



Central  
Saanich

# PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

Parks and Environment Standing Committee – April 4, 2024





# Agenda

- Project overview
- Research and analysis
- Community engagement – What we Heard
- Questions for Committee

# Intention and Commitment

Central Saanich and its parks, trail and beaches are located on the traditional territories of the WSÁNEĆ peoples.

The District is committed to celebrating and respecting the knowledge and practices of the S̓XÁUTW̓ (Tsawout) and W̓JOL̓ELP (Tsartlip) First Nations.

Our intention and commitment is to work with the WSÁNEĆ peoples to protect the environment and ensure your perspectives, wisdom and wishes are reflected in the District's management of local parks, trails and beaches.



# Project Overview

“Parks and Trails Master Plan” includes local:

- Parks
- Trails
- Shoreline accesses

- Where we are now

- Phase 1 – **Project scoping** and research
- Phase 2 – **Listening and Analysis** (Engagement and Ideas)
- Phase 3 – **Drafting** the Master Plan (Spring/Summer 2024)
- Phase 4 – **Finalizing** the Master Plan (Fall/Winter 2024)

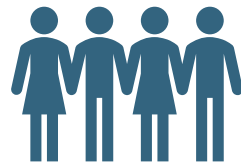




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# BENEFITS OF PARKS & TRAILS

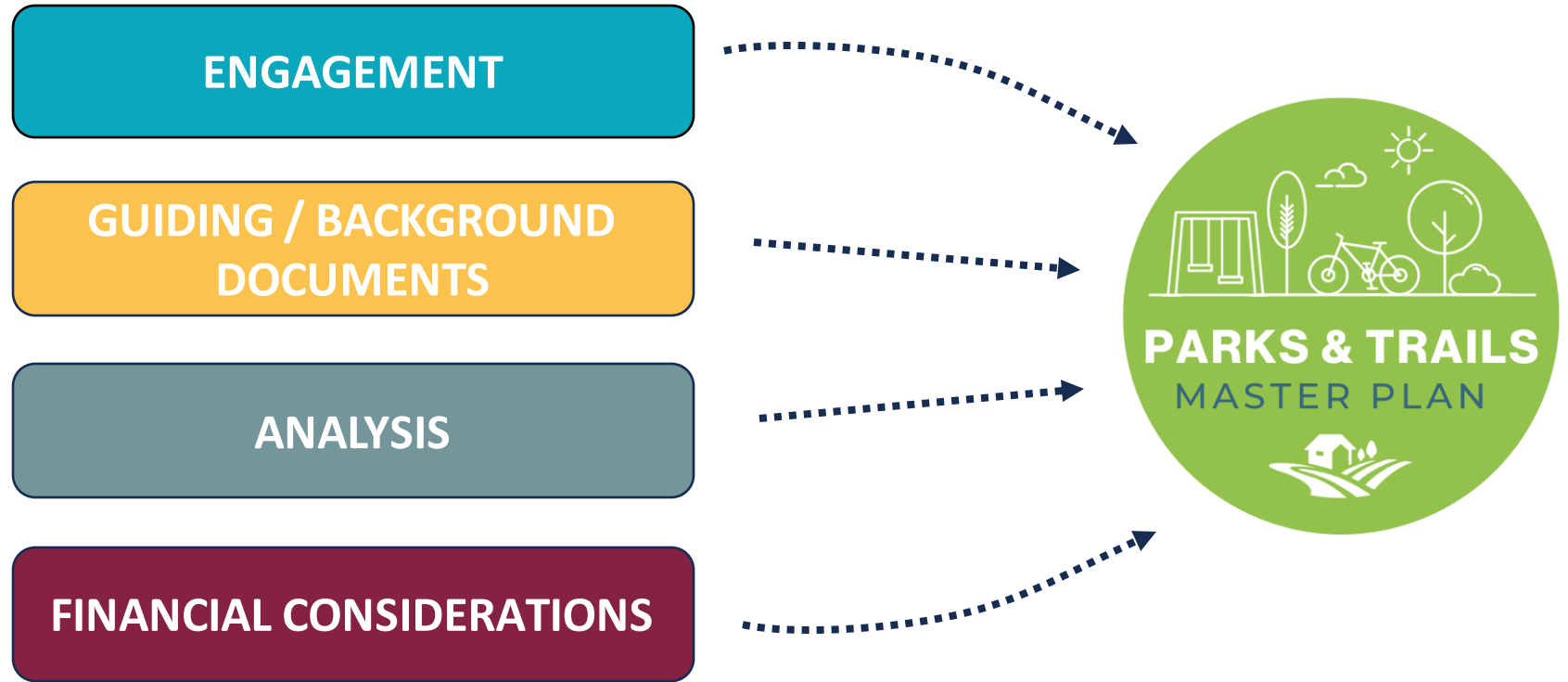
- Physical and mental health
- Social health and inclusion
- Cultural and spiritual
- Environmental protection and stewardship
- Climate resiliency
- Economic





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# BUILDING THE MASTER PLAN



# GUIDING DOCUMENTS



- 2024 – 2028 Strategic Plan
- 2023 Official Community Plan
- 2023 Accessibility Plan
- 2023 Age Friendly Plan
- 2021 Active Transportation Plan
- 2021 Climate Leadership Plan
- 2020 Saanichton Village Design Plan



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## 2023 OCP OBJECTIVES

- Supporting an active, healthy community by providing a variety of parks and trails that are safe and accessible for all ages and abilities.
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity, habitat and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Collaborating with W̱SÁNEĆ Nation to identify, protect and restore ecologically and culturally sensitive areas.
- Expanding and developing the parks and trails system to serve the existing and future needs of the community.
- Recognizing the role of natural areas in climate resiliency and considering climate action in park planning, design and operations.
- Improving the quality and quantity of public shoreline accesses and supporting non-motorized recreational opportunities in key waterfront locations.





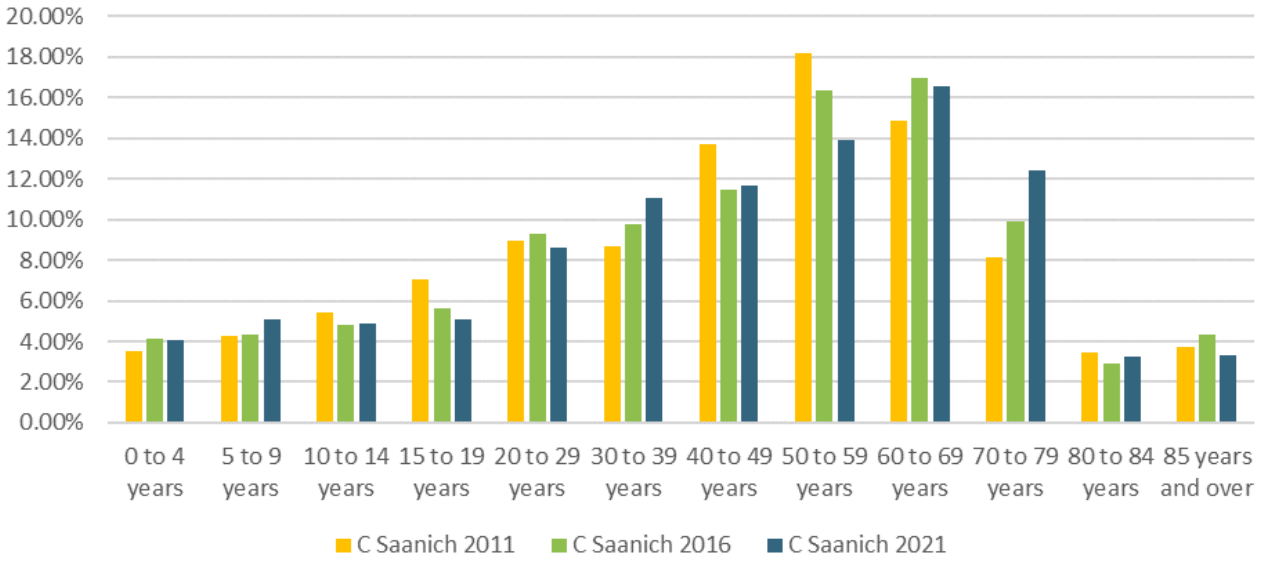
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# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Age Distribution

- Percentage of young children (aged 0 to 4 years and 5-9 years) has been growing.
- Increasing number of adults ages 30 to 39 and 60 to 79.

Central Saanich Census Data - 2011, 2016 & 2021  
Age, all genders

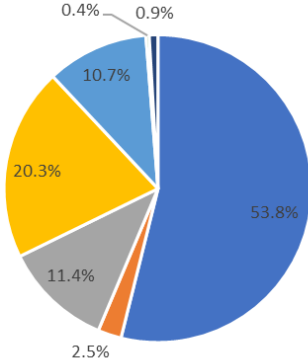


# DEMOGRAPHICS

## Form of Dwelling

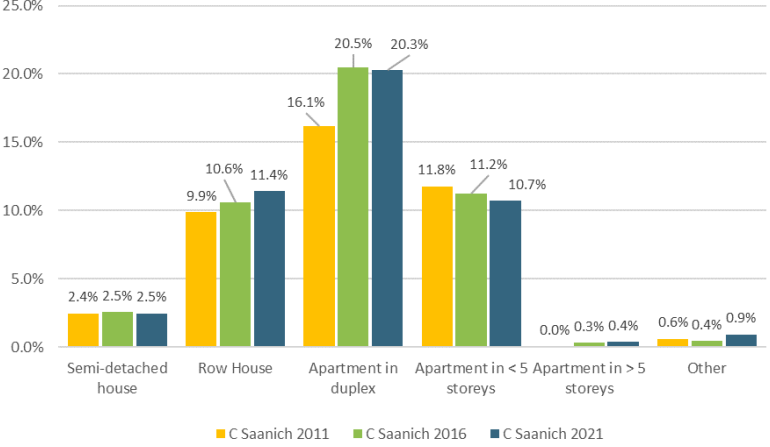
- Given the District's future housing needs and its focus on densifying and infilling existing residential areas, it is expected that over time the number of multi-family housing units will increase.

Census Data 2021  
Central Saanich Dwelling Type



■ Single detached house   
 ■ Semi-detached house   
 ■ Row House  
■ Apartment in duplex   
 ■ Apartment in < 5 storeys   
 ■ Apartment in > 5 storeys

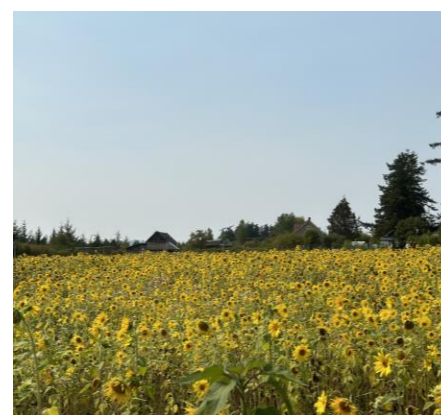
Central Saanich Census Data - 2011, 2016 & 2021  
Multi-Family Forms of Dwelling



■ C Saanich 2011   
 ■ C Saanich 2016   
 ■ C Saanich 2021

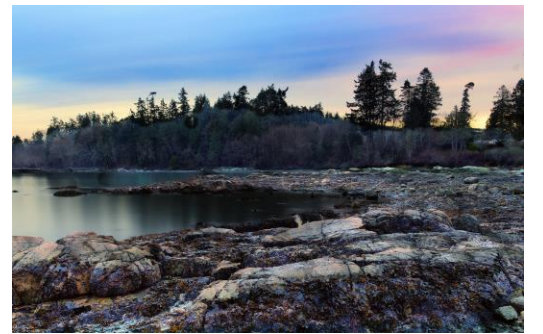
# PARK INVENTORY

PRIMARY PARK CLASSIFICATION	COUNT	AREA (ha)
Community Park	2	19.89
Neighbourhood Park	21	11.28
Nature Park	15	43.63
Heritage Farm	1	1.81
Shoreline Access (Developed)	7	1.14
Pathways and Trail Linkages	9	4.90
Undeveloped	5	14.80
Shoreline Access (Undeveloped)	9	2.32
<b>SUBTOTAL – DCS LANDS</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>99.77</b>
Nature Park – Other (Developed)	3	119.43
Nature Park – Other (Undeveloped)	1	18.49
School Grounds	5	8.48
Other Open Space	2	2.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>248.42</b>



# PARKLAND SUPPLY ANALYSIS

- Population Based
- Area Based
- Spatial Distribution

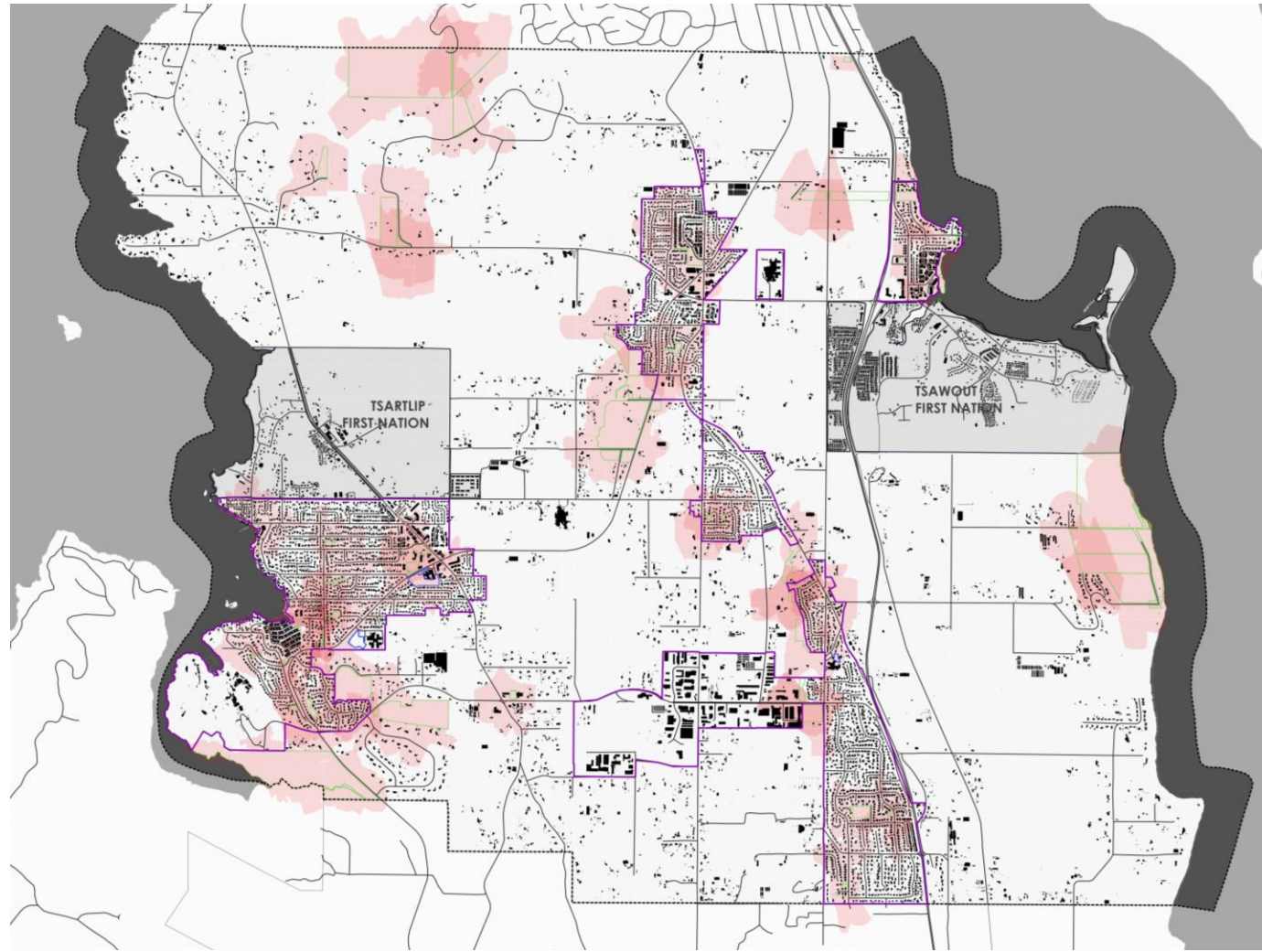




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# SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

- Eg - 5 minute walk – all parks

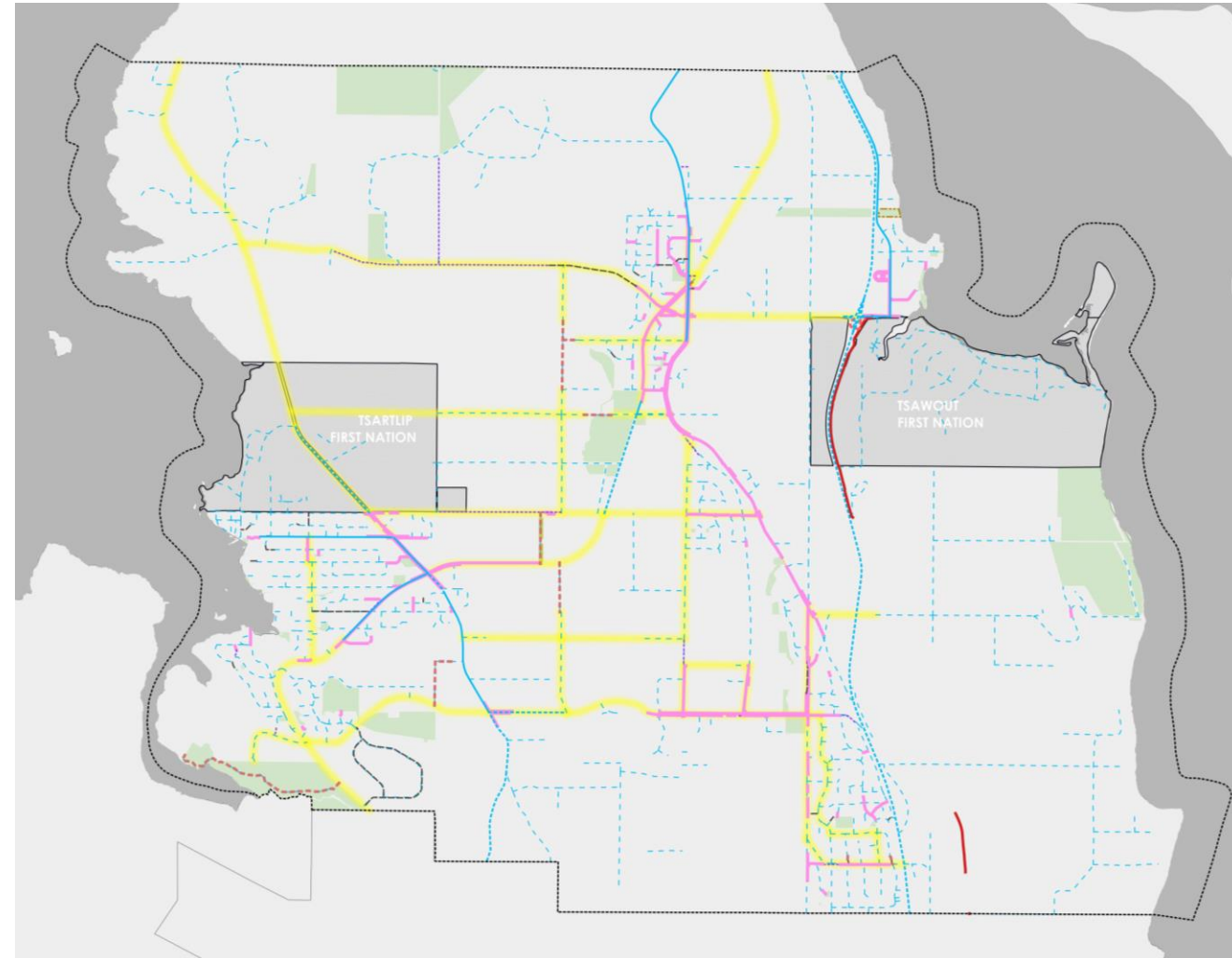




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# NETWORK ANALYSIS

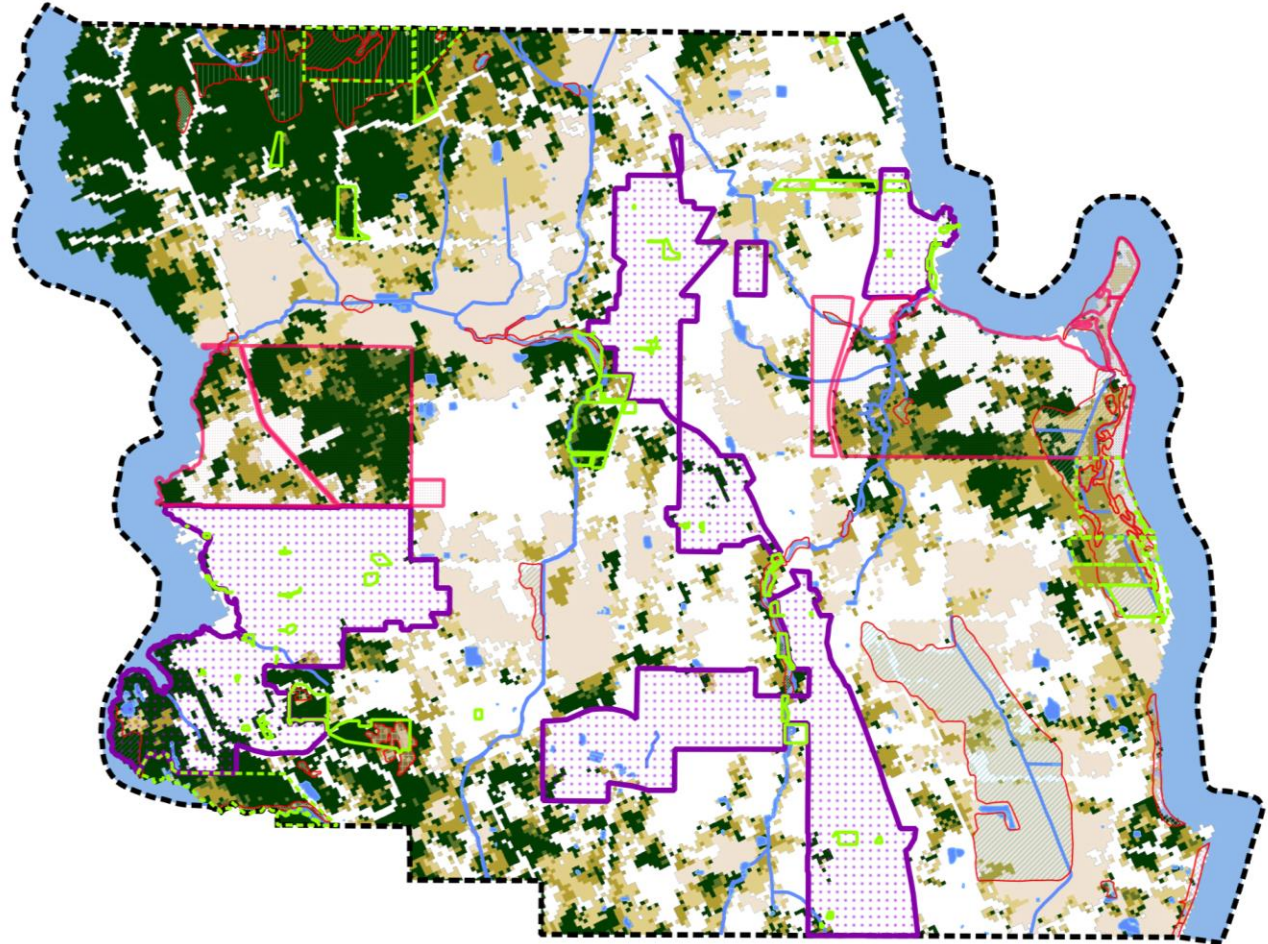
- Accessibility
- Connectivity
- Consistency across municipal boundaries
- Relationship with 2021 Active Transportation Plan





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# ECOLOGICAL VALUES



**Sensitive Ecosystems**

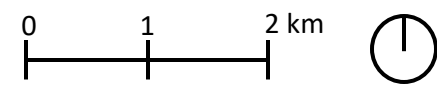
- Coastal Bluffs
- Woodland
- Terrestrial Herbaceous
- Older Forest
- Riparian
- Sparsely Vegetated
- Wetland
- Seasonally Flooded Agricultural
- Older Second Growth
- Garry Oak 1997

**Land Cover (2020)**

- Temperate Needleleaf
- Mixed Forest
- Temperate Shrubland
- Temperate Grassland
- Wetland
- Crop Land
- Water

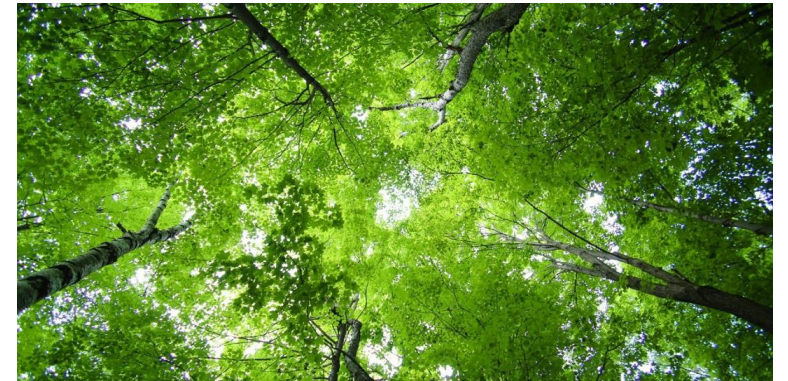
**Other**

- Rivers & Creeks
- Ponds



# CLIMATE CHANGE & RESILIENCY

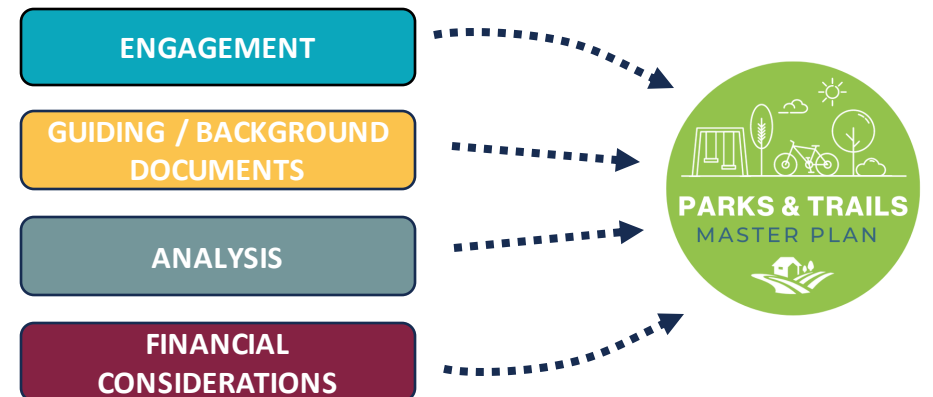
- Wetter conditions in winter with longer droughts in summer, coupled with an increase in unpredictable storm events
  - Impacts on operations and maintenance
  - Impacts on plant species selections
  - Impacts on park use patterns
- Opportunities for green infrastructure and nature-based solutions





# FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Plan must be realistic and achievable - financially, operationally
  - Consider operational and capital budgets
  - Strategic partnerships
  - Prioritized implementation strategy





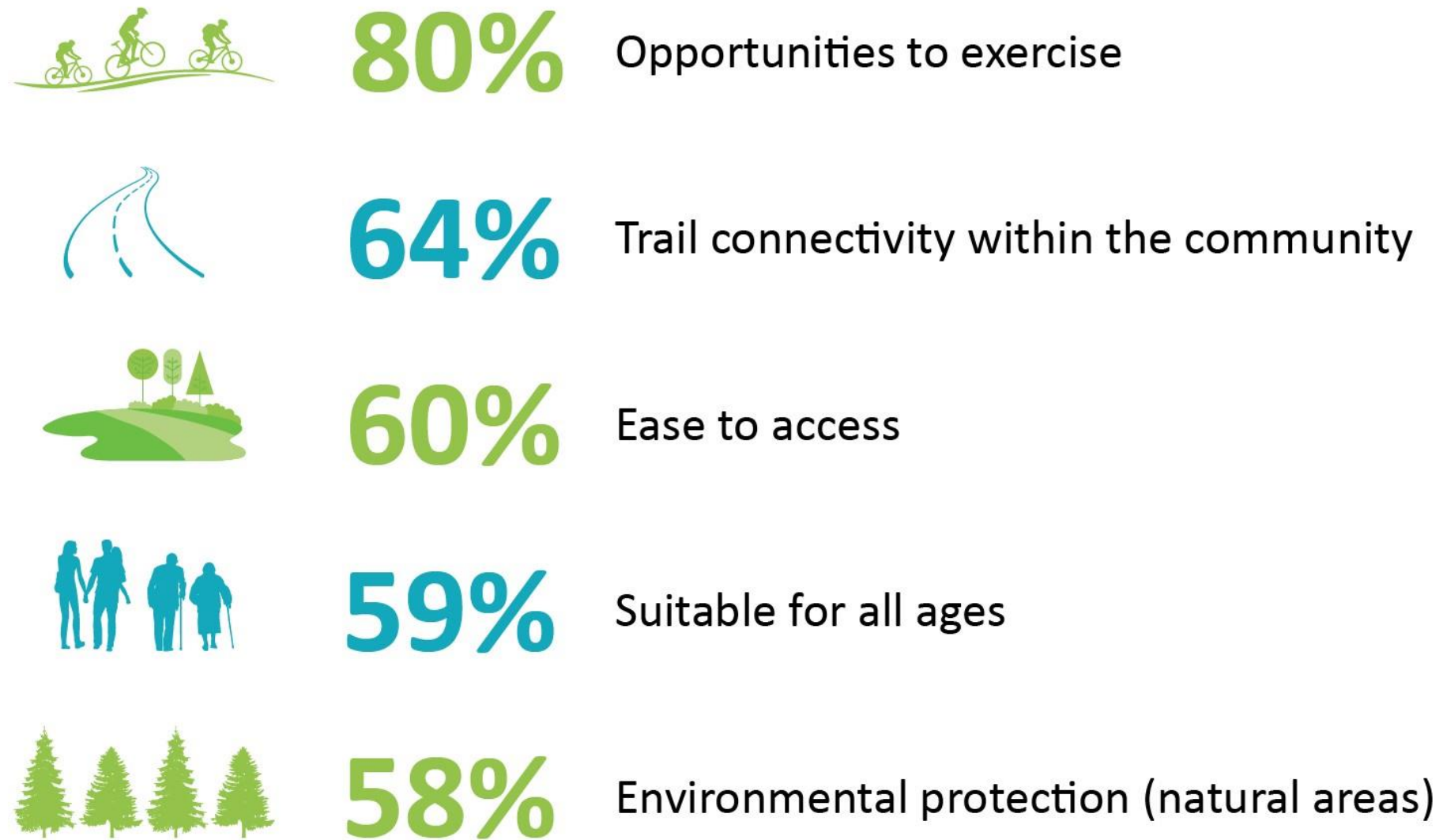
# Phase 1 Engagement Opportunities

- Pop-up Events - 148 participants
- Community Open - 60 participants
- Survey - 267 participants
- Workshops
  - School Workshops
  - Environmental Groups
  - Community Partners
  - Dog and Equestrian User Groups
  - Saanich Peninsula Accessibility Advisory Committee
- Facility Bookings/Rec Organization User Groups Survey and Open House
- Staff Focus Groups
- Partner Meetings with local municipalities, Panorama Recreation Commission, organizations serving vulnerable populations

600+  
Participants  
1,000+  
visited project site

# What We Heard

## What we value about parks, trails and shorelines



# What We Heard

## How people use our parks, trails and shorelines

Regular use (30-50% of survey respondents using 1+/week) for parks and trails

Uses quite consistent whether park, trails or shoreline:

- Walking, walking dog, exercising
- Relaxing and hanging out with friends and family



# What We Heard

## What improvements people would like to see

Improvements align with the priorities

1. Restoration and habitat enhancements
2. washrooms
3. off-leash fenced dog areas
4. rest areas/benches
5. accessibility

Age groups that were identified as needing the most focus:

- **11-20 year olds**
  - Younger youth = natural play areas such as climbing courses, tree houses, ziplines, and, of course... water parks!
  - Teenagers = beach and water access, volunteer opportunities, wildlife viewing, and places to hang out with food trucks and basic facilities such as washrooms, water fountains and sheltered areas.
- **65+** washrooms, rest areas, covered areas and increased seating would better serve older adults.

# Priorities of public to date



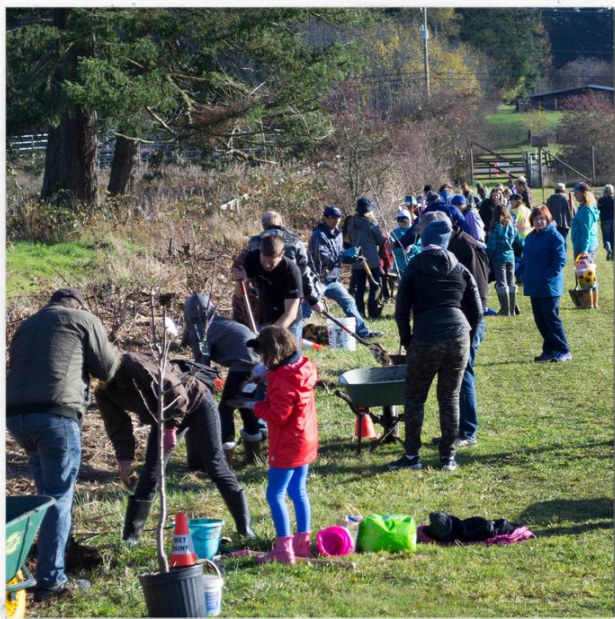
**Accessibility for all ages**



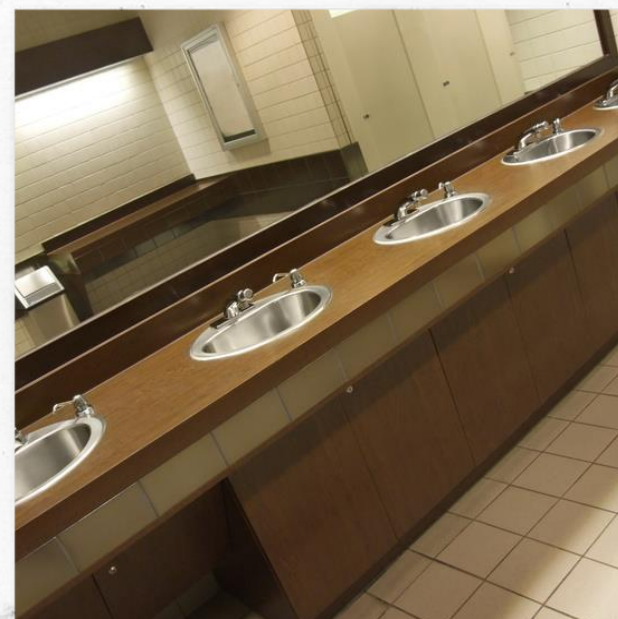
**Connectivity and access**



**Responsible dog ownership  
& dog-friendly designs**



**Environmental management**



**More amenities**



**Focus on safety**



**Signage, signage, signage!**

# Priorities of public to date



Improve **accessibility** of parks, trails and shorelines



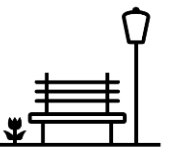
Improve **connectivity** and access to parks



Ensure **dog-friendly parks/trails** and **responsible dog ownership**



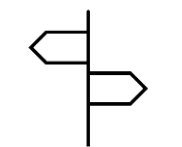
Keep parks **natural**, **restore** natural areas and expand forest canopy



Improve **infrastructure** (washrooms, parking, youth amenities, etc)



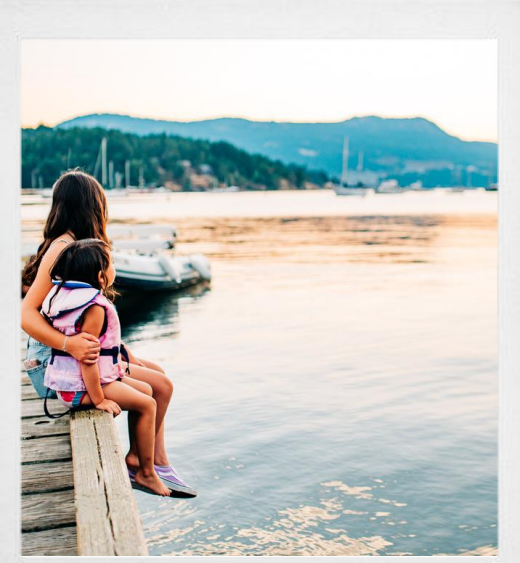
Focus on **safety** (reduce multi-user conflicts, lighting, safe access)  
(#2&3 challenge identified = lighting; crowded trails)



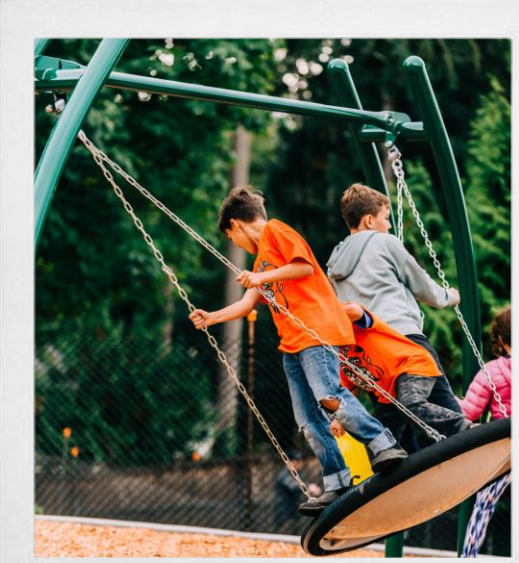
Improve **signage** and trail information (#1 challenge identified)



# Youth's priorities



**Beaches to explore**



**All-age playgrounds**



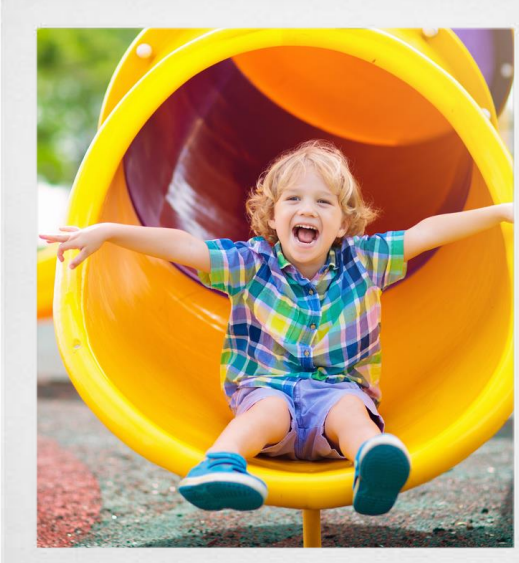
**Places to ride**



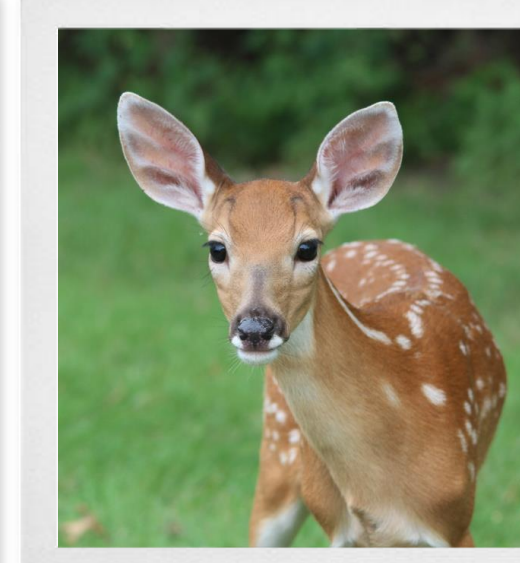
**Trees to climb & ziplines**



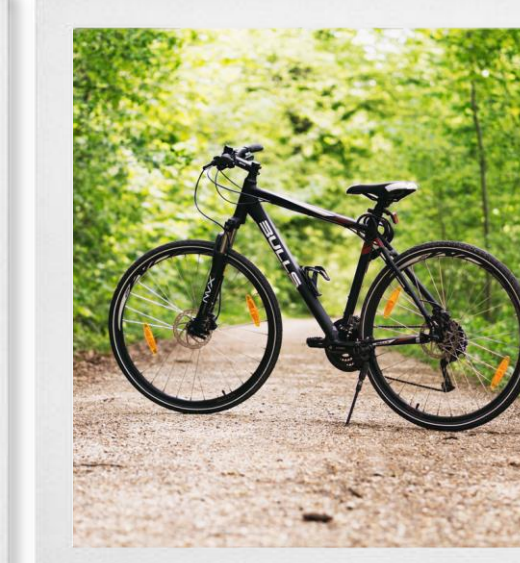
**Food!**



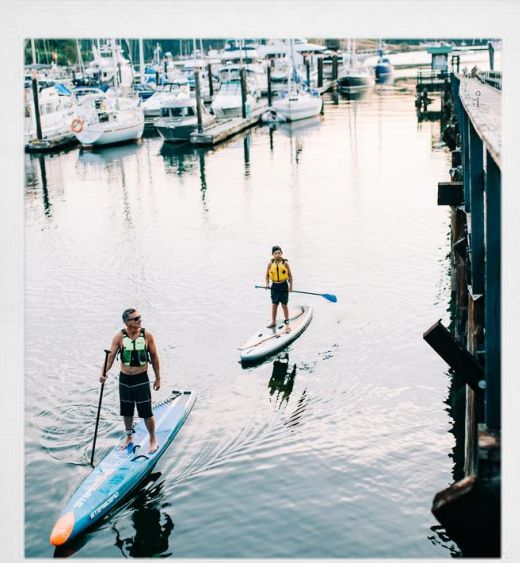
**Tunnel slides**



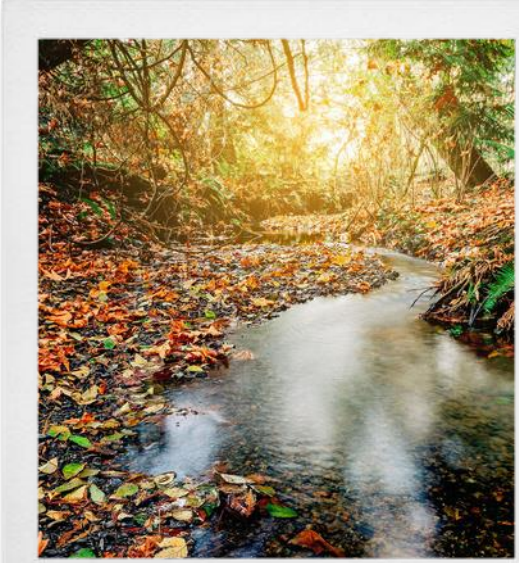
**Animal viewing**



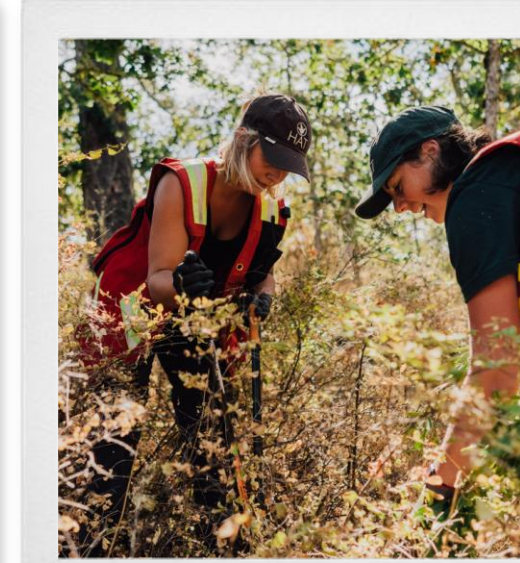
**Biking**



**Places to paddle**



**Protecting nature**



**Opportunities to volunteer**

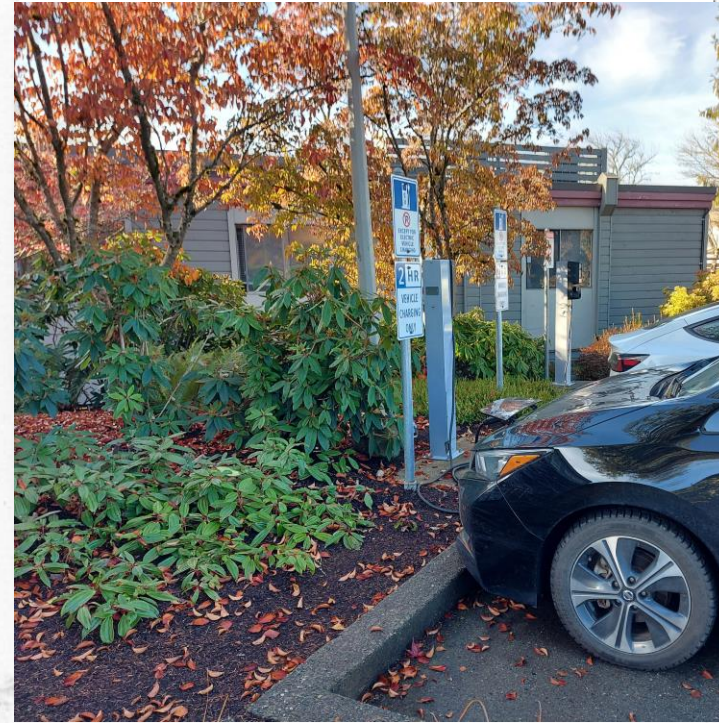


**Places for teens to hang out**

# Environmental priorities



**Protect native species**



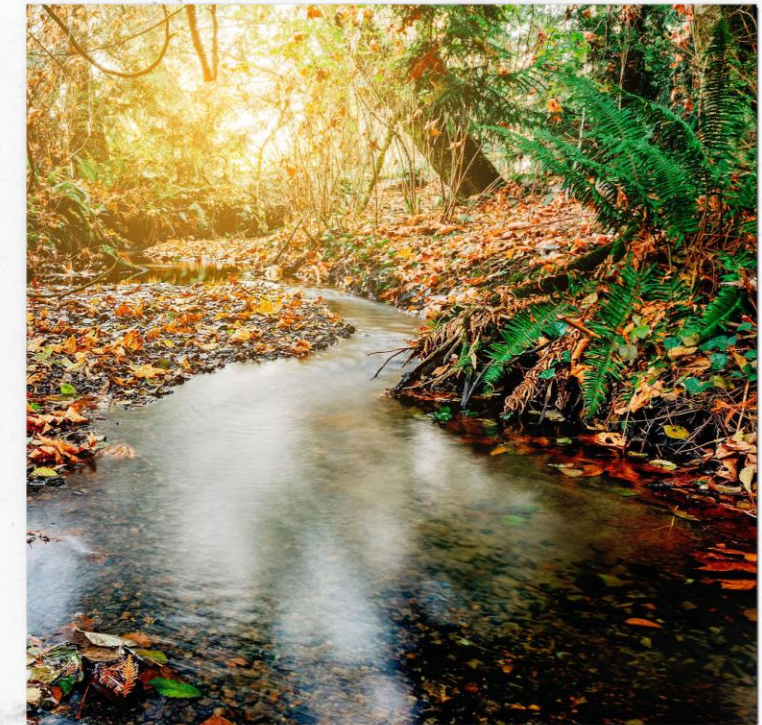
**Incorporate climate  
resilience into design**



**Incorporate green  
space**



**Manage invasive species**



**Protect sensitive  
ecosystems**

# Recent (OCP) input from First Nations

- Enable access to parkland through a formal agreement for **traditional harvesting and gathering** of plants, which may include temporary closures to respect culturally sensitive events.
- Collaborate with WSÁNEĆ Nations to **identify, protect and restore ecologically and culturally sensitive areas** within the District, including within the Parks and Trails system.
- Explore the creation of First Nations **traditional and medicinal gardens** in municipal parks in collaboration with WSÁNEĆ Nations, and include **interpretative signs** to educate the public on these important features.

Looking forward to upcoming input from S̓ÁUTW̓ (Tsawout) and W̓JOŁEŁP (Tsartlip) staff and Councils

# Next Steps

## April

- Publish what we have heard to date

## Spring/Summer

- Develop a Draft Plan
- Repeat engagement on the Draft Plan

## Late 2024

- Finalize Draft Plan

## 2025 and beyond

- Fund Master Plan implementation and work with partners on actions over the coming years



# Discussion questions

1. Does the public feedback resonate with you? Is there anything you hear/feel is not represented that needs to be considered?
2. What are your priorities for the P&TMP?
3. Do you have specific priorities for land acquisition for park and trail development?
4. Other comments?