

APPENDIX E
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Part 1 – Stakeholder Consultation

Part 2 – Wants & Needs Survey

Part 3 – Open House Summary

Part 4 – Master Plan Comment Summary



Peace River Regional District Stakeholder Consultation SUMMARY

January 25, 2012

Kootenay Planning Consultants
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I. LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

Introduction

As part of the Master Plan process, a stakeholder list was compiled. The list consisted of government agencies and First Nations. Individuals on the list were first contacted by phone and then sent an email with questions.

Stakeholder List

Municipalities

- City of Fort St. John – Community Services = Sarah Cockerill, Director of Community Services, email: scockerill@fortstjohn.ca, Ph: 250-787-5793 or general email: recreation@fortstjohn.ca, general ph: 250-787-8150
- City of Dawson Creek – Community Services = Barry Reynard, Director of Community Services Email: breynard@dawsoncreek.ca, Ph: 250-784-3605
- District of Chetwynd = Randy Rusjan, Director of Parks & Recreation; email: rrusjan@gochetwynd.com, ph: 250-788-2214
- District of Tumbler Ridge = Chuck Jensen, Director of Community Services; email: cjensen@dtr.ca, ph: 250-242-4246 ext 225.
- District of Taylor = Troy Gould, Director of Parks & Facilities; email: tgould@districtoftaylor.com, ph: 250-789-3392.
- District of Hudson's Hope = Mike Carter, Director of Public Works; email: mike@hudsonshope.ca, ph: 250-783-9901

Provincial Government

- Agricultural Land Commission = Gordon Bednard, Land Use Planner (North); email: Gordon.Bednard@gov.bc.ca, ph: 604-660-7011
- Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure South Peace Office – Kyle Drummond, A/Operations Manager; Kyle.Drummond@gov.bc.ca, ph 250-784-2374

- Integrated Resource Operations Division: Recreation Sites and Trails BC -
Tim Bennett, Recreation Officer (Peace / Fort Nelson Recreation District)
250-784-0178

First Nations

- Treaty 8 Tribal Association, 250-785-0612 Kieran Broderick
kbroderick@treaty8.bc.ca
- West Moberly First Nations, Moberly, BC 250-788-3663
landusemanager@westmo.org
- Saulteau First Nations, Chetwyn BC, 250-788-7258 Rick Publicover
rpublicover@saulteau.com
- Halfway River First Nations, Wonowon, BC 250-772-5058 Roslyn Pokiak
r_pokiak@hrfn.ca
- Blueberry River First Nations, Buick Creek, BC 250-630-2584 Joe
Davis@blueberryfn.ca
- Doig River First Nations, Rose Prairie, BC 250-827-3776 Leann Carter
lcarter@doigriverfn.com
- Fort Nelson First Nations, Fort Nelson, BC 250-774-7257 Jennifer Coupe
jennifer.coupe@fnnation.ca
- Prophet River First Nations, Fort Nelson, BC 250-773-6555 Robin Tsakoza
rtsakoza@hotmail.com

School Districts

- School District No. 59 (Peace River South) Dawson Creek 250-782-8571
- School District No. 60 (Peace River North) FSJ 250-262-6000

Environmental Organizations

- Nature Trust of BC – CEO Doug Walker dwalker@naturetrust.bc.ca 604-924-9771

Business Groups of the PRRD

- Dawson Creek & District Chamber of Commerce (250) 782-4868
- Tumbler Ridge Chamber of Commerce ph 250-242-0015 email
trcofc@pris.ca

- Fort St. John Chamber of Commerce (250) 785-6037 email: info@fsjchamber.com, Annette Oak, Manager
- Chetwynd & District Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Information Centre email: manager@chetwyndchamber.bc.ca Ph: 250-788-3345 Tonia Richter, Chamber manager
- Northern Bc Tourism – April Moi – april@nbctourism.com 250-785-2544

RCMP

P.J. (Pat) Egan, Inspector
Scott West, Sargent

II. STAKEHOLDER COMMENTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Hudson's Hope

1. *What do you think the role of Regional Parks within the Regional District is? (Why do we need them? What is their function?)* To coordinate and enhance parks throughout the region as well as promote a consistent, safe and a healthy year-round outdoor experience for local and out of area visitors alike.
2. *Should the Regional District maintain their existing Regional Parks or should they be making new ones. If new ones, should there be a criteria? (e.g. one park in each area or disburse by population. Or should parks be made to protect sensitive areas etc.)* Be open for unique areas for new parks to protect these areas and to enhance existing areas.
3. *Should there be policies on park uses? (e.g. day use vs camping)* Yes
4. *Should there be policies on park standards for operation and management?* Yes to streamline and minimize maintenance costs while keeping the enjoyment and safety of the visiting public at the forefront.
5. *Are there any partnerships or funding opportunities that you can envision between your organization and the PRRD regarding Parks and Trails in the Peace River Regional District?* Possible funding partnerships for PRRD maintenance and mutual help depending on circumstances.
6. *Do you have any other comments about Regional Parks or Trails?* Due to increased awareness of environmental issues parks and trails will become more popular for future generations.
7. *Would you like to review the Draft Master Plan?* Yes or No Yes

District of Taylor

1. *What do you think the role of Regional Parks within the Regional District is? (Why do we need them? What is their function?)* I believe the role of Regional Parks within the Regional District is to provide leisure/recreation areas for the public to enjoy, inside and outside of the Regional District. These parks are important; they are needed due to the lack of accessibility of the Park User's ability to create their own. They also provide areas that the public will use instead of finding their own areas where there could be dangers present, or on land that they shouldn't be on.

2. Should the Regional District maintain their existing Regional Parks or should they be making new ones. If new ones, should there be a criteria? (e.g. one park in each area or disburse by population. Or should parks be made to protect sensitive areas etc.) I believe the Regional District should maintain their existing Regional Parks with possible expansions before making new ones. I believe the Parks should be maintained, expanded, new ones created dependent on Park demand from the public.

3. Should there be policies on park uses? (e.g. day use vs camping) There definitely should be policies and posted for park uses.

4. Should there be policies on park standards for operation and management?
Yes

5. Are there any partnerships or funding opportunities that you can envision between your organization and the PRRD regarding Parks and Trails in the Peace River Regional District? Off hand I do not know of any funding opportunities, but would agree to a partnership being developed between the District of Taylor and PRRD regarding Parks and Trails.

6. Do you have any other comments about Regional Parks or Trails? Not at this time.

7. Would you like to review the Draft Master Plan? Yes or No Yes if available.

AGRICULTURAL LAND COMMISSION

I am responding on behalf of the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). I will answer the questions in the order they have been asked.

1. The question of the role of Regional Parks is outside the purview of the ALC.
2. As noted above.
3. As noted above
4. As noted above.
5. No
6. Regional parks and trails have potential to negatively impact the Agricultural Land Reserve by placing park users in conflict with agricultural operations, either through trespass, litter, stock harassment etc. That being said, most of the Peace River Regional District lies within the ALR and regional parks likely could not be developed without affecting the ALR. It is recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture's "A Guide to Using and Developing Trails in Farm and Ranch Areas" be used in park planning and design.

In addition it should be noted that subdivision for park or trail development requires the submission of a subdivision application for the Commission's review. Natural park uses are permitted outright in the ALR as per B.C. Regulation #171/2002.

Developed parkland, such as playing fields also requires the Commission's review and approval through a non farm use application process. B.C. Regulation #171/2002 and application forms may be accessed from our website at www.alc.gov.bc.ca

7. Yes I would like to review the draft master plan.

If you have any questions about the above, please contact this office.

FIRST NATIONS

Saulteau First Nations

1. What do you think the role of Regional Parks within the Regional District is? (Why do we need them? What is their function?) Yes we need them for preservation, recreation, tourism and/or general public enjoyment of the natural features of the area. Also they may include areas of historical, geological, spiritual, and biodiversity significance and/or special ecosystems or areas of other special significance.

2. Should the Regional District maintain their existing Regional Parks or should they be making new ones. If new ones, should there be a criteria? (e.g. one park in each area or disburse by population. Or should parks be made to protect sensitive areas etc.) The Regional District should be budgeting for adequate maintenance of the existing parks. In addition, there should be a review of potential new ones in areas of the Regional District where no parks exist. Criteria should be established for developing new parks. Input from the public should be solicited as part of the process to identify new park locations.

3. Should there be policies on park uses? (e.g. day use vs camping) Yes – the public should be given the opportunity to comment on proposed changes prior to implementation – possibly a working group could be established to develop and/or review the changes prior to any public comment periods.

4. Should there be policies on park standards for operation and management?
Yes

5. Are there any partnerships or funding opportunities that you can envision between your organization and the PRRD regarding Parks and Trails in the

Peace River Regional District? We do not any funding opportunities at present. However, we would like to explore this with you further.

6. *Do you have any other comments about Regional Parks or Trails?* It would be good to have an expanded park and trail system for cross country skiing, mountain biking, walking, horseback riding, four wheeling, snowmobiling and other recreation uses.

7. *Would you like to review the Draft Master Plan?* Yes or No Yes.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chetwynd Chamber Of Commerce & Visitor Centre

1. *What do you think the role of Regional Parks within the Regional District is? (Why do we need them? What is their function?)* I have no idea what the Regional Districts role is.

2. *Should the Regional District maintain their existing Regional Parks or should they be making new ones. If new ones, should there be a criteria? (e.g. one park in each area or disburse by population. Or should parks be made to protect sensitive areas etc.)* Make new ones and please do not charge to stay over. A lot of visitors do not like Provincial Parks and paying high fees just to camp. I also agree that they should be used to protect sensitive areas.

3. *Should there be policies on park uses? (e.g. day use vs camping)* Day use and over night

4. *Should there be policies on park standards for operation and management?* For sure policies on standard and management but don't make it so strict that no one wants to go use. More and more people are venturing out into the back country to get away from rules and regulations.

5. *Are there any partnerships or funding opportunities that you can envision between your organization and the PRRD regarding Parks and Trails in the Peace River Regional District?* Maybe Northern BC Tourism

6. *Do you have any other comments about Regional Parks or Trails?*

7. *Would you like to review the Draft Master Plan?* Yes or No Yes

FSJ Chamber Of Commerce

1. *What do you think the role of Regional Parks within the Regional District is? (Why do we need them? What is their function?)* Regional Parks should have a designated day use, and camping use.
2. *Should the Regional District maintain their existing Regional Parks or should they be making new ones. If new ones, should there be a criteria? (e.g. one park in each area or disburse by population. Or should parks be made to protect sensitive areas etc.)* I do believe that regional parks could be designated to protect sensitive land and/or animals.
3. *Should there be policies on park uses? (e.g. day use vs camping).* All Regional land should have policies on the use of the park.
4. *Should there be policies on park standards for operation and management?* Absolutely.
5. *Are there any partnerships or funding opportunities that you can envision between your organization and the PRRD regarding Parks and Trails in the Peace River Regional District?* We could partner by sending out material to the business community in our newsletter.
6. *Do you have any other comments about Regional Parks or Trails?* Not at this time
7. *Would you like to review the Draft Master Plan?* Yes

BC RECREATION OFFICER (PEACE/FT. NELSON RECREATION DISTRICT)

Kootenay Planning Consultants met with the BC Recreation Officer during the Open House session on October 18, 2011. The following are notes taken at the meeting:

- Some trail groups have to deal with Agricultural Land Reserve to get their trails registered
- Some groups have trouble with mapping trails – perhaps some funding can be made available for mapping trails
- There is new legislation that oil and gas companies have to consult with Recreation Sites and Trails BC before proceeding on existing trails
- There is a need for signage / education to deal with horse / ATV / hiking conflicts

- Mapping is available of some trails in the area
 - The Parks and Trails Master Plan can address / assist with directing groups in the right direction to make applications for trail registration
-

RCMP

Kootenay Planning Consultants met with RCMP members from Chetwynd and Fort St. John prior to the open house session on October 21, 2011. The following are notes taken at the meeting:

- RCMP do not have enough resources / budget to enforce bylaws in regional parks and will only respond to emergencies
- The RCMP are there to support the BC Parks Enforcement Officer
- As far as the RCMP know, Blackfoot Park has no real issues, only graduation weekend
- The PRRD bylaw says there is a fee for camping but it is never enforced
- There is currently no cell phone service in Blackfoot Park for emergency purposes
- In terms of boating, RCMP is only reactive, there is no patrolling rivers or lakes
- There is currently no vicious dog bylaw so RCMP cannot act on these issues
- ATV-ing – currently this activity is not an issue with RCMP. ATV's need a license plate to cross roads but they cannot get a license if the ATV is not used for commercial purposes. RCMP in FSJ have used quads to patrol "trouble" areas within city limits to some success
- RCMP does not need to review DRAFT Master Plan



Peace River Regional District Wants and Needs Survey SUMMARY

December 10, 2011

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Appendix A – Survey Instrument

I. BACKGROUND

Introduction

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Residents Needs and Wants Survey, was launched on August 9, 2011 as part of the 'Public Engagement' process for the development of the PRRD Parks & Trails Master Plan. The survey was available to the residents of the PRRD in hard copy or online format. The survey was posted as a link on the PRRD website and was available at both the Dawson Creek and Fort St. John PRRD offices in hard copy form. The survey responses were collected for just over a three month period closing on November 15th, 2011. The survey was designed to provide feedback in the following areas:

- user opinions on their needs and wants for the management, improvement and future expansion of the Regional Park system and
- ideas regarding opportunities for Regional District support for recreational trails within the PRRD area.

In total, 270 surveys were completed of which 77% (or 208) were filled out in hard copy.

The link to the online survey was emailed to stakeholder group contacts for the distribution to their members and the survey was promoted during several of the local Fall Fairs. A total of 11 Open Houses were held throughout the PRRD from October 17-28, 2011. PRRD residents who attended the Open House events were encouraged to complete a survey either in hard copy or online. These events offered another chance to connect with the user groups where individual members took the survey information back to their groups for more people to complete. A noticeable increase in the number of surveys completed and submitted occurred during and immediately after the Open House events. The PRRD provided advertisement in several local newspapers and on the local radio stations to promote the survey and Open House events. A copy of the survey is attached in Appendix A.

Purpose of Survey

A Wants & Needs survey is an important component of the public engagement portion in the development of a Master Plan. Surveys, of any kind including a Wants & Needs survey, provide an effective way of obtaining a wide spectrum of public input. Knowing what the residents of the PRRD want is a key factor in successfully establishing a long-range planning document to guide the management of the PRRD Regional Parks and Trails system. Surveys, online or hard copy are relatively inexpensive ways of finding out what the public thinks

while allowing respondents to answer the questions at their leisure, answer sensitive questions anonymously and provide their opinions without having to go to a public meeting.

Methodology

The Wants & Needs survey was designed using the online software, "SurveyGizmo" (www.Surveygizmo.com). The survey questions were designed to gather information from the PRRD residents, as users and non-users of the five existing Regional Parks, their management, maintenance and future improvements as well as the potential expansion of the Regional Parks system. The survey was also designed to collect opinions on how the Regional District could support the recreational trail systems within the PRRD area. The questions were developed with feedback and input from the PRRD staff and PRRD Parks Committee.

To achieve the results wanted the survey was divided into three (3) distinct sections: (1) Parks, (2) Trails, and (3) Demographics. Survey respondents were asked to respond to questions covering the following topics:

- Regional Parks or Trails visited;
- indicate how and how often they used the parks or trails;
- provide information on their perceived values of the parks and trails;
- provide opinions on additional amenities needed at the existing parks;
- provide ideas for potential locations for new parks and trails;
- prioritize the maintenance needs or improvement needs of the Regional parks and trails; and
- respond to funding options.

In order to improve the survey response rate, incentives were offered to those who completed and submitted a survey by providing draw prizes (two IPOD Shuffles) one on October 19 and one on November 15, 2011.

Data Analysis

The data collected from the Wants & Needs survey was analyzed by the SurveyGizmo software. The results below summarize the responses of each question by highlighting the key themes that emerged out of each question.

Research Limitations

It should be noted that although 270 surveys were submitted not all questions were answered by every respondent. The percentages shown are based on the 270 responses where possible. The actual number of response per question

varies as in some cases respondents chose not to answer a particular question or in other questions respondents were given the option of providing more than one response. Where questions allowed the respondents to provide additional suggestions in the 'Other' category the answered are listed after each question. The list of general respondent suggestions and comments asked for in the last question, Question 25 is included at the end of this document. The results from the survey will provide the bases for the direction and the statistical back-up of the Parks & Trails Master Plan recommendations.

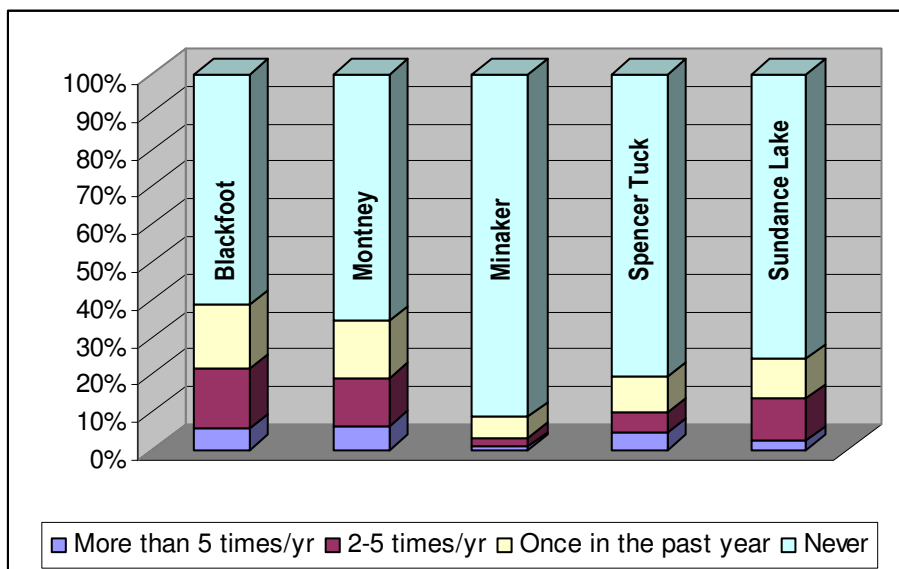
II. SURVEY RESULTS

Parks



Q.1

How often within the past year have you visited a Regional Park within the Peace River Regional District?

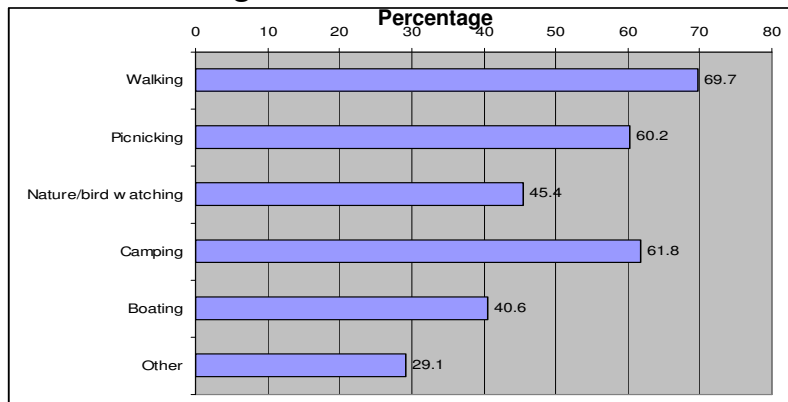


Survey Question Highlights:

- The majority of all respondents had never visited any of the Regional Parks.
- The most visited Regional Park was Blackfoot followed by Montney.
- Minaker Park was the least known and least visited Regional Park.

Q.2

What activities do you enjoy while visiting the Regional Parks within the Peace River Regional District?



Sample of Open Responses for “Other”:

1. Cycling / mountain biking
2. ATV-ing
3. Swimming
4. Horse back riding
5. Fishing
6. Canoeing
7. Cross country skiing
8. Motor biking
9. Snowshoeing
10. Skidooing

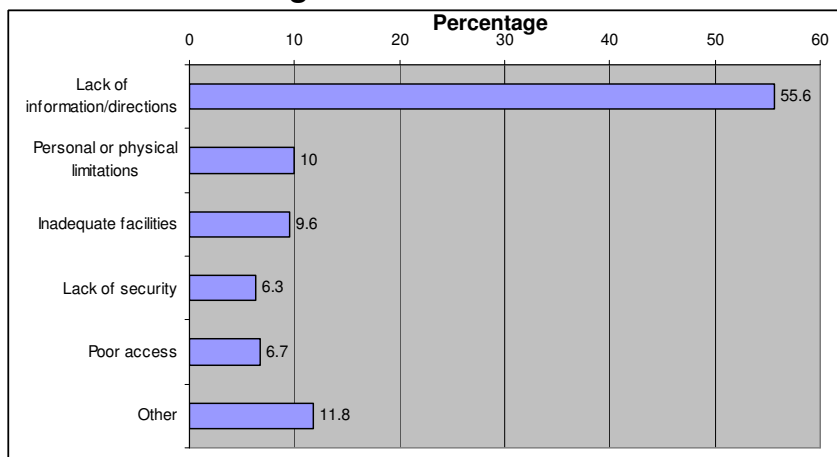
The most common activity for “Other” was “Horseback riding” followed by “Swimming”.

Survey Question Highlights:

- “Walking” was identified 70% of the time as an activity that people enjoy while visiting a Regional Park followed by “Camping” and “Picnicking”.

Q.3

What limits you and your household from using the Regional Parks within the Peace River Regional District?



Sample of Open Responses for “Other”:

1. No time
2. Poor or no signage
3. Never heard of them (parks)
4. Too far to travel, gas too expensive
5. I have much land to play on
6. Prefer less developed areas
7. Live rural and have a beautiful place
8. Too busy farming
9. Work schedule
10. Too many teenagers partying

The most documented limitations to visiting Regional Parks were “Time” and “Lack of knowledge about the parks”.

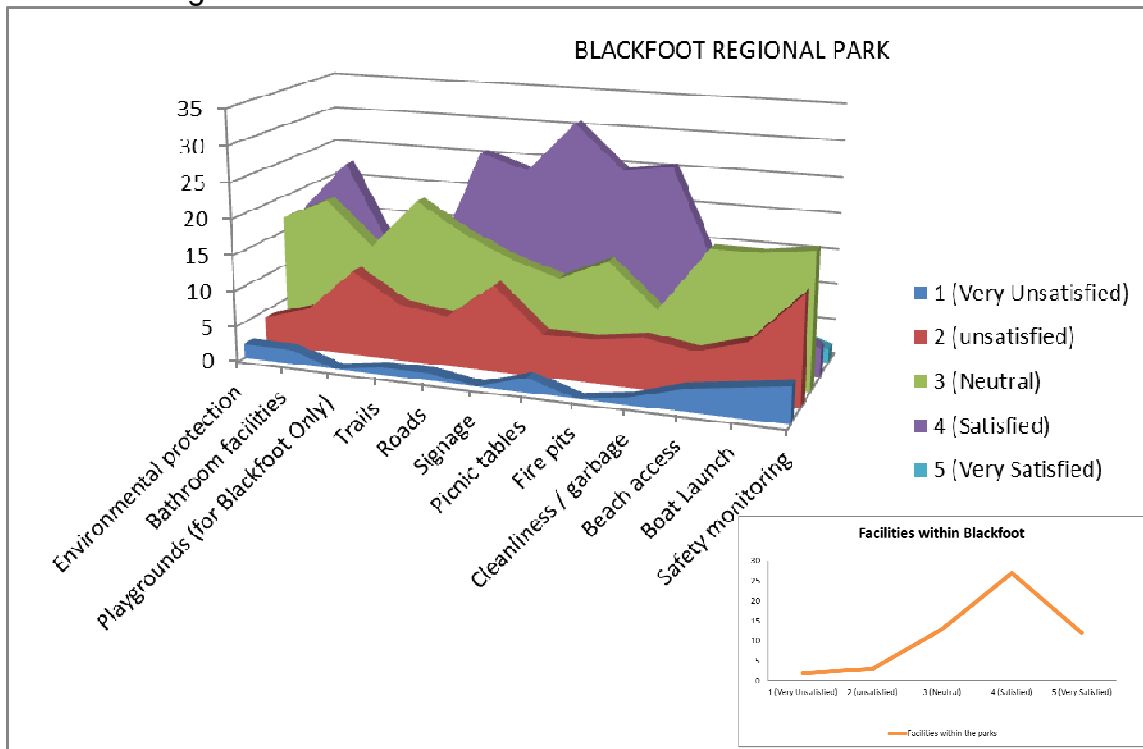
Survey Question Highlights:

- “Lack of information / directions” was identified 56% of the time as what limits people and their households from using Regional Parks

Q.4

What is your satisfaction level in regard to the parks you have visited?

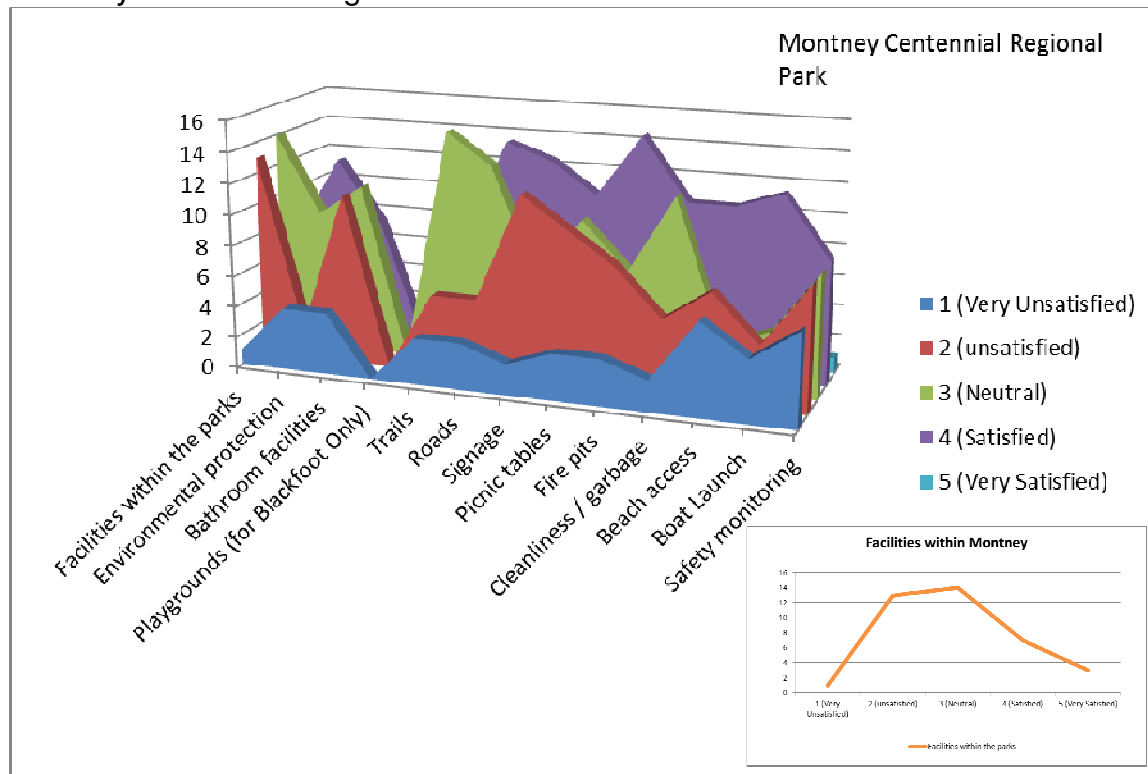
Blackfoot Regional Park



Survey Question Highlights:

- Respondent users indicate they are satisfied with the facilities at Blackfoot.
- Playgrounds, signage and safety monitoring were most commonly selected as unsatisfactory, while picnic table, roads and cleanliness are most commonly checked by the user/respondents as 'satisfied' with them.

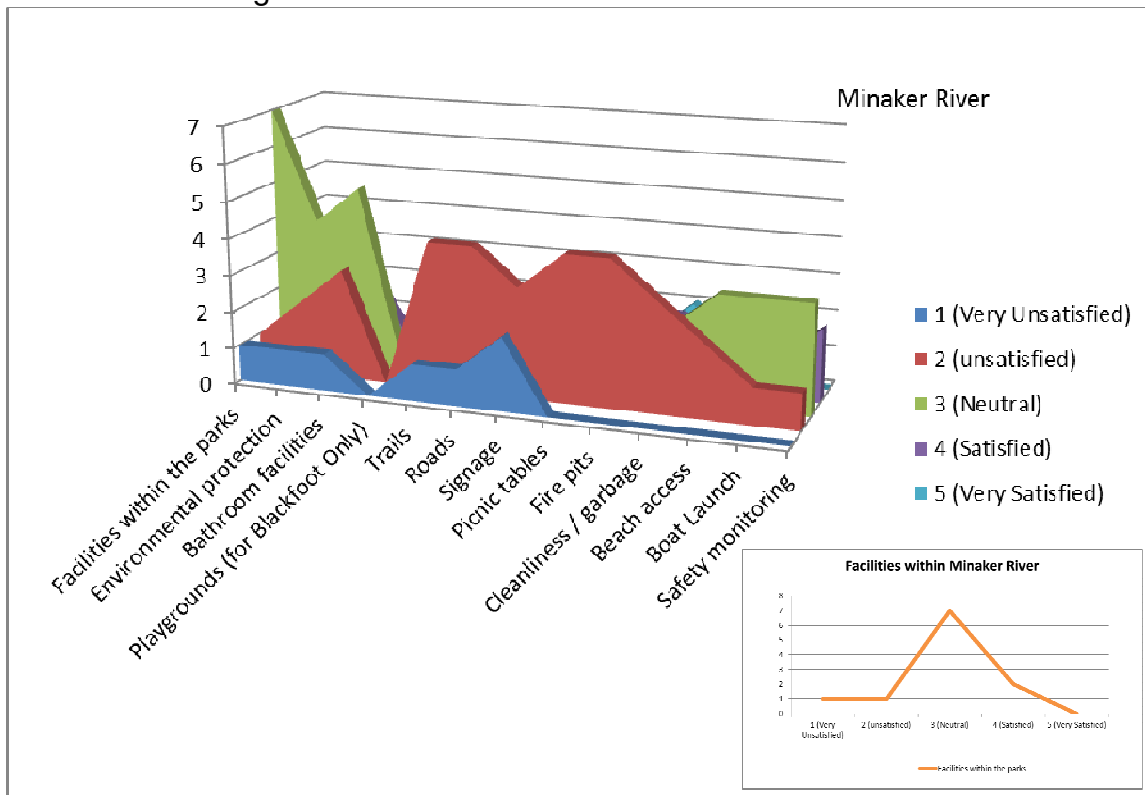
Montney Centennial Regional Park



Survey Question Highlights:

- Respondent/users indicated they were unsatisfied-neutral in rating the facilities at Montney.
- Bathrooms, signage and picnic table were identified as amenities that users are 'unsatisfied' with. The fire pits, roads and boat launch amenities which users identified they were 'satisfied' with.

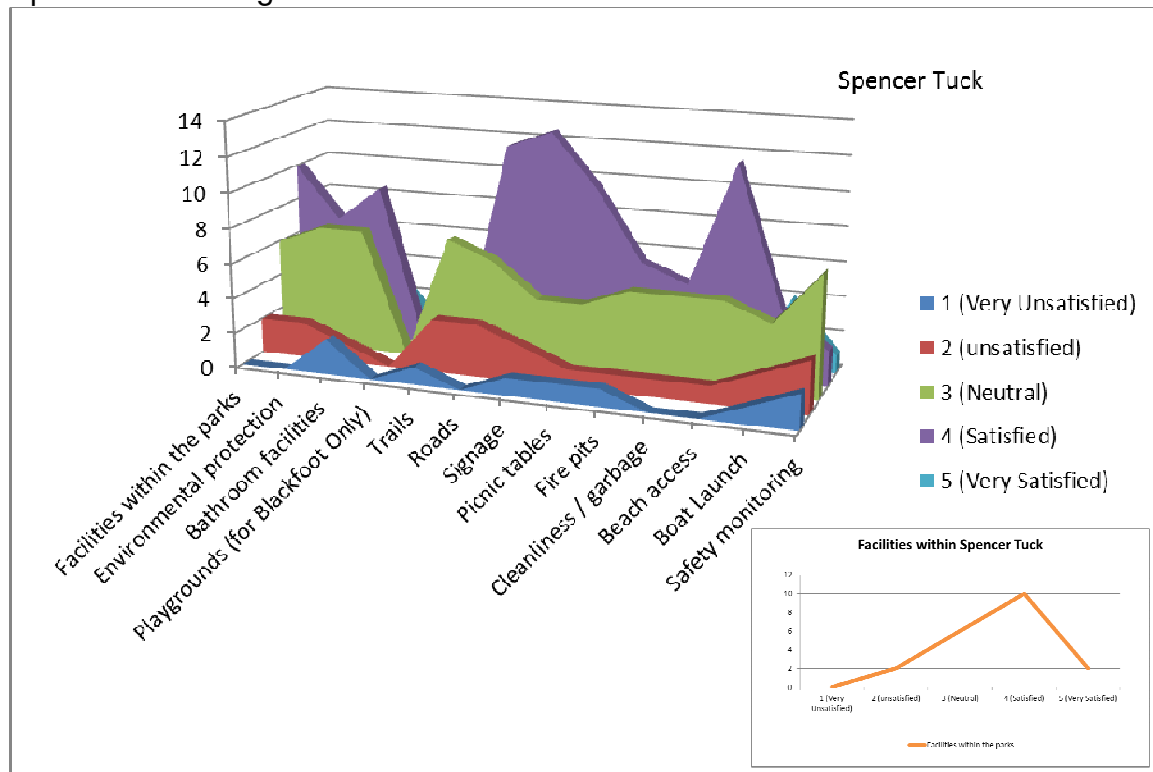
Minaker River Regional Park



Survey Question Highlights:

- Respondent/users indicated they were neutral in the satisfactory level of the park facilities.
- Trails, roads, picnic tables and fire pits topped the list as 'unsatisfied' amenities, while none of the amenities were selected often enough as 'satisfied' to list. This could be due to the number of respondents who used this park being significantly lower than the other parks.

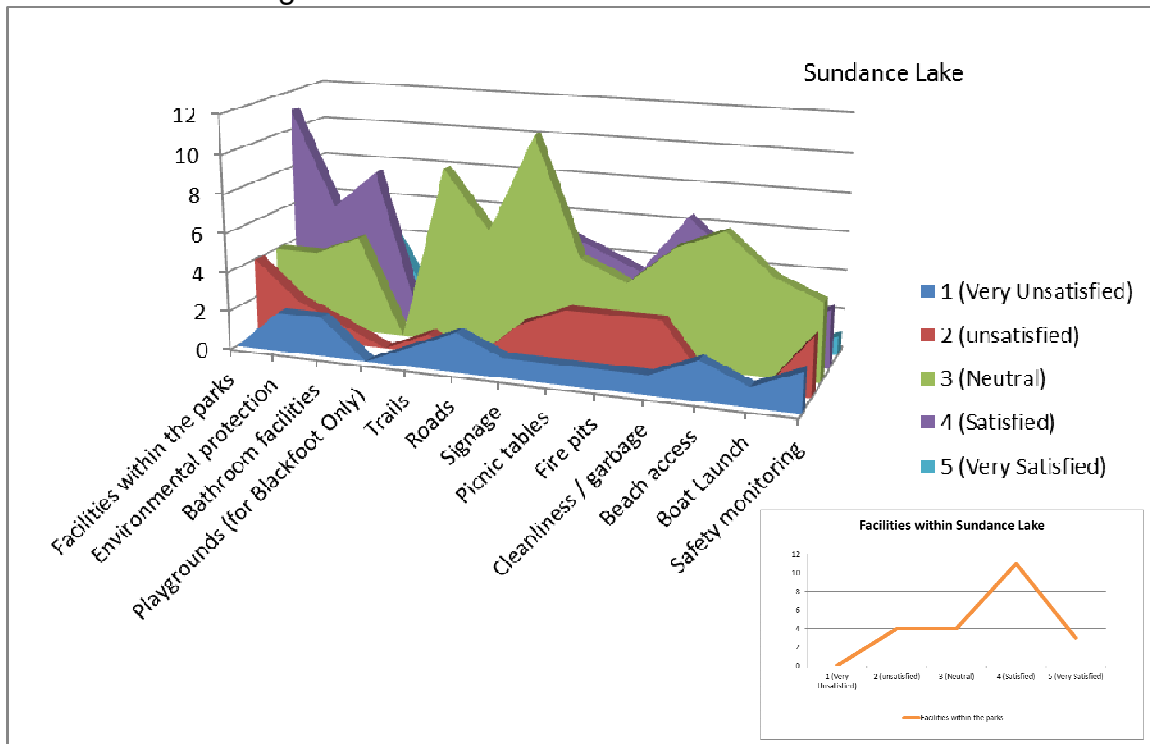
Spencer Tuck Regional Park



Survey Question Highlights:

- The facilities within the park were ranked as 'satisfied' by the user/respondents.
- None of the amenities was selected often enough to list as 'unsatisfied' while signage, roads, beach access, picnic tables and bathrooms were all 'satisfied' by the user/respondents.

Sundance Lake Regional Park

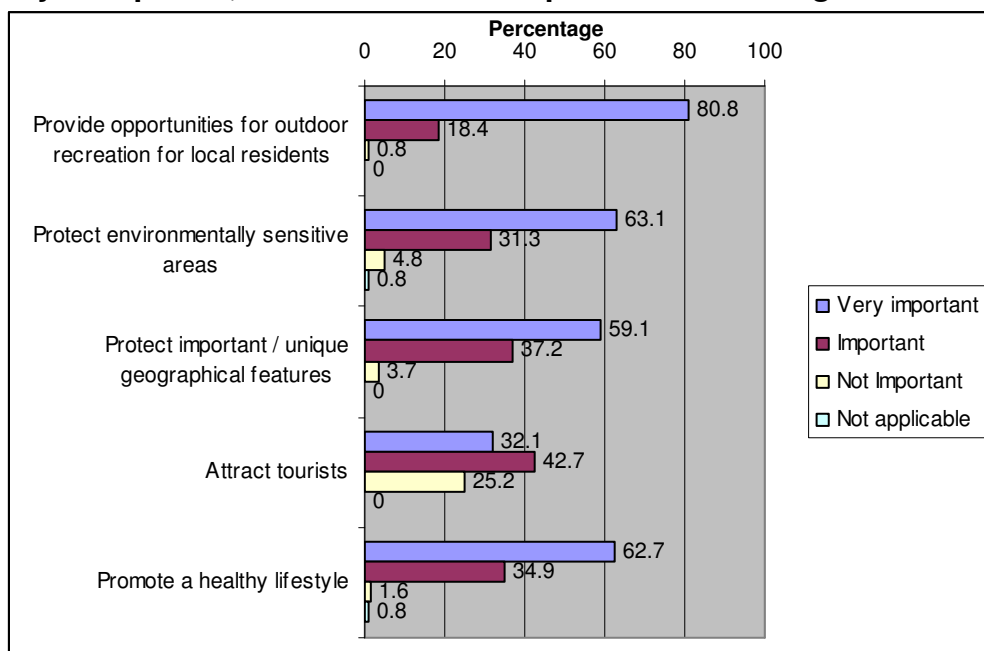


Survey Question Highlights:

- The facilities within the park were ranked as 'satisfied' by the user/respondents.
- None of the amenities was selected often enough to list as 'unsatisfied' while bathrooms, cleanliness, environmental protection, roads and signage were all selected as 'satisfied' by user/respondents.

Q.5

In your opinion, what is the most important role of Regional Parks?

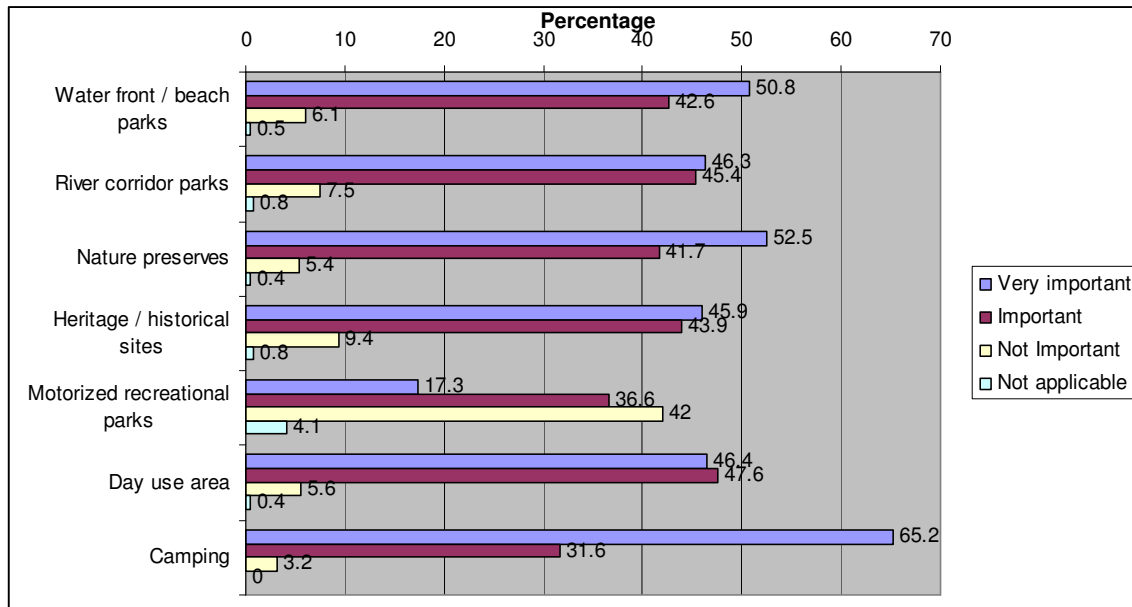


Survey Question Highlights:

- “Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation for local residents” was chosen 81% of the time as being a “Very important” role for Regional Parks.
- “Attract tourists” was chosen 25% of the time as bring a “Not important” role for Regional Parks.

Q.6

In your opinion, what types of Regional Parks are more important?

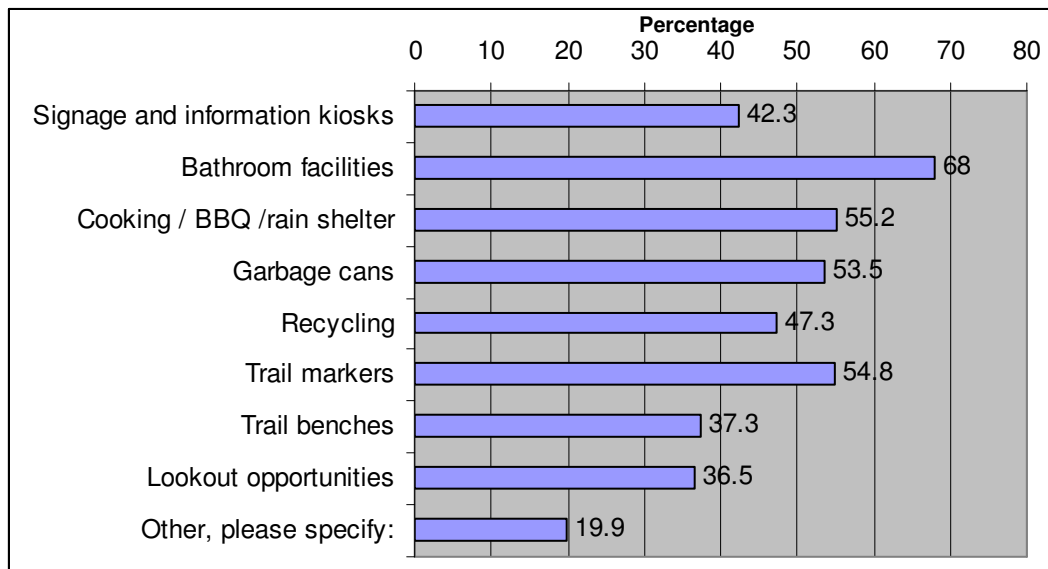


Survey Question Highlights:

- The respondents felt that all of the types of parks are important
- “Camping” was chosen 65% of the time as a “Very important” type of Regional Park.
- “Motorized recreational parks” was chosen 42% of the time as a “Not important” type of Regional Park.

Q.7

Are there additional amenities or features you would like to see added or improved in the existing Regional Parks?



Sample of Open Responses for “Other”:

1. Firewood
2. Dog friendly
3. More trails
4. Playgrounds
5. Interpretive maps
6. Boat launch
7. More campsites
8. Swimming areas
9. Non-motorized trails
10. More information

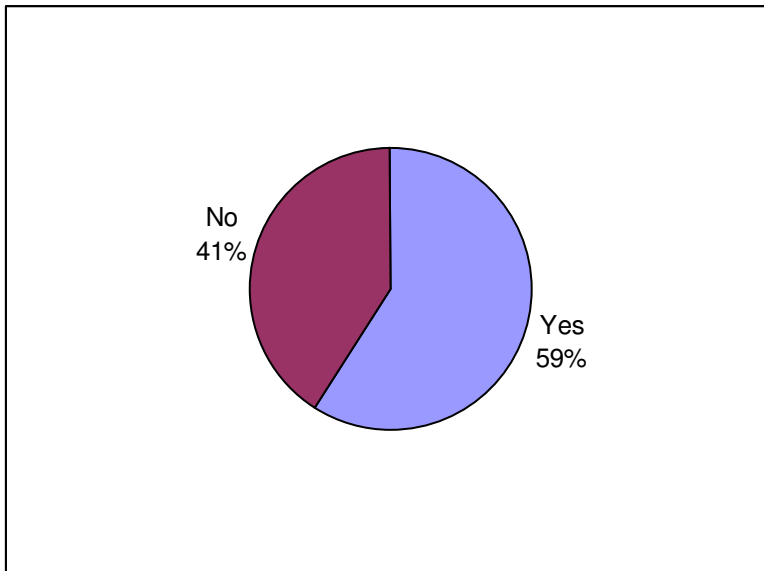
The most documented “additional amenities or features” that people would like to see in Regional Parks were “Campsites” and “Boat launches”.

Survey Question Highlights:

- “Bathroom facilities” was chosen 68% of the time as needing to be “added or improved” upon in the existing Regional Parks.
- “Cooking / BBQ / rain shelter” was chosen 55% of the time as needing to be “added or improved” upon in the existing Regional Parks.
- “Trail Markers” was chosen 55% of the time as needing to be “added or improved” upon in the existing Regional Parks.
- “Garbage cans” was chosen 54% of the time as needing to be “added or improved” upon in the existing Regional Parks.

Q.8

Are there special areas within the Peace River Regional District that you think should be created into a Regional Park?



Sample of Open Responses for “If yes, please specify”:

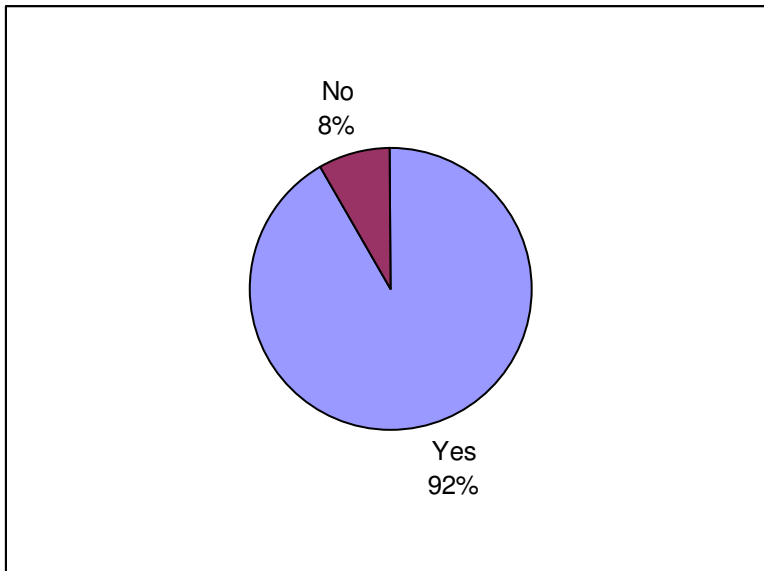
1. Bear Mountain
2. Beatton
3. Radar Lake
4. Charlie Lake Caves
5. Along the Peace River
6. East Pine area
7. German Lake
8. Gundy (Brown’s Pit) Trails
9. Kisket by curved bridge
10. FSJ Lookout

Survey Question Highlights:

- There were many suggestions for new park sites. The most popular is Beatton River area and the Peace River area.

Q.9

Do you support additional park investments in Regional Parks?

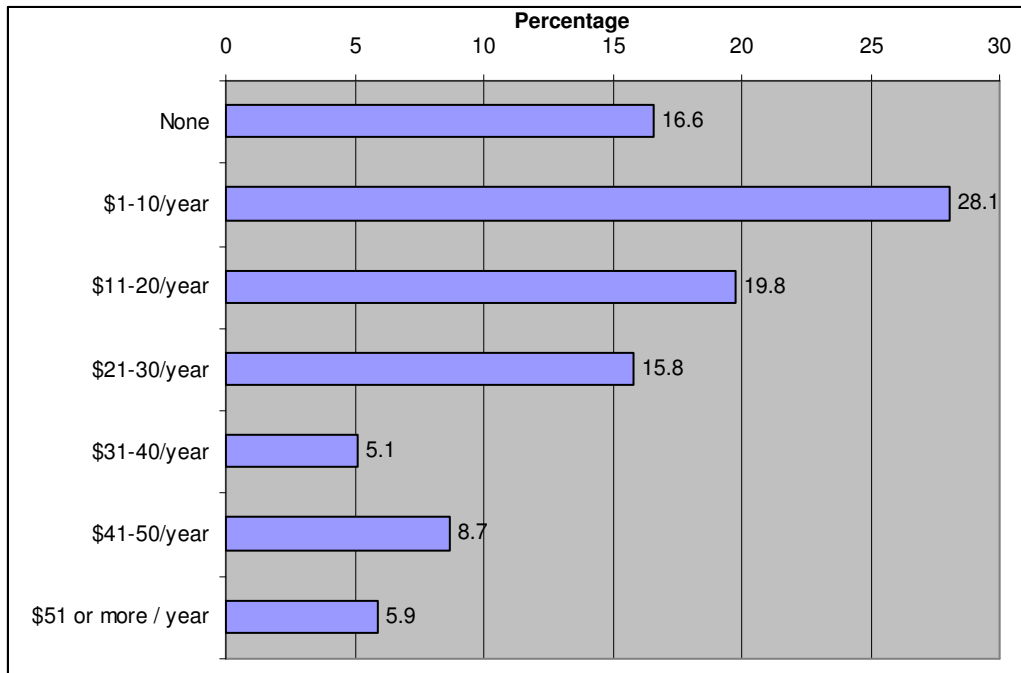


Survey Question Highlights:

- The majority of respondents (92%) said they would like to see investment in Regional Parks.

Q.10

If a special property tax was created to solely fund parkland acquisitions for the Regional Parks within the Peace River Regional District, how much of a tax increase would you support?

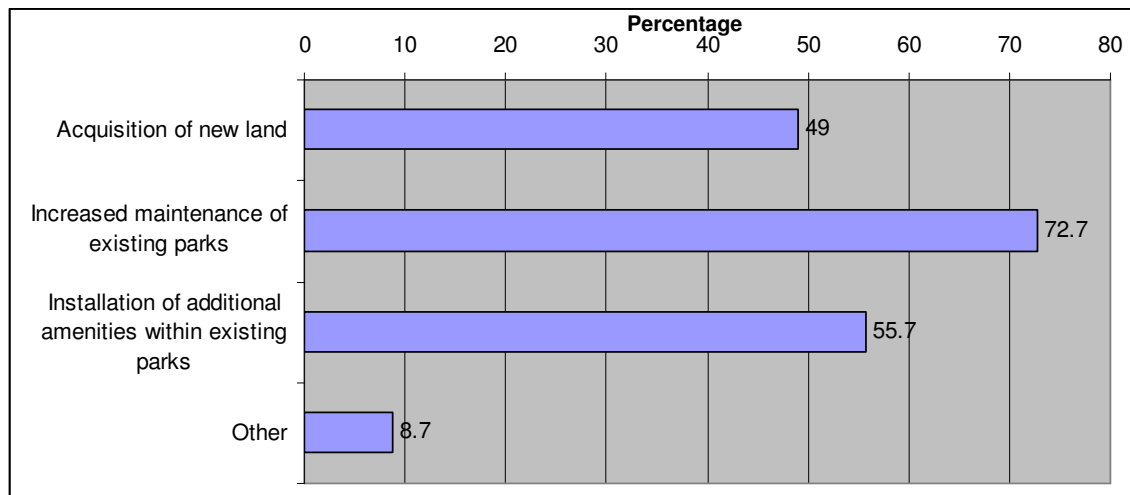


Survey Question Highlights:

- 84% of respondents said that they would like to see a tax increase.
- 28.1% of respondents said that they would support a tax increase of \$1 - \$10/year.

Q.11

What types of investment would you support?



Sample of Open Responses for “Other”:

1. Wildlife protection areas
2. Boat launch
3. Enforcement
4. Info for new visitors
5. Trail systems
6. Signage / directional signage
7. Fix what is already available
8. Park monitors on site, park interpreters
9. More parks with trails for hikers, pedal bikes and horses
10. Creation and improvement of trails linking communities / parks

The most documented “types of investments” in Regional Parks that people would support were “park monitoring” and “information / education.”

Survey Question Highlights:

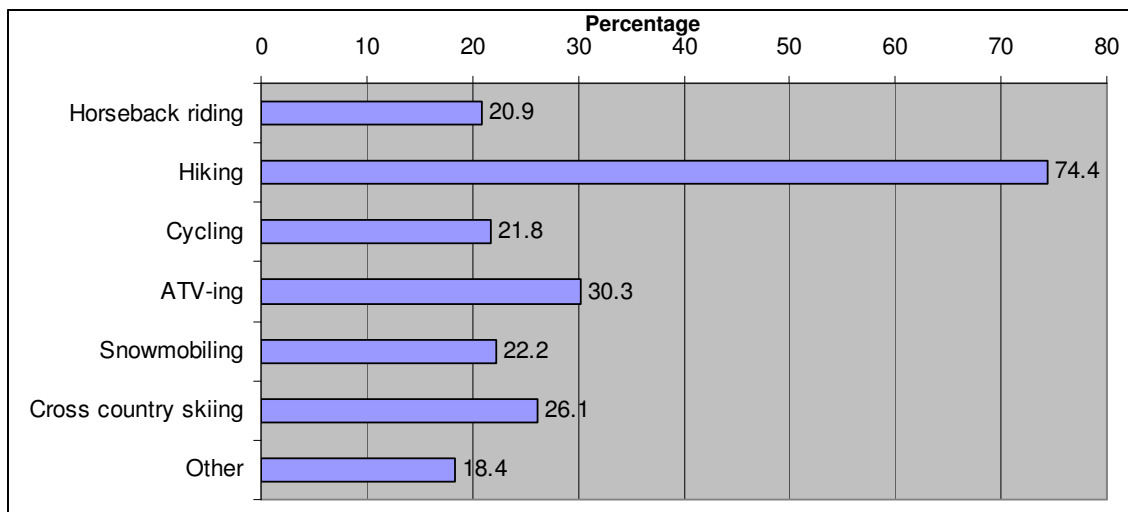
- “Increased maintenance” was chosen 73% of the time as the type of investment that people would support.
- “Installation of additional amenities” was chosen 56% of the time as the type of investment that people would support.
- “Acquisition of new land” was chosen 49% of the time as the type of investment that people would support.

Trails



Q.12

What do you use the existing trails for within the Peace River Regional District?



Sample of Open Responses for “Other”:

1. Canoe access to Peace River and Charlie Lake
2. Kayaking / fishing
3. Snowshoeing
4. Dirt biking
5. Dog sledding
6. Outdoor education
7. Scenic walking
8. Bird watching
9. Fishing
10. Canoe access to Peace River and Charlie Lake

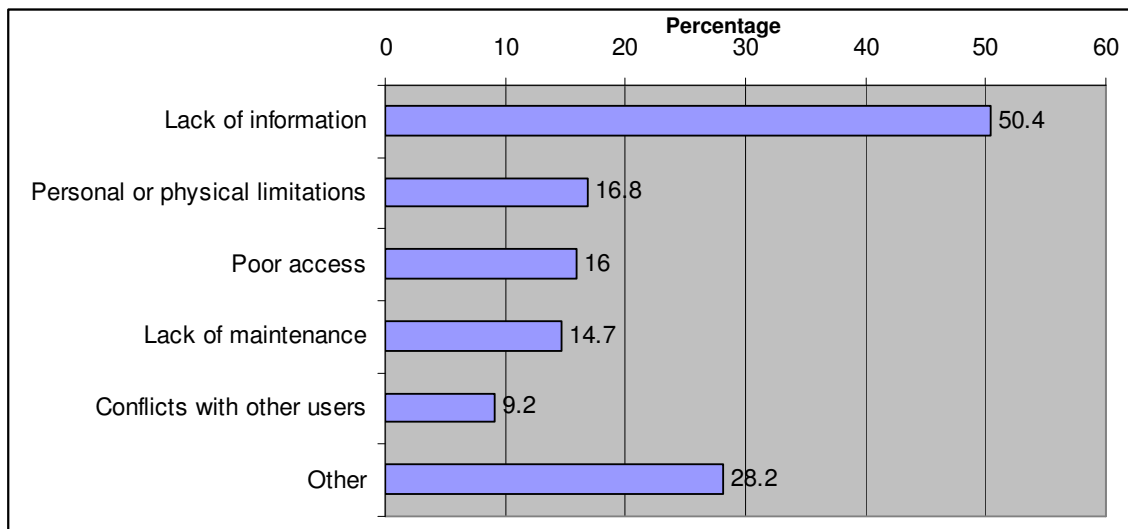
The most documented “trail use” in Regional Parks were “Snowshoeing” and “Walking”.

Survey Question Highlights:

- “Hiking” was chosen 74% of the time as what people use the existing trails for.
- The remainder of the “trail uses” were between 21% and 30%.

Q.13

What limits you and your household from using the existing trails within the Peace River Regional District?



Sample of Open Responses for “Other”:

1. Not enough trails close to Fort St. John
2. Can go out my back door and hike
3. Lack of time
4. Don't live near any that I know of
5. Chewed up trails from quads
6. Love trails but use ones on farm
7. No trail map
8. Unaware of any trails
9. Too far away
10. Do not own / want ATV

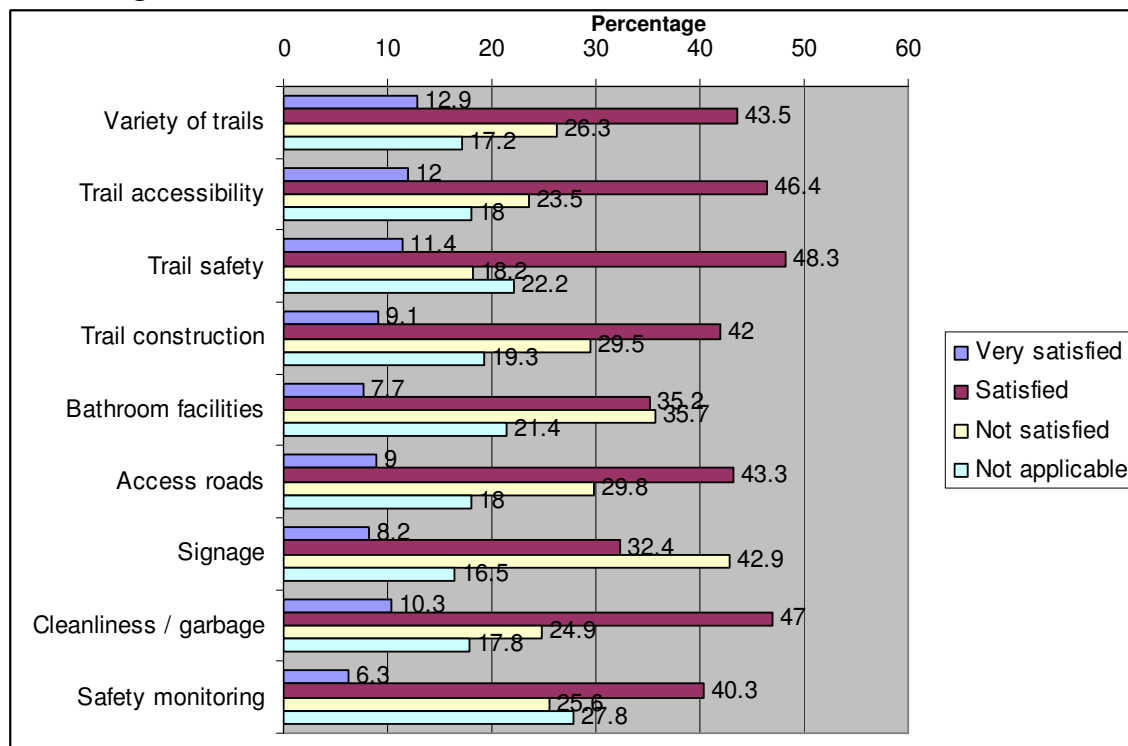
The most documented “limitation” for people to encounter while using Regional Trails were “Time” and “Lack of information”.

Survey Question Highlights:

- “Lack of information” was chosen 50% of the time as the reason people do not use existing trails.
- “Conflict with other users” was chosen less than 9% of the time for what limits people from using the existing trails.

Q.14

What is your satisfaction level with the existing trails within the Peace River Regional District?

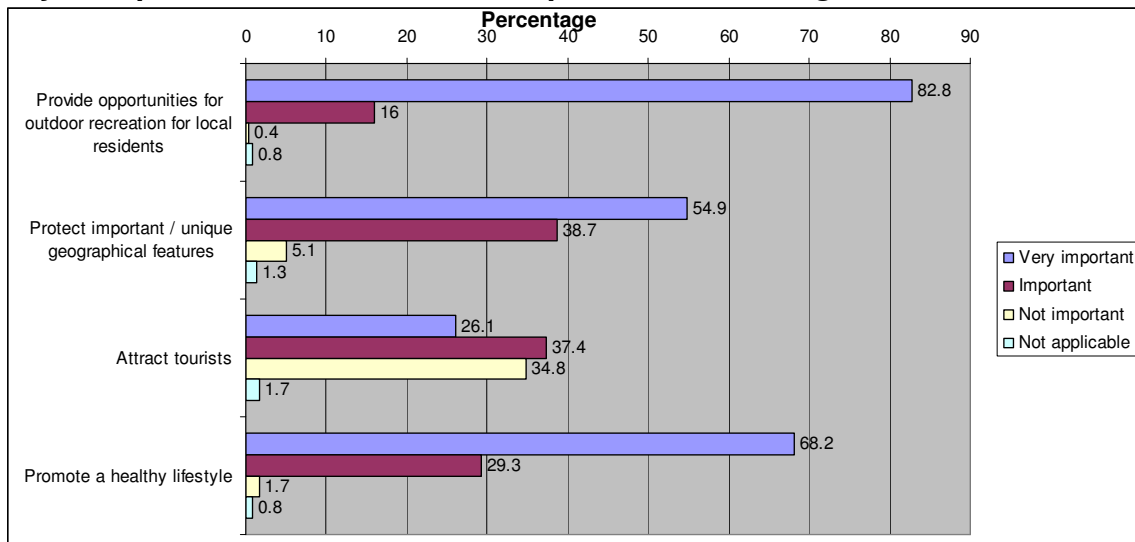


Survey Question Highlights:

- “Signage” was chosen 43% of the time for what people felt they were “Not satisfied” in existing trails.
- Majority of respondents are satisfied with the existing trails.
- None of the categories show “Very satisfied” as the leading response.

Q.15

In your opinion, what is the most important role of Regional Trails?

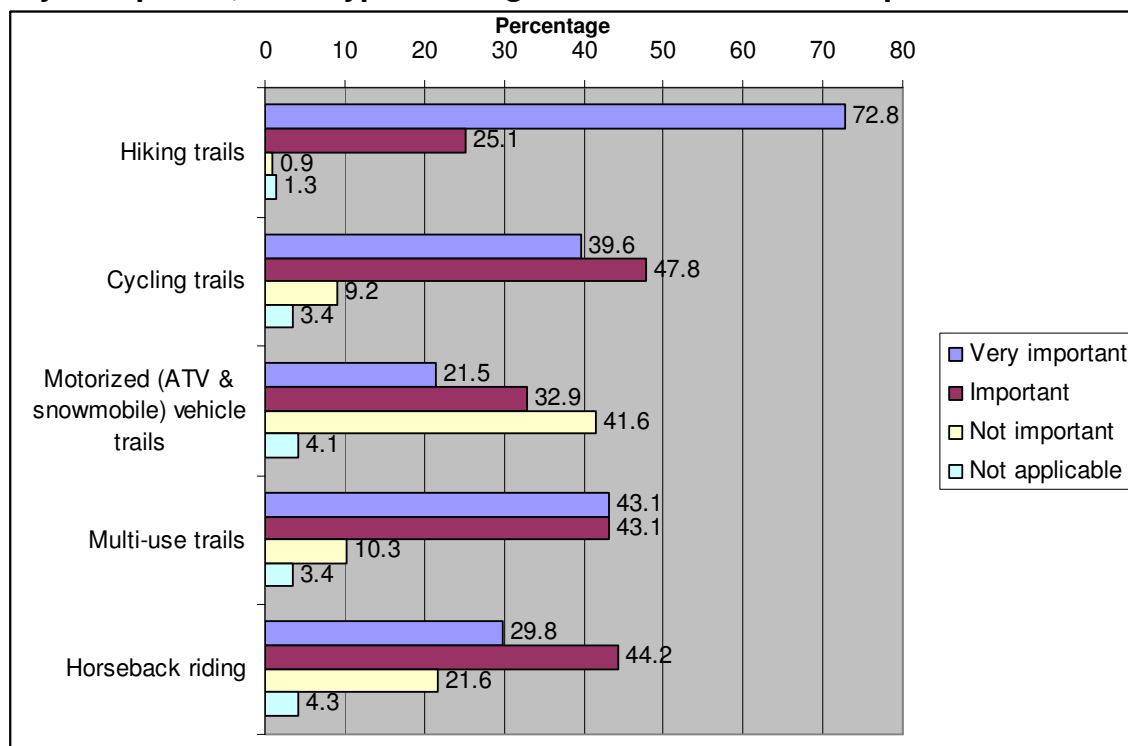


Survey Question Highlights:

- “Provide opportunities for outdoor recreation for local residents” was chosen 83% of the time as a “Very important” role of the Regional Trails.
- “Attract tourists” was chosen 35% of the time as a “Not important” role of the Regional Trails.

Q.16

In your opinion, what types of Regional Trails are more important?

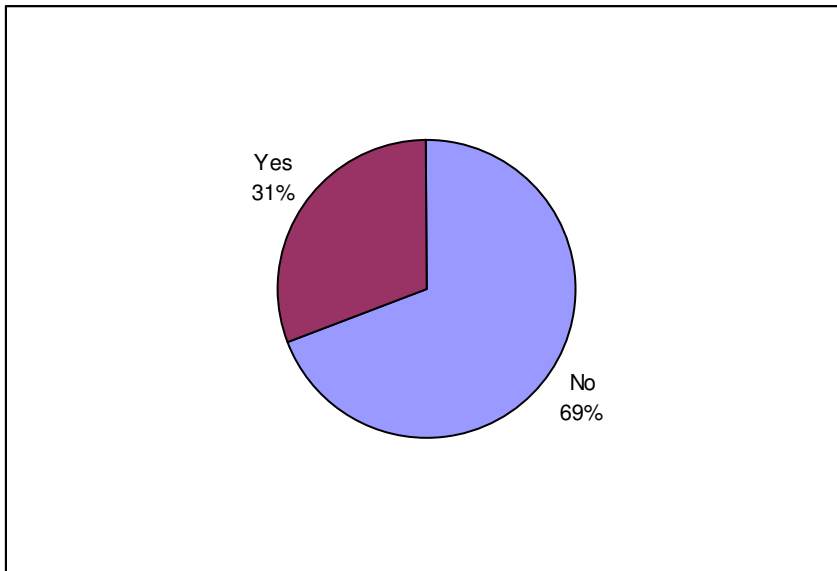


Survey Question Highlights:

- “Hiking trails” were identified 73% of the time as a “Very important” type of Regional Trail.
- “Motorized vehicle trails” were identified 42% of the time as being a “not important” type of Regional Trail.

Q.17

Are there potential trails within the PRRD that you know of that you think the Regional District should develop?



Sample of Open Responses for “If yes, please specify”:

1. Wonowon Area
2. Wind Towers – Rim Rocks
3. Beaton River Park
4. Brown’s Pit – Dawson Creek to Hythe
5. Butler Ridge
6. Cactus Loop Mountain Bike Trails
7. Dinosaur Steam Vents (within Hudson’s Hope boundary)
8. FSJ to Charlie Lake Trails
9. Gundy (Brown’s Pit) Trails
10. Sikinie Falls

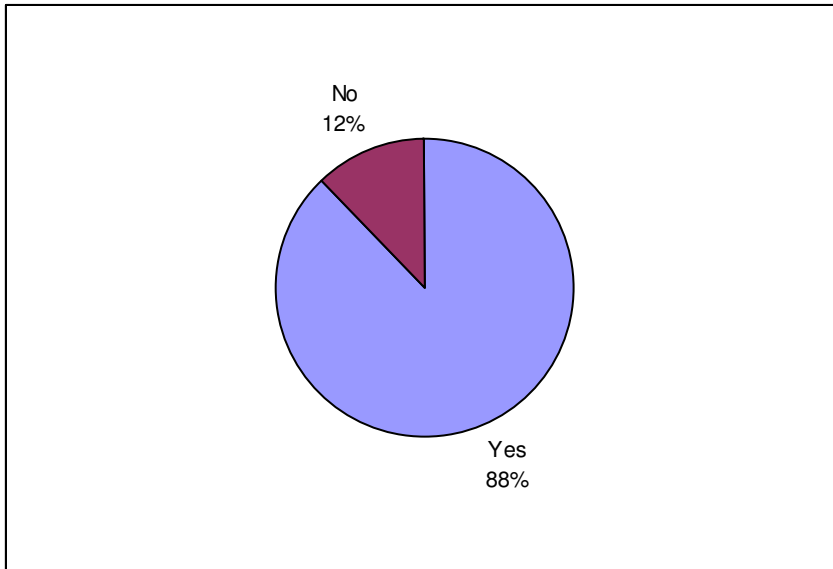
The most documented “potential trails” that were listed include “FSJ to Charlie Lake Trails” and “Gundy Trails”.

Survey Question Highlights:

- 69% of respondents did not think there are additional trails that should be developed.
- Of the 33% that said yes, an extensive list was provided.

Q.18

Do you support investment in Regional Trails within the Peace River Regional District?

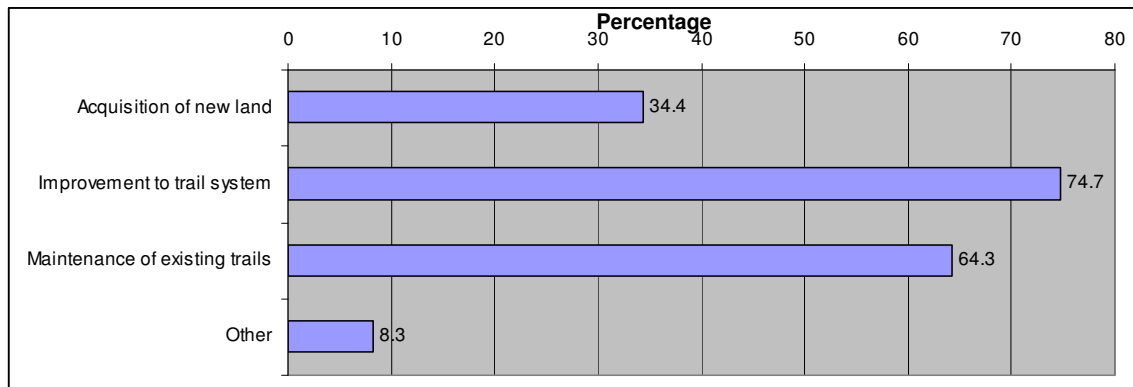


Survey Question Highlights:

- 88% of respondents chose “yes” when asked if they supported investment in Regional Trails.

Q.19

If a Grant Funding Program was established to support organized trail user groups, in what capacity should the support be directed?



Sample of Open Responses for “Other”:

1. Creating information for the local residents. Maps/brochures or online info sources
2. Bathroom facilities
3. Education of uses for respectful use
4. Hooking existing trails up
5. Improve and extend what we have
6. Mapping
7. People monitoring
8. Remove dead trees, add trails
9. Signage
10. PRRD has lots of land, just establish and maintain trails would be great

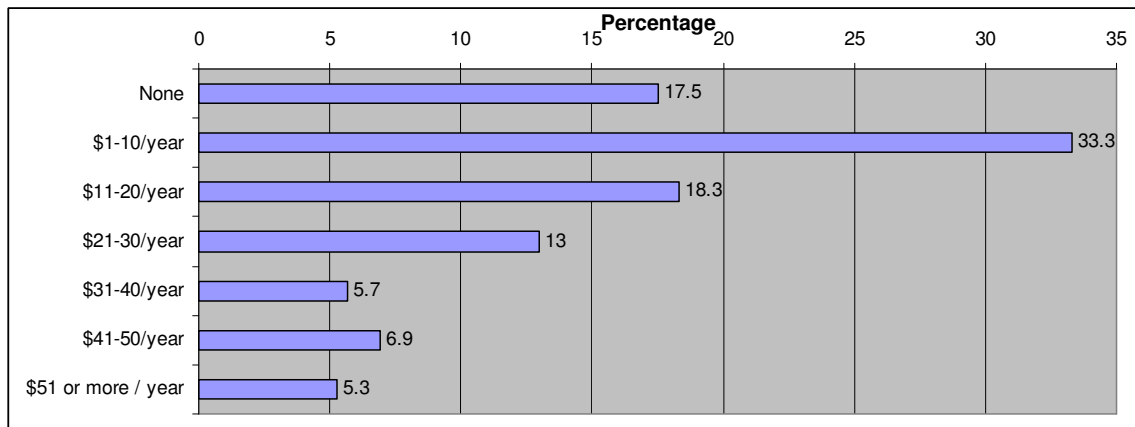
The most documented areas that were listed for “Grant Funding Program support” include “mapping” and “enforcement”.

Survey Question Highlights:

- “Improvement to trail system” was identified by 75% of people regarding where Grant Funding should be directed.
- “Maintenance of existing trails” was identified by 65% of people regarding where Grant Funding should be directed.
- The acquisition of new lands was deemed not as important as improvement and maintenance of existing trails.

Q.20

If a special property tax was created to solely fund the development of Regional Trails within the Peace River Regional District, how much of a tax increase would you support?



Survey Question Highlights:

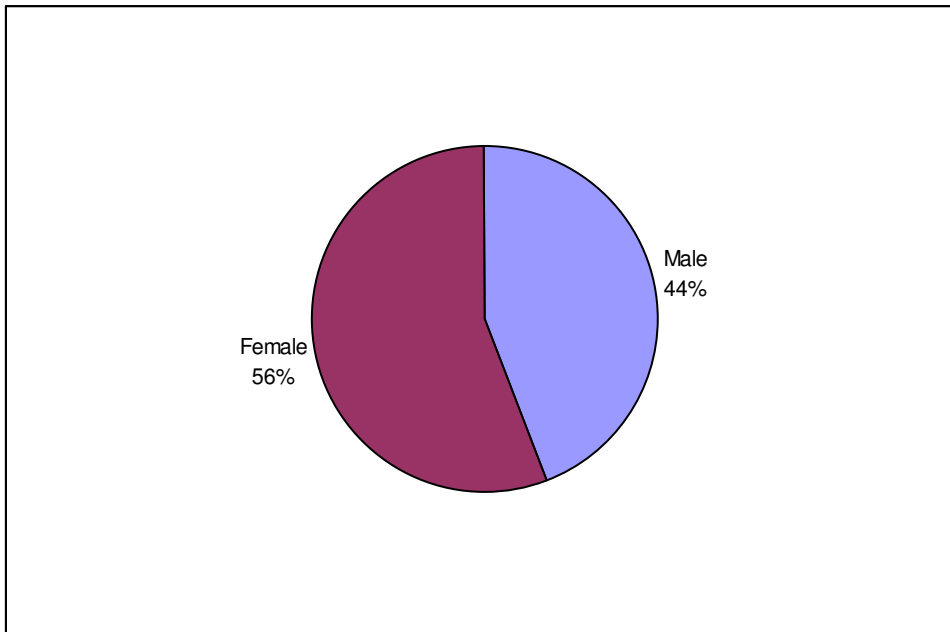
- 82% of respondents said that they would like to see a tax increase.
- 33.3% of respondents said that they would support a tax increase of \$1 - \$10/year.

Demographics



Q.21

Please specify if you are male or female.

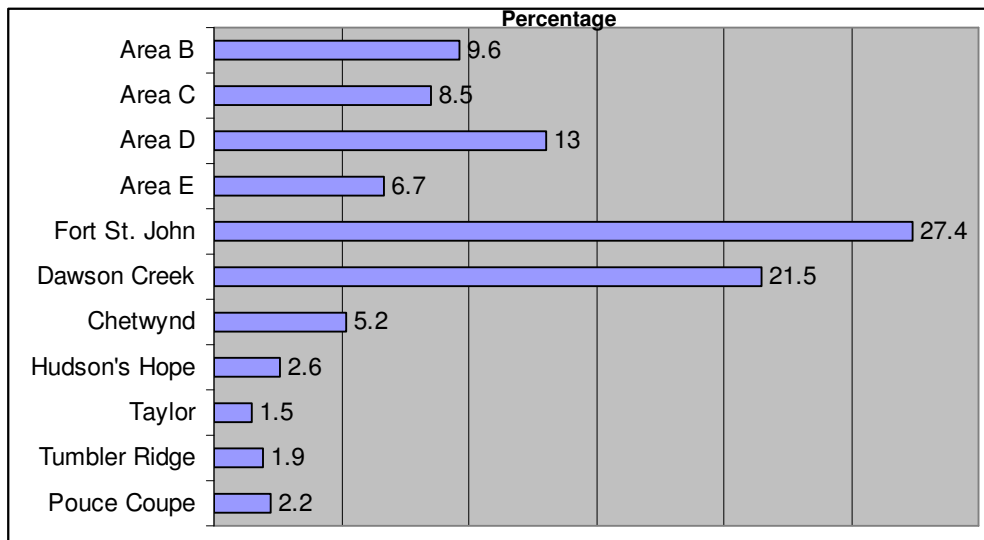


Survey Question Highlights:

- 56% of respondents said that they were female.
- 44% of respondents said that they were male.

Q.22

What are of the Peace River Regional District do you live in?

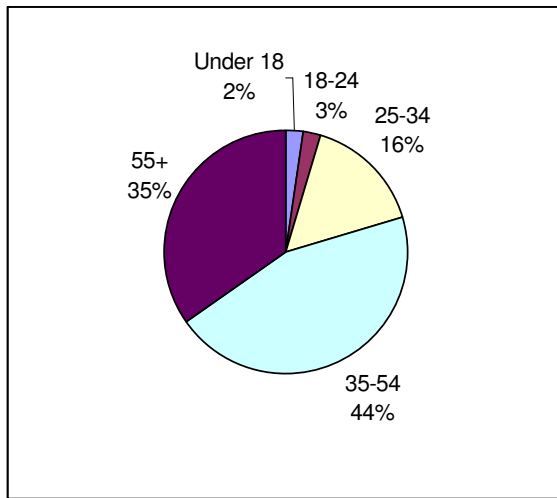


Survey Question Highlights:

- The majority of respondents were from major centres.

Q.23

What age group do you belong to?

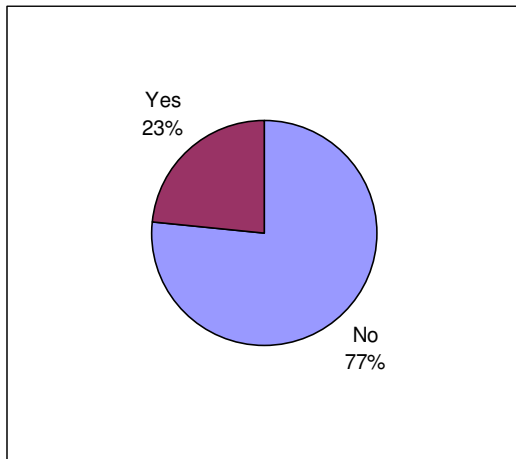


Survey Question Highlights:

- The majority of respondents between the ages 35-54.

Q.24

Are you a member of an organized user group that has a special interest in Regional Parks and Trails within the Peace River Regional District?



Survey Question Highlights:

- The majority of respondents were not a member of an organized user group.

Individual organized user groups listed include:

Von Borck Camping	Northern Dirt Riders
Northland Trailblazers	NPFF
North Peace Search and Rescue	Moose ATV Club
Wonowon Horse Club	Moberly Lake Community Association
Whiskey Jack Ski Club	Dawson Creek Horse Club
WNMS	Junior Canadian Rangers
Timberline Trail and Nature Club	HH Historical Society
Dawson Creek Watershed Society.	HH Council
South Peace Emergency Response team	Grizzly Valley Saddle Club
SLES	Goodlow Community Club
Rotary	FSJ Army Cadets
Charlie Lake Conservation Society	Ducks Unlimited
River Rats	Dawson Creek Sportsmans Club
Paradise Valley Snowmobile Association	Dawson Creek Horse Club
Northern Dogsledding Association	Bear Mountain Northern Ski Club
	Greasy Chains Cycling Club

Q.25

As a user of the regional parks and trails within the PRRD, do you have any suggestions or comments for the PRRD to consider in the process of the Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan that were not covered in the above survey questions? Please write your suggestions / comments below.

Beaton River should be added! More dog poo bags and waste baskets for garbage
Can we see what has been suggested to date re. adding, improving trails (& parks)?
Charlie Lake Trail and a trail along the Peace River
District should prepare better plans showing all parks and trails.
I appreciate the opportunity to provide input! Thanks
I haven't been a user
I really can't emphasize the need for signage enough and posting directions on website.
I would like to see more cross-country ski trails (maintained).
I would like to see the lookout developed
I would love a huge trail that covered BC. Here's to hoping
More info on parks and there location!
More information
Need a good trail from FSJ to Charlie Lake
Need a restricted area for ATV use so they stop destroying heritage & ecological areas.
Need more camping sites and trails in Blackfoot Park.
Nil
No
Nope
Nope, I have no more comments or suggestions.
Not at this time
Regional parks and trails could also support education with local school districts and college
Simply more multi use trails for motorized and none motorized users.
Some monitoring to keep yahoos out. Additional spots for tents.

Tell us where the trails all are.
The Beaton Park on the Cecil Lake Road should be a regional park
Walking/bike between Fort St John and Charlie Lake as well as a trail between FSJ and Airport
Wharf for the Montney Park would be so nice
Where are these trails you speak of?
Would be nice to have a children's playground at Montney Centennial Park and more camping spots
less motorized parks
limit motorized access, quads, snowmobiles etc or create one area for them.
no
police the ATV usage so there is not a boggy mudhole created at every opportunity
Would like to see improvements at Inga Lake.
Coordination with other trail groups - snowmobile, cross country ski, grazing lands of potential trails and mapping. Coordinated marketing with Tourism Dawson Creek, Tourism BC, Northern BC Tourism, Northern Rockies and Sports Groups -
Local usage is being threatened by usage from out side groups who burn vehicles, leave or dump garbage and mud bog. There seems to be little or nothing stopping these activities from happening and in the end you will only be able to look at the land or only walk on it. Big Bam is a prime example as is the Montney coullee.
Hold a annual program - such as "Get to know your PARKS DAY" partnering with all the municipalities in the region.
I think that Beaton Park in Two Rivers is a Regional Park. I would like to see its site upgrade to include garbage cans, washrooms and a bit of upkeep.
With the amount of industrial development it will be hard to create trails that are not impacted by development. Also should propose some sort of funding mechanism from industry for parks and trails.
Development of trial system to encourage cross country skiing and mountain biking. Paved trails to encourage summer programs for cross country skiing.
Once we went to the Montney Regional Park and it was difficult to find, and there was not much evidence that it was at all maintained. We have not been to other regional parks because there are none close to FSJ. There is great potential for hiking, viewing etc. along the Beaton River and Peace River, both of which could be significant tourist attractions as well as amenities for area residents.
ATV'S must be restricted in certain areas. Parks need to have enforcement or this will not work anywhere.
Take a more active approach and then listen to the people instead of using these forums to back a bureaucratic system.
Pink Mountain (top) - better access road, bathroom facilities. Sikine Falls - better trail, bathroom facilities, Inga Lake - more bathroom facilities, safety monitoring (someone to tell others to be quiet and no alcohol)
Would be so nice if there were more camping facilities in the FSJ area. Beatton is always full - often so is Charlie Lake (Prov Pks)
I enjoy camping at Blackfoot park but I find the parties in the park by high school age children a deterrent from camping there. Not only are these parties loud, but garbage and broken glass are left throughout the park. I have also heard that campers belongings have been vandalized by party goers.
A map showing all available trails, their facilities and amenities in the district would be appreciated.
I am on the Board at the Encana Centre & know many people who want trails for horses. More information

on trails for horseback riding & trails.

Please note: answers number 17 & 18, developing river access at Old Fort is more important to us than developing Lookout Park.

In our area we have a need for well mapped & signed multi-use trails. I think use of railroad is a great link for rural/urban areas. It is not being used by CN and has been done across Canada.

Liability and privacy of adjacent landowners. Use of parks by party-animals chases away families. education of users to respectful use. Cost of parks vs other needs of Provincial funds such as social issues which take precedence. Like Sr. care housing, low income housing & hospitals.

Support groups that are putting effort into their own trails projects. They will multiply your dollars.

Spencer Tuck need to improve cement ramp into the lake for boat launching of heavy boats including sailboats - need bike, walk, non motorized trail from Dawson Creek to Taylor

I would like to see more parks, more trails and a system to maintain public safety and enjoyment. I would suggest forming a group of Volunteer Park Wardens to help keep the park usage as intended and not abused by people who may not have any consideration for other park users. As an Army Cadet Officer, I am always looking for local areas to use for camping, hiking, winter recreation, etc. Engaging local user groups to help develop and maintain parks and trails could help build community stewardship of PRRD Facilities. We are lucky to live in such a beautiful area, and anything we can do to teach our youth to appreciate and protect our parks and trails in the future will benefit everyone.

Collaborative efforts with BC Parks, FSJ or fed gov to fund an access point and trail development and expansion of existing Peace River Corridor Provincial Park. Adding other linear parks/trails anywhere in PRRD - Beaton, Peace River, Kiskatinaw, etc to provide non-motorized recreational opportunity.

We've been using provincial and municipal (FSJ, Taylor, Dawson Creek) parks because we really were not aware of the RD ones. Even Info Centre did not inform us about them. We'll definitely check them out.

Non aggressive tires on atv and bikes. They tear up too much ground. I would like to see new parks on Crown Land only - no tax increase.

The Regional District owned the park on the Beaton River on the Cecil lake Road & gave it up. That park was well used and was abandoned because.....?? Why not put that first on the agenda??

How will local community organizations be involved in Regional Park improvements? How will the PTMP be formally incorporated in the new Rural Comprehensive Plan? How will/can other former Min of Forests Rec Areas, Prov Protected Areas or potential new Rec sites from MoF previously identified be linked into the PTMP?

At Swan Lake I would like to see users using less motorized venues, have new trails for walking, cycling etc. Winter use - trails would be convenient for walking, camping etc. The south side of Swan Lake could be utilized in winter / summer seasons if the park contained less deadfall dead trees add more trails, there is one now

Limitations should be placed on areas that can be used by quads in the summer, and quads should be licenced for identification purposes. There is far too much damage done to back country by these high powered machines. And there is an extreme amount of damage done to wildlife habitat, especially riparian areas.

Make a distinction between areas or parks for recreational use and for protection of natural environment

Formation of a trails and parks board made up of major user groups and environmental groups to work with the Regional District on a sustainability plan and balance users & nature issues.

Increased security at Grad time at Blackfoot to prevent damage, vandalism and annoying others using park.

PRRD is one of the most beautiful areas in BC. This should be promoted through our regional parks and trails, we have a vibrant tourist base that would access this, also many local residents that would use all of this if it was maintained and PROMOTED!

Blackfoot has close water & sewer that could be developed to partial serviced park with onsite caretaker with fees. With coin shower house & laundry. Sani-dump sp don't have to go all way to DC to empty. Bench and/or picnic table by playground & swings.

Have enjoyed Blackfoot Park-was the main site that we knew about and other than Sundance, did not know of the others.

I think that the parks should be open later in the year - at least until thanksgiving. Also, a lot more information is needed - I had not heard of most of these parks. There should be leaflets or info around to know about local parks and trail (and if there is, where is it??)

liability and privacy of adjacent landowners, use of parks by party-ers chases families away, education of users to respectful use, cost of parks vs other needs of Prov. funding

we need to develop trails around montney park on the crown land near the park for multi use snowmobile quad and walking

My husband and I own and operate a private campground/park and object to tax payers dollars being used to develop/maintain facilities that are in direct competition with our business. We have no access to tax dollars to keep our park in good repair and we can't subsidize our prices charged for overnight camping with tax dollars. (ie: The Regional District may be able to offer "free" overnight camping at the expense of the taxpayer. We need to charge people to use our facilities because we have overhead expenses and need to make a living and pay our property taxes!)

Open the CNR railbed to make a trail for tourists & community members from Swan Lake area to Dawson Creek. The side roads and highways are too busy and unsafe for people to use for recreation or to commute using cycles. This would be an environmentally friendly commuting idea, it would support tourism (Swan Lake park users especially), it would be conducive to a healthy, active living community, it would support family outings... If the gas companies were approached for support towards it, I believe they would be willing to help out (since they are the largest detriment to our side roads being used by ourselves and/or our children for any type of recreation.). It would be a responsible and helpful use of an existing path bed. Please be pro-fitness, pro-family, pro-community, and pro-environment by adding that connector. Thank you!

There exists a huge network of trails in the Gundy BC area which is not recognized or maintained by any level of Government. I would like them to become a recognized system so they will not be lost to future generations. They are truly multi use trails.



**Peace River Regional District
Open House
SUMMARY**

November 24, 2011

Kootenay Planning Consultants
1350 Canyon View Road
Invermere, BC V0A 1K4
kootenayplanning.ca

Open House Event Overview

The purpose of the Open House events throughout the PRRD during the weeks of October 17-28, 2011 was to do the following:

- ❑ create awareness about the Regional Parks and Trails in the PRRD
- ❑ gather input from local residents through dialogue
- ❑ encourage residents to fill out the survey
- ❑ assist local user groups (where possible) to fundraise and create awareness

Eleven Open House events were held at Community Halls, schools, recreation centres and arenas throughout the Regional District including at: Chetwynd, Dawson Creek, Doe River, Tumbler Ridge, McLeod, Fort St. John, Clearview, Buick, Wonowon, Hudson's Hope and Tomslake.

Presentation panels were displayed and guests were engaged through informal conversation. There were seven presentation panels made up of the following:

Panel 1: EXISTING "LEAF US A MESSAGE" POSTER

Panel 2: EXISTING INTRODUCTION POSTER

Panel 3-5: OUTLINES / INVENTORIES OF EXISTING REGIONAL PARKS (two parks per panel)

Panel 6: TRAILS INFORMATION PANEL

Panel 7: THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING, CONTACT INFORMATION,
ENCOURAGEMENT TO FILL OUT SURVEY

Each event was approximately 2 to 3 hours in length. At many of the events coffee, tea and treats were offered to the public who came out to talk and share their thoughts on Parks & Trails within the PRRD.

Both Kathleen Wilker and Shannon Gadsby of Kootenay Planning consultants attended each Open House and were accompanied by at least one PRRD staff member; primarily Trish Morgan or Fran Haughian and often a representative of the PRRD Parks Committee, Fred Jarvis.

A total of 81 people signed in at the eleven Open House events. The average person per event was 7. The Fort St. John event at the Leisure Centre, which coincided with the FSJ Farmers Market, had the largest turn out with 20 people signing in.

The following information was gathered at the Open House events through note-taking by the consultants and PRRD staff.

Regional Parks – General Comments

The majority of individuals that we spoke to knew very little about the Regional Parks within PRRD with many others indicating they "did not know they existed". If participants knew about the regional parks their comments centred on: the lack of

information available about the parks and lack of adequate visible signage directing them to the parks starting at the major highways all the way into the park itself. Most people who knew about the parks had visited at least one or two of them at some point. Some of the general comments we heard in regards to parks within the PRRD were that “parks are great as long as they are maintained and they don’t attract party-goers or vandals”. This was often followed with comments like; “before the PRRD invests in any new parks, they need to clean up the existing ones”. Many people felt that the existing parks should be improved and made more accessible to all the residents of the PRRD. The term “accessible” appeared to mean: safe, secure, welcoming to all and a pleasant place to visit. Some individuals felt that the “maintenance in the regional parks has gone down which makes the vandalism go up”. This lead to the question: “does neglect in parks eventually cost more to repair then regular maintenance?” and also this question: “in all the parks, does the cost to repair the vandalism exceed the cost of hiring seasonal attendants?”

Another individual pointed out that all of the existing parks represent “only one type of environment or ecosystem”. It was implied that there is no diversity in the types of parks and if more parks are added they should represent the diversity of environments and ecosystems of the PRRD.

Many locations were suggested for new regional parks from all corners of the Regional District. They included the following:

- day use area along all of the rivers for boat launches, especially the Pine River, Beatton and others;
- the Sikoat Chief Bridge area could be identified as an ‘historical park’ and could include the old (original) highway cut that still exists;
- Quality Lake in partnership with the Province;
- Murray Lake as a water access only park to be maintained by a group such as the “River Rats”;
- Half-way Graham;
- Windfall Lake or Pinnacle Ridge near Tumbler Ridge;
- the Flatbed Tracks area including the Flatbed Falls;
- Tepee Falls;
- the ‘Old Rocky Mountain Fort’ site near Hudson’s Hope. There are still remains of the building foundations in the ground. This is the site of the oldest know Caucasian settlement in BC upstream of the Moberly River;
- the Moresy Creek area where the original Hudson’s Hope town site was located by Simon Fraser;
- a park at Dinosaur Lakes featuring the ‘Heat Vents’ in partnership with the District of Hudson’s Hope;

- anywhere along Peace on crown land within the ‘flood reserve’ area;
- access to the Peace for day use and boating;
- along the river bottoms, in native grassland areas etc.;
- somewhere at Cecil Lake to improve public access to the lake. Ducks Unlimited has land that could be partnered with in some way;
- Ducks Unlimited also has lands around Siphon Creek Road, wetlands NE of Fort St. John that partnership could be developed for parks;
- the ‘Old Fort Site’ at Fort St. John. To take advantage of river recreation close to Fort St. John, to celebrate the history of the PRRD;
- the cemetery down by the Fort is a great park-like area;
- the site of the historic massacre at one of the Old Forts near where the Beatton meets the Peace;
- locals around Wonowon would like to see a Regional Park up in that area of the PRRD;
- Neg Falls near Buick;
- Crying Girl Prairie;
- German Lake;
- land at the end of Dokie Road;
- make the Fort St. John Lookout a regional park.

A strong comment that an individual made was that he/she “does not ever want to see a park near the Copeland Beach area again”.

Several comments were made in regard to the old Beatton River Park:

- “There used to be a park at Beatton River, why did they close it?”
- “We love that area”
- “It’s so sad it’s no longer a park”

Many individuals noted that the information in the book “BC Backroad Mapbook – Northern BC” is incorrect as it shows the decommissioned Beatton River Park and the Copeland Park, this should be addressed.

The Fort St. John Army Cadets indicated they visit and use the amenities of most of the regional parks for all sorts of activities. They suggested that they would be happy to become involved in volunteering to maintain them in some manner.

Regional Parks – Specific

Blackfoot Regional Park

According to what the consulting team heard at the Open House events, Blackfoot is the most well-known Regional Park in the PRRD with a good number of people not only knowing about it but having visited it as some point. It is well-known for its 'grad party' weekend at the end of June every year. Many people stay away from the park on that weekend and most long-weekends as it has a reputation for non-family friendly, loud disrespectful activities. Having said that, everyone believes it is in a beautiful spot and has the potential to be a welcoming and user-friendly park. BC Hydro indicated that they anticipate installing the new boat launch in the spring of 2012. The design includes a well needed parking area for boat trailers and vehicles. Blackfoot Regional Park is most commonly used for camping and ATV.

Specific comments on Blackfoot Regional Park include:

- the garbage containers need to be in good order and there need to be more of them or they need to be emptied more often (currently the maintenance providers only pick up garbage once per week);
- overflowing garbage cans are a bear attractant;
- considering Blackfoot is FREE it is a good park and users appreciate that it is free;
- would like to see more campsites created. About 10 more would be perfect;
- would like to see "more work put into the entire park";
- park lends itself to ATV use so develop trails in and around the park. Get quad club involved to maintain trails;
- toilets are old and need replacing. The river road toilet was unusable in early summer this year due to a fly problem;
- Area Director doesn't hear too many complains about Blackfoot;
- frac-ing companies fill up at the 'Agricultural Only' water tap creating long line-ups of big trucks around the playground and park area;
- there is an area around tank loading that would make a good picnic or day-use area;
- some day-use users of Blackfoot go there for bird-watching opportunities but avoid popular weekends because of the noise and people roaring around on ATV's;
- there is a perception that many of the users of Blackfoot are destroying the environment by mud-bogging, burning of vehicles which are then dumped into the Peace River;
- "Blackfoot is not well maintained. The grass is too high and there is always garbage everywhere";
- there is a general feeling that Blackfoot needs more monitoring;
- if you had to pay at Blackfoot, maybe security would be better;

- “Would a paid attendant take too much abuse?”
- local land owners have concerns with ATVers trespassing on private lands close to Blackfoot Park as they search for trails in the area;
- More and better signage would be nice; and,
- horseback riding was also mentioned by several people as something they have done at Blackfoot.

It was suggested that BC Hydro owns the land on the west side of the bridge. If this true it is welcome as it provides an accessible location for overflow camping on busy weekends.

Spencer Tuck Regional Park

Spencer Tuck Regional Park appears to be a well-used and popular park for the immediate locals surrounding the park. The park apparently is used by school groups and church groups for special events and activities throughout the year with skating in the winter and picnics in the summer. The general public appears to use the park year-round as well for the boat launch in the summer and snowmobiles in the winter. Occasionally there are buoys put in the water to define a safe swimming area. Amenities that would be welcomed by the user groups are:

- improved washroom facilities;
- picnic table upgrades;
- a camp kitchen or picnic shelter;
- boat-launch improvements; and
- better signage from the highway into the park.

The maintenance providers indicate that there has never been a problem with too much garbage at the park. The users think that there are opportunities to develop trails from the park up to the existing power lines and beyond for hikers, ATVers and snowmobilers. Some members of the public suggested that the sign improvements include the information about the boat launch. Displaying more historic information on who Spencer Tuck was and his impact on the entire Peace River region was suggested as a way to enhance the park and increase interest in the park.

The locals feel the Cairn area on the highway is a problem area for vandalism and garbage as it is poorly maintained. They feel that there is a possibility for the PRRD to take control over that site and add it to the park for better maintenance.

Sundance Regional Park

Sundance Regional Park, although the newest park, is the second most ‘well-known’ park in the PRRD Regional Park system. Most users like the park for the fishing

opportunities in both summer and winter. Everyone who has visited the park commented positively about the toilet facility. Comments about Sundance focused on the possible expansion to the west to include a camping area and easier access to the lake. Additional signage was also a suggestion for Sundance.

Montney Centennial Regional Park

Montney Centennial Park appears to have the most potential for improvement and increased use. Currently it is primarily used for camping in the summer and as a base for the snowmobile club in the winter. Several Buick locals mentioned that they frequent Montney Centennial Regional Park most often out of all of the Regional parks due to its proximity for the fishing and snowmobiling. Most of the public that attended the Open Houses commented that the recreational opportunities on Charlie Lake are limited because of the extensive weed situation in the lake. Boating for pleasure or water-skiing/tubing are not pleasant activities in the lake so are therefore not done there. Fishing is a common activity on and around the lake including from Montney Centennial Park.

Along with the annual Regional District staff clean up and check of Montney Centennial Park the local Charlie Lake Conservation Society includes the clean-up of the park area in their annual lake area spring clean-up as well. In the past few years they have removed large items from the park area such as 'bed springs' and other old pieces of equipment. Many people who attended the Open Houses would like to see the following at Montney:

- better signage to the park from the highway;
- more camping at Montney;
- less gravel in the camping area;
- a more organized layout for camping, "not just a gravel strip";
- a dock to fish off of;
- a 'designated' day-use picnic area;
- a playground with "monkey bars"; and,
- trails in the park "like those in Beatton Provincial Park down the road".

Minaker Regional Park

Minaker Regional Park is the least known park in the Regional Park system. Even those who knew of it could not always find it as the signage to the park is so poor. The Wonowon locals historically used Minaker Regional Park for their annual Gymkhana events but haven't done so for the last couple of years due to lack of volunteer organizers. Other users are campers who are up in the area for hunting purposes.

Recreational Trails

Even though the PRRD does not own, maintain or manage any recreational trails within its geographic area, most of the conversations at the Open Houses centred on trails - their development, uses, concerns and needs. We learned that there are many kilometers of recreational trail existing throughout the PRRD. Some of these recreational trails are designated, well-maintained and very popular. Other recreational trails are informal well used and well loved, while others are located on private lands and their use often causes problems.

We had the opportunity to speak directly with several of the organized trail user groups; from horseback riders, to hikers, ATVers, snowmobilers, mountain bikers and cross-country skiers. We also spoke with several members of the general public and their ideas for recreational trails within the Regional District area.

The primary support for recreational trails within the PRRD is from Tim Bennett, the Forest Recreation Officer with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources Operations. Mr. Bennett administers the efforts required to 'designate' a recreational trail within an area that includes the PRRD. The trail users groups we spoke to all commented on the excellent support and encouragement that Tim has provided over the years as the various groups work through the trail registration process. Mr. Bennett provided us with several comments and suggestions on recreational trail development and designation drawing on his experience with many groups over the past several years. Mr. Bennett noted that some of the groups often have trouble with the mapping requirement for their trails and suggested that funding for this specific item would be a huge benefit to the groups. In general terms, Mr. Bennett sees the need for signage and education to help market, promote and mitigate user conflicts on trails. The new legislation that requires Oil and Gas companies to consult with registered recreational trail maintainers prior to any industrial interference with these recreational trails is a huge improvement in Mr. Bennett's eyes in avoiding future conflicts and negative feelings between the recreational users and the area's industries.

The general comments from the Open House participants regarding recreational trails included the following:

- money should be put into multiuse trails in the PRRD;
- private land owners continue to have problems and concerns with trespassers on their lands especially from ATVers and snowmobilers;
- private land owners would like to be notified if a trail is proposed for development near their property;
- owners of large tracts of land would like us to clearly define what we mean by 'trail' as they want to ensure that we are only talking about recognized trails

primarily on crown land. These farmer/ranchers would like us to keep people off private lands even if an 'old historical' trail crosses it. "It is still private land!";

- the trails need to be available to alternate user groups like, dog-sledders;
- "My sons love the mountain bike trails near FSJ but the parking should be improved as it is dangerous";
- "Could we work with CP Rail on using the old rail right of ways and bridges for trails?"
- "Could we work with the Ministry of Transportation on developing trails for multi-use within their highway right of ways?"
- "Could we approach the Ministry of Transportation about designing the ditches to accommodate horseback riding?"
- "How do we get permission to make a recreational trail?"
- many local user groups would like help with the removal of dangerous trees or pine beetle kill;
- on a whole, people thought "more ATV trails" are needed;
- "There are quad users near FSJ that inappropriately use the hiking trails instead of going further out to the real quad trails";
- generally the public needs to be educated on the proper respectful use of all trails. Land owners and trail users feel there is often a lack of understanding on the impact on the rural area. There is a lack of education and even compassion for landowners and the environment or the effects of their use of the trail on the adjacent landowners ;
- there seems to be a need to educate how trail users can spread invasive weeds and ways to stop this; and
- generally the people who attended the Open Houses appreciate the suggestion for more support for the trails.

The areas that many people would like to see trails developed is broad and vast. The list of potential sites as suggested by those who attended the Open Houses is shown below:

- a non-motorized trail from Dawson Creek to Taylor;
- a trail from Charlie Lake to Fort St. John (already in the works with the Charlie Lake Conservation Society and the FSJ Rotary Club);
- a trail from Beatton River to Clayhurst;
- trails around Blackfoot Regional Park;
- re-registration of Rimrock Trail;
- trails in Swan Lake area to improve bird watching opportunities;

- the new 8" fibre-optic line corridor between Tumbler Ridge and Dawson Creek could make a "good trail for cycling or another use";
- trail to 'Heat Vents' along Dinosaur Lake near Hudson's Hope;
- Extend the Elephant Ridge Trail all the way to Lone Prairie;
- develop and register a trail to Martin Falls;
- develop the 'historic McKenzie Trail' where Alexander McKenzie portaged around the rapids of the old Peace River; and,
- develop the railway route from Tomslake area to Dawson Creek as a multi-use trail – use Kettle Valley Railway as a template.

Some specific trails and trail area concerns / requests for support are identified below. *Gundy Recreation Trails* – are used by ATVers and horseback riders. User conflicts are not a problem here as all users are very respectful of each other, The horseback rider recognize that they won't have trails if it weren't for the efforts of the ATV club. A problem with the registration of the trails here centres on the fact that the trails are located on lands which are within the Agricultural Land Reserve and additional applications and approvals for the development of the trails will need to be obtained prior to Mr. Bennett securing his approvals for trail registration.

Community linkages – cycling, walking or other non-motorized transportation along the highway between Dawson Creek and Taylor is dangerous and not advised. Individuals and groups are looking for support to develop trails to link communities in a safe and efficient manner rather than using the side of the highway.

Bear Mountain Nordic Club – users would like to see some support in promoting cross-country skiing to the local youth. The group currently work well with the neighbouring snowmobile club. They often work together sharing equipment and resources.

Wolverine Nordic Club – indicated that they do not have any conflicts with the snowmobile club as that group generally goes up into the mountains. They would like to see funding made available for efforts to deal with the Pine Beetle kill. Would like to see the PRRD support them develop the Quality Falls trail as a wheelchair accessible trail. This group has a good relationship with the local industry who has given money and labour in the past to help deflect the impact of their changes to the landscape on the groups trails.

Charlie Lake Conservation Society – would like to see the PRRD become a partner in the trail from Charlie Lake to Fort St. John that they are currently designing and obtaining approvals for with the local

FSJ Rotary Club. As a club they would be interested in seeing funding available for signage/education of trails and park uses as well as Lake usage.

Wonowon community – mentioned that their horseback riding trails often start out over the old seismic lines which then take them into more open areas. With the assistance of

the local ATVers and snowmobilers they widen or cut back growth on the trails. Conoco has been very accommodating in this area for trail development and support. The group at the Open House suggested that information from the PRRD should come in Russian and German as well as English so all of the residents in this area have access to the information.

Chetwynd Outdoor Society – is interested in developing an extension to the Elephant Ridge Trail from Gwillim Lake Provincial Park to Lone Prairie for hiking and would like to have some support from the PRRD. They are also interested in developing a trail/lookout over the Martin Falls.

In conclusion the Open House events for the Parks & Trails Master Plan were successful as they provided excellent local points of view and many specific wants and needs. The information collected will provide a solid base to the Master Plan.

