



Technical Memorandum

Date: July 7, 2022
To: Sandy Mah, RPF, Parks Planner
Regional District of Central Okanagan
From: Leanne McDonald, B.Sc., P.Ag., R.P.Bio., and Mary Ann Olson-Russello, M.Sc.,
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Subject: **Summary of Phase I Public Consultation Survey Results for the Kalamoior Park
Management Plan Update**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd. (Ecoscape) was retained by the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) to prepare a 20-year Management Plan Update for Kalamoior Regional Park. A previous Management Plan, in consultation with the public, stakeholders and a technical committee was developed in 2005. The Plan update will take into account the Regional Board's current strategic priorities, increasing population growth, climate change, increasing park use and the park carrying capacity.

As part of the update to the Plan, the public, stakeholders, Westbank First Nation and not-for-profit partners were encouraged to participate in the first of two phases of public engagement (Phase I) in the form of an online survey. The first phase of public consultation was to determine how residents and park users are currently utilizing the park and to gather feedback on priorities for improvement. The purpose of this memo is to summarize the key results of the Phase I survey and how they relate to the primary objectives for the update 20-year park management plan.

2.0 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PLAN

From the survey results, the initial primary objectives point to the following:

- Trail and parking improvements;
- Promote wildlife and habitat conservation;
- Enhancement of neighborhood access; and,
- Updated signage including, but not limited to park boundaries, directional, cultural/environmental information.

The feedback provided will be considered for incorporation where possible into a draft concept plan in late summer 2022. At that time, the second phase of public engagement will take place to gather input on conceptual plans. Following the end of Phase II, the final management plan will be prepared for consideration by the RDCO Board in the winter of 2022 with a final plan targeted for the spring of 2023.

3.0 PHASE I ENGAGEMENT

The Phase I online survey was open to the public between February 25 and March 15, 2022 with the use of Bang the Table software. The survey was advertised on the RDCO website and Castanet. In addition, Friends of Kalamo, Casa Loma Community Association and Lakeview Heights Community Association were sent engagement letters and notified of the online survey. The survey included yes and no questions, multiple choice, custom responses/comments and the ability to place a point with associated comments on an interactive map.

A total of 483 individuals participated in the survey. The following subsections summarize the results provided by Bang the Table of the Phase I survey.

3.1. Phase I Survey Results

Of the 483 individuals that participated, 63% were female with 55-64 years old and 35-44 years old being the most common age classes of respondents, at 25% and 22.7%, respectively. Most respondents visit the park with their dog (48.4%) and have been to the park more than five times (32.6%). The most enjoyable activity in the park was overwhelmingly walking/hiking with 91.3% of respondents selecting this activity, followed by walking a dog (53.7%), wildlife viewing (51.9%), swimming (50.4%) and meeting with friends and/or family (47.7%). Alternatively, the most common response to any activities that detract from your enjoyment of the park was off-leash dogs (37.9%), dog droppings (31.8%), and crowding (25.3%). Overwhelmingly, respondents felt somewhat or very satisfied with the accessibility, hours of operation and overall safety of the park, as well as recreational opportunities and overall enjoyment of visiting the park.

3.1.1 Trails, Parking and Services

It was generally found that trail and parking conditions were considered somewhat satisfactory, at 46.3% and 35.9%, respectively. However, most respondents found that they were somewhat dissatisfied with the parking availability. When asked about the condition of the trails in relation to biking limitations, the majority of respondents reported that the trails within the park are too narrow (41.7%) or too steep (28.3%) for biking. Many comments identified the trail between Sunnyside Road and the parking area/beach as being too steep or too narrow. When asked what should be prioritized over

the 20-year management plan, creating new parking areas and access trails was found to be a high priority for most respondents at 34.6%, however increasing access to cycling was not found to be a priority (40.3% answered not a priority).

Overwhelmingly, respondents found that the park was very clean (51.2%) and there was good garbage bin availability and washroom access. A total of 36.3% of respondents indicated they “did not know” with regards to recycling bin availability, which may indicate they did not know if there were any available.

3.1.2 Wildlife and Habitat Conservation

Wildlife and habitat conservation were found to be the most important theme for the 20-year park management plan, with the seven questions related to this theme having the greatest percentages of high priority responses out of the 22 options. The top three “high priority” responses for priorities for the management plan were as follows:

1. Protect natural plants and wildlife (69.2%);
2. Protect wetland habitat (56.9%); and
3. Restore disturbed natural areas (46.0%).

Fire and fuel mitigation efforts were also found to have a high priority according to 42.7% of respondents. Decommissioning trail segments in sensitive habitats, implementing erosion control measures and storm water management were found to be of moderate priority, at 34.7%, 43.6% and 38.9%, respectively. Currently, most respondents were very satisfied with the protection of natural areas within the park (49.5%).

3.1.3 Neighborhood Access

The majority of park users access the park via their car (68.0%), by walking (46.15%) followed by biking (21.1%) (**Figure 1**). Controlling motorized access through the park was found to be a high priority for the 20-year management plan according to 36.9% of respondents.

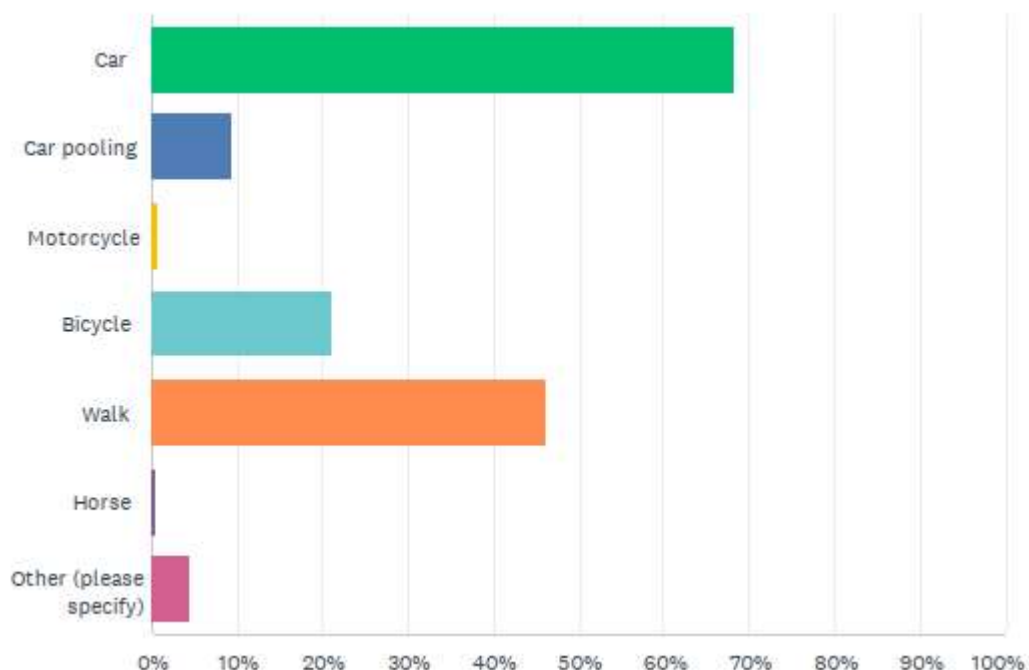


Figure 1. Percentage of respondents that indicated a mode of transportation typically used to access Kalamo Regional Park.

3.1.4 Signage

Respondents were generally satisfied with the current park signage, with 42.8% very satisfied with the directional signage and 45.7% very satisfied with the information panels. Education primarily had very or somewhat satisfied responses (32.2% and 35.4%, respectively); however, 23.9% of respondents said they did not know, which may indicate they are not aware of any educational signage within the park (**Figure 2**).

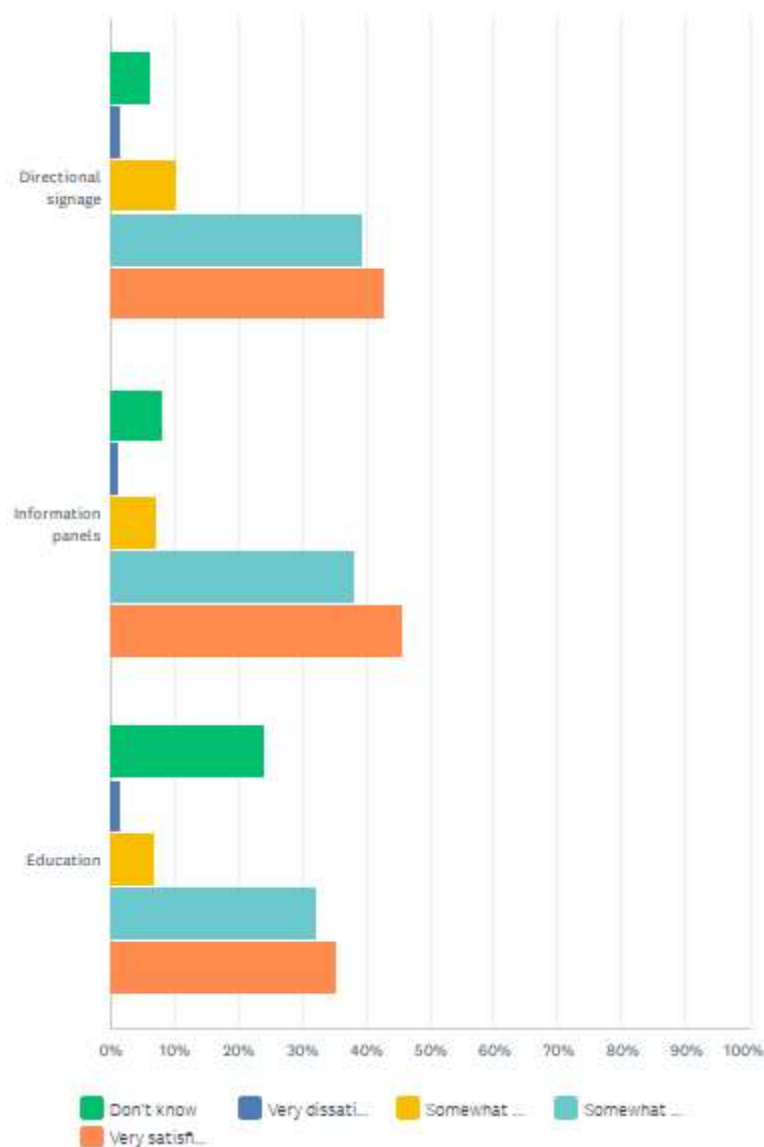


Figure 2. Levels of satisfaction with directional signage, information panels, and education in Kalamoor Regional Park.

When asked what should be prioritized over the 20-year management plan, improving directional signage and providing more interpretative/educational signage were not found to be priorities (39.2% and 39.8% found these items to be low priorities).

4.0 CLOSURE

We trust that this memo satisfies the present requirements. Should you have any questions or comments, please contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Respectfully Submitted

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