

Cuthbert Holmes/Tillicum Park

Management Plan

Public Participation

Parks and Recreation Department
Parks Division | September 2015



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A. Public Participation Overview

In 2013 Saanich adopted the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) standard of public participation. The IAP2 model has five possible public participation levels, each accommodating a different degree of impact on the decision to be made. These levels, from the least to the greatest degree of impact are: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower.

In terms of this standard the overall participation level for the development of this plan was Consult. Specific activities achieved the Inform, Consult and Involve levels of participation.

Inform	Displays at public events, printed information, Saanich website
Consult	Visits to schools, open house, surveys
Involve	Community mapping exercise, workshop

Public Participation and the CH/TP Management Plan

The following is an account of the public participation events that were held during the development of the Cuthbert Holmes/Tillicum Park Management Plan. A list of the events is given in the **Events** section, a summary of the feedback received at each event is given in the **Summaries** section, and details and full feedback is given in the **Details** section.

B. Public Participation Events

- **Community Mapping exercise, May 2, 2010** – a ‘brainstorming session’ initiated by the Gorge-Tillicum Community Association, based on the original 5 themes; Natural Areas Management, Trails, Recreational Opportunities, Safety and Security, and Community Gardens*. The purpose of this exercise was to encourage as many ideas and comments about the themes as possible. Other public events in 2010 further explored these ideas.
- Gorge Canada Day Picnic, July 1, 2010. Information, survey and feedback form made available.
- Music in The Park event at Meadow Park on August 24, 2010. Information, survey and feedback form made available.
- Riversong event held in Cuthbert Holmes Park on September 26, 2010. Information, survey and feedback form made available.
- **Colquitz Middle School** student presentation and discussion on October 27 and November 8, 2010.
- **Spectrum High School** student presentation and discussion on Nov. 4, 2010.
- **Public Workshop, June 18, 2011** - sought feedback on a proposed vision statement, goals and directions which were developed based on Saanich policy, the Environmental Review Report, and previous public input. Participants were asked to consider the statements in the context of Saanich policy, and the Environmental Review report.
- **Public Open House, June 13, 2012** – sought feedback on the ideas of active recreation in the park, a ‘voluntary compliance’ management strategy for trail use, and a slightly revised vision statement and goals.
- Presentations to Advisory Committees, 2014
- On-Line **Draft Plan Review and Survey**, March-April 2015
- Presentations to key Stakeholder Groups and Advisory Committees, 2015

The idea of accommodating active recreation in a low sensitivity area of the park was explored in all of the public events. The idea proved to be controversial, and subsequent public feedback received at the June 13, 2012 event determined a lack of support.

*Note that the community garden proposal was withdrawn in May 2011 due to environmental concerns, and was omitted from subsequent events.

C. Public Participation Summaries

- Summary of Public Feedback to the end of 2010, including **Community Mapping Exercise May 2, 2010**

- Desire to preserve and restore the park's natural environment
- Desire to accommodate public access
- Support for recreational activities that promote nature appreciation, and have minimal impact on the environment
- Desire to have safety and security concerns addressed

- **Colquitz Middle School**

Parks staff and a Gorge Tillicum Community Association representative met initially with approx 15 student reps on October 27. There was a discussion about the park and the process we were undertaking. The reps were asked to talk to their fellow classmates in the coming days, and return for a follow-up discussion on November 8 to relay their thoughts. At the follow up meeting 27 comment sheets were returned, but the majority of comments were conveyed verbally by the reps.

Key Points from Colquitz Middle School Students:

A few over-riding themes became apparent during these meetings. Grouped roughly into themes they are:

Natural Areas Management

- Environmental Protection: Very strong interest in protecting the environment/nature in the park. The group felt that park activities should be limited to those that would not cause damage or interfere with its wildlife.
- Educational Aspect: Strong support for the idea of a nature house with information about the nature in the park, and educational signage explaining the flora and fauna of the park. "Tell people about it and they will respect it". Use education to control dogs and people (ie to respect sensitive areas).
- Interest in Restoration Involvement: There was strong interest in getting involved in/organizing multi-school clean up/invasive plant removal projects in the park. Several children asked that I forward their names to the Friends of Cuthbert Holmes so that they could participate in the coming efforts.

Trails

- Trails: Incorporate some trails into a main network, including accessible (paved) loops with benches for all ages and abilities, and eliminate some goat trails. Trails would be defined and off-limit areas (for both dogs and people) would be defined with split rail fences. Bikes would be limited to certain trails. Formalize some trails thru problem areas to discourage campers etc.

Safety and Security

- Park Orientation Signage: Strong over-arching observation that many people (including kids) are unfamiliar with the park, and don't know the basics about it, ie what is there, how big it is, where trails lead to etc. This fact alone discouraged many from exploring the park. Signage is badly needed, at entrances to the park and within the mall/rec centre/library. Make it clear that the park is there from the mall parking lot and from the highway. If kids/people had a feeling for it they would be much more likely to use it.
- Campers: Kids are aware of the homeless people and would use the park more if they were gone. Opinions vary as to how to accomplish this, but generally revolve around bringing more

people in with park orientation mapping, formalizing some trails thru problem areas, and having more security (police/volunteers) patrols.

Recreational Opportunities

- Active Recreation: This group did not feel strongly that a biking area, or other active recreation area was necessary, however they were confident that if there was a bike area, kids would stay within it and respect the park (if explained why thru signage). They suggested that bikes within the park should be limited to the main trails only, and access to a bike area be via this main trail.
- Partnerships: felt that Pearkes Rec Centre and Flipside should make better use of the park and offer activities that cater to it, eg guided tours, scavenger hunts, finding natural features, programs around the spawning salmon. Contact other organizations (eg Girl Guides) and have restoration work as credit. Have a system for accepting donations. Coordinate events with RIO –can, CA, Pearkes, Friends etc and have fund raising/community events in the park.

Community Gardens

- The concept was generally supported in discussions, on the condition that it be built and run in a way that would not negatively impact the park. Most of the comment sheet comments indicated a poor understanding of the concept.

Other

- Community Involvement/Graffiti Wall: Strong support for some aspect of community involvement, in particular the idea of a regulated public art/graffiti wall in 'Echo Hollow' or elsewhere, as a means to bring more people to that area and take ownership, therefore reducing random destructive activity and graffiti.

• **Spectrum High School**

Before students arrived we had a brief discussion with the school Principal and 2 teachers, including the phys-ed instructor. The school has, and continues, to use the park for school guided activities, however safety is a concern. They are interested in the park and would like to see safety concerns addressed so that they could make more use of it.

The phys-ed teacher has and does use the park for 'Capture the Flag' games and is in favour of allowing more active recreation such as disk golf.

Several students from the Environmental Club attended shortly after, and essentially echoed the majority of opinion heard at Colquitz Middle School, ie that the park be reserved for activities compatible with a nature-type park and that the marginal areas be restored. They did not oppose a community garden, provided that it is run in such a way that it not negatively impact the park.

A number of information and comment sheets were left at the school, but no further input was received.

- Summary of **Public Workshop, June 18, 2011**
 - The large majority of participants supported the proposed vision statement, goals and supporting management directions
 - Desire for Municipal leadership in identifying compatible activities, and to proceed with developing the Management Plan

- Summary of **Public Open House, June 13, 2012**

Approximately 100 people attended this event. Participants were asked to review information panels presenting background information, information regarding the park vision and goals, active recreation, and proposed management strategies. Specific feedback was requested on the following topics:

1. To determine support for the park vision, goal statements and management directions.
2. To determine the level of support for active recreation in the park.
3. To determine the level of support for a 'stay on trails in sensitive areas' (voluntary compliance) management approach for people, bikes and pets.

84 participants completed the survey, independent submissions were also received.

Survey Highlights

83% indicated that they live within a 15 minute walk of the park
 8% live within other areas of Saanich, and 8% live outside of Saanich
 67% said they use the park to walk a dog
 62% use it for walking
 60% for nature appreciation
 24% for bike riding
 23% to get to a local destination
 18% for running
 7% for other purposes

Key Findings:

1. Vision and Goal statements:
 - Park Vision - received 64% support
 - Natural Areas Management Goal - received 86% support
 - Trails Goal - received 84% support
 - Recreational Opportunities Goal - received 64% support
 - Safety and Security Goal - received 87% support

2. Active Recreation:

Participants were asked to indicate their support for active recreation in the park in general, and for specific active recreational activities.

 - 38% of respondents supported active recreation in general

Of the 38 % who supported active recreation:

- 53% supported a bike skills facility
- 44% supported a playground
- 50% supported an informal open space for active and passive use

3. Voluntary Compliance (voluntary 'stay on trail' management approach) support:

- 83% support voluntary compliance for people
- 83% support voluntary compliance for bikes
- 68% support voluntary compliance for dogs

Conclusion:

Participants at the 2012 Open House largely supported the vision statement and goals which are detailed in section 7. Support for proposed active recreation even in a low-sensitivity area is weak, and consequently it has not been incorporated into this plan. There was strong representation of dog owners and local residents at the event. Dog owners, many of whom are regular local users of the park have a general reluctance to support any restriction on dogs' movements. However, the idea of a voluntary compliance management approach was generally well received, and has been incorporated into this plan as the initial approach to manage impacts caused by off-trail travel.

- Summary of on-line **Draft Plan Review** and **Public Survey**, March – April 2015

The draft plan with supporting documents were posted on the Saanich website and promoted through Social Media and a public survey was undertaken. There were almost 17,000 views on its Facebook page, and 215 survey responses were received. The breakdown of support for the Vision Statement and actions supporting the 4 Goals was:

- Vision Statement: 67% strongly support, 30% somewhat support
- Natural Areas Actions: 67% strongly support, 29% somewhat support
- Trails Actions: 46% strongly support, 37% somewhat support
- Recreation Actions: 53% strongly support, 38% somewhat support
- Safety and Security: 53% strongly support, 37% somewhat support

Overall support for 'all action steps' was 31%, and 49% for the 'majority of steps'.

D. Details

Community Mapping Exercise, May 2, 2010

40 people signed in, with approx 50 – 55 attending in total. 27 Comment Sheets were returned (1 letter and 1 email have also been incorporated into this summary).

This was a brain-storming session where people were asked to organize ideas and comments around the following themes:

- Natural Areas Management
- Trails
- Safety and Security
- Recreation Opportunities
- Community Gardens
- Other?

Responses are listed below, and have been grouped into general categories within the themes to allow an overall impression of opinions.

Natural Areas Management

CATEGORY: REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS (8)

- remove invasives (3)
- remove hawthorne
- work with friends of Cuthbert Holmes and CA to remove invasives and post signs explaining what is happening
- ivy first priority, then hawthorne
- remove hawthorns by creek behind Silver City and plant with native plants
- wonderful to see the invasives being removed, gives hope

CATEGORY: RESTORE/REPLANT/PROTECT NATURAL AREAS (26)

- I support the restoration/replanting efforts (11)
- the restoration work being done by Julian is inspiring
- need to protect the river and surrounding land
- the primary importance of the park is to protect the river and riparian area- ensure its ecological viability, have public use and access where it wont compromise this
- expand natural woodlands esp along creek (2)
- install split rail fencing to protect sensitive areas
- natural function is very important – heronry and salmon spawning creek, these functions should take precedent
- leave some areas undisturbed with no trails
- manage park to maintain vital wildlife and native plant ecosystem
- as responsible stewards Saanich should guard the health of the ecosystem and help with removal of invasive species and replanting.
- dogs must be on leash in sensitive areas esp out of the river chasing nesting birds and herons (2)
- leave this land and allow it to develop as nature intended allowing a place for wildlife
- keep as much natural area as possible – natural areas are becoming more rare
- limit access to the wilder portion of the park to protect it

Community Mapping Exercise, May 2, 2010 continued

Natural Areas Management (cont.)

CATEGORY: EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE (6)

- have educational signage (3)
- put sign up to explain/protect restored/replanted areas (3)

CATEGORY: OTHER

- don't leave so much wood/fallen trees on the ground – doesn't look natural (2)
- too much downed wood left on the ground – should be removed (2)
- recent tree logging is a disgrace

Trails

CATEGORY: IMPROVE EXISTING TRAILS (10)

- need better drainage/fix drainage so it doesn't affect trees (4)
- consider boardwalks instead of trails in some areas (eg where very wet)
- move the trail running west along the creek behind Silver City toward Dysart bridge about 12' up the hill to avoid winter flooding
- trail from Silver City to bridge is in floodplain and inundated in the winter
- maintain existing trails but do not increase the number of them (2)
- improve the trail by fish ladder so that it doesn't flood in winter

CATEGORY: REDUCE THE NUMBER OF TRAILS (7)

- no more trail development/no more asphalt (2)
- reduce number of secondary trails (3)
- keep to a minimum and don't pave
- don't need to be able to access every corner

CATEGORY: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TRAILS (5)

- need link to rec centre
- more trails to the east
- need access behind the rec centre and from Admirals bridge
- improve trails below the highway
- create an east-west running trail north of the creek at least 30' from the highway

CATEGORY: OTHER

- use wood chips if environmentally sound – quieter walk
- use wood chip, not paved or gravel
- good mix of paved and unpaved trails
- improve drainage by picnic tables, change to chip trail
- limit paved trails to the main route, all others to be dirt or chipped trails

Community Mapping Exercise, May 2, 2010 continued

Safety and Security

CATEGORY: INCREASE THE NUMBER OF TRAILS (8)

- formalize some trails for more eyes on the park (4)
- encourage people to use secondary trails
- legitimizing some trails near the mall may help
- more trails in east area/behind the rec centre (2)

CATEGORY: INCREASE POLICE/CITIZEN PATROLS (11)

- more police bike patrols/grater police presence (4)
- more bike patrols around mall and rec centre
- volunteer group to patrol monthly or bi-weekly (4)
- 'park watch' is a good idea but tricky in terms of secluded areas
- can we organise trail walks that identify issues and do some cleanup?

CATEGORY: INCREASE MAINTENANCE (6)

- frequent park clean-ups
- frequent garbage can emptying
- keep trails well maintained
- maintenance must be improved
- repair all damaged real estate
- litter and vagrants make area seem unsafe and is self-perpetuating

CATEGORY: INCREASE ACCESS (4)

- need perimeter lane
- fire truck access near 'Echo Park'
- need access for fire and police (2)

CATEGORY: SIGNS (16)

- name trails/create map(s) (15)
- need map near silver city

CATEGORY: CAMPERS (1)

- campers are a problem: garbage, sanitation

CATEGORY: VANDALISM (1)

- vandalism is ongoing but not a risk to individuals

CATEGORY: OTHER

- I feel completely safe in the park
- have video surveillance/flood lighting behind Silver City
- lighting near buildings, security cameras
- improve lighting where needed
- do not install more lighting – conflicts with natural park
- Fire Dept. and police need to include CH for regular drill schedule.
- install barricades to discourage vehicles gathering after hours

Community Mapping Exercise, May 2, 2010 continued

- decrease the amount of shrub/thickets for cover
- do not remove understory for sightlines
- clear brush 6 – 8' back from all trails
- have designated camping area
- help the campers keep the park clean
- do not feel as comfortable in the park as earlier years, due to silver city and mall spill-over. now comfortable only in main daylight hours.
- at least issues are away from main trails
- maybe new high rises will create 'more eyes' on the park

Recreation Opportunities

CATEGORY: LIMIT TO EXISTING/OPPOSE FORMAL ACTIVE RECREATION (22)

- encourage use by only walkers, cyclists and dog walkers (3)
- preserve the quietness of the park
- no intrusive activities like mountain biking (2)
- a walk in the forest is a recreational opportunity
- park not suitable for formal recreation
- limit to walking (2)
- park is excellent as is for dog walkers nature lovers and kids. is important for kids to have contact with nature and unstructured play
- limit to 'natural park' (2)
- not sure what would be appropriate other than walking
- other recreational uses will increase dogs and people penetrating the sensitive core of the park.
- accommodating active recreation is not worth losing a natural area
- creating further peripheral activities will add even more pressure on the natural core of the park (in addition to traffic, the mall and new RioCan development)
- no active activities: play area or disk golf, all impact natural areas
- no BMX bike trials area
- park not big enough to accommodate mountain biking
- how do you invite bikers to a small area and expect them to resist the rest of the park
- no mountain bike trails

CATEGORY: SUPPORT BMX BIKES (8)

- NE corner of park suitable for other uses (BMX track)
- BMX at NE corner/ where it doesn't impact the natural areas (4)
- BMX track (2)
- possibly on high ground next to the highway but no where else

Community Mapping Exercise, May 2, 2010 continued

CATEGORY: OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT ARE SUPPORTED

- bird watching
- photography walks
- natural history walks (3)
- 'fun walks'
- like the canoe/kayak access (2)
- water access is a compatible use
- training/exercise circuit (2)
- need areas for kids to play/open space (2)
- playground (2)
- school use of park
- ropes/climbing wall/adventure playground
- picnic area and open space for free activity are appropriate for a natural park
- re-introduce archery range?
- off leash dog area 2)
- disk golf (3)
- picnic area

CATEGORY: OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT ARE OPPOSED

- no mountain-biking on trails
- keep active/noisy recreational activities (skate park) far away from natural areas
- no skate board type activity (3)
- disk golf leads to understory trampling and soil compaction
- no motorized vehicles

Community Gardens

CATEGORY: SUPPORT (8)

- strongly support (4)
- support (3)
- good resource for RioCan residential

CATEGORY: CONDITIONAL SUPPORT (12)

- be careful not to introduce invasives/have a management plan (2)
- limit to area along Admirals Road
- limit the space used
- ok as long as they don't impact the treed/natural area
- expand into Burke St ROW (2)
- use Burke Street property (2)
- have near the mall for people without gardens and as a learning/partnership arrangement
- interesting idea, highrise dwellers may need it
- support for educational / community at large gardens, but strongly oppose for individuals or groups

Community Mapping Exercise, May 2, 2010 continued

CATEGORY: OPPOSE (2)

- don't fit with a natural park (2)

CATEGORY: OTHER

- have a farmers market
- offer it to residents of new Rio Can block
- should be organic
- consider indigenous food (huckleberry, camas)
- include the cultivation of First Nations traditional food and expand to other areas of the parks
- plant fruit trees (2)
- have fruit trees and fruit available to the community
- include composting on-site (with guidelines)
- locate them behind Silver City
- keep these people and dogs from disturbing the wildlife at the estuary
- house near Burke could be community resource
- invasive species list
- not sure they are necessary in neighbourhood with large lots, but not opposed to the idea

Other?

CATEGORY: GARBAGE

- need bigger garbage can by Silver City
- larger/more garbage cans (3)
- more cans along trails
- empty cans more often
- would be nice if RioCan and Silver City would put more effort into picking up garbage
- have the mall and theatre install cans at park entrances
- doggy bags at entrance (2)
- could use more dog waste bins

CATEGORY: PARTNERSHIPS

- partner with schools
- have user groups help construct (eg disk golf)
- consider demographics of Rio-Can development and anticipate needs/desires
- develop a plan of inclusiveness to the new members of RioCan so that they take ownership of the park.
- consider how Hampton and CH can relieve each other
- needs to include school children. Have programs that develop an appreciation for this wild space in children.
- have programs in park through Pearkes Rec Centre

Community Mapping Exercise, May 2, 2010 continued

CATEGORY: SIGNS/INFORMATION

- have signs directing people to garbage cans at entrances
- put in educational signage
- educational signage at fish ladder (3)
- need sign/map at entrance by Silver City
- increased knowledge brings increased affection and interest. information pamphlets should be avail in library and in high rises etc

CATEGORY: PRESERVE

- acknowledge that no fundamental changes are necessary and limit planning to preserving the natural habitat – nothing else needs attention
- no changes wanted, respect the abundant natural recreational resources available. Do not try to impose rules and regulations regarding use of the park, to do so would underline your lack of understanding regarding the relationship of the community with the park and create conflict
- this feature in an urban setting is rare, please resist pressure to develop/allow other interests in the park
- we already have parks for active recreation activities, this is Saanich's opportunity to have a natural green park

CATEGORY: PICNIC

- picnic area east of proposed water access
- picnic area adjacent to the community gardens (east) with fruit trees
- relocate picnic area
- community space near garden, picnic tables

CATEGORY: DOGS

- keep park off-leash for dogs, but have sign for on-leash section where dogs go in the creek
- main users seem to be dog owners
- enjoy the dogs in the park and don't want them limited
- high use by dog owners

CATEGORY: LINKS

- park is used by pedestrians to get from place to place
- important link to larger parks (eg Thetis Lake)

CATEGORY: TRAILS

- like the existing woods and trails, they should be preserved and expanded.

CATEGORY: OTHER

- appreciate the event
- should be an annual event
- a washroom would be nice
- park is well used by walkers and joggers
- CH is large enough to accommodate multiple uses – don't zone all as natural area
- vandalism is a concern
- introduce native pollinators

Community Mapping Exercise May 2, 2010 continued

- remove shopping cart(s) from river
- plant trees next to highway to improve that area
- need to involve PCC in discussions/plans
- youth input is needed
- work with mall to keep shopping carts out of the creek
- it's a great park, I really appreciate it

Workshop, June 18, 2011

Workshop Format and Purpose

Information presented at this workshop included stakeholder and community input from 2010, a Saanich Policy review, and a professional Environmental Review, summarized in the 'CHP Concept and Management Plan Discussion Paper'. The Discussion Paper and the Environmental Review were available to participants. The Workshop was run by a professional facilitator, and included a presentation by Saanich Parks and Westland Resource group (the authors of the Environmental Review).

Its purpose was to present the information, and receive input on a proposed vision and 4 goals for the park. Participants were divided into groups and first asked to discuss the suggested vision and goals, and then asked to think about specific actions that would achieve the goals. These discussions are summarized below.

VISION STATEMENT DISCUSSION

Proposed Vision Statement:

Cuthbert Holmes Park is a rare urban refuge which promotes respectful and appropriate recreational use while protecting its natural features and ecosystems. It showcases nature, encouraging respect and appreciation for the natural world, and is a model of current restoration techniques.

Comments received:

- Quiet natural area to provide respite from urbanization
- Model of current rest techniques belong here?
- Natural habitat and healthy ecosystem
- Healthy native forest – safe environment for wildlife
- Like the vision statement
- Rethink “appropriate recreational use” better way to express this
- Word “showcase” – rethink
- Oasis for native plants and species
- Healthy enhanced salmon run

Summary: Concerns were expressed about including the phrase ‘appropriate recreational activities’ and the term ‘showcase’. The concern is the lack of clarity of these terms, and the wide range of interpretation they can have.

Workshop, June 18, 2011 continued

GOALS AND SUPPORTING DIRECTIONS – DISCUSSION

- Proposed Natural Areas Management Goal: *Protect and restore natural areas.*

Goal discussion indicated that the proposed Natural Areas Management Goal is largely supported.

Suggestions received to support the goal:

- Education is most important – split rail fencing with signs and explanation why
- Set goals and timelines for best efforts and goals
- Protect replanted areas info/vandalism
- Saanich support volume of work, expand volume base, signs in park etc – leadership to oversee
- Use split rail to protect sensitive areas
- Clearance of invasives
- Restoration
- School groups – controlled/educated
- Support the goal but not over protection
- Sensitivities around river bank
- How to balance increased park users with protecting natural areas.
- Use as education with school groups rather than running free.
- Enhance riparian areas
- Promote education regarding natural systems
- Ongoing control of invasive species
- Leave the park as is and remove invasive species
- Continue to permit off leash dog walking in a way that respect the environment, out of the river
- Leave the park as is remove invasive species

Summary: Comments indicated strong support for education, invasive plant removal, restoration, physical and educational protection of sensitive and restored areas (signs, split rail fences, trail definition etc), setting goals and timelines, and ensuring Municipal support.

- Proposed Trails Goal: *Define the trail system to meet the park's environmental, recreational and safety needs.*

Goal discussion indicated that the proposed Trails Goal is largely supported.

Suggestions received to support the goal:

- New trail behind theatre/camping area, move trail, higher out of wet areas;
- Label trails as sensitive/less sensitive/ time frames
- Way finding signage – type of trails
- One main paved the rest organic – bike on paved. Bikes competition with walkers and kids; don't encourage bikes
- Refine the trail system, add and take away
- Plan and implement the trail system – make more obvious (define) add/subtract

Workshop, June 18, 2011 continued

- Trail system needs planning, one main system
- Maintain existing paved trails
- Leave it as is
- Contact information on signs
- Don't need pavement
- Keep bikes to main trails
- Desire for access – wheel chair – stroller – pavement in one area
- Naming trails
- Silver City to bridge trail moved up the hill too wet (many comments)
- Have consultant give recommendations vs. raw input
- Connect to outside of the park e.g. to marigold
- Universally accessible in some parts
- Decommission some/build some
- No more asphalt trails
- Make them appropriate for the habitat they are in, i.e. elevated boardwalk in wet areas.
- Bike lane
- Expanded trails

Summary: Comments indicated support for: way-finding signs; a defined/labelled trail system; a combination of new, decommissioned, and relocated trails as appropriate; trails that respond to their location thru construction materials and periods of use; defined/limited biking trails; and maintaining an accessible (hard surface) component.

- Proposed Recreational Opportunities Goal: *Provide the opportunity for a range of enjoyable, appropriate and enriching activities.*

Goal discussion revealed concern regarding the word 'appropriate' and its lack of clarity, and the wide range of activities that could result, should say 'limited range'. Concern was also expressed regarding the term 'enriching' and its lack of clarity.

Suggestions received to support the goal:

- Provide a list of appropriate low impact activities.
- Tell people what is appropriate and where based on sensitivity
- Activities for trails.
- All people to navigate the park.
- Interpretive signage, but not too many, low impact visually. Photos and images for all ages and languages.
- Don't need more users, it will happen automatically
- allow landing/ turn around
- Educational signage (small to direct people to inform people that don't know but small)
- Regular guided walks, especially for schools, summer camp to talk about natural uses
- Bicycles off paths
- Split rail to reduce people in areas
- Use what can be learned in other parks i.e. boardwalks
- Nature reserve vs. a park
- Formal open area in hawthorn for recreation and sitting in the sun.
- Like it the way it is

Workshop, June 18, 2011 continued

- Request to put in dog bags at entrance.
- encourage kids to play – goal posts
- no off leash areas
- no bike area
- kids' park near parking areas
- schools to bring stewardship to the park
- Identify list of appropriate low impact activities and define by area
- interpretive/nature centre at Pearkes
- interpretive/introduction/picnic area in hawthorn area behind silver city
- Boot camps/ school outings by permit. with ground rules to follow
- Less human activities i.e.: playground
- All uses first consider the natural environment
- Area for dogs and kids in less sensitive areas
- Continue to permit off leash dog walking in a way that respects the environment
- Make sure that people use the park - accessibility
- Garbage bags for dogs/pick up

Summary: People want to be told what activities are appropriate for the sensitivity of a given area. There is general support for visually unobtrusive educational signage, guided/permitted walks for kids and day camps, limiting bikes to certain areas/trails, and for voluntary dogs-on-leash in sensitive areas.

□ Proposed Safety and Security Goal: *Increase the number of park users and bring problem isolated areas into the larger park experience to reduce negative activities.*

Goal discussion questioned the need and desirability of increasing the number of park users, and argued that increased numbers in itself will not resolve safety issues. Community policing, incorporating problem areas into the trail system, and reducing dense hawthorn cover is the key.

Suggestions received to support the goal:

- New/remove some trails
- Remove cover
- Directional signage
- Security patrols
- Garbage cans where possible
- Toilet
- Clear sight lines
- Educate dog owners using signage
- Volunteer ambassadors
- Vegetate areas to keep users in the right area
- Have brochures
- number to call with issues
- Number posted in park to help emergency calls
- Remove invasives/address safety concerns
- More people close by so more people in the park
- Benches, picnic tables may be used inappropriately
- Removing hawthorn

Workshop, June 18, 2011 continued

- Naming trails, putting in mileage signs
- Bikes
- Connect isolated areas to trail system (both yes and no)
- feel safer with dog
- number of dogs difficult for young kids
- ID main troubled areas and address these
- promote public awareness (community policing)
- community ownership like block watch with number to call

Summary: Modify and refine trails to access key problem areas, and encourage/enable volunteer security patrols/police patrols. Remove hawthorn forests (cover). Install directional and way-finding signs with contact info (i.e. parks/police). Educate dog owners via educational/voluntary compliance signage.

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Open House Introduction

Purpose: This open house builds on information gathered during the planning process to date, and will further inform the park's Management Plan. The final plan will include a concept plan, and specific directions for site amenity improvements, environmental restoration and maintenance practices to ensure the park's long-term integrity. The plan's recommendations will be implemented over the next 10 years.

Your Part: We need your input to help complete the plan. Please take the time to review the panels for an overview of the park, the planning process to date, and to learn more about key issues affecting the park. The panels are numbered in sequential order. The final panel is left blank to write in your comments. A questionnaire is also available to provide your feedback. All comments are appreciated and will help inform the Management Plan.

An Environmental Review was undertaken in 2011 and the report is available on Parks' 'Current Projects' website at

http://www.saanich.ca/parkrec/parks/projects/current/pdf/cuthbert_holmes_env_review_final_18Jan11.pdf

Cuthbert Holmes Park – Issues Overview

The Management Plan must address the complex, inter-related issues facing Cuthbert Holmes Park (CHP). These are grouped into the following themes:

1. **Natural Areas Management:** includes degradation and disruption of natural areas caused by off-trail travel, the spread of invasive plants, and the decline of existing mature tree cover species.
2. **Trails:** the existing trail system needs improvements, there is a growing network of informal trails, and there is conflict between users on some trails.
3. **Recreational Opportunities:** lack of facilities and opportunities for different types of use, conflicts between existing uses, and impact on the environment caused by activity in some locations.
4. **Safety and Security:** include a lack of orientation and way-finding signs, dense cover that conceals unauthorized camping and other undesirable activities, and some problematic isolated pockets.



Invasive plants and unauthorized trails



Loss of understory and soil compaction



Thickets of invasive plants

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Cuthbert Holmes Park – Basic Facts

Cuthbert Holmes Park is actually a combination of CHP and Tillicum Park, totalling 25.7 ha (63.5 acres).

Area:

- Approx. 12 ha (30 acres) is owned by the Provincial Capital Commission and leased to Saanich for 99 years, expiring in 2086
- .05ha (.13 acre) is owned by the BC Transit Financial Authority
- The Municipal and Ministry of Transportation road right-of-ways total approx 4.5 ha (11 acres) and function as part of the park.

Zoning:

- With the exception of Pearkes Recreation Centre and Saanich Centennial Library, both Cuthbert Holmes Park and Tillicum Park are zoned P4-N: Natural Park, defined as *'a park devoted to the retention, preservation, and enhancement of natural, historic or landscape features and is used primarily for informal or passive recreation purposes.'*

Features:

- The park contains important local and regional trail connections, a portion of the Colquitz River, and a variety of ecosystems and wildlife including over 120 bird species (including great blue herons), coho and chum salmon, cutthroat trout and herring.

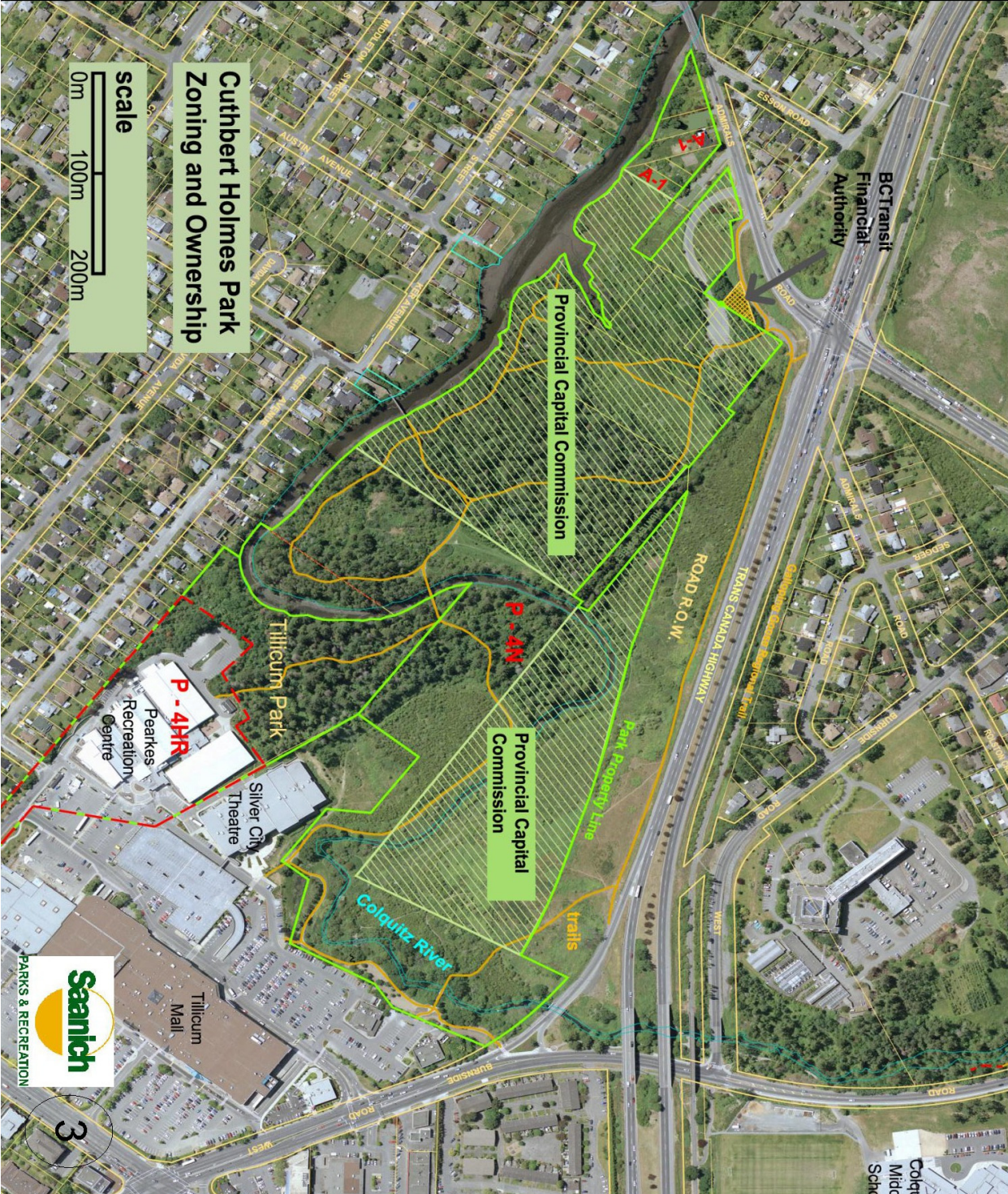
Volunteers:

- Volunteer efforts have helped to remove invasive plants and restore natural areas, but more extensive resources are required.

Park Users:

- The park is used by neighbours, visitors to the adjacent mall, recreation centre and movie theatre, students from nearby schools, nature enthusiasts, dog walkers, cyclists, boaters, and others, for a variety of activities. The fish counting ladder is a popular feature during the salmon spawning season.

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan



Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Management Plan Process Overview

To date the planning process has included stakeholder input including public consultation, internal staff review of existing Saanich policies, and a professional environmental study.

Public and Stakeholder Input 2010 - 2012

- Gorge Tillicum Community Association AGM, April 15, 2010
- Public Meeting** - Community Mapping Exercise, May 2, 2010
- Gorge Canada Day Picnic, July 1, 2010
- Music in The Park event at Meadow Park, August 24, 2010
- Riversong event held in Cuthbert Holmes Park, September 26, 2010
- Colquitz Middle School student presentation and discussion on Oct. 27 and Nov. 8, 2010
- Spectrum High School student presentation and discussion on November 4, 2010
- Public Workshop** June 18, 2011
- Public Open House** June 13, 2012

Key Stakeholders include community groups: The Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park, The Portage Inlet Sanctuary Colquitz Estuary Society's (P.I.S.C.E.S.), and the Gorge Tillicum Community Association. Other stakeholders include: the Saanich Police and Fire Departments, the Provincial Capital Commission, RioCan, Silvercity Theatre, Pearkes Recreation Centre, the Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association, and the Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club.

Community Mapping exercise - May 2, 2010

This was essentially a brain-storming session to get people thinking about how to address the difficult issues facing the park. It confirmed that stakeholders value the park for both its recreation and natural environment. Many different ideas about how to address key problems were voiced, and a key belief held by many is that bringing more users into the park will help deter negative activities. This opinion is largely responsible for a push to introduce new 'compatible' recreational activities. Opinions vary widely as to what activities are 'compatible' and appropriate, and consequently a wide range of activities have been suggested.



Stakeholder input to the end of 2010 revealed these general themes:

- Preserve and restore the park's natural environment
- Continue to accommodate and encourage public use and access
- Showcase the park's natural environment
- Support activities that will not harm the natural environment
- Address safety and security concerns

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

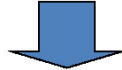
Public Workshop - June 18, 2011

Proposed Vision, Goals and supporting Direction statements to guide use and development in the park were presented for public feedback at a half-day workshop held June 18, 2011. The Environmental Review report was also presented at this meeting.

A Vision statement is a description of the desired result in the mid and long-term, it describes what the desired outcome would be like. By defining the destination, it is possible to determine whether the steps being taken are leading in the right direction.

Vision: *Cuthbert Holmes Park is a rare urban refuge which promotes respectful and appropriate recreational use while protecting its natural features and ecosystems. It showcases nature, encouraging respect and appreciation for the natural world, and is a model of current restoration techniques.*

- **Natural Areas Management Goal:** Protect and restore natural areas.
- **Trails Goal:** Define the trail system to reflect the park's environmental, recreational and safety needs.
- **Recreational Opportunities Goal:** Provide the opportunity for a range of enjoyable, appropriate and enriching activities.
- **Safety and Security Goal:** Increase the number of park users and bring problem isolated areas into the larger park experience to reduce negative activities.



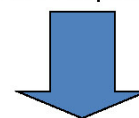
Stakeholder input in 2011 revealed:

Support for park Vision and Goals
Desire for clear language
Desire for municipal leadership to identify appropriate activities, and directions to achieve Goals

2010 input



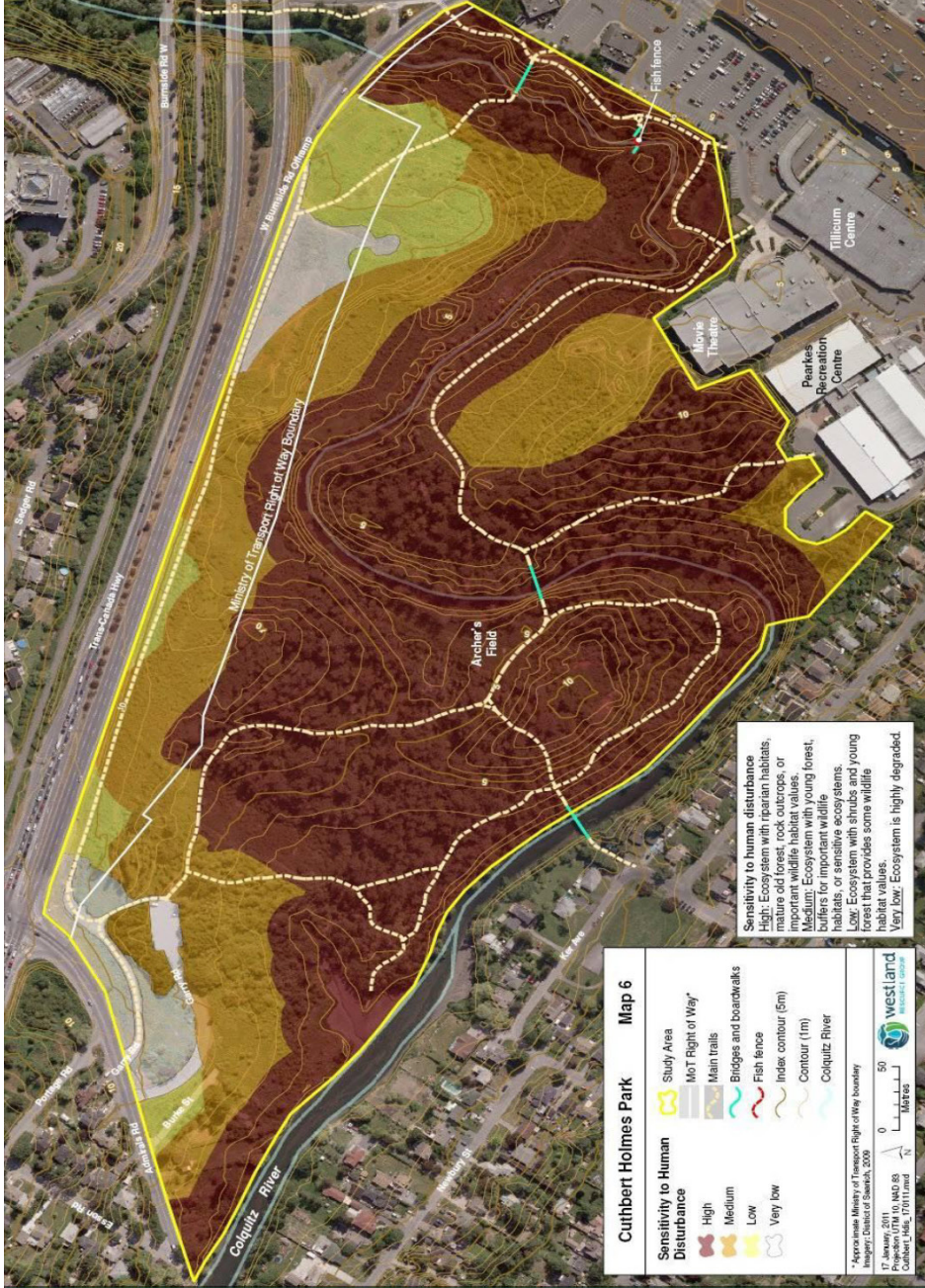
2011 input



Stakeholder input summary - 2010, 2011

- Value and respect for the park's natural environment
- Desire for the trail system to support appropriate recreation
- Support for a recreational program that does not harm natural areas
- Recognition that a combination of actions are necessary to resolve safety concerns

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan – Environmental Review



'Low' sensitivity areas contain shrub and young forest used only by common wildlife species tolerant of urbanization. These areas total approximately 6% of the park.

'Very low' sensitivity areas retain very little natural function and have little wildlife value. They include approximately 1% of the park.

'Medium' sensitivity areas are those with young forest and shrub. They provide a buffer for the high sensitivity areas and include approximately 25% of the park.

'High' sensitivity areas include sensitive ecosystems and plant communities (riparian area, mature old forest, rock outcrops), and those with important wildlife habitat values (including the heron colony). Approximately 65% of the park is classified as high sensitivity.

This is the final map produced in the professional environmental review of the park. It summarizes a variety of information to determine the park's environmental sensitivity ratings, indicating the degree of potential negative impact from over use. Off-trail activities that can affect natural areas include walkers, dogs, bikes, campers, depositing yard waste, trail building, and boating on Colquitz River during important nesting periods. Areas were rated as having either high, medium, low, or very low sensitivity. The full report is available for viewing on the Saanich website at http://www.saanich.ca/parkrec/parks/projects/current/pdf/cuthbert_holmes_env_review_final_18Jan11.pdf.



Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Relevant Saanich Plans and Policies

Zoning Bylaw 8200

Cuthbert Holmes Park is zoned Natural Park (P-4N zone), with the exception of an A-1 zoned parcel on Burke Street. The Zoning Bylaw defines 'Natural Park' as *'a park devoted to the retention, preservation, and enhancement of natural, historic or landscape features and is used primarily for informal or passive recreation purposes.'* Permitted uses are; natural park, nature centre, accessory residential and accessory buildings and structures.

Saanich Official Community Plan 2008

The Saanich Vision is based on three themes; Environmental Integrity, Social Well-being, and Economic Vibrancy. The Environmental Integrity theme states that *'Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and eco-systems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests'*.

Policies within the Environmental Integrity/Natural Environment section include: 4.1.2.3. *'Continue to protect and restore habitats that support native species of plants, animals and address threats to biodiversity such as invasive species'*, and 4.1.2.4. *'Protect and restore rare and endangered species habitat and ecosystems, particularly those associated with Garry oak ecosystems'*.

2011-2015 Saanich Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan is a roadmap of how to achieve the vision set out in the OCP. It identifies six corporate themes underpinning the OCP's themes, two of which are Sustainable Environment and Healthy Community. Several Parks Department initiatives are involved and are relevant to Cuthbert Holmes Park, including; *'create a program to respond to invasive species and noxious weeds'*, *'develop BMPs for maintenance activities within natural area parks'*, and *'Install interpretive and directional signs for Saanich Parks and Trails'*.

Tillicum Local Area Plan

Policy 8.12 of the Open Space, Parks and Trails section of The Tillicum Local Area Plan is to *'enhance the wildlife values of Cuthbert Holmes Park by creating a dense vegetation buffer between the park and Trans Canada Highway'*.

Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2001)

The plan acknowledges trends that support the retention of natural open spaces for their ecological, aesthetic, and recreational values.

Saanich Park Property Inventory 2010

States that a natural park *'is dedicated to the preservation and protection of indigenous wilderness while allowing access for the enjoyment of the natural conditions without appreciably detracting from them. Development must be carried out in a sensitive manner and is normally restricted to elements that cause minimum disturbance of the eco-system while allowing for access to appreciate the area's natural attributes'*.

Park Natural Areas Action Plan 2011-2016 and Park Natural Areas Management Guidelines 2011

The Action Plan is realized through the Management Guidelines. Two of the guideline goals are;

1. The Ecosystem Management goal is to *'preserve, restore, and enhance ecological integrity while providing for appropriate use and access'*.
2. The Use and Access management goals are to meet the legitimate, appropriate and authorized recreational demands of park users while protecting areas of high or medium ecological integrity, and to educate park users regarding respect for park natural areas.'

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Draft Park Vision and Goals - June 2012

Parks planning staff have continued to refine and develop the management plan since June, 2011. The draft park vision and management goals are presented here for review and feedback.

Park Vision: Cuthbert Holmes Park is a popular nature park that promotes and demonstrates respect for the natural environment through progressive management and nature-based recreational opportunities.

Natural Areas Management The preservation and restoration of natural areas is a priority. A combination of education, infrastructure improvement, and restoration work are necessary to achieve this.

Goal: Protect and restore natural areas.

Trails A well-defined hierarchy of trails is needed to suit recreational needs. Currently there are both authorized and unauthorized trails, many of which pass through sensitive areas. Poorly defined, and unauthorized trails encourage off-trail travel resulting in negative impact. Clearly identifying the travel surface of trails would reduce off-trail travel.

Goal: Refine the trail system to reflect the park's recreational and environmental goals.

Recreational Opportunities Cuthbert Holmes Park can support many compatible activities. Stakeholders support this, however opinion varies widely as to what is compatible, and therefore many different activities have been suggested.

Goal: Provide the opportunity for recreation that compliments the park's natural environment.

Safety and Security Some potential park users are reluctant to visit the park because of unauthorized camping and other undesirable activities. These activities tend to occur in the cover provided by dense invasive plants, and in hidden, inaccessible locations. A lack of basic orientation and way-finding signs compounds reluctance to visit the park.

Goal: Improve the sense of safety and security for park visitors without compromising the natural character of the park.

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

What Goes Where, and Why

The graphic below indicates the park areas' environmental sensitivity. Among other things this indicates their ability to accommodate off-trail activity.



Environmental Sensitivity Map (Westland Resource Group)

Opportunities and Constraints

High Sensitivity Areas

Opportunities: Contain areas with rich environmental interest ideal for interpretive signage/educational program and nature-lovers.

Constraints: These areas will support low-impact/passive recreation limited to authorised trails and infrastructure only. Some areas are heavily impacted by invasive plants, unauthorized trails, and off-trail travel.

Medium Sensitivity Areas

Opportunities: Contain areas with environmental interest for nature-lovers. Also contain a large level area (behind Silvercity) which could be environmentally improved, and accommodate a wider range of activity than existing.

Constraints: The area behind Silvercity Theatre is fairly level and almost entirely covered by invasive hawthorn thickets. It is very wet in winter months, with some trails underwater in worst periods. Much of this land has steep slopes and is close to the highway.

Low Sensitivity Areas

Opportunities: Species located here are limited, and tolerant of activity. Restoration of these areas would improve the over-all environmental health of the park.

Constraints: These areas are steep and/or adjacent to major roads with high noise levels, and much is overgrown with invasive plants.

Very Low Sensitivity Areas

Opportunities: These areas have little wildlife value and can accommodate off-trail activities with no net loss to the park's existing health. These areas can also be partially or fully restored with a corresponding improvement to the overall environmental health of the park.

Constraints: These areas are adjacent to major roads with high noise levels. Access is via trail only, with no nearby parking other than the Tillicum Mall parking lot.

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Natural Areas Management

Goal: Protect and restore natural areas.

Overview:

The preservation and restoration of natural areas in Cuthbert Holmes Park is a priority with stakeholders. A combination of education, infrastructure improvement, and restoration work are necessary to achieve this.

Directions:

- Restore degraded areas: Remove invasive plants and re-establish native plants. Implement the Parks Invasive Species Management Strategy to manage invasive species. Establish priority areas.
- Continue to collaborate with community groups and volunteers in restoration efforts.
- Consider sensitivity ratings and Best Management Practices (BMPs) when siting and developing park amenities.
- Develop an educational signage program, identify restoration areas, and identify sensitive wildlife areas for park visitors.
- Currently there is unlimited visitor access to all areas of the park. Develop an education and awareness program in the park to encourage park visitors to stay on trails in highly sensitive areas.

(Note: Best Management Practices (BMPs) are approaches based on known science that, if followed, should meet the required standards or achieve the desired objectives.)

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Natural Areas Management – related considerations

Some highly sensitive areas have lost the under-story plant communities that support wildlife. In other sensitive locations, including riparian shoreline, soils have been heavily compacted and vegetation has been damaged. A combination of strategies is needed to restore and protect these areas from over-use:

1. Restoration: These areas need to be cleared of invasive plants and re-established with native plants.
2. Protection: The re-planted and vulnerable areas need to be protected from trampling.

In order to accomplish this, all users, including cyclists and pets, need to stay on the trail in these sensitive areas. Some of the Trail Directions on Board 12 will help to identify where the intended travel surface is. In some locations barriers and signage will be used to indicate the boundary of the re-established and vulnerable areas.

Voluntary Compliance:

Saanich Parks asks cyclists and dog owners to respect these efforts by keeping bikes and pets on the trail in sensitive areas. The Management Plan will recommend this approach.

However, if voluntary compliance proves ineffective, more restrictive measures may be undertaken. These could include; requiring bikes to be on designated trails only, implementing leash restrictions in certain areas, establishment of 'no go' zones, or establishment of a designated off-leash area.



Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Trails

Goal: Refine the trail system to reflect the park's recreational and environmental goals.

Overview:

A well-defined hierarchy of hard-surface and organic trails promotes positive experiences and helps to minimize impacts to the natural environment. Currently there are both authorized and extensive unauthorized trails throughout the park. Many pass through sensitive areas; poorly defined and unauthorized trails encourage off-trail travel resulting in negative impact. Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as clearly identifying formal trails with appropriate surfaces, adjacent planting, and/or barriers can be used to clearly identify the designated travel surface and discourage off-trail use.

Directions:

- Establish a trail classification system of multi-use and pedestrian-only trails, and identify with clear signage.
- Follow BMPs to build and clearly define the travel surface of trails.
- Follow BMPs to decommission unwanted trails. Where appropriate, trails will be decommissioned in conjunction with restoration efforts.

(Note: Best Management Practices (BMPs) are approaches based on known science that, if followed, should meet the required standards or achieve the desired objectives.)

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Recreational Opportunities

Goal: Provide the opportunity for recreation that compliments the park's natural environment.

Overview: Cuthbert Holmes Park can support activities that are compatible with the predominantly natural character of the park. Stakeholders support this, however opinion varies widely as to what is compatible, and therefore many different activities have been suggested.

Directions:

- Improve trail system as per panel 12.
- Develop an interpretive signage program to enhance nature appreciation and passive recreation.
- Develop and promote an effective education program about responsible use of the park.
- Determine demand for active recreation activities on panel 13, and investigate those with strong support.
- Recreation activities in the high sensitivity area will be limited to trail based use only.

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Recreational Opportunities – an Unresolved Question

A wide range of activities have been suggested during the planning process: adventure playground, archery range, bird watching/nature appreciation, biking and cycling, canoeing/kayaking, disk golf, dog walking/walking, natural history/educational walks, off-leash dog area, photography, picnic area, skateboard park, training/exercise circuit, and un-programmed active recreation (open space).

Suggested activities can be divided into 2 broad categories: those that are obviously compatible with existing Saanich policy, and park Vision and Goals, and those that are not. Of those that are not obviously compatible, bike skills facility, playgrounds, and informal recreation area (open space) received most support.

Active Recreation in Cuthbert Holmes Park?

If public demand continues to support it, Saanich Parks will investigate locating one or more of the non-compatible activities in the park.

A bike skills facility would have to be located in a low-very low sensitivity area, and playgrounds and open space could be considered in medium to very low sensitivity area. Note that some activities could require that a portion of the park be re-zoned.

Some specific considerations are:

- Adventure Playground: Sight lines and accessibility challenges may limit this possibility. May require rezoning.
- BMX Biking: Requires significant earth works and will generate more cycling activity in the park. Requires supporting infrastructure (parking, access). High capital costs. May require rezoning.
- Informal Recreation Area: Requires open space. Suitable locations may exist in areas currently overgrown with invasive plants. Likely permitted under current zoning.

General considerations include compliance with current zoning, the need for supporting infrastructure, the ability of the activity to be contained, and others.

We want to know what you think. Please take the time to consider these activities and indicate on the questionnaire if you support them.

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Safety and Security

Goal: Improve the sense of safety and security for park visitors without compromising the natural character of the park.

Overview:

Some potential park users are reluctant to visit the park because of unauthorized camping and other undesirable activities. These activities tend to occur in the dense cover provided by invasive plants, and in hidden, inaccessible locations where few people go. A lack of basic orientation and way-finding signs compounds reluctance to visit the park. Some park visitors have also expressed safety concerns on designated trails from cyclists travelling faster than conditions allow, and some dogs beyond their owner's control.

Directions:

- Install way-finding/orientation signs at key locations.
- Remove dense thickets of invasive vegetation to expose problem areas for better surveillance.
- Develop or enhance trails to provide better access to isolated areas.
- Increase enforcement to discourage illegal activities.
- Establish trail hierarchy and promote a 'share the trail' message to mitigate conflict between trail users (cyclists, dogs and pedestrians).

Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan

Next Steps:


- Please indicate comments you'd like to share with other participants on the blank board, and fill out a questionnaire.
- Public feedback closes June 29, 2012
- Saanich Staff review feedback
- Findings posted on web
- May require follow up public Open House
- finalize Park Management Plan
- Review with key stakeholders
- Incorporate comments/revise as necessary
- Take management plan to Advisory Committee and Council
- Implement plan over next 10 years, as the annual budget process allows.

Thank you for participating





2012 Open House Survey Results



Cuthbert Holmes Park Open House Survey - June 2012



1. Are you satisfied with the 2012 draft vision for the park?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		64.1%	50
No		35.9%	28
	Please comment		47
answered question			78
skipped question			7

2. Do you support the natural areas management goal to protect and restore natural areas in the park?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		86.1%	68
No		13.9%	11
	Please comment		43
answered question			79
skipped question			6

3. On panel 10 there are several specific directions to assist with achieving the natural areas goal. In general do you support these directions?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		77.3%	58
No		22.7%	17
	Please comment		34
	answered question		75
	skipped question		10

4. Do you support voluntary compliance that limits access to established trails in sensitive natural areas?

	Yes	No	Response Count
Humans	82.9% (63)	17.1% (13)	76
Bikes	83.1% (64)	16.9% (13)	77
Dogs	68.4% (54)	31.6% (25)	79
		Please comment	46
		answered question	82
		skipped question	3

5. Do you support the goal to improve the trail system to support the park's recreational and environmental goal?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		83.5%	66
No		16.5%	13
	Please comment		32
	answered question		79
	skipped question		6

6. On panel 12 there are several specific directions to assist with achieving the trails goal. In general do you support these directions?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		77.8%	56
No		22.2%	16
	Please comment		29
	answered question		72
	skipped question		13



7. Do you support the goal to provide recreation opportunities that complement the park's predominantly natural environment?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		63.5%	47
No		36.5%	27
	Please comment		40
	answered question		74
	skipped question		11




8. On panel 13 there are several specific directions to assist with achieving the recreational goal. In general do you support these directions?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		69.6%	48
No		30.4%	21
	Please comment		32
	answered question		69
	skipped question		16

9. Do you support an active recreation facility in an area outside of the high sensitivity zone?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		37.5%	30
No		62.5%	50
answered question			80
skipped question			5

10. If you answered yes to question 9 please indicated which type of facility as discussed on panel 14.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Bike Skills Facility		52.9%	18
Adventure Playground		44.1%	15
Informal Open Play Space		50.0%	17
answered question			34
skipped question			51








11. Do you support the goal to reduce negative social activity while at the same time attempting to balance environmental preservation and protection?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		87.3%	69
No		12.7%	10
	Please comment		32
answered question			79
skipped question			6




12. On panel 15 there are several specific directions to assist with the goal of improving safety and reducing negative social activity. In general do you support these directions?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		83.8%	62
No		16.2%	12
	Please comment		34
answered question			74
skipped question			11





13. Typically, what is the main reason you visit the park?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Walk my dog		66.7%	56
Go for a run		17.9%	15
Go for a walk		61.9%	52
Nature Appreciation		59.5%	50
Regular commute to a nearby destination		22.6%	19
Ride my bike		23.8%	20
Other		7.1%	6
answered question			84
skipped question			1



14. Where do you live?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Within a 15 minute walk to the park		83.3%	70
Within Saanich		8.3%	7
Outside of Saanich		8.3%	7
answered question			84
skipped question			1

15. How did you hear about the Open House?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Ad in Saanich News		15.9%	13
Saanich Website		4.9%	4
Flyer in the Mail		14.6%	12
Other		64.6%	53
answered question			82
skipped question			3

16. Have you participated in the public consultation process other than at today's open house?

		Response Percent	Response Count
Yes		56.1%	46
No		43.9%	36
answered question			82
skipped question			3

17. Do you have any other comments or anything else you would like to tell us about the park?

	Response Count
	60
answered question	60
skipped question	25

2015 On-Line Draft Plan Review and Survey Result Details



Feedback: Social Media - Facebook

Comments are overwhelmingly positive:

- 16,904 people reached
- 482 likes
- 30 comments
- 62 shares

RESPONSE SUMMARY

SURVEY ALERTS: ON

215

Total Responses

CLOSED

Overall Survey Status

Collectors

[Web Link 1](#)

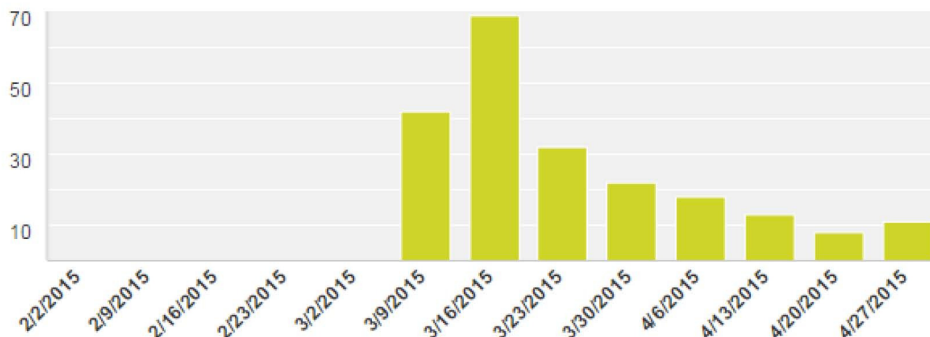
Responses: 215

Since 3/6/2015

CLOSED

Responses Volume

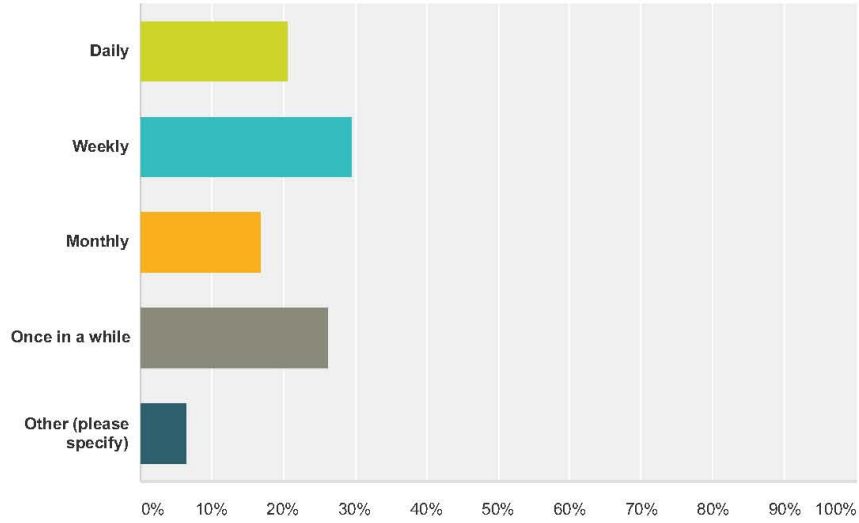
2/2/2015 - 4/27/2015



Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q1 On average, how often do you visit Cuthbert Holmes Park?

Answered: 213 Skipped: 2

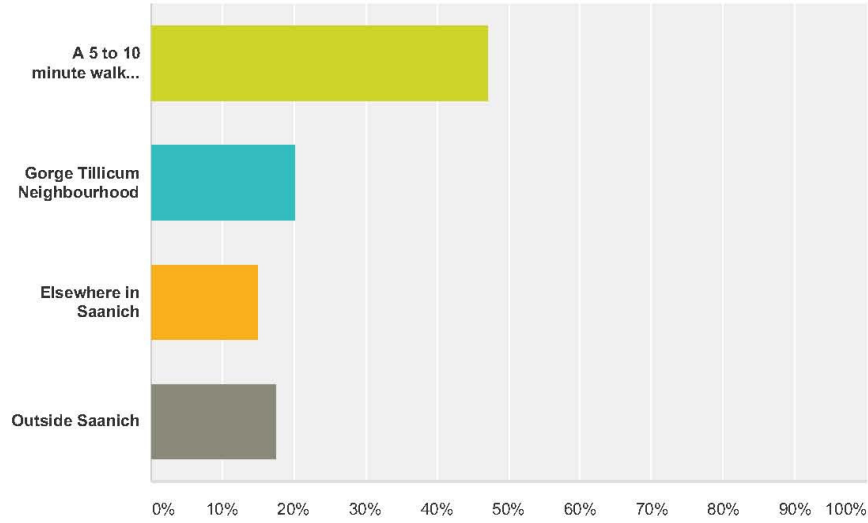


Answer Choices	Responses
Daily	20.66% 44
Weekly	29.58% 63
Monthly	16.90% 36
Once in a while	26.29% 56
Other (please specify)	6.57% 14
Total	213

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q2 How close to Cuthbert Holmes Park do you live?

Answered: 212 Skipped: 3

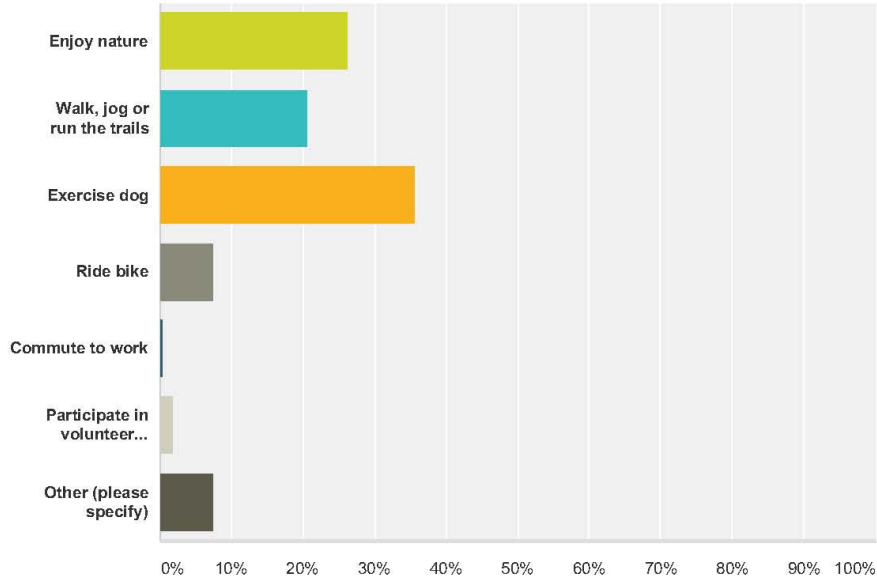


Answer Choices	Responses
A 5 to 10 minute walk from the park	47.17% 100
Gorge Tillicum Neighbourhood	20.28% 43
Elsewhere in Saanich	15.09% 32
Outside Saanich	17.45% 37
Total	212

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q3 What is your main reason for visiting Cuthbert Holmes Park?

Answered: 213 Skipped: 2

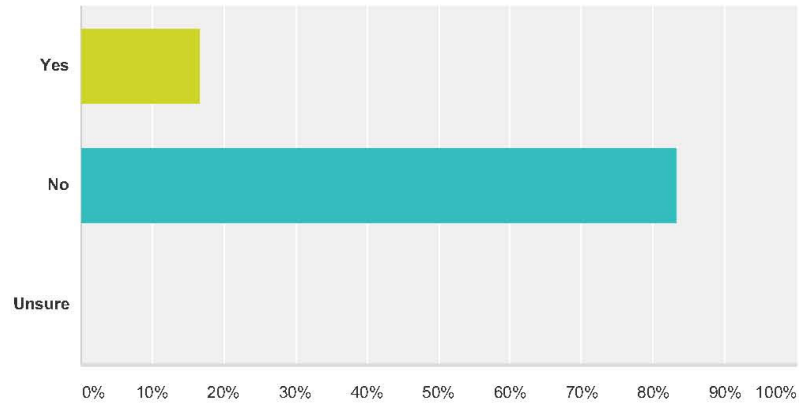


Answer Choices	Responses
Enjoy nature	26.29% 56
Walk, jog or run the trails	20.66% 44
Exercise dog	35.68% 76
Ride bike	7.51% 16
Commute to work	0.47% 1
Participate in volunteer activities (e.g., invasive species removal)	1.88% 4
Other (please specify)	7.51% 16
Total	213

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q4 Have you previously participated in any of the Cuthbert Holmes Park planning sessions?

Answered: 210 Skipped: 5

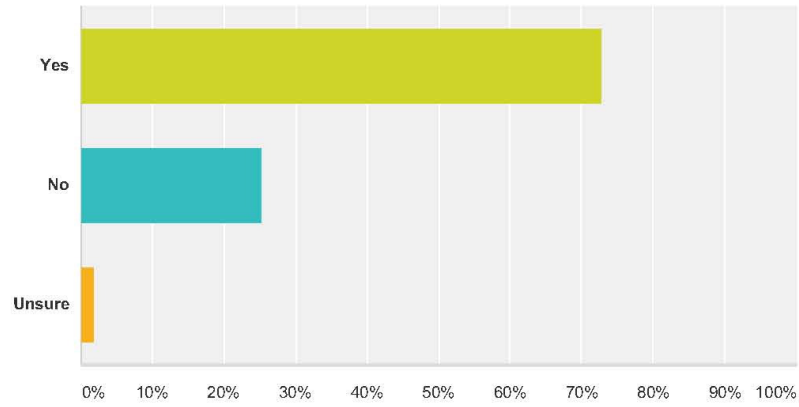


Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	16.67% 35
No	83.33% 175
Unsure	0.00% 0
Total	210

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q5 Have you reviewed any of the documents related to the Cuthbert Holmes Park Management Plan?

Answered: 206 Skipped: 9

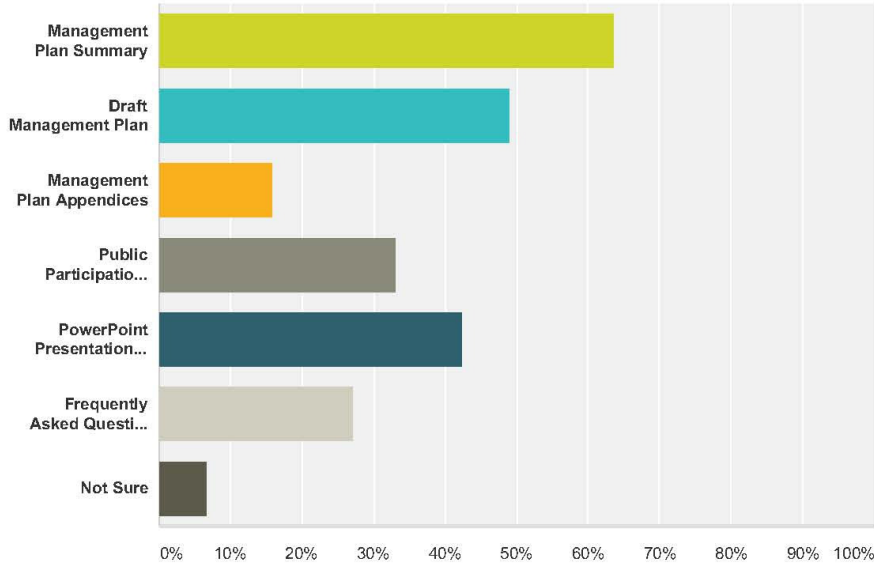


Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	72.82%	150
No	25.24%	52
Unsure	1.94%	4
Total		206

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q6 Which of the following documents have you reviewed? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 151 Skipped: 64

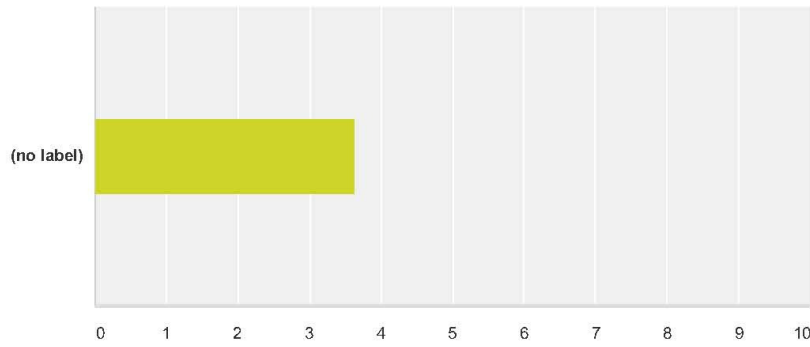


Answer Choices	Responses
Management Plan Summary	63.58% 96
Draft Management Plan	49.01% 74
Management Plan Appendices	15.89% 24
Public Participation Summary Document	33.11% 50
PowerPoint Presentation (slide show) Slide Show Summary	42.38% 64
Frequently Asked Questions Document (FAQ)	27.15% 41
Not Sure	6.62% 10
Total Respondents: 151	

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q7 The Draft Park Management Plan has a long term vision to "promote and demonstrate respect for the natural environment through progressive management and nature based recreation". On a scale from 1 to 4 where "1" equals Strongly Oppose and "4" equals Strongly Support, please rate your level of support for this vision.

Answered: 184 Skipped: 31

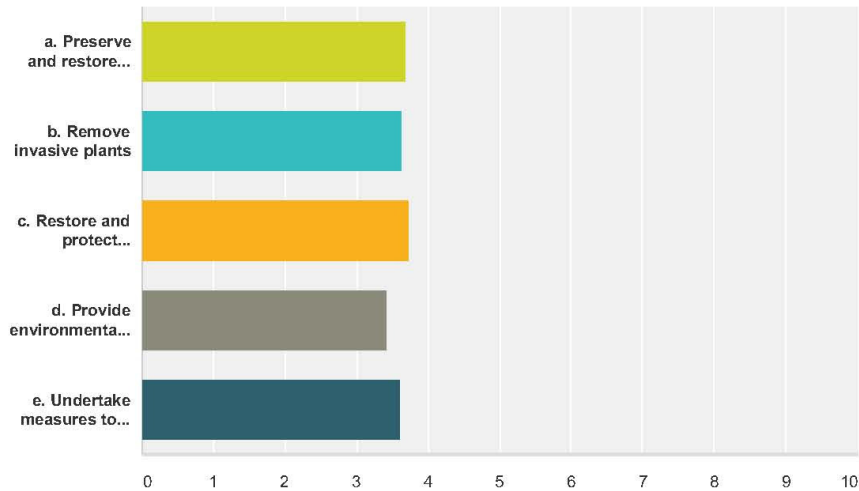


	1 Strongly Oppose	2 Somewhat Oppose	3 Somewhat Support	4 Strongly Support	Total	Weighted Average
(no label)	0.54% 1	2.72% 5	29.89% 55	66.85% 123	184	3.63

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q8 Natural Areas

Answered: 185 Skipped: 30

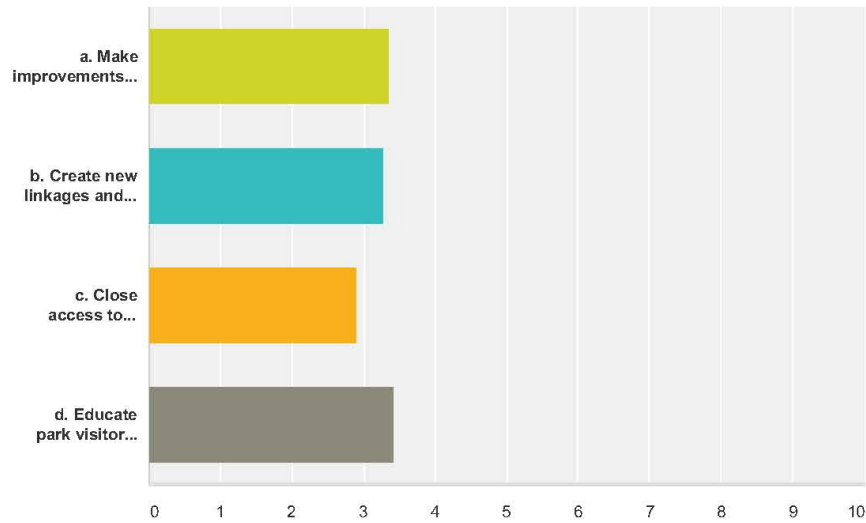


	Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support	Total	Weighted Average
a. Preserve and restore natural areas	0.55% 1	2.75% 5	23.08% 42	73.63% 134	182	3.70
b. Remove invasive plants	0.55% 1	3.28% 6	28.42% 52	67.76% 124	183	3.63
c. Restore and protect riparian areas (i.e., riparian areas along the Colquitz River shoreline and wetland areas)	0.55% 1	2.21% 4	19.89% 36	77.35% 140	181	3.74
d. Provide environmental education in the park (e.g., interpretive signs)	1.66% 3	4.42% 8	43.09% 78	50.83% 92	181	3.43
e. Undertake measures to protect sensitive areas and wildlife	0.54% 1	3.24% 6	30.27% 56	65.95% 122	185	3.62

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q9 Trails

Answered: 185 Skipped: 30

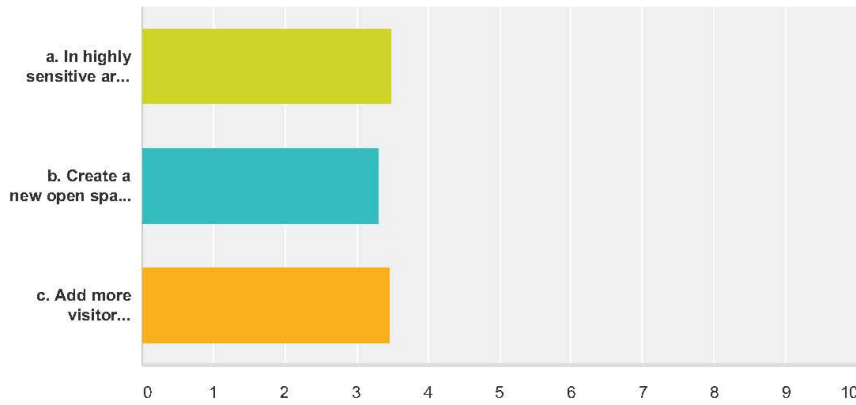


	Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support	Total	Weighted Average
a. Make improvements to the main asphalt trail to provide year round use (i.e., reduce flooded areas)	2.20% 4	7.14% 13	41.76% 76	48.90% 89	182	3.37
b. Create new linkages and connections to key areas of the park by improving select undesignated paths (i.e., "goat trails")	3.78% 7	12.43% 23	36.76% 68	47.03% 87	185	3.27
c. Close access to undesignated goat trails	9.89% 18	22.53% 41	35.71% 65	31.87% 58	182	2.90
d. Educate park visitors about "share the trail" etiquette (e.g., staying on the trail in sensitive areas; keeping dogs under control; biking at safe speeds)	1.63% 3	9.78% 18	33.70% 62	54.89% 101	184	3.42

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q10 Recreational Opportunities

Answered: 186 Skipped: 29

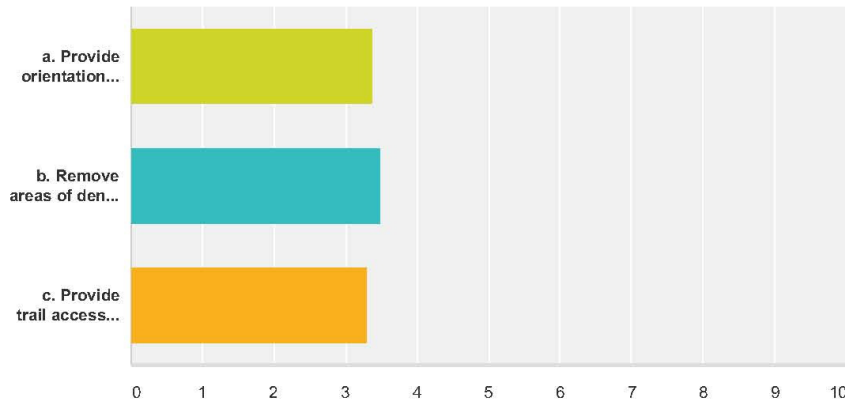


	Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support	Total	Weighted Average
a. In highly sensitive areas limit recreation to on-trail activity	2.17% 4	5.43% 10	33.15% 61	59.24% 109	184	3.49
b. Create a new open space for informal recreation behind Silver City Theatre by removing the invasive Hawthorn thicket	2.20% 4	10.44% 19	41.76% 76	45.60% 83	182	3.31
c. Add more visitor amenities such as benches, doggie bag stations, garbage cans, and interpretive signs	2.16% 4	4.86% 9	37.84% 70	55.14% 102	185	3.46

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q11 Safety and Security

Answered: 185 Skipped: 30

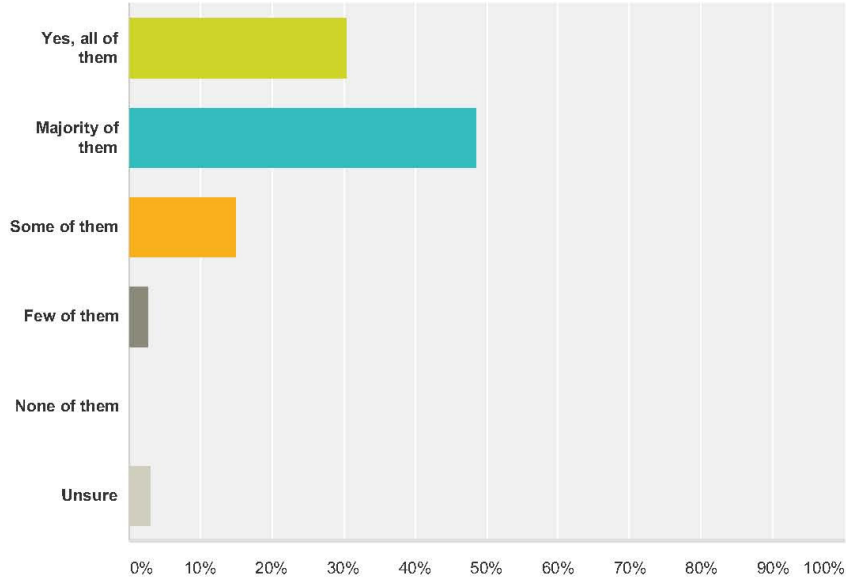


	Strongly Oppose	Somewhat Oppose	Somewhat Support	Strongly Support	Total	Weighted Average
a. Provide orientation signs and trail marker posts along the trails to help visitors better understand the trail layout and park entry locations	1.63% 3	8.15% 15	40.76% 75	49.46% 91	184	3.38
b. Remove areas of dense invasive plant cover that can block views and conceal undesirable activity such as camping	3.26% 6	6.52% 12	27.72% 51	62.50% 115	184	3.49
c. Provide trail access to some existing isolated pockets to improve surveillance and access by the community	3.85% 7	8.24% 15	42.31% 77	45.60% 83	182	3.30

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q12 Overall, would you support the action steps recommended in the draft plan detailed in Questions 8 to 11?

Answered: 187 Skipped: 28



Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, all of them	30.48% 57
Majority of them	48.66% 91
Some of them	14.97% 28
Few of them	2.67% 5
None of them	0.00% 0
Unsure	3.21% 6
Total	187

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q13 Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan or the park itself?

Answered: 113 Skipped: 102

*See next page for comments received.

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

Q13 Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan or the park itself?

Answered: 113 Skipped: 102

#	Responses	Date
1	This is not an ecological reserve. There is a very great need of garbage can along the trail. This would drastically reduce the dog waste left along the trails.	5/1/2015 10:57 PM
2	Please add more garbage cans (and possibly doggie bag stations) as many people cannot be bothered to carry their dogs droppings very far, which reflects badly on all dog walkers!	5/1/2015 8:29 AM
3	this is my favourite dog walking park and I strongly oppose any attempt to limit my use of the park for walking my dog. I would suggest separate bike routes to acknowledge that people (myself included) do use the park while commuting.	4/29/2015 9:06 PM
4	The park is a very valuable asset to Saanich residents and visitors because Saanich is becoming more dense with increasing construction of multiple-storey buildings. Green space is very much needed for MORE people. The park allows people to relax and enjoy nature as well as other activities. It is extremely important to allow it to last and improve.	4/29/2015 1:22 PM
5	I will submit detailed comments separately.	4/29/2015 9:02 AM
6	The presence of campers is increasingly a problem. Many people are now afraid to use the park, even in day time. Few people are willing to leave the paved trails and venture into the brush because they fear the campers. They need to be removed. If the law allows them to be there then this park needs the same treatment as those in Victoria where the police chase the campers out every morning. As it is now, they have permanent camps that destroy the environment. leave tons of trash, and the people themselves are perceived as dangerous (kids were attacked just this week).	4/28/2015 9:48 AM
7	there is an ongoing problem of oil contamination that seems to be from Admirals Road and the Island Hwy.. it shows after rainfalls and can be seen as an iridescent sheen on the tarmac path that runs from Admirals road to Tillcum mall. About halfway along the other path that parallelst the Island Hwy is a drain that discharges oil onto the field area immediately west of the Island Hwy..	4/27/2015 2:31 PM
8	Please continue to allow the use of the park for off lease access. The park is one of the very few remaining where your pet can get adequate exercise and interact with other dogs. In frequenting the park over the past 20 years, most of the regular and responsible users are exercising their pets	4/27/2015 6:31 AM
9	I respect and appreciate the multi-use and sharing of trails. I do like to visit the park for the nature experience by cycling in the park. It is particularly attractive for taking my young children and their friends that are not old enough of experienced enough to go to other mountain biking areas in the region.	4/20/2015 12:25 PM
10	Cuthbert Holmes has some nice, wilder trails. I would be opposed to sanitizing and dumbing down the experience to the lowest common denominator throughout. We have lots of manicured parks, that have now banned lots of activities, particularly cycling. There are very few places where kids can ride bikes off road without driving, eg to Hartland. This is one of them. Yes trail upgrades could be made to make them sustainable, (SIMBS would be a great partner in this) but please don't pave and regulate them to the point where no kid wants to ride there.	4/20/2015 12:10 PM
11	I would like to see the management plan address the area of the park next to Admirals Road as well as the pre-existing part of the park. This area is not maintained except for occasional mowing or weed whacking and some trails and replanting are needed to improve it. Also, the pedestrian access to the McKenzie intersection is in terrible condition and is not suitable, but is heavily used so needs upgrading.	4/20/2015 12:01 PM
12	I somewhat oppose the goat trail closure as I see bike trails as a good use that could fit with the plan and some goat trails could be used for that. I agree too many trails makes park management (natural veg, invasives, negative activity, etc) difficult but my point is that there could be multiple use and special use (ie bike) trails would be a great recreation activity in the park. If a group of trails were planned for bikes there may be fewer bike:pet, people:bike near accidents. The park is right on the galloping goose and would be welcomed for some bike trails of less technical, more forest nature to bumside/gorge bike trail park. Biking seems to be popular in the area! Thanks for the opportunity.	4/20/2015 10:04 AM
13	I would prefer the parks to be left as natural as possible, like a natural forest. It's not a so large park that it requires lots of signage and bins every where.	4/19/2015 9:32 PM
14	Protect it but keep it natural, don't plaster the park with a bunch of signs and fences.	4/18/2015 9:27 PM

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

15	It is one of the few nice areas to walk a dog off-leash. There are a very small number of dog owners who let their dogs be out of control. It would be much better to enforce the "under control" rules, than make the rest of us suffer with leash laws. Having dogs in the park helps to keep it safe. Almost all of us clean up after our dogs and keep them in control. Please do not punish all dogs for one or two bad humans. We certainly don't extend that logic to our own kind!	4/18/2015 2:23 PM
16	I use the park on a daily basis and generally stay on the main trails. I do go off trail on occasion with my children who love to get off the path and view the nature.	4/15/2015 11:26 AM
17	Sang CH needs to work harder to ensure surrounding areas have zoning restrictions...	4/10/2015 1:51 PM
18	Please prioritize wildlife over dogs and other recreation activities. "Nature needs half", and that half should be undisturbed. I also think that the Victoria Natural History Society should have been considered a stakeholder and consulted accordingly.	4/9/2015 4:29 PM
19	Please make sure u do not disturb the herons.	4/9/2015 1:11 PM
20	Clearing invasive brush to deter camping doesnt speak to many areas that are naturally brushy. The park is big and it seems difficult to deter camping in such a large area. To my mind effort should be on directing people to shelters rather than clearing brush	4/8/2015 9:19 PM
21	Our family really appreciates this park and sees great potential in the park being preserved as natural green space and a healthy place to learn about local species and ecosystems. Our main concerns are garbage, safety for kids using the park where illegal campers or drug-users are present, disturbance to wildlife (dogs off-leash everywhere), how to share the park (dogs off-leash blocking cyclists, dogs-off leash approaching children/people who do not wish to be approached), dogs on leash with a long lead line across trails, again blocking anyone else trying to use the trail (really dogs can be great, but we encounter undesired dog interactions every time we use the park - as is becoming the case in many urban parks in the CRD).	4/7/2015 2:41 PM
22	We take our dog to Cuthbert Holmes Park daily. Our dog has a serious heart condition and this is one of the only flat parks around. We always clean up after dog and, sometimes, after others. It would be great to see more garbage cans so one doesn't have to carry the bags all along the way. Some people leave their bag and pick it up on the way back. Others think they've just abandoned it; This causes problems. More cans would be a help. Dogs are important life companions to many people.. They get folks out daily and give them a chance to meet and talk to other people and keep them in touch with the community. The social aspects are imperative to many older citizens.	4/6/2015 12:22 PM
23	leave area leash free dog area	4/6/2015 7:00 AM
24	Since the media has been abuzz with talk of the McKenzie overpass once again, I would just like to say that I really hope that if it ever happens it in no way will effect CHP. I really hope that the majority of Saanich Councillors will stand behind keeping CHP as it is. We cannot continue to let our self-entitled and lazy attitudes take priority in preserving and restoring important natural areas!	4/5/2015 8:44 PM
25	there needs to be monitoring either thru the municipality or volunteer efforts to reduce dumping	4/4/2015 9:20 PM
26	I believe the tendency to put signs everywhere should be resisted. Signage at park entrances are fine but not within the park. A walk through nature should be spoiled by unsightly signs. We shouldn't brag about our efforts to save nature with signs that diminish those efforts. Please do not do anything that would restrict off leash walking of dogs.	4/4/2015 8:48 AM
27	I like trails and walks with some degree of freedom of where I can walk. I worry that closing "goat trails" or erecting fencing may make the park feel less natural. Also, I like the idea of more garbage cans and doggie bags. But I have a pet peeve when plastic doggie bags get dropped on the path and not put in the trash... so please make sure there are enough trash receptacles if baggies are dispensed. Thanks	4/3/2015 4:32 PM
28	It is a beautiful space, would love to see trails, areas preserved for wildlife. Lovely to be in a city and step into nature. My biggest concern, is I think dogs should be on leash, just in case, and of course, safety for women and children who might be on the trails alone. Security will be the hardest to accomplish. As long as we aren't tearing up the park for condos, I support making this park a beautiful nature space. TY.	4/3/2015 11:40 AM
29	i suspect there has not been enough recent input from frequent park users.	4/2/2015 3:27 PM

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

30	The park has many areas that we like to access seasonally as the watertable goes down. Blocking access to these areas would be a negative. Better trails could be positive, but not necessary. We also use it to commute (respectfully). We've observed more trouble/garbage since Silvercity moved in, unfortunately. Amenities - garbages & poo bag stations would be great - benches, we think there's enough. Signage is fine too. Part of the charm is that it's not too managed - makes you feel like you're more out in the wilderness, like a Thetis in town. Would hate to see that gone for a managed and cordoned off park. Being "off trail" on smaller trails for a quiet contemplative walk is very restorative for us, again, we wouldn't want that all blocked off or widened to a point of crazy business. As for more active recreation, there was talk some years ago of a portion of the park for bike trail riding/dirt riding. I know it didn't get much support but that's a sorely missing opportunity for our large municipality. We have to go or take our kids way out to Hartland (and it's a bit too hard/wild for them) and hard to get to - scary to ride to. Or way out to North Saanich to their bike park. Would sure love to see Saanich step up to creating this opportunity for legitimate biking - it's healthy, free, can be very respectful to nature as well. We have a dog, we are responsible with the dog, and clean up after ourselves, and again would not want to see that diminished.	4/1/2015 7:47 PM
31	CHP is a very sensitive ecosystem and is in need of major restoration work and closing of many damaging foot trails. With the help of volunteer work and signage the public will understand why certain areas need more care. People are afraid sometimes to go in the park because of some of the camping areas. A better trail system would reduce this problem and make people feel safe and support the park initiatives. Attention to the heronry will make CHP even more special and encourage people to see it as a natural area needing preservation. Reforesting the park will make it an even more beautiful area and provide more habitat for wildlife.	4/1/2015 4:50 PM
32	I love living within walking distance to this lovely piece of wilderness and my husband and I include it in our fitness routine every day. I've seen otters, an owl, many herons, eagles, ravens, rabbits, quail.... This is a valuable natural resource. My only problem is the flooding (and iciness) of the main trail.	4/1/2015 9:50 AM
33	Garbage cans are needed! There used to be lots, but for some reason they were removed, & it makes those walking dogs less likely to clean up after them.	3/31/2015 5:23 PM
34	"promote and demonstrate respect for the natural environment through progressive management and nature based recreation." It's not clear what this statement includes and what is classified as nature based recreation. The plan is a great start and I commend Saanich for their work on developing it. I think the most important aspect is to build a sustainable space that accommodates the desired activities for the community but also consider the wider regional perspective. Victoria is the unofficial cycling capital of Canada, home of the Canadian mountain bike team and training centre and home to several famous cycling athletes, events, races, etc. I would suggest turning some of the 'goat trails' into beginner mountain biking trails for children. Saanich could easily partner with SIMBS, IMBA, local bike shops and the community to create sustainable multi-use trails that would be the first in the municipality. They would build on the popularity of the Cecilia Ravine bike park.	3/30/2015 3:12 PM
35	I walk my dog there about once a month, as I am only five min walk. I would go there more often but do to the poor drainage and in the fields and walk ways we normally have to wait until we have had a few sunny days before we can go. It would also be nice to have a running loop around the park as it is so centralized and having an off leash running area in the gorge area would be very convenient for the community.	3/30/2015 10:26 AM
36	As density continues to increase, the importance of conserving natural areas like Cuthbert Holmes Park becomes ever more important.	3/30/2015 10:24 AM
37	Are there any measures in the Plan to ensure the health of the Colquitz River and protect it from harmful spills?	3/30/2015 8:45 AM
38	Our primary concerns for the park are the need for more garbage cans, and the consideration to accommodate a highway interchange at the corner of McKenzie.	3/29/2015 10:31 AM
39	Occasionally, there is a news item indicating that the Mackenzie & Hwy 1 exit requires a new interchange. I worry that this interchange would take out a section of Cuthbert Holmes that we regularly visit for a nature walk.	3/29/2015 8:12 AM
40	This is a hidden jewel of a park in Saanich. More access and information about it, will benefit all Island residents.	3/28/2015 1:54 PM
41	I walk my dogs in the park and wouldn't want that to change. I've noticed about 90% of park users are dog-walkers.	3/27/2015 9:13 AM
42	more wayfinding signs would be much appreciated. I'm new to the area and the park and I just wander.	3/26/2015 4:39 PM
43	I consider this particular park to be a thorough-fare and dog walking park primarily (I think it is unlikely to ever attract new park-goers), and would therefore oppose expenditures other than the removal of invasives and other essential measures to protect sensitive habitat.	3/25/2015 8:42 PM
44	I am concerned what will happen to Cuthbert Holmes Park if the overpass is permitted to be constructed. The park could turn into an undesirable waste land of vagrants, trash and pollution.	3/24/2015 10:06 PM
45	When jogging through CH and the adjoining Colquitz Creek trail that runs along Interurban this evening, I was disgusted by the amount of garbage I saw. It was overflowing around the cans as well as through the underbrush, and along the sides of the trails. Is there no budget for garbage removal?	3/24/2015 9:42 PM

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

46	I really enjoyed this park when I was using it everyday & would love to see the improvements.....there is such potential for enjoyment here & for many of the seniors who can't get out to Goldstream or places like that to experience a bit of nature close to home.	3/24/2015 7:22 PM
47	more opportunities for biking also its a park not a campground get rid of the homeless people	3/23/2015 11:13 PM
48	To be family- animals included friendly. Bike use available, Benches and signs	3/23/2015 10:05 PM
49	create off leash area in non sensitive areas. make on leash mandatory otherwise to maintain riparian zones and bird habitat	3/23/2015 8:23 PM
50	The garbage cans need to emptied more often. More signage reminding people to pick up their dogs poop. Bags for dog poop at all entries to park. There is way too much dog poop everywhere and it is a challenge to walk my kids through the park without stepping in it.	3/23/2015 6:42 PM
51	There are places throughout the park the homeless use as their lairs - although none have ever bothered myself or my dog - my dog on more than one occasion has rolled in human feces. (Very unpleasant) Is there any possibility of a public washroom or at the very least a porta - potty ?	3/23/2015 6:42 PM
52	I enjoy the park's natural beauty, and go there daily. I feel when people get involved there is more to lose then to gain. I disagree with your proposals. Every year we go through the same process. If you chose to enjoy this natural beauty instead of introducing changes that are not necessary, this park will be eventually destroyed as so many others have been.	3/23/2015 5:06 PM
53	Ensure some trails are wheelchair and/or walker accessible.	3/23/2015 4:38 PM
54	There needs to be more natural surface single file trails that are designated shared use. This is perfect topography for beginner and family natural surface bike-able trails. The region currently has no opportunities for this demographic. This should change to encourage people and mostly kids to be out side and exercising.	3/23/2015 8:46 AM
55	Please do not put gravel on the paths. Gravel is too noisy and uncomfortable to walk on. it can be slippery on hills. It also bleeds into the adjacent park area. Please use cedar bark chips or nothing at all to maintain the natural beauty of the trails.	3/22/2015 4:15 PM
56	I would love to have more bicycle single track type trails.	3/22/2015 1:09 PM
57	I think the plan was well done and concur with most of the public comments made. My main concerns are about garbage (from campers and irresponsible dog owners) as the park looks really neglected. Also, it has very poor drainage and the park is turning into a bog with trees rotting from the roots and falling over. Given the limited budgets available, I'd rather see funds put towards restoration and garbage cans/collection than expensive signage which is a "nice to have".	3/22/2015 10:30 AM
58	eel grass restoration in the creek? community gardens is a good idea mason bee hive? is there garry oaks? restore garry oak meadow? SAVE THE LAND !	3/21/2015 11:52 PM
59	Would be great to have more stuff for bikes, especially for kids. They need a safe place to ride.	3/21/2015 9:19 PM
60	I continue to be very disappointed that the area close the highway that is covered in invasive species on a base of 'fill' is not being considered for an active biking activity centre. The park is set between two schools, and with a recreation centre closeby that has no outside recreation amenities, IMHO this would have been a perfect location for an activity zone. To say that there was no support for more active recreation is not accurate. The consultation attempted at the schools with students was perfunctory and half hearted. To largely exclude young people from the park planning process with two schools so close at hand does the next generation a disservice. My own informal chatting with students on foot and on bike showed a high degree of interest. While I am happy to see the environment report included, the number of "mays" used about possible impacts make it suspect in my opinion. Having seen the large colony of GBHs in Stanley Pk next to the West End, it is clear that many other factors impact the nesting habits of these birds other than human activity, so I take some these recommendations with a 'large pinch of salt' ! My final critique of the Plan centres on the time taken to generate it. As someone who's been involved all along the way as a community activist, please, please find a way to speed up the process. 4-5 years is not acceptable - people lose interest and Saan loses credibility in such a drawn out process. Other than that ... all good.	3/21/2015 8:14 PM
61	-there is no major flooding problem behind silver city at most there is a 1/2" of water and a couple of potholes much worse flooding occurs further along the trail approaching the parking lot and on the trail along the highway _closing the goat trails is a waste of time,how do you propose to keep them closed and prevent new ones from being made. _ I often walk my dogs after 11 pm and have never had a problem with the campers they are very respectful to me,those who are afraid of them perhaps would be better off not using the park after dark. _this is a small enough park that it can be learned in a couple of visits,it is used often by locals,and people who do come tend to come back,I have been using the park for over 25years and have not yet met anyone who was lost,why squander 20000 dollars on signs that will be vandalised and need replacement you need to be better stewards of public funds than that	3/21/2015 6:22 PM

Cuthbert Holmes Park Draft Management Plan - Public Participation

62	I would like you to consider a mountain bike trail for families in the area behind Tillicum Mall. Since the area will be opened up, we could create an area like Ceclia Ravine that would attract kids and families to the park.	3/21/2015 6:19 PM
63	Beginner & family bike trails	3/21/2015 6:00 PM
64	Sounds like you are doing your homework	3/21/2015 5:21 PM
65	we moved here because of it!!!! it is a wonderful peaceful place of peace and awe	3/21/2015 4:56 PM
66	The keyword "responsible biking" is key. I am a mountain as well as a road biker and always try to be courteous to other users. "Shared use" trails work very well when we consider that most bikers respect the "shared trails" ethos. The spandex and team kit crowd are not likely to be in Cuthbert Holmes anyway, nor are the gnarly dudes.	3/21/2015 4:13 PM
67	WE feel that cost of signage is way too expensive. Try not to label all dog owners as irresponsible- watch for those who do not comply with the rules as we wish to keep the park off leash for responsible dog owners	3/20/2015 6:26 PM
68	Reference the park. The trail where the picnic tables are located is in terrible shape. Is there any plan to improve this area by adequate drainage as well as a better path (trail)?	3/20/2015 10:51 AM
69	I often walk from the library/shopping centre to Burnside Rd. I would like to see some lighting in the portion that parallels Burnside as you approach the underpass. You have to use the trail unless you walk in the bike path and with the benches etc it is a little intimidating in the evening. I realize I could walk on the other side of Burnside on the raised sidewalk but that involves more interaction with traffic and not so safe if on a bicycle as I often am. You are doing a great job with the clearing and Dysart bridge area.	3/20/2015 10:06 AM
70	It is one of my favourite parks for walking with dogs and kids. I appreciate the natural landscape and number of trails and the blackberry picking.	3/20/2015 9:43 AM
71	Primary concerns about existing status of park are 1) feeling unsafe traveling alone with small dogs thru park often seeing no one else; and 2) washed out trails during winter and spring making it difficult to use; and 3) lack of options for different routes with formal authorized trails. Thanks,	3/19/2015 10:43 PM
72	It is important to remember that people share the park with wildlife. The clearing of present sheltered areas also exposes wildlife that live in these areas where there are no people, and no dogs. The charm of this park is how "un-managed" the park is presently. Removing invasive plantings is one thing, but clearing areas for pathways/resting spots for visitors, more lighting, asphalt, is not wildlife friendly. I question any plan for the park and intent at preservation, as I saw how it was valued by our elected Saanich officials when a Developer came with money waving and they approved a skyscraper to be built over-shadowing the river and park. The only time I have been glad for the down turn in economy as the developer didn't build. Hopefully, the newly elected Saanich Mayor and new Council members will get the opportunity to correct this wrong if it should come up again. In addition, I am a woman with mobility problems and walk the park in the early evening, and have never had any problem with the homeless people I see sometimes within the park. The only alarm I have ever felt is from all the off leash dogs running either towards me or coming up behind me who are also not in sight of their owners. There is not one day that I haven't encountered this problem and by far believe this is the biggest threat to my safety and also there is a lot of evidence along the pathways that these owners are not cleaning up after their dogs. I notice in the language that dogs have to be under control of their owners - I believe the language should be "on leash" within the park.	3/19/2015 9:44 PM
73	It's unfortunate that there is no further discussion of a bike park. Saanich seems to only care about it's senior citizens or very young when it comes to Parks and Recreation.	3/19/2015 8:39 PM
74	dogs running loose on Panama Flats a real problem	3/19/2015 2:48 PM
75	keep dogs out of the Park	3/19/2015 12:08 PM
76	Dogs off leash are a problem on the trails. I see people allowing their dogs off leash to scour the sensitive bird areas. Dogs should not be allowed off leash in the Park. Almost every dog owner says that their dog isn't a problem. A designated dog park would give those people a place. That way dogs wouldn't deter the public from enjoying the general Park.	3/19/2015 12:04 PM
77	I think the main reason I don't spend more time in the park would be the on going safety issues...	3/19/2015 9:34 AM
78	more information on off leash for dogs	3/19/2015 8:25 AM
79	It's a neighbourhood treasure, providing sanctuary to local wild habitat, an area to exercise your dog, urban access to a forest, fish stock rehabilitation site and much needed green space in an urban setting ... so fortunate to have it in my neighbourhood.	3/18/2015 7:41 PM
80	I would like incorporated into the plan outdoor exercise equipment in the area behind silver city and Pearks. I feel this would bring more people to the park and discourage the negative behaviours that have been happening.	3/18/2015 5:53 PM
81	try not to interfere - let it be as it is and has been for the most part with limited intervention ...	3/18/2015 4:41 PM

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82	I like its wild qualities but understand that these can foster some undesirable activity. It feels quite unsafe at night. I do not believe that we can create a safe open space behind Silver City without active surveillance. Perhaps the Hawthorne is helping keep some of that unauthorized camping limited.	3/17/2015 9:50 PM
83	yes as a avid walker exciser I would like to see some exercising stations along the main trail that is slated for all year round use such as, chinup bars, pushup stations and situp stations. I quite often use the benches throughout my walk to stop and do incline pushups and sit on the benches to do incline leg raises. alot of other outdoor areas around parks in Victoria and Sidney have these types of stations a person can use.	3/17/2015 9:37 PM
84	Please prioritize the invasive species removal and the conversion of the field behind Silver City. Also, the ideas to plant trees up by the highway is excellent.	3/17/2015 9:15 PM
85	The plan is way too detailed. You vastly underestimate the main problems which are #1) invasives- off trail travel is way lower priority maybe even last. There is a massive amount of ivy will take years to remove. Native vegetation to be added is a waste until this is solved. 2) camping in the park and garbage. Opening up remote parts seems out of step with promoting wildlife concerns which are mainly birds. Squirrels and rats a problem as well.	3/17/2015 6:20 PM
86	Provide doggie bag dispensers (same as Gorge Waterway). Continue an aggressive program of ivy removal from ground and around the trunks of many trees, especially in off trail areas. The trees are being choked. Is there a volunteer program for this?	3/17/2015 6:13 PM
87	Please make sure that it can be dog friendly.	3/17/2015 2:39 PM
88	Great job!	3/17/2015 10:03 AM
89	[REDACTED]	3/17/2015 9:48 AM
90	improvements need to be made to make it safer for all to use.	3/16/2015 5:23 PM
91	In terms of removal of the English hawthorn behind Silver City, I would like to see this done gradually as this has become important bird habitat. I support that it will be replanted with native trees and shrubbery. I would like to see dog bag dispensers as along Gorge Road. I'm not sure the leave one, take one approach works as they already exist and they are usually empty. Considering how many people and dogs currently use the park, I think it is amazing how little dog feces there is, however, I think the provision of dog bags will send a clear message to dog walkers (I'm one of them). I know some people think it is okay for their dogs to poop off the trail in the English ivy, however as a sometimes volunteer removing ivy, it is not pleasant to step in it. I fully support off leash dogs in the park and would like to emphasize this is a privilege in such a beautiful natural area.	3/15/2015 7:33 PM
92	I strongly oppose excessive signage being placed when the goal is to have a natural park. There is already one area that is fenced off, that has been replanted with native plants - it is great! But why does it need to have a sign explaining what has been done? To me that takes away the whole point of it becoming a native planting. You are just replacing invasive plants with invasive signage!	3/15/2015 5:29 PM
93	Na	3/15/2015 9:16 AM
94	Picnic spots and washrooms. Closed from dusk to dawn.	3/15/2015 8:40 AM
95	No	3/14/2015 5:04 PM
96	Would use this park more if it was safer I live very close but don't go there alone.	3/14/2015 3:04 PM
97	It should remain an off-leash park for dogs. It's the only off-leash area away from traffic in the immediate area and accessible on foot for many. The regular dog walkers make the park safer for everyone. Many dog walkers, myself included, wouldn't use the park if it were changed to an on-leash area. Responsible people can keep dogs to paths in sensitive areas without using a leash.	3/14/2015 3:00 PM
98	camping should be allowed and managed	3/14/2015 1:40 PM
99	There must be a way to reduce the number of bums that live there. If I were a woman I would be careful venturing there. There is or was a bum city in there.	3/13/2015 7:16 PM
100	I would also like to see an area somewhere in the park for kids to BMX. There are no areas in Saanich for kids to ride their bikes. Our kids have made trails in Cuthbert and Panama flats for years because there is no where for them to ride.	3/13/2015 7:00 PM
101	n/a	3/13/2015 6:55 PM
102	a connection from the Galloping Goose trail on the other side of the highway would be nice	3/13/2015 6:14 PM
103	There is a nice "feel" to the park now. Hopefully any changes that happen won't change this too much by making it feel overly manicured.	3/13/2015 3:23 PM
104	Encountering the makeshift "camps" is a little creepy - looking forward to improvements in this regard.	3/13/2015 8:12 AM

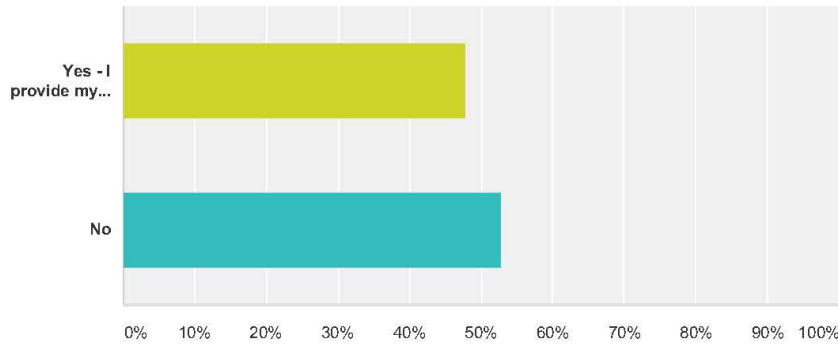
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105	Thank you for allowing us to have input online! This is great	3/13/2015 12:18 AM
106	This is an urban park and one of the few off leash parks in the area. I worry that it will be changed into an on leash only park which really impacts on the many folks who walk their dogs there. as the initiative to allow dogs on buses has unfortunately failed it's even more important to keep an off leash park that folks who don't drive can walk to. i'm all for educating those few who allow their dogs to run willy nilly through sensitive areas but to punish the many for the acts of a few would be unfortunate.	3/12/2015 4:31 PM
107	I agree with most of the plan. The one thing that I don't like, however, is the plan for open space in the Hawthome thicket. Whenever I walk by, I think wow-what a great opportunity for: A. a controlled bum to remove it all (practice for the firefighters!) B: Removal of a horrible (and painful) shrub and all the junkies that live in there. C: An amazing opportunity to create a Garry Oak meadow- something that Victoria is greatly lacking, compared to the last century of destruction. If people want to let their dogs run around they should go to Meadow Park or a high school field. Or just keep their dogs leashed [REDACTED] I walk through their with it leashed all the time. I let it run in Meadow Park because I know it won't damage anything there. The split rail fence around the area closest to the foot of Dysart Road is a great idea. I think that should border all the trails, to prevent off-use, but keep the natural feel. I understand it might be cost-prohibitive however. And finally, again with the recently planted native shrubs in the understory near the Dysart connector bridge- I think that was an example of a good idea poorly executed. The salal and other shrubs being planted was great- but a large number of them died due to lack of watering. I can't remember what time of year they were planted but the planting needs to be better managed and potentially include follow-up watering. I look at those dead plants and think what a waste of money and time- something that could have so easily been fixed with some water.	3/12/2015 4:08 PM
108	Overall I believe this to be a reasonable plan. However, as a daily user of the park, we cannot ignore the lack of care the park has received in the last little while. I'm u referring mostly to envormental damage being caused from water run off from the highway making areas of the park quite unusable well into the summer. We have two picnic tables that presently have at most times a virtual river running by them. I realize there is a lot to be done. There however many projects that would improve the park very quickly such as I have already mentioned. [REDACTED]	3/12/2015 12:06 PM
109	This is a very small park that has survived with little maintenance. It doesn't need signage or upgrades unless deteriorated.The walkway gets very little water and doesn't need improvement.	3/12/2015 11:29 AM
110	Dog waste left behind in the park is a major concern that needs to be addressed - Walking with children through the park in the Spring and Summer is AWFUL - And the garbage can located by Meadow Park is often overflowing with dog bags. (gross) Also - the off leash problem - This is not a designated off leash dog park, neither is Meadow Park. Understandably, most dogs are friendly and harmless, but small children using the park can be afraid of dogs who run up to them, literally face to face. These have been my major concerns using this park as a parent over the last ten years. And, I am a dog owner who walks my dog, on leash, through the park. And I pick up after them.	3/12/2015 11:00 AM
111	The trail signs have already been damaged & thrown into the creek :-(3/12/2015 11:00 AM
112	I personally would use the park more often if the trails were more defined and it was cleaned up. It is a potential jewel and is in need of some care and attention. I like the open area concept, hopefully for picnic use and maybe a play area for families.	3/12/2015 10:50 AM
113	Seems to be taking a long time to do anything	3/12/2015 10:25 AM

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Q14 Saanich may have further correspondence or updates regarding Cuthbert Holmes Park. Would you like to be included?

Answered: 184 Skipped: 31



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes - I provide my consent to provide my contact information for future updates (as applicable)	47.83%	88
No	52.72%	97
Total		184

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Q15 Please note that your contact details will be used only for the purposes related to this project and is held in the strictest of confidence. At no time would your personal contact details be shared to an outside party. The personal information contained on this survey is collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will only be used for the purpose of communicating with you. Should you have any questions about the above, please contact Saanich's Information and Privacy Team at 250-475-1775.

Answered: 81 Skipped: 134

Answer Choices	Responses	
Name	97.53%	79
Email	96.30%	78
Telephone	76.54%	62