



# **Kings Community Nature Space Public Consultation Summary**

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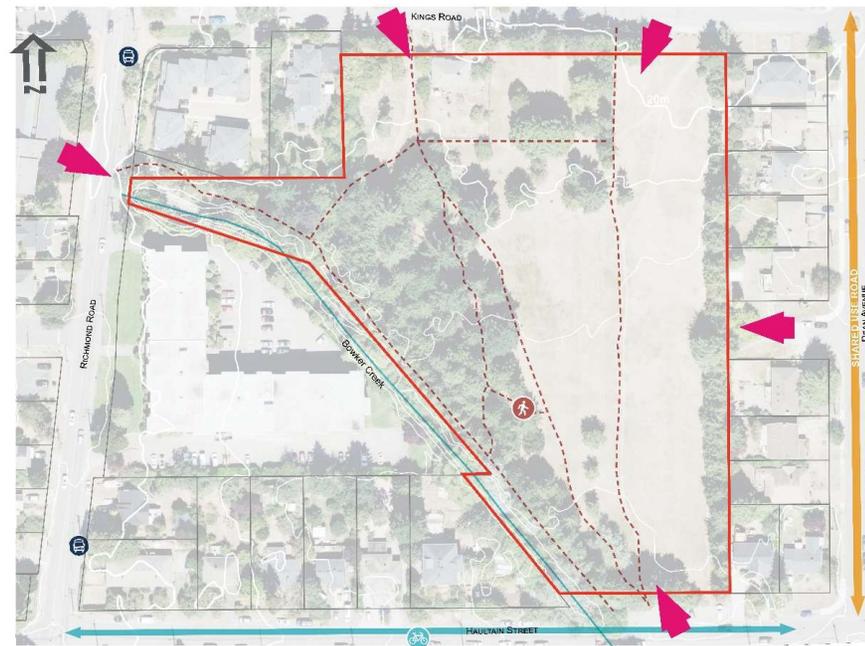
January 2023





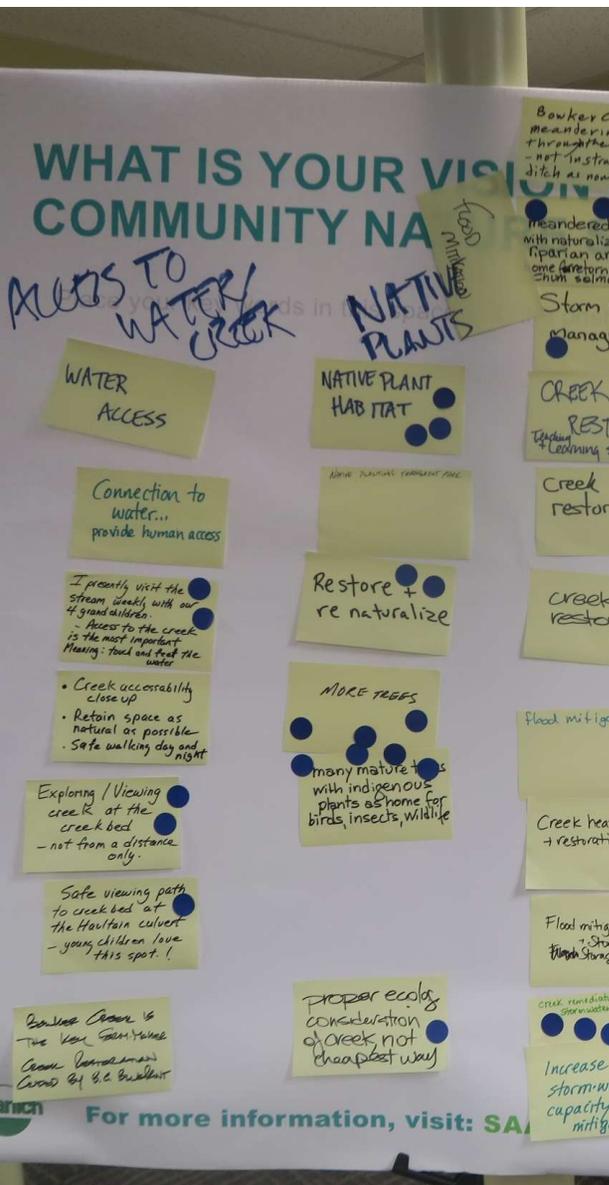
# Background

In 2019 the District of Saanich purchased the former BC Hydro lands to create a new park currently known as King's Community Nature Space. The 2.2 ha (5.5 acre) park is centrally located and features Bowker Creek, treed areas and open spaces.



The community has used the space as a park for many years, and strongly advocated for its purchase it when it became available.

QF



# Public Consultation Process

- Engagement 1 - Vision Statement** (Nov 15, 2022)  
 In-person event with presentations and design charrette.

Project Team (Saanich staff and Consultants) write draft Vision and 'priority statements' based on feedback.

- Survey 1** (Nov.18 – Dec. 4, 2022)  
 Draft Vision, and values and priorities statements presented for feedback.

Project Team refines draft Vision and drafts Management Goals based on survey results.

- Engagement 2 - Goals & Management Models** (Dec. 6, 2022)  
 Online event to review refined draft Vision, Management Goals and park Management Models.

- Survey 2** (Dec14, 2022 – Jan 15, 2023)  
 Refined draft Vision, Management Goals and Management Models presented for feedback.

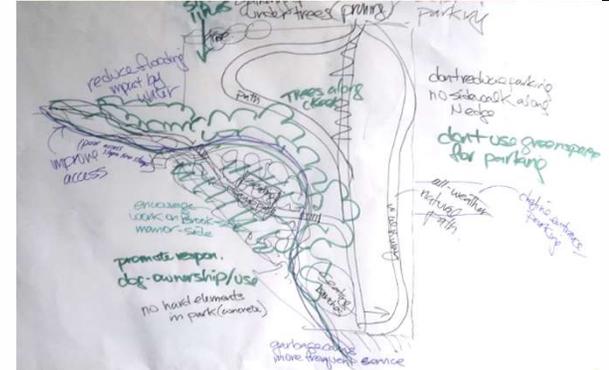
# Engagement 1: Vision & Themes

November 15, 2022: In-person event with presentations, a design charrette and visioning process to determine the community's priorities for the park.



50 people attended

A Vision statement is idealistic; it briefly and broadly describes what the future park would be like if the community's highest aspirations were met. It sets the basic parameters for what will and what will not happen in the park.



## Internal Draft Vision & Goal Preparation

The key values and priorities expressed at the first event were used by the Project Team (Saanich staff and Consultants) to draft a Vision statement. The project team also drafted statements representing the top values and priorities they heard.

### **Survey 1** November 18 - December 4, 2022

Survey 1 tested the draft Vision statement and values and priority statements. Results are given on the following pages.



## First Draft Vision:

*'Kings Community Nature Space is a refuge for both people and wildlife. Bowker Creek contributes to the park's vibrant natural environment and supports wildlife biodiversity. Visitors to the space enjoy accessible paths, and benefit from the connection to nature, socialization, informal recreation, and the beauty of natural areas and open space.'*

Approximately 40% of respondents felt it needed more work.



## Common Themes We Heard

Priority Statements	Support or Strongly Support
Restore, naturalize, and increase biodiversity	93%
Preserve and enhance the urban forest through retention of existing trees and planting more trees	93%
Improve stormwater management and mitigate flooding	91%
Provide safe, accessible, all-weather paths for people of all ages and abilities	85%
Accommodate nature-based play and outdoor education	79%
Allow access to Bowker Creek for educational opportunities	78%

## Common Themes We Heard

Priority Statements	Support or Strongly Support
Maintain the open space for informal recreation	75%
Continue to welcome dogs	70%
Restore Bowker Creek in its existing location	63%
Restore and further enhance Bowker Creek by moving it further into the park	53%
I would like to see the space remain exactly as it is	30%

# Additional Comments

Theme	Description
<b>Nature (31)</b>	Preserve natural quality (1), Provide protected habitat zones (8), Retain trees (4), Plant native species (2), Enhance the existing ecosystem (6) Remove invasive species (3), Protect and provide owl habitat (3), Manage light pollution (2), Include climate adaptation (1), Keep meadow/open space (1)
<b>Dogs (13)</b>	Fenced dog area (5), Dogs only on leash (2), Open for dogs (3), Clear rules about dogs (2), Poop management (1)
<b>Community Amenities (10)</b>	Additional benches (2), Community gardens (1), Playground (2), Better garbage management (1), Picnic tables (2), Vision for the house (1), Safety and sightlines (1)
<b>Access (12)</b>	Create connections to the hospital (3), Accessible pathways (2), Sustainable or natural materials (3), Minimal paving (2), Limited human access to sensitive habitats (1), Connect to Cul-de-sac at Adanac and Jubilee (1)
<b>Bowker Creek (11)</b>	Flooding protection (1), Relocate the creek (4), Provide more information about relocation (2), Protect headwaters (3), Do not relocate (1)
<b>Consider First Nations (4)</b>	Honor Indigenous placenames and plants (2), Rename the park (2)
<b>Education (7)</b>	Include nature-based childcare and education (3), Provide signage (1), but not too much (2), Create a partnership with the college (1)
<b>Zoning (4)</b>	Keep park off Schedule C Section 3 list (no public camping) (2), Connect to existing master plans and designated

## Engagement 2 - Vision, Goals & Park Management (Dec 6, 2022)

The Project Team used feedback from Survey 1 to further refine the Vision statement. They also drafted Goals to reflect the dominant themes and support the Vision. These were presented for review at the second event. The Project Team also presented several different Management Models that accommodate varying degrees of community involvement in the long-term management of the park



14 people attended the on-line event

## Survey 2: December 14 – January 15, 2023

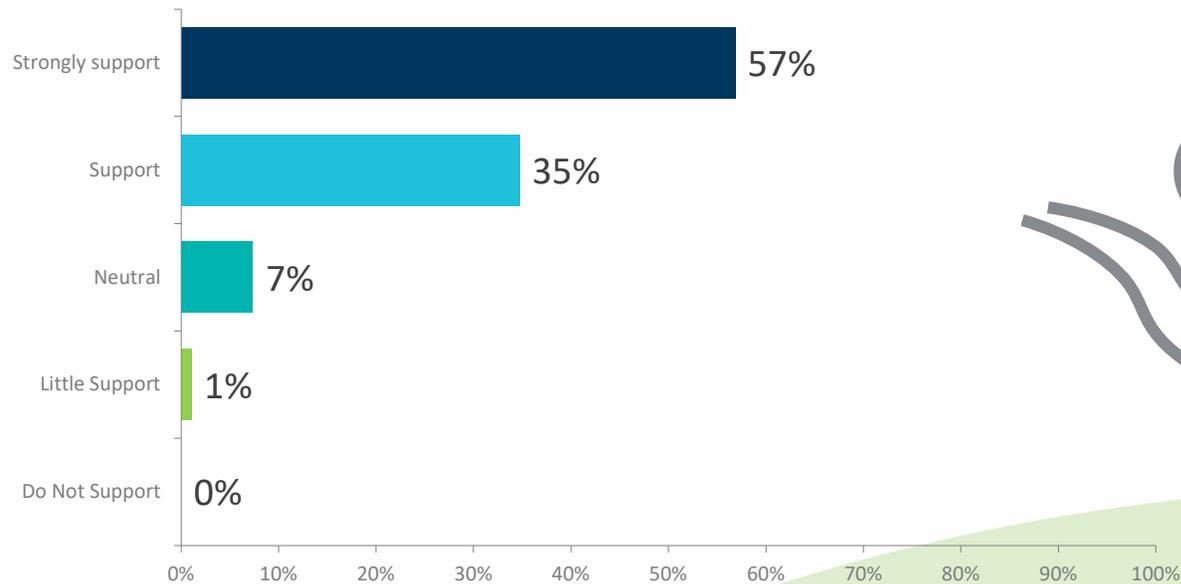


95 people completed the on-line survey

The following pages give key results from Survey 2.

# Vision Statement

*The (park name to be determined) showcases the restored Bowker Creek, provides wildlife habitat, supports biodiversity, and helps to manage stormwater. With its open spaces, trees and natural areas, it is a park, held in perpetuity for people to connect with each other and nature.*



92%



# Additional Comments on Vision Statement

**'Thayweun'  
in future  
park name  
(2)**

**Reflect the  
importance of dog  
and pets  
(3)**

**Include  
stormwater  
and flood  
management  
(3)**

**Protecting  
nature and the  
natural essence  
(2)**

**Connections to  
the community  
and value as a  
green corridor  
(3)**



# What We Heard About The Proposed Goals

Goal	Support or Strongly Support
Bowker Creek to be ecologically robust and resilient for generations to come	97%
Enhance and steward biodiversity and wildlife habitat	97%
Contribute to the urban forest (e.g. plant more trees)	92%
Improve stormwater management and mitigate flooding	91%
Include climate change adaptation and mitigation measures	85%
Provide access to nature and learning opportunities	83%
Create safe and accessible trail connections	73%
Accommodate dogs and their owners	50%
Provide park amenities that accommodate informal recreation	46%

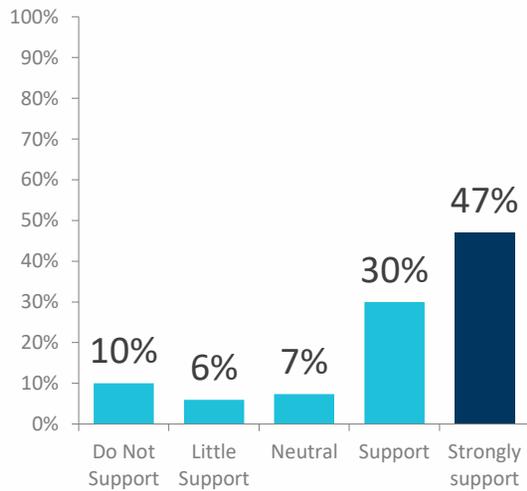
## Additional Comments on Goals

Theme	Specific Comment
<b>Nature (8)</b>	Preserve natural quality (2), Provide protected habitat (3), Retain trees (1), Remove invasive species (1), Keep meadow and open space (1)
<b>Dogs (8)</b>	Dogs only on leash (2), Open for dogs (3), Clear rules about dogs (2), Poop management (1)
<b>Community Amenities (8)</b>	Additional benches (1), Community gardens (1), Create community connection opportunities and gathering space (2), Clearer definition of informal recreation (1), Annual tree planting events (1), Disk Golf (1), Safety and sightlines (1),
<b>Access (3)</b>	Create connections to the hospital (1), Accessible pathways (1), minimal paving (1)
<b>Bowker Creek (4)</b>	Flooding protection (1), Provide more information about relocation (1), Prioritize health (1), Do not relocate (1)
<b>Consider First Nations (2)</b>	Honour Indigenous placenames and plants (1), Create a co-stewardship management model (1)

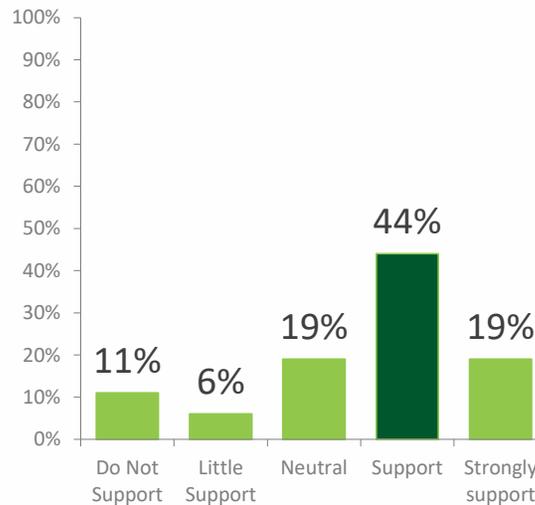
# Dogs at Kings Community Nature Space



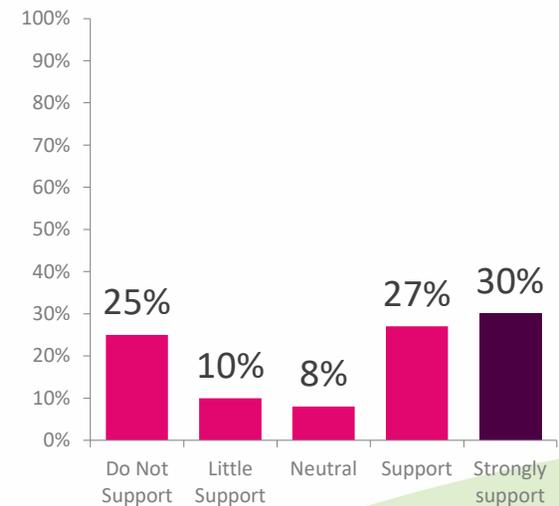
To determine how dogs are included at Kings Nature Space, we asked three questions:



Q13. Both dogs and people should stay out of sensitive habitat



Q14. In moderately sensitive habitat dogs should be allowed on leash



Q15. Dogs should only be allowed in enclosed areas (fenced, dog run)

# Additional Comments on Dogs

Theme	Number of comments
Create designated off leash dog areas in moderate to low sensitive habitat with fences	9
Protect sensitive natural areas from dogs	6
Allow off-leash dogs	6
Dogs on-leash only	5
No fences or unsightly barriers in the park	2



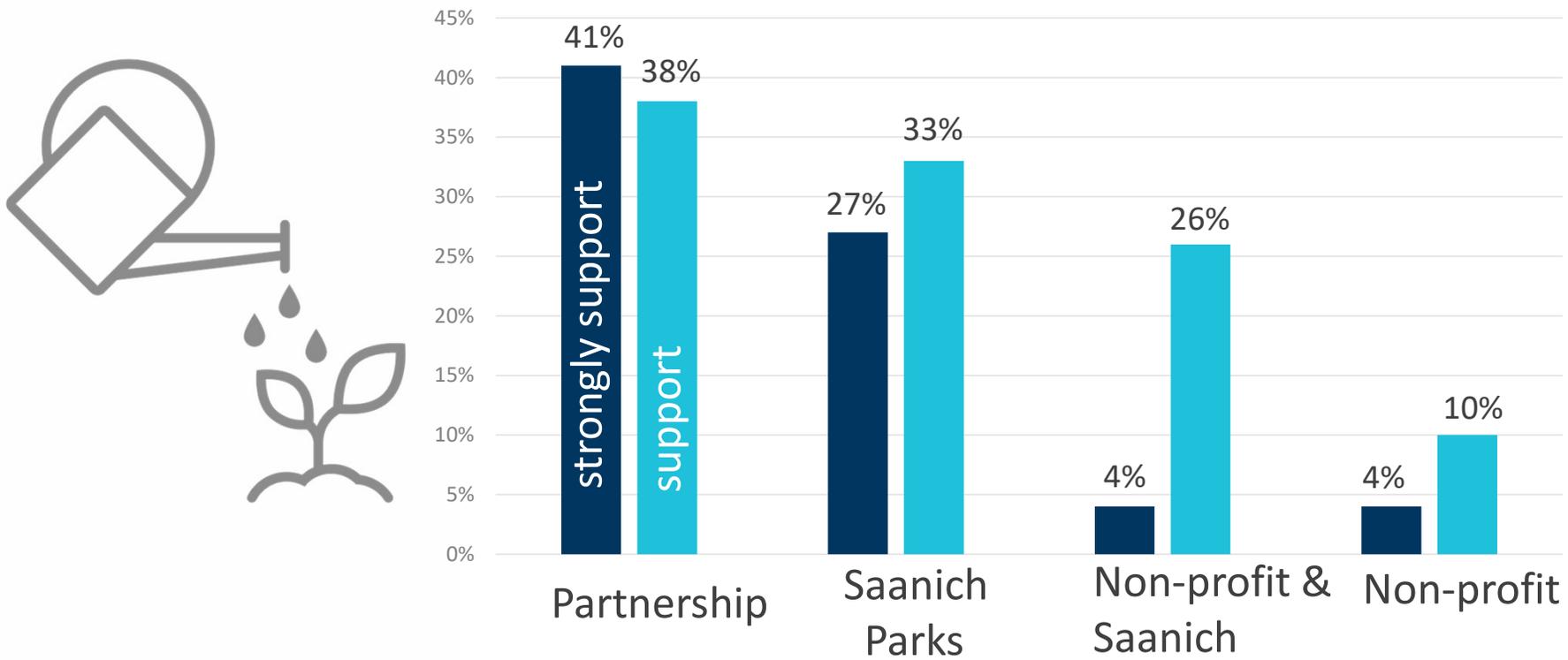
## Park Management Models

Types of management models with different levels of community input were reviewed:

	Community Involvement
<b>Municipal</b> (Saanich Parks manages the park)	Low
<b>Municipal partnership with Community-based Group</b> (e.g. 'Friends of', or Stewardship group)	Medium
<b>Partial Management (non-profit and Saanich)</b> (Municipal Operations in collaboration with not-for profit for specific issues)	High
<b>Not-for-Profit Society</b> (Run independently as per binding agreement with Saanich e.g. Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary)	Very High

# Park Management Models

How the park is managed is important to the District of Saanich and the community. The community told us they prefer the Partnership model:



## Additional Comments on Park Management

Theme	Number of Comments
Use a phased-in approach toward a shared municipal-community management model	6
Only municipal management is acceptable in this park	3
Limit municipal involvement	1
Create fee-for-use amenities (community gardens) to support park maintenance and restoration	1
Create a co-stewardship model with local indigenous peoples	1



## Questions or comments?

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Contact us at [parcs@saanich.ca](mailto:parcs@saanich.ca) or 250-475-5522 with any other feedback or questions.



[saanich.ca/kings](http://saanich.ca/kings)