



Strathcona Regional District

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# Electoral Area D Parks and Trails Plan

Engagement Summary – Round 2 (PTP)



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ASSOCIATES

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Strathcona Regional District

Round 2 Engagement Summary

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

The Strathcona Regional District is developing a Parks and Trails Plan for Electoral Area D (Oyster Bay – Buttle Lake). This plan will guide future improvements and investments in parks, trails, and active transportation, with the goal of creating a well-connected network of park spaces and movement corridors.

This “What We Heard” Report summarizes community input collected during Phase 7 of the project (see the overall planning process in Figure 1). The purpose of the second round of engagement was to gather input on the draft Parks and Trails Plan (PTP).

A key component of this plan is integrating an Active Transportation Network Plan to improve connections between key destinations, enhancing accessibility and mobility for all residents and visitors. The Active Transportation Network Plan was adopted by the SRD Board in March 2026.

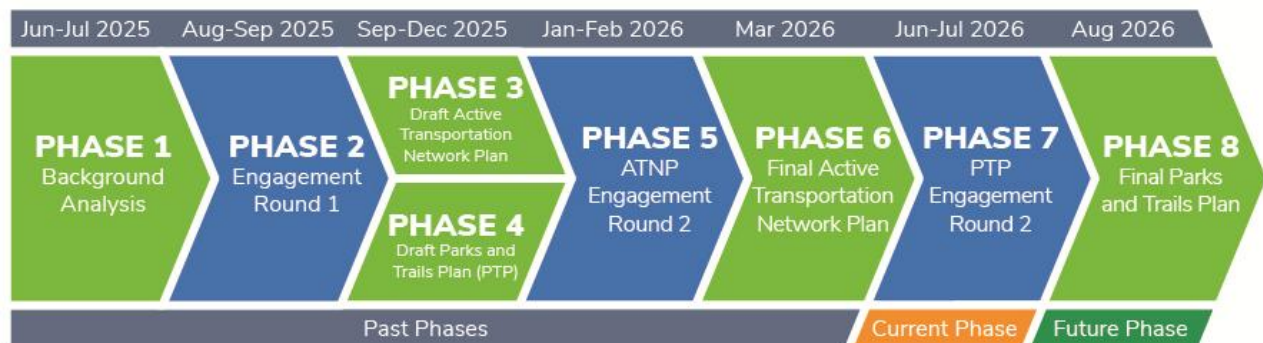


Figure 1 Project timeline for the SRD Electoral Area D Parks and Trails Plan

## 1.1 OUTREACH

Outreach and promotion of engagement opportunities to the community was conducted two weeks before engagement began, as well as during the engagement period. Information about the project’s goals, schedule, and opportunities to get involved was shared widely with residents.

Opportunities to participate were advertised through:

- The SRD’s website
- Posts on the SRD’s social media accounts
- Posters at parks and popular community locations
- Direct email notices to interest-holders

## **1.2 ROUND TWO (PTP) ENGAGEMENT TOOLS**

Community engagement was held in June and July 2026 and included two interest-holder workshops, an online public open house, and an online survey. Participants were also given the opportunity to provide written input via email to the SRD.

### **1.2.1 INTEREST-HOLDER WORKSHOPS**

Two online workshops were held on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, to gather feedback on the draft vision statement, goals, and recommendations.

The following interest-holder groups participated in the workshops:

- City of Campbell River, Transportation and Planning
- Islands Health
- North Island Metis
- Ministry of Transportation
- Greenways Land Trust
- Streamkeepers

Written input was received from a representative of the BC Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, who was unable to attend an interest-holder workshop.

### **1.2.2 ONLINE PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE AND WRITTEN INPUT**

An online public Open House was held on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, with six participants attending. SRD staff and the consulting team attended to present the Draft Parks and Trails Plan, answer questions, and guide the discussion.

Written input from six members of the public were provided by email or through the website to the SRD.

### **1.2.3 ONLINE SURVEY**

An online survey was hosted on SurveyMonkey for four weeks, from June 19 to July 17, 2026. The survey requested feedback on the Draft Parks and Trails Plan and gathered input on the proposed vision, goals and recommendations. The survey received 149 responses.

## 2 ROUND TWO (PTP) ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

### 2.1 INTEREST-HOLDER WORKSHOPS

The following is a summary of the key themes raised during the interest-holder workshops and the written input provided by interest-holders.

#### Vision, Goals, and Language

- Vision statements and goals were generally well received, including appreciation for the mention of climate resilience.
- Participants suggested clarifying language around “connections,” distinguishing between social connections and trail or active transportation connections. There were also suggestions to include language about reconciliation.

#### Environmental Protection, Climate Resilience, and Stewardship

- Participants supported plan components that protect and acquire riparian corridors, improve ecosystem connectivity, conserve sensitive ecosystems, support wildlife, provide access to nature, and strengthen climate resilience.
- Participants emphasized balancing the protection of natural areas with recreational opportunities and access.
- Trails in riparian corridors may adversely affect biodiversity; access by people and dogs was noted as harmful to wildlife. Recommended mitigation measures included fencing and viewing platforms.
- Participants recommended long-term, nature-based shoreline protection approaches and noted that wetland identification, mapping, and protection are particularly important.
- Greenways Land Trust is developing strategies to prepare riparian areas and shorelines for climate change impacts and may be interested in collaborating with SRD.
- Participants advocated that park planning and benchmarking consider the protection of nature.
- Participants recommended partnering with First Nations in protecting natural areas.
- Park and trail acquisition priorities could further emphasize the importance of parks and natural areas in promoting human health in the face of climate change.

#### Trails, Connectivity, and Active Transportation

- Priority project identified: on-street bike route along Craig Road over the Hagel Greenway.

- Participants advocated for the neighbourhood connection from Redonda Way to McGimsey Road.
- Participants recommended careful consideration of pathway surfacing, such as crusher fines.
- Participants advocated for matching trail classification with anticipated demand and service to popular destinations.
- The Waterline Trail should focus on tourism development, economic opportunities, and safety.
- Participants noted poor signage on informal trails near the golf course on City of Campbell River lands.

#### **Access, Safety, and Park Amenities**

- Participants noted a lack of garbage receptacles across parks in the region.
- Participants emphasized the importance of online accessibility resources and washrooms in parks.
- Participants noted limited access to Oyster River Potholes and safety concerns related to parking and pull-out areas.

#### **Park Acquisition and Development Opportunities**

- Participants appreciated efforts to identify park acquisition priorities and opportunities to develop road rights-of-way.
- Participants recommended exploring funding options and setting up an acquisition levy to add to the Parkland Reserve Fund.
- Participants expressed general support for recommendations related to park development and managing climate change.

## **2.2 OPEN HOUSE AND WRITTEN PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

Generally, there was support for the overall vision of the Parks and Trails Plan. The following is a summary of key themes that were raised during the Open House and written.

#### **Landowner opposition and access constraints**

- Several comments highlighted potential opposition from landowners, particularly where proposed future trails cross private land or easements.
- The Waterline Trail was noted as requiring further conversations with landowners before specific plans can advance.
- There were some concerns about public access along the Hagel Greenway.

### **Environmental protection in sensitive corridors**

- Some participants emphasized concerns about trails in riparian corridors and near eagle nest or heron nest trees, especially where alternatives may exist.
- Stonefly Creek was identified as a fish-bearing stream with access challenges in nearby trail connections.

### **Interagency coordination**

- Ongoing coordination with MOTT, SRD, and the City of Campbell River was identified as important for highway crossings, traffic concerns, and inclusion of trail priorities in broader planning processes such as the OCP.

### **Park Amenities**

- A resident inquired about the status of plans for Maple Park, noting that the park could attract more residents and visitors if it offered more/improved amenities.

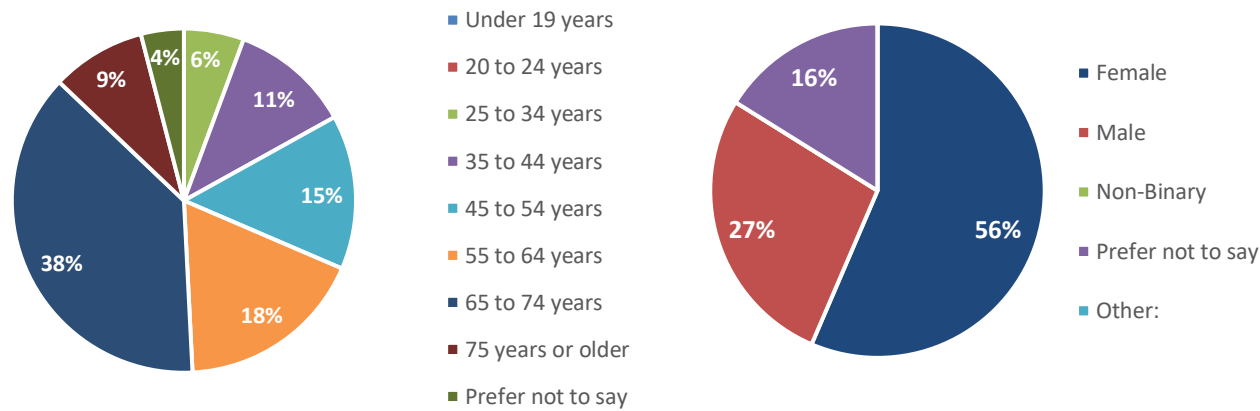
### **Trail Network Support**

- Several comments expressed strong support for the proposed trail network, highlighting the importance of safe, non-highway connections for walking and biking.
- There was support for expanding public access to trails, including Stonefly Creek and the Waterline trail, as long as the trail design protects sensitive environmental areas.

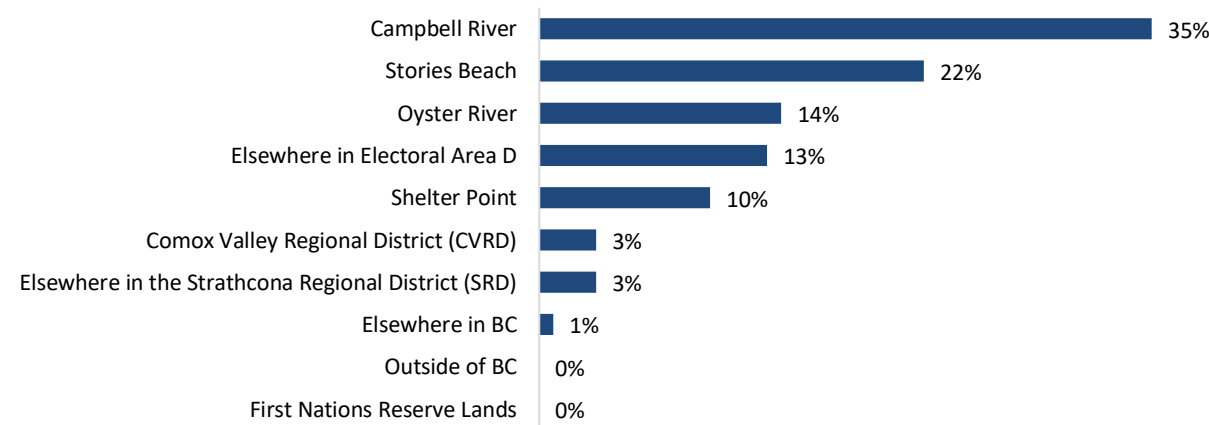
## 2.3 ONLINE SURVEY

### Who Responded?

A total of 149 responses were received on the online survey. More than 45% of respondents were 65 years of age or older and just over half of respondents (56%) identified as female.



Communities represented by more than 10% of respondents in survey responses included Campbell River (35%), Stories Beach (22%), Oyster River (14%), and elsewhere in Electoral Area D (13%).

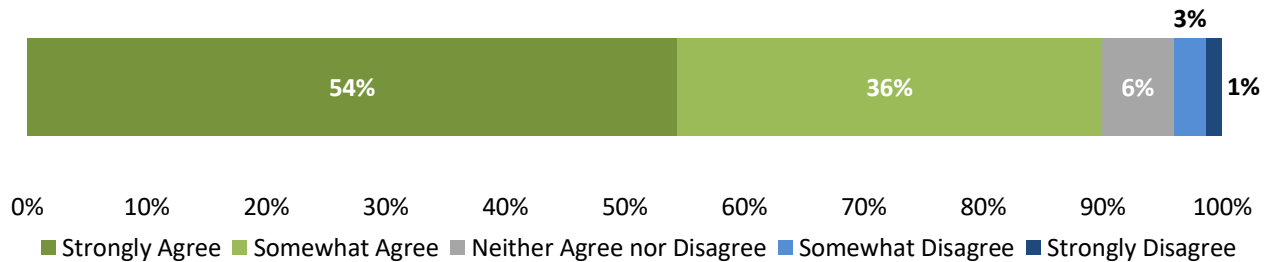


(Note: As only residents of Electoral Area D contribute financially to the SRD parks and trails within the Electoral Area, we also reviewed the survey results from the respondents who noted they live in Stories Beach, Oyster River, Shelter Point or elsewhere in Electoral Area D. While there were minor differences in total percentages, there were no significant differences to the overall results.)

## Vision Statement

Survey participants had strong support for the vision statement with 90% of respondents strongly agreeing (54%) or somewhat agreeing (36%) to the draft vision statement.

### To what extent do you agree with the Parks and Trails Plan Vision Statement?



When asked if there was anything missing from the vision statement, participants highlighted the following:

- Protecting natural areas: wildlife, flora/fauna, water, soil, forests, corridors.
- Adding clarity around development and tourism impacts.
- Improving safety, accessibility, trail connectivity, and active transportation.
- Keeping some trails natural, not paved/widened; restrict motorized use.
- Addressing costs, taxes, and fiscal responsibility.
- Improving community engagement, especially with directly affected residents.
- Making the vision more specific, future-focused, and accountable.

## Goals

Survey respondents were asked to what degree they agree to the following goals from the draft Parks and Trails Plan:

Goal 1: Implement tools to support the management and maintenance of parks and trails.

Goal 2: Enhance accessibility and navigation for park and trail users.

Goal 3: Expand and enhance parks, trails and outdoor amenities to meet evolving community needs.

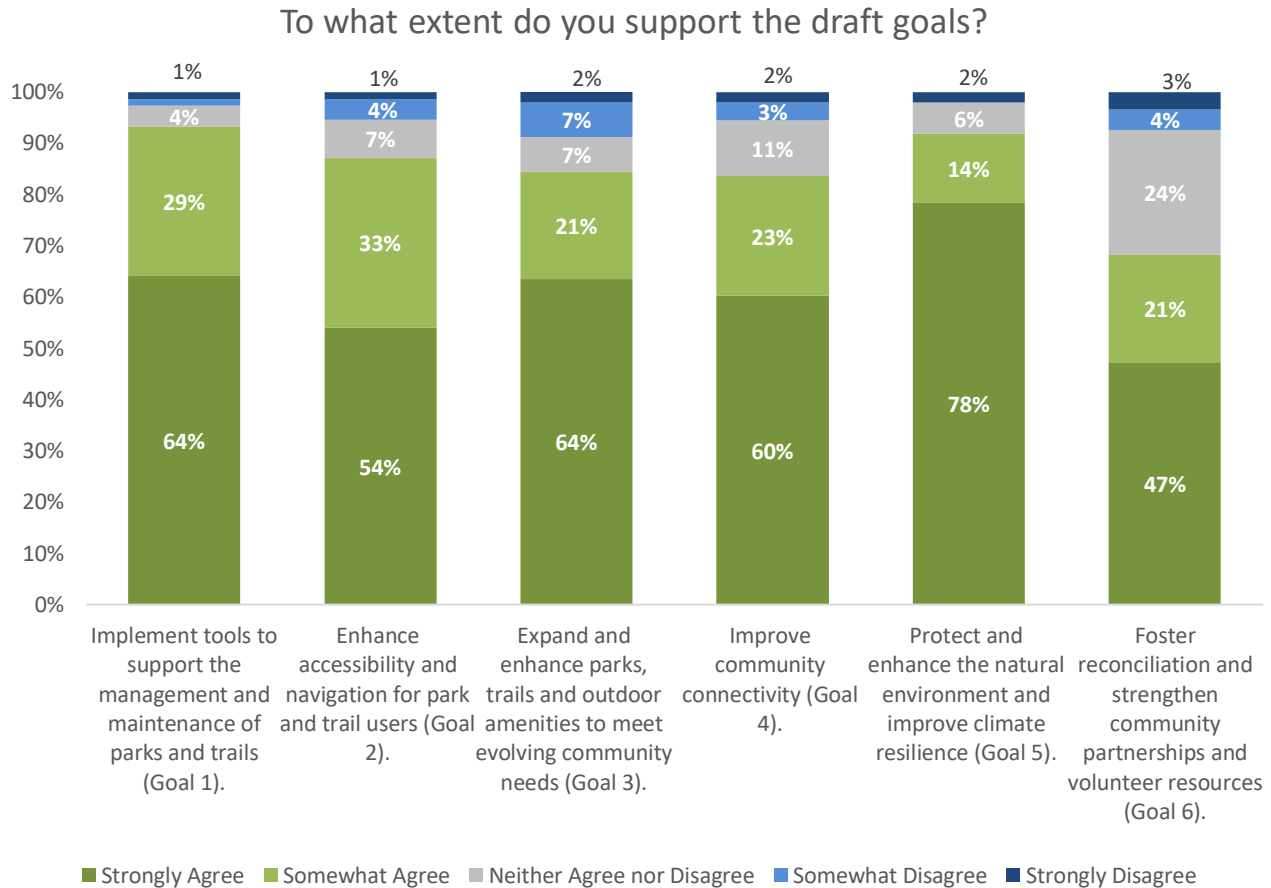
Goal 4: Improve community connectivity.

Goal 5: Protect and enhance the natural environment and improve climate resilience.

Goal 6: Foster reconciliation and strengthen community partnerships and volunteer resources.

Over 50% of respondents strongly agreed to most goals. Overall, Goal 5 resonated the most with survey respondents, with 78% of respondents strongly agreeing. Goal 6 received the most mixed responses with

24% neither agreeing nor disagreeing and 7% strongly (3%) or somewhat (4%) disagreeing. Goal 3 received the most disagreement with 9% strongly (2%) or somewhat (7%) disagreeing.



When asked if there was anything missing from the goals, participants highlighted the following:

- Prioritizing environmental protection: wildlife corridors, wetlands, forests, watercourses, invasive species
- Improving accessibility, adaptive trails, safety, signage, maps, and active transportation.
- Avoiding overdevelopment, over-management, paving, and unwanted neighbourhood connectivity.
- Addressing costs, tax burden, and maintenance capacity associated with enhancing or expanding park facilities.
- Adding clearer, more concrete goals with priorities, update cycles, and community engagement.
- Respecting property owners, ALR/farm/forest lands.
- Providing clarity on reconciliation.

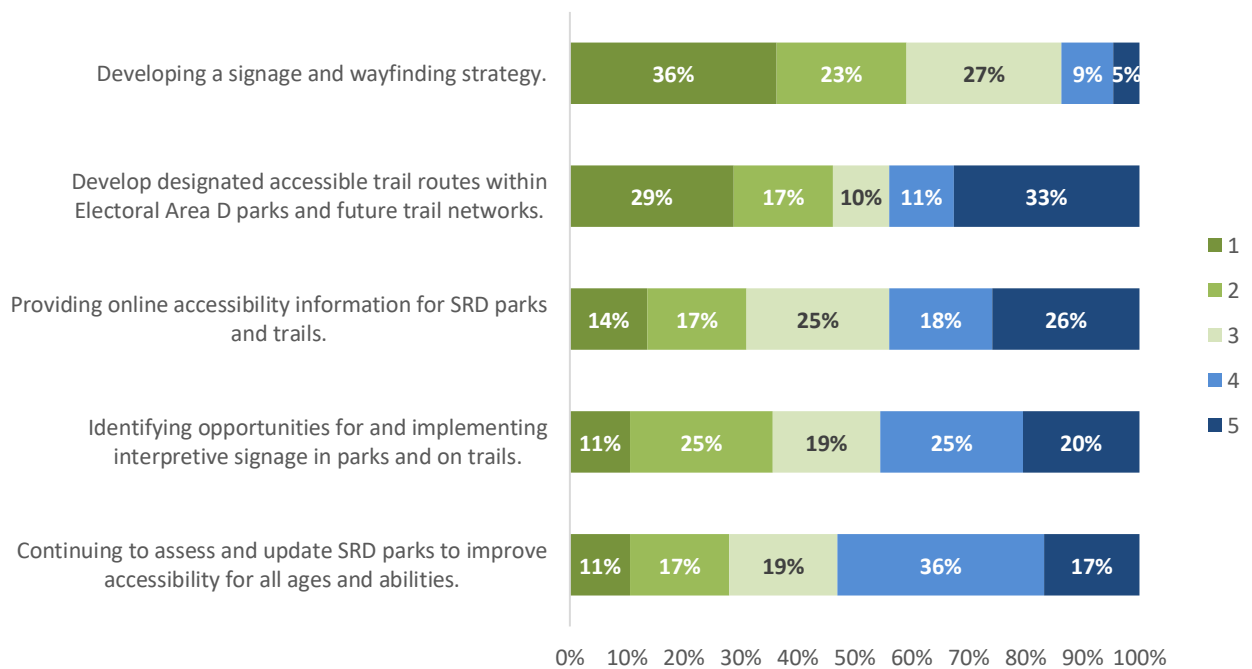
## Recommendations

The following recommendations were ranked by survey participants:

1. Developing a signage and wayfinding strategy.
2. Identifying opportunities for and implementing interpretive signage in parks and on trails.
3. Providing online accessibility information for SRD parks and trails.
4. Continuing to assess and update SRD parks to improve accessibility for all ages and abilities.
5. Develop designated accessible trail routes within Electoral Area D parks and future trail networks.

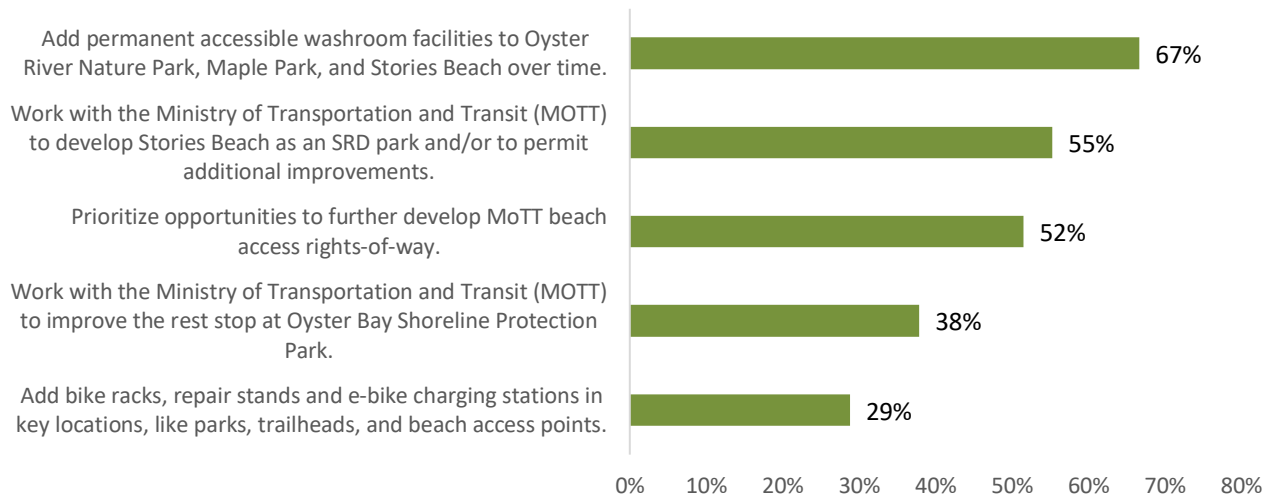
The ranking of the above recommendations yielded mixed results. Most participants (85%) ranked recommendation 1 within their top three.

### Recommendations Ranking



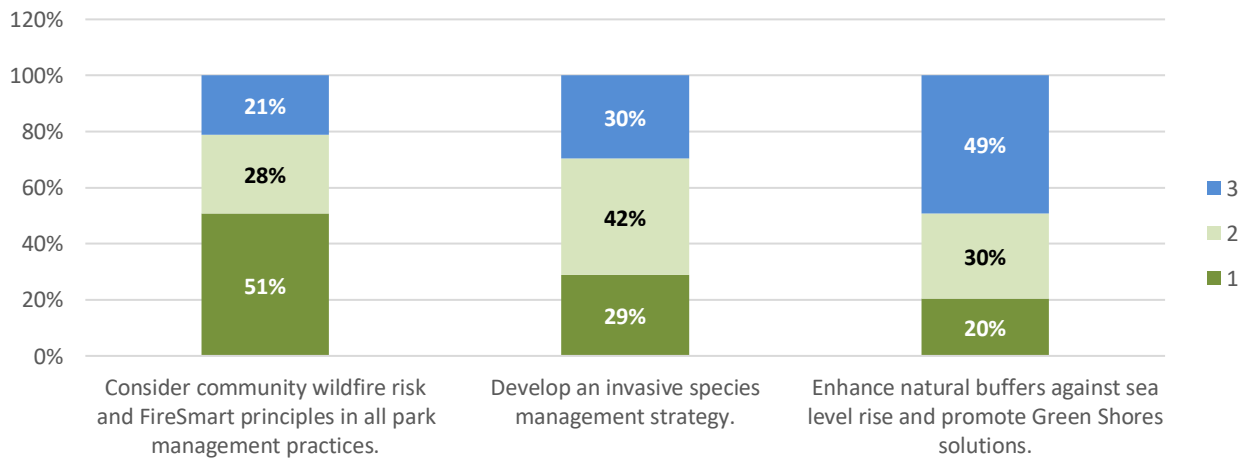
When asked which recommendations the SRD should prioritize in growing and enhancing the SRD’s parks and trails in Electoral Area D, participants felt that adding permanent accessible washrooms and enhancing beach access points was a top priority. Working with the Ministry of Transportation and Transit on improvements to Stories Beach and to further develop additional beach access rights-of-way were also important to survey respondents.

### Recommendation Prioritization

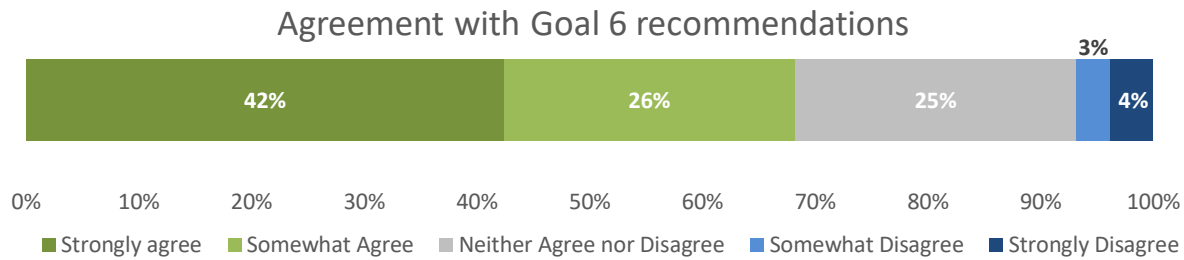


When asked what recommendations the SRD should prioritize related to enhancing the natural environment and improving climate resiliency, respondents felt the most important recommendation was to consider community wildfire risk and Firesmart principles in park management practices.

### Recommendations Prioritization



Participants were asked to what degree they agreed with the proposed recommendations under Goal 6, including strengthening partnerships with First Nations, expanding collaboration with non-profit organizations, and supporting volunteerism in parks and trails. Most participants (68%) either strongly (42%) or somewhat (26%) agreed.



When asked if there is anything missing in the Draft Parks and Trails Plan, the following key comments emerged from the survey responses:

- Connectivity & active transportation: safer off-road cycling/walking routes, especially Oyster River–Jubilee Parkway, coastal cycling, Waterline Trail, and Campbell River links.
- Environmental protection: preserve Woods Creek, wetlands, riparian zones, wildlife corridors, green spaces, eagle/heron habitat, and other environmentally sensitive areas.
- Safety: desire to separate bikes/pedestrians from high-speed traffic, improve crossings, parking, visibility, and beach/trail access.
- Neighbourhood impacts: opposition to some connections due to traffic, privacy, crime, parking, wildfire risk, impacts to rural character and lack of public engagement.
- Implementation & cost: requests for clearer plans, funding, maintenance, taxpayer impact, and practical low-cost actions.
- Amenities & access: desire for washrooms, water fountains, signage, garbage bins, dog management, equestrian access, and adaptive/accessible routes.
- Motorized use conflict: strong concern about dirt bikes/quads damaging creeks/trails.

## 3 CONCLUSION

The Round 2 engagement resulted in strong support for improving parks, trails, accessibility, and connectivity, but only if implementation is environmentally responsible, fiscally realistic, and guided by meaningful engagement with residents, landowners, First Nations, and partner agencies. Participants generally supported the direction of the draft Parks and Trails Plan, including the proposed vision, goals, and recommendations.

Key themes raised by participants included:

### **Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience**

Environmental protection was one of the strongest themes across all engagement activities. Participants emphasized the need to protect riparian areas, wetlands, wildlife habitat, forests, green spaces, sensitive ecosystems, and rural character. Feedback also highlighted the importance of balancing recreation access with conservation and incorporating climate resilience into park and trail planning.

### **Trail Connectivity and Active Transportation**

Participants expressed strong support for safer and better-connected walking and cycling routes. Priority areas included connections to Campbell River, coastal cycling routes, Oyster River–Jubilee Parkway, the Waterline Trail, Craig Road, and neighbourhood trail links. Active transportation improvements were seen as important for both community mobility and recreation. There was also opposition from some adjacent landowners, particularly where proposed future trails are next to private residences, cross private land or easements.

### **Safety, Accessibility, and Amenities**

Safety and accessibility improvements were identified as priorities. Common suggestions included safer road crossings, separation from high-speed traffic, improved parking and trailhead access, better signage and maps, accessibility information, adaptive and accessible trail routes, washrooms, garbage bins, benches, bike racks, repair stands, and e-bike charging stations.

### **Landowner, Neighbourhood, and Access Concerns**

Some proposed trail connections raised concerns related to private property, easements, privacy, traffic, parking, crime, fire risk, and public access through private land. Participants emphasized the need for direct engagement with affected residents and landowners before advancing route-specific plans.

### **Implementation, Costs, and Maintenance**

Participants asked for clearer implementation priorities, funding strategies, maintenance plans, enforcement approaches, and information about taxes and cost implications. Feedback suggested that the plan should be practical, transparent, and realistic about available resources and capacity.

### **Partnerships, Reconciliation, and Collaboration**

Engagement participants supported stronger partnerships with First Nations, non-profit organizations, volunteers, provincial agencies, neighbouring jurisdictions, and community groups. Reconciliation and collaboration were identified as important considerations for implementation and stewardship.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

To get in touch with the SRD Parks Department, see contact information below.

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To learn more about the Electoral Area D Parks and Trails Plan, visit the project page at:

[www.srd.ca/projects/parks-trails-plan-active-transportation-network-plan-area-d](http://www.srd.ca/projects/parks-trails-plan-active-transportation-network-plan-area-d)