THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT

# PARKS AND TRAILS STRATEGIC PLAN

**FINAL REPORT**
**JULY 2025**



The development of this Plan was guided by input from the following groups and individuals:

Thompson-Nicola Regional District Staff
TNRD Parks & Trails Development Standing Committee

Thank you to those interested parties, rightsholders, residents and members
of the public who shared their thoughts and ideas through the community engagement process.

The Consulting Team

LEES + ASSOCIATES

Megan Turnock, Principal
Ivy Smith, Landscape Architect
Patrick Beech, Landscape Architect
Leigh Campbell, Senior Planner
Sam Bowerman, Landscape Designer
Tim Edwards, Landscape Designer




*The TNRD respectfully acknowledges that we are located on the territories of 25 First Nations, within the unceded, ancestral lands of the Nlaka'pumux, Secwépemc, St'at'imc, and Syilx Nations.*

# CONTENTS

**Executive Summary** ..... **i**

**1 Introduction** ..... **1**

1.1 Purpose of the Plan ..... 2
1.2 The Planning Process ..... 2
1.3 Strategic Context ..... 3

**2 Community Profile** ..... **4**

2.1 First Nations ..... 5
2.2 Municipalities ..... 5
2.3 Electoral Areas ..... 6
2.4 Demographics ..... 7

**3 Current State of Parks and Trails in the TNRD** ..... **8**

3.1 Existing TNRD Parks and Trails System ..... 9
3.2 Other Parks and Trails (non-TNRD) ..... 11
3.3 Benchmarking ..... 14

**4 Key Trends in Parks and Trails** ..... **15**

**5 Engagement: What We Heard** ..... **19**

5.1 Community Engagement ..... 20
5.2 First Nations Engagement ..... 20
5.3 Engagement Activities ..... 21
5.4 What We Heard ..... 22

**6 The Strategic Plan** ..... **23**

6.1 Vision ..... 24
6.2 Recommendations ..... 24

**7 Implementation Plan** ..... **33**

**8 References** ..... **39**

**Appendices** ..... **41**

**Appendix A: Parks and Trails Inventory** ..... **42**

**Appendix B: Definitions for Regional and Community Parks** ..... **52**

**Appendix C Land Acquisition – Criteria and Future Considerations** ..... **54**

**Appendix D: Engagement Summary** ..... **59**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) owns and manages parks and trail networks that serve TNRD residents at both the community and regional level. From the South Thompson River Buoy System to the Blue River Trails System to local parks like Birch Island Community Park, residents and visitors enjoy access to unique experiences on both land and water. Further supporting access to nature and outdoor recreation are the parks and trails managed by British Columbia Provincial Parks (BC Parks), Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC), the municipalities of the TNRD, and other community recreation organizations. As the population in the region grows and the needs of residents change, there is an increasing demand for outdoor recreation opportunities that support a high quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic resilience.

This Parks and Trails Strategic Plan outlines the vision and priorities for delivering parks and trails services and investing in capital over the next 10 years. Priorities include expanding the park and trail network to better serve all TNRD residents; upgrading parks and trails to accommodate a wider diversity of park and trail users; supporting community recreation organizations that build and manage parks, trails, and supporting amenities; fostering a stronger relationship with First Nations; and improving the Regional District's capacity to effectively and sustainably manage parks and trails.

The Plan was developed collaboratively by TNRD staff and guided by input from First Nations, stakeholders, and the community at large. Engagement participants were largely satisfied with the level of service provided by TNRD parks and trails, noting the network's abundant opportunities to connect with nature, including the region's lakes and waterways for passive recreation activities. Participants wanted to see the TNRD parks and trail network grow to serve residents across the Regional District while promoting the user experience and being mindful of the local environment.

## The Vision Statement

The following vision statement was developed collaboratively through the Plan process, with input from the community and stakeholders.

The TNRD will:

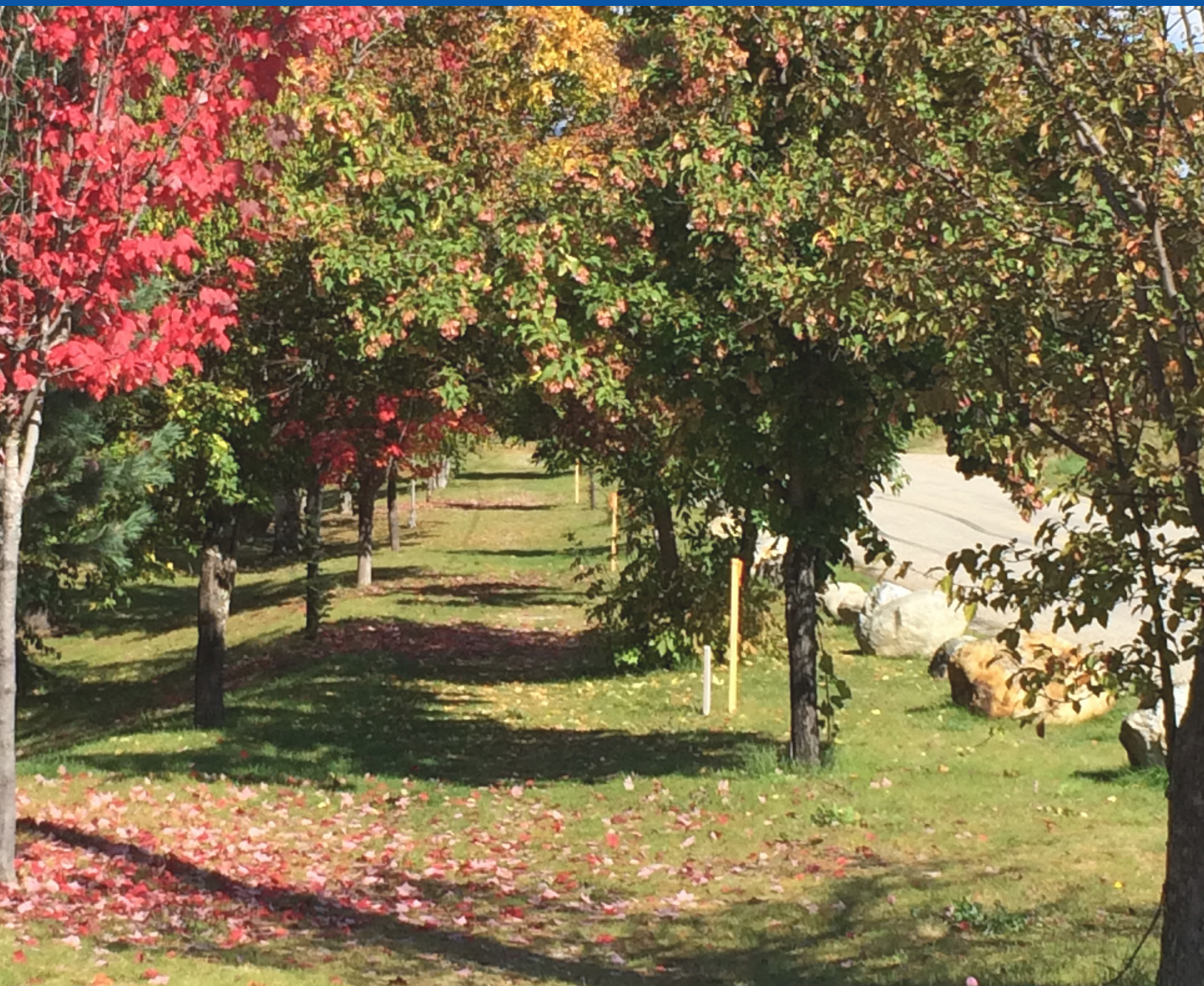
- **Foster First Nations Reconciliation** through relationships and partnerships that promote Indigenous culture and values.
- **Grow and Manage** the regional and community parks and trails system sustainably through partnerships and collaboration to better serve residents and promote tourism.
- **Create Opportunities** for people to recreate, appreciate, and steward natural areas while ensuring protection and enhancement of the regional district's diverse ecosystems and wildlife.
- **Support Community** connections, health, and well-being, as well as equitable access to a variety of landscapes and outdoor recreation opportunities across the region.

The Plan identifies 23 recommendations under six goals to improve the quality and supply of parks and trails across the TNRD. The goals and recommendations are summarized in the table on the following pages.

| Goal 1: Foster government-to-government relationships with Indigenous communities. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** |
| 1 | Establish a clear policy and processes for including First Nations in the park and trail planning process. | High | Short-term |
| 2 | Engage with Indigenous communities to offer opportunities to incorporate informational and interpretive signage that reflects Indigenous territories, cultural values, historical trails, culture camps, and other uses within the region. | Medium | Ongoing |
| 3 | Partner with Indigenous groups to ensure the preservation of culturally modified trees (CMT) and understory, culturally significant trees (CST), archaeological areas, and other culturally and ecologically significant resources within TNRD parks (or potential future TNRD parks and trails). | High | Ongoing |
| 4 | Through the spirit of decolonization and collaboration, the TNRD is open to considering the re-naming of TNRD parks and trails where Indigenous languages and place names can be represented. | Medium | Ongoing |
| **Goal 2: Support local outdoor recreation organizations that build, maintain, and manage parks, trails and supporting amenities in the region.** | | | |
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** |
| 5 | Standardize agreements with community organizations that build and maintain parks and trails. | Medium | Short-term |
| 6 | Explore mechanisms to provide funding to community organizations that build and maintain parks and trails. | Medium | Initiate Medium-term, Ongoing |
| 7 | Assist community organizations that build and maintain parks and trails with TNRD staff support. | Medium | Ongoing |
| **Goal 3: Improve collaboration with non-profits, industry, and other levels of government.** | | | |
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** |
| 8 | Establish sub-regional trail working groups to increase coordination, collaboration and efficient use of resources. | Medium | Medium-term |
| 9 | Work with other organizations to improve parkland supply and access. | Medium | Long-term |

| Goal 4: Establish management and maintenance tools to ensure the long-term sustainability of parks and trails. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** |
| 10 | Adopt an adaptive management approach. | Medium | Ongoing |
| 11 | Develop an asset management system for the TNRD parks and trails system. | High | Short-term |
| 12 | Create park development and management plans for existing and future parks and trails. | High | Medium-term |
| 13 | Establish a level of service standard for regional parks and trails. | High | Short-term |
| 14 | Establish a trail classification system. | Low | Ongoing |
| 15 | Update parks policies to ensure parks are correctly classified as either Community or Regional Parks. | High | Short-term |
| 16 | Establish a park use policy and explore opportunities for park-related revenue streams. | High | Short-term |
| **Goal 5: Enhance park experiences for all visitors.** | | | |
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** |
| 17 | Identify opportunities for upgrading parks, trails, and supporting amenities to universal accessibility standards. | Medium | Short-term with phased implementation |
| 18 | Publish accessibility information on parks and trails. | Medium | Short-term |
| 19 | Implement a consistent signage and wayfinding system. | High | Ongoing |
| **Goal 6: Increase the supply of TNRD parks and trails.** | | | |
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** |
| 20 | Develop new Regional Parks. | High | Medium to Long-term |
| 21 | Develop new Community Parks in priority areas. | High | Medium to Long-term |
| 22 | Explore opportunities for new trail networks in priority areas and regional trail connections. | Medium | Medium to Long-term |
| 23 | Review underdeveloped and underutilized TNRD parkland and consider recommendations for the disposition of parkland that is not suitable or feasible for development. | High | Short-term |

# 1. INTRODUCTION



## 1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) Parks & Trails Strategic Plan (the Plan) outlines the future direction, philosophy, policies, and actions for TNRD regional and community parks and trail services. This plan will guide the integrated delivery of parks and trail services over the next ten years. The TNRD Parks and Trails Strategic Plan aims to:

- Assess the current state of parks and trails;
- Determine the needs and values of the community through comprehensive engagement;
- Establish an overarching vision and goals based on shared values;
- Make recommendations for supporting parks and trails service delivery over the next 10 years;
- Provide a framework for decision-making; and
- Provide a prioritized implementation plan with funding tools.

## 1.2 THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Plan process involved five phases, including two rounds of engagement:

- **Phase 1—Inventory and Analysis:** The first phase included background research, reviewing relevant regional strategies and bylaws, a site visit, and mapping parks and trails in the region. The project team also began its regular meetings with the Parks & Trails Strategic Planning Committee and TNRD staff.
- **Phase 2—Community Engagement Round 1**: The second phase of the project included the first round of community engagement. Activities included First Nations engagement, community organization and staff workshops, electoral area and member municipality workshops, and an online public survey. These sessions aimed to introduce the communities to the project, understand their values and priorities, and identify challenges and opportunities regarding parks and trails in the region.
- **Phase 3—Draft Parks and Trails Strategic Plan:** This phase involved developing the draft Plan, which included information gathered in the first two phases of the project, and a draft vision, goals, and recommendations.
- **Phase 4—Community Engagement Round 2**: The fourth phase featured a second round of community engagement to report findings and collect feedback, ensuring the draft Plan was in alignment with community values. Round two of engagement included an online survey, interest-holder meetings, and a virtual open house.
- **Phase 5—Final Parks and Trails Strategic Plan:** The final phase of the planning process included developing the final Plan and presenting it to the TNRD Board of Directors for their approval.

## 1.3 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Several plans and documents influenced the development of this Parks and Trails Strategic Plan. Below is a summary of these key documents and their significance to the Plan.

**Regional Parks Policy, 2004**

The Regional Parks Policy reviews the TNRD's 1984 policy statement regarding a regional parks system. The Policy outlines the role of regional parks within the context of municipal, provincial, and national park systems and advises the implementation of a regional parks system. The Policy also lists and describes the three regional parks the TNRD had established by 2004: Barriere Forks Regional Park, Little Hell's Gate Regional Park, and the Thompson River Buoy System.

**Community Parks Plan Framework, 2005**

The Community Park Framework was established to provide the TNRD with the policies, procedures, and designations to consider cash-in-lieu of parkland payments at the time of subdivision. The Framework includes policies for each of the TNRD's Official Community Plans at that time. The Framework contains comments from the TNRD Advisory Planning Commission intended to inform the planning and management of TNRD park lands. The Framework also make recommendations to assist in the implementation of a Community Parks Plan Policy Framework.

**Regional Growth Strategy, 2013**

The Regional Growth Strategy is a macro-scale planning document that advises human settlement, economic development, and environmental and cultural heritage preservation across the TNRD. The strategy outlines the TNRD's Regional Vision and contains guiding policies. The Strategy implements a monitoring program to gauge development over time and produces a bi-annual report.

**Regional Growth Strategy - 2024 Monitoring Report, 2024**

This Report summarizes trends in human settlement, transportation, economic development, environment, public health, and infrastructure in the TNRD. The Report is released bi-annually to gauge the implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy.

**Thompson-Nicola Regional District Park Regulations Bylaw No. 2852, 2024**

This Bylaw regulates the management, maintenance, improvement, operation, development, control, and use of TNRD community and regional parks.



# 2. COMMUNITY PROFILE



## 2.1 FIRST NATIONS

The TNRD resides on the territory of 25 First Nations:

- Adams Lake Indian Band
- Ashcroft Indian Band
- Bonaparte First Nation
- Boothroyd Indian Band
- Coldwater Indian Band
- Cook's Ferry Indian Band
- Llenllenéy'ten (High Bar) First Nation
- Kanaka Bar Indian Band
- Lower Nicola Indian Band
- Lytton First Nation
- Neskonlith Indian Band
- Nicomen Indian Band
- Nooaitch Indian Band
- Oregon Jack Creek Band
- Shackan Indian Band
- Simpcw First Nation
- Siska Indian Band
- Skeetchestn Indian Band
- Skuppah Indian Band
- Skwlax te Secwépemculecw
- Stswecem'c Xget'tem First Nation
- Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc
- Ts'kw'aylaxw First Nation
- Upper Nicola Band
- Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band

## 2.2 MUNICIPALITIES

There are 11 municipalities within the TNRD. The City of Kamloops is the largest, with a population of almost 98,000 residents, and the Villages of Lytton and Clinton are the smallest, with populations of a few hundred. The TNRD's municipalities include:

- Village of Ashcroft
- District of Barriere
- Village of Cache Creek
- Village of Chase
- District of Clearwater
- Village of Clinton
- City of Kamloops
- District of Logan Lake
- Village of Lytton
- City of Merritt
- Mountain Resort Municipality of Sun Peaks

## 2.3 ELECTORAL AREAS

The ten electoral areas in the TNRD cover a diversity of landscapes ranging from grasslands to mountains and lakes. The Electoral Areas are listed below and a detailed summary of Electoral Areas can be found in Table 2 in Appendix A.

- Electoral Area "A" - Wells Gray Country
- Electoral Area "B" - Thompson Headwaters
- Electoral Area "E" - Bonaparte Plateau
- Electoral Area "I" - Blue Sky Country
- Electoral Area "J" - Copper Desert Country
- Electoral Area "L" - Grasslands
- Electoral Area "M" - Beautiful Nicola Valley - North
- Electoral Area "N" - Beautiful Nicola Valley - South
- Electoral Area "O" - Lower North Thompson
- Electoral Area "P" - Rivers and the Peaks

# 2.4 DEMOGRAPHICS

*Table 1 TNRD Demographics*

| | 2021 Census Population | BC Stats Projected Population 2034 | Land Area ($km^2$) | Population Density (per $km^2$) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *TNRD* | 143,680 | 179,783 | 44,347.23 | 3.2 |

Determining the Thompson-Nicola Regional District's (TNRD) present and future need for parks and trails requires an understanding of its population.

The TNRD's 143,680 residents (2021) account for 2.8% of the population of BC, spread out over 44,347 square kilometres. About 68% of this population, 97,902 residents, live in the City of Kamloops. The next largest community, the City of Merritt, has a population of 7,051. The other municipalities range from 2,399 (Village of Chase) to 210 residents (Village of Lytton). Approximately 25,000 residents live throughout 60 unincorporated communities that comprise the TNRD's 10 electoral areas including First Nations Reserves.

Much of the TNRD's population growth since 2016 (+8.3%) was concentrated in the City of Kamloops, though there were smaller but important population increases in the communities of Logan Lakes, Sun Peaks, and Clearwater. The age makeup of younger residents remained roughly the same between 2016 and 2021 and the median age across the TNRD is 45. The proportion of seniors (65 years of age or older) has grown to 22%, up from 20% in 2016.

The population is largely of European origin, though there is a significant Indigenous population at 19,420 residents (13.5% of the population). Additionally, 8.4% of the population are visible minorities, with the largest community being South Asian followed by Chinese, Filipino, Black, and Japanese.

The 2021 census indicates the TNRD's unemployment rate is 8.1%, higher than the provincial average of 5.2%, and the median household income is $82,800, lower than the provincial median of $99,610. The main industries are construction, retail, and healthcare. Forestry was historically an important industry in the region but has declined.



# 3. CURRENT STATE OF PARKS AND TRAILS IN THE TNRD



# 3.1 EXISTING TNRD PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM

TNRD parks and trails provide recreation opportunities, community gathering spaces, and access to nature. The network is spread across five of the TNRD's ten electoral areas, and consists of:

- Parks ranging in size from 0.09 hectares to 109 hectares
- Two Regional Parks
- 11 Community Parks
- The Blue River Trails Network
- The South Thompson Buoy System
- 20 undeveloped parks, which are primarily "Subdivision Parks"

TNRD park lands account for less than one-tenth of one percent of the total TNRD land base. Regional parks account for 15% of the total TNRD parkland supply, while community parks account for 60%.

TNRD parks and trails are located on a mix of TNRD-owned land and Provincial land. The establishment of TNRD parks and trails on provincial lands has been made possible through land use agreements, such as:

- License of Occupation from the Ministry of Forests (MOF) for parks on Crown lands, including Herb Bilton Way Park, Murtle Road Park, Ferry Road Park, Barriere Forks Regional Park, and Little Hell's Gate Regional Park;
- License of Occupation from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) for facilities within a provincial highway right of way for Agate Bay Boat Launch;
- Right-of-Way permit from MOTT for portions of Ferry Road Park located within a provincial highway right of way; and
- Trails Partnership Agreement and Section 57 Authorization from the Recreation Sites and Trails (RSTBC) branch of the Ministry of Environment and Parks (MOEP) for Blue River Trails.

Some TNRD parks are managed in partnership with community organizations. See Tables 3 and 4 in Appendix A for more information on the TNRD parks and trails inventory.

## 3.1.1 REGIONAL PARKS

There are two Regional Parks in the TNRD: Barriere Forks Regional Park (Electoral Area "O") and Little Hell's Gate Regional Park (Electoral Area "B"). Both are located north of Kamloops along Highway 5.

The regional parks service also funds the maintenance of the South Thompson Buoy System, a navigational buoy system for boaters. It stretches from Chase Bridge, at the headwaters of the South Thompson River, to Kamloops Lake in the west.

The Regional Parks provide simple, nature-focused amenities such as viewing platforms, warming huts, and pathways, as well as parking.

### 3.1.2 COMMUNITY PARKS

There are eleven developed community parks in the TNRD that offer a variety of amenities, including playgrounds, sports fields, water access, and trails. The size of community parks varies widely, ranging from 0.3ha to 103ha. Community parks are generally concentrated in Electoral Areas "A" and "B," whereas Electoral Areas "E," "I," "J," and "P" have no community parks. These areas are managed by TNRD staff through contractors and agreements with community organizations such as the Little Fort Recreation Society, Lower Nicola Community Association, and Barriere Outdoor Society.




*Figure 1 Smith Pioneer Park*

### 3.1.3 TRAILS

The TNRD manages a portion of the Blue River trails network; the remaining portion is managed by Mike Wiegele Helicopter Skiing Resort. This network provides over 30 kilometres of trails for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing. It is located primarily on Crown land and authorized through agreements with RSTBC and a License Of Occupation for Herb Bilton Way Community Park. The TNRD is currently implementing improvements across this trail system.

Barriere Forks Regional Park also contains a trail system and is also located on Crown land, permitted through a License Of Occupation, and operated by the Barriere Outdoor Society.




*Figure 2 Barriere Forks Regional Park Trail System*

### 3.1.4 UNDEVELOPED PARKLAND

Approximately 25% of all designated TNRD parkland is undeveloped. This includes eighteen subdivision parks as well as Murtle Rd. Community Park, a portion of which is land primarily for industrial use. The average size of undeveloped parkland is 1.5ha, with parcels ranging from 0.04ha to 9.2ha. The development potential of these parcels varies due to location, access, and environmental constraints.

## 3.2 OTHER PARKS AND TRAILS (NON-TNRD)

The TNRD is also home to a large network of parks, trails, and other recreation areas that are managed by other agencies.

### 3.2.1 FIRST NATIONS

The TNRD recognizes that many First Nations have active trail programs, some publicly accessible, some for their internal use. For example, Simpcw First Nation developed a mountain biking trail network near Chu Chua in 2016, the same year the Nation launched its Trails and Mountain Bike Recreation and Tourism Initiative.

### 3.2.2 PROVINCIAL

At the Provincial level, BC Parks manages 7,954 $km^2$ of provincial parks and RSTBC manages 678 $km^2$ of Recreation Sites as well as over 6,250 km of Recreation Trails within the TNRD. Provincial parks are protected areas managed for recreation and ecological values. Recreation sites and trails are located on Crown lands that are managed for multiple values, including resource and recreation. RSTBC recreation sites and trails are often managed in partnership with other groups, including the TNRD, community organizations, not-for-profits, and private operators. See Table 5 in Appendix A.

- There are 7,954 $km^2$ of provincial parks in the TNRD, representing 19% of the region's land base.
    - Electoral Area "A," home of Wells Gray Provincial Park, is 75% Provincial Park.
- There are 678 $km^2$ of Recreation Sites in the TNRD, representing 2% of the region's land base.
    - Electoral Area "A" has the largest area of Recreation Sites with 177 $km^2$, followed by Electoral Area "B" with 103 $km^2$.
    - Electoral Area "I" has the smallest area of Recreation Sites with 3 $km^2$.
- There are 6,253 km of RSTBC trails in the TNRD.
    - Electoral Area "J" has the largest amount of Recreation Trails with 2,539 km, followed by "O" with 1,174 km.
    - There are RSTBC trail networks for a wide variety of activities, such as:
        - Hiking
        - Mountain biking
        - XC Skiing
        - Equestrian
        - Off-road vehicles (ORV)
        - Snowmobile Trails

### 3.2.3 MUNICIPAL

The TNRD includes 11 member municipalities: the Village of Ashcroft, the District of Barriere, the Village of Cache Creek, the Village of Chase, the District of Clearwater, the Village of Clinton, the City of Kamloops, the District of Logan Lake, the Village of Lytton, the City of Merritt, and the Mountain Resort Municipality of Sun Peaks. These communities also have park and trail systems that serve residents and visitors, which are managed through municipal services.

The TNRD's member municipalities are major contributors to the region's supply of parks and trails. Each municipality's park and trail systems differ in size, diversity of amenities, and level of service, and all contribute to providing vibrant outdoor community spaces to residents and visitors across the TNRD.

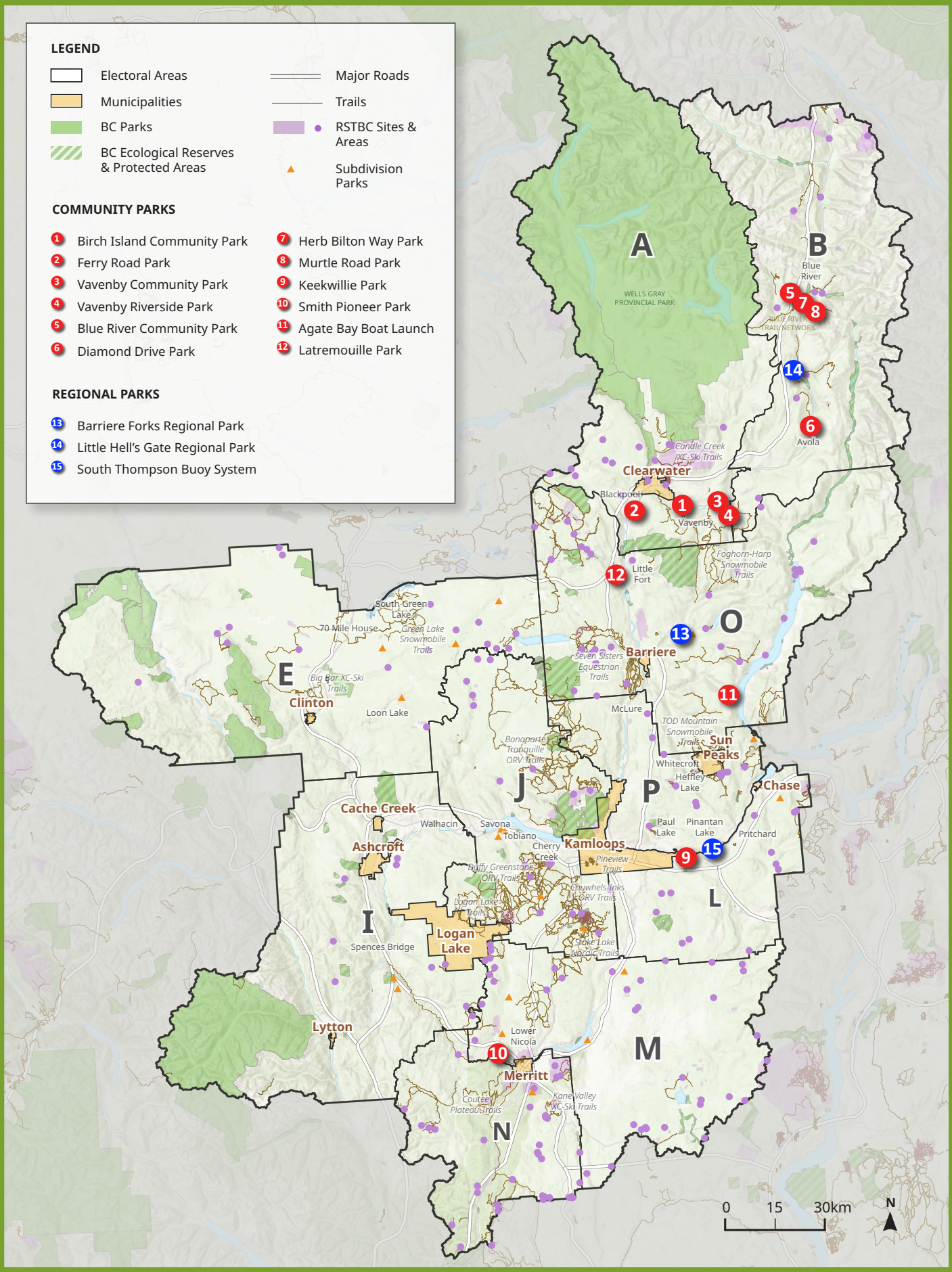
- Kamloops has the largest parks system, which includes major athletic parks, trail areas, and dozens of neighbourhood parks.
- All other municipalities in the TNRD have park systems and often trails, except for the Village of Lytton, which is currently rebuilding after the 2021 wildfire.

### 3.2.4 PARKS, TRAILS, AND PARK AMENITIES BY OTHER GROUPS

The TNRD is home to several parks, trails, and park amenities developed and managed by groups other than government organizations and First Nations, such as community organizations and recreation groups. Some examples include Dick Hart Park in Heffley Creek, Savona Community Park, and the many outdoor recreation associations that maintain trails on Crown lands through tenure from the Province.

These parks, trails, and park amenities vary in scope, but the efforts put forward by dedicated volunteers to maintain these amenities help contribute to the outdoor recreation experiences across the TNRD.

# Map of parks within the TNRD



# 3.3 BENCHMARKING

## 3.3.1 ELECTORAL AREA COMPARISON

The provision of TNRD and provincial parkland and trails was compared between Electoral Areas to assess the equity and level of service provided to TNRD residents.

The TNRD's developed parks and trails are not equally spread across the regional district. Electoral Areas "A," "B," and "O" have an above-average provision of TNRD of developed parkland. The remainder of the TNRD is underserved in terms of TNRD parkland with Electoral Areas "E," "I," "J," "N," and "P" containing no TNRD parks or trails. A summary of the TNRD park and trail supply by Electoral Area is provided in Table 6 of Appendix A.

British Columbia's Provincial Park System is managed to protect representative and special natural places for conservation, outdoor recreation, education, and scientific study. Provincial parkland is abundant in Electoral Area "A," which is served by Wells Gray Provincial Park, and Electoral Area "I," which is home to Stein Valley Nlaka'pamux Heritage Park and Arrowstone Provincial Park. The electoral areas least served by provincial parkland are Electoral Areas "L," "P," and "M." Electoral Areas "L," "P," and "I" also have the least amount of provincial recreation trails supply. A summary of provincial parkland and trails by Electoral Area is provided in Table 7 of Appendix A.

## 3.3.2 REGIONAL DISTRICT COMPARISON

The TNRD is below average for hectares of regional parkland supply on a per-population basis, providing 1.2ha of parkland per 1,000 residents versus 3.4ha per 1,000 residents in comparable regional districts. Comparable regional districts include neighbouring districts with available data, as well as other regional districts with population densities and geographies similar to the TNRD. A comparison summary of regional district parkland supply can be found in Table 8 of Appendix A.

## 3.3.3 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A needs assessment analysis was performed to determine which Electoral Areas required the most parkland development to meet the per-capita average of neighbouring and similar regional districts. The analysis only accounted for the supply of TNRD parkland and did not consider parks or trails delivered by others.

The Electoral Areas "J," "L," and "P" showed the greatest need for TNRD parkland development due to their higher-than-average populations and 1 ha of parkland (Keekwillie Park in Electoral Area "L"). All Electoral Areas showed some need for parkland development except for Area "B." A summary of the needs assessment analysis can be found in Table 9 of Appendix A.

# 4. KEY TRENDS IN PARKS AND TRAILS



Being mindful of the latest trends in parks and recreation planning is essential in developing a long-term plan capable of addressing current needs while preparing for future demands. The following trends have helped to shape the strategic plan:

## Accessibility

According to the latest Canadian Survey on Disability, 27% of the Canadian population aged 15 and older had one or more disabilities that limited them in their daily activities.[1] The survey also found that more than half of people with disabilities experience barriers to accessibility in public spaces.[2] These disabilities pose challenges for vulnerable community members to access public facilities, including parks and trails.

Barriers can be both physical, such as trail surfacing and building access, or visual, such as sign design and placement. Accessible amenities in parks support not only those with disabilities and the elderly, but also able-bodied park users like parents with strollers, cyclists, and event organizers. Safe and easily accessible parks and trails play a crucial role in encouraging and empowering children and youth to engage in physical activity.

## Tourism and Amenity Migration

The TNRD's natural attractions are becoming increasingly popular with tourists seeking outdoor activities in rural areas. Regional parks in the area may emerge as significant tourist destinations which lead to localized economic benefits.

With a growing segment of BC's workforce working remotely, quality parks and trails can be a major draw to adventure-seeking prospective residents. Parks and trails can also help retain residents in rural communities by offering recreation opportunities for those at all stages of life. Amenity migration has been shown to provide economic benefits to rural communities.[3]

## Changing Recreation Landscape

There is an increasing preference for less structured, more informal, and individualized activities that can fit easily into varied schedules and changing routines. The ability to incorporate lifestyle and wellness into daily routines is becoming increasingly important, making outdoor recreation especially attractive. The increasing cost of participation in organized sports has also contributed to the popularity of park and trail use.

COVID-19's social distancing mandates allowed many people to get reacquainted with the joys of recreating outside, creating a new demand for parks and trails that has persisted. In addition to increasing park and trail use, the temporal patterns of visitation have also shifted. More people are recreating during previously less busy times (e.g., mid-week, early morning, later evening).

The popularity of e-bikes has extended outdoor recreation experiences to new demographics, allowing new riders to more easily access the furthest reaches of BC's trail networks. Growing trail use enabled by e-bikes has required trail managers to adopt more robust maintenance and signage strategies to mitigate trail damage and safety concerns.

---

[1] See C.K. Benoît-Paul Hébert, 2022.
[2] See H.A. Youssef Hachouch, 2024.
[3] See E.H.A. Hjerpe, 2020.

With BC's population becoming older and more diverse, parks and trails are being asked to fulfill a wider range of needs, from outdoor fitness gyms and age-friendly trails to outdoor gathering spaces and new sports facilities.

## Climate Change

Interior BC is experiencing the effects of climate change as wildfires, smoke, extreme weather events, and other changes pose risks to residents' health and community infrastructure. Climate change will be top of mind for future park endeavours, including operational practices, maintenance considerations, and park acquisition.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Significant efforts are occurring throughout North America to ensure that trails and natural spaces are welcoming and inclusive environments for all people regardless of ethnicity, gender, income, age, ability, or identity. With a focus on improving inclusion and equity, deliberate attention is being placed on how and where investments in trails and natural spaces are made, where they are located, and how they are designed and managed.

## Reconciliation

There is an increasing imperative to understand the pre-colonial settlement history of British Columbia and to gain greater awareness of Indigenous cultures. Initiatives such as co-management, naming parks and trails in partnership with Indigenous communities, and incorporating Indigenous languages, stories and histories have become leading practices. Engaging with First Nations communities and incorporating their values and needs in parks and trails is an important step that land managers can take toward reconciliation.

## Volunteerism

Volunteer groups are being challenged to manage rising operational costs during a period of increasing park and trail demand. Volunteer bases can be strained, with factors such as burnout and aging demographics contributing to this issue. The TNRD's relatively small and diffuse population outside of the Kamloops area presents further difficulties in addressing these maintenance needs effectively.

## Community, Social, and Mental Health

Parks and trails provide an opportunity for people to improve and maintain their physical and mental well-being through exercise and exposure to nature. Physical activity has numerous benefits, including improving cardiovascular fitness and strength, and can alleviate stress. Access to trails encourages physical activity.[4] Similarly, spending time in nature is broadly beneficial for the health of humans at all ages.[5] Recreating outside reduces stress, improves physical health, and promotes social connection, all of which contribute to positive individual and community health outcomes. Community-scale improvements in physical fitness can lead to long-term reductions in healthcare costs.

Community parks and trails can also build a sense of community pride and expand public appreciation for the region's history and culture.

[4] See Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C., 2021.
[5] See "Why Nature?", 2022.

## Year-Round Park Use

For much of the year, the TNRD experiences winter weather conditions. Embracing the snow and cold by promoting winter outdoor recreation is important to keep people moving and using parks year-round.

## Signage and Wayfinding

With an increase in both the overall use and rates of new users exploring parks and trails across BC, wayfinding is a factor of growing importance in promoting safety and user experience. As parks and trails see new demographics of outdoor recreation enthusiasts, information signage about wildlife encounters, sensitive habitat, and user best practices can be effective tools to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts of increased visitation.

Signage is also an opportunity to grow a more in-depth understanding of the ecological, historical, and cultural value of the places where we live and recreate. Interpretive signage and self-guided tours within parks can help educate park visitors about the area they are exploring, providing a more profound and meaningful experience.

# 5. ENGAGEMENT: WHAT WE HEARD



## 5.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement included two rounds of engagement activities, which took place in September 2024 and March-April 2025. The full engagement summary can be found in Appendix D.

The purpose of the first round of community engagement was to gather information and perspectives from First Nations rightsholders, interested parties, stakeholders, and the public about how they currently use parks and trails; what barriers they face in using parks and trails; what needs, gaps, and opportunities they see in TNRD parks and trails; and their community values. The Round 1 engagement results were used to create the Draft Parks & Trails Strategic Plan.

The purpose of the second round of community engagement was to collect feedback on the vision, goals, and recommendations of the Draft Parks and Trails Strategic Plan to inform amendments required for the Final Strategic Plan.

The full What We Heard engagement report can be found in Appendix D.

Outreach to the community was done in the two weeks before and during the engagement activities. Information about the project objectives, project schedule, and how to get involved was shared widely with First Nations rightsholders, governments of all levels, interested parties, stakeholders, and residents of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.

Opportunities to participate were advertised through:

- The TNRD's website;
- Social media posts on the TNRD's Facebook page, which were shared across community information boards on Facebook; and
- Direct emails to interested parties and community organizations.

## 5.2 FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

Invitations to participate in the Parks and Trails Strategic Plan were extended to 25 First Nations within the TNRD via referral letter including: Adams Lake, Ashcroft, Bonaparte, Boothroyd, Coldwater, Cook's Ferry, Llenllenéy'ten (High Bar), Kanaka Bar, Lower Nicola, Lytton, Neskonlith, Nicomen, Nooaitch, Oregon Jack Creek, Shackan, Simpcw, Siska, Skeetchestn, Skuppah, Sklax te Secwepemculecw, Stswecem'c Xget'tem, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc, Ts'kw'aylaxw, Upper Nicola Band, and Whispering Pines.

At the time of this report, the TNRD has hosted meetings with:

**Engagement Round 1**

- Simpcw
- Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band

**Engagement Round 2**

- High Bar First Nation
- Simpcw
- Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc

The TNRD will continue to look for opportunities to hear Indigenous perspectives and keep the invitation open for feedback throughout future parks and trails planning initiatives.



# WHAT WE DID

The Parks and Trails Strategic Plan was informed by comprehensive engagement to determine the community's needs and values for parks and trails and to inform the overall vision, goals, and recommendations. Round 1 of community engagement was held in September 2024 and Round 2 was held in March and April of 2025.

## *ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS*

### ROUND 1

*Invitations to participate were extended to:*

- *51 outdoor recreation organizations, tourism organizations, environmental groups, and industry representatives*
- *12 TNRD municipal representatives and all 10 TNRD electoral area representatives, 3 TNRD school districts*
- *RSTBC and MOTT representatives*
- *TNRD staff and the TNRD Accessibility Committee*

**30** **PARTICIPANTS** *in 7 stakeholder workshops*

**1** *Land manager interview*

**1** *Accessibility workshop*

**315** **ONLINE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS**

**2** *Meetings with First Nations*

**5** *Government and internal workshops*

### ROUND 2

*Invitations to participate were extended to:*

- *51 outdoor recreation organizations, tourism organizations, environmental groups, industry representatives*
- *12 TNRD municipal representatives*
- *More than 150 businesses with ties to outdoor recreation and tourism*

**11** **PARTICIPANTS** *in recreation organization and business workshops and the community open house*

**2** *Reviews from Interior Health and the Thompson-Nicola Conservation Collaborative*

**123** **ONLINE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS**

**3** *Meetings with First Nations*

**4** *Participants in government workshops*



# WHAT WE HEARD

## *What's Working Well*

- Most survey participants were satisfied with the level of service offered by TNRD parks and trails.
- TNRD parks and trails were well used, with most participants visiting at least once a month.
- The most popular TNRD park and trail amenities accommodate a wide range of activities, age groups, and abilities, such as walking trails, lakefronts, and picnic areas.
- Participants appreciated TNRD parks and trails for providing opportunities to get close to nature.

## *Opportunities*

- Supporting community recreation organizations and volunteers that manage parks and trails
- Expanding the TNRD park and trail network to communities with limited outdoor recreation opportunities
- Improving park and trail user experience through signage and accessibility upgrades
- Managing parks and trails to mitigate the impacts of climate change
- Managing parks and trails to improve environmental integrity and protect wildlife
- Promoting TNRD parks and trails as a means of bolstering regional tourism

# 6. THE STRATEGIC PLAN



# 6.1 VISION

The TNRD's park service will:

- **Foster First Nations Reconciliation** through relationships and partnerships that promote Indigenous culture and values.
- **Grow and Manage** the regional and community parks and trails system sustainably through partnerships and collaboration to better serve residents and promote tourism.
- **Create Opportunities** for people to recreate, appreciate, and steward natural areas while ensuring protection and enhancement of the regional district's diverse ecosystems and wildlife.
- **Support** community connections, health, and well-being, as well as equitable access to a variety of landscapes and outdoor recreation opportunities across the region.

# 6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

## 6.2.1 PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

Partnerships play a crucial role in the sustainable delivery of the TNRD's regional and community parks and trails system. These partnerships can involve First Nations, provincial and local governments, community organizations, and others. Partnerships offer several benefits, including maximizing funding opportunities, enhancing the capacity to maintain and manage parks and trails, and improving collaboration and coordination among stakeholders.

### GOAL: FOSTER GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Reconciliation is a priority for the TNRD. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) that establish a framework for respectful relationships have been signed with Llenllenéy'ten (High Bar) First Nation, Simpcw, and Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc in recent years, and more are under development. With MOUs in place, the TNRD can work collaboratively with First Nations on initiatives.

1. **Establish a clear policy and processes for including First Nations in the park and trail planning process.**
    - Invite and encourage First Nations representation on advisory boards/committees for TNRD parks and trail initiatives.
    - Promote partnership opportunities in areas of mutual interest.
    - Include First Nations access to territories and visibility of cultural history in park and trail planning and management.

2. **Engage with Indigenous communities to offer opportunities to incorporate informational and interpretive signage that reflects Indigenous territories, cultural values, historical trails, culture camps, and other uses within the region.**

The TNRD can support improved visibility and awareness of Indigenous values and culture within the region through interpretive signage, story trails,[6] placemaking installations,[7] and other features within regional and community parks. Signage and other features could include Indigenous languages, including text and QR links to audio recordings. Any initiatives should be pursued in consultation with and with the support of First Nations.

3. **Partner with Indigenous groups to ensure the preservation of culturally modified trees (CMT) and understory, culturally significant trees (CST), archaeological areas, and other culturally and ecologically significant resources within TNRD parks (or potential future TNRD parks and trails).**

Culturally important features within the landscape could include ceremonial spaces, important food harvesting areas, archaeological sites, and CMT/CSTs. Actions that can help protect these areas might include making sure trail alignments avoid impacts and don't encourage visitor intrusion; land management and maintenance activities in partnership with First Nations; and potential signage or other information, where appropriate.

4. **Through the spirit of decolonization and collaboration, the TNRD is open to considering the re-naming of TNRD parks and trails where Indigenous languages and place names can be represented.**

Changing park names or using dual naming protocols can help recognize territories and increase awareness of Indigenous values and presence. The first step would be to consult with First Nations to see if any existing parks or trails under TNRD jurisdiction are potential candidates. Following up, the TNRD would need to update signage, maps, and tourism information.

[6] For an example of a story trail, see https://bcparksfoundation.ca/projects/discover-parks/storytrails/tsutswecw-park/
[7] For an example of a placemaking feature, see: https://shuswaptrails.com/points/

## GOAL: SUPPORT LOCAL OUTDOOR RECREATION ORGANIZATIONS THAT BUILD, MAINTAIN, AND MANAGE PARKS, TRAILS, AND SUPPORTING AMENITIES IN THE REGION

Several community organizations build, maintain, and manage parks and trails across the TNRD. Such organizations include volunteer-run outdoor recreation groups, not-for-profits, and First Nations. These organizations contribute to the TNRD's diverse network of outdoor recreation infrastructure, often with limited support from the TNRD. There are several strategies the TNRD can implement to help these groups manage increasing maintenance and regulatory demands, including:

5. **Standardize agreements with community organizations that build and maintain parks and trails.**

   Standardize agreements with outdoor recreation and stewardship groups to ensure well-understood roles and responsibilities. Partnerships can help support park and trail authorization processes and mitigate liability concerns.

6. **Explore mechanisms to provide funding to community organizations that build and maintain parks and trails.**

   The funding mechanisms should feature funding streams targeting trail maintenance, construction, and planning. Considerations for funding allocation should include:

   - Does the organization have the experience and capacity to execute?
   - What is the recreational value?
   - What is the tourism value?
   - Are local First Nations in support?
   - What are the relationships like with government and other users?
   - Is there an opportunity to forge, strengthen, or amend working relationships?
   - Is there an opportunity to support communities affected by major events such as wildfires?
   - Does it align with TNRD priorities, such as gaps in service, accessibility, or active transportation?

7. **Assist community organizations that build and maintain parks and trails with TNRD staff support.**

   When feasible, support non-profit organizations with trail maintenance, construction, and planning through in-kind contributions such as GIS mapping, staff support with permitting, materials, and or equipment. The support should be phased in so that it can be maintained sustainably and equitably across the regional district.

   Consider establishing a resource library to assist outdoor recreation organizations in effectively implementing and sustainably maintaining trail networks. Many excellent resources are available to help volunteer organizations deliver outdoor recreation in BC; assembling them in a central location can help reduce the administrative load for recreation organizations.

   Resources can include information about accessibility, Section 56 and 57 applications, insurance, tourism/marketing, trail standards, working with Indigenous communities, and environmental regulations.

## GOAL: IMPROVE COLLABORATION WITH NON-PROFITS, INDUSTRY, AND OTHER LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

**8. Establish sub-regional trail working groups to increase coordination, collaboration, and efficient use of resources.**

User groups seeking new projects must engage with First Nations, multiple levels of government, other tenure holders, and industry. It is challenging for these volunteer groups to develop and maintain relationships with all rights and stakeholders. Governments and industry can also find it challenging to communicate or consult with recreation groups on changes that may impact trails or backcountry access. The TNRD can facilitate this process by hosting a regular forum to discuss issues and opportunities related to trails and outdoor recreation, recognizing that regular meetings do not bypass the need for referrals, consultation, or formal approvals.

Develop sub-regional groups that comprise multiple electoral areas with common landscapes, territories, and recreation activities. Models for the working groups include the Shuswap Trail Alliance Roundtable and the Blue River Trails Working Group. The composition of the groups will be determined by local interests. Examples of those who may be included in the working groups are:

- First Nations
- Outdoor recreation associations
- TNRD staff
- TNRD Electoral Area Directors
- Municipal staff and/or elected officials
- Provincial agency staff (RSTBC, BC Parks, MOTT)
- Natural resources industry representatives (e.g., forestry, mining, ranching)
- Outdoor recreation industry representatives
- Tourism associations
- Environmental organizations
- Relevant large private landowners (forestry or agricultural, e.g.)

Topics for the working group should include:

- Trail/outdoor recreation development opportunities
- Opportunities for linear trail connections between sub-regional and regional trails
- Recreation—Indigenous values, opportunities, and conflicts
- Recreation—Industry opportunities and conflicts
- Backcountry access
- Funding/In-kind contribution opportunities
- Opportunities to enhance tourism/outdoor recreation
- Opportunities to manage environmental impacts and trail user-wildlife conflict
- Experiences, innovations, case studies, and best practices in outdoor recreation

**9. Work with other organizations to improve parkland supply and access.**

Establish relationships with organizations to enhance the TNRD's ability to acquire and manage additional parks. There is also an opportunity to adopt parkland in areas where community groups that currently own and manage parks need support due to overloaded and/or retiring volunteers. The TNRD could adopt such parkland, particularly if it meets the criteria outlined for potential acquisition and community needs.

### 6.2.2 MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

#### GOAL: ESTABLISH MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE TOOLS TO ENSURE THE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF PARKS AND TRAILS

**10. Adopt an adaptive management approach.**

Continue to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the regional and community parks and trails service and update plans and policies to address changing conditions. Monitoring and evaluation can take place through visitor satisfaction surveys, condition assessments, and regular reviews of plans and policies.

**11. Develop an asset management system for the TNRD parks and trails system.**

An asset management system is a comprehensive inventory of parks, trails, and their supporting amenities that is continually updated to reflect current conditions. A robust asset management system will assist the TNRD in monitoring, maintaining, and developing its parks and trails system, contributing to higher levels of service and operational efficiencies.

As the regional parks system grows, create inventories of natural assets such as forests, wetlands, lakes, streams, and sensitive ecosystems. These assets provide benefits such as clean drinking water, flood mitigation, biodiversity, and carbon sequestration, as well as economic benefits and may have specific management implications. Once inventoried, measure the benefits to the community and monitor their health to ensure their value is maintained and enhanced over time. Measures could include visitation data, economic impact studies, flood mitigation capacity, and biodiversity studies.

**12. Create park development and management plans for existing and future parks and trails.**

Park management plans provide a roadmap of decision-making for specific sites and provide direction on the appropriate types, locations, and thresholds of users and activities. Management plans include the inventory and analysis of the park site and existing amenities, considerations for park and trailhead access, designated levels of service, and/or trail classifications to align with asset management systems. They identify priorities for developing/upgrading infrastructure, universal accessibility improvements, climate change considerations, protection for environmentally sensitive areas, and invasive species management.

Management plan development includes consultation with First Nations to understand cultural importance and values along with public engagement to understand community values. Plans should be reviewed annually to be incorporated into staff work plans and capital budgets and should be updated every 5-10 years.

Each management plan should consider potential climate change impacts on the ecosystems and infrastructure in regional parks. Impacts and considerations could include increased flooding/flood risk; forest decline, increased hazard trees, and wildfire risk; increased importance of emergency access routes; and planning for locations of new infrastructure.

Park planning should avoid or minimize fragmentation or degradation of ecosystems and include low-impact development practices. Regional and community parks may have opportunities to link to broader ecosystem connectivity such as municipal greenways, provincial parks, or crown lands.

Based on present needs, community input, staff time, and existing infrastructure, the following existing parks are recommended for development and management planning activities:

- Keekwillie Park (Electoral Area "L")
- Vavenby Community Park (Electoral Area "A")
- Blue River Community Park (Electoral Area "B")
- Herb Bilton Way Park (Electoral Area "B")
- Agate Bay Boat Launch (Electoral Area "O")

**13. Establish a level of service standard for regional and community parks and trails.**

A level of service would include the type of amenities and the type and frequency of inspections and maintenance that can be expected at different parks and trail networks. The level of service should be realistically aligned with TNRD resources and should be used to inform the planning and design of parks and trails. Levels of service should provide guidance on parking, signage, waste collection, washrooms, and trail grooming/maintenance to ensure that parks and trails are safe and adequately maintained. Parks and trails designed to universal accessibility standards will require higher levels of service due to their high-quality amenities and intensive maintenance and inspection regimes.

**14. Establish a trail classification system.**

Develop a trail classification system to assess the existing network, help identify gaps, plan new routes, minimize user conflicts, and estimate maintenance requirements. The system should build on existing classification systems, such as the Blue River Trails Network classification system or those developed by RSTBC. This system is a planning tool and not an outward-facing system like difficulty ratings or usage designations and should be applied to all existing and future trails.

**15. Update parks policies to ensure parks are correctly classified as either Community or Regional Parks.**

Community and regional parks are funded differently and have different levels of service. While the distinction between the two is not always clear-cut due to overlapping characteristics, the following two definitions provide high-level guidance:

Regional Parks provide regionally significant recreational, ecological, and cultural amenities that attract visitors from across the TNRD. They provide regionally unique nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences, including both motorized and non-motorized activities and regional water access points, special events, celebrations, and competitions. The management, maintenance, and development of regional parks are funded through taxes from residents of all Electoral Areas and municipalities.

Community Parks provide active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities that are appealing to a variety of ages and are tailored to the interests of neighbourhood residents and could include motorized and non-motorized water access points that are used locally. This park class attracts local residents and is a focal point for socializing with neighbours. Funding for management, maintenance, and development of community parks is primarily through taxes from residents of each Electoral Area.

A detailed comparison of regional and community parks can be found in Appendix B.

Where a community park offers a regional draw, it would enable improved park amenities and opportunities if funding was extended to the region. For example, Agate Bay Boat Launch draws visitors from multiple communities and should be designated a Regional Park.

Update existing policies to confirm the definition of the community and regional park designations. Evaluate all current park assets and determine whether a regional or community park designation is most appropriate.

**16. Establish a park use policy and explore opportunities for park-related revenue streams.**

A variety of activities and events currently occur in TNRD parks and trails, such as wedding ceremonies, community festivals, recreational programs, and sporting tournaments. While the existing Parks Regulation Bylaw provides high-level regulations for the issuance of Park Use Permits to support these events, it does not outline specific event requirements, which are currently reviewed on a case-by-case basis by staff and may lack consistency.

A Park Use Policy would help specify items to be considered in an event plan to help staff determine what requirements may be needed based on the proposed activities and the anticipated number of participants. The Policy could clarify the types of allowable activities, event size and booking terms, process for intake and application review, along with any facility requirements.

Fees for events and other user fees could be established through the Park Regulation Bylaw or the Fee Bylaw. These fees could help to offset the cost of providing regional and community parks and trails. The types of fees could include special event fees, user fees (i.e. Camping, day-use, parking), facility rentals (i.e. picnic area reservations, park wedding venue locations, etc.), and/or program fees (i.e. guided nature walks, educational workshops, etc.).

### 6.2.3 PARK AND TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

## GOAL: ENHANCE PARK EXPERIENCES FOR ALL VISITORS

**17. Identify opportunities for upgrading parks, trails, and supporting amenities to universal accessibility standards.**

Review surfacing, parking, outhouse/washrooms, picnic areas, playgrounds, and other amenities at each park and trail network. Upgrade amenities where practical to meet accessible standards for park and trail development, such as the 2020 BC Parks Universal Design Guide. Prioritize accessibility upgrades in parks and trails where they will have the largest impact, such as community parks and areas that accommodate passive recreation. Strive towards an accessible trail in every regional park trail network with interpretive features, rest points, and signage. Make sure accessible amenities are well connected to parking and pathways and are easy to find.

**18. Publish accessibility information on parks and trails.**

Update the TNRD's park webpages to include an accessibility information section for each park and trail network. Include descriptions and photos of surfacing, barriers, and amenities. Incorporate accessibility information at park information kiosks and signage.

**19. Implement a consistent signage and wayfinding system.**

Signage provides important information to park and trail users about amenities, route options, who yields to who, safety, etiquette, permitted uses and applicable bylaws, and how to report park and trail issues. A clear and legible signage and wayfinding system helps ensure that residents and visitors use parks and trails safely and appropriately. Trail signage can act as a low-cost management strategy that can help reduce maintenance requirements over time and mitigate human impact on sensitive natural environments. Navigational signage should build on the signage and wayfinding system implemented at the Blue River Trails Network.

Signage can also provide interpretive information about an area's history, natural and ecological features, and Indigenous significance. Through interpretive signage, parks and trails can support TNRD objectives beyond recreation, such as promoting historical tourism, creating a unique sense of place and community pride, and fostering Indigenous reconciliation.

### 6.2.4 PARK AND TRAIL SUPPLY

## GOAL: INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF TNRD PARKS AND TRAILS

**20. Develop new Regional Parks.**

The TNRD should develop new parks to grow the Regional District's supply of regionally significant outdoor recreation amenities. New Regional Parks should strive to create a broad range of benefits to residents through outdoor experiences, drawing visitors from across the region and beyond and bringing tourism and economic development opportunities.

Recommended criteria for the acquisition and development of TNRD parks can be found in Appendix C.

**21. Develop new Community Parks in priority areas.**

To ensure communities across the TNRD have better access to public spaces to play, relax, and gather, the TNRD should prioritize developing community parks in Electoral areas with few or no existing community parks. For example, Electoral Areas "E," "I," "J," "N," and "P" have no community parks despite each having multiple unincorporated communities. Work closely with Electoral Area representatives and the community to identify priority areas and develop funding models for new parks.

Recommended criteria for the acquisition and development of TNRD parks can be found in Appendix C.

**22. Explore opportunities for new trail networks in priority areas and regional trail connections.**

Regional trails, such as the Okanagan's Kettle Valley Rail Trail, have tremendous recreation and tourism value and can help communities meet active transportation goals, but their development is often a complex, multi-jurisdictional undertaking.

Trail development should also be explored to make the TNRD's park and trail system more equitable. For example, Electoral Areas "I," "L," and "P" are both poorly served by TNRD parks and RSTBC trails and could all benefit from growing their respective trail networks.

**23. Review underdeveloped and underutilized TNRD parkland and consider recommendations for the disposition of parkland that is not suitable or feasible for development.**

The TNRD may have received unsuitable parkland designations before it had the 2005 TNRD Parks Plan Policy Framework in place, which allowed it to accept cash in lieu of land. Several undeveloped sites may not be suitable or feasible for development as parks and should be disposed of. Review undeveloped "subdivision parks" against the parkland acquisition criteria for suitability and feasibility. Provincial legislation governs the disposal of parkland and stipulates that proceeds from the sale of parkland must be placed in a parkland acquisition fund.[8] Proceeds from the sale of unsuitable land would be added to the existing reserve for the acquisition of new parkland.

[8]See Government of British Columbia, ""Section 280: Disposition of Regional Parks and Trails," 2025 and "Local government parkland ownership and disposal," 2024.

# 7. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



The recommendations in this strategic plan are intended to be implemented between 2025 and 2035 and will be pursued based on available resources. The Board's endorsement of this strategic plan indicates a preliminary agreement, without implying a financial commitment. Decisions regarding capital and operational financial allocations would be made by the Board as part of the financial planning process.

The implementation table on the following pages outlines the recommendations, along with their priority levels, timelines, and resource requirements. Operational tasks will be incorporated into staff work plans and departmental resources, while capital projects will be evaluated and integrated into the TNRD's capital budget planning, subject to Board approval.

The implementation table also highlights potential partners with whom the TNRD may seek to collaborate to help offset the cost of implementation or to achieve improved outcomes for a given recommendation.

Time Frames are defined as:

- Short-term (0-5 years)
- Medium-term (5-10 years)
- Long-term (10+ years)
- Ongoing

It is important to note that longer-term actions may, in some instances, be completed ahead of shorter-term actions due to the availability of funding opportunities, partnerships, and other factors. As the sequence of actions will be determined by the TNRD's annual work plans and funding availability, the implementation timeline may be adjusted to changing community needs and opportunities.

Actions in the implementation plan involve costs, staff time, operational expenses, and/or capital investments. Resource requirements are categorized as:

- $ - Less than $50,000
- $$ - $50,000 to $100,000
- $$$ - More than $100,000

| Goal 1: Foster government-to-government relationships with Indigenous communities. | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** | **Resources** | **Potential Partners / Collaborators** |
| 1 | Establish a clear policy and processes for including First Nations in the park and trail planning process. | High | Short-term | Staff time/$ | First Nations |
| 2 | Engage with Indigenous communities to offer opportunities to incorporate informational and interpretive signage that reflects Indigenous territories, cultural values, historical trails, culture camps, and other uses within the region. | Medium | Ongoing | $$$ | First Nations |
| 3 | Partner with Indigenous groups to ensure the preservation of culturally modified trees (CMT) and understory, culturally significant trees (CST), archaeological areas, and other culturally and ecologically significant resources within TNRD Parks (or potential future TNRD parks and trails). | High | Ongoing | Varies | First Nations |
| 4 | Through the spirit of decolonization and collaboration, the TNRD is open to considering the re-naming of TNRD parks and trails where Indigenous languages and place names can be represented. | Medium | Ongoing | $ | First Nations |

| Goal 2: Support local outdoor recreation organizations that build, maintain, and manage trails, parks, and supporting amenities in the region. | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** | **Resources** | **Potential Partners / Collaborators** |
| 5 | Standardize agreements with community organizations that build and maintain parks and trails. | Medium | Short-term | Staff time/$ | Community Recreation Organizations<br>RSTBC |
| 6 | Explore mechanisms to provide funding to community organizations that build and maintain parks and trails. | Medium | Initiate Medium-term, ongoing | $-$$ | Community Recreation Organizations<br>RSTBC<br>Businesses / Corporate Sponsors<br>ORCBC |
| 7 | Assist community organizations that build and maintain parks and trails with TNRD staff support. | Medium | Ongoing | Staff time/$ | Community Recreation Organizations<br>RSTBC<br>ORCBC |
| **Goal 3: Improve collaboration with non-profits, industry, and other levels of government.** | | | | | |
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** | **Resources** | **Potential Partners / Collaborators** |
| 8 | Establish sub-regional trail working groups to increase coordination, collaboration, and efficient use of resources. | Medium | Medium-term | Staff time/$$ | Community Recreation Organizations<br>RSTBC<br>First Nations<br>Municipalities<br>Industry<br>Tourism Organizations<br>ORCBC |
| 9 | Work with other organizations to improve parkland supply and access. | Medium | Long-term | Varies | Non-Profits<br>Municipalities<br>Provincial Government Entities |

| Goal 4: Establish management and maintenance tools to ensure the long-term sustainability of parks and trails. | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** | **Resources** | **Potential Partners / Collaborators** |
| 10 | Adopt an adaptive management approach. | Medium | Ongoing | Staff time/$ | |
| 11 | Develop an asset management system for the TNRD parks and trails system. | High | Short-term | Staff time/$ | |
| 12 | Create park development and management plans for existing and future parks and trails. | High | Short-term, Ongoing | Staff time/$$$ | Community Recreation Organizations |
| 13 | Establish a level of service standard for regional parks and trails. | High | Short-term | Staff time/$ | |
| 14 | Establish a trail classification system. | Low | Short-term | Staff time/$ | Community Recreation Organizations<br>RSTBC<br>ORBC |
| 15 | Update parks policies to ensure parks are correctly classified as either Community or Regional Parks. | High | Short-term | Staff time/$ | |
| 16 | Establish a park use policy and explore opportunities for park-related revenue streams. | High | Short-term | Staff time/$ | |
| **Goal 5: Enhance park experiences for all visitors.** | | | | | |
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** | **Resources** | **Potential Partners / Collaborators** |
| 17 | Identify opportunities for upgrading parks, trails, and supporting amenities to universal accessibility standards. | Medium | Short-term with phased implementation | $$-$$$ | TNRD Accessibility Advisory Committee<br>Rick Hansen Foundation<br>ORCBC |
| 18 | Publish accessibility information on parks and trails. | Medium | Short-term | Staff time/$ | TNRD Accessibility Advisory Committee<br>Rick Hansen Foundation |
| 19 | Implement a consistent signage and wayfinding system. | High | Ongoing | $$ | RSTBC |

| Goal 6: Increase the supply of TNRD parks and trails. | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Recommendation** | | **Priority** | **Timeframe** | **Resources** | **Potential Partners / Collaborators** |
| 20 | Develop new Regional Parks. | High | Medium to Long-Term | $$$ | |
| 21 | Develop new Community Parks in priority areas. | High | Medium to Long-Term | $$$ | |
| 22 | Explore opportunities for new trail networks in priority areas and regional trail connections. | Medium | Medium to Long-Term | $-$$$ | Community Recreation Organizations RSTBC |
| 23 | Review underdeveloped and underutilized TNRD parkland and consider recommendations for the disposition of parkland that is not suitable or feasible for development. | High | Short-term | Staff-time, provides funding for park dev. | |

# 8. REFERENCES



*17 Trail Benefits for British Columbians: A Case for the Outdoors*. Outdoor Recreation Council of B.C. 2021, https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LG5fyugRFFDOcTKU_WwSLR-l3g3AcNUX/view.

Benoît-Paul Hébert, C. K. *A demographic, employment and income profile of persons with disabilities aged 15 years and over in Canada, 2022*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2024.

Hjerpe E, H. A. "Amenity migration and public lands: Rise of the protected areas." *Environmental Management*, 2020, pp. 56-71.

*Local Government Act*. RSBC 2015, c. 1, s 280.

*Local government parkland ownership and disposal*. Government of British Columbia, 2025, https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/local-governments/planning-land-use/asset-acquisition-disposal/parkland-ownership-disposal. Accessed 8 Jan 2025.

*Park Prescriptions*. "Why Nature?" 2022, https://www.parkprescriptions.ca/en/whynature.

Youssef Hachouch, H. A. *Barriers to Accessibility in Public Spaces: Findings from the 2022 Canadian Survey on Disability*. Ottawa: Statistics Canada, 2024.

# APPENDICES



# APPENDIX A: PARKS AND TRAILS INVENTORY

*Table 2 TNRD's Electoral Areas*

| Electoral Area | Electoral Area Name | Population (incl First Nation Reserves) *(2021 Census)* | Area ($km^2$) | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *North Thompson Sub-Region* | | | | |
| **A** | ***Wells Gray Country*** | *1,573* | *7,085* | This area, the TNRD's largest in size, covers the northernmost part of the TNRD. It is characterized by rugged wilderness, dense forests, and numerous rivers and lakes. Wells Gray Provincial Park, known for its waterfalls and outdoor recreational opportunities, is a significant feature of this area. |
| **B** | ***Thompson Headwaters*** | *230* | *5,126* | Located in the northeastern part of the TNRD, this mountainous area includes the world's only inland temperate rainforest. It also hosts the headwaters of the North Thompson River. |
| **O** | ***Lower North Thompson*** | *1,719* | *5,381* | This area is located along the North Thompson River and includes vast stretches of wilderness, accented by mountains and lakes. Notably, Adams Lake is the second-deepest lake in B.C. and the fifth-deepest in North America. |
| *South Cariboo Sub-Region* | | | | |
| **E** | ***Bonaparte Plateau*** | *1,322* | *6,625* | This area is situated in the western part of the TNRD and includes the Bonaparte Plateau, which is known for its high-altitude lakes and forests. Its economy is driven by forestry and ranching. The area has a strong draw for outdoor recreation, including fishing, camping, and hunting. It is the TNRD's second largest electoral area in size. |
| **I** | ***Blue Sky Country*** | *2,369* | *5,736* | Located southwest of Kamloops, this area is the TNRD's third largest in size. It is known for its desert landscape and towering mountains, and it includes a portion of the historic Fraser Canyon. |

*Table continues on the following page.*

| Electoral Area | Electoral Area Name | Population (incl First Nation Reserves) *(2021 Census)* | Area ($km^2$) | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Central Sub-Region* | | | | |
| **J** | ***Copper Desert Country*** | *2,038* | *3,285* | This area is located southwest of Kamloops and includes the communities of Savona and Tobiano. The region is characterized by its semi-arid desert landscape that extends from the shores of Kamloops Lake and turns to high-altitude forests and fishing lakes as it climbs inland. |
| **L** | ***Grasslands*** | *3,626* | *1,913* | South of Kamloops, this region is named for its extensive grasslands, which are ideal for ranching and agriculture. The landscape features rolling hills, open fields, and scattered forests, offering a rural lifestyle close to urban amenities. |
| **P** | ***Rivers and the Peaks*** | *8,386* | *1,546* | Situated to the northeast of Kamloops, this area is named for its scenic rivers and mountainous terrain, offering residents and visitors access to a wide range of outdoor activities, including hiking, fishing, and skiing. It is also known for its rural lakeside communities. It is the smallest of TNRD's electoral areas in size. |
| *Nicola Sub-Region* | | | | |
| **M** | ***Beautiful Nicola Valley – North*** | *2,506* | *3,845* | This area encompasses the northern part of the Nicola Valley. It is known for its picturesque landscapes, with grasslands, forests, and lakes. |
| **N** | ***Beautiful Nicola Valley - South*** | *1,330* | *2,341* | This area covers the southern part of the Nicola Valley. The landscape is similar to the northern area and also includes the Coldwater River Valley and the Kentucky Alleyne Provincial Park, with its famous turquoise lakes. |

*Table 3 Inventory of TNRD parks and trails*

| *Park Type* | *Park* | *Community* | *EA* | *Size (ha)* | *Tenure** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Regional Parks** | Little Hell's Gate Regional Park | Messiter Summit | B | 14.4 | License of Occupation |
| | Barriere Forks Regional Park | Barriere | O | 15.2 | License of Occupation |
| | South Thompson Buoy System | Communities of EAs P&L, City of Kamloops | P, L | | Aids to Navigation Transfer Agreement |
| | | **Total** | | **14.4** | |
| **Community Parks** | Birch Island Community Park | Birch Island | A | 0.8 | TNRD Owned |
| | Ferry Road Park | Blackpool | A | 0.3 | License of Occupation |
| | Vavenby Community Park | Vavenby | A | 3.8 | TNRD Owned |
| | Vavenby Riverside Park | Vavenby | A | 0.6 | TNRD Owned |
| | Blue River Community Park | Blue River | B | 2.8 | TNRD Owned |
| | Diamond Drive Park | Avola | B | 0.1 | TNRD Owned |
| | Herb Bilton Way Park | Blue River | B | 109.0 | License of Occupation |
| | Murtle Rd. Park | Blue River | B | 25.0 | License of Occupation |
| | Keekwillie Park | Kamloops | L | 0.6 | TNRD Owned |
| | Smith Pioneer Park | Lower Nicola | M | 1.6 | TNRD Owned |
| | Agate Bay Boat Launch | Agate Bay | O | | License of Occupation |
| | Latremouille Park | Little Fort | O | 1.2 | TNRD Owned |
| | | **Total** | | **145.8** | |
| **Trails** | Blue River Trails Network | Blue River | B | | Partnership Agreement |
| **Subdivision Parks** | Avola Community Park | Avola | B | 0.1 | TNRD Owned |
| | Kirsebom Park | Eagan Lake | E | 0.5 | TNRD Owned |
| | Van Gaalen Community Park | Young Lake | E | 2.6 | TNRD Owned |
| | Hutcheson Lake Park | Hutcheson Lake | E | 5.8 | TNRD Owned |
| | Stevens Road Park | Loon Lake | E | 0.3 | TNRD Owned |
| | Chucker Crescent Park | Spences Bridge | I | 0.4 | TNRD Owned |
| | Merritt-Spences Bridge Highway Park | Spences Bridge | I | 0.1 | LGA Tenure |
| | Ridgemont Park | Lac Le Jeune | J | 2.0 | TNRD Owned |
| | Mile High/Face Lake Park | Paska Lake | J | 1.4 | LGA Tenure |
| | Hare Road Park | Savona | J | 0.0 | LGA Tenure |
| | 6989 Watson Drive E Park | Savona | J | 0.1 | LGA Tenure |
| | 7030 Watson Drive E Park | Savona | J | 0.2 | LGA Tenure |
| | Corona Hills Park | Chase | L | 1.8 | LGA Tenure |
| | Turner Avenue Park | Lower Nicola | M | 0.1 | LGA Tenure |
| | Beech Road Park | Mamit Lake | M | 0.3 | LGA Tenure |
| | Nicola Lake Trail Park | Quilchena | M | 1.9 | LGA Tenure |
| | Stump Lake Park | Stump Lake | M | 9.2 | LGA Tenure |
| | Coldwater Community Park | Coldwater | N | 0.2 | LGA Tenure |
| | Holding Road Park | Adams Lake | O | 0.2 | LGA Tenure |
| | | **Total** | | **27.2** | |
| | | **Total TNRD Park ha** | | **187.4** | |

*License of Occupation indicates an agreement held with the provincial government for the use of crown land. Partnership Agreement indicates an agreement between RSTBC and the TNRD to manage trails under section 56 of the Forest and Range Practices Act. LGA Tenure indicates land tenure acquired through the Local Government Act.*

*Table 4 TNRD regional and community park amenities as of the date of report.*

| Park Type | Park | Community | EA | Size (ha) | Tenure | Partners | Outhouse/Washroom | Parking Lot | Irrigation | Open Space (Lawn) | Picnic Area | Picnic Shelter | Playground | Riding Stable | Boat Launch/Dock | Concession | Viewing Platform | Warming Hut | Trails/pathways | Suspension Bridge | Benches | Entry Sign | Bandshell | Outdoor Ice Rink | Ball Diamond | Basketball Court/Net | Fitness Equipment | Tennis/Pickleball | Volleyball | Description Notes |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Regional** | Barriere Forks Regional Park | Barriere | O | 15.2 | License of Occupation | Barriere Outdoor Society | | ■ | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | An all-season, non-motorized trail network, popular in the summer for hiking, cycling and horseback riding, and in the winter for snowshoeing and cross country skiiing. License of Occupation for Crown Land. |
| | Little Hell's Gate Regional Park | Messiter Summit | B | 14.4 | License of Occupation | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | A viewing platform brings you above the Little Hell's Gate gorge, where the North Thompson River narrows and rushes through. |
| | South Thompson Buoy System | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | **Total** | | **29.6** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Community** | Birch Island Community Park | Birch Island | A | 0.8 | TNRD Owned | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | ■ | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | | | | Multiuse park with playground |
| | Ferry Road Park | Blackpool | A | 0.3 | License of Occupation | | ■ | ■ | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | Multiuse park with playground |
| | Vavenby Community Park | Vavenby | A | 3.8 | TNRD Owned | | ■ | ■ | | ■ | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | ■ | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | Park with playground and sports fields |
| | Vavenby Riverside Park | Vavenby | A | 0.6 | TNRD Owned | | ■ | | | ■ | ■ | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | Multiuse park with playground |
| | Blue River Community Park | Blue River | B | 2.8 | TNRD Owned | | ■ | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | | | | ■ | Swimming at beach; washroom has showers |
| | Diamond Drive Park | Avola | B | 0.1 | TNRD Owned | | ■ | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | Park with playground |
| | Herb Bilton Way Park | Blue River | B | 109.0 | License of Occupation | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | Notable suspension pedestrian bridge |
| | Murtle Rd. Park | Blue River | B | 25.0 | License of Occupation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | This park is undeveloped and largely used as a storage site. There is a hill that was used for tobogganing, but it has not recently been brush-cut. |
| | Keekwillie Park | Kamloops | L | 0.6 | TNRD Owned | | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Open greenpsace |
| | Smith Pioneer Park | Lower Nicola | M | 1.6 | TNRD Owned | | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | ■ | | | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | Basketball court to be installed soon |
| | Agate Bay Boat Launch | Agate Bay | O | | License of Occupation | | ■ | | | | ■ | | | | ■ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | License of Occupation for Provincial Highway ROW |
| | Latremouille Park | Little Fort | O | 1.2 | TNRD Owned | Little Fort Recreation Society | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | | | | | | | | ■ | ■ | | | ■ | | | | | Major improvements completed in '22-'23 |
| | | **Total** | | **145.8** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

*Table 5 Provincial Parkland, Rec sites area, and RSTBC Trail totals by electoral area.*

| Sub-Region | Electoral Areas | Provincial Parks ($km^2$) | RSTBC Sites ($km^2$) | RSTBC Trails (km) | Total Parkland ($km^2$) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Thompson | A - Wells Gray Country | 5,319.5 | 177.1 | 332.2 | 5,496.7 |
| | B - Thompson Headwaters | 57.7 | 102.9 | 250.3 | 160.6 |
| | O - Lower North Thompson | 364.1 | 81.5 | 1,174.6 | 445.6 |
| South Cariboo | E - Bonaparte Plateau | 719.8 | 26.1 | 497.2 | 745.9 |
| | I - Blue Sky Country | 1,208.8 | 2.8 | 86.2 | 1,211.5 |
| Central | J - Copper Desert Country | 220.3 | 84.9 | 2,538.7 | 305.1 |
| | L - Grasslands | 22.7 | 22.8 | 80.1 | 45.5 |
| | P - Rivers and Peaks | 21.4 | 21.3 | 498.7 | 42.7 |
| Nicola | M - Beautiful Nicola Valley North | 16.6 | 62.3 | 345.6 | 78.9 |
| | N - Beautiful Nicola Valley South | 2.6 | 96.1 | 449.5 | 98.7 |
| | **TOTAL** | **7,953.5** | **677.6** | **6253.1** | **8631.2** |

*Table 6 TNRD parks and trails supply by Electoral Area. Green indicates a high quantity of TNRD parkland per resident, yellow indicates a low quantity, and red indicates no TNRD parks.*

| Sub-Region | Electoral Areas | Community Parks | Regional Parks | TNRD Trails | Total Developed TNRD Parks | Total TNRD Developed Parkland (ha) | % Total Developed TNRD Parkland | Population (2021 Census) | Area (km²) | Total TNRD Parkland Area/1,000 Residents (ha/1,000 Residents) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Thompson | A - Wells Gray Country | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5.5 | 3% | 1,573 | 7,086 | 3.5 |
| | B - Thompson Headwaters | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 151.3 | 86% | 230 | 5,126 | 657.8 |
| | O - Lower North Thompson | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 16.4 | 9% | 1,719 | 5,381 | 9.5 |
| South Cariboo | E - Bonaparte Plateau | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 1,322 | 6,626 | 0.0 |
| | I - Blue Sky Country | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 2,369 | 5,737 | 0.0 |
| Central | J - Copper Desert Country | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 2,038 | 3,286 | 0.0 |
| | L - Grasslands | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.6 | 0.3% | 3,626 | 1,913 | 0.2 |
| | P - Rivers and Peaks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 8,386 | 1,547 | 0.0 |
| Nicola | N - Beautiful Nicola Valley South | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% | 1,330 | 2,342 | 0.0 |
| | M - Beautiful Nicola Valley North | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1.6 | 1% | 2,506 | 3,845 | 0.60 |
| | **TOTAL** | | | | **14** | **175.4** | | **25,099** | **42,887** | |

*Table 7 Provincial Park, Rec Site, and RSTBC trails supply by Electoral Area. Green indicates Electoral Areas with a high quantity of Provincial/RSTBC parkland or RSTBC trails per resident, yellow indicates an average quantity, and red indicates a low quantity.*

| Sub-Region | Electoral Areas | Provincial Parks ($km^2$) | RSTBC Sites ($km^2$) | RSTBC Trails (km) | Total Parkland ($km^2$) | Population (2021 Census) | Area ($km^2$) | Provincial Park + Recreation Lands (km2)/1,000 Residents | Recreation Trails (km)/1,000 Residents |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| North Thompson | A - Wells Gray Country | 5,319.5 | 177.1 | 332.2 | 5,496.7 | 1,573 | 7,086 | 3,494 | 211 |
| | B - Thompson Headwaters | 57.7 | 102.9 | 250.3 | 160.6 | 230 | 5,126 | 698 | 1,088 |
| | O - Lower North Thompson | 364.1 | 81.5 | 1174.6 | 445.6 | 1,719 | 5,381 | 259 | 683 |
| South Cariboo | E - Bonaparte Plateau | 719.8 | 26.1 | 497.2 | 745.9 | 1,322 | 6,626 | 564 | 376 |
| | I - Blue Sky Country | 1,208.8 | 2.8 | 86.2 | 1,211.5 | 2,369 | 5,737 | 511 | 36 |
| Central | J - Copper Desert Country | 220.3 | 84.9 | 2,538.7 | 305.1 | 2,038 | 3,286 | 150 | 1,246 |
| | L - Grasslands | 22.7 | 22.8 | 80.1 | 45.5 | 3,626 | 1,913 | 13 | 22 |
| | P - Rivers and Peaks | 21.4 | 21.3 | 498.7 | 42.7 | 8,386 | 1,547 | 5 | 59 |
| Nicola | M - Beautiful Nicola Valley North | 16.6 | 62.3 | 345.6 | 78.9 | 2,506 | 3,845 | 31 | 138 |
| | N - Beautiful Nicola Valley South | 2.6 | 96.1 | 449.5 | 98.7 | 1,330 | 2,342 | 74 | 338 |
| | **TOTAL** | **7,953.5** | **677.6** | **6,253.1** | **8,631.101** | **25,099** | **42,887** | **344** | **249** |

*Table 8 Comparison of regional district park supply.*

| ***Regional District*** | ***Population (2021 Census)*** | ***Total Area of Regional District Parks (ha)*** | ***Regional District Parkland (ha) per 1,000 residents*** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Thompson-Nicola | 143,680 | 175 | 1.2 |
| Peace River | 61,532 | 72 | 1.2 |
| Bulkley-Nechako | 37,737 | 44 | 1.2 |
| Central Kootenay | 62,509 | 86 | 1.4 |
| Fraser Fort George | 96,979 | 330 | 3.4 |
| East Kootenay | 65,896 | 254 | 3.9 |
| Central Okanagan | 222,162 | 2,020 | 9.1 |
| | | **Average** | **2.0** |

*Table 9 Analysis of additional parkland required to reach service levels of 2.0ha and 3.4ha per 1,000 residents, total and by Electoral Area.*

| Sub-Region | North Thompson | | | South Cariboo | | Central | | | Nicola Valley | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Electoral Area | A | B | O | E | I | J | L | P | M | N | |
| EA Name | Wells Gray Country | Thompson Headwaters | Lower North Thompson | Bonaparte Plateau | Blue Sky Country | Copper Desert Country | Grasslands | Rivers and Peaks | Beautiful Nicola Valley North | Beautiful Nicola Valley South | Total TNRD |
| Population (2021 Census) | 1,573 | 230 | 1,719 | 1,322 | 2,369 | 2,038 | 3,626 | 8,386 | 2,506 | 1,330 | **143,680** |
| TNRD Parks Area (ha) | 5.5 | 151.3 | 16.4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.6 | 0 | 1.6 | 0 | **175.4** |
| ha/1,000 residents | 3.5 | 657.8 | 9.5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0 | 0.6 | 0 | **1.2** |
| Total park area (ha) needed for: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.0 ha/1,000 residents | | | | | | | | | | | **287.4** |
| 3.4 ha/1,000 residents | | | | | | | | | | | **488.5** |
| Additional park area (ha) needed for: | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.0 ha/1,000 residents for entire RD | 2.6 | 0 | 0 | 6.8 | 12.2 | 10.5 | 18.1 | 43.3 | 6.9 | 11 | **112.0** |
| 3.4 ha/1,000 residents for entire RD | 15.7 | 0 | 6.8 | 17.8 | 31.9 | 27.5 | 48.3 | 113.1 | 17.9 | 32.2 | **311.3** |

*This table shows the quantity of parkland required for each Electoral Area to develop for the TNRD to meet an average of 2.0 and 3.4 ha of TNRD parkland per 1,000 residents. 3.4 ha of regional district parkland per resident is the average set by neighbouring and similar regional districts. Calculations accounted for the surpluses of parkland in Electoral Areas "B" and "O" during the 2.0 ha/1,000 analysis and Electoral Area "B" during the 3.4 ha/1,000 analysis. Red indicates Electoral Areas with the most TNRD parkland development needed for equitable service across Electoral Areas and dark green indicates little or no TNRD park development needed for equitable service.*

# APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS FOR REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PARKS

*Table 10 Regional and Community Park Characteristics*

| ***CHARACTERISTIC*** | ***REGIONAL PARK*** | ***COMMUNITY PARK*** |
|---|---|---|
| Primary Purpose | Protect regionally significant recreational, ecological, and cultural sites and amenities. | Provide active and passive outdoor recreation opportunities that are appealing to a variety of ages and are tailored to the interests of neighbourhood residents. |
| Users | Attract visitors from across the region and beyond. | Primarily used by local residents. |
| Size | Variable—large enough to accommodate selected recreation activities or to protect specific features. | Variable but tend to be small in size (0.5-1 ha). |
| Amenities and Activities | Regionally unique nature-based outdoor recreation opportunities and experiences, which may include motorized and non-motorized activities, as well as special events, celebrations, or competitions. | Community amenities suitable to a variety of ages and abilities such as playgrounds, sports fields, bandshells, water accesses, and trails.<br>Provide similar levels of recreation services to municipal parks. |
| Siting | Variable—typically within a 1-hour's drive of population centres or where regionally significant features and recreation resources exist. | Within residential neighbourhoods in unincorporated areas/town centres or near schools. |
| Funding | Funded by taxpayers across the TNRD. | Funded by taxpayers within specific Electoral Areas. |

# APPENDIX C LAND ACQUISITION— CRITERIA AND FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

*Table 11 Criteria for Parkland Acquisition*

| CHARACTERISTIC | REGIONAL PARK | COMMUNITY PARK |
|---|---|---|
| SUITABILITY | | |
| **Public Interest** | Gauged regionally through the public engagement processes associated with the review of this Plan, requests from interest groups regarding specific sites, and other past and future interactions with the residents of the Region. | Gauged locally through the public engagement processes associated with the review of this Plan, requests from interest groups regarding specific sites, and other past and future interactions with the residents of the specific Electoral Area. |
| **Identified Need** | Regional parks should be distributed across the region. Parks and trails should be located to provide the greatest level of access to the most residents. New TNRD parks should consider and complement services provided by different park systems (Provincial Parks, RSTBC, and community parks). | Parks and trails should be located to provide the greatest level of access to the most residents. New TNRD Community Parks should help distribute parkland to areas currently under-served. |
| **Recreation Capacity & Experiential Value** | A portion of the site should be capable of supporting recreation activities (i.e. trails, viewpoints, motorized/non-motorized water access, etc.) or should already support recreation activities. | The site should be capable of supporting a variety of recreation activities or should already support recreation activities. |
| **Economic & Tourism Value** | The site may have the capacity to support tourism or generate revenue (e.g. campsite fees). | The site may have the capacity to support tourism or generate revenue (e.g. campsite fees) but is not a priority for acquisition consideration. |
| **Risk & Climate Change** | Site acquisition should consider the potential risks associated with wildfire, landslides, and flooding, as well as how these risks may change with climate change. The capacity of a site to mitigate these risks, including emergency access should be considered. | Site acquisition should consider the potential risks associated with wildfire, landslides, and flooding, as well as how these risks may change with climate change. The capacity of a site to mitigate these risks, including emergency access should be considered. |

| CHARACTERISTIC | REGIONAL PARK | COMMUNITY PARK |
|---|---|---|
| **Water Access** | Accesses used regionally, such as those supporting non-motorized and motorized boat launches, should be considered for regional park acquisition. | Accesses used locally, such as trail/pedestrian water access or motorized/non-motorized boat access points, should be considered for community park acquisition. |
| **Natural, Cultural, and Heritage Value** | The site may provide access to regionally significant features. | The site may provide access to locally significant features. |
| **Environmental, Conservation, and Climate Value** | Designating a site as a park may protect, in part or in full, sensitive ecosystems and wildlife habitat, including wildlife corridors. Preservation of intact forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other plant communities, as well as individual trees, may contribute to the TNRD's climate action goals. | Designating a site as a park may protect, in part or in full, sensitive ecosystems and wildlife habitat, including wildlife corridors. Preservation of intact forests, wetlands, grasslands, and other plant communities, as well as individual trees, may contribute to the TNRD's climate action goals. |
| **Site Access** | The site should be reasonably accessible by personal vehicle. Site development may create community or regional connections or support active transportation. | The site should be reasonably accessible to local residents. Site development may create community or regional connections or support active transportation. |
| **Universal Accessibility** | Active portions of the park should be capable of accommodating universal accessibility and a range of recreational activities where practical. | Active portions of the park should be capable of accommodating universal accessibility and a range of recreational activities. |
| FEASIBILITY | | |
| **Cost** | The cost to acquire, develop, and maintain a site should be considered as part of regional budget processes. | The cost to acquire, develop, and maintain a site should be considered as part of electoral area budget processes. |
| **Partnerships** | Opportunities to offset costs through collaboration with user/interest groups, other levels of government, and First Nations should be explored as part of acquisition considerations. | Opportunities to offset costs through collaboration with user/interest groups, other levels of government, and First Nations should be explored as part of acquisition considerations. |

| CHARACTERISTIC | REGIONAL PARK | COMMUNITY PARK |
|---|---|---|
| **Indigenous Relations** | There may be the potential to foster and build relationships with Indigenous groups when considering land acquisition. Sites that could support the promotion of the history and culture of Indigenous peoples should be considered with a commitment to reconciliation. | There may be the potential to foster and build relationships with Indigenous groups when considering land acquisition. Sites that could support the promotion of the history and culture of Indigenous peoples should be considered with a commitment to reconciliation. |

Through the development of this plan, TNRD staff identified the sites below as potential opportunities for future regional and community parks or trails. This list is not a definitive summary of all sites to be considered nor is it prioritized in any way. It is intended to provide examples of sites that could be developed to accommodate outdoor recreation demand from across the TNRD. This list can be updated and/or evaluated over time.

TNRD staff have identified the sites listed below as potential opportunities for future regional parks:

- Pritchard Beach (Electoral Area "P")
- Monte Lake (Electoral Area "L")
- Bonaparte River Valley (Electoral Area "I")
- Loon Lake (Electoral Area "E")
- Savona (Electoral Area "J")
- Water access points

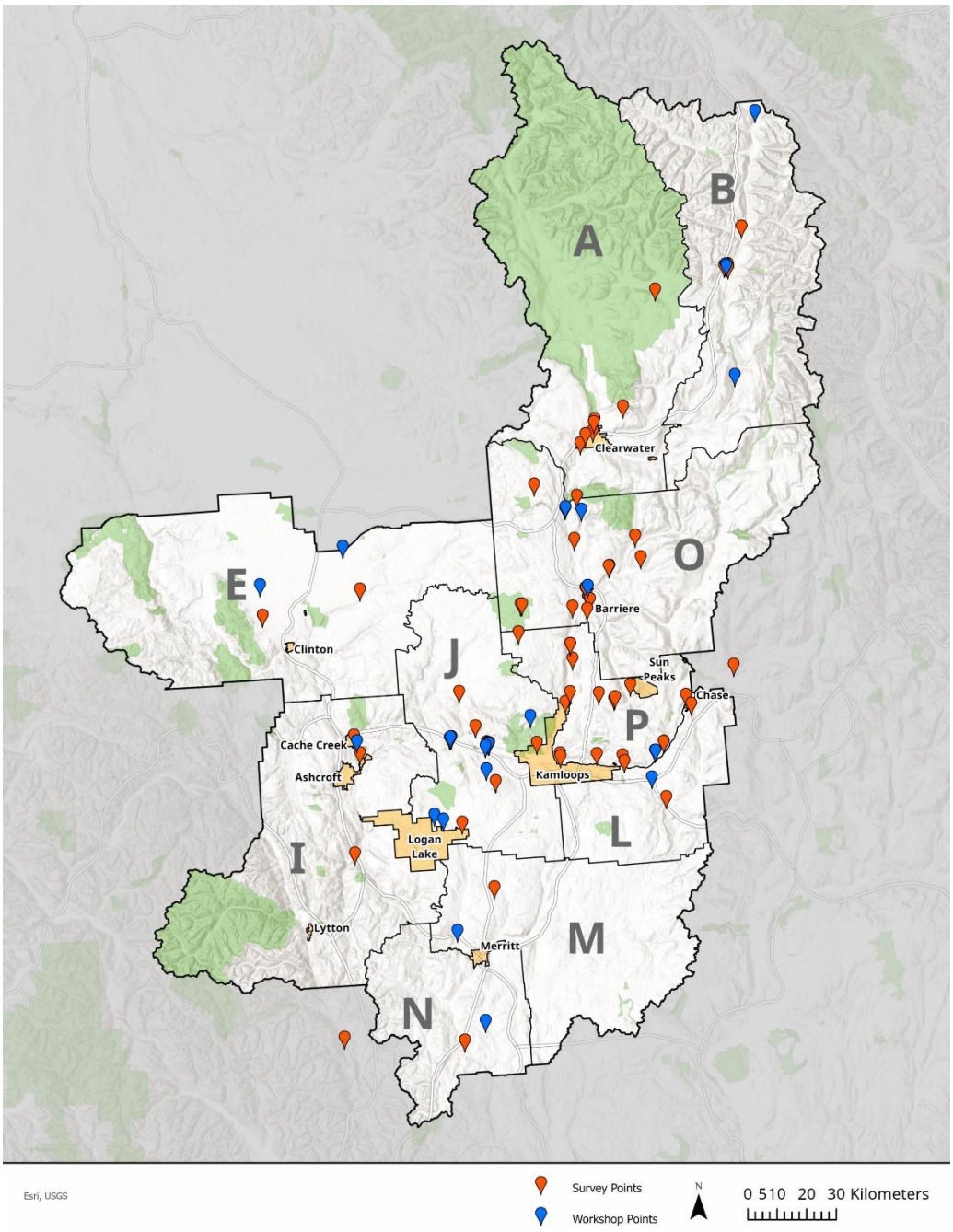
TNRD staff have identified the sites listed below as potential opportunities for future community parks.

- Whitecroft (Electoral Area "P")
- Turtle Valley (Electoral Area "L")
- Spences Bridge (Electoral Area "I")

TNRD staff have identified the regions listed below as potential opportunities for future trails.

- Tobiano (Electoral Area "J")
- Savona ORV Network (Electoral Area "J")
- July Mountain (Electoral Areas "M" and "N")
- Mesa Trail in Ashcroft (Electoral Area "I")
- 70 Mile House (Electoral Area "E")
- Clinton (Electoral Area "E")
- Gold Rush Snowmobile Trail near Clinton (Electoral Area "E")
- Heffley Creek (Electoral Area "P")

*Figure 4 Engagement feedback on areas to be considered for park and trail development.*




*Pins indicate areas suggested for TNRD park and trail development/improvements by community engagement participants. Red pins indicate responses from the online survey, while blue pins indicate responses from participants in online interviews and workshops.*

# APPENDIX D: ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

# Thompson-Nicola Regional District

# Parks and Trails

## Strategic Plan

## Engagement Summary
## What We Heard Report

Prepared for:

Prepared by:

LEES + ASSOCIATES

July 2025

Contact Information:

509-318 Homer St, **Vancouver** BC Canada, V6B 2V2 | p: 604.899.3806

51 Wolseley St, **Toronto** ON Canada, M5T 1A4 | p: 416 645 7033 | f: 415.645.7046

8 Boswell Crescent, **Whitehorse** YT Canada, Y1A 4T3 | p: 867.332.3806

info@elac.ca | www.elac.ca

# TABLE OF CONTENTS


**1 INTRODUCTION ..... 4**

1.1 OUTREACH ..... 5
1.2 FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT ..... 6
1.3 ROUND 1 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ..... 7
1.4 ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES ..... 9

**2 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES ..... 11**

2.1 ROUND 1 OUTCOMES ..... 11
2.2 ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES ..... 17

**3 CONCLUSION ..... 22**

**APPENDICES ..... 23**

**APPENDIX A ..... 24**

ROUND 1 DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS ..... 24

**APPENDIX B ..... 33**

ROUND 2 DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS ..... 33

# 1 INTRODUCTION

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) is working with LEES+Associates to develop a Parks & Trails Strategic Plan (the Plan) that will define the future direction, philosophy, policies, and actions for the provision of both regional and community parks and trails services. The Plan will guide the delivery of an integrated parks and trails service over the next ten (10) years.

The TNRD Park and Trails Strategic Plan will:

- Assess the current state of parks and trails;
- Determine the needs and values of the community through comprehensive engagement;
- Establish an overarching vision and goals based on shared values;
- Make recommendations for supporting parks and trails service delivery over the next 10 years;
- Provide a framework for decision-making; and
- Provide a prioritized implementation plan with funding tools.

Community engagement is an important part of the Plan process and included two rounds of engagement. This report summarizes the input from both rounds of engagement, which took place in September 2024 and March-April 2025.

The purpose of the first round of community engagement was to gather information and perspectives from interested parties, stakeholders, and the public about how they currently use parks and trails; what barriers they face in using parks and trails; what needs, gaps, and opportunities they see in TNRD parks and trails; and their community values. The Round 1 engagement results were used to create the Draft Parks & Trails Strategic Plan.

The purpose of the second round of community engagement was to collect feedback on the vision, goals, and recommendations of the Draft Parks and Trails Strategic Plan to inform amendments required for the Final Strategic Plan.




*Figure 1: Parks and Trails Strategy Process*

# 1.1 OUTREACH

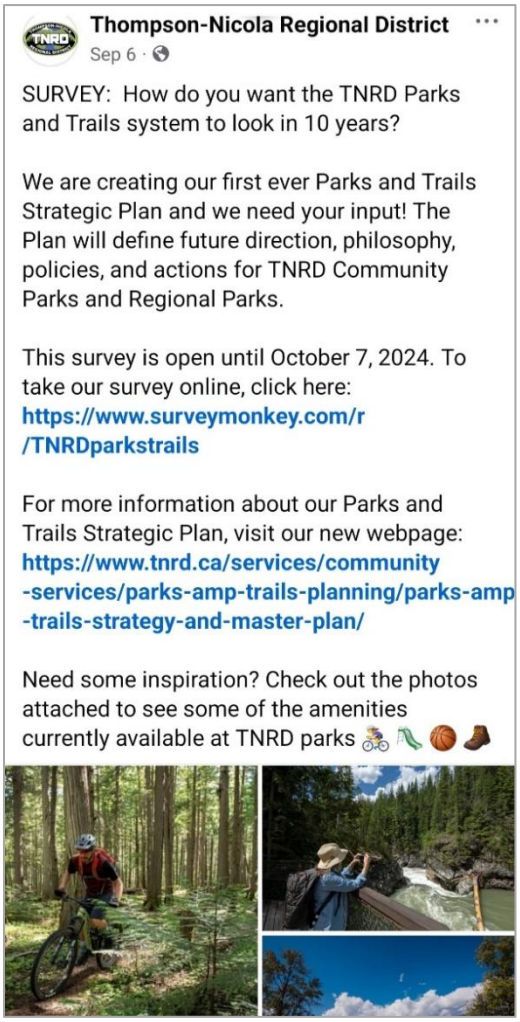
Outreach to the community was done in the two weeks before and during the engagement activities. Information about the project objectives, project schedule, and how to get involved was shared widely to governments of all levels, interested parties, stakeholders, and residents of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District.

Opportunities to participate were advertised through:

- The TNRD's website; and
- Social media posts on the TNRD's Facebook page, which were shared across community information boards on Facebook.

Direct invitations to participate in engagement activities were extended by email to stakeholders. These included:

- 19 municipal, provincial government, and school district representatives;
- 43 community recreation and environmental organizations;
- 8 tourism organizations; and
- More than 150 businesses with ties to parks, trails, and outdoor recreation tourism.



## 1.2 FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

Invitations to participate in the Parks and Trails Strategic Plan were extended to 25 First Nations within the TNRD via referral letter including: Adams Lake, Ashcroft, Bonaparte, Boothroyd, Coldwater, Cook's Ferry, High Bar, Kanaka Bar, Lower Nicola, Lytton, Neskonlith, Nicomen, Nooaitch, Oregon Jack Creek, Shackan, Simpcw, Siska, Skeetchestn, Skuppah, Sklax te Secwepemculecw, Stswecem'c Xget'tem, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc, Ts'kw'aylaxw, Upper Nicola Band, and Whispering Pines.

At the time of this report, the TNRD has hosted meetings with:

### Engagement Round 1

- Simpcw
- Whispering Pines / Clinton Indian Band

### Engagement Round 2

- High Bar First Nation
- Simpcw
- Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc

The Project Team will continue to look for opportunities to hear Indigenous perspectives and keep the invitation for feedback open throughout the project process.

# 1.3 ROUND 1 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Round 1 of engagement, held in September 2024, included meetings with municipal and regional leaders, stakeholder workshops, and an online public survey. The details of these activities are described below, and the results are summarized in this report.

***Round 1 Engagement by the Numbers***

**315** respondents to the online survey

**30** participants in **7** stakeholder workshops

***5*** Participants in the government workshop

**1** land manager interview

**1** accessibility workshop

**2** meetings with First Nations

## 1.3.1 WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

### TNRD Parks and Trails Strategic Plan Standing Committee Meetings (2)

A project introduction and visioning meeting was held with the Parks and Trails Strategic Plan Standing Committee to better understand the Regional District's strategic directions and the priorities, critical factors, issues, and measures of success for the project.

### Electoral Area and Municipal Workshops (2)

Workshops were held with elected officials and municipal representatives to introduce the project and ensure that the Parks and Trails Strategic Plan is aligned with municipal and area planning initiatives. Participants shared their vision for a successful park and trails strategic plan and opportunities for collaboration between the TNRD and municipalities.

All electoral areas were represented in the workshops. Workshop invitations were extended to all municipalities in the TNRD. Municipalities that participated in the workshops included:

- Village of Cache Creek
- District of Chase
- District of Clearwater
- Village of Clinton
- District of Logan Lake

### Recreation Sites and Trails BC and Ministry of Transportation and Transit Workshop (1)

An interview with representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT), Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC). At this session, participants were introduced to the project and asked about specific opportunities to improve parks and trails in the TNRD and potential collaboration opportunities.

### Accessibility Workshop (1)

A workshop was held with the TNRD's Accessibility Committee. At this session, participants were introduced to the project and asked about specific opportunities to improve accessibility and inclusivity in parks and trails in the TNRD and potential partnership initiatives.

### Stakeholder Workshops (7)

In September 2024, over 50 parks and trail related groups were invited to participate in stakeholder workshops. Seven stakeholder workshops were held with community groups including members of recreation organizations, environmental groups, tourism organizations, educators, and members of the community working in health and industry. All electoral areas were represented in these workshops. These 1-hour online sessions included an introduction to the project and a discussion about the opportunities and gaps in the TNRD's parks and trails system.

Community groups that participated in workshops included:

- Blue River Powder Packers
- Backcountry Horsemen of BC—Northern Chapter
- Thompson Valley ORV Club
- Wells Gray Outdoors Club
- Valemount and Area Recreation Development Association
- Clearwater Snowdrifters
- Little Fort Recreation Society
- Green Lake Snowmobile Club
- Highland Valley Outdoor Association
- Kamloops Performance Cycling Centre
- Skamana Ski and Snowshoe Club
- Shuswap Trail Alliance
- Barriere Trails Society
- The Community Association of Whitecroft
- New Pathways to Gold
- Nicola Nordic Ski Club
- Sun Peaks Recreation Trails Association
- Lower Nicola Community Association
- Grasslands Conservation Council of BC
- Interior Health Authority—Healthy Communities
- Tourism Blue River
- Tourism Wells Gray
- Cariboo-Chilcotin Coast Tourism
- Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association—Development
- Tourism Kamloops
- Mike Wiegele Heli-Skiing
- Logan Lake Community Forest

## 1.3.2 ONLINE SURVEY

Input from the public was gathered through an online survey posted on the TNRD's website and shared directly with community groups through email. Survey responses were collected from September 6, 2024, to October 7, 2024, with a total of 315 responses. Hard copy versions of the survey were offered for those who prefer not to complete the survey digitally or do not have access to a computer to fill out the survey. The results were collected through the online platform Survey Monkey and are summarized in Appendix A.

# 1.4 ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Round 2 of engagement, held in March-April 2025, included workshops with community recreation organizations, local businesses, and government representatives, a virtual community open house, and a review from Interior Health.

***Round 2 Engagement by the Numbers***

**123** respondents in the online survey

**11** participants in the recreation organization and business workshops, and the community open house

**4** participants in the government workshop

**1** review from Interior Health

**1** review from the Thompson-Nicola Conservation Collaborative

**3** interviews with First Nations

## 1.4.1 WORKSHOPS AND MEETINGS

### TNRD Parks and Trails Strategic Plan Standing Committee Meeting (1)

The Draft Strategy was presented to and solicited feedback from the Parks and Trails Strategic Plan Standing Committee prior to public engagement.

### Municipality and Government Organization Workshop (1)

A workshop was held for representatives from TNRD municipalities and other levels of government. The workshop was attended by representatives from the Village of Clinton, the District of Chase, and two representatives from RSTBC.

### Business Workshop (1)

A workshop was held for businesses located within the TNRD to provide an opportunity to comment on the Draft Strategy and collect feedback on how well the strategy promoted economic activity in the TNRD. Invitations were extended to more than 180 outdoor recreation and tourism-oriented businesses such as guides, outfitters, outdoor gear shops, and accommodations.

### Community Organization Workshops (2)

Two workshops were held for community recreation organizations that used and managed parks and trails within the TNRD. The organizations were given the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Strategy.

### Community Virtual Open House (1)

A virtual open house was held for members of the general public to learn about the project and provide feedback on the Draft Strategy.

### Written Feedback (2)

A Community Health Facilitator at Interior Health - Healthy Communities and a Program Director at the Thompson-Nicola Conservation Collaborative were unable to attend the workshops but provided written feedback on the draft plan.

## 1.4.2 ONLINE SURVEY

Feedback on the Draft Strategy was gathered through an online survey posted on the TNRD's website and shared directly with community groups through email. Survey responses were collected from March 18th to April 14th, 2025. The results were collected through the online platform SurveyMonkey and are summarized in Appendix B.

# 2 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

## 2.1 ROUND 1 OUTCOMES

Parks and trail users in the TNRD utilize parks and trails managed by the Regional District in addition to facilities managed by other levels of government. As the distinctions between parks and trails under these different management systems are often subtle, feedback gathered during engagement workshops and interviews was largely reflective of the overall state of parks and trails in the TNRD and not restricted to TNRD facilities.

### 2.1.1 MUNICIPALITIES AND ELECTORAL AREAS

Address Gaps and Improve Connectivity - Municipalities and Electoral Areas representatives highlighted that TNRD parks and trails are not equitably distributed across the region. When considering expansion of the TNRD's parks and trails network, workshop participants focused on the need to fill in regional network gaps and to form stronger connections between existing trail systems.

Importance of Trails - Key issues around trails included inadequate funding for trail maintenance, inter-user group conflict, and a lack of accessible trails. The need to address gaps and establish a sub-regional trail plan to guide new development was discussed.

Partnerships - The importance of partnerships was a common thread. Participants saw opportunities for working with municipalities, RSTBC, and MOTT to establish a regional active transportation network, linking communities, parks, and new trail-side point-of-interest nodes. Partnerships were also highlighted as critical for trail planning, maintenance, and funding.

Community Support - Creating buy-in within the community, supporting community partners, and considering a community working group were discussed as ways to support the implementation of the Plan.

Adapting to Climate Change - Opportunities to adapt existing facilities for climate change were also discussed, such as building shade structures in parks and implementing FireSmart principles in park design.

Funding Challenges - Municipalities and Electoral Areas representatives acknowledged that funding to implement recommendations would be a limiting factor in the success of the Strategic Plan.

Park Management - An improved marketing strategy for TNRD parks and trails was seen as a major opportunity. Other parks and trails management measures included better life cycle costing when developing new projects, the establishment of sub-regional trail plans to guide new development, and re-examining frameworks for developer obligations in park development.

### 2.1.2 COMMUNITY GROUPS

Signage, Wayfinding, and Interpretive Elements - Several user groups expressed dissatisfaction with the level of signage in TNRD parks and trail networks. Workshop attendees saw better signage as an opportunity to improve the experience for new and inexperienced users, improve safety, protect the environment/wildlife, and manage user conflict. The creation of other mapping resources (online, paper maps) was also brought forward by some attendees. Attendees also noted signage as an opportunity to share interpretive information in areas of environmental, cultural, and Indigenous significance. Some groups noted that some existing interpretive signs use outdated, colonial language.

Park and Trail Maintenance and Volunteers - Several workshop attendees noted that though funding is often available for new capital projects, funding for maintaining existing parks and trails is scarce. Also noted was an increase in park and trail users while at the same time there has been a decrease in the number of volunteers. This is making it difficult for community organizations to keep up with trail maintenance demand. Operational funding for maintenance programs and streamlined volunteer liability resources were seen as opportunities to build maintenance capacity. Working with MOTT to update highway signage with TNRD parks and trails information was recognized as an opportunity.

Trail Network Connections and Access - Several workshop attendees noted opportunities to connect local trail networks to create longer regional routes. For example, some attendees expressed a desire to see the re-establishment of historically significant routes such as trails along the Cariboo Wagon Road. Also noted were opportunities to promote active transportation by linking communities with new trails. Links discussed included routes between Logan Lake and Cache Creek and rail trail connections from Kamloops to the Okanagan.

Some attendees noted a lack of public transportation access to wilderness parks and trailheads, adding that many TNRD parks and trails were only reasonably accessible by car.

Participants brought attention to informal campers limiting access at trailheads and boat launches.

Climate Adaptation and Environmental Protection - Many workshop attendees noted that poor snow levels are negatively impacted winter recreation. Some attendees expressed concern over the damage caused by wildfires. Attendees suggested building fire guards to protect infrastructure. Some stakeholders suggested strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change in parks such as building shade structures and adding higher-elevation trailheads.

Stakeholders also noted that some TNRD parks and trails have issues with invasive plants.

Accessibility - We heard several user group representatives state that few TNRD parks and trails were suitable for those with mobility limitations. Upgrading parks and trails to meet accessibility standards was a common suggestion across workshop sessions. Better lighting across TNRD parks was brought up by several workshop attendees. Other accessibility opportunities raised during engagement included washroom upgrades, adaptive mountain bike trails, and accessible playgrounds.

User Group Conflict - Several user group representatives noted instances of conflict with other trail and park user groups, especially between motorized and non-motorized trail user groups. Workshop attendees noted a lack of signage indicating restricted use. There also aren't dedicated parks and trails for specific users, such as fat bikers, motorized trail users, or dog walkers, which can result in conflicts.

Collaboration and Communication - Several user groups said that engaging different levels of government, First Nations, and other user organizations is a challenge when trying to get new projects approved. Some suggested that the TNRD could play a larger role in helping organizations navigate bureaucratic and administrative challenges by acting as a 'middleman' or resource centre to support communication and collaboration with user groups.

Workshop attendees requested more readily available resources and information to learn about TNRD parks and trails. Some workshop attendees requested better communication with user organizations to raise awareness of planning initiatives, engagement opportunities, and available grant/funding opportunities. Attendees also wanted the TNRD to be more active in tourism initiatives to bring more visitors to the region.

### 2.1.3 FIRST NATIONS

#### Whispering Pines-Clinton Indian Band

Participants in the Whispering Pines-Clinton Indian Band (WPCIB) interview noted the TNRD did not have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with their community and would like to see acknowledgement of First Nations territory before further parks and trails development takes place. Participants brought up the possibility of a co-management framework with the TNRD for parks and trails in their traditional territory. The importance of archeological assessments was also stressed, with participants noting cases of artifacts being removed from some areas. Participants noted that much of the forest in their territory had recently been lost to wildfires and voiced concerns that park and trail development may limit community use of remaining intact forests. WPCIB interview participants expressed interest in creating maps with overlays of traditional territories and trails.

### Simpcw

Participants in the Simpcw interview stressed the importance of engagement with Indigenous groups early in the planning process for new parks and trails and research projects. Participants wanted to see more consultation with Indigenous groups for the naming of new parks and trails.

Participants noted signage indicating sensitive fish habitat to be lacking, and some waterway crossings limited fish passage. Participants also noted that some natural areas needed ecological restoration. Park and trail improvements to support wildlife were suggested, including building bear-proof food storage facilities at campgrounds and habitat boxes for birds and bats. Participants noted that fuel management frameworks should better consider Indigenous cultural burning practices.

Interview participants saw the lack of cellphone coverage in remote parks and trails as a safety concern. Participants sought improvements in the overall quality of park and trail amenities, including park furnishings and playground equipment. Some participants saw tourism as holding economic benefits for local First Nations and encouraged the development of TNRD tourism initiatives.

## 2.1.4 ONLINE SURVEY SUMMARY

### Who Answered the Survey?

- 315 total respondents
- 52% were between 40 and 64 years of age, 28% were 65 or older
- 53% were female, 42% were male
- About 20% of respondents were from Kamloops. Clearwater, Barriere, and Electoral Area "J" were also well-represented.

**Top Activities for Survey Respondents** - Walking/Hiking was the most popular activity, mentioned by 77% of survey respondents, followed by swimming/going to the lake at 56%. Dog walking, camping, fishing/hunting, non-motorized watercraft use (canoe, kayak, standup paddleboard/SUP), motorized trail use (snowmobile, ATV, dirt bike, side-by-side), skiing/snowboarding/snowshoeing, picnicking, and cycling were also noted as popular activities, each mentioned by more than 30% respondents.

**Top Parks and Trails for Survey Respondents** - Little Hell's Gate Regional Park and Barriere Forks Regional Park were the most visited parks among survey respondents with 69% and 67% of respondents respectively. Other popular parks and trails included the Agate Bay Boat Launch (54%), Ferry Road Park (54%), the Blue River Trail Network (46%), and Birch Island Community Park (45%).

**Barriers to Participation** - Lack of time to use TNRD parks and trails was the most common barrier to visiting parks more often (29%). Other common barriers included difficulty getting to TNRD parks and trails (21%), a lack of available information (19%), and poor maintenance of parks and trails (12%). About 20% of respondents noted no barriers to their use of TNRD parks and trails.

**Level of Service** - A slim majority of survey respondents said they felt satisfied with the variety of park amenities (53%), the signage and information (51%), and the overall quality of TNRD parks and trails (54%), with only 14-16% of respondents expressing dissatisfaction in each service level area. Feelings around the number of TNRD parks and trails were more mixed, with 32% dissatisfied, 36% neutral, and 32% satisfied.

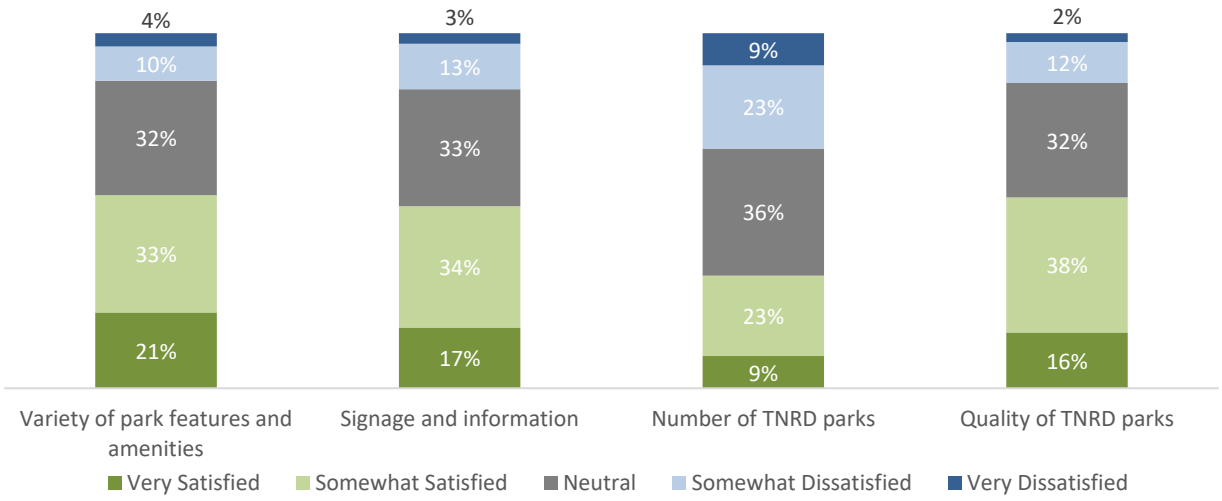



*Figure 2: Level of satisfaction among survey respondents by area of park and trail service delivery*

**What Survey Respondents Value Most in Parks and Trails** - Most respondents (59%) noted 'access to nature' as the most valuable feature of TNRD parks and trails. Other features people valued most included soft surface walking trails (45%), access to water (43%), and washrooms (42%).

**Vision for the Future** - Survey respondents would like to see more access to water and shorelines (47%), walking/hiking trails (43%), and washrooms (39%). Other popular responses included the development of areas for picnicking/casual use (32%), campgrounds (30%), scenic viewpoints (29%), and cultural heritage sites (27%).

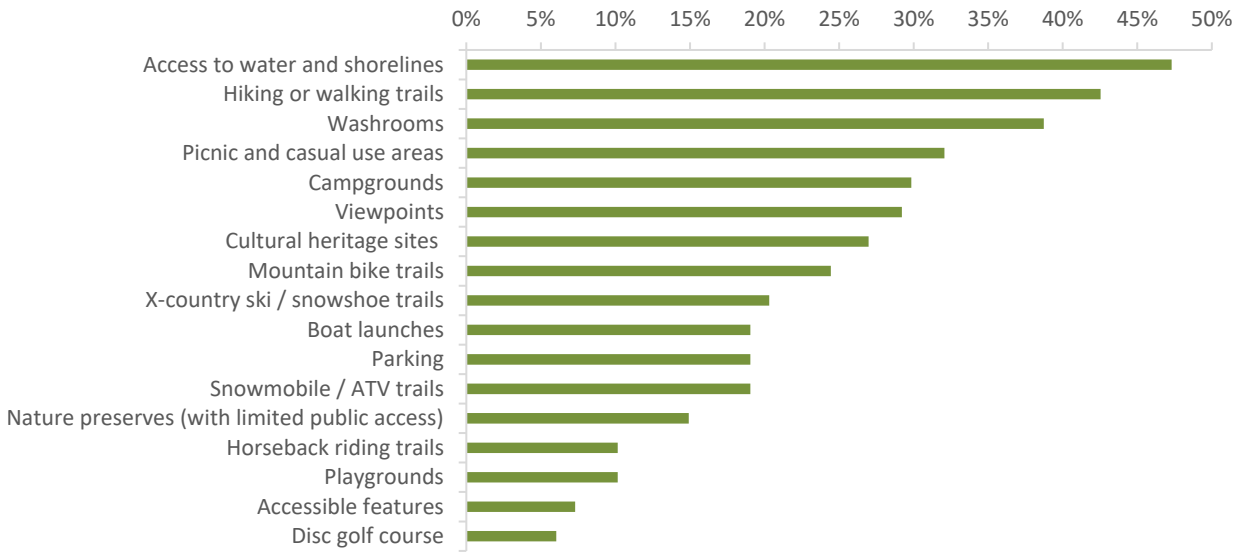



*Figure 3: Features respondents are looking for in future park and trail developments.*

In written responses, nine respondents requested better signage at parks and trailheads, and five requested easier access to information about TNRD parks and trails. A better level of maintenance and trail network connections were also common responses.

Opportunities for New Parks and Trails - Respondents recommended areas for parks and trails across the TNRD for further development. Of these areas, the North Thompson River corridor, including Barriere and Clearwater, had the largest number of common responses. Respondents voiced concern about the inequitable distribution of parks and trails across the region.

Willingness to Pay - More than 50% of survey respondents said they would support a tax increase to better fund parks and trails in the TNRD, while only 19% stated they would oppose a tax increase.

Survey Highlights - Overall, most survey respondents were satisfied with the level of service offered by parks and trails managed by the TNRD. Survey respondents were frequent users of TNRD parks and trails, with most visiting at least once a month. Respondents also saw value in TNRD parks and trails, with most stating they would pay more in taxes to fund further park and trail development. The most popular park and trail amenities across the TNRD are those which accommodate a wide range of activities, age groups, and abilities, such as walking trails, lakefronts, and picnic areas. Respondents appreciate parks and trails that allow them to get close to nature, a value reflected in respondents' preference for activities in natural settings (e.g. hiking, cycling, XC skiing) over activities that require set facilities (e.g. tennis, baseball, basketball).

Respondents had concerns about the inconsistent distribution of parks and trails across the region. This could account for the relatively high number of respondents who were dissatisfied with the number of parks and trails in the TNRD. Key themes in improving TNRD parks and trails included bettering accessibility, ensuring easy access to those without vehicles, and improving overall levels of signage and maintenance.

# 2.2 ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

## 2.2.1 MUNICIPALITIES AND GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Municipal representatives' feedback on the Plan was largely positive, and there was appreciation for its focus on collaboration, partnerships, and filling service gaps. Representatives from RSTBC also appreciated the Plan's focus on partnership, noting that partnerships had been implemented to great success in other regional districts. RSTBC appreciated the plan's recommendations to develop management tools like inventories and classification systems, seeing these tools as useful for regional parks and trails planning.

Participants noted potential sites for TNRD improvement, development, or involvement, including:

- Savona ORV trail network; and
- Pritchard Beach.

## 2.2.2 COMMUNITY GROUPS, OPEN HOUSE, AND REPORT REVIEWS

### What's Working in the Plan

Many participants saw the Plan as a step forward for parks and trails planning in the TNRD. Participants appreciated recommendations to aid recreation organizations through funding and administrative support. Participants advocated for ongoing community engagement for park and trail development and planning, including involving youth in planning activities. Interior Health – Healthy Communities (IH) felt that the Plan was well-positioned to support positive public health outcomes in the TNRD and appreciated the Plan's inclusion of diverse voices in parks and trails management and decision making, including working with First Nations communities and accessibility advocates. The Thompson-Nicola Conservation Collaborative (TNCC) commended the plan's recommendation to develop an asset management system, noting that such systems are valuable tools to manage for the continual sustainability and function of our parks and trails.

### What's Missing from the Plan

Participants wanted to see greater coordination between parks and trails managers. One participant saw the TNRD as being well-positioned to manage an asset inventory for the region's outdoor recreation assets. Some participants wanted the TNRD to assemble a comprehensive, cross-jurisdictional trail inventory to identify regional trail gaps. Some participants wanted to see the TNRD's management resources, like inventory and asset management tables, made available to community recreation organizations. Some participants wanted the TNRD to monitor trail use to inform management decisions. Participants raised opportunities to improve signage, navigation, and interpretive programming in TNRD parks and trails, including:

- Adding signage informing park and trail users about environmentally sensitive areas;
- Adding QR codes to signage to share comprehensive navigation information and Indigenous interpretive information; and
- Developing self-guided tours for visitors.

Some participants noted that the TNRD could explore fuel management practices to protect parks and trails and could play a larger role in reestablishing parks and trails affected by wildfires. One participant recommended that the Plan explore protecting bio-cultural resources for Indigenous use. The TNCC recommended adding considerations for wildlife corridors in the management of existing parks and acquisitions of future parkland. The TNCC also advised expanding recommendations to improve park and trail signage to include information on human-wildlife interactions and responsible recreation in wildlife-sensitive areas.

#### Parks and Trails Opportunities

Participants noted several potential opportunities to enhance parks and trails in the TNRD, including:

- Gold Rush Snowmobile Trail as it runs through the TNRD near Clinton;
- Regional parks near small communities to drive tourism and to ensure that more people across the region can enjoy the health benefits from parks and trails;
- Playing a larger role in maintaining access roads to parks and ensuring consistent access; and
- Adding Indigenous place-making elements to parks, trails, and trailheads, like the Shuswap Trail Alliance's Secwépemc Landmarks Project.

### 2.2.3 BUSINESS GROUPS

Participants noted an increase in visitors to parks and trails across the TNRD and that the TNRD's supply of parks and trails may need to grow to meet the needs of the growing population. Business groups emphasized the importance of creating recreation opportunities for visitors of all ages and abilities. Participants wanted to see better resources made available for directing visitors to parks and trails in the TNRD.

### 2.2.4 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

#### Who Responded?

Of the survey's 123 respondents, 53% identified as female, while 29% identified as male. Roughly half of the respondents were 40-64 years of age (51%), while 28% were 65 or older, and 15% were 25-39. Residents of Kamloops had the highest number of responses (22%), and 17% were from Clearwater. Other best-represented communities included Electoral Areas "A" (8%), "P" (8%), and "J" (7%). Communities and electoral areas with no or low participation in the survey included Sun Peaks (0%), Clinton (0%), Electoral Area "N" (0%), Ashcroft (1%), Merritt (1%), and Electoral Areas "E" (1%) and "I" (1%).

### Strategic Plan Vision Statement and Goals

Most survey respondents either strongly agreed or agreed (74%) with the Plan's vision statement, while 14% disagreed or strongly disagreed. When asked if anything was missing from the vision statement, respondents recommended the following amendments:

- Adding language about protecting wildlife;
- Ensuring that park and trail use does not disturb residents;
- Ensuring that park and trail development is guided by community input; and
- Adding considerations to promote tourism and economic development.

Most survey respondents either strongly agreed or agreed (72%) with the Plan's goals, while 11% disagreed or strongly disagreed.

### Supporting Community Recreation Organizations

Respondents, on average, saw 'Standardize partnership agreements with recreation organizations to formalize roles and responsibilities' as the highest priority action to support community recreation organizations. 'Establish a funding mechanism to provide funding to outdoor recreation organizations' was the second highest priority item by a narrow margin.

Nearly two-thirds of survey respondents were supportive or very supportive (65%) of creating sub-regional trails working groups, while 13% were opposed or very opposed.

### Upgrading for Accessibility

When asked what the TNRD should prioritize when upgrading its parks and trails to universal accessibility standards, respondents favoured 'upgrading trail surfacing' (55%), 'updating and adding accessible washrooms' (49%), and 'adding accessible site furnishings like picnic tables' (39%). Responses under 'Other (please specify)' included more regular trail maintenance to maintain accessibility and adding accessibility information about TNRD parks and trails to the TNRD website. Some respondents were against improving the accessibility of parks and trails, citing concerns over the loss of natural character.

### Wayfinding and Signage

Two-thirds (66%) of respondents were supportive or very supportive of updating or adding wayfinding and interpretive signage in TNRD parks and trails, while 8% were opposed or very opposed. Responses under 'Other (please specify)' included responses advocating for more historic interpretive signage, adding Indigenous languages to interpretive signage, including links to audio recordings, and adding signage with safety information. Some respondents were against improving signage in parks and trails, citing concerns over the loss of natural character.

### TNRD Parks Supply

Most respondents were supportive or very supportive of increasing the supply of TNRD Regional Parks (68%), while 15% were opposed or strongly opposed. A smaller majority of respondents were supportive or very supportive of increasing the supply of TNRD Community Parks (57%), while 14% were opposed or strongly opposed.

### What's Missing?

When asked if anything was missing from the TNRD Draft Parks and Trails Strategic Plan, respondents provided the following:

- Providing more public education on sensitive ecosystems;
- Maintaining TNRD parks to a higher standard of maintenance;
- Developing standard rules for dogs in TNRD parks and trails;
- Placing a greater emphasis on water access;
- Making TNRD parks more accessible for seniors;
- Providing more park amenities for adults;
- Implementing more accessibility improvements;
- Adapting parks and trails for a changing climate;
- Adding amenities and trails to support motorized recreation;
- Creating a portal for reporting parks and trails maintenance issues;
- Working to reopen trails affected by wildfires;
- General concerns about long-term use of the Pritchard Boat Launch; and
- General concerns over the cost to taxpayers of maintaining/expanding TNRD parks and trails.

## 2.2.5 FIRST NATIONS

### High Bar First Nation

Overall, the High Bar First Nation expressed that they are open to working with the TNRD on future projects within their territory, and the TNRD reiterated their commitment to consult the Nation about any potential projects within their territory. The High Bar First Nation shared the following information about ongoing initiatives:

- They are actively working with BC Parks to restore trails in their territory, primarily in Edge Hills Provincial Park.
- They employ a Land Guardian, who is responsible for some trail maintenance within the territory and have recently hired a Sustainable Habitat Program Manager.
- They are currently working to establish an Indigenous protected conservation area.
- Interpretive trails are an opportunity to work with the TNRD, referencing work that has been done by the BC Parks Foundation.

### Simpcw

Simpcw expressed that they do not support motorized recreation trails within their territory, noting the environmental impact of motorized trail use. They also noted that further discussion is needed about the responsibility of monitoring trail use and enforcing sustainable use before motorized trails can be permitted. Simpcw stated that they should be co-decision makers with the TNRD in determining area closures for environmental protection in their territory, but hope the TNRD will support their judgment should Simpcw recommend a closure.

### Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc

Referring to the Draft Strategic Plan's recommendations to support recreation organizations that build and maintain parks and trails through funding opportunities, Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc expressed concern that the recommendation did not include First Nations in proposed processes. Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc advocated for capacity funding to allow for full and meaningful engagement from a given project's onset.

Other feedback included the following:

- The importance of preserving cultural assets and advised hiring local archeologists when performing assessments.
- Ongoing concerns about the current state of Pritchard Beach, noting the site's potential archaeological significance for many of the region's First Nations.
- Concern that the TNRD was supporting parks and trail projects headed by others in the region who had not engaged with Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc.
- Concern about unsanctioned motorized trails, especially in the Greenstone area, and added that RSTBC had attempted to deactivate some of these trails. One representative from Tk̓emlúps te Secwépemc voiced that they felt the addition of new RSTBC trails and rec sites was unnecessary.

# 3 CONCLUSION

Based on the input received from TNRD staff, partners, stakeholders, and First Nations, the TNRD parks and trails system is a well-utilized and valued component of the region's recreation offerings. There is a need to address gaps in service and to improve existing parks and trails to accommodate a wider range of interests, ages, and abilities. Engagement also revealed some opportunities that could improve awareness and use of parks and trails, such as better communications, marketing, and signage strategies. Collaboration with different levels of government, First Nations, and local organizations could bolster the TNRD's capacity to steward and manage its parks and trails system. The Draft Strategic Plan's vision and goals were well received, showing engagement participants are excited for a more equitable and collaboratively managed TNRD parks and trails system.

Prominent themes that emerged from engagement activities included:

- Maintenance, Volunteers, and Inter-Organization Collaboration – Community organizations are struggling to maintain existing parks and trails with limited funding and a dwindling volunteer base. Supporting community recreation organizations was seen as a major opportunity across engagement activities. The draft recommendations to support community recreation organizations were well supported.
- Parks and Trail Distribution and Access – Parks and trails are not evenly distributed across the TNRD, leaving some communities with limited outdoor recreation opportunities. Expanding the TNRD's supply of parks and trails was seen as an opportunity to expand outdoor recreation to more residents, especially in underserved electoral areas.
- Signage – Improved signage, including interpretive elements, was seen as a major opportunity to improve user experience and enhance tourism potential in TNRD parks and trails.
- Accessibility – The existing parks and trails system does not adequately support those with special mobility needs. Upgrading existing facilities and building new facilities with accessibility in mind was seen as a major need across engagement activities.
- Climate Adaptation - Engagement participants were concerned about the effects of climate change in the region and wanted to see measures implemented to mitigate the impacts in the TNRD's parks and trails.
- Environmental Protection - Engagement participants were concerned with the effects of park and trail use on wildlife and the local environment. Participants wanted to ensure that current and future TNRD park and trail development mitigates adverse impacts and improves the region's environmental integrity.
- Tourism and Economic Development– Engagement participants expressed the desire for a more comprehensive tourism strategy to promote TNRD parks and trails. Participants wanted to see new regional parks developed to generate economic activity in small communities.

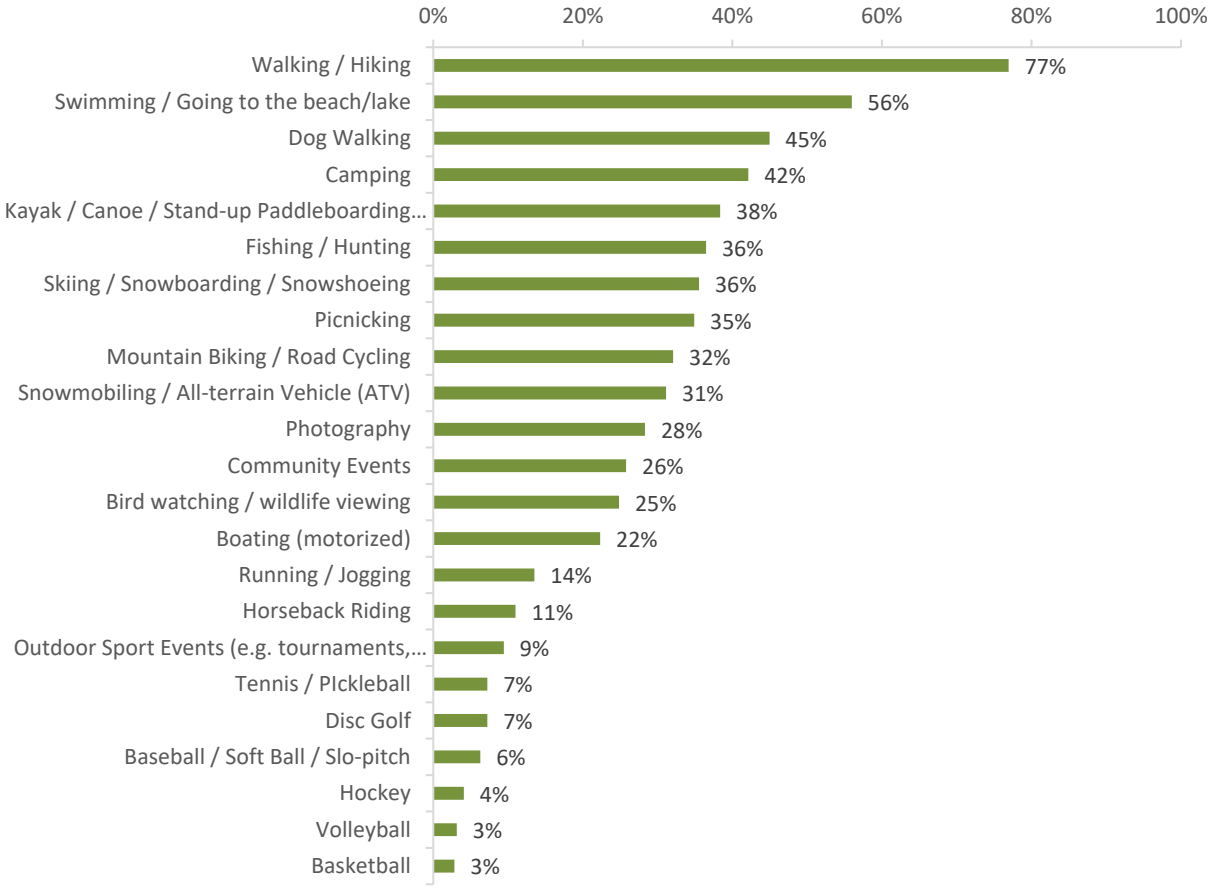
# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX A

## ROUND 1 DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS

Question 1 - *From the list below, indicate all activities you engage in when using TNRD parks and trails. Select all that apply.*

Top activities respondents engage in when using TNRD parks and trails are walking/hiking, swimming/going to the lake, and dog walking.

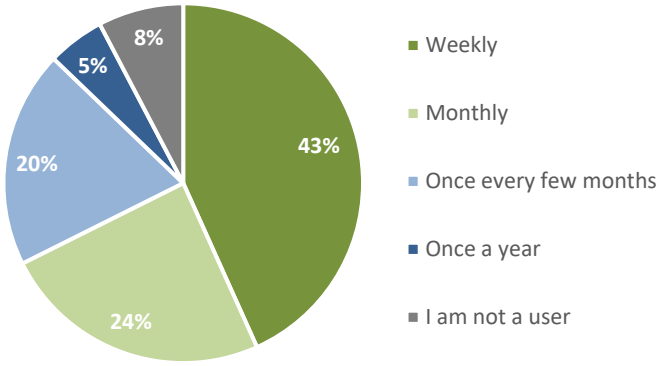



Top responses to "other" option include:

- Dirt Biking
- Playground use

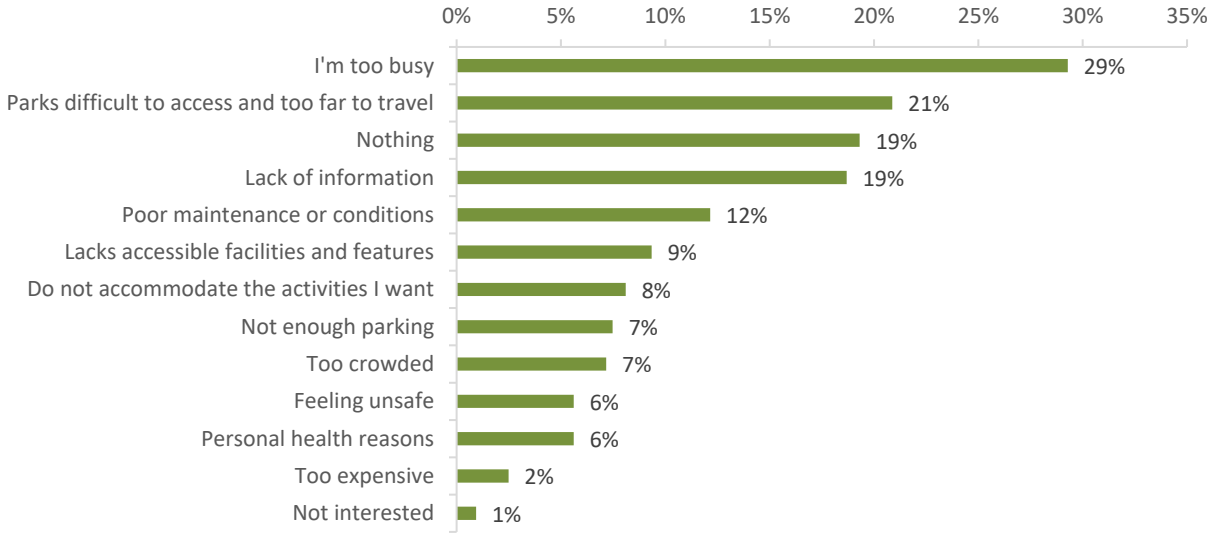
**Question 2** - *How frequently do you use parks or trails in the TNRD?*

Two thirds of survey respondents use TNRD parks and trails at least once a month.



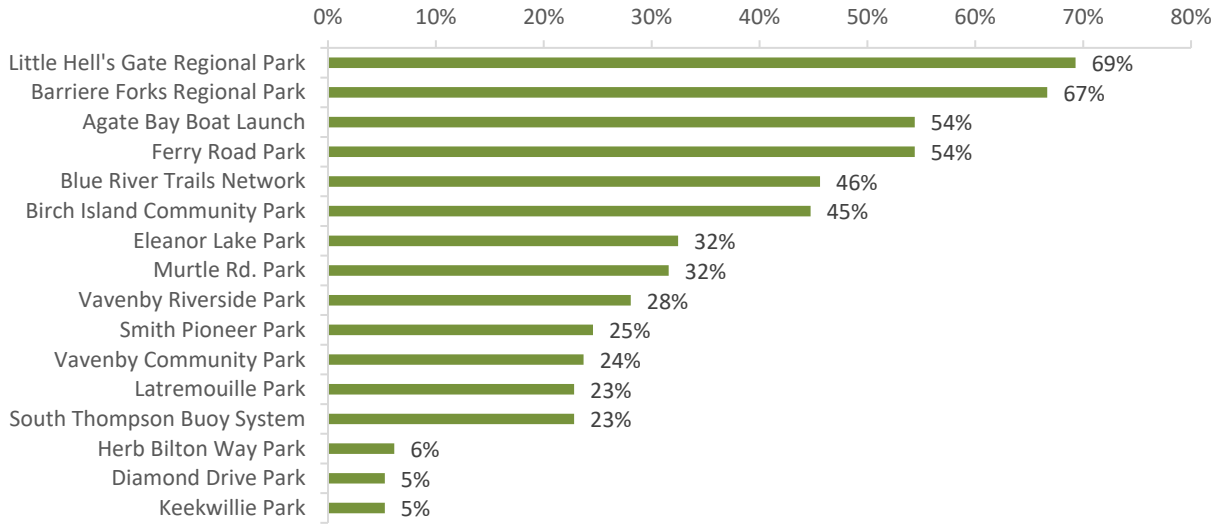

**Question 3** - *Is there anything that prevents you from using TNRD parks and trails more often? Select all that apply.*

Outside of being too busy, the main factors that limited survey paticipants use of TNRD parks and trails were travel distance to parks and trails and lack of information about parks and trails. Nearly 1 in 5 respondents noted no barriers to accessing parks and trails, responding 'Nothing'.



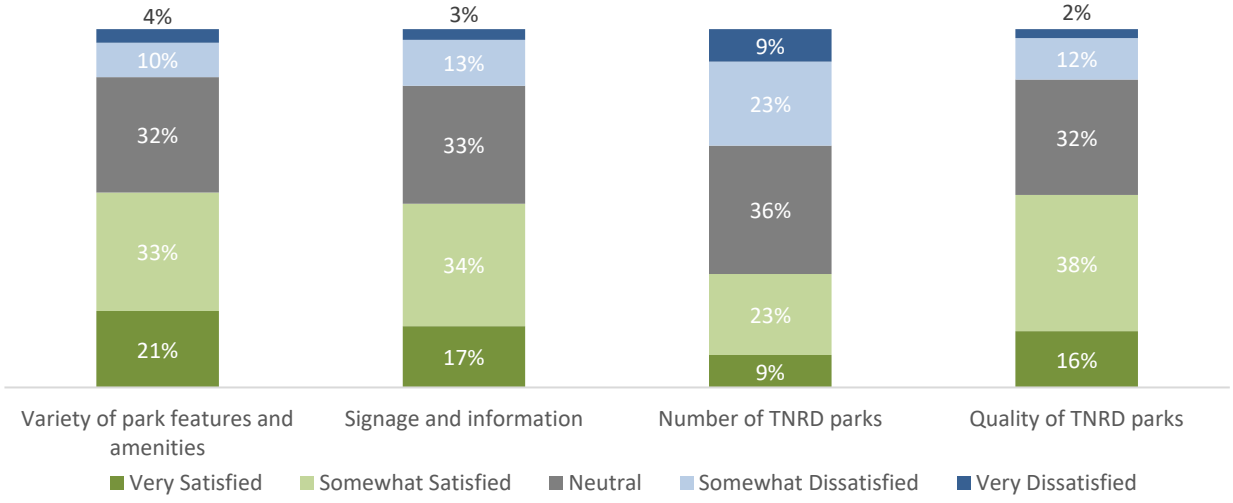
**Question 4** - *Which of the following parks and/or trails have you or other members of your household visited in recent years? Select all that apply.*

The parks that were most visited by survey respondents were Little Hell's Gate Regional Park, Barriere Forks Regional Park, Agate Beach Boat Launch, and Ferry Road Park, each with more than half of respondents having visited in recent years.



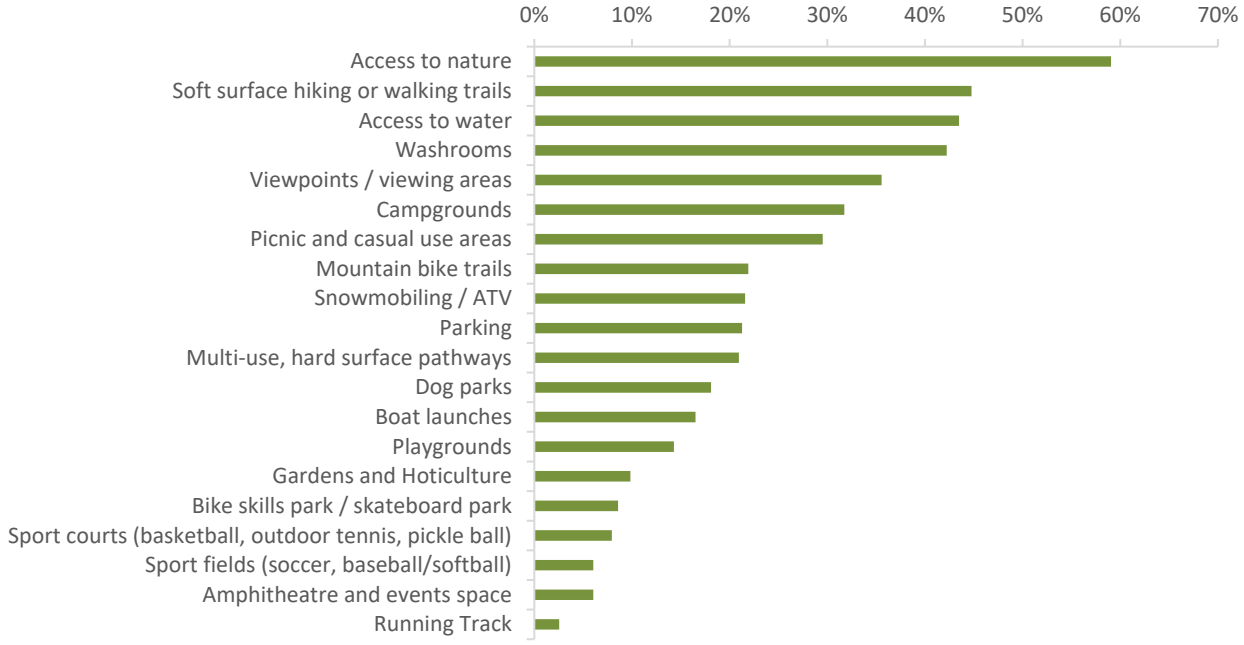

**Question 5** - *Please rate your level of satisfaction with our TNRD parks and trails system.*

About half of survey respondents said they were satisfied with the variety of park amenities, the signage and information, and the overall quality of TNRD parks and trails, with only 14-16% of respondents expressing dissatisfaction in each service level area. Regarding the number of TNRD parks and trails, levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction were equal.



**Question 6** - *What features do you value most in parks and trails? Please select your top 5.*

Most respondents noted access to nature as valuable to them in parks and trails. Other significant values included soft surface walking trails, access to water, and washrooms.



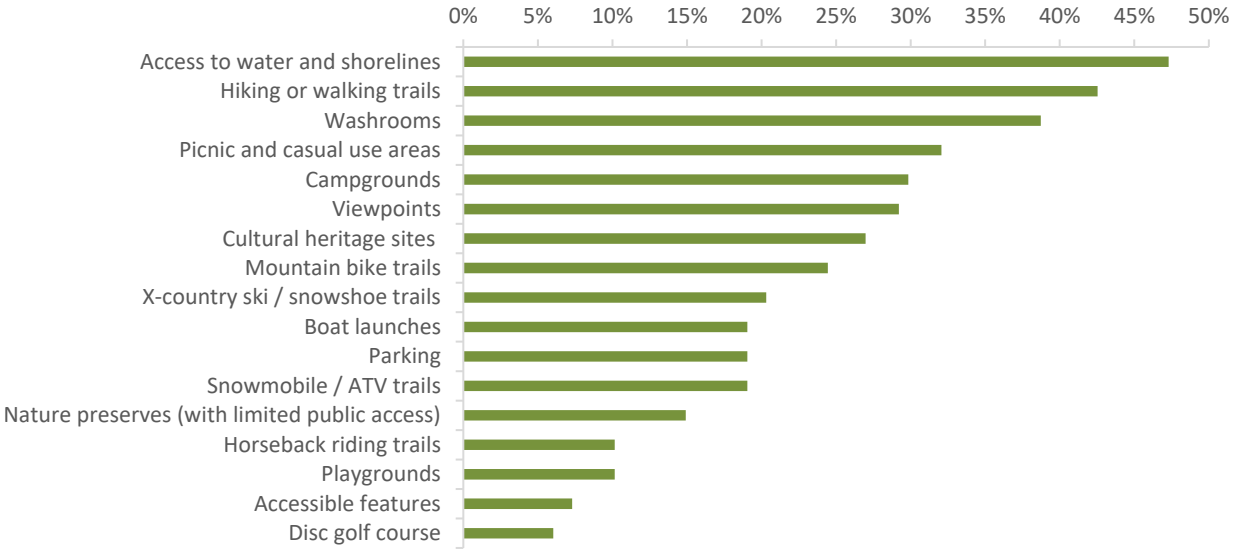

**Question 7** - *How else can our TNRD parks and trails system be improved to better serve your needs?*

Common responses included:

- Better signage at parks and trailheads
- Higher level of maintenance for trails and park amenities
- Easier access to information about parks and trails
- Improve connections within and between trail networks

Question 8 - *What features would you like to see in regional district parks? Please select your top 5.*

The most common responses from survey respondents were access to water and shorelines, hiking or walking trails, and washrooms.



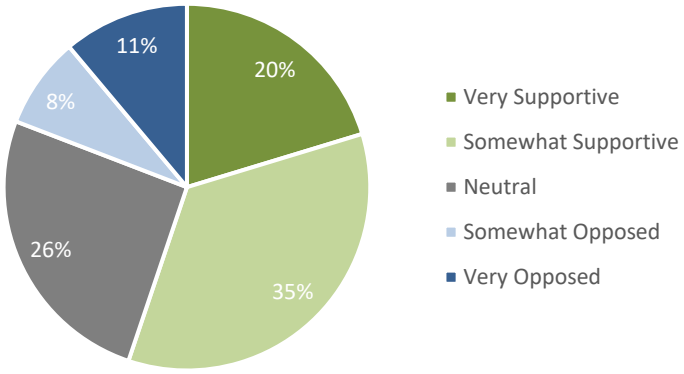
Question 9 - *Do you have a specific site that you would like to see developed as a future TNRD park or trail? Please specify.*

Areas noted for development included:

- Whitecroft
- Heffley Lake
- Swakum Mountain
- Blue River
- Near the Cache Creek Transfer Station
- Logan Lake
- North Barriere Lake
- East Barriere Lake
- North Thompson River
- Cal Woods
- Boston Bar
- Pritchard Boat Ramp
- Barriere River Trail
- Louis Creek
- Dunn Lake
- Greenstone Mountain
- Little Fort
- Area around Bonaparte, Tsintsunko Lakes, and Porcupine Meadows Provincial Parks
- Kamloops
- Electoral Area A
- Skull Mountain
- South Thompson River
- Barriere
- Clearwater
- Triple Decker Falls
- Candle Creek Mountain Bike Trails
- Savona
- Cornwall
- Ashcroft
- McLure
- Ferry Road Boat Launch
- Old Cariboo Trail
- Ivy Creek
- Monte Lake
- Red Lake
- Scotch Creek
- Murtle Lake Road
- Pyramid Falls
- Chase
- Scatchard Trail
- Lafarge Dirt Bike Area
- Kamloops Lake
- Henderson Creek
- Sylvest Creek Falls Trail
- Otter creek
- East Shuswap Road between Kamloops and Chase

**Question 10** - *How supportive are you of a tax increase to fund the acquisition of new parks and trails or the development of new infrastructure in parks?*

Most survey respondents were open to tax increases to fund parks and trail development in the TNRD.



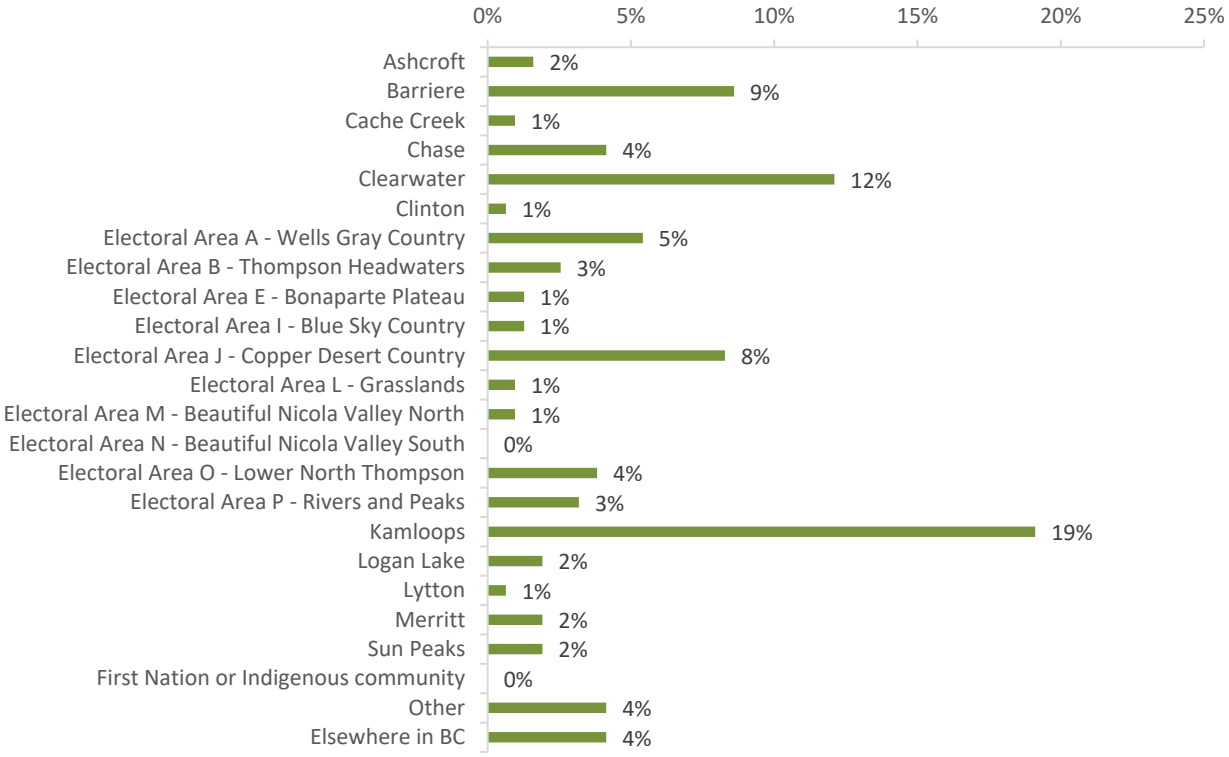

**Question 11** - *Do you have any other comments related to parks and trails in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District that you would like to share?*

Some common themes were:

- **Access** - Respondents expressed a desire for parks and trails located close to urban centers.
- **Equity** - Respondents wanted parks and trails built in underserved areas.
- **Communications** - Respondents saw opportunities for the TNRD to generate tourism, market events, and provide maps and info.
- **Maintenance** - Respondents wanted a higher level of upkeep in existing parks and trails.
- **Accessibility** – Respondents hoped for the development of parks and trails to accommodate all ages and abilities

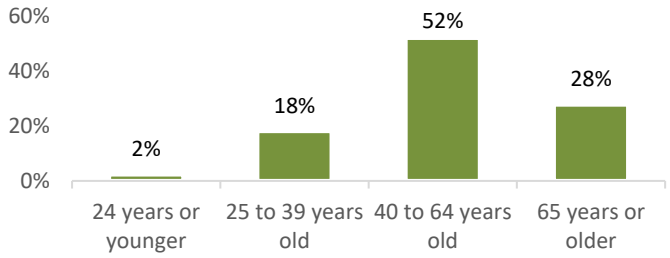
**Question 12** - *Please identify your place of residence.*

Nearly one in five respondents were from Kamloops. Other well-represented communities include Clearwater, Barriere, and Electoral Area J.



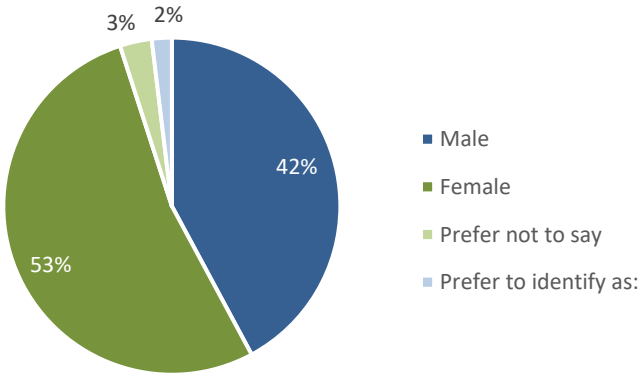
**Question 13** - *What is your Age?*

More than half of respondents, 52%, were between 40 and 64 years of age and 28% were 65 years of age or older.




**Question 14** – *What is your gender?*

Women represented 53% of respondents while men accounted for 42%.

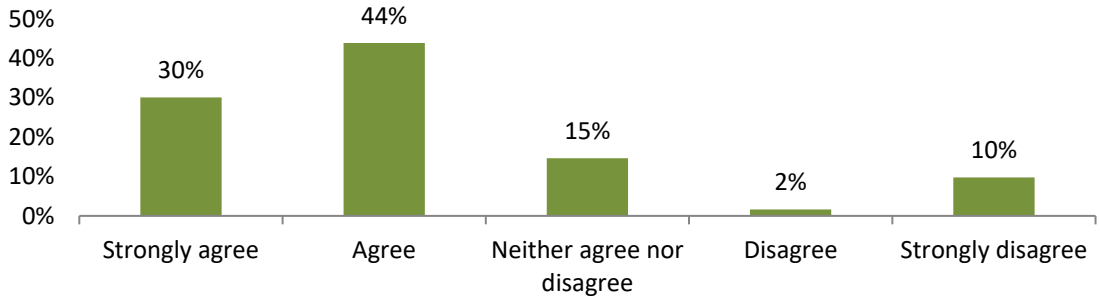


# APPENDIX B

## ROUND 2 DETAILED SURVEY RESULTS

Question 1 – *To what extent do you agree with the Vision Statement?*

The majority of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the Strategy's vision statement.



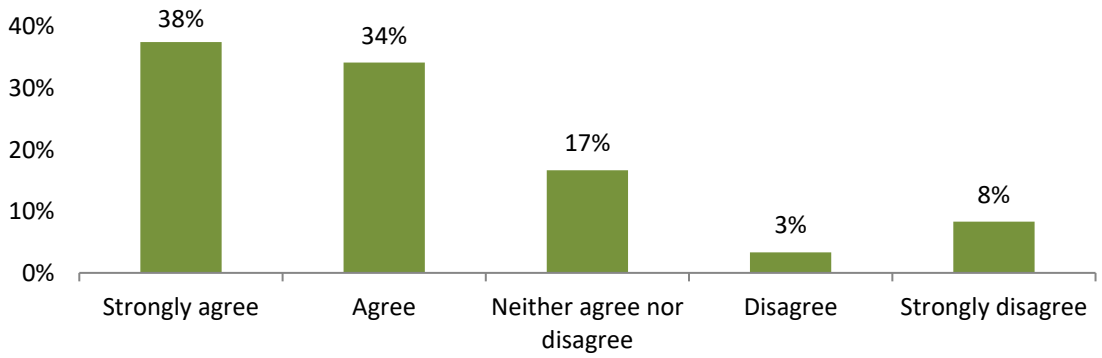

Question 2 – *Is there anything missing from the Vision Statement?*

Common responses included:

- Protecting wildlife
- Ensuring that park and trail use does not disturb residents
- Stating more explicitly that the Vision will support seniors' use of parks and trails
- Providing more information on TNRD parks and trails
- Ensuring that park and trail development is informed by community input
- Adding considerations to promote tourism and economic development
- Deemphasizing the vision's focus on Indigenous relations

Question 3 – *To what extent do you agree with the Goals?*

The majority of respondents either strongly agreed or agreed with the Strategy's Goals.



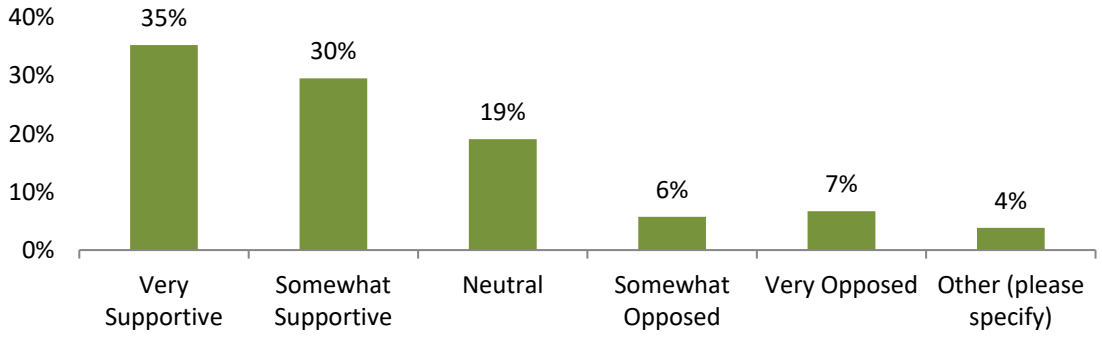

Question 4 – *Which actions are most important in supporting local recreation organizations? Please rank in level of importance with #1 being most important.*

On average, respondents ranked the actions to support community recreation organizations in the following order of priority:

1. Standardize partnership agreements with recreation organizations to formalize roles and responsibilities (average priority ranking of 2, or second, out of 4).
2. Establish a funding mechanism to provide funding to outdoor recreation organizations (2.1).
3. Establish a resource library with information on permitting, accessibility, working with Indigenous groups, tourism development, trail standards, and environmental regulations to help trail user groups plan and manage trail networks (2.9).
4. Assist outdoor recreation groups with TNRD resources like GIS support, support with permitting and applications, materials, and equipment (3.0).

Question 5 – *How supportive are you of the creation of sub-regional trails working groups?*

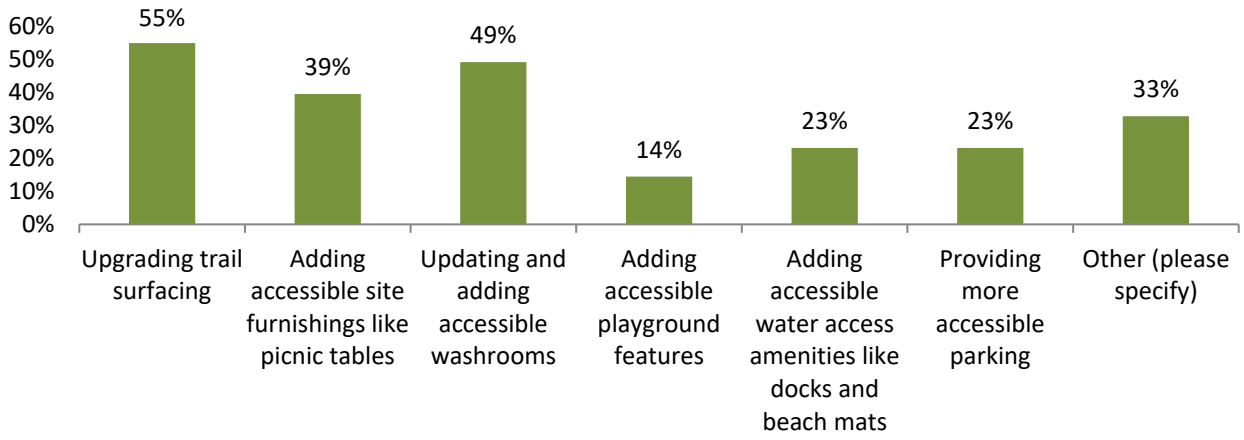
The majority of respondents were supportive or very supportive of creating sub-regional trails working groups.




Responses from respondents who selected 'Other (please specify)' were not relevant to the question or indicated that they were unclear on the role of the working group.

**Question 6** – *What should the TNRD prioritize in upgrading its parks and trails to meet universal accessibility standards, where practical? [select top 3]*

Top responses included 'Upgrading trail surfacing', 'Updating and adding accessible washrooms', and 'Adding accessible site furnishings like picnic tables'.

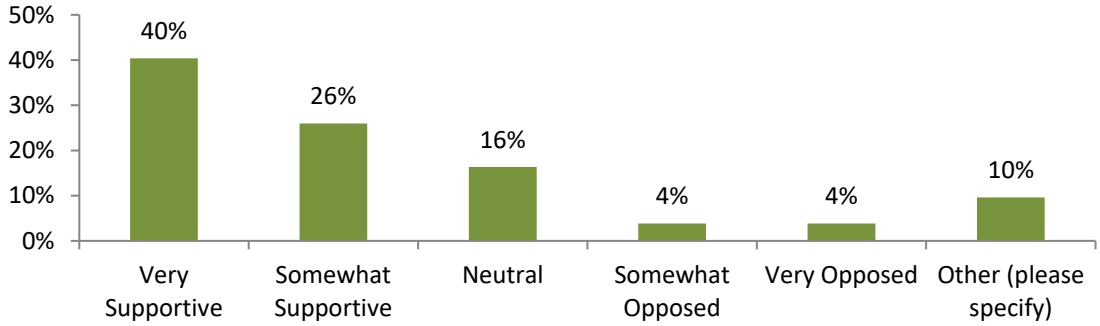



Common responses from respondents who selected 'Other (please specify)' included:

- More regular trail maintenance, e.g. brush/deadfall clearing
- Providing more accessibility information in TNRD parks and trails and online to allow users to better plan visits
- Opposition to accessibility upgrades either to ensure TNRD parks and trails maintain a natural/rural character, or to reduce parks spending

Question 7 – *What is your level of support for adding or updating wayfinding and interpretive signage in TNRD parks and trails?*

The majority of respondents were supportive or very supportive of adding or updating wayfinding and interpretive signage in TNRD parks and trails.

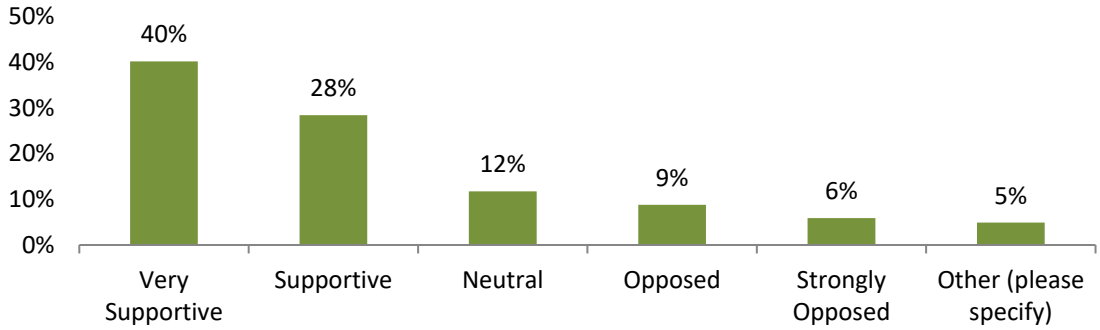



Responses from respondents who selected 'Other (please specify)' included:

- Adding more interpretive signage on historic elements
- Adding more interpretive signage featuring Indigenous languages, including links to audio recordings
- More safety information and signage
- Opposition to adding signage to parks and trails to maintain natural character

Question 8 - *What is your level of support for increasing the supply of TNRD Regional Parks?*

The majority of respondents were supportive or very supportive of increasing the supply of TNRD regional parks.

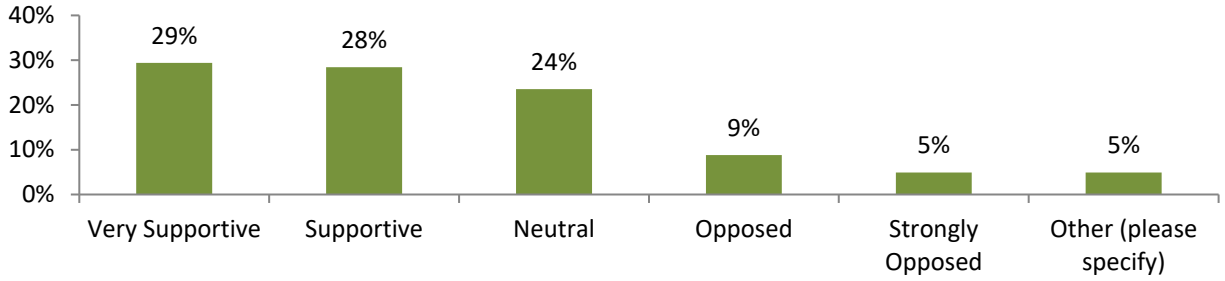



Responses from respondents who selected 'Other (please specify)' included:

- Prioritize improvements in existing parks over park expansion
- More TNRD parks to highlight areas of regional significance
- New parks should be for day use only

**Question 9 -** *What is your level of support for increasing the supply of TNRD Community Parks?*

The majority of respondents were supportive or very supportive of increasing the supply of TNRD community parks.




Responses from respondents who selected 'Other (please specify)' were not relevant to the question.

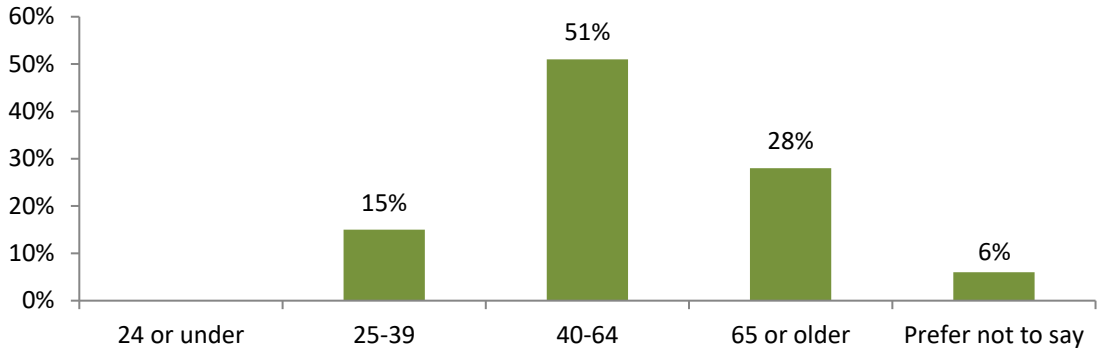
**Question 10** - *Is there anything we missed in the Draft Parks and Trails Strategic Plan?*

Common responses included:

- General concerns about long-term use of the Pritchard Boat Launch and its current state
- Public education on sensitive ecosystems
- Higher overall level of maintenance in TNRD parks
- Developing standard rules for dogs in parks
- Placing a greater emphasis on water access
- Making TNRD parks more accessible for seniors
- Providing park amenities for adults
- Accessibility improvements
- Climate adaptation
- Amenities and trails to support motorized recreation
- Creating a portal for reporting parks and trails maintenance issues
- Reopening trails affected by wildfires
- Improving road-crossing safety at Smith Pioneer Park
- Pritchard Beach improvements and day-use area enforcement
- Developing parks and trails near Avola
- General concerns over the cost to taxpayers of maintaining/expanding TNRD parks and trails

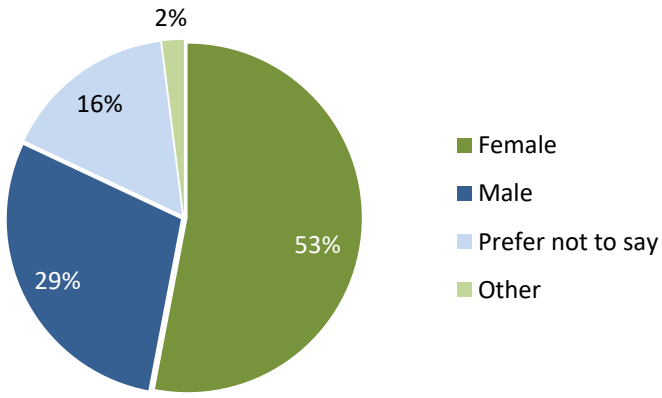
**Question 11** – *What age category are you?*

Roughly half of the respondents were 40-64 years of age, while 28% were 65 years or older, and 15% were 25-39 years.




**Question 12** – *What gender are you?*

Roughly half of the respondents identified as female, while 29% identified as male.



Question 13 – *Where do you live?*

Kamloops was the community with the most survey participants. Other top-represented communities included Clearwater, Electoral Area "A," Electoral Area "P," and Electoral Area "J." There were no participants from Sun Peaks, Clinton, or Electoral Area "N."

