

Matthews Point Regional Park Management Plan

Plan Public Participation Report

Capital Regional District | July 26, 2018



Capital Regional District | Regional Parks
490 Atkins Avenue, Victoria BC V9B 2Z8
T: 250.478.3344 | www.crd.bc.ca/parks

CRD
Making a difference...together

Table of Contents

Executive Summary..... 2

Purpose of this Report..... 3

The Public Engagement Process..... 3

Summary of What We Heard..... 4

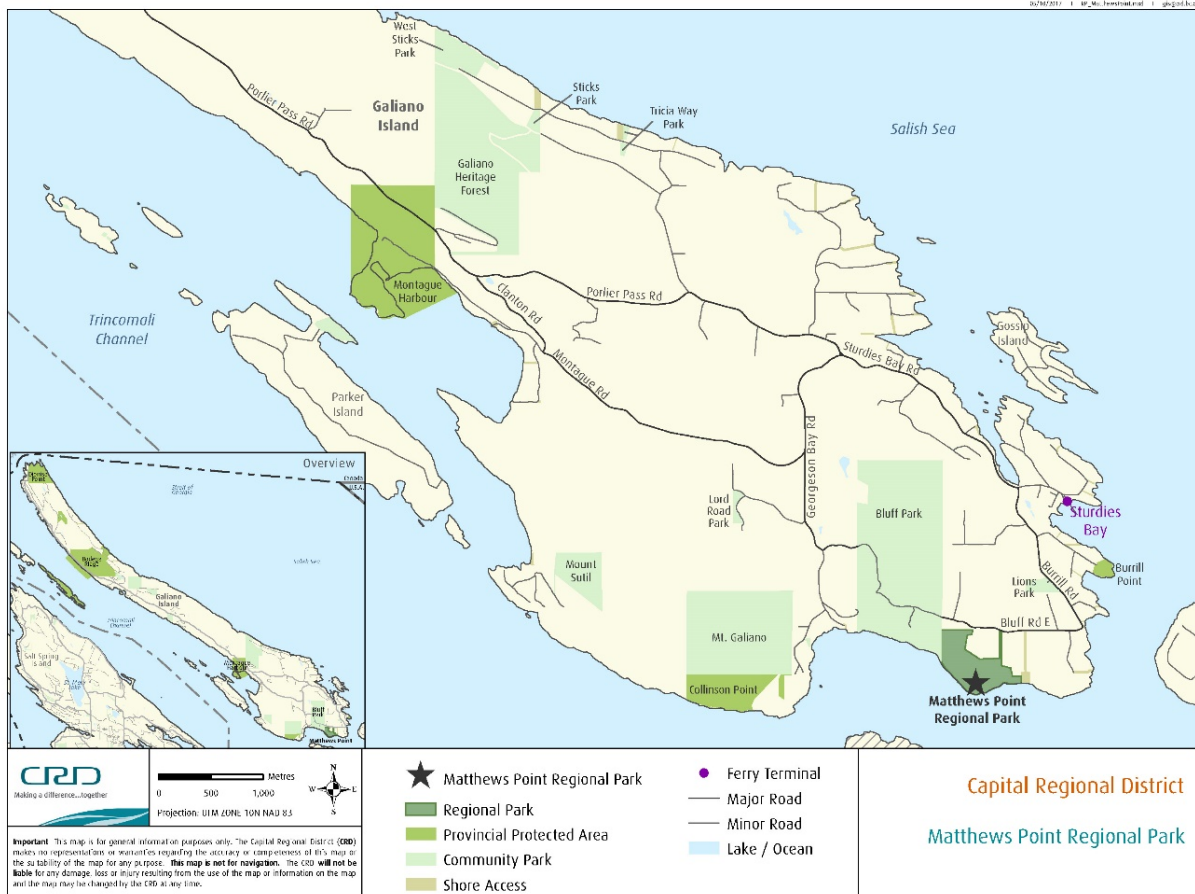
 First Nations..... 4

 Government Agencies..... 4

 Stakeholder Groups..... 5

 Public..... 5

Conclusion..... 7



Cover Photo: View across Active Pass from Matthews Point Regional Park

Executive Summary

The Matthews Point Regional Park management planning project was initiated by the Capital Regional District (CRD) in October 2017. An initial round of public engagement was held between mid-October and early December 2017 to gather information and ideas to help develop the draft plan. A draft park management plan was released for public review in May 2018 and a second round of engagement was held between May 11 and June 24, 2018 to receive comments on the draft plan. The following report summarizes the draft management plan engagement process and the input received.

The public engagement process included involvement from Penelakut First Nation, Cowichan Tribes, Galiano Island Local Trust Committee (Islands Trust), Galiano Island Parks & Recreation Commission (CRD), Southern Gulf Islands Economic Sustainability Commission (CRD), and the public.

The public were invited to provide input through an online comment form. CRD staff hosted a Saturday Market booth in May and talked with approximately 50 people. A drop-in open house was held in June that was attended by approximately 15 people. These opportunities allowed for in-person discussions about the plan and promoted use of the online comment form. Letters were sent to immediate neighbours of the park and key stakeholders such as covenant holders and adjacent park and trail managers to let them know of the opportunity to review and comment on the draft management plan. Referral letters were sent to First Nations and government agencies also. In addition to the people who attended the market booth and open house, 11 online comment forms and 8 emailed comments were received (4 from organizations and 4 from individuals).

Highlights of messages heard through the second round of engagement included:

- The plan is good so we didn't need to put in a comment form.
- Add a washroom.
- It is important to link to the Matthews Point Shore Access Trail—don't just evaluate; develop one.
- Continue to allow horseback riding on the main trail.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to describe the public participation process relating to the draft for the management plan and to summarize the responses received.

The Public Engagement Process

A *media release*, in May 2018, announced that the CRD had released a draft management plan for Matthews Point Regional Park for review and comment and outlined engagement opportunities.

The *project webpage* was updated in May 2018 to provide the draft management plan, a comment form and information about engagement opportunities. The comment form was available on the CRD website between May 11 and June 24, 2018.

Signs were installed at the park in May to provide a brief project update, including information about the draft plan and comment form being available online.

A *market booth* at the Galiano Saturday Market and *open house* at the Galiano south end community hall were hosted by CRD staff on May 26 and June 7, respectively. *Posters* highlighting the dates, times and locations of the market booth and open house were posted on-island and sent to key local groups. *Ads* were placed in the Times Colonist and on Facebook. Approximately 65 people attended the market booth and open house.

Letters, including copies of the draft management plan, were sent to Penelakut First Nation and Cowichan Tribes, Galiano Island Local Trust Committee (Islands Trust), CRD's Southern Gulf Islands Economic Sustainability Commission, and CRD's Galiano Island Parks and Recreation Commission. Letters were also sent to Habitat Acquisition Trust and The Land Conservancy of BC, who jointly hold a conservation covenant on the regional park.

CRD staff attended *meetings* and made *presentations* to Penelakut First Nation Chief and Council (April 2018) and the Galiano Island Parks and Recreation Commission (June 2018).

Summary of What We Heard

First Nations

In this second round of engagement, staff comments were received from the Cowichan Tribes that were editorial in nature and comments were received from Penelakut First Nation Chief and Council members through a meeting. The general themes of comments heard related to:

- Recognizing First Nations rights and ensure that use in the park does not impact those rights.
- Minor editorial changes were proposed to the First Nations context and history sections in the plan.

Government Agencies

The Galiano Local Trust Committee (Islands Trust) received the draft management plan and reviewed a staff memo at its June 11, 2018 meeting. The staff memo indicated that the draft management plan was consistent with the Official Community Plan and zoning. The local trustees commented positively but no official comments were provided by resolution.

The Galiano Island Parks & Recreation Commission invited staff to make a presentation at its June 7 meeting. Informal comments were received from individual members at the meeting and an official letter was submitted by the Chairperson on behalf of the Commission on June 22, 2018. Through these means, several key points were provided, as follows.

The Galiano Island Parks & Recreation Commission invited staff to make a presentation at its June 7 meeting. Informal comments were received from individual members at the meeting and an official letter was submitted by the Chairperson on behalf of the Commission on June 22, 2018. Through these means, several key points were provided, as follows.

- The commission strongly supports the plan for Matthews Point Regional Park. Commissioners found themselves in close agreement with the Vision and Goals of the plan.
- The commission wishes to continue the close collaboration between Regional Parks' staff, the commission and the Galiano Club.
- The commission believes the link to the Matthews Shore Access is key and the plan wording should be stronger in terms of developing a link (rather than just evaluating the possibility of a link). The commission hopes that a route above the bluffs can be established.
- The commission supports information and wayfinding signage and suggests signage should be provided in the park and on the trails at park boundaries, where jurisdictions change.

- Development of the link trails to Bluff Park and to Matthews Shore Access should be given a high priority.
- A vault toilet was noted as an essential amenity and the commission suggested one should be provided in the proposed parking area.
- The commission noted updated GIS data existed for the Matthews Shore Access Trail and will provide it for use in the final plan.

Stakeholder Groups

Covenant Holders: The covenant holders submitted an online comment form so their comments are covered under Public, below.

A lead representative of the Bluff Park Management Planning Committee, and a member of the Galiano Club Executive, provided comments on behalf of the Bluff Park Management Planning Committee. Three key points were made:

- Signage should be provided at the park boundaries for the trails connecting to Bluff Park and to Matthews Shore Access.
- The Committee is hoping that the trail leading from Matthews Point to Bluff Park will be non-equestrian (hiking only). The committee would prefer no equestrian use in the regional park too.
- The Committee does not want cycling to be permitted in the regional park or Bluff Park.

Public

Although only a small number of online comment forms (10) and emailed comments (8) were received there was a high level of support for the draft management plan among the respondents. In one case, an individual submitted a comment form and emailed their comments also. At the market booth and open house a few individuals (5) noted that they had read the plan online and it looked fine, so they were not intending to submit a comment form.

In summary, the following was noted through the online comments:

7 of 10 respondents supported the proposed vision for Matthews Point Regional Park. No one was opposed to the vision statement. 2 were neutral and 1 did not respond to the question.

6 of 10 supported the proposed goals; 1 opposed. 2 were neutral and 1 did not respond.

7 of 10 supported the proposed objectives; 1 opposed. 1 was neutral and 1 did not respond.

7 of 10 supported the development concept; 1 opposed. 1 was neutral and 1 did not respond.

5 of 10 supported the zoning; 2 opposed. 2 were neutral and 1 did not respond. One respondent felt that a baseline ecosystem and species inventory should be done and the zoning should be based on the outcome. That is, in fact, what was done, though it was not noted in the draft plan that CRD had contracted that type of research. One person was opposed to the proposed parking lot location and felt the Park Services zone at the western park access should be removed.

6 of 10 supported the 9 proposed management actions; 1 opposed. 2 were neutral and 1 did not respond. Two respondents felt the parking area should be moved to a location by the telecommunications tower and equipment building rather than where it is proposed to be at the western access from Bluff Road East, and that that access should not be gated off to preclude vehicle traffic. A few other suggestions were made for actions, such as encouraging partnerships for restoration/invasive removal, providing boundary signs, and some concerns were raised about ensuring that management actions do not impact critical habitat, species at risk and ecological integrity, and about increasing use in the park.

Themes heard through the 8 email submissions and the verbal comments received from approximately 70 individuals at the market, open house and meetings, in descending order, included:

- Need for/priority of creating links to Matthews Shore Access Trail and Bluff Park.
- The draft management plan is fine.
- Need for a vault toilet to be included by the parking area.
- Whether to permit equestrian use on the Ridge Trail or not.
- Need for wayfinding signage and clarity for users when they exit the regional park into other jurisdictions.
- Concerns about mountain biking, camping, and/or partying occurring in the park.
- Desire to ensure environmental protection is a high priority and clarity is provided on the type of recreation being provided.

- Desire to volunteer in the park/need to encourage partnerships for conservation.
- Desire for parking to be located away from neighbouring private property.
- Desire for a picnic site to be developed at the location of the former landowner's shed.

Conclusion

Approximately 80 people participated in the second round of participation, be it at a market booth, open house, meetings with First Nations and government agencies, or through comment submissions. Of those, 10 submitted online comment forms and 8 emailed comments were received. The input received has been reviewed and considered and changes have been made to the management plan.