



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK PLAN



Regional Park Design Study | February 2018





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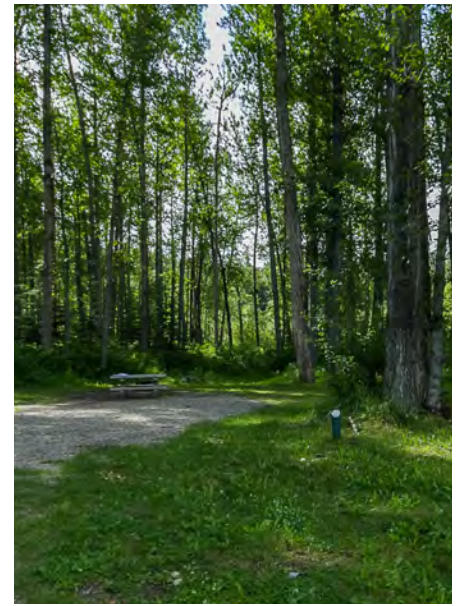
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Regional Park Design Study for Blackfoot Regional Park has been undertaken by the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) with support from Lanarc 2015 Consultants Ltd. to explore the potential of enhancing the park to meet current and future recreation demands.

The Study was initiated in July 2017 and was completed in February 2018. During the Study process, the Project team engaged with PRRD staff, committee, and elected officials, local stakeholders, and community members in the Peace River Regional District to understand the park and gather ideas on future possibilities for enhancements.

The project has been guided by PRRD staff as well as the PRRD Board and Regional Parks Committee. The support provided by these groups has been fundamental to the Study.

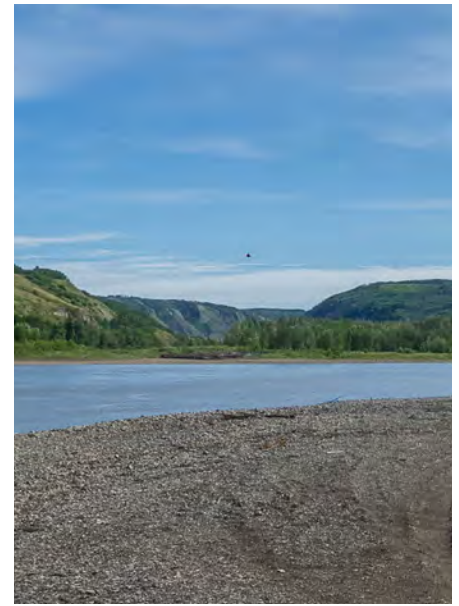
During the Study, we heard from a range of community members who brought their local knowledge and vision for the park. We greatly appreciate the ideas, insights, and comments from everyone who participated in this process by attending the public events, sharing thoughts via phone and email, and responding to public questionnaires – thank you for your input. We hope that the resulting plan is reflective of your vision for the park.

The outcome of this process is intended to be a realistic, implementable, and phased plan that serves as a guide for the future of Blackfoot Regional Park. The plan outlines a proposed vision and recommendations to maintain and enhance a beautiful, sustainable park for PRRD residents and visitors today and into the future.

Don Phillips Bridge over the Peace River, adjacent to Blackfoot Regional Park in the Peace River Regional District, BC.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION

Blackfoot Regional Park, situated on the Peace River, provides a relaxed, natural, and rustic recreational area for park users to enjoy camping, picnicking, swimming, and relaxing. While many visitors already enjoy the park today, the current park configuration and amenities would benefit from functional improvements and additional amenities.

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD), owner and operator of Blackfoot Regional Park, undertook a **Regional Park Design Study** to explore potential park improvements. A park plan outlines a concept and long-term strategy to enhance the unique features of a park by making recommendations for future development, budget planning, operations, and management.

This plan is a high-level living document intended to guide overall improvements in Blackfoot Regional Park over time, while remaining flexible to evolve based on new knowledge, experience, and changing public needs.

The Regional Park Design Study, completed concurrently for **Blackfoot** and **Montney Centennial Regional Parks**, followed a three-phase process (see below) initiated in July 2017 and completed in February 2018.

This document outlines recommendations for **Blackfoot Regional Park**. Recommendations for **Montney Centennial Regional Park** are in a separate plan.

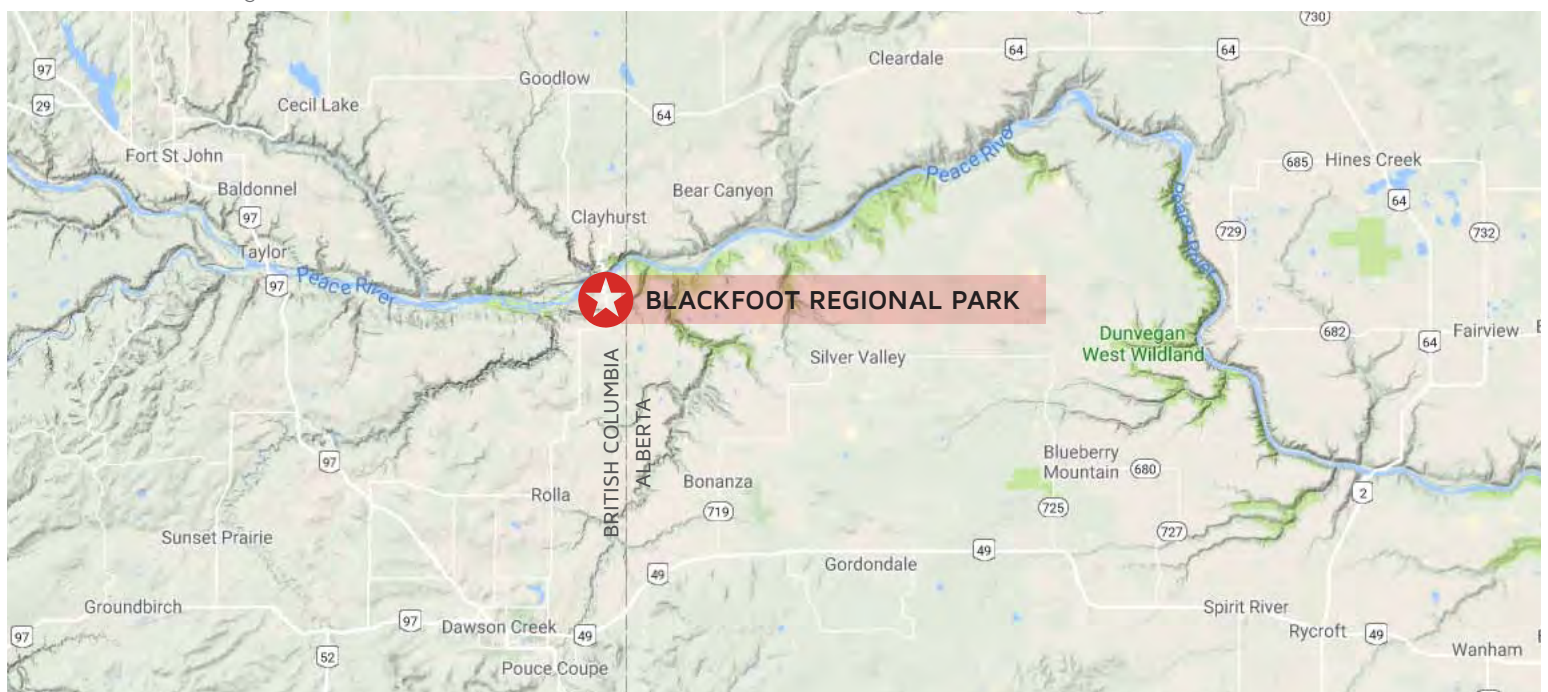


THE PARK TODAY

Blackfoot Regional Park is 22.5 ha in size and includes the following key components:

- ▶ **Former Boat Launch (closed):** A boat launch provided access to the Peace River from the mid 1990s to early 2000s, but was damaged by river currents and closed in 2003. It was decommissioned and remediated in 2014.
- ▶ **Vehicle Campsites:** There are 13 vehicle campsites, typically consisting of a cleared area with gravel access and a picnic table and fire ring. Most sites are surrounded by trees and vegetation that provide privacy and shade.
- ▶ **Tenting/Picnic Area:** A tenting and picnic area sits atop a knoll in the centre of the park with spectacular views to the Peace River. The area is mainly open, limiting shade and privacy.
- ▶ **Shoreline:** While outside the park boundary, during regular river flows, an accessible rock/sand beach provides Peace River access.
- ▶ **Habitat Area (Wetted Depression):** In the east part of the park, a low depression exists that is periodically flushed with river water. Standing water remains through the year after the river recedes, providing habitat for birds, amphibians, small mammals, and ungulates.
- ▶ **Access Roads:** Narrow, gravel-topped access roads circulate through the park. Input suggests the road layout can be confusing.
- ▶ **Park Entry:** The park is accessed from 203 Road on the south side of the Bennett Bridge. There are two park entry roads, neither of which is indicated as the main park entry.
- ▶ **Toilets:** Five pit toilets are located throughout the park. Three have been recently upgraded.
- ▶ **Play & Picnic Area:** In the centre of the park and just under one acre in size the area features a playground, swing set, horseshoe pitch, picnic tables, and open lawn area.
- ▶ **Wooded Areas:** A large portion of the park is wooded, providing an attractive backdrop.
- ▶ **Water Supply:** A well was previously built to supply non-potable water for agricultural use via a water tank loader. In 2017 the loader was decommissioned; however, the well remains and may be considered for future uses.
- ▶ **Adjacent Crown Land:** The adjacent Crown land lot was a former homestead. Unauthorized camping has been observed on the Crown land.

Location of Blackfoot Regional Park



KEY PARK CHALLENGES

Key challenges considered in the planning process for Blackfoot Regional Park included:

- ▶ **Location:** The park's remote location, away from heavily travelled routes, means people must be purposeful in choosing to go to the park.
- ▶ **Awareness:** There is limited awareness about the park, amenities, and location.
- ▶ **Safety:** The park's location in the river valley does not allow cell phone coverage or access to Wi-Fi, limiting communications for park visitors, as well as response time for emergency services or police patrol. This isolation appears to partly contribute to undesirable activities including ATV use, partying, firearm activity, noise, etc.
- ▶ **Lack of Services:** The park currently has no access to potable water, sanitary, or power.
- ▶ **Uncertainty about Availability:** People are uncertain if campsites will be available, as there is no reservation system. Combined with the remote location of the park, this can limit visitors choosing to use the park.
- ▶ **Roads & Parking:** The road configuration is confusing and a main park access road crosses private property. There is no dedicated day-use parking.
- ▶ **Limited Recreational Amenities:** While people enjoy the camping, nature, and river access at the park, additional amenities may attract more users. Today the park does not have a formalized trail network and has only a few recreation features (e.g., small children's playground and horseshoe pits).
- ▶ **No Boat Access:** The lack of a functioning boat launch may deter people from using the park.

ENGAGEMENT

An integral component of the Regional Park Design Study was understanding the values and concerns of community members and stakeholders so that the resulting plan for Blackfoot Regional Park is comprehensive and publicly supported.

The process included two rounds of engagement:

▶ **Public Input #1: Gathering Ideas**

Public Input #1 focused on gathering information and perspectives about the park today and hearing ideas for future improvements. Engagement included public outreach, an interactive community event on Sunday, July 30, 2017 at Blackfoot Regional Park, and a public questionnaire.

▶ **Public Input #2: Review of Draft Concepts and Recommendations**

Public Input #2 focused on defining a realistic and supported concept and framework for the park based on two illustrated concepts. Engagement included outreach, public displays at the U17 World Hockey Tournament in Fort St. John and Dawson Creek, and a response form to gather opinions on preferred directions.

VISION

A vision statement describes a long-term future for Blackfoot Regional Park. It is a guiding statement and a touchstone for consideration when making decisions about changes and development.

Blackfoot Regional Park invites people to explore the natural splendour of the Peace River in a rustic, quiet, and family-friendly forest campground with trails and river access. The park will be a place for many great adventures and memories. Visitors will have the opportunity to get away into nature, while still enjoying basic comforts in their home away from home.

GOALS

Four goals support realization of the vision by providing specific guidance for future park projects:

► *Increase Park Amenities*

- » Enhance park attraction by providing a greater variety of amenities that appeal to a wide range of campers
- » Expand and service campsites in a phased manner
- » Focus development on key park areas to maintain surrounding natural landscapes that are valued by visitors

► *Maintain Park Character*

- » Ensure future park improvements align with the rural and rustic feeling that is valued by park users
- » Retain and enhance trees and natural vegetation over the long-term
- » Develop amenities that appear timeless and robust, allowing them to feel in character with the park for years to come

► *Address Safety & User Conflicts*

- » Make physical and operational park improvements to encourage a family-friendly atmosphere and discourage disruptive activities
- » Consider addition of a seasonal park attendant to provide a higher standard of experience

► *Plan for Economic Sustainability*

- » Ensure increased operational costs can be balanced with revenue generation
- » Increase information available to encourage more users to visit and enjoy the park
- » Encourage use of the park by groups or for events

PARK CONCEPT

The park concept on the facing page outlines the key recommended improvements for Blackfoot Regional Park. The concept corresponds with the recommendation in **Section 5** of this plan.

PARK CONCEPT



RECOMMENDATIONS

The park plan identifies 12 potential park improvements. **Section 5** of the plan provides details about each improvement in a recommendation summary with costing for planning and budgeting purposes. The table below provides a brief summary of the recommendations.

#	Recommendation	Description
1	Develop a Trail Network	Develop a trail network in the park, with a focus on providing walking loops and connections to key park destinations.
2	Develop Site Servicing	Plan and implement site servicing components that will support provision of potable water, sanitary, and electrical services at the campground.
3	Improve & Expand Campsites at the Park	Maintain existing campsites with minor improvements and begin the phased addition of new campsites throughout the park, with the goal of offering more camping options while still providing a natural-style camping experience.
4	Create a Park Attendant Position	Secure a seasonal park attendant to be on-site during the campground season to perform registration, management, and park maintenance duties.
5	Develop an Amenity Building & Add Vault Toilets at Key Locations	Develop a new amenity building in the central part of the park and add vault toilets within easy access of all campsites.
6	Consider Addition of a Sani-dump Station for the Park	As a component of planning a sanitary system in the park, consider adding a sani-dump station to better accommodate RV users.
7	Re-establish a Boat Launch at or near the Park	Continue efforts to work with BC Hydro and/or other partners to re-establish a boat launch on the Peace River in or near Blackfoot Regional Park.
8	Improve Road Circulation & Parking	Improve park circulation by completing minor road network changes and adding day-use parking.
9	Expand Recreation Amenities	In addition to trail enhancements, consider addition of park amenities such as additional playground elements, a volleyball/badminton area, a picnic shelter with group BBQ facilities, and an interpretive site.
10	Update Wayfinding & Signage	Add a network of attractive information signs throughout the park to enhance navigation and ease of use.
11	Undertake Ongoing Tree Management & Renewal	Complete regular assessment and management of existing trees in the park and initiate a program of renewal to increase vegetation and tree canopy over time.
12	Consider Future Park Expansion for Specific Purposes	Focus park improvements within the main park area in the short- to medium-term, while considering opportunities for securing additional park land for the specific purposes of maintaining road access and boat launching. Additional expansion of the campground area is not recommended, unless demand substantially increases in the long-term.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the recommendations in the Blackfoot Regional Park Plan will likely be phased over time. The plan suggests a potential phasing and cost budget estimate summary (below) based on priorities and logical phasing. For more details on implementation, see **Section 6** of the plan.

#	Recommendation	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance*
PHASE A		
1.1	Large Loop Trail	\$28,000
2.1	Potable Water System Development & Distribution to Amenity Building/Park Attendant Site	\$116,000
2.2	Sanitary System Development & Connection to Amenity Building/Park Attendant Site	\$118,000
2.3	Electrical System Development & Connection to Amenity Building/Park Attendant Site	\$45,000
3.1	Camping Area A	\$99,000
4.1	Host Campsite & Registration Area Development	\$38,000
5.1	New Amenities Building	\$139,000
6.1	Sani-Dump Station	\$53,000
8.3	Lockable Control Gate at South Access Road	\$4,000
8.5	Day-use Parking at the Play & Picnic Area	\$9,000
9.1	Additional Playground Elements	\$40,000
9.2	Sand Court Play Area	\$8,000
10.1	New Park Entry Sign	\$9,000
PHASE A TOTAL:		\$706,000
PHASE B		
1.2	Beach/Play Connector Trail	\$16,000
3.2	Camping Area B	\$286,000
3.3	Camping Area C	\$227,000
3.4	Tent Camping Area	\$32,000
5.2	Vault Toilet in the Tenting Area	\$15,000
7.4	Boat Launch Development	TBD**
8.6	Day-use Parking at the Tenting Area	\$16,000
9.3	Picnic Shelter and Group BBQ Area	\$101,000
PHASE B TOTAL:		\$693,000
PHASE C		
1.3	Connector Trail to Host Campsite/Park Entry	\$9,000
1.4	Small Loop Trail	\$7,000
3.5	Camping Area D	\$95,000
5.3	Vault Toilet in Camping Area D	\$15,000
9.4	Interpretive Feature	\$34,000
PHASE C TOTAL:		\$160,000
TOTAL, ALL PHASES:		\$1,559,000

*Cost allowances include a 30% contingency due to the pricing and quantity variables associated with this level of planning including unknowns and inflationary factors. Costs also include an add-on of 15% to 30% to account for design and engineering fees during detailed design development. Note that even with a 30% contingency built into the estimates, annual inflationary and market conditions will always need to be taken into consideration in the intervening years up to the point of actual implementation. These allowances provide an order of magnitude +/- 30% and illustrate relative costs among components. More accurate site information and engineering is required prior to final budgeting and implementation. The above summary does not include costs for potential partnership projects or long-term expansion of campground areas. These costs could range significantly depending on agreements and circumstances.

** Costs of designing and implementing a new boat launch will vary based on location, launch design, and partnerships formed. At this early stage, it is not feasible to accurately estimate costs for launch development.

1 | INTRODUCTION



A park plan outlines a concept and long-term strategy for enhancing the unique features of a park by making recommendations for future development, budget planning, operations, and management. This plan is a high-level living document intended to guide overall improvements, while remaining flexible to evolve based on new knowledge, experience, and changing public needs.

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Blackfoot Regional Park, situated on the Peace River, provides a relaxed, natural, and rustic recreational area for park users to enjoy camping, picnicking, swimming, and relaxing.

While many visitors already enjoy the park today, the current park configuration and amenities would benefit from functional improvements and additional amenities. The park also requires consideration of future operations and management to encourage safe and respectful use and support a well-maintained park.

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD), owner and operator of Blackfoot Regional Park, is undertaking a Regional Parks Study to explore potential park improvements. The intent of this plan is not to illustrate an exact or final layout for all potential improvements; rather to provide a guiding concept for planning and implementing future changes over time.

The plan was undertaken with the following objectives:

- ▶ Understand how the park is used today;
- ▶ Engage with stakeholders, members of the public, PRRD Board members, Regional Park Committee members, and PRRD staff;
- ▶ Understand key issues and develop potential solutions to address these issues;
- ▶ Develop a strong vision and concept; and
- ▶ Outline recommendations to plan, prioritize, and budget for park improvements over time, as funding opportunities arise.

Recommendations in this plan should be reviewed and adjusted regularly to reflect changing context and user needs.

1.2 PLANNING PROCESS

The **Regional Park Design Study**, completed concurrently for **Blackfoot** and **Montney Centennial Regional Parks**, followed a three-phase process shown below. The Study was initiated in July 2017, with completion in February 2018 following approval from the PRRD Board. This document outlines recommendations for **Blackfoot Regional Park**. Recommendations for **Montney Centennial Regional Park** are in a separate plan.

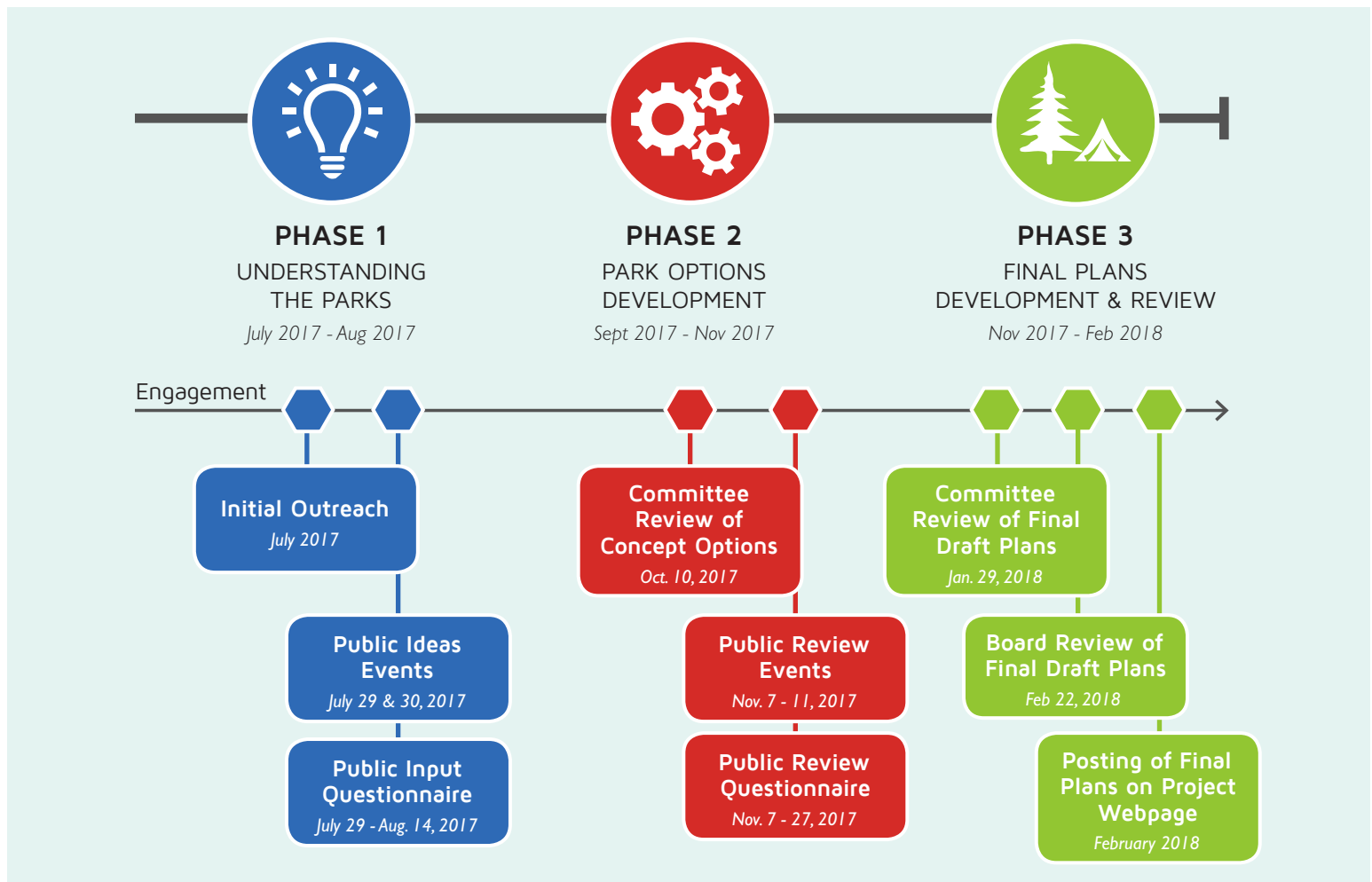


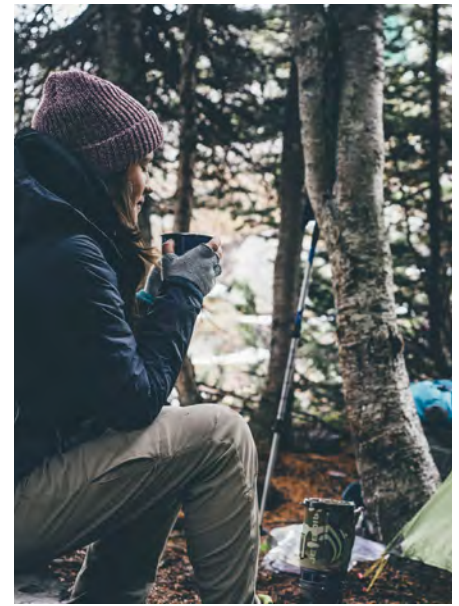
Figure 1: Process for the Regional Park Design Study

The Study invited public input during Phase 1 and Phase 2:

- **Public Input #1: Gathering Ideas** (July 2017) gathered information on key issues, potential amenities, ideas for improving the parks, and identification of precedents.
- **Public Input #2: Review of Draft Concepts & Recommendations** (November 2017) invited feedback on draft options and recommendations to be considered in the development of a preferred concept and plan for each park.

A summary of the engagement is provided in **Section 3**.

2 | THE PARK TODAY

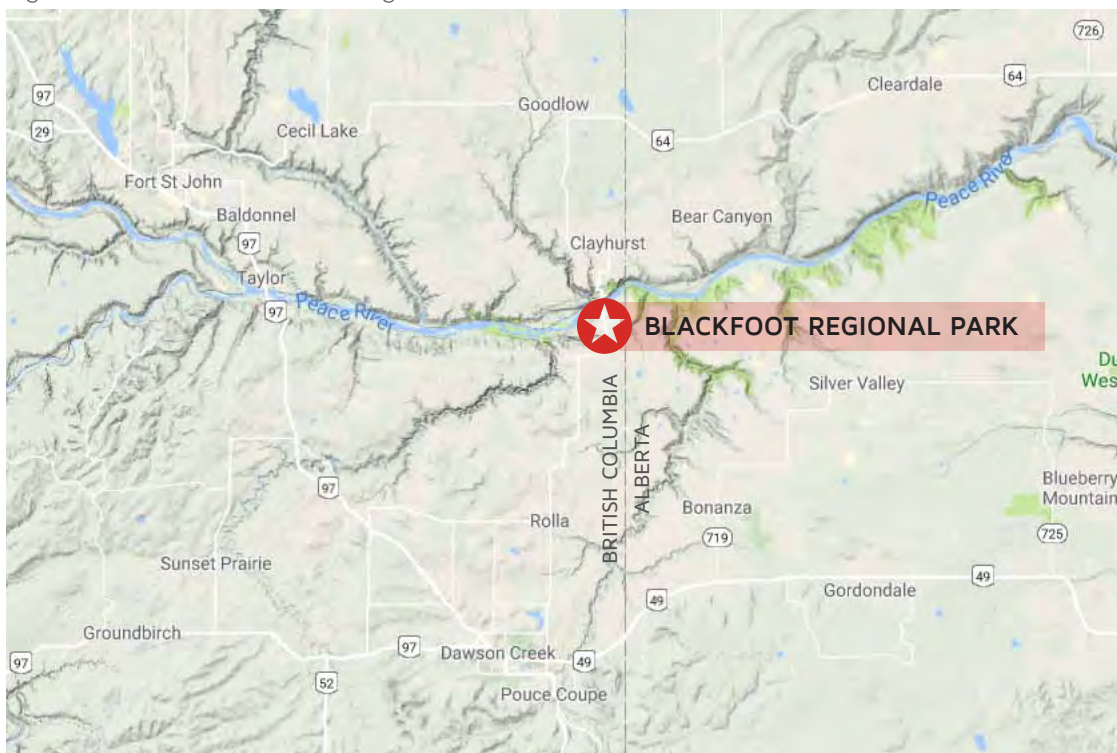


Understanding the physical and historical context of Blackfoot Regional Park provides a starting point for planning for the park's future.

2.1 PARK LOCATION

Blackfoot Regional Park is situated on the Peace River, near the Old Clayhurst Ferry Crossing, approximately 75 km east of Fort St. John and 51 km north of Dawson Creek. The Don Phillips Bridge is directly adjacent to the park, connecting the rural areas of Clayhurst and Doe River / Rolla. The park is less than 4 km from the British Columbia / Alberta border. Surrounding lands are mainly rural agricultural areas and the nearest rural communities are Golata Creek, Clayhurst, and Rolla.

Figure 2: Location of Blackfoot Regional Park



Blackfoot Regional Park is one of the PRRD's five regional parks.

In the PRRD, a regional park is defined as a "set-aside" property or area that is significant to all people within the entire regional district in both urban and rural areas. Furthermore, a regional park within the PRRD provides opportunities for a variety of outdoor recreation activities – including camping (where appropriate) – and plays a role, where possible, in environmental and heritage preservation.

2.2 PARK CONTEXT

THE REGION

The PRRD is comprised of seven incorporated municipalities and four rural electoral districts and covers approximately 117,387 km². According to BC Stats, the 2016 population for the PRRD was 62,942 with about two-thirds of residents residing in municipalities and the remaining one-third in rural areas. Regional Parks play an key role in providing access to outdoor recreation, especially as more residents choose to live in urban areas.

The region saw a 4.8% increase in population from 2011 to 2016, adding to a 3.1% increase between 2006 to 2011, indicating moderate, sustained growth in the PRRD. Census data shows that people living in the PRRD are younger than elsewhere in BC, with the average age of the population at 35.9, compared to BC's average at 42.3.

LEGAL & LAND USE

Blackfoot Regional Park is fee simple ownership,

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Block A, Section 24, Township 82, Range 14, W6M, PRD

acquired through a Crown Land grant by the PRRD in 1992 for recreational purposes.

Blackfoot Regional Park is designated in PRRD's Rural Official Community Plan (Bylaw No. 1940, 2011) as Park and Natural Environment. The objectives of this designation are to support community groups and other organizations in identifying and protecting culturally and ecologically valuable features and to help provide recreational destinations.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

Blackfoot Regional Park is 22.5 ha in size and situated on the south side of the Peace River. The location is within the Boreal Plains Ecoprovince, which is part of the Alberta Plateau, and is within the Peace Lowland Ecosection that includes the Peace River and its main tributaries. The area consists of plateaus, prairies, and lowlands with deep riverbeds. Lands are used primarily for farming, oil and natural gas exploration, and some forestry. The area is characterized by the Boreal White and Black Spruce biogeoclimatic zone and moist warm subzone (BWBSmwl) (Demarchi, 2011).

The region has cold, snowy winters, and spring and fall temperatures can be cool, potentially affecting park use during the shoulder seasons. Summer is the main camping season and tends to be dry and warm during the day, but can cool substantially in the evenings (to below 10°C).

Blackfoot Regional Park is located on the south bank of the Peace River, at the base of the river valley. This northern aspect likely contributes to a slightly cooler, shadier micro-climate than sites on the adjacent river banks.

The park is situated in a wooded area mainly composed of poplar and aspen trees as well as birch, spruce, and native undergrowth vegetation. The park's setting on the Peace River provides a rich habitat for terrestrial wildlife and nesting bird populations. The Peace River flats feature silt, gravel, and driftwood and can present variable conditions depending on seasonal fluctuations.

The river valley possesses unique characteristics influenced by varying river flows. These varied flows are a challenge for site planning as areas adjacent to and in the park may be inundated during some parts of the year, and dry during others.

TOPOGRAPHY & HYDROLOGY

Adjacency to the Peace River is a defining feature of Blackfoot Regional Park. Peace River low flows occur during the winter months while peak flows typically occur in late May or early June; however, significant floods have also been recorded during the summer months (BC Hydro, 2007).

A low point exists in the northeast part of the site, and is flooded when river flows increase. This depressed area fills with water, which remains standing after river flows recede. This area remains wet through the year, creating habitat and breeding areas for amphibians, songbirds, and ungulates (Triton Environmental Consultants Ltd., 2010).

The Alces River drains into the Peace River on the opposite side of the river from the park. The Peace River is approximately 240 m wide at this point, so there is minimal potential for park activities to affect the mouth of the Alces.

The main camping area is located on a flat plateau, above the river's high-water mark. The southwest portion of the park slopes up the valley embankment making it less accessible for recreation activity than the plateau where the existing campground has been established.

An Archaeology Overview Assessment (AOA), completed in 2010 indicated that while no archaeological sites have been identified in Blackfoot Regional Park, there is potential for sites to occur (Golder, 2010). Improvements that include subsurface activity may require archaeological investigation or monitoring.

ACCESS

Blackfoot Regional Park is on 203 Road which is accessed from Rolla Road to the south and Clayhurst Road or Golata Creek Road to the north. Both routes include sections of unpaved road near the park and have steep grades as the road descends into the Peace River Valley.

Within the park, existing gravel-topped roads circulate through the flat central portion of the site providing access to camping areas and amenities.

The park does not have an existing formalized trail network.



Figure 3: Blackfoot Regional Park Context

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

The following documents provide guidance when planning for Blackfoot Regional Park:

Rural Official Community Plan Bylaw 1940

Blackfoot Regional Park will adhere to guidelines outlined in the Rural OCP. The Rural OCP outlines goals to support the establishment of parks and recreational facilities with the recreational use of Crown land to enhance lifestyle opportunities.

Key policies for lands designated Park and Natural Environments include:

- ▶ Principle uses of land should include, but not be limited to, outdoor recreation, campgrounds, agriculture, ecological reserves, work that supports ecological protection, conservation, or restoration, and interpretive structures.
- ▶ Collaboration with the public, not-for-profits, government agencies, or other organizations to identify and protect environmentally-sensitive areas is encouraged.
- ▶ The Peace River is recognized as a "BC Heritage River" through the Ministry of Environment's BC Heritage Rivers Program.
- ▶ Collaboration should be undertaken with the Province, stakeholders, and agencies to address "all terrain recreational vehicle (ATV) use" and discourage ATV damage.

Parks Regulation Bylaw 860

Bylaw 860 provides regulation and use of community and regional parks.

The bylaw outlines regulations for camping and for special park use permits. At present, a permit for camping or other activities is not required for Blackfoot Regional Park and the PRRD does not have a reservation system to administer permits. The bylaw also includes rules and regulations for use of parks.

Parks and Trails Master Plan

PRRD's Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan (2014) outlines a number of recommendations for Blackfoot Regional Park including:

- ▶ Initiating a process to acquire the private land which is currently used to access to the campsite at the east end of the park.
- ▶ Development of new camping sites;
- ▶ Consideration for an on-site sani-dump station;
- ▶ Development of walking trails; and
- ▶ Establishment of a summer park attendant.

Environmental Guidelines

Future development in Blackfoot Regional Park will need to consider environmental guidelines and regulations to minimize erosion and sediment transportation due to its proximity to the Peace River. These include land development guidelines for the protection of terrestrial and aquatic habitat (Ministry of Environment Protection and Sustainability).

British Columbia Heritage Rivers Program, Ministry of Environment (BC Parks)

The Peace River is recognized as one of twenty rivers in BC proclaimed as "BC Heritage Rivers". The program is intended to emphasize river-related values during planning processes, raise awareness of the importance of a healthy river system, protect special values, and build stronger public support and involvement in stewardship.



Continuing to increase community recreation opportunity at Blackfoot Regional Park will support objectives of the OCP and planning documents.

2.3 EXISTING PARK ELEMENTS

Blackfoot Regional Park is a campground and day-use park. Figure 4 documents the existing park features and initial observations about their current function. The numbers on the map correspond with descriptions on subsequent pages.

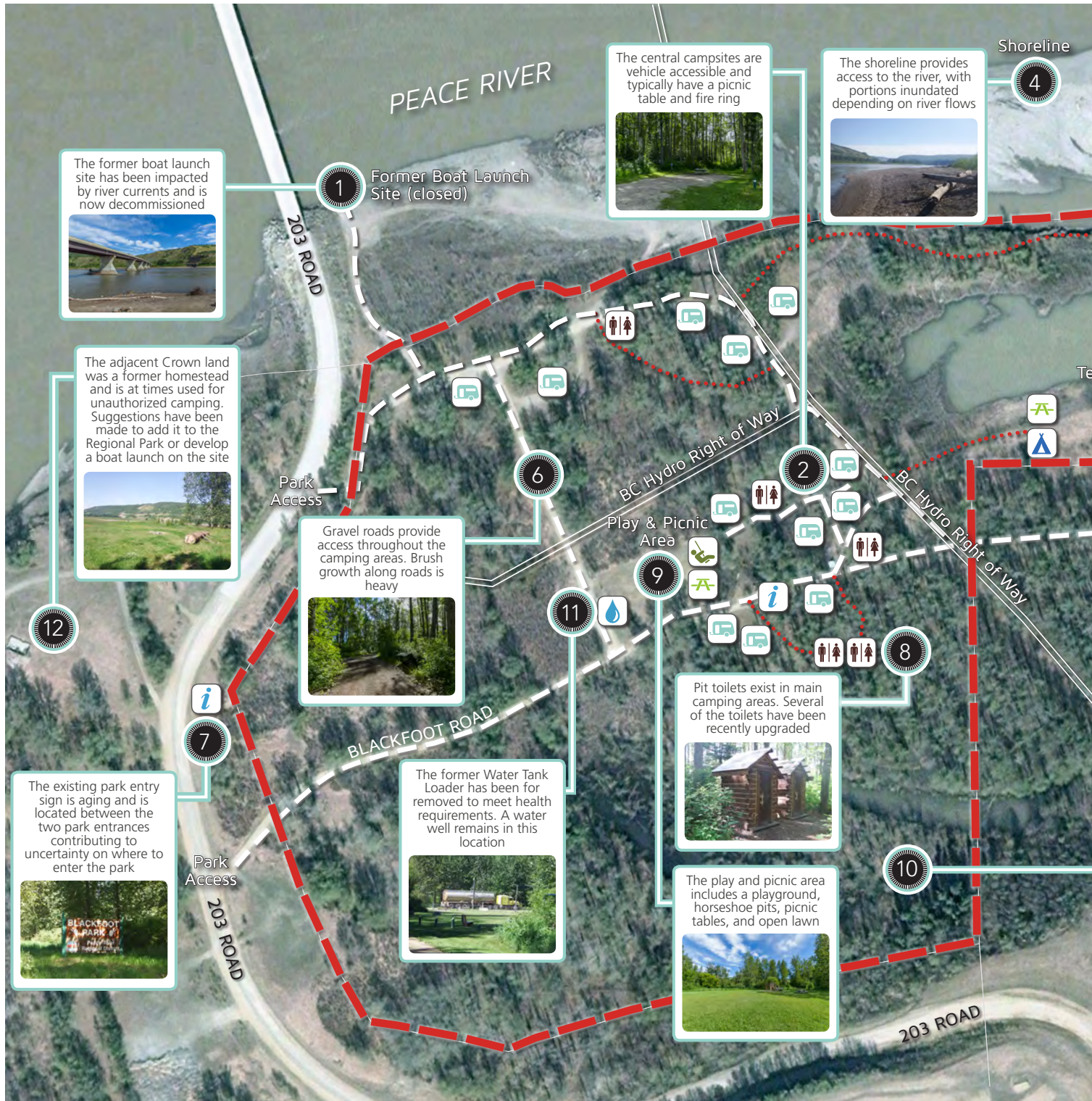


Figure 4: Blackfoot Regional Park Existing Features

1 FORMER BOAT LAUNCH (CLOSED)

ABOUT: A former boat launch provided access to the Peace River from the mid 1990s to early 2000s. A small parking area on native material was located nearby, and a track allowed users to pull through and back to the campsite area. The launch was damaged by river currents, potentially in part due to dislodged rip rap from the adjacent Bennett Bridge revetment and has been closed since 2003. The launch was decommissioned and remediated in 2014.

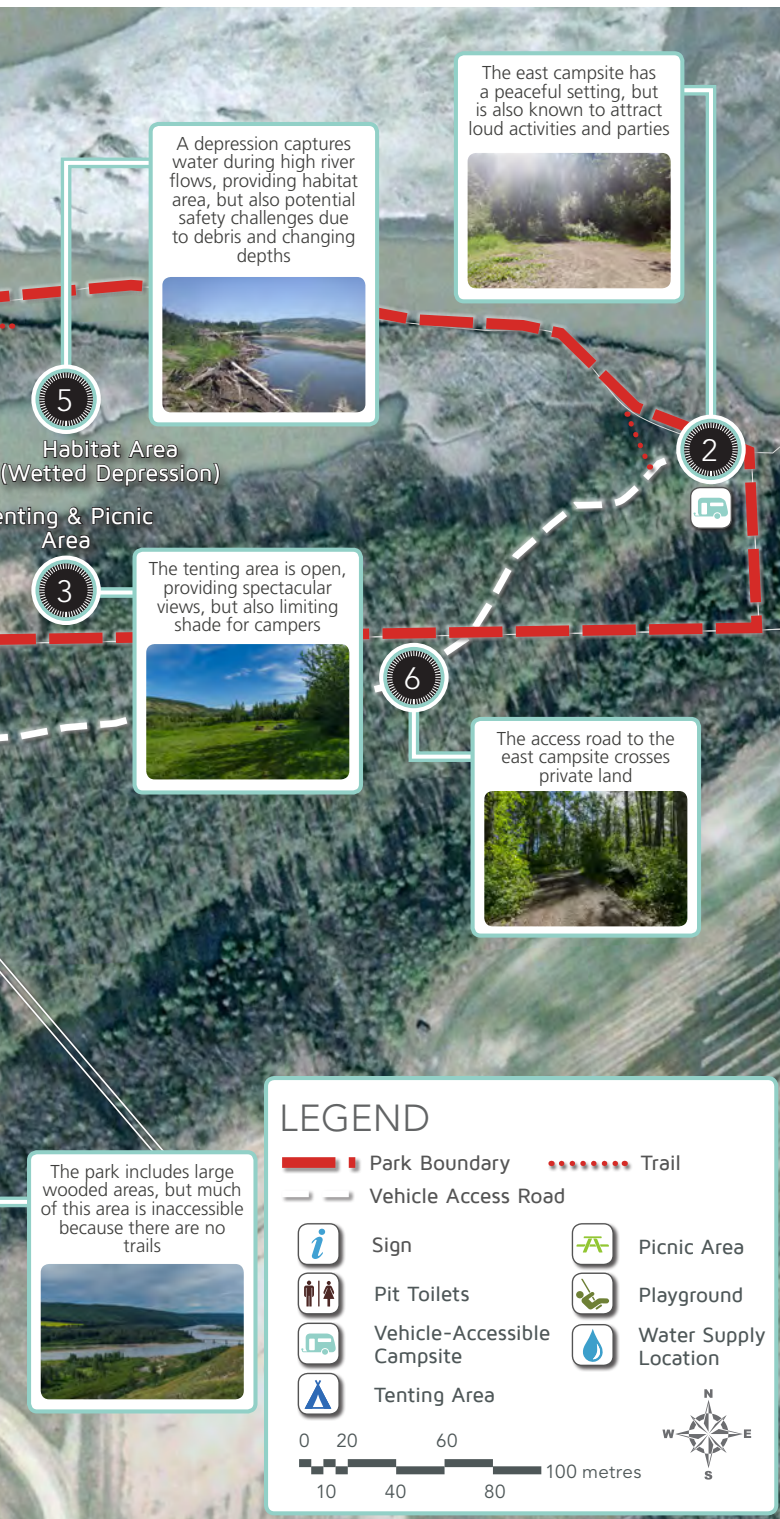
BC Hydro's 2007 Peace River Water Use Plan identified Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park as one of four locations for providing Peace River access. In 2013, the Comptroller of Water Rights granted relief from the project due to concerns about flooding issues, complexity of construction within the Peace River, cost, and proximity to Taylor Boat Launch (located 90 km away by road, 40 km by water, in District of Taylor).

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ A boat launch is a desirable amenity for the campground as well as for local residents.
- ▶ The former launch location works well for the current park layout; however, river currents in this location may be an issue.
- ▶ The adjacent Crown land on the west side of 203 Road has also been previously identified as a potential alternate site for a boat launch.



The former boat launch site included a concrete ramp which has now been fully decommissioned due to safety concerns.



2 VEHICLE CAMPSITES

ABOUT: There are 13 vehicle-accessible campsites within the park. Campsites typically consist of a cleared area with gravel access and a picnic table and fire ring.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ Many of the sites are surrounded by trees and vegetation allowing for privacy and shade. People value this setting and would prefer to see future improvements that maintain it.
- ▶ Some sites do not have well-defined gravel areas, with parking and access on grass. These sites can be muddy during wet weather. The lack of clearly defined parking area can also lead to vehicles encroaching into natural areas.
- ▶ Some sites would benefit from levelling.
- ▶ The single site at the far east of the park is known to attract noise and parties.



A key asset of the existing campsites is the surrounding vegetation that increases privacy and shade.

3 TENTING/PICNIC AREA

ABOUT: A tenting and picnic area sits atop a small knoll in the centre of the park, providing spectacular views to the Peace River.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ The area is mainly open, limiting shade and privacy for tenters camping in the area.
- ▶ Parking for this area is accommodated in a pull-off from the access road about 100 m from the tenting area.
- ▶ There are no toilets the area.



Views from the tenting/picnic area.



Parking area and pathway leading to the tenting/picnic area.

4 SHORELINE

ABOUT: While outside the park boundary, the Peace River shoreline is a key feature of the park. During regular river flows, an accessible rock/sand beach provides river access.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ River flows on the Peace River can change quickly and dramatically, limiting opportunities for improvements in these areas.
- ▶ The shoreline near the east of the park features flatter areas and sandier beach, making it potentially more user-friendly.
- ▶ Log-jams frequently occur along the shore, potentially blocking access at times.
- ▶ There is no formal, well-graded trail access to the shoreline.

5 HABITAT AREA (WETTED DEPRESSION)

ABOUT: In the east part of the park, a low depression exists. When the Peace River rises, this depression is flushed with river water and standing water remains through the year after the river recedes.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ This area is identified as providing good rearing and breeding habitat for amphibians and is likely used by other species of birds, small mammals, and ungulates. While it may be used by a variety of species, previous environmental reviews did not deem the area to be critical habitat (Triton, 2010).
- ▶ While the site provides interesting interpretive opportunities, access is not recommended due to challenges with unpredictability of river flows and large debris.
- ▶ Opportunities for trail development and interpretive views may be warranted.



Beach area at the west end of the park.



Beach area at the east end of the park.



Vegetation and debris around the habitat area.

6 ACCESS ROADS

ABOUT: Access roads throughout the park are gravel-topped with a narrow cross-section.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ Narrow roadways help create an intimate, campground-like character, but need to be adequate to accommodate large RVs.
- ▶ All roads currently accommodate two-way traffic, although potential may exist to convert some to one-way to improve wayfinding.
- ▶ The road to the east campsite is on private land.
- ▶ Vegetation growth along the roads is heavy, which may be a perceived barrier for larger RVs. Brushing is done as availability permits.
- ▶ Circulation is not signed and input suggests the road layout can be confusing.



Some park roads are narrow with substantial vegetation growth.



Circulation in some areas of the park is confusing with several routes alternatives.

7 PARK ENTRY

ABOUT: Blackfoot Regional Park is accessed from 203 Road on the south side of the Bennett Bridge.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ There are two park entry roads, neither of which is indicated as the main park entry.
- ▶ The existing park sign is dated and its location, between the park entry roads, contributes to uncertainty on where to enter the park.



The existing park entry sign does not reflect current PRRD style or brand.

8 TOILETS

ABOUT: Five pit toilets are located throughout the park.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ Three of the toilets have been recently upgraded; the remaining toilets are older concrete-style.
- ▶ Some park locations (e.g., the tenting/picnic area and the eastern campsite) do not have nearby access to toilets.



Newer-style toilet buildings.



Older-style toilet building.

9 PLAY & PICNIC AREA

ABOUT: The play and picnic area is in the centre of the park and features a playground, swing set, horseshoe pitch, picnic tables, and open lawn area.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ The area is large – approximately 3,375 sq.m, or just under one acre in size.

10 WOODED AREAS

ABOUT: A large portion of the park is wooded, providing an attractive forested backdrop.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ Much of the wooded area is inaccessible.

11 WATER SUPPLY

ABOUT: A community well was previously built in the park to supply non-potable water for agricultural use via a water tank loader for filling large trucks. In 2017 the loader was decommissioned to meet Northern Health requirements.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ Opportunities may exist to use the well water supply as a source for developing potable water to service the park.

12 ADJACENT CROWN LAND

ABOUT: The adjacent Crown land lot was a former homestead. Input has suggested consideration to add it to the Regional Park.

KEY OBSERVATIONS:

- ▶ People have been observed camping on the Crown land, though access is unauthorized.
- ▶ Improvements such as road development and decommissioning of remaining structures and well, would be required if the Crown land was considered for public park use.



The play and picnic area includes a large open lawn.



The mature aspen form a beautiful tree canopy, but have been showing signs of age with breakages and tree loss.



Water trucks formerly used the water tank loader, which has now been decommissioned.



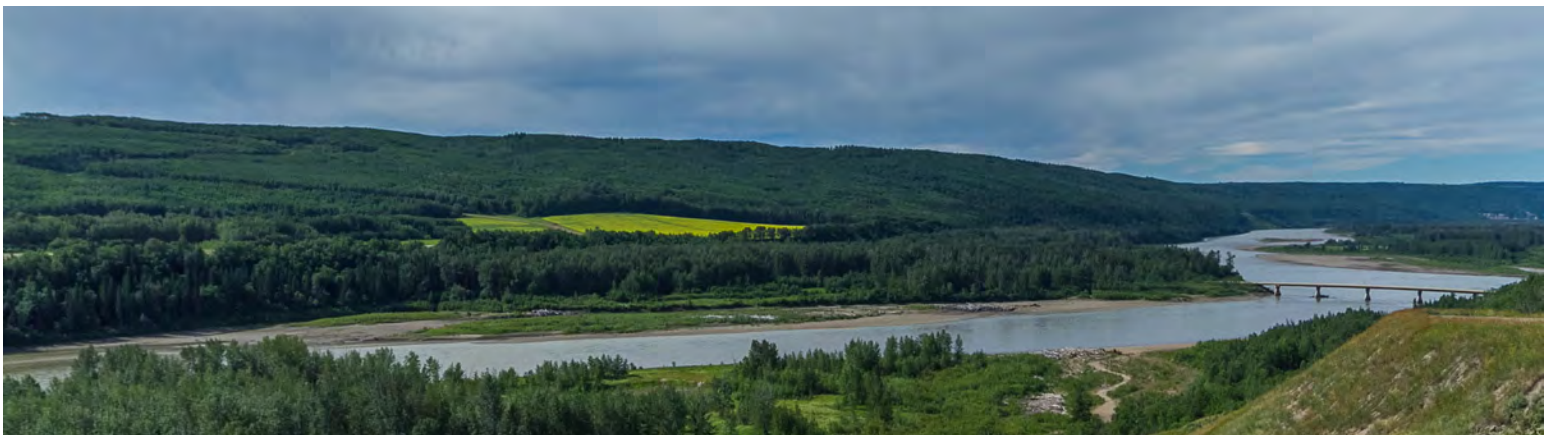
The Crown land site is relatively flat and open.

2.4 KEY PARK CHALLENGES

Key challenges to be considered in the planning process for Blackfoot Regional Park include:

- ▶ **Location:** The park's remote location, away from heavily travelled routes, means people must be purposeful in choosing to go to the park.
- ▶ **Awareness:** There is limited awareness about the park, amenities, and location. Often people remark they are surprised that the campground exists. There is limited online information available and no signage directing people from major roads to the park.
- ▶ **Safety:** The park's location in the river valley does not allow cell phone coverage or access to Wi-Fi, limiting communications for park visitors, as well as response time for emergency services or police patrol. This isolation appears to contribute to undesirable activities occurring in the park including ATV use, partying, firearm activity, noise, etc. Concerns about these activities may discourage other users from visiting. Unauthorized ATV use on the park roads was identified as a particular concern.
- ▶ **Lack of Services:** The park currently provides no access to potable water, sanitary, or power. Toilets are pit toilets only. The remote location of the park means access to goods if needed (e.g., firewood) is also limited.
- ▶ **Uncertainty about Availability:** A concern identified by park users was uncertainty of campsites being available, as there is no reservation system. Reservations could help alleviate uncertainty which may affect people choosing to come to the park.
- ▶ **Roads & Parking:** The road configuration is confusing and a main park access road crosses private property. The roads in the park are relatively narrow with two-way traffic and encroaching vegetation, which can pose issues for large recreational vehicles. There is no dedicated day-use parking.
- ▶ **Limited Recreational Amenities:** While people enjoy the camping, nature, and river access at the park, additional amenities may attract more users. Today the park does not have a formalized trail network and has only a few recreation features (e.g., small children's playground).
- ▶ **No Boat Access:** The lack of a functioning boat launch may deter people from using the park.

While there are a number of challenges affecting Blackfoot Regional Park, its location on the Peace River and the natural backdrop provide substantial opportunity for continuing to attract visitors to the park.



2.5 PARK USERS AND ACTIVITIES

Blackfoot Regional Park's natural assets provide outdoor recreation opportunities. Participants in the Study identified the following activities occurring in Blackfoot Regional Park:

- ▶ Picnicking
- ▶ Nature appreciation and learning
- ▶ Camping (RV or trailer)
- ▶ Camping (tent)
- ▶ Swimming, playing in the water, sunbathing
- ▶ Hiking
- ▶ Playground activities
- ▶ Birdwatching
- ▶ Motorized sports (ATVs)
- ▶ Historical interest (Former Clayhurst Ferry Crossing)
- ▶ Boating (motorized)
- ▶ Boating (non-motorized)
- ▶ Fishing
- ▶ Dog walking
- ▶ Winter sports (e.g. tobogganing)
- ▶ Mountain biking

CAMPING

Camping is a primary use for Blackfoot Regional Park and is anticipated to continue to be so into the future. Planning for the types of campers the PRRD wishes to attract to and accommodate at the park is an important consideration for planning how the park will develop.

As the camping experience has evolved, so to have the people participating in camping. Brooker and Meyer (2013) categorize types of campers in their article "*Trends in camping and outdoor hospitality - An international review.*" Table 1 on the following page summarizes camper categories and provides commentary on whether they are likely / desired audiences for camping at Blackfoot Regional Park.

Figure 5: The Camping Spectrum



Table 1: Types of Campers¹

Camper	Description	Anticipated Use of Blackfoot Regional Park
Full-time Campers: Mobile	People who live year-round in a motorhome or trailer, but move from location to location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Low ▶ Potential for some mobile users to visit during summer months
Full-time Campers: Stationary	People who live year-round in a motorhome or trailer in one location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ None ▶ Not suitable for year-round use
Long-term Campers: Seasonal	People who park their motorhome or trailer on a particular site for use on vacations or weekends during the camping season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Low ▶ Not currently permitted, but may warrant consideration in a limited capacity if demand arises
Long-term Campers: Workers	People who are employed in local industries and live temporarily in campgrounds during the work season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Low ▶ Park location is likely too remote, but could be considered in a limited capacity if demand arises
Long-term Campers: Work Campers	People who are employed part-time by the campground for maintenance and administration in exchange for a site and access to amenities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ High ▶ Plan recommends a seasonal work camper(s) (i.e., park attendant) to help manage the site
Short-term Campers: Families	Families that consider camping an affordable travel option and an opportunity for quality time and access to outdoor leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Very High ▶ Additional amenities and a park attendant may attract more families to use the park
Short-term Campers: Partier	People who view camping as an opportunity to have fun, hang-out with friends, and relax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Very High ▶ Establishment of a park attendant may help encourage more responsible use by this group
Short-term Campers: Soft-rugged	Mature campers who use motorhomes and RVs to increase the comfort of camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ High ▶ Accommodating a range of vehicle sizes and providing access to power, water, and/or sanitary may increase this type
Short-term Campers: Extreme	Adventurers who seek out primitive, intense, and challenging wilderness experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Low ▶ Park does not provide access to "extreme" adventure
Short-term Campers: Average	People who participate in more "traditional" camping including the outdoors, campfires, a tent, and socializing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Very High ▶ The park's natural setting makes it a strong candidate for this group
Short-term Campers: Group	Collection of people who travel and camp together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ High ▶ A variety of sites will encourage both individual and group opportunities

¹ Adapted from "Trends in camping and outdoor hospitality - An international review," Brooker and Meyer, 2013.

2.6 TREND ANALYSIS

Trends – local, regional, national, and international – affect how people use and enjoy parks. Trends evolve alongside community interests and pursuits over time. Current trends that may influence Blackfoot Regional Park include:

Age Demographics:

The median age in Canada has been increasing through the past decade and the future proportion of senior citizens is anticipated to grow. Segments of this population pursue camping for leisure, but most often seek out amenities that make camping more comfortable and convenient.

At the other end of the spectrum, KOA's 2017 *North American Camping Report* shows an increasing number of Millennials participating in camping to "get away" from the busyness of daily life (KOA, 2017). Younger campers have shown a demand for group camping and experiences they can enjoy with their friends and family (KOA, 2017).

Camping Preferences:

Participation in camping continues to rise, attributable to factors such as the perceived value of natural experiences, increased variety of camping options, increased quality of products and amenities, and desire to escape the stress of daily life (Brooker & Joppe). KOA's 2017 *North American Camping Report* indicates that in 2016 approximately 66% of Canadians reported camping at least occasionally (KOA, 2017).

Public preferences for camping continues to evolve. In previous decades tents and small campers were the norm; however, today, many campers prefer larger recreational vehicles and trailers equipped with a range of comforts. Campgrounds are evolving to accommodate the size and manoeuvring requirements of these vehicles and to provide power, water, and sanitary access.

Technology:

Today's campers expect more access to technology than before. A KOA study completed in 2015 indicated that over half (51%) of campers claim to go online at least once a day when camping and 41% say that having free Wi-Fi influences their decision to stay at a campground (KOA, 2015). The limited services available in Blackfoot Regional Park will affect this potential provision.

Environment:

As the local climate changes, there may be warmer, wetter summers or colder, drier winters. In PRRD, climate-related issues such as wildfires, pest infestation, vegetation management, and floods may impact Blackfoot Regional Park. Careful consideration of potential environmental or climate challenges when planning capital investments and management will be important.



In recent years, camping is increasing in popularity as a way to escape the stress of daily living and reconnect with nature, family, and ourselves.

2.7 DEMAND ANALYSIS

Within the Peace River Regional District, there are four other regional parks; 35 Provincial Parks and Protected Areas; 21 Recreation Sites, and numerous private campgrounds. Understanding the other types of campgrounds within the local area assists when considering the type of facilities and services that may be desirable in Blackfoot Regional Park. Identifying a niche will help encourage use of the park.

There are five other publicly-owned campgrounds within 50 km of Blackfoot Regional Park and eight privately-owned campgrounds. Table 2 on the following page summarizes each of these campgrounds. Of the campgrounds in the area, there are a limited number that provide opportunities for camping in a highly natural park setting. Capitalizing on the natural character of the park, while enhancing amenities available to campers, may fill a particular camping need in the area.

Figure 6: Campsites in Close Proximity to Blackfoot Regional Park



Table 2: Campsites within a 50 km Radius of Blackfoot Regional Park

Campsite	Km to Park (driving)	Ownership	Description	Cost
Ole's Lake Provincial Recreation Area <i>Range Rd, Bear Canyon, AB</i>	36	Cherry Canyon Recreation Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 18 unserviced campsites ▶ Amenities: water pump (non-potable), fire rings, pit toilets, firewood ▶ Recreation amenities: playground, boat launch, fish cleaning station, pier 	▶ \$12.50/vehicle site
Clear River Campground <i>Hwy 64, Cleardale, AB</i>	47	Cleardale Ag Society & Rec Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Unserved campsites ▶ Amenities: picnic shelter, grill, water, toilets, firewood, sani-dump, group area ▶ Recreation amenities: playground, beach, trails 	▶ unknown
Mile 0 Campsite <i>1901 Alaska Ave., Dawson Creek, BC</i>	55	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 27 full service sites (15-30-50 amp power, water, sewer) ▶ 40 partial service sites (power, water) ▶ 10 tent camping sites ▶ Amenities: free Wi-Fi, showers, laundry, plumbed restrooms, sani-dump ▶ Recreation amenities: walking trails, pool, near Pioneer Village, near golf course 	▶ \$30-\$50/ vehicle site
Tubby's RV Park & Car Wash <i>96 Ave, Dawson Creek, BC</i>	55	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 90 full service sites (20-30 amp power, water, sewer) ▶ 8 tent camping sites ▶ Amenities: Wi-Fi, showers, sani-dump, laundry, flush toilets, RV wash and storage, near golf course 	▶ \$35/vehicle site
Central Motel & RV Park <i>Alaska Ave., Dawson Creek, BC</i>	55	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Partial service sites (20-30 amp power) ▶ Amenities: Wi-Fi 	▶ unknown
Alahart RV Park <i>Alaska Hwy, Dawson Creek</i>	55	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 36 full service sites (15-30-50 amp power, water, sewer) ▶ 8 partial service sites (15-30-50 amp power) ▶ Tent area ▶ Amenities: flush toilets, showers, sani-dump, TV hook-up, laundry, Wi-Fi ▶ Recreational amenities: grassy picnic area 	▶ \$31-\$40/ vehicle site

Campsite	Km to Park (driving)	Ownership	Description	Cost
Farmington Fairways Golf & RV Resort <i>Alaska Hwy, Farmington, BC</i>	56	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Full service sites (30-50 amp power, water, sewer) ▶ Amenities: flush toilets, showers, sani-dump, fire pits, firewood, laundry ▶ Recreation amenities: golf course, clubhouse, restaurant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ \$30-\$50/ vehicle site
Farmington Store RV Park & Campground <i>5025 BC-97, Farmington, BC</i>	57	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Grassy serviced sites (30-50 amp) ▶ Amenities: Wi-Fi, free firewood, convenience store, post office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ \$35/vehicle site (30 amp) ▶ \$40/vehicle site (50 amp)
Northern Lights RV Park <i>John Hart Hwy 97, Dawson Creek, BC</i>	57	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 92 full service sites (30-50 amp power, water, sewer) ▶ 2 tent camping sites ▶ Amenities: flush toilets, showers, Wi-Fi, laundry, convenience store, grill, RV storage, firewood, water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ \$45/vehicle site (30 amp) ▶ \$50/vehicle site (50 amp) ▶ \$28/tent site ▶ \$133/cabin
Kiskatinaw Provincial Park <i>Kiskatinaw Rd, Farmington, BC</i>	67	Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 28 unserviced vehicle sites ▶ Basic amenities including pit toilets, hand pump drinking water ▶ Recreation amenities: playground, historical bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ \$20/vehicle site
Cotillion Campground, <i>County of Saddle Hills, off Range Road 120, AB</i>	86	Private	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 5 partial service sites (power) ▶ 8 unserviced sites ▶ 2 large group areas ▶ Amenities: free firewood, sani-dump, group fire pit, shelter with power and running water, flush toilets, outdoor shower, wood stove, phone ▶ Recreation amenities: horse hitching, playground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ \$20/vehicle site (power) ▶ \$15/vehicle site (no power)
Peace Island Park <i>Mile 35 Alaska Hwy, Taylor, BC</i>	90	District of Taylor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 39 unserviced vehicle sites ▶ 60 full service vehicle sites ▶ 18 group sites ▶ Amenities: flush toilets, showers (off site), sani-dump (off site) ▶ Recreation amenities: picnic shelters, walking trails, horseshoe pits, historic display, playgrounds, shelter with cook-house, water pump, firewood, boat launch, cross-country ski/snowshoe trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ \$20/vehicle site ▶ \$25/vehicle site (power) ▶ \$40/vehicle site (full service) ▶ \$80/group site

3 | WHAT WE HEARD



An integral component of the Regional Park Design Study was understanding the values and concerns of community members and stakeholders so that the resulting plan for Blackfoot Regional Park is comprehensive and publicly supported.

3.1 ENGAGEMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW

The process included two rounds of engagement:

► **Public Input #1: Gathering Ideas**

Public Input #1 focused on gathering information and perspectives about the park today and hearing ideas for future improvements. Engagement included public outreach, an interactive community event on Sunday, July 30, 2017 at Blackfoot Regional Park, and a public questionnaire.

► **Public Input #2: Review of Draft Concepts and Recommendations**

Public Input #2 focused on defining a realistic and supported concept and framework for the park based on two illustrated concepts. Engagement included outreach, public displays at the U17 World Hockey Tournament in Fort St. John and Dawson Creek, and a response form to gather opinions on preferred directions.

Audiences involved included:

- Park Users
- Residents of the PRRD
- Identified Stakeholders
- PRRD Staff
- PRRD Regional Parks Committee
- PRRD Regional Board

Key outcomes from each round of engagement are summarized on the subsequent pages.

3.2 PUBLIC INPUT #1: GATHERING IDEAS

Input indicated that park users appreciate the relaxed, natural, and rustic setting of Blackfoot Regional Park, but that the park configuration and amenities could be functionally improved. Input also indicated that increased park management and maintenance is desirable.

DEMOGRAPHICS

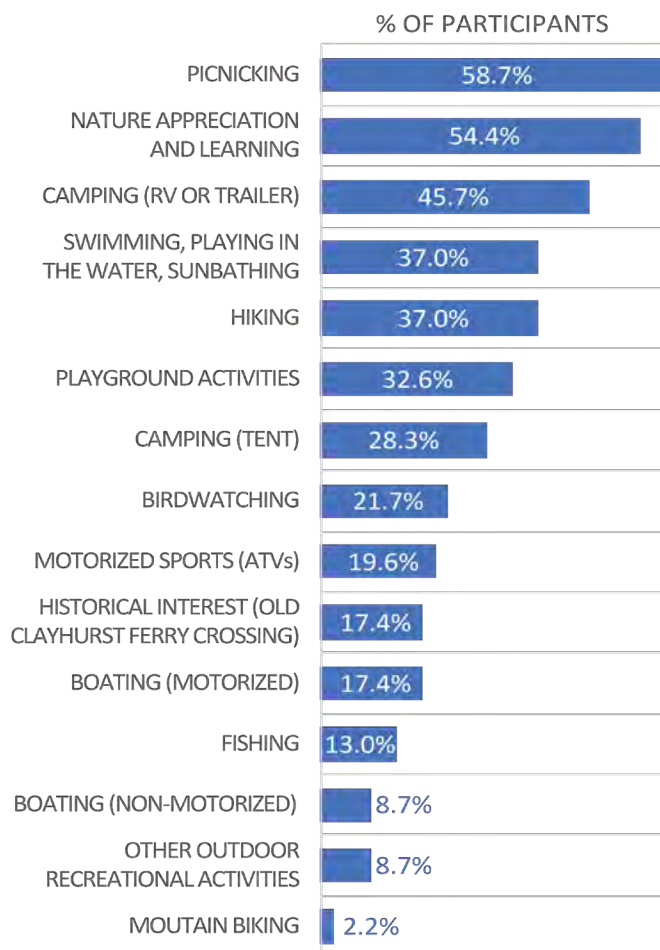
66% of participants visit Blackfoot Regional Park at least once per year

- ▶ Over half of survey participants reside in either Dawson Creek or Fort St. John
- ▶ About three-quarters of participants were between the ages of 30 and 59

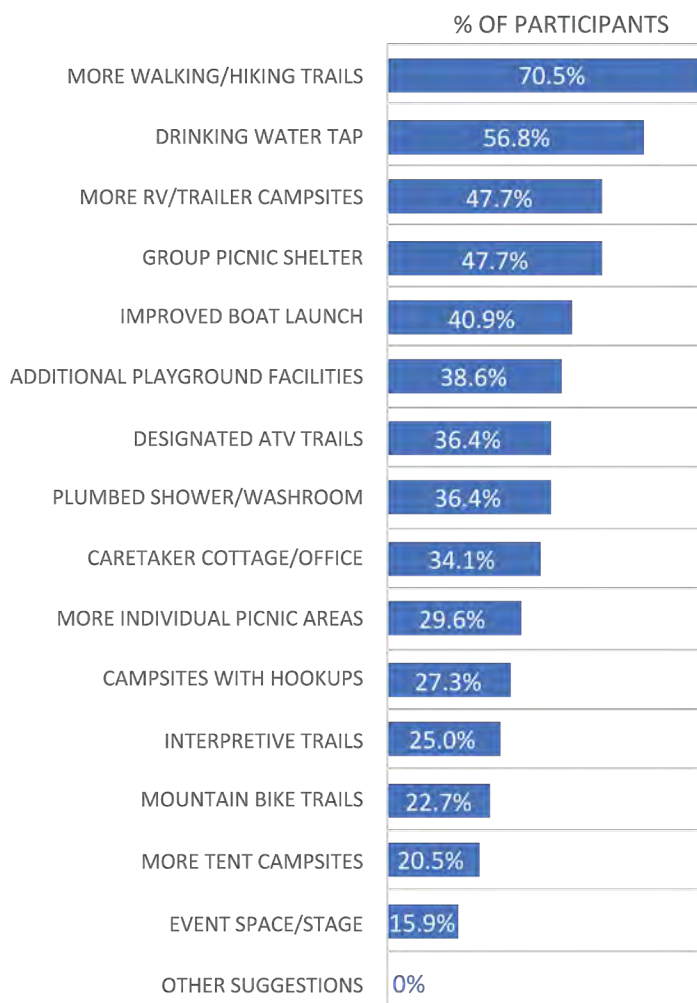
PUBLIC INPUT #1 DETAILS

- ▶ An interactive "Ideas Event" was held at the park on July 30, 2017, 11 am to 2 pm
- ▶ A comprehensive public outreach program was undertaken between July 14 and August 18, 2017
- ▶ Approximately **30** people attended the event at the park
- ▶ **84** questionnaires were received

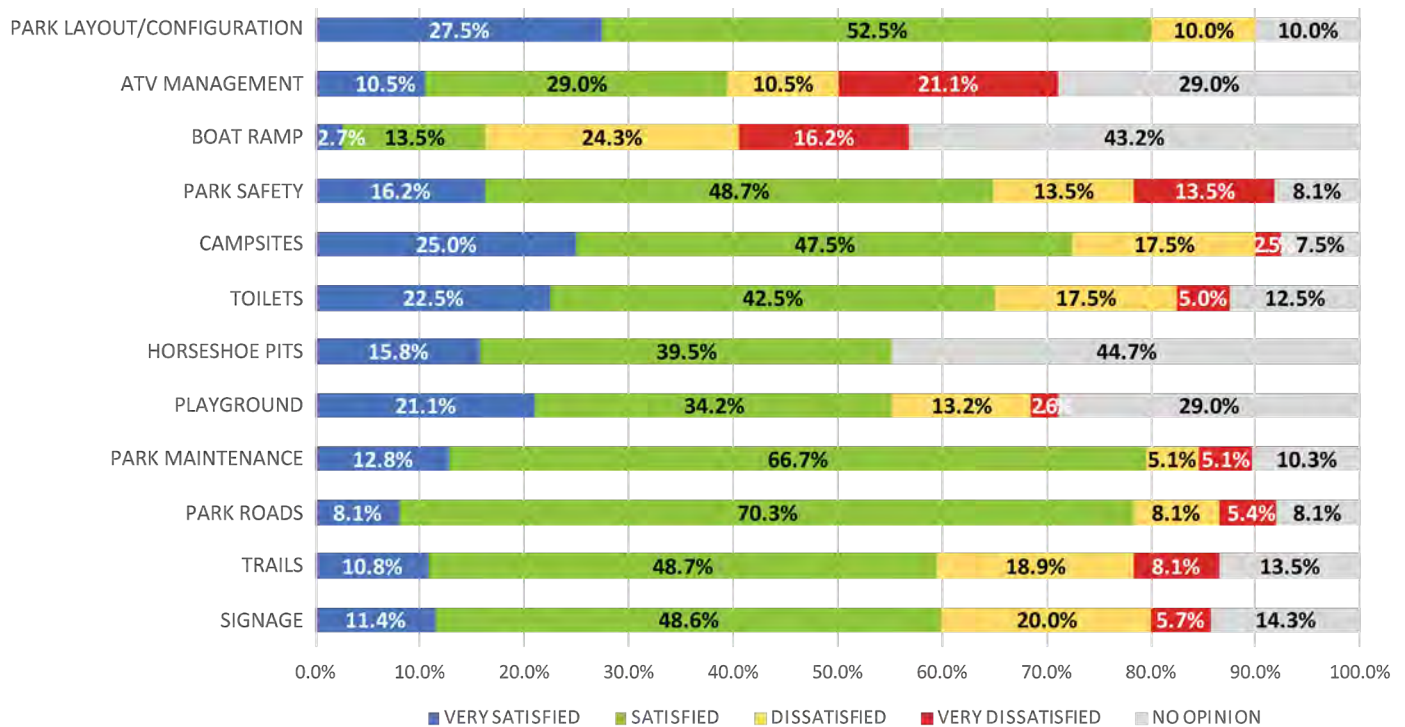
ACTIVITIES THAT PEOPLE DO AT THE PARK



MOST DESIRED AMENITIES



SATISFACTION WITH PARK ELEMENTS



ISSUES OR CONCERNS

- ▶ Lack of park management and regulation for safety, vandalism, control of parties, and ATVs
- ▶ Poor campground configuration
- ▶ Limited number of campsites
- ▶ No hook-ups
- ▶ Lack of reservation system to indicate availability of campsites
- ▶ Limited park information, particularly since park is remote
- ▶ Limited activities and programming for families
- ▶ Road conditions
- ▶ Lack of adequate boat access
- ▶ No marked trails for hiking and walking
- ▶ Inadequate washroom facilities
- ▶ Lack of fresh drinking water supply
- ▶ Concerns about steep slopes and safety
- ▶ Insufficient maintenance
- ▶ Inadequate day-use area

76%

of participants would consider paid camping if amenities were added/improved

SEE APPENDIX A FOR THE FULL PUBLIC INPUT #1 SUMMARY

3.3 PUBLIC INPUT #2: REVIEW OF DRAFT CONCEPTS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Phase one public input, along with background analysis, was used to develop preliminary options for Blackfoot Regional Park. During Public Input #2, participants provided feedback on the draft options to identify preferred directions.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- ▶ Three-quarters of survey participants reside in either Dawson Creek or Fort St. John
- ▶ Age of participants was well-distributed among all age groups with about one-third of participants within the 30 to 39 age range

DRAFT VISION & GOALS

86% of participants agreed or strongly agreed with the draft vision

- ▶ Draft goals were broadly supported with feedback emphasizing increased park amenities and activities, resolution of use issues, and increased park maintenance

SEE APPENDIX B FOR THE CONCEPT OPTIONS DEVELOPED FOR BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

PUBLIC INPUT #2 DETAILS

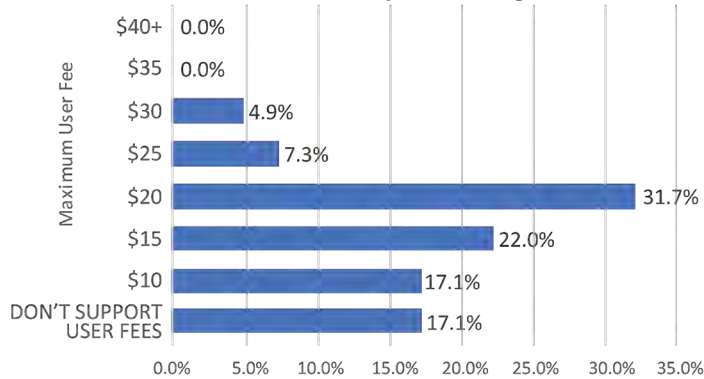
- ▶ A booth was set-up at North Peace Arena in Fort St. John and the Encana Events Centre in Dawson Creek during the U17 World Hockey Challenge November 6 to 11, 2017
- ▶ Public information displays were also available at community public meetings in Doe River and Farmington
- ▶ A comprehensive public outreach program was undertaken between October 30 and November 27, 2017
- ▶ **Hundreds** of people viewed the information at the events
- ▶ **69** response forms were received

PREFERRED DIRECTIONS FOR BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

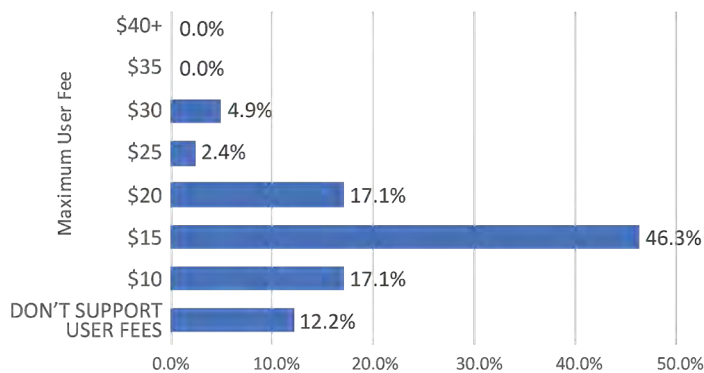
- ▶ **Vehicle Campsites:** Moderate increase in sites (+/- 40 total) and addition of serviced sites
- ▶ **Tent Campsites:** Tent camping with walk-in access and addition of a vault toilet and group picnic area
- ▶ **Roads:** Access to east end of park remains open to vehicles with landowner agreement
- ▶ **Trails:** Development of trail network including large and small hiking loops and a potential interpretive area
- ▶ **Site Services:** Addition of a new amenity building with flush toilets, showers, and drinking water
- ▶ **Picnic & Play Area:** Addition of new amenities including a new picnic shelter, group BBQ area, information kiosk, and day-use parking
- ▶ **Boat Launch:** Support for continuing to pursue boat launch at or near the park
- ▶ **ATV Management:** Mixed feedback with the largest number supporting designated ATV sites and an on-site manager to monitor use
- ▶ **Park Operations:** Support for paid camping with a park attendant and campsite reservations

SUPPORT FOR USER FEES

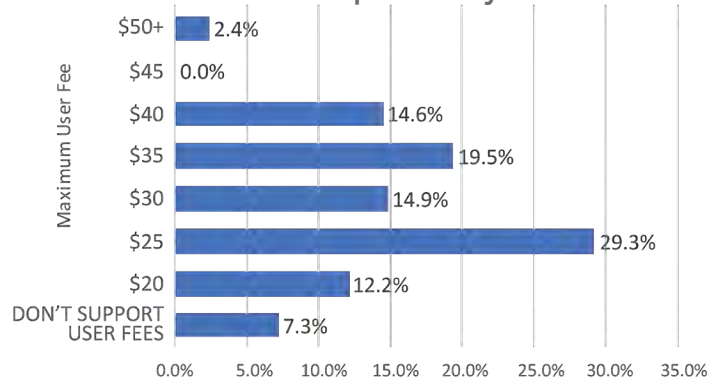
Unserviced Vehicle Campsites/Day



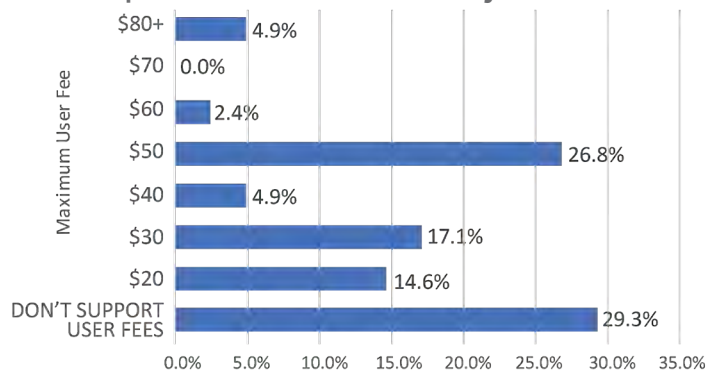
Tent Campsites/Day



Serviced Vehicle Campsites/Day



Group Picnic Shelter Rental/Day



PRIORITIES

- 1 Amenities – Add Drinking Water for Campers
- 2 Circulation – Develop Nature Trails
- 3 Campsites – Add New Unserviced Sites
- 4 Campsites – Add New Serviced (Power + Water) Sites
- 4 Amenities – Add Showers + Flush Toilets Building
- 4 Amenities – Re-establish a Boat Launch
- 7 Amenities – Add Group Picnic Shelter/BBQ Facilities
- 8 Campsites – Improve Existing Unserviced Sites
- 9 Management – Add Reservation System
- 10 Campsites – Improve Tenting Sites
- 10 Circulation – Improve Roads & Park Entry
- 10 Management – Improve Maintenance
- 13 Amenities – Improve Vault Toilets
- 13 Amenities – Improve Day-use Area
- 15 Circulation – Improve Signage/Park Maps
- 15 Management – Improve ATV Management
- 15 Other

SEE APPENDIX C FOR THE FULL
PUBLIC INPUT #2 SUMMARY



In the future, Blackfoot Regional Park will offer a getaway that allows people to reconnect with nature and family.

4 | VISION, GOALS & PROGRAM



4.1 VISION

A vision describes a long-term future for Blackfoot Regional Park. It is a guiding statement and a touchstone for consideration when making decisions about changes and development. The vision for Blackfoot Regional Park was developed based on public input, direction from previous planning efforts, background research, and input from Committee.

Blackfoot Regional Park invites people to explore the natural splendour of the Peace River in a rustic, quiet, and family-friendly forest campground with trails and river access. The park will be a place for many great adventures and memories. Visitors will have the opportunity to get away into nature, while still enjoying basic comforts in their home away from home.



4.2 GOALS

Goals support realization of the vision by providing specific guidance for future park projects. These goals act as a “checklist” for proposed park improvements; if a proposed project meets these objectives it will support the spirit and intent of the plan.

Increase Park Amenities



- ▶ Enhance park attraction by providing a greater variety of amenities that appeal to a wide range of campers
- ▶ Expand and service campsites in a phased manner
- ▶ Focus development on key park areas to maintain surrounding natural landscapes that are valued by visitors

Maintain Park Character



- ▶ Ensure future park improvements align with the rural and rustic feeling that is valued by park users
- ▶ Retain and enhance trees and natural vegetation over the long-term
- ▶ Develop amenities that appear timeless and robust, allowing them to feel in character with the park for years to come

Address Safety & User Conflicts



- ▶ Make physical and operational park improvements to encourage a family-friendly atmosphere and discourage disruptive activities
- ▶ Consider addition of a seasonal park attendant to provide a higher standard of experience

Plan for Economic Sustainability

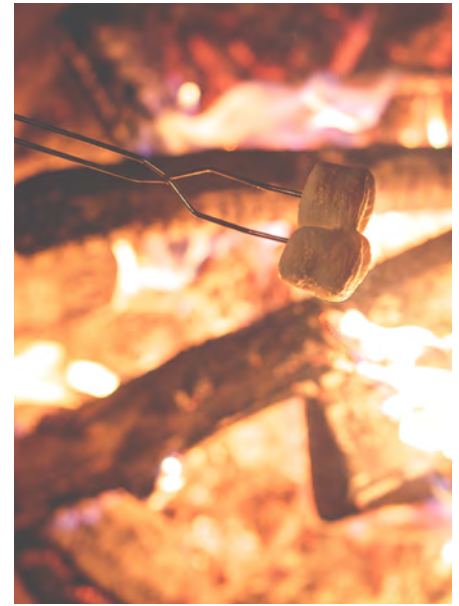


- ▶ Ensure increased operational costs can be balanced with revenue generation
- ▶ Increase information available to encourage more users to visit and enjoy the park
- ▶ Encourage use of the park by groups or for events

4.3 PARK CONCEPT



5 | RECOMMENDATIONS



Twelve recommendations are provided to support the implementation of the ideas and priorities generated through the planning process.

5.1 OVERVIEW

The recommendations in this section describe general planning directions. Detailed design and planning will be required to confirm design details and project costs as projects are implemented. It will be important that an adaptive management approach is used so that when new opportunities or circumstances arise, the District is prepared to make informed decisions about future improvements to Blackfoot Regional Park.

The recommendations include Class 'D' planning-level estimates based on plan-level evaluation, which brings with it inherent limitations. The budget figures are meant for project budgeting, phasing, and comparative costing only.

Notes:

- ▶ Class 'D' estimates are pre-design with an accuracy of +/- 30% at the time of the plan. Detailed design and planning is required to refine project costs.
- ▶ Estimates use unit costs and quantities based on general design assumptions and historical construction cost data from similar projects to assist with long-range budget planning.
- ▶ Costs can vary depending on site constraints, design, market forces, timing, and other variables.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS LIST

The following recommendations are described in further detail in the remainder of this section.

- 1 Develop a Trail Network
- 2 Develop Site Servicing
- 3 Improve & Expand Campsites at the Park
- 4 Create a Park Attendant Position
- 5 Develop an Amenity Building & Add Vault Toilets at Key Locations
- 6 Consider Addition of a Sani-dump Station for the Park
- 7 Re-establish a Boat Launch At or Near the Park
- 8 Improve Road Circulation & Parking
- 9 Expand Recreation Amenities
- 10 Update Wayfinding & Signage
- 11 Undertake Ongoing Tree Management & Renewal
- 12 Consider Future Park Expansion for Specific Purposes

1

DEVELOP A TRAIL NETWORK

Develop a trail network in the park, with a focus on providing walking loops and connections to key park destinations.

BACKGROUND:

Today, there are few trails in Blackfoot Regional Park. Hiking and walking are desirable activities that enhance visitor experience and well-defined routes help reduce environmental impacts by directing users' footprints. The 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified walking trails as a priority for Blackfoot Regional Park.

71%

of participants in Public Input #1 identified walking/hiking trails as a priority



Image: Laurel Ridge Interpretive Trail, Laurel Ridge State Park

Route signs and distance markers help with navigation.

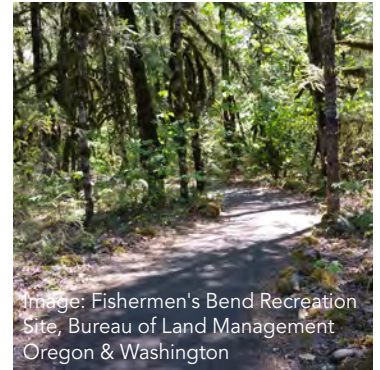


Image: Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site, Bureau of Land Management Oregon & Washington

Packed aggregate or paving may be warranted to enhance accessibility on key routes.

PLANNING & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

- Figure 9 on the following page suggests potential routes for trail development
- Two types of trails are suggested for the park:

Destination Trails

Destination trails should link key park destinations. Trail width is typically one to two metres with well-compacted aggregate or asphalt surface.

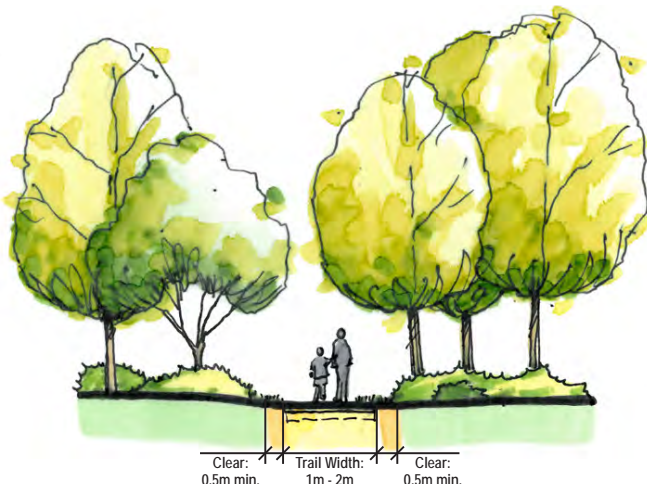


Figure 7: Typical Destination Trail

Nature Trails

Nature trails are narrower, typically with a cleared and compacted native soil surface suitable for hiking and walking.

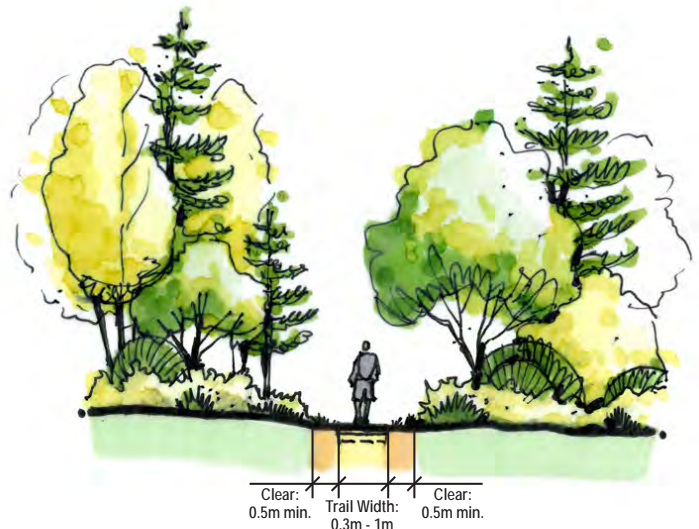


Figure 8: Typical Nature Trail

Figure 9: Potential Trail Routes



Label	Name	Connects	Approx. Distance	Trail Type	Comments
1	Large Loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Campsite Areas A, B, D ▶ Tenting Area ▶ East Shoreline 	1 km	Nature	Fencing may be needed next to steep slopes
2	Beach/Play Connector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Campsite Areas A, B ▶ Beach ▶ Play Area/Amenity Building 	200 m	Destination	Potential for accessible route
3	Park Entry Connector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Campsite Area C ▶ Park Entrance/Attendant Site 	175 m	Destination	Coordinated with Camping Area C development
4	Small Loop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Campsite Areas A, C ▶ Play Area/Amenity Building 	700 m	Nature	May be developed incrementally with Camping Area improvements

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Action	Suggested Phase	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
1.1 Develop the Large Loop Trail (1).	A	\$28,000
1.2 Develop the Beach/Play Connector Trail (2).	B	\$16,000
1.3 Develop the Campground Host Trail (3).	C	\$9,000
1.4 Develop the Small Loop Trail (4).	C	\$7,000

2

DEVELOP SITE SERVICING

Plan and implement site servicing components that will support provision of potable water, sanitary, and electrical services at the campground.

BACKGROUND:

Blackfoot Regional Park currently has no on-site services – water, sanitary, or power. Camping trends show that people are more frequently seeking these services than in the past. Provision of on-site services will increase the range of camping options available at the park and will support provision of amenities such as hot showers, flush toilets, and power for campers as well as supporting the establishing of an on-site park attendant (see Recommendation #4).

Participants in Public Input #2 identified addition of serviced campsites (water + power) and addition of an amenities building with showers and flush toilets in their top 5 priorities for improvements.

PLANNING & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

Figure 10 illustrates locations where servicing may be desirable in Blackfoot Regional Park. Actual locations will be confirmed based on feasibility and cost efficiency during detailed design.

WATER SERVICING:

Potable water at Blackfoot Regional Park would provide drinking water and potential for hot showers and flush toilets.

An existing groundwater well (Well Tag #102267) is located at Blackfoot Regional Park. The well was originally installed for non-potable agricultural use and was supplied via a water tank loader. The tank loader was decommissioned in 2017 due to Northern Health Regulations for untreated water.

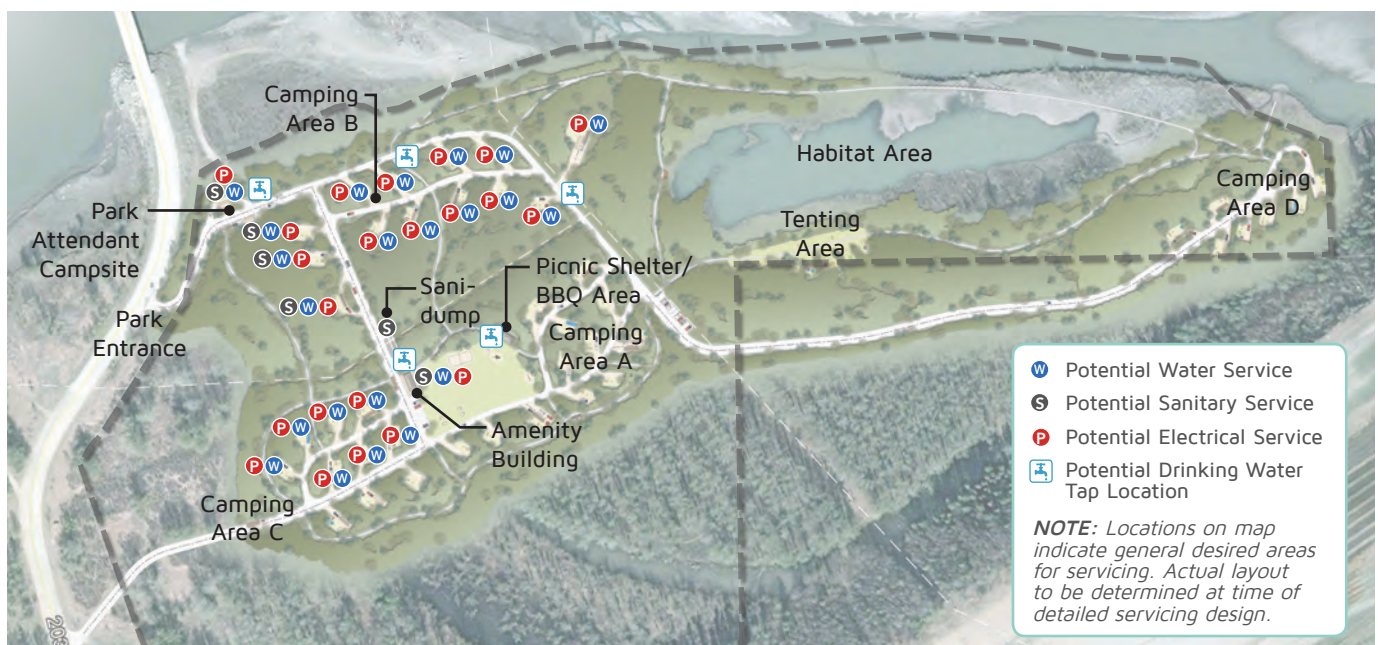


Figure 10: Preliminary Desired Servicing Locations

There is potential to treat water from the existing well to use in a potable water system for the campground, through the design and implementation of an appropriate water treatment system meeting Northern Health regulations. BC's Drinking Water Protection Act and Drinking Water Protection Regulation require that a Construction Permit be obtained from a Public Health Engineer before construction, installation, alteration, or extension of a water supply system is commenced.¹ New water systems also require an Operating Permit from Northern Health before water can be provided to users.

Once potable water is available, the following locations are recommended to be considered for water connections (see Figure 10):

- ▶ Amenity building near the Play & Picnic Area
- ▶ Picnic Shelter/ Group BBQ Area
- ▶ Park attendant campsite near the park entrance
- ▶ Potential sani-dump site
- ▶ Water taps in camping areas
- ▶ Some campsites in Camping Areas A and/or C



Example of a water tap that could be used to provide potable water in different locations throughout the park.

SANITARY:

Currently there is no sanitary in the park – vault toilets are provided in the main campground areas. A sanitary system would be required to support the addition of showers and flush toilets, as well as for an on-site park attendant.

The 2014 PRRD Regional Park Master Plan recommended investigation of an on-site sani-dump for the park. Addition of sanitary services would support this function.

The rural location of the park will necessitate development of an on-site sanitary system. Northern Health requires that an authorized person (professional engineer or registered on-site waste water practitioner) develop and submit design details about the proposed system². Through this process, the designer will analyze the site, identify potential constraints, and propose a design and treatment method to be used.

Potential locations for sanitary connections include:

- ▶ Amenity building near the Play & Picnic Area
- ▶ Park attendant campsite near the park entrance
- ▶ Potential sani-dump site
- ▶ Some campsites in Area A

¹ Details about the approvals process for water treatment and distributions systems available at: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/EnvironmentalHealth/DrinkingWaterSafety/Permits.aspx>

² Details about the approvals process for sanitary systems available at: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/YourHealth/EnvironmentalHealth/SewerageandSubdivision.aspx>

POWER:

Power provision would be required to add an amenity building, a park attendant's site, and serviced campsites. An existing BC Hydro Right-of-Way traverses the site, providing a likely power source. The PRRD would need to coordinate with BC Hydro in the design and implementation of electrical distribution at the park.

Many modern RVs are equipped with 50 amp connections and serviced sites would benefit from 20-30-50 amp electrical options to accommodate a broad range of users.

Potential locations for electrical connections include:

- Amenity building near the Play & Picnic Area
- Park attendant campsite near the park entrance
- Campsites in Areas A and C



Example of a 20-30-50 electrical hook-up pedestal

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Action	Suggested Phase	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
2.1 Take steps to develop a potable water system at the park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Analyze the existing water supply source and complete application per the requirements of the Northern Health source water approval process, including analysis of both water quality and water quantity. ► Design a treatment and water distribution system. ► Complete applications for construction and operation and obtain approvals from Northern Health. ► Build the required infrastructure including connections to the Amenity Building site and Park Attendant site and obtain confirmation of operation from Northern Health. ► Complete ongoing water monitoring. 	A/B	\$116,000
2.2 Take steps to develop a sanitary system at the park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Work with an authorized person (AP) to design a sanitary system and submit a Record of Sewerage System and required fees to Northern Health prior to construction. ► Build the required infrastructure including connections to the Amenity Building site and Park Attendant site and have the AP submit a Letter of Certification to Northern Health prior to operation. ► Complete ongoing maintenance. 	A/B	\$118,000
2.3 Take steps to develop electrical connections for the park: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Contact BC Hydro to outline the proposed project and confirm planning and design requirements. ► Work with BC Hydro and engineering consultants to design an electrical site plan. ► Complete construction including connections to the Amenity Building site and Park Attendant site. 	A/B	\$45,000

3

IMPROVE & EXPAND CAMPSITES AT THE PARK

Maintain existing campsites with minor improvements and begin the phased addition of new campsites throughout the park, with the goal of offering more camping options while still providing a natural-style camping experience.

BACKGROUND:

Currently Blackfoot Regional Park has approximately 13 campsites. Informal monitoring by the maintenance contractor suggests the campsites are often well occupied on weekends, although less so during the week.

Improvements proposed in this plan are intended to encourage increased camping at Blackfoot Regional Park. Phased expansion of campsites is recommended over time, based on demand, to support increased use. Building and filling additional campsites will be important for balancing the operational costs of adding a park attendant (see Recommendation #4). Revenue generated from camping will be important to managing the campground without subsidization.

PLANNING & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

The park concept plan provides a conceptual layout for existing and proposed campsites. This layout is based on air photo interpretation and site analysis and shows general locations only. Actual location and design of campsites should be on a site-by-site basis in response to site conditions such as existing trees, slope, and space available.

Figure 11 provides an overview of proposed campsite areas and recommended phasing for expansion and the following pages provide additional detail about improvements recommended for each area.

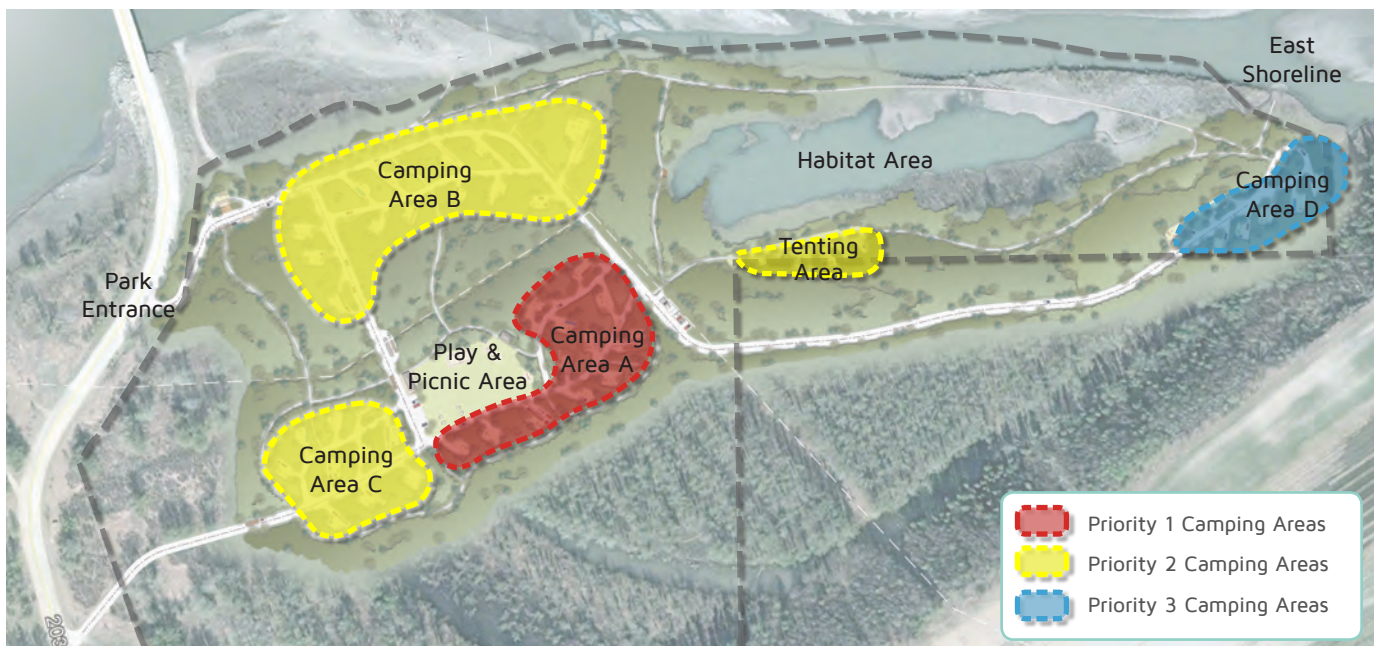


Figure 11: Recommended Campsite Expansion Phasing

Camping Area 'A'

Area 'A' could accommodate approximately 12 unserviced sites. Concurrent with campsite improvements, several minor improvements to the road network in this area are proposed to reduce the amount of space dedicated to roads, lessen confusion about wayfinding, and increase space for developing new campsites (see Recommendation #8).

The plan recommends that the Area 'A' campsites remain unserviced in the near-term. However these sites are in close proximity to the proposed amenity building (see Recommendation #5). In the long-term, servicing extension (power + water) could be considered for this area if demand is identified.

E Existing Improved Campsite

N New Campsite

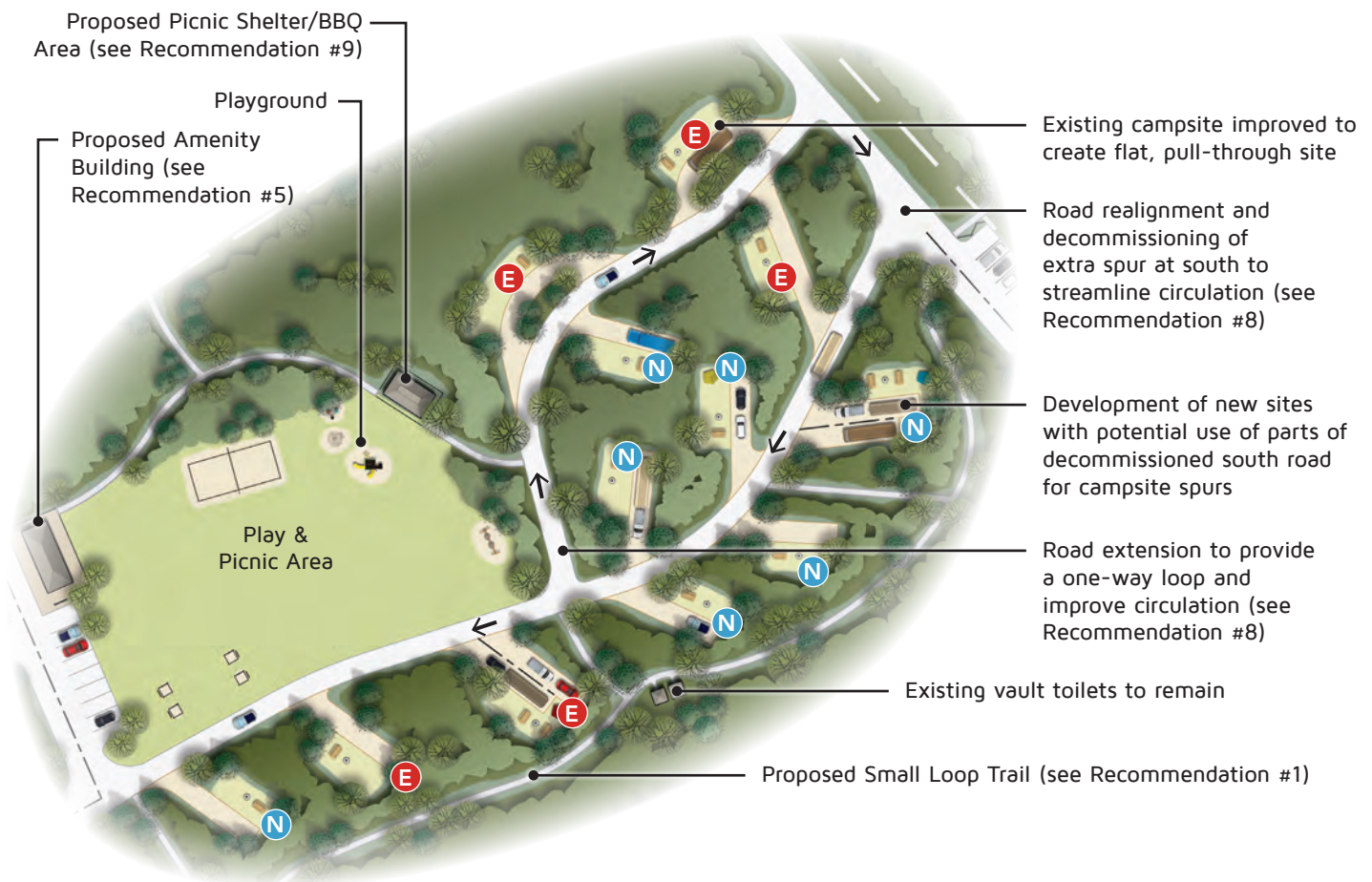
Campsite Summary

3 Pull-through sites (adapted from existing)

7 Back-in single sites

2 Back-in double/group sites

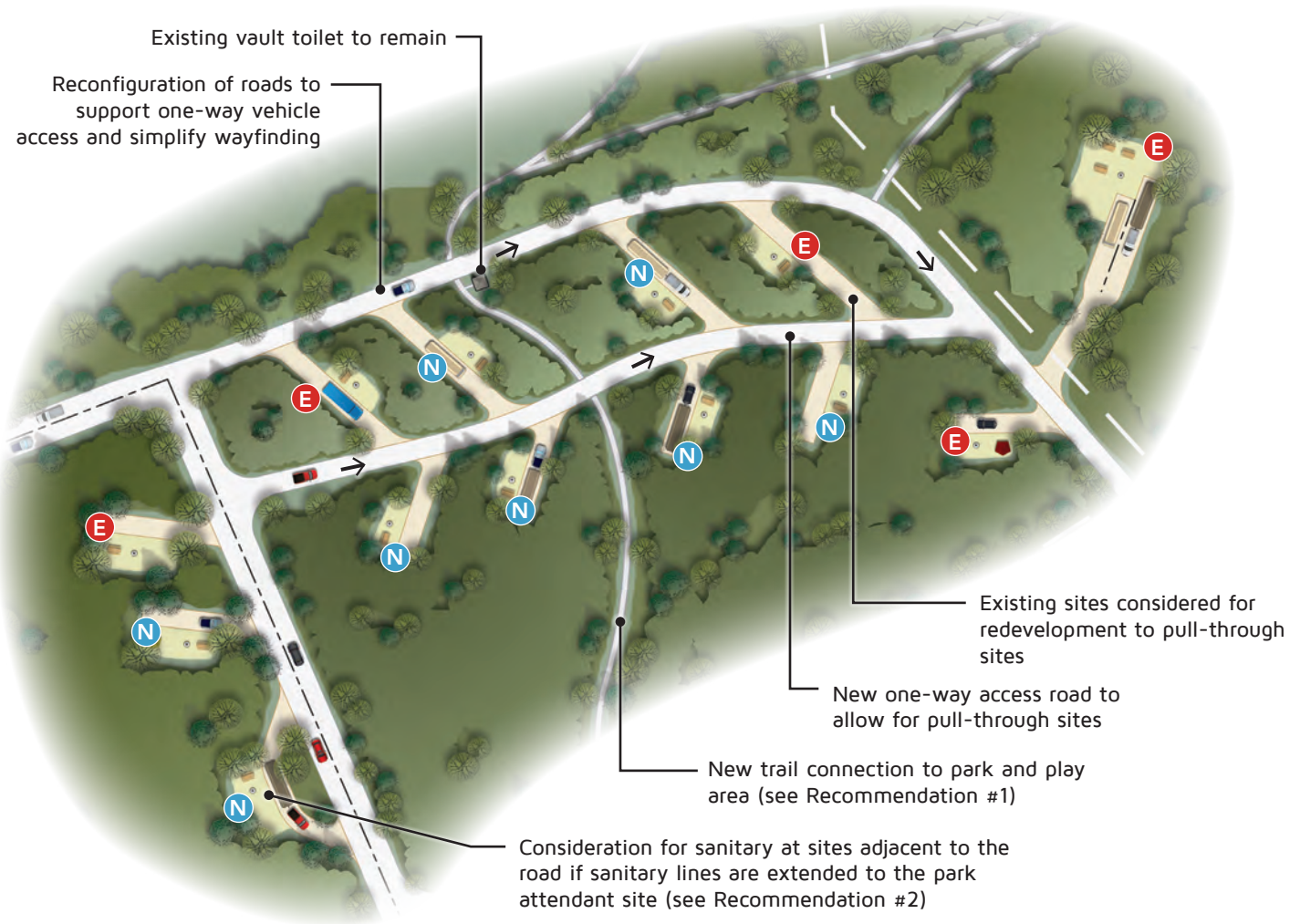
NOTE: Campsite locations on map indicate general desired sites. Actual layout to be determined during detailed design and implementation.



Camping Area 'B'

Area 'B' could accommodate approximately 13 serviced sites. To provide space for the additional sites, a new access road is recommended to create pull-through sites and additional back-in sites (see Recommendation #8). Some reconfiguration of existing sites will be needed to accommodate the addition of the new sites.

The plan suggests that the Area 'B' campsites be the focus on the first phase of campsite servicing with power and electricity considered for all sites (see Recommendation #2). Consideration for connection to sanitary may also be warranted on the western-most sites where sanitary will pass by when it is extended to the proposed Park Attendant site (see Recommendation #4).



- E Existing Improved Campsite
- N New Campsite

Campsite Summary

- 5 Pull-through sites
- 7 Back-in single sites
- 1 Back-in double/group sites

NOTE: Campsite locations on map indicate general desired sites. Actual layout to be determined during detailed design and implementation.

Camping Area 'C'

Area 'C' would be an addition to the campground that could accommodate approximately 10 unserviced or serviced sites. These sites are within close proximity to the proposed amenities building (see Recommendation #5). To accommodate the additional sites, a new access road would be required. The new campsites are configured with tighter spacing than in other parts of the campground, but still with generous space for vegetated buffers to be retained between each site.

The Area 'C' campsites could be added once campground demand rises. When developed, this area could be designated specifically for ATV users. While Blackfoot Regional Park is intended to remain a non-ATV use park, designation of Area 'C' campsites could allow riders direct access to and from 203 Road from these westernmost campsites, minimizing potential disturbance in the remainder of the campground.

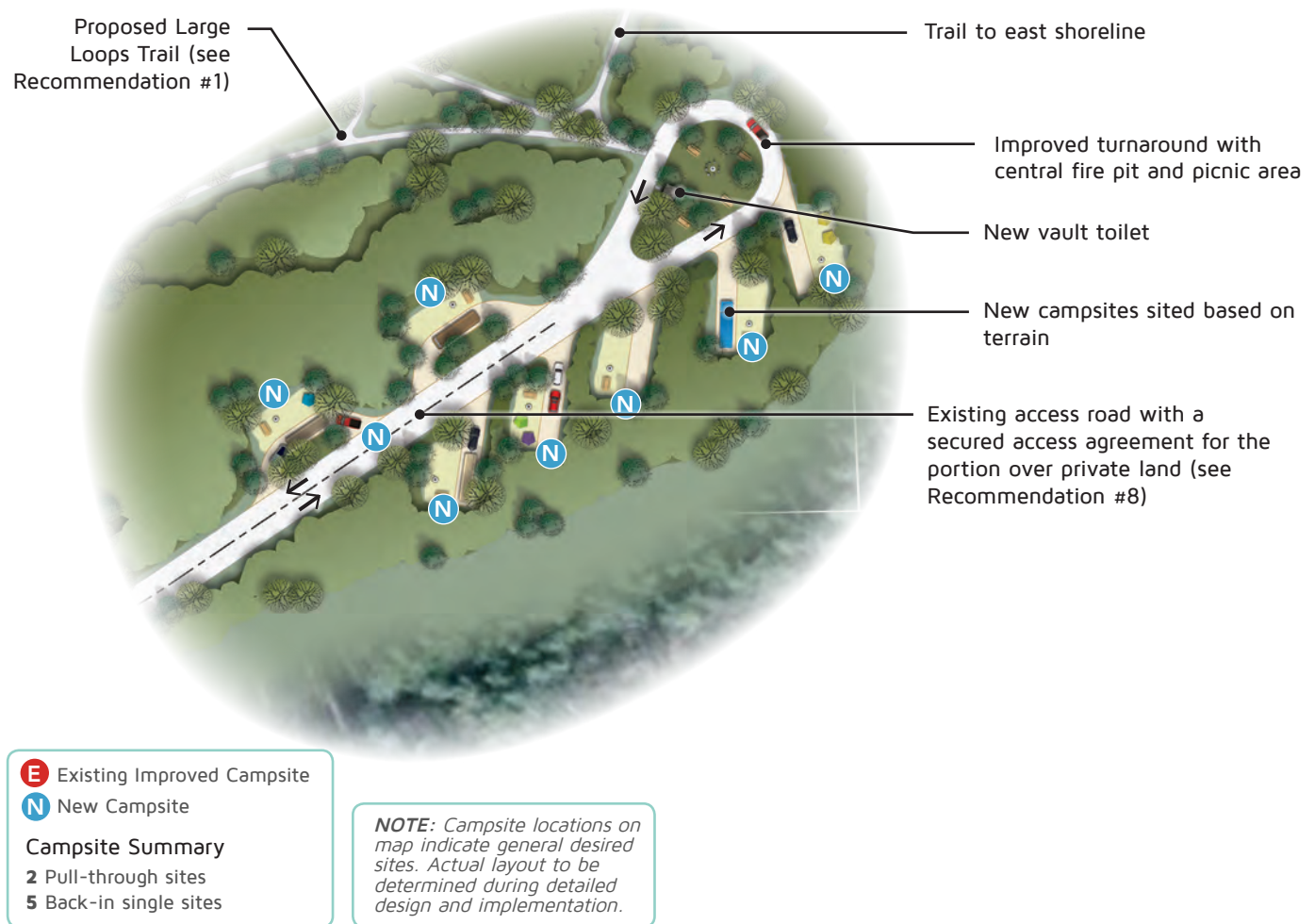


Camping Area 'D'

Area 'D' would include the expansion of unserviced camping opportunities in the east end of the park to create approximately seven new sites and a central group fire pit, picnic area, and vault toilet. Access to the east beach area would be a key feature for Area 'D'.

The Area 'D' campsites could be designed to accommodate a group of campers travelling together, while still be available to individual campers when not reserved for groups use. Access would remain via the existing road, with a secured agreement with the landowner where the road crosses private property (see Recommendation #8). The Large Loop Trail would also connect the area with the rest of the park (see Recommendation #1).

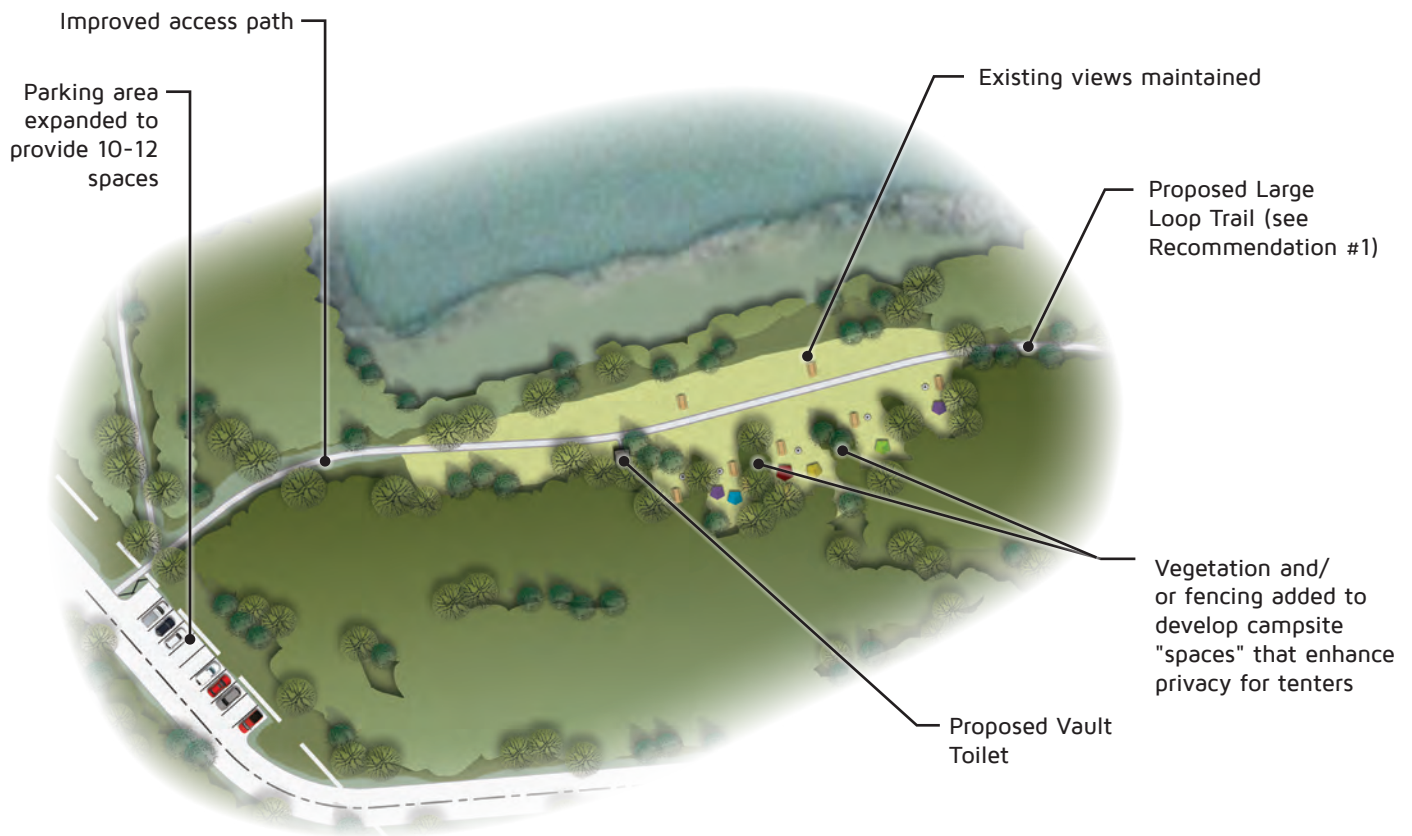
Development of Camping Area 'D' is suggested as the lowest priority, to be developed after other campground areas, if demand warrants. During further planning and development, layout of campsites will likely need to be refined based on terrain and/or watercourse location in the area.



Tenting Area

The tenting area is envisioned are remaining in its current location. The site provides excellent views that should be retained. Input identified that the tenting area is relatively open, with few areas to provide shade or privacy to campers. The plan recommends splitting up the area by "cutting" sites into existing vegetation or adding vegetation and/or fencing.

The plan also recommends addition of a new vault toilet for the camping area and expansion of the parking area.



Campsite Summary

5+ Defined Tenting Sites

NOTE: Campsite locations on map indicate general desired sites. Actual layout to be determined during detailed design and implementation.

Campsite Design & Amenities

Campgrounds can range from very urban-style with extensive amenities and tightly-packed sites, to very natural-style campgrounds with minimal development or amenities. Blackfoot Regional Park will occupy a central place on this spectrum, offering a natural setting with some amenities. The following directions may be considered during future campsite development:

- ▶ Each campsite should accommodate full-size modern campers and RVs (up to 14 m long), while also allowing smaller trailers or tents.
- ▶ A Vehicle Area should be defined for parking a recreational vehicle plus up to two cars. Vehicle Areas should be clearly defined by surface material (aggregate) and potentially perimeter markers (e.g., boulders) to discourage people parking on vegetated or Campsite Use Areas.
- ▶ A Campsite Use Area should be defined for each site, large enough to accommodate tents plus a rain tarp or screened enclosure (+/- 50m² to 75m² in size). The surface of this area should be stable, flat, and well-drained with turf, aggregate, or native material surface. Wet areas may need drainage improvements.
- ▶ Siting of new campsites should be based on terrain, with flat areas for the Vehicle and Campsite Use Areas. Where possible, cut and fill should be avoided to minimize removal of vegetation and manage costs. Where terrain challenges are encountered, sites may be terraced, with the Vehicle Area on one terrace and the Campsite Use Area on another.
- ▶ New campsites should be sited to retain as much existing vegetation as possible to provide shade, privacy, and natural character.
- ▶ Where campsites are open, trees should be added over time for shade and screening (see Recommendation #11).
- ▶ Each site should be equipped with a picnic table and campfire ring.
- ▶ Campsites should be separated and defined to allow the natural park landscape to dominate and provide peace and privacy for park users. The objective is creating a "park-like" camping atmosphere; not an "RV Park".
- ▶ Each campsite should be designed as a discreet area, with natural boundaries marked by vegetation, rocks, or other natural-looking materials. Split-rail fences could be considered where additional physical separation is needed.
- ▶ Campsites should be accessible wherever grades permit.

The graphics illustrated in Figure 12 on the next page show typical layouts and amenities for campsites.



Image: Cave Springs Campground, Coconino National Forest

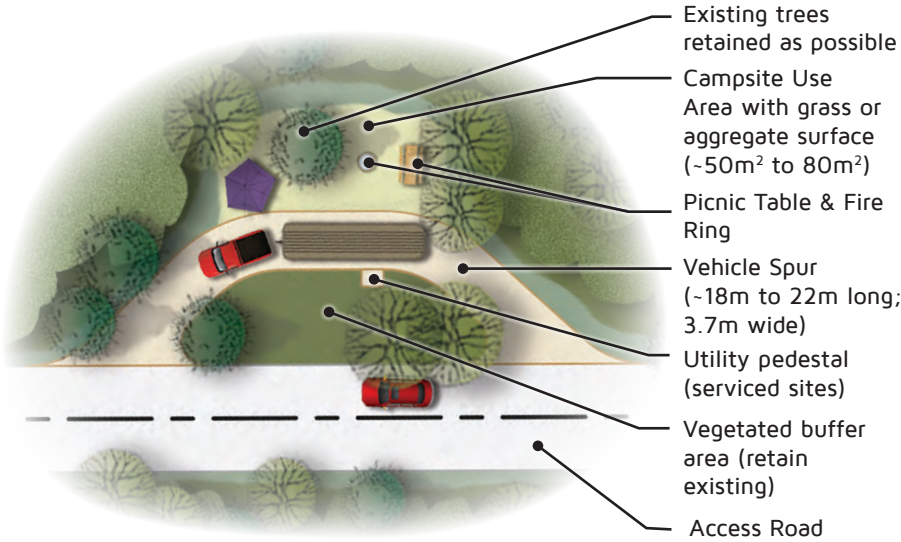
Example of boulders being used to define the Vehicle Area extents at a campsite. Natural elements and materials such as wood and stone will help blend facilities into the natural park landscape.



Image: Grand Canyon Mather Campground, Grand Canyon National Park

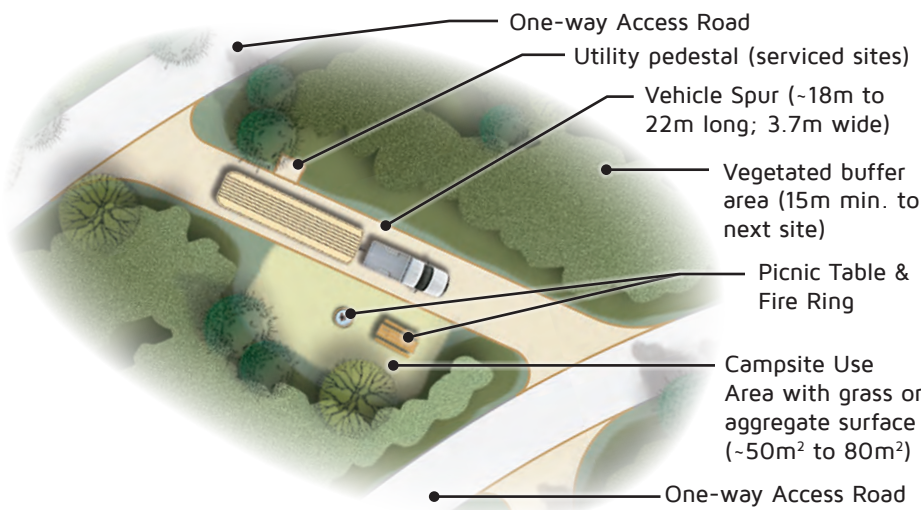
Maintaining as many trees as possible and encouraging renewal of vegetation allows park facilities to be integrated in a way that has little visual impact on the natural landscape character.

Pull-Through Campsite (one access road)



Example of a pull-through site with existing vegetation preserved for form a buffer.

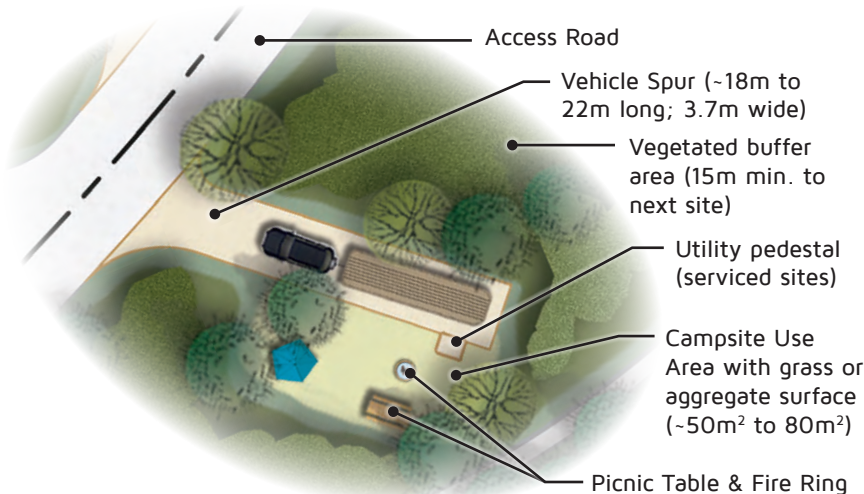
Pull-Through Campsite (two access roads)



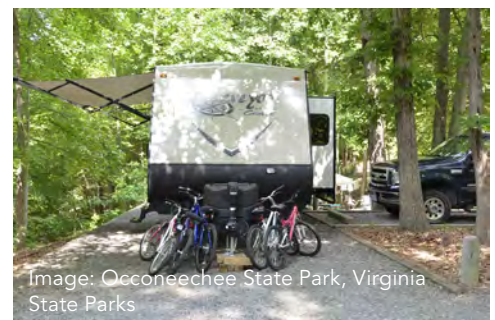
Pull through sites with two access roads provide excellent manoeuvrability for largest classes of RVs.



Back-in Campsite



Some existing campsites are already laid out to support pull-through campsites with minor improvements such as aggregate on the vehicle spur.



Sites should be arranged based on existing elements. Example of a back-campsite with a back in spur and vehicle parking area organized to preserve existing trees.

Figure 12: General Campsite Layouts

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Action	Suggested Phase	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
3.1 Develop Camping Area A including detailed site analysis and design, related road improvements (see Recommendation #8), and development of campsites.	A	\$99,000
3.2 Develop Camping Area B including detailed site analysis and design, related road improvements (see Recommendation #8), and development of campsites.	B	\$286,000
3.3 Develop Camping Area C including detailed site analysis and design, related road improvements (see Recommendation #8), and development of campsites.	B	\$227,000
3.4 Develop the Tent Camping Area including improved definition of campsites through clearing, planting, and/or fencing.	B	\$32,000
3.5 Develop Camping Area D including detailed site analysis and design, related road improvements (see Recommendation #8), group picnic area, and development of campsites.	C	\$95,000

4

CREATE A PARK ATTENDANT POSITION

Secure a seasonal park attendant to be on-site during the campground season to perform registration, management, and park maintenance duties.

BACKGROUND:

Public input during the planning process identified concerns about undesirable activities in the park (e.g., parties, noise, ATV use), in part related to the parks' remote location and limited monitoring. Input suggests the park has a reputation as a "party-site" and unregulated activities are a deterrent to some potential campers.

A second concern identified was uncertainty about campsite availability. Currently camping is first-come, first-serve and campers do not know if a site will be available. Because the park is remote, this can deter people from making the trip.

Increasing public comfort and safety is a goal for Blackfoot Regional Park.

32%

of participants in Public Input #1 identified ATV management as a concern

27%

of participants in Public Input #2 identified general park safety as a concern

PLANNING & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

Park attendant positions are common in campgrounds throughout Canada and the USA. The District should consider changing its current seasonal maintenance contract to a seasonal on-site park attendant contract that campground management, registration, monitoring, and maintenance.

Examples of Regional/Municipal Campgrounds with Park Operators/Attendants

- ▶ Descanso Bay Regional Park, Regional District of Nanaimo
- ▶ Pass Creek Park, Regional District of Central Kootenay
- ▶ Cumberland Lake Park, District of Cumberland
- ▶ Peace Island Park, District of Taylor

Operational contract requirements could include:

- ▶ Full-time residence at the campground while it is open (e.g., May through September).
- ▶ Development and management of a registration system, such as phone and/or online reservations.
- ▶ Registering campers and collecting fees.
- ▶ Marketing/advertising to encourage park visits.
- ▶ Regular maintenance of the campground including washrooms, garbage cans, campsites, amenity areas, vegetation, trails, picnic shelter, etc.
- ▶ Provision of day-to-day supplies, such as cleaning supplies.
- ▶ Provision of equipment and tools required for maintenance (e.g., mower, hand tools, etc.)
- ▶ Minor repairs and upgrades. Major repairs or replacement would in coordination with the PRRD.
- ▶ Customer surveys and feedback.



Image: Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site North Santiam River, Bureau of Land Management

The park attendant would be available on-site during regular hours to assist with registration and information for campers.

- ▶ Coordination of regular management activities such as water quality testing, vault toilet clean-out, annual start-up/shut-down.
- ▶ Regular park patrol to support adherence to park rules and regulations.
- ▶ Reporting to police of any security issues.
- ▶ Regular reporting to the PRRD on park use, issues, and improvements.

Potential benefits/compensation could include:

- ▶ Dedication of a full-service site for the hosts' exclusive use at the park entrance. Hosts would be responsible for provide their own lodging (i.e., trailer or RV).



Image: Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site North Santiam River, Bureau of Land Management

The park attendant site could include opportunities for revenue – for example, including a firewood sales area.

- ▶ Agreed-upon salary for operation of the park.
- ▶ Potential for sharing a portion of revenue generated by the park.
- ▶ Potential for enhanced revenue through sale of firewood, general goods, or other mutually agreeable proposals.

A key issue the PRRD will need to address to support a park attendant will be communications at the site. Currently, there is no cellular or internet service at Blackfoot Regional Park. Securing communications service through satellite or other means will be required.

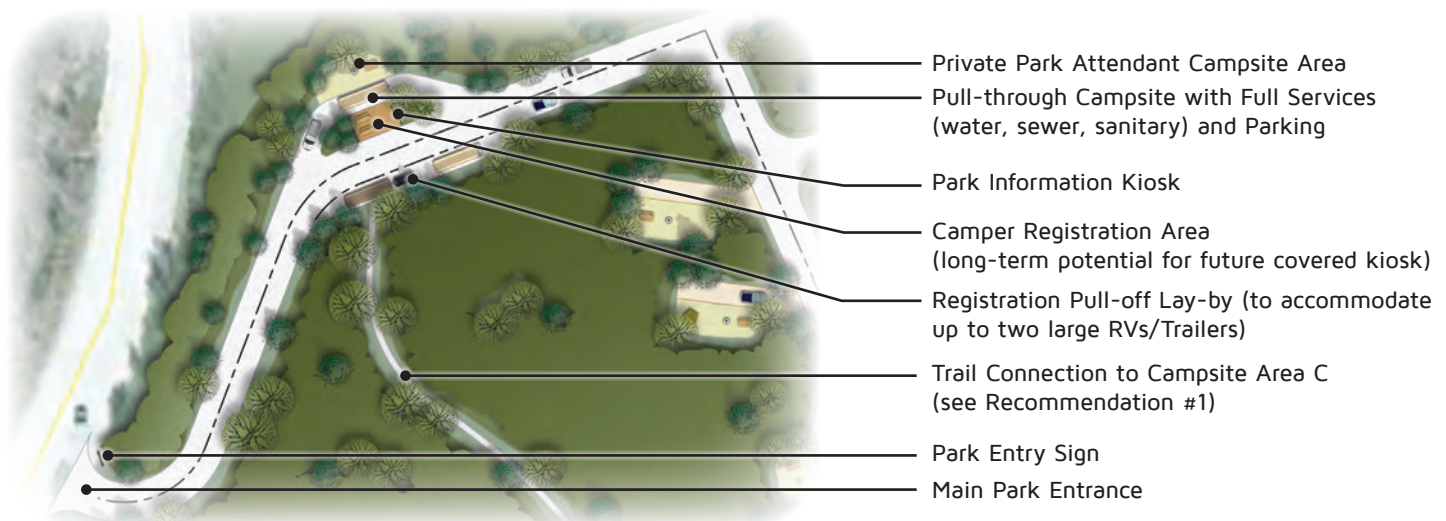


Figure 13: Recommended Park Attendant Site



Image: Virginia State Parks

The campground host site should be clearly marked and well-kept, welcoming people into the park. Adequate space should be provided to allow a comfortable space for the attendant, along with space for keeping maintenance equipment.



Image: Sixes River Recreation Site, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon and Washington

A park information centre near the park attendant site should be considered for posting information about the park, rules and regulations, and a park map.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Action	Suggested Phase	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
4.1 Develop a host campsite and registration area.	A	\$38,000
4.2 Research and develop operating guidelines to outline requirements and expectations of a park attendant position.	A	Staff Time
4.3 Issue a RFP for a park attendant position.	B	Staff Time
4.4 Negotiate and enter into a park attendant contract.	B	Staff Time
4.5 Review annually and re-tender the contract on a regular basis.	Ongoing	Staff Time

5

DEVELOP AN AMENITY BUILDING & ADD VAULT TOILETS AT KEY LOCATIONS

Develop a new amenity building in the central part of the park and add vault toilets within easy access of all campsites.

BACKGROUND:

There are five existing vault toilets in Blackfoot Regional Park. Once services have been established at the park (See Recommendation #2), the PRRD should consider an amenity building that provides conveniences such as flush toilets and hot showers.

Participants in Public Input #2 identified addition of an amenities building with showers and flush toilets in their top 5 priorities.

PLANNING & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

The plan recommends toilets within 100 m of all campsites and a central amenities building with flush toilets and hot showers. Existing, newer vault toilets would remain, with the older-style toilets removed. New vault toilets would be added for the tenting area and Campsite Area D.

Figure 14 illustrates potential locations where washroom/shower facilities and vault toilets may be desirable in Blackfoot Regional Park.



Figure 14: Preliminary Amenity Building & Vault Toilet Locations



The existing upgraded vault toilets should remain and additional toilets added to serve more remote camping areas such as Camping Area D and the Tenting Area.



Image: Romtec

Example of a pre-fab four-room restroom/shower building, with custom design elements to blend into a park setting (Fallen Leaf Campground, by Romtec).



Image: Rathrevor Provincial Park, Parksville

Example of an accessible vault toilet building in Rathrevor Beach Provincial Park, Parksville. Where possible, all toilet buildings should be accessible.



Image: North Rim Campground, Grand Canyon National Park

Example of a custom-built restroom/shower building, within a park setting (Grand Canyon National Park, North Rim Campground).

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Action	Suggested Phase	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
5.1 Design and construct a new Amenity Building with hot showers and flush toilets in the central part of the park, including a park wayfinding kiosk.	A	\$139,000
5.2 Add a new Vault Toilet at the Tenting Area (concurrent with Tenting Area improvements, see Recommendation #3).	B	\$15,000
5.3 Add a new Vault Toilet at Campsite Area D (concurrent with addition of new campsites, see Recommendation #3).	C	\$15,000

6

CONSIDER ADDITION OF A SANI-DUMP STATION FOR THE PARK

As a component of planning a sanitary system in the park, consider adding a sani-dump station to better accommodate RV users.

BACKGROUND:

Currently there are no services at Blackfoot Regional Park. Many park users have RVs or trailers that would use sani-dump facilities if available. There are no sani-dump facilities near Blackfoot Regional Park.

The 2014 Regional Parks Master Plan recommended establishment of an on-site sani-dump station in Blackfoot Regional Park.



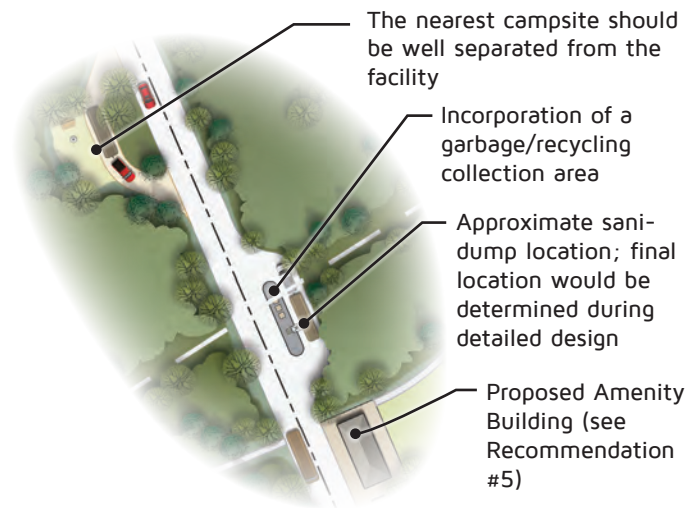
Image: First Landing State Park; Virginia State Parks

A single sani-dump station could be located centrally, but separate from campsite areas.

DESIGN & PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

Sanitary will be required for Blackfoot Regional Park to support an on-site park attendant (see Recommendation #4) and to establish an Amenity Building with showers and flush toilets (see Recommendation #5). Incorporating a sani-dump station would bring value, while being more cost effective than extending sanitary to individual sites.

The sani-dump location is recommended along the central road, between the proposed Amenity Building and Camping Area 'B'. The site should include a water supply tap for rinsing and garbage collection bins.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:**

Action	Suggested Phase	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
6.1 Include design and planning for a sani-dump with overall sanitary design for the park.	See Rec. #2	See Rec. #2
6.2 Develop a sani-dump station.	A	\$53,000

7

RE-ESTABLISH A BOAT LAUNCH AT OR NEAR THE PARK

Continue efforts to work with BC Hydro and/or other partners to re-establish a boat launch on the Peace River in or near Blackfoot Regional Park.

BACKGROUND:

A public boat launch was built in the mid 1990s at Blackfoot Regional Park to provide access to the Peace River. In 2003 the launch was closed and in 2014 it removed and the site remediated due to degradation and safety concerns.

In 2007, BC Hydro prepared a *Peace Project Water Use Plan* to identify projects improve how Peace hydroelectric facilities affect fisheries and wildlife habitat, shoreline conditions, flood control, and recreation interests. The plan identified provision of safe and reliable river access at four locations – one of these being Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park (BC Hydro, 2007).

A BC Hydro Feasibility Assessment was completed in 2010 on the potential boat launch sites. The assessment identified the existing launch site in Blackfoot Regional Park as a preferred location for launch design. Sites east of the existing launch were deemed undesirable due to flat topography and an existing log jam. The assessment did not consider sites upstream (e.g., the Crown land on the west side of 203 Road) as it was thought to be less desirable for park users to cross the road to the ramp (Moffatt and Nichol, 2010).

BC Hydro completed preliminary design in 2011 and further feasibility analysis in 2012 for the launch. This analysis identified concerns that flooding issues related to the topography of the site could affect upgrades and construction costs. The proximity to the Taylor Landing boat launch



Image: BC Hydro Peace River Management Plan Feasibility Assessment, 2008. Moffatt & Nichol

The former boat launch at Blackfoot Regional Park, 2008. The concrete ramp was removed by the PRRD in 2014 due to safety concerns from previous damage.

was also cited as rationale for not advancing launch construction at Blackfoot Regional Park. Consequently, the Comptroller of Water Rights granted BC Hydro relief from further design and construction on the boat launch facilities in 2013.

Since this decision, the PRRD has requested further consideration for a launch site in the vicinity of Blackfoot Regional Park on the basis of:

- ▶ Ongoing community demand for improved access to the Peace River in the area;
- ▶ The limited number of access points or suitable boat launches on the Peace River;
- ▶ The distance to the next available Peace River launches, including Peace Island Park in Taylor (90 km by road, 40 km by boat) and Many Islands Park in Alberta (105 km by road, 63 km by boat); and
- ▶ A commitment in BC Hydro's 2007 *Peace Project Water Land Use Plan* for a launch in this location.

DESIGN & PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

A boat launch at Blackfoot Regional Park remains a high priority for park users and local residents.

From a park use perspective, the former launch site is desirable due to the relationship to the campsite, previous disturbance of the site, and existing roads and access infrastructure. However, previous studies have also identified several issues with the former launch site:

- ▶ Occasional high currents that caused damage to the former launch, including dislodging of rip rap at the adjacent bridge revetment that may have contributed to the damage (Moffatt and Nichol, 2010).
- ▶ Siting in a floodplain where river currents can be unpredictable, due to hydroelectric generation activities and seasonal precipitation.
- ▶ Susceptibility to freeze/thaw cycles.
- ▶ Potential FLNRO objections to construction of the associated parking within the floodplain.
- ▶ Soft ground conditions at the launch area resulting in vehicles getting stuck.
- ▶ Concerns about attempting to re-establish a launch in a location where damage has been a previous issue.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Input from previous consultations with local boaters indicates that the Crown Land site on the west side of 203 Road may be a suitable alternative launch site as it is out of the floodplain, upstream from the bridge, has sufficient water depth, and is in an area where river currents naturally slow. A former ferry crossing was maintained at the location for many years without significant issue.

This site would present additional costs related to road construction and amenities provision, but would still provide relatively convenient access for Blackfoot Regional Park users and local residents.

Input received through the Regional Park Study indicates community desire for a boat launch in the vicinity of Blackfoot Regional Park.

Costs of designing and implementing a new boat launch are likely substantial and will vary based on location selected and launch design. At this early stage, it is not feasible to accurately estimate costs for launch development. Partnership with BC Hydro or other outside organizations will likely be required to advance development. PRRD continues to request support on this project from BC Hydro and the Provincial Government.

Prior to construction of a new boat ramp, Section 9 Water Act, DFO, and Navigable Water Protection Act permitting may be required.

Action	Suggested Phase	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
7.1 Continue working with BC Hydro and the Province to secure a partnership for design and development of a new boat launch in or near Blackfoot Regional Park.	A	Staff Time
7.2 Once partnerships are established, support design development, including cost estimating and permitting.	A	Staff Time/TBD
7.3 Continue organizing support and input from volunteers for planning, design, and construction of the boat launch.	Ongoing	Staff Time
7.4 Develop the boat launch in partnership with others.	B	TBD*
7.5 Undertake ongoing operation and maintenance.	Ongoing	Operations

* Costs of designing and implementing a new boat launch will vary based on location, launch design, and partnerships formed. At this early stage, it is not feasible to accurately estimate costs for launch development.

8

IMPROVE ROAD CIRCULATION & PARKING

Improve park circulation by completing minor road network changes and adding day-use parking.

BACKGROUND:

The road network in Blackfoot Regional Park is well established and has had recent gravel surface re-topping; however, the road arrangement does have some challenges for park navigation.



Roads in Blackfoot Regional Park appear to be in acceptable condition, although brush can overgrow into the roadway at times.

DESIGN & PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

Figure 15 shows potential circulation improvements:

- ▶ The two-way access road to the east end of the park should be retained, with establishment of a long-term access agreement. Loss of this access would comprise opportunities for camping at the east end of the park.
- ▶ One of the three road spurs in Camping Area 'A' should be removed to simplify wayfinding and provide additional space for campsite development. Opportunities may exist to configure campsites to take advantage of the decommissioned roadway.
- ▶ A small connector road is recommended in Camping Area 'A' to form a loop that improves manoeuvring for vehicles using this area.

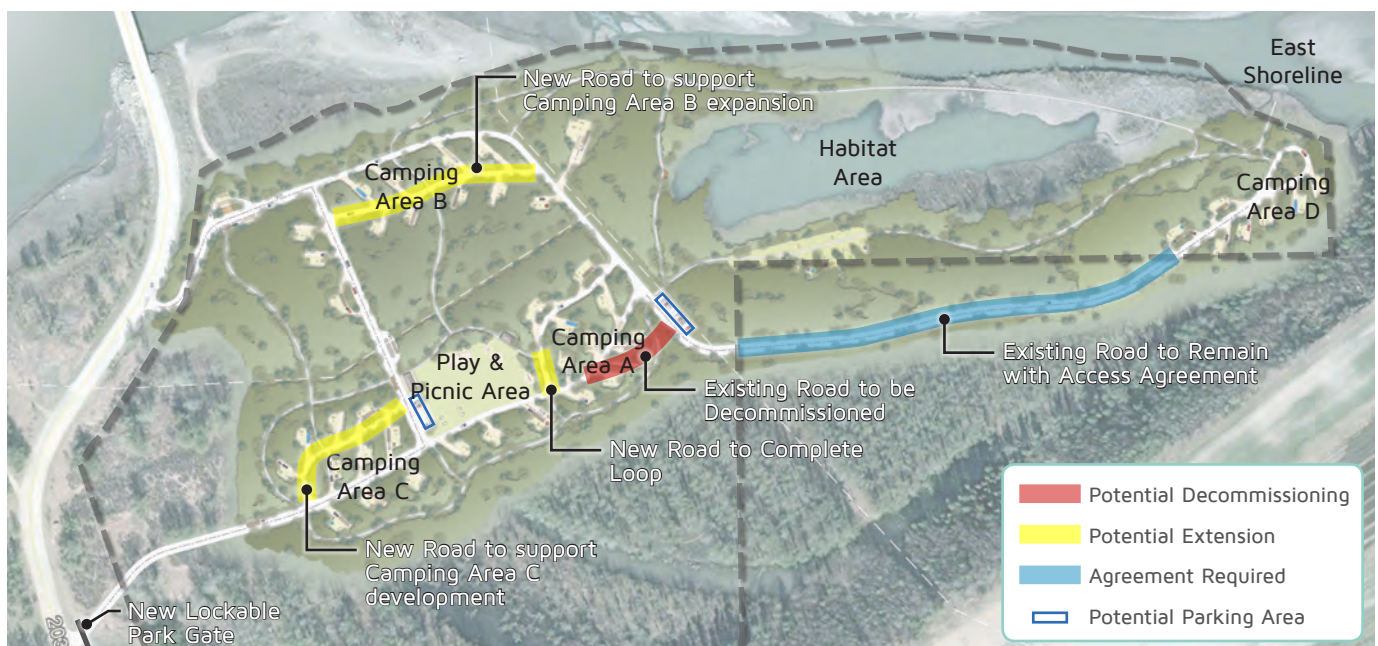


Figure 15: Recommended Road Improvements

- ▶ Additional roads are suggested to support expansion of campsites in Camping Areas 'B' and 'C'. These roads would be designed and developed when campsite expansion in these areas is completed (see Recommendation #3).
- ▶ The south park access road is recommended to be converted to exit only, with all traffic entering the park directed to the north access. A lockable park gate is also proposed for the south access to allow controlled entry/exit after a specified hour.
- ▶ Parts of the road network may be converted to one-way circulation, to help streamline traffic moving through the park.
- ▶ Two formal parking areas are recommended – one for day-use visitors and shower users at the Play & Picnic Area and the second would be near the Tenting Area to provide parking for campers, as well as day-use parking for the trails network.
- ▶ Ongoing maintenance of roads should include regular brushing to enhance road clearance and gravel re-topping from time to time as required.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Action	Suggested Phase	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
8.1 Undertake negotiations to secure long-term access to the east end of the park.	A	Staff Time/TBD
8.2 Undertake minor road decommissioning and/or extension as part of Camping Area expansion projects (see Recommendation #3).	See Rec. #3	See Rec. #3
8.3 Add a lockable gate to the south access road and signage directing visitors to the north entry.	A	\$4,000
8.4 Review road circulation and consider converting some routes to one-way use only to help streamline vehicle circulation.	A	Staff Time
8.5 Develop day-use parking at the Play & Picnic Area (concurrent with Recreation Amenity improvements, see Recommendation #9).	A	\$9,000
8.6 Develop improved parking at the Tenting Area (concurrent with Tenting Area improvements, see Recommendation #3).	B	\$16,000
8.7 Undertake ongoing maintenance including brushing and gravel re-topping as required to maintain roads in good condition.	Ongoing	Operations

9

EXPAND RECREATION AMENITIES

In addition to trail enhancements, consider addition of park amenities such as additional playground elements, a volleyball/badminton area, a picnic shelter with group BBQ facilities, and an interpretive site.

BACKGROUND:

While the primary attractions to Blackfoot Regional Park will be natural features – the Peace River and the forest setting – recreational amenities may also be considered to provide variety and amenity.

Existing recreation amenities in Blackfoot Regional Park include a small playground structure and swings, two horseshoe pits, and a large open grassy area.

PLANNING & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

The plan recommends retaining the existing recreation amenities and considering addition of a limited number of new features.



The existing lawn area provides valuable informal activity space for campers and could function as event space – hosting events like family reunions, Park Days, or activities put on by the PRRD, park attendant, or other groups.

Recreational Amenities in the Play and Picnic Area

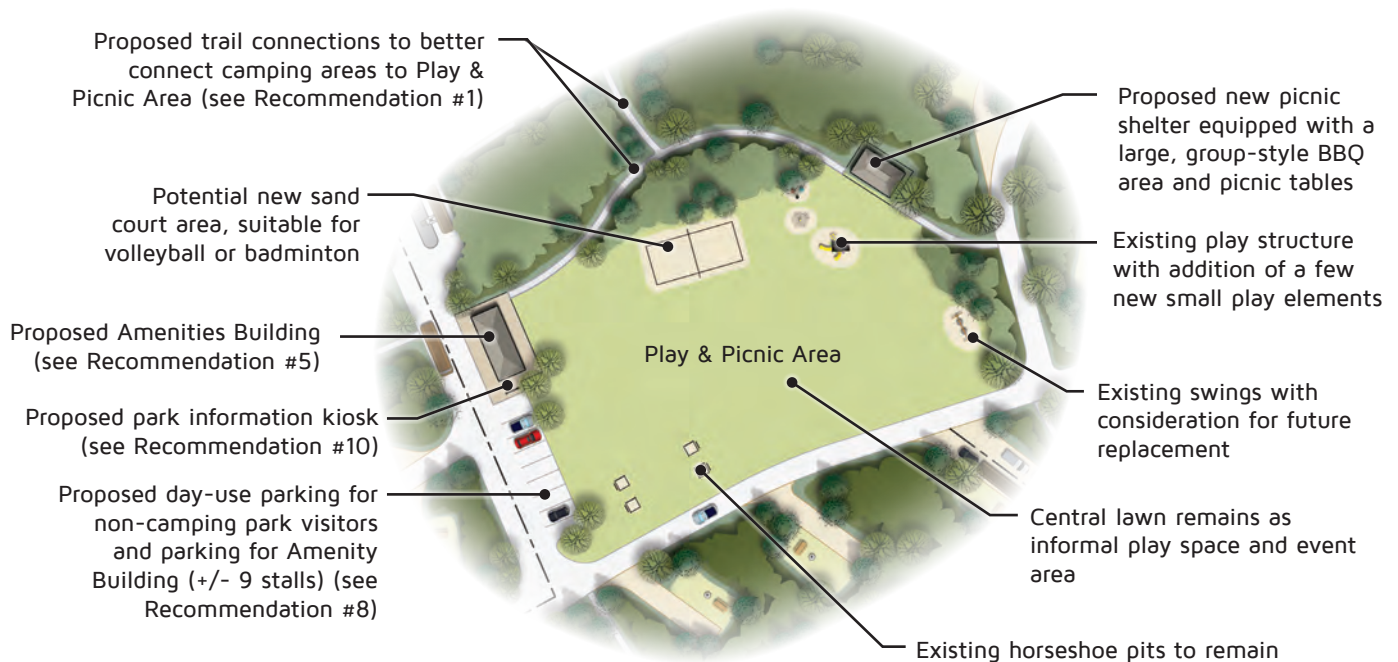


Figure 16: Suggested Amenities for the Play & Picnic Area



Image: Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site, Bureau of Land Management Oregon & Washington



Image: Eagleview Campground, Bureau of Land Management Oregon & Washington



Image: Barcroft Park Picnic Shelter, Kevin Borland

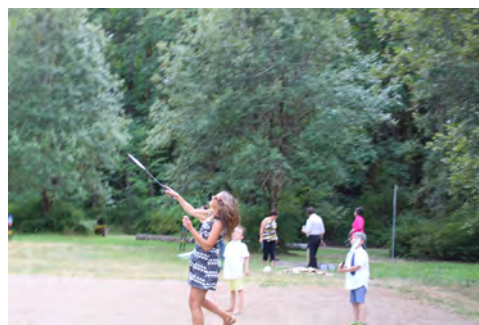


Image: Tom Page



Image: Henry Burrows

An attractive picnic shelter would encourage social activity in the park and could attract gatherings and events. Shelter design can vary depending on budget available, but should be developed with the goal of complementing the park's natural character.



Addition of a sand court and net for volleyball and badminton could introduce a new activity for the park.



Image: seabamirum

A few smaller-scale play elements could expand the amenity of the play area. Natural type features and elements that blend into the park's wooded areas could provide high value for low cost.



Image: Picnic in the Park, Mike Prince

Maintaining a large open area in the picnic and play area could support a wide range of activities.



Addition of group BBQ facilities at the picnic shelter would encourage groups to use the park.

Interpretive Feature

In addition to amenities around the Play & Picnic Area, the plan recommends consideration for an interpretive area along the Large Loop trail with views and information about the flora and fauna in the park, history and heritage of the area, or details about the Peace River.

The location and design of the feature would be based on the information being displayed and best view locations.



Image: Dean Creek Elk Viewing Area, Bureau of Land Management Oregon & Washington

Example of an interpretive lookout and display.

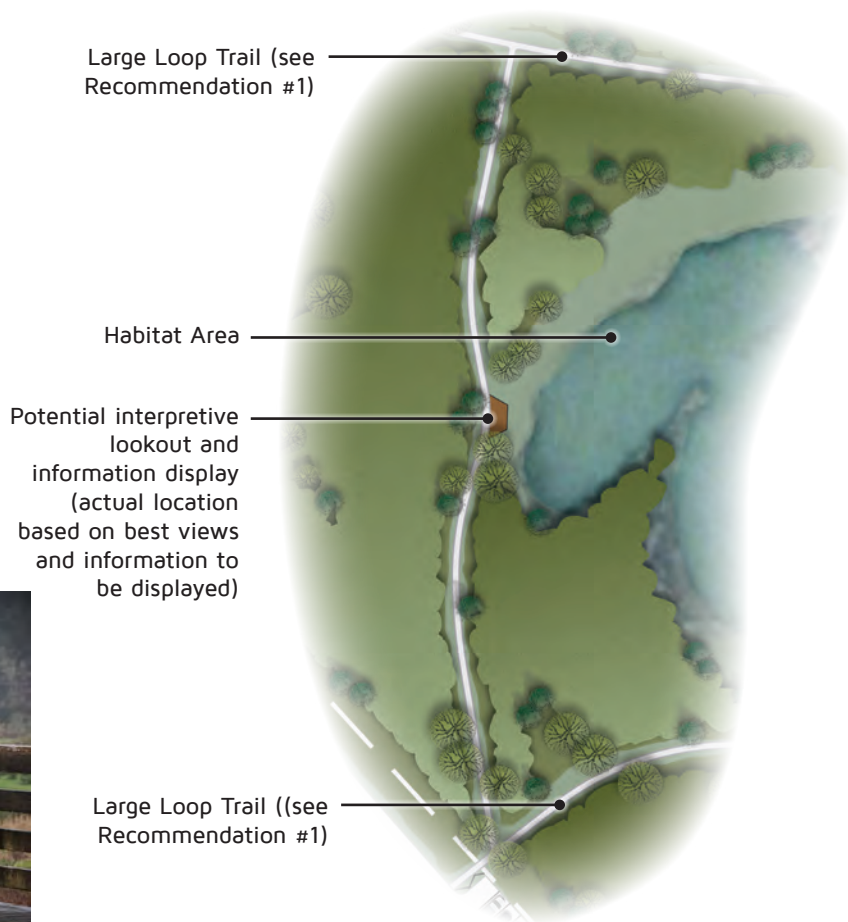


Figure 17: Potential Interpretive Area

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Action	Suggested Phase	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
9.1 Add small playground elements near the existing playground.	A	\$40,000
9.2 Add a sand court area for volleyball and badminton in the Play & Picnic Area.	A	\$8,000
9.3 Design and develop a picnic shelter with group BBQ facilities in the Play & Picnic Area.	B	\$101,000
9.4 Select a location, design, and develop an interpretive feature that provides views to interesting habitat areas on the trail network.	C	\$34,000

10

UPDATE WAYFINDING & SIGNAGE

Add a network of attractive information signs throughout the park to enhance navigation and ease of use.

BACKGROUND:

A mix of signs exist at Blackfoot Regional Park. Signs have been added over time, in response to identified need, so there is limited consistency in style and messaging. Participants in the process identified that wayfinding in the park can be confusing, due, in part, to limited signage.



The existing park entry sign is outdated and its location contributing to confusing about park entry and circulation.



Wayfinding signs are provided at key park locations. Additional wayfinding signs will improve navigation.

PLANNING & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

The plan recommends consistently designed signs be added. Figure 18 provides suggested locations for signs and examples on the following page illustrate proposed sign types.

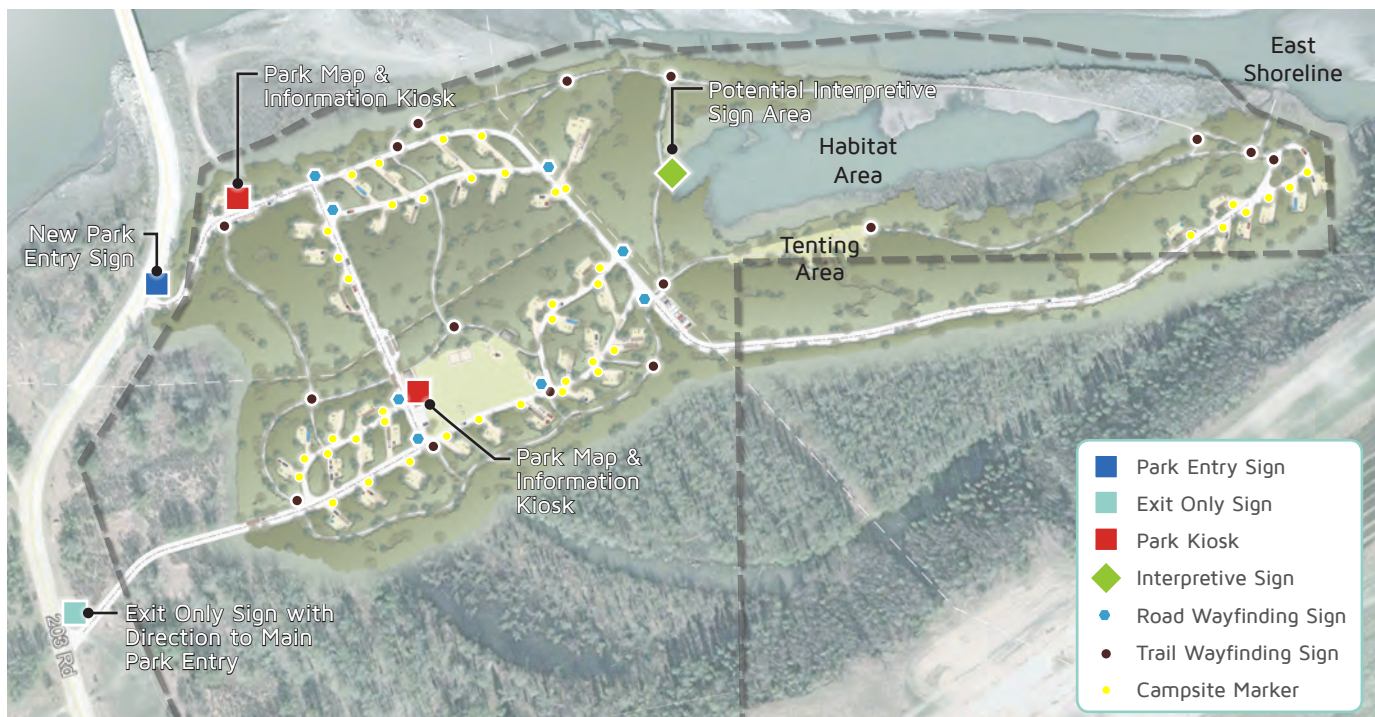


Figure 18: Potential Sign Locations & Types

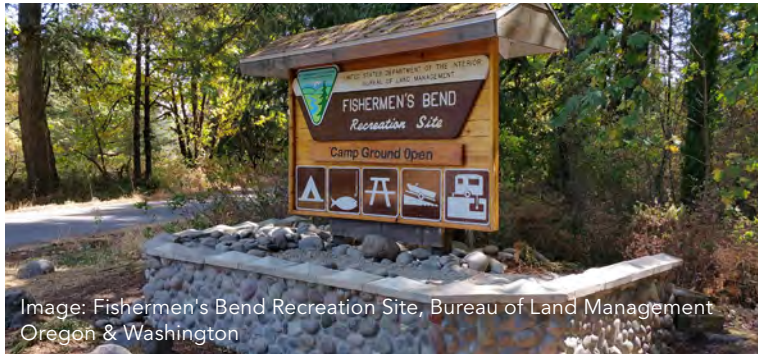


Image: Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site, Bureau of Land Management Oregon & Washington

A new park entry sign located at the northern access road, which will be the main park entrance, should provide information about the park and incorporate PRRD's current branding.



Image: Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site, Bureau of Land Management Oregon & Washington

Two park kiosks – one at the camper registration area and at the Play & Picnic Area could include a park map, rules and regulations, and a bulletin area for rotating information.



Image: Driftwood Canyon Provincial Park, David Greenwood

Interpretive signs could be considered to provide information about ecology and history.



Road signs are recommended to direct people to camping areas and help streamline circulation.



Image: Wailaki Campground, Bureau of Land Management California

Pedestrian-scale signs should be located at trailheads to provide direction to key locations. Distance information could be provided.



Image: Rath Trevor Beach Provincial Park, Parksville

Each campsite should be marked with an assigned number to aid in reservations and wayfinding.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Action	Suggested Timing	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
10.1 Develop a new park entry sign.	Short	\$9,000
10.2 Develop kiosks at the Park Entry (see Recommendation #4) and Amenity Building (see Recommendation #5) and interpretive information (see Recommendation #9).	See Rec. #4, #5, #9	See Rec. #4, #5, #9
10.3 Add road signs and campsite markers as part of Camping Area development Projects (see Recommendation #3).	See Rec. #3	See Rec. #3
10.4 Add trail signs as part of trail network development projects (see Recommendation #1)	See Rec. #1	See Rec. #1

11

UNDERTAKE ONGOING TREE MANAGEMENT & RENEWAL

Complete regular assessment and management of existing trees in the park and initiate a program of renewal to increase vegetation and tree canopy over time.

BACKGROUND:

Existing tree cover is a key asset for Blackfoot Regional Park. A challenge is that much of the tree canopy is comprised of aging aspen trees which tend to have a relatively short life-span compared with other species and can experience brittleness and limb loss as they age. This creates a potential concern for falling branches and loss of tree canopy over time.

DESIGN & PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS:

Maintaining a strong tree canopy will be important for the future of the campground. The plan recommends that the PRRD:

- ▶ Complete regular reviews of the existing tree canopy and undertake removals or topping of trees identified as potential hazards.
- ▶ Prepare a planting strategy for the park, including identification of appropriate tree species for renewal.
- ▶ Undertake annual planting, focusing on adding vegetation to increase privacy of campsites and supporting a system of ongoing tree canopy renewal.



Example of existing trees in Blackfoot Regional Park.



Planting of trees and other vegetation could help increase privacy of campsites, for example in the tenting area.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Action	Suggested Timing	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
11.1 Review the existing tree canopy and complete removals of potential hazards on a regular basis.	Ongoing	Operations
11.2 Prepare a planting strategy/species list for the park.	Short	Staff Time
11.3 Complete annual tree and shrub planting.	Ongoing	Operations

12

CONSIDER FUTURE PARK EXPANSION FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES

Focus park improvements within the main park area in the short- to medium-term, while considering opportunities for securing additional park land for the specific purposes of maintaining road access and boat launching. Additional expansion of the campground area is not recommended, unless demand substantially increases in the long-term.

BACKGROUND:

During the planning process, input suggested two areas that may warrant consideration for park expansion:

- ▶ The private land to the southeast of the park that includes the road that provides access to the east end of the park.
- ▶ The Crown land to the west of the park, across 203 Road.

The 2014 Regional Parks Master Plan recommended acquisition to secure the access road to the east end of the park.

PLANNING & DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS:

The existing Blackfoot Regional Park footprint is large enough to achieve campsite expansion goals without adding park area. Park expansion would require additional capital investment and increase operational costs. Maintaining a smaller developed footprint will be more efficient and economical.

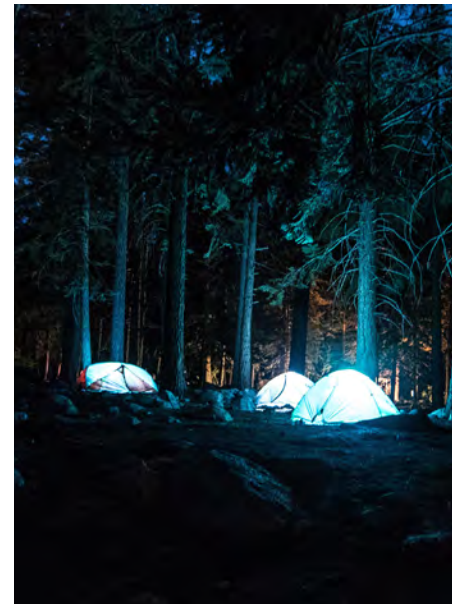
Due to costs, park expansion for campground use is not recommended; however, there are specific purposes for which acquisition may warrant consideration:

- ▶ The private land to the southeast of the park could be acquired to secure the vehicle access road to the east end of the park in perpetuity. However, alternate arrangements such as a long-term lease may be more cost effective and should also be investigated.
- ▶ The Crown land across 203 Road could be considered for establishing a new boat launch (see Recommendation #7). If the site is secured for a launch, it is recommended that modest improvements be focused on boat launching only (e.g., roads, signs) to manage capital and operational costs. Campsite or amenity development should be considered in the future only if demand exceeds provision within the main campground areas.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

Action	Suggested Timing	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
12.1 Undertake discussions with the private land owner of the adjacent southeast parcel to secure long-term road access.	Short	Staff Time/TBD
12.2 Consider acquisition or leasing of the Crown land to the west of 203 Road as part of ongoing boat launch planning.	Short	See Rec. #7

6 | IMPLEMENTATION



Implementation of the ideas and directions in the Blackfoot Regional Park Plan will occur over time as opportunities and funds are available. This implementation summary provides a recommended phased approach to implementing actions. The PRRD should review and update implementation planning regularly to respond to changing opportunities and community needs.

6.1 OVERVIEW

The implementation summary organizes the actions identified in **Section 5** into recommended phases. The plan is a long-term outlook and it is recognized that the park and surrounding area will continue to evolve, so it will be necessary to be flexible and adapt to new opportunities and challenges that arise.

The projects recommended in this plan will need to be prioritized within the PRRD's overall planning which may affect how quickly implementation can occur.

While the PRRD Board is responsible for overseeing the plan, successful implementation will require coordination between a number of groups including, but not limited to:

- ▶ PRRD Board;
- ▶ Regional Parks Committee;
- ▶ PRRD Departments (Community Services, Environmental Services, Communications, Financial Services);
- ▶ Potential Partners;
- ▶ Stakeholders; and
- ▶ Community Members.

6.2 FUNDING STRATEGIES

Implementation of the park plan recommendations will likely be achieved through a combination of funding sources. Availability of funding will influence the extent and content of each phase of park development.

There are several possible sources of funding that could help implement the recommendations in this plan. Table 3 provides a brief description of strategies that could be employed.

Table 3: Potential Funding Sources

Action	Potential Key Recommendations
1. Capital: Property tax is the PRRD's principle source of revenue for providing park services. The 2014 Parks and Trails Master Plan recommended a modest increase in tax rate allocation (on property improvements only) to support the regional parks system.	▶ All recommendations
2. Government and NGO Funding: The Province of BC, Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Northern Development Initiative Trust, Government of Canada, and other government and non-government organizations offer grants that provide capital or planning funds. These funds could be harnessed for both further design development or implementation of key capital projects that boost economy or increase recreation assets for the area.	▶ #1 - Develop a Trail Network ▶ #2 - Develop Site Servicing ▶ #3 - Improve & Expand Campsites at the Park ▶ #9 - Expand Recreation Amenities ▶ #12 - Consider Future Park Expansion for Specific Purposes
3. Donations & Fundraising: Corporations, organizations, and individuals are often willing to contribute to community assets either through capital or in-kind donation of materials, equipment, or time. With an active resource sector in the PRRD, there may be a number of businesses interested in contributing to local recreation resources. An organized donation campaign helps harness these opportunities and ensures the community sees results.	▶ #1 - Develop a Trail Network ▶ #7 - Re-establish a Boat Launch At or Near the Park ▶ #9 - Expand Recreation Amenities
4. Partnerships: Partnerships with other groups could help implement key recommendations that may be challenging for the PRRD to complete independently.	▶ #7 - Re-establish a Boat Launch At or Near the Park
5. User Fees: User fees provide funding to assist with the costs of operating and maintaining park facilities. User fees should be regularly reviewed to ensure they are supporting successful operation of the park.	▶ #4 - Create a Park Attendant Position

6.3 CAPITAL COST ESTIMATES

While completing all the recommended park upgrades in one phase would provide the greatest efficiency, funding limitations will likely require phased implementation. Table 4 suggests a potential phasing and cost budget estimate summary based on priorities identified through community input and logical phasing of projects that must be completed before others can be undertaken.

A challenge for implementing improvements in Blackfoot Regional Park is that site servicing must be completed before a number of other recommendations can be undertaken. For example, water, sewer, and power would need to be in place before an on-site Park Attendant position can be established or an Amenity Building can be provided. Implementation of servicing carries high capital costs, but also brings significant benefit for expanding park use and improving function. For this reason, Phase A recommendations have a relatively high capital cost which may require saving of funds or application for grants or other funding before implementation can commence.

Costs estimates include a 30% contingency due to the pricing and quantity variables associated with this level of planning including unknowns and inflationary factors. Costs also include an add-on of 15% - 30% to account for design, engineering, and administration fees during detailed design development.

Note that even with a 30% contingency built into the estimates, annual inflationary and market conditions will always need to be taken into consideration in the intervening years up to the point of actual implementation. These allowances provide an order of magnitude +/- 30% and illustrate relative costs among components. More accurate site information and engineering is required prior to final budgeting and implementation.

The cost estimate summary does not include costs for ongoing partnership projects or land acquisition. These costs could vary significantly depending on agreements and circumstances. Specific recommendations that may or may not have future cost implications include:

- ▶ Planning and development of a boat launch at or near the park (see Recommendation #7)
- ▶ Potential acquisition of private land to secure road access to the east end of the park (see Recommendation #12)
- ▶ Potential acquisition of Crown land to support a boat launch at that site (see Recommendation #12)

Table 4: Capital Cost Estimate Phasing Summary

#	Recommendation	Preliminary Capital Cost Allowance
PHASE A		
1.1	Large Loop Trail	\$28,000
2.1	Potable Water System Development & Distribution to Amenity Building/Park Attendant Site	\$116,000
2.2	Sanitary System Development & Connection to Amenity Building/Park Attendant Site	\$118,000
2.3	Electrical System Connection & Connection to Amenity Building/Park Attendant Site	\$45,000
3.1	Camping Area A	\$99,000
4.1	Host Campsite & Registration Area Development	\$38,000
5.1	New Amenities Building	\$139,000
6.1	Sani-Dump Station	\$53,000
8.3	Lockable Control Gate at South Access Road	\$4,000
8.5	Day-use Parking at the Play & Picnic Area	\$9,000
9.1	Additional Playground Elements	\$40,000
9.2	Sand Court Play Area	\$8,000
10.1	New Park Entry Sign	\$9,000
PHASE A TOTAL:		\$706,000
PHASE B		
1.2	Beach/Play Connector Trail	\$16,000
3.2	Camping Area B	\$286,000
3.3	Camping Area C	\$227,000
3.4	Tent Camping Area	\$32,000
5.2	Vault Toilet in the Tenting Area	\$15,000
7.4	Boat Launch Development	TBD*
8.6	Day-use Parking at the Tenting Area	\$16,000
9.3	Picnic Shelter and Group BBQ Area	\$101,000
PHASE B TOTAL:		\$693,000
PHASE C		
1.3	Connector Trail to Host Campsite/Park Entry	\$9,000
1.4	Small Loop Trail	\$7,000
3.5	Camping Area D	\$95,000
5.3	Vault Toilet in Camping Area D	\$15,000
9.4	Interpretive Feature	\$34,000
PHASE C TOTAL:		\$160,000
TOTAL, ALL PHASES:		\$1,559,000

* Costs of designing and implementing a new boat launch will vary based on location, launch design, and partnerships formed. At this early stage, it is not feasible to accurately estimate costs for launch development.

6.4 OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

The PRRD is committed to long-term sustainability of the campground. While it should be anticipated that capital investment will be required to develop the park; long-term operation of the park as a cost-neutral or positive asset should be a goal.

When a park attendant position is created, Blackfoot Regional Park campground should become a paid campground. Revenue generated from the campground will be used to cover the costs for operating and maintenance.

While park improvements will result in additional maintenance and operational costs (including paying an on-site park attendant during the camping season) the establishment of a revenue stream through paid camping is anticipated to offset these costs. Table 5 summarizes a potential long-term operating scenario for Blackfoot Regional Park based on information from similar operations.

The following assumptions should be noted:

- ▶ Numbers are based on the full build-out of campsites shown in the concept plan. Fewer campsites will generate lower revenue while also having lower operating costs.
- ▶ Campsite booking assumptions:
 - » All campsites will be available for booking between May 15 and Sept. 15 annually (124 potential days).
 - » Campsites will be booked at rate of 75% on weekends and 20% on week days for a total of 45.7 days/year. This is a conservative booking estimate – higher booking rates would result in higher revenue.
- ▶ Utility costs are assumed estimates based on other operational plans. Refined costs should be developed based on actual use.

Maintenance of the campground facilities will be essential to protect public investment and achieve the PRRD's goal of providing campers with a clean, safe, and enjoyable camping experience. As part of the Park Attendant position (see Recommendation #4), the PRRD should develop an updated maintenance program to set detailed maintenance practices for new and existing campground facilities.

Table 5: High-Level Operational / Revenue Budget Summary (per Season)

#	Recommendation	Estimate
Projected Campground Operating Costs		
1	Annual Park Attendant Contract including the following min. duties: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Campground registration system management ▶ Regular park maintenance including cleaning, mowing, etc. ▶ Provision of day-to-day supplies (e.g., cleaning supplies) ▶ Provision of maintenance equipment and tools ▶ Minor repairs and upgrades ▶ Coordination of regular park management activities (e.g., water quality testing, vault toilet clean-out, start-up/shut-down) ▶ Park patrol ▶ Reporting 	\$30,000
2	Power Utility Costs	\$2,500
3	Sanitary System and Vault Toilet Maintenance	\$2,500
4	Water System Maintenance and Testing	\$2,000
5	Annual Repairs	\$7,500
6	Telephone/Satellite Expense	\$2,000
7	Insurance	\$2,500
8	Marketing/Reservations Management	\$3,000
ESTIMATED CAMPGROUND OPERATIONS COSTS TOTAL:		\$52,000
Projected Campground Revenues		
1	Camping Fees (19 unserviced individual sites) @ \$20/site	\$18,280
2	Camping Fees (2 unserviced group sites) @ \$30/site	\$2,742
3	Camping Fees (20 serviced individual sites) @ \$28/site	\$24,312
4	Camping Fees (1 serviced group sites) @ \$40/site	\$1,828
5	Camping Fees (up to 10 tents) @ \$15/tent	\$6,855
6	Picnic Shelter Rental @ \$50/day	\$1,000
7	Miscellaneous Sales (e.g. firewood@\$10/bucket)	\$1,000
ESTIMATED CAMPGROUND REVENUES TOTAL:		\$56,017

6.5 OUTREACH & MARKETING

Building awareness and interest in Blackfoot Regional Park will be central to generating revenue that supports campground operation. Today, awareness about Blackfoot Regional Park is generally limited to local residents. Expanding the base of potential campers to invite more residents, as well as visitors from other communities, will be partly supported by and enhanced marketing approach.

Outreach and marketing activities that the PRRD could consider to build awareness include:

► **Creating a Blackfoot Regional Park Identity:**

Develop a distinct identity for the park, including imagery, text, and logo to identify it as a unique place. The identity should integrate with the overall PRRD standards, while recognizing that Blackfoot Regional Park is a unique destination.

► **Undertaking Public Marketing:** Increase information available about Blackfoot Regional Park by developing and maintaining information such as:

- » A webpage that is regularly updated with information about the park and its development and evolution, engaging people about exciting changes as the get underway.
- » Regular social media posts that encourage people to explore what recreation opportunities the area has to explore.
- » Hard copy information such as a postcard or brochure potentially distributed via PRRD swag bags, during community meetings, to tourism or visitor service offices, and other identified locations.
- » Regular promotion in community active living guides or other recreational-based publications.

► **Connecting with Other Organizations:**

Develop and maintain connections with organizations that will promote Blackfoot Regional Park such as the local Chambers of Commerce, tourism agencies, and other levels of government.

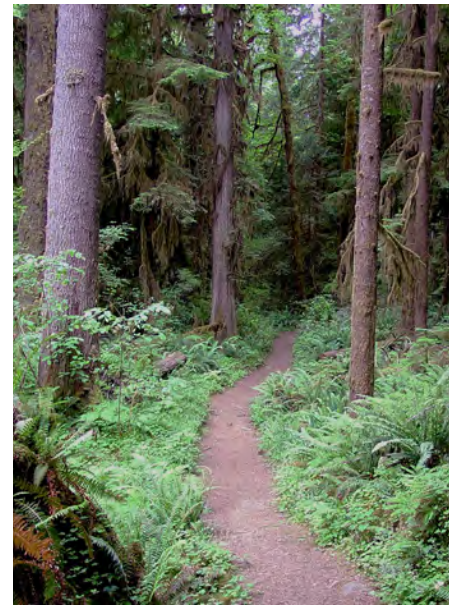
► **Hosting Community Events:** Events like PRRD's Park Day or other celebrations attract people to the park. Hosting events and encouraging other groups to use the park for their events and celebrations will increase traffic and awareness of the park.

► **Delegating Marketing:** Consider incorporating marketing as part of the Park Attendant job description, with potential for considering revenue sharing as part of the overall compensation package for the attendant in order to provide incentive. As an example, the operators of Pass Creek Park in Castlegar maintain the campground's website: passcreekcampground.weebly.com



Blackfoot Regional Park has potential to become a centrepiece of PRRD's Regional Parks system. With strategic improvements, phased over time, the park will become a significant asset for area residents.

REFERENCES



BC Hydro, 2007. Peace Project Water Use Plan (Revised for Acceptance by the Comptroller of Water Rights).

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APPENDIX A: PUBLIC INPUT #1 SUMMARY





REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT PUBLIC EVENT #1 & IDEAS QUESTIONNAIRE

OVERVIEW

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) is undertaking a Regional Park Design and Feasibility Study for **Blackfoot Regional Park** and **Montney Centennial Regional Park**. The purpose of the Study is to develop a plan that will enhance the functionality, environmental sustainability, safety, and fiscal and operational viability of the parks.

An integral component of the process is to understand the values and issues amongst community members including park users, Peace River Regional District residents, stakeholders, PRRD staff, Regional Parks Committee, and the Regional Board.

This report provides a summary of **Public Event #1 & the Ideas Questionnaire**, which occurred as part of the first phase of the planning process (Phase 1: Understanding the Parks). This first phase focused on:

- ▶ Introducing the Regional Park Design Study to community members;
- ▶ Gathering information and perspectives about both parks from the community;
- ▶ Gathering input on a collective vision and objectives for the future of each park; and
- ▶ Generating ideas for new activities, amenities, programs, or other potential improvements.

The Regional Park Design Study began in July 2017 and is planned to be complete in November 2017. Subsequent phases of this process will focus on:

- ▶ Park Options Development (Phase 2)
- ▶ Final Park Plans Development and Review (Phase 3)

HOW INPUT WILL BE USED

Input provided during this phase will be considered, along with technical and financial information, to develop improvement options and recommendations for each park. These options will be brought back for public consideration during Phase 2.

This remainder of this summary is organized in the following sections:

Section	Description	Refer to Page:
1 Engagement Process	Provides a brief overview of the process and outreach that was undertaken during Phase 1	2
2 Overview Summary of Input:	Provides a consolidated summary of key input obtained, focusing on repeated and common comments. This section will provide the reader with a high-level overview of the input.	4
3 Detailed Summary of Ideas Questionnaire Results	Provides an expanded summary of all input received through the Ideas Questionnaire if a reader wishes to delve deeper into the information.	6
Appendix A	Verbatim Responses from the Public Events	25
Appendix B	Verbatim Responses from the Ideas Questionnaire	28
Appendix C	Input Questionnaire Form	39

1 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

METHODOLOGY

Between July 14, 2017 to August 20, 2017, the PRRD provided information regarding the Regional Park Design Study and sought initial input from the public through:



Two interactive community events:

- **Montney Centennial Regional Park**
14460 – 279 Road, Charlie Lake, BC
Saturday, July 29th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
(concurrent with Parks Day)
- **Blackfoot Regional Park**
213 Blackfoot Road, Clayhurst, BC
Sunday, July 30th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

PARTICIPATION

- ▶ 84 Completed questionnaires
- ▶ ~100 people attended two public events (~70 at Montney Centennial Regional Park Parks Day and ~30 at Blackfoot Regional Park)



Questionnaire in online format (using third-party survey software Simple Survey®) or in hard copy format available at:

- Community events
- PRRD website: www.prrd.bc.ca/engage
- PRRD's Official Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OfficialPRRD
- PRRD offices in Dawson Creek or Fort St. John, BC

Participants who submitted a completed questionnaire had the option to be entered into a draw for a chance to win a \$250 Canadian Tire Gift Card. The draw was completed August 25, 2017.



Display Boards to support the events, including the following information:

- **Welcome and Overview** – What is a Regional Park Plan? What is the Process? Design Study Objectives. How to Share Ideas.
- **About the Parks** – History, Location, Amenities, and Potential Challenges for Blackfoot Regional Park and Montney Centennial Regional Park.
- **Explore the Possibilities** – Participant ideas for what they envision in each park in the future. See **Appendix A** for comments.
- **Community Mapping Exercise** – Participant observations and ideas about each park. See **Appendix A** for comments.

NOTIFICATION

- ▶ **PRRD Website:** Communication on main page (link to Project webpage); Engage! Page (www.prrd.bc.ca/engage/regional-park-design-study); and Events Calendar.
- ▶ **PRRD Official Facebook Page:** 7 posts on www.facebook.com/OfficialPRRD from July 14 to August 11 (25 likes, 1 comment).
- ▶ **Online Advertising:** Banners on www.EnergeticCity.ca (Published July 19 – 29 resulting in 4 comments; 4 shares, 2 likes via Facebook); www.TownWall.ca (Twitter via Taylor Comm Services); Tourism Dawson Creek; Fort St. John Tourism; Moose FM event calendar; and coordination with Parks Day communications.
- ▶ **News Release:** Article in [Energetic City.ca](http://EnergeticCity.ca) (<https://energeticcity.ca/2017/07/prrd-inviting-residents-to-share-ideas-for-regional-park-design-study/>) published on July 27, 2017 to announce the public events (14 shares).
- ▶ **Postcard Mailout:** 6,000 postcards distributed to rural addresses within the PRRD the week of July 17.
- ▶ **Poster / Large-Format and Directional Signage:** Displayed in key locations including PRRD solid waste transfer stations; three community bulletin boards in Dawson Creek; both Regional District offices (Dawson Creek and Fort St. John); on the PRRD website; Charlie Lake Fire Station.
- ▶ **Radio Advertising:** Aired on local radio station Moose FM between July 17 and July 29 (twice daily); Peace FM between July 17 and July 29 (twice daily); and Bell Media July 24 to July 29.
- ▶ **Board Highlights:** One newspaper notification was published in *Board Highlights* on July 6.
- ▶ **Email Communication:** Notification of public events and email reminder to identified stakeholders.



2 | OVERVIEW SUMMARY OF INPUT

The following summary outlines key themes in the input received. This information is detailed further under **Section Error!**
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KEY THEMES

Generally, comments received were positive and participants appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the parks and provide input. The following key themes were observed:

- Participants were mainly residents of Dawson Creek and Fort St. John between 30 and 60 years of age.
- A total of **55%** of questionnaire participants have visited Blackfoot Regional Park and **44%** have visited Montney Centennial Regional Park. Most visit the parks occasionally, typically a few times a year.
- The main limitations for park use include: lack of facilities and amenities that suit people's needs, concerns about unsanctioned activities (parties, ATV use), park accessibility / location, and limited maintenance / upkeep.
- While many appreciate that the parks provide no fee camping, a large percentage of questionnaire participants (43% for Blackfoot and 57% for Montney Centennial) indicated that they would consider paid camping if there were improved/additional amenities.

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

- Park users appreciate the relaxed, natural, and rustic feel of the park. Many appreciate that the park offers a peaceful, quiet place to enjoy nature, camping, or picnics.
- The current park configuration and amenities could be functionally improved. Desirable amenities include more campsites, water supply, improved/more washrooms, improved boat launch, trails, and an enhanced day-use area.
- A key challenge is the uncertainty about camping availability due to a lack of reservation system and limited number campsites.
- Many park users desire more supervision and management for safety, particularly for unsanctioned activities and ATV use in family areas, as well as general maintenance.



Figure 1: Blackfoot Regional Park

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

- Many participants appreciate that the park is quiet and secluded with rustic features as opposed to an extensively developed park with fees.
- Some comments indicated that camping preferences can conflict, notably the noise generated by generators and motorized activities affecting quieter outdoor pursuits. Improvements could include division of RV camping and tent camping, as well as considering elimination of motorized activities from some parks/park areas.
- Park users enjoy the park simplicity, but would like to see the park better maintained for safety, camping, and families.
- The park draws users to mainly fish, boat, or enjoy picnics. A lack of activities was a significant factor in park use. Participants suggested that the park should offer more family friendly activities and amenities including boat access.
- Park accessibility is a key factor in park use as the road leading to the park has slopes / surface that can be compromised by adverse weather conditions.
- Ideas were suggested to make the park more multi-functional, including establishment of a multi-use trail / activity network that could accommodate hiking, mountain biking, disc golf, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, etc.



Figure 2: Montney Centennial Regional Park

ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

Table I lists key comments related to issues and opportunities in each park recorded during the Public Event and Ideas Questionnaire.

Table I: Summary of Issues and Opportunities for Both Parks

	ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES / IDEAS
BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of park management and regulation for safety, vandalism, control of parties, ATV use • Confusing campground configuration • Limited number of campsites and no hook ups • No information if campsites are booked • Lack of information or awareness of park • Limited activities and programming for families • Park location and remoteness • Road conditions can be impassable at times • Lack of adequate boat access, seasonal challenges for creating a launch on the Peace River • Lack of marked trails for hiking and walking • Inadequate washroom facilities • Lack of fresh drinking water supply • Concerns about steep slopes and safety • Limited maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park attendant for monitoring and regulation of park user activity (e.g. garbage, vandalism, parties, emergencies) • Additional, expanded campsites with some hook-ups • Reservation system • Improved day-use area, parking, and activities including a larger playground, central cook station • Small store selling supplies (associated with attendant position) • Park promotion and programming (e.g. Bike Day, Dog Day, Geocaching Day, Teddy Bear Picnic, educational sessions, astronomy camp-outs) • Clear, directional signage and maps (including proximity to major centres) • Improvement of road conditions to park • Improved boat launch • Marked trails (hiking, biking, and horse riding in summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter, ATV-specific trails) • Clean toilets; fresh drinking water supply • Grassy areas for play and picnics and enhanced tree planting by the river • Remove/manage danger trees
MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor road conditions (muddy, dusty) • Difficult to find due to lack of signage to get to park from highway (recently upgraded) • Charlie Lake is not swimmable (poor water quality, lack of shoreline or beach area) • Open park configuration and lack of privacy (limited campsites, no private campsites) • Lack of park monitoring for safety • Insufficient maintenance and upkeep (littering, dogs) • Limited amenities including adequate boat launch and access point for deep water fishing • Need to address long-term campers • Limited park information • Not enough activities (lack of trails, other activities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve road conditions to park • Provide directional signage, maps, and park information (e.g. interpretive for environmental impact, bird species, other species) • Provide sandy beach and clean up lake • Reconfigure campground with designated campsites to improve privacy • Provide park monitoring and enforcement • Provide maintenance; removal of dead trees • Provide amenities (e.g. playground/play area for kids, additional walking/hiking trails, designated fire pits, day use parking, boat launch with aggregate or dock with benches, upgraded washroom facilities, ATV trails, disc golf) • Enforce maximum for park stay duration (14 days) • Day use area with grassy areas for picnics and playing, picnic tables, gazebos, covered area

3 | DETAILED SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

The following section provides a more detailed summary of the results of each question in the Ideas Questionnaire. The Ideas Questionnaire gathering input in four parts:

- ▶ Part 1: Demographics of potential park users
- ▶ Part 2: Blackfoot Regional Park – Current and Future Park Use
- ▶ Part 3: Montney Centennial Regional Park – Current and Future Park Use
- ▶ Part 4: Ideas & Experiences and General Comments

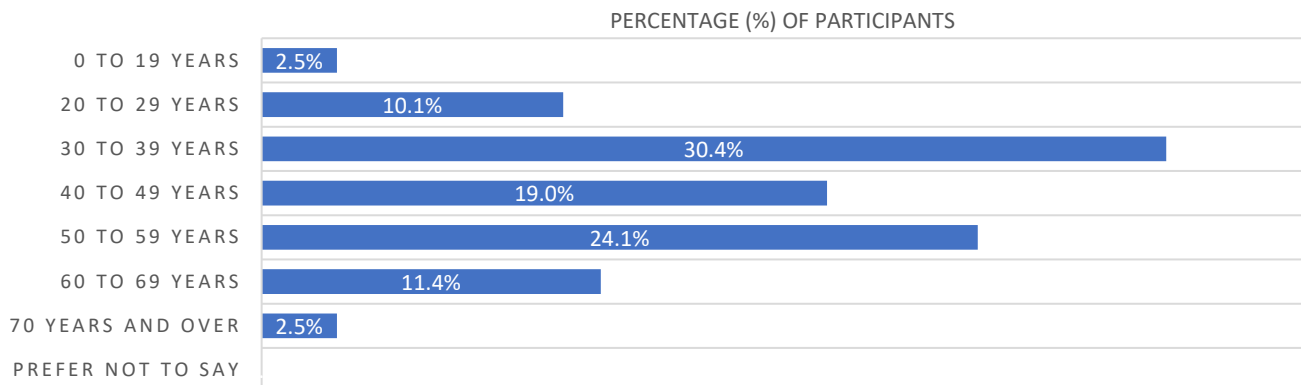
A full record of verbatim comments from the questionnaire input is in **Appendix B**.

PART 1: PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

To understand park users and demographics, participants were asked to answer the following six questions.

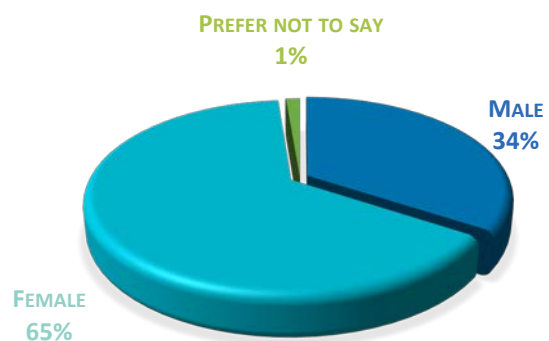
QUESTION 1: IN WHICH AGE GROUP ARE YOU?

- ▶ Most participants were between the ages of 30 to 59 years old (73.5% combined).
- ▶ There was limited participation from individuals under the age of 29 (12.6%) or over the age of 60 (13.9%).



QUESTION 2: WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?

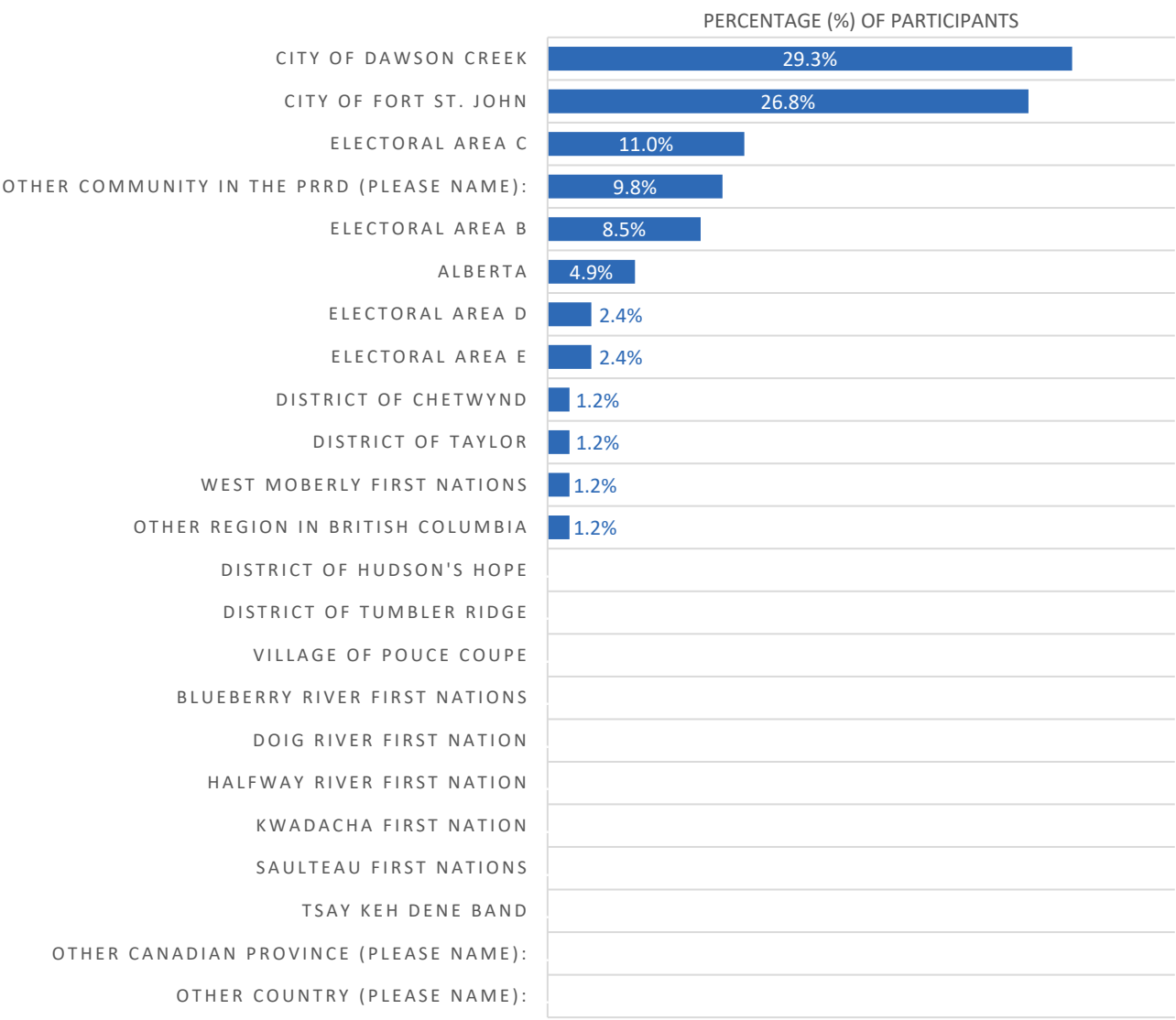
- ▶ More females (64.5%) than males (34.2%) participated in the questionnaire.



QUESTION 3: WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

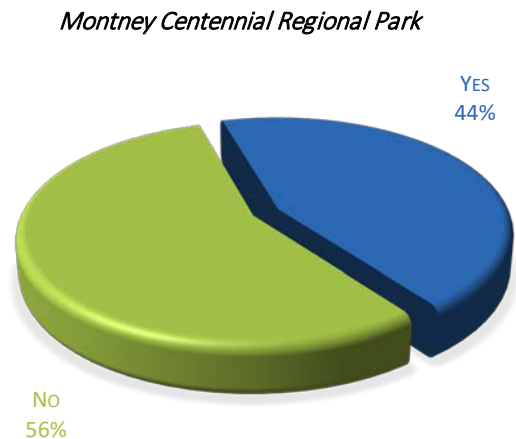
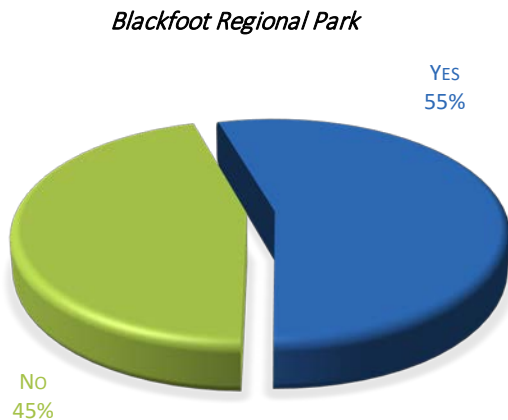
Participants were asked to identify where they lived:

- ▶ The largest percentage of participants reside in either the City of Dawson Creek (29.3%) or the City of Fort St. John (26.8%).
- ▶ Several other participants reside in Electoral Area C (11%) and Electoral Area B (8.5%), or identified living in an other specific community in the PRRD (9.8%).
- ▶ Other communities where participants identified as residing included Rolla, Diamond Willow Sub, Doe River, Farmington, Winnowing, Cecil Lake, and Charlie Lake.
- ▶ Almost 5% of participants reside in Alberta.



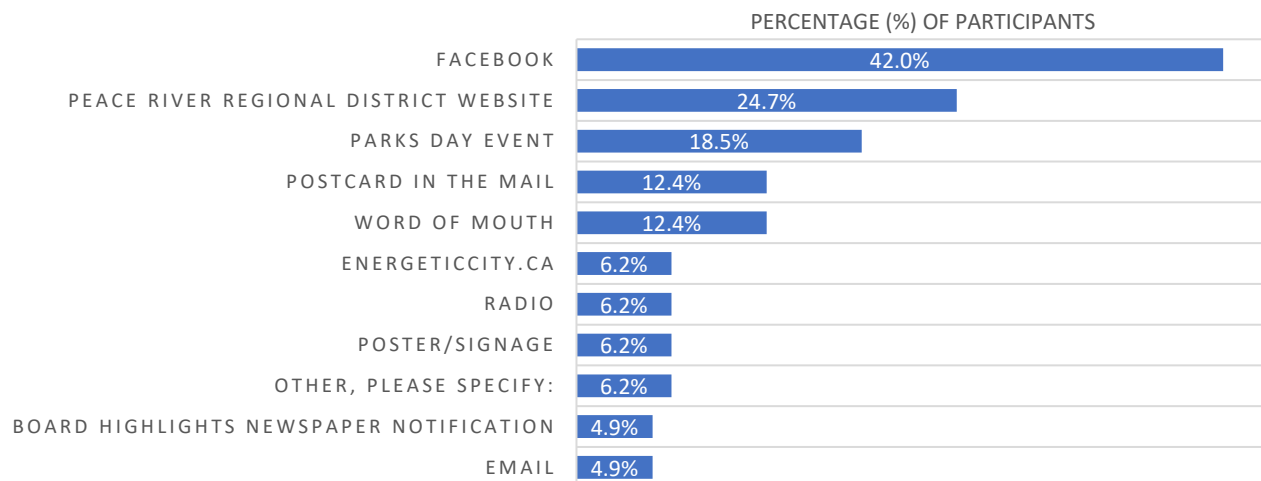
QUESTION 4: DO YOU CURRENTLY USE EITHER OF THE PARKS?

- ▶ 55% of participants identified using Blackfoot Regional Park.
- ▶ 44% identified using Montney Centennial Regional Park.



QUESTION 5: HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE?

- ▶ A large percentage of participants heard about the questionnaire through Facebook (42%).
- ▶ The Peace River Regional District website (24.7%) and the Parks Day event at Montney Centennial Park (18.5%) also informed a number of participants.



QUESTION 6: I WISH TO PROVIDE INPUT ON:

- ▶ Both Parks (37%)
- ▶ Only Blackfoot Regional Park (32%)
- ▶ Only Montney Centennial Regional Park (31%)

PART 2: BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

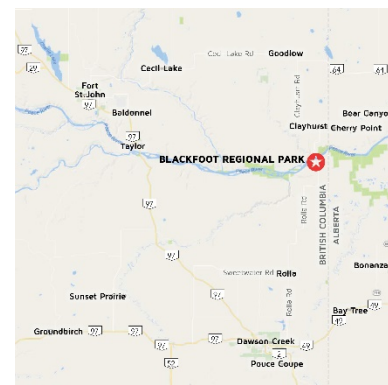
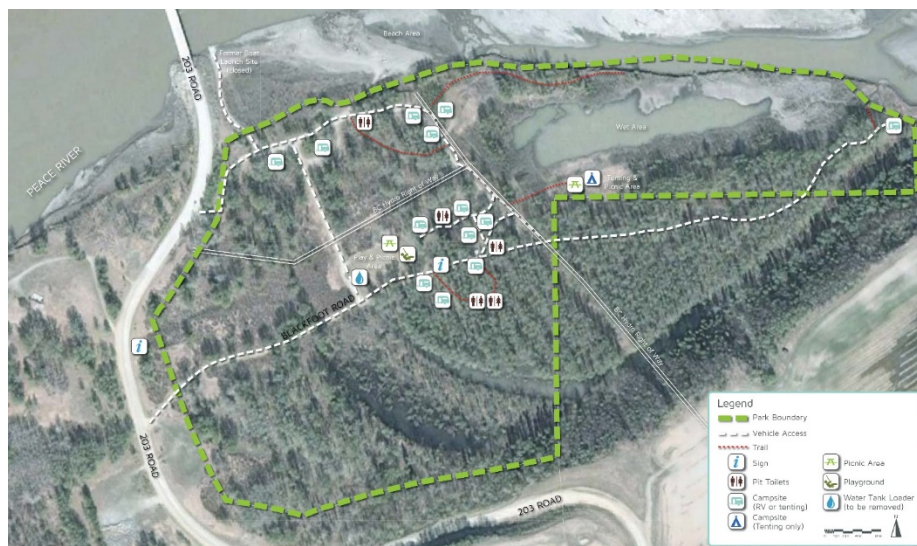
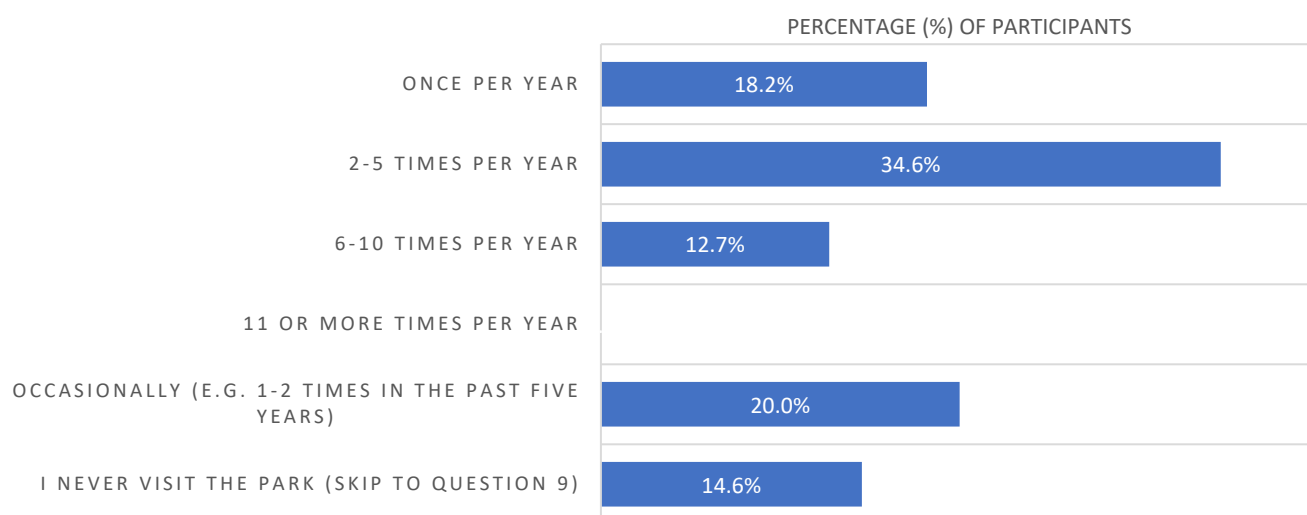


Figure 3: Blackfoot Regional Park Site Map (above) and park location (above right).

CURRENT PARK USE

To understand how visitors currently use Blackfoot Regional Park, participants answered the following five questions.

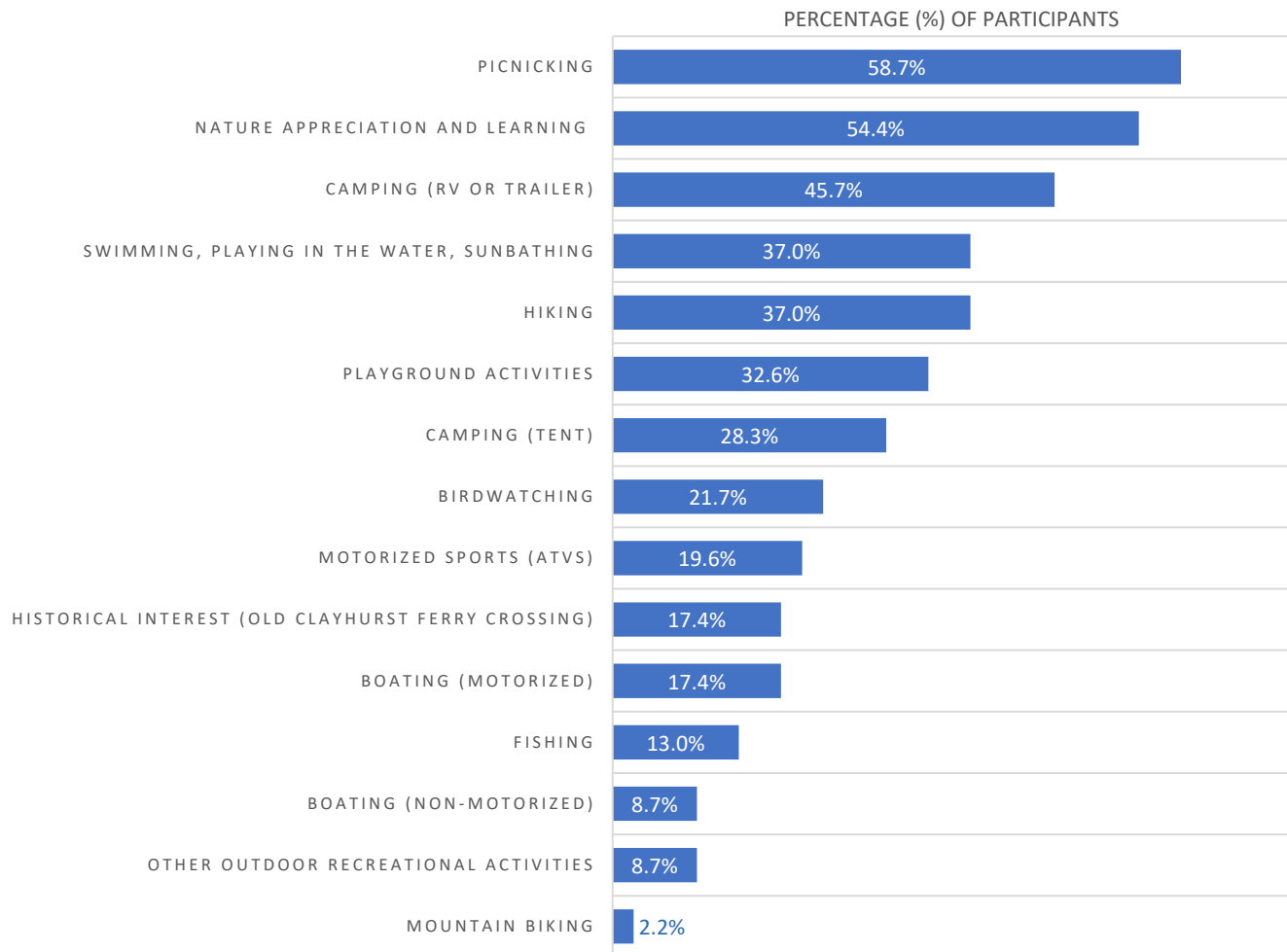
QUESTION 7: HOW FREQUENTLY WOULD YOU SAY YOU VISIT THE PARK?



QUESTION 8: WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN AT BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK?

Top three activities:

1. Picnicking
2. Nature appreciation and learning (e.g. wildflowers, vegetation, wildlife)
3. Camping (RV or trailer)



“Other” identified activities included:

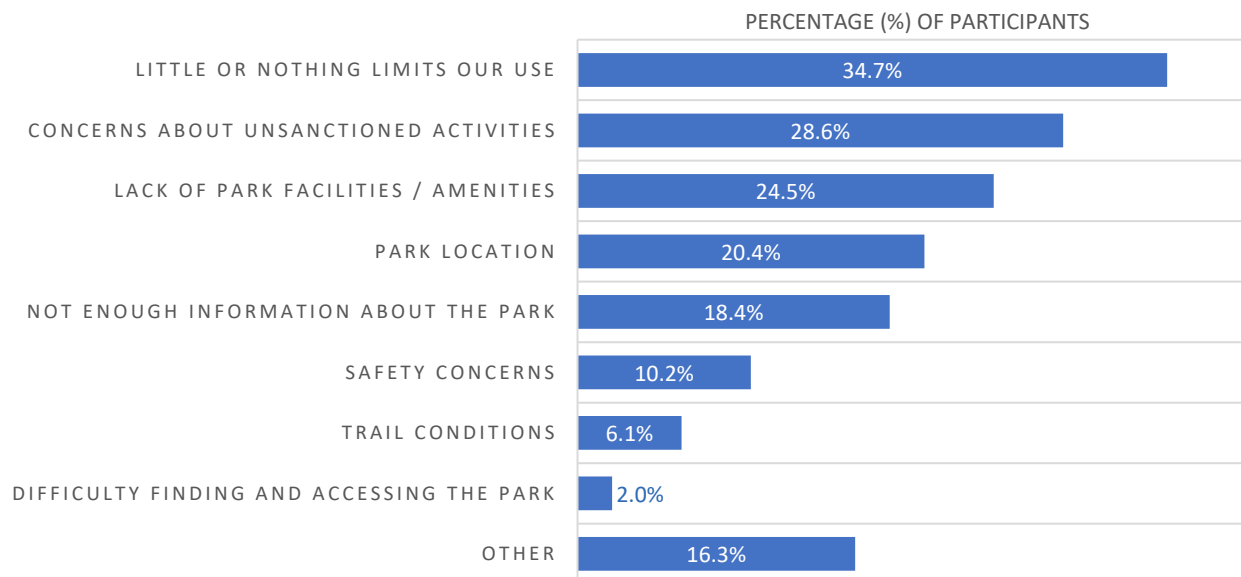
- ▶ Sandcastle building
- ▶ Dog walking
- ▶ Tobogganing

QUESTION 9: WHAT, IF ANYTHING, LIMITS YOUR USE OF BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK?

A large percentage of participants (34.7%) indicated that little or nothing limits their use of the park.

The top three limitations:

1. Concerns about unsanctioned activities (parties, vandalism)
2. Lack of facilities and amenities
3. Park location

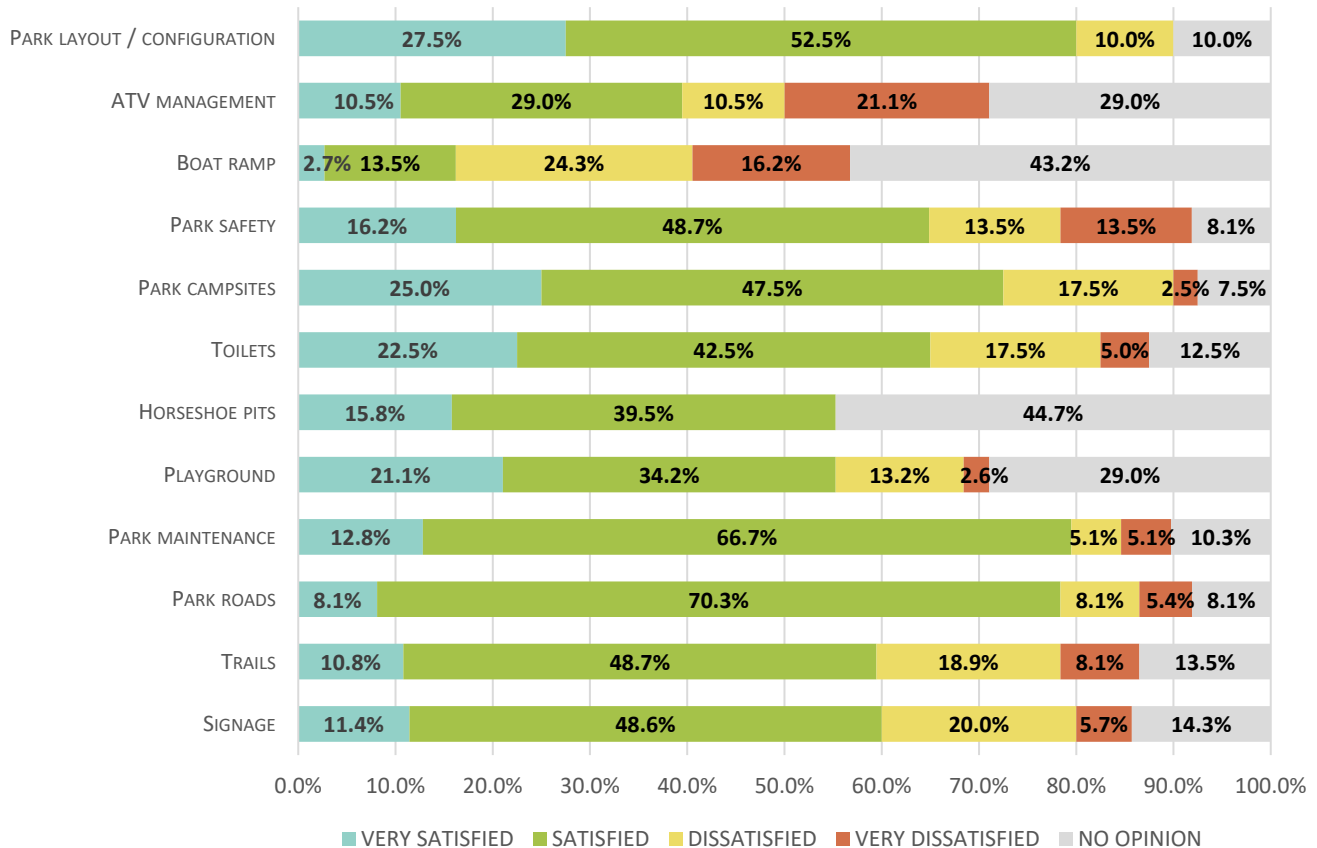


“Other” limitations for park use besides the reasons listed included:

- ▶ Lack of well-maintained trails
- ▶ Lack of control of park user activity such as parties
- ▶ Distance (to travel)
- ▶ No hiking and mountain biking trails
- ▶ No RV hook-ups
- ▶ Unmaintained boat launch and difficult river access
- ▶ Conflicts with motorbike or quad use (lack of management, speed, misuse)
- ▶ Lack of a reservation system

QUESTION 10: IF YOU'VE VISITED BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK, WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS?

- ▶ In general, participants noted that they were satisfied with most park elements.
- ▶ Participants indicated that they were most “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with the boat ramp (40.5%) and ATV management (31.6%).



Other comments concerning park aspects for Blackfoot Regional Park included:

- ▶ Love of the park based on relaxed camping setting, beauty, and that it is a no fee campsite.
- ▶ Desire for improved maintenance (feels neglected).
- ▶ Desire for improved management (concerns about ATV noise, ATV use, and bush parties).
- ▶ Desire for improved amenities including more trails, larger playground, better signage, boat launch for access to the river (which can be seasonally challenging depending on silt and woody debris deposition), more campsites, improved toilets, and day use parking.
- ▶ Easier access to the tenting area – remove big logs blocking the entrance.

QUESTION 11: WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES OR CHALLENGES IN BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK?

- ▶ Lack of park management (park attendant for monitoring of park user activity including garbage and vandalism) and regulation (for safety due to remoteness, control of parties, and ATV management)
- ▶ Campground configuration
- ▶ Limited campsites and no hook-ups
- ▶ No information if campsites are booked
- ▶ Lack of day-use area
- ▶ Lack of activities for families
- ▶ Limited park knowledge – suggested park promotion to increase awareness
- ▶ Lack of programming (suggested programming included Bike Day, Dog Day, Geocaching Day, Teddy Bear Picnic, educational sessions, astronomy camp-outs)
- ▶ Park location (suggestion to provide clear directional signage including proximity to major centres)
- ▶ Park road conditions can be impassable at times
- ▶ Inadequate boat access to river
- ▶ Lack of marked trails (suggestion to develop trails specifically for hiking, biking, and horse riding in summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter as well as ATV-specific trails)
- ▶ Lack of clean toilets
- ▶ Lack of fresh drinking water supply

FUTURE PARK USE

To identify potential improvements in Blackfoot Regional Park, participants were asked to provide input on future park use.

QUESTION 12: IF YOU COULD DESCRIBE IN ONE WORD OR SHORT PHRASE YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Words generated:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Safe | • Picnic by the river |
| • Family friendly fun | • Keep natural |
| • Easy going | • Explore the natural beauty of the Peace River |
| • More campsites | • Hidden gem |
| • Better playground | • Free |
| • More supervision | • Green oasis on banks of Peace River |
| • Peaceful and quiet place to relax and enjoy nature | • Well-maintained, clearly marked trails for hiking/biking |
| • Maintain rustic feel | • Cater to larger RV's with hook-ups |
| • Usable | • Boater destination |
| • Functional | • Less vandalism and partying |
| • Responsible quad use | • Beautiful, quiet park to enjoy with family and friends |

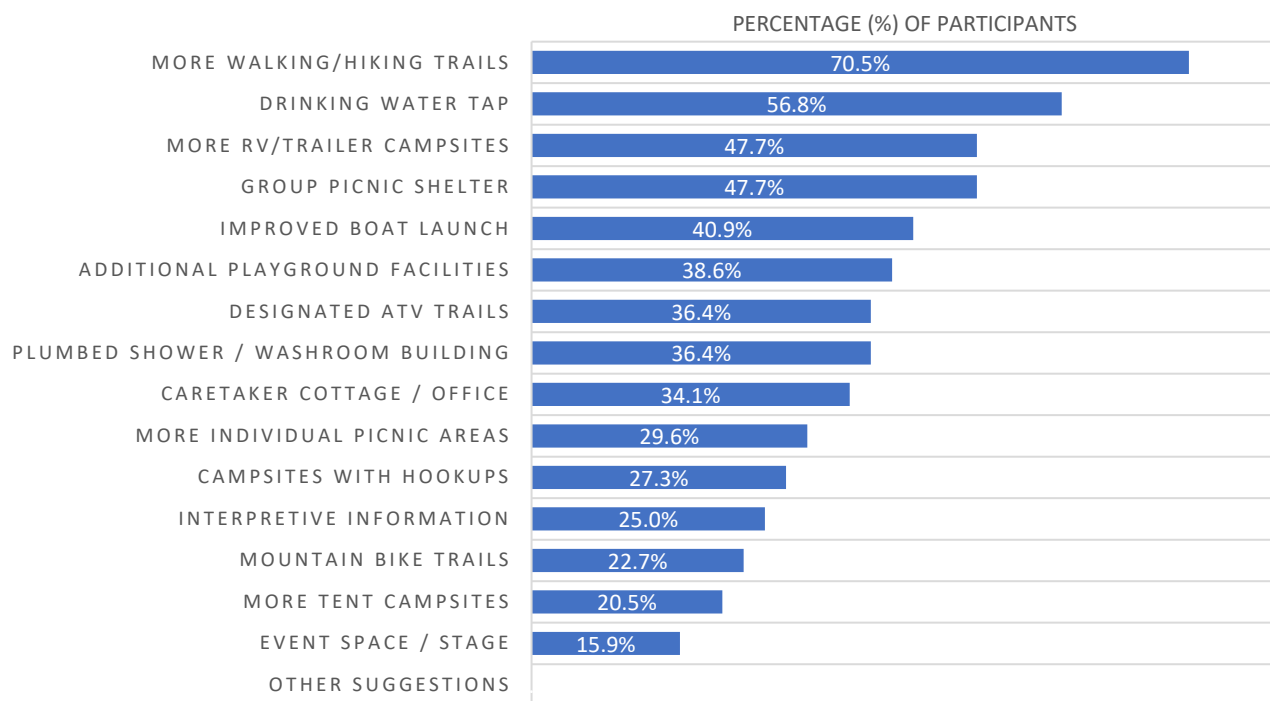
PRELIMINARY DRAFT VISION FOR BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

Blackfoot Regional Park invites people to explore the natural splendor of the Peace River in a rustic, quiet, and family-friendly forest space, becoming the starting point to many great adventures and memories.

QUESTION 13: WHAT AMENITIES DO YOU THINK MIGHT WARRANT CONSIDERATION IN BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK?

The top three amenities that participants felt might warrant consideration for Blackfoot Regional Park included:

1. More Walking/Hiking Trails
2. Drinking Water Tap
3. More RV/Trailer Campsites (tie)
3. Group Picnic Shelter (tie)

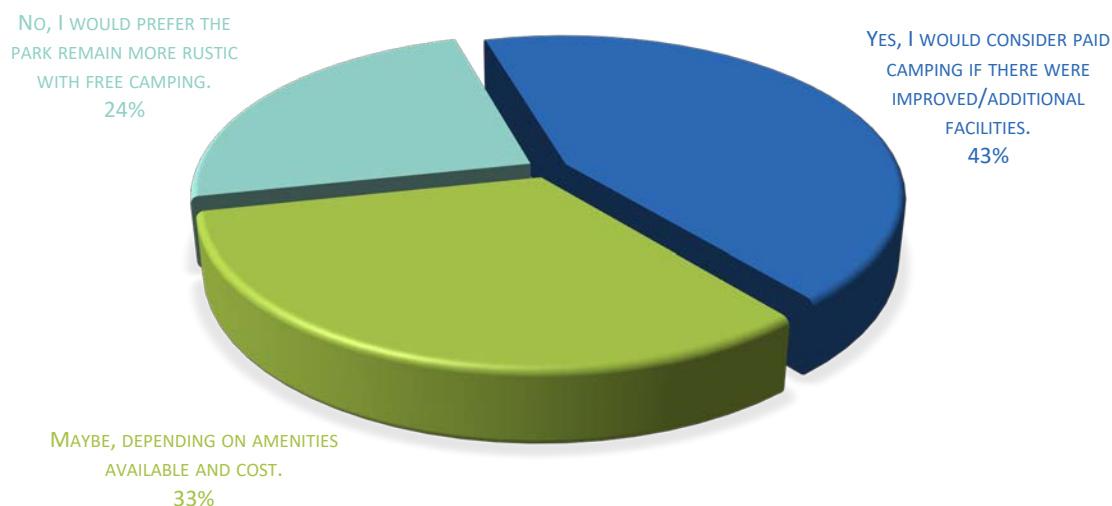


Other suggestions included:

- ▶ Plant new trees to replace the old trees
- ▶ Water (even non-potable water for dishes and putting out campfires)
- ▶ Day use parking
- ▶ Well-maintained washroom facilities
- ▶ Centre cook station with picnic tables and camp wood stove
- ▶ ATV management

QUESTION 14: IF BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK WAS ENHANCED TO INCLUDE IMPROVED/ADDITIONAL FACILITIES, WOULD YOU CONSIDER PAYING FOR CAMPING IN THE PARK?

- ▶ Many participants (43%) indicated that they would support paid camping if it meant that there were improved or additional facilities in the park.
- ▶ About one-quarter (24%) indicated a preference that the park remain more rustic with free camping.



PART 3: MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

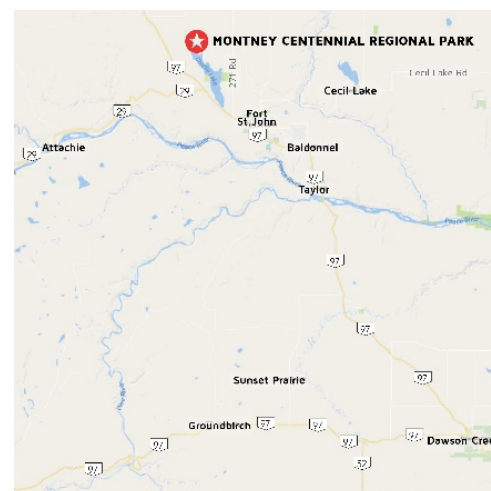
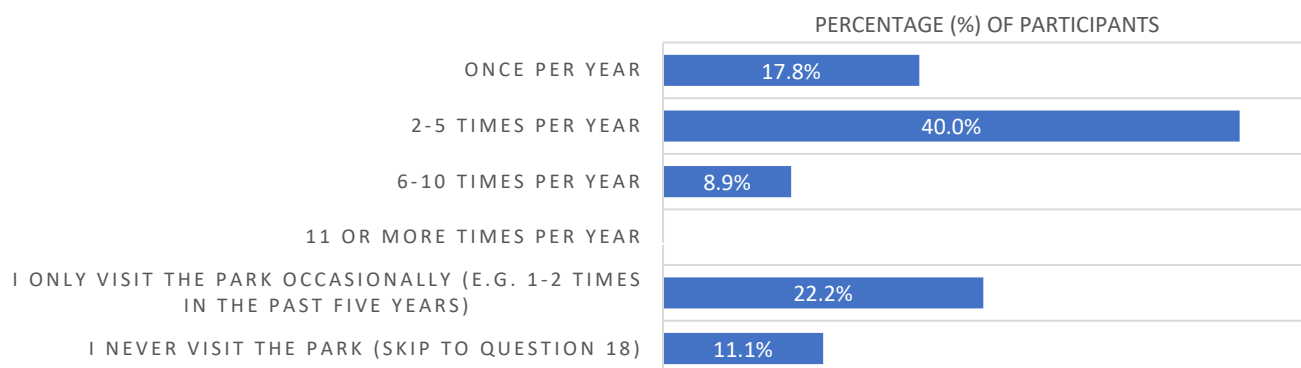


Figure 4: Montney Centennial Regional Park Site Map (above) and park location (above right).

CURRENT PARK USE

To understand how visitors currently use Montney Centennial Regional Park, participants answered the following five questions.

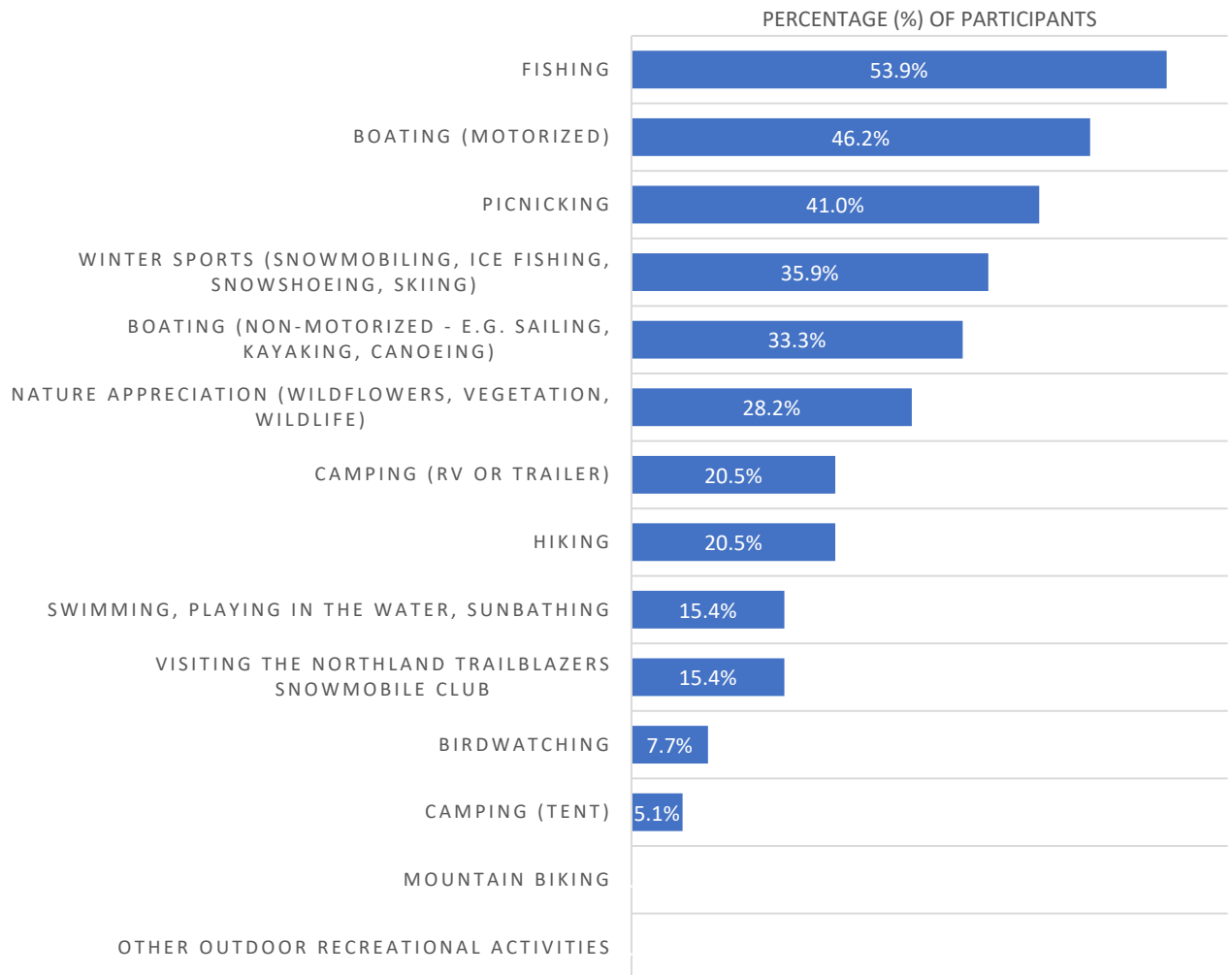
QUESTION 15: HOW FREQUENTLY WOULD YOU SAY YOU VISIT THE PARK?



QUESTION 16: WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN AT MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK?

Top three activities:

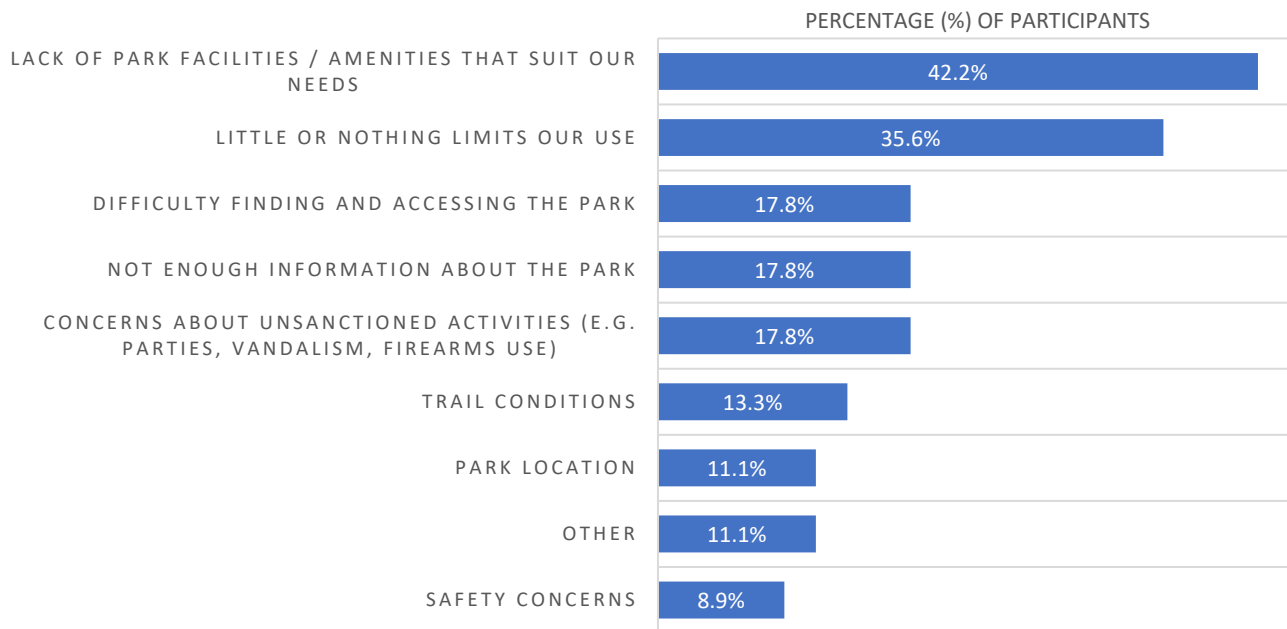
1. Fishing
2. Boating (motorized)
3. Picnicking



Participants did not identify any other activities that they participate in at Montney Centennial Regional Park.

QUESTION 17: WHAT, IF ANYTHING, LIMITS YOUR USE OF MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK?

- ▶ The main reason people do not visit Montney Centennial Regional Park is lack of park facilities/amenities that suit their needs (42.2%).
- ▶ Park accessibility, lack of park information, and concerns about unsanctioned activities were also identified as limitations (each 17.8%).

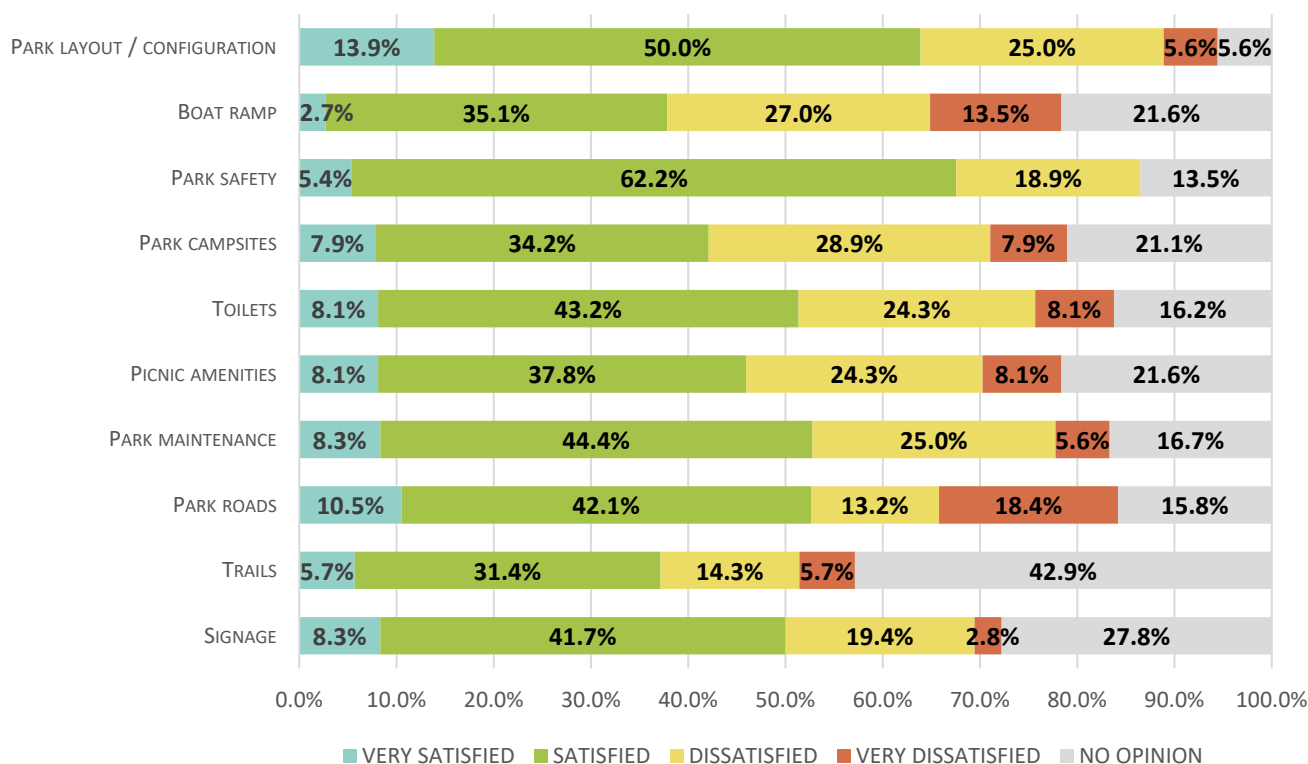


“Other” limitations for park use aside from reasons listed included:

- ▶ Road leading into the park (rough and dusty)
- ▶ Lack of signage
- ▶ Limited day use area
- ▶ Limited available campsites (issues with long-term campers occupying sites for long periods)
- ▶ No campsites with hook-ups
- ▶ Charlie Lake water quality (conditions of the lake water)
- ▶ Lack of a “family” feel
- ▶ Lack of activities

QUESTION 18: IF YOU'VE VISITED MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK, WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS?

- ▶ Generally, many were satisfied with the park elements at Montney Centennial Regional Park.
- ▶ Participants indicated that they were most “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with the boat ramp (40.5%), park campsites (36.8%), and park toilets and picnic amenities (32.4% each).



QUESTION 19: WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES OR CHALLENGES IN MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK?

- ▶ Poor road conditions (muddy conditions when it rains, dusty conditions)
- ▶ Difficult to find due to lack of signage to get to park from highway recently upgraded
- ▶ Charlie Lake is not swimmable (due to poor water quality, lack of shoreline or beach area)
- ▶ Poor park configuration and lack of privacy (limited campsites, no private campsites)
- ▶ Lack of park monitoring for safety
- ▶ Lack of maintenance and upkeep
- ▶ Limited amenities (e.g. play area for kids, additional walking/hiking trails, designated fire pits, day use parking, boat launch or dock, and upgraded/additional washroom facilities)
- ▶ Need to address long-term campers

FUTURE PARK USE

To understand participant needs and wants for potential improvements for Montney Centennial Regional Park, participants were asked to provide input on future park use.

QUESTION 20: IF YOU COULD DESCRIBE IN ONE WORD OR SHORT PHRASE YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Respondents were asked to provide in one word or a short phrase their vision for the future of the park. Common words and phrases were:

- Leave as is
- Close enough to home but far enough away for a holiday
- Accessible for all campers
- Multi-use area that attracts people
- Day use activities (hiking on designated trails, viewpoints for lake and wildlife)
- Clean water in Charlie Lake
- Quiet, peaceful
- Secret treasure in Peace Country
- Hidden gem
- Better upkeep
- Nicer camping facility
- Fishing or boating dock
- Picnic
- Family friendly campsite
- RV friendly
- Safe
- Upgraded
- Quiet
- Larger
- Rustic
- One with nature
- Safe environment

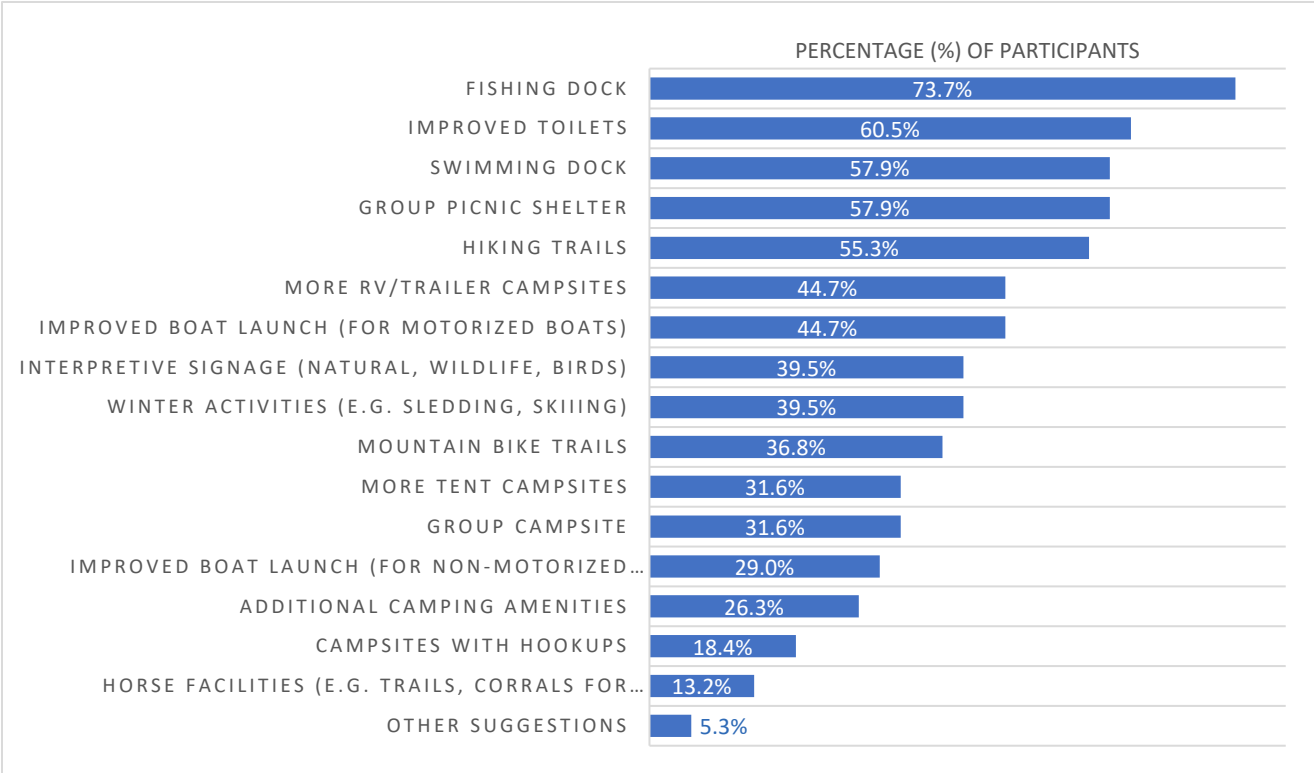
PRELIMINARY DRAFT VISION MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

Montney Centennial Regional Park offers unique, remote recreational experiences on Charlie Lake that invite people to stay for a day or for a week and enjoy solitude and peace in a lakefront forest.

QUESTION 21: WHAT AMENITIES DO YOU THINK MIGHT WARRANT CONSIDERATION IN MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK?

Top three amenities:

1. Fishing Dock
2. Improved Toilets
3. Swimming Dock (tie)
3. Group Picnic Shelter (tie)

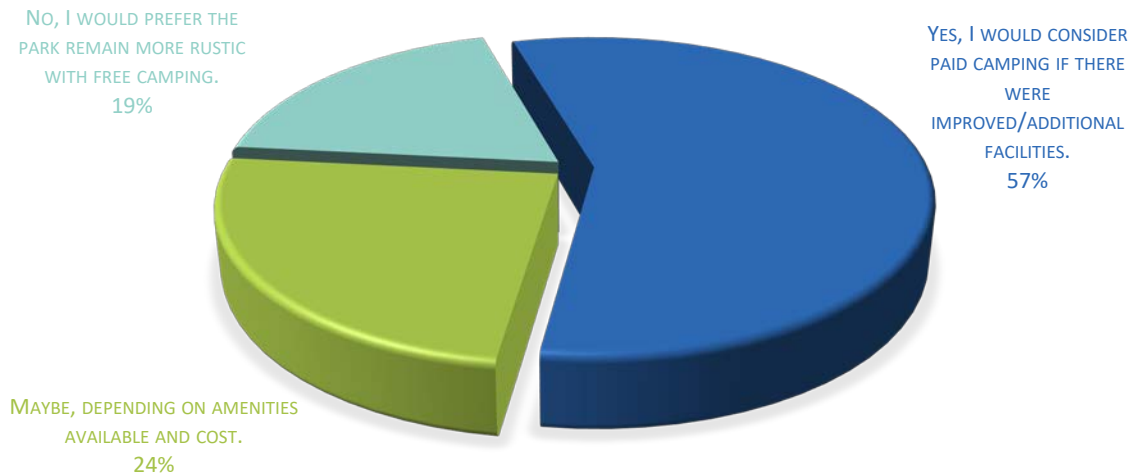


Other suggestions included:

- ▶ Disc golf (positive effects, blends well with other park activities such as skiing and mountain biking, and there is a local club that could support planning / fundraising – Fort St. John Disc Sports Club)
- ▶ Dog management (waste bags)
- ▶ Improved washrooms (handrail)
- ▶ Sandy beach
- ▶ Fishing dock
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Tent sites (few places in the area to go for quiet tent camping while there are many options for RVs)
- ▶ Trails around the lake
- ▶ Motor-free to leave space for quiet outdoor pursuits

QUESTION 14: IF MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK WAS ENHANCED TO INCLUDE IMPROVED/ADDITIONAL FACILITIES, WOULD YOU CONSIDER PAYING FOR CAMPING IN THE PARK?

- ▶ The majority of participants (57%) indicated they would support paid camping if there were additional / improved facilities.



PART 4: GENERAL QUESTIONS

QUESTION 23. HAVE YOU VISITED A PROVINCIAL, REGIONAL, OR OTHER TYPE OF BACKCOUNTRY PARK AND HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE? IF YES, PLEASE TELL US THE NAME OF THE PARK AND WHAT MADE IT GREAT.

- **Swan Lake Provincial Park (south of Dawson Creek)** – family friendly, boat launch, dock, green areas (but fee)
- **Heart Lake (Pine Le Moray Provincial Park)** – beautiful, rustic, water-side sites, free camping
- **Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park (Alaska Hwy)**
- **Kiskatinaw Provincial Park (Alaska Hwy)**
- **Mile 54 Campground at Charlie Lake (Charlie Lake Provincial Park)** – cleanliness, paths, and very clean outhouse facilities, tidy campsites, ability to reserve
- **William Lake** – well water supply, paved roads, good park attendants
- **Stewart Lake**
- **Galloping Goose Trail (Capital Regional District)** – management of motorized uses
- **Beaton Provincial Park (Charlie Lake)** – paved but natural, good snow shoe trails, good camping facilities, day use area for swimming and picnicking
- **Peace Island Park (Taylor)**
- **Campbell Valley Regional Park (Langley)** – variety of trails, group picnic shelters, parking, wheelchair accessibility, camping, off leash dog areas)
- **Aldergrove Regional Park (Aldergrove)** – variety of trails, group picnic shelters, parking, and educational sessions
- **Tumbler Ridge (Lions Flatbed Creek Campground, Monkman Cascades Trail)** – many great backcountry campgrounds and hiking areas including Monkman Cascades (fire rings, tent sites, and simple but clean pit toilets) and Lions Campground (large play area and creek)
- **One Island Lake Provincial Park (south of Dawson Creek)** – nice campground
- **Juniper Beach Provincial Park (Cache Creek)** – along the Thompson river to explore, great swimming area, good fishing spots, full hook-up sites, grassy tent area, pay showers, play area for children to play and ride bikes
- **Moonshine Lake (Hwy 49, west of Spirit River, AB)** – common area for BBQs, open but treed for privacy
- **Jones Lake Recreation Area (Chilliwack)** – beautiful lake with swimming, variety of campsites for both families and other groups, very rustic, pay shower, secluded (no cell service) but close enough for a weekend getaway, park warden, free camping
- **Desolation Sound Marine Provincial Park** – marine park but good amenities in the park
- **Provincial Parks (e.g. Fintry Park, Christina Lake, Lakelse Lake)** – reservation system so confirmed spot, shower facilities, outdoor kitchen sinks
- **Blackfoot Regional Park** – nostalgic, free to camp, seems well cared for
- **Meziadin Lake Provincial Park (Hwy 37)** – good park operator, well maintained, lakefront sites
- **Southern Interior Campgrounds** – lots of amenities, maintain water resource
- **Whistlers Campground (Jasper)** – wash basins outside of washrooms, fire permit for fee (free wood)
- **Pacific Rim National Park (Tofino)**
- **Carp Lake Provincial Park (near McLeod Lake)** – peaceful solitude, quiet, beautiful, fish cleaning station at boat launch, free firewood
- **Cotillion Park (west of Spirit River, AB)** – shower/washroom facility, but fee
- **Alberta Parks** – many have group picnic shelter, plumbed shower and washroom facility (paid by oil companies working in the area that have profits that can pay for facilities)
- **Oles Lake Provincial Recreation Area (Hwy 2, north of Grande Prairie, AB)** – trail around the lake, sandy beach, and playground
- **Mount Revelstoke National Park** – hiking trails, clean, well maintained
- **Moberly Lake Provincial Park** – natural beauty, clean toilets, regulations on park use (issues in 2017 are due to lack of enforcement on rules at night and hours of generator use)

QUESTION 24: DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, CONCERNS, OR IDEAS ABOUT EITHER PARK THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE AT THIS TIME?

PAID CAMPING / NO-FEE CAMPING

- ▶ Some park users appreciate the no fee option to camp and are satisfied with limited services and the rustic aspect as it allows them to camp more during the summer.
- ▶ A reservation system would be beneficial, as both parks are remote and can be busy and full during the summer months.
- ▶ Some park users suggested that if there is a fee with a park attendant, park users would respect the park more and there would be less misuse.

CAMPING PREFERENCES

- ▶ There are a variety of park users including those who seek out parks for quiet, rustic, and natural settings and those who prefer motorized activities (RVs, quads, ski-doo's, power boats, generators). This can impact those park users who prefer a quieter style of camping (tenting, canoeing, snow shoeing) or family recreation.

"The large RV campers do not notice the impact they have on those seeking a different style of camping; their noise trumps the silence of nature. Having a mere buffer of trees does not eliminate the noise or nuisance caused by other types of campers and takes away from the natural serenity."

PARK MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Local community members may not use the parks due to limited management of ATVs, noise, unsanctioned activities, and garbage.
- ▶ Desire for clean, well maintained parks.
- ▶ Desire for an on-site park attendant.
- ▶ Maintenance of roadway trees (to accommodate larger RVs).
- ▶ Improve maintenance of Road 277 to Montney Centennial Regional Park to account for additional traffic during summer.

ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ Take steps to improve the water quality of Charlie Lake.
- ▶ Enhance parks as natural areas.
- ▶ Blackfoot Regional Park has unique presence of fireflies.

AMENITIES

- ▶ Install a water pump at Blackfoot or install signage to use unpotable water at own risk.

GENERAL

- ▶ Need for a Regional Park that is closer to the City of Dawson Creek (suggestion for PRRD take over the Nordic Ski Hill on Bear Mountain and manage it in the summer and winter seasons).



APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY EVENT FEEDBACK

"EXPLORE IT, ENVISION IT" RESULTS

During the community events, participants were asked to help explore the possibilities for Blackfoot and Montney Centennial Regional Parks by writing down words about what they envision for the two parks.

VISION FOR THE PARKS	
BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less vandalism and partying
MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boat launch dock/wharf Interpretive signage (environmental impact) Reduce littering and smoking Grassy areas for picnics and playing Lake "clean-up" Dock with benches (currently snowmobile club dock is used) Access to point for deep water fishing Park signage, maps, and park promotion Playground Improved boat launch (better aggregate)

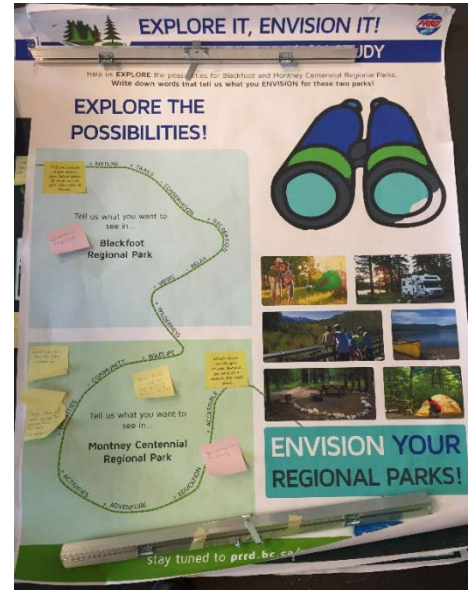


Figure 5: "Envision it, Explore it" Activity

COMMUNITY MAPPING RESULTS

During the community events, participants were asked to record their observations and ideas for each park by adding a sticky note to the park maps.



Figure 7: Community Mapping Exercise for Blackfoot Regional Park

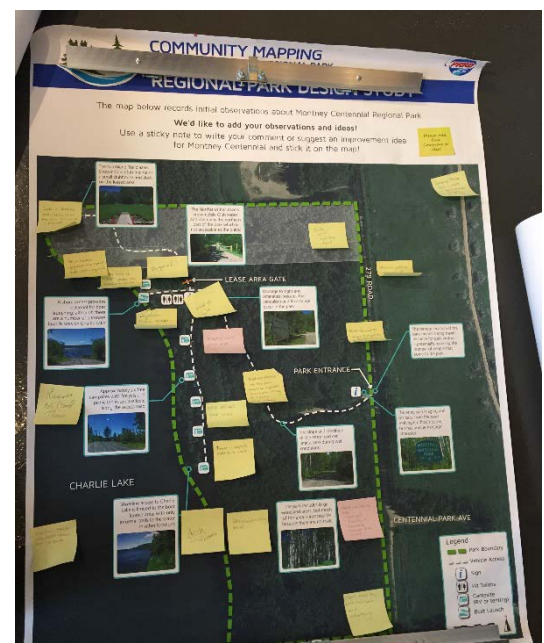


Figure 6: Community Mapping Exercise for Montney Centennial Regional Park.

SUGGESTED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

- Park management and enforcement potentially with fee (security, emergencies)
- Improved walking trails (to beach, dog walking)
- Consider steep slopes due to safety and liability issues
- Interpretive signage, park maps, and directional signage to park
- ATV management and regulation in park and beach area/sand dune area
- Garbage cans
- Improvements to boat launch for safety
- Enhanced tree planting by river
- Grassy areas for play and picnics
- Paved route to improve campsite accessibility

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

- Dock with benches (currently snowmobile club dock is used)
- Access to point for deep water fishing
- Park signage, maps, and park promotion
- Playground
- Boat launch (better aggregate)
- Improve road maintenance to park to alleviate issues with rain and dust
- Day use or picnic areas including gazebo, picnic tables, or covered areas
- Walking trails
- Designated campsites (improve privacy)
- Remove dead trees
- Enforcement/patrols
- Limitations for park stay duration (14 days maximum)
- Interpretive signage on unique bird species
- Improve multi-use aspects of park (disc golf, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain bike trails)

WHAT PEOPLE LIKE

Blackfoot Regional Park

- ▶ Large, private campsites
- ▶ Group camping (large areas)
- ▶ Shallow swimming area that is ideal for families
- ▶ Trees
- ▶ Relaxed setting
- ▶ No fee campsite

Montney Centennial Regional Park

- ▶ Secluded park with rustic features
- ▶ Quaint, peaceful park on Charlie Lake
- ▶ No fee campsite



APPENDIX B: IDEAS QUESTIONNAIRE VERBATIM RESPONSES

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

CURRENT PARK USE

QUESTION 9: PARK USE LIMITATIONS

- ▶ Love this park.
- ▶ Safety. Lack of well-maintained trails to walk on.
- ▶ Distance to get there.
- ▶ Lack of additional hiking and/or mountain biking.
- ▶ We live on lake shore property at Swan Lake - it is park like every day!
- ▶ My experience with these types of parks is that it is hard to get a campsite as reservations cannot be made.
- ▶ Busy farming.
- ▶ Would like to see services inside the park such as hook-ups.
- ▶ Unmaintained boat launch; difficult river access for boat launching due to silt deposits from recent flood events.
- ▶ No boat launch.
- ▶ Sometimes parties get out of hand (usually grad parties).
- ▶ Motor bikes and four-wheelers running around camping area at fast speeds.
- ▶ Too many people misusing the park for parting and driving their quads in the park.

QUESTION 10: SATISFACTION WITH PARK ELEMENTS

- ▶ Don't appreciate the ATV noise. Don't use the boat ramp or horseshoe pits. No problem with park safety. Need more trails. Larger playground would be nice.
- ▶ Boat launch not in service but people still use it; signage is minimal.
- ▶ We have been going to Blackfoot for over 25 years and we like the relaxed camping setting. It is beautiful down there, and we like the fact that it is a no-fee campsite.
- ▶ Lack of day use parking.
- ▶ Like it.
- ▶ Maintenance could be better.
- ▶ Boat access to river.
- ▶ It feels neglected. Bush parties and quads are ruining the outdoors in the Peace.
- ▶ Existing boat launch not maintained and river access is seasonally difficult depending on silt and woody debris deposition.
- ▶ Could use a few more camp sites. I am a respectful ATV rider. Boat ramp is gone. Could have more trails for ATV & walking.
- ▶ Should be more camping spots and should have more toilets.
- ▶ There are not enough toilets.
- ▶ Love this park.

QUESTION 11: BIGGEST ISSUES OR CHALLENGES

- ▶ The control of parties and ATV use.
- ▶ ATV use and partying.
- ▶ Vandalism.
- ▶ More campsites would be nice.
- ▶ Lack of attractions for day use.
- ▶ Awareness of location, awareness of proximity to Fort St. John and Dawson Creek.
- ▶ Not enough campsites.
- ▶ Signage has always been confusing.
- ▶ Monitoring the park. Unregulated, I am concerned about camping with partiers.
- ▶ Party spot and feelings of unsafe.
- ▶ Vandalism and lack of things to do.
- ▶ Controlling unsanctioned events (parties) and vandalism.
- ▶ Not enough camping spots.
- ▶ Road condition going down the hill from industrial activity, heavy haulers, etc.
- ▶ Boat access to river.
- ▶ People partying and leaving garbage.
- ▶ Hiking trails
- ▶ Fairly remote - hard to police, maintain.
- ▶ Boat launch.
- ▶ Keep grad parties contained.
- ▶ Need water supply for campers.
- ▶ No boat launch.
- ▶ Needs an attendant to oversee stuff regularly.
- ▶ Park roads make it impassable in some areas.
- ▶ The last time I was there a few year ago it was mainly teenagers partying. Makes me hesitate to take my kids now.
- ▶ ATV's in the park and driving out into the main road, someone will get hurt or killed.
- ▶ Provide safety for park users from others park users.
- ▶ Not knowing if sites are booked.
- ▶ More variety of trails for walking, bicycle, and horses in the summer. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.
- ▶ No day use area.
- ▶ Highway directions to get there from main roads.
- ▶ Broken glass.
- ▶ ATV use.
- ▶ Lack of fresh water supply.

- ▶ Garbage from inconsiderate campers.
- ▶ Three of camp sites.
- ▶ It feels neglected.
- ▶ Size - more area should be in the park to be utilized for hiking, etc.
- ▶ Lack of advertising - haven't heard much about it.
- ▶ Find ways to expand & increase campsites.
- ▶ Question: Are you going to replace the water supply being removed?
- ▶ Park campsite.
- ▶ A boat launch.
- ▶ Sometimes, depending on who camped there last, the sites can be in a state of disrepair.
- ▶ I don't think it has enough to do for my kids.
- ▶ Need a park attendant to cut the parties down and misuse of the park/ lots of garbage left behind on the road and park.
- ▶ Provide safe camping spots.
- ▶ More weekend activities. Bicycle day at the park. Dog day at the park. Geocaching day. Teddy bears picnic. More educational sessions. Camp-out under the skies with telescopes.
- ▶ No hook-ups.
- ▶ Minimal winter time use.
- ▶ Campground layout.
- ▶ Need more camp spots.
- ▶ Better marked and more developed / distinguished trails.
- ▶ A bit tired looking.
- ▶ Not sure.
- ▶ Increase trails - walking trails & ATV trails.
- ▶ ATV management.
- ▶ Need to expand number of campsites.
- ▶ Lack of signs on hiking trails.
- ▶ People driving ripping up the Goleta Creek Hill and Clay Hurst Hill with quads, side by side, and vehicles.
- ▶ Provide clean toilets and drinking water.

FUTURE PARK USE

QUESTION 12: VISION

- ▶ Safe family fun.
- ▶ More campsites.
- ▶ Large playground, more supervision.

- ▶ Peaceful and quiet.
- ▶ Rustic and usable.
- ▶ Just a nice family park with option to quad responsibility.
- ▶ Some improvements, but please keep it the rustic campsite it is.
- ▶ A place to relax and enjoy nature.
- ▶ Picnic by the river.
- ▶ Overnight and day use campsite.
- ▶ Keep natural.
- ▶ Safe and family friendly.
- ▶ Explore the natural beauty of the Peace River.
- ▶ Family friendly and easy going.
- ▶ Great camping near the Peace River.
- ▶ Hidden gem.
- ▶ Make more sites.
- ▶ Peaceful.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Green oasis on banks of river with well-maintained and clearly marked trails both for hiking and biking.
- ▶ More campsites, and more to cater to larger RV's.
- ▶ Boater destination.
- ▶ Family friendly, fun park.
- ▶ Functional.
- ▶ Actual hiking trails in the area would be nice.
- ▶ Family friendly.
- ▶ Better playground, hook-ups.
- ▶ Beautiful, quiet park for people to enjoy with friends and family.
- ▶ Safe place.

QUESTION 13: POSSIBLE AMENITIES

- ▶ Plant new trees to replace the old ones. Have water available to campers - even non-potable water for dishes and putting out campfires.
- ▶ Day use parking.
- ▶ Washroom facilities (whatever they are) need to be well-maintained.
- ▶ Maybe have a Centre Cook Section for people to have use of. With a couple of picnic tables and camp wood stove.
- ▶ I think ATV's should not be allowed in or around the park. The road going by the park is too busy to allow this.

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

CURRENT PARK USE

QUESTION 17: PARK USE LIMITATIONS

- ▶ Rough and dusty road.
- ▶ Lack of signage.
- ▶ Limited day use area for when campsites are full or limited spots to tent.
- ▶ Water quality.
- ▶ More campsites with RV hookups would be nice.
- ▶ Lack of available sites, long term campers occupy campsite for long periods.
- ▶ Condition of the lake waters.
- ▶ Very few campsites.
- ▶ More campsites are needed as there are few to no RV parks in the area.
- ▶ It would be nice if there was a play area for children (park, sand/beach, tables by lake) or quadding trails. Not much to do at this campsite. Last time we camped here there were "squatters". Not much of a "family" feel.

QUESTION 18: SATISFACTION WITH PARK ELEMENTS

- ▶ Need private tucked campsites and better signage.
- ▶ Park monitoring.
- ▶ Signage needs to be more accurate.
- ▶ Don't camp; no trails; much better signage in 2017.
- ▶ The people camping had obviously been there for weeks. It looked like a squatter's camp.
- ▶ Glad to see the new signs on the highway :).

QUESTION 19: BIGGEST ISSUES OR CHALLENGES

- ▶ Muddy road when it rains
- ▶ Need designated fire pits, just so they know exactly where the fire should be.
- ▶ Improved roads, dust control.
- ▶ Poor access.
- ▶ Lack of walking trails.
- ▶ Charlie Lake water is not clean (wouldn't swim).
- ▶ Lack of shore line - beach gone.
- ▶ Lack of walking trails.
- ▶ More parking spaces.
- ▶ Poor layout.
- ▶ Difficult to find.

- ▶ Location.
- ▶ Access roads.
- ▶ Signage to get to the park from highway.
- ▶ No swimming.
- ▶ Need more outhouses. Should have a little more gravel for less dust.
- ▶ Campsites could be more private.
- ▶ Poor monitoring of the park.
- ▶ Boat launch.
- ▶ Better road access.
- ▶ Poor access/signage to get there.
- ▶ Upkeep.
- ▶ Not enough campsites.
- ▶ Lack of boat access.
- ▶ Information available in Regional Visitor Centre teaching me about what's available.
- ▶ Do not want fees.
- ▶ Do not want fees and require more outhouses.
- ▶ Cleaner water.
- ▶ Season long campers on site are tying up the boat launch area.
- ▶ No proper boat launch or dock.
- ▶ Play area for kids.
- ▶ Boat launch.
- ▶ Not enough amenities.
- ▶ Beach area developed and more private campsites.
- ▶ Bathrooms are disgusting.

FUTURE PARK USE

QUESTION 20: VISION

- ▶ Leave it as is.
- ▶ Close enough to home but far enough away for a holiday.
- ▶ Accessible.
- ▶ Create more of a multi-use area to attract people.
- ▶ Day use opportunities for hiking on designated trails, dock for viewing lake/wildlife.
- ▶ Would love to see water in Charlie Lake cleaned up.
- ▶ Quiet, peaceful; secret treasure in the Peace country.
- ▶ Create more of a multi-user area to attract people.

- ▶ I would like to see it kept up a bit better. I didn't actually know it had toilets at all. It seems pretty forgotten! We kayak so the boat launch is okay but a bit of gravel or something would be great (to avoid the muck). People are always fishing there so I think some sort of dock for them would be great.
- ▶ Picnic.
- ▶ Family campsite.
- ▶ More RV friendly / family friendly.

QUESTION 21: POSSIBLE AMENITIES

- ▶ Add disc golf to the park! There are many positive effects and there is a local club. It also blends really well with other activities in the park (i.e., skiing, mountain biking).
- ▶ Handrail to washrooms; baggies for cleaning up after dogs.
- ▶ It is a pretty minimal park. I think the people who go there are trying to avoid the larger parks. It would be great if there were some tent sites and perhaps some trails to explore but overall, I think it should be kept simple, just cleaned up.
- ▶ I want Montney Park to be a quaint, peaceful park along Charlie Lake. There are many options for those who haul large RVs and the similar camping styles that accompany it. For those seeking for a quiet campout in a tent, there are few places to go.
- ▶ Keep it motor-free. Too many motorized activities are taking over. Leave space for quiet outdoor pursuits.
- ▶ A sandy beach with a playground!

GENERAL

QUESTION 23: OTHER SUCCESSFUL PROVINCIAL, REGIONAL, OR BACKCOUNTRY PARKS

- ▶ Swan Lake and Heart Lake.
- ▶ Liard Hot Springs.
- ▶ Swan Lake - very kid friendly. Heart Lake - beautiful area/rustic.
- ▶ Mile 54 Campground at Charlie Lake - I love the cleanliness of it. I love the paths and the outhouse facilities are phenomenal. Very clean!
- ▶ William Lake has a well set up in the park, paved roads, good park attendants, and water supply.
- ▶ Stewart Lake.
- ▶ Beaton Provincial Park. It is paved but still has nature in it.
- ▶ Yes, Beaton Park - good snow shoe trails, good camping facilities and day use (swimming, picnicking).
- ▶ Peace Island.
- ▶ We were on the committee that had the land given for a park.
- ▶ Campbell Valley Regional Park - Awesome park with a variety of trails, group picnic shelters, parking, wheelchair access, camping, dog off-leash areas, etc. <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/parks-greenways-reserves/campbell-valley-regional-park> and Aldergrove Regional Park - Awesome park with a variety of trails, group picnic shelters, parking, and wonderful educational sessions <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/parks-greenways-reserves/aldergrove-regional-park>

- ▶ Tumbler Ridge has many great backcountry campgrounds. We hiked to the Monkman Cascades this summer and stayed in four of them. They tended to have a fire ring with some logs around it, a tent site, and a pit toilet somewhere nearby. Simple but clean. One Island Lake also was a nice campground (but I don't know if it qualifies as backcountry).
- ▶ Juniper Beach Provincial Park (Cache Creek) - right along the Thompson river, great swimming area, good fishing spots, full hook-up sites, grassy tent area, pay showers, spot for kids to play and ride bikes around, cool areas along the river to explore
- ▶ Jones Lake (Chilliwack) - beautiful lake, very rustic, pay showers (I think), awesome for a close weekend getaway as it's very secluded (no cell service/hard to find), good swimming, lots of different campsites - area for families and then another side where the more rowdy groups go, free camping but has a park warden (not sure how that works).
- ▶ Heart Lake park - signage sucked though
- ▶ Desolation Sound - although it's a marine park and not applicable, but the informational available on it is nice.
- ▶ I like most provincial parks because you can make a reservation so you know you will have a spot when you get there and there are usually nice shower houses and I like the outdoor kitchen sinks they are putting in. Fintry Park was nice by Kelowna and so was Christina Lake and Lakelse Lake.
- ▶ So many parks up here feel neglected and look tired. Too many trailers, quads, ski-doo's, and power boats. We need to leave space for quiet, family recreation. So many people would love to see spaces for tenting, canoeing and snowshoeing.
- ▶ Yes, Blackfoot is nostalgic to me and I spent a lot of time there. It is nice to have free places to camp and have always enjoyed that. The place as always seemed well cared for when I have been there.
- ▶ Meziadin Lake - awesome park operator, one of the best maintained provincial parks I've seen in years. Really appreciated all of the lakefront sites.
- ▶ The campsites in the Southern Interior are very nice. Lots of amenities and they seem to upkeep the water resource.
- ▶ Jasper, too expensive.
- ▶ Pacific Rim National Park, perfect.
- ▶ Carp Lake - LOVE the peaceful solitude. The fish cleaning station at the boat launch is very well appreciated and was well thought out. Free firewood.
- ▶ Whistlers in Jasper - the wash basins on the outside of the washrooms, keeps the food smell not right in the campsites. Pay for a fire permit, but the wood is free.
- ▶ Yes, Charlie Lake Provincial Park. Tidy campsite and the ability to reserve a campsite made it great.
- ▶ Swan Lake - Nice boat launch, dock, green areas, but they charge.
- ▶ Heart Lake - Few spots near the water, others up the hill, free camping.
- ▶ Cotillion Park - Nice shower/bathroom facility but they charge to camp.
- ▶ In Alberta so many parks have a group picnic shelter and plumbed shower and washroom facility that are paid for by the oil companies working in the area. They have huge profits and should pay for these facilities.
- ▶ Lions campground in Tumbler Ridge. Large play area and creek to play in.
- ▶ We love Oles lake. The walking trail around the lake is wonderful, as is the sandy beach & playground. I believe if there were a playground, and more important a sandy beach with fishing dock it would draw more attention to the park. Walking trail could be made along the lake for families to enjoy.
- ▶ Revelstoke National Park. Lots of hiking trails clean and well looked after.

- ▶ We went to Moonshine Lake for a BBQ at the common area and really enjoyed it. The area itself was wide open, but still surrounded by trees, so the group had privacy.
- ▶ Carp Lake is one of my favorite campsites - quiet and beautiful, Tumbler Ridge's hiking trails are awesome.
- ▶ Moberly Lake Provincial Park - Great because of natural beauty, clean toilets, regulations on park use. Problems in 2017 include lack of enforcement of rules - noise at night and hours of generator use.

QUESTION 24: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, CONCERNS, OR IDEAS ABOUT EITHER PARK

- ▶ Would really like the park to stay free to use or if paying then be able to reserve.
- ▶ Clean park, clean lake.
- ▶ Please consider leaving the park and camp as a no service park. The rustic aspect is received well in the North.
- ▶ Roadway trees cut back for larger RV trailers.
- ▶ The disc golf club is the Fort St. John Disc Sports Club. They know how to put in a course and have done so already in town.
- ▶ Appreciate opportunity learn more through Parks Day.
- ▶ PRRD staff very helpful and informative. Enjoyed seeing critters in Charlie Lake visuals and information.
- ▶ We would like to see a boat launch and more parking spaces.
- ▶ We need a Regional Park that is closer to the City of Dawson Creek. Love to see the PRRD take over the Nordic Ski Hill on Bear Mountain and manage it in the summer and winter seasons.
- ▶ Not all park users seek the same thing. And unfortunately, those who seek out parks for their calm, quiet, rustic nature setting are almost always interrupted by different styles of campers with large RVs, generators, motorized boats, and motorized items in general. The large RV campers do not notice the impact they have on those seeking a different style of camping; their noise trumps the silence of nature. Having a mere buffer of trees does not eliminate the noise or nuisance caused by other types of campers and takes away from the natural serenity. Montney Park has an opportunity to create a non-motorized park: no generators, no motor boats, no large RVs. A campsite that is tailored to day use and tenting. This would be a gem that people seek out. Traditional zoning practices don't place industry next to playgrounds or residential homes. And not all campgrounds should lump RV camping and tent camping together. Take this opportunity to be bold and keep one park natural and quiet.
- ▶ Keep it open! P.S. this is an amazing survey format to get feedback - good work!
- ▶ I think the PRRD would get more tourists if we had better campsites to offer to RV travelers.
- ▶ My family and I enjoy that park. We would like it to stay free as it allows us to camp more frequently during the summer. If we go to paid sites, we are limited to how many times we can take the family camping.
- ▶ We live on the 277 road and would love to see better maintenance of this road to account for the extra traffic that is on the road during the summer.
- ▶ On-site attendants.
- ▶ I feel it could have more hiking available. And a larger area included in the park.
- ▶ In the 47 years I have lived here, Blackfoot Regional Park is the only place in Northeast BC I have seen fireflies. Kind of regionally significant.
- ▶ It would be nice for both campsites (if you had to pay for use) if you could reserve a site just like you can with the Hudson's Hope sites (like Cameron Lake, Dinosaur Lake, etc.). Both parks are a little out of the way and Montney Park can be very busy and full in the summer.

- ▶ Would like to keep it rustic and free. Love the ability to use ATVs. Could use more trails. Would like to see a water hand pump area and maybe a few more camp sites.
- ▶ I think that people should have to pay for staying at the park with a park attendee and then maybe the park will not get misused. The community close to the park rarely uses the park because of all the ATV's and people getting out of hand with their parting. The garbage left behind along the roads from these people is sickening. The ATV's ripping out of the park onto the main road is scary: adults, kids, teens without helmets, doubled up, driving around is not safe, someone will get killed and I hope that my husband isn't the one driving his gravel truck and hit one of these idiots! I love the park but wishes people would use respect. Also, would like the water system to stay as is just put a sign up stating: USE AT OWN RISK! This water is good.



APPENDIX C: QUESTIONNAIRE FORM



REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

IDEAS QUESTIONNAIRE

Help us plan an exciting future for **Montney Centennial Regional Park** and **Blackfoot Regional Park** – two important outdoor parks in our region!

The PRRD is undertaking a Regional Park Design Study for these parks to understand what improvements could make the parks more enjoyable for visitors now and in the future.

The Regional Park Design Study began in July 2017 and is planned to be complete in November 2017. During this time, the PRRD will be requesting your input for each park to guide future activities, development, and management.

Share Your Ideas for a Chance to Win

Please share your ideas and insights about these two parks by completing this questionnaire. It should take about **10-15 minutes**. Your input will help inform concepts and recommendations for the parks.

Participants who submit a completed questionnaire will have the option to be entered into a draw for a chance to win a **\$250 Canadian Tire Gift Card**. To be entered, please check the contest entry box at the end of the questionnaire and provide your contact details. Contact information is confidential and will only be used to contact the draw winner.

You can submit your questionnaire any time between:
Saturday, July 29 and Monday, August 14, 2017

Would you Prefer to Complete this Questionnaire Online?

Visit prrd.bc.ca/engage and click on the **Regional Park Design Study** link.

Pass it On!

Know someone who might be interested in sharing their ideas for Montney Centennial or Blackfoot Regional Parks? Please let them know about this questionnaire. Don't forget to mention the chance to win a Canadian Tire Gift Card!

Questions?

» Please contact Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator:
T: 250-748-3200 E: bryna.casey@prrd.bc.ca

What is a Regional Park Plan?

A Regional Park Plan that is a strategic, long-term document that the region can use to plan, prioritize, and budget for park improvements over time.

The plan establishes a guiding vision and principles and provides a concept plan and recommendations for development, operations, and management.

How to Submit Your Questionnaire:

In Person:

» July 29 or 30 at a Park Event

Drop-off to:

» PRRD Offices in Dawson Creek or Fort St. John
Attn: Bryna Casey

Mail to:

» Peace River
Regional District
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Hwy
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4H8

Scan and Email to:

» bryna.casey@prrd.bc.ca

Complete it online:

» prrd.bc.ca/engage



PART 1: ABOUT YOU

To help us understand who responds to this questionnaire, please answer the following questions.

1. In which age group are you?

- ☐ 0 to 19 years
- ☐ 20 to 29 years
- ☐ 30 to 39 years
- ☐ 40 to 49 years
- ☐ 50 to 59 years
- ☐ 60 to 69 years
- ☐ 70 years and over
- ☐ Prefer not to say

2. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to say

3. Where do you live?

In the Peace River Regional District (please select location):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blueberry River First Nations | <input type="checkbox"/> Saulteau First Nations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Dawson Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Tsay Keh Dene Band |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City of Fort St. John | <input type="checkbox"/> Village of Pouce Coupe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District of Chetwynd | <input type="checkbox"/> West Moberly First Nations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District of Hudson's Hope | <input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area B |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District of Taylor | <input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District of Tumbler Ridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area D |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doig River First Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> Electoral Area E |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Halfway River First Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Community, please name: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kwadacha First Nation | _____ |

Outside the Peace River Regional District (please select location):

- ☐ Other region in British Columbia
- ☐ Alberta
- ☐ Other Canadian Province (please name): _____
- ☐ Other Country (please name): _____

ABOUT YOU

4. Do you currently use either of the Parks?

Blackfoot Regional Park?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Montney Centennial Regional Park?

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. How did you hear about this questionnaire?

☐ PRRD Website

☐ Facebook

☐ Energeticcity.ca

☐ Radio

☐ Poster/signage

☐ Board Highlights Newspaper Notification

☐ Postcard in the Mail

☐ Email

☐ Parks Day Event at Montney Centennial Regional Park

☐ Word of Mouth

☐ Other (please specify):

6. I wish to provide input on:

☐ Both Parks (Go to Page 4)

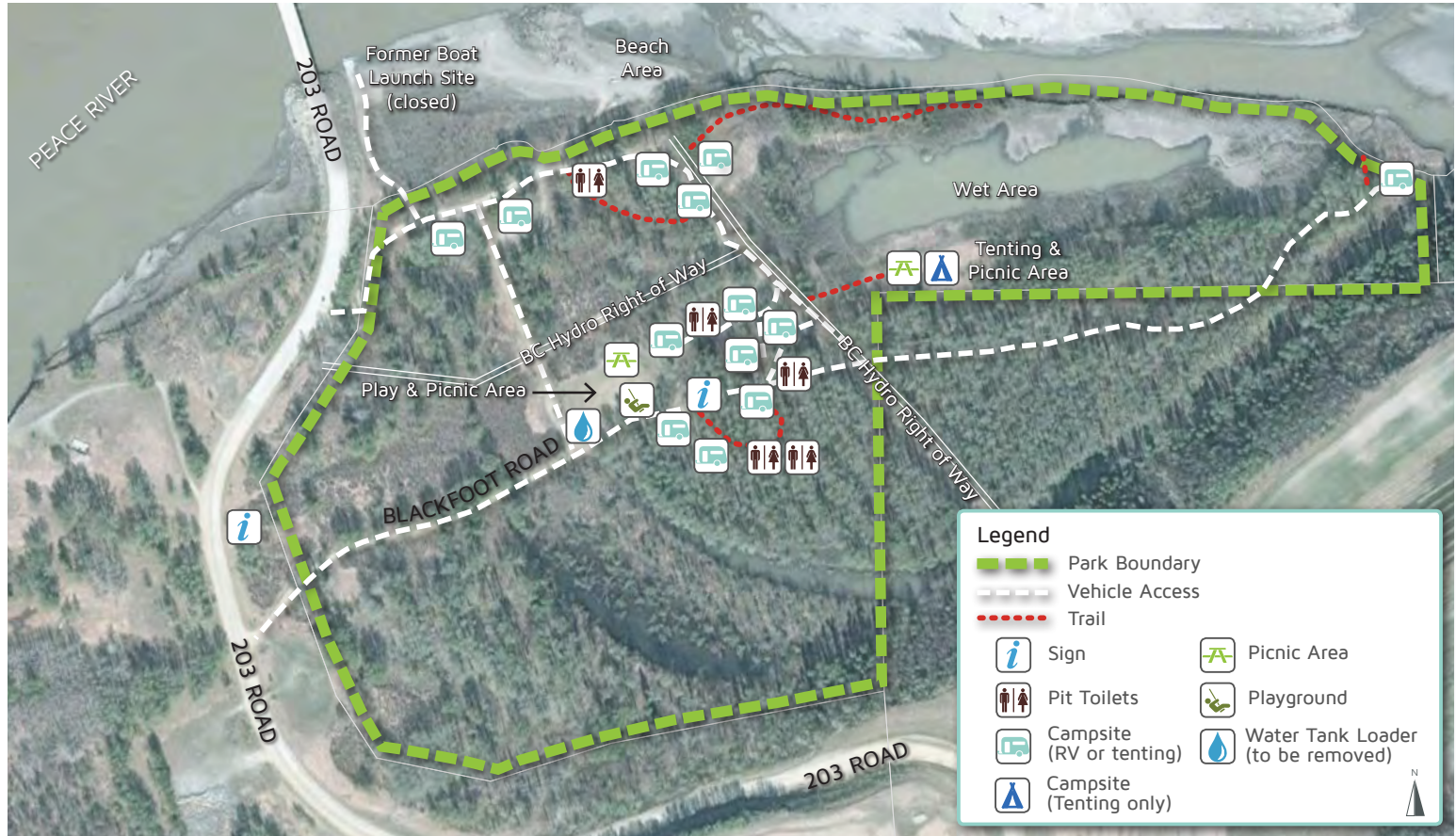
☐ Only Blackfoot Regional Park (Go to Page 4)

☐ Only Montney Centennial Regional Park (Go to Page 8)

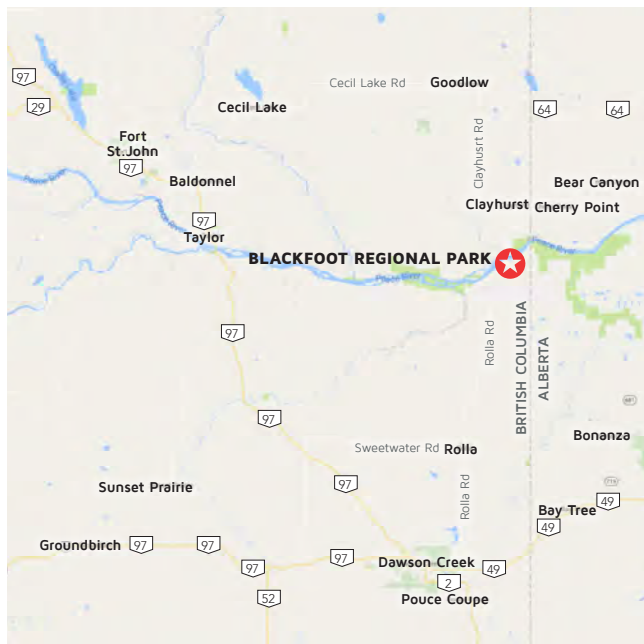


PART 2: BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

Park Overview



Park Site Map



Park Location Map

HISTORY

Before the Don Phillips bridge was built over the Peace River, people crossed on the Old Clayhurst Ferry. Blackfoot Regional Park commemorates the ferry crossing site, providing access to the Peace River and recreation opportunities in a forest area.

AMENITIES & ACTIVITIES

- » 13 rustic free campsites (no hookups)
- » 1 tent camping area
- » Picnic tables
- » Pit toilets
- » Playground
- » Horseshoe pits
- » Open lawn area
- » River access
- » Former boat launch (now closed)
- » Bird and wildlife habitat
- » Water tank loader (to be removed)

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

CURRENT PARK USE

To help us understand how visitors currently use Blackfoot Regional Park, please answer the following questions.

7. How frequently would you say you visit the park?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once per year | <input type="checkbox"/> Only occasionally
(e.g. 1-2 times in the past five years) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 times per year | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 times per year | <input type="checkbox"/> I never visit the park (skip to Question 9) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 or more times per year | |

8. What activities have you participated in at Blackfoot Regional Park? Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird watching | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (motorized) | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature appreciation
(wildflowers, vegetation, wildlife) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (non-motorized - e.g., kayaking,
canoeing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping (RV or Trailer) | <input type="checkbox"/> Playground activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping (Tent) | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming, playing in the water, sunbathing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | <input type="checkbox"/> Other outdoor activities (please describe):

_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical interest (Old Clayhurst Ferry
Crossing Site) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motorized sports (ATVs) | |

9. What, if anything, limits your use of Blackfoot Regional Park? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Little or nothing limits our use
- ☐ Park location
- ☐ Difficulty finding and accessing the park
- ☐ Not enough information about the park
- ☐ Trail conditions
- ☐ Lack of park facilities / amenities that suit our needs
- ☐ Safety concerns
- ☐ Concerns about unsanctioned activities (e.g. parties, vandalism)
- ☐ Other, please describe: _____

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

10. If you've visited Blackfoot Regional Park, what is your level of satisfaction with the following aspects?

Please check one box for each category. If you haven't visited the park, skip to the next question.

Park Aspect	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No Opinion	Comments?
Park layout/ configuration						
ATV management						
Boat ramp						
Park safety						
Park campsites						
Toilets						
Horseshoe pits						
Playground						
Park maintenance						
Park roads						
Trails						
Signage						
Other (please describe) <div></div>						
Other (please describe) <div></div>						

11. What do you believe are the biggest issues or challenges in Blackfoot Regional Park?
(Please describe up to three)

1.	
2.	
3.	

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

FUTURE PARK USE

The Regional Park Study will consider potential improvements for Blackfoot Regional Park.

12. If you could describe in one word or short phrase your vision for the future of Blackfoot Regional Park, what would it be? (We will use these words and phrases to create a draft vision.)

13. What amenities do you think might warrant consideration in Blackfoot Regional Park?
Check all that apply.


- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> More walking/hiking trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain bike trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved boat launch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Designated ATV trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional playground facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More RV/Trailer campsites | <input type="checkbox"/> Event space / stage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More tent campsites | <input type="checkbox"/> Caretaker cottage / office |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campsites with hookups | <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbed shower / washroom building |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More individual picnic areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water tap |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Group picnic shelter | |

Other suggestions – your ideas could be big or small – we want to hear them all!

14. If Blackfoot Regional Park was enhanced to include improved/additional facilities, would you consider paying for camping in the park?

- ☐ Yes, I would consider paid camping if there were improved/additional facilities
- ☐ Maybe, depending on amenities available and cost
- ☐ No, I would prefer the park remain more rustic with free camping

To provide input on Montney Centennial Park  please go to the next page

To complete your questionnaire without providing
input on Montney Centennial Regional Park  please go to page 11



PART 3: MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

Park Overview



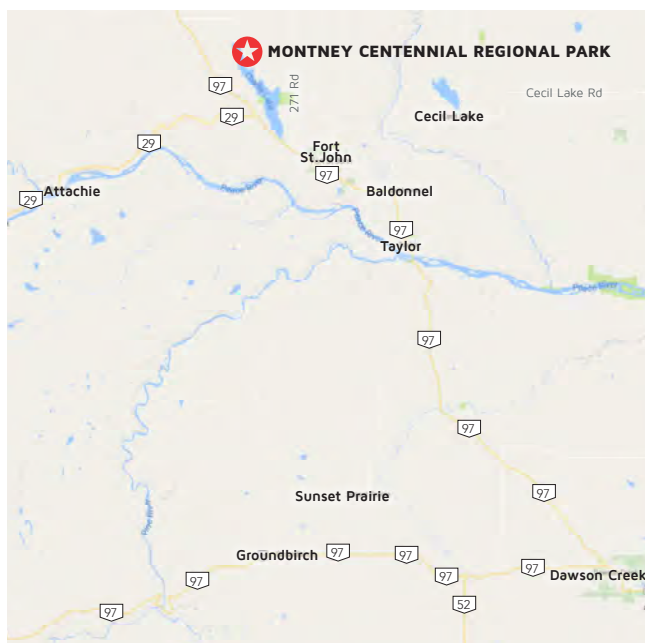
HISTORY

Montney Centennial Regional Park, situated on the northeast shore of Charlie Lake, was established by the Montney Recreation Commission as a Canada Centennial project in 1967. In 1988, the Commission requested that the park become a Regional Park.

AMENITIES & ACTIVITIES

- » 6 Rustic free campsites (no hookups)
- » Picnic tables
- » Pit toilets
- » Lake access
- » Boat launch
- » Bird and wildlife habitat

Park Site Map



Park Location Map

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

CURRENT PARK USE

To help us understand how visitors currently use Montney Centennial Regional Park, please answer the following questions.

15. How frequently would you say you visit the park?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Once per year | <input type="checkbox"/> Occasionally
(e.g. 1-2 times in the past five years) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2-5 times per year | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6-10 times per year | <input type="checkbox"/> I never visit the park (skip to Question 17) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 or more times per year | |

16. What activities have you participated in at Montney Centennial Regional Park? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird watching | <input type="checkbox"/> Nature appreciation
(wildflowers, vegetation, wildlife) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (motorized) | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnicking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating (non-motorized - e.g. sailing,
kayaking, canoeing) | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming, playing in the water, sun bathing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping (RV or Trailer) | <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting the Northland Trailblazers
Snowmobile Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camping (Tent) | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter sports (e.g. snowmobiling, ice fishing,
snowshoeing, skiing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Other outdoor activities (please describe): |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain biking | _____ |

17. What, if anything, limits your use of Montney Centennial Regional Park? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Little or nothing limits our use
- ☐ Park location
- ☐ Difficulty finding and accessing the park
- ☐ Not enough information about the park
- ☐ Trail conditions
- ☐ Lack of park facilities / amenities that suit our needs
- ☐ Safety concerns
- ☐ Concerns about unsanctioned activities (e.g. parties, vandalism, firearms use)
- ☐ Other, please describe: _____

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

18. If you've visited Montney Centennial Regional Park, what is your level of satisfaction with the following aspects? Please check one box for each category. If you haven't visited the park, skip to the next question.

Park Aspect	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No Opinion	Comments
Park layout/ configuration						
Boat ramp						
Park safety						
Park campsites						
Toilets						
Picnic amenities						
Park maintenance						
Park roads						
Trails						
Signage (entry, wayfinding)						
Other (please describe) <div></div>						
Other (please describe) <div></div>						

19. What do you believe are the biggest issues or challenges in Montney Centennial Regional Park?
Please describe up to three.

1.	
2.	
3.	

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

FUTURE PARK USE

The Regional Park Study will consider potential future improvements for Montney Centennial Regional Park.

20. If you could describe in one word or short phrase your vision for the future of Montney Centennial Regional Park, what would it be? (We will use these words and phrases to create a draft vision.)

21. What amenities do you think might warrant consideration in Montney Centennial Regional Park? Please check that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming dock | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain bike trails |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing dock | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive signage (nature, wildlife, birds) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More RV/Trailer campsites | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter activities (e.g. sledding, skiing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More tent campsites | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional camping amenities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Campsites with hookups | <input type="checkbox"/> Improved toilets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved boat launch (for motorized boats) | <input type="checkbox"/> Group picnic shelter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improved boat launch (for non-motorized boats) | <input type="checkbox"/> Group campsite |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hiking trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse facilities (e.g. trails, corrals for overnight camping) |

Other suggestions – your ideas could be big or small – we want to hear them all!

22. If Montney Centennial Regional Park was enhanced to include improved/additional facilities, would you consider paying for camping in the park?

- ☐ Yes, I would consider paid camping if there were improved/additional facilities
- ☐ Maybe, depending on amenities available and cost
- ☐ No, I would prefer the park remain more rustic with free camping



PART 4: GENERAL

23. Have you visited a provincial, regional, or other type of backcountry park and had a great experience? If yes, please tell us the name of the park and what made it great. Learning from other successes helps us understand ideas and experiences that might be considered.

24. Do you have any additional comments, concerns, or ideas about either park that you would like to share at this time?

Thank you for providing your input!

CONTEST ENTRY

I wish to be entered into a draw for chance to win a \$250 Canadian Tire Gift Card:

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide your contact details.

Contact information will be kept confidential and will only be used to contact the draw winner.

Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Only one entry per person. Winner will be contacted by August 17, 2017.

Stay Connected!

- » Watch for updates on Facebook: Peace River Regional District "Official Page"
- » Subscribe to **PRRD's Engage!** email list
- » Watch for announcements and public events in the parks
- » Visit: prrd.bc.ca/engage



Participation in this questionnaire is voluntary and may require the disclosure of personal information. Questionnaire information will be used on an aggregated basis only (and not on an individually-identifiable basis).

APPENDIX B: PRELIMINARY CONCEPT OPTIONS





Blackfoot Regional Park Concept Options

CONCEPT OPTION A: RUSTIC & RELAXED

Option A focuses on modest improvements to address existing issues in Blackfoot Regional Park and considers addition of a few new amenities identified as desirable. Improvements proposed in this option are more modest in scale and cost, with the intention of maintaining the park as a rustic-style campground with free camping.



Inspiration



Additional campsites in wooded areas



Enhanced entry road and circulation



Group tenting in the east end of the park



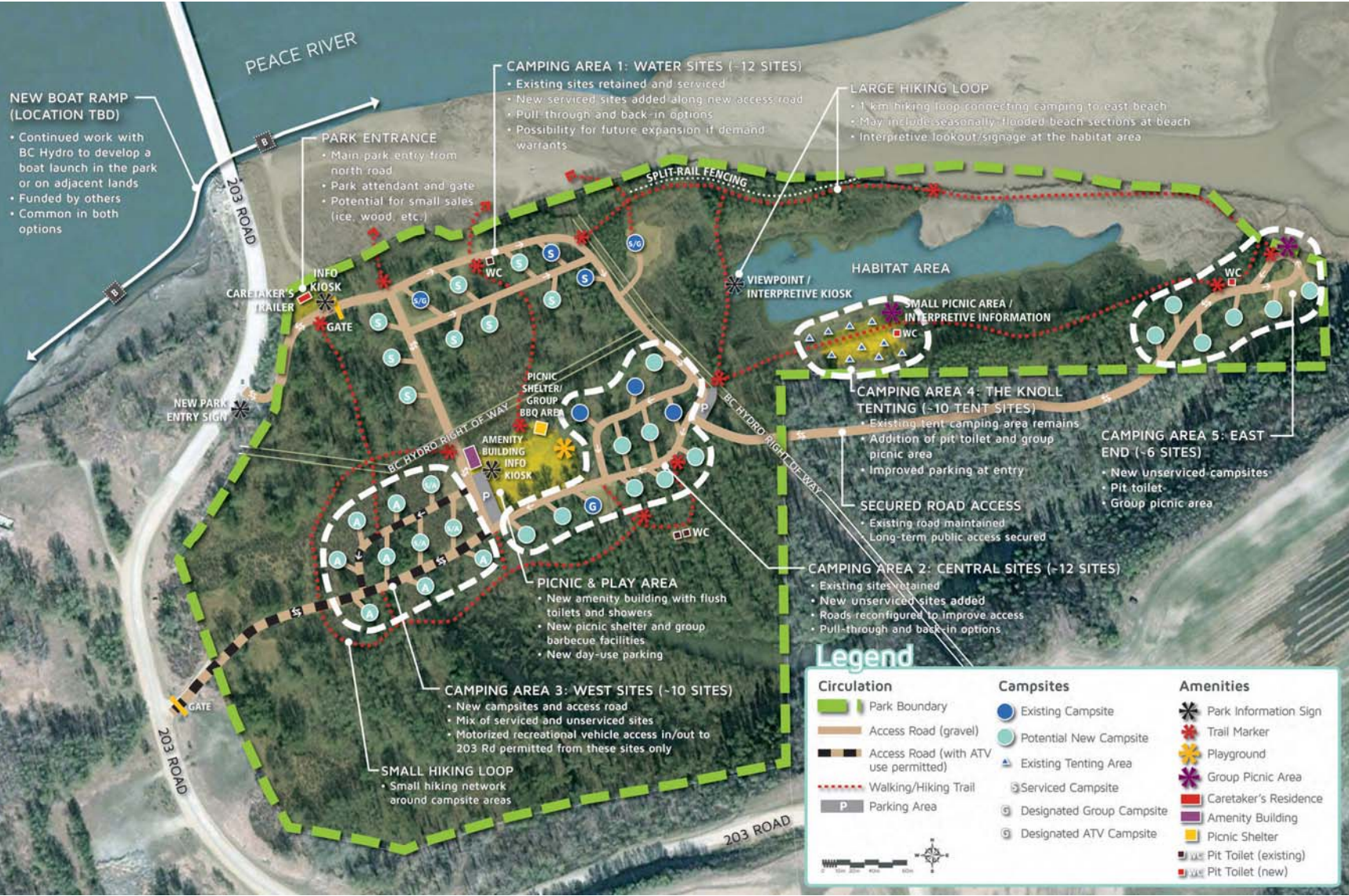
Identified trail loops and routes



Drinking water tap

CONCEPT OPTION B: CAMPING DESTINATION

Option B focuses on enhancing and expanding the camping experience in Blackfoot Regional Park, including providing a wider range of camping options and related amenities. The park would become a managed campground with paid camping, with user fees supporting enhanced amenities, operations, and maintenance.



Inspiration



Park attendant May through September



Amenity building with showers and toilets



Picnic shelter suitable for group events



Group barbecue facilities



Interpretive information/lookout area

APPENDIX C: PUBLIC INPUT #2 SUMMARY





REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT Community Input #2 – Preliminary Concept Options

1 | OVERVIEW

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) is undertaking a Regional Park Design and Feasibility Study for **Blackfoot Regional Park** and **Montney Centennial Regional Park**. The purpose of the Study is to develop a plan that will enhance the functionality, environmental sustainability, safety, and fiscal and operational viability of each park. The Regional Park Design Study began in July 2017 and is planned to be complete in early 2018.

Community engagement is a key part of the process to understand the values and issues of community members including park users, Peace River Regional District residents, stakeholders, PRRD staff, Regional Parks Committee, and the Regional Board.

This report provides a summary of **Community Input #2**, part of **Phase 2: Park Options Development**. The purpose of this phase has been to:

- ▶ Translate input received and technical analysis from Phase 1 into an initial vision, goals, and set of program directions for each park.
- ▶ Define preliminary concepts that illustrate potential directions for each park.
- ▶ Engage with the Regional Parks Committee, members of the public, and stakeholders to review draft concepts and gather feedback to help refine the directions being considered.

The final phase of the Study, **Phase 3: Final Plans Development and Review**, will use the community input to recommend a plan for each park.

HOW COMMUNITY INPUT WILL BE USED

Input provided during this phase of engagement will be considered by the project team, along with technical and financial information, to refine preliminary options for each park into preferred concepts and recommendations for implementation.

More information about the PRRD's Regional Park Design Study can be found at www.prrd.bc.ca/engage.

2 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

METHODOLOGY

During Phase 2 of the Regional Park Design Study, stakeholders and members of the public were asked to provide input through a series of interactive feedback opportunities. The following key points of input occurred:

REGIONAL PARKS BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING

- ▶ **Date:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017
- ▶ **Feedback:** The project team presented emerging preliminary options for each park and received feedback from board members. This feedback was used to refine the preliminary options before bringing them forward for public input.

PUBLIC INPUT EVENTS

- ▶ **Dates:** Monday, Nov. 6 through Wednesday, Nov. 29
- ▶ **Locations:**
 - World U17 Hockey Challenge Drop-in Booth, North Peace Arena, Fort St. John
Tues. Nov. 7 @ 6:30-10:00 pm
Fri. Nov. 10 @ 1:00-4:30 pm
Fri. Nov. 10 @ 5:30-9:00 pm
 - World U17 Hockey Challenge Drop-in Booth, Encana Events Centre, Dawson Creek
Mon. Nov. 6 @ 2:00-5:30 pm
Wed. Nov. 8 @ 2:00-5:30 pm
Sat. Nov. 11 @ 2:00-5:30 pm
Sat. Nov. 11 @ 6:30-10:00 pm
 - Community Public Meetings
Doe River Public Meeting, Nov. 15
Farmington Public Meeting, Nov. 29
- ▶ **Feedback:** Project team representatives discussed park options with participants and encouraged people to provide input by completing a community response form.

RESPONSE FORM

- ▶ **Dates:** Monday, Nov. 6 through Monday, Nov. 27
 - ▶ **Locations:** Online format (using third-party vendor Simple Survey®) or in hard copy format available at:
 - Community events
 - PRRD website: www.prrd.bc.ca/engage
 - PRRD's Official Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OfficialPRRD
 - PRRD Branch Offices in Dawson Creek or Fort St. John, BC
- Participants who submitted a completed response form had the option to be entered in a draw for a chance to win a \$200 Canadian Tire Gift Card.*

NOTIFICATION

The PRRD provided public outreach to notify the public about input opportunities:

- ▶ **PRRD Website:** Communication on main page (link to Project webpage); Engage! Page; Project webpage www.prrd.bc.ca/engage/regional-park-design-study; Events Calendar, and other PRRD media channels.
- ▶ **PRRD Official Facebook Page:** 11 posts on www.facebook.com/OfficialPRRD from Oct. 31, 2017 to Nov. 27, 2017.
- ▶ **Board Highlights:** One submission to provide an update on the process and advertise Community Event #2
- ▶ **Online Advertising:** Banner on www.EnergeticCity.ca.
- ▶ **Stakeholder Referrals:** Emails to stakeholders and previously engaged participants with invitation to events and request to circulate invitation to membership.
- ▶ **Postcard:** Information postcards distributed to participants at events.
- ▶ **Posters / Signage:** Displayed in key locations including: event venues, PRRD solid waste transfer stations; three community bulletin boards in Dawson Creek; Regional District offices (Dawson Creek and Fort St. John); on the PRRD website; and to Directors, Charlie Lake Fire Station.
- ▶ **Email Communication:** Notification of public events and email reminder to subscribers to PRRD's *Engage!* List.



3 | SUMMARY OF INPUT

The following summary briefly outlines key themes in the input received. This information is detailed further in **Section 4**.

OVERVIEW OF KEY THEMES

- ▶ Participants generally supported the draft vision and goals for each park.
- ▶ For Blackfoot Regional Park, more participants preferred **Concept B: Camping Destination**.
- ▶ For Montney Centennial Regional Park, more participants preferred **Concept B: Outdoor Enthusiast Destination**.
- ▶ Input and comments suggest that some elements from each concept may warrant consideration for blending into a preferred concept.

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

- ▶ Participants supported additional amenities and management to encourage adventure and activities, while still retaining the park's natural and rustic character.
- ▶ Generally more participants preferred Concept B: Camping Destination for each park aspect.
- ▶ ATV management garnered mixed responses, with 14% preferring neither concept, and comments suggesting some participants would prefer no ATV use in the park.
- ▶ A large majority of participants supported pursuing an improved boat launch.
- ▶ Most participants would support user fees in the range of:
 - \$15-\$25 for unserviced vehicle campsites
 - \$25-\$35 for serviced vehicles campsites
 - \$10 for tent campsites
 - \$20-\$50 for group picnic shelters (although a large percentage – 30% - did not support user fees for group shelters)
- ▶ The top improvement priorities for the park were:
 - Drinking water for campers
 - Nature Trails
 - New unservices sites
 - New serviced (power and water sites
 - Showers/flush toilets building
 - Boat launch re-establishment

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

- ▶ Participants supported additional amenities and management that may increase park use including disc golf, fishing dock, and boat launching. There was mixed support for equestrian camping with some concerns about costs.
- ▶ Several suggestions for coordination with local clubs for management and funding of park improvements.
- ▶ In general, more participants preferred Concept B: Outdoor Enthusiast Destination as a multi-use park that supports a variety of activities, while still remaining the natural aspects of the park.
- ▶ Most participants would support user fees in the range of:
 - \$15-\$25 for unserviced vehicle campsites
 - \$30 for equestrian campsites
 - \$10 for tent campsites
 - \$40-\$50 for group picnic shelters
- ▶ The top improvement priorities for the park were:
 - Fishing Dock
 - Improved Boat Launch
 - Nature Trails
 - Play and Picnic Area
 - New Unserved Campsites

4 | DETAILED SUMMARY OF RESPONSE FORM RESULTS

The Response Form for Community Input #2 gathered feedback on the following four topics:

1. **Demographics**
2. **Blackfoot Regional Park** – Draft Vision and Goals, Concept Options, User Fees, and Park Improvement Priorities
3. **Montney Centennial Regional Park** – Draft Vision and Goals, Concept Options, User Fees, and Park Improvement Priorities
4. **General Comments**

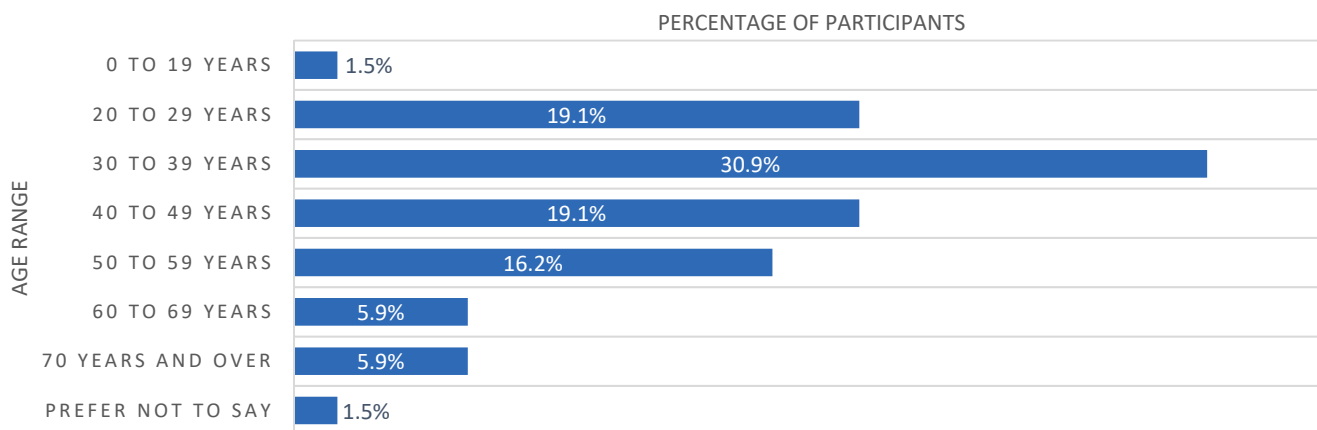
A verbatim record of response form comments is attached to this report in **Appendix A**.

PART 1: PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

Participants were asked to answer the following four demographic questions.

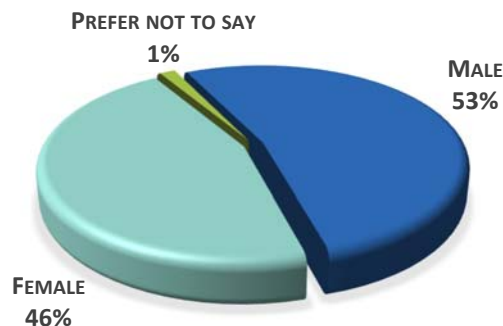
QUESTION 1: IN WHICH AGE GROUP ARE YOU?

- ▶ Most participants were between the ages of 30 to 39 years old (30.9%) followed by an equal number of respondents between 20 and 29 years (19.1%) and 40 and 49 years (19.1%).
- ▶ There were limited numbers of participants under the age of 29 (20.6% combined) or over the age of 60 (13.3% combined).
- ▶ This generally aligns with the PRRD's demographics, where the average age of residents is 35.9.



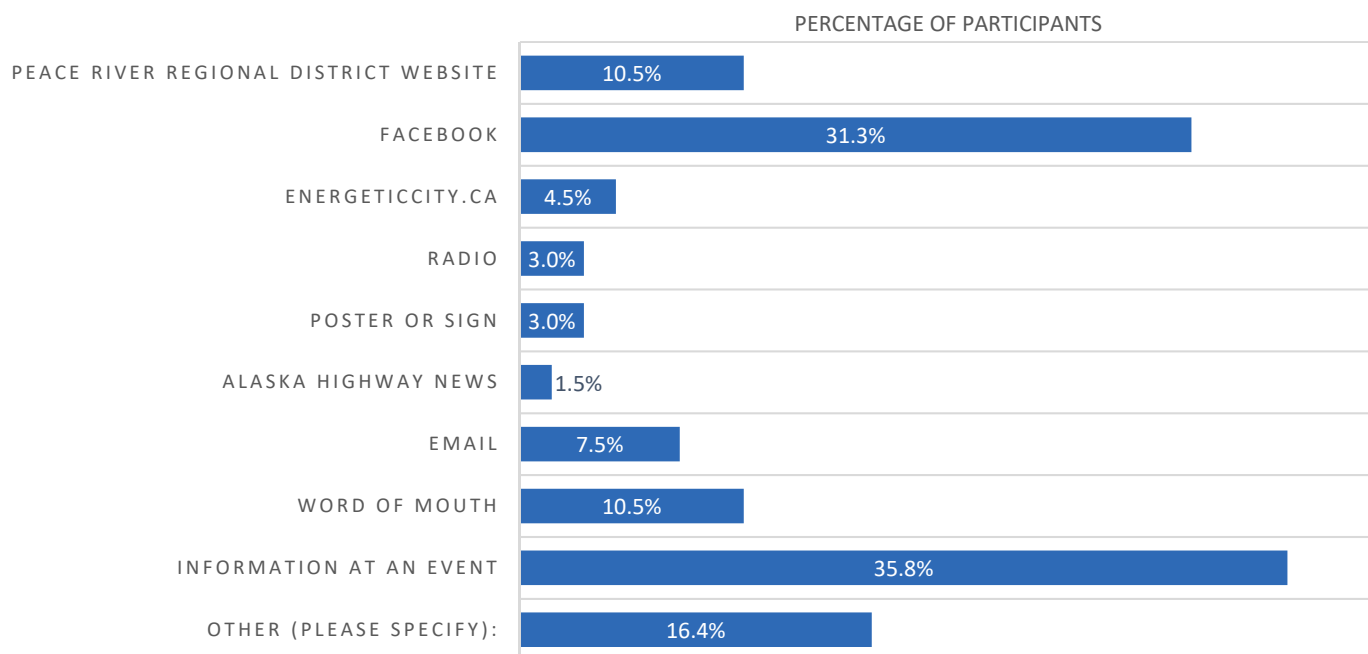
QUESTION 2: WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?

- ▶ Slightly more males (52.9%) than females (45.6%) completed a response form.
- ▶ These results were different from the first questionnaire, where a significantly larger number of respondents were female (64.5%).



QUESTION 3: HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS RESPONSE FORM?

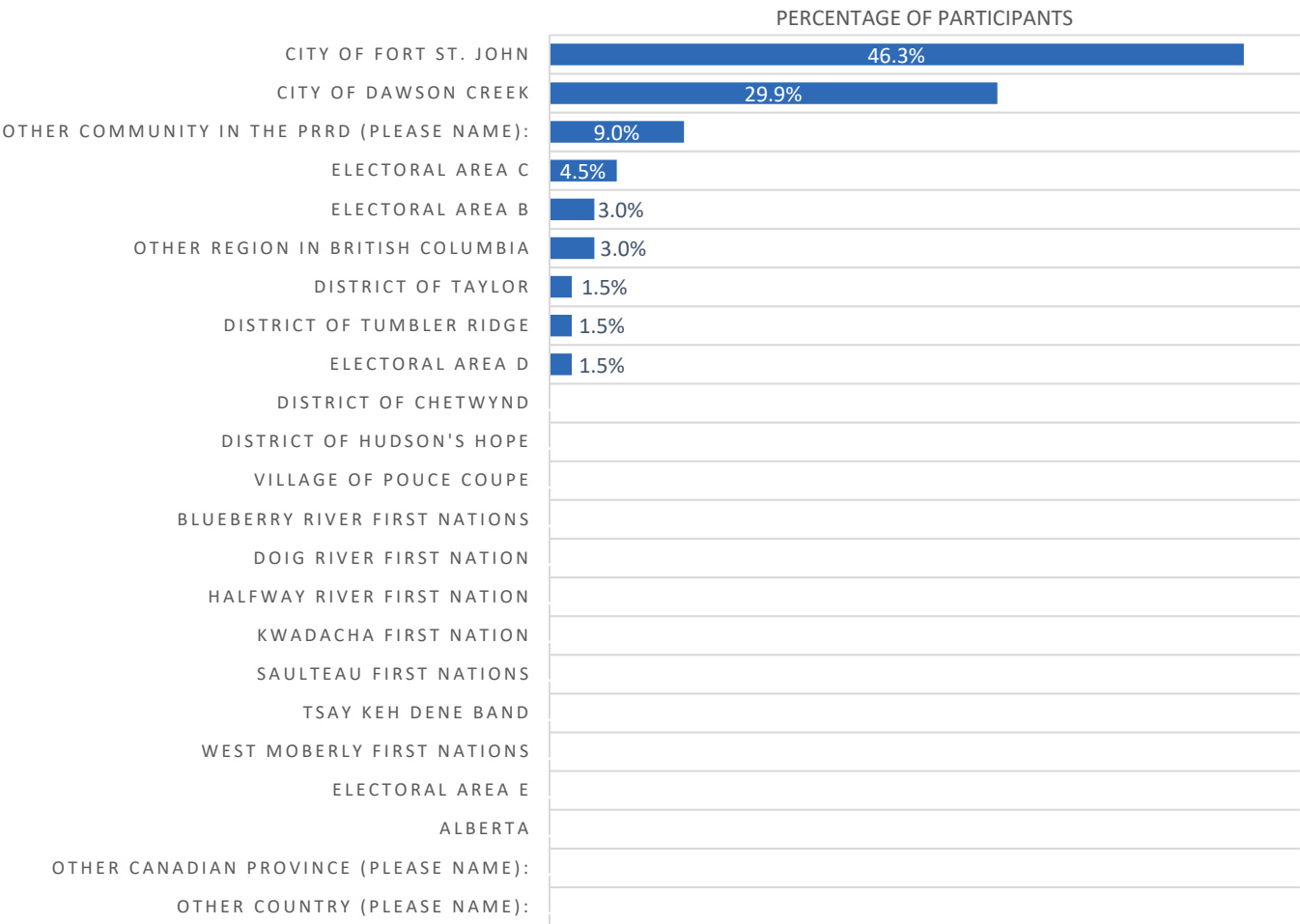
- ▶ A large percentage of participants heard about the response form by seeing information at an event (35.8%) or through Facebook (31.3%).
- ▶ 16.4% identified that they heard about the opportunity to provide feedback through other information sources including from PRRD employees, representatives at the World U17 Hockey Challenge, and Fort St. John disc golf club.



QUESTION 4: AREA OF RESIDENCE

Participants were asked to identify where they lived:

- ▶ The largest percentage of participants reside in either the City of Fort St. John (46.3%) or the City of Dawson Creek (29.9%).
- ▶ Most other participants identified as residing in other communities within the Peace River Regional District or one of the electoral areas (21%), including District of Taylor, District of Tumbler Ridge, Electoral Areas B, C, or D; or other communities including Montney, Charlie Lake, Mile 74, and Farmington.



ART 2: BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

VISION AND GOALS

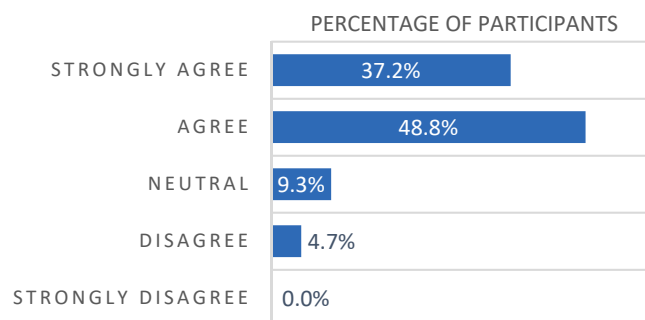
Participants were asked their level of support for the DRAFT VISION and GOALS for Blackfoot Regional Park and to suggest refinements.

DRAFT VISION

Blackfoot Regional Park invites people to explore the natural splendour of the Peace River in a rustic, quiet, and family-friendly forest campground; it is the starting point to many great adventures and memories.

QUESTION 5: DRAFT VISION

- ▶ 48.8% of agree with the draft vision and 37.2% strongly agree – for a total of 86% of participants in general agreement with the draft vision for Blackfoot Regional Park.



QUESTION 6: SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE DRAFT VISION

- ▶ Minor text refinements
- ▶ More specific about type of adventures and memories (e.g., hiking, viewing, sports areas, ATV trails)
- ▶ Suggestion that the park outcome is what is important, and the rest is redundant / not relevant to campground
- ▶ Satisfaction with minor improvements but appreciation of the rustic aspects to retain natural feel of the park.

Several participants added comments to state or reiterate desired amenities which included walking trails, signage, dog park, 18-hole disc golf course, revenue generation, improved access, powered sites, sites to accommodate larger recreational vehicles, more secluded campsites, tenting options, and outhouses.

There were also concerns noted about lack of enforcement and management issues

QUESTION 7: DRAFT GOALS

Participants were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the following DRAFT GOALS for Blackfoot Regional Park:

INCREASE PARK AMENITIES

- ▶ Enhance recreational opportunities at the park by providing a variety of amenities that appeal to a wide range of users, especially families
- ▶ Expand campsites in a phased manner

MAINTAIN PARK CHARACTER

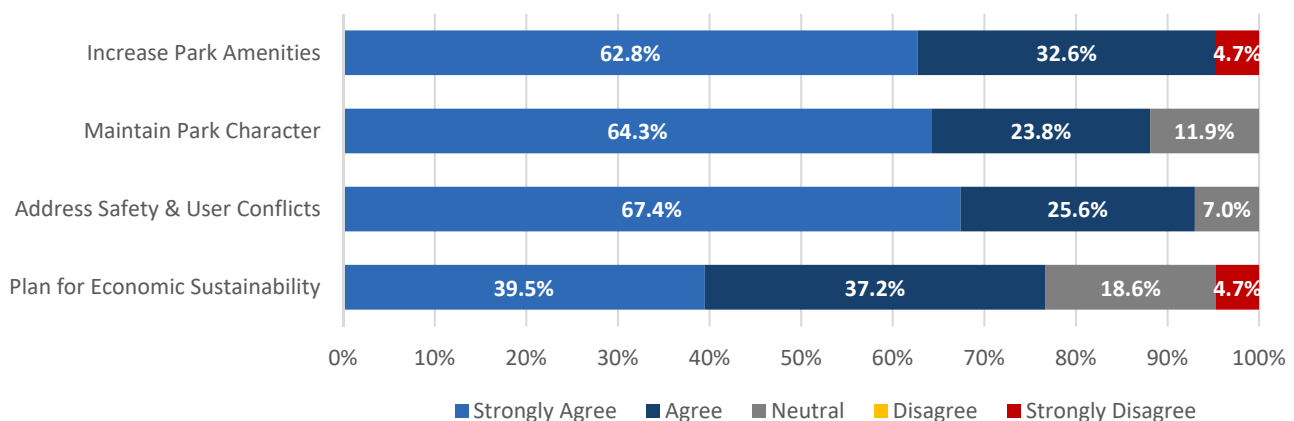
- ▶ Ensure future park improvements align with the rural and rustic feeling that is valued by park users
- ▶ Plan to retain and manage park trees for long-term renewal

ADDRESS SAFETY & USER CONFLICTS

- ▶ Make physical and operational park improvements to encourage a family-friendly atmosphere and discourage disruptive activities

PLAN FOR ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

- ▶ Ensure improvements that increase operational demands can be offset through revenue generation



QUESTION 8: SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE DRAFT GOALS

- ▶ Develop initiatives to remove the reputation of the park as a “bush party” destination that attracts drug and alcohol related activities (possibly by providing a park host to provide security/authority)
- ▶ Emphasize maintenance (e.g. garbage collection)
- ▶ Develop education programs for environmental education and recreational activities such as astronomy and fishing
- ▶ Retain rustic feel and natural beauty of the park; caution about over-commercializing park
- ▶ Support for small user fee for camping
- ▶ Enhance park winter activities for hiking and sledding

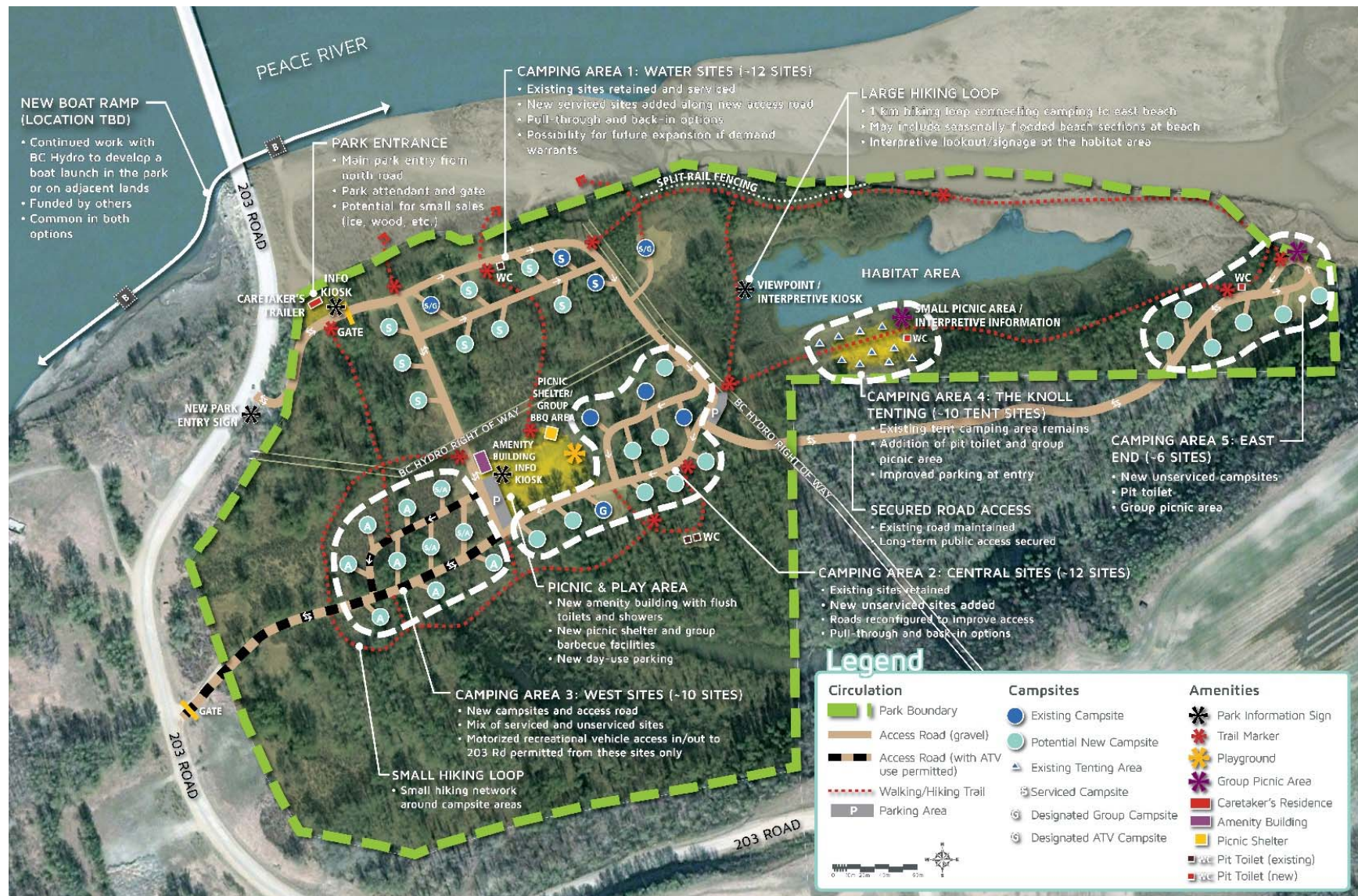
CONCEPT OPTIONS – BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

Two different concept options were developed for Blackfoot Regional Park to show many of the ideas heard in the process to date. Participants were asked to review each concept, Concept A (this page) and Concept B (next page), then answer questions on what they like most/least in each. Larger versions of the concepts are available at www.prrd.bc.ca/engage.

CONCEPT A: RUSTIC & RELAXED



CONCEPT B: CAMPING DESTINATION



QUESTION 9: PREFERRED DIRECTIONS FOR BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

The following concept directions were provided for each option. Participants were asked to identify which concept ("A", "B", or "Neither") they preferred and if they had refinements, comments or additional suggestions. The preferred responses are circled in red below and comments are summarized at the bottom of the graphic.

1. VEHICLE CAMPSITES		2. TENT CAMPSITES		3. ROADS	
CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B	CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B	CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Small increase in unserviced vehicle sites (~15 new sites) » Total number of campsites = ~24 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Moderate increase in unserviced vehicle sites (~21 new sites) » Addition of serviced sites (~15 new or upgraded sites) » Total number of campsites = ~40 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Existing tent camping area remains (on knoll in the centre of the park) » New vault toilet added 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Tent camping area relocated to east end of park with walk-in access only (vehicle parking near central campsites) » Vault toilet and group picnic area added 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Access road to east end of the park closed to vehicles (walk-in access only) to help discourage parties and maintain all park roads inside the park boundary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Access road to east end of the park remains open to vehicles and family-style camping is encouraged » Agreement with private landowner pursued to ensure long-term road access
A - 27.5%	B - 72.5%	A - 29.3%	B - 68.3%	A - 32.5%	B - 65.0%
NEITHER - 0.0%		NEITHER - 2.4%		NEITHER - 2.5%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » More sites are desirable » Paid camping can support more responsible/return guests 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Deter vehicles from driving on/accessing the dry riverbed 	

4. TRAILS	
CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Some new nature trails including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Large hiking loop (common) » Trails connecting campsites to toilets and play area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » More new nature trails including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Large hiking loop (common) » Interpretive lookout over habitat area » Small hiking loop around campsites
A - 17.5%	B - 82.5%
NEITHER - 0.0%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » At least one trail that is accessible to wheelchairs/baby strollers 	

5. SITE SERVICES	
CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Existing/new vault toilets to replace old toilets and better service camping areas » New drinking water tap at the play and picnic area for campers using improved well facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » New amenity building with flush toilets, showers, and drinking water at the play and picnic area » Existing/new vault toilets for non-central camping areas
A - 35.0%	B - 65.0%
NEITHER - 0.0%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Cost will be a key consideration for advancing services 	

6. PICNIC & PLAY AREA	
CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Minor improvements such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Additional picnic tables » Information kiosk with park map » Day-use parking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Additional amenities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » New picnic shelter » Group BBQs and picnic areas » Information kiosk with park map » Day-use parking
A - 29.3%	B - 70.7%
NEITHER - 0.0%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Consider protection for the kiosk 	

7. BOAT LAUNCH	
COMMON TO BOTH OPTIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Continue to work with BC Hydro or other partners to develop a public boat launch site in Blackfoot Regional Park or on adjacent lands » Funding would be by others 	
SUPPORT - 95.1%	DON'T SUPPORT - 4.9%
OTHER SUGGESTIONS - 0.0%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Consider proceeding with or without partners » Parking for trailers needed » Concerns about having a boat launch in a river, noise, and risk of pollution 	

8. ATV MANAGEMENT	
CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » A few sites (~4) designated for ATV use with direct access west in/out to 203 Rd » Signs in other park areas prohibiting ATV use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » More sites (~10) designated for ATV use with direct access west in/out to 203 Rd » On-site manager to monitor/ manage ATV use in park areas
A - 36.6%	B - 48.8%
NEITHER - 14.6%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No ATV use after 9 pm » Some non-support for any ATV use in the park » Concerns about noise and disturbance 	

9. PARK OPERATIONS	
CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Free camping » Operations and maintenance similar to existing (minor improvements) » Remains a first-come, first-serve campground 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Paid camping » Park attendant from mid-May to mid-Sept. to manage registration, maintenance, and security » Campsite reservations available
A - 32.5%	B - 65.0%
NEITHER - 2.5%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Free camping can attract problems, whereas paid camping attracts legitimate campers » Fees cannot be too high » Potential for generating funds through alternative methods (e.g., fundraising) 	

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK:

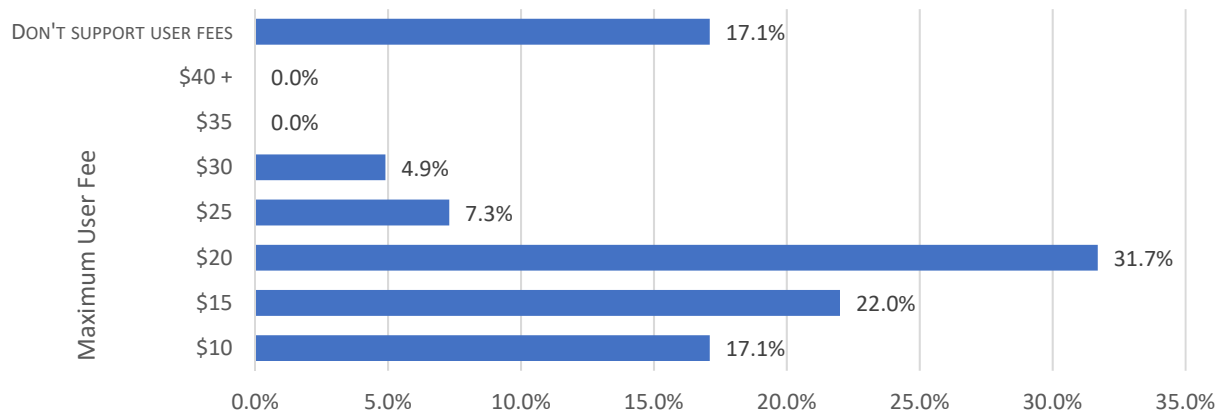
- ▶ Limit or prohibit ATV use
- ▶ Increase campsites further
- ▶ Additional trails for walking
- ▶ Additional trails for ATV use
- ▶ Improve dog waste management

QUESTION 10: USER FEES

Participants were asked to indicate the maximum user fee they would support for potential paid park uses in Blackfoot Regional Park.

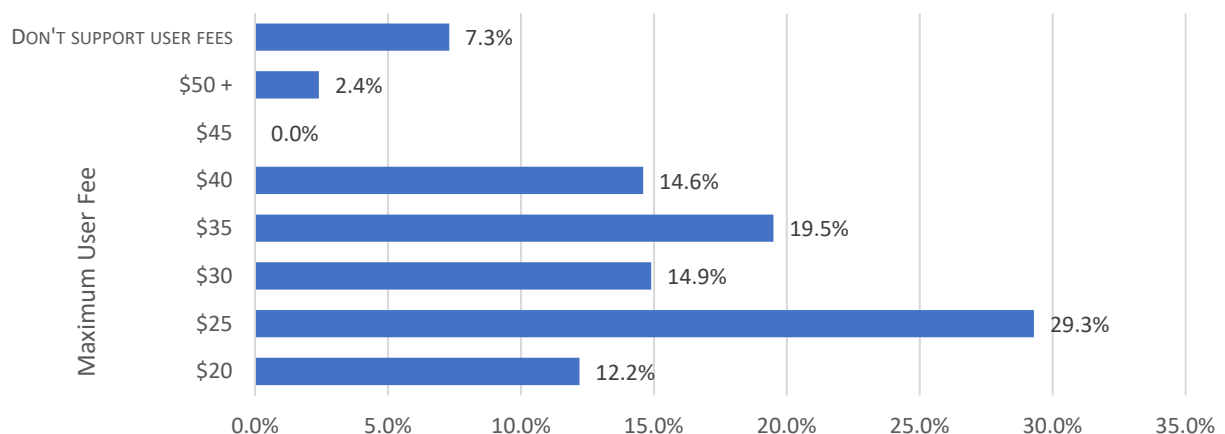
USER FEE FOR UNSERVICED VEHICLE CAMPSITES / DAY

- ▶ The majority of respondents would support a user fee of \$15 or more for an unserviced vehicle campsite



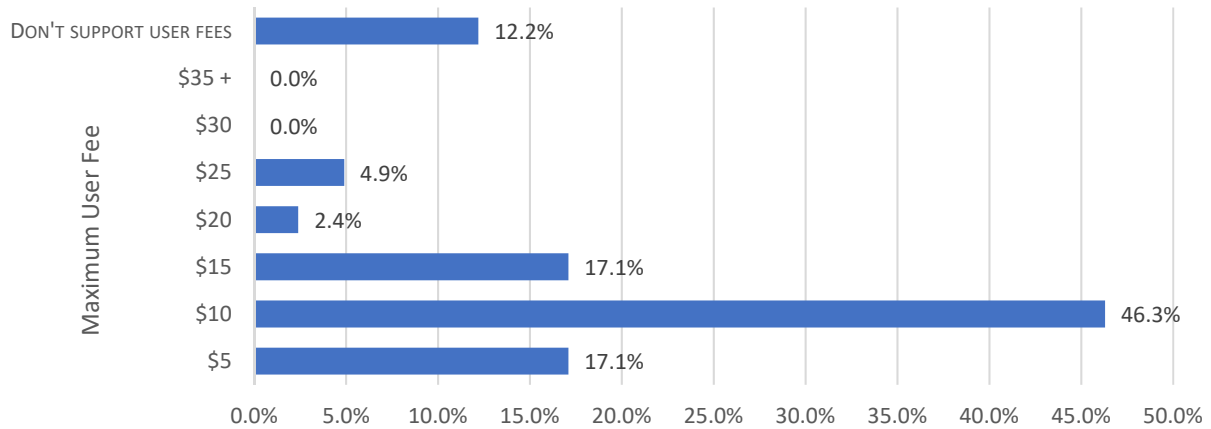
USER FEES FOR SERVICED VEHICLE CAMPSITES / DAY

- ▶ The majority of respondents would support a user fee of \$30 or more for a serviced site



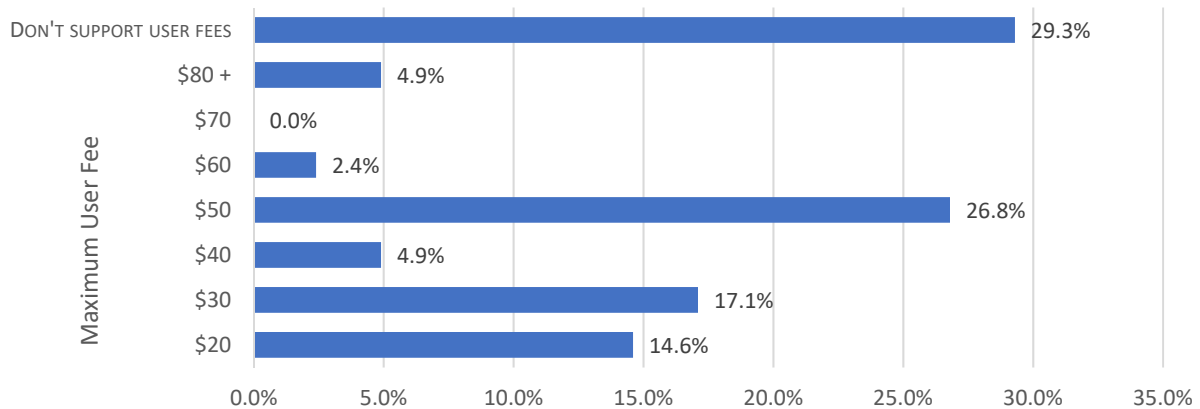
USER FEES FOR TENT CAMPSITES / DAY

- ▶ The majority of respondents would support a user fee of \$10 or more for a tenting site



USER FEES FOR PICNIC SHELTER RENTAL / DAY

- ▶ The majority of respondents would support a user fee of \$30 or more for a group picnic shelter rental
- ▶ One-third of participants indicated they would not support user fees for group picnic shelter rental



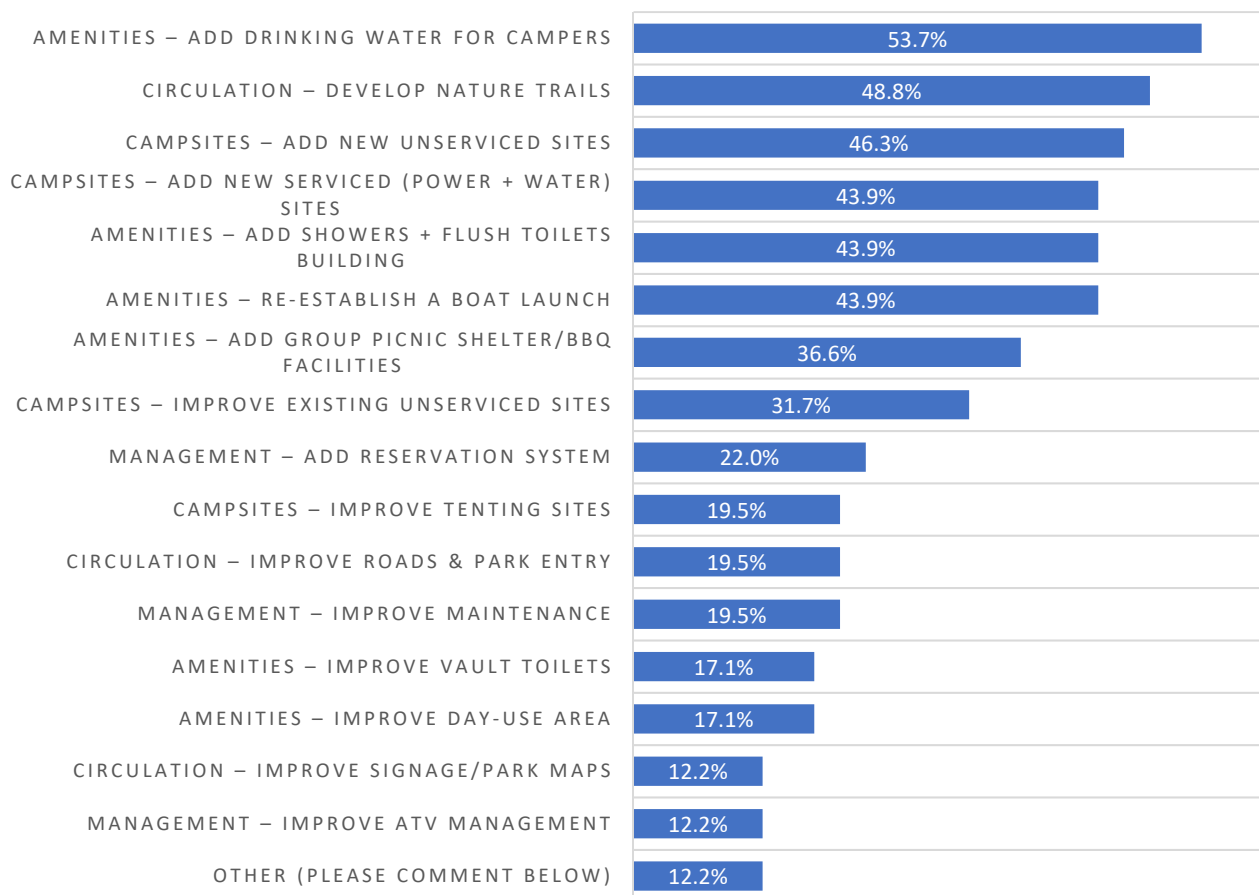
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON USER FEES OR FUNDING:

- ▶ The group picnic shelter may not be warranted
- ▶ Fees can be a useful tool for keeping the park maintained and well used
- ▶ Suggestion to consider an annual fundraiser, rather than fees
- ▶ Fees should be kept low through proper management and capital investment

QUESTION 12: TOP PRIORITIES FOR POTENTIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS – BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

The top priorities included:

1. Drinking water for campers
2. Nature trails
3. New un-serviced sites
4. New serviced (power and water) sites (tie)
4. Showers/flush toilets building (tie)
4. Boat launch re-establishment (tie)



ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- ▶ Prevent motorized access to riverbed
- ▶ Day use parking
- ▶ Add an 18-hole disc golf course
- ▶ Dump stations
- ▶ ATV trails
- ▶ Improve sites, but first add hiking trails

PART 3: MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

VISION AND GOALS

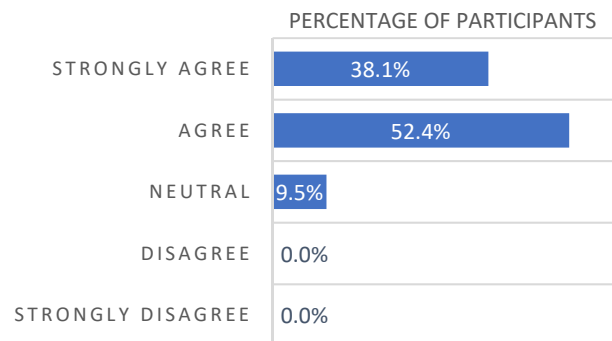
Participants were asked their level of support for the DRAFT VISION and GOALS for Montney Centennial Regional Park and to suggest refinements.

DRAFT VISION

Montney Centennial Regional Park offers unique, remote recreational experiences on Charlie Lake that invite people to stay for a day or for a week and enjoy recreation and relaxation in a lakefront forest.

QUESTION 13: DRAFT VISION

- ▶ 52.4% of participants agree with the draft vision and 38.1% strongly agree – for a total of 90.5% of participants in general agreement with the draft vision for Blackfoot Regional Park.
- ▶ No participants indicated disagreement.



QUESTION 14: SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE DRAFT VISION

- ▶ Emphasize day use area aspects including picnic area, fishing, and parking
- ▶ Focus on the "unique and remote" to draw regular users

Other comments focused on the amenities which included:

- ▶ Support for disc-golf and horse camping which could suit the interests of residents
- ▶ Dog park
- ▶ Site attendants and enforcement
- ▶ Campsite amenities and improvements
- ▶ Boat launch and dock
- ▶ Road improvement

QUESTION 15: DRAFT GOALS

Participants were asked to indicate their level of agreement for the DRAFT GOALS for Montney Centennial Regional Park:

ATTRACT A WIDE RANGE OF VISITORS

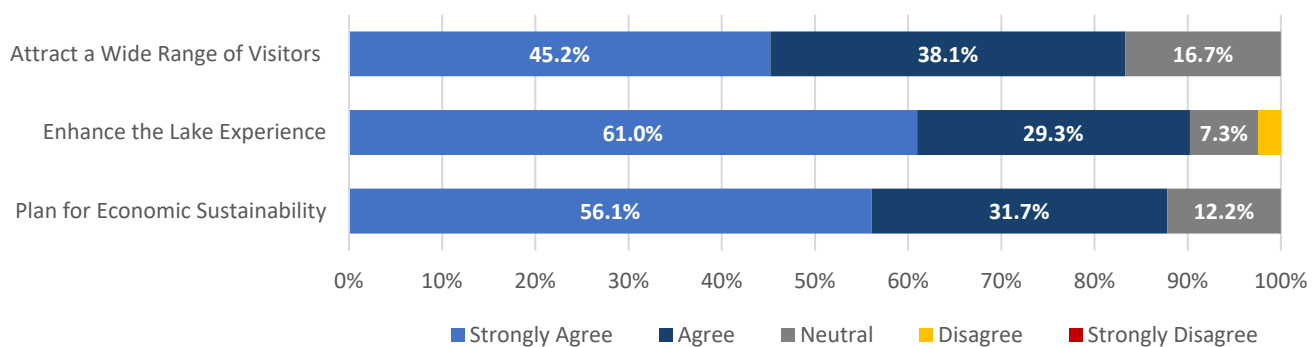
- ▶ Expand potential recreational pursuits in the park to attract a broader range of park visitors
- ▶ Create unique experiences that are not readily available in the surrounding area
- ▶ Support partnerships with clubs and organizations to develop recreation amenities

ENHANCE THE LAKE EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Seek ways to better connect park amenities with Charlie Lake, allowing people to enjoy the lakefront experience

PLAN FOR ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

- ▶ Work to establish strategic partnerships and grants that help manage capital and park operation costs



QUESTION 16: SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE DRAFT GOALS

- ▶ Work with Fort St. John Disc Sports Club when designing the 18-hole course to ensure it is the appropriate level for both new and experienced players
- ▶ Lake enhancement including shoreline clean-up
- ▶ Enlist financial or volunteer help from clubs and organizations that use the park to support PRRD efforts
- ▶ Emphasize that an enhanced park would be used more by surrounding communities

CONCEPT OPTIONS – MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

Two different concept options were developed for Montney Centennial Regional Park to show many of the ideas heard in the process to date. Participants were asked to review each concept, Concept A (this page) and Concept B (next page), then answer questions on what they like most/least in each. Larger versions of the concepts are available at www.prrd.bc.ca/engage.

CONCEPT A: A QUIET GETAWAY



PRRD – Regional Park Design Study



PREFERRED DIRECTIONS

The following concept directions were provided for each option. Participants were asked to identify which concept ("A", "B", or "Neither") they preferred and if they had refinements, comments or additional suggestions. The preferred responses are circled in red below and comments are summarized at the bottom of the graphic.

1. VEHICLE CAMPSITES		2. TENT CAMPSITES		3. ROADS	
CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B	CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B	CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Small increase in unserviced vehicle sites (~7 new sites) » Unserved sites only (common) » Total number of campsites = ~14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Moderate increase in unserviced vehicle sites (~19 new sites) » Unserved sites only (common) » Varied camping options such as areas for tenting and equestrian camping » Total number of campsites = ~26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » No designated tent camping area (tent camping at vehicle campsites) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Group tenting area added near picnic and play area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Existing access roads maintained with minor upgrades to address issue areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Existing access roads maintained and new access road developed to provide access to "upper campsite" area » New separate park access for equestrian campsites
A - 17.9%	B - 82.1%	A - 21.6%	B - 75.7%	A - 15.8%	B - 84.2%
NEITHER - 0.0%		NEITHER - 2.7%		NEITHER - 0.0%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Mixed support for equestrian campsites 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Tenting should be allowed in all sites, but less costly in group area 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Day parking near trailheads » Better roads will be required to support more campsites 	

4. TRAILS

CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Some new nature trails including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Large hiking loop in wooded area » Trails connecting campsites to toilets and play area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Multi-use trails developed in partnership with organizations » Possible activities could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Hiking » Disc golf » Snowshoeing » Cross-country skiing » Horseback riding » Mountain biking
A - 21.1%	B - 78.9%
NEITHER - 0.0%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Concerns about ATV use on trails » Multi-use activities would be an asset for the region » Concerns about too much impact » Would need support from clubs 	

5. SERVICES

COMMON TO BOTH CONCEPTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » New vault toilets for camping and recreation areas » Park remains unserved (no drinking water, power, or sanitary) 	
SUPPORT - 94.9%	DON'T SUPPORT - 5.1%
OTHER SUGGESTIONS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Some suggestions for drinking water » Some suggestions for power and sanitary » General support for rustic amenities 	

6. PICNIC & PLAY AREAS

CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » New waterfront picnic and playground area developed adjacent to the lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » New upland forest picnic and playground area developed adjacent to camping areas » New activity staging area for the recreational trail network with a picnic shelter/ hut, parking, and vault toilet
A - 25.0%	B - 75.0%
NEITHER - 0.0%	

7. BOAT LAUNCH

CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Existing boat launch and access road removed » Small fishing dock developed to support fishing and small boat access to Charlie Lake (e.g. canoes, kayaks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Existing boat launch improved for motorized and non-motorized boat launching with concrete ramp, upgraded access road, and parking area
A - 35.9%	B - 64.1%
NEITHER - 0.0%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Potential for paid boat launch » Concerns that an improved boat launch would create too many issues in the park (e.g. more parking demand) » Sufficient boat launches on Charlie Lake 	

8. PARK OPERATIONS

CONCEPT A	CONCEPT B
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Free camping » Operations and maintenance similar to existing (minor improvements) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Paid camping (collections via drop box or weekend attendant) » Increased operations and maintenance to manage additional camping areas
A - 23.7%	B - 76.3%
NEITHER - 0.0%	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Potentially a nominal fee for various park facilities (e.g., skiing, disc golf, etc.) 	

OTHER SUGGESTIONS FOR MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK:

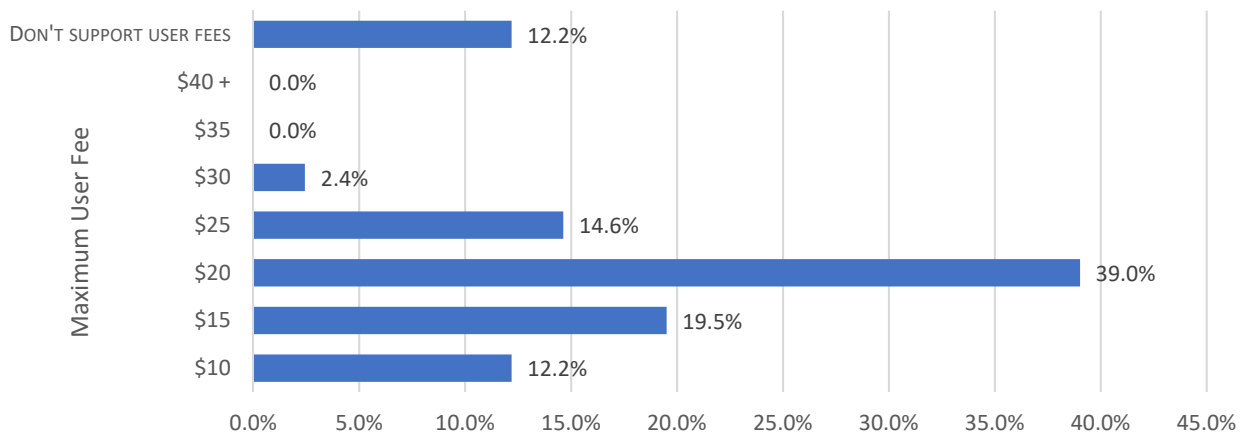
- ▶ Concept B is too busy – the most important thing is retaining the environment and not disrupting the natural beauty of the campsites
- ▶ Concern that the equestrian facilities would be costly and require ongoing maintenance
- ▶ Support for a multi-use park (skiing, disc golf, boating, camping, mountain bikers) that share facilities and collectively help maintain the park. Collective support can also open grant opportunities

QUESTION 18: USER FEES

Participants were asked to indicate the maximum user fee they would support for potential paid park uses in Montney Centennial Regional Park.

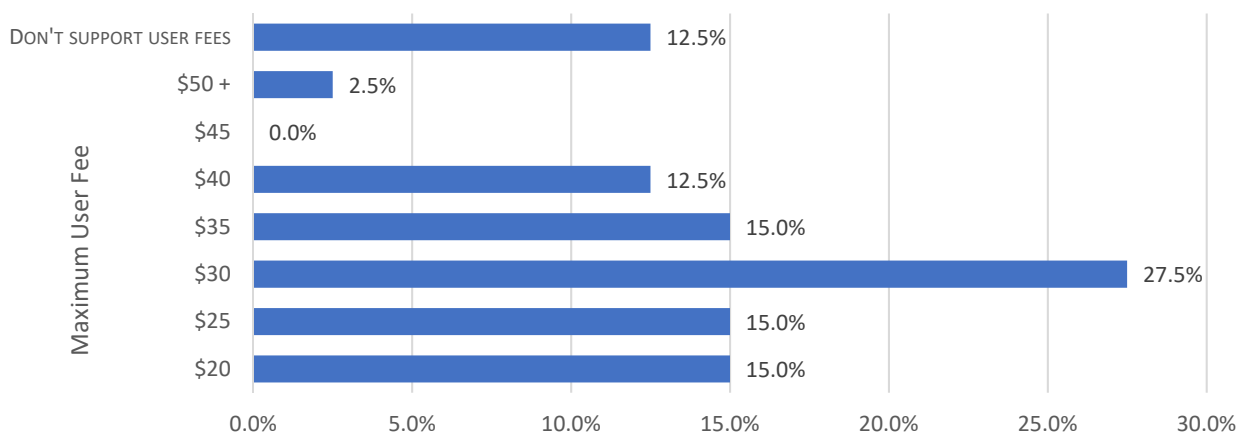
USER FEE FOR UNSERVICED VEHICLE CAMPSITES / DAY

- ▶ The majority of respondents would support a user fee of \$20 or more for an unserviced vehicle site



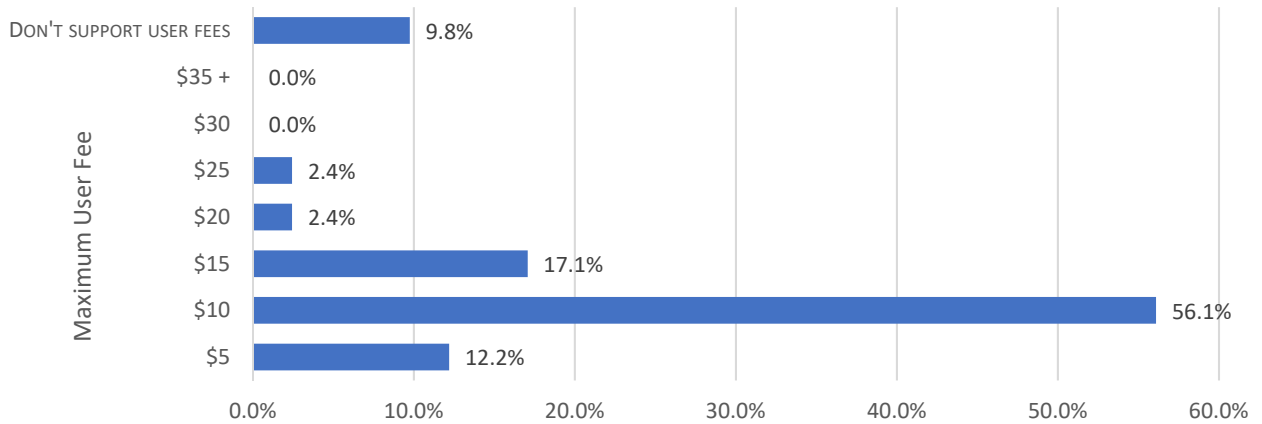
USER FEES FOR SERVICED VEHICLE CAMPSITES / DAY

- ▶ The majority of respondents would support a user fee of \$30 or more for an equestrian vehicle site



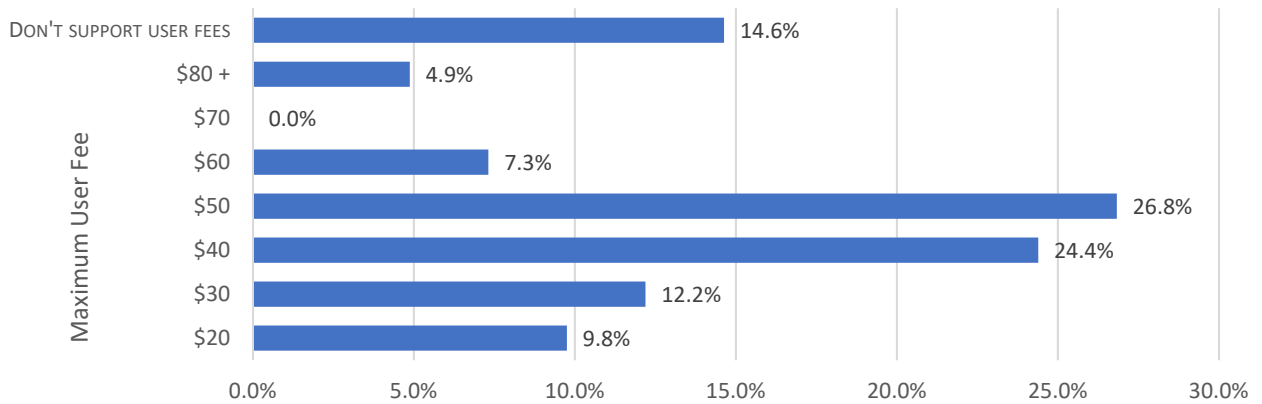
USER FEES FOR TENT CAMPSITES / DAY

- ▶ The majority of respondents would support a user fee of \$10 or more for a tenting site



USER FEES FOR PICNIC SHELTER RENTAL / DAY

- ▶ The majority of respondents would support a user fee of \$40 or more for use of a group picnic shelter



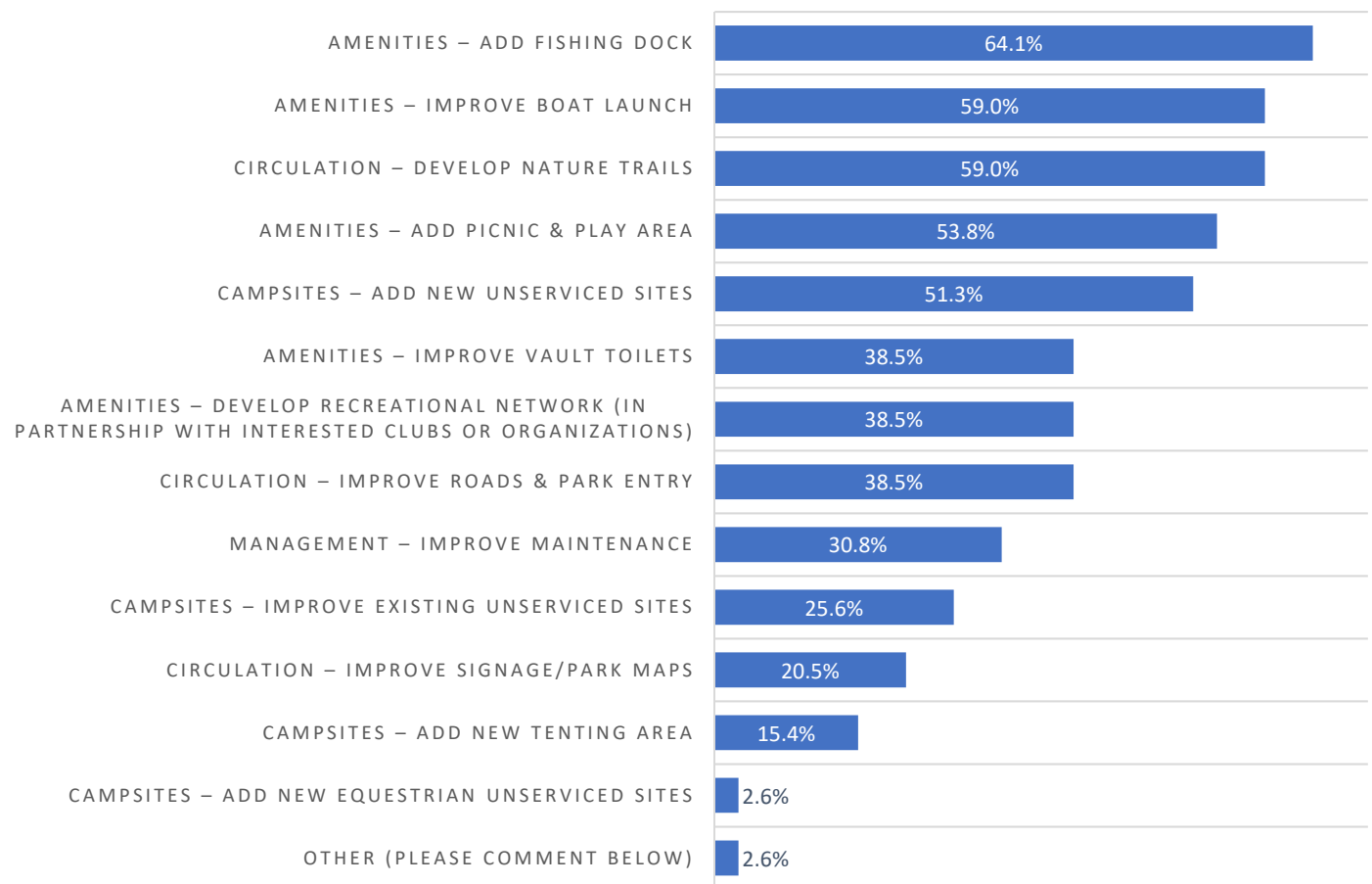
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON USER FEES OR FUNDING:

- ▶ Day use activities should be free
- ▶ There is a correlation between the condition of the park and how much people are willing to pay. If it is clean and well-kept, people do not mind paying a bit more
- ▶ The group shelter should not have a cost unless in high demand

QUESTION 19: TOP PRIORITIES FOR POTENTIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS – MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

The top priorities included:

1. Fishing Dock
2. Improved Boat Launch (tie)
2. Nature Trails (tie)
3. Play and Picnic Area
4. New Unserved Campsites



Part 4: General comments

QUESTION 20: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ABOUT EITHER PARK

Participants were asked to share any additional comments about either Blackfoot Regional or Montney Centennial Regional Park. Comments included:

- ▶ Support for disc golf, multi-use, and mountain bike trails as growing activities in the region and beneficial for attracting people from other regions to explore PRRD parks.
- ▶ Desire to ensure the parks remain natural in character, keeping spaces park-like and accessible to everyone to enjoy.
- ▶ Concerns that boat launches limit use of shoreline areas.
- ▶ Desire to expand day-use opportunities that encourage locals to enjoy the parks.
- ▶ Appreciation for providing opportunities for input.

APPENDIX A: RESPONSE FORM VERBATIM COMMENTS

PART 2: BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

DRAFT VISION AND GOALS

QUESTION 6: COMMENTS ON DRAFT VISION

- ▶ It always seems dirty, crowded, etc...
- ▶ I might change the word "the" starting point to "a" starting point.
- ▶ End vision afterward: campground. The rest is redundant and is hardly relevant to the campground site.
- ▶ Day Parking, Walking Trails, Signage, Dog Park.
- ▶ An 18-hole disc golf course in either or both parks. This will provide families an excellent way to get out and explore the park together. It will also be a great way to draw disc golfers from other regions throughout BC and Alberta by way of an annual tournament held with the approval of the PRRD. This in turn could provide extra revenue from return visitors who really enjoyed the tournament, and through nominal fees charged to the tournament director, not to mention the camping fees for the golfers on the weekend of the tournament.
- ▶ Presently a party area due to no policing.
- ▶ Improve access, add some powered sites.
- ▶ Be more specific about adventures and memories (hiking, viewing, sports areas, ATV trails).
- ▶ Dog friendly.
- ▶ As far as a vision statement goes, I feel that it encompasses well how I see the park.
- ▶ I think it's great so far!
- ▶ More secluded camp spots; walking trails, ATV trails.
- ▶ I would like campsites with A and/or B big enough to accommodate a 5th wheel with the option to pitch a tent for kids.
- ▶ I am for the site remaining rustic. I am happy with some minor improvements like more sites, hiking trail and outhouses. I do not want to see anymore improvements. They are destroying the natural feel of the campsite.
- ▶ I would like to see minor improvements of the park like more sites and outhouses.

QUESTION 8: COMMENTS ON DRAFT GOALS

- ▶ Work to remove "bush party" reputation - drunks/drugs. Provide Park Host to provide security/maturity.
- ▶ Develop an Education Program: Flora, Fauna, Night Sky, Fishing, etc
- ▶ Making sure there is someone doing garbage maintenance is so important!
- ▶ I feel it's important to keep the away from civilization feel.
- ▶ Sounds pretty good.
- ▶ I believe in user pay and a small fee for camping would be appropriate
- ▶ Preservation of natural environment / beauty would always be a benefit. I believe commercializing this area would be a huge downfall for this park.
- ▶ Would be nice to have a park for winter with the idea of making the hiking trails wide enough for sleds. Fort St. John needs to utilize the winter months.

CONCEPT DIRECTIONS – BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

QUESTION 9: IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE OPTIONS

- ▶ No ATV use after 9:00 pm.
- ▶ Thank you for asking.
- ▶ Lower boat launch!
- ▶ Install electric mosquito zappers.
- ▶ More sites, more trails for both walking and ATVing would be a delighted addition to this beautiful piece of nature. Also, add one stand with doggy poop bags to avoid litter.
- ▶ Nope, you did very nice.

QUESTION 12: COMMENTS ON USER FEES AND FUNDING

- ▶ Don't want a group picnic shelter.
- ▶ Strongly believe in user fees.
- ▶ No user fees for day use.
- ▶ Fees keep park well maintained.
- ▶ Picnics are free.
- ▶ Fees suck but is necessary for needed upkeep.
- ▶ I definitely believe in user pay.
- ▶ Anything full hookup or special amenities should be charged, anything just nature provided should not.
- ▶ If Concept B requires paid camp, could there be an annual fundraiser instead?
- ▶ I support fees, but keep them low through proper management/concept.

PART 3: MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

DRAFT VISION AND GOALS

QUESTION 14: COMMENTS ON DRAFT VISION

- ▶ Day use parking, dog park.
- ▶ The Option B with the Disc golf park and horse camping is very suited to our District. Love the idea.
- ▶ Add a disc golf course.
- ▶ We need another disc golf course.
- ▶ Requires site attendants to enforce rules.
- ▶ None.
- ▶ It states what is available for the campsite.
- ▶ A good boat launch and dock for boats.
- ▶ I love going to Charlie Lake, so I would love this camp site.

- ▶ Improve road and park sites.
- ▶ There will always be people that complain about not having this or that. But if you stay focused on "unique and remote", I think you will develop a clientele (so to speak) that see Montney as their go-to campground (just in my opinion).
- ▶ Day use opportunities should be enhanced with picnic and fishing opportunities.

QUESTION 16: COMMENTS ON DRAFT GOALS

- ▶ Work with Fort St. John Disc Sports Club when designing the 18-hole course to make sure it is a good level for new and experienced players.
- ▶ Clean the lake, so many dead fish on shore.
- ▶ Love to enhance the lake!
- ▶ I prefer Concept B.
- ▶ Support for clubs and organizations should work both ways. If PRRD is enhancing the park for them, then they should be helping, i.e., financially or volunteer work hours spent on the park.
- ▶ The enhanced park would be used more by the surrounding communities.

CONCEPT DIRECTIONS – MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

QUESTION 17: DIFFERENT IDEAS OR SUGGESTIONS TO IMPROVE OPTIONS

- ▶ Disc golf! Heck yes!
- ▶ Concept B is too busy! Most important thing is keeping the green and not disrupting our beautiful natural looking camp sites.
- ▶ Disc golf, boating, and camping sound like a great weekend trip or day use.
- ▶ The equestrian setup would be a big cost and would require ongoing maintenance. It's very unlikely that the horse people would participate, they would only want to complain. The other clubs would likely be willing to work with you.
- ▶ I really like the idea of a multi-use park where skiers, disc golfers, and even mountain bikers can share facilities and help maintain the park. The more clubs that are involved, the less work each group must do to maintain it. Also, it opens more grant opportunities.

QUESTION 18: COMMENTS ON PARK USER FEES

- ▶ No fees for day use Education Programs.
- ▶ Your pricing scheme is per campsite overnight fees or day use fees? My comments reflect overnight.
- ▶ I support user fees and funding.
- ▶ I think there's a direct correlation between the condition of the park and how much people are willing to pay. If it's always clean and well-kept, people won't mind paying a little more. Judging by how often Beaton Park is full, I don't think there would be any trouble getting people out to enjoy Montney. Do a good job on the layout and construction, keep it clean and tidy, and people will come.
- ▶ The group shelter area should be a cost unless there is a high demand and potential double bookings. Some group shelter users may have already paid for camping that day as well.

PART 4: GENERAL COMMENTS

- ▶ Please proceed.
- ▶ I like the intent, but survey is fooling, hard to work through, better in a face-to-face, or one name.
- ▶ Disc golf and multi-use/mountain bike trails is a growing activity in the region. It would be great to see more options for those activities.
- ▶ I feel the two disc golf courses would be beneficial to attracting people from other regions to come explore our two beautiful parks.
- ▶ Disc golf course would be awesome.
- ▶ I think these parks are going to be great! Thank you for letting us give input!
- ▶ For the Montney Centennial Park, I would like to see the park remain more natural without access for boaters or motorized anything. Keep the water access for people, families and keep it park like and accessible for many people. Boat access limits who can use the area. Developing the trails and providing picnics only spots for families who would like to spend the day but not camp overnight. More day use of the park so the families can use the park without cost. Serve the local population and not cater to tourists.
- ▶ I had never heard of this park (Montney Centennial) until the design study was advertised. And in its current state, there is no reason for me or my family to visit this park. The Option B that was drafted would attract locals, visitors and people passing through. The nearest 18-hole disc golf course in BC is Kamloops. Mountain bikers in the region have also been looking for a place to go trail riding after losing their last location.
- ▶ Thanks for providing some great development options!
- ▶ Thank you for maintaining and improving our parks!

