

Appendix 8.6

Open House Presentation Panels

Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Project
Introduction
October 2016

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Council Motion

“That Council endorse the methodology to develop options to address access to Mount Douglas Park as outlined in the report dated February 5, 2016 from the Director of Parks and Recreation, with the added amendment that such options should attempt to minimize impact to the special nature, character and experience that access routes themselves provide to users of the park.”

Project Objectives

The growing popularity of Mount Douglas Park has generated the need for a closer look at many aspects of Saanich’s largest Park. In particular, improving the community’s access to key trails and facilities in the Park.

Key Considerations

Develop an access map and plan for the Park and surrounding neighbourhood. The map and plan will look at options for park visitors that includes transportation alternatives including cycling, transit and walking. Council’s motion requested staff to prepare a report outlining options to address access to Mount Douglas Park that minimizes impacts to the Park and the access routes themselves.

Project Scope

- Access points inventory include trail difficulty ratings
- Parking capacity inventory
- Transit stop locations, bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Public online survey
- Traffic study to include data collection and time analysis for the current parking situation during peak season use.
- Formation of a Project Advisory Team consisting of Saanich Staff (Parks, Engineering, Fire) and members of the following stakeholder groups.

Gordon Head Residents’ Association
Blenkinsop Valley Community Association
Cordova Bay Association for Community Affairs
Friends of Mount Douglas Park Society
Recreation Integration Victoria
Saanich Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Citizen Canine
Greater Victoria Cycling Coalition

- Public engagement event (Today’s Open House)
- Presentation of findings to Parks, Trails and Recreation Advisory Committee, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Environment and Natural Areas Advisory Committee
- Presentation of final report to Council

Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Project Introduction
October 2016

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Key Project Components

DONE! Provide a written and schematic inventory of the existing parking locations and capacities for parking in and around the park.

DONE! Provide a written and schematic inventory of the various access points into the park including trail ratings as they relate to these access points.

DONE! Develop options to address parking and other forms of access (eg. public transit, cycling and pedestrian) both inside and in the immediate vicinity outside the park. Options that minimize impacts to the natural character of the park are preferred.

DONE! Includes a detailed traffic study in the peak season conducted by a qualified consultant.

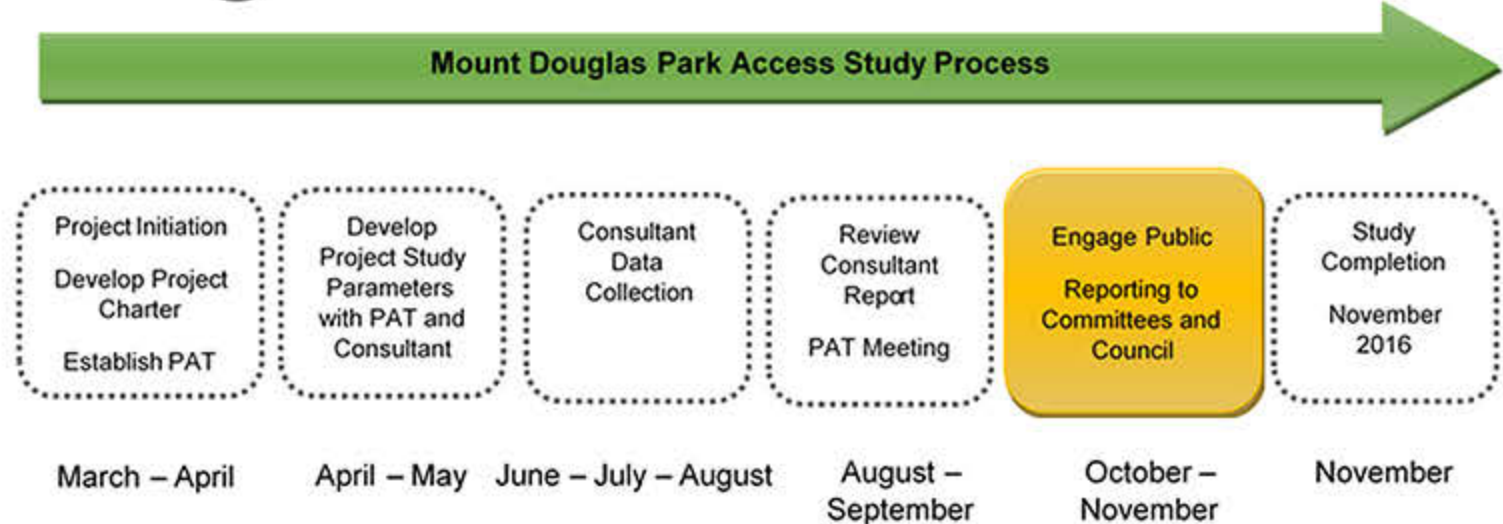
DONE! Community engagement at the INVOLVE level with key stakeholders such as, local Community Associations, Friends of Mount Douglas Park and Saanich Advisory Committees. An advisory working group composed of representatives from various groups assisted staff with planning and implementing the public consultation process.

WORK IN PROGRESS Study timeframe approximately 8 to 9 months (data collection undertaken during summer peak use).

WORK IN PROGRESS Provide recommended options to Council in the form of a staff report in November.



Progress to Date



Implementation

Could begin in 2017 subject to Council and Budget approvals.

Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Inventory of Facilities
October 2016



Park Access Points

Vehicle Parking Inventory

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Mount Douglas Park Access Study					
Parking Inventory					
Location	Designated and Undesignated Parking Spaces	Undesirable Parking Spaces	Illegal Parking Spaces*	Parking Lot Amenities	Comments
Parking Area in the Access Study					
Churchill Drive	28	12	18	Access to Green and Blue Trails, Trail Map, Habitat Map, Bike Rack	Undesirable spaces are north of the access gate. Not currently marked "No Parking". This could go much further up Churchill Drive to the summit.
Beach	110	0	15	Access to Green Trails, Washrooms, Trail Map, Garbage, Playground, Benches and Picnic Tables	Potential for more parking if lines were painted in some areas to clearly define the parking areas.
Glendenning	5	0	2	Access to Green Trail, Trail Map, Bike Rack and Garbage	See Glendenning On-Street Parking for more information. The 2 illegal spaces noted are in the parking lot area itself.
Summit	13	12	8	Access to Green, Blue and Black Trails, Lookout Garbage, 2 Handicap	Undesirable spaces are south of the summit area. Not currently marked "No Parking". This could go much further down Churchill Drive.
Blenkinsop	9	6	0	Access to Black Trail, Trail Map, Garbage, Bike Rack	Undesirable spaces are in the access drive to the parking lot. Not currently marked "No Parking".
Cedar Hill Road at trail head	17	1	4	Access to Green and Blue Trails, Trail Map	
Total	182	31	47		
Parking Areas outside the Access Study					
Durling Place	33	0	1	Access to Green Trail	
Edgemont Road at trail head	2	0	0	Access to Green Trail, Trail Map	
Edgemont Road	15	0	1	Trail Access to Green Trail, Trail Map	1 minute walk from trail head towards Ash Road
Edgemont Road	10	0	1	Access to Green Trail, Trail Map	1 minute walk from trail head towards Majestic Road
Edgemont cul-de-sac	3	0	0	Access to Green Trail, Trail Map	15 second walk to trail head
Robinwood	24	0	1	Access to Green Trail	
Cedar Hill Road	10	23	0	Access to Green Trail	4355 Cedar Hill Road to just before the bend at Shelbourne Street - just park side of road. Undesirable due to proximity to Douglas Creek tributary and safety of pedestrians and motorists
Cedar Hill Road at Shelbourne Street	5	0	0	Access to Churchill Drive amenities	Did not note undesirable spaces as these would be the same as noted above for Cedar Hill Road
Harvest Lane cul-de-sac	4	0	0	Access to Green Trail	
Harvest Lane	17	0	2	Access to Green Trail, Playground	Playground is located in Harvest Lane Park c/w bike rack/picnic table/bench/trail map/garbage
Parkside Crescent	34	0	1	Access to Blue Trail	1 minute walk from secondary trail head access - 4270-4312 Parkside Crescent
Winchester	12	0	0	Access to Green Trail	1 minute walk from secondary trail head access - no parking restriction 10pm - 6am
Parkside Place/Crescent	14	0	0	Access to Green Trail	1 minute walk from secondary trail head access
Glendenning Road	0	0	14	Access to Green Trail, Trail Map, Bike Rack and Garbage	From Glendenning Trail head to 200m toward Mt Douglas X Road
Mt. Douglas X Road	12	0	0	Access to Green Trail	approximately 500m walk to Glendenning Trail head - on trail
Blenkinsop Road	10	0	10	Access to Green Trail	at Mercer Trail head
Blenkinsop Road at Lohbrunner	3	0	4	Access to Green Trail and Black Trail	approximately 150m walk to Mercer Trail head or 250m walk to Blenkinsop Trail head
Seaview Suites***	10	0	0	Access to Green and Blue Trails	***RW agreement would have to be amended to promote these spaces
Total	218	23	35		
Total Potential Parking	400	54	82		

* areas that are marked with No Parking signs



Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Online Public Survey
October 2016



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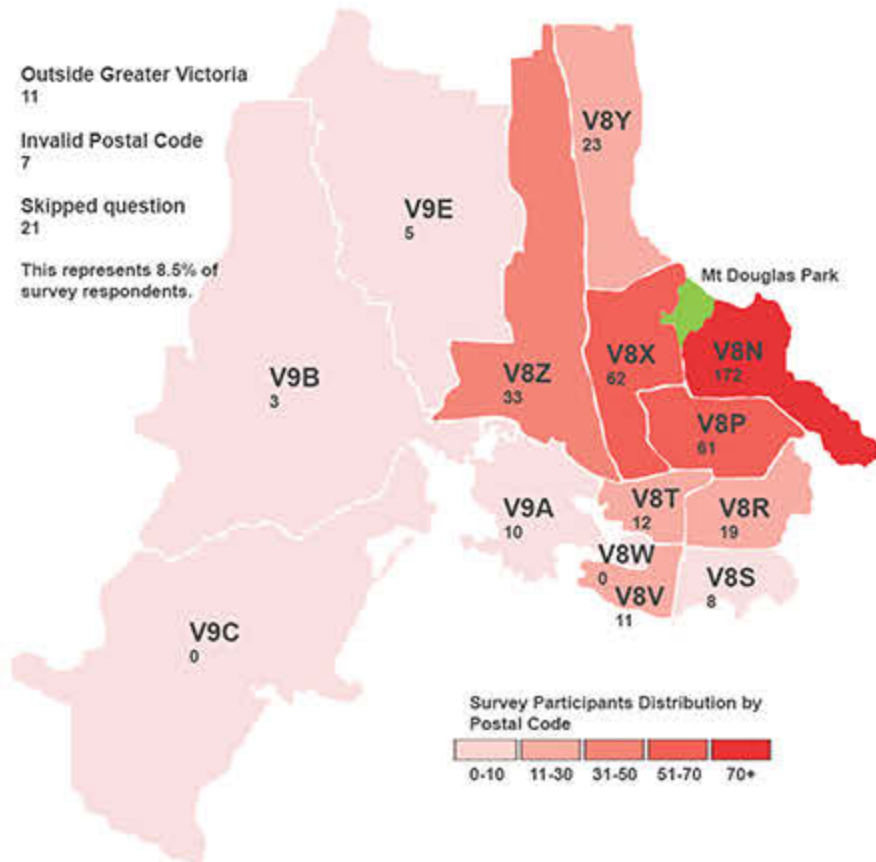
Online Survey

Mount Douglas Park is a popular destination for both residents and visitors, which has resulted in substantial traffic around the Park and in designated parking areas during peak visitation times; on both weekends and weekdays.

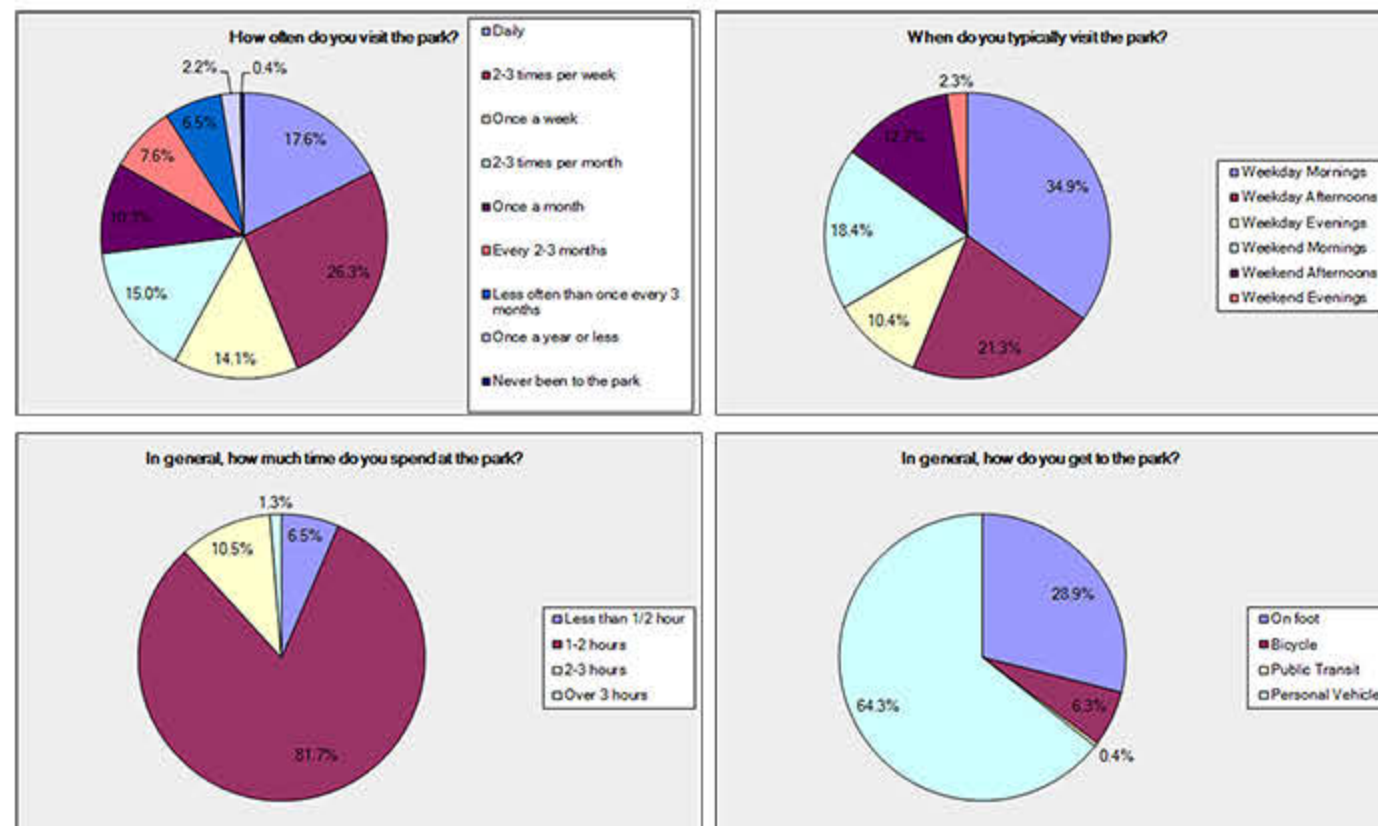
The purpose of this survey was to help the District better understand when the Park is being used most frequently and what types of activities are most popular for park users. This information will assist in developing recommendations for improvements to access key destinations in the Park.

458 Participated in the survey

Participant Distribution



Participant Visitation



Mount Douglas Park Access Study

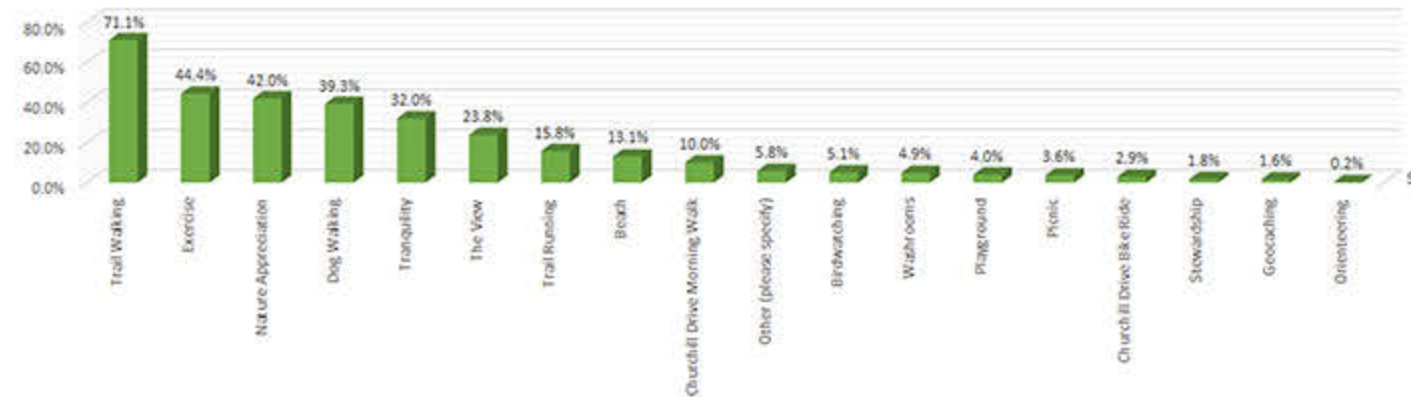
Online Public Survey
October 2016

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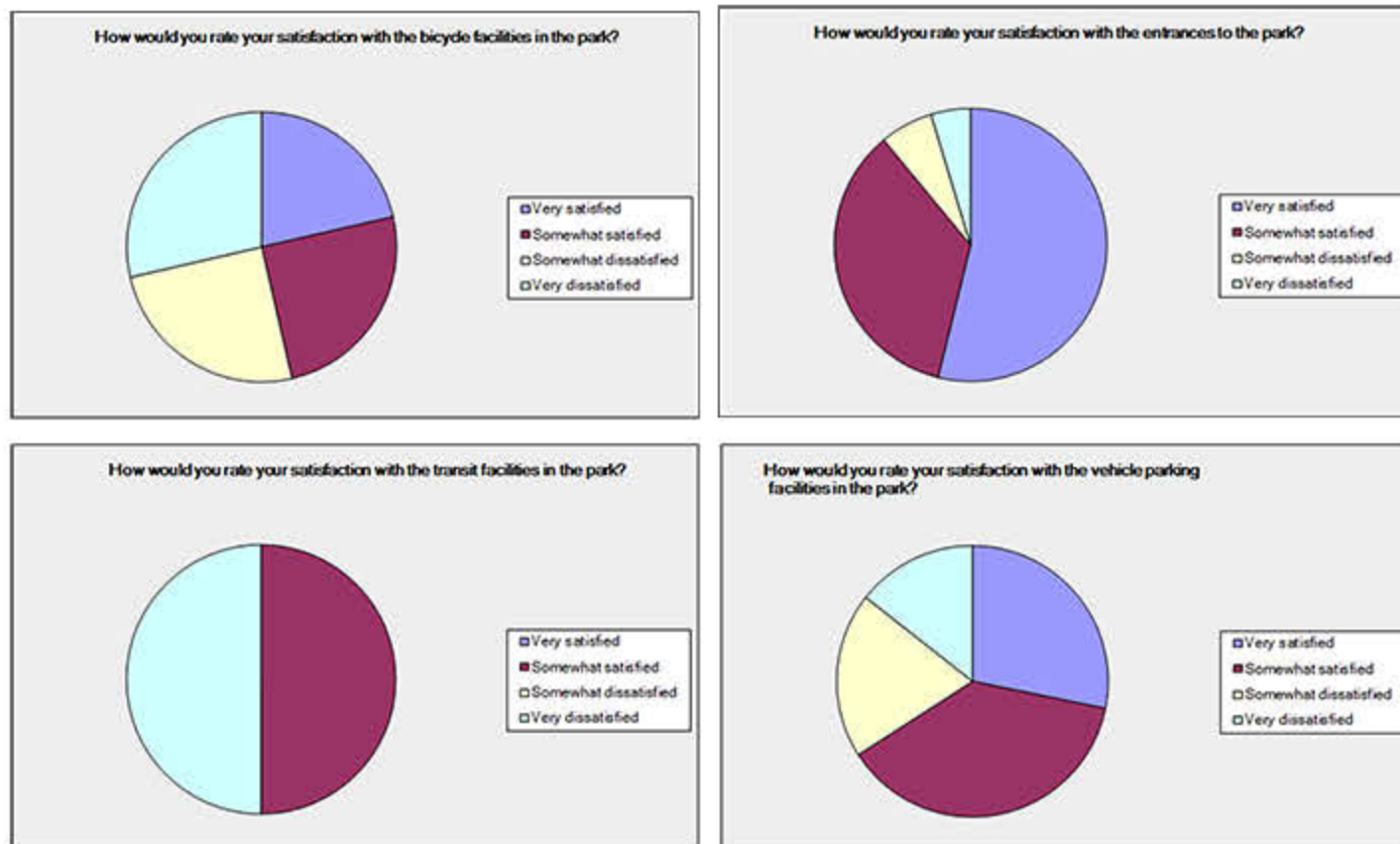


Reasons for Visiting the Park

In general, what are your top three (3) reasons for visiting Mount Douglas Park?
Please select only 3.

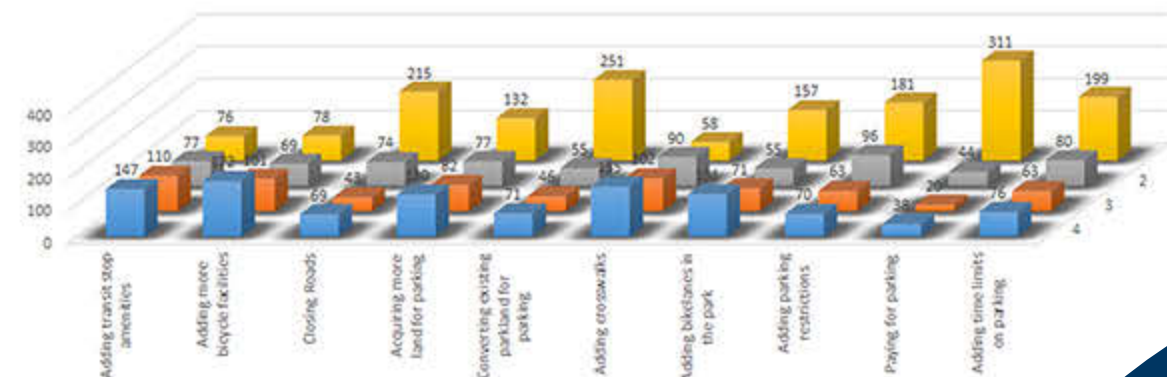


Facility Satisfaction



Preliminary Improvement Ideas

On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being DO NOT SUPPORT and 4 being SUPPORT, please rate your level of support for the following actions to improve your access to the park.



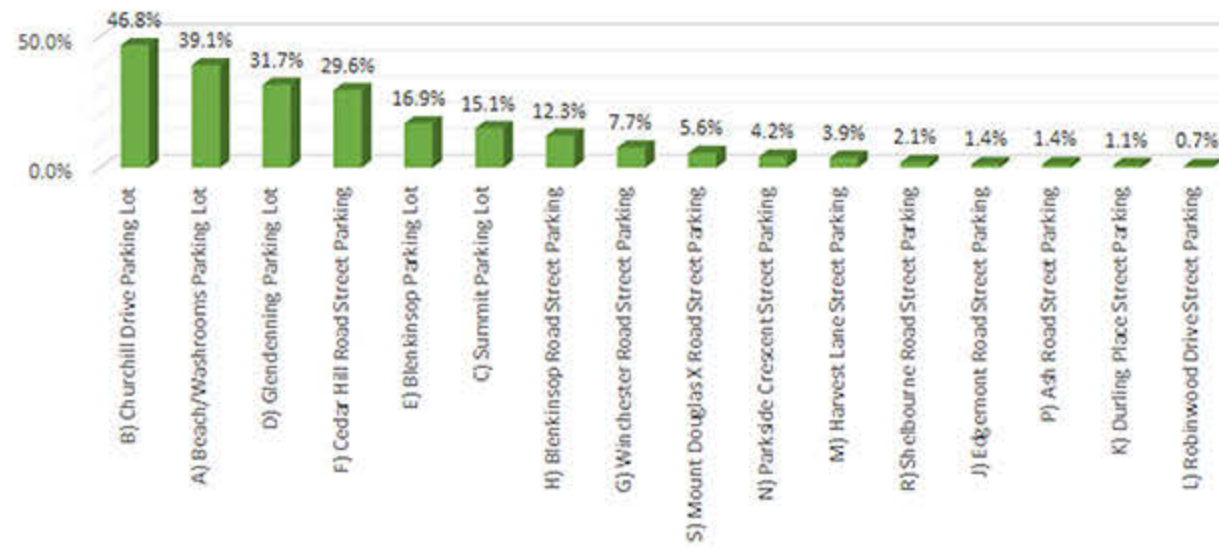
Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Online Public Survey
October 2016

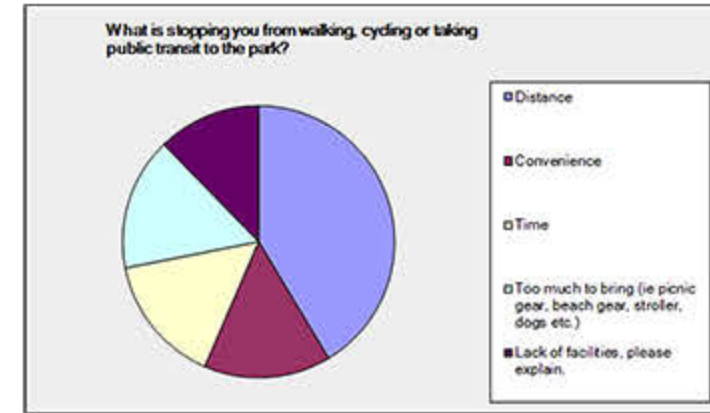


Preferred Parking

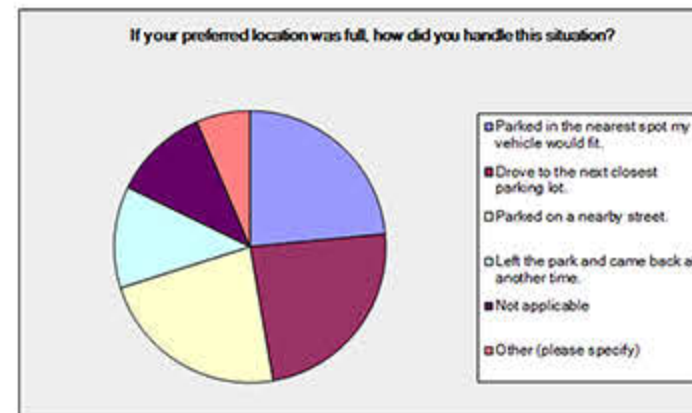
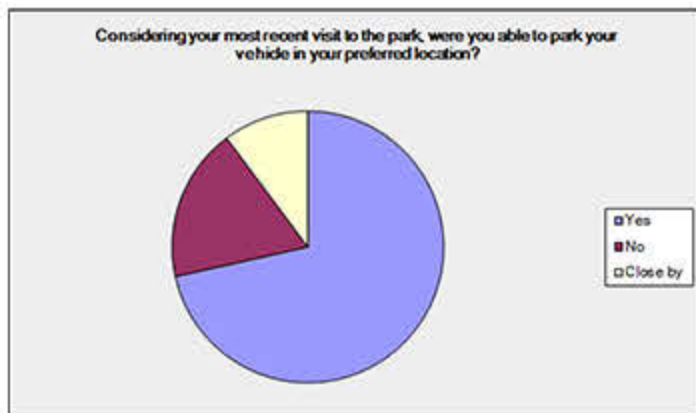
Please select the parking area(s) you use most frequently to access Mount Douglas Park. Please refer to the above park map for the locations of each entrance. (Please check all that apply)



Barriers



Parking Behaviours



Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Consultant Data
Collection
October 2016

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Study Purpose

- Collect parking utilization and capacity data at access points to Mount Douglas Park
- Identify other modes of access to the Park through a bike count and the Saanich park user survey
- Collect other information on parking utilization and usage as appropriate
- Provide a summary report with observations and recommendations that meet Council directives

Study Area

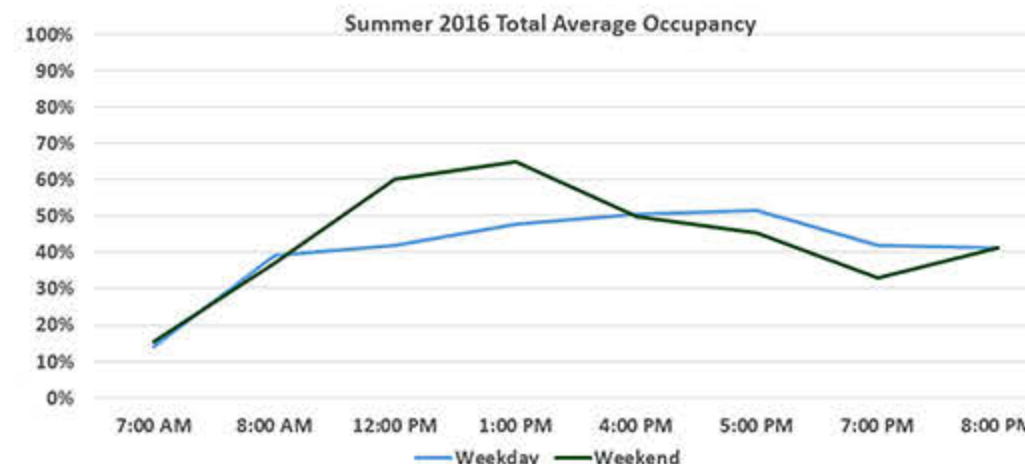
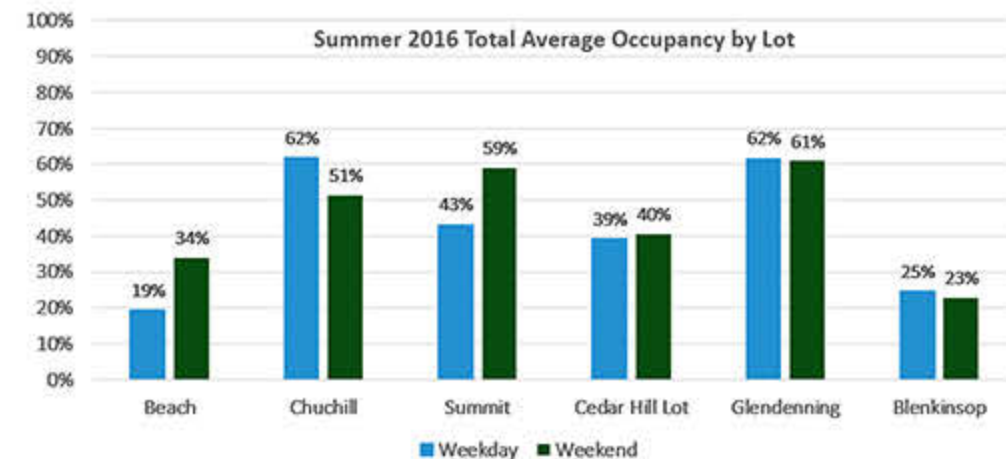
Six Parking Lots

- Beach Parking Lot (52 designated spaces)
- Churchill Parking Lot (28 designated spaces)
- Summit Parking Lot (12 pm – dusk) (13 designated spaces)
- Cedar Hill Parking Area (17 designated spaces)
- Glendenning Parking Area (5 designated spaces)
- Blenkinsop Parking Area (9 designated spaces)

Two On-Street Parking Areas

- Cedar Hill Road (between Churchill Parking Lot and Cedar Hill Parking Area)
- Mercer Trail Access Area (Blenkinsop Road)

Summer Averages



Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Consultant Data Collection
October 2016

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Key Findings

- Glendenning (5 spaces) and Churchill (28 spaces) lots were consistently the busiest locations and most likely to exceed 85% occupancy.
- Turnover analysis supports the survey finding that the majority of park visitors stay for less than 2 hours.
- Weekdays were shown to be busiest in the evening.
- Weekends tended to be busiest in the early afternoon.
- Overall, parking facilities in Mount Douglas Park are generally sufficient, however, there is room for improvement and opportunities to expand parking availability in key locations.

Cycling Data

Occupancy	Chuchill		Summit		Glendenning		Blenkinsop	
	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend	Weekday	Weekend
June								
7:00 AM	0	1			1	0	0	0
8:00 AM	0	0			0	0	0	0
12:00 PM	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
1:00 PM	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
4:00 PM	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
5:00 PM	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
7:00 PM	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8:00 PM	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
July								
7:00 AM	0	0			0	0	0	0
8:00 AM	1	0			0	0	0	0
12:00 PM	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
1:00 PM	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
4:00 PM	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
5:00 PM	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
7:00 PM	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	0
8:00 PM	4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
August								
7:00 AM	0	0			0	0	0	0
8:00 AM	0	0			0	0	0	0
12:00 PM	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1:00 PM	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
4:00 PM	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
5:00 PM	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7:00 PM	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8:00 PM	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

- Table indicates adequate bike parking spaces available for park visitors.

Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Pedestrian Recommendations
October 2016



We are within 2 km of the park, but I would rather walk in the park than walk to the park.

it would be nice to have a public wash-room in the park either at the beginning or top of the Mt. Doug

Improvements to accessibility for those with mobility challenges.

Build a zipline!

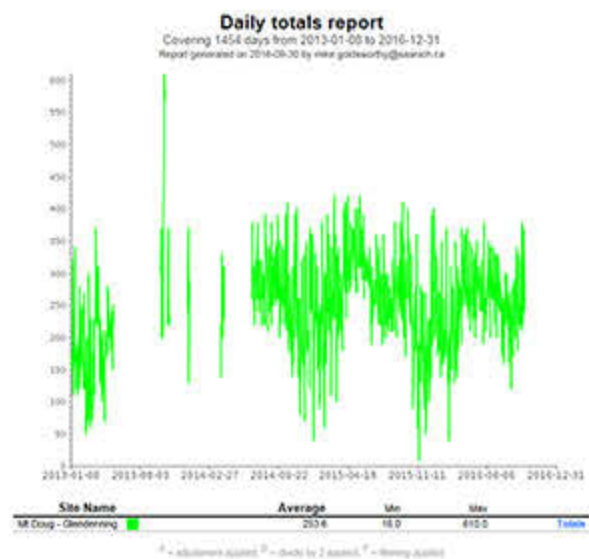
Encouraging safe and convenient access by bike foot and transit should be the preferred options.

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What We Heard & Observed

- 🚶 Don't feel comfortable walking on roads
- 🚶 Maintenance level of trails should be higher standard
- 🚶 Accessibility improvements
- 🚶 Keep vegetation in check
- 🚶 Add more refuse containers
- 🚶 Survey showed support for more crosswalks

As a disabled person my use of the park requires road access and parking close to my destination. But encouraging walking, cycling, and transit frees up space for those of us who have to drive.



Daily average hits* from counter on Glendenning Trail during a 6 month period from April 1 - September 30

- 2013 - 193.3
- 2014 - 292.7
- 2015 - 295.9
- 2016 - 268.8

* the counter is an infrared motion detector, "hits" do not necessarily represent individual hikers - it will count anything warm that moves through the beam. A correction factor has not been applied.

Recommendations

- 🚶 Create effective signs to alert drivers about speed limits, pedestrians and cyclists on Churchill Drive
- 🚶 Review speed of traffic on roads through the park and consider calming measures if warranted
- 🚶 Consider improving pedestrian connections to trails across major roadways within the park (Active Transportation)
- 🚶 Look into upgrading the Douglas Trail from Ash Road to Shelbourne to a "Green" or easy trail.
- 🚶 Explore improving existing undeveloped park access points around the park (eg. Woodcrest Place)
- 🚶 Look at ways to remove barriers to easy access



Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Bicycle
Recommendations
October 2016



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What We Heard & Observed

- Improved safety will encourage more riders
- Continuous bikelanes
- Cedar Hill Road is too narrow for bicycles
- Roads are unsafe
- Add more bike racks
- Provide a secure lock-up
- More washrooms
- Bike racks were never full
- Survey results were 50/50 for adding bikelanes in the park
- There is support for improved facilities

Safer cycling routes to the park that I could take my kids on.

The main reason that I drive to the park is that I have young children and we want to maximize the time in the park not on public transit. There is no safe route for kids to bike to the park, only a bike route for adults willing to risk it.

Bicycle racks in all designated parking lots would be a great start.

*Facilities to lock up bikes (bike racks)!
Bike lanes on Ash road*

Recommendations

- Provide additional bike racks at key trail entrances
- Add bike rack near the washroom building at the Beach parking area **COMPLETED**
- Consider adding bikelanes on Cedar Hill Road between Shelbourne Street and Ash Road (Active Transportation)
- Create effective signs to alert drivers about speed limits, pedestrians and cyclists on Churchill Drive
- Review speed of traffic on roads through the park and consider calming measures if warranted (Active Transportation)
- Improve promotion/marketing of bike rack locations in park maps and brochures

Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Transit
Recommendations
October 2016



More frequent transit, closer stops to the park.

More awareness about buses and a closer bus stop. There is limited bus service

Increased bus service during the daylight hours.

There is no direct bus route from where I live, and since I cannot take my dogs on the bus, that is not an option regardless.

Difficult to bike or take public transit to the park when you have a dog.

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What We Heard & Observed

- 🗣️ Poor service to Mount Douglas Park
- 🗣️ Dogs not allowed on bus
- 🗣️ Takes too long to get to the Park by bus
- 🗣️ Location of bus stops
- 🗣️ Would like better facilities
- 🗣️ Average daily ridership data from BC Transit:
 - Northbound Cordova Bay @ Ash - 4 On / 6 Off
 - Southbound Cordova Bay @ Ash - 15 On / 11 Off
 - Southbound 4560 Block Cordova Bay @ Seaview Suites - 9 On / 4 Off
 - Northbound Shelbourne @ Robinwood - 6 On / 12 Off
 - Southbound Shelbourne @ Robinwood - 24 On / 11 Off
 - Southbound Cedar Hill @ Kenmore - 2 On / 11 Off
 - Northbound Cedar Hill @ Kenmore - 19 On / 5 Off

Recommendations

- 🗣️ Saanich to relay concerns to BC Transit
- 🗣️ Move transit stops closer to the Park
- 🗣️ Provide shelters where possible
- 🗣️ Improve Park trails to transit stops

Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Vehicular
Recommendations
October 2016



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What We Heard & Observed

- There is plenty of parking in the Park
- Need more parking at Glendenning and Churchill
- Signs about parking
- It's unacceptable to lose sensitive habitat for more parking
- Summit parking congested at times
- Access at north end of the Park
- Blenkinsop Road is dangerous
- Survey showed low support for converting existing parkland for parking
- 50/50 on acquiring more land for parking
- Low support for closing roads as an option

More often than not I can get parking at one of the places I like.

There has never been an issue with parking. Always open spots. Well marked

I feel frustrated by individuals who park along Churchill drive when the lot is full as it can make manoeuvring past them a little tricky, but perhaps they are not aware of other parking on Cedar Hill, etc

The glendenning parking lot is almost always full and the road side parking is inadequate. The parking lot should be expanded in this area.

More parking needed at base of mountain!

Recommendations

- Complete Churchill Drive entrance improvements
- Consider Summit parking/amenities improvements
- Review R/W Agreements with Park neighbours to ensure access
- Consider Blenkinsop Road shoulder/sidewalk improvements between Mercer Trail and Blenkinsop Trail (Active Transportation)
- Consider adding a few additional parallel parking spaces where space permits on Glendenning near the trail entrance and relocate and improve the road side trail as required
- Install more information signs about alternate parking areas
- Formalize undesignated spaces in Beach parking area and include handicap stalls while not adding more asphalt

Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Vehicular
Recommendations
October 2016



Please do not use parkland for more parking! Short-sighted strategy.

I live far from Mt. Douglas. Walking, cycling or public transit is not an option.

I think there is enough parking at Mt Doug Park, the beach lot always has lots of spaces, it's the main entrance lot that gets busy. Maybe just more signage directing other people to the other lots if the main lot is full/busy?

It would be unacceptable to destroy any part of this sensitive environment to accommodate more cars.

13 What We Heard & Observed

- 2/3 of survey respondents did not support parking restrictions or time limits.
- Majority of park users visit for less than 2 hours
- High level of support for keeping parking free of charge
- Glendenning and Churchill parking areas were consistently the busiest locations. Churchill was generally the busiest in the mornings when the gate is closed
- Weekdays were busiest in the evenings
- Weekends were busiest in the early afternoon
- Generally, parking facilities in the park are sufficient, however, there is room for improvement to expand availability in key locations

Recommendations



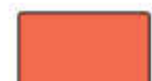
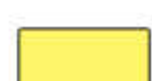
- Improve entrance/exit to Beach parking area complete with pedestrian and bicycle facilities to make safer transitions to the remainder of the Park (Active Transportation)
- Consider adding time restrictions in popular areas to encourage more turnover. For example a 2hr max. at Glendenning parking area
- Consider some parking restrictions on Cedar Hill Road to protect Douglas Creek tributary and improve safety for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists

Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Recommendations
Mapping
October 2016

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Legend

-  Pedestrian
-  Cycling
-  Transit
-  Vehicular

Trail Classifications

		
Easy	Moderate	Difficult



Mount Douglas Park Access Study

Feedback
October 2016



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Provide your Feedback on the draft recommendations we've made

Help us reduce our environmental footprint by taking the
Open House Survey online via this link:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/MtDouglas

Or scan the QR Code below with your smartphone and
do the survey now.



If you would like a paper copy of the survey, we have a limited number
available, please ask and we'll be happy to provide you one.

**Feedback will be accepted until
October 31, 2016**

