

# ALAN DOLAN & ASSOCIATES

Community Engagement • Facilitation • Communications

## **Step 4 Public Participation Process Island View Beach Regional Park**

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## Executive Summary

CRD Regional Parks is conducting a public participation process for the development of an updated management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

This document reports on Step 4, the final stage of the public participation process. The objectives of Step 4 were to:

1. Present information on the draft management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park
2. Answer questions and provide clarifications on the draft plan
3. Have a dialogue amongst public and stakeholders with a variety of interests
4. Provide a way for those unable to attend meetings to give their advice about the issues through an online response form
5. Create opportunities for everyone to be heard who has an interest in Step 4
6. Document and summarize all input — town halls, online response form, email submissions, other meetings
7. Evaluate the process so subsequent public participation can better meet participants' and CRD's needs

The public participation process consisted of two town hall meetings, individual stakeholder or stakeholder sector meetings, an online response form and email responses. The engagement process was supported and promoted by a variety of communications including a media release, newspaper advertisements, Facebook advertisements, social media posts, targeted emails and an information booth in the park staffed by CRD Regional Parks three times over the summer.

The results of the public participation process are summarized in the appendices of the report. A Summary of Comments presents “what was heard” in an organized and themed way.

This report does not make recommendations on **how** issues should be addressed in the revised draft plan, but it does make recommendations on **which** issues should be addressed in the plan. The following is a list of the issues that should be addressed in the plan:

1. Communications, education and interpretation (ecological, historical, cultural)
2. Volunteering – restoration (removal of invasive species, protection of species at risk, etc.), naturalists, educational events
3. Future community engagement
4. Trails – proposed network of official trails
5. Restoration – coastal sand dune ecosystem, coastal wetlands
6. Invasive species

7. Species at risk
8. Campground – proposed plan in short- and long-term
9. Horses – will equestrian use be incorporated in to the draft plan and how
10. Dogs – on-leash or off-leash, where and when; off-leash fenced area; waste management; study on usage of park by dog owners;
11. Accessibility – foreshore access; trail surfaces for mobility challenged
12. Climate change / sea-level rise
13. Berm, ditches and gates
14. Mosquito control
15. Zoning
16. Washrooms
17. Waste management – garbage; recycling
18. Enforcement
19. Relationship with Tsawout First Nation
20. Relationship with District of Central Saanich
21. Signage

A number of broad themes emerged in this public participation process, which are summarized briefly.

### **Trust**

In many cases, members of the public said they did not believe the information presented by CRD Regional Parks. A number of people observed that it seemed to have little to do with the factual material and a lot to do with a lack of trust of government in general and CRD specifically. With increasing polarization of ideas in the park (see below) a number of participants also said that they did not believe what certain stakeholders were saying. Again, participants commented that the real issue was not that anyone was “fudging the truth” or “overtly lying about the facts,” but that they just did not trust each other.

### **Polarization**

The polarization of views on the draft park management plan was a challenge during the public participation process and interpreting the results and addressing them in the revised plan will also be a challenge. There were two general groups in this polarization:

1. Those who for the most part do not support the draft plan, favour minimal or no changes, support continued off-leash dog rules, favour no new rules or regulations, want the freedom to use the park the way they always have, and strongly support recreational values in the park and weakly support the ecological values in the park, in part because they feel that the ecological values have not been well documented.

2. Those who support the draft plan, support the protection of ecological values more strongly, sometimes suggest ideas for increased protection of the ecological values in the park, for the most part believe that the protection of ecological and recreational values can co-exist, support more regulations in the park as well as enforcement of existing regulations, and favour dogs on leash at least in parts of the park.

It is particularly disturbing to see that the level of polarization appears to have increased since Step 3 of the public participation process. One would hope that as a public participation process progresses, participants would begin to converge in their thinking rather than diverge. The reasons for the increased polarization might be that people in the “middle” (not necessarily at either end of the polarization) did not participate as much in Step 4 of the public participation process as they did in Step 3 (a comparison of response form results in Steps 3 and 4 supports this). People from the “middle” might have been less involved in Step 4 because

- They are tired of attending meetings
- They are irritated about the polarization and the negativity that some participants exhibited (meeting evaluation forms have mentioned this a number of times)
- They felt their ideas from Step 3 (November 2015 community dialogue session), some of which were developed to try to find a way forward that accommodated the divergent views on the park, were not heard and not reflected in the draft management plan

### **Balance**

A lot of participants in the public participation process talked about the balance between protection of recreational and ecological values in the plan, saying that the balance is not right, that the plan favors one value or the other. Still others said that they thought the balance was adequate.

### **Education**

Time and time again, the need for more public education was raised by participants in the process. Park visitors felt they needed to know more about:

- Ecological features in the park, where they are and why they are important
- Extent of recreational activities in the park and why they are so important to some people
- Recent and long-term history of the area
- Park rules, including where they can go and when, and where they cannot go and why
- How they are expected to handle their dogs in the park, how and where they can place dog waste, and what some of the potential impacts of dogs on the park and other visitors are

Many ways to educate people were suggested during the public participation process.

**Accountability**

Participants in the process felt that the revised management plan needs to clearly indicate what public comments were used in its development and why, as well as what comments were not used and why. Participants don't just want the CRD to hear them; they want the CRD to listen to them, and then tell them what they think of the comments received and whether or not they are incorporating those comments into the plan.

## Acknowledgements

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I would like to thank all the dedicated and passionate people who attended the town hall and stakeholder meetings and submitted responses online or by email.

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## 1.0 Purpose of the Report

### 1.1 Background

CRD Regional Parks is conducting a public participation process for the development of an updated management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

This document reports on Step 4, the final stage of the public participation process (See A1.0). In Step 4, CRD Regional Parks submitted a draft management plan for review and feedback and is completing a final management plan for the Regional Parks Committee's review and subsequent recommendation to the CRD Board for approval.

### 1.2 Consultation objectives

The objectives of Step 4 were to:

1. Present information on the draft management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park
2. Answer questions and provide clarifications on the draft plan
3. Have a dialogue amongst public and stakeholders with a variety of interests
4. Provide a way for those unable to attend meetings to give their advice about the issues through an online response form
5. Create opportunities for everyone to be heard who has an interest in Step 4
6. Document and summarize all input — town halls, online response form, email submissions, other meetings
7. Evaluate the process so subsequent public participation can better meet participants' and CRD's needs

## 2.0 Methods

### 2.1 Promotion

The CRD used a variety of approaches to promote the Step 4 public participation process, including newspaper advertising, media releases, email invitations to the Town Hall meetings, signage in the park, information on the CRD website and on social media, and staff presence at the park. More detail is provided below.

#### 2.1.1 Advertising

CRD placed newspaper advertisements (See A6.1) in area papers, according to the following schedule:

Newspaper	Date of Insertions
Times Colonist	February 20, 25; March 1
Black Press CRD papers	February 19, 24

CRD also placed Facebook advertisements over the consultation period (See A6.2).

#### 2.1.2 Media relations

CRD communications issued a media release (See A6.3).

#### 2.1.3 Email invitations

CRD sent out two email invitations (See A6.4) on May 20 and May 27 to a list of about 150 people and organizations who have been involved in previous meetings and expressed an interest in receiving information on the management planning consultation process.

#### 2.1.4 Park signage

CRD designed and deployed signs (See A6.7) at Island View Beach Regional Park throughout all of the consultation process (April 18 – July 10, 2016).

#### 2.1.5 CRD Regional Parks website pages

CRD's Island View Beach Regional Park website pages (See A6.5) contain background information on the park planning process and public consultation initiatives including:

- Draft Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park
- Four-Step Public participation process
- Details of step four of the public participation process
- Step 1 Summary Report
- Step 1 public presentation on the park
- Step 2 Summary Report
- Species at Risk Fact Sheet
- Management Plan 1989
- Step 3 Public Participation Backgrounder
- Step 3 Public Participation Report (Alan Dolan & Associates)

Links to the website were deployed in email invitations, newspaper advertisements, Facebook advertisements, and park signage.

### 2.1.6 Social media

The CRD Facebook page had frequent updates with information on the public consultation process. Twitter was also activated regularly (See A6.6).

### 2.1.7 CRD staff at the park

On three Saturdays during the consultation period, CRD staffed a booth in the day-use area at Island View Beach Regional Park to answer questions about the draft management plan and provide information on the public participation process. Dates were: May 21, 10 am-3pm; June 18, 10 am-3 pm; and July 9, 10 am-3 pm.

## 2.2 Town hall meetings

It was important to bring people with diverse interests together in a facilitated setting so they could hear a presentation on the management plan, asks questions and seek clarifications, and then have an opportunity to discuss the plan in more detail in facilitated small groups.

Two town hall meetings were held as follows:

Date	Time	Location	Venue
Thursday May 26	Open House: 5:30 – 6:30 pm Town Hall: 6:30 – 9:30 pm	Victoria	Leonardo Da Vinci Centre
Saturday May 28	Open House: 12:00 – 1:00 pm Town Hall: 1:00 – 4:00 pm	Saanich	Greek Orthodox Church and Community Centre

The town hall meetings began with a one-hour open house. There were displays and maps of the park and CRD staff were available to answer questions.

The formal town hall meetings were three hours in length. The key agenda items were (For full agenda, see A2.1):

- Introductions
- Presentation on the draft plan by CRD Regional Parks
- Period for questions and clarifications
- Small group discussions
- Plenary
- Next steps

The small group discussions focused on three main questions:

- What do you like about the plan?
- What don't you like about the plan?
- How do you think the plan could be improved?

Facilitators took notes on flip charts and there were also comment cards on the table that participants could fill out. Following the small groups, facilitators presented five key points from their small group discussions to a plenary session.

Documentation at the town hall meetings consisted of note-taking in the plenary sessions and comment cards and the facilitator flip-chart notes for the small groups.

A meeting evaluation form was distributed to all participants (A2.3.1).

### 2.3 Stakeholder meetings

CRD Regional Parks' staff hosted individual stakeholder meetings as follows:

Date (2016)	Stakeholder Group	Venue
April 15	Capital Region Equestrians	Victoria Polo Club clubhouse
June 22	Adjacent Landowners to Island View Beach regional Park	Heritage Acres
June 29	Capital Region Dog Owners Group	Heritage Acres
July 8	Friends of Island View Beach	Heritage Acres
July 14	Environmental /Academic groups	Swan Lake Nature Centre

Stakeholder meetings typically began with a brief presentation by CRD Regional Parks followed by a question and comment period. Documentation was by notes and flip chart recordings.

### 2.4 Local government meeting

On June 13, 2016, CRD Regional Parks made a presentation to the District of Central Saanich regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting. CRD Regional Parks' presentation was one of a number of presentations on the Island View Beach Regional Park draft management plan at that meeting.

### 2.5 First Nation meeting

A meeting was held with the Tsawout First Nation's Land Committee on July 18, 2016 at the Band Administration Office.

### 2.6 Online response form

CRD developed an online response form (See A4.0) to provide an opportunity for those unable to attend the town hall meetings to provide feedback. It was also an opportunity for people uncomfortable making comments at the meetings and for those who thought of other ideas after the meetings, to provide input. CRD staff analyzed the results. The response form was available online between April 28 and July 10, 2016.

### 2.7 Email submissions

A CRD Regional Parks email address was on the website and it allowed people to email comments directly to CRD staff. The comments were incorporated into the results of the public participation process.

## **3.0 Results**

### **3.1 Town hall meetings**

#### **3.1.1 May 26, 2016 town hall**

A total of 31 people signed in and attended the May 26 town hall meeting in Victoria. Following the CRD presentation on the draft management plan, participants broke into four small facilitated discussion groups. The facilitators for each of the groups reported back to the whole group in a plenary session.

Notes from the plenary sessions are presented in A2.2.2, comment card results are in A2.2.5, and the facilitator flip-chart notes for the small groups are in A2.2.1.

#### **3.1.2 May 28, 2016 town hall**

A total of 79 people signed in and attended the May 28 town hall meeting in Saanich. Following the CRD presentation on the draft management plan, participants broke into five small facilitated discussion groups. The facilitators for each of the groups reported back to the whole group in a plenary session.

Notes from the plenary sessions are presented in A2.2.4, comment card results are in A2.2.5, and the facilitator flip-chart notes for the small groups are in A2.2.3.

#### **3.1.3 Meeting evaluations**

Meeting evaluation results were combined for the two town halls.

The results are presented in A2.3.2. The majority of respondents strongly agreed, agreed or were neutral (neither agree or disagree) with statements about the value of the meeting in the first part of the evaluation (questions 1 – 12).

The strongest levels of disagreement with statements in the evaluation were seen in the responses to three questions: “3. My areas of concern were addressed,” “4. I had lots of opportunities to bring my ideas forward,” and “7. The small groups were a useful way to provide input.”

The strongest level of agreement with statements in the evaluation were seen in the responses to two questions: “5. The staff presentation of the draft management plan was useful,” and “12. This is a good venue for holding this workshop.”

A number of people commented on the polarized nature of the meetings and for some participants, it was useful to see this disagreement in the community while others found it offensive, in particular the domination at the town halls of certain groups and their issues.

### **3.2 Stakeholder meetings**

#### **3.2.1 Capital Region Equestrians**

A total of about 25 people attended the April 15 stakeholder meeting of the Capital Region Equestrians. Notes for the meeting are presented in A3.1.

### **3.2.2 Adjacent landowners**

A total of 19 people signed in and attended the June 22 stakeholder meeting of adjacent landowners / neighbours of Island View Beach Regional Park. Notes for the meeting are presented in A3.3.

### **3.2.3 Capital Region Dog Owners Group**

A total of 9 people signed in and attended the June 29 stakeholder meeting of the Capital Region Dog Owners Group. Notes for the meeting are presented in A3.4.

### **3.2.4 Friends of Island View Beach**

A total of 9 people signed in and about 12 attended the July 8 stakeholder meeting of the Friends of Island View Beach. Notes for the meeting are presented in A3.5.

### **3.2.5 Environmental /academic**

A total of 13 people signed in and about 15 attended the July 14 stakeholder meeting of conservation and academic groups. Notes for the meeting are presented in A3.6.

## **3.3 Central Saanich Council**

CRD Regional Parks made a presentation and answered questions at a regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting of the Central Saanich Council on June 13, 2016. A video of that meeting can be found here:

[http://centralsaanich.ca.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=2&clip\\_id=614](http://centralsaanich.ca.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=614).

## **3.4 First Nations meetings**

CRD staff met with members of the Tsawout First Nation Land Committee on July 18, 2016.

## **3.5 Online response form**

A total of 214 online response forms were filled out between April 28 and July 10, 2016. Three responses were excluded because the data were corrupted, so 211 responses were used to prepare the results.

Detailed results can be found in Section 10 and the results of the online response form were used as one of the sources of public input for the Summary of Comments presented in A4.0.

The results of the online response form need to be treated with some caution. They are not based on a representative sample and the data cannot be generalized to apply to the broader population (See A4.0, Data analysis).

Of particular note in the response form results is the polarized nature of many of the responses. For example, when asked whether they supported the vision of the park in the draft plan, 82 respondents said they strongly supported it while 65 respondents said they strongly opposed it (A4.0, Figure 2). This is quite different from the results of the online response form that was conducted in Step 3 of the public participation process where answers were more evenly distributed over the scale.

### **3.6 Email submissions**

A total of 87 submissions were received by email. They are presented in their entirety in A5.0. Key points in the emails were combined with other public input and included in the Summary of Comments in 4.0.

Many of the comments in the email submissions were not easily incorporated into the Summary of Comments because they were not focused on the draft plan, what they liked about it, what they did not like about it, and how it could be improved. Instead comments were directed towards background information, historical information, or personal observations and experiences in the park.

### **3.7 CRD staff at the park**

Staff attended the park on the three Saturdays during the consultation period — May 21, June 18 and July 9 — and spoke with park users, answered questions, and directed them to sources of more information.

## 4.0 Summary of Comments

This section represents a summary of all the comments received through the town hall meetings (small groups, plenary sessions, comment cards), online response form, and email submissions. It is by its nature a very qualitative process.

Comments were themed by issue and sometimes by sub-issue, and then categorized according to how participants felt the draft plan addressed the issue: “Like,” “Don’t Like,” or “Recommended Change.” Many comments were repeated although they were often worded in different ways. Only one wording is presented in this summary. An asterisk (\*) indicates when a comment was made three times or more.

General participant comments, which do not fit into the table because they are not specifically directed at the draft plan, are placed at the beginning of each issue section (4.1 – 4.12). Some of these comments may contain inaccurate, unsubstantiated, or contested information.

### 4.1 Consultation process

Participant comments:

- The land was first purchased as a park, and then became a conservation area without public input

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thanks for coming out and hearing what we have to say*</li> <li>• The process allows for face-to-face interaction with a variety of users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan does not reflect our input in Step 2 and Step 3</li> <li>• Questions in response form were biased, loaded and leading</li> <li>• Writing a plan that only meets the needs of bird watchers and conservationists*</li> <li>• Writing a plan that only meets the needs of the Friends of Island View Beach*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need more time than one week to review revised draft plan when it is published in the fall*</li> <li>• Need to weight the comments; make the public participation results more quantitative</li> <li>• Would like the opportunity for continued involvement in the plan's development and action plans*</li> <li>• Would like to see continued face-to-face interaction with a variety of users through on-site</li> </ul>



Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobbying efforts by groups with particular points of view on the plan including setting up online petitions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>events or tours led by different people</li> <li>Create steering or advisory group for park*</li> </ul>

## 4.2 General

Participant comments:

- People go to the park for three reasons — walking, dog walking, and environment — in that order
- We are taxpayers; we resent restrictions\*
- Park has evolved to its current state based on how it has been used by the community (dog walking, picnicking, etc.), so it should continue that way\*
- Leave it alone\*
- We don't know who isn't using the park and why; we should find out
- There are a lot of uninformed people out there who are drowning out the informed ones
- In the past, the park was reclassified to a more conservation-oriented designation without public input\*

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft plan vision</li> <li>Majority of draft plan goals supported</li> <li>The plan — need to control what is negatively impacting the park*</li> <li>Increased management included in the plan*</li> <li>Plan balances recreation and environmental protection*</li> <li>Plan uses adaptive management, allowing enough room to adapt to future conditions — different recreation needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft plan vision</li> <li>Should be no restrictions on anyone in any park anywhere - we pay taxes</li> <li>Concern that CRD interested in negotiating with province to takeover jurisdiction of foreshore and prohibit people*</li> <li>Don't want to lose access to parts of the park for no reason*</li> <li>Environment driven not recreation driven – no balance*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include in the communication and education plan more ecosystems/landscape level ecology information about the park so that people understand the history and ongoing influences and how humans alter it</li> <li>Need an independent study / environmental assessment of the park to make the case for protection of ecological values in the park and inventory what is there*</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
	<p>or climate change and sea level rise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The size and location of the outdoor recreation area</li> <li>• CRD is taking an interest in the park; have not in the past</li> <li>• The designation as a conservation area*</li> <li>• Plan based on environmental conservation principles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific policy direction stacked in favour of berms, ditches, and mosquito control and not environmental protection</li> <li>• Foreshore not included</li> <li>• Proposing more and more studies and deferring providing management direction in the plan</li> <li>• Draft plan is incomplete and proposes to leave major portions to be decided after public consultation has ended*</li> <li>• 1989 plan is fine*</li> <li>• Plan does not value recreational aspects of the park as evidenced by its designation, and wording</li> <li>• Lots of jargon and bureaucratise in the draft plan; hard to read and understand*</li> <li>• Notion of protecting the area; it's ours to enjoy*</li> <li>• More enforcement and regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan should include the costs of implementing each of the recommendations</li> <li>• Leave everything as it is*</li> <li>• Plan needs to address enforcement; without that people will continue to break the rules*</li> <li>• Plan needs to provide for more education and interpretation so people understand why the rules are there*</li> <li>• Involve more volunteers to talk to and engage with park users*</li> <li>• CRD should stand up and say what is important and protect it and stop doing more studies</li> <li>• Acquire more land for park — Puckle farm piece, Central Saanich lands, Michell Farm and private piece on the other side of IVB Road</li> <li>• Make sure that everything that needs to be in the plan is there and not left up to the future</li> </ul>

### 4.3 Camping

There was very little input on camping in the Step 4 public participation process.

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
Season		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not open long enough</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open year round</li> <li>Extend season to April 1 – October 31</li> </ul>
Present services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of services</li> <li>Reservation system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not large enough</li> <li>Reduction in camping area</li> <li>Reservation system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove invasive species sites and make them camping areas</li> </ul>
Camping area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't scale back</li> <li>Leave RVs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remove RVs</li> <li>Reduce size</li> <li>Lousy campsite "no trees"</li> <li>Plan unclear as to what is actually going to happen — what is being moved, how things will change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve aesthetics of RV area*</li> <li>Remove RVs and campers</li> <li>Leave RVs and campers as is</li> </ul>
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Camping will be scaled back to restore coastal sand ecosystem</li> <li>Need to remove campground in the long-run</li> </ul>		

### 4.4 Dogs

Participant comments:

- Need baseline data on how many people use the park for dog walking
- Dog walkers are nature lovers too\*
- Majority of users of park are dog walkers\*
- Brant Geese and other shorebirds are disturbed by dogs on the beach (foreshore)in the spring\*
- Dogs are part of the family, a big part of our health and wellness, especially for those of us who have health or mobility challenges
- People with "problem dogs" are a minority

- Don't come to the park anymore because of bad experiences with dogs\*
- Dogs are social and emotional creatures that need off-leash time; if on leash too much they get "leash" or "barrier frustration"
- Negative experiences with dogs — knocking children and seniors down, disturbing picnickers, chasing birds, destroying vegetation, etc.\*
- Dog owners police other dog owners
- Never seen dogs harassing birds or wildlife
- Dog damage is no different from damage by wild animals\*
- Public needs some parks where there are no dogs\*
- This plan is a solution looking for a problem
- Why does dog management always mean restriction?
- There is a lot of research that proves that bird species decline precipitously when dogs are present
- Dogs need to be leashed to prevent damage in parts of the park\*
- Location suggested for fenced, off-leash area is under water in the winter
- Reducing dog access will cause an increase in deer and raccoons and a bigger problem
- Dogs under control is meaningless without enforcement

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
Environmental protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restricting dogs because they can cause damage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No information provided that dogs cause damage to habitat, plants or wildlife at IVB</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced access for humans or dogs needs to be justified by proof, references*</li> <li>• Importance of signage: what is this species/habitat? Why is it important? How can I help?</li> </ul>
Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication strategy and signage</li> <li>• Implementing bylaw compliance</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement and education should go hand and hand</li> <li>• More enforcement of regulations for dogs</li> <li>• No dogs in field around kiosk (picnicking, day-use area)</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More signage* (on or off-leash, significant plants and animals, research areas, critical habitat, etc.)</li> <li>• Emphasize respectful use</li> <li>• CRD certification of quality of dog training (socialization and obedience)</li> </ul>
Off-leash/on-leash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared use with dog-free area</li> <li>• Intent to control dogs with on-leash and off-leash areas*</li> <li>• Reasonable balance*</li> <li>• Like on-leash for safety, planned off-leash area, and some areas could be dog-free</li> <li>• Support off-leash enclosed area*</li> <li>• Area for dogs is not tiny because dogs can be off-leash on the beach below the high-tide line (foreshore area); Foreshore not controlled by CRD Regional Parks and activities will continue as always</li> <li>• Like keeping dogs on-leash; they do a lot of damage to plants and animals*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of off-leash trails*</li> <li>• Fenced off-leash area*</li> <li>• "War on dogs"</li> <li>• Fenced off-leash area too small, too restrictive* (aggression, bad for socialization, environmental degradation)</li> <li>• Already have an off-leash park nearby — Cy Hampson in North Saanich</li> <li>• Allowing dogs on beach during most sensitive time</li> <li>• No good definition around what "off-leash" or "under control" means*</li> <li>• Seems like bylaws for dogs can't be enforced</li> <li>• On-leash not good for dog socialization – more aggression</li> <li>• New "rules" could cause more dogs walkers to put pressure on other parks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased clarity on what is meant by dogs "under control" *</li> <li>• Find a way to restrict dog access in foreshore area</li> <li>• More off season off-leash use</li> <li>• Increase off-leash walking areas</li> <li>• Fence off protected areas; allow free access outside those fenced areas*</li> <li>• Remove off-leash, fenced area from plan*</li> <li>• Revise within regional/conservation context; Island View Beach should be the same as other regional parks that are designated Conservation Area — i.e., predominantly off-leash</li> <li>• Allow off-leash dogs in some areas during certain times of the day</li> <li>• "Off-leash everywhere" * (status quo)</li> <li>• Further discussion needed around on- and off-leash areas</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
			<p>– lots of strong opinions for and against for both environmental protection reasons and to allow people to enjoy the beach both with and without dogs in the vicinity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to justify why dogs should be on-leash in north end</li> <li>• If on-leash, will need to widen trails</li> <li>• Whole park off-leash except campground and day-use area at certain times of year*</li> <li>• Explore seasonal on-leash in response to migratory or nesting birds*</li> <li>• Make north of Lamont Road off-leash two hours before sunset when there are few children and birds</li> <li>• Create an off-leash area at the same time as you invoke on-leash trail regulations</li> </ul>
Commercial dog-walkers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional dog walker licence</li> <li>• Restriction on number of dogs</li> <li>• Is commercial activity appropriate at park?</li> <li>• Prohibit in park</li> </ul>
Waste			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide poop bags, dog waste bins and collection*</li> <li>• Explore sponsorship of bags with vets, feed stores, etc.</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
Big picture		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan too vague and unclear</li> <li>• Plan needs to sort out dog management issues before it is written</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Look to other jurisdictions for ideas</li> <li>• Reflect on past/present use</li> </ul>
Education and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate people on responsible park and dog use*</li> </ul>
Dog management Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not defined</li> <li>• What is it?</li> <li>• Don't support*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't talk about a strategy, put the dog management right in the plan</li> <li>• Depending on what ends up in the plan and how detailed and clear it is, there may not be a need for a dog management strategy; if there is, then what it will do needs to be very clear</li> </ul>
Seasonal on-leash in picnic and camping areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support*</li> </ul>		Keep as is
Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diminished opportunities to exercise dogs</li> <li>• "Works fine now" all users should be considered, don't have clarity with proposed rules</li> <li>• Concentration of dogs in recreational area</li> <li>• Dog area is rough to walk on</li> <li>• Dogs having access to the Natural Environment Zone</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get more data regarding dog use in park: a) from CRD dog licence records, b) survey park users</li> <li>• Determine the environmental justification to require dogs to be on-leash in the north end of the park (Is there really a problem, and what is it?)</li> <li>• Access to western extent of park for dog owners (with fencing for environmentally sensitive species where needed)</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restricted areas based on species at risk</li> <li>• Saratoga Beach as example of good use of signage, on-leash policy, and need for clear communications: ("Pets must be on a leash at ALL times and be cleaned up after on the property, beach and neighborhood.")</li> </ul>

#### 4.5 Environmental stewardship

Participant comments:

- CRD has a poor track record around berms, ditches and other issues
- Ditches have malfunctioned and CRD has been slow to repair
- Salt water marshes/ coastal zone wetlands did not exist before
- Why are there fences around the carpet burweed
- Two kinds of educational signs — what is there and what you are supposed to do
- Fences, berms, ditches and the mosquito control program all make environmental protection very difficult
- As long as the berm exists, sand dune ecosystems will not improve
- No evidence has been shown by the CRD that any of the public activities in the park over the last 50 years, including hiking, dogs and horse riding, have caused damage to the park
- Mosquito control is a public health issue
- Migratory birds need a place to rest and feed and not be harassed
- Original state of landscape was agricultural not salt marsh

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
Zoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental protection area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blanket area north of Lamont</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be more specific with protected sites*, have areas fenced and signed</li> </ul>



Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep the northern portion of the trail less formalized – no boardwalk to any of that section</li> </ul>
Berm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain existing berm and examine implications of extending it</li> <li>Commitment to monitor impacts of the berms/dyke system*</li> <li>That berm won't be extended</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wording in Regional Parks Committee motions on berm is unclear and vague</li> <li>Berm conflicts with environmental protection</li> <li>The claim by CRD that a "large berm" was built in 1936 was in error. No berm was built along the CRD lands until the 1950's – some 20 years after the ditches were built in 1936</li> <li>The term "current state" is not defined</li> <li>Berm makes it impossible to restore coastal dune and marsh ecosystems*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CRD should be a coordinating force for improving and extending the berm (flood control, recreation, rising sea levels) *</li> <li>Remove north of Lamont Road, beginning with northernmost part*</li> <li>Eventually remove all of the berm</li> <li>We call for <i>unconditional</i> commitments by the CRD to maintain the mosquito drainage ditches, to maintain the mosquito control program and to maintain the sea berm</li> </ul>
Drainage ditches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and monitor effectiveness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ditches (7 km) conflict with environmental protection</li> <li>Keeping ditches and gates makes environmental restoration impossible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open up the gates and see how the coastal wetlands actually function</li> <li>Fill in ditch on Lamont Road</li> </ul>
Signage			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need more signage so people know about important ecological values*</li> </ul>
Species at risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes protect them, you are mandated to do that</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No evidence-based information to support species at risk and need to protect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More focus on protection for all species, on ecosystems and vegetation communities, not just species at risk*</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too much emphasis on species at risk; should be greater emphasis on species and ecosystems</li> <li>• More emphasis on dogs than species at risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan needs to be reviewed by legal experts so it complies with the protection of critical habitat required by federal species at risk legislation</li> <li>• The management directions in the recovery strategy for species at risk should be in the plan</li> <li>• Critical to include where species at risk live now and also where they could live</li> </ul>
Invasive species		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not enough attention in the report – this is the biggest threat*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address American bullfrogs</li> <li>• Address carpet burweed (why fence burweed?)</li> <li>• More attention to education and removal of invasive species; we are losing the park to invasive species*</li> <li>• Involve community (e.g., identifying invasive species)</li> <li>• Involve community volunteers for removal</li> </ul>
Mosquitoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue abatement program*</li> <li>• Monitor its effectiveness*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is going to happen is uncertain</li> <li>• Getting rid of mosquitoes; they are food for birds, bats and insects*</li> <li>• Continued use of pesticides for mosquito larvae*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to mosquito abatement</li> <li>• Don't commit to mosquito abatement, study it and end it</li> <li>• Describe mosquito control monitoring program better</li> <li>• Stop mosquito control program north of Lamont Road</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support*</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include in the communication and education plan more ecosystems/landscape level</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
			<p>ecology information about the park so that people understand the history of the park and how humans have altered it</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate public on appreciation of this incredible place</li> <li>• Education — signage, interpretation, harnessing volunteers — is the key to environmental protection</li> <li>• Educate public on damage done to wildlife by dogs</li> </ul>
General Environmental Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan is focused on conservation</li> <li>• Plan resulted from an integration of the ideas of various stakeholders and users, and attempts to balance recreation and environmental protection</li> <li>• Recreation and ecology can coexist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change of park classification/designation to "Conservation Park"</li> <li>• CRD's environmental presentation contained inconsistencies that were not supported by the evidence</li> <li>• Not the right balance between recreational activities and ecological protection*</li> <li>• Plan does not make a clear case for conservation*</li> <li>• CRD did not produce factual, scientific evidence to support its claims *</li> <li>• Too much emphasis on species at risk; key issues are the wetlands and the dunes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cage or fence sensitive areas or species that need protection*</li> <li>• We support the fencing of areas proven by independent experts to be environmentally at risk or sensitive, <i>and</i> that require protection.</li> <li>• Explore seasonal rules for when migratory birds are passing through or when plants are sensitive *</li> <li>• Need specific policy direction on conservation and restoration</li> <li>• Build Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy into the plan</li> <li>• Better protection for migratory birds in spring and fall</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great priority; long overdue</li> <li>• Support importance of coastal zone ecosystem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive restoration</li> <li>• Site too damaged to return to original state, whatever that is</li> <li>• Lack of understanding around what the original natural state of the park was</li> <li>• Coastal dune ecosystem cannot be managed properly without removal of berm*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More focus on restoration ecology for this wetland and coastal ecosystem – more of a focus on restoration of systems and not so species centric</li> <li>• Restore landscape to what it looked like before it was farmland</li> <li>• Need to better explain what is involved in restoration at the park</li> <li>• Examine possible actions to protect and restore coastal zone ecosystem</li> </ul>
Knowledge and understanding of IVB environment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Terrestrial Ecosystem mapping (TEM) information not rigorous enough to use for determining ecological values and for management purposes; needs to be at a finer scale and needs ground truthing.</li> <li>• TEM used a 2005 photo, when flapper gate in the Tsawout drainage system was wide open and allowed salt water to flood the interior lands of the park; man-made salt water flooding mistaken for a natural salt marsh.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconsider TEM results</li> </ul>
Foreshore (below high tide line)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of control over this area</li> <li>• Possibility that CRD will take over foreshore</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRD needs to negotiate a licence of occupation to take control over this area</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep CRD's jurisdiction as it is*</li> <li>Apply Migratory Bird Conservation Act to beach, March 10 – September 1</li> </ul>
Studies and monitoring			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Need clear descriptions of these studies and when they will start</li> </ul>

#### 4.6 Park infrastructure

Participant comments:

- Unofficial trails need to be part of the park and maintained
- No indication that trails have done any damage to the environment in the park

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a trail through the coastal wetland ecosystem</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetland trail in Natural Environment Zone</li> <li>Any restrictions to beach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure open/cleared access to the boat launch, trails and beach</li> <li>Maintain and clearly define trails*</li> <li>Consider unofficial trails for conversion to official trails. (For example: trails from Lamont Road) *</li> <li>Construction of a walking trail from the junction of Lamont Road and Highcrest Terrace, to run diagonally south down to the flat lands of the park.</li> <li>Gravel a portion of the berm trail north of Lamont Road*</li> <li>Shared use trails and recognition of those paths</li> <li>Use the degraded perimeter around drainage ditches in the</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
			<p>Environmental Protection Zone on west side (by horses, dogs, people)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all trails work for people with mobility issues</li> </ul>
Washrooms			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install washroom at north end</li> </ul>
Fencing			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove fenced area for burweed</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally support minimal infrastructure approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boardwalk – Damage in Construction</li> <li>• The plan does not include an interpretation centre, or a viewing platform</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CRD owns two 1/2 acre parcels, one on each side of the end of Island View Road. We propose that the south parcel be dedicated for the parking of boat trailers, and the north parcel be made available for the parking of horse trailers and buses</li> <li>• Provide better boat launch</li> </ul>

#### 4.7 Park management

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More enforcement</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enlist support of volunteers, groups*</li> </ul>
Tsawout First Nation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working together*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal for co-management of the park. This park was purchased with taxpayer funds and held in the name of the CRD for the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRD to assist the Tsawout to repair or replace the flapper gate on its land so that in time the environment may recover</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
		<p>benefit of all people of the region, and the CRD must be solely accountable for its management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The claim of the CRD that there is strong support for more involvement of the Tsawout First Nation in the park. This is not a slight on the Tsawout people, but our belief that the majority of the public come to the park for recreation.</li> </ul>	
Central Saanich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working together*</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Central Saanich to repair and maintain the public boat launch</li> </ul>
Province / Tsawout		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRD's proposal to work with the Province and the Tsawout to regulate dogs. These are separate legal entities with very different responsibilities and objectives.</li> </ul>	
Province			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include foreshore in park and manage dogs on beach</li> <li>• Prohibit hunting of any kind in the park, using the same wording as is in the existing park plan that says: <i>"Hunting shall be prohibited in the park, including the use of predatory bird."</i></li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
Other	Expand park		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buy six-acre parcel at south end to expand park</li> </ul>

#### 4.8 Park operations

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
Garbage and recycling			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Larger and more garbage cans</li> <li>Introduce recycling</li> <li>Empty garbage cans more frequently</li> </ul>
Multiple use			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow and manage groups and special events in the park</li> </ul>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally support park operations*</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bylaw officers and maintenance staff need to visit the park more often</li> </ul>

#### 4.9 Visitor experience

Participant comments:

- This park is a place to unwind, to recharge, and smell the ocean air
- Area is known as "Land of Frogs" ("Wexex") by Tsawout

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
Accessibility		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On-leash dogs not good for disabled people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure access to IVB for elderly and disabled people; contributes to their health and well-being</li> </ul>
Interpretation			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include in the communication and education plan more ecosystems/landscape level ecology information about the park so that people</li> </ul>



Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
			understand the history and ongoing influences and how humans alter it <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop more educational materials</li> </ul>
First Nations			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome figure or other First Nations presence (visual)</li> <li>• Educational experiences with Tsawout, including time with elders</li> </ul>
Signage			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More interpretive signage</li> </ul>
Park Host	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support idea*</li> </ul>		
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan recognizes diversity and numbers of users</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan may discourage visitors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the integration of people and ideas via events, education, involvement in ongoing planning for the park, shared hosting</li> <li>• Draft plan must show that different activities can co-exist, and that with compromise, there can be only winners, not winners and losers</li> <li>• Need more volunteer opportunities*</li> <li>• Beach clean-up</li> <li>• Allow beach fires</li> <li>• Stop illegal camping in back</li> <li>• Provide showers for humans and dogs</li> <li>• Provide bike stands</li> <li>• Provide drinking water</li> </ul>

## 4.10 Horses

Participant comments:

- "Horse poo is good!"
- Horses were previously present in the park
- Large economic benefits of horses to agricultural community
- No current evidence of impact
- Potential for conflict with off-leash dogs is minimal
- Bikes and horses are not compatible
- Prior to 1989 plan, there was a promise that "If we no longer used [equestrian] course, would like to remove facilities," but in exchange a circle route was promised, which never happened

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
None		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horses are not mentioned in the plan even though equestrians are significant stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horses must have a place in the plan and in the park*</li> <li>• Would like to see increased equestrian use.</li> <li>• Allow for horse trailer parking</li> <li>• Continued beach access with more formal access points*</li> <li>• Provide designated and shared trails</li> <li>• Develop a connector trail in conjunction with Central Saanich through municipal park; bypass main use area</li> <li>• Develop a northern loop trail for equestrian use</li> <li>• Continued access to back fields currently in Environmental Protection Zone, mostly pre-existing trail north of Lamont Road</li> <li>• Should allow on multi-use trails</li> </ul>

## 4.11 Zoning

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledges the range of uses with a gradient of impacts and ecosystem resilience</li> <li>• Plan recognizes environmentally sensitive features</li> <li>• Caters to multi-use, and different uses/users</li> <li>• Uses zone boundaries that are movable if new information arises</li> <li>• Much of environmental protection zone is not used by people now</li> <li>• Keeping western half of park off limits to dogs and people</li> <li>• The overall zoning scheme*</li> <li>• Percentage for Environmental Protection and Natural Environment Zones*</li> <li>• Adaptive management nature of plan deals with changing variables such as climate change/sea level rise, changing use, effectiveness of mosquito</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Mapping" has deficiencies</li> <li>• Polygons don't appear accurate</li> <li>• Changes access</li> <li>• Changing recreational activities – why is CRD corralling people into a smaller area? Why do we need zones? Just identify the areas, fence them off, and let us have the rest of it</li> <li>• Trail through environmental protection zone</li> <li>• Don't like Natural Environment and Environmental Protection Zones because they restrict recreation*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ID species at risk, and where they are</li> <li>• Leave as is until new information is available</li> <li>• Maintain neighbours' direct access</li> <li>• Consult directly with owners who are neighbours</li> <li>• Regional perspective on this (neighbours, owners) and other issues</li> <li>• Set aside an area for wildlife only</li> <li>• Change zoning so it does not restrict recreation</li> <li>• Keep zoning as it is</li> </ul>

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
	control and berm/dyke system		

#### 4.12 Climate change /sea-level rise

Participant comments

- Do we have a report saying that IVB will be underwater in 30 years?
- How would that affect our reclamation efforts?
- Rising sea level will also affect ecological values including species at risk
- Sea level rise biggest issue around climate change in public's mind

Sub-Issue	Like	Don't Like	Recommended Change
None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRD is thinking about climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan does not address sea level rise</li> <li>• CRD suppressed studies on climate change and sea level rise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need an outside, independent study on this and it should be the top priority</li> <li>• Consider longer, higher berm with or without Tsawout included</li> <li>• Don't make any changes to the operation of Island View Beach and develop a draft plan without first studying impacts of rising sea level</li> </ul>

## 5.0 Discussion

A great deal of information was amassed during this public participation process. It is difficult to tease apart the comments and gain some understanding of what the broader community wants to see happen at this park. The diversity of comments and in particular the polarization of comments makes it difficult to try to sort out what would be reasonably acceptable to the community. This section provides some general direction to CRD Regional Parks as well as summarizes the overarching themes that arose in the public participation process.

### 5.1 Direction to CRD Regional Parks

The Summary of Comments (4.0) presents “what was heard” in an organized and themed way.

This report does not make recommendations on **how** issues should be addressed in the revised draft plan, but it does make recommendations on **which** issues should be addressed in the plan. The following is a list of the issues that should be addressed in the plan:

1. Communications, education and interpretation (ecological, historical, cultural)
2. Volunteering – restoration (removal of invasive species, protection of species at risk, etc.), naturalists, educational events
3. Future community engagement
4. Trails – proposed network of official trails
5. Restoration – coastal sand dune ecosystem, coastal wetlands
6. Invasive species
7. Species at risk
8. Campground – proposed plan in short- and long-term
9. Horses – will equestrian use be incorporated in to the draft plan and how
10. Dogs – on-leash or off-leash, where and when; off-leash fenced area; waste management; study on usage of park by dog owners;
11. Accessibility – foreshore access; trail surfaces for mobility challenged
12. Climate change / sea-level rise
13. Berm, ditches and gates
14. Mosquito control
15. Zoning
16. Washrooms
17. Waste management – garbage; recycling
18. Enforcement

19. Relationship with Tsawout First Nation
20. Relationship with District of Central Saanich
21. Signage

## 5.2 Themes

A number of broad themes emerged in this public participation process; they are summarized briefly here.

### 5.2.1 Trust

In many cases, members of the public said they did not believe the information presented by CRD Regional Parks. A number of people observed that it seemed to have little to do with the factual material and a lot to do with a lack of trust of government in general and CRD specifically. With increasing polarization of ideas in the park (see below) a number of participants also said that they did not believe what certain stakeholders were saying. Again, participants commented that the real issue was not that anyone was “fudging the truth” or “overtly lying about the facts,” but that they just did not trust each other.

### 5.2.2 Polarization

The polarization of views on the draft park management plan was a challenge during the public participation process and interpreting the results and addressing them in the revised plan will also be a challenge. There were two general groups in this polarization:

1. Those who for the most part do not support the draft plan, favour minimal or no changes, support continued off-leash dog rules, favour no new rules or regulations, want the freedom to use the park the way they always have, and strongly support recreational values in the park and weakly support the ecological values in the park, in part because they feel that the ecological values have not been well documented.
2. Those who support the draft plan, support the protection of ecological values more strongly, sometimes suggest ideas for increased protection of the ecological values in the park, for the most part believe that the protection of ecological and recreational values can co-exist, support more regulations in the park as well as enforcement of existing regulations, and favour dogs on leash at least in parts of the park.

It is particularly disturbing to see that the level of polarization appears to have increased since Step 3 of the public participation process. One would hope that as a public participation process progresses, participants would begin to converge in their thinking rather than diverge. The reasons for the increased polarization might be that people in the “middle” (not necessarily at either end of the polarization) did not participate as much in Step 4 of the public participation process as they did in Step 3 (a comparison of response form results in Steps 3 and 4 supports this). People from the “middle” might have been less involved in Step 4 because

- They are tired of attending meetings

- They are irritated about the polarization and the negativity that some participants exhibited (meeting evaluation forms have mentioned this a number of times)
- They felt their ideas from Step 3 (November 2015 community dialogue session), some of which were developed to try to find a way forward that accommodated the divergent views on the park, were not heard and not reflected in the draft management plan

### **5.2.3 Balance**

A lot of participants in the public participation process talked about the balance between protection of recreational and ecological values in the plan, saying that the balance is not right, that the plan favors one value or the other. Still others said that they thought the balance was adequate.

### **5.2.4 Education**

Time and time again, the need for more public education was raised by participants in the process. Park visitors felt they needed to know more about:

- Ecological features in the park, where they are and why they are important
- Extent of recreational activities in the park and why they are so important to some people
- Recent and long-term history of the area
- Park rules, including where they can go and when, and where they cannot go and why
- How they are expected to handle their dogs in the park, how and where they can place dog waste, and what some of the potential impacts of dogs on the park and other visitors are

Many ways to educate people were suggested during the public participation process.

### **5.2.5 Accountability**

Participants in the process felt that the revised management plan needs to clearly indicate what public comments were used in its development and why, as well as what comments were not used and why. Participants don't just want the CRD to hear them; they want the CRD to listen to them, and then tell them what they think of the comments received and whether or not they are incorporating those comments into the plan.

# APPENDICES

## A1.0 Four-Step Public Participation Process

Attachment 1  
Regional Parks Committee Meeting May 21, 2014, January 21, 2015, and April 15, 2015

**WORK PLAN (Amended April 15, 2015)  
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.

Action	Objective	Form of Public Consultation	Amended Timeline
<b>STEP 1 – Provide Information and Seek Feedback</b>			
Provide factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment found in the park. • Regional geographic setting • Natural features of the Park: - Ecosystems - Terrain, hydrology - Species at risk (flora & fauna)	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.  To add to the information base on the natural environment through feedback.	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.  Report to Regional Parks Committee on the feedback from the above involvement.	Completed March 2015
<b>STEP 2 – Identify Issues and Interests</b>			
Gather information about issues and interests.	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	Regional Parks staff will meet with and interview adjacent landowners, interest groups, federal and provincial government staff, District of Central Saanich staff, and the Tsawout First Nation. Staff will be in the park at various times from May through July to provide an opportunity for park	Summer 2015



Action	Objective	Form of Public Consultation	Amended Timeline
	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.	visitors to identify issues and interests and to complete a response form. An online and paper copy response form will be available during Step 2.  Report to Regional Parks Committee on the results of Step 2. Post the results of Step 2 on the CRD website and provide a copy to all participants.	
<b>STEP 3 – Community Dialogue</b>			
Hold round table dialogue sessions.	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.	Hold round table dialogue sessions and invite the federal and provincial government, District of Central Saanich, Tsawout First Nation, interest groups, 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.	Fall 2015
<b>STEP 4 – Present Draft Plan, Seek Feedback and Prepare Final Plan</b>			
Regional Parks staff prepare draft management plan.	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.	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 in 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.	Winter 2016

## A2.0 Town Hall Meetings (May26, 28)

### A2.1 Agenda (sample)

**Open House & Town Hall Meeting**  
**Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan**  
**Step 4 Public Engagement**  
**WELCOME**



# Agenda

Open House	
5:30 pm	Displays, handouts and opportunity to talk to CRD staff
Town Hall	
6:30	Welcome: Mike Walton, Senior Manager, CRD Regional Parks
6:35	Introductions - Alan Dolan, Facilitator
6:45	Housekeeping
6:50	Objectives, agenda review
6:55	Presentation: Highlights of the Draft Management Plan, Lynn Wilson, Park Planner, CRD Regional Parks
7:20	Questions and clarification
7:45	Small group discussion
8:45	Plenary session
9:20	Summary of the meeting, next steps
9:30	Adjourn



## A2.2 Town hall notes

### A2.2.1 May 26 Town hall - small group notes

#### Facilitator's summary – Table 1

- Overarching intersection of fed/global issues and local use
- Dogs
  - More usage data needed
  - Fair and balanced use of data
  - Don't like reduction of off-leash
- Environmental Stewardship
- That the plan is focused on conservation
- Blanket area north of Lamont: be more specific

#### Facilitator's summary – Table 2

- Continue the integration of people and ideas – continue via events, education, involvement in ongoing planning for the park, shared hosting (wardens)
- Adaptive management nature of plan adequately allows for and commits to future consideration of changing variables such as climate change/sea level rise, changing use, effectiveness of mosquito control and berm/dyke system. Zoning also provides for some of this changing use and environmental concerns across the site.
- Would like to see increased clarity on what is meant by restoration, conservation, and dogs 'under control'
- Would like to see some equestrian use included through parking, trail use – perhaps also in conjunction with central Saanich so can pass through the municipal park and bypass the main use area at IVB

#### Facilitator's summary – Table 3

- Shared use needs careful consideration including clear data on percentages of park users
- Understand impacts and consider impacts on current park users
- Clear information and data on species at risk (ensure it is available)
- Remove vague language and commit to actions
- Need a clearer environmental stewardship plan

#### Facilitator's summary – Table 4

- Management of foreshore
- Revise off-leash within regional/conservation (shorebirds) context
- Communications plan
- Better to get it right than get it quick
- More education required

#### Flip chart notes from Tables 1 – 4 for May 26 (following pages)

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 1 1

**① LIKE** ARJIAN

CAMPING

- IMPROVEMENT OF SERVICES ✓
- LIKE RES. SYSTEM IDEA ①

DOGS

- COMM. STRATEGY + SIGNAGE
- FINISHING THE PATH @ N. END - BETTER DEFINITION ✓
- IMPROVING BY-LAW COMPLIANCE + EDUC. DOG CHANGES
- RESTRICTING DOGS (2)

ENVIRONMENTAL STEW.

- THAT THE PLAN IS FOCUSED ON CONS.

INFRASTRUCTURE

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 1 2

**② DON'T LIKE** ARJIAN

CAMPING

- NOT LARGE ENOUGH
- NOT OPEN LONG ENOUGH
- LONELY CAMPSITE - NO TREES
- REDUCTION IN CAMPING AREA
- DON'T LIKE ON LIVE RES. SYSTEM (H)

DOGS

- REDUCTION OF OFF-LEASH TRAILS
- DON'T LIKE IDEA OF OFF-LEASH AREA

ENV. STEWARDSHIP

- BLANKET AREA N. OF LAMONT RD.

INFRASTRUCTURE

- BOARDED WALK - DAMAGE IN CONSTRUCTION
- (IN TRIP. CENTRE + VIEWING STAND)

NOT IN PLAN

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 1 3

**③ CHANGES** ARJIAN

CAMPING

- OPEN YEAR-ROUND
- MAKE INVASIVE SPECIES SITE + MAKE IT A CAMPING AREA
- IMPROVE AESTHETICS OF RV AREA

DOGS

- GET MORE DATA RE DET. USE IN PARK → FROM CAR DOG LICENCES ISSUE
- FAIR + BALANCED USE OF DATA GATHERED FROM PUBLIC RESPONSES.
- (2-TIER DOG LICENSING)
- SHARED USE TRAILS
- USING DEGRADED PERIMETER AS A BARRIER
- DRAINAGE DITCHES IN ENV. PROTECT. ZONE (ON WEST SIDE) →

RECOGNITION OF THESE PATHS

HORSES

- DOGS
- PEOPLE

- DOG POOP BAGS NEEDED

- EDUC. OF DOG OWNER + COLLECTOR

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 1 4

DRIVERS - IMPROVED. NO DOGS. FIELD AROUND KIOSK

ENV. STEW.

- BE MORE SPECIFIC W. PROT. SITE.
- MORE SIGNAGE

INFRA.

- WASHROOM @ NORTH END.
- BUY 6-ACRE PARCEL @ SOUTH END OF PARK + EXPAND PARK.
- BIGGER GAR. CANS PL'S + RECYCLING

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 1 5

CAMPING ARJIAN

DOGS

- MORE DATA NEEDED.
- FAIR + BALANCED USE OF DATA GATHERED RE DOGS
- DON'T LIKE REDUCTION OF OFF-LEASH
- FINISH

ENV. STEWARDSHIP

- THAT THE PLAN IS FOCUSED ON CONS.
- BLANKET AREA N. OF LAMONT RD → BE MORE SPECIFIC.

OVERARCHING

- INTERSECTION OF FED/STATE ISSUES & LOCAL USE.

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 2 1

① ↑ mgmt in plan TBL #2 SMRAN

integration of varied beliefs

- by public?
- by dog?
- by dog? env. pro.

adaptive mgmt, living doc.

★ cc & sea level rise (will need to adapt to this) so plan allow for this

process allows for a face of variety of users

- would like opp for continued involvement in plan dev. & action plans
- by on site events
- by continued stakeholder dev.

ZONING - acknowledges use of a gradient of impact & ecosystem resilience

★ Commitment to monitor impacts of beach/dunes

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 2 2

① level of eqmt use

- ↑ trailer parking
- beach access
- designated eqmt trails in env. pro. zone

• would like to see A steve. grp for IVB by user continue by mgmt issues

✓ More clarity on restoration extent + definition - restore to what?

✓ more clarity on interpretation info

• include in coun. plan - systems ecology

✓ dogs under control - meaningful w/o enforcement & clearer definition

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 2 3

△ - include doggie bags on site

- desire for more off season off leash use
- ensure access to boat launch, trails & beach
- when cleared
- continue to find ways for this in an env. sensitive way

① integration of ppl & ideas - continue events/education/involvement in ongoing plan

② Adaptive - cc/sea use - number of users of trail/canal & beach/dunes

③ ↑ clarity - restoration - expansion - under control (dogs)

④ Ecovest - look further into trails, user conflict

Consider more adj. land in this area in conjunction of c. sciences to pass through there & bypass main use area

of shared use on clearly defined

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 \*TABLE 3 | 1

### WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE? AND WHY...

Dogs

- Increase dog walking areas off-leash
- Species protection is carried <sup>out</sup> in boundaries

Clearly Identify Species - Habitats <sup>about</sup> Being Protected

have fenced areas that + signed that explain the species being protected. Allow free access around those areas.

- Better accounting of %ages of dog walkers.

Table 3

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 \*TABLE 3 | 2

### VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- Improve garbage - more cans in "back" + dog waste bins.
- Toilet facilities increased north end - Signs to where they are.
- Beach Clean-up.
- Signage re F.N.
- Welcome figure? or other F.N presence (visual)
- ~~Area is known as "wexex"~~ Land of Frogs by Tsawout
- A way to allow legal beach fires.
- Stop illegal camping in back.
- " " hunting in the park.

Table 3

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 \*TABLE 3 | 3

### Environmental Stewardship

- Address Bullfrogs + other invasive (specifically mentioned)
- Commitment to maintain term mosquito abatement etc.
- Don't commit study + end it. Why fence Borwead?
- More opportunity for compt involvement of community (olding species)
- Active uptake on offers.

ZONING to species at risk + where they are

Table 3

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 \*TABLE 3 | 4

### WHAT WE DON'T LIKE / WHY

NOT ENVP FACTS RE

1. PARK USERS (%ages of dog walkers)
2. Diminished opportunities to exercise dogs <sup>through</sup> ~~out~~ Park

Polices a "get but clause"

Vague needs more commitment

3. Environmental Stewardship Policies are too vague + there is no commitment to action

Table 3

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 \*TABLE 3 | 5

### WHAT WE LIKE

Dogs And Why!

- \* Shared use w dog free area
- Long term vision
- Environmental Protection Area

### VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- MORE Interpretive signage
- Review garbage
- Ed. experiences with Tsawout

### Environmental Stewardship

- Restoring to before farmland.
- Protection

Table 3

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 \*TABLE 3 | 6

- SHARED USE NEEDS CAREFUL CONSIDERATION INCLUDING CLEAR DATA RE %ages of park users
- Understand impacts and consider impacts on current park users.
- Clear information & data on species at risk (ensure it is available).
- Remove vague language & commit to actions
- Need a clearer environmental stewardship plan

Table 3

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 \*TABLE 4 | 1

### General Comments

- Notification of Meetings.
- Concern this is a done deal.
- Where was the public energy in earlier stages?

LIKE

DISLIKE

CHANGE

Sheldon

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 \*TABLE 3 | 2

### Envir. Stewardship.

Change of terms to "Conservation Park"

Foreshore left out

- precedent for taking over ...
- Birds not defined

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 \*TABLE 4 | 3

### Dogs

Intent to control the dogs.

Reasonable balance

- Horses are not mentioned
- Looks like a "war on dogs"
- Restrict Dogs on Foreshore
- Fear off-leash area would be small

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 4 4

Dogs

- More education
  - Singage re birds
  - Signage re leash
- Look to other jurisdictions for ideas
- More reflection of past/present use.
- Expand off-leash in remediation.
- Emphasize respectful use.

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 4 5

Zoning / Ev. Based <sup>like District</sup>

Recognizes Env Sens.

Multi Use

Caters to diff use.

Competing Interest

Used a form of Study

Boundries are movable in new info

"Mapping" has deficiencies

Polygons don't appear accurate

Changes Access

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 4 6

Zoning / Evidence Based <sup>change</sup>

Leave as is until new info available.

Does this represent a balanced approach?

Maintain neighbours direct access

Consult directly w owners who are neighbours.

Regional Perspective on this and other issues

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 4 7

Park Mgmt

Other trails not marked

- Make some formal?
- Reanalyze

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 4 8

Summary Points

- 1 Management of Foreshore
- 2 Revise off-leash within regional/conserv context
- 3 Communications Plan.

IVB, STEP 4, 26MAY16 TABLE 4 9

- 4 Better to get it right than get it quick
- 5 Greater Education

#### A2.2.2 May 26 Town hall – plenary notes

##### Questions and clarifications after CRD Regional Parks presentation

In 1966, land was purchased as a park. When did it change to a regional conversation area and by what public process?

- Proposed and passed by CRD board with public input
- Classification re-confirmed

Address concern about dog access. Summarized what plan says. Much of environmental protection area is not used by people now.

Origin of the zoning. Staff-driven designation? Public consultation process. Public did not request it, board did not request it, it was initiated by staff.

Current strategic plan defines park as conservation area.

1987 regional parks plan – IVB was a nature appreciation park

2000 park master plan – terminology changed to conservation area

2012- strategic plan – reconfirmed designation

Each of the stages had public consultation

What percentage of people who come to the park have dogs? My estimate is 70 - 80%. Do you have any data on this? Need to have this usage data.

No hard numbers. Also heard that many people don't come because there are too many dogs.

Are we going to get this dog data?

The plan in the future will have all dogs on leash and only off-leash in a special enclosed area.

No decisions in plan about what will happen with dogs off-leash and on-leash.

Designated trails? Maps don't show unofficial trails – some of those need to be included. Why aren't they?

Draft plan based on TEM by provincial government. TEM says not to be used for management purposes because of the scale. But this was used as the basis for the conservation measures in the plan. Has been ground truthed.

TEM is very broad but zoning is very specific. Needs to be more specific for this management plan. Why are you relying heavily on TEM when it is not appropriate for management?

Changing recreational activities – why is CRD corralling people into a smaller area? Why do we need zones? Just identify the areas, fence them off, and let us have the rest of it.

Don't see that changes will be all that much from what you presently have. Change some of the unofficial paths into official trails.

Definition about what an off-leash, under-control dog is? Broad definition and has lots of challenges. Difficult to enforce. On and off-leash is easy to understand and enforce.

Reducing camping space – don't like that. Why is it being reduced?

There should be more focus on ecosystems and vegetative communities rather than SAR. Needs to be more emphasis on ecosystem restoration of coastal wetlands and sand ecosystems. Why isn't there?

### **Discussion after small groups:**

Need to quantify how many are in favour of certain things and how many are not. Any further conversations need to have accurate, quantitative data on the consultation process.

Will there be a chance to review the revised draft plan? Usually draft plan would go up a week before the parks committee meeting. If you believe it should be different than that then let me know.

Will we get informed about the plan being released as soon as it available? Yes, we will make that commitment that we will send out advance notice that the revised draft plan is available and the date and time of the Regional Parks Committee where it will consider the plan and where groups and individuals can make presentations.

#### *A2.2.3 May 28 Town hall - small group notes*

##### **Facilitator's summary – Table 1**

- There's an openness to continue to find areas of agreement
- How to do it is through a conservation/citizens/multi-stakeholder advisory group
- If people can agree on what is established, rather than feeling that something is imposed, then it will be far more effective.
- Education and Understanding -> Signage, website, etc.
- "Leave the park alone" does not mean "Don't do anything."
- (Dogs) General agreement: "Don't want enclosed off-leash area"
- (Horses) Incorporate horses into the plan

##### **Facilitator's summary – Table 2**

- Adaptive management style of plan allows for changes related to ecological use and impacts, changing recreational uses, and commits to monitoring
- An infusion of bigger picture/systems view would be helpful – get away from me vs you, my dog vs your horse, species centric consideration to ecological systems
- Increased and better signage – research and critical areas, natural history
- Further discussion around on and off leash areas
- Adding equestrian use to park through mixed use trails, perhaps in north section
- Would like to see increased clarity on what is meant by restoration, conservation, and dogs 'under control' as well as being sure that any statements around ecological significance are proven and references, not just assumptions. This includes bringing together studies done to date as well as proposing additional studies.

##### **Facilitator's summary – Table 3**

- Passionate table
- Strong desire to keep the park exactly as it is, on one hand
- Strong commitment to increasing understanding as to why changes are needed in the park in terms of ecological concerns
- A lot of the planning has been a waste of money, also a feeling that the planning has been a good process and needs to continue.
- Only talked about dogs, environmental stewardship and the visitor experience



- Educational opportunities should be maximized/optimized
- Greater trails into the grassland had a lot of support
- Discussion on both sides of maintaining the dunes and mosquito abatement
- Extend access for horses
- Real agreement on bike stands and water
- Where there were perceived restrictions in the draft plan, there was a desire to postpone those restrictions until studies are done
- Response to that is let's find the money to help those studies get done quickly

#### **Facilitator's summary – Group 4**

- Communication: not enough referencing of the information that informs the plan
- Consider whole ecosystem – not enough info about less significant/visible species
- Ensure plan is evidence based and referenced
- Implementation plan and commitment to plan and performance criteria
- Dogs: do away with fenced area
- Quiet zone – in north, no access for anybody

#### **Facilitator's summary – Table 5**

Plan needs holistic approach

- Different activities can coexist; protection of the environment and all the activities that people like to do, including walking their dogs coexist in this park and this plan is open to that
- No winners and losers (compromise)
- Nobody is bad
- Draft plan needs to speak to the idea that this plan can speak to all of those interests and all of those uses

Dog management strategy

- Big issue – needs to be in the plan earlier rather than later
- Strategy should be the only thing that's said about dogs
- Decisions about on-leash, off-leash should only be made after the dog strategy is developed
- Educate people on responsible park and dog use
- People need to be engaged, involved, such as in an advisory group

Environmental protection

- CRD has the data – but it does not make the case for the environment
- Evidence-based case
- Education and engagement program key
- Include traditional use
- Signage and interpretation
- Rules need to change by season

#### **Flip chart notes from Tables 1 – 5 for May 28 (following pages)**

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 1 1

① LIKE TABLE 1  
ARIEIN

DOGS

ENV

- PRESERVATION AREAS
- THAT THERE IS AN ENV. PROT. ZONE

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 1 2

② DON'T LIKE TABLE 1  
ARIEIN

DOGS

- DON'T WANT OFF LEASH AREAS LET'S  
PROCEED

ENV

- USING SCIENCES AS A "MOTHERHOOD ISSUE"
- MINIMIZE THE CHANGE - MAXIMIZE THE USE

GEN

- EXCLUDES HORSES

GEN

"DUE OWNERS  
SLAPPED AGAIN  
WHAT  
CAN  
HAPPEN"

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 1 3

③ CHANGES TABLE 1  
ARIEIN

DOGS + HORSES → DOMESTICATED ANIMALS

- TIME-SPECIFIC OFF-LEASH DOG TIMES IN LARGER AREAS EG. BEFORE DASH.
- WHERE IS PROPOSED OFF-LEASH AREA? WHAT IS TIME FRAME?
- "OFF LEASH EVERYWHERE" STOPS S/S
- "COMPANIONS TO HUMANS"

ENV.

- ACCEPTANCE OF WHAT MOTHER NATURE DOES IN THE ENVIRONMENT?
- " "

GENERAL

- IS THE STATUS QUO AN OPTION?
- NO MAJOR CHANGES - TREATING: H'CAP, DOGS, HORSES (MAJOR)

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 1 4

- MORE SPECIFIC PROCESS FOR FINDING AREAS OF AGREEMENT
- CONSERVATION ADVISORY GROUP CITIZENS
- AGREEMENT / NOT REGULATION
- MODIFY TRAILS - INCL. HUMAN BEH.
- Complete

HORSES

- BEACH ACCESS - 2' WIDE PATH?
- PROVISION FOR HORSE TRAILER PARKING
- ACCESS TO GRASSLANDS ON TRAILS

↓ THESE PARTS

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 1 5

TABLE 1

CONCLUSIONS  
ARIEIN

- FEELING OF OPEN TO DISCUSSION + FINDING AREAS OF AGREEMENT
- MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSERVATION / PRESERVATION GROUP
- DEGREE OF AGREEMENT IS WHAT CAN BE DONE - RATHER THAN ENFORCEMENT (UNENFORCEABLE)
- IF FEEL HAD INPUT → MUCH EASIER TO SUPPORT
- EDUCATION → SIGNATURE + MUCH MORE

- "LEAVE THE PARK ALONE DOESN'T MEAN DON'T DO ANYTHING"
- GENERAL AGREEMENT → DON'T WANT ENCLOSED OFF-LEASH AREA
- HORSES → INCORPORATE INTO THE PLAN

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 2 1

😊 WHAT I LIKE...

- ⊗ living doc & adaptive mgmt & monitoring
- Section of pk where dogs on leash
- like clarity for N end on leash due to SARA etc.
- like the on/off leash areas

101 #2

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 2 2

WHAT I'D LIKE TO SEE CHANGED...

- ↑ SIGNS - where research / critical habitat this may result in greater indiv responsibility
- ↑ Restoration ecology - wetland & coastal focus on systems ecology not spp. centric
- signage & other communication to show
- don't enhance N. portion of trail & boardwalk KEEP AS IS
- force off areas of sensitive habitats for some spp
- if boardwalk in wetlands (preference for none) safety paramount Some preference for -

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 2 3

CHANGE...

- ⊗ further disc. around on/off leash needs
- Some interest in dogs on leash everywhere - no such thing as 'under control'
- ⊗ further explanation re S. portion of trail zone (ecological value)
- Equine - add use to N. portion of trail
- More dog off leash @ W. ends of park w/ fenced areas to allow for env. park
- More study on who using park & how - on site capture of uses

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 2 4

## CHANGE...

More focus on all Spp.  
not just state

Allow & manage groups/  
Sp events in the park

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 2 5

→ living doc. of adaptive mgmt approach  
- ecological impacts & Δ  
- rec. use & Δ  
Continued monitoring commitment

→ bigger picture/systems approach infusion into plan - get away from spp centric consideration to ecological systems

→ ↑ signage (more & better) - results in more response.  
- research areas/critical habitat  
- natural history

→ further disc. re on/off leash areas - lots of ideas & varied op.

→ Equestrian use - need use trails (owned)

→ further explanations & definitions  
- Restrictive, concentration, 'under control'  
- ecological significance (proof & science, not just assumption)

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 3 0

## 3 Questions

- What do you like? Why?
- What don't you like? Why?
- What changes would you make?

### FOCUS on Management Directions

- Camping? • Dogs? • Zoning?
- Environmental Stewardship
- Management? • Infrastructure?
- Operations? • Visitor Experience?

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 3 1

## WE LIKE AND WHY...

Don't

- 1 Restricted Areas  
Concerns re Tsawout encroach  
LIKE ON LEASH AREAS  
SAFETY  
THERE ARE PLACES THAT COULD BE LEASH FREE.
- 1 PLANNED OFF LEASH AREA

### VISITOR EXP.

- EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS
- OPPORTUNITIES FOR TSAWOUT INTERPRETATION - TIME WITH ELDERS.
- RECOGNIZES DIVERSITY OF USERS ON THE PARK
- RECOGNIZES NUMBERS OF USERS

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 3 2

## WE DON'T LIKE... AND WHY...

~~STOP THE PLAN~~

### DOGS

- Works fine now.
- ALL USERS NEED TO BE CONSIDERED.
- DON'T HAVE CONCRETE CLARITY ABOUT PROPOSED RULES.
- Study to Quantify Dog-use (too late)
- CONCENTRATION OF DOGS IN REC. AREA.  
"DOG AREA" IS ROUGH TO WALK ON.

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 3 2 A

## DON'T LIKE YET.

• PLAN MAY DISCOURAGE VISITORS

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 3 3

## WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU MAKE?

1 OCRD POLICY - TRAINER CERTIFICATE RE QUALITY OF DOG TRAINING - SOCIALIZATION & OBEDIENCE

2 EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO GENERATE UNDERSTANDING IN FRIENDSHIP

3 SHOWERS FOR HUMANS + DOGS

4 TRAIL ACCESS INTO GRASSLANDS  
MOUNTAIN BERM → OWNER  
OR MOSQUITO SYSTEM OR DIRT HES  
LEAVE ALONE (PROFESSIONAL DOG WALKERS LICENCE)

5 EXTEND FACILITIES FOR HORSES.

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 3 4

## CHANGES...

### VISITOR EXPERIENCE

- RV + CAMPERS AS IS
- RV REMOVED
- MORE TRANSPARENCY
- BIKE STANDS
- DRINKING WATER.

~~STOP THE PLAN~~

### ENV.

- Postpone Restrictions during Study period (pre-post)
- Concern - New \$ for monitoring to establish data (occure is done NOW. BASELINS)

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 4 1

FOCUS PRIMARILY ON THE MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

- 7 CAMPING
- 7 DOGS
- 9 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
- 4 PARK INFRASTRUCTURE
- 5 PARK MANAGEMENT Help's, Jurisdiction etc
- 2 PARK OPERATIONS
- 3 VISITOR EXPERIENCE
- 4 ZONING

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 4 2

Env Stew

- Address what actual impact on visiting.
- Not addressing how addressing Invasive Species
- Looks at Park in Isolation.
- Change is so dramatic, there is no time to implement.

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 4 3

- No Stated purpose for monitoring.
- No Stated evidence Base referenced.
- Status quo
- Pesticide use kills bottom of food chain.
- Beach Walks.

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 4 4

Env Stew.

- Show what action needs to be taken to address changes ~~not focus on other species.~~
- A Commitment to address Inu Sp
- Prioritizing uses *and*
- Removal commitment
- Studies/evidence Referenced. Stay out of Northern

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 4 5

Env. Stew.

Reasses Berm

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 4 6

DOGS

- Being Inclusive of Dogs
- On-leash only area
- Counted as a use.
- Attempts to understand "under Control"

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 4 7

DOGS

- fence off sensitive ecosystem from dogs.
- Restricted areas based on species at risk.

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 4 8

DOGS

- Fenced area off leash is too restrictive aggression
- env degradation.
- Too vague
- Allowing dogs on beach during most sensitive time.
- doesn't address coexisting

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 4 9

Summary.

- Consider Whole Ecosystem
- Ensure Plan is Evidence Based. And Referenced.
- Implementation Plan + Commitment. and Performance Criteria

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 4 10

Summary

- Do Away with fenced area.
- Quiet Zone

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 5 1

-1-

HOLISTIC APPROACH

- NOBODY IS BAD
- DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES CAN CO-EXIST
- DRAFT PLAN NEEDS TO SPEAK TO THAT
- (NO WINNERS + LOSERS COMPROMISE)
- NO UNDERTONE OF CO-OPERATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 5 2

-2-

- ENFORCEMENT
- MORE RULES MEANS PUTTING ENFORCEMENT IN PEOPLE'S HANDS
- EDUCATION IS KEY
- CARROT OR STICK

DOGS

RESPONSIBLE DOG USE

SEASONAL CHANGES

- ACCESS WHEN NOT PRIME BREEDING TIME

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 5 3

-3-

DOGS

- ODD + EVEN DAYS FOR CERTAIN AREAS
- DOG MGMT STRATEGY BIG ISSUE - NEEDS TO BE IN THE PLAN EARLIER THAN LATER
- MAYBE PLAN SHOULD NOT ADDRESS DOGS AT ALL <sup>THAN SUGGEST</sup> OTHER STRATEGY
- NO SIGNS TO REFLECT 1989 PLAN
- EXPECTATION THAT WAS IS HAPPENING NOW IS ALL FINE + LEGAL

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 5 4

-4-

- UNDER CONTROL - WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
- # of DOGS - PROX DOG WALKERS
- COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY AT PARK??
- DOGS OFF LEASH THROUGH PARK
- WHAT ARE PARKS FOR - SPECIES OR HUMANS + PETS. WHAT IS OUR PRIORITY
- PARKS ARE FOR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 5 5

-5-

SAROTOGA BEACH

- SIGNAGE
- ON-LEASH

⇒ - CLEAR COMMUNICATIONS NEEDED - CAN IT CAUSE PROBLEMS

EDUCATE PEOPLE ON RESPONSIBLE DOG USE

MORE GARBAGE CANS - GOOD!

99% ARE CREPUL

NEED TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS A PROBLEM? DATA REQUIRED?

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?

→ USUAL RESPONSE IS LEASH

- EDUCATION FIRST

IVB, STEP 4, 28MAY16 TABLE 5 6

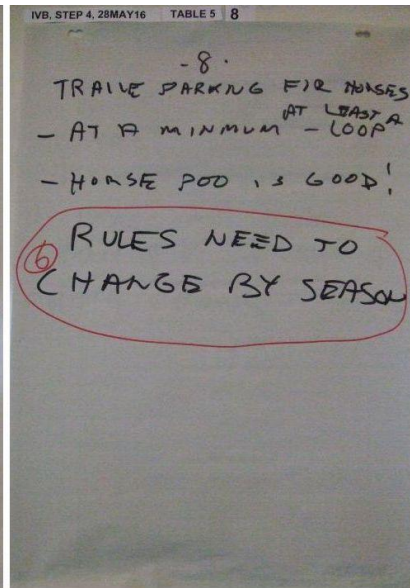
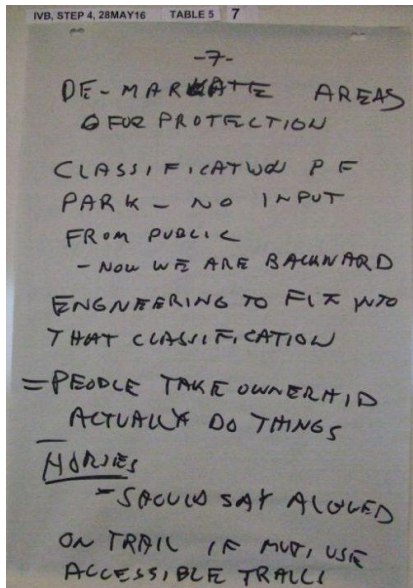
-6-

WHERE ARE THE OFF-LEASH PARKS?

- NOT AVAILABLE
- RECOGNIZE LAWE OD DOGS TO PEOPLE.

ENV. PROTECTION

- HAVE DATA - BUT WE DON'T MAKE THE CASE
- EVIDENCE-BASED.
- EDUCATION PROGRAM + ENGAGEMENT KEY
- INCL. TRADITIONAL USE
- SIGNAGE / INTERPRETATION
- WHAT DO THINGS LOOK LIKE?



#### A2.2.4 May 28 Town hall – plenary notes

##### Questions and clarifications after CRD Regional Parks presentation

Clarification: Page 34 of the draft plan – once an enclosed off-leash dog area is in place, all dogs will be on-leash throughout the park. Is this what the draft says? Yes.

Clarification on bicycles and horses. Area for dogs is not tiny because dogs can be off-leash on the beach below the high-tide line (foreshore area). Foreshore not controlled by CRD Regional Parks and activities will continue as always.

Are there any threatened or endangered mammals or birds in the park? No mammals in entire park. There are endangered and threatened birds that use the park for feeding, staging etc. We do not have nesting records. Common Nighthawk uses the park for travel and feeding.

Where are the dunes? Never seen them. They are not the Sahara Desert. Small amounts of sand; not major. Shows on map. Larger sand formation on Tsawout land.

Will plan be reviewed by legal experts so that the plan complies with the protection of critical habitat that needs to happen with federal legislation.

Staff have contradicted themselves twice. Long-term is on-leash and only off-leash in special area. Yes, draft plan does say this.

Clarify – maintain current equestrian use; what does that mean? Two checkmarks are outside the park boundary. No horse use in park which is the same as the 1989 plan.

Never been any signage following the 1989 plan, which makes it confusing.

Next step question. What is the process for where the plan goes next? Deferred until later.

Isn't a misnomer to call a zone something when you can only walk on the trails? Over-arching CRD bylaw in regional parks that says people are supposed to stay on trails.

Definition of under control. How many by-law enforcement officers will there be? Our emphasis is on education and signage and information; we do not have the budget to have a lot of officers. Relies on complaints.

What is the dotted yellow line on the map?

When the dust settles, what will the dog management strategy be and how will it relate back to the plan? Dog management strategy – engage with dog owners and propose amendments to plan.

Will slides be available? Yes, we will put them on the website as a PDF.

Draft plan has further studies and monitoring. Are there objectives for studies and monitoring and are there dates when these studies will be done?

Access to IVB for elderly and disabled people. Why are you taking that away from us? IVB has an important role to play for the health and well-being of CRD residents. All trails will be available to people with a range of abilities.

**Comments after small groups:**

Commitment to notify by email that the draft plan is available. The CRD Regional Parks Committee will hear presentations from groups and individuals.

We need more than a week between when we are notified (heard this at Thursday workshop as well) of the revised draft plan being available, and registering to make presentations.

*A2.2.5 Comment cards (both town hall meetings)*

Card 1

1. Provide the data to establish need for species/environment protection
2. Indicate legal requirement for protection.
3. Re-balance plan and emphasize on visitor experience. Dog-positive people are more frequent users of the park than conservation-positive people.
4. Discuss existing volunteer activity and projects. Who knew?

Card 2A and 2B

I feel that this is a FARCE!

Are you actually going to listen to what people are saying?

I would not take my dog to a fenced dog park. These places encourage aggressive dog behavior and disease.

Card 3

Include a link on the CRD website to the Environmental Assessment Place that includes this park.

Card 4

In view of Island View Beach being a major bird migration area, I think that letting off leash dogs run amok is not integral to this concept.

I would really like to see no dogs on this beach. Every park you go to on this island allows (or condones) off leash dogs, so one where they are not allowed would be an asset to the park

In my experience of visiting this park, I have seen dogs chasing flocks of birds. However, in my group (#2) the dog walkers disputed that this event ever occurs.

They also denied that dogs disrupt picnics, etc., when my own personal experience rules this out!

Thanks for the opportunity to hear what the public says.

Card 5

Thank-you for the hospitality.

Thank-you for the opportunity to attend this event.

I would like to have the east side of the trail north of Lamont Rd off-leash for dogs for 2 hours before Sunset. Request refers to this section only [SCAN DRAWING ON FORM].

Suggest Remains on leash.

Rationale: 1. This is a continuation of the trail from South of Lamont road. 2. Just before dusk there are usually no children in the area and almost no birds are seen there.

Overall and long term - I would like to see dogs always have an off-leash area (not fenced) - they and their owners need it.



**A2.3 Town hall evaluation results**

*A2.3.1 Template form*

## Meeting Evaluation

### Town Hall

### Island View Beach Regional Park

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. Overall, this was a very useful meeting.					
2. The meeting met or exceeded my expectations.					
3. My areas of concern were addressed.					
4. I had lots of opportunities to bring my ideas forward.					
5. The presentation by Staff on the draft management plan was useful.					
6. The question and clarification period after the presentation was helpful.					
7. The small groups were a useful way to provide input on the draft management plan.					
8. The plenary session (when we all came back together) was useful and productive.					
9. The agenda was well structured for covering the topics we needed to address.					
10. Overall, the facilitation was appropriate and effective.					
11. This is the right group of people to be involved in this workshop.					
12. This is a good venue for holding this workshop.					

13. What was the most useful or helpful thing about the workshop?

14. What was the least helpful or useful thing?

15. What could be improved?

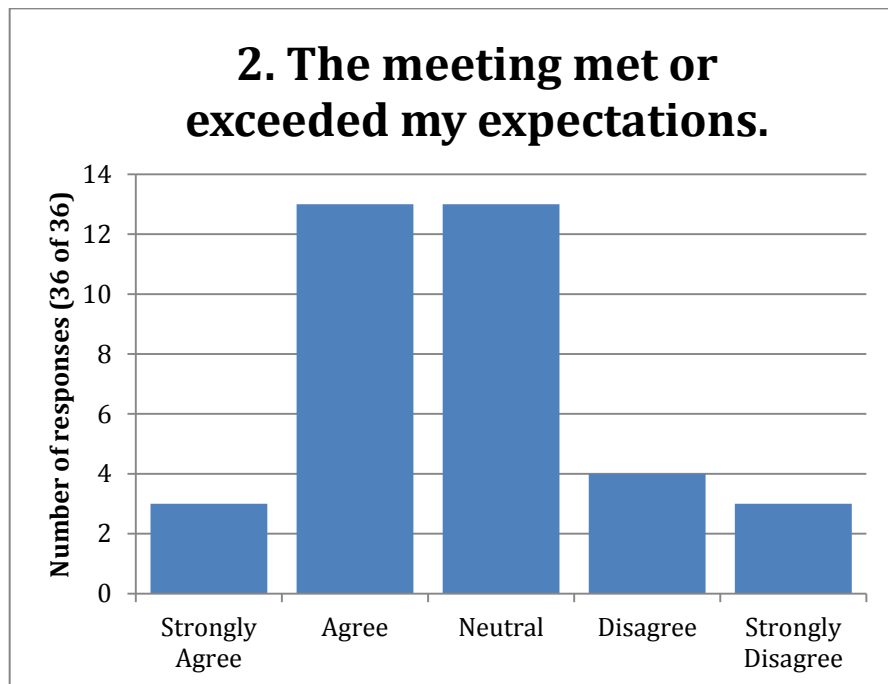
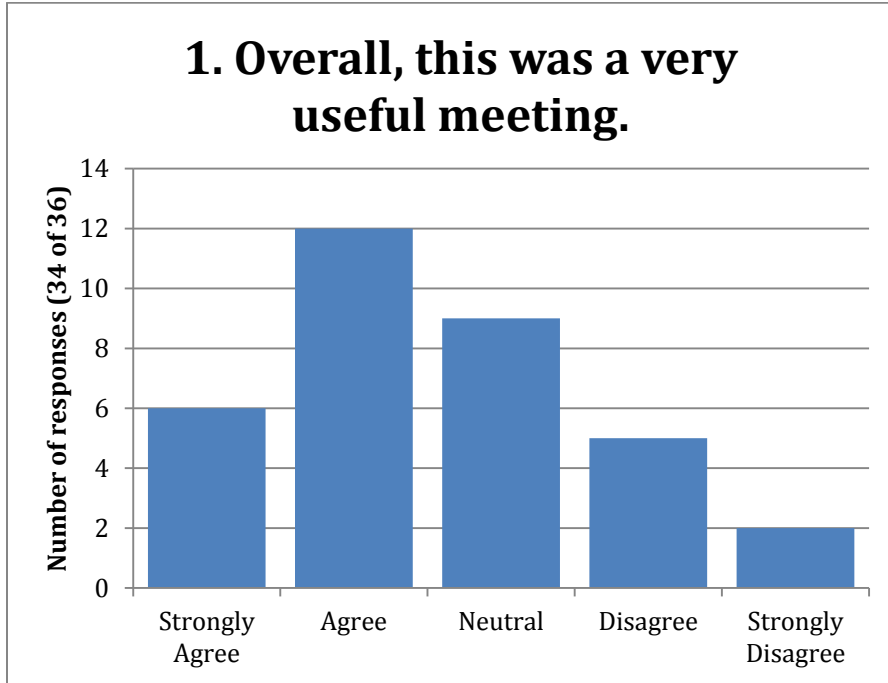
16. How did you hear about this workshop? Can you suggest a better way we might reach people?

17. Other comments?

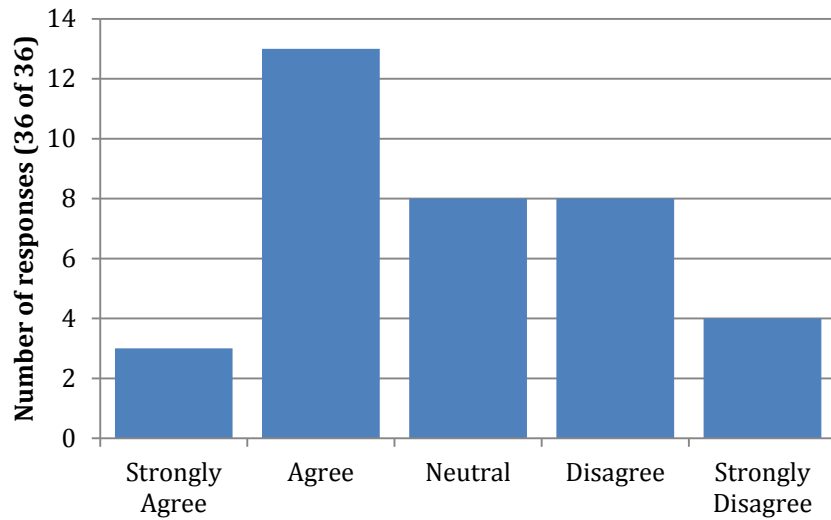
Thank-you!

A2.3.2 Town hall evaluation form results (combined May 26, 28)

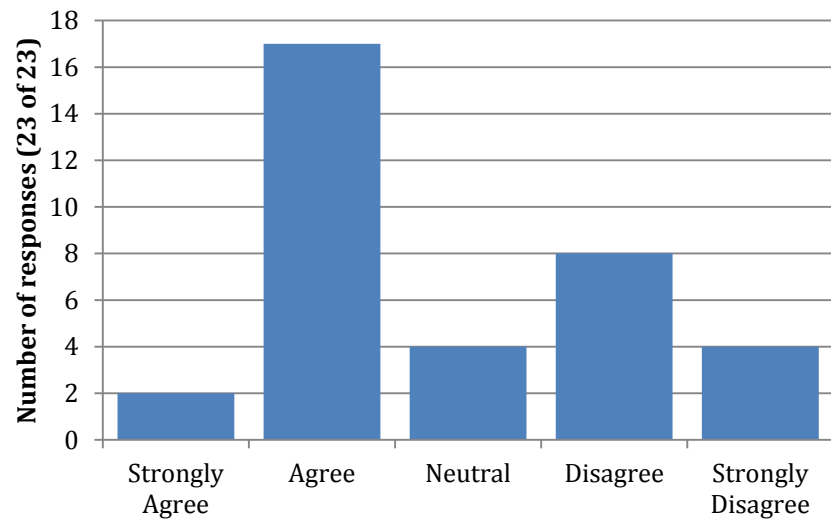
Combined evaluation form results are based on 23 town hall participants.



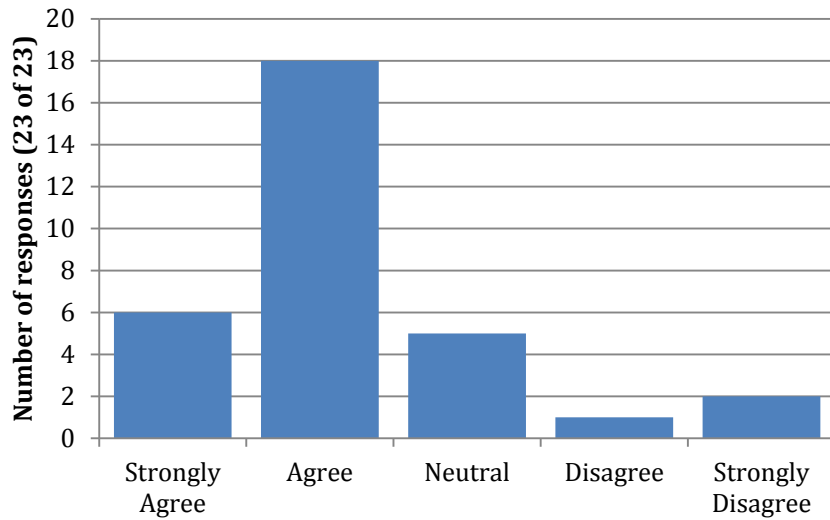
### 3. My areas of concern were addressed.



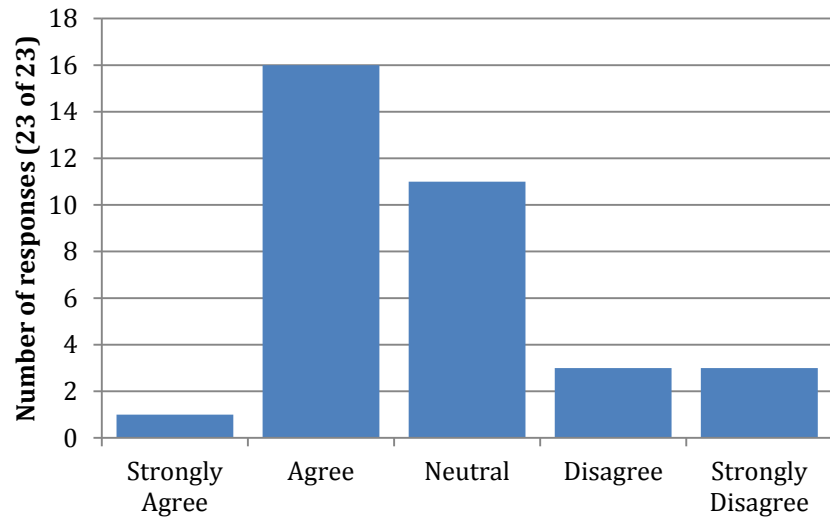
### 4. I had lots of opportunities to bring my ideas forward.



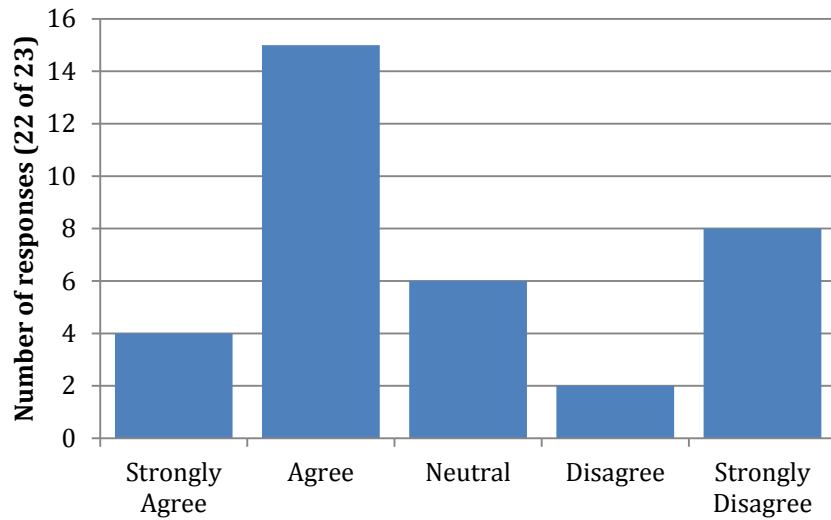
### 5. Staff presentation of the draft mgmt plan was useful



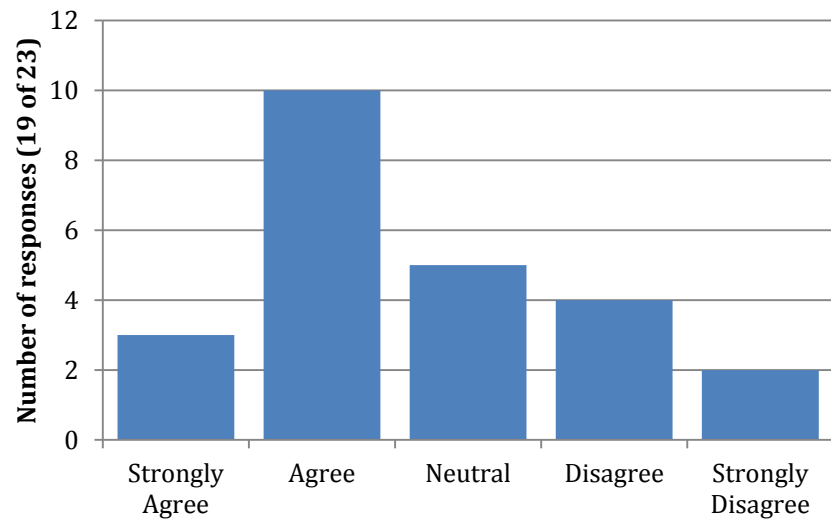
### 6. The question and clarification period was helpful



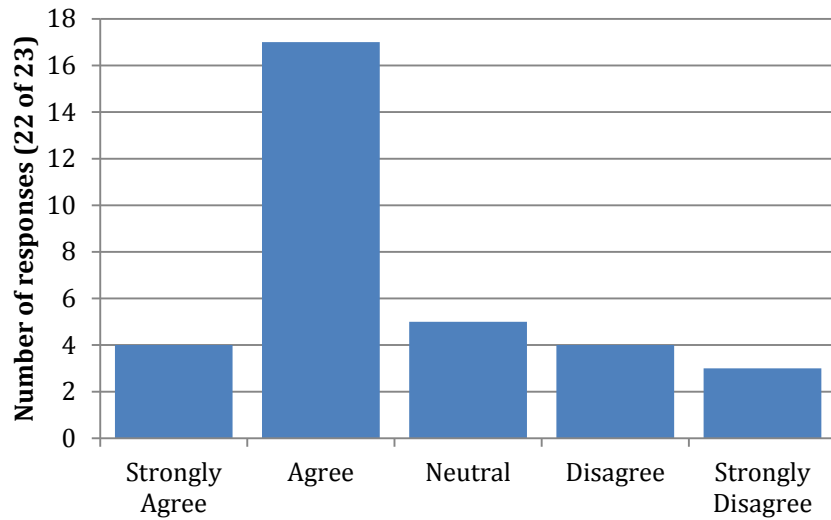
### 7. The small groups were a useful way to provide input.



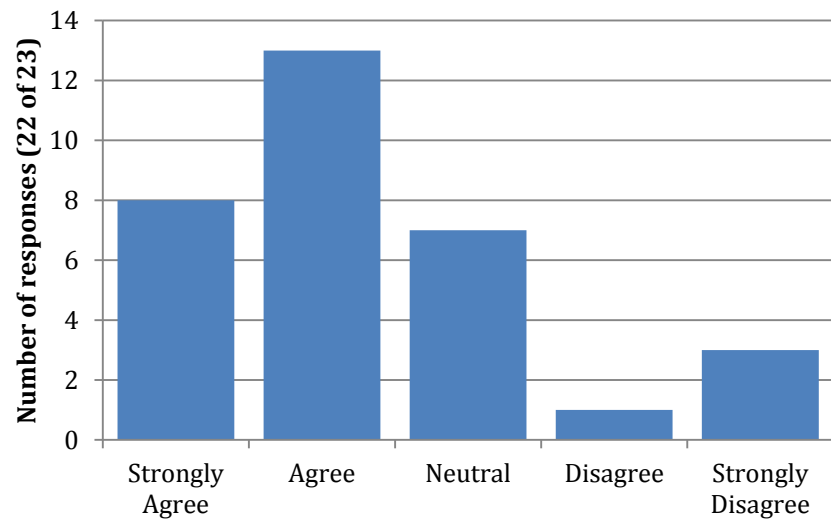
### 8. The plenary session in the afternoon was useful.



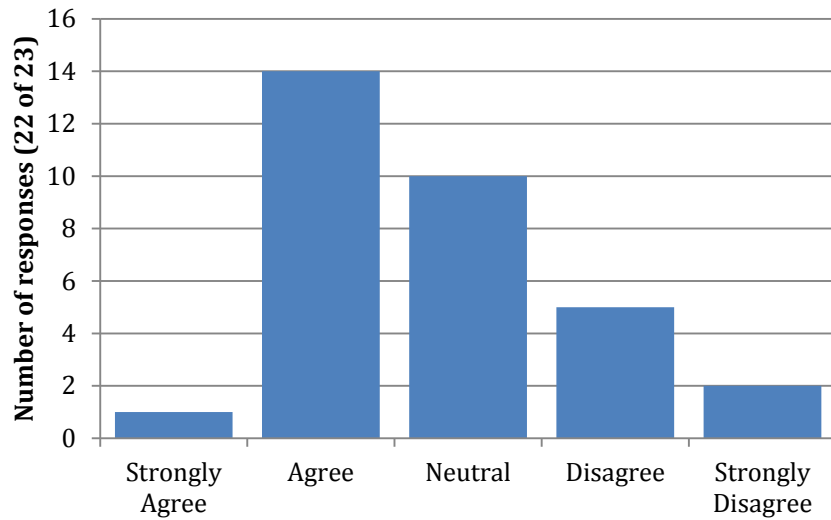
### 9. The agenda was well structured to cover the topics.



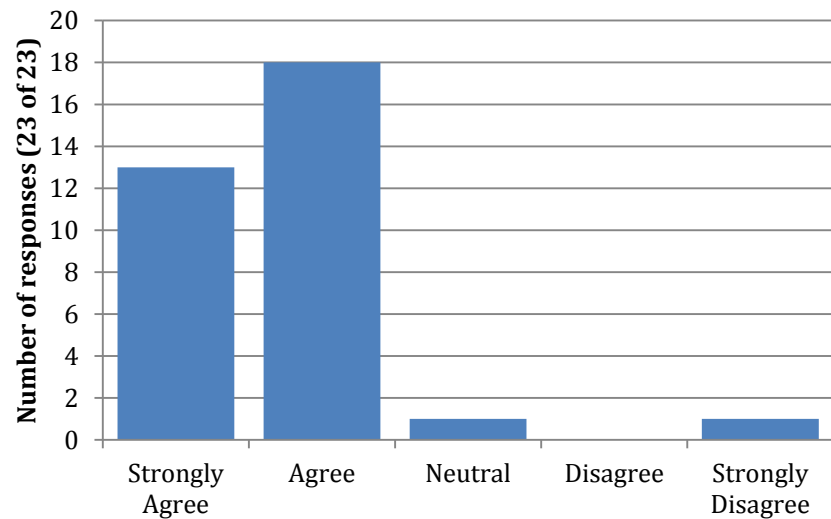
### 10. The facilitation was appropriate and effective.



### 11. This is the right group of people to be in this workshop.



### 12. This is a good venue for holding this workshop.





### **13 What was the most useful or helpful thing about the workshop?**

- Overview.
- Seeing and hearing the defiance and anger of dog people - wow!!
- I appreciated the young voice at our table who spoke to the future.
- Seeing/hearing the various opinions on the subject.
- Some very "closed minds."
- Opportunities to get clarification about the plan from CRD staff.
- Presentation by staff.
- Small group discussion.
- I liked having a CRD staff member directly asking my perspective and taking notes.
- Small group moderator was very good at not letting anyone dominate the discussion.
- Hearing so many speakers speak to the loss of dog use privileges at the park.
- I hope your summary reflects that dog owners were a majority in the room. Thank-you.
- Organized professionally. Impressive. Lots of posters with important and detailed information.
- Enjoyable to speak to people with various opinions and backgrounds face to face.
- Small groups.
- The staff and facilitators did their best, and some sessions were effective, but not the small group I was in - there was no willingness to compromise by dog walkers.
- Plenary session very useful information.
- Understanding how diverse the opinions are about IVB.
- It brought to my attention that again all the first three steps of this process are not being addressed, although there is a lot of broad verbiage pretending to be listening.
- One on one interaction with CRD staff.
- Small groups were excellent idea.
- Idea of multi-stakeholder/park "friends" committee ongoing is great. Develop knowledge, create consensus.
- Continuing education important.
- Staff presentation - question and answer session (even though it was too short.)
- The idea of a multi-stakeholder advisory group to discuss and get to common understandings of various positions and needs - get to common ground. Coexistence of different uses.
- The opportunity to address what was omitted from draft plan.
- Clarifying the draft plan.
- Learning different viewpoints.
- Good well informed presentation and discussion at tables from participants who had a variety of expertise in science and planning.
- The food.
- CRD finally seems to be listening. This wasn't apparent before.
- Presentation was helpful and informative.
- Small group discussion was excellent.
- Facilitation and time management was good for the most part (occasionally a bit inflexible.)
- Mostly the attendants are dog walkers with an agenda to preserve the park current policy - in the group I was assigned.

- It opened my eyes as to how many differing opinions there are. But it is clear that our voices will not be heard.
- This was a terrible waste of time. Obviously the CRD has created an environment that is hostile and negative. I feel I wasted an entire afternoon. and nothing was accomplished. Waste of time and money and resources. BTW the facilitators were terrible!
- Still feels like a dictatorship, telling us what should happen.

#### **14. What was the least helpful or useful thing?**

- People are tired of this ongoing planning. How many park directors have been thru since 1989? Things just don't seem to move - maybe that's good as nothing happens and the tired people can be happy. Too bad they have lost interest. Perhaps they would come out if their voices were heard again.
- Introductions @ the beginning - time consuming.
- One person wanted to quantify all comments.
- A couple of residents took over the small group discussion and really pushed their DRACONIAN ideas of what a park use should be... its not about species and nature but more about where can I walk my dog off-leash.
- People using their opportunities to ask questions to make long statements and arguments that are not relevant to the discussion.
- Our small group should have been more focused and covered more topics.
- Needed more structure to the discussion.
- Some attendees were very vocal/emotional, wanted to go on tangents, and listening to them was unpleasant.
- General introductions of participants.
- Too much time was given to certain outspoken people or small groups. Several people got to speak multiple times. I only got to speak once.
- Thank-you at the end.
- The lack of willingness to compromise - the dog walkers are too firmly entrenched to "no change", "leave as is", "stop plan" - indifferent to all other interests.
- No evidence produced to support environmental claims.
- The back room was far too noisy.
- Small sessions being dominated by those who kept repeating themselves.
- Small group session was uncomfortable and overwhelmed by a few participants. Many people had no understanding or trust in the facilitation process.
- The participation was overwhelmed by a well-organized, self-interested group, "Friends of Island View Beach," so didn't likely represent the general views of the CRD population, especially the large number of people who don't go to the park because it's so over-run by dogs and may get a chance to enjoy it if this plan is implemented.
- Yes, names and email addresses were collected although [sentence stops at "although"]
- Couldn't hear speakers at our table due to noise from adjacent table.
- Small group meeting Table #3: was a tension filled hour of cross-talking and repetitive statements. Very unpleasant experience and an impossible task to get useful information from 12 people in one hour. My sympathy to the facilitator.
- The draft plan.

- The point is that this is a park - "a place where humans go." It is not a wild ecosystem due to surrounding communities - houses - farms - and will always be difficult to protect indigenous species.
- Every aspect of event seemed to be useful.
- Facilitator didn't manage introductions. Some people allowed to speak too long while others cut off.
- Lack of clear responses to some questions.
- Adversarial tone - need a philosophy that supports holistic, harmonious approach - belief that solutions can be found that support all uses and environment.
- The facilitator was extremely condescending and I had to ask multiple times to have my point written down.
- No willingness to really redo it.

### **15. What could be improved?**

- Bullfrog initiative. The native frogs will be decimated. This area on First Nation map is called WEXES = Frogs. (not American bullfrogs!)
- People must be more progressive not regressive - things are always changing ... "trust of each-other."
- Facilitation in small groups could be better. Please try to prevent people getting in each other's faces and calming down heated discussion.
- Need more structure to the small group discussions.
- The demographic of the attendees at the meetings was out of balance.
- Facilitators need to take more control of conversations, and there could be more time for the small group discussion.
- Longer time.
- Written submissions to be read so duplication can be eliminated and speeded up.
- Not sure how to educate so people feel a sense of stewardship for the region. Dogs are all this group cared about.
- Evidence.
- Concerned how small discussions were presented - we did not vote these so minority views were presented as the group's which they were not.
- Longer time to discuss in small groups; too rushed.
- Why do taxpayers not have a clean vote? This management plan is in place and does not take into account the majority user (dog owners) in that it has full intention of restricting use.
- Smaller facilitated sessions with people of a similar interest so that they have an opportunity to prioritize their preferred use of the park.
- Better understanding for participants of implications of status quo and current rules (which are not enforced so very misunderstood.)
- Ensure all groups contain representations of ... each stakeholder group/viewpoints.
- Community involvement.
- Some people took over most of the opportunities to talk.
- Dogs on leash at all times unless there is an enclosed area, not in a sensitive, natural area.
- We really need at least one event where presentations can be made to the entire group. Small group sessions were too guided.
- Encourage people who have side discussions away from tables to move to a quieter area so as to not interfere with our interaction.

- Recreational advocates and environmental advocates need to meet and work out a reasonable compromise.
- Clear articulation with good signage at the site. i.e., education of public.
- We are trying to talk about too many issues in too short a time.
- This was very confrontational. The people who had different opinions were disrespected on both sides.
- Based on data not opinions.

**16. How did you hear about this workshop? Can you suggest a better way we might reach people?**

- Invitation via email from CRD. We do not get a newspaper. Thank-you.
- Email from a friend.
- Contact by CRD Regional Parks, and through school, Camosun College.
- The Times Colonist and friend from the Victoria Natural History Society.
- Via internal (CRD) email.
- Other ways to communicate: A) Notices @ Parks both IVB and others like Lochside Trail; B) Radio? C) Kiosks @ parks with tablets to do surveys? D) Kiosks with summary of changes to the park @ the park or trail.
- Contact universities - make an effort to include a larger demographic at the meeting - more representatives from young people and First Nations.
- I heard about it through RPBC - I think more nonprofits should be directly contacted about their participation.
- Billboards (sandwich boards) at the park were a great way for the actual park users to see the CRD info.
- The long exposure time likely helped the info on the boards to reach a large # of people.
- On the mailing list of Friends of Island View Beach.
- Times Colonist and Victoria Natural History Society member.
- Sign in park.
- Written submissions to be read so duplication and be eliminated and speeded up.
- At the park - nature presentations by cute kids so adults approaching the situation are not immediately aggressive (as they were here at this meeting.)
- CRD website.
- Neighbour.
- One day ago via letter to my house.
- One sign on IVB in parking lot I don't normally park in.
- Newspaper ads and communication from Friends of Island View.
- Word of mouth.
- CRD staff at our CRE [Capital Region Equestrians] stakeholder meeting
- Park signage - it worked.
- Email.
- Newspaper, email, Victoria Natural History Society
- Community newspaper and e-mail from CRD Regional Parks. You could possibly also have radio advertising on stations such as CFUV (U-Vic) and possibly others.
- Too many people still have no idea what is coming forward.
- Sign at park. Friends of Island View Beach.
- My friend informed me. She is a keen birder and often concerned about dog behaviour chasing ducks. So this person was not represented.

- Capital Regional District Dog Owners Group.
- Get on the news, radio - this would get more mainstream interest instead of special interest groups.
- Friends of I. V. Beach

### **18. Other comments?**

- I find the dog issue and owners too big of a voice.
- The dog owners need to respect the wildlife that use the park as a home and a migratory rest place.
- I go to the park less as dogs there have peed on the logs where I used to sit and peed on the kids I took to the beach. (Dogs that were not on leash.) Do the markers left by so many dogs (pee) disrupt the wildlife?
- No First Nations represented tonight.
- Facilitator at table was awesome.
- DOGS versus CONSERVATION - can't have both!
- People have agendas - the most vocal seem to get their way (most of the time.)
- The amount of misinformation permeating this issue is amazing - the "truths" spread by the "Friends of Island View Beach" are outright BS.
- We are all bombarded with notifications and news in general. I understand that it is difficult to get the word out about changes to parks and then to have people from a variety of interest groups participate in public meetings. But there must be more or better ways of communicating so that people can feel like they are participating from the beginning of the process - maybe not? Maybe there will always be special interest groups that converge @ the last minute?
- Could there be online town halls? With 1-2 facilitators. These could be more frequent and less costly.
- The coffee and snacks are nice but I'd rather the money be used to have more public consultations.
- I have strong concerns that a vocal minority is attempting to dismiss the importance of the environmental stewardship plan and plan to protect listed species.
- You need to stress our legal federal obligation to protect endangered species.
- This is not a criticism of the CRD, but it is clear that some people at the meeting were receiving a large amount of misinformation about the species at risk in the park, and this situation needs to be remedied.
- Most concerning is not only proposed current restrictions but the explicit promise of further clampdowns on dog owners use of the park.
- Please, please restrict dogs - i.e., none allowed in one or small areas, only where they are allowed on leash.
- Please note: There is an enclosed dog walking park nearby that is not used. Please don't duplicate an idea that is not used. Walkers of dogs want somewhere beautiful to walk WITH their dogs. They need to walk to stay healthy as we get older to cost less for the medical system.
- This was a horrifying experience and I felt that all hope for nature is lost. There was no interest in nature or conservation by the special interest group represented at my small group. The dog walkers have ruined the natural experience at IVB for non-dog walkers but more importantly, for nature itself.
- There has not been enough effort by the CRD to be factual.

- Too much is not finalized in the plan - too loose so people don't know what they are expressing an opinion on.
- Facilitators did a good job.
- The CRD should engage the specific interest groups (equine, dogs, visitors, enviro, sports users, etc.) to resolve the ongoing and outstanding issues for the park.
- Tsawout Nation was not clearly heard from or included at this meeting.
- Great facility. Fantastic food! Thanks.
- Good food.
- Open "plan."
- As a new resident in this area, I think the park is lovely. It has been well managed and most people and dogs are polite. Please don't change too much. We'll never get back the past ecosystem. As for climate change, I don't think we can do much to protect the sand dunes when the seas rise. They'll be back when the ice age returns. To make it more formal with more rules will reduce the appeal one hundred fold.
- There are very few dogs that are "under control" at all times when off leash.
- More basic research on the ecology of park and surrounding areas and farms, residential, reserves needs to be done by academic or governmental scientists to establish data and criteria for future planning.
- The plan needs to be completely reworked and brought out for another round of consultation.
- Make sure the "problems" are clearly defined as to why they are a problem and a real problem.
- Use valid scientific data and quantitative and qualitative analysis to make decisions that are based on evidence not assumptions.
- Don't keep consulting endlessly without moving to action. Participants have been giving time to this plan for years and will get burned out if the process doesn't get to action at some point.
- Make sure things aren't being changed without good reason and feasible costs - don't fix it if it ain't broken.
- Thanks for the effort to resolve the issues.
- "We are the species at risk at this park."
- This is a park. Not wilderness. It exists nicely as a park. It isn't broken. So don't fix it.
- Quite discouraging if this [is] what applied social science is like.

## A3.0 Stakeholder Meetings

### A3.1 Capital Region Equestrians (April 15, 2016)

#### History of use

- Been there for ca 100 years since agriculture started there
- The flora and fauna there have evolved, or at least can exist, in presence of horses
- Pressure on park as other opportunities diminished as more land enclosed and sold; traffic, etc.
- Users have to trailer everywhere now
- Economic benefits
- History CRD used heavy equipment to remove old horse jump. Their damage was worse
- No current evidence of impact
- Use mostly adjacent to ditches
- Should be no restrictions on anyone in any park anywhere - we pay taxes

#### Use

- Beach and trails behind the beach
  - "If we no longer used course, would like to remove facilities," but in exchange they were promised a circle route.
  - That was never captured in plan.
  - Change of venue? Flat lands along highway at Elk/Beaver Lake but it never happened. Use of the venue was too expensive. Use dwindled once facilities were removed.
- Brynn FOIVB – SAR are doing well
  - CRD clarified: They are not. Hence concern for protection
- T. Mitchell – How far does it go into other jurisdictions? I.e., Tsawout FN. No conservation going on there.
  - CRD says Tsawout are very interested in conservation.
- Some sentiment that CRD staff have stated that we are interested in negotiating jurisdiction of the foreshore with the province
- Was first property that became park bought or donated?
- Adequate camping. Don't scale back the camping.
- Do we have a report saying that IVB will be underwater in 30 years?
  - Model report doesn't say it's permanently inundated, certainly not over next 35 years. But it will be vulnerable to storm surges, etc.
- How would that effect our reclamation efforts?
  - Disturbance is part of the way these natural areas evolve
- Equestrian proposal is continued access to back fields currently in EPZ on mostly pre-existing trail north of Lamont Rd.
- The paths are along the ditches, on the material removed from the ditches when they were excavated
- Continued access to beach off the loop trail. (Want it named Silver Weed (?) Trail)
- Can't use in wettest times, but 8-10 months of the year
- Horse trailer parking
- South of Lamont Rd is of less interest but maybe over long term.
- Continue to be directly involved in planning process.

- Walk the trail with them, etc.
- Horse Council of BC has to support all-weather trails for horses.
- Feel that potential for conflict with dogs off leash is minimal.
- Label it as an “equestrian trail; other users welcome”
- Feel that “multi-use” doesn't welcome horses, others expect
- Trudeau Knight – Grouse Nest Farm. Trailer and truck expensive, not everyone has the money. Need local places to ride.
- Lots of stables in the area
  - Connect to IVB
- Is there a possibility for the CRD to scan and keep a GIS mapping project showing horse trails across the CRD?
- Inventory of existing riding opportunities in CRD
  - Maybe Backcountry Horsemen would fund
  - Can Central Saanich get involved? Karen (Harris) says she could discuss. Tony was willing to GPS them.
  - CRD: Nature Trails Society [Southern Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society] has vision for this
- Problem: Bikes and horses not compatible
- Glynis Schultz – Economic impacts of horse use
  - 7-10,000 horses; maybe about 5,000 horse owners?
  - \$7.3 million annual economic contribution
  - Says it's a growing sector
  - Hay crop is staple of surrounding farms. Part of rural landscape and character of Central Saanich
- Jennifer Pipe, Horse Council of BC.
- Recreational riders (not competitive)
- Access, trail etiquette
- May 6 and 7 [2016] – “Share the Trails” workshop [Horse Council of BC]
- Trail standards handbook
- Wendy Dadalt (Metro Van [Manager for East Area Parks]), horse expert
- Nature Trails Society [South Vancouver Island Nature Trails Society]

### **Equestrian stakeholder group submission to the Draft IVB Regional Park Management Plan**

(Organized by questions developed by the stakeholder group.)

#### **Question 1: What do you like about the Draft Management Plan, and Why?**

CRE is an equestrian advocacy group. As such, it is difficult for us to like a plan in which we are excluded. That being said, we do support the policy direction being set forth on page 15 of the Draft Management Plan.

- Maintain the existing berm and as part of policy direction (d) examine the implications of extending the berm to the north and maintaining the existing berm. (Maintain the coastal berm in its current state and reassess its function as part of the coastal dune ecosystem restoration work; and b. If the berm is breached, to repair it to its existing form, and do not upgrade or extend it.)
- Maintain the existing drainage ditch system and monitor its effectiveness in reducing mosquito habitat and its effect on the coastal wetland ecosystem;



- Continue the mosquito abatement program and monitor its effectiveness in reducing mosquitoes;
- Examine possible actions to protect and restore the coastal sand dune ecosystem; and
- Develop a trail through the coastal wetland ecosystem.

We particularly like the development of a trail through the coastal wetland so long as this includes equestrian use. A mosquito abatement program is a must for the enjoyment of all park users, human and animal alike.

**Question 2: What don't you like about the Draft Management Plan, and Why?**

What we don't like is that Equestrians weren't part of the Plan. We are significant stakeholders in the Park, and have been for decades, but were not included in the Draft Plan.

**Question 3: What would you change about the Draft Management Plan, and Why?**

The Plan needs to be modified to reflect past, present and future use of IVB Regional Park by horseback riders.

**What is your vision for the future of equestrian use in the park?**

- 1) That CRD staff work with CRE representatives to identify and design a nature-oriented equestrian loop trail within the Environmental Protection Zone in the back shore area of the park, with other visitors not specifically invited but not excluded. (This will no doubt be a favorite with bird watchers because it leads through some of the richest habitat in the park). We see this trail as in agreement with management values for that part of the park, i.e. controlled access consistent with environmental protection. The proposed trail for the most part follows pre-existing access right-of-way. Exact route and development options can be discussed with staff. We are calling this the Silverweed Loop, after the abundant potentilla species that covers much of the wetter parts of the area. The value of a trail in an environmentally sensitive park area like this is as a means of engaging people in knowing, valuing and conserving it - in a way that simple exclusion will never do. This trail also proposes to access the beach via the Lamont Road corridor east of Homathko Road, which would separate equestrians from other park visitors.

In addition, we are interested in a connector trail from the parking lot, through the Central Saanich Municipal Park (to be discussed with Central Saanich Parks) and through and/or around the Natural Environment Zone to connect with the Silverwood Loop.

- 2) Trailer parking in the small rectangle of CRD land adjacent to Island View Road.
- 3) Continued beach access: our understanding now is that the foreshore is not within the CRD park, so access is implied. CRD to check on possible CRD-provincial-federal transfers of, or sharing of authority over, the foreshore that might affect continued equestrian access below high tideline.

Respectfully submitted by the Capital Region Equestrians

## A3.2 CRD presentation to Central Saanich Council (June 13, 2016) and Response

Go to: <https://centralsaanich.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=345>.



### *The Corporation of the District of Central Saanich*

August 2, 2016

Mr. Robert Lapham, Administrator  
Capital Regional District Parks  
PO Box 1000  
625 Fisgard Street  
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

**CRD EXECUTIVE OFFICE**

File No. 0400-60/16  
6130-20/16

*Received*

**AUG 08 2016**

Dear Mr. Lapham:

**Re: Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan**

Reference is made to correspondence from various residents in regards to Island View Beach Regional Park.

At the Regular Council Meeting held on July 25, 2016, the Municipal Council of the District of Central Saanich received the correspondence and passed the following resolution:

*That the Capital Regional District Parks Committee be requested to create a balanced Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan that:*

- *allows recreational uses (including use for dogs off leash, equestrian use within the park, and for walking enjoyment);*
- *seeks to add ecological uses (more defined protected areas) and respect for Tsawout First Nation as a community;*
- *addresses mitigation of the rising sea level and climate changes as they pertain to Island View Beach Park;*
- *any restrictions made to uses for pedestrians, equestrians and/or dogs be seasonal and based on migratory and endangered species rather than year round;*
- *provide public education rather than further restrictions in any instances where there could be environmental damage.*

Should you have any questions with respect to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned, at 250-544-4202.

Yours truly,

Liz Cornwell  
Corporate Officer

Chair *RG*  Board  
 CAO  Communications  
 GM *PES*  
 For action / resp. by *L. Hutchins*  
 Corresp. for Board / Committee meeting  
 For Information Only  
 Copies to *M. Walter*

*1903 Mount Newton Cross Road, Saanichton, B.C. V8M 2A9*

*Phone: (250) 652-4444 Fax: (250) 652-0135*

### A3.3 Adjacent landowners (June 22, 2016)

#### Flip chart notes from adjacent landowners stakeholder meeting

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016

6:30 WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS

6:35 HOUSEKEEPING / GUIDELINES

6:40 PURPOSE / AGENDA REVIEW

6:45 SHORT PRESENTATION

7:05 QUESTIONS, CLARIFICATIONS COMMENTS  
⇒ HOW TO IMPROVE PLAN

8:15 SUMMARY, NEXT STEPS

8:30 ADJOURN

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016 1

-1-

- SIGNIFICANT CHANGES SINCE 1989

- I.E., DOGS

- STAFF OF LANDOWNERS

- FARMED LANDS - WHAT SPECIES ARE YOU TRYING TO PROTECT?

- NO EVIDENCE-BASED INFO TO SUPPORT PLAN

- DON'T WANT TO LOSE PARTS OF THE PARK FOR NO REASON

- END DRIVEN / NOT RECREATION DRIVEN

- NO BALANCE

- NO TALK OF RISING SEA LEVEL

- NOT ADDRESSED

- NEED AN INDEPENDENT OUTSIDE INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT TO REVIEW PLAN

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016 2

-2-

- PLAN IS TRYING TO LOOK BACKWARDS IN TIME

- WHAT SHOULD HAPPEN

→ INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT ASSESS PLAN

- WETLAND - WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PROTECT?

⇒ WE NEED AN INVENTORY OF WHAT IS THERE

WHAT RESEARCH IS GOING ON?

- CARBON UFG. MAPPING

- UVC BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS

- UVC - COASTAL ZONE

- SAND DUNE

- PROU TEM

PLAN HAS TO COST OUT EVERYTHING

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016 3

-3-

- DOG WALKERS INCLUDING DISABLED ARE THERE FOR EXERCISE. OFF-LEASH DOES NOT WORK

- BERM - PROTECTING FROM RISING SEA LEVEL

- WORDING ON BERM UNCERTAIN - STRENGTHEN

- DON'T LET BERM DEGRADE

- TEM - NOT DONE SPECIFICALLY FOR JOB SCALE IN APPROPRIATE, NOT USEFUL FOR DECISIONS

- HENCE NEED A BETTER INVENTORY

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016 4

-4-

- MORE EXERCISE WHEN DOGS OFF-LEASH

- IF ON-LEASH, NEED TO WIDEN TRAILS, NOT ENOUGH ROOM, MORE AGGRESSION ON LEASH

BERM - DISAPPEARS AT TSWOUT

SEA LEVEL RISE, WATER WILL INUNDATE

- LONG-TERM - BIGGER BERM INCL TSWOUT (OR LEAVE OUT)

- WILL THERE BE A CIRCULAR TRAIL, A LOOP?

- MAINTAIN + ENHANCE BERM

- MOSQUITOES CONCERN MUST BE CONTROLLED UNCERTAIN IN PLAN

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016 5

-5-

- WANT OFF-LEASH DOG WALKING

- MULTI-USE - EVERYONE GETS ALONG

- EXTENDING BERM BEYOND PARK VERY DIFFICULT

- LACK OF PROTECTION AT TSWOUT FN LANDS (INCL. SEWAGE TREATMENT)

- RISING SEA LEVEL WILL AFFECT SAR

- WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES

- THIS IS A BIG CHANGE

- RESTRICTION FROM 1989 PLAN

- LOCKED OUT OF PARK

- SEA LEVEL RISE - BIG CONCERN MUCH HIGHER THAN 0.5

- SOUTH (MITCHELL LAND) NEEDS TO BE PROTECTED FROM RSL + STORMS

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016 6

-6-

- CRD SUPPRESSED PLAN OF SEA LEVEL RISE.

- 1989 PLAN IS FINE, LOTS OF ENV PROT

- NO NEW PLAN; PRIORITY ON SEA LEVEL STUDY

- SHOULD'NT DO PLAN UNTIL RSL STUDY DONE

- DON'T HAVE ENV. INFO

- DON'T HAVE ANSWERS TO OUR ENV QUESTION (E OF JOB)

- CRD SUPPRESSED REPORTS

- TEM - SCALE NOT GOOD ENV

- MALFUNCTION OF PITCHES HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN

TEM IS INACCURATE

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016 7

-7-

- SALT MARSH J.D. IS INCORRECT

- USED TO FARM DATS IN SUPPOSED SALT MARSHES

- OFFICIAL TRAIL FOR ALL ADJACENT LANDOWNERS THROUGH NORTH

- NOT GETTING FEEDBACK BECAUSE WE DON'T LIKE THE BIG PICTURE

- CARPET BURIED - WHY IS IT THERE? EYESORE

REMOVE NOW

- NEW PLAN FOR 27 YEARS? DURATION?

- TRACK RECORD DEALING WITH ISSUE NOT GOOD

MOSQUITOES BERM ETC.

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016 8

-8-

- NOT LIVING UP TO 1989 PLAN

- DITCH CLOGGED

- N SIDE OF JU ROAD (DCS PROPERTY)

- CAMPGROUND

- WHAT'S BEING MOVED?

- WHAT'S CHANGING?

- NO SIZE CHANGE

- REARRANGE

MOSQUITO STATEMENTS NEED TO BE UNAMBIGUOUS

- WORDING COMES FROM MOTION

- STAFF CREATED WORDS

- STAFF ATTITUDE??

TRUST PROBLEM

SEA LEVEL - PLAN DOES NOT DEAL WITH THAT

BERM - MESSY LANGUAGE

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016 9

- ANXIETY -9-
- EVERYTHING IS INCIDENTAL TO SEA LEVEL RISE. "LET'S NOT ALL BE WASHED AWAY."
  - ACCESS FOR HORSES - FORMAL ACCESS BETWEEN BEACHES + ROADS
  - WE DON'T WANT AN ENVIRONMENTAL MUSEUM
  - UNOFFICIAL TRAILS NEED TO BE PROTECTED.
    - PEOPLE WANT TO WANDER AROUND, EXPERIENCE NATURE
  - NO INDICATION THAT TRAILS HAVE DONE ANY DAMAGE
  - PLACE TO GO TO RELEASE FRESH AIR, OCEAN, RECHARGE STRESS RELIEVER

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016 10

- NEED TO LOOK AT BIGGEST THREAT - ~~SSR~~
- UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT THAT CC + RSL IS BIGGEST ISSUE AND NEEDS TO BE DEALT WITH FIRST
- NEED LINK TO CC FROM REPORTS
- IUB PREVENTION
  - CAMP GROUND NEED TO LOOK NICER
  - PLANT GRASS
- CRA SHOULD BE A COORDINATING FORCE FOR IMPROVING + EXTENDING THE BERM
- GOLDER RPT NOT ADDRESSING (IMMEDIATE PROBLEM) OF EXTENDING BERM

NEIGHBOURS 22 JUN 2016 11

- 11-
- RESTORATION OF SAND DUNES?
  - ON THE TABLE?
- GREATEST THREAT TO ENDANGERED SPECIES IS INVASIVE SPP I.E. BROWN
- NEED VOLUNTEER HELP
- WE HAVE TOLD YOU OUR CONCERNS, WHY HAS NOTHING BEEN DONE ABOUT IT?
- WE NEED TO SEE OUR CONCERNS REFLECTED IN THE PLAN
- JAN 2015
- TAKE 30'S
- RECYCLE

## A3.4 Capital Region Dog Owners (June 29, 2016)

### Flip chart notes from dog owners stakeholder workshop

<p>DOG OWNERS 29JUN2016</p> <p>AGENDA</p> <p>7:00 WELCOME 7:05 HOUSEKEEPING 7:10 PURPOSE / AGENDA REVIEW 7:20 BRIEF PRESENTATION 7:35 QUESTIONS, CLARIFICATIONS COMMENTS 8:50 NEXT STEPS 9:00 ADJOURN</p>	<p>DOG OWNERS 29JUN2016 1</p> <p>-1-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO DECIDES WHAT PUTH SAYS</li> <li>• PLAN DOES NOT REFLECT INPUT IN STEP 2 REPORT</li> <li>• NOT A BALANCED PLAN</li> <li>• WHY DO PEOPLE GO TO PARK? 1. WALKING 2. DOG WALKING → 3 NATURE</li> <li>HENCE PARK <sup>PLAN</sup> IS NOT BALANCED</li> </ul>	<p>DOG OWNERS 29JUN2016 2</p> <p>-2-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BUT 1-3 ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE</li> <li>• DOG WALKERS ARE NATURE LOVERS TOO</li> <li>• DOGS ARE PART OF THE FAMILY</li> <li>• IF WE WANTED AN EXCLUDED AREA WE WOULD GO TO CY HAMPSON</li> <li>• DOG PARKS NOT GOOD FOR DOG BEHAVIOUR - PROBLEMS</li> <li>• NO DOG PARK!</li> <li>• POSSIBLE LOCATION UNDER H<sub>2</sub>O IN WINTER</li> </ul>
<p>DOG OWNERS 29JUN2016 3</p> <p>-3-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35% HOUSEHOLDS OWN A DOG</li> <li>• WHY IS TERM DOG MGMT MEAN NEGATIVE?</li> <li>• PEOPLE WITH PROBLEMS W DOGS IN A MINORITY WE ARE TAXPAYERS - RESIST RESTRICTIONS</li> <li>• FEEL MARGINALIZED</li> <li>• PEOPLE W DOGS USUALLY GO AWAY FROM PICKNICK AREAS</li> <li>• DOG OWNERS POLICE OTHER DOG OWNERS</li> <li>• SOCIAL + COMPLEX EMOTIONAL CREATURES - NEED OFF-LEASH SOCIALIZATION</li> <li>• IF OF LEASH TO MUCH - GET LEASH OR BARREN FRUSTRATION</li> </ul>	<p>DOG OWNERS 29JUN2016 4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NEED TO URUN</li> <li>• NEED MORE PLACES FOR DOGS OFF-LEASH</li> <li>• INCREASE THAT DOGS DAMAGE WILDLIFE - NO INFO PROVIDED FOR TUB</li> <li>• LOTS OF UBRACIOUS PREDATORS + OTHER ANIMALS CAUSE DAMAGE</li> <li>• ALL DOG MANAGEMENT PLANS SHOULD BE FINALIZED BEFORE THE DRAFT PLAN IS REVISED</li> <li>• WHAT IS THE DOG MGMT STRATEGY? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?</li> <li>• YOU ARE PROPOSING A SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM THAT HAS NOT BEEN DEFINED</li> </ul>	<p>DOG OWNERS 29JUN2016 5</p> <p>-5-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHOULD HAVE DONE RESEARCH - HOW MANY DOGS ARE THERE? - WHAT DAMAGE ARE THEY DOING? - QUANTIFY THE ISSUES</li> <li>• THIS EXERCISE IS A SOLUTION LOOKING FOR A PROBLEM</li> <li>• THIS DRAFT PLAN WILL DISCOURAGE USE</li> <li>• MAJORITY OF USER OF PARK ARE DOG WALKERS, WHY ARE YOU RESTRICTING THEM?</li> <li>• DOG MGMT MEANS RESTRICTION</li> <li>• NO DOG MGMT STRATEGY - PUT ALL MGMT INTO THE PLAN DON IT RECOMMEND A DOG MGMT STRATEGY IF WE DON IT KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS.</li> </ul>
<p>DOG OWNERS 29JUN2016 6</p> <p>-6-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USE OF AREA NORTH + WEST OF LAMONT ROAD (CHLOE'S TRAIL)</li> <li>• CONTINUALLY MAKE TRAILS THAT FOLLOW DITCHES (UNOFFICIAL) OFFICAL DISRUPTED BY DREDGING EVERY YEAR ANYWAY</li> <li>• YES PROTECT NE QUADRANT FENCE IT</li> <li>• SUPPORT DOGS ON LEASH IN BUSY AREAS (DURING TIME SPAN)</li> <li>• COVER SAND VERBENA WITH CAGES - (COUNT 31 PLANT CLUSTERS)</li> <li>• RECOVER STRATELY SAYS THIS. NEED TO EDUCATE PEOPLE SIGNAGE - "WE ARE PROTECTING SIGNAGE" (PLAIN ENGLISH)</li> </ul>	<p>DOG OWNERS 29JUN2016 7</p> <p>-7-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SOMEBODY ALREADY GOES TO DELINEATE TRAILS IN LEASH AREA</li> <li>• PEOPLE'S FEEL MORE IT A PROBLEM THAN DOG PANS</li> <li>• MOBILITY / ACCESSIBILITY</li> <li>• CAN'T MANAGE DOG LEASH WITH MANY DISABILITIES</li> <li>• ON LEASH DOGS CAN BE HARASSING - NATURAL WELL-BEING</li> <li>• AREA OFF-LEASH IS TOO SMALL AND BEST WALKING IS NORTH OF LAMONT ROAD</li> <li>• DOG MGMT WOLF HYBRID ISSUE</li> <li>• LOOP ROAD FROM NORTH PARKING UP TO STANWOUT LOT - SHOULD BE OFF LEASH</li> <li>• OFF-LEASH ENCLOSURE CAN'T OVERLAP OFF-USE AREA</li> <li>• WE LIKE IMPROVED EDUCATION + COMMUNICATION</li> </ul>	<p>DOG OWNERS 29JUN2016 8</p> <p>-8-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SIGNAGE IN CONSERVATION AREA WHAT IS HERE? WHY IMPORTANT? HOW CAN I HELP?</li> <li>• WE SUPPORT CONSERVATION</li> <li>• WE CAN IT SUPPORT RESTORATION - HOW DO YOU BEGIN</li> <li>• EDUCATION - TWO KINDS OF SIGNAGE BUSERS - NATURAL FEATURES - ALREADY DOING IMAGING</li> <li>• 2. MAPPING POINT - DENIT MONITORING MEASURE</li> <li>• MORE CRD STAFF SHOULD BE AT STAKE MTS</li> <li>• 3. RESPONSIBLE DOG MGMT "THIS WHAT GOOD DOG MGMT LOOKS LIKE" - PROVIDE BAGS FOR POOP - PARTNERSHIP + SANDBOX OR BINS</li> <li>• DOG OWNERS NOT BEING HEARD</li> </ul>

DOG OWNERS 29 JUN 2016 9

- 9-
- ISN'T PLAN MOOT GIVEN RISING SEA LEVEL?
- IF TRAILS ARE ON-LEASH, NEED TO BE WIDER
- WHAT ABOUT BEACH - IS CRD NOT TALKING TO FEDS + PRO? "FOR THE TIME BEING"
- EDUCATION NEEDED AT BEACH
- SEASONAL BEES AT PARKVILLE COULD WE DO THAT?
- DOG
- WANT TO RUN AROUND IN NORTH GRASSLANDS
- BLUNDON REPORT ON INVASIVES
- 

DOG OWNERS 29 JUN 2016 10

- 10-
  - AQUATIC TOXICOLOGY BACKGROUND
  - NEED FOR DEFENSIBLE EVIDENCE - BASED SCIENCE, PEER-REVIEWED
  - CORONA STATISTICAL GEOLOGICAL DRIVE
  - TEM PLANNED
  - PROPER INVENTORY OF ENVIRONMENT
  - INVASIVE PLANT PLAN
  - BUDGET?
  - PUBLIC EDUCATION
  - NO NATURAL SALT MARCH
- DO A DOG STUDY BEFORE YOU DO A STRATEGY

### A3.5 Friends of Island View Beach (July 8, 2016)

**Flip chart notes from FofIVB stakeholder workshop (following pages)**

FRIENDS 08 JUL 2016

AGENDA

- 2:00 WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS
- 2:05 HOUSEKEEPING
- 2:10 PURPOSE / AGENDA REVIEW
- 2:20 BRIEF PRESENTATION - CRD PARKS
- 2:30 BRIEF PRESENTATION - F + IUB
- 3:10 QUESTIONS, CLARIFICATIONS COMMENTS
- 3:50 NEXT STEPS
- 4:00 ADJOURN

FRIENDS 08 JUL 2016 1

-1-

- PARK HAS EVOLVED TO SUIT USERS
- PROMISES ON RECREATION USE NOT KEPT
- RECREATION AND ENVIRONMENT ARE NOT MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE
- WEIGHTING OF COMMENTS F + IUB HAS 4500 SIGNATURES
- WHERE ARE SOME COMMENTS COMING FROM?
- SMALL GROUPS - DIFFERENT OPINIONS - BUT NOT A VOTE
- NOT QUANTITATIVE ENOUGH

FRIENDS 08 JUL 2016 2

-2-

- F + IUB NOT OPPOSED TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- CHECK THE DATA; CLAIMED OR NOT SUBSTANTIATED EXAGGERATED
- THANK YOU FOR STICKING WITH IT CRD
- MEASURABLE SUCCESS
- LOSING PARK TO INVASIVES - WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR THAT?
- F + IUB NOT GOING AWAY
- PERSONAL ACCESSIBILITY STORY

FRIENDS 08 JUL 2016 3

-3-

- MENTAL + PHYSICAL HEALTH VALUE OF IUB
- DOGS ON BEACH OFF-LEASH "COMPLEMENTARY STRATEGIES"
- BUDGET + TIMEFRAME
- QUESTION: IN RESPONSE FORM BIASED
- NO TRUST




# Stakeholder meeting presentation by Friends of Island View Beach

7/27/16


**Friends of Island View Beach**  
Response to the CRD 2016 draft proposal  
Island View Beach Regional Park  
July 8, 2016

Process had an agenda from the beginning.  
Apparent conflict of interest  
No transparency  
None of the concerns raised by FOIVB given during Phase 1, 2, reflected in Phase 3 Draft plan

**Rising sea levels**  
Rising sea levels threaten the existence of Island View Beach in a relatively short time.  
This is a CRD map showing that Island View Beach will be inundated with just a **0.5m** rise in sea level





**Rising sea levels** con't  
A CRD report said a **0.5m** sea level rise will inundate Island View Beach.  
But in June 2016 a draft report from the CRD Environment Committee quoted new studies suggesting sea level rise will be between **1m - 3m** in just over 30 years




This CRD map shows IVB inundated with 1m sea level rise.

**Rising sea levels** con't  
Waves breaking over the south berm, December 5, 2015  
The inland side of the berm that the waves were breaking over



**Rising sea levels** con't





**Rising sea levels** con't

The latest report from the CRD Environmental Committee says:

*"These estimates have yet to be fully reviewed and accepted by the broader scientific community. Nevertheless, if correct, they suggest a catastrophic outcome if serious mitigation does not occur very quickly."*

The position of the FOIVB is that the impact of rising sea level will be so devastating to Island View Beach, that to make any changes to the operation of Island View Beach without FIRST studying rising sea level, is irresponsible and a waste of taxpayer funds.

The FOIVB call on the CRD to not proceed further until the timing of rising sea level is better known, and a protective strategy is implemented.

The public were denied the opportunity to make an informed, thoughtful and rational presentation on the CRD's proposals at Island View Beach Regional Park

*because:*

the CRD's environmental presentation contained inconsistencies that were not supported by the evidence

*and because:*

the CRD did not produce factual, scientific evidence to support its claims

*and because:*

the CRD based much of its claims on the Ministry of Environment, Stacey Filatow 2009 Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping report, which

- was fatally flawed; and
- not done to the 2006 standard for mapping ecosystems at risk

*and because:*

the CRD kept key reports from the public

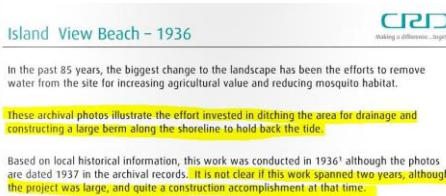
- the Fairbairns report, of July, 2014
- the Aecom Coastal, Sea, Level, Rise, Risk, Assessment, of January, 2015

*As a consequence:*

The Friends of Island View Beach take the position that because the public were so misinformed (and uninformed,) that the CRD is precluded from proceeding with a new management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

The FOIB call for an independent environmental assessment to be done for the park, in conjunction with an independent study of the timing and consequences of rising sea level, and that these reports form the basis of any new park management plan.

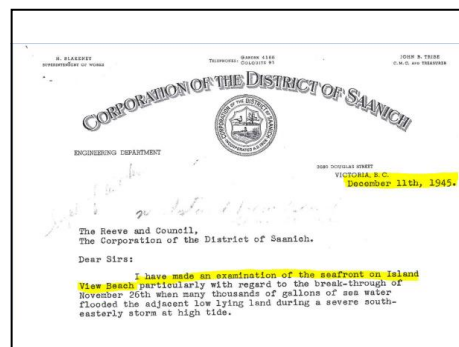
**Incorrect** – “constructing a large berm, along the shore line, to hold back the tide”



**Fact**

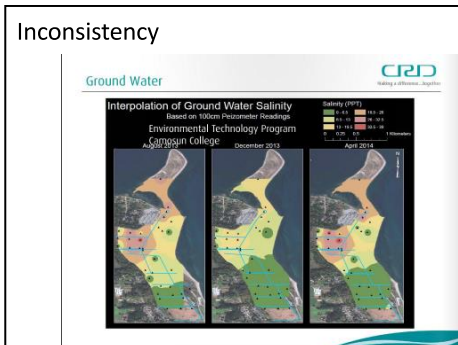
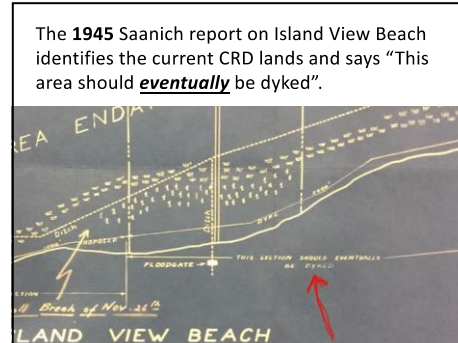
No berm was built along the CRD lands until the 1950's – some 20 years after the ditches were built in 1936.

**The claim by the CRD that a "large berm" was built in 1936 was in error.**



The 1945 report of the Saanich Superintendent of Works speaks of the “natural dyke” on what is now the CRD lands

The total length of the beach fronting the low lying lands is approximately 7,000 feet and the area of the low lying lands potentially endangered by flooding is approximately 100 acres. The northerly 3,400 feet of beach is not as vulnerable to breaks as the southerly 2,600 feet as it generally tends to face the north-easterly and also the natural dike is slightly higher.



### Inconsistency

Ground Water

The Camosun College Environmental Technology Program has assessed groundwater at Island View Beach with a study conducted in 2013 and 2014.

The study looked at seasonal changes in salinity in a series of groundwater wells installed at over 30 locations.

On these maps, the orange and red zones are considered salt water, the yellow and light green would be considered brackish (between salt and fresh) and the darker green would be considered fresh to mildly brackish.

The data show that in late summer and early spring the area is dominated by salt and brackish water. During the peak of the rainy season in December, the influence of freshwater is slightly more, particularly in the southern portion of the study area, but water is predominantly brackish.

The 500' effect of head research defines brackish and fresh water criteria. Freshwater salinity is usually less than 5 ppt. Water in between 5 and 17 ppt is called brackish. Water above this value is considered salt water. Average ocean salinity is 35 ppt, and ranges about 32 and 37 ppt. Office of Beach Research: <http://www.beachresearch.com/2013/08/08/groundwater-salinity/>

By: David Macdonald, 2014. Unpublished data, Camosun College Environmental Technology Program, Victoria.

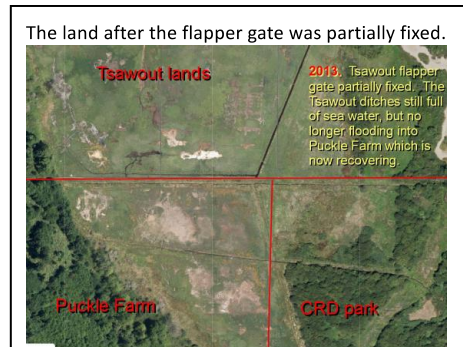
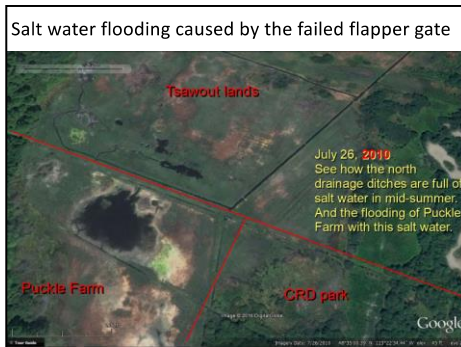
**The inconsistency about the Camosun study**

The CRD did not disclose that the Tsawout lands, where the highest salinity was reported, have been flooded with salt water from the failed flapper gate for something like 25 years. This man made event is a likely cause of the high salinity found there.

**The fatal flaw in the TEM report**

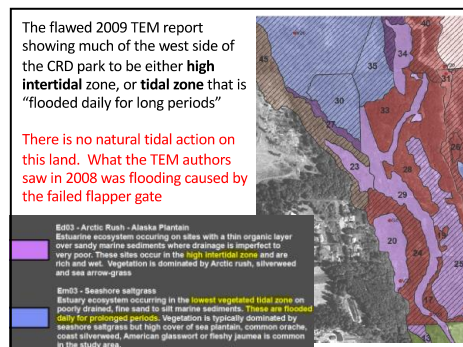
The Ministry of Environment did a Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping of Cordova Shore in 2008 using a photo from 2005.

During that time the flapper gate in the Tsawout drainage system was wide open and allowed salt water to flow freely up the Tsawout ditch and tidally flood the interior lands of the Tsawout flatlands, Puckle Farm and the CRD park with salt water.



In common with the authors of the Cordova Strategy at the time, the MoE staff mistook the man made salt water flooding for a natural salt marsh.

As a result, the TEM report mistakenly classified most of the land on the west as a tidal zone or intertidal zone.



**The CRD may have been aware since 2012 that the TEM report was wrong**, yet the CRD used it as their primary scientific reference in their presentations to the public through 2015 & 2016. The CRD also quoted this TEM report as their justification for their proposed Environmental Protection Zone.

The CRD should have been aware that the TEM report was not done to the 2006 RISC standard for mapping ecosystems at risk and sensitive ecosystems.

The map resolution did not meet those standards, and there were not sufficient onsite inspections.

Also the CRD did not disclose the limitations of the TEM report that the authors of that report identified.

Instead the CRD overstated the quality of the report.

**No damage**

No evidence has been shown by the CRD that any of the public activities in the park over the last 50 years, including hiking, dogs and horse riding, have caused damage to the park

We reject the proposal by the CRD to require dogs to be on leash in the park, other than in picnic areas.

We reject the CRD's proposal for a fenced dog park.

We support equestrian access throughout the park.

We support the fencing of areas proven by independent experts to be environmentally at risk or sensitive, and that require protection.

We reject the proposal to hire park wardens

- the public does not want wardens,
- nor has any need been shown for them.

We reject the proposal for co-management of the park.

This park was purchased with tax payer funds and held in the name of the Capital Regional District for the benefit of all people of the region, and the CRD must be solely accountable for its management.

We question the claim of the CRD that there is strong support for more involvement of the Tsawout First Nation in the park.

This is not a slight on the Tsawout people, but our belief that the majority of the public come to the park for recreation.

We reject the CRD's proposal for a "coastal sand restoration" project because neither the need, nor the cost, have been disclosed.

We reject the CRD's proposal to work with the Province and the Tsawout to regulate dogs.

These are separate legal entities with very different responsibilities and objectives.

The draft plan is incomplete and proposes to leave major portions to be decided after public consultation has ended. This is not acceptable - the entire plan must be put to the public.

[Click here for examples](#)

We call for a prohibition on hunting of any kind in the park, using the same wording as is in the existing park plan that says:

*"Hunting shall be prohibited in the park, including the use of predatory birds."*

We call for ***unconditional*** commitments by the CRD

- to maintain the mosquito drainage ditches
- to maintain the mosquito control program
- to maintain the sea berm

We support the repair and maintenance of the public boat launch.

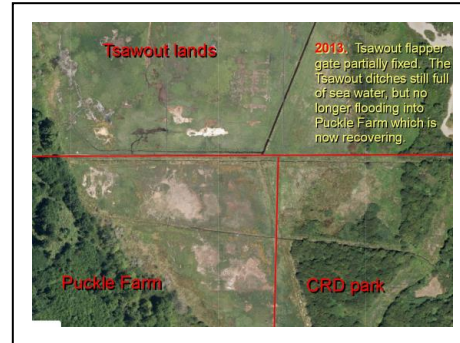
We call on the CRD to work with the District of Central Saanich to make this happen.

The CRD owns two 1/2 acre parcels, one on each side of the end of Island View Road. We propose that the south parcel be dedicated for the parking of boat trailers, and the north parcel be made available for the parking of horse trailers and buses.

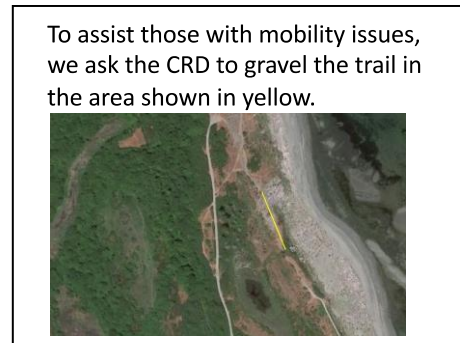




**The flapper gate on the Tsawout drainage ditch** failed some 25 years ago, allowing salt water to flow up the ditch and contaminate the environment and change the ecosystem. We call on the CRD to assist the Tsawout to repair or replace this flapper gate so that in time the environment may recover.



We support the construction of a walking trail from the junction of Lamont Road and Highcrest Terrace, to run diagonally south down to the flat lands of the park.



**Conclusion**  
Draft plan appears to try to implement goals of Cordova Strategy through back door  
FOIVB wants independent professional review of draft plan .  
Evidence based Terms of Reference for such review to be jointly agreed upon

### A3.6 Environmental /academic (July 14, 2016)

#### General Comments:

- The plan needs to address enforcement at the park. Without enforcement, people will continue to break the rules.
- Need to beef up naturalist tours around the park to help people understand what's important so they don't break the rules.
- It will probably get harder to change people's behavior, not easier. Need better enforcement.
- Need a larger enforcement budget.
- There are volunteers who are ready to talk to park visitors to help with enforcement.
- What does "under control" really mean? It needs to be more clearly-defined.
- What about applying for a provincial "license of occupation" for the area below the high tide line? Licenses of Occupation are granted for specific uses, but it is worth taking a look at. It would give the CRD more control over the foreshore.
- We don't know who isn't using the park, or why. We should try to find this out.

#### Q1. What do you like about the draft plan?

- Keeping the western part of the park off-limits to people and dogs.
- Keeping the dogs on leash and on the trail.
- The size and location of the Outdoor Recreation Area.
- That the CRD is taking interest in the park – it's a real change from the status quo.
- That the CRD has come up with some practical ways to deal with visitor use. The zoning scheme is good.
- Having designated trails and keeping everyone informed about the usage. It keeps everyone compartmentalized.
- That the CRD will monitor the mosquito control program.
- That IVB is a conservation park.
- That the berm won't be upgraded or extended.
- The management priorities; restoration is long overdue.
- The prospect of having other groups involved to help with bylaw enforcement and education.
- That there will be a "friends" group that will help the park.
- The idea of enlisting FOIVB in conservation activities.
- That we are working with the Tsawout First Nation and Central Saanich.
- The emphasis on education.
- Victoria Natural History Society input:
  - Like the park's classification
  - Like that 70% of the park is an Environmental Protection Zone
  - Like the emphasis on better dog control
- Habitat Acquisition Trust input:
  - Like the stress on the importance of the dune ecosystem and migratory birds
  - Was involved in the Good Neighbors Program – liked that
  - Like the planning process
  - Like that the CRD is thinking about climate change

#### Q2. What don't you like about the draft plan?

- The berm! This conflicts with environmental protection.

- The ditches! There is 7 km of it. Good luck with conservation and restoration with the ditches in place.
- The mosquito control program! The plan doesn't identify how we will monitor the mosquito control program. The same with the ditches. We need these studies to be done and the plan to state how the programs will be monitored.
- The fences! They are capturing the sand.
- No biologist would argue that the berm, ditches, and the mosquito control program aren't a problem.
- Unequal representation. There are a whole lot of misinformed people out there who are drowning out the informed people who know and care about these issues.
- The only specific policy direction in the draft plan is on the berm, ditches, and the mosquito control program. There is nothing conservation-wise or specifically directed at conservation in the plan. This is a problem! There is a stacked deck towards that specific policy direction. The plan needs some policy statements that are specifically about conservation.
- There is no wording about conservation or restoration in the draft plan.
- We have the Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy. This needs to be looked at from a bigger level and built into the plan. The politicians need CRD Regional Parks to take a lead on this.
- The current plan won't address issues in the end. Looking 10-15 years down the road, nothing will be done about conservation or restoration.
- VNHS:
  - Don't like the management of the sand dune ecosystems – as long as the berm exists, the habitat for plants and animals won't be improved.
  - Don't like the mosquito control program; need to monitor its effectiveness.
- HAT:
  - Need better protection for migratory birds in the spring and fall.
  - Need better protection of the ecosystems. They are very rare and need to be protected.
- Don't like the decision-making process. The CRD Directors are the forum for regional representation. But they are vulnerable to short-term decisions. We are concerned that the FOIVB is misquoting facts about the park and having undue influence with the Directors. For instance, they are accusing staff of not using science-based decision making. We hope the Directors will see through this.
- There is too much emphasis on species at risk, which has opened the door to criticism. There should be a greater emphasis on other species and ecosystems in the park. This is very important.
- The plan seems like it is trying to crowd a lot of activities into a small area that can't contain them all. We don't like dogs being included in the Natural Environment Zone for instance. Why can't dogs be included in the Island View Municipal Park instead (run by the District of Central Saanich)?
- We don't like the proposed wetland trail in the Natural Environment Zone. There aren't very many people back there now; but if we formalize this trail, then we lose this quiet zone. We don't want that!

### **Q3. What changes would you like to see in the plan?**

- It should be acknowledged that different landowners exist and have different interests.

- Very suspicious of studies. They go on forever and nothing ever gets done because there is always a need for more information. The CRD should stand up and say what's important—what factors have led this area being classified as a Regional Conservation Area. Somehow the politicians need to hear this so that they can support it.
- The plan should say in broad strokes what needs to be done around restoration. These are important factors, and everything needs to feed into this.
- Would like the plan to say what a proper functioning condition is, and how you establish it. What is the desired condition of the ecosystem under properly functioning conditions, and how do we get there?
- We know what the roadblocks are. If we can't get around the roadblocks, then we're not maintaining it as a conservation park.
- We need to say how we're going to manage dogs: on-leash or off-leash; localized versus dispersed; time of day or year; out of stabilization areas.
- Monitor dog use and take action. Dogs may need to be shut out of some areas if they are going against conservation objectives. If objectives can't be achieved, then changes must be made.
- It seems like the marshes are the "wild west" – there is little tolerance for change. We could experiment with opening the tidal gates to demonstrate to people what would happen with water flowing again. We have good mapping of the park. We also need better education.
- Accessibility is the number one issue. We could address this even if we let some water come in. We won't lose the whole park even if it is partially flooded.
- The berm should be taken out north of the Lamont Road right-of-way. We should fill in the ditch on Lamont Road, stop the mosquito control program north of Lamont Road. We will find that the invasive species have disappeared and that the mosquitoes are largely under control.
- Use north of the Lamont Road ROW as a cut-off. There are considerable conservation values north of the ROW. Then we can leave south of Lamont ROW to the dogs.
- We need a land acquisition budget and we need to spend some of it at Island View Beach Regional Park. We need to acquire that piece of Puckle Farm in the wetland, acquire the Central Saanich pieces, and we should try for the land to the south, including the Mitchell farm land and the private parcel adjacent to Island View Road.
- The budget needs to include funds for better bylaw enforcement. We need to make sure it is adequate for the job. Volunteers will also help.
- For dogs, look at a seasonal closure, like they have done in Parksville with the Brandt geese. Combine seasonality and geography.
- At the roundtable last November, it was deemed unworkable to regulate dogs. Keeping people informed of rules is hard. People are as damaging as dogs. Would the efforts be successful?
- The least interesting months for birds are October, November, and December, although there are migrating birds every month of the year passing by the park. We have windows identified for every bird species, so it can be done. We do it for children (zone the beach off-limits to dogs in the summer), so why can't we do it for birds?

- Would like the plan to include monitoring to see what effect sea level rise is having on the park.
- If a wetland trail is built as a boardwalk, it should have no dogs on it at all. It should be a nature trail. There is a lot of research which proves that bird species decline precipitously when dogs are present.
- Where dogs and people are, there are less birds. We would like to see a nature trail with no dogs along the west side of the park designated as a quiet zone.
- If we're establishing a nature conservation area, then there should not be any dogs. The money that nature viewing brings in is far more than what dog walking brings in.
- Remove the proposed wetland trail – there is no need for this.
- Buy additional land and make it a dog park. This is a conservation area and not a place for dogs.
- Dogs are incompatible with a coastal sand ecosystem when it is properly functioning, it. There should be no dogs between the high tide line and the high storm line. There is no room for them anymore. These systems are too fragile to exist with people and dogs trampling them.
- Could live with an on-leash, on-trail restriction through the sand dune area, but not with off-leash or wandering.
- We agree with protecting all species, but the CRD *must* protect the species at risk. The status reports say what we can do to protect them. This should be in the management plan.
- When talking about species at risk, we need to include where they could live, not just where they live currently. Be careful of not restricting them to their current expanse—we need to provide for their expansion into suitable habitat.
- Blue carbon storage decreases from north to south. Research shows this. The south side of the park is also decreasing in elevation.
- We're making a big mistake by talking about single things. The key issues are the wetlands and the dunes. We need to establish this in the plan. If we focus on them, everything else will fall into place over time.

**Q4. What do you think about a trail through the Environmental Protection Zone?**

- No – we don't like it. We can't keep compromising. We aren't protecting this place for people to walk their dogs.
- If we can't protect an area like this, then the CRD should just stop buying land for conservation.
- Can this park be leased to Parks Canada? They have enforcement and a mandate. The CRD should sell the park to someone who can protect it.
- No to the north park trail. Wildlife needs a place to go without being disturbed.
- If we're serious about conservation, then we must walk the talk.
- We're afraid that the Environmental Protection Zone won't be as big in the next version of the plan.

## A4.0 Response form results

## Public Participation Process

The CRD Regional Parks Committee approved a 4-step public participation process to guide the preparation of a park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. In brief:

**Step 1** occurred in January and February 2015. The purpose of Step 1 was to present to the public scientific information about the park's natural environment, to develop a common understanding of that environment, and to increase the information base through public feedback. A summary report on the results of Step 1 was presented to the Regional Parks Committee in March 2015.

**Step 2** took place between April and July 2015. The purpose of Step 2 was to gather information about issues and interests that the public believes should be addressed in the park management plan. A summary report on the results of Step 2 was presented to the Regional Parks Committee in September 2015.

**Step 3** took place in November 2015 and consisted of a facilitated community roundtable dialogue session and an online response form to enable the public to further provide insights on the issues identified in Step 2.

**Step 4** occurred between April-July 2016 and consisted of using the results from Steps 1 to 3 to prepare a draft management plan, seeking feedback, and finalizing the plan. The online response form results presented in this document are part of the report of the Step 4 public participation process, which will be presented with a final draft of the plan to the Regional Parks Committee in the Fall of 2016.

## Online Response Form

The purpose of this report is to summarize the opinions expressed by the public through an online response form (Appendix I) in regard to the Island View Beach management plan. The survey was developed according to the "Step 2: Public Participation Process" report prepared by CRD in September 2015 (<https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/parks-pdf/island-view-beach-management-plan-public-participation-process-step-2-summary-report.pdf?sfvrsn=4>) and the "Step 3: Public Participation Process" report prepared by Alan Dolan in December 2015 (<https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/parks-pdf/ivbmgmtplanningprocess-step3.pdf?sfvrsn=2>).

The response form entailed 21 questions. Close-ended questions were used to reduce the response burden for participants. For those questions, a 5-point scale ranging from strongly support to strongly oppose was used. Open-ended questions were also included to allow respondents to offer additional comments and clarify their responses if they wished. All responses in the response form were voluntary, thus participants had the freedom to skip any question they did not wish to answer.

## Rationale of the Online Response Form

Assuming that not all members of the public are interested in providing feedback during the public town hall meetings (May 26 and 28, 2016) or stakeholder meetings (May-July 2016) organized for Step 4, an online response form was developed and posted on the CRD website from April 26 to July 10, 2016. The aim of the response form was to offer an additional venue for the public to voice its opinions about the Island View Beach draft management plan. The information obtained through this response form was not intended to be representative of the whole population of CRD. Hence, the data reported in this document will not be generalized to the broader population.

The response form was used to ensure that any feedback from participants engaged in the park management plan dialogue was documented and considered. The response form results complement the results obtained from the public town hall meetings and the stakeholder meetings, as well as input received through emails and mail. Hence, the information in this report needs to be interpreted in conjunction with the overall results of the Step 4 public participation process.

## Data analysis

The outcomes of the response form are reported as the number of participants choosing a specific response category when responding to a statement. Numbers are used to report the data in this report instead of percentages since:

- 1) The survey methodology used is tailored to people offering opinions about the draft management plan. The response form is not designed to obtain data from a random and larger sample of participants, so it is not suitable to use percentages. Percentages are used to generalize the data retrieved from a larger and representative population, which this sample is not
- 2) Respondents did not have to answer all the questions, so not all items in the response form have a response rate equal to the total number of response forms retrieved

The wording used and the issues reported in the response form are consistent with the feedback obtained through the public participation process (i.e., response forms, stakeholders meetings, public meetings, and emails) of Steps 2 and 3 and with the draft management plan developed based on these consultation processes (<https://www.crd.bc.ca/docs/default-source/parks-pdf/island-view-beach-regional-park-draft-management-plan.pdf?sfvrsn=4>). When possible, the exact wording of the statement in the response form is used in the figures included in this report. If the statement is too long, abbreviations are used. The exact text of the statements in the response form is reported in Appendix I.

## Results Online Response Form

A total of 214 online response forms were filled out from the April 28 to the July 10, 2016 (Figure 1). Three responses were excluded from the analysis because the data were corrupted. Results for 211 responses are reported as the number (n) of people who responded to a specific statement.



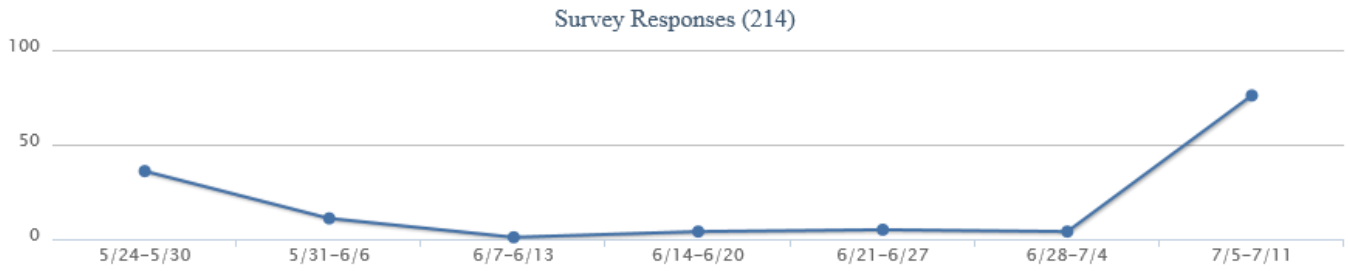


Figure 1: Number of participants offering feedback through the response form over time

## Vision Statement

The first question of the response form invited participants to express their support or opposition toward the park vision. Opinions about the park vision were divided, with a slight majority of respondents supporting the vision (n=110) in comparison to those opposing it (n=86) (Figure 2). Few participants were neutral (n=7) or did not respond (n=8) to the question. Respondents used mainly the extreme answers of the response scale, with many strongly supporting (n=82) or strongly opposing (n=65) the vision.

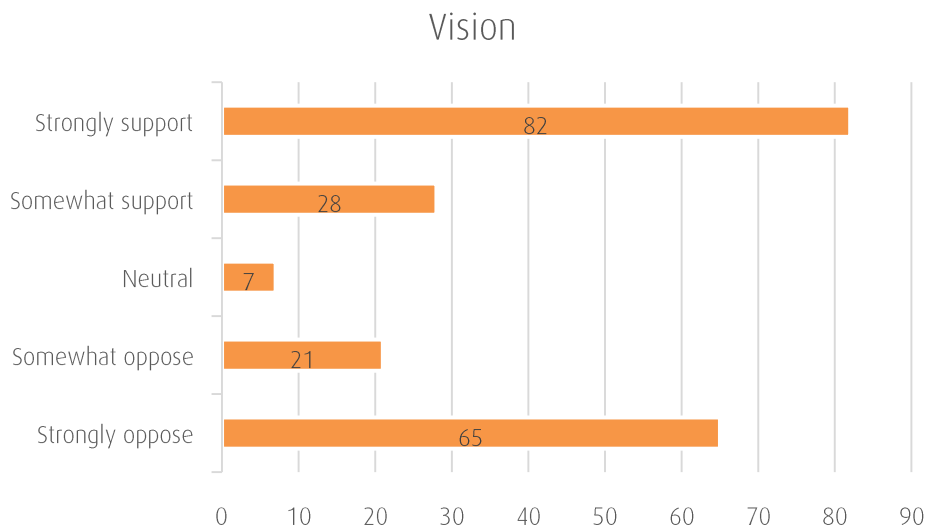


Figure 2: Opinions expressed by participants on the vision proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

A total of 139 qualitative comments were provided by respondents in regard to the proposed park vision, many of which entailed multiple remarks on the vision, the management plan in general, and specific issues related to Island View Beach Regional Park. Through the qualitative comments, participants expressed support especially for the following statement in the vision: “it is a place where the park’s classification as a Conservation Area guides decision-making and actions are taken to respond to climate change, restore coastal ecosystems, protect species at risk, facilitate increased understanding through research initiatives” (n=70) and “provide outstanding visitor experiences” (n=31). Support was also expressed for the regional park being a “unique place” (n=16) that allows

to “connect with nature” (n=16) and provides educational opportunities (n=14). Some respondents tended to answer the question about the vision based on their values and primary interests. Although dogs were not included in the vision statement, they were mentioned by several respondents (n=21) who supported the proposed dogs on-leash regulation and the enclosed off-leash area for dogs. For example, respondent comments spanned from supporting the *“protection and restoration of the unique ecosystem and allow ALL park users an enjoyable experience (not just dog owners and the fur babies). Many people do not enjoy being jumped on by ‘friendly’ dogs”* (respondent comment) to *“I love and have dogs and do not support off-leash dogs in the area, but love the enclosed off leash area plan. Many parks ask that dogs are leashed unless in your control but we see that even though your dog will come when called (in control) they have already disturbed large areas of nesting, fragile ecosystems etc. in their explorations! They are predators and should not be loose in the parks”* (respondent comment).

Values and personal interests were even more stressed in the 132 qualitative comments offered by participants when answering the question “what do you oppose about the park vision, and why”. Most of the concerns expressed by respondents related to an increase in enforcement and regulations (n=47) and the restriction of dogs through leashes (n=39). A respondent explained: *“the “public” has clearly demonstrated by its active participation and presence what it wants from Island View Park - an unrestricted, minimally regulated place where dogs can play off leash, horses can ride and people can build driftwood forts”* (respondent comment). Other participants wanted improvements in dog management (n=15), especially in relation to dog waste collection and dog disturbing other visitors. As explained by a participant *“I have been assailed by dogs and their walkers on several occasions, one quite aggressively. The rule should be ALL dogs on leashes, no more than one dog per person, always on the paths and clean up after your animal. Area is informally called “Island Poo Beach” because of animal droppings”* (respondent comment). Other comments offered by participants were: 1) provide more/keep access to the park (n=14); and 2) leave the park as it is (n=16).

Respondents are divided between supporting: 1) conservation values, regulations enforcement and dog on-leash; and 2) maintain the park as is by not leashing dogs, allow unconstrained access and maintain the current regulation and enforcement efforts. Respondents are polarized in their opinion and tend to position themselves at the extreme points of the scale.

## Zoning

A slight majority of respondents supported the outdoor recreation zone (n=96) in comparison to opposing it (n=76) (Figure 3). Several respondents expressed neutral opinions (n=11) or preferred not to respond (n=28) to this question.

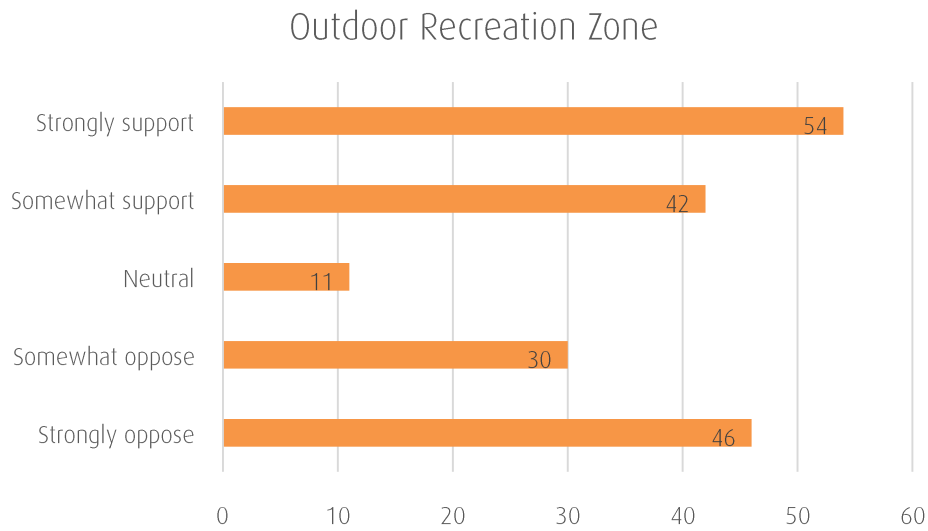


Figure 3: Opinions expressed by participants on the outdoor recreation zone proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

When asked about the natural environment zone, slightly more participants were against (n=104) than in favour (n=83) of establishing this zone (Figure 4). Polarization toward the extreme of the answer scale is recorded mainly for the opposition responses; the support responses are more balanced between strongly and somewhat support. Several participants did not offer an opinion on this zoning (neutral=8; no answer=16).

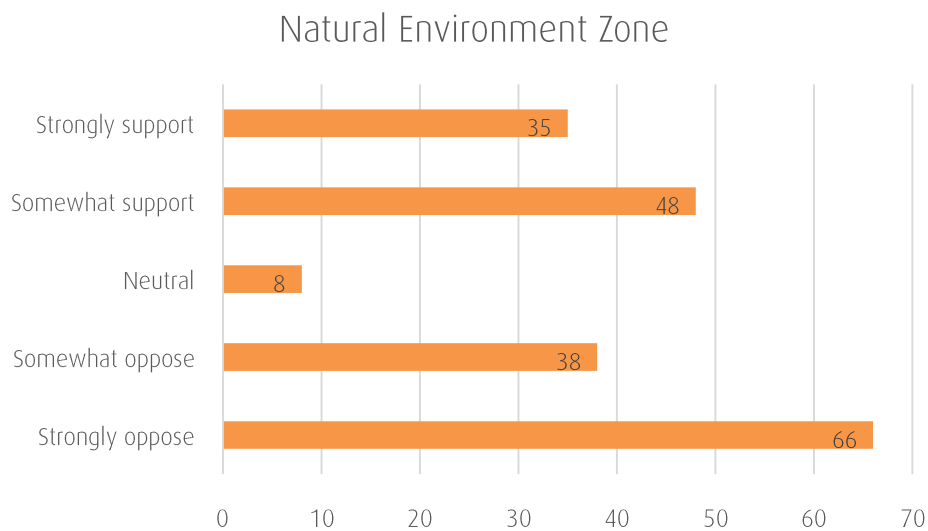


Figure 4: Opinions expressed by participants on the natural environment zone proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

The most controversial zone proposed in the draft plan is the environmental protection zone, with a close split and extremely polarized responses between strongly opposing (n=74) or supporting (n=71) the establishment of such a zone (Figure 5). The same pattern is visible for responses concerning opposing (n=29) or supporting (n=22) this type of zoning. Fewer respondents did not express their opinion about this item in comparison to the two previous zones (neutral=3; no answer=12).

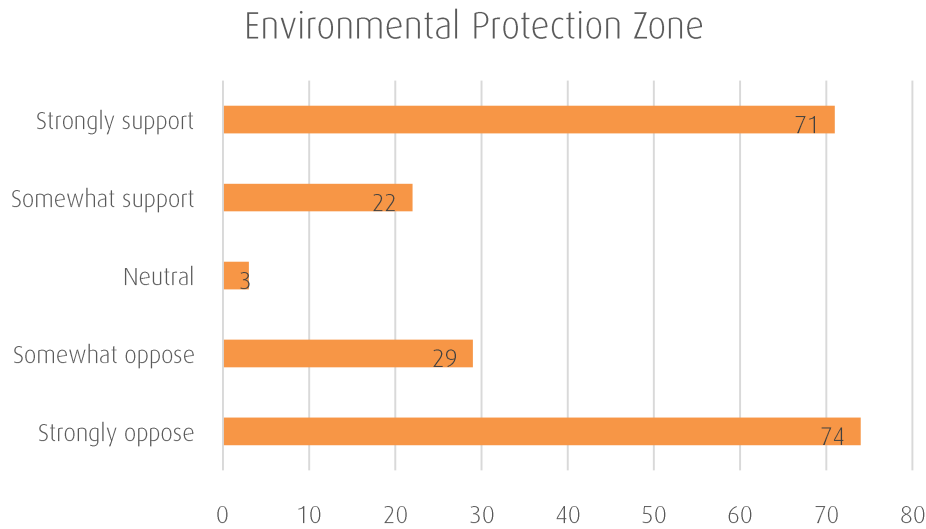


Figure 5: Opinions expressed by participants on the environment protection zone proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

From the 128 comments provided by respondents about the reasons to support the proposed park zoning, the most common were leashing dogs (n=40), enhancing conservation (n=36), and creating areas with different use purposes (n=26). A respondent stated: *“limiting dogs to certain areas is good. Leaving one end for groups/gatherings and one end more natural/quiet. Good for people to realize that not all land is for all things at all times - respects the ecosystems as well as the variety of visitors”* (respondent comment). Participants in favour of leashing dogs explained that they did not want to interact with dogs while in the park, were upset about dog waste, had bad experiences with aggressive or out-of-control dogs, and saw dogs chasing birds and other wildlife in the park. Concerns about personal or their pet safety were described by a participant as follows: *“I am a dog lover and owner. I am becoming increasingly alarmed at the number of off leash uncontrolled dogs in public parks. I keep my dog on a leash as I recognize that not all people like dogs. I am also concerned about my dog (who is very large) possibly scaring or knocking someone down. I myself love dogs, but every day on my walks uncontrolled dogs run up to us barking. Their owners endlessly say oh they’re friendly or how cruel that we don’t let our dog run wild in the park. Dogs chase birds, trash vegetation and regularly harass people if not properly controlled. Please work to restrict dogs from being off leash and uncontrolled in our city”* (respondent comment). Conservation through zoning was another factor respondents supported: *“I am happy to see at least some of the park designated primarily for conservation and am glad there are some constraints on off-trail use and regulation of dogs. I think the choice of areas for the different use categories is reasonable”* (respondent comment). Several

comments related to the idea of balancing different uses through zoning: *“while it allows access to all zones, it moderates the kind of activity that can take place in each. This is a good first step to protect delicate ecosystems”* (respondent comment) and *“it seems like this will allow everyone to enjoy. I think there is a lot of misinformation out there. I was sent this from someone who believed dogs were not going to be allowed on the beaches in the current posted winter months. It appears this is not what is being changed. this only affects the trails and this is a bird sanctuary so dogs should not be allowed to run around in there disturbing the peace (and I am a dog owner that uses the beach often)”* (respondent comment).

When asking respondents what they opposed in the proposed zoning, the main answers related to allowing dogs off-leash in the park (n=43), requiring dogs to be on-leash in the park (n=44) and fear of more regulations/restrictions in the park (n=15). Respondents in favour of dogs off-leash advocated that: *“I believe that dog owners for the most part are responsible and keep their dogs under adequate control without the need to impose further restrictions”* (respondent comment) and *“Island View Beach is one of the only flat areas in the CRD where people with limited mobility can take a longer walk with their dogs off leash. Cut that in half, and you've removed a huge benefit from a lot of people. Dog walkers also support appreciation of the zone's natural features. Do NOT restrict the off leash areas. Dog walkers should be able to fully enjoy the parks they pay for”* (respondent comment). Other respondents contrasted this position by stating *“dogs shouldn't be off leash anywhere in the park and dogs should not be permitted at all in Environmental Protection zones”* (respondent comment) and *“dogs should not be allowed off leash. How do you protect the park when they are allowed to run free and dig at whatever they want?” Have seen them in the water pulling sea-life out onto the beach”* (respondent comment). In regard to regulations and restrictions, respondents believed that *“any further restrictions on park use (in any zones) is required”* (respondent comment) and *“this zoning system seems quite restrictive, especially in terms of low impact activities”* (respondent comment). Another common theme was opposing the zoning (n=17), but respondents did not clearly specify why.

When pairing the quantitative data reported in Figure 3-5 with the qualitative answers provided by respondents on park zoning, a split occurred between those concerned with nature conservation and uncontrolled dogs in the park and those in favour of dogs off-leash and against the environmental protection zone. As for the vision, respondents are polarized in their opinion and tend to position themselves at the extreme points of the scale.

## **Park Development Concept**

Several statements on the development concept were supported by participants, specifically: 1) promote visitor's connection with the natural environment (support n= 142); 2) keep the park natural with minimal visitor facilities and services (n=137); 3) maintain existing facilities (n=147); 4) modify some existing facilities to improve accessibility and the visitor experience (n=104); and 5) provide better signage (n=112).

Participants supported the following statements, but with a higher rate of neutral responses: 1) reconfigure the campground to reduce its footprint (support n= 92; neutral n=44); 2) assess implications of climate change on

the campground and other visitor facilities and determine long-term actions support (n= 100; neutral n=45); 3) develop a new trail through the wetland (support n= 89; neutral n=31); 4) work with others to address water access needs from the southern parking lot (support n= 90; neutral n=66); and 5) assess climate change impacts on park infrastructure (support n= 101; neutral n=50).

Certain statements were more controversial, with respondents divided between supporting, being neutral or opposing the proposed development concept: 1) concentrate new park development in the southern part of the park (support n= 78; neutral n=50; oppose= 68); 2) improve day-use opportunities in the area where the RV campsites are currently located (support n= 69; neutral n= support n= 78; neutral n=50; oppose= 53) and 3) provide camping opportunities in the short-and medium-term (support n= 81; neutral n=55; oppose n= 48).

Several respondents did not express their opinion about the goal statements. A detailed overview of participants' responses is provided in Figure 6.

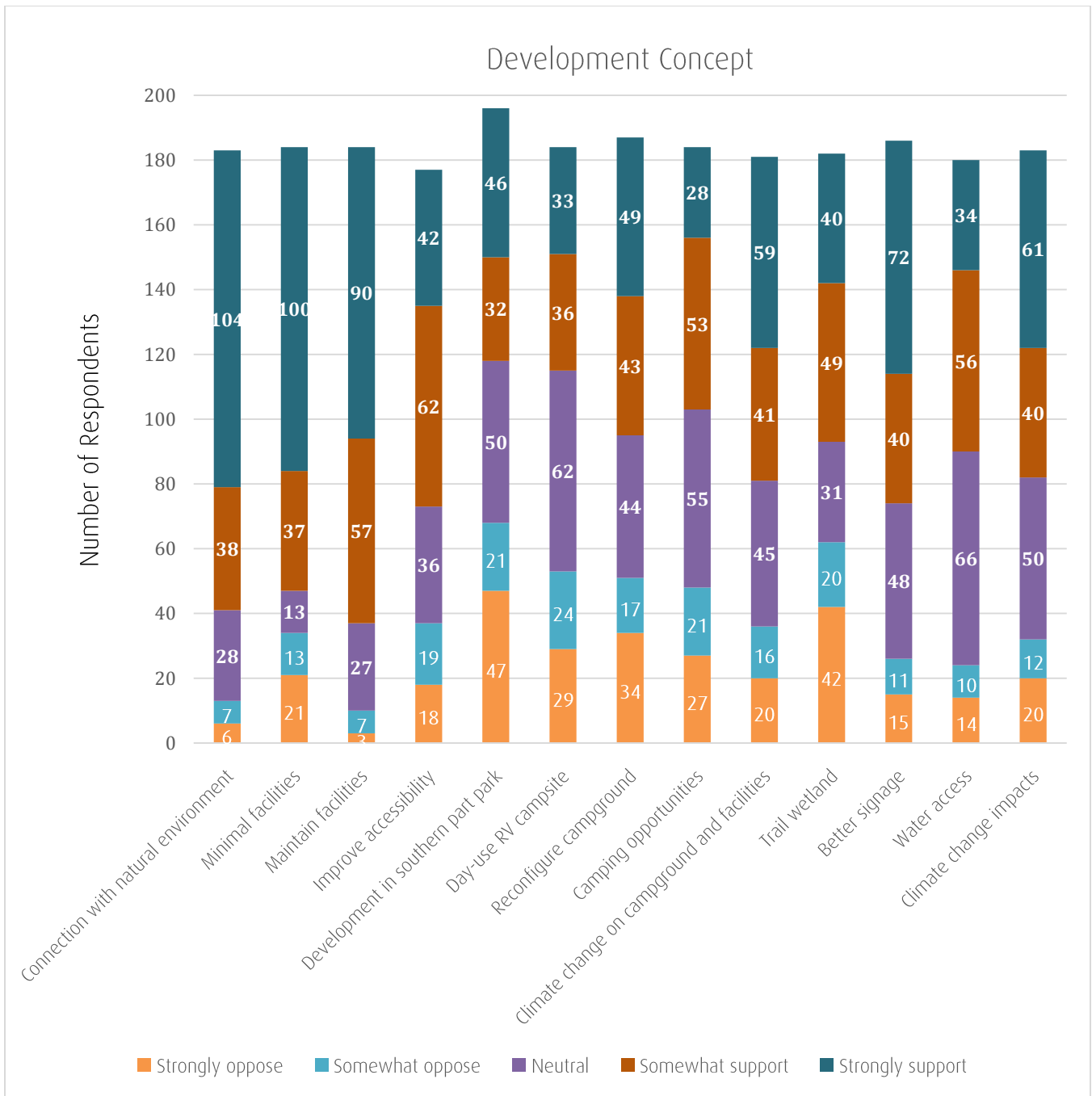


Figure 6: Opinions expressed by participants on the development concepts proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

### Park Management Goals

The majority of the goals proposed in the draft management plan were supported by participants. Only two goals support was prevailing but with a higher rate of opposing responses: 1) undertake work to restore the coastal dune system (support n= 107; neutral n=18; oppose n= 72); and 2) collaborate with others on the management of park and the larger landscape (support n= 117; neutral n=34; oppose n= 45). Several respondents did not express

their opinion about the goal statements. A detailed overview of participants’ responses is provided in Figure 7.

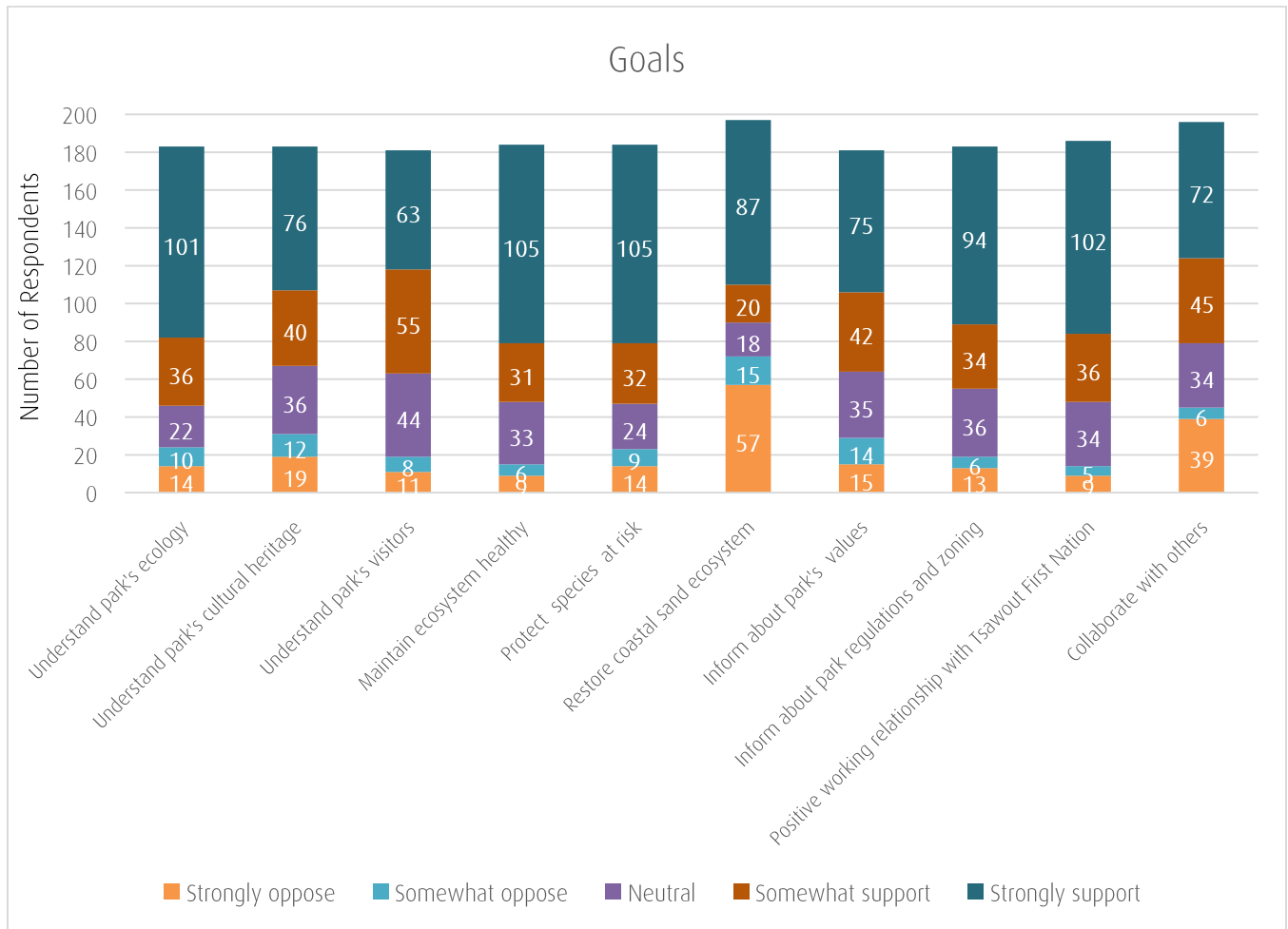


Figure 7: Opinions expressed by participants on the goals concepts proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

## Campground

Respondents supported the statement on “requiring dogs to be on-leash in the campground” (n= 126). For the remaining statements, respondents were slightly more supportive than neutral for improving day-use opportunities (support n= 87; neutral n=64), and slightly more neutral than supportive for redesigning and reconfiguring the campground (support n= 62; neutral n=83), and implementing an online reservation system in the campground (support n= 83; neutral n=68). Several respondents did not express their opinion about the campground. A detailed overview of participants’ responses is provided in Figure 8.



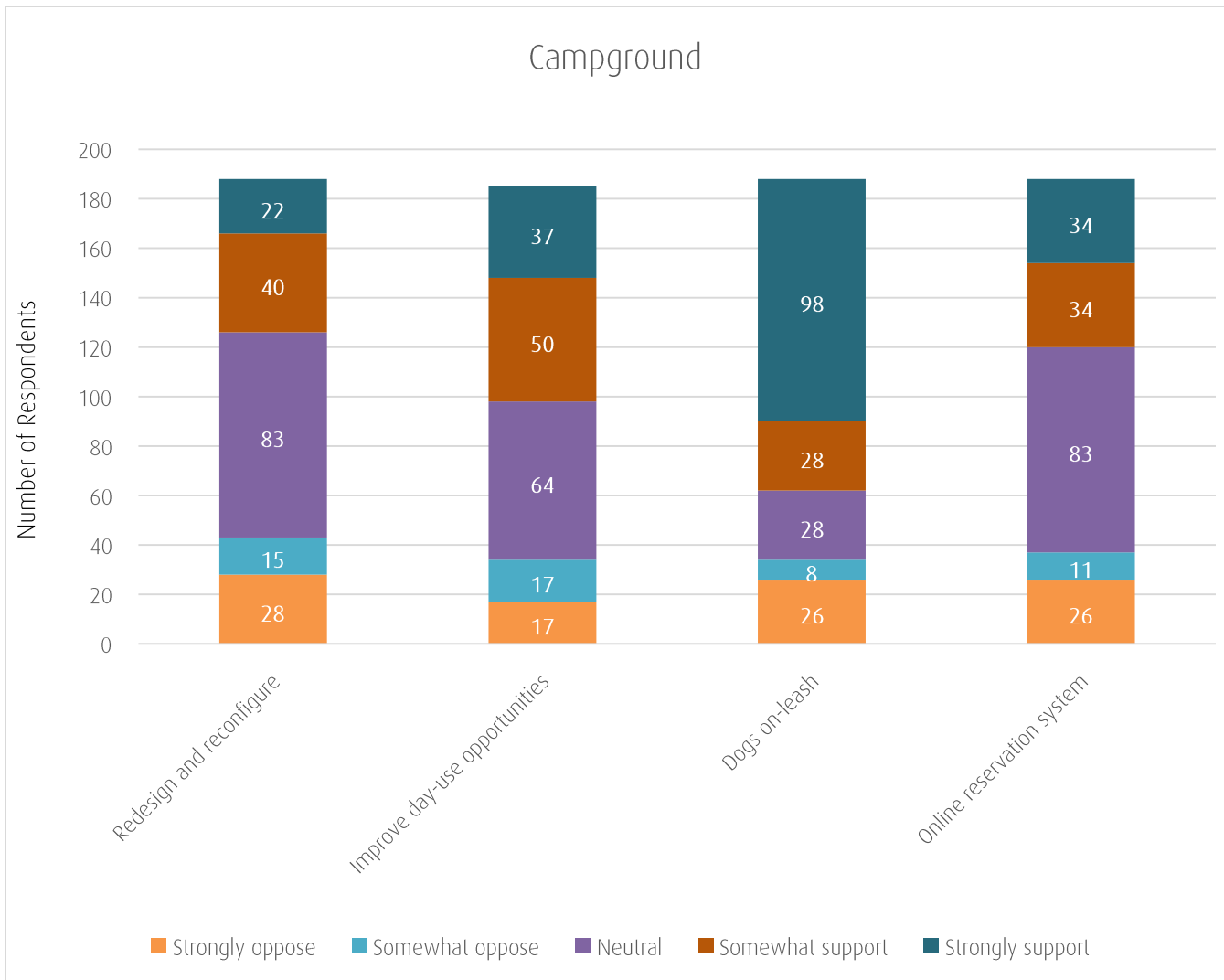


Figure 8: Opinions expressed by participants on the campground statements proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

## Dog Management

Overall support was recorded through the response form for the following statements about dog management: 1) work with partners and stakeholders to develop a dog management strategy (n=120); 2) develop policies for commercial dog walkers (n=111); 3) work with the district of Central Saanich, the Province and the Tsawout First Nation to identify shared dog management issues and strategies that help each other address them (n=119); and 4) work with partners to develop communications strategies and bylaw enforcement strategies relating to dog use in the park (n=118). Opposition was expressed on designing and developing an off-leash dog area (n=109). For the remaining three statements, opinions were divided between support and oppose: 1) require dogs to be on-leash and on-trail north of Lamont Road (support n=99; oppose=90); 2) allow dogs off-leash and under control south of the Lamont Road right-of-way, except in the Environmental Protection Zone and campground (support n=67; oppose=98); and 3) move towards having dogs on-leash in the park once off-leash areas are developed (support n=83; oppose=99). Several respondents did not express their opinion about dog management. A detailed

overview of participants' responses is provided in Figure 9.

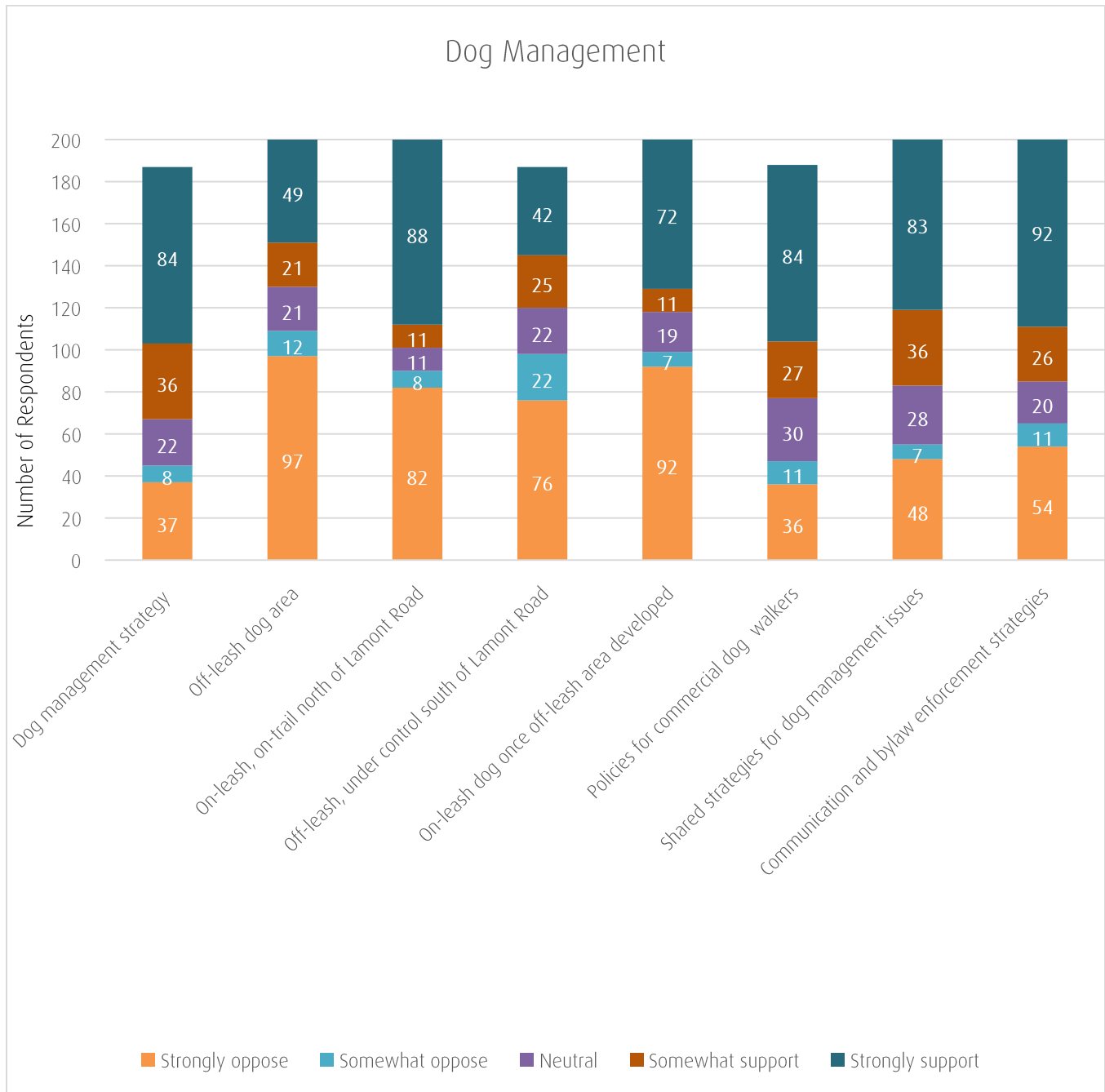


Figure 9: Opinions expressed by participants on the dog management statements proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

### Environmental Stewardship

All the environmental stewardship statements reported in the draft management plan were broadly supported by the users of the response form. Several respondents did not express their opinion about environmental

stewardship. A detailed overview of participants’ responses is provided in Figure 10.

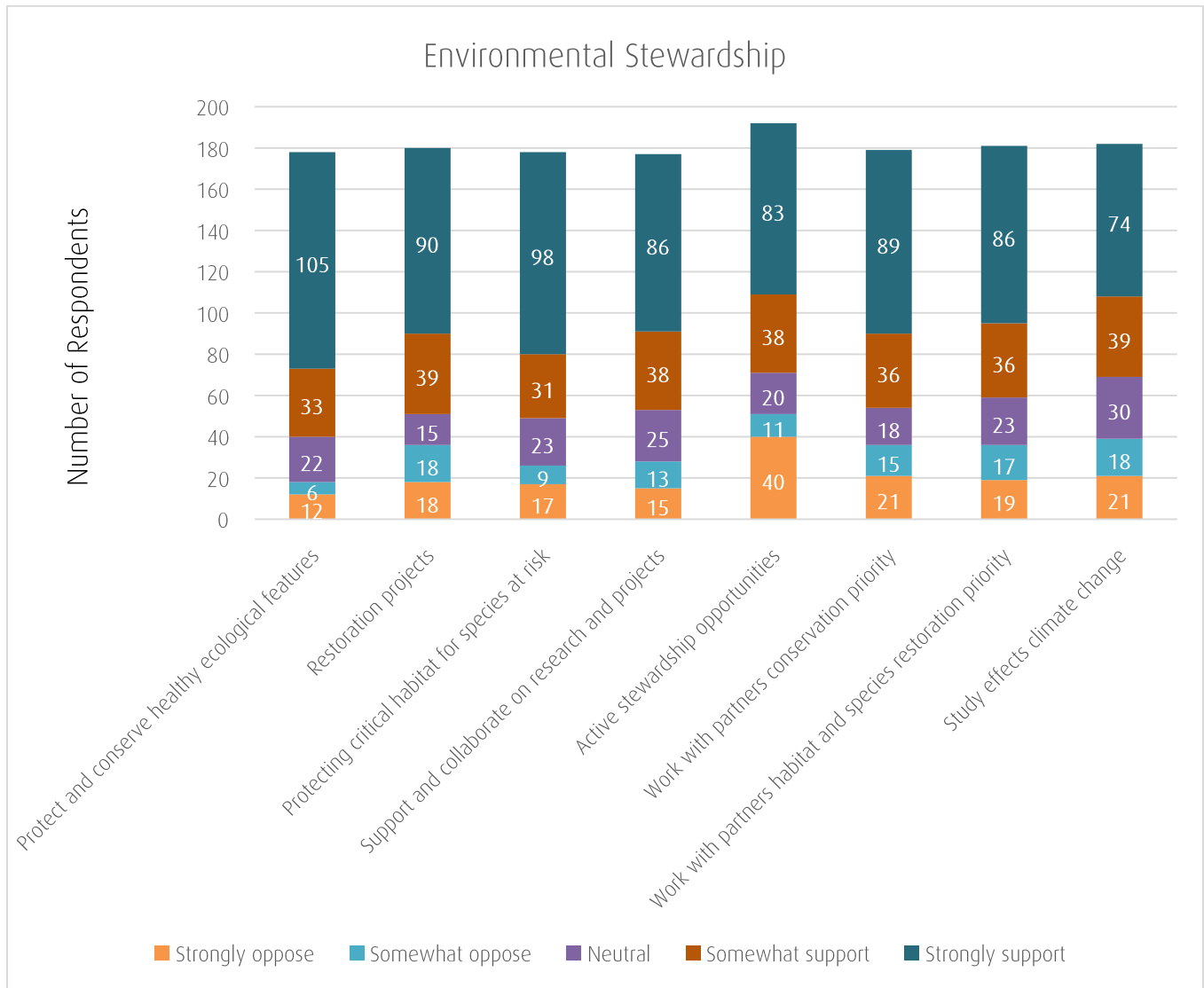


Figure 10: Opinions expressed by participants on the environmental stewardship statements proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

### Park Infrastructure

The following statements were supported by the majority of respondents: 1) provide facilities with minimal impact on the natural environment (n=139); 2) locate the majority of infrastructure in the southern portion of the park (n=109); 3) regularly engage with and update landowners on the park’s drainage infrastructure (n=117); 4) Work with partners to assess ocean access needs and opportunities in the area (n=119); 5) better define and sign the existing loop trail at the northern end of the park (n=111) and 6) work with the District of Central Saanich to assess and plan for roads and parking lots (n=102). For the other statements regarding park infrastructure support was prevailing but with a higher rate of neutral responses. For the statement “develop a new trail in the coastal wetland

ecosystem in the southern portion of the park” respondents express a prevailing support (n= 91), yet opposing (n=54) responses had a higher rate in comparison to the other statements. Several respondents did not express their opinion about park infrastructure. A detailed overview of participants’ responses is provided in Figure 11.

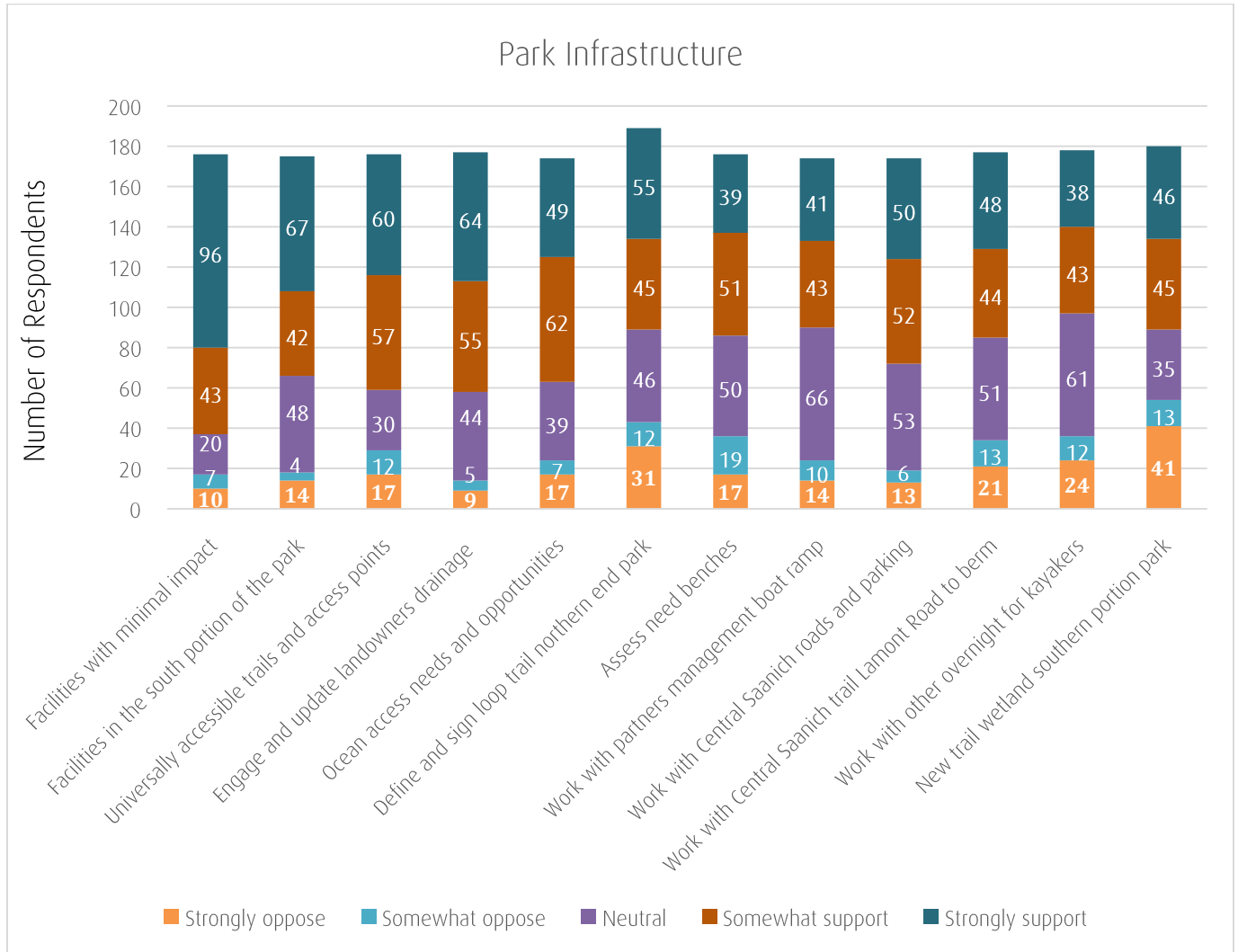


Figure 11: Opinions expressed by participants on the park infrastructure statements proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

### Park Management

All the park management statements reported in the draft management plan were broadly supported by users of the response form. Several respondents did not express their opinion about park management. A detailed overview of participants’ responses is provided in Figure 12.

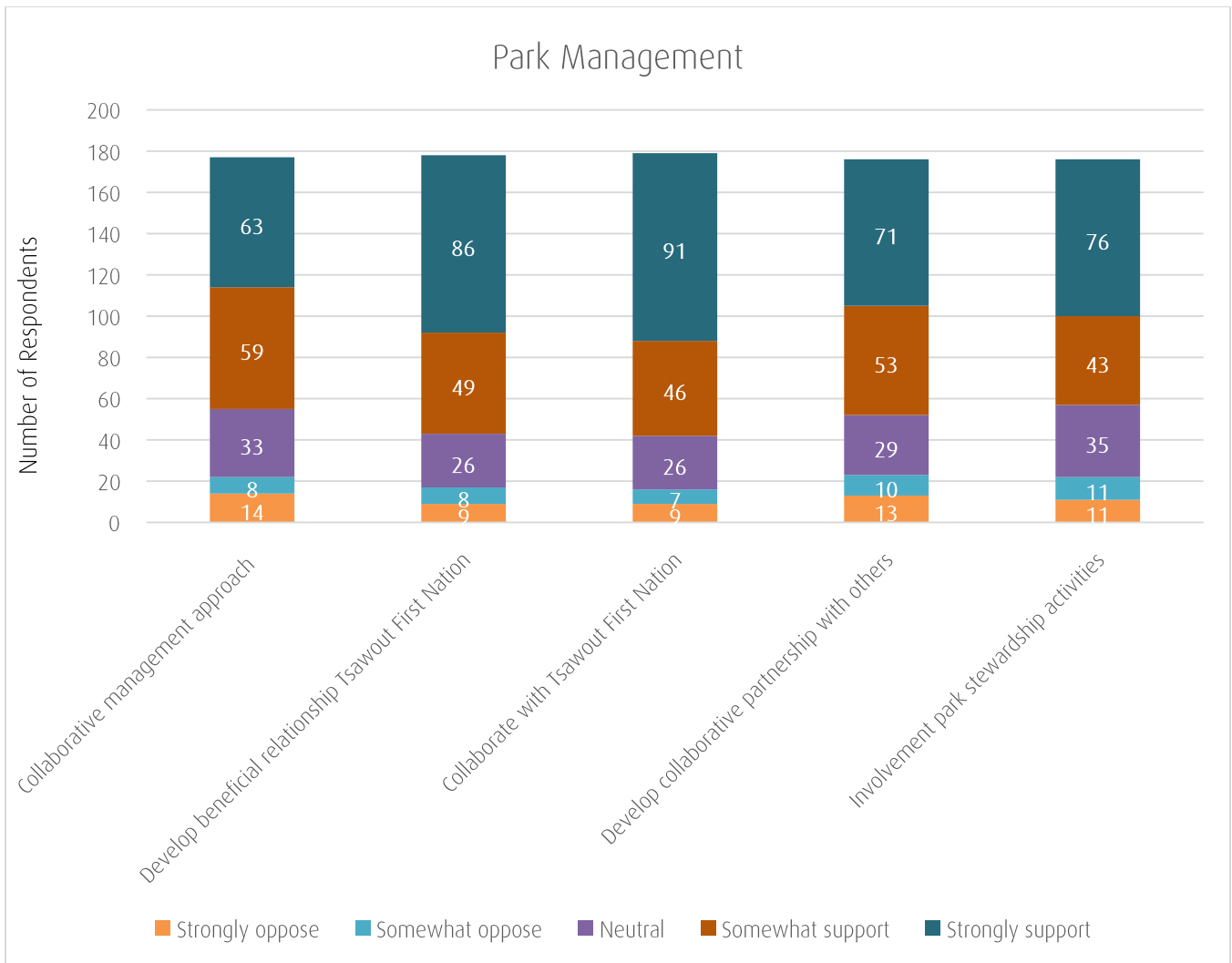


Figure 12: Opinions expressed by participants on the park management statements proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

### Park Operations

Support was prevailing but with a higher rate of neutral responses for all the park operations statements. Several respondents did not express their opinion about park operations. A detailed overview of participants’ responses is provided in Figure 13.

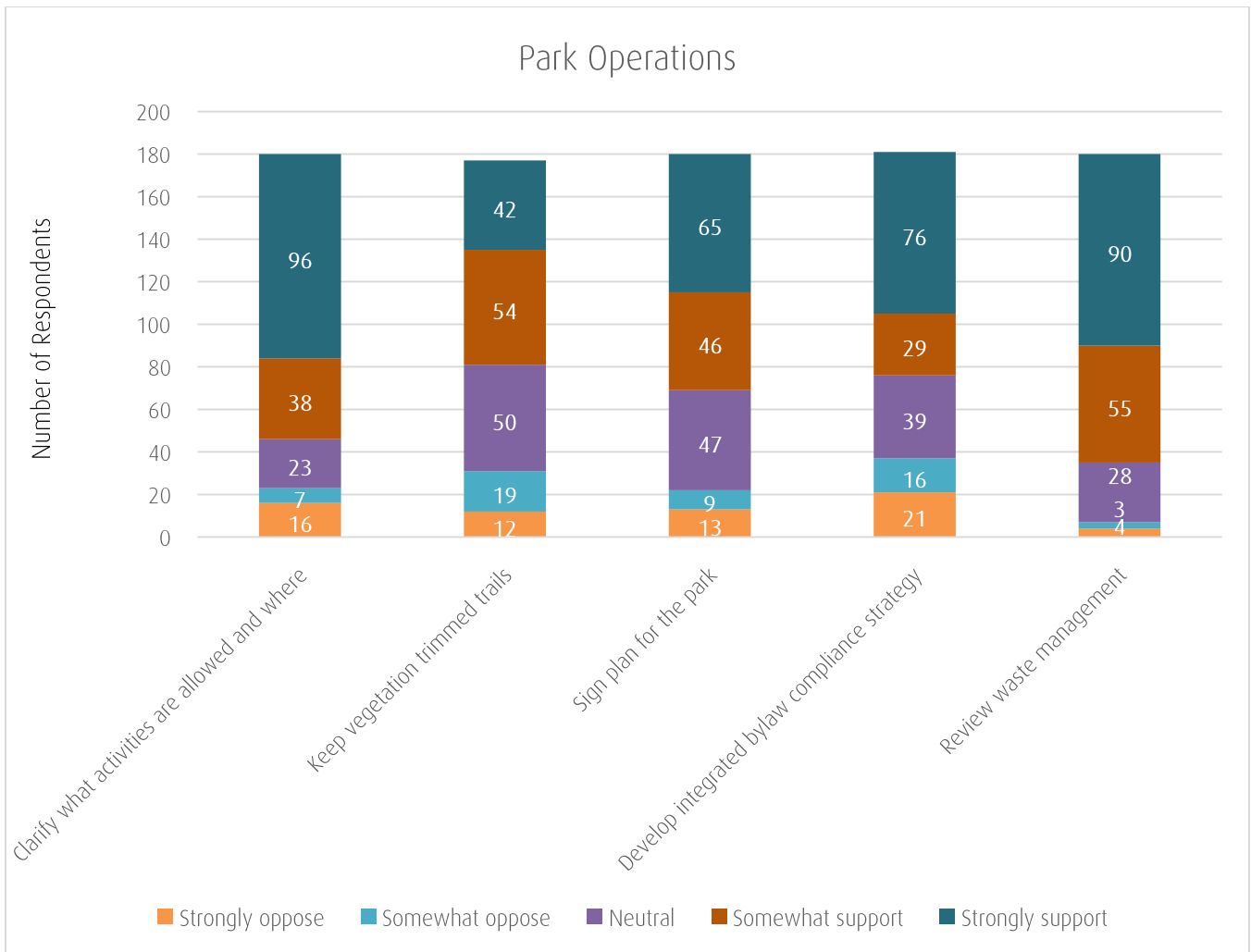


Figure 13: Opinions expressed by participants on the park operations statements proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

### Visitor Experience

All the visitor experience statements reported in the draft management plan were broadly supported by the users of the response form. Several respondents did not express their opinion about visitor experience. A detailed overview of participants’ responses is provided in Figure 14.

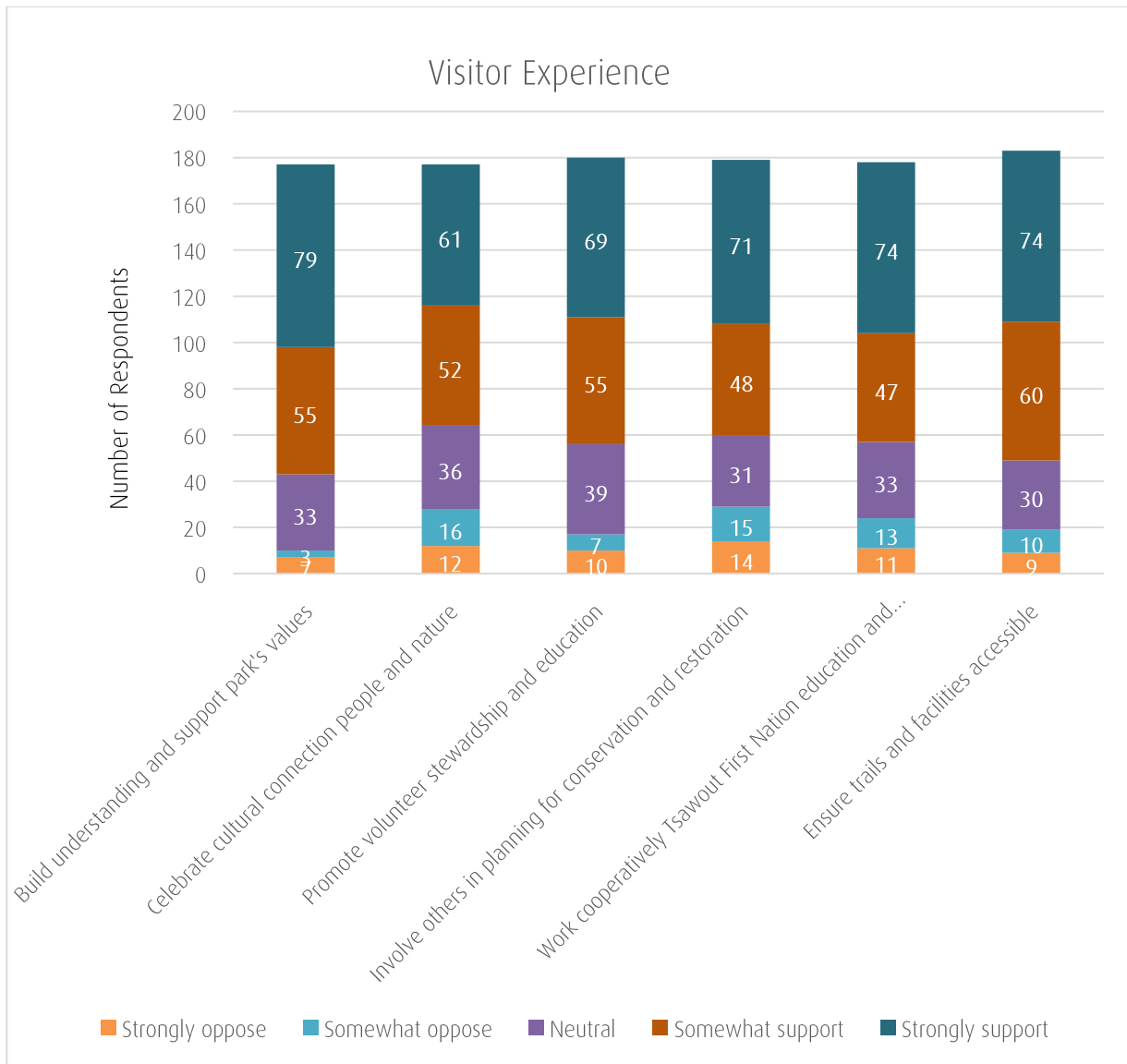


Figure 14: Opinions expressed by participants on the visitor experience statements proposed in the Island View Beach draft management plan.

## Qualitative comments about the draft management plan

A total of 121 qualitative comments were offered by participants on what they liked about the draft management plan. Many comments included multiple statements about Island View Beach Regional Park. The majority of comments of appreciation related to the balance of conservation and recreation in the draft management plan (n=44). Participants stated *“I like the focus on restoration and protection of the coast ecosystem while balancing the recreational interests of park users”* (personal comment), and *“it provides opportunities for all to enjoy the park while respecting/protecting the ecosystem”* (personal comment), and *“I like that you looked at all the angles and are considering them while maintaining the park visitation as conservation area”* (personal comment). Some respondents felt that the draft management plan represented an improvement in comparison to the existing one, was comprehensive and collaboration oriented (n=21). As clarified in this quote of a respondent a *“thoughtful, long-term view and collaborative approach will lead to a better solution”* (personal comment). Other themes identified by participants as positive in the plan were the proposal of having dogs on-leash and developing dog walkers regulations (n=19), building new trails in the wetland area and increasing the accessibility of the park (n=16), and enhancing education and stewardship at Island View Beach Regional Park (n=11).

A total of 126 comments, often with multiple remarks, were offered by respondents on what they did not like about the draft management plan. A large number of participants did appreciate the proposal of leashing dogs and enforcing dog management in the park (n=32). Impacts on wildlife, personal and pet safety, dog waste and dog out of control were the main reasons used by respondents to explain their position. Yet these comments were contrasted by participants who did not want dog on-leash at Island View Beach Regional Park (n=29). Such participants felt that dog owners were responsible at Island View Beach, collected their dog waste, and had their pet under effective control. Other themes highlighted by participants were the lack of consideration of equestrian in the plan (n=17), the fear of a decrease in accessibility to the park due to zoning, trail use regulations and dogs on-leash (n=14), and the increase of regulations and enforcement (n=11). Participants stated: *“that it excludes equestrian access. We regularly ride our horses on the beach at Island View and would appreciate trail access to the backshore area”* (personal comment), and *“it shortens the ocean side trail walk, taking away all of the wonderful experiences of easily walking along a path next to the ocean even when I have to use a cane”* (personal comment), and *“too much bureaucratic empire building. Unnecessary rule making”* (personal comment). Another theme emerging from this section was *“leaving the park alone”* (n=15). As clarified by participants *“there is no need to fix what isn't broken”* (personal comment) and *“we love Island View. Our dogs love Island View. Just let it be”* (personal comment).

When asking participants *“what changes would you make to the plan”* (n=123 comments received), the same themes recorded for the previous two questions emerged. Respondents were divided between restricting (n=38) or not restricting (n=28) dogs in the park, leaving the park alone (n=15), maintaining or enhancing access (n=14), including equestrians (n=13) and emphasizing conservation (n=12). A new topic mentioned by participants in this question was the campground, with respondents being divided between keeping or removing this facility from the park. Some suggestions offered by participants on how to change the plan entailed fencing



areas of conservation concerns, establish a seasonal restriction/ban of dogs in areas of interest for migratory birds, pursue an expansion of the park boundaries through land acquisition and foreshore inclusion, and create designated fire pits on the beach.

The last question in the response form allowed participants to offer additional comments on the draft management plan if they wished. The 98 comments provided by respondents support the findings of the overall response form, focusing on five themes: 1) restrict dogs through on-leash regulation (n=20); 2) allow dogs to be unrestrained and off-leash (n=15); 3) leave the park as is (n=15); 4) fear of more regulations and enforcement (n=12); and 5) strengthen the conservation emphasis in the park (n=11). This last section was also used by participants to express their appreciation for the public participation process conducted by CRD and for the possibility to offer feedback on the plan (n=11).

**Response form users**

Users of the response form belonged to different age categories (see Table 1) with a predominant age range of 55-64 (n=68) and 65+ (n=59). Respondents lived in different areas of the CRD (Table 2). The main areas of residence were Saanich (n=70), Central Saanich (n=60) and Victoria (n=26).

Age	Number of respondents
18-24	2
25-34	9
35-44	32
45-54	34
55-64	68
65+	59

Table 1. Age of Respondents

Area	Number of respondents
Central Saanich	60
Colwood	4
Esquimalt	2
Highlands	5
Langford	2
Metchosin	1
North Saanich	17
Oak Bay	7
Saanich	71
Sidney	5
Sooke	3
Southern Gulf Islands	2
Victoria	26
View Royal	1

Table 2. Residency of Respondents

## APPENDIX I

# Island View Beach Regional Park

## Step 4 Draft Management Plan



# RESPONSE FORM

Capital Regional District | Parks & Environmental Services

Thank you for taking part in Step 4 of the Island View Beach Regional Park public participation process by completing this response form. We appreciate your feedback on the draft Management Plan!

Step 4 is the last step of the CRD Regional Parks Committee approved public participation process to prepare an updated management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

The four steps in the process are:

Step 1 – Share information about the park’s natural environment (Completed Spring 2015);

Step 2 – Identify park management issues and interests (Completed Summer 2015);

Step 3 – Hold a community dialogue session to address identified issues (Completed Fall 2015);

Step 4 – Prepare and present a draft plan, seek feedback, and prepare a final plan (2016).

The purpose of this response form is to seek your feedback on the [draft Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan](#) that was developed out of Steps 1-3.

Your response will remain anonymous and will only be used by CRD Regional Parks for planning purposes to prepare a final management plan.

The response form should take about 15 – 20 minutes to complete.

Comments will be received until midnight, Sunday July10, 2016.

1. The draft management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park presents a vision for the park. The park vision describes the desired conditions that Regional Parks will strive to achieve at Island View Beach Regional Park.

Overall, do you support or oppose the **park vision**?

Island View Beach Regional Park is a unique place where people come in all seasons to connect with nature. It is a place where the park's classification as a Conservation Area guides decision-making and actions are taken to respond to climate change, restore coastal ecosystems, protect species at risk, facilitate increased understanding through research initiatives, and provide outstanding visitor experiences. Through active engagement, the public participates in educational and stewardship programs to better understand and celebrate the unique interplay of nature and culture in this spectacular setting. The park is one piece of a complex and dynamic coastal landscape that is collaboratively managed with the District of Central Saanich, Tsawout First Nation, the federal and provincial governments, park neighbors, stakeholders, and the public through an adaptive management framework. Island View Beach Regional Park is broadly considered to be a jewel of the regional parks system.

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neutral
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

2. What do you support about the park vision above, and why?

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3. What do you oppose about the park vision above, and why?

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4. The CRD uses a zoning system within each regional park to help manage visitor use and the natural environment. At Island View Beach Regional Park, three zones apply – the Outdoor Recreation Zone, the Natural Environment Zone, and the Environmental Protection Zone.

Based on the proposed park zoning map (see map – hyperlink), do you generally support or oppose the **park zoning** at Island View Beach Regional Park?

### **Outdoor Recreation Zone**

- This zone accommodates concentrated recreational use for activities such as walking, nature study, picnicking, beachcombing, camping, and group activities.
- Dogs are permitted off-leash and under effective control, except for the campground and designated beach and picnic areas from June 1 to September 15.
- The majority of park infrastructure is located in this zone.
- This zone includes the campground and day-use areas.

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neutral
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

### **Natural Environment Zone**

- The objective of this zone is to provide easily accessible natural areas within parks that can be used for more active recreational pursuits. These area areas where outdoor activities take place in conjunction with protection of natural features.
- Dogs are permitted off-leash and under effective control south of Lamont Road.
- This zone is between environmental protection and outdoor recreation zones.

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neutral
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

### Environmental Protection Zone

- The objective of this zone is to protect ecologically significant areas through long-term, science-based land stewardship. This zone includes areas with species and ecosystems of conservation interest.
- The visitor experience is centered on appreciation of the zone's natural features.
- Low-impact recreational activities in this zone include walking, hiking, nature study, photography, and birdwatching.
- Park visitors must stay on designated trails.
- Dogs must be on leash and on designated trails north of Lamont Road.

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neutral
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

5. What do you support about the zoning system proposed above, and why?

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6. What do you oppose about the zoning system proposed above, and why?

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7. Overall, do you support or oppose the following points about the **park development concept** for Island View Beach Regional Park?

The development concept summarizes the general direction for how the park will be managed and developed. It identifies in a general way the location and types of infrastructure that will be available in the park.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
A. Promote visitors' connection with the natural environment	1	2	3	4	5
B. Keep the park natural with minimal visitor facilities and services	1	2	3	4	5
C. Maintain existing facilities	1	2	3	4	5
D. Modify some existing facilities to improve accessibility and the visitor experience	1	2	3	4	5
E. Concentrate new park development in the southern part of the park	1	2	3	4	5
F. Improve day use opportunities in the area where the RV campsites are currently located	1	2	3	4	5
G. Reconfigure the campground to reduce its footprint	1	2	3	4	5
H. Provide camping opportunities in the short- and medium-term	1	2	3	4	5
I. Assess implications of climate change on the campground and other visitor facilities and determine long-term actions	1	2	3	4	5
J. Develop a new trail through the wetland	1	2	3	4	5
K. Provide better signage (i.e., designated trails, directional signs, park rules, and interpretive information)	1	2	3	4	5
L. Work with others to address water access needs from the southern parking lot	1	2	3	4	5
M. Assess climate change impacts on park infrastructure	1	2	3	4	5



8. Overall, do you support or oppose the **park management goals** proposed for Island View Beach Regional Park?

To help achieve the long-term vision for Island View Beach Regional Park, a number of goals have been developed. Goals broadly identify what Regional Parks' is trying to achieve through park management.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
A. Build understanding of the park's ecology	1	2	3	4	5
B. Build understanding of the park's cultural heritage	1	2	3	4	5
C. Build understanding of the park's visitors	1	2	3	4	5
D. Maintain ecosystems in as healthy a state as possible	1	2	3	4	5
E. Protect species at risk	1	2	3	4	5
F. Undertake work to restore the coastal sand ecosystem	1	2	3	4	5
G. Provide more information about the park's natural and cultural values	1	2	3	4	5
H. Provide clear information on park regulations and zoning	1	2	3	4	5
I. Build a positive working relationship with the Tsawout First Nation	1	2	3	4	5
J. Collaborate with others on the management of the park and the larger landscape	1	2	3	4	5

9. Overall, do you support or oppose the statements below about the **campground**?

**Management Directions** have been developed to address seven issue areas identified by the public during Steps 1-3 of the public participation process. Management Directions identify how the park’s vision and goals will be accomplished. The Management Directions are presented in Questions 9-15.

The seven identified issue areas are: 1) camping; 2) dogs; 3) environmental stewardship; 4) park infrastructure; 5) park management; 6) park operations; and 7) visitor experience.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
A. Redesign and reconfigure the campground	1	2	3	4	5
B. Improve day use opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
C. Require dogs to be on-leash in the campground	1	2	3	4	5
D. Implement an online reservation system for camping	1	2	3	4	5

10. Overall, do you support or oppose the statements below about **dog management**?

**Management Directions** have been developed to address seven issue areas identified by the public during Steps 1-3 of the public participation process. Management Directions identify how the park’s vision and goals will be accomplished. The Management Directions are presented in Questions 9-15.

The seven identified issue areas are: 1) camping; 2) dogs; 3) environmental stewardship; 4) park infrastructure; 5) park management; 6) park operations; and 7) visitor experience.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
A. Work with partners and stakeholders to develop a dog management strategy	1	2	3	4	5
B. Design and develop an off-leash dog area	1	2	3	4	5
C. Require dogs to be on-leash and on-trail north of the Lamont Road right-of-way	1	2	3	4	5
D. Allow dogs off-leash and under control south of the Lamont Road right-of-way, except in the Environmental Protection Zone and campground	1	2	3	4	5
E. Move towards having dogs on-leash within the park once off-leash areas are developed	1	2	3	4	5
F. Develop policies for commercial dog walkers	1	2	3	4	5
G. Work with the District of Central Saanich, the Province and the Tsawout First Nation to identify shared dog management issues and strategies that help each other address them	1	2	3	4	5
H. Work with partners to develop communications and bylaw enforcement strategies relating to dog use in the park	1	2	3	4	5

11. Overall, do you support or oppose the statements below about **environmental stewardship**?

Management **Directions** have been developed to address seven issue areas identified by the public during Steps 1-3 of the public participation process. Management Directions identify how the park's vision and goals will be accomplished. The Management Directions are presented in Questions 9-15.

The seven identified issue areas are: 1) camping; 2) dogs; 3) environmental stewardship; 4) park infrastructure; 5) park management; 6) park operations; and 7) visitor experience.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
A. Protect and conserve healthy ecological features in the park	1	2	3	4	5
B. Undertake restoration projects to improve damaged or degraded ecological features	1	2	3	4	5
C. Provide effective protection of critical habitat for species at risk	1	2	3	4	5
D. Support and collaborate on research and projects that improve the understanding of the park environment	1	2	3	4	5
E. Develop active stewardship opportunities in the park	1	2	3	4	5
F. Work with partners to identify priority areas and features for conservation	1	2	3	4	5
G. Work with partners to identify priority areas and features for habitat and species restoration	1	2	3	4	5
H. Study the effects of climate change and sea level rise on the park	1	2	3	4	5

12. Overall, do you support or oppose the statements below about **infrastructure**?

Management **Directions** have been developed to address seven issue areas identified by the public during Steps 1-3 of the public participation process. Management Directions identify how the park's vision and goals will be accomplished. The Management Directions are presented in Questions 9-15.

The seven identified issue areas are: 1) camping; 2) dogs; 3) environmental stewardship; 4) park infrastructure; 5) park management; 6) park operations; and 7) visitor experience.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
A. Provide facilities with minimal impact on the natural environment	1	2	3	4	5
B. Locate the majority of infrastructure in the southern portion of the park	1	2	3	4	5
C. Develop universally accessible trails and access points	1	2	3	4	5
D. Regularly engage with and update landowners on the park's drainage infrastructure	1	2	3	4	5
E. Work with partners to assess ocean access needs and opportunities in the area	1	2	3	4	5
F. Better define and sign the existing loop trail at the northern end of the park	1	2	3	4	5
G. Assess the need for additional benches along the trail	1	2	3	4	5
H. Work with partners to address management of the boat ramp	1	2	3	4	5
I. Work with the District of Central Saanich to assess and plan for roads and parking lots	1	2	3	4	5
J. Work with the District of Central Saanich to assess the feasibility of developing a trail connection from Lamont Road to the coastal berm trail	1	2	3	4	5
K. Work with others to provide overnight parking for kayakers	1	2	3	4	5
L. Develop a new trail in the coastal wetland ecosystem in the southern portion of the park	1	2	3	4	5

13. Overall, do you support or oppose the statements below about **park management**?

**Management Directions** have been developed to address seven issue areas identified by the public during Steps 1-3 of the public participation process. Management Directions identify how the park’s vision and goals will be accomplished. The Management Directions are presented in Questions 9-15.

The seven identified issue areas are: 1) camping; 2) dogs; 3) environmental stewardship; 4) park infrastructure; 5) park management; 6) park operations; and 7) visitor experience.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
A. Use a collaborative management approach based on regular communication with partners and stakeholders	1	2	3	4	5
B. Build a mutually beneficial relationship with the Tsawout First Nation	1	2	3	4	5
C. Collaborate with the Tsawout First Nation on items of mutual interest	1	2	3	4	5
D. Develop cooperative partnerships with governments, stakeholders, educational institutions, and the public that will benefit the park	1	2	3	4	5
E. Increase opportunities to be involved in park stewardship activities	1	2	3	4	5

14. Overall, do you support or oppose the statements below about **park operations**?

**Management Directions** have been developed to address seven issue areas identified by the public during Steps 1-3 of the public participation process. Management Directions identify how the park's vision and goals will be accomplished. The Management Directions are presented in Questions 9-15.

The seven identified issue areas are: 1) camping; 2) dogs; 3) environmental stewardship; 4) park infrastructure; 5) park management; 6) park operations; and 7) visitor experience.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
A. Clarify for the public what activities are allowed and where	1	2	3	4	5
B. Keep vegetation trimmed along designated trails	1	2	3	4	5
C. Develop and implement a sign plan for the park	1	2	3	4	5
D. Develop an integrated bylaw compliance strategy with other levels of government	1	2	3	4	5
E. Review how waste is managed in the park	1	2	3	4	5

15. Overall, do you support or oppose the statements below about **visitors' experience?**

**Management Directions** have been developed to address seven issue areas identified by the public during Steps 1-3 of the public participation process. Management Directions identify how the park's vision and goals will be accomplished. The Management Directions are presented in Questions 9-15.

The seven identified issue areas are: 1) camping; 2) dogs; 3) environmental stewardship; 4) park infrastructure; 5) park management; 6) park operations; and 7) visitor experience.

	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
A. Provide opportunities for public involvement that help build understanding and support of the park's values	1	2	3	4	5
B. Celebrate the cultural connections between people and the natural environment through community outreach, partnerships, research, interpretation, and special events	1	2	3	4	5
C. Promote volunteer stewardship and education opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
D. Involve the Tsawout First Nation, educational institutions, and stakeholders in planning for conservation and restoration projects	1	2	3	4	5
E. Work cooperatively with the Tsawout First Nation to provide opportunities for their community to be involved in educational and interpretive activities	1	2	3	4	5
F. Ensure that park trails and facilities are accessible	1	2	3	4	5



16. What do you like about the proposed plan, and why?

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17. What don't you like about the proposed plan, and why?

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18. What changes would you make to the proposed plan?

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19. Any other comments?

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## About You

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 management plan. Inquiries about the collection or use of information in this form can be directed to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy contact: Karen Ward, Administration Officer, Capital regional District 250-360-3339.

1. In which area of the Capital Region do you live in?

- Central Saanich
- Colwood
- Esquimalt
- Highlands
- Juan de Fuca Electoral Area
- Langford
- Metchosin
- North Saanich
- Oak Bay
- Salt Spring Island
- Saanich
- Sidney
- Sooke
- Southern Gulf Islands
- Victoria
- View Royal
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. In which age category do you fall?

- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

***Thank you for your participation. We value your input.***

## A5.0 Email submissions

1. *Sent February 14, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* We have received and reviewed the Draft Park Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park, released last week by the Capital Regional District. We are deeply disappointed by a number of statements in the document. The plan proposes severe reductions in access to the public recreation areas; major restrictions on dogs, horses and bike riding. Most troubling of all, however, are the many ambiguities in relation to the **berm** that protects the entire park and shore area.

The CRD plan states that it will “**maintain the coastal berm in its current state** and reassess its function as part of the coastal dune ecosystem restoration work. If the berm is breached, CRD will repair it to its existing form and **not upgrade or extend it**” (*Management Policies, page 35 1(a) and page 37 3(a)*).

The document also states that “if climate change impacts threaten the integrity of park facilities, decisions will be made on whether to relocate or remove park facilities” (page 28). However, the document:

- Provides no definition of what is meant by “current state”.
- Makes **no mention of this commitment to maintaining the berm in its “Strategic Priorities”** on pages 43-46.
- Makes no specific reference to the likely rise in sea-level predicted in the study commissioned by CRD itself.

The berm has been, and continues to be, subject to continual erosion by weather, winds and tides. As a result, the berm has subsided in some areas, exacerbating a number of already weak spots. Unless it is restored to a robust “steady state”, the berm will not continue to fulfil its function of protecting from flooding the public, private and agricultural land areas as well as a large swath of First Nations Tsawout Land and private homes.

As well, any plan for Island View Beach Regional Park must take into consideration the CRD study’s predictions for a significant rise in sea-levels, with the resulting widespread flooding from Tsawout First Nation’s lands to Michell’s fields, including the whole length of Island View Beach Park.

**Therefore, we ask the CRD Board for answers to the following question:**

“Does CRD intend at any point in the future to allow the park to be flooded?”

If the answer is “No” then the only solution is to raise and extend the berm from the Tsawout lands in the north to the sand cliffs in the south. If the answer is “Yes”, then the Park will be destroyed.

NO STRONG BERM = NO ISLAND VIEW PARK!

2. *Sent February 14, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* To the CRD Board of Directors: The CRD board needs to anti-up and decide if they will let I.V. exist in its present form or are they going to let the staff push through this method of turning I.V. into

a preservation area with a dog corral and a busload of CRD bylaw enforcers ticketing park users. It's all a bunch of crap and will be ignored by the general public.

3. *Sent February 15, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I am very surprised by the most recent report by the CRD regarding Island View Beach. This is a beach that is utilized by a great number of the public on a daily basis, and I personally walk at this beach between 2 to 4 times a week. Once I get another dog I will plan on walking at this beach even more often. It is not clear from your report that there is sufficient scientific basis for the extensive restrictions that appear to be proposed to limit the areas that the public can access for walking and other recreation. In addition, it appears that there will be very significant restrictions on people walking dogs off leash. This is one of the few parks that presently allow walking dogs off leash during at least a portion of the year. In the years that I have walked this beach I have seen very few dogs that cause a problem, and during those years I have seen thousands of people enjoying the outdoors with their pets and friends. I request that you reconsider these proposed restrictions and continue to support the large number of the public who enjoy the park as it is currently managed.
4. *Sent February 18, 2016 to CRD.* I was absolutely appalled at hearing the program on the CBC as to what is being planned for IVB particularly regarding dogs. I was at the park today and there was only one couple walking that didn't have dogs. This park has always been a favorite for me, but particularly in the summer where dogs are banned from all the other beaches. IVB is a nature paradise for people and dogs alike and to restrict dogs is absolutely untenable. I have yet to see any dog harassing shore birds or anything else. I am strongly against the CRD plan as I heard it outlined on the CBC and will be looking further into it tomorrow. This whole concept is WRONG. We are the major users of this park as we have nowhere else to go. One of the reasons for my moving to Victoria was the ability to experience nature with my dogs on a regular basis. I really hope that you will listen and put to a public vote, your recommendations for the park.
5. *Sent February 25, 2016 to CRD.* I sat in on the 17Feb2016 Parks Board Meeting with an interest in Island View Beach Regional Park. I was most interested in the comment about the public still being able to use the beach, which was questioned. Please explain:  
  
WHY the CRD require jurisdiction of the foreshore ceded to them for the coastal sand ecosystem project, how much of the foreshore, IVB foreshore or more between Sidney and Cordova Spit? Why was this not on the table at the 2015 meetings?
6. *Sent February 22, 2016 to CRD.* I understand that there is a new park plan for island view beach Regional Park. Is there any option to comment on it?
7. *Sent February 18, 2016 to CRD.* I have ridden my horse at Island View Beach for years, and wish to continue to do so. Horse riders are a tiny percentage of users, and I have heard no complaint directed against us -- in fact I frequently have people taking my photo! Unlike off leash dogs, it is easy to keep horses on the posted trails. Provided that riders are respectful of other park users, I don't see

why we should be limited only to the roads and lose our access to the trails and beach. Please reconsider this in your management plan.

8. *Sent February 18, 2016 to CRD.* Hello there! I don't know if this controversy/argument has been heard in the offices of Victoria Recreation Integration, but I would just like to very briefly bring it to your attention. Myself, as a right leg amputee, have been accessing Island View Regional Park with my two mini dachshunds for about five years. My two dogs are my best friends and companions, especially since I am also now 68. I've been wearing and walking with a prosthetic leg for just about 60 years, after having been in a road accident when I was three. I have always been active and fairly able as a worker (court reporter for 25 years and now as an acupuncturist!) and a parent and an adult child, so now a caregiver to a parent with dementia. I used to be able to walk quite well and unassisted, but I'm now finding it more difficult after all these years but am also very aware of the necessity for exercise, and my most important and available exercise currently is walking with my dogs.

However, I have trouble walking my two dogs together, so if in town (I live on Pandora), I walk each separately, perhaps around the block. But my best and favorite "walk" is out at Island View Park where I can let my dogs off leash so they can walk untethered but well behaved. My dogs ARE well-behaved and don't run into the bushes or chase birds, wildlife, etc., and we're able to go for a good 45-minute walk on designated berms and trails...and I'm not alone as a disabled person out walking, or riding in a scooter or wheelchair, at Island View.

It's a great place to walk, very accessible and yet not so far from the ocean that we can actually enjoy the scenery! We're not just walking around and around on a track or at the mall...lol. We're out in nature and in the fresh air with wonderful scenery...it's very healthy! There are also lots of seniors who walk these paths, some on their own or with friends, family and sometimes caregivers. So not only healthy, but very sociable.

My point in this letter is to let you know that the CRD are proposing to severely limit access in the park, to the point where there would be little park available to ANY walkers, let alone those with mobility challenges, with the idea of preserving nature, for photographers, etc. Now in my opinion, nature continues to adjust and evolve in response to all the challenges put upon it, from stormy seas and the natural progression of wildlife, etc. And of the humans who come to enjoy this park, I have only noticed them to be respectful and grateful for a place to play, bring their children, camp in prescribed areas...this is ALL nature!

I think it's terribly unfair and inappropriate to limit access to ALL who want to enjoy the park, and particularly those who are mobility challenged and find this park accessible as it is NOW, without radical changes. I have a dear friend who walks the park EVERY DAY who is 92! And she was a veterinarian in her working years...a great friend to animals and NATURE! ... and she will be extremely limited in her access to the park! And it is not fair and equitable. Please take note of this situation and perhaps lend your voice to this tug of war!!

9. *Sent February 19, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Please do not restrict beach access to island view beach. My children have been attending the park since they were infants. My son who has high anxiety is at peace while walking the beach, finding crabs, and skipping rocks. We also take our dog for walks there and he loves being off leash and playing with other dogs. Before we had a dog we enjoyed running into dogs going for a walk. We have never run into a dog owner who did not pick up after their dog. There may be some species that need to be protected, but limiting access to the majority of the park is not the answer. Please keep allowing dogs at the park and allowing beach access.
10. *Sent February 20, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* The CRD must not proceed with this flawed and misleading presentation. The CRD must postpone the two public meetings scheduled for January 29th and February 5th; have a proper environmental assessment done; and bring this back to the public in the summer when people are at the park. Your constituents, and the park, deserve more.
11. *Sent February 20, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Please....this under the table process, keeping 'ALL PEOPLE' out of the discussions other than the bird watchers is unethical and sets a scary precedence.....what's proposed for Island View Beach is to appease a small group, and get rid of EVERYONE else who care for this natured area and enjoy this FAMILY park!!....There are thousands of areas the bird watchers get to go, unquestioned....yet an amazing area, where the WHOLE community of families, enjoying and socializing WHILE taking care of this amazing park....I have been going with my dogs for 20 years, I have respected and kept clean all around me....It's fantastic to see and meet such a diverse set of people, that I would never normally get to meet...the beautiful horses, the campers, the social dog walkers, the nice folks from the Reserve....yet the only people who are complaining are the ones who are unsocial, self-centered people...the bird watchers!!...

Can you not tell me there are NOT a THOUSAND areas on the peninsula to bird watch....yet you cage everyone else up in fences to walk dogs or enjoy family beach time!!....The facts of the decision you want to make with this proposal are misleading and false....the whole process has been under the table and suspicious....I am angry, that facts are being blurred for the sake of the bird watchers in exchange of everyone else....EVERYONE there respects nature and the environment, not just the glum, self-serving bird watchers.....yet the social and happy dog, horse and families are left out of the process....and thrown into fenced yards.....

PLEASE STOP AND TAKE A BREATH and listen to the people who go there every day BEFORE MAKING SUCH AN ABSURD DECISION BASED ON ONE GROUPS OPINION.....and by the way...if any of you have dogs, enjoy biking or horses or picnicking...believe me THE BIRD WATCHERS COULD CARE LESS ABOUT YOU EITHER...you are just being used.....PLEASE STOP THIS DRAMATIC CHANGE AT ISLAND VIEW!!!!!!

12. *Sent February 25, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I have been coming here for 20 years. Just leave the park alone. Restricting it will only prohibit a lot of people coming out and enjoying nature. Please leave it alone.
13. *Sent February 22, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* After hearing a CBC report about Island View Beach I managed, after considerable searching, to find a copy of the draft plan on the CRD website. What I read did not make me happy. It has the potential to have a huge impact on existing uses and users of the park. The plan is very one sided and clearly does not "balance" the needs of all park users.

I have lived in Central Saanich for over 35 years and have visited Island View Beach many, many times. It is truly a jewel in our park system. As a dog owner, I typically go there about a 100 times a year. Most visitors seem to be residents of Central Saanich or the Peninsula, but the park is also a favorite of people throughout the region. I have never been there alone. Even on the stormiest days there are other dog walkers around.

I was surprised that the Park is primarily considered a conservation area by the CRD. We all acknowledge that Island View Beach is a special place which, in addition to conservation values, also has extremely high recreational values. For example: it is a part of the longest sandy beach on southern Vancouver Island (probably south of Parksville); it is a very good all weather walking area and is a favorite place for dog walkers like myself; it is the only place locally where horses are able to splash in the ocean; it has (when maintained) one of only two boat launches on the east side of the peninsula; it provides (when open) a much needed campground for both travelers to and residents of the Victoria area; it has readily accessible hiking trails for all age groups who wish to experience the landscapes and birds and wildlife that occur in the park. It is a wonderful place for families. Over the years it has served our community well. It is a very valuable recreational resource for the people of the region.

However, the plan does not seem to value the recreational assets of Island View Beach or long time established uses. The focus on conservation at the expense of other values is very upsetting. Shouldn't proposed management strategies try to balance the range of values for the benefit of all users? As a simple example, why can't environmental issues be mitigated by fencing off sensitive areas and/or applying time management strategies instead of banning certain users/uses from all or most of the park? One wonders if the CRD really understands (or cares) about the views of people who actually use the park on a regular basis?

With respect to dogs specifically, dog walkers are by far the most frequent users of the park. In the rainy months (October thru March) I would estimate that they easily make up 80% of the visitors (likely closer to 90% on weekdays). Most off leash dogs are well controlled and stick close to their owners. Commercial dog walkers' use the park, but their dogs tend to be well managed and mostly on leashes. I have on occasion had a puppy jump up on me, but have never been



harmed or seen anyone harmed in any way. I have rarely seen a dog chase birds, and certainly have never seen a dog kill a bird. Once in a while, one sees an "out of control dog" running through the park. But that is an exception and largely the fault of the owner.

Moreover, environmental disturbances caused by dogs would likely be no greater than those caused by the deer, raccoons, etc. that naturally inhabit the area. I would argue that the folks who tramp through the park and hack down broom do as much or greater damage than off leash dogs.

And where are off leash dog walkers and other displaced users supposed to go? The only other significant all weather off leash area on the Peninsula is Elk/Beaver Lake. Many of the trails there are already effectively closed to off leash walkers because of Blue Algae concerns. This only increases potential issues with joggers who regularly run and train there. Has the CRD considered the implications of shifting displaced users to Elk/Beaver Lake and the other smaller parks in the region? How would users at those locations feel?

Finally, I really wonder why this plan was initiated in the first place. In my opinion Island View Beach is working quite well the way it is. Although multiple use areas will always have potential for minor conflicts, why are CRD planners proposing such a "dramatic fix" for something that is not really broken? In addition to being an unnecessary drain on tax dollars, the "fixing process", if crudely managed, can frustrate and anger a lot of people. Conversely, if the CRD has spare taxpayer dollars and really wants to fix stuff....why not fix the stuff that benefits people...like getting rid of the huge pot holes on the road; or dumping the garbage cans more frequently; or providing dog waste bags; or improving trails so that people with mobility issues can better explore and enjoy the park; or providing a better boat launch for fishers and paddlers; or improving the camping experience and extending the season (e.g. April 1 to Oct. 31) so that residents and visitors can better contribute to the regions tourism economy.

There is a saying: "everything happens for a reason". However, I really can't understand why CRD Regional Parks is proposing such draconian changes at Island View Beach. In my experience things can go dreadfully wrong when policy/planning processes are perceived as being unresponsive to stakeholder concerns. Consequences include: lack of buy-in, perceptions of bias and unfairness, the potential for creating significant winners and losers (e.g. the proposal to pave Lochside trail), and a loss of confidence in those responsible for the project.

I would ask the Board to please step back and reconsider the direction being proposed for Island View Beach. Please listen to everyone (including long time users) fairly and objectively. Don't forget that people matter too. And they pay taxes and they vote. My apologies for the rant. However, this is important to me and I am very upset.

14. *Sent February 22, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Please leave the Island View Beach Park area as it is. We have loved enjoying it carefully, respectfully, for tranquility, for our health, our dogs, and horses since the mid 1970's. It is a regional park. Locals use it, and have grown up being there. Please do not close Island View to the people and animals who have cherished our time there.
15. *Sent February 20, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I am surprised and dismayed by the draft report just released by the CRD. The recommendations appear to bear little resemblance to the majority of public input received over the past several years. We are dog walkers, but are also interested in the environment and aware that endangered species should be protected. However, that part of the report is highly questionable in that many of the species mentioned either are not in the park, or it is not clear where they might be and whether they actually need protection or not. The other part of the report that is of great concern is the apparent lack of commitment to the regular maintenance of the drainage ditches for mosquito control. This needs to be strengthened so that there is certainty about the control of future mosquito outbreaks.

Regarding dog behavior, we are responsible about picking up after our dog, and would ensure that he not go where he could cause environmental damage. It is not evident at this point where those areas are. We would love to see more environmental signage and educational information about areas to be protected, which should be clearly signed and fenced. We would never allow our dog to go into such areas. We also think it would be possible to find volunteers to monitor these areas at peak times to ensure people are following directions. We do agree that there should be better garbage facilities and dog bags available for casual visitors. Those of us who go to the park regularly know that these facilities do not currently exist, so bring our own.

In one section of the report it mentions the proposal for an enclosed off leash area, yet to be decided. It should be clear where this would be before any report is approved. This is one of the only natural areas to walk by the sea in our region, so we think it better to inform and educate the public and fence the critical areas than to outlaw the use of the majority of the park by all who wish to avail themselves of this pristine environment. We think it completely possible to both protect the environment and still have the park accessible to the public. It is very much a matter of political will.

I wonder how many of the board of the CRD live in the region and use this park regularly? It is easy to approve such a plan if you live in Oak Bay, Esquimalt or one of the other more distant municipalities.

One other comment. I have worked for both provincial governments and the federal government, and find this report so full of bureaucratise and jargon that it is difficult to read. Please, any future reports need to be written in clear, understandable language.

16. *Sent February 20, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I grew up and still live on the Saanich Peninsula. Island View Beach is my first and favorite park for 42 years. I camp with my young son there. I walk my dog off leash there (and pick up after her). I have enjoyed riding horses there. I am a Cub Scouter in Scouts Canada's 10<sup>th</sup> Tsartlip Group and we use the park for outdoor and ecological education outings, as well as social gatherings. I play on that beach. I build forts, fly kites, and I enjoy the various landscapes, trails, flora, fauna, storms, and other like-minded park users who greet each other more like neighbours each time I go there.

There are fascinating ecosystems. Users respect those features and are mindful to be good stewards. Please preserve access as it is today. You have nothing to lose, but a wonderful adventure learning destination to enjoy for eons to come. Go ahead and maintain the ditches (in an ecologically sound manner); put more eco-educational signs out; a few more garbage cans would be nice. Need some help with invasive species? ASK. Work with us. Don't gag healthy outdoor living.

17. *Sent February 20, 2016 to Director of JdFEA.* I just listened to the whole council discussion on this and appreciate your perspective as well as that of the mayor of Central Saanich. I have provided an indication to Ben Isitt that I entirely disagree with him and as I live in Victoria proper, he has now lost my vote in subsequent municipal elections. I take some heart in learning that the CRD doesn't have jurisdiction over the foreshore as we typically do early morning beach walks and only use the inland trails when the tide is very high. I hope that both you and Mayor Windsor will continue to reflect my interests much better than my official elected representative does!

18. *Sent February 22, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Please Leave Island Beach Alone. Specifically about Leash Laws. This park is one of the few places we can take our dogs off leash. Thank you.

19. *Sent February 23, 2016 to Director of JdFEA.* I am not hasty in analyzing something as complex as a CRD Board of Directors' meeting to hear Staff present a draft, years in the making, that will affect 370,000+ visits by the public to a well-loved park, Island View Beach Regional Park.

Many red flags mar my experience of that meeting. I needed to think about it and I kept forgetting to send you my heart felt gratitude for a professional approach to the issues at hand. I must thank you for reading the draft, analyzing any discrepancies and taking the time to explore the venue under discussion. A few other Directors appear to have spent time reading the proposal as was obvious in their questions to staff. I really appreciate that.

Elected officials on the Board have severe time constraints on their attention as they juggle municipal obligations with this extra layer of responsibility. That said, they should not act without fact based information. Money and staff time wasted over many years will accrue more futile expense if this draft is passed.

Why compound the waste without due process of discovery? Those few Board members who called to rubber stamp a flawed document insult their electorate and abrogate responsibility to govern to staff.

Other people with better research skills have pinpointed many contradictions and false ideas presented as facts. For me the baseline is the Trutch hand drawn map of 1859 showing what we now call 'Island View Beach', the flatlands before they were settled as farms. Grassland it is designated. Trutch drew in every single crab apple tree he inventoried. Now we are being told this is historically a salt marsh, scheduled to have its biodiversity restored.

What more indication of existing conditions did CRD Park Staff require than a dated historic document? Transparency and consultation were sporadic, almost non-existent, during the process. No one I have spoken with in my wide acquaintance have any idea that CRD Regional Parks became Parks and Environment in 2013. I did not until I read Larissa's title. I then understood the new dedication to environmental themes. And that is what IVB Park would become under this draft, a Theme Park, a designer biodiversity that never existed.

The lack of public involvement mystified me. There was an 800 name petition against reclassification. When I spoke with people on the beach they sent emails of protest then and there from their phones to CRD Regional Parks. It was only when emails were directed to the Board, rather than Parks and Environment, that anyone took notice. Hello? Transparency? Stakeholders? There is a quiet list of stakeholders other than Central Saanich. One group, FOIB, were accurate and annoying enough to be named and included. The others are always mysteriously referred to as 'THE stakeholders'.

Staff have obviously never read the definition of the word. Dollar for dollar the taxpayer who purchased Parks' 33,000 hectares are the major stakeholder in decisions regarding that land when it affects their tenure. At IVB Park 370,000+ visits each year did not abrogate responsibility for altering traditional park use. No more talk about going back to 'stakeholders'. Spell out who, other than CRD, are pulling the strings on decisions regarding the park. The public deserve a fact based scientific analysis for any reclassification. The public input has been discounted and dismissed by staff in favour of unspecified Stakeholders.

In November advertisements and signage for the IVB meeting were in bureaucratic doublespeak.

Would you give up your Saturday to attend an all-day meeting to: "discuss identified park management issues"?

Erect a sign that says: "Your Park Use WILL Change: meeting for public input" and you would have required a stadium. Arriving at the meeting the sign reading public were perhaps 6 park users in a group of less than 50. Stakeholder groups were in the majority. Staffers and passing politicians accounted for quite a few other attendance ticks.

In certain stakeholder groups the meeting agenda was so well known that a NZ Parks person and a woman from Spanish Banks had arrived to see how CRD were so successful at minimizing people and dogs in parks. Their contribution on how to run our park was included in the results. The meeting was so loaded that many of us trickled away over the course of the morning. Today one park user who made the effort to attend that meeting, a woman with no affiliation to any group, was in tears when I told her what the park plan contained. She thought she had made a positive contribution to the round table discussions and was so disappointed to learn of the proposed restrictions. Her husband has Parkinson's. This is one of the few walks he can take. He said, "I guess we're done for".

CRD thought it a very productive meeting, especially after the dissenters trickled away. I wish he had walked with me today. To attend meetings and then have a well advanced never disclosed plan re sand announced was bad. I do not have a lot of time to spare on meetings. Blindsided again by CRD Regional Parks Staff.

Through you, the Chair, please thank the Director who noted that restrictions to park use are even worse than the plan read. Bodies meant I could not see who spoke. After being told we could still use the beach this Director exposed negotiations with province and feds already underway to gain jurisdiction over the foreshore. When I walk and talk with people each morning THIS is a flashpoint for rage.

I still cannot tabulate an answer to Sui Bono. Can you? All this work to distort or bury information has caused the everyday park user hours upon hours of personal research to try to understand where the faulty information could possibly have come from. How could provable fact be transmuted into a self-proclaimed environmental protection zone? Especially when the flood prediction study came to light?

Fifty years of park use by people who watched the footprint go from one to three farms, now returning naturally to a feral state, should entitle these users/custodians to enjoy the 35 years or so forecasted future of this beloved park.

I have lived Green since before the advent of any Green Party or movement. I find this mockery of an environmental reclassification a punch to the nose. It discredits the real environmental issues that beset us. It is a make work project. As a comment to the procedure of a CRD Meeting where people speak, the public, staff or Board, I think it should be the rule that Directors sit and listen to the speakers rather than tapping away on a tablet nonstop. It is rude. One director hardly stopped except to rant without facts. I feel impotent to stop this IVB Park farce but I will continue to try.

The worst I can say about it? I now understand where Donald Trump gets his supporters. They are people who have had to deal with rubber stamp politicians and bureaucrats whose loyalty is to anyone but the people they should be responsible to.

I CAN say a sincere THANK YOU to you for being a politician of principal, trying to follow process according to fact. There were others at the table I was proud to see actually read the draft, despite the tight time line between release and meeting. Ryan Windsor earned my respect. Those others who spoke from an informed position deserve praise as well, no matter their conclusion. The rubber stamps were not even well inked, just squeaky.

Please lobby your Board to fact check this Park Draft. Who is accountable for all the tax dollars spent on salaried time wasted and studies commissioned and buried? It might have funded ditch clearing or a larvicide program. I was there when part of this plan was first floated in the late 80s. It just seems to grow and grow. Why?

Do your best to make this a fact based decision. This is a people park stitched together of old farms. 370,000+ visits last year cannot be wrong.

PS: NATURE TRAILS SOCIETY I have been in correspondence with them. Their sponsors are all cycling stores and they did not deny that cycling is their prime focus. To restrict accidents between 'shared use' groups they propose to put obstacles in the trail intersections to slow down the fast cyclists. This does not sound shared use to me. Keep it in mind as they lobby for their program. I worked with horse people on developing the Hartland Trails, cutting brush and blackberries. Once the trail was finished riders were literally driven off the trails by cyclists.

20. *Sent February 22, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I have been a regular user of Island View Beach for over 30 years....with and without a dog.....years ago I used to launch our boat at the ramp. The beach and surrounding area is an excellent area for families, and pets, and must remain as a wonderful natural environmental area. I was there today with my dog, great weather, lots of people out walking, many with dogs. I as well as several others all picked up after their pets. So many people out walking, everyone enjoying the weather and the outdoors. We need to encourage families, including pets, to enjoy the outdoors, not restrict them.
21. *Sent February 23, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I wanted to voice my concern around the issue of making Island View beach restricted to dogs. As a tax payer this is extremely frustrating to hear. In my opinion Island View beach is one of the most beautiful beaches on our island and is a great escape (though not too far away) to go with your dog. To hear that dogs "pick things up with their paws and move them to more sensitive areas" is absolutely ridiculous. What do you think all the deer, bear, cougars, etc., do?? The difference being that dog owners have the ability to control this, wild animals? ...not so much. I certainly hope enough of us, who are TAXPAYERS, speak up about this. As long as we are responsible and respectful of the environment, we and our dogs have a right to visit Island View beach as much as anybody else does.

22. *Sent February 23, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* As a resident of Central Saanich since 1973, the Island View Beach Park has provided year round exercise and enjoyment for our family. The beach is amazing in the summer months to walk on the sand at high or low tide, picnic, sit on a log. It is a space that is available to the public from sunrise to sunset. The paths are enjoyable for a brisk walk in the summer and provide us with the availability of a walk in the rain or wind in the other seasons.

The park provides a healthy recreation site that is FREE for all families to enjoy. Families include their dogs in their outings to Island View Beach. I enjoy seeing children and dogs, horses and wind surfers at the park. I have not witnessed a dog chasing wild birds. The wild birds are not bothered by a dog swimming at the water's edge at high tide as they are farther out in the waves.

I would like my voice added to the many people who say, leave the parkland alone. Maintain the pathways so people will stay on them. People will not make their own path through the marshy bog as it is not the purpose they came to the park. Walking or running, picnicking or camping with all family members are the reasons people come to the park. The park helps families stay healthy and connected in a tranquil ocean side setting.

As you monitor all CRD Regional Parks, I am fearful that by banning dogs from Island View beach, you will put even more pressure on the Elk Beaver Lake ecosystem. It is already a very highly used park that may have more problems with overuse if people were severely restricted from Island View Beach. People need to have many open wild spaces to recreate in with and without their dogs and horses.

It is up to the CRD board members, as advocates for the people of the CRD, to provide as many wild places for everyone to use for a healthy lifestyle. Not to restrict the public from enjoying public spaces. Please leave Island View beach regulations alone and maintain the pathways through this amazing oceanfront park.

23. *Sent February 23, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Leave the park alone. I went down on family day and was amazed at the number of people enjoying the park as it is.

24. *Sent February 25, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Hello, I am a resident of Central Saanich, I grew up on Vancouver Island and have been visiting Island View Beach all of my life. I have brought day camps there, had family gatherings and regularly walk my dogs there. I do not see that Island View beach is in need of a huge overhaul. The people and dogs are not a nuisance and we all deserve the right to share this beautiful park land.

I have reviewed the propositions put out by the CRD (as much as I could and the recommendations put out by the friends of Island View Beach. The proposed

improvements by the Friends makes the most sense. A few key issues could be easily resolved by improving washroom facilities, garbage bins and providing dog poop bags along the trail. Dogs should be under control or on leash but 100% leash on the beach is unfair. We are already restricted by time of year. Restricting the off leash area for dogs may increase the incidents of dog misbehavior as it will force more dogs into a smaller area.

I understand that there are people who dislike dogs, are afraid of dogs (I was one) and even dogs that dislike other dogs. This is why dogs need to be properly under control, for some that may be leashing but not for all. I will agree, however, that the Saanich Peninsula is in need of some enforced leash only trails. Not all dogs can be off leash or appreciate having off leash dogs approach them. The park area should not be restricted to trail only.

Conservation areas should be labeled but not restrict access between parking and beach and bylaw officers and maintenance staff need to visit the park more often to maintain sanitary conditions in the park. Other than mosquito control and environmental protection (improving sea wall) only minimal change is required, if any, to maintain a happy and healthy park land for all.

25. *Sent February 23, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I have been a user of Island View Beach Park for close to sixty years. My grandfather helped dig the drainage ditches at this park in the 1930's. I have strong ties, emotionally and physically to this beautiful park and am there on an almost daily basis walking my two dogs.

The number of surveys and public discussions that have taken place over the issue of usage of this park is beyond belief. The loaded and leading questions on the surveys was disturbing, to say the least. What is even more disturbing is the lack of transparency and honesty in the process. The existing bylaws regarding illegal beach fires, dogs on the beach during the summer season, and illegal camping are not being enforced now. How on earth you do propose to enforce even more restrictive bylaws and rules of usage?

I speak from experience when I say that it is often the dog walking public that clean up the beach of broken beer bottles, discarded beverage cans of all types, and other garbage; we put out the beach fires left burning all night, or call them in to the fire department. We call in the police and ambulance to deal with the drunken, passed out youth on the beach. We, as well as other frequent users of the park, are the eyes and ears that keep our park safe and clean as possible.

I believe that ALL of this park is here to be used by ALL. I don't believe there is much that needs to be changed, except perhaps providing more garbage receptacles and doggy bags to hopefully encourage those who aren't picking up now to do so in the future.

Providing an off-leash area sounds suspiciously like providing a fenced in area, which already is provided for on the Peninsula. There are precious few areas left



in Greater Victoria that allows off leash areas for dogs to enjoy. If loose dogs in the beach area during the summer have been such a concern in the past, why isn't the existing bylaw enforced?

Please don't make free and easy and presently enjoyed access to all of Island View Beach Park more restrictive. It's a gem that is beloved by many.

26. *Sent February 23, 2016 to CRD.* Recent CRD maps are conflicting and confusing regarding horse use. What roads? Staff stated at the Board meeting that there IS NO PROVISION for horses in the park please clarify the route available. After removal of the Cross Country jumps the 1989 park plan advised horses to stay on trails. I do have the old map of the horse trail which looped around the perimeter of the park. That would be totally acceptable to the equestrian community. The trail is still in use by responsible people who leave no trace. Users could likely have it mowed annually at no expense to CRD. Maintenance was only neglected as we wanted to leave as little impact on the park as possible. So, banned? Restricted to ill-defined roads? Or governed by the existing advice to stay on trails?
27. *Sent February 29, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Please reconsider the changes you are considering making to island view beach. That beach is very important to a lot of people. We all love the environment our island provides, but we have very few places like island view where dogs can play. Horses can run families can enjoy. You know how full that parking lot is all the time. With people happily enjoying it as it is. Please don't take this treasure away from us.
28. *Sent February 29, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Solve this problem with real science, check your sources; be responsible. We the citizens expect you to act responsibly for the good of all. We need you to be open and above board, to make Island View Beach the best it can be - for local voters as well as our visitors, the tourists. We are not just 'the great grey mass'. We are ourselves scientists, agriculturists, researchers as well as parents, farmers, and voters. We are now wary and following this very closely. Do the right thing.
29. *Sent March 1, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Please leave our IV beach alone. Our four legged friends are happy there the way things are. Thank-you.
30. *Sent March 1, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Island View - one of the most fantastic areas that Victoria could boast about. Don't close off to the public but educate the public in appreciation for this precious appreciated space for all to view and enjoy. It broke our hearts when you shut down the camping area it was so great to leave the city and drive out for a weekend with family. We met lovely people including travelers from Europe. Sadly there is not much faith in the actions of the CRD of late. Your reputation as a responsible board making good decisions has not been highlighted. Maybe you could all start turning this around.
31. *Sent February 29, 2016 to CRD.* Just wanted to say thank you for doing such a fantastic job at educating people, and supporting the natural environment. I

fully support your efforts to update the stewardship plans for Island View Park. The impact of free running dogs and people is easy to see, not just there, but many other places where large numbers of dogs are exercised off leash. I have three dogs, and I love to take them different places, but I know how destructive they can be to the few remaining habitats of other species of plants and animals. I leash them. All the best to you.

32. *Sent March 3, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I was shocked today to learn from a friend in Victoria, that there is pressure to make sweeping and in my humble opinion, detrimental changes to this most wonderful natural habitat that has been enjoyed by the public for decades. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!!!" Please leave this Regional Park alone!! I lived in Saanich for many years and this park was always a special destination. The Airedale loved it too. I never encountered a dog fight and the public seemed to do a good job of picking up after their dog. Please move on to other important issues and save yourselves and the public a lot of money and angst.
33. *Sent February 29, 2016 to CRD.* Hello, I understand that the CRD is moving to protect the environment of Island View Park. Being a very busy full-time working single mom, I was unable to attend any of the community meetings for public input regarding the direction Island View Park should take. I am very pleased to hear that environmental protection of the park is the strong mandate, and that includes severely restricting dogs. I know that the CRD will get major criticism from numerous dog owners, but please don't cave in to them! I have had so many negative experiences at Island View park due to inconsiderate/rude dog owners who allowed their dog to harass my toddler, jump on me, pee near enough to me to splash my lunch bag, etc., etc., etc. I could go on and on. These people ignore the signs. It is time for an all-out ban on dogs in certain areas. I feel that the number of dogs has grown so much that the public needs a place where, if they choose, they can enjoy a park without dogs ruining their attempt to relax and enjoy the day. I also feel that migrating birds need a place to rest and feed for their long journeys, not to be repeatedly chased for fun by every dog that comes along.

Regarding the Lochside trail and horses...I have never had a negative experience due to horses, and do feel the people who live along the trail and own horses live there specifically to ride their horses along that trail. Many of them have been there a long time. I strongly feel that they should be allowed to ride their horses along the Lochside Trail. Note that I don't own a horse, or even ride one. Thank you for your consideration.

34. *Sent February 20, 2016 to CRD.* I have been enjoying walks with my dog at Island View Beach for the past 23 years. My dog has been running free and playing with other dogs. This has been a major factor in my dog's excellent health at twelve years. If he we would be restricted to a fenced area, it would be an unreasonable burden on us and many others; especially since many of the reasons given are, in large part, unsubstantiated. Upkeep of the park has been

lacking, especially the roads, and paths. Horses run free, dumping on the beach and paths with impunity.

Over the years, my health has declined to the point that I am bound to using a mobility scooter. There is a law in place called, "Duty to Accommodate". It requires that you make the paths accessible to people with handicaps. This has never shown up, to the best of my knowledge, in any of your plans or studies. Even the outhouses should be wheelchair accessible. There is one stretch in particular that has been covered by storm swept sand, making it impossible to negotiate for people with medical aids.

In my experience, it has most often been the course of action to circumvent problems, rather than to find reasonable solutions. It is my sincere hope that you will not be guilty of such weak-minded solutions. Polling the public is not an exercise in placating, rather a way of finding lasting solutions to complex problems.

35. *Sent February 22, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I am 70 years old with a useless knee and a hip in much the same condition. I also have a dog that needs a lot of exercise. The nearly flat circuit around the north end of the park is perfect for us. I'm human which seems to count for nothing in the new plan. The conservationists want to protect some nameless plants, some birds (also unnamed) that can't seem to get out of the way of a snuffling dog, and invisible sand dunes. Where do I rank in their priorities?

There are dogless older folk that come just to have a bit of interaction with dogs. There are horses that are dog proofed that I can risk teaching my dog to behave around. The horse people have encouraged me not to leash my dog when I see them so that my dog can get used to them. It is a perfect little park that is about to be ruined if the present plan is accepted. In the words of John Lennon, "Let It Be".

36. *Sent March 11, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* We walk Island View beach several times weekly and would be sad to see the changes that are proposed. We like Island View beach just the way it is. Save our money for more important projects that will help our community. Thank you.

37. *Sent March 10, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Island View Beach is a treasure that should be shared by all. We know how special it is and want to protect it. Don't let the few ruin it for us all.

38. *Sent March 11, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I am strongly against your proposal (in the name of environmental protection) to change Island View Beach. I walk my dogs there regularly and use the paths throughout the park plus the upper path that is adjacent to the beach. I don't use the beach area, but have seen horses and dogs use it and certainly don't object. Please fence the areas you wish to protect, but don't change the paths throughout the park (or divert them if there is any area that needs protecting).

39. *Sent March 11, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* We and our dog are regular visitors of the Island View Beach Park. We live in Central Saanich and we love walking in this park and respecting the natural beauty of it. Your proposals to restrict people and animal access to this park will harm lots of people including ourselves. We are paying taxes to our City exactly for having access to these parks and to enjoy them. You should reconsider your proposal to make changes to Island View Park and concentrate on other matters, which are more stringent than destroying something which works very well for lots of people.
40. *Sent March 13, 2016 to CRD.* Please accept this letter as input for formation of your policy regarding Island view beach. I was hoping to send this to you as a word document but evidently I need to paste it into a field.

Island View Beach has been an oasis for our family, and we spend hours, bird watching with binoculars and running our dogs off leash every few days. In contrast with local homeowners or armchair naturalists, who mostly appreciate the area for the distant local beauty, we actually walk those beaches.

At first glance it might seem easy to do research on public opinion regarding park policy. However, the more you learn about research, the more you understand the profound way technique can affect results. It is well documented that surprisingly few public park users venture more than a few hundred meters from their car. I can tell you from practical experience in the park, it is unusual to find a non-dog owner more than a few hundred meters from their car. So, summertime parking lot surveys are likely to be distorted by the greater proportion of time that non dog owners spend near the parking lot area.

Those who do venture further into the park tend to be dog owners (about 75%, in my experience). Particularly in winter, dog owners dominate the human user group, so any user survey that does not confirm that fact has been distorted by sampling bias.

During summer months, local regulations prohibit off-leash dog access to most public beaches in Victoria. Of course there is a balance of issues, and I understand and respect the summertime decision to restrict dog access in many popular beach parks of Victoria. In the parking lot and main user area of Island View beach, as elsewhere, dogs need to be leashed during summer months. Island View is a little different in the fact that the majority of people who venture widely are dog owners. I've always thought of Island View as having a balanced policy which also respects the desire for dog owners to run their dogs away from the main public access areas. Island View beach is one of the last remaining peninsula beaches where this is possible. So, a decision to further restrict dog access there, too, would be a final major insult to the huge number of dog owners in our city. We should anticipate a sharp decline of Island View park use if dogs are further restrained or again forced into small contained areas.

Dogs are careful pack animals, and it is rare for them to explore beyond sight of their owners. Since most owners rarely stray far from the trails or sandy beach,

their dogs rarely go beyond there, too. I have seen very few, if any, dogs venturing deep into adjacent wetlands where most birds nest. The vast majority of dogs stray no further than ten meters from the sandy shoreline. And the theoretical chance that local invasive plants might be spread more widely has not happened, over the thousands of years that canines have lived in the area. Again, fencing off areas of concern has been an effective policy.

Ecological history is full of examples of people making changes without considering the implication of those decisions. For example, a decision to prohibit dog access will undoubtedly cause an increase in the local raccoon and deer population. There's a warning flag! Anybody who has spent any time on the gulf islands will understand how profound our raccoon problem can be. Gulf island raccoons have recently shown a brazen tendency to even forage during daylight hours when the tide is out, causing a major and carefully published slide in the diversity of the intertidal zone. And since bird eggs are on the raccoon menu, it is logical to expect that bird nesting would be significantly disrupted. Similar patterns of ecosystem change have also been seen when deer populations are uncontrolled. Of course raccoon and deer abundance is an unnatural imbalance, previously controlled by the natural presence of wolves and other predators.

From practical observation I can tell you that there are few things that strike more fear in a raccoon than the surprise bark of a dog. Of course dogs rarely kill those animals, but raccoons tend to move out of areas that are frequented by dogs. When dogs are banished, the local rat and deer and raccoon population would surely climb. So, when comparing the effect that dog walking has on the nesting behavior of marine birds, you need to compare it to what effect a spike in raccoon pressure would have. Since raccoons and rats have a preference for the eggs of marine birds, banning dogs on parts of Island View Beach may ironically be detrimental to the local populations of breeding birds.

If dog access is further restricted, how will you pay for the extra cost of raccoon and deer management? It would be ludicrous to pay someone to play recordings of barking dogs. Of course a simple solution to the deer issue, which might be embraced by the local native population would be to increase hunting in the area. However, a decision to increase hunting with high powered rifles so close to a local park (and homes) would be unsafe and surely unpopular. You may end up having to pay for a raccoon or deer trapping program to deal with the eye-rolling issue.

The last thing we need is another fiasco of continuous ongoing expensive inhumane wildlife control. Of course when viewed in retrospect any policy change that might have contributed to a wildlife problem could be embarrassing.

I keep hearing of a push to change the policies of Island View Beach, and until today I have had silent confidence that balanced judgement at a committee level would prevail. On the ground, I can tell you that conflicts over dogs

between people who actually go to the park are rare. Certainly the present policies represent a time tested and well considered balance. However, with this issue continually resurfacing, today I have an uneasy feeling that those who are on these committees are not representing the majority of users.

I believe that the current policies are balanced and appropriate, and there should be no change in those policies.

41. *Sent February 14, 2016 to CRD.* I wish to submit my support for maintaining accessible dog areas at Island View Beach. I have been walking dogs in this area for 50 years. Good walking trails including beach access, off leash, are an important necessity for use and enjoyment of this public area for both my 2 footed and 4 footed friends.
42. *Sent March 25, 2016 to CRD.* I support the Island View Beach Draft Management Plan to set aside quiet zones to preserve the environment which is impacted by human use of the park. Island View Beach is a valuable resource which needs protection. Frequent and numerous users with their dogs are degrading the land and threatening the wildlife and rare plants there. The migrant birds, especially the Brant, need to be protected from human and dog impact.
43. *Sent March 27, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I can only guess that you people who make these decisions enjoy living in a "hostile environment" one in which each of you has created. Furthermore, I am unsure if any of you actually enjoy the great outdoors, otherwise you would see the effect you are having on a beautiful environment meant for everyone to enjoy. I am guessing you are the same people that pass permits out like they are going out of style to developers. You can be sure that you have not or will not win a "popularity" contest. You are living in an age where enjoyment of the great outdoors is one of the few luxuries that a family can do without taking out a bank loan!  
  
Perhaps if you spent some time out of your chambers to enjoy the sunshine on your face and spend time with your families here, you would see what all the hype is about. So take off your pin striped suits, pack yourself a picnic, put your dog and kids in the car and enjoy. The forecast is for sunshine all week! Just maybe you will have a change of heart. You don't want this change being your legacy!!
44. *Sent March 27, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* For what it's worth, I am adding my voice to those urging the CRD to maintain off leash dog access at Island View Beach. One of the many reasons we moved to the Greater Victoria area is because it is known to be such a dog-friendly community; Island View Beach is particularly impressive, which is why we often take visitors there. I have signed the Friends of Island View Beach petition to leave the park as is.... I'm hopeful that your approach to all park usage balances conservation and recreation.

45. *Sent March 27, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I was stunned and surprised to hear about the possible massive restriction in access to Island View Beach. It is

one of the treasures and privileges we enjoy as citizens of the lower island. Not only do I oppose access restrictions, I support further investment and development in the area. There are plenty of other things our time and money could be invested in, in order to protect local habitat.

46. *Sent March 28, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* The thought of flooding the area behind the berm with sea water by removing the berm defies logic. The species behind this barrier that have made this area their home for decades, will be devastated. Has this truly been thought through or is it just a grasp at straws by bureaucrats looking to justify their jobs?

As far as denying access to the beach. My father in-law played at this beach as a kid. My wife played at this beach as a kid. Our kids now play at this beach. It is great family fun. We leave foot prints and by the next high tide they are gone. Perhaps the CRD does not like encouraging family fun this way as it is very hard to charge for. Perhaps a simple tax on the air we breathe or for each step we take will satisfy the coffers and 'Our' beach can be left alone.

Concern must be great when the people are not listened to or acknowledged. Dictatorships flourish this way.

47. *Sent March 27, 2016 to CRD.* I'm born and raised in Saanich. A 4th generation in this area. I have recently heard that the CRD is considering limiting access to island view beach and considering it a protected Ecosystem. C'mon. Get your f'n heads on straight. We've been using this area for decades. In fact at one time I lived in a trailer for two months while I was in between homes after I sold one. An amazing memory waking up to this area each morning with the ocean lapping up in front of my trailer. I think you've done enough by removing the camping almost altogether and putting in those ridiculous sensitive ecosystem fencing.

I'm getting so sick and tired of our local government trying to govern for a small special interest group instead of listening to the masses.

If we could vote to abolish the CRD today I would. I see no value or purpose in its existence except to add another unneeded and unwanted level of government. I'm sorry for my tone but I'm mad as hell at the mere mention of closing the beach off to public access.

I sure hope that the CRD comes to their senses on this one and quickly to drop the idea of protecting this area. It's our public area for ALL people to use and enjoy.

48. *Sent March 24, 2016 to CRD.* I strongly support all aspects of the draft plan which speak to recognizing and rehabilitating the ecological integrity of the area, as per the CRD's Regional Parks Strategic Plan which calls for "Nature needs Half."

I am encouraged by the draft plan's recommendations for providing for restricted access zones for both people and dogs while at the same time recognizing the value of the area to public enjoyment. I also agree that education is important, but, unfortunately it must go hand-in-hand with enforcement, particularly as the plan is implemented as it will require some long time users to change their visitation expectations.

I know dog walkers make extensive use of the park and they will feel this plan unduly restricts their enjoyment of the park, however habitat protection must be forefront and wildlife, especially birdlife, harassment must be minimized. I encourage you to be able to provide well documented and well researched scientific evidence to support your recommendations related to these issues.

I would like to plan to include more details about the mosquito abatement program - are they chemically controlled? – What conditions trigger a control action?

I hope that, in the long run, the campsite is eventually closed and removed. While this is a great place to camp, it is more important for the land to be either protected or opened up further to day users.

I know many people no longer visit Island View Beach for a variety of reasons, dogs and over-crowding being the main ones. With the increasing population on the Saanich Peninsula and the greater Victoria area I hope the CRD is planning on setting aside more parkland so use can be spread out. These parks are so important to us, both ecologically and socially! Thanks for taking time to read my comments and good luck fighting the good fight.

49. *Sent March 28, 2016 to CRD.* I want to add my name to the list of people opposed to changes to the Island View Beach Park. I find this park to be an ideal mix of usages with an incredible ambience available to all manner of user. The elderly, handicapped, families (including rover), youth, etc. – on any one day you can find them interacting as a community should.
50. *Sent March 27, 2016 to CRD.* We use the park quite frequently and would like to know the problems which convinced the board to dramatically reduce the size of the general use area. We think the current management strategy to be very acceptable.
51. *Sent March 29, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I am a resident of Surrey BC and have made many visits to my people friend Jackie and my dog friend Stella for the past two years. My friend Jackie walks my dog friend Stella on almost a daily basis at Island View Beach Regional Park. I have had the pleasure of accompanying them both on these walks whenever I venture over to the island for my visits. Most of my visits have been during the fall, winter and spring. Plus a few visits during the summer as well.



This regional Park is incredibly well used by the Public. I noticed that the park is very clean, no litter and garbage to speak of. Which leads me to believe that the patrons of the park care deeply about its appearance and feel responsible for its care. The off season visits are no doubt down considering the west coast weather. The driving wind and the rain can I am sure make visits short. However there is always someone there just out for a stroll through this gem of a park. They maybe with their dogs, their horse's, their people friends and their families or biking. All seem to appreciate this wonderful little park.

Everyone is friendly, they treat other with courtesy and all say hello and are most willing to have conversations about their dogs and about their lives. This little park is most of all a people place. I am astounded that the CRD wants to impose such restrictions by totally removing horse visits, bicyclists and limiting dog access to this park. Especially considering how much this park is used by the public. Not just by the residents of Saanich and Sidney but by citizens from all over the Island. The Park is a comfortable place to go with your family, your friends, your dogs and your horse's. Where one may choose to get married on the beach, have a picnic, sun tan or just stroll and kick the sand amongst the driftwood.

This park is a comfortable and safe place for seniors to walk and converse, of course there is always the occasional enthusiastic dog who is usually quickly taken control of to stop any incidents. People rarely venture into the marsh area. They mostly stick to the paths and groomed trails or else the beach. It appears to me that the human and animal imprint on this park is negligible. The environment is not being abused or damaged. I do not understand why the CRD is focusing on this particular park for such drastic measures. I think maybe the money and the effort should be refocused on eliminating Victoria's sewage issues. What's more of issue to the environment than this wonderful little park or 350,000 people defecating in the ocean every day, year in and year out. Thanks you for your time and consideration. Please leave Island View Beach Regional Park as it is.

52. *Sent April 4, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* We recently moved to Sidney. One of the great attractions of the area is Island View Beach where we go four or five times a week to walk the path and run our dog on the beach. We believe it will be a serious mistake to place any further restriction on the use of the beach.

53. *Sent April 4, 2016 to CRD.* I have read with interest and admiration the well-researched background reports on the geology and ecology of Island View Park, as well as the CRD Management Plan. I am appalled by some of the comments from the public, especially the Friends of Island View Beach who seem to think that if a bird is in the sea, its welfare is not dependent on what happens to the ecology of the Park!

I use the Park to enjoy the birds and wild plants and am unhappy at the density of unleashed dogs that I encounter. One comment that I have on the priorities attached to management actions in the Plan is that until an area is converted into an official unleashed area for dogs, good luck with trying to regulate dog

walkers to leash their dogs on the trails or beach, so both actions have to be done simultaneously.

I would appreciate knowing when future public meetings will take place to discuss the Management Plan. Meanwhile, my congratulations and carry on with the good work.

54. *Sent April 6, 2016 to CRD.* I am very pleased with many aspects of the draft management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park and am particularly glad to see that conservation is a priority in the plan for this important place.

The draft plan has many good features. I agree that camping should not be expanded and that it is desirable to change the footprint to restore more of the coastal sand ecosystem. I am extremely happy to see increased regulation of dogs in the draft plan. The current situation, with large numbers of off-leash dogs, is detrimental to the wildlife and plants, and detracts from the enjoyment of the park for many people. I think the draft plan describes a good compromise between the needs of wildlife and the pleasure of dog owners and other visitors. I am also very pleased that the Tsawout Nation will be involved in the park management.

One aspect of the plan that particularly concerns me is the apparent commitment to maintaining the berms. I understand that the coastal dune and marsh ecosystem cannot maintain itself as long as the berms are in place. In order to preserve the increasingly rare plants and animals that depend on this habitat the berms should be dismantled, at least at the North end of the park.

I appreciate all the work that has been done on the much-needed plan for this important park and hope that the final plan and implementation will restore and protect this incredibly valuable habitat.

55. *Sent March 29, 2016 to CRD.* I have just read the plans for Island View Beach Park. I applaud the planners on the results of all the studies. It is a compromise that I can accept. There are just two items that concern me. I am a birder, and I have seen Brant Geese all along the shore from the picnic area and northward in the spring. So, I am worried about dogs being allowed off leash anywhere near these geese that are at risk. I didn't see anything about enforcement of these park rules concerning the dogs. The second is the effort to eliminate mosquitos. Some of the birds, especially the swallows and Nighthawks, need insects to survive. The bats live on insects, too, I believe. I can understand a need to keep the mosquitoes in check, but I wouldn't want to see them totally eradicated. Thanks for the work of all the planners to make Island View Beach an outstanding place to visit.

56. *Sent April 8, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* As a resident of Saanich, a visitor of Island view beach, and an active member of the Victoria Natural History Society, I have a keen interest in the management of Island View Beach. I have participated in meetings during the public input stage. Your Committee has

clearly heard all of the extremely varied input and, at some point, you have to make a decision, one that cannot please or satisfy all groups. Thus I would prefer to simply leave your Committee to now make informed management decisions on this controversial area.

Unfortunately, there seems to be a significant lobbying effort underway by some segments of the public. Management of this park should be based on environmental conservation factors, not a “who can generate the most signatures” scheme. Therefore, I would like to briefly reiterate my strongly held views.

I am glad to see the park designated as a conservation area because of its significant natural environment, sensitive ecosystems and species. I appreciate that the plan considers the larger coastal landscape and commits to protect and restore the environment. It is very encouraging to see that almost 70% of the park area is to be an environmental protection zone, with 25% being a natural environment zone. The effort toward better dog control is also appreciated.

However, one big and one lesser problem remain. The most significant problem concerns management of the sand dune ecosystems and coastal marshes.

There have been several studies conducted by Dr. David Blundon and others on this site that outline the importance of flushing in these rare ecosystems. As long as the berm exists, the rare plants, insects and animals that depend on these habitats will continue to disappear. That berm has to be progressively removed, starting from the north and moving south. The second issue is the plan to continue the ecologically-destructive and ineffective mosquito control efforts. The entire biology of the wetland portions is being systematically decimated by the poisoning regime. Mosquitoes are important pollinators and part of the base of the food chain, if you take away a food source to remove other species as well. There are alternative methods of mosquito control including biological applications such as bat boxes that would be extremely effective in this area, and could be implemented by Habitat Acquisition Trust.

In conclusion, I like what we see so far, hope for a bit more, and especially hope that park management planning won't deteriorate to a bidding war by lobbying groups.

57. *Sent April 11, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Thank you for providing the Draft Plan for Island View Beach for comment.

I am one of the many who support the plan's intention of keeping the vast majority of park for its conservation values, protecting the native species, and enhancing habitat to restore species that once used but are no longer safe in the park. It would have been nice if the plan had gone further—allowing the berm to be breached and ending the mosquito abatement program—but I appreciate that this is a multi-use park and there is a need for compromise.

Island View Beach Park is a special area in the Capital Regional District and deserves to be recognized as such. As more and more parkland is overrun by people and their pets, IVB still has a large area that supports plant and animal diversity. I strongly support the move to keeping dogs leashed on the trails. I have been jumped on, snarled at, and threatened by more “friendly” dogs than you can imagine. A free-run area would be appropriate, but since owners seem unwilling to prevent their dogs from bothering people and wildlife, control methods are now necessary. Likewise, an area set aside for wildlife only—no walkers, birders, or other human incursion—is also appropriate. In my opinion, that area should be as large as possible.

Too many people are focusing on what is good for themselves now, without a thought to what this park will become if the trend to overuse and abuse continues. I am grateful that the CRD is looking to the future and trying to put conditions in place that will help preserve what is currently there, restore what has already been damaged, and protect both for native wildlife and future generations of Victoria residents.

58. *Sent April 11, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* In today's world, it often feels as if we place more value on the “here and now” without regards for the future; we often lose sight of the bigger picture, and lack the ability to accept change even if it means we will benefit in the long term. The Island View Beach Draft Management Plan is an example of sound thinking towards the future, and the “Friends of Island View Beach” are certainly not friends of the future if they believe this management plan is wrong.

I'd like to think the CRD places more value on the long-term survival of a species at risk than it does on the right of dog owners to allow their dogs to run free without regard for sensitive environments, and I believe that the Island View Beach Draft Management Plan shows this.

Please do not allow the opinion of one group of people to represent the opinion of all of CRD Regional Parks' users, and implement the Island View Beach Draft Management Plan as it stands.

Please view this email as lending support to the Island View Beach Draft Management Plan, wholeheartedly rejecting the arguments of the “Friends of Island View Beach” group.

59. *Sent April 11, 2016 to CRD.* Thanks for a great Island View Beach Management Plan. I am very much in favour of this. I visited the park today and enjoyed 400 Brant geese resting on the sand bars (until dogs chased them away). It is a good idea to have a separate area for off leash dogs.
60. *Sent April 12, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* There are now 3,000 signatures on the petition to the CRD Board to leave Island View Beach alone, and many people also wrote to you directly. We were pleased to see yesterday that 2 people used our web site to write to you with dissenting views because that is

democracy in action, and we welcome being able to facilitate that process. One of those letters however, contained a misstatement that comes up surprisingly often from sources who should know better - that birds control mosquito populations. Some species of birds feed off mosquitoes, but they do not control them. And from listening to various speakers at the CRD over the years, it is also apparent that some on the Board are not aware of the flight range of the mosquitoes that bred at Island View Beach; the devastating impact they had on people and livestock; and the public health risk they pose.

Prior to Central Saanich cleaning the park ditches in October 2011, the CRD, Central Saanich and the Tsawout, were spending \$50,000 a year on mosquito control and the skies were thick with swallows feeding off them. Despite this the mosquitoes were unabated, as is described in the 2012 letter attached, to CRD Regional Parks from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations headed "*Island View Beach Mosquito Issue*". That letter read in part:

*A ministry representative appeared before your Committee at your September 20, 2011 meeting to describe the awful plight faced by our outside crews from the terrible salt marsh mosquitoes that breed at Island View Beach. These mosquitoes are exceedingly aggressive and our staff were obliged to apply deet in such high quantities that it actually dissolved the plastic coating on their glasses. The combination of the mosquitoes and the deet was so clearly unhealthy it placed us in an untenable position as a responsible employer, particularly as a Government ministry.*

*Thankfully your Committee gave instructions for the ditches at Island View Beach Regional Park to be cleaned, and we understand this in turn, allowed Puckle Farm to clean their ditches.*

*We are pleased to inform you that the result of cleaning the ditches has been dramatic and that to-date, there are almost no mosquitoes.*

*Thank you for having the ditches cleaned, it was literally a lifesaver for our staff.*

The Ministry of Forests operation is on Puckle Road, more than 1km from the park!

**Mosquito control is a public health issue that must be taken seriously** - West Nile virus is in BC, and Zika is on the continent. The CRD has 400,000 visits by the public each year at Island View; the surrounding area is residential including on the Tsawout lands; and there are the farmers and the Ministry of Forests.

61. *Sent April 12, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I am a weekly user of the park. My family and I use it as a destination often when we need an outing for a couple of hours. My in-laws use the camping facility when visiting from Parksville and it has made for some fantastic family memories. I often go to the park alone in the evening with my dog. We walk from the boat launch parking lot, to the first nations spit across from James Island and back. It is by far her favourite walk as is evident from the whining that commences as soon as we turn onto Island View

Rd. Any diminishment in the park is a huge disservice to the public at large. This park is a family park, for many Vancouver Island residents, kids play in the tidal areas, families have fires, and dogs are walked, rain or shine! Leave it alone. It is easy to find cause to justify a predetermined course of action. Protect the birds, return the land to dunes, etc. All noble causes but at what cost? Is a fractional park, protected serving the community? Seems a bit extreme, but in keeping with CRD tradition I suppose? The park functions, I haven't heard any complaints from the community at large, if it isn't broke, don't fix it! The boat launch isn't maintained by the CRD as far as I can tell. Seems James Island, in coordination with Mitchell farm are the only ones doing any maintaining on it, CRD's proposed changes mislead the public into thinking it is maintained, not from what I've seen?

62. *Sent April 11, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I am writing with regard to the CRD draft management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. It is critical to me that habitat for birds be protected. I find that the Park is too over-run with dogs to permit birds that live or nest on the ground to flourish. The off-leash area for dogs should be smaller.

It is very important to me that habitat for birds that require wetlands be preserved and extended. Many endangered birds eat insects – one example is the Common Nighthawk. Island View Beach is an ideal area to support birds that need insects for survival. At the same time, surrounding homes may enjoy insect-free summer evenings due to the same birds.

63. *Sent April 11, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I fully support the proposed management plan for Island View beach. As both a dog owner and a birder (as well as the past-president of Rocky Point Observatory) I believe this plan adequately provides for the needs of all park users, including those plants and animals that cannot speak for themselves. In particular, I am very supportive of the enclosed off leash area as this is something that is not currently available anywhere in the Victoria area. Preserving this valuable habitat and parkland is important.

64. *Sent April 12, 2016 to CRD.* I would like to make the following comments on the proposed Park Management Plan for Island View Beach Park.

This area has extensive areas where wildlife (flora as well as fauna) is critical. Dogs, whether leashed or not, are not compatible with the objective of protecting the environment in these areas. Any areas where environmental protection is required should prohibit dogs at all times.

Dogs are not appropriate, leashed or not, on the beach or picnic areas at any time of the year. The beach is used all year, not just in summer.

Dog feces are an ongoing problem. Too many dog owners do not deal responsibly with this. Existing by-laws need to be rigorously enforced, all year.

Commercial use of a park is not appropriate. A commercial dog walker with multiple animals simply cannot control them if off-leash, and cannot deal with feces whether leashed or not.

A small off-leash area that does not impact the beach, picnic area or environmentally sensitive areas might be appropriate if securely fenced and owners deal with feces appropriately within it.

65. *Sent April 11, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I was pleased to see many of the policies put forward in the Island View Beach Regional Park draft management plan. The staff involved should be commended in their effort to meet the scientific and environmental needs of this incredibly specialized ecosystem while trying to balance the demands of a few user-groups, who seem to have little understanding of its ecological importance.

Creating zones of increased protection is long overdue and very welcome. This unique ecosystem will now have increased protection from off-leash dogs and potentially reduced trampling from undesignated trails. Both of these are vast improvements over the condition the park is currently in.

There is a real need to protect Island View Beach Regional Park from the overwhelming presence of people and their pets - there is no value in setting aside any natural areas if we insist on allowing people and pets in every part of it. In effect wildlife will find no refuge there, and our goal of protection will not be met. A model that should be adopted is that of the Goldstream Provincial Park lower river and estuary "Quiet Zone" – a no-access zone where flora and fauna have sanctuary from the constant disturbance by anthropogenic activity. The success of this zone is attributable to the immediate impact of increased wildlife using the area, and the education of visitors to solidify public support. For example, if people knew how harmful it is to shorebirds to be constantly chased from the beach during their phenomenal migration, I really think they would understand the need for these zones. Educating visitors about the reasons it was done will be paramount for success.

I do, however, still have some concerns. Primary among the issues put forward in the draft management plan is the insistence on maintaining the berm and the drainage ditches, even repairing them if damaged. These structures run counter to natural ecosystem function and were recommended for removal by all scientists consulted in the process. The berm does not allow for natural dune processes to occur, and the drainage ditches do not ameliorate any mosquito issues that may be present but instead aggravate them by ensuring standing water year-round. Not maintaining these structures will save an enormous amount of taxpayer's money over the long term, especially in light of increased storm surges concomitant with sea level rise.

This leads to a further suggestion that will also save taxpayers money in the long run: stop the mosquito abatement program until a real need for it has been established. Mosquito species have different habitat requirements and knowing

what species are occurring in the neighboring development compared to those found in the park itself is an important first step to determining if there is an actual problem. Poisoning the entire aquatic Dipteran population in the park is not an ecologically sound practice, as these organisms form the basis of the food web- everything from predaceous arthropods such as the federally-listed Georgia Basin Bog Spider to aerial insectivores like the also federally-listed Common Nighthawk – both of which live in Island View Beach Regional Park. Thank you for taking this under consideration.

66. *Sent April 12, 2016 to CRD.* I realize this is very late in the process of the review for the future of Island View Regional Park but I must offer my view.

PLEASE, PLEASE save some room for things wild and natural. We humans are quickly taking over the whole planet, with a very detrimental effect on wildlife. We are natural but a lot of the things we do are not. Dogs in today's form are not natural and cause much disturbance to wildlife, as do free-roaming cats. It seems like there are more and more dogs all the time!

Besides the harm done to the natural environment, it is hard to find a peaceful and quiet place to walk without being confronted by dogs wanting to be "friendly" whether one wants this or not. Loud barking, wandering off trail to chase wildlife, running through wildflowers and droppings not picked up or just flicked into the bush are a few of the problems.

There are parks I no longer frequent because of the dog problem, such as Horth Hill, Elk-Beaver Lake, and particularly Island View Beach.

On a positive note the situation at Island View improved after the CRD put up the very clear and pointed signs regarding dogs and dog walkers' behavior. I hope that is holding.

67. *Sent April 16, 2016 to CRD.* I have read the draft management plan and disagree with the direction advocated in the strongest terms possible. We live directly adjacent to the park and your so-called environmental protection zone directly denies us access we formally had to this public land. Be advised that I will not be allow this to go unchallenged, should this plan be adopted by the CRD, and my access be denied.

With respect to the plan, you are advocating a fundamental change of usage, denying people access to 63 per cent of the park! And allowing unrestricted access to only 7 per cent of the park. The fact that the 7 per cent of the public land that we as taxpayers are paying for and you are so graciously allowing us to use, mostly covers the CRD's money making campground. This is self-serving in the most hypocritical way possible. How can you say that RV camping is consistent with your stated objective of protecting the parks natural environment? There is almost nothing natural left in this park. If you have even the remotest understanding of its history, it has been farmed, ditched, and bermed.



There is nothing at all in the plan about dealing and removing the invasive species that currently almost a 100 per cent of the park. If it was not for those of us who regularly use the entire park and cut back and remove brambles, blackberries, broom and thistle, the entire park will be overrun. If there are some small islands that still have environmental value then fence those off and protect those pockets. The park is enjoyed by 384,000 people a year. How do you plan to fit them all in the tiny space you are allowing? People will be walking all over each other. The plan if implemented, will only eliminate people from enjoying the park. If you plan is to dramatically reduce visits to this "urban" park, then you will be successful.

My advice is to scrap this entire environmentally biased and pre-determined plan and to start listening to the 385,000 visitors who actually use and enjoy this space.

68. *Sent April 15, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I write to support the draft plan prepared by CRD Regional Parks' staff after extensive consultation with those concerned about the future of the beach. In my view it does not go far enough to conserve the natural environment of this unique place. Attached is a set of photos showing Brant (a type of goose) at the beach this week. These birds are resting and feeding on their way back to the high Arctic to breed but shortly after flying in they were chased off the beach by seven dogs encouraged by their owner. Such harassment significantly reduces their chances of a successful migration. The foreshore administered by the Province needs to be included in the park and the birds protected from off-leash dogs.

69. *Sent April 14, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I am generally in favour of the Park Management plan. I am glad to see the park is designated as a conservation area because of its significant natural environment, sensitive ecosystems and species. I appreciate that the plan considers the larger coastal landscape and commits to protect and restore the environment. It is very encouraging to see that almost 70% of the park area is to be an environmental protection zone, with 25% being a natural environment zone. The effort toward better dog control is also appreciated.

However, the plan describes keeping the berm and the drainage ditches but not extending them. I would rather see a gradual removal of that berm starting at the north end. As long as the berm exists, the rare plants, insects and vertebrates that depend on a coastal marshy habitat will continue to disappear. I believe that a healthy ecosystem with amphibians, fish, and other insect predators would take care of the mosquito "problem". It is not clear what form the mosquito abatement program has taken but if chemicals are involved it seems counterproductive in a conservation area. I would suspect the open ditches with standing water, that I assume were installed to drain the land for farming, are more of a mosquito breeding area than a healthy marsh.

70. *Sent April 20, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* The proposals made for Island View Beach and the claims are unsubstantiated and unreasonable, given the public consultation in 2015. This beach and area is a major public beach area enjoyed by hundreds and that access and enjoyment will be seriously limited. Why? I think you have to provide proof to your claims and extreme actions. What is the underlying reason? Is it cost-saving, is it to accommodate future private development? You leave yourselves open to such speculations when you take such extreme actions without obvious justification and much obscurity. Please reconsider taking the needs and desires of lovers of this beach.

71. *Sent April 15, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* The Victoria Natural History Society, with its 800 local members, has a keen interest in the management of Island View Beach. We have participated in meetings and made presentations during the public input stage. Your Committee has clearly heard all of the extremely varied input and, at some point, you have to make a decision, one that cannot please or satisfy all groups. Thus, we would normally leave your Committee to make informed management decisions on this controversial area.

Unfortunately, there seems to be a significant lobbying effort underway by some segments of the public.

Management of this park should be based on environmental conservation factors, not a "who can generate the most signatures" scheme. Therefore, I would like to briefly reiterate the strongly-held views of our society's members.

We are glad to see the park designated as a conservation area because of its significant natural environment, sensitive ecosystems and species. We appreciate that the plan considers the larger coastal landscape and commits to protect and restore the environment. It is very encouraging to see that almost 70% of the park area is to be an environmental protection zone, with 25% being a natural environment zone. The effort toward better dog control is also appreciated.

However, two problems remain. The most significant concerns management of the sand dune ecosystems and coastal marshes. As long as the berm exists, the rare plants, insects and animals that depend on these habitats will continue to disappear. That berm has to be progressively removed. The second issue is the ecologically-destructive and ineffective mosquito control. The entire biology of the wetland portions is being systematically decimated by the poisoning regime.

In conclusion, we like what we see so far, hope for a bit more, and especially hope that park management planning won't deteriorate to a bidding war by lobbying groups.

72. *Sent April 24, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I am writing in support of the Island View Beach Management Plan as outlined on your website. Migratory birds are protected under Federal law and international treaty. We have witnessed several instances of off-leash dogs harassing such birds at Island View Beach.

Article IV of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, 1994, a treaty between the United States and Canada, states that "Each High Contracting Power shall use its authority to take appropriate measures to preserve and enhance the environment of migratory birds ... seek means to prevent damage to such birds and their environments ... control the introduction of live animals ... which could disturb the ecological balance of unique island environments".

Your own management document confirms there are species at risk known to be both in and adjacent to the park. To quote from that document "Current legislation and policy require that land stewards provide effective protection for species at risk and their critical habitat." You have a duty to protect migratory birds, and, should dogs be permitted unfettered access to Island View Beach.

The Victoria birding community will actively monitor the park and call upon CRD bylaw officers to uphold the regulations set-out in the act. Please also note that the act defines the migratory period as from 10th March and 1st September (this is for the purpose of hunting). Rath Trevor Provincial Park requires that pets be kept on leash at all times and that they be kept a minimum of 100 meters from all beaches for the period of February 15th to April 30th (as well as off the beaches at all other times).

73. *Sent May 8, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* We (are) frequent Island View Beach daily for walks with our golden retriever. The walk is not only necessary for our dog, but it is also necessary for our health as I have a heart condition and it is our dog that makes us go for our daily walk.

It is our estimation that the majority of people that go for a walk at Island View Beach have a dog as it is one of only a few beaches in the CRD that dogs are allowed. The draft plan reduces the trail for walking off leash so much that we can only conclude it is being proposed to discourage dog walkers from going to Island View Beach at all.

We have no interest in a designated off leash area as we do not take our dog to the beach to play with other dogs. We go to Island View Beach as most people do, to go for a walk with their dog. Please do not deprive us and our dog from this daily ritual that is so important to our well-being and quality of life.

74. *Sent May 9, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I'm confused by a statement by CRD in the Times Colonist. "The majority of the park would still be available for people to have dogs off-leash, just like we have presently." Having studied the draft proposal for the park it seems to me that I will have to walk my dog (on leash) in the 1 loop trail N. Of Lamont Road. Currently (1989 bylaw) I am permitted to walk with my Dog off leash in fields and trails N. Of Lamont Road. I am not permitted to have my Dog in the "recreational area" (grass area) adjacent the gazebo during the summer. Please clarify. P.S.: The C.R.D. also intends to 'share' Dog policy with the Tsawout (no Dogs) and the Province. Mr. Walton at a Park Board meeting suggested Dogs could be walked on the beach adjacent the Park. This is very confusing and has led to frustration in the Dog walking community. Please

correct these errors before moving forward with a new plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

75. *Sent May 10, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Thank you for seeking public feedback regarding dogs at Island View.

- I support the requirement to keep dogs leashed. I think dogs should be on leash in all public places. Dogs off leash have become a widespread public nuisance and public safety hazard. (The number of incidents hardly requires recalling, but from personal experience, I have been bitten twice by loose dogs, a friend's guide dog has been viciously attacked by a loose dog, my elderly mother was knocked to the ground on a public sidewalk by a loose dog, a dog I was walking--on a leash--was viciously attacked by a loose dog requiring an emergency visit to the vet hospital, blood all over the car, considerable expense, etc. etc.).
- I do not support paving and prettifying our greenspaces. I think it is essential that our parks and greenspaces be left, as much as possible, in their natural state.
- I do not support restricting public access to areas of our public parks and greenspaces. I have noticed that more and more areas of public parks and greenspaces have become no-go zones. This is unacceptable.

Many public park and green areas have been damaged by loose dogs running free. The answer is not to restrict the public's long-standing free access to these areas. The answer is rather to require that dogs be leashed.

76. *Sent May 16, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* I don't understand why any changes to the park I say keep it the same everybody gets along so well except for maybe the bird watchers they are grumpy with everyone.

77. *Sent May 16, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Being healthy means being outside. On many a rainy, raw day, I have been to island view to walk my dog, and the only people there are other dog walkers, lots of them. They go for the freedom and the beauty. All walk on the paths and along the beach. What more could the CRD want than a park that is loved and well used by people from all around the peninsula and beyond, even on the ugly days? Our health depends on the freedom to enjoy such long relaxed walks. People need habitats, too.

78. *Sent May 16, 2016 to CRD.* I can't keep on top of the issues surrounding Island View Beach and wade through all the pages of the draft management plan. I come from an environmental background and I can tell you one thing about Island View Beach: it is the only place like it on southern Vancouver Island. I gather the Friends of Island View Beach is a bit of misnomer and they want the park to be an area that has minimal restrictions because they seemingly see the environment as a place to do as they see fit. The matrix of ecosystems found in the park host some very rare species - I know this information has been gathered

and presented, but it's sad to see how little traction this has to limit activities in certain areas.

There is no shortage of humans and dogs in this world, but we can't say the same about such specialized creatures as Georgia Basin Bog Spiders and Sand Verbena Moths. The draft management plan has a chance to show the CRD is a steward of such globally rare species or it can buckle to a stubborn group that would prefer to continually degrade habitats wherever they go.

I won't paint the entire dog-walking community with one wide brush, but I would feel comfortable saying the majority has minimal regard for nature. I can see constant reminders at any park I visit, from plastic bags discarded in the bushes to off-leash dogs stressing birds that are trying to build up energy stores for nesting or migration.

It looks like once again "louder is right" might prevail. There are so many aspects that I find frustrating within the consultation and draft management plan. Dogs don't care where they run around - if there was a generic, Kentucky Bluegrass playing field in the middle of the city it would be just as stimulating to a dog to run around there. For whatever reason, people feel they are enriching their dog's life by giving them access to sand, driftwood, regionally-endemic subspecies of Great Blue Herons to chase, gatherings of gulls, shorebirds, or Brant geese to scare, and so on. Seriously, humans are the worst for any environment and yet we have to develop a plan to determine how much more we're going to let a place get degraded. It then gets masked by saying there is going to be restoration on the already degraded sites. From a biological standpoint, I would think the efforts should be on preserving the most unique features within the park and restrict the dogs to the areas that are so far gone it doesn't matter.

Biologists and local naturalists put in their say, but unfortunately we're just not bullheaded enough to continue making a stand against the more persistent, louder, and less-informed. I often hope that the fact that there is a laundry list of rare species in a habitat would be enough to persuade those responsible for the area to protect it.

I know that's a bit of a rant, but I guess that's what the frustration of potential mismanagement will do to someone who cares about facets of the natural world that most people find insignificant. We can't continually choose the path of least resistance to manage sensitive habitats. I hope Island View Beach Regional Park can continue to be one of the jewels of the CRD Regional Parks system, but having it overrun with dogs and careless people is a major step backwards. I sincerely hope the finalized management plan puts the natural values high up on its criteria and notches down recreational activities that are at odds with environmental stewardship.

79. *Sent May 28, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Please do not implement changes to Island View Beach. It isn't broken, don't fix it.

80. *Sent May 28, 2016 to CRD.* Island View Beach is a beautiful, natural place. It is used by thousands of people, many if not most of them dog walkers. I see dogs running and playing, I see people stopping to talk and enjoy the environment. What I don't see are problems that require restrictive meddling by the CRD. There are the inevitable people who don't pick up after their dogs - they will always be with us - but most owners are respectful and want to keep the area clean. Supply better garbage facilities and that problem will be largely solved. There are so few natural areas left around Victoria where locals can relax, walk their dogs and enjoy nature without fences, rules and the inevitable wardens for enforcement. I strongly object to the CRD's proposed plan. I do support the thoughtful and reasonable plan of the Friends of Island View Beach.
81. *Sent May 26, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* We should not be restricting space for animals to enjoy walking and playing in our parks. It is necessary that we have MORE space for animals rather than less. It is critical for dog owners and also important for the health of our dogs. Our relationship with our animals is similar to your relationship with your children. They are our family. They do not have a less important existence to us than children do with their parents. Please try to understand this and expand your discussions and decisions around this fact.
82. *Sent July 6, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* We walk our dogs at Island View Beach every weekend rain or shine. They love the diversity in the walk through grasslands, trails and beach areas. It is a safe place for us and we have always enjoyed the social aspect of it for our pets. We moved to N. Saanich from Fairfield where we went to Dallas Road every day to walk our dogs. I am so happy we have a beach area much like Dallas Road in our neighborhood. My hopes are that it will remain the same as the model of public and dog free walking as the one in Dallas Road.

By eliminating freedom for our dogs to roam and explore (without causing harm) it is more and more difficult for good responsible pet owners to provide the exercise and stimulation our dogs crave. I have NEVER had or even heard of any incidents that would require a fenced area or a designated off leash zone to be implemented. All it takes is one cranky person to complain about something to get everyone else's freedom restricted. In the past there was a person with a vicious dog off leash at Beaver Lake and another person/dog at Dallas Road. As responsible owners we took pictures, reported it to bylaw enforcement and the matter was resolved.

It seems like the CRD is claiming this park is more environmentally sensitive than Beaver Lake, Thetis Lake or Dallas Road where we enjoy off leash freedom. That may be the case but restricting use means no-one gets to enjoy it. We love to bird watch there and it appears we will lose that freedom as well. Please don't over regulate the park to the point where we can no longer feel the joy of going for a walk and be stressed about breaking rules, getting fined etc. because the CRD came along and handcuffed our usage. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

83. *Sent July 6, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* To the CRD Board of Directors, please don't fix something that isn't broken. Island View Beach is a beautiful natural park that we enjoy every weekend with our dogs. If there is a need for public bathrooms because of the campsite- go ahead and build them. Don't eliminate our freedom to walk the trails, beach and grass lands because of what? I don't even know. I fail to understand why all this money, time and effort is going into a plan that there is no need for. The park use and visitor experience is a good one because it is a natural area. This is why we love it there. There would have to be a Trump wall built to keep my dogs away from the grass lands. They love exploring and I love that it is a safe area for them to be socialized and stimulated while being exercised. Victorians love their pets. We need places to go that allow our dogs freedom to be dogs. Restricting usage park by park makes it harder to find off leash beach zones and to raise happy well behaved pets. I know that sounds simplistic but I strive to always take my dogs to a variety of places to walk so they don't become bored. This is the only appropriate beach zone in our area that is designed for safe walks for ourselves and our pets. Please reconsider the effect on us (taxpayers) who use the park daily for the purpose of dog walks. I appreciate your consideration in this matter.
84. *Sent July 6, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* Please vote to leave public access to the trails in both parts of the park. I would like to see Central Saanich and CRD maintain and clearly define the existing trails. This will ensure that visitors, dogs, horses, campers will not disturb the park vegetation as they will be on designated walkways. Thank you for your attention.
85. *Received June 15, to CRD Board of Directors.* Striking a balance between access and impact is always a challenge in attractive park environments such as that found at Island View Beach Regional Park and management always faces a struggle trying to find an acceptable solution.

I am deeply disappointed in the "solutions" your Parks Department has proposed for Island View Beach Regional Park and I believe the current Draft Management Plan should be withdrawn and substantially revised. To provide a personal context for my comments, I support conservation and I also walk my dog in the park.

I will first address conservation issues and then discuss the flawed public consultation process you use, one that always seems to result in restrictive "dog management" policies, no matter what the data show.

## CONSERVATION

It is clear that your 1989 Management Plan for Island View Park called for extensive intervention in support of conservation and restoration, to be based on scientific evidence regarding species at risk and ecosystems deserving protection. In the quarter century since that plan was adopted, the list of identified species in the park has dwindled and the wetlands continue to be actively drained in the interest of mosquito control. It is true that the equestrian

cross-country course which was primarily located in the proposed Environmental Protection Zone (EPZ) has been removed. Sadly, little else seems to have been accomplished through active, conservation-oriented management, despite the commitments of the 1989 plan. The *de facto* use of the Park has included great freedom of access, in part by people with dogs.

I imagine that the adoption of the Federal Species at Risk Act in 2002, plus increased awareness of conservation and ecological stewardship at the Provincial level, have combined to change what was previously a goal of conservation into a legal requirement which you must now meet. Parenthetically, I wish you had just said so in the Draft Plan.

The proposal to define different zones in the park and to require walkers to be on-trail in the EPZ seems to me laughably minimalist as a response designed to meet this obligation. I find it hard to believe that this intervention would meet any scientific standards for environmental protection, and I even wonder if it would meet the legal requirements. In the 1989 plan, the vision was to isolate and protect areas identified as sensitive or valuable (cf. map 9), sometimes through the use of fencing. In that map, the special preservation area for 1989 appears to me to be around 40% of what has been identified as the EPZ and does not include any of the Natural Environment Zone. So go ahead now and fence it (or whatever is demonstrably left of it) and create paths around, not through, the protected areas.

If you did that, then you would have made a clear and (perhaps) effective intervention in favour of conservation. Further, there would at least be the opportunity to actually measure what effects, if any, the intervention has, in the now-protected areas. Something more tangible than “monitoring” is needed if you hope to provide management based on science. You can define outcomes in advance: Do missing species recur, once impact is reduced? Do current species maintain themselves, or increase, or decrease? Are invasive species more, or less, likely behind fencing? Asking these questions will help decide whether the intervention was a success or whether it is basically already too late.

In general, make scientists responsible for setting the standards that you then try to meet, as managers. It should not be your responsibility to make those decisions.

But an even larger issue which will impact the future of the Park is another of the many things proposed to be passively “monitored” — the effect of change in sea level. Your own Coastal Sea Level Rise risk assessment documents predict inundation of the park area if sea levels rise over the next decades, which they appear likely to do. Would even best efforts at conservation/restoration have substantial longevity? If maintaining and/or restoring the wetlands is a goal, how will that be integrated with efforts to hold back the sea? There has been confusion about whether or not you should consider changes to the berm. Currently, the position is not to intervene in natural processes, but how will this be managed in the long run; will the other partners and stakeholders join in the



effort; who will pay the bill if the berm suddenly has to be extended or raised? It seems to me you are just “kicking this can down the road.” What a mess.

#### FLAWED POLITICAL PROCESS

The people who participate in organized ball sports (I know CRD isn't responsible for this, but bear with me) are very likely a minority of the total population in the Region, yet they certainly seem to have a big chunk of green space allotted to them for their occasional seasonal use. Children who are of an age to use playground equipment are also very likely a minority, yet there seem to be many playgrounds around, often empty.

To be clear, I have nothing against public policy supporting healthy living and recreational activity – indeed, I support it. But these minority constituencies somehow seem to punch above their weight – they usually get what they want.<sup>1</sup> In contrast, it seems to me that dogs and their people have been effectively marginalized and increasingly silenced, time and again, as in the Draft Plan.

My wife and I moved here 15 years ago, in part because it was so dog-friendly. Now, off-leash activity is often restricted by bylaws to specific, off-leash areas in urban areas. There are several months of the year when I can't freely go various places with my dog. It seems that the future vision of the anti-dog lobby in our area is “dogs on-leash at all times in all places” (or maybe “no dogs, ever!”). My freedom to move about with my dog and to be at ease in our shared environment is being relentlessly chipped away, one bit at a time. Speaking for myself, and as part of the substantial dog-walking minority, I want back my freedom to engage in the recreation called “walking my dog off-leash” and I want to be able to do it in public places like Island View Beach Park with others who share my belief that the activity is supportive of health-positive public policy.

How can this increasing sequestration have happened? I think it is politics masquerading as democracy. Suppose that 35% of people have view A about something, 50% hold view B and the rest are indifferent. The public consultation process which you employ provides a forum for interested lobbyists to make their views known. There is no attempt to obtain a representative sample of public opinion – it would be too much work. If the two lobby groups are equally motivated, there will almost always be more view B comments than view A comments. So if the same process is used every time, you will end up proposing the same “solution” for dogs in every instance. Reflecting (only) the will of the majority automatically means that the minority voices get repeatedly silenced or ignored.

The exception to that majority-rule outcome would be, of course, if there is a public policy which supports the view of the minority and thus over-rides the view

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<sup>1</sup> In Saanich, there are 31 baseball diamonds, 24 soccer fields, 2 lacrosse boxes and a football field. There are also 56 children's playgrounds with equipment. In Victoria, there are about 40 outdoor facilities, including ones for field hockey, cricket, and rugby in addition to soccer and baseball, plus 16 children's playgrounds. I did not check other municipalities.

of the majority. Given the public policy emphasis on healthy activity, who would seriously bother to speak out against spending public money providing playground equipment for children even though the money might provide shelter for the homeless? Who would really try to argue against neighbourhood softball leagues needing another ball diamond even though leaving the shrubs and trees would support native species? Playgrounds and ball diamonds are widely seen as “inherently good things” even though they mostly serve minority interests, while dogs and what their owners want for them do not have the same credibility. They have become vilified and without allies in high places.

Wondering whether the Draft Management Plan feels dog-unfriendly because it actually reflects the wish of the majority of park users, I revisited the public comments summarized in the Step 2 report. I noted that when asked why they visited Island View Beach Park, 59.5% came to walk in the park and over half of those respondents brought their dog. Twenty-five percent reported that they came to appreciate nature, to do bird or wildlife watching or to engage in ecological exploration (a generous proxy for interest in conservation). When asked what needs to be addressed in a new Park Management Plan, the most frequent comments were about the facilities (garbage, camping, accessibility, etc.). Many folks like the park as it is (including dogs off leash) while others made specifically pro-dog comments. Combining these gives more than 30% of the total. In contrast, specifically anti-dog comments made up about 12% of the total. So the proposed “solution” to the dog situation certainly does not reflect the sentiments of the majority of the comments you collected or even the majority of comments about dogs.

Dog folks thus share the clear sense that our clearly expressed views are not respected, or are responded to with feeble gestures of accommodation which completely miss the fundamental point of our wish for free access. For example, you suggest that you will eventually provide an enclosed, off-leash area for dogs at Island View Park (p. 27 in the Draft Plan). Now perhaps this is intended to meet our needs -- I'm sure it is just incidental that it happens to respond directly to the wishes of the few folks who are really anti-dog!

I bet you feel that a fenced off-leash pen is evidence that you are being appropriately responsive to the needs of the pro-dog group. In fact, many thoughtful dog owners are unwilling to subject their pets to the risks of injury and disease that those unnaturally confined, environmentally unstimulating areas often pose. Enclosed, off-leash areas are more like the razor-wire enclosed exercise yards of correctional institutions than they are like recreational playgrounds or ball diamonds. In my experience, dog owners who use them regularly have frequently not spent the time developing the “under control” relationship with their pet which is always appropriate in public spaces. So I don't use them, ever.

To further clarify what seems the dominant view on your side of the table, the “off-leash” enclosure may ultimately be accompanied by a policy of dogs “on-leash” everywhere in the park (p. 33 of the Plan). Is there any way in which you

think that honestly reflects and respects the visitor experience of dog walkers, likely your largest user group? What trick of logic would be required to get to that conclusion?

Lest I be accused of being a Pollyanna, I sadly acknowledge that a portion of dog owners are dreadfully irresponsible and disrespectfully ignorant about the discomfort they create in others. I wish there was a legal way for them to suffer the consequences for their selfishness, but banning all off-leash dogs is in no way an appropriate response, any more than banning all cars would be a useful response to drunk driving. Education and public shaming are perhaps the best tools available. Use them. Enforce the bylaws if you have to but stop making all pay for the transgressions of a few.

I believe the current Draft Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park will negatively impact the visitor experience for a substantial block of park visitors (dog walkers) compared with their current experience. This quite clearly outweighs the possible improvements to the visitor experience of those who will benefit from the changes being proposed.

What I suggest is this: Withdraw and dramatically revise the Draft plan.

- Make a much clearer case for conservation, scientific and legal.
- Plan to fence the areas that need preservation.
- Have seasonal access restrictions for everyone (people and dogs) when migrating birds are present, if appropriate.
- Improve conservation and good behaviour signage everywhere.
- Improve garbage practices with more cans, add dog bag stations.
- Do not create a fenced, off-leash area for dogs. Instead, provide a large fenced area for the people who want to avoid dogs. (Why not? They are a minority with special needs. Let's accommodate them.)
- Retain the current freedom of access which park users have come to treasure.

Thank you for your attention to this (so-called minority) viewpoint and your consideration of the bias which arises from simple-minded majority/minority distinctions.

86. *Sent May 28, 2016 to CRD.* It's not time to update the plan, because you have nothing better to do. Leave the park alone. Children need memories of riding their horses on a beach. They need spaces to play, not designated trails.

Young adults need to hold hands and walk thru fields. My first kiss was walking thru a field, holding hands. Try to remember what it is like to feel "freedom". Old adults need to toss the ball for their dogs, because the kids are all grown up.

And not everyone wants rules, like no bicycles, and dogs on leashes, and no horses, and designated paths only.

If you want to find something to do, bring back the park naturalists, and allow evening camp fires again, with the naturalist. Bring in an artist, and paint rocks with kids. Think OUT of the box, don't put our parks into a box.

Because if you do.... unused property has a value in 50 years. That value is to be sold as condos, or redeveloped. Used as a park, it stays a park. And we have the Pacific Rim National Park, we can visit when we do not want to see a thing out of place.

While you're at it, remove the ridiculous fencing around the dirt. The bigger perspective, is people could be playing badminton in this space. We cannot go back; we must go forward.

You have Sidney, Brentwood, Victoria, and people needing space, to play hacky sack, or kick a ball. Not walk on a designated path, in a line, and return to your video games. Not everyone walks on a trail that you decide the length of. LEAVE THIS PARK ALONE.

87. *Sent July 8, 2016 to CRD Board of Directors.* As a frequent user of Island View Beach Regional Park, I highly-value what it offers. I often text message pics to friends/family when I'm there to brag about the area. Thank you for providing and maintaining such a wonderful park.

I strongly oppose any of the CRD's proposed changes to the park. Please do not consider reducing area for public recreation because what is offered now works well. Please do not consider banning horses and cyclists. Please do not consider restricting dogs and their owners to less than what is available now.

It warms my heart to see horse, dogs, kids and adults all enjoying the park at the same moment without any cause for concern. I enjoy the beach with my 3-year-old great niece. I enjoy the beach and trails with my dog for the past five years. Prior to that, I enjoyed the beach and trails for eight years. I enjoy chatting with park users including horse riders, dog owners, and others. There's a sense of community at the park. A spirit of cooperation as we all enjoy the park's offerings.

PLEASE LEAVE ISLAND VIEW BEACH REGIONAL PARK ALONE. I have signed 'The Friends of Island View' petition and fully-support their in-depth review and comments regarding the CRD's draft plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. Thank you for your time and attention.

## A6.0 Advertising and communications

### A6.1 Newspaper advertisement (sample draft)



**Island View Beach  
Regional Park Draft  
Management Plan**

The CRD wants to hear from the public on the draft management plan for the park.

**Attend a Town Hall Meeting**  
**May 26 | 4:30-9:30pm**  
**Da Vinci Centre, 195 Bay St.**

**May 28 | 12-5pm**  
**Greek Community Hall**  
**4648 Elk Lake Dr.**

**Download the Draft and  
provide feedback online**  
[www.crd.bc.ca/  
islandviewbeach](http://www.crd.bc.ca/islandviewbeach)  
**Deadline Sunday, July 10**



## A6.2 Facebook advertisement (sample)

 **Capital Regional District**  
July 7 at 10:02am · 🌐

#crdparks is at Island View Beach on Saturday to answer questions and gather feedback on the draft park management plan. If you're in the park, please drop by <http://ow.ly/4nvMvN>

**Island View Beach Regional Park**  
**Park Management Plan**

Capital Regional District | February 2016 **DRAFT**



Capital Regional District | Regional Parks  
400 Adams Avenue, Victoria, BC V9B 2Z8  
t. 250.478.3344 | [www.cd.gov.bc.ca/parks](http://www.cd.gov.bc.ca/parks)



Making a difference...together

## A6.3 Media release



Making a difference...together

625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

### Event Bulletin

For Immediate Release

May 24, 2016

[Title]

Open Houses and Town Hall Meetings on Island View Beach Regional Park Draft Management Plan

Victoria, BC- The Capital Regional District (CRD) is asking for the public's feedback on the Draft Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The CRD is updating the management plan to set future direction for the park. Members of the public are welcome to attend the open houses and town hall meetings.

Open Houses and Town Hall Meetings

[Thursday, May 26, 2016](#)

[Saturday, May 28, 2016](#)

Open House 5:30-6:30pm

Open House 12-1pm

Town Hall Meeting 6:30-9:30pm

Town Hall Meeting 1-4pm

Da Vinci Centre, 195 Bay St., Victoria

Greek Community Hall, 4648 Elk Lake Dr., Saanich

The meeting format includes an open house, presentation, questions and clarification, small-group discussions, a short plenary, and wrap up.

A feedback form is also available online at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan>. The deadline for [feedback](#) on the draft plan is July 10, 2016.

*The CRD is a local government that delivers 200+ regional, sub-regional and local services for residents of the region which includes 13 municipalities and three electoral areas within 2370 square kilometres on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Governed by a 24 member Board of Directors, the CRD is working to serve the public, and build a vibrant, livable and sustainable region.*

-30-

For media inquiries, please contact:

Laurie Sthamann

CRD Regional Parks Communications Coordinator

Tel: 250.360.3332

Cell: 250.889.8030

#### A6.4 Stakeholder email invitation (sample)

**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2016 12:56 PM

**Subject:** Invitation to participate in a Town Hall Meeting next week to hear about the Draft Island View Beach management plan and provide feedback

Good afternoon:

I am sending you this email because you indicated at the November 21, 2015 Community Dialogue Session that you would like to be kept informed about opportunities to be involved in preparing an updated management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. We are now at Step 4 of the planning process, which includes presenting a draft management plan for public review and feedback through July 10, 2016.

The draft management plan was prepared based on the public input we received during Steps 1-3 of the process, as well as scientific and social science information we have about the park.

There are many ways to provide feedback on the draft plan, including attending one of the upcoming Town Hall Meetings taking place next week. The meeting dates and locations are:

Thursday, May 26 at the Da Vinci Centre (195 Bay Street, Victoria) – Open House 5:30 – 6:30 pm;  
Town Hall Meeting 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Saturday, May 28 at the Greek Community Hall (4648 Elk Lake Drive, Saanich) – Open House 12-1 pm;  
Town Hall Meeting 1-4 pm

I have attached an agenda for the Town Hall meetings, a postcard with details for providing feedback on the draft plan, and a bulletin which provides highlights of the public participation process and the draft plan.

Here is a link to the CRD website for Island View Beach Regional Park where you will find a copy of the draft management plan, an online response form, and supporting documents. I encourage you to review this website and to complete the response form by July 10<sup>th</sup>:  
<https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan>.

Your participation in the Island View Beach Regional Park planning process is very important to us and I hope you will consider attending one of the Town Hall meetings next week.

Please feel free to forward this email to others you think might be interested in providing feedback on the draft management plan.

Thank you again for your interest in Island View Beach Regional Park.

Capital Regional District, Parks and Environmental Services  
490 Atkins Avenue, Victoria, BC V9B 2Z8  
T: 250.360.3369 C: 250.889.8029 F: 250.478.5416



## A6.5 Website

Island View Beach Management Plan | CRD

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

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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

Regional Parks is updating the 1989 Management Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. It is time to update the plan due to changes in and around the park over the last 25 years.

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



#### Draft Plan - Step 4

The public comment period for the draft park management plan is now closed. Thank you to everyone who completed our online response form, met with CRD Staff at the park and attended the Open Houses and Town Hall Meetings. Your feedback will be used to develop a final management plan that will be submitted for the approval of the CRD Regional Parks Committee and CRD Board in the fall.

#### Overview of the Draft Plan

The draft park management plan is based on extensive public dialogues, meetings and feedback. It addresses the issues identified and ideas presented by a wide variety of groups, sectors, and interests using a combination of available information and synthesis of public input collected through the planning process. The report of the community dialogue session, prepared by an independent community engagement consultant and facilitator, helped guide development of the park management plan.

The draft plan sets out a park vision, zoning and an overall development concept. It also establishes objectives, direction statements, policies, and actions for seven issue areas, identified during the public participation process:

1. Camping
2. Dogs
3. Environmental Stewardship
4. Park Infrastructure
5. Park Management
6. Park Operations
7. Visitor Experience

**Download information on the draft park plan**

- [Draft Management Plan Bulletin](#) : summary of the draft management plan
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

#### 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.

#### Resources

- [Draft Management Plan \(PDF\)](#)
- [Draft Management Plan Bulletin \(PDF\)](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(PDF\)](#)
- [Public Participation Process \(PDF\)](#)
- [Step 1 Summary Report \(PDF\)](#)
- [Step 2 Summary Report \(PDF\)](#)
- [Step 3 Public Participation Process Report \(PDF\)](#)
- [Species at Risk Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
- [Management Plan 1989 \(PDF\)](#)

#### Contact

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

A6.6 Twitter (sample)



CRD @crd\_bc · Jun 18

#crdparks is at Island View Beach on Saturday to answer questions about the draft park plan [ow.ly/4nvMTQ](http://ow.ly/4nvMTQ)

## Park Management Plan

Capital Regional District | February 2016 **DRAFT**





The CRD wants to hear from you on the draft management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park.

### Attend a Town Hall Meeting

**Thursday, May 26 | Da Vinci Centre, 195 Bay St.**

**Open House 5:30-6:30pm | Meeting 6:30-9:30pm**

**Saturday, May 28 | Greek Community Hall, 4648 Elk Lake Dr.**

**Open House 12-1pm | Meeting 1-4pm**

Download the draft plan and provide feedback online

[www.crd.bc.ca/islandviewbeach](http://www.crd.bc.ca/islandviewbeach)

Deadline Sunday, July 10

**CRD**

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