

Preparation of the Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan

Public Comment Report

Capital Regional District | April 2011



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Executive Summary

In January 2011, CRD Regional Parks began a process of updating its 1989 park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The updated park management plan will provide a framework for exceptional parkland stewardship and visitor experiences at Island View Beach Regional Park.

A public meeting was held at the Saanichton Historical Artifacts Society (Heritage Acres) on March 16, 2011 to gather public input into key questions for updating the plan. A hard copy and on-line response form was also developed to gather input around the same key questions. The response form was available throughout most of March 2011.

Approximately 70 people attended the public meeting, and approximately 20 hard copy response forms and 165 on-line response forms were received.

All information received during this public input phase was subsequently analyzed and then synthesized into key themes for each question. Eight overarching messages emerged from the key themes. These overarching messages and key themes are presented in no inherent order of importance or priority.

The eight overarching messages that emerged from this public input phase are:

1. Keep the park the way it is now – clean, safe, undeveloped, quiet, and not over-regulated.
2. Keep the park accessible and welcoming to *all* visitors and user groups.
3. Understand that park visitors are very attached to this park and value it highly.
4. Protect the values that make the park such a significant Regional Conservation Area.
5. Utilize information, interpretation, and volunteers to help with park stewardship.
6. Support responsible dog behavior and work with visitors to reduce dog impacts.
7. Keep the campground simple, affordable, accessible, controlled, and equitable.
8. Work collaboratively with others to address park-related issues.

The key themes expand upon these eight overarching messages, providing more detail around comments received for each question. These key themes are presented in the body of the report. Taken all together, this information serves as a guidepost for CRD in developing the Interim Plan.

Introduction

In January 2011, CRD Regional Parks began a process to update its 1989 park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The updated park management plan will provide a framework for exceptional parkland stewardship and visitor experiences at this popular seaside regional park.

The updated park management plan will also provide a vision and park management goals, objectives, and actions to protect the natural environment and cultural features of the park. It will identify the types of outdoor recreation activities, and where in the park they will be allowed, and it will identify the types and locations of park services.



The park management planning process is being guided by a Regional Parks Working Group (Working Group) comprised of staff members with particular expertise in Island View Beach Regional Parks. The Working Group has played an essential role in engaging the public to ensure ideas, values, opinions, and issues are known and considered.

A public meeting was held on March 16, 2011 to gather input around key park questions. The meeting started with a guided nature walk at Island View Beach Regional Park, and then moved to the Saanich Historical Artifacts Society (Heritage Acres) for an open house, a staff presentation, and facilitated small group discussions around key park questions.

A response form was also developed to gather public feedback on the same key park questions. The response form was available on-line and in hard copy form during March 2011.

Taken all together, the public meeting and response forms have yielded a rich source of information about what is important to participants regarding the future direction of Island View Beach Regional Park. This report provides a synthesis of the key messages that emerged from the hundreds of individual comments received during this part of the public engagement process.

This report will contribute to the development of an Interim Plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. Additional sources of information will also be considered in the preparation of the park management plan, including key background documents such as the Cordova Shore Conservation Strategy, other technical and scientific reports, and consultations with the Tsawout First Nation and stakeholders; however, these inputs do not form part of this report.

Methodology

Public comments considered in this report were collected from the March 16th public meeting and on-line and hard copy response forms.

Approximately 70 people attended the March 16th public meeting; in addition, approximately 20 hard copy response forms and 165 on-line response forms were received.



The public was asked to comment on the following questions at the meeting and on the response form:

- What is your vision for the future of the park?
- What do you most value about the park?
- What management issues would you like the plan to address?
- What can we do to protect environmental conservation values?
- What types of recreational activities should or shouldn't be allowed?
- What type of park facilities and services would you like to see in the park?
- Would you like the CRD to continue to offer camping in the park? [YES/NO] Why or why not?
 - If yes, do you have any suggestions for improving the camping experience at Island View Beach Regional Park?
- Is Regional Parks doing a good job in the way it manages dogs in the park? {YES/NO}
 - If yes, what works well about the current approach?
 - If not, what changes would you suggest?

Response forms were completed at the public meeting and received in the mail, and on-line response forms were available on the CRD website for approximately one month in March (see sample response form in Appendix 1).

All data was input into Microsoft Word. A separate comment document was created for each question. Once the data was in table format, it was analyzed by the Regional Parks Planner and the results were reviewed by the Working Group and Manager of Planning, Resource Management & Development. Each question was analyzed to discern response variability and to identify re-occurring comments (see synopsis of comments for each question in Appendix 2).

From this list of comments, a list of key themes was summarized for each question. These key themes are presented in the *Findings* section.

The key themes were next analyzed for overlapping ideas. From this review, eight overarching messages emerged. These overarching messages are also highlighted in the *Findings* section.

The key themes and overarching messages are not presented in any rank order of importance or priority. The findings are based on a self-selected sample of regional residents; and thus, cannot be inferred to be representative of the viewpoints of all regional residents.

Findings

Based on an analysis of the data, a list of *key themes* for each question and eight overarching messages emerged. The key themes and overarching messages are presented below in no rank order of priority or inherent level of importance.

The main criteria for inclusion in the list of key themes were that the underlying message showed up with heightened frequency in the data.

The eight overarching messages are presented first without additional explanatory commentary. The key themes for each question follows, with a brief commentary provided to clarify and expand on the theme. Taken all together, the overarching messages and key themes serve as guideposts for Regional Parks to better understand how an interested segment of the public feels about Island View Beach Regional Park.



From a park management perspective, it is important to understand that many different viewpoints are represented in the public comments, and that they often conflict with each other. For example, there are many different opinions about the park environment, with some park visitors considering the park to be in a “natural” state, while others believe the park has been dramatically altered through the years and is no longer in a “natural” condition. This report acknowledges this diversity of opinion and does not seek to “correct” comments that diverge with expert knowledge about the park.

Overarching Messages

1. Keep the park the way it is now – clean, safe, undeveloped, quiet, and not over-regulated.
2. Keep the park accessible and welcoming to *all* visitors and user groups.
3. Understand that park visitors are very attached to this park and value it highly.
4. Protect the values that make the park such a significant Regional Conservation Area.
5. Utilize information, interpretation, and volunteers to help with park stewardship.
6. Support responsible dog behavior and work with visitors to reduce dog impacts.
7. Keep the campground simple, affordable, accessible, controlled, and equitable.
8. Work collaboratively with others to address park related issues.



Key Themes

Park Vision

A variety of comments were offered under park vision, but the most often repeated statements concerned keeping the park the way it currently is. Respondents seem to really care about this park. They appreciate its natural beauty, its welcoming feeling, and its easy opportunities for socializing and relaxing, and they don't want this to change. Thus, most respondents want the park to remain welcoming for all user groups—to remain multi-use. Many respondents would also like more information about the park's natural values so they can be good environmental stewards. A good number would like to see key parcels of land added to complete the park's boundaries.

Park Vision Key Themes

- Continue with parkland acquisition
- Keep the park environment undeveloped
- Keep the park accessible for all
- Don't expand park development except for accessible trails and water access
- Provide more information about the park's natural environment, conservation values and issues
- Protect the values that make the parks such a significant Regional Conservation Area



Park Values

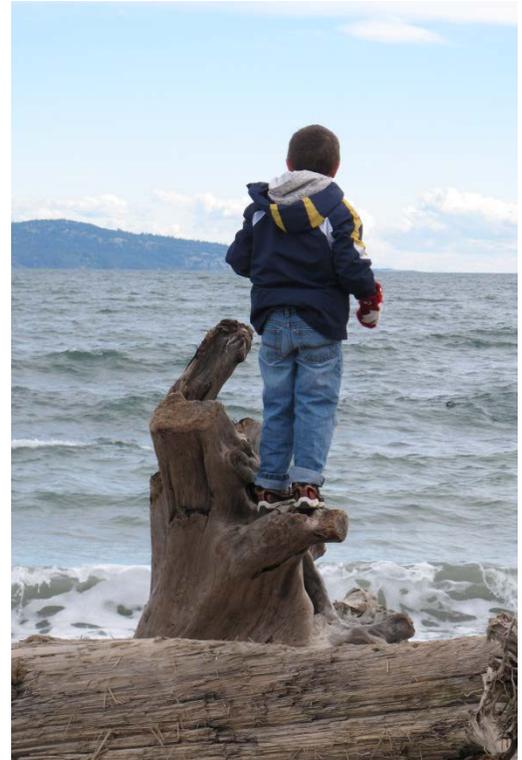
Many respondents favor leaving the park alone—as in the statement “if it ain't broke, don't fix it.” Most respondents highly value the park's low-key development, easy accessibility, and welcoming atmosphere for all user groups. They also don't want the park management plan to add too many rules or restrictions. Many respondents commented that the park's wonderful atmosphere creates a sense of “ownership” and responsibility. This feeling was especially articulated by many of its long-time and frequent visitors, as well as its newer visitors.

Many respondents seemed aware of the park's significant environmental values, its important migratory and resident bird populations, and its unique coastal sand dune and wetland ecosystems.

Those that know about these critical components of the park would like to see these values protected and explained better to those that aren't aware of them. They are concerned about the serious degradation of ecosystems and the decline of many important species through the years.

Park Values Key Themes

- The park is perfect as is, don't change it
- The park is an easily accessible natural area offering unspoiled views; peace; wildness; weather; salt air; distinctly different seasons; and unique dune and wetland areas—protecting this is very important
- The park is a great place for water and wind sports
- The park is one of a few places where dogs can be off leash; this is valued by dogs and owners
- The park is great for birds and bird watching
- The park is very welcoming and respected by all



Recreational Activities

The public was quite firm that only non-motorized activities should be allowed in the park and that bikes shouldn't be allowed on park trails. They also don't want loud activities to "ruin" their park experience. Many respondents believe the park should continue to welcome all user groups that value and respect the park and treat it with care. The park seems especially popular with wind and water sport enthusiasts and with dog walkers. These visitors would like to see their use of the park supported. However, respondents would also like more education about the park's natural environment so they can be better park stewards.

Recreational Activities Key Themes

- Don't allow activities that could alter "IVB's intrinsic soul;" enjoy the park in its undeveloped state
- No motorized vehicles or bikes on trails; no jet skis; nothing that involves noise

- Dogs should be welcomed in the park and there should be some off leash areas for them to enjoy themselves
- Offer naturalist programs and day events for families; guided community walks; education on taking care of the park
- The user community consists of hikers, walkers, dog walkers, photographers, picnickers, birders, kite surfers, sailboarders, campers, kayakers, boaters and equestrians
- Let everybody share the park; keep it multi-use

Management Issues

A variety of management issues were identified by the public, including many not wanting additional restrictions on what activities can take place in the park. Many respondents also commented on the need for better garbage management and the need for all dog owners to be responsible for picking up their dog's waste and disposing of it properly. There was support for environmental restoration and enhanced education around park values, although this may require changes in visitor behavior and respondents may not be aware of this. There was some concern about boundary issues, including excessive speed on Island View Beach Road. As well, there was some confusion as to the rights of the Tsawout First Nation and/or the public on the Tsawout reserve.

Management Issues Key Themes

- Keep the park clean and natural; don't impose too many restrictions, but address the garbage can issue and need for doggie poop bags to be available
- Provide identifiable park wardens; create a "Friends of Island View Beach" group
- Need better signage to educate visitors about the importance of sensitive areas and species; identify areas where dogs can and can't go, but maintain off-leash areas
- Address the mosquito problem and provide more beach access points
- Address IVB traffic – cars are too fast; develop multi-use trail on north side of road
- Clearly identify Tsawout First Nation boundary line and associated rules and expectations



Park Facilities

Most respondents seem to like the park the way it is currently and don't want to see new park facilities that would change the park experience. This extends to park commercialization and concession services, although there was some support for enhanced services such as drinking fountains and modern washrooms with running water and showers. There was broad support for improving and expanding the trail system, and for providing wheelchair accessible trail loops. Garbage management was an issue, with demand for more and better placed garbage cans and the return of a recycling center. There was strong desire for more educational material and for protecting sensitive ecosystems through fencing, signs, and other management measures.

Park Facilities Key Themes

- Level of facilities is good; keep it simple; keep it clean; no concessions or commercial services, but better washrooms and running water a plus
- Create a better trail system; develop boardwalks; create universally accessible trails
- Picnic shelter is in the way of the kite boarders; it disrupts the viewscape--move it
- Address garbage issue – the small cans aren't big enough; put in more; put in a recycling station
- Develop a simple information centre focused on local wildlife and environment
- Install more fencing to protect sensitive ecological areas



Environmental Conservation

Respondents are strongly in support of environmental protection and restoration of sensitive ecosystems and species. Most would like to have more information about the park's natural environment so they can make better choices about how they experience the park. There is good support for by-law enforcement, as well as the desire to see park staff, park wardens, and volunteers out in the park talking with park visitors about the park environment and how to take care of it. There is recognition of the difficulty of balancing conservation and visitor use, but also a desire to be part of the solution rather than the problem.

Environmental Conservation Key Themes

- Keep some areas off-limits to all; fence areas with endangered or sensitive wildlife
- Provide interpretive programs—educate visitors about the value of the ecosystems
- Carry out invasive species removal and environmental restoration activities
- Provide appropriate signage to engender respect for the park
- Implement by-law enforcement and levy fines on violators
- Have an annual or bi-annual beach clean-up day; utilize more volunteers in the park



Camping

There is general support for camping, although some respondents felt it was out of place in the park and questioned why Regional Parks was getting into this business. However, most respondents felt that the campground was a good addition to the park, offering value for money by making it possible for families and others to experience a rare beachfront camping experience for a reasonable price. There was conflicting opinions as to whether the campground should provide enhanced services, with some wanting to keep things simple and self-contained, and others wishing for better washrooms and running water. Many respondents want to see the campground made greener and more private by planting trees and shrubs between sites. Others want to see some of the tenting sites moved up front to the RV site so everyone can equally experience beachfront camping.



Camping Key Themes

- Camping is good as long as it is controlled; if not, it ruins the peaceful experience for other visitors
- Definitely upgrade the look of the campground—it needs greenery for privacy and screening
- A campground host should be available during the camping season to provide security and to give out information about the park and its special features

- If the campground stays, consider installing running water, restrooms, and showers; otherwise keep it simple and don't expand it—but consider putting some tenting sites on the beach side
- Use the camping revenue to take care of the park
- Keep the stays short-term and affordable, but consider opening the campground year around

Dog Management

Perhaps no other subject raised as many comments as that of dogs at Island View Beach. The comments ranged from very passionate about the benefits of dog owners being able to exercise with their unleashed dogs at the beach, to criticisms of irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to chase wildlife or don't pick up after their dogs. Most respondents spoke in favor of continuing to allow dogs in the park, and of establishing off-leash areas for dogs.

However, there were a fair number of comments criticizing both dogs and dog management in the park. Comments against dogs centered on the sheer numbers of dogs in the park and their associated impacts on the park's natural environment and wildlife, the amount of dog droppings along the trails, and the fear caused to some park visitors by out of control dogs. A number of visitors have stopped coming to the park altogether because of dogs in the park.

Most dog owners commented that they are very responsible and they use peer pressure to make irresponsible dog owners conform to social norms. They want to work with Regional Parks to ensure the park remains a welcoming place for them and their dogs. Continued access seems to be of vital importance to this community of park users, both for the wellbeing of their dogs and for themselves.



Dog Management Key Themes

- Dogs need unfenced spaces to run off-leash to socialize with people and each other; this is vital and available at IVB—don't take it away
- Some dog restrictions and by-law enforcement is necessary if ecosystem protection and wildlife conservation is to be a meaningful goal for the park
- Dog owners must be responsible, carry and use a lead if necessary, and pick up their dog's droppings
- Add garbage cans and empty them frequently; offer doggie bags to visitors
- Require permits with conditions for commercial dog walking services
- Educate dog owners about the park's ecosystems and why it is important to protect them

Summary

Regional Parks recently completed a round of public consultation in support of the preparation of an updated park management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. The primary message to emerge out of the consultation is the public's high valuing of, and connection to, Island View Beach Regional Park. Respondents noted the ease with which they could access the park and the "guarantee" of high quality visitor experiences throughout the year.

Respondents wish to safeguard this special relationship with the park and have no real desire to see many changes with the new park management plan. Respondents would like to ensure continuing access for all user groups, but they don't support loud or disruptive recreational activities.

There appears to be a strong desire for more information about the park's natural environment so that visitors can be good park stewards. Most respondents want to work cooperatively to maintain a good balance between meaningful environmental protection and high-quality visitor experiences.



Appendix 1 – Response Form

Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan | **RESPONSE FORM**

The Capital Regional District is updating the management plan for Island View Beach Regional Park. We want your help to set a future direction for the park. This response form is one way that you can voice your ideas and interests. The information you provide in this response form will be used by CRD Regional Parks to help us prepare an updated management plan. Other ways to express your ideas and interests are available online at www.crd.bc.ca/parks.

What is your vision for the future of the park?

What do you most value about this park?

What management issues would you like the plan to address?

What can we do to protect environmental conservation values?

What types of recreation activities should or shouldn't be allowed?

What type of park facilities and services would you like to see in the park?

Island View Beach Regional Park Management Plan | **RESPONSE FORM (continued)**

Would you like CRD Regional Parks to continue to offer camping in the park? **YES** **NO**

Why or why not?

If yes, do you have any suggestions for improving the camping experience at Island View Beach Regional Park?

Is Regional Parks doing a good job in the way it manages dogs in the park? **YES** **NO**

If yes, what works well about the current approach? If not, what changes would you suggest?

Other comments?

Submit Your Response

You may mail, fax or drop off your comments by March 25, 2011. You can also complete the response form online www.crd.bc.ca/parks.



Find Out More

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Appendix 2 – Summary of Public Input by Question

The comments below are a summary of the input received through the March 16, 2011 public meeting and the hard copy and on-line response forms. The summaries try to capture the range of variability expressed through these methods of public input.

The following comments are not presented in any order of importance and are merely representative of the range and relative frequency of expression. The verbatim comments are also available upon request of Regional Parks.

Park Vision

- Continue with park land acquisition (C. Saanich parcel, for sale parcel)
- Environmental restoration and preservation important; remove invasive species
- Walking trails and access to park important
- Keep the environment undeveloped; it is unique and valuable.
- Keep the park accessible for all, including people and dogs. Keep it multi-purpose.
- Make Island View Beach Road more accessible and pedestrian/bike friendly
- Park offers a “one of a kind” natural experience.
- Consideration needs to be given to the migratory birds that depend on the park for survival.
- Make the park a “top class” Victoria area park.
- Provide more information about the park’s natural environment.
- Utilize by-law enforcement where necessary.
- Don’t introduce parking fees.
- Keep the park just the way it is – it works just fine now.
- Garbage issues should be addressed (more cans, bigger cans, and recycling cans).
- Don’t expand development in the park.
- Don’t push through the new park plan so quickly. Let the public comment on the draft.
- Further develop the trail system.
- No more commercial development.
- Mark the boundary with the Tsawout Reserve better; inform public about access.
- Discourage residential encroachment on the viewscape.
- Strengthen the park’s classification as a Regional Conservation Area.
- Focus on habitat conservation and education.

- Work with Central Saanich to address traffic problems.
- Different user groups need to get along with each other better.
- Keep the park as natural as possible without too much development.
- The park has the potential to attract good revenue with select upgrades and catering to campers and windsurfers.
- Provide access for water sport enthusiasts (kayakers, windsurfers, kite boarders).
- Continue to allow dogs off leash in the park (on the beach and on the trails).
- IVB has always been there for everyone and should remain so...don't change it!
- Some areas could be set aside for conservation, other areas kept open to public use.
- No interest groups should be allowed to override any others.
- Make the park more handicapped accessible.
- More active management of the park, including enforcement would be appreciated.
- Many, many long-time park users (20+ years).
- Keep family and pet friendly beaches available.

Park Values

- Leave as is; it is perfect as it is; if it "ain't broke, don't fix it"
- Free parking, adequate parking; easy access; direct access to water
- Ability to walk on beach; ability to see all parts of the park
- Natural area; wilderness area; ecological area; unspoiled natural beauty; views; peaceful; the wildness; the weather; salt air; distinctly different seasons; scenery; unique dune and wetland areas; fresh air
- Field area for kite boarders; great place for water sports.
- The free boat launch is valuable
- Dogs off leash; dog walking; dog socialization; safe for dogs; fun for dogs (and their owners)
- Current facilities; not overdeveloped; minimal "modern conveniences;" toilet facilities; lack of signage; adequate parking; free parking; free of litter; close to urban areas.
- Birdlife; bird watching; bats; migratory birds
- Social aspect of park – easy to meet other park users
- Limited restrictions; reasonable restrictions
- Viewing wildlife
- Cowichan Head at south end of park

- Welcoming for all users; multi-use; long-time visitors; visit all year around
- The park is respected by all who visit it.
- There are very few places on the peninsula where dogs can be off-leash in a natural area.
- Fragile areas can remain off-limits to dogs.
- Summertime beach activities for families, children.
- Wide open spaces, openness, flat, accessible, long beach to walk on; lots of room
- Freedom to enjoy the park without too many restrictions; the feeling of “freedom.”
- Little evidence that dogs are disruptive to the plants, wildlife, other users, or other dogs.
- Rare coastal sand dunes are among the rarest and most fragile ecosystems in BC. Protecting them is of paramount importance.
- Visitors come from throughout the region just to visit this park.

Recreational Activities

- Wind and water sports (i.e. kite-boarding, wind-surfing; kayaking; sail-boarding; surfing, etc.); with safe access points
- Horses are “no problem”
- No motorized vehicles or bikes on trails; no jet skis; no horses on the beach or trails (droppings make a mess); no camping; no collection of fire wood or beach fires; no boat ramp.
- Camping is O.K.
- Dogs off leash at beach; dogs off-leash year around
- Hiking; walking
- Picnics
- Continued access to boat launch
- Beach activities
- Swimming
- No cabana building
- No organized sporting activities or games
- No fires on the beach or digging at Cowichan Head for clay
- Games on the grassy area, such as kite flying. Frisbee, and ball games
- Support family friendly activities
- Support park use permits for group rental of covered sites for birthday parties, etc.
- Bird watching

- Nothing that involves noise (no electric devices); nothing that requires set-up (volley ball, badminton, etc.).
- Don't allow activities that could alter "IVB's intrinsic soul." Promote enjoying the park in its natural state.
- Concerns with number of beach parties and associated beach fires.
- Need to feel a "tiny bit of urban freedom in a natural open space."
- If the park allows some people and activities, then it should allow use for all.
- Naturalist programs and day events for families; guided community walks; education on how to take care of the area.
- The user community consists of dog walkers, photographers, picnickers, birders, kite surfers, sailboarders, campers, kayakers, boaters and equestrians.
- Formalize the informal arrangement that dogs use the beach to the right and others use the beach to the left (of the boat launch?)
- No concession stands.
- No roller bladers, skate boarders, bicyclists, and mountain bikers.
- Let everybody share the park; don't change anything.
- Allow the use of the boat launch only if it is upgraded, otherwise, remove it.
- Contain disruptive and high impact activities to the field.
- More trails through the grass areas.

Management Issues

- Do regular maintenance and clean-up; keep the lawns mowed; keep toilet paper stocked; keep road repaired (potholes especially).
- Address drainage issues; mosquito problem; management of the berm.
- Supply doggie poop bags; use peer pressure to make people pick up after their dogs; use enforcement if necessary.
- Keep the park clean and natural; not too many restrictions or rules or changes.
- Address garbage issue – the small cans aren't big enough; put more in park.
- Address illegal camping in park (north area by beach and in back fields) on weekends.
- Provide identifiable park wardens; create a "Friends of Island View Beach" group.
- Provide running water and showers for campers.
- Continue with free parking.
- Address dogs running loose on the beach and in the fields; irresponsible dog owners.

- Address traffic on IVB road – too fast and too many; utilize speed bumps and put in trail.
- Provide more beach accesses through all the logs; seasonally remove some logs in front area.
- Create dog on-leash and dog off-leash areas; create dog and dog-free zones; consider time of year and time of day restrictions.
- Create a better trail system through the park; develop boardwalks; create universally accessible trail loop(s); add gravel to the area where the berm disappears for handicapped visitors
- Continue with camping; like camping the way it is now; make the site greener and more welcoming; put tents out front; extend the season; allow wind sports people in the RV site in the winter to stage from.
- Additional revenue from camping goes into better management of the park.
- Need better signage to inform visitors about sensitive areas, species, etc. –why is it important?
- Boat launch is an issue – either upgrade it or remove it.
- Need more ecological restoration; better environmental protection needed; restrict use in sensitive areas; remove invasive species; habitat mapping; implement strategies and tools.
- Provide fire rings on beach; provide fire management; patrol beach fires.
- Concerned about time line of the planning process.
- Address boundary issues with Tsawout FN; clearly identify boundary line and expectations.
- Address dog use on beach during restricted times; also restrict dogs when Brant geese use area.
- Drinking and vandalism.
- Relocate the metal picnic shelter; it cuts in half the area for wind sports; obstructs a clear ocean/island vista.

Park Facilities

- Picnic shelter is in the way of the kite boarders; it is also disruptive of the viewscape and natural aesthetics.
- Develop modern washroom facilities, complete with foot washing station; lighting, heat, showers.
- Level of facilities is good; fine the way it is; keep it simple; keep it clean
- RV site location is O.K.; more privacy between camping spaces; don't enlarge camping area.
- Move RV site to corner of IVB road (west side of Homathko Road)..
- More interpretive services.
- Concession stand (run by service club....).
- Drinking water/fire hydrant.

- Doggie dispensers.
- No food concessions.
- Trail around perimeter of park.
- More educational material; many don't see the signs that are there.
- Simple information centre focused on local wildlife and environment.
- Invest in facilities that provide revenue to the park, rather than facilities that require ongoing taxpayer investment.
- On-going maintenance; parks workers are great –do their jobs well and are respectful.
- Maybe more benches along trail and making the trail accessible to wheelchair users.
- Repositioning and replacement of picnic tables.
- Dog management – provide bags for waste management; restrict dogs to certain areas.
- A few specific areas for beach fires rather than the ad hoc approach now in place.
- Public phones.
- More, larger, garbage cans; garbage cans at the north end of the beach; put one at the corner leading to the washroom along the drainage ditch.
- Security checks from time to time; ensure CRD presence in the park during busy summer season.
- No parking fees.
- Designated area for kite-boarders and windsurfers to prepare gear.
- More fencing to protect sensitive ecological areas.
- A day-use barbeque area in the old camping area.
- A wildlife viewing tower or nature house in the park. Education is a high priority!
- Organized beach clean-up days. Have an area designated for deposit of beach "junk."
- Access paths to the beach through all the driftwood.
- Boardwalks through the wetlands.
- Encourage Tsawout to reinstate their concession stand at the north end of the beach.
- More picnic areas, playground for the children; covered cook area for groups to reserve; covered rest areas along trails.
- Upgrade IVB road – there is no walking room on the road with the RV'ers on it. Or make a separate path for walkers.

Environmental Conservation

- Larger areas of wetland need to be created for wildlife; provide habitat for animals that eat the mosquitos; install bat boxes.
- Keep some areas off-limits to all; fence areas that have endangered or sensitive wildlife.
- Provide by-law enforcement.
- Create boardwalks; define trails better to encourage staying out of sensitive areas.
- Provide nature tours—inform visitors about the fragile areas; continue to educate visitors about the value of the ecosystems.
- Carry out invasive species removal, particularly Scotch broom management.
- Secure nesting areas during nesting times.
- Ban people from dune area (total closure).
- Address vegetation changes and encroachment in wetlands especially.
- Provide appropriate signage to engender respect for the park; education; student and community projects.
- Off-leash dogs are “the problem”; have areas for dogs and the rest off-limits; dogs are hunters and chase wildlife; dogs introduce invasive plant/fungi/bacteria species from other areas.
- All respect this area and haven’t witnessed any environmental damage because of dogs.
- Keep the number of people in single parties controlled; too many users at once trample down the vegetation.
- Have a “hands off” attitude at the park; provide education on all the species present in the park and that they must be left untouched in their natural environment; baby seals should remain untouched.
- Dual mandate of visitor use and conservation is difficult to achieve. Help visitors help us.
- Implement bylaw enforcement and levy fines to violators.
- Have an annual or bi-annual beach clean-up day; utilize volunteers more to help park.
- Feral cat population in the park.
- Put in recycling containers; lots of garbage would be picked up in the park and deposited there.
- Keep the water clean; monitor storm drains.
- Have a volunteer host at the park in the summertime to answer questions, report issues.
- Cigarette butts are an on-going issue.
- Implement measures outlined by provincial and federal government (Conservation Strategy, recovery strategies, etc.).

- Have more information and hands-on education available for visitors, especially in summer.
- Drain the ditches to help with the mosquito problem; keep the fields drained.

Camping

- Camping is good for locals and out-of-towners.
- Keep it simple; keep it small and isolated as possible to avoid impacts to natural areas,
- Camping offers the ability for families and individuals to experience the overnight environment of a seaside setting.
- Offer interpretive programs for campers,
- There shouldn't be any camping; hate the look of trailers and RVs; prefer natural setting.
- Camping is very localized and unobtrusive; enjoy seeing people enjoy the park in this way.
- The campground is a vast improvement over what used to be there.
- The fees are excessive given the lack of facilities.
- There should be a campground host there during the camping season; given the proper authority to discourage vandalism, misuse of the park, and protection of the environment.
- Add trees or shrubs to the RV site – it needs more privacy, screening, and beauty.
- Running water, restrooms, and showers would be a great addition.
- Don't enlarge the campground, but keep it there—so many people enjoy it.
- Give handouts to campers telling them about the birds, plants, and animals, and how special the park is, and what the CRD is doing to manage the park.
- Add fire rings at each camp site.
- Keep the stays short-term, not all summer long like before; long-term users get too possessive of the area.
- The CRD should not be in the commercial business of camping, if it is, then it should be limited to its present state so it doesn't become the focus on park activities in the summer.
- Have less RV sites and more tent sites available; have tenters up front on the beach side.
- Consider having the campground open year-around.
- The camping setting is spectacular and can be easily enjoyed by all; close to urban areas.
- Control the garbage generated by the campers.
- CRD has spent the money to re-develop the campground, why take it down now?
- The park should be for day-use only; environmental impacts of camping; crowding.
- The campground should provide better access for small non-motorized watercraft.

- The campground shouldn't cater to the mega-bucks RVs; the campground creates a "shanty town" look; little supervision of dogs and kids; campers litter the beach with gear.
- Camping at IVB is an affordable family vacation—for some, the only option they have.
- No amplified music should be allowed at any time.
- Use the camping revenue to take care of the park; camping is good if it generates revenue.
- Don't let campers take over the beach area in front of them, this is unfair to others.
- Move the gazebo to the campground.
- Camping is good as long as there are controls over numbers, location of campers, noise, and garbage. If it becomes too crowded it ruins the peaceful experience for other visitors.
- Definitely upgrade the look of the campground—it needs trees/shrubs/greenery!
- The campground should be relocated and the beach area opened up for everyone to enjoy.

Dog Management

- You do not "manage" dogs. Owners need to take more responsibility for poop pick-up.
- Large packs of unleashed dogs playing are a hazard for young and old alike.
- There is a large responsible dog owning community at IVB and it would be a shame for them to lose the ability to socialize their dogs at the park due to the actions of a few irresponsible owners.
- There are few places on the peninsula where dogs can enjoy off-leash freedom and fun like there is at IVB. Don't take this away!
- Many dog owners disobey the "dogs on leash" signs during the summer months at the north end.
- More information about wildlife use, sensitive areas, migratory birds, dune ecosystems should be available.
- Absolute dog restrictions are necessary during certain times of the year if wildlife conservation is to be a meaningful goal for the park.
- Enforce dog bylaws! Increase the fines substantially; there is NO enforcement going on now.
- Manage commercial dog use in the park; require them to get a park use permit.
- It is great that dogs can be off-leash in the park; many people travel a long ways to use the park with their dogs; however, dog owners must be responsible, carry a lead, and pick up their dog's poop.
- IVB should be made off-limits to dogs; dogs have caused great environmental damage to the park through the years; many species of birds are in decline or harassed because of dogs.

- I don't come to the park anymore because of the dogs, and this is true for many other users; so it is probably true that dog owners are the predominant user group in the park because we've dropped out; the park is unsafe for me and my children because of all the dogs.
- This is the best park in the whole CRD for dog walkers, and what makes the park unique is the respectful dog walkers who come to the park every day; these dog walkers respect the environment.
- Add additional garbage cans and empty them frequently; offer doggie bags to visitors.
- The current approach promotes families and the elderly taking their pets out for walks, and this is good for them (and their health).
- There should be a big off-leash area; dogs on leash are more aggressive and harder to handle.
- Continued education and signage about proper dog handling and importance of cleaning up.
- Have an off-leash area with a nearby parking lot so dog owners can get to the area.
- Current approach between management and dog owners leads to mutual respect and cooperation.
- Have not experience any negative behavior on the part of dogs or owners, so hope use can continue.
- Our group of dog walkers is very responsible; we pick up litter and chastise "bad" dogs and their owners; six of our combined eleven dogs (group of nine ladies) have been attacked by bad dogs.
- Aggressive dogs should not be allowed to run off-leash in the park.
- Restrict off-leash time to the current fall to spring window.
- Resent the term "dog management;" dog owners are the largest group at the park; resent the fact that dogs can't be off-leash on the beach during the summer months—especially at the northern end where there are few sunbathers, or before/after hours when nobody is there; this happens anyway.
- Dogs need unfenced spaces to run off-leash to socialize with people and each other; this is vital and available at IVB.
- Dog owners pay their taxes and have as much right as non-dog owners to use CRD parks; to say otherwise is not morally right.
- Dogs should be kept on leash when on the trails; they could also be restricted to certain areas of the park.
- Need be well placed doggie bag dispensers in the park, particularly at the north parking lot.
- Some people let their dogs chase birds on the sand dunes and beach—out of ignorance? They need to understand the impacts of this behavior through education and interpretation.
- Bring back the large garbage cans; we dog walkers are very good about picking up after our dogs so we feel bad if there is nowhere convenient to deposit the bags.

- It seems that bird watchers are unhappy with seeing dogs off-leash in the park; most dog owners are also bird watchers too; it is important to have places where responsible dog owners can exercise their pets.
- CRD does not need to manage dogs in the park; there are already municipal bylaws to handle this.
- People who are afraid of dogs—this is not the dog owners’ problem; people need to respect each other’s space, and no one lifestyle should take precedence over another.
- I have had positive and negative encounters with dog owners and non-dog owners; it is all about how you manage these encounters; don’t force out dog owners and their dogs.
- Off-leash areas need to be designated.
- Having educational signs up about the park’s ecosystems and how to protect it would be helpful.
- During bird breeding season, all dogs should be on a leash no matter where they are in the park.
- There should be a limit on how many dogs one person can have at the park; IVB isn’t an appropriate place for doggie day cares to walk numerous dogs at once.
- The IVB brochure states that the park is one of the best places in Victoria for bird watching; let’s respect this and limit disturbances from dogs and ignorant humans.
- Regular dog owners clean up after their pets and after others; they keep an eye on the beach and clean up lots of garbage (which they bring home to dispose of); keep the park welcoming for them.
- So many dogs love to run long distances on the beach and to have an ocean swim; please don’t take that away from us!
- Dogs are people too....
- Why do birds deserve a park and dogs do not?
- Expect major, legitimate push-back if the park management plan turns the park into a leash area or bans dogs.
- Dogs aren’t the problem, people are.
- It is a sad thing when people do not pick up after their pets; some of us pick up what others don’t in an effort to keep the park clean.