.	Parks are for the enjoyment of all, including tourists.
54. Clear sign posting at Highway 17 with directions leading to the beach area.	Parks are for the enjoyment of all, including tourists.
55. Litter barrels—need more. They need to be	Dog poop tends to be left on the ground if there is

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
clearly placed and emptied at least twice per week throughout the year.	no garbage can available.
56. A few interpretive signs would help understanding of the protective measures.	Knowledge is power.
57. Extend the berm to the Tsawout land and improve the trail across the sandy area. DO NOT FLOOD THE AREA.	We use it every day.
58. Prioritize people versus <u>theoretical</u> endangered species in the park.	It is too nice of an area for people to be excluded from most of the park.
59. Add a kiddie playground?	Not for me, but for others.
60. Some areas could be no access for environmental protection.	The environment is important, period.
61. No commercial enterprises, please.	Keep it as pristine as possible.
62. I like the good parking, the relaxed atmosphere. The camping area has been much improved over the last ten years.	-----
63. Development on adjacent lands needs to be prevented.	I don't think that the greed of developers should trump the collective benefits of a healthy natural environment
64. Please keep it leash free!	I walk my dogs here on a daily basis....and dog walkers often are the eyes and ears of problem activities.
65. A booking system based on the same system as provincial parks are run.	Would make it more effective as well as for booking and tracking. Many times, we have seen units arrive after 8:00 pm, stay the night and then leave early, hence a free night. However, they may not have known any better.
66. Increase police enforcement.	Public safety.

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
67. I do not believe that money should be spent maintaining a system in an unnatural state for the benefit of a few wealthy citizens.	Social justice! Tax money could be better spent restoring the function of the park (as a salt marsh) which has collective benefits.
68. That the trail at the back of the park should stay available to dogs.	Because it's a "doggy heaven" and is somewhere she can run free and happy. Especially when it's the time we aren't welcome in the picnic area or when we don't want to deal with all the ramifications of a wet dog. We can take her there and avoid the beach altogether.
69. I feel that the park should stay as wild as possible- that is what makes it charming. We have enough parks that are so cleaned out that there is no life in it- no birds.	It is important to me because I do not want Island View to turn into a show park. The interest of this park is its uniqueness as it is right now.
70. More accessible park for recreational users.	-----
71. Keeping the dune & shrub ecosystems free of invasive plants.	Keep the park home to local plants & animals.
72. Provide dog poop bags and more refuse containers...	A lot of people don't clean up after their dogs....Centennial Park provides bags and consequently is much cleaner.
73. The fact that the park rangers leave at 8:00 pm at night.	Many times, on the weekends, parties don't seem to start until 10:00 or after, by that time, there is no one regulating things and our only option is to call the RCMP. Would be a good idea to have staff on 24x7 on weekends. 8:00 is not good enough.
74. I would like to see a bit more of the Police presence here, to prevent vandalism and to serve as a deterrent to thoughtless behavior, and rules being ignored or	To preserve the peace of the area, and to prevent any further destruction, of the amenities already in place.

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
broken.	
75. What about people that have bought places on reserve land but do not own the land--- are they allowed? That is both with and without a dog.	-----
76. Consideration of widening island View Rd to include a bike lane or shoulder to protect pedestrians, cyclist, horseback, etc.	Safety of citizens.
77. Public access and education - it should be possible to design the park in such a way to keep all users happy (e.g. beach access for dog-walkers, boardwalks for bird-watchers, etc.)	In a highly used area it is important to balance access with wildlife habitat and provide educational opportunities for the public.
78. Maybe add doggy bag dispensers and a few more garbage bins.	Because, although I am always sure to have numerous bags with me some people don't. Would be nice to be able to dispose of the bag rather than having to carry it for your whole walk.
79. Keep parking overnight with permit to allow for multi-day kayaking trips.	There's hardly any overnight parking space close to the beach.
80. I hope that the wetland stays as such- no draining of land. The flora and fauna needs the ecosystem to stay as a wetland or they will go elsewhere. The unique flora will also disappear. Also the wetland is the lung of an area- it filters the underground water and the flora produce important oxygen to the area. As the important source of food to the fauna. While everywhere in the world there is shortage of water we need to protect our source of filtration and water.	It is important to me because I care about the future we are going to leave to our children. If we think only about ourselves, then we are going to ruin it for our children. I came here 21 years ago. This is one of a few areas left in the world that is pristine in every way, and it would be sad to destroy what made us move here.

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
81. Keeping the beach clean.	-----
82. Marketing the addition of more trails to the residential and recreational dog walkers who use the park whilst providing improvements to the ecological areas with the slow allowance of flood water and less draining. This can be done by mapping the elevations of the current drainage site and building raised boardwalks to follow the higher ground. Slowly building more boardwalks and advertising the positive aspects of this place will appeal to both scientific/environmental communities and recreational community. The addition of more boardwalks northwards over time will need a budget, but it will make both parties happy as well as the ecosystem.	Separating the two communities will be costly. By adding new additions to the recreational sites via boardwalks and slowly flooding the drainage sites, the area will become more than a dog walkers' park. It will become an ecological restoration site, a habitat for rare species, and an even more accessible park for recreational users.
83. I hate the potholes leading the way to the back parking lot, but assume they work well as speed bumps.	-----
84. Keeping development in-check around the park area.	Limit traffic & commercial use to keep the park pristine, to enjoy the wildlife & panoramic views.
85. Monitoring illegal beach fires and illegal camping	The untended beach fires are a hazard to beach users and a fire hazard. illegal beach camping leads to people not using washroom facilities as those aren't close to where the campers camp
86. I am happy with the current park rules and accessibility - I do not want access	Island View is a popular spot for campers and beach goers in the nicer weather. However, in

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
<p>minimized for pet owners.</p>	<p>the colder, darker months, you will notice the majority of the users are dog walkers. It would be a shame to minimize access to those users who, year-round, access the beach the most.</p>
<p>87. Currently, there is a restriction on local residents being allowed to stay for 14 calendar days in the year. While I understand that local residents can take over the park, I have also seen times when the RV area is empty because there aren't enough tourists to fill it up. I would rather see a limit for local residents (7 days maximum at any one time). If you remove the locals, what have you got left to make money?</p>	<p>This year, my husband was diagnosed with cancer. Staying at Island View while he was on chemo was awesome. Because of the restriction of the 14 days within the calendar year, we can no longer go camping somewhere affordable and close to hospitals (should there be a problem). This is a real shame as my husband felt so relaxed and comfortable there.</p>
<p>88. Education of the public in caring for our treasured places. Perhaps add a couple more large garbage cans in strategic places. Often in the summer months the current bins are full to over-flowing. Perhaps more 'doggie poo' bags for the people too lazy to bring their own. I have often had to hand them out of my personal supply.</p>	<p>Island View Beach is a treasured place, one of my favorite spots to unwind, relax and walk in safety and peace. Too many of our local beauty spots are over-groomed and spoiled by too much planning and "organizing", to the point where they are not natural anymore.</p>
<p>89. The use of the park by horse riding stables- not only do they not pick up after their animals, but they train new riders amongst the dogs and children in the park. This is a major concern because all that is needed is a skittish rider around an excited dog or child, and an incident may happen and an injury may occur.</p>	<p>First is the safety element. I would assume the stables, kennels and dog trainers make an income on these activities, and as they wear down and abuse the park (picnic and beach areas) more than the general public. Maybe they should be banned or pay a user fee as they are running a business in a public park.</p>

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
90. Keep it easy to swim there. It's a lovely spot, and as the climate warms, the water will be getting warmer there too.	I like to swim in the ocean.
91. A single parking area not three. Camping management and facilities that have some clear access rules. Better beach access.	Concentrating parking would give better access and more open space. Camping is now a mish-mash of facilities and locations for campers. It needs organization and supervision. Logs have piled up over the years leaving relatively limited access points to the beach.
92. Better signage - where we can walk when off the beach?	I've been told by people who say that they are from the reserve that I can't walk on reserve land, but the signage for what is reserve land and why we can't walk on it is unclear. Are native people who do not live on the reserve allowed, or is it just for those that live on the reserve? And, what about the people that have bought places on reserve land but do not own the land...are they allowed? That is both with and without a dog.
93. Better signage that protects the residents and farmers from the traffic.	It impacts our family's safety. Speed should be decreased to 30 kilometers for the duration of the road. Signage similar to the ones on Oldfield Road saying slow down and yield to farm equipment should be utilized, reminding patrons of the beach to respect people living in this community.
94. Salt marshes have been devastated around the world - this one should be restored to a functioning ecosystem.	To provide the ecosystem services that go along with functioning ecosystems.
95. Beach fires still smoldering in the morning.	People and animals can get burnt.
96. Our compliments to the gardeners and also a big thank you for allowing us to participate in this project.	-----

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
97. Parking lot maintenance.	To provide the ecosystem services that goes along with functioning ecosystems.
98. Controlling dog owners' behaviors of picking up after their dogs.	Because the beach is not kept clean for other people, children, and dogs that tend to eat others dogs' droppings.
99. The camping facilities need upgrading and should include the installation of electricity. The cost could easily be recovered by increasing the camping fees to match other parks.	I require electricity to operate a medical machine at night so camping here is now out of the question. Having come from Ontario, where all the provincial parks as well as municipal parks have hydro, I am extremely disappointed with all of the BC provincial parks. The lack of hydro power, which is extremely important for a lot of people like me, excludes anyone with a handicap from camping in this park, as well as others. In this day and age this is totally unacceptable! The government should move into the 20th century and keep up with the rest of Canada as far as camping is concerned. There are hydro lines near the park, so there should be no problem continuing it into the campground. Just for your information, there are only five provincial parks in BC that do have hydro and they are all on the Mainland! A very sad situation for a province encouraging travel, outdoor activities and anything else promoting a healthy lifestyle.
100. No dogs off leash ever. They should especially be kept from leaping into the water since that is very disruptive to the fragile ecosystem of the shallow waters. Signage should be put up for the times when migratory birds and species that nest on the beaches.	There are lots of off leash opportunities in the area. Island View Park should not be added to the off leash mix. Ergo, it must be patrolled and enforced by bylaw officers. Especially when nesting and early stages of creatures are developing.
101. The parks were there before most of the	I feel there is pressure by local residents to have a

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
surrounding residents and they should be aware that the parks have priority.	larger say in how the park is maintained.
102. The park is currently being very well managed.	Affordability, access to greenspace, tax burdens.
103. Ensure the preservation, protection and maintenance of the "Berm" that prevents the adjacent land from flooding.	For decades, the berm has effectively protected the adjoining productive farmland, houses, orchards and private land from flooding during high tides, winter "King Tides" or unpredictable storm surges - the very reasons behind its original construction. Destruction of the berm, either intentionally or by neglect, could result in loss of farmland, property and, in extreme and unforeseen cases, potential loss of life. The local municipality and CRD granted permission for houses to be built on adjacent land. Flooding of property, due to destruction or neglect of the berm, would expose local government to very expensive legal action.
104. Invasive species are abundant. Where feasible they should be removed to allow native plants re-establish.	This is an important park in the CRD for natural area protection. Invasive species overtake native species which significantly damages the area.
105. Mosquito control	The park's existing marshy lands and ponds provide large areas of breeding ground for mosquitoes. These insects are not only a nuisance but also a known health hazard. In recent years, the local community has appreciated the excellent job done by the Municipality of Central Saanich in monitoring and controlling the mosquitoes. This work should continue.
106. It is probably not feasible for everyone to be able to have complete access to the park. Accommodation for those using wheelchairs, canes and other assistance	Birders come in all shapes, sizes, levels of mobility!

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
<p>devices should where feasible make each habitat accessible but not necessarily the entire park area. (I use a cane and do not expect to be able to go to areas where I used to be able to go. But I can find a way to get to all habitats one way or another. Boardwalks would probably do the least damage to the ecosystem.)</p>	
<p>107. Do not deliberately encourage erosion of the adjacent cliffs; do not remove existing initiatives to prevent or deter existing erosion; do not prevent affected landowners/homeowners from taking appropriate measures to protect their properties from erosion.</p>	<p>The "Cordova Shore Strategy" document has been interpreted as not only recommending/encouraging erosion in this area but also removing existing attempts on the part of local homeowners and landowners to minimize damage to their properties. Any initiative of this nature on the part of CRD or other government agency would be tantamount to an act of civic vandalism.</p>
<p>108. Control of invasive species.</p>	<p>Many areas of the park are plagued by a number of invasive species, including Scotch broom and thistles. These species need to be subject to vigorous and effective control measures. Erecting flimsy wire fencing is not an effective measure of species control!</p>
<p>109. Decent camping facilities YEAR ROUND.</p>	<p>I live close by and would love to have my friends and family stay close at a park that I am proud to recommend. Also, I would love to use the camping facilities in the off season to "get away."</p>
<p>110. Yes. A portion of the beach should be open for off-leash dog use.</p>	<p>I like dogs and they need a place to play too.</p>
<p>111. Although I don't own a dog I think having a designated off-leash area for dogs is important. Users of the park who don't like dogs can stay away from that specific area.</p>	<p>There are not many areas in the Greater Victoria Area that provide this service and I think Island View Beach is a perfect area for that.</p>

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
<p>It should be a fairly large area so dog owners are free to play with their dogs. Also make it easy for them to clean up after their dogs.</p>	
<p>112. Consider allowing overnight parking for self-contained RVs for a single night and at a reasonable fee.</p>	<p>Many RV'ers need a place to stay/rest for a night as they come off the ferry or waiting to catch the first ferry in the morning. They need no services other than a flat spot and all the parks and parking lots prohibit this. Why? They do no harm and could be a small source of revenue.</p>
<p>113. If the mosquitoes get out of control, they should be controlled with non-toxic pesticides or other natural methods (predators).</p>	<p>It's no fun to camp and get eaten by mosquitoes.</p>
<p>114. The residence adjacent to the beach where the "grouchy" people live should be bought up and included in the park. The area that belongs to the Michells should be left alone as they are good caretakers of their property.</p>	<p>I find that if neighbours can't play nice they should move away.</p>
<p>115. Please do not close the existing campground and amenities! For some families living in apartment, this may be their only way to experience camp-outs with kids and is also a great option for travelers on a budget in the expensive accommodation area around Victoria.</p>	<p>Overzealous conservationists may lobby to close down recreational use in favor of strict preservation/conservation. We think that <u>compromise and enforcement</u> is the best solution.</p>
<p>116. A concession stand that sells summer foods and drinks would be a dream.</p>	<p>It would draw visitors.</p>
<p>117. An outdoor shower and cold water one</p>	<p>It would be great to cool down and wash off the salt, and for children.</p>

3.a.- 6.a. Is there another issue that you think needs to be addressed in planning for Island View Beach Regional Park?	3.b. – 6.b. Why is this issue important to you?
day, if possible.	
118. A change room if possible.	-----
119. SHADE TREES are very important. Willows would look beautiful at Island View Beach.	They will encourage visitors to stay if we can have some protection from too much sun and create an inviting landscape.
120. On two recent visits of a few nights each, we saw dogs roaming freely everywhere except in the campground, where they were caged or on leash. One man with three dogs was watching as his pets dug up areas around bushes in the damp sandy area inland of the beach walkway. There are dog feces along the trail that goes through bushy areas. Could a group pf volunteers take on a trail patrol and follow people to vehicles, take photos of damage? Posting those photos at the park could remind some dog owners of their responsibilities.	When people see others flaunting the rules, it's <u>contagious</u> . They don't see why they should keep pets on leash and pick up poop when others aren't. They wouldn't let their pet behave that way in the groomed gardens at Beacon Hill Park or Butchart Gardens, but think of this as a "wasteland" where no harm is being done.

TABLE 4 – OTHER COMMENTS

7.a. Do you have any other comments you would like us to consider?
1. As dog owners, we take care of our parks that we share with everyone. Always pick up dropping that may not even be ours. This is a beach we should all be able to enjoy. I have been coming here for many years, never seen a dog catch or hurt a bird. I think the humans do more damage sometimes than animals.
2. Basically, don't spoil this wonderful, peaceful, healing area.
3. Dry camping in an RV is okay, but it would be nice to be able to run the generator earlier than 8 a.m.
4. I get the impression that the park is used by a small group of people who know it, and others are discouraged from using it.
5. I like the facility as it is now. Close access to the beach and walking. Clean. Fire pit is great. Well kept, friendly, helpful staff.
6. I love Island View. It has been one of our special places for over 20 years. Love that people with dogs and without both have plenty of space and can easily avoid each other if they want to.
7. I moved to Sidney in June 2015 from Vancouver. I have visited most CRD parks from Swartz Bay to Jordan River and am in awe of the simplicity of them all; impressed with how well everyone gets along and the ease of access to them all. The few rules there are seem to work very well and for the most part people are very good at self-policing. I am incredibly impressed with human behavior in the CRD parks; respect, lack of garbage and no poop bags hanging from every tree. In the short time I have been here, I have had several visitors and they all go away with the same warm fuzzy feelings about the local parks. A visit to any park in the GVRD (Metro Vancouver) and you will find multiple, huge signs with endless rules that are mostly ignored and very difficult to enforce. In an effort to accommodate all, a greater issue is created: conflict. I ask you, please, from my perspective, don't change a thing; especially when it comes to Island View Beach.
8. I would like to speak further with the CRD about these challenges.
9. In the planning process, try to keep politics out. Always involve the public, but make decisions.

7.a. Do you have any other comments you would like us to consider?

10. Island View is a great natural recreational area that will stay that way for all to enjoy, but it needs to be maintained, cared for, and nurtured. Perhaps the formation of a "Friends of Island View Beach" society should be encouraged?

11. Less government! Less politics! More transparency!

12. Park is fine the way it is. Thank you.

13. Parking should remain free, more picnic tables and toilets.

14. Please have the intestinal fortitude to deal with the conservation issues in this park and manage it to ensure species at risk and migrating birds are protected. Dogs and walkers can still share the park, but need to be controlled. On-leash in sensitive areas and provide an off-leash area.

15. Please keep it the way it is. A wonderful park.

16. Replace the sign saying "no dogs on beach from June – September."

17. Thanks for taking on this issue – dogs are not people.

18. This beach has been dog friendly for years and the dog owners are very respectful and responsible towards keeping it clean.

19. This could be a 'showcase' restoration project for the CRD, an opportunity to fix some of the land-management mistakes of the past.

20. We love the campground and the CRD personnel – they are very nice kids!

21. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the park and I look forward to the next phase of the exercise.

22. Number 1. CRD's PUBLIC IMAGE - A number of community members are not convinced that CRD, or some of its representatives, do not have its/their own hidden agendas, either personal or political; they are doubtful whether CRD is acting as an honest broker on this issue; they are mistrustful of the process and whether CRD will truly "listen to the public". 2. COMMUNITY FATIGUE. Many in the community are weary of the seemingly endless attempts to change the design, nature and character of Island View Beach. They are also deeply distrustful of whether

7.a. Do you have any other comments you would like us to consider?

CRD has taken into account, or even read, any of their (the community's) previous input, comments and petitions over recent years. They suspect that this prior feedback has simply been ignored or discarded. 3. INTEGRITY OF BACKGROUND RESEARCH. A number of community members question the integrity of the background 'environmental ' research underpinning the Management Plan's strategy. For example, how many of the "endangered" species identified by the CRD strategy actually exist in the park? How many of the migrating/indigenous species are today even relevant to the area? How much of this initiative is being driven by a spurious environmental agenda without taking into account current realities?

23. I have been using the park for over 30 years and love it. I think campfires near the ocean would be nice to allow and attract more families in the early evening. Food services in the summer months like a hotdog or ice cream stand would also attract more people. Interpretive trails to teach about the geology, and ecosystems for park users including school tours would also add value for the community. Make it something special in our community that we can be proud of.

24. It is a beautiful park as it is; with a few modest improvements, it could become more attractive to visitors. For example, the new picnic kiosks could be more modest than the one there; even a few picnic benches would be welcome.

25. Please provide poop bags at the parking lot area and near the campsite for those responsible dog owners that don't let their dogs run off and poop at will in the off-trail areas.

26. We love this campsite and the friendly staff, but perhaps you need to plan for a second crew of volunteers willing to patrol trails and issue CRD bylaw infractions for off-leash dogs. Then find a way to collect those fines (at the same time at property tax if you can link license plate numbers on cars to households). Wishful thinking, I know, but first path should be volunteers to educate that it isn't a wasteland, then enforcement of some sort.

Notes from Stakeholder Meetings

As part of the Step 2 public participation process, 12 meetings with stakeholders and park visitors were undertaken. The following is a list of the meetings completed.

- April 7: Royal BC Museum staff
- June 11: Island View Beach - in the park
- June 20: Island View Beach - in the park
- June 23: Conservationists
- July 6: Central Saanich staff
- July 10: Island View Beach - in the park
- July 14: Canine Interests
- July 16: Conservationists
- July 18: Island View Beach – in the park
- July 21: IVB park neighbors
- July 23: Island View Beach – in the park
- July 28: Accessibility Advocates

Notes were prepared from each of the stakeholder meetings and are presented below. No notes were taken from the in-park meetings with park visitors. They were instead encouraged to complete the response form to ensure their comments were captured correctly and became part of the public record. All personal information has been removed from the stakeholder meeting notes to preserve privacy. The notes from each of the stakeholder meetings were sent to the participants to check for accuracy and to add any additional information that wasn't recorded.

Public Participation Process to Prepare a Park Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park

STEP 2: IDENTIFY ISSUES AND INTERESTS

Stakeholder Meeting #1: Royal BC Museum

Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 04-07-15

Royal BC Museum Board Room, Belleview Street, Victoria; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

ISSUES

1. The presence of an artificial berm is impeding natural processes at Island View Beach Regional Park. Specifically, it is causing unnatural stabilization of beach sediments and impeding natural flow of surface water.

- Interests:
 - Invasive species have advantage on stabilized soils.
 - Surface water is stagnating due to ditches and tidal valves and berm (surface inundation).
 - 2006 storm that took out the Douglas firs.
 - Let the berm disappear naturally.
 - Let the water flow return.
 - If the berm is breached, we will get good native species to return.
 - We are okay with leaving the berm in place south of the Lamont Road outfall.
 - We want the northern half of the park reserved for ecological integrity; if that is done, we can forego the southern half of the park.

2. Currently surface and groundwater is being managed in an attempt to reduce Mosquitos and mosquito habitat.

- Interests:
 - We shouldn't be using Bti because it affects all flies.
 - We don't care about mosquitos living in the natural areas of the park – flying insects like mosquitos are an important food source for other organisms.
 - Need an independent review of the mosquito control program and mosquito habitat.
 - The efficacy of the mosquito control program has never been tested and it needs to be.

- The mosquito control program should be renamed the “pesticide program” so that people really see it for what it is. The word “pesticide” is alarming to many.

3. Island View Beach is noted as a “Conservation Park” and ecological integrity should play a much larger role in the management of this area.

- Interests:

- This is the key issue. We need to define what this is for the public and the politicians.
- An essential ecological integrity analysis needs to be done, i.e.:
 - Identity checklist
 - Habitat integrity – complexity
 - Biological diversity – identify rare/SAR/keystone/invasive species
 - Ecological processes
 - Succession
 - Hydrology
 - Water quality
 - Disturbance regimes
 - Soil sediment processes
 - What needs to be in place for it to be what it is?

4. Humans as part of the park ecology – ecological integrity is inclusive of humans and their activities in balance.

- Interests:

Parks must be viewed as part of the larger landscape

- Engage the community into the dialogue
- Use the word “stewardship” not “manage”
- Bring in broader, regional perspective—this is a rarity
- Solutions may be more easily framed so that they are more acceptable.
- People visit for many reasons
- Park management and messaging is not talking to people who aren’t using the park anymore; this is a problem. Many people no longer visit Island View Beach due to its degraded natural state (loss of ecological integrity).

Dogs

- People and dogs are part of the reality
- They have to be managed as part of the ecological integrity
- Goldstream Park is closed to dogs and the response of birds etc. is immediate.
 - it took a while, but the public accepted it at last;
 - Access to the estuary is strictly controlled and now, interpretive walks are offered in the estuary and these are considered rare and special events.
- There is so much dog poop
- The dogs disturb things; they create disturbance windows
- Off-leash dogs can get everywhere in the park (and do)
- Dogs are off-leash in the park
- The jurisdictional issue (intertidal zone) – this affects the migratory birds

There is a cultural overlay

- The historical elements and trajectory are not reversible
- We may get some of our actions right or wrong, but we need to move forward

This is a landscape of special significance

- We must manage for sensitive species and ecosystem/ecological integrity
- The park must be managed as a unit
- This is a dynamic cultural landscape
- We must take First Nations' perspectives into account

Ending Comments:

- Need to do a bio-blitz at the park.
- Concentrate human use to reduce the footprint and create natural low impact areas. Reduce the human footprint in the park.
- Emphasize the northern part of the park- retain ecological integrity.
- We don't need such a democratic planning process –
 - Most people aren't qualified to judge what should be done in the park—it needs to be science-based.

- Not everyone deserves a voice at the table – conservation needs to come first, **or the CRD should stop saying that it does.**
- The CRD has a legal obligation to steward the park.
- The berm and mosquitos are red herrings; we need restricted access.
- There are so many different uses at the park:
 - Need specific zones and a definition of what the objectives are for each zone. Then people will buy into it. Shouldn't prevent people from visiting the park, but perhaps the visit should have different expectations.
 - Many people don't even know it's a conservation area. Let many of the uses continue, but in a different way.
 - Promote the paleo-history of the park.
 - Getting the politicians to change their minds about the mosquitos, berm, ditches is key.
 - Need to really sell this as a conservation area without raising fears—it's how you sell it—you must be able to tell the public about the benefits of a conservation area.
- The berm:
 - We believe it is the primary degrading factor at the park.
 - Removing and restoring a moving sand ecosystem is key.
 - Disturbance to upland species wouldn't be as significant.
 - We want "bermlessness" (but this has to be linked to the ditches as you can't have one without the other).
 - It is causing artificial wetlands and associated issues.
 - Like to limit where people can go.
 - Chronic presence of people is a problem:
 - Need enforced zoning.
 - Very controlled access past the berm.
 - We don't know what was there.
 - We need to increase those populations of species that are just hanging on with viable, larger habitats.
- Continuing increase in recreational impacts:

- Many people don't even visit the park any longer (VNHS, UVic, etc.).
- We know when/where it is important to control park users.
- Dogs should be required to be on-leash.
- Need quiet zones/windows of use.
- Need better fencing and not just signage.
- IVB is an important learning environment:
 - Talk to kids/people about the dynamic landscape:
 - All the changes that have occurred.
 - Take excursions down to the beach to see what the history is.
 - The area was cleaned up, but within the last 15 years there is now too much use-people and dogs.
 - Need to show kids some of the birds.
 - Need a north/south separation of the park.
- Lack of sustained effort by CRD Regional Parks:
 - The fence at the northern end of the park – it keeps getting broken but doesn't get fixed.
 - We need to see some sustained effort on the part of Regional Parks.
 - There is a wide gap between word and deed at CRD Parks.
 - This process is a real test—if the berm is still in place at the end of the planning process, then you will have no credibility. The CRD should say that we did this on purpose (about the berm and ditch management).
- How to get to the people who aren't the polar opposites—how do we reach them?
- The way the questions are asked is key.
- Do a bio-blitz.
- We need collaborative management.

Follow-up Emails from Stakeholder Meeting #1

(Note – all identifying information removed)

Dated 7/1/15

Thanks for pulling these notes together-- that is a lot of work.

A couple of points:

If the mosquitoes really are coming from IVB, the berm and the drainage ditches are exacerbating the problem by retaining standing water year-round.

The Goldstream example – the park still allows dogs but all dogs in all Prov. Pks must be leashed. The example was actually more to do with the establishment of the “quiet zone” – this eliminated access to a portion of the park to everyone. After a few years it was enlarged to include the estuary. It is a shining example of how nature can be given a break from disturbance and it was easily measured through Bald Eagle counts.

Finally: Beach use by dogs runs counter to wildlife needs- let the dogs on the beaches in the summer, in a restricted area, or not at all.

Public Participation Process to Prepare a Park Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park

STEP 2: IDENTIFY ISSUES AND INTERESTS

Stakeholder Meeting #2: Conservation Interests

Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 6-23-15

625 Fisgard Street, Room 333; 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Identified Issues

1. Ecosystem Management.
2. Recreation Management.
3. Resource Allocation (staffing and funding).
4. Dogs in the park and their impacts on ecosystem management.
5. The park has been a conservation area since the 1989 management plan – we need to develop the political will to make it a conservation area or accept the fact that the area is gone.
6. No need to get into so much detail in the planning process – focus on the park as a unique conservation area—need to get that point across first.
7. Need to manage collaboratively across the entire Cordova Shore:
 - a. There is a jurisdictional challenge
 - b. Use a watershed model
8. Pest management is a primary driver.
9. Water management is a primary driver, including the ditches and the berm.
10. Dune dynamics underlies it all.
11. Climate change and sea level rise are key factors.
12. Need to understand human dimensions better, i.e. people’s perceptions, understandings of ecosystem values, etc.

Comments

- People won't understand the twelve issues. They are too complex. Need to focus on species or concepts that are understandable.
- **Ecosystem Management:**
 - The park's ecosystems are very managed now and there doesn't seem to be a management desire to change from the status quo. The park has been managed to try and keep everything "static." What needs to change is that we manage the landscape to be more "dynamic" and allow more natural processes to influence the ecosystem. The IVB that we see today will cease to exist if we do nothing. The sand dunes will disappear over time. The park is not being managed to stop change, even though many people are saying that they don't want anything to change.
 - The park is a very dynamic ecosystem and we're just managing around the edges.
 - There has to be a message to the CRD Board that there will be changes to the park environment by maintaining the status quo management style. The current state of the park is at risk; there will need to be a change in park management to preserve this place that people implicitly recognize as special.
 - If people want what's there now, then something has to change in how it is managed.
 - If you want to conserve conservation values, then this is what you need to do to preserve it....
 - When you make it clear that we are losing the things that we hold dear then that is when change can possibly happen. It is a tough one – humans loving the environment to death. But, we're not actively managing the park for people or the ecosystem now. We need to decide what we're managing the park for.
 - We need to designate the entire area as a conservation area where you can't develop without permission. This is a coastal cell that needs to be all protected together.
 - Climate change – the homes along the bluffs are at risk. Functional ecosystems will help to mediate this.
 - Need to look for inspiration from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. They manage for climate change. They mean business and have the legal authority to enforce the laws.

How do we get to the point where we have the political license and authority to make the changes we need to make at the park?

- We need to open up the north flap gate to let the water flood through the salt marsh.
- **Dogs:**
 - We can't do anything restoration-wise until we control the dogs.
 - Dogs are a key driver that need to be addressed before anything else can be done – you can't do "B" and "C" until you fix "A."
 - Need to identify behaviors you want to change and ways to change the behaviors.
 - Identify the key factors you want to change to promote responsible dog ownership and then pour all of our resources into the change.
 - The dog control bylaw needs to be upgraded, updated, and enforced.
 - Need to know the social dynamics of dog owner behaviors and values.
 - There is limited jurisdiction and scope over harmful activities occurring along the shoreline and in the nearshore area. This needs to be addressed in park management.
- **Resource Allocation:**
 - The primary need is education, also preserving the interpretive programs. The interpretive programs aren't being used to manage park conflicts by increasing public understanding of the issues, but they could be a core tool for managing park conflicts.
 - Think about park problems, such as dogs on the beach. We'd like the interpreters to rethink program delivery strategies to build public support for park stewardship.
 - Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) does environmental education. There are strengths and weaknesses in having HAT deliver park stewardship messages in the park—a weakness is that HAT won't have as much agency or clout inside park boundaries, whereas a pro is that HAT is very good at environmental education and social marketing techniques.
 - We need a lot of time to develop and deliver park messages. We also need to be collaborative on this and work with a diversity of voices to tell the stories.

- We should utilize community leaders as another mechanism to deliver the park stewardship messages.
- Education doesn't work alone, it needs peer pressure as well.
- We need to get the school kids involved. They will want to save the park for their parents and for the future.
- We need to get local people to take a lot of pride in the park.

Concluding Thoughts

- The dog issue and enforcement are the primary issues to address. HAT has partnered with the CRD before and could help with this issue.
- If we don't change the management of Island View Beach, we won't have the park the way it is now. We'll have more forest if we stabilize the sand dunes. It is an extremely restricted and significant ecosystem. It's already suffered tremendously; we've lost a lot of the original species that were there. We need to change our approach and it will take extra resources. My largest fear with a fuzzy plan is that it won't say what we need to do and how much it will cost. Island View Beach is one of our most complex and expensive parks to manage.
- We're in the trench with our research efforts in the park. We need to set up some more monitoring. We need PhD's monitoring the marsh. We need permanent plots to monitor the marsh. We need salinity and hydrology plots, and vegetation monitoring plots. We need to be able to publish our research results in the academic literature. We need more permanent wells and piezometers in place. We need some monitoring set up for decent long-term results. We need to document any changes in the park. We should map the open water system so you know if impacts occur and you can document it. We need a more robust research program in the park. We need students and park stewards to go out and monitor the research plots.
- We need both high-level support and the data to move the plan forward. We should set up Island View Beach Regional Park as an outdoor classroom.
- We may need data about the park environment, but we first need to think broad enough to make sure the sand dunes remain a dynamic ecosystem. We shouldn't make one species more important than the others—we need to focus on the ecosystems and then all the species will be protected. We need to get people to understand that the park is a unique and special place that isn't found anywhere else on the coast. People need to respect that.

- We need to create a strong public value to appreciate the park. We need to educate people about the park's value. It's all about creating that public value in the park.
- You can educate people, but they can also educate you. We need to really understand some of the social drivers with mosquitos, dogs, sea level change, and dynamic coastal ecosystems. We need to understand what concerns people and what motivates their positive action, and why. These are the drivers that will help to make change.

Public Participation Process to Prepare a Park Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park

STEP 2: IDENTIFY ISSUES AND INTERESTS

Stakeholder Meeting #3: District of Central Saanich Staff

Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: July 6, 2015

Central Saanich Municipal Hall; 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Identified Issues

1. Island View Municipal Park and District of Central Saanich road right-of-ways in the park
2. Boat launch – jurisdiction, responsibility, future management
3. By-law enforcement in the intertidal zone
4. Impact of private parcel adjacent to the park on future park management
5. Zoning and other considerations regarding the campground
6. Ditches, drainage, berm and mosquito control program
7. Overnight kayaking parking; bicycle parking

Comments

1. **Island View Municipal Park and District of Central Saanich road right-of-ways in the park**
 - The District is open to the idea of transferring or long-term leasing the municipal park to the CRD to unify the management approach. This would need to be a direction in the new management plan which the Council could decide to act on once the park management plan is approved by the Board.
 - The municipal park is classified as a passive park, which means there is no major maintenance or development done on it. It is mowed in the summer.
 - The park is quite swampy and can be difficult to walk on in the winter when the water table is high. There is a stair access from Island View Estates to the park, and there are some retention ponds on private property at the edge of the park and Island View Estates.

- The District drains the Michell property to the south through the municipal park. This would have to be considered in any lease or transfer of the property to regional parks.
- The District would be open to transferring responsibility of the ROW's to Regional Parks. If CRD had control of the ROW's, then CRD would control the configuration of existing park assets, and future development or restoration activities.

2. Boat launch – jurisdiction, responsibility, future management

- The District states that the CRD has the jurisdictional authority for the boat launch because we are the upland owner (see map). The CRD can make improvements to the boat launch, but needs to meet any provincial requirements before undertaking any work.
- The 1989 park management plan states that the boat launch will be retained and replaced. James Island and the District would like it improved for access and emergency response. James Island owners could be approached for their interest in off-setting some of the costs for improving the boat launch.
- Need to determine what is necessary to bring the boat launch up to standard. At the very least it needs new footings. The boat launch is very exposed and drops off dramatically in its current condition.
- Need to determine the effect of the boat launch on the natural transport of sand along the coastline to the north before determining its final use.
- The only other nearby boat launch is in Sidney. The CRD could consider partnering with an angling club to manage the IVB boat ramp if it was improved, as in Sidney.
- Need to determine the demand for a boat ramp at this location in the park. Most fishermen go to Tulista, as the fishing is better there. However, small craft recreational boaters, including kayakers and canoeists, may use the ramp.

3. By-law enforcement in the intertidal zone

- The Central Saanich bylaw applies to 1000 feet offshore, so the Central Saanich bylaw could be amended to allow the CRD to enforce bylaws on the foreshore.
- The mechanism for this is to make a recommendation in the IVB management plan to address this.

4. Impact of private parcel adjacent to the park on future park management

- There is currently no development permit on file with the District, but the owners have prepared a site design for an RV park to be built on the property.
- A fill permit would be needed to develop the site, and this is not granted unless the development permit is approved.
- To be developed into an RV park, the site would need thousands of tons of fill material to raise the level of the site to provincial standards.
- The parcel needs a rezoning to develop it into an RV park.
- The current zoning for the parcel permits agricultural use and one residence. This residence could be built anywhere on the site, including along the shoreline. Agricultural uses could include livestock grazing, a pig farm, or other farming uses.
- The RV park concept plan features a significant blast rock wall alongside Island View Road to hold back the fill that is required by the province to meet provincial regulations around projected sea level rise. This would alter the view-shed within the park and raise the level of the RV park about 4 meters above the current road level. It would also likely alter the drainage patterns off of the parcel. The effect of this changed drainage pattern is unknown, but it could impact the existing drainage system.

5. Zoning and other considerations regarding the campground

- If the new park management plan includes the campground in its current location, then a recommendation should be put in the plan to request a rezoning from the District to allow the campground in its current location.
- Currently the tenting side of the campground operates under a renewable three-year permit. The RV side is an unresolved issue with the District and is currently outside of the camping permit process. A change in zoning to allow the campground as a permitted use would include the RV site.
- The District supports camping at IVB.

6. Ditches, drainage, berm and mosquito control program

- Lamont Road outfall: the District has a four-year renewable lease on the flapper gate mechanism with the province. The lease is coming up next year. The flood control gate is aging and requires significant resources to keep it operational.
- Drainage system: The plan should speak to the drainage system as part of a larger effort to manage water levels in the park, particularly in light of predicted climate change impacts. The CRD has Parks Committee direction to maintain the drainage system.
- Berm: The District understands the berm's function in mitigating climate change impacts and seasonal flooding.
- Mosquitoes and mosquito control program: The District, CRD, and the Tsawout all contribute proportionally to a Central Saanich mosquito control program. The CRD portion of the program comprises the park. The Parks Committee policy direction is to maintain the mosquito control program in the park.

7. Overnight kayaking parking; bicycle parking

- Overnight parking: The District and the CRD partner to offer ten overnight parking spaces for kayakers at the north parking lot. There may be opportunities to improve the overnight parking program through the park management planning process.
- Bicycle parking: There have been some requests for a bicycle rack at the park.

Public Participation Process to Prepare a Park Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park

STEP 2: IDENTIFY ISSUES AND INTERESTS

Stakeholder Meeting #4: Dog Advocacy

Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 7-14-15

Arbutus Room, Commonwealth Pool, Saanich; 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Identified Issues

13. It is very important for dogs to have off-leash areas for their socialization and overall well-being.
14. Keep the rules simple around dogs in the park; fewer rules are better. The ones you must make, communicate clearly so there is no room for vague interpretation.
15. Don't make rules you can't enforce; this makes people hostile towards one another.
16. There may be a need to regulate the professional dog walkers.
17. There is a big issue with overflowing garbage cans in the park which invites dogs to eat the garbage. This isn't good for them, and can be dangerous. The garbage cans are inadequate for the volume of garbage generated, especially in the summer.
18. Need more clarity around where activities can take place in the park. There is a need for better signage.
19. Would like more paths in the park, especially in the back areas behind the campground. The paths should be natural surface, except if the area is flooded, then a raised boardwalk is okay. People enjoy the park's natural values.
20. The issue of dog poop needs to be addressed – there is a lot of it and it isn't all being deposited in the garbage cans.

Comments

- How will we work through the conflicting issues? There will be sides taken on each issue.
- Concerned about having segregated meetings where people reinforce each other. We need to have meetings where we're all hearing each other's viewpoints. People tend to be more accommodating in these settings.

- There is a temporal element to the consultation – if you were to do your public consultation in January, you would find only dog walkers in the park. When making policies, you can't be making rules for the entire year based on a limited timeframe for consultation—you may not be representing these other voices.
- It's important for each group to hear what the others are saying. We all need to understand each other's viewpoints.
- The people who use the park—there isn't enough capacity for the volume of garbage. Sometimes there isn't even room to put a doggie poop bag in the container.
- Our experience at the park is better in the winter. There are no issues in the winter like there are in the summer. There are only dog walkers in the park during the winter.
- The smaller garbage cans are often overflowing in the winter and the summer. Especially with picnics at the picnic shelter—they fill the garbage cans and then they can't be used. These groups should be required to pack out their garbage, or the cans need to be changed more often.
- Dogs are so confined in our society; they need to be set free. They learn to tell each other what they need. Dogs have a language they understand.
- Dogs that are confined to leashes all the time are anxious. They need to be off-leash for their mental health.
- There are thousands of dog owners in Victoria. If the dogs are given an environment to be off-leash, then they will be peaceful and friendly.
- The dogs need to have a factory of experience in a park, where they learn from each other. We want the park to continue to be like that.
- Island View Beach offers the ability to offer dogs freedom to run unleashed. It is a huge responsibility and a huge gift. It's a lovely, healthy place for dogs to be able to do that.
- The park is a great area for professional dog training. There are so many different opportunities for training in the park.
- The sandy beach area is a great natural surface for dogs to walk on.
- We mostly go north because of the sandy beach flats and the loop trail.

- The off-leash dog part is huge – there aren't very many places left that allow this.
- The park offers a nice mix of environments with the beach, the loop trail, and the inland areas.
- There are a group of dog owners who would appreciate a separate, fenced off-leash dog area.
- A responsible dog owner has taken the time to train the dog fully. Full control of dog behavior is essential. Good recall over the dog is so important.
- Most of the encounters between dogs and other dogs or people are not an issue or a problem. The problems are a minority compared to the positive encounters.
- There are a high number of dog owners who are getting their dogs trained. They don't want trouble with their dogs, and these responsible dog owners work to mitigate issues with dogs.
- What is the impact of dog walking companies in the park?
- Dog poop – what about the impact of dog poop on the trails? How should this be addressed? It is much like graffiti –if you let it accumulate, then more will appear. However, if you clean it up, then others will start to do the same.
- The flow of dogs is incredibly important to minimize conflict. The mere act of keeping the dogs moving in space, and not confined to an enclosed area (like an off-leash dog park), keeps the dogs better behaved.

Public Participation Process to Prepare a Park Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park

STEP 2: IDENTIFY ISSUES AND INTERESTS

Stakeholder Meeting #5: Conservation Interests

Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: 7-16-15

Arbutus Room, Commonwealth Pool, Saanich: 6 – 8 pm

Identified Issues

1. Wildlife (nature) currently has no voice in this management strategy despite the fact that Island View Beach is supposed to be managed primarily for conservation values: ecosystem health/integrity-92% and recreation only 8%. We need to put a plan in place that meets this goal and enforce it.
2. There needs to be a strategy; even if officially wildlife is not being given accord, we must proceed with conservation efforts behind the scenes.
 - a. What about public education, like offering botany walks to people with dogs? We could really engage different audiences with conservation messaging with a creative strategy.
 - b. We don't want to just take away opportunities without giving something back that helps the conservation effort (i.e. like designating an off-leash dog area in exchange for areas of the park that are off-limits to dogs).
3. There needs to be respect and provision for people who don't want to be around dogs. The dog/human interface needs to be addressed.
4. The protection of the sand dunes is critical. It is one of the last sand dune systems around. The number of dune plant species is declining because of all of the human use, and some aren't there any longer. The park is becoming less of a special place because of all of these impacts.
5. We need to protect, conserve, and restore the most delicate species and ecosystems, and then zone the park to support this effort.
6. We have to think of the regional context of the park. The park is actually quite small and it depends on outside ecosystem processes for maintaining itself. The CRD park portion of the larger spit ecosystem is looking quite ragged.

7. We need to focus on human interaction with the park. There are so many problems with fire, trash, and other damaging behaviors that take away from the park's ecological integrity and visitor experience. The problems are on-going and they don't get dealt with very effectively. We definitely need better enforcement of the rules.
8. We have lost the main dynamic of the area—that is, the interchange between the ocean and the land. Everything that makes IVB so special has been modified so that it is no longer special. We need to restore the tidal influence. It is possible to regain a balance between the wet and dry areas. It's all about restoring the natural hydrology.
9. We need to know the strategy for managing the park to address human impacts, like dogs, illegal access, etc. What does the regional parks' strategic plan say about managing its system of parks? Can't we use this to bolster how IVB is managed?
10. We need to teach people about the park's natural value and beauty. We need to educate them and bring them on side. Perhaps provide easy opportunities for engagement, like a Brandt Festival. Look at the example of Todd Inlet with its model of active management and education.
11. It is all about regional context, collaboration, and education. Think of IVB as being part of the "three sisters" of Cordova Shore, James Island, and Sidney Island—we need to think at that scale. Collaboration is key – what are the specific skills and resources that we can each offer? We need to think across boundaries and outside the box, and zone the park for different uses.
12. I see this management plan as precedent setting and feel the agenda has been influenced so far by a very few voices with a clear agenda. This is a conservation area, and we need to manage it that way. We need to win this battle—we just can't lose. Education is good, but without enforcement, it isn't very effective. If we let things go at IVB, then this is just the beginning (for the whole system of parks). We must maintain the park's ecological integrity at all costs.
13. The most important issue is the dog issue. We must manage the dogs better. This requires better rules and enforcement.
14. It is not clear where the park boundaries are. We need clear signage at park access points. The natural systems also need to be protected beyond park boundaries—the entire Cordova Shore needs to be protected.
15. We need a better understanding of what the park is—what is the management goal for the park, and what are we trying to accomplish here?

16. The problem with IVB is that we're trying to make everyone happy—maybe we should stop trying to do this. We can provide access to nature without sacrificing the park. We need to manage for dynamic processes, not just for recreation.
17. Commercial dog walkers shouldn't be allowed. There are too many of them, with too many unleashed dogs. At the least, they should be well-regulated and charged for using the park.
18. The condition of the park environment is "poor" with respect to ecological viability, and the threats to the park are high. So, we have poor condition with high threats! This is not good.
19. The park is too small from an ecological perspective. The edge effect is pronounced—the park is all overlapping edges! Are we going to manage for conservation? Then we need to get rid of the threats. People and dogs are having a pronounced negative impact on the park's natural environment.
20. Is the continuation of camping on the table? Do we want this? Do we need it? It doesn't fit with the park context, or the park classification. Without the campground there would be a lot more flexibility for ecological restoration.
21. I am opposed to any pesticide use in the park. It is bad for the park environment. Look at BC Parks, they don't use pesticides in their parks and they manage for ecological integrity. Bti kills all diptera, not just mosquitos—we need to think of the long-term impact of Bti on the park's ecology.
22. What is the CRD's legal responsibility to protect species at risk in their parks? And, is the CRD ready for a lawsuit if it messes up on its responsibilities? This could be our biggest tool in bringing about some necessary improvements in conservation actions at IVB.
23. Invasive species are an issue. The species at risk populations could increase in number and spread if invasive plants were properly managed. The management of invasive species yields a double whammy—when they are removed the area of occupancy of species at risk expands.
24. Enforcement is essential, no matter what the final rules are for Island View Beach. This is the single highest priority for park management.

Comments

- NCC has recently completed a revised conservation plan for the entire Salish Sea region (aka Natural Area). This plan identifies Coastal Sand Ecosystems as one of the primary conservation

elements that are significant in the region. NCC's prioritization analysis, based on data from the UVic coastal geomorphology lab (Ian Walker), was used as a part of the analysis. One result is that the "three sisters" features including Island View Beach/Saanichton Spit, James Island's spits and Sidney Spit and their associated "feeder bluffs" are designated as "Priority 1" areas in the analysis (at the Salish Sea scale).

- It is important to recognize that the park is not in its natural state. If sea water breached the berm, we would begin to see the park change back to a more natural state—we could help this by allowing salt water intrusion into the park. This is a challenge for park management.
- People aren't comfortable with the unknown and the fact that things are always changing. We don't know what is going to happen in the future, and this creates anxiety. This can impede taking strong action towards changing the current direction of park management.
- There has to be a middle ground here—the lines right now seem to be between the dog walkers, the people who want the mosquito control program, and the biologists and ecologists. There must be a way to work together to achieve mutual goals.
- We have to look at the way the park is being managed now and restore it back to nature. It can still be turned around for nature and it can still accommodate dog walkers. Look at what they're doing in Todd Inlet—it is a good model. They are undertaking very active management and it's working.
- There needs to be a compromise in park management to better protect the environment; just what that compromise is needs to be decided.
- Some people are afraid of dogs, or don't like to be around them. They need to be accommodated just like the dog walkers. Even many dog walkers want the situation improved.
- IVB reminds us of the situation with Garry Oak ecosystems about twenty years ago. There wasn't much understanding or caring about them then. It wasn't a "thing" back then. Now it is. That's because so much work has been put into elevating its profile. The same thing should happen at IVB with the coastal sand ecosystem. We need to look out further as well, to the three sisters (Cordova Shore, James Island, Sidney Island), but designate IVB as ground zero for our campaign. There is a great opportunity in the park, with its more than 600,000 visits a year, to educate and inspire people about the value of the coastal sand ecosystem so that they care about its protection.

- Appropriate zoning of the park is very important. However, we need an impact assessment to determine the current status of the ecosystems in order to support any proposed new zoning scheme.
- Agencies and organizations don't have to do all the work. There is room for unaffiliated individuals to promote environmental literacy and stewardship. They have fewer constraints.
- The park environment, including the species and ecosystems that depend on it, is already being compromised too much. This needs to be addressed through better park management.
- Remember how many members there are in the many conservation organizations that have an interest in the management of IVB. For instance, the Victoria Natural History Society has over 600 members, and the Rocky Point Bird Observatory has over 200. The Nature Conservancy of Canada has a large membership base, as does the Habitat Acquisition Trust. There are also other conservation-oriented organizations that care about the park. We will all be advocates for a park management direction that improves ecological integrity and ecosystem functioning.
- The berm and drainage ditches were constructed for farming and are causing enormous harm to the dune ecosystem and coastal wetlands that belong in the area. These habitats are what make this regional park special, and these habitats support rare and endangered plants and animals that cannot survive without them. Farming is not part of the CRD Parks mandate and the berm must be removed. The savings from not maintaining the berm will be enormous over the long term, and the natural ecosystems that belong at Island View will ameliorate flooding in the area by providing a natural buffer. The berm is working against natural processes and will be a constant source of problems and a chronic maintenance expense.
- The drainage ditches were created to move water out of the area quickly for farming. CRD Parks are not managing Island View Beach as farmland, and the maintenance of these ditches is not in keeping with the conservation goals. This area should be allowed to revert to coastal wetlands that support native vegetation. The current management via drainage ditches supports invasive introduced plants as well as mosquitos.
- The mosquito control program is an enormous waste of money and extremely harmful to the natural environment that CRD Parks is charged with protecting. The larvicide used to kill mosquitoes kills all aquatic diptera (flies) - completely disrupting food webs and creating a biological chaos. The aquatic ecosystems in the park are set back each time larvicides are applied, rather than allowing them to reach an ecological balance. Aquatic diptera inhabit

variable niches- many are predators, others are critical food for other organisms. The money spent on this is disheartening- it is a waste and it is laying waste to a biological system.

- Dogs are allowed on our region's beaches at the exact worst time for wildlife- over the months when many species are migrating or overwintering. In the summer, when the impact would only be on humans, dogs are prohibited (June 1 to September 15). This is counterintuitive to a mandate that is intended to preserve natural environments. When birds are constantly disturbed by pets they waste critical energy. Some of these species migrate thousands of kilometers and need places to rest and feed on their journey.
- Island View Beach should NOT be an off-leash area unless it is restricted to the lawn area by the picnic shelter and there must be consequences for those that do not comply.

Follow-up Emails from Stakeholder Meeting #5

(Note – all identifying information removed)

Dated 7/21/15

I have reviewed these notes. They look really good. You did a great job. I think I have 4 main points, the first of which may not have been captured in your notes as it was a part of my introduction:

1. NCC/I have recently completed a revised conservation plan for the entire Salish Sea region (aka Natural Area). This plan identifies Coastal Sand Ecosystems as one of the primary conservation elements that are significant in the region. Our prioritization analysis based on data from UVic coastal geomorphology lab (Ian Walker) was used as a part of the analysis. One result is that the “three sisters” features including Island View Beach/Saanichton Spit, James Island’s spits and Sidney Spit and their associated “feeder bluffs” are designated as “Priority 1” areas in our analysis (at the Salish Sea scale).
2. (your point #11) – NCC supports taking a regional approach to management of the three sisters whereby NCC, CRD Parks, the Tsawout and Parks Canada would collaborate to manage the entire complex. Ideally in my mind, this would include a multi-site ecological and recreational feature inventory done to a consistent standard and then a multi-site management plan. I know the latter is a tough one, since every agency has its own special needs for management planning and at different scales, but at least, we should all have input into each other’s plans in a detailed way. For example, NCC Tsawout and Parks Canada would have special input into this plan according to that logic.
3. Invasive plant (as opposed to exotic plant) management is a key consideration. (your point 23 for the reasons noted in your description)
4. The same point you captured in the comments section where I referenced CSE’s and being the new GOEs. We could all benefit from a big push to educate the public about Coastal Sand Ecosystems based out of IVB, since that is the most highly visited CSE in the region.

Dated: 7/22/15

Here are my top three issues:

Berm and drainage ditches: The berm and drainage ditches were constructed for farming and are causing enormous harm to the dune ecosystem and coastal wetlands that belong in the area. These habitats are what make this regional park special, and these habitats support rare and endangered plants and animals that cannot survive without them. Farming is not part of the CRD Parks mandate and the berm must be removed. The savings from not maintaining the berm will be enormous over the long term, and the natural ecosystems that belong at Island View will ameliorate flooding in the area by providing a natural buffer. The berm is working against natural processes and will be a constant source of problems and a chronic maintenance expense.

The drainage ditches were created to move water out of the area quickly for farming. CRD Parks are not managing Island View Beach as farmland, and the maintenance of these ditches is not in keeping with the conservation goals. This area should be allowed to revert to coastal wetlands that support native vegetation. The current management via drainage ditches supports invasive introduced plants as well as mosquitos.

Mosquito Control: This is an enormous waste of money and extremely harmful to the natural environment that CRD Parks is charged with protecting. The larvicide used to kill mosquitoes kills all aquatic diptera (flies) - completely disrupting food webs and creating a biological chaos. The aquatic ecosystems in the park are set back each time larvicides are applied, rather than allowing them to reach an ecological balance. Aquatic diptera inhabit variable niches- many are predators, others are critical food for other organisms. The money spent on this is disheartening- it is a waste and it is laying waste to a biological system.

Dog Management: Dogs are allowed on our region's beaches at the exact worst time for wildlife- over the months when many species are migrating or overwintering. In the summer, when the impact would only be on humans, dogs are prohibited (June 1 to September 15). This is counterintuitive to a mandate that is intended to preserve natural environments. When birds are constantly disturbed by pets they waste critical energy. Some of these species migrate thousands of kilometers and need places to rest and feed on their journey.

Island View Beach should NOT be an off-leash area unless it is restricted to the lawn area by the picnic shelter and there must be consequences for those that do not comply.

Dated: 7/22/15

The beach from the Parking lot to the Spit receives sand eroding from the crumbling cliffs to the south and carried north by the tide. This process means that the spit and its eastern beaches are cyclically built up and subsequently undermined by waves and wind. This instability favours a particular group of unusual plants which are not commonly found elsewhere. These plants, such as Sand Verbena, Fleshy Jaumea, Beach carrot, large-headed sedge etc. are now found largely in the Tixen Reserve (which has not been altered for recreational purposes), and are largely absent from the Park.

The construction of the long berm in the Park has frustrated the natural processes described above and degraded the biological quality of the ecosystem.

This kind of dune/spit/saltmarsh system is rare on the coast of BC, and it is my opinion that it should therefore be returned to its original condition. There are many other areas in the Peninsula that offer excellent recreational opportunities, and most of the existing facilities at Island View such as the camp site would in any case still be there.

I would also like to request that signage be placed for the months of June and July specifically asking people not to explore the interior of the spit because rare birds such as nighthawks are nesting there, and especially to keep dogs out of the area..

Dated: 7/24/15

I have edited point #6 which is my first priority as stated at the meeting, see attached. The first point in my revision was the summary of my concern you provided. As it missed three other closely related items to which I spoke I have added them.

As I read the entire document it is clear that many of the subjects raised relate closely to each other. I selected four of them that are especially close to my main concern of a regional context and added them to the attached document.

I find it very hard to pick the top three issues as presented. The main reason is that there is such an overlap among subjects.

It would take some work but I would find it much easier to rank subjects by importance if there was a re-organization and grouping of issues. They would not have to be restated (although others might want to edit their contributions). I know this would take some work but to me it would help us all have a clearer statement of our very good discussion last week.

Hope this helps and thanks for all your work so far.

Attachment:

The Regional Context

1. We have to think of the regional context of the park. The park is actually quite small and it depends on outside ecosystem processes for maintaining itself. The CRD park portion of the larger spit ecosystem is looking quite ragged.
2. The Sidney Channel IBA (Important Bird Area) is one of only two IBAs in the CRD. It needs to be recognized in the park management plan.
3. The information presented by Nick Page, Raincoast Applied Ecology, in his 2010 report, "Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy" is an excellent analysis of the environmental situation of the park and its complete ecosystem. It highlights the dependence of the entire ecosystem on the continuation of sand eroded from the bluffs to the south of the park, including Cowichan Head, moving north and being deposited all the way to Saanichton Spit including the park.
4. The 2010 report was created in cooperation with the Tsawout First Nation who live adjacent to the park. Conservation of their land on Saanichton Spit is actually better than what is happening in the park at the moment.

From other issues identified I would group the following with this same subject:

5. Issue # 8 We have lost the main dynamic of the area—that is, the interchange between the ocean and the land. Everything that makes IVB so special has been modified so that it is no longer special. We need to restore the tidal influence. It is possible to regain a balance between the wet and dry areas. It's all about restoring the natural hydrology.

6. Issue # 11 It is all about regional context, collaboration, and education. Think of IVB as being part of the “three sisters” of Cordova Shore, James Island, and Sidney Island—we need to think at that scale. Collaboration is key – what are the specific skills and resources that we can each offer? We need to think across boundaries and outside the box, and zone the park for different uses.
7. Issue # 18 The condition of the park environment is “poor” with respect to ecological viability, and the threats to the park are high. So, we have poor condition with high threats! This is not good.
8. Issue # 19 The park is too small from an ecological perspective. The edge effect is pronounced—the park is all overlapping edges! Are we going to manage for conservation? Then we need to get rid of the threats. People and dogs are having a pronounced negative impact on the park’s natural environment.

Dated: 7/27/15

Hi, my top 3 issues would be restoration of the park to protect unique ecosystems there (i.e. dune and brackish water), trying to accommodate public into being onside with this and helping other users to co-exist (controlled dog-walking). And, thirdly, CRD has to come up with a mandate for this park, i.e., part of the surrounding ecosystem and not a campground. Thanks.

Dated: 7/29/15

With regard to ranking the issues summarized in your e-mail, the top three issues that I would put forward are:

- manage the park so that the natural processes at work in the park are at the forefront of management strategies
- dog walking needs to be better managed and, at the least, should be restricted to a specific area of the park and enforced
- where does this park fit into the overall regional context, both from the "three sisters" perspective as well as the larger policies (bylaws) for all the regional parks

Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

Public Participation Process to Prepare a Park Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park

STEP 2: IDENTIFY ISSUES AND INTERESTS

Stakeholder Meeting #6: Park Neighbors

Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: July 21, 2015

Central Saanich Historical Society, Heritage Acres; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Identified Issues

Dogs:

1. Don't like all of the dog barking or whistle blowing; it causes too much noise pollution.
2. Need fenced and signed dog off-leash areas in the park; consider having an area for large dogs and one for small dogs; this will help to prevent conflict.
3. Who is the beach for? People? Dogs? Who pays the taxes?
4. Why let people with dogs occupy all of the public space at the park? This isn't fair to those that don't want to be around dogs.
5. The commercial dog walkers – you need to tighten up on them a bit. They are causing too much disruption.
6. An issue is that people without dogs are dropping out of the park population, and then the park becomes a de facto dog park.
7. Need to have fenced dog walking areas and leash-free zones.
8. Dogs don't necessarily need a scenic place to run—they need exercise, and the opportunity to run around.
9. Need dog owner education on how to be a responsible dog owner.
10. Dog owners need to pick up after their dogs. The dog bylaw is too loose. Need a tighter definition of what "under control" means.

11. There are lots of rabbits in the park. They don't have any natural predators and if left unchecked they will over populate and eat everything. Having off-leash dogs to catch them helps with that problem.
12. Some dog owners are not responsible – they let their dogs jump up on people. This is not right and I don't like it. They need to keep their dogs from bothering people.
13. You could have a good dog park at Island View Beach.
14. Long leashes are not the answer to keeping dogs leashed—some extend four meters or more!
15. Keeping dogs leashed around unleashed dogs is not very good. It is more hazardous and stressful for dogs and owners than if the dog was off-leash. This is because of dog behavior when leashed dogs (fight or flight response) encounter unleashed dogs.
16. Commercial dog walkers should need a permit to use the park.
17. We continually see doggie bags pitched into the bushes and along the beach. There aren't enough places to deposit doggie bags in the park, and some people don't care enough to dispose of them properly. Need better education.

Erosion Control:

18. The top issue for me is the erosion taking place on the actively eroding bluffs south of the park. I don't want the CRD to try to block people from trying to stabilize their private properties along the bluff (Cowichan Head).
19. You may want to maintain natural rates of sand flow to benefit the park and the spit, but you shouldn't prevent people from stabilizing the bluffs next to their house to prevent their houses from falling into the ocean.
20. You need to figure out how it will affect the shoreline if people stabilize the actively eroding bluffs.
21. We are concerned with the high tides and the on-going erosion and its effects on the cliffs south of the park. We think that the logs along the beach help to protect the beach from erosion.

Natural Environment:

22. You can't recreate the natural environment that existed in the park 200 hundred years ago; there are now too many people and dogs. It is a dilemma for park management.
23. There are a lot of herons at or around the park. Over two weeks this summer, there were 20-30 of them perched above the Michell property adjacent to the south end of the park. We need to make sure they are okay. The herons have been around the park for years. There are also lots of eagles, which like to eat the heron chicks. I guess this is natural.
24. It is hard to have the park be classified as a conservation area when there are so many people there. It seems like it should be managed as one or the other – a conservation area or a recreation area. How can you have both?
25. The birds at the park eat the mosquitoes, so if the goal is to reduce the number of mosquitoes through a control program, that is not good for the birds (to lose the food supply).

Surrounding Land Use:

1. There is more residential development in the area now and you can't restore the park to what it used to be, or perhaps to what it could be ecologically. You must take that into consideration.
2. The view-scape out across the park to the water is very important to park neighbors. We don't want any development that would change that.

Invasive Species:

1. We are concerned about the invasive species in the park. Need a management plan to deal with invasives like broom; it should include regular monitoring and removal.
2. Partner with other wildlife organizations to manage wildlife, plants, and invasives.
3. There needs to be more opportunities for volunteers to help remove the broom (broom bashes).
4. A big issue is the presence of American bullfrogs in the park. There are hundreds of them, and they are noisy and big. They eat everything they can catch; the small native frogs are gone. There also seems to be fewer snakes—is this due to the bullfrogs?

Park Facilities and Development:

5. We would like to see the boat ramp improved so it is useful again. It is a hazard now and should be signed as such. The owners of James Island would probably be willing to pitch in some money for repairs and the Sidney anglers could take on the management.
6. The boat ramp now creates a parking problem in the park. The parking area also needs to be improved there. It is too small and disorganized for the number of cars using it. If the boat ramp was useful again, then there would be many more vehicles with trailers and they would need a place to park and turn around. There is space available in the park nearby, but it hasn't been mowed in years and isn't usable now. You should take a look at this area and improve it.
7. There are many reasons to improve the boat ramp so that people can use it again. It is useful for emergency rescue and for James Island folks, and it would be used by recreational boaters with boats under 20 feet long. The big boats wouldn't use it though. They would go elsewhere.
8. Perhaps consider a seasonal boat ramp; one that could be taken out in the winter so that the sand can be transported down the beach. This isn't as much of a problem in the summer.
9. Be careful with the fencing design—make it unobtrusive so that it blends in with the environment.
10. How can you have a conservation area when the park is also a high recreational use area? Take camping for instance—does it really belong in the park?
11. The berm trail ends at the sand dunes at the north of the park. There are lots of ground nesting wasps there—many more than usual. They are at the point of being a hazard to people and dogs. Need a better and safer way to get people through there—perhaps consider adding a boardwalk.
12. People dump household garbage in the cans by the parking lot, so need to have more and smaller garbage cans available. Empty them more often—they are often overflowing.
13. The new RV park proposal next to the park will create lots of traffic—too much traffic.
14. We are glad that the CRD did such a good job cleaning up the campground after it got the land in 2010. They took out the big, bright lights and now we can see the dark night sky again. We're happy about that.

15. Should keep the drainage ditches open and cleaned out.

Comments

- Should collect heritage seeds, especially from endangered plant species, so that they don't go extinct or are extirpated from the park.
- There aren't as many issues with dogs at Elk/Beaver Lake. Perhaps that's because people are there for fitness and they move quickly. Their dogs tend to stay by their side or close-by on the trail. And, more of them seem to be on leashes.

Public Participation Process to Prepare a Park Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park

STEP 2: IDENTIFY ISSUES AND INTERESTS

Stakeholder Meeting #7: Accessibility Advocates

Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: July 28, 2015

Power To Be Office; Fort Street, 11:30 – 1 p.m.

Identified Issues

1. There are issues with some of the trails at the park. The gravel surface is not always the best, and there are embedded rocks in some of the pathways that make travelling over them with a wheelchair difficult. Also, some of the grades from the parking area to the berm trail are too steep for a wheelchair to easily navigate.
2. There is generally good drainage on the trails, but this is something that needs to be considered in any parking lot, trail, or facility improvement. Make sure there is no standing water where a person in a wheelchair is either transferring from a vehicle or is stationary for a period of time.
3. It is difficult to transfer from a wheelchair on grass to a bench that is on concrete, especially when the concrete pad is too small. Make sure that there is a double width of concrete around picnic tables and benches to make transferring easier.
4. Make sure there are no big lips or edges between the grass/gravel and concrete. This can make it difficult to transfer or to navigate between the two surface types.
5. Make sure there are hard packed gravel paths or pavement from the parking lot to any accessible facilities. It can be too difficult to travel over grassy areas to get to a facility.
6. The parking lot should be level and have no potholes where people in wheelchairs are travelling, especially around the designated accessible parking spaces. If there is a sidewalk, it should be level with the road, or a ramp cut should be cut into the sidewalk to facilitate easy movement.
7. Where there are benches on the berm trail, the benches should be redesigned so that it is easy to transfer from a wheelchair to the bench. Large concrete pads and a side railing or handhold on the bench should be installed.
8. Consider having space for a wheelchair between two benches or picnic tables so that the wheelchair bound person can be in the middle of other people, instead of being on the edge of the group.

9. The boat launch is very tricky to navigate for a mobility challenged person. It doesn't provide a safe way to get to the beach or to the water's edge in the condition it is in now. Consider reconstructing the boat ramp to facilitate easy accessibility, especially for people getting into a small boat. Look at the Tofino paddle-craft only launch as an example of a popular accessible boat launch.
10. There is no good way for people with mobility challenges to get onto the beach. Consider creating accessible pathways through the logs, and use Mobi Mats on the sand to create a firm, level surface. This can be seasonal, so that there is accessible beach access from spring through fall. Gyro Park uses these mats and they work very well.
11. The existing picnic shelter is not adequate to handle the inclement weather. A shelter should be provided that can accommodate park visitors when it is raining, or when it is very hot. Make it accessible.
12. Consider building some shelters without picnic tables to accommodate people in wheelchairs or other types of assistance devices.
13. Park facilities should not be further than 400 meters from parking lots, and ideally between 100-400 meters.
14. Create shorter accessible loop trail options. Many people have distance related challenges and need to be able to go shorter distances on level trail surfaces.
15. It is a good idea to develop boardwalks, but beware of slippery tread surfaces. Make sure the surface is rough enough that a person won't slip on it. Look at current technology and products to create the right experience for all park visitors. Look at the docks at Swan Lake for an example of an accessible and safe facility.
16. If building a boardwalk, consider railings and lips on the edges to facilitate accessibility. Make sure there are good sightlines for people with vision issues. Have bright markings for added visibility. Do not use wood railings as they may cause splinters; use aluminum instead.
17. Consider creating a sensory experience along a trail or boardwalk for people with different disabilities. This could involve moving people through plants or ecological communities with strong scents or through windy areas where the plants capture the sound of the wind.
18. Consider making a group camping area slightly separated from the main campground that could accommodate groups of 10-50 people without disturbing other campers. Make sure this camp site is totally accessible. Many groups, like Power To Be, would use it. Perhaps make it a walk in tent site to reduce the number of issues associated with a drive-in group campsite.

19. When considering creating a safe space for people with different needs, like for children with autism, think of the proximity of the common areas to the travelled portion of the park. The grassy areas are currently right next to the road and the parking lots. Some children may inadvertently run out into areas where vehicles are travelling, and this creates a problem for caregivers. Consider making some common areas well away from traffic to create safe zones.
20. Consider adding braille to any park interpretive signs. This brings out independence in persons with sight impairments, and is preferred to audio recordings by many. The use of braille on signs is disappearing and it would be nice to have it added to signs at the park.

Comments

- There could be funding available for projects that support accessibility in parks and outdoor spaces. Some of the potential funders might be the Rick Hansen Foundation, the Evergreen Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and senior levels of government. Work with accessibility advocates to develop proposals for funding specific projects or initiatives. Try to make Island View Beach Regional Park one of the most accessible parks in the region. There would be plenty of support for this among funders and advocates. Look at Powell River and Haida Gwaii for good examples of accessible walking trails.

Submission from the Friends of Island View Beach (FOIVB)

NOTE: Sent to the CRD Board of Directors

On Jul 31, 2015, at 11:12 AM, Fof IvBeach <friendsofislandviewbeach@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello everyone

The CRD intends creating a new park plan at Island View Beach Regional Park, and the most widespread comment we hear from the public is "**Leave the park alone!**". The CRD environmental report did not disclose any environmental issues that require additional protection, and we agree with the spirit of leave the park alone, but we do have ideas for improvement that we believe the public will agree with.

A group of 7 of our members pooled their knowledge of the park and peoples wishes, to come up with the recommendations. We are showing them to you first, and will present them to the CRD later today. Our recommendations are attached.

We must express our deep disappointment at the environmental presentation made by the CRD at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan>. We will address this in detail at another time, but for here we say this: The environment at Island View Beach Regional Park is what it is. It should neither be exaggerated nor understated. The CRD suppressed the only independent study they commissioned on the park, and that came to light just because one of our members had seen the expert working in the park last year and asked the CRD for a copy of that expert's report. That expert questioned the existence of two plants that the CRD claims are species at risk in the park. The expert also showed that a species at risk that really is in the park actually occupies only a fraction of the area that the CRD claimed in its presentation. That expert's report is a perfect example of how a **factual technical and scientific** report should be written. It identified the existence (or non existence) of a species at risk in the park. It mapped where it is. It commented on the health of the species. And it advised on what, if anything, is needed to protect the species. That report is worth reading and comparing that to the CRD presentation. It can be seen at http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/uploads/2/4/3/5/24351508/island_view_beach_camissonia_and_lathyrus_survey_2014.pdf

The Friends of Island View Beach

Friends of Island View Beach

Step 2 Presentation to the CRD

Recommendations for improvement at Island View Beach Regional Park

July 31, 2015

Overview of recommendations

1. **Environmental:** The CRD environmental study did not demonstrate a need to restrict public access or activities in the park any more than it is now.
2. **Poop bag dispensers:** Dog excrement is the most common complaint from the public about dogs in the park. Poop bag dispensers should be installed in key locations in the park.
3. **Garbage bins:** In recent years the garbage bins in the park were replaced with small binettes that are inadequate and are often left overflowing. Larger garbage containers are needed for general garbage and poop bags, and should be emptied more frequently.
4. **New inland trails:** Have new inland trails through the inland area of the park, and alongside all the mosquito drainage ditches. This would add an extra 3.5km of trails and relieve pressure on the beach front areas. **The Friends of Island View Beach offer to mow the trails and build the 5 foot bridges needed at no cost to the CRD.**
5. **New Nature Reserve area:** In conjunction with the new inland trails in 4. above, there is a 6 acre area that lends itself as a Nature Reserve, and we recommend the trails and this Nature Reserve be implemented together.
6. **Toilets:** The existing toilet facilities in the mid-park are not visible or sign posted, and there are no facilities in the north area. Put up signs for the existing mid-park toilet block near the main ditch. And place additional toilet facilities to the north.
7. **Sea wall:** Climate change will cause rising sea levels and more frequent and stronger storms that will threaten the park and surrounding properties. Start planning now with adjoining land owners to strengthen and raise the sea wall.
8. **Public boat ramp:** The public boat ramp is outside the park and not within the CRD jurisdiction. It is important for the public use of the beach, and does not restrict the northerly flow of sand. The CRD should encourage Central Saanich and the province to repair and maintain it.
9. **Need for additional parking:** Parking at the end of Island View Road is becoming a serious problem, with cars being blocked in, and access to the boat ramp and the farm lands to the south being obstructed. The CRD owns land on both sides of Island View Road just before Homathko Road – this was the original parking for the beach before there was a park. This should be graveled over for use for boat trailers, charter buses, and overflow parking,

10. North drainage flood gate (Tsawout): The north flood gate failed in **1927** leading to salt water flooding of farmers fields and was fixed then. It failed again in **1935** and was replaced in 1936. And it failed again sometime in the late **1980's** leading to serious salt water flooding for over 20 years, widespread mosquitoes and substantial mosquito control costs in all the surrounding areas. It is still not fixed entirely and there is sea water in the Tsawout ditches year round. The CRD should assist the Tsawout to repair or replace this damaged flood gate.

11. Privatize the camp ground: The campground should be privatized and have longer openings. The contract should have a requirement that the private contractor have someone live at the site during the summer season which would be a control for unruly beach parties and fires; and also a requirement that the private contractor keep the park toilets clean and the garbage bins emptied. This will be a substantial cost saving to the CRD and give better service to the public.

12. Access to the park from Lamont Road/Highcrest Terrace: The park borders Lamont Road/Highcrest Terrace to the west yet there is no all weather trail access from there. An all weather trail off Lamont Road/Highcrest Terrace could be built.

13. Maintenance of the mosquito drainage ditches, the mosquito control program, and maintenance of the sea wall as committed by the Regional Parks Committee.

14. No hunting: A clear “no exceptions” hunting ban should be included in any new park plan just as is contained in the existing park plan.

1. Environmental

Note: The Friends of Island View Beach claim no expertise in environmental matters, and we make no claim that species are in the park or not. Our role here has been to fact check the CRD Environmental presentation, and to see if there is supporting evidence for claims made by the CRD. The standard set by the Regional Parks Committee was the Environmental presentation was to provide **“factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment found in the park.”** Regional Park minutes, May 21, 2014, Agenda page 32 <https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/committeedocuments/regionalparkscommittee/20140521/2014-05-21rpcagenda.pdf?sfvrsn=6>

(A) Species at risk that are resident in Island View Beach Regional Park

The CRD Environmental Presentation suggested there are 9 “species at risk” resident in Island View Beach Regional Park.

Despite many requests by us, no evidence was given by the CRD to support the existence in the park of 3 of these species they claimed, which reduced the number of confirmed species at risk in the park to 6.

None of the 6 species at risk that are confirmed to be in the park, have been demonstrated to require additional special protection in the park. For a detailed analysis, see **Appendix 1**

(B) *“Species at risk” not resident in the park but known to use the park intermittently or utilize areas immediately adjacent to the park and therefore may be affected by our activities in the park.*

The CRD has listed 24 species of birds at risk that they say *“use the park intermittently or utilize areas immediately adjacent to the park and therefore **may be** affected by our activities in the park.”*

2 of those 24 have been reclassified by the Province as not being at risk so should not have been on that list.

The majority of those remaining are sea birds or diving ducks that feed offshore and do not come on land.

No factual, technical or scientific evidence is included in the CRD presentation to show these birds either

- **use the park intermittently, or**
- **that they utilize areas immediately adjacent to the park**

and are affected negatively by public activities in the park. For a detailed analysis see **Appendix 2.**

Conclusion:

The CRD environmental study did not demonstrate a need to restrict public access or activities in the park any more than it is now.

2. **Poop bag dispensers:** Dog excrement is the most common complaint from the public about dogs in the park. Poop bag dispensers should be installed in key locations in the park.

The dispensers and bags are readily available and are inexpensive. Here are examples:

http://i.dailymail.co.uk/i/pix/2015/06/03/15/29536CA500000578-3109345-image-m-15_1433342590581.jpg

<http://www.petstationsupply.com/>



3. **Garbage bins:** In recent years the garbage bins in the park were replaced with small binettes that are inadequate and are often left overflowing. Larger garbage containers are needed for general garbage and poop bags, and should be emptied more frequently.



4. New inland trails:

With increasing numbers of people visiting the park it is important to dilute the impact by encouraging the public to use other areas.

The CRD Regional Parks Committee have committed to maintain the mosquito drainage ditches and the mosquito control program. This means one side of all the mosquito drainage ditches will be kept open, so it is a natural extension to utilize those as public trails. Likewise two north-south trails can be put in.

These would be grass only trails, so the cost is minimal as the trails need only be mown once or twice a year. Approximately 5 small foot bridges would need to be built to cross the mosquito drainage ditches.

In the plan shown here 3.5km of additional public trails could be achieved this way at little expense.

The Friends of Island View Beach offer to mow the trails and build the 5 foot bridges at no cost to the CRD.



5. 6 acre nature reserve

In conjunction with the new trail system we propose in #4 above, we note there are 6 acres in the park that is delineated by clear physical characteristics and is not readily accessible by the public, that lends itself as a Nature Reserve. This is in the north end of the park, bounded by mosquito drainage ditches on two sides and is encircled by dense brush, and has a swampy area running diagonally through it. With a small amount of fencing at each end of the diagonal swamp area, this Nature Reserve would be totally protected from human activities, and the screen of dense brush it would quiet too.

This area is not known to contain species at risk, but it is home to many birds and other species.

We recommend that the new trail system and this Nature Reserve be implemented at the same time.

The proposed Nature Reserve



6. Toilets: Many senior and special needs visitors come to the park. The existing toilet facilities in the mid-park are neither visible nor sign posted, and there are no facilities in the north area.

We recommend

- (a) that signs be erected for the existing toilet block in the mid-park near the main ditch, and
- (b) that additional toilet facilities be added in the north of the park.
- (c) that the roof be repaired on the mid-park toilet block before winter.

The mid-park toilet block has no signage and is tucked in behind dense brush making it impossible to see except from one angle.





Taken from the main inland trail looking north. The toilet block is hidden behind this brush. There are no signs.

Taken from the branch trail from the sea shore looking west.

This is the only view of the toilet block. There is nothing to identify it as a public toilet. Nor are there signs.

(Hard to see in this photo but the roof is need of repair.)



7. Sea wall: Climate change will cause rising sea levels and more frequent and stronger storms that will threaten the park and surrounding properties. We recommend the CRD begin planning now with adjoining land owners to strengthen and raise the sea wall.

The Ministry of Environment Stacey Filatow 2009 report for Island View Beach, said at page 17:

“Sea level rise due to global warming may threaten the ecosystems It is important to integrate climate change into management considerations ...”



8. Boat ramp: The boat ramp is outside the park and not within the CRD jurisdiction, however it is important for the public because it is one of the few public boat ramps on the Saanich Peninsula.

It has been speculated that the boat ramp stops the northerly drift of sand but this is not correct. The sand piles against the south side of the ramp then flows over it, so any amount trapped by the ramp is minimal.

Given the public importance of the public boat ramp we recommend the CRD encourage Central Saanich and the province to repair and maintain it.

As background, the existing boat ramp was built in 1974 with a Federal Government Local Initiative Program grant initiated by a local resident.



9. **Need for additional parking on Island View Road:** With the increasing popularity of the park, parking at the end of Island View Road is becoming an increasing problem:

- Boat owners have difficulty finding parking for their vehicles and boat trailers
- Vehicles often block access to the boat ramp and the private farm land to the south.
- Charter buses need somewhere to park

The CRD owns land on both sides of Island View Road just before Homathko Road – this was the original parking for the beach before there was a park.

We recommend:

- That the two CRD owned parcels alongside Island View Road be graveled over for use for boat trailers, charter buses, and overflow parking. (perhaps with the south side being designated for boat trailers, and the north side designated for charter buses and overflow parking).
- That lines be painted on the asphalt in front of the boat ramp and private driveway, creating a no parking lane, so vehicles from those areas can enter and exit without being blocked by vehicles left by park visitors.



10. North drainage flood gate (Tsawout): The north flood gate failed in **1927** leading to salt water flooding of farmers fields and was fixed then. It failed again in **1935** and was replaced in 1936. And it failed again sometime in the late **1980's** leading to serious salt water flooding for over 20 years, widespread mosquitoes and substantial mosquito control costs in all the surrounding areas. It is still not fixed entirely and there is sea water in the Tsawout ditches year round. We recommend the CRD and Central Saanich assist the Tsawout to repair or replace this damaged flood gate.

This aerial photo from the CRD atlas shows the sea water in the Tsawout ditches, while the Puckle Farm and CRD ditches are bone dry.



See <http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/drainageoverview.html> for photos of the sea water flooding and damage from that broken flood gate. Although repairs were undertaken the gate must be undermined because the sea water still floods through as shown in the photo above – **this is shown in a video at the end of that link.**

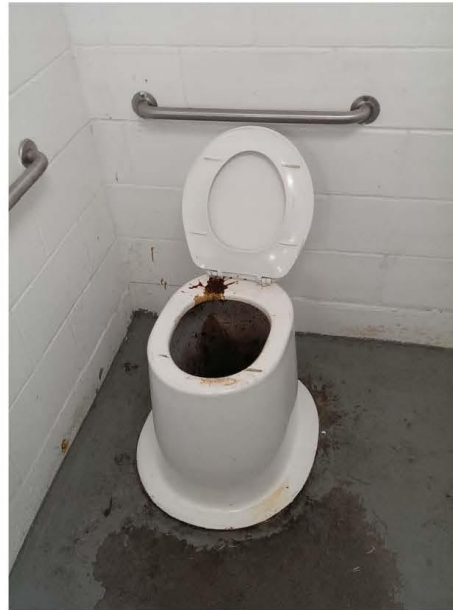
11. Privatize the camp ground:

The CRD is not set up to run a business like a campground. The operating costs are far higher than would be for a resident private operator – as witness the constant parade of CRD vehicles and crews – and despite those high costs there is not the hands on attention to detail that a private operator can achieve.

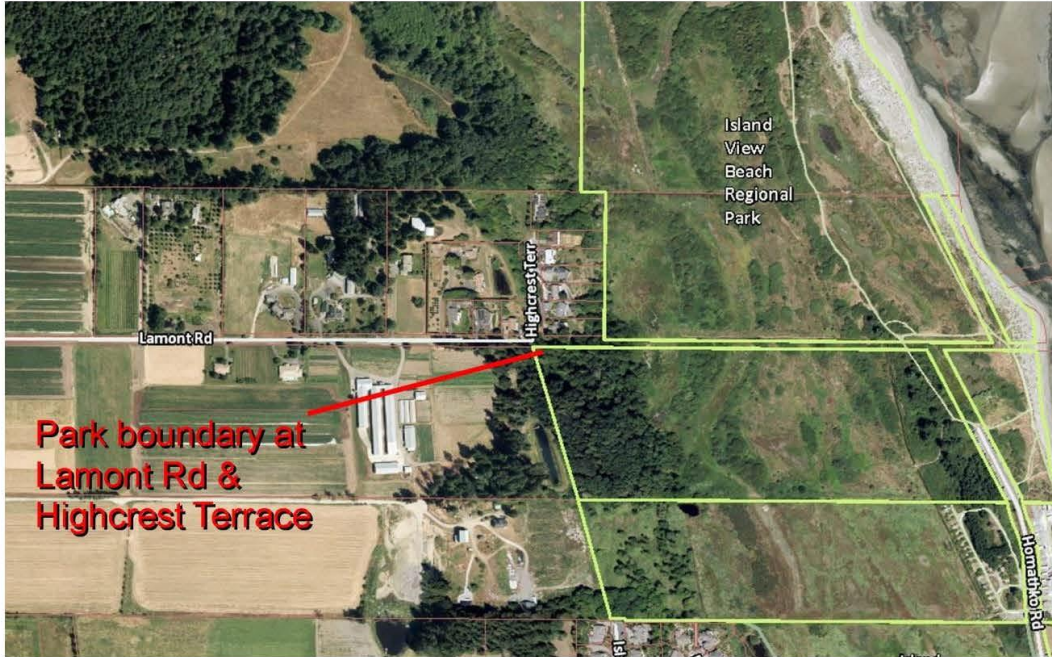
We recommend the campground be privatized and have longer openings.

The contract should have a requirements that the private contractor:

- (a) have someone live at the site during the summer season which would be a control for unruly beach parties and fires; and
- (b) keep the park toilets clean and the garbage bins emptied. This will be a substantial cost saving to the CRD and give better service to the public.



12. Park access off Lamont Road & Highcrest Terrace: The park borders Lamont Road & Highcrest Terrace to the west yet there is no all weather trail access from there. An all weather trail off Lamont Road could be built.



13. Maintenance of the mosquito drainage ditches, the mosquito control program, and maintenance of the sea wall.

Any new plan should contain clear language incorporating the commitment of the Regional Parks Committee to maintain the mosquito drainage ditches, the mosquito control program, and maintenance of the sea wall.

These links show the consequences of not maintaining these programs

<http://www.friendsofislaviewbeach.com/drainageoverview.html>

<http://www.friendsofislaviewbeach.com/howeasilyflooded.html>



14. No hunting

The existing park plan has an express “no exceptions” hunting ban.

Given the large number of park visitors and the residential housing around the park, any new park plan should contain the same “no exceptions” hunting ban.

Appendix 1

Species at Risk confirmed resident in Island View Beach Regional Park

The direction from the Regional Parks Committee in May 2014 was that this report was to ***“Provide factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment found in the park.”***

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/crd-document-library/committeedocuments/regionalparkscommittee/20140521/2014-05-21rpcagenda.pdf?sfvrsn=6>

The CRD Environmental Presentation states at page 14 ***“Nine ... species [at risk] are confirmed as seasonal or year-round residents at Island View Beach Regional Park.”***

<http://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/ivbnep-species?e=2590922/10796110>

The CRD identified these nine at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/parks-pdf/sarfactsheetivb.pdf?sfvrsn=2> as being:

- (1) Contorted-pod evening-primrose
- (2) Sand-verbena Moth
- (3) **Common nighthawk**
- (4) Georgia Basin Bog Spider
- (5) Yellow Sand-Verbena
- (6) Beach Bindweed
- (7) **American Glehnia**
- (8) Black knotweed
- (9) **Fleshy Jaumea**

The CRD has been requested repeatedly to provide factual technical and scientific information that confirms the **Common Nighthawk**, the **American Glehnia**, and the **Fleshy Jaumea**, are truly resident in the park, but they declined to do so. In fact, a report commissioned by the CRD and received by them in 2014 – before the CRD prepared their Environmental presentation – states the opposite:

The report of Fleshy Jaumea is suspect – there is no precise information confirming its presence at Island View Beach and there is little or no suitable habitat within the regional park. It is known to occur in adjacent lands but the report for Island View Beach is probably a mapping error created by the vague nature of old records. American Glehnia is also known from adjacent lands but neither has been reported from Island View Beach Regional Park.

http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/uploads/2/4/3/5/24351508/island_view_beach_camissonia_and_lathyrus_survey_2014.pdf Page 4

Similarly, the Cordova Conservation Strategy, a 5 year study of the Cordova Shore which includes Cordova Spit; the Tsawout lands; the CRD park; the Central Saanich park; the farm lands; and private properties to

the south, that was managed by CRD Parks, says of the **Common Nighthawk** in Appendix 5:
<https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/parks-pdf/cordovashoreconsstrat.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

Common nighthawk *Rare fall migrant – possibly nesting at the [Cordova] spit*

Cordova Spit where this “rare fall migrant” might possibly nest, is 1km to the north of Island View Beach Regional Park.

Removing the species that have not been confirmed as resident in the park leaves:

- (1) Contorted-pod evening-primrose
- (2) Sand-verbena Moth
- (4) Georgia Basin Bog Spider
- (5) Yellow Sand-Verbena
- (6) Beach Bindweed
- (8) Black knotweed

(1) Contorted-pod evening-primrose

Fairbarns, 2014, reported the contorted-pod evening-primrose lies within the area that has been fenced off for its protection since 2007.

His recommendations were to repair the fencing, provide signage, monitor traffic, and save the seeds. No recommendation was made to enlarge this already fenced off area, as the contorted-pod evening-primrose only occupies a small part of that fenced area.

http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/uploads/2/4/3/5/24351508/island_view_beach_camissonia_and_lathyrus_survey_2014.pdf



Figure 1. Contorted-pod Evening-primrose polygons, June 2014.

Overall, the subpopulation of Contorted-pod Evening-primrose in Island View Beach Regional Park is in moderately poor condition. The plants tend to rather small but that is equally true of the other Canadian populations. They were reproducing well considering their small stature. There was no evidence of herbivory or disease.

(2) Sand-verbena Moth**(5) Yellow Sand-Verbena**

The Sand-verbena moth is totally dependent on the Yellow Sand-Verbena so they are looked at together.

Fairbarns, 2007, reported about the **Yellow Sand-Verbena** that:

The occurrence itself is in excellent condition.

*Reproduction and Health: **The plants are of high vigour and reproducing abundantly.** There was negligible evidence of disease or herbivory which is probably insufficient to have a significant impact on reproduction and survival.*

<http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/uploads/2/4/3/5/24351508/tixen - rare plant report-3- fairbarns 2007.pdf> Page 16

(6) Beach Bindweed aka Beach morning glory

Fairbarns, 2007, reported that

The occurrence itself is in excellent condition.

*Reproduction and Health: **The plants are of high vigour and reproducing abundantly.** There was negligible evidence of disease or herbivory which is probably insufficient to have a significant impact on reproduction and survival.*

<http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/uploads/2/4/3/5/24351508/tixen - rare plant report-3- fairbarns 2007.pdf> Page 18

(8) Black knotweed

Fairbarns, 2007, reported that:

The occurrence itself is in excellent condition.

*Reproduction and Health: **The plants are of high vigour and reproducing abundantly.** There was negligible evidence of disease or herbivory which is probably insufficient to have a significant impact on reproduction and survival. Ecological Processes: Natural processes do not pose a significant threat to the long-term viability of the population. The plants occur on actively eroding sandy habitats but are probably well-adapted to such circumstances.*

<http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/uploads/2/4/3/5/24351508/tixen - rare plant report-3- fairbarns 2007.pdf> Page 22

(4) Georgia Basin Bog Spider

The Georgia Basin Bog spider was found in a low lying area in 2009 south of where Lamont Road transects the park. This is not an area frequently visited by the public, nor is the public identified as a threat to this species. According to the Canadian Species at Risk Public Registry “The greatest threat is inundation by sea water since three of the four known sites are less than 3 m above sea level and are at risk from projected increases in the frequency and severity of storms.”

http://www.registrelep-sararegistry.gc.ca/species/speciesDetails_e.cfm?sid=1176

The low areas of the park were flooded with sea water in January 2014 and to our knowledge the Georgian Basin Bog Spider has not been searched for since then so it is not known if it survived the flooding. In any

event, if it did, it is not at risk from the public.

<http://www.friendsofislandviewbeach.com/howeasilyflooded.html>

Summary about confirmed “species at risk” in the park

There are 6 confirmed “species at risk” resident in Island View Beach Regional Park.

The Contorted-pod Evening-primrose has been protected since 2007 and requires no further protection.

The Yellow Sand-verbena (and hence the Sand-Verbena moth), the Beach Bindweed and the Black Knotweed are all in excellent condition, high vigour and reproducing abundantly.

The Georgian Basin Bog Spider, if it survived the sea water flooding of January 2014, is not at risk from the public in the park.

Conclusion about confirmed “species at risk” in the park

None of the species at risk that are confirmed to be in the park, have been demonstrated to require further special protection in the park.

Appendix 2
“Species at risk” not resident in the park but known to use the park intermittently or utilize areas immediately adjacent to the park and therefore may be affected by our activities in the park.

In their presentation at page 14, the CRD said:

There are 33 confirmed species at risk at Island View Beach

.....

*Nine of these species are confirmed as seasonal or year-round residents in Island View Beach Regional Park. [Note – these are discussed in Appendix 1] **Others are known to use the park intermittently or utilize areas immediately adjacent to the park and therefore may be affected by our activities in the park.***

<http://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/ivbnep-species?e=2590922/10796110>

Two things to note about this statement are:

(a) Throughout its presentation, the CRD used the terms **“Island View Beach”** and **“Island View Beach Regional Park”**. This is unfortunate and misleading given their similarity, and many readers would believe these to be the same area. They are not. **“Island View Beach”** is the greater area, and includes Cordova Spit, the Tsawout lands, the CRD park, the Central Saanich Park, the farmlands, and the private properties of Island View Beach estates and the foot of Highcrest Terrace. In the 2010 Cordova Conservation Strategy, the CRD referred to this greater area as **“Cordova Shore”**. It is regrettable that in this 2015 environmental report the CRD instead chose to use the misleading term **“Island View Beach”** instead of a distinguishing term to make it clear they were not referring Island View Beach Regional Park. It is likely that many were misled by this.

(b) The CRD are saying there are 33 species at **“Island View Beach”** – the greater area - of which nine they say are actually in the park. [In Appendix 1 we suggest that only 6 are confirmed resident in the park.] This means the CRD is saying that 24 species (33 – 9) ***“use the park intermittently or utilize areas immediately adjacent to the park and therefore may be affected by our activities in the park.”*** No factual technical and scientific information was given by the CRD to support this sweeping claim, nor is any information given as to which species at risk might use the park intermittently and which may utilize areas **“immediately adjacent to the park”**. Regrettably, it is a statement thrown up in the air without substantiation and serves no useful purpose.

The CRD presentation has photos of the Western Sandpiper but that is not a species at risk, and is identified as **“one of the most abundant shorebirds in North America”** .

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Western_Sandpiper/id

To see a list of the 24 species that the CRD say “use the park intermittently or utilize areas immediately adjacent to the park and therefore may be affected by our activities in the park.” the reader must look elsewhere, to the second page at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/parks-pdf/sarfactsheetivb.pdf?sfvrsn=2> Listed there are 33 species. The 24 are the ones that do not have a small tick behind their names.

The CRD say in their presentation at page 8, that these 24 species were made up from reported sightings from e-Bird <http://ebird.org/content/canada/> and the Breeding Bird Atlas and the Coastal Waterbird Surveys but they do not give links to the latter two. Again, regrettably however, they are speaking of the greater “Island View Beach” and not “Island View Beach Regional Park”.

The e-Bird sightings are reports from the public who may have been standing on Cordova Spit, a kilometer north of the park, looking out to sea with binoculars, so the actual bird may be several kilometers from the park, yet the CRD has included those birds as being “*immediately adjacent to the park*” and who “*may be*” affected by human activities in the park. This is self serving conjecture, not science.

This list of 24 includes two species that are no longer classified as a “species at risk”. The **Cackling Goose** BC listing was changed from Blue to Yellow, and the **Snowy Owl** BC listing was changed from Blue to Unknown, both in March 2015. Neither of these species should be on the species at risk list, so if the list was appropriate it would be 22 not 24.

But is the list appropriate at all? The majority of birds on it are marine birds that feed at sea and do not come on land. For example:

***Seabirds:** This group is restricted to those birds which spend most of their time on open water. These birds are often referred to as ‘pelagic seabirds’ and include the tubenoses (albatrosses¹, fulmars, shearwaters, and storm-petrels); cormorants; jaegers, skuas, gulls, and terns; alcids (murre, guillemots, murrelets, auklets, and puffins); and phalaropes (although the latter may also be categorized as shorebirds).*

Waterfowl and Allies:** This group includes species that commonly breed inland near fresh water but either migrate along the coast during spring and fall or use marine habitats for moulting and wintering. Loons, grebes, swans, geese, ducks, and cranes are included in this group due to similarities in their habitat use. Ducks are sometimes further divided into dabbling ducks, which tend to stay nearshore and in estuaries, and **sea ducks or diving ducks, whose habitats include more open marine waters.

<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Library/328842%20Appendix%20K.pdf> Page 1

An example of a sea bird on the CRD list is the **Common Murre** which does not breed here.

Behavior

Outside of the breeding season, Common Murres are almost always seen in the water. On land, they sit upright. They swim and dive well, and can dive more than 150 feet below the water’s surface. Their flight is labored.

Diet

Most of the diet is made up of small fish, although a wide variety of sea creatures including crustaceans, marine worms, and squid are also taken.

http://birdweb.org/birdweb/bird/common_murre

An example of a diving duck on the CRD list is the **Surf Scoter** which does not does not breed in this area:

*Scoters spend the non-breeding part of the year in large rafts on the ocean or in open bays and inlets. **They forage almost exclusively by diving**, taking prey from the ocean floor and also taking mussels from man-made structures. They are strong flyers but must get a running start along the water to get airborne. Males actively defend their mates, keeping other birds at bay.*

Diet

During winter, mollusks and crustaceans are the most common food items. Surf Scoters also eat other aquatic invertebrates and pondweeds.

http://birdweb.org/birdweb/bird/surf_scooter

Summary about bird species outside the park

The CRD has listed 24 species of birds at risk that they say "use the park intermittently or utilize areas immediately adjacent to the park and therefore **may be** affected by our activities in the park."

2 of those 24 have been reclassified by the Province as not being at risk.

The majority of those remaining are sea birds or diving ducks that feed offshore and do not come on land.

No evidence has been given showing these birds either use the park or utilize areas immediately adjacent to the park, or are affected negatively by public activities in the park.

Conclusion about bird "species at risk" that live outside the park

No factual, technical or scientific evidence is included in the CRD presentation to show these birds either use the park intermittently, or that they utilize areas immediately adjacent to the park and are affected negatively by public activities in the park.

Emails Regarding FOIVB Submission

(NOTE: All Identifying Information Removed)

Dated 7/31/15

Hello,

Just a note to say I found the recommendations suggested by the F of IVB to be very sensible, well researched and reflected my feelings about the park.

I'm 70 with bad hips and knees who enjoys the relatively level terrain, with a dog that enjoys exploring without having to walk at my pace. We use the park about 3 times a week.

Dated 7/31/15

The beach and area have been seriously compromised since the takeover of the CRD....

I have asked a number of times for a poo barrel on the main road in, with dispensers with poo bags.....by the outhouse... to no avail.

There is no reason the back area cannot be used by the horse crowd.

The Trailer park looks like it belongs on a reserve.... this could be expanded and a money maker..... there is fresh water on the site which could be used..... if not capable of handling this site please lease it out....

There have been numerous issues with all the neighbours and very little satisfaction.....in any area.

This park is the only one we have that seniors can walk, children and people walking their dogs.....it is am sure the most used park in the Greater Victoria area..

We the people want the park left as it but bring it up the standard that taxpayers should have.....of which we all pay for.....

Your reports of plants and various things in the park have been falsified

This whole area is in dire need of a boat launch site, again, to no avail....

This has been very much kept away from the general Public.....if need be will gather in the 100's to save our park.

As am sure you are aware the general Public is not happy with the CRD... this will be even worse.....for the coffers....

Thank you

Dated 7/31/15

With the exception of the absence of the nude sunbathers of the mid 80's nothing much has changed at the beach and the inland fields since I first enjoyed them on horseback in 1967. My children learned to jump cross country there in the 80s until an overzealous CRD employee ordered the decades old jumps removed as she planned to replace them with a raised walkway to protect the botanical life from human, equine and canine footsteps. This eas never accomplished as the building of this invasive boardwalk was more damaging than the existing traffic.

The park has been a part of my family's lives for three generations.

For more than a decade I hiked from Hovey Road behind the Fair Grounds to the beach with my dogs three times each week. In my late 60s I drive to the north parking lot and hike the beach and fields with my new pup.

A life time of friends made and treasured, a life with few demands on the health system despite the hereditary disease of Myotonic Dystrophy that has killed a younger brother and crippled a sister ten years my junior, fitness maintained, views enjoyed that nurture the soul and fresh air invigorating my body rain or shine I NEED this park to be accessible. Save the BC health care system, leave us oldies a level hike with so many options that we are there every day renewing ourselves, medicated by joy and exercise, not pharmaceuticals.

Please embrace a park future that includes human usage and the inclusion of 'man (and woman and child's) best friends'. We tread lightly and try not to disturb nature's other treasured children.

Appendix 4 Advertising and Communications

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Island View Beach Management Plan

CRD Home > Projects & Initiatives > [Island View Beach Management Plan](#)

[Island View Beach Management Plan](#)

Updated Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park



Regional Parks is updating the existing [1989 Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park](#). The park is currently guided by the original 1989 park management plan. It is time to update the plan due to changes in and around the park.

Resources

- [References for Step 1 Natural Environment Presentation \(PDF\)](#)
- [2014-2015 Public participation process \(PDF\)](#)
- [Species at Risk Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Management Plan 1989 \(PDF\)](#)
- [Media Release \(PDF\)](#)

The plan sets the management direction for the park. It presents the vision, goals, direction statements, and management objectives and actions for environmental conservation, cultural heritage management, visitor experience and parks operations and development.

Public Participation Process

The CRD Regional Parks Committee approved a four-step public participation process to guide the preparation of a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

Step 1 – Information about the park’s natural environment;
Step 2 – Identify park management issues and interests;
Step 3 – Hold community dialogues;
Step 4 – Prepare and present a draft plan, seek feedback, and prepare a final plan

- [Public Participation Process \(PDF\)](#)

Step 1: Natural Environment

In the first step of the four-step planning process permits CRD staff presented scientific information about the park’s natural environment and ecology. The purpose of step 1 is to develop a common understanding of the natural environment found within Island View Beach Regional Park, and to add to the information base about the natural environment through public feedback.

Presentation on the Park's Natural Environment

CRD Regional Parks presented scientific information and sought public knowledge on the natural history, coastal processes, ecosystems and habitats, and species of interest found within the park. This will help ensure that as CRD Regional Parks moves forward with preparing the management plan, scientific information about the natural environment is being used to discuss how the regional park should be managed.

Contact

Lynn Wilson, Park Planner
[Email](#)
T: 250.360.3369

FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



crd_bc

8:31am via Hootsuite

Today is the deadline to share your issues on Island View Beach to [#CRDParks](#) [ht.ly/NJPWz](https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan)

2 retweets



Capital Regional District

Jul 20, 8:31 am

Share Your Views with Parks Staff at Island View Beach Regional Park

Thursday, July 23, 11am- 4pm

CRD staff will be at the park to gather information on park issues. Drop by the CRD tent located near the north parking lot to share your views.

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan>



Island View Beach Management Plan | CRD

www.crd.bc.ca

1 share · 1 like



crd_bc



Jul 15, 8:25am via Hootsuite

Share your views with [#CRDParks](#) staff on park issues at Island View Beach on July 18
[ht.ly/NJOUp](https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan)

1 retweet



Capital Regional District



Jul 15, 8:31am

Share Your Views with Parks Staff at Island View Beach Regional Park
Saturday, July 18, 12- 5pm
CRD staff will be at the park to gather information on park issues.
Drop by the CRD tent located near the north parking lot to share your views.
<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan>



Island View Beach Management Plan | CRD
www.crd.bc.ca



crd_bc



Jul 20, 7:25am via Hootsuite

Share your views with [#CRDParks](#) staff on park issues at Island View Beach on July 23
[ht.ly/NJOXU](https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan)

1 retweet



Capital Regional District

Jul 07, 7:31am

Share Your Views with Parks Staff at Island View Beach Regional Park

Friday, July 10, 11am - 4pm

CRD staff will be at the park in July to gather information on park issues. Drop by the CRD tent located near the north parking lot to share your views.

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan>



Island View Beach Management Plan | CRD

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6 shares 1 like



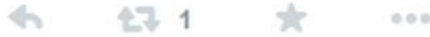
CRD @crd_bc · Jul 7

Share your views with [#CRDParks](#) staff on park issues at **Island View Beach** on July 10 ht.ly/NJOUp



Niall Paltiel @NiallPaltiel · Jul 7

Want your say in how the CRD manages **Island View Beach**? Representatives from the regional district will be at the... fb.me/7qwX86MbE



crd_bc

Jun 17, 7:20pm via Hootsuite

Share your views with [#CRDParks](#) staff on park issues at **Island View Beach** on June 20 ht.ly/NJOyp

2 retweets 1 favorite



crd_bc

Jun 04, 9:49am via Hootsuite

Next Phase of Public Participation Process Underway for **Island View Beach Regional Park** ht.ly/NSAxX



Capital Regional District

Jun 17, 8:31am

Share Your Views with Parks Staff at Island View Beach Regional Park

Saturday, June 20, 12 - 5pm

CRD staff will be at the park in June and July to gather information on park issues. Drop by the CRD tent located near the north parking lot to share your views. <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan>



Island View Beach Management Plan | CRD

www.crd.bc.ca



Capital Regional District

Jun 08, 8:25am

Share Your Views with Parks Staff at Island View Beach Regional Park

Thursday, June 11 at 11am - 4pm

CRD staff will be at the park in June and July to gather information on park issues. Drop by the CRD tent located near the north parking lot to share your views.

<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan>



Island View Beach Management Plan | CRD

www.crd.bc.ca



Share Your Views with Parks Staff at Island View Beach Regional Park

CRD staff will be at Island View Beach Regional Park in June and July to gather information on park issues and interests. This information will be used in the second step of a four-step process to develop a management plan for the park.

Drop by on one of these dates to share your views:

- **Thursday, June 11 11am-4pm**
- **Saturday, June 20 12-5pm**
- **Friday, July 10 11am-4pm**
- **Saturday, July 18 12-5pm**
- **Thursday, July 23 11am-4pm**

A response form is also available online at crd.bc.ca/parks.





CRD staff are gathering information on park issues as part of the management planning process.

Tell us your issues.
The deadline is
Friday, July 31, 2015.

Online Response Form @
crd.bc.ca/parks



Share Your Views with Parks Staff

CRD staff are gathering information on park issues this summer as part of the management planning process.

**Drop by the CRD Tent
near the north parking lot today.**



CRD
Making a difference...together



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Share Your Views with Parks Staff

CRD staff are gathering information on park issues this summer as part of the management planning process.

Drop by the CRD tent to share your views:

Thursday, June 11 - 11am-4pm

Saturday, June 20 - 12-5pm

Friday, July 10 - 11am-4pm

Saturday, July 18 - 12-5pm

Thursday, July 23 - 11am-4pm

A response form is also available online, along with information about the management planning process at crd.bc.ca/islandviewbeach.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Making a difference...together

625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Media Release

For Immediate Release

June 4, 2015

Next Phase of Public Participation Process Underway for Island View Beach Regional Park

Victoria, BC- The Capital Regional District (CRD) is seeking public input on updating the [Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan](#) through meetings and public drop in sessions in June and July. In this second step of a four-step planning process, CRD staff will gather information on park issues and interests, to ensure an understanding by Regional Parks and the Regional Parks Committee.

"CRD staff is following a process that has been approved by the Regional Parks Committee and public participation is an integral component of preparing the management plan," said Mike Walton, Senior Manager, Regional Parks. "Parks staff will meet with park visitors, adjacent landowners, interest groups, federal and provincial governments, District of Central Saanich and Tsawout First Nation."

An online response form will also be available to identify park issues and interests.

Drop In Sessions at Island View Beach Regional Park

- Thursday, June 11- 11am-4pm
- Saturday, June 20 - 12-5pm
- Friday, July 10 - 11am-4pm
- Saturday, July 18 - 12-5pm
- Thursday, July 23 - 11am-4pm

There are four steps for public participation in developing the park management plan. Step 1 is completed and took place in January and February 2015. It provided public opportunities to develop a common understanding of the current knowledge of the park's natural environment and add to the information base through public feedback. Step 2, to gather information on issues and interests, will take place over the summer. Staff will report to the Regional Parks Committee on the results of Step 2 in in September 2015.

In Step 3, the CRD will hold a community round table dialogue session, and in Step 4 staff will prepare and present a draft plan for feedback at public meetings before finalizing it for Board approval.

1

Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan Backgrounder



CRD is updating the 1989 management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park to set a future direction for the park.

Island View Beach Regional Park is known for its significant ecological values and outdoor recreation opportunities. The story of the park reaches far back in time. It is a dynamic landscape that has been shaped by natural processes and human activities. For five decades, Island View Beach Regional Park has been and continues to be a popular place to enjoy the natural environment in a park setting.

Beach, dune and wetland habitats in the park are uncommon in British Columbia, and are recognized by the provincial government as being of conservation concern. These ecosystems provide important habitat for plants and animals. Planning for the protection of these ecosystems is considered a best park management practice.

Island View Beach Regional Park is an important site for both provincially and federally listed species at risk in the region. There are 33 species at risk in or immediately adjacent to the park; 9 species at risk are known to be resident or breeding in the park and the other 24 species at risk are of concern because they are birds that either use the park habitat during various times of the year or reside in the adjacent terrestrial or

marine environments and are potentially influenced by park management actions and park users.

CRD staff are following a comprehensive public participation process that has been approved by the Regional Parks Committee to prepare the Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan. Public participation is an integral comp of the process to prepare a park managemen plan. CRD Regional Parks will work with the throughout the planning process to ensure t issues and interests are acknowledged, understood, documented and considered in preparing the park management plan.

There are four steps for public participation in developing the park management plan. Step 1 provided public opportunities to develop a common understanding of the current knowledge of the park's natural environment and add to the information base through public feedback. A report on the results of Step 1 was presented to the Regional Parks Committee at their meeting on April 15, 2015. The Step 1 report is available on the CRD [Island View Beach Regional Park website](#).

Step 2 is now underway. It will generate a list of issues and associated interests that need to be addressed. In Step 3, the CRD will hold a community round table dialogue session and in Step 4, a draft plan will be presented for feedback at public meetings.