

# CRESCENT VALLEY BEACH REGIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN



Prepared For:  
Regional District of Central Kootenay

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## DISCLAIMER

The content of this Management Plan was informed by public consultation/stakeholder involvement, the direction of a RDCK Project Resource Team, available background studies/data and by a brief ecological overview site visit of the park. Due to the inherent problem with brief overview inventories, additional work should be undertaken to garner a thorough species list and to comprehensively understand the potential impacts of the proposed Design Concept on the ecology and archeology of the park. Use of or reliance upon conclusions made in this document is the responsibility of the party using the information. The advice of relevant professionals (engineers, lawyers, etc.) should be sought. Neither Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd., project partners, nor the authors of this report, are liable for accidental mistakes, omissions, or errors, as best attempts have been made to verify the accuracy and completeness of information presented.



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## Chapter 1 - Introduction

### 1.0 Introduction

Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park (Crescent Valley Beach), is a frequently visited and picturesque park on the shoreline of the Slocan River in the Kootenay's Crescent Valley community. River activities, the beach and the upland trails attract locals and tourists alike. In summer months, visitors can expect Crescent Valley Beach to be lively and active with people kayaking, rafting, canoeing, swimming, picnicking or simply enjoying the park's natural environment. The park also provides important habitat for wildlife. The upland park area includes mature Ponderosa pine and black cottonwood, a valued habitat for species at risk.

In 2014, through a generous land donation, Crescent Valley Beach became a Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) property for the purpose of a park. The donation of this 2.53 hectare (6.25 acres) property provided a unique opportunity to secure the land for the long-term enjoyment of the public and to manage how the park functions, including improved parking for visitors. Soon after acquiring the property, the RDCK initiated the process to develop a 10-Year Park Management Plan. The purpose of the Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park Management Plan (the Management Plan) is to provide direction on the transition of this property into a regional park. The Management Plan is set out within this document and will guide future development, operations, investments and decision-making for the park (see Appendix A for a Summary Table of the Management Plan). The Management Plan was approved by the RDCK Board in the Fall of 2015.

The Management Plan was prepared by a consulting team composed of Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd., Juliet Anderton Consulting Inc. and MMM Group Limited – with direction from the RDCK Development Services and Community Services Departments. The development of the Management Plan was shaped by a number of factors, including:

- feedback gathered through the public involvement process
- current and historic park uses
- the intent of the land donation for park purposes
- creating safe parking off of Highway 6 for park users
- a site-specific environmental overview
- regional bylaws and provincial regulations affecting the use of the land, and
- research on best practices in park management.

The Management Plan document begins with a brief description of the park and by identifying management challenges. Management challenges are described by a number of categories including: environmental concerns, visitor safety and risk management, maintenance and operations, heritage and cultural concerns, accessibility, neighbor relations and regulation and enforcement. A long-range vision and a set of 10-year management goals follows, providing direction to the priorities of the Management Plan and serving as a reference for future decisions that will be part of the ongoing operation of the park. The vision statement,

*Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park is an active waterfront and natural area park where the Slocan River and upland park are enjoyed by area residents in all seasons, and in summer months, by many others from throughout the region. The unique and attractive recreational opportunities offered by the river and upland park area are supported by a safe and functional*



*park design. Visitors' needs are planned for and managed to preserve the park's natural beauty and to align with environmental, cultural and heritage values in the park. Special areas of the park are reserved for primarily for wildlife habitat.*

provides the essence of the Management Plan objectives.

Appendix B provides a summary of the Public Involvement Process, including participating organizations, questionnaire results and comment theme outcomes. Key identified themes include:

- improve parking conditions
- keep the park clean
- dogs
- support river sports
- environmental stewardship

Prior to the land donation for the park, it was evident that the size and configuration of the parking area was fundamentally inadequate and unsafe for the number of park visitors, and that the addition of washroom facilities was a necessary park service. The park Design Concept provides high level direction for a new parking area and washroom facility, as well as other important features, including an enhanced trail network, day use area, signage and fencing.

Beyond direction to physical improvements, the Management Plan also provides strategies and actions for the on-going operation and maintenance of the park. Management Zones have been designated to provide direction to the use and management of specific geographic areas, and recommendations have been set out to pursue important initiatives with other government bodies and interested organizations, as well as to provide avenues for continued public involvement.

The Plan concludes with a preliminary Implementation Plan, outlining the priorities necessary to implement the Park Design Concept and to undertake park operations over a 10-year period. Preliminary cost estimates are provided; however, it should be noted that figures will become more precise as additional information is gathered on implementation activities. The total estimated 10-year capital and operating costs for Crescent Valley Beach is approximately \$873,450. The implementation of these works over the timeline specified is dependent on staffing capacity and on the availability of funding.





## 1.1 Park Context

### 1.1.1 Park Location and Description

Crescent Valley Beach is located west of Highway 6 within the Crescent Valley community and Electoral Area “H” of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK). The 2.53 hectare (6.25 acres) park sits on the north shore of a large bend in the lower Slocan River, just south of Crescent Valley’s community hall, fire hall and local businesses. The park is designed as a Waterfront Access Park, which is defined within the Official Regional Parks Plan (Bylaw 2044) as a park intended primarily for public access to high quality waterfront areas (and associated facilities) with the intensity of development dependent on the characteristics of each site. Crescent Valley Beach occurs within 20 km of nine other regional parks, with Bonnington and Glade Regional Parks located approximately 5 km of Crescent Valley Beach.

Although not within the park boundary, the beach that has made this park so popular forms a functional connection with the park. As water levels vary, large or small sections of the foreshore are exposed throughout the seasons. As is the case throughout the Province of British Columbia, the Province owns the Aquatic Crown land, including the river foreshore up to the high water mark. The upland park area is relatively flat; however, from the highway, the grade varies and slopes down to the beach and towards the middle of the park. While the majority of the park is treed, a clearing exists within the centre of the park. The historic Patrick Mill was established at this site in 1908 and remnant structural features remain.

With the exception of one residential property, adjoining lands to the north are largely designated for agriculture, although the current property owner does not use the land for this purpose. The RDCK has received approval from the Agricultural Land Commission for use of the property for park purposes. The lands may only be used as a park and a buffer must be maintained within the park to provide separation from the adjoining agricultural land.<sup>1</sup>

The park and broader area is within the asserted First Nation territories of the West Bank First Nation, Lower Kootenay Band, Ktunaxa Nation Council, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Okanagan Indian Band and the Splots’in First Nation.

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<sup>1</sup> The purpose of the buffer is to avoid conflicts between park uses and the agricultural potential of the adjacent land (e.g. trespassing, vandalism and complaints about agricultural operations such as sprays, dust, smells and noise).



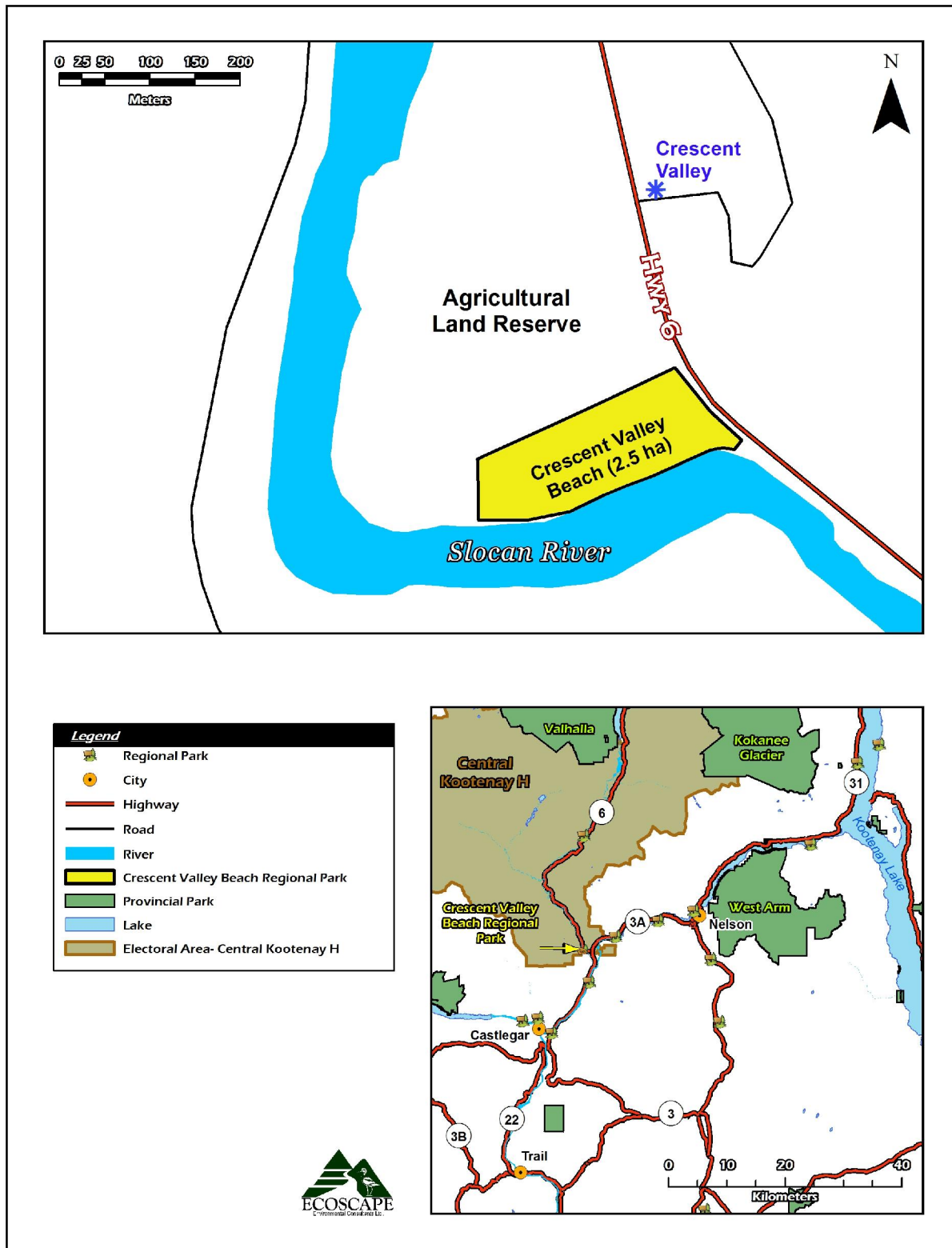


Figure 1.1 Park Location



### 1.1.2 Environmental Features

The following sections describe the environmental values of the park, including the current ecological condition, an overview of species at risk and ecosystems, and environmental sensitivities. The information is largely derived from online resources and from a recent site visit. A detailed biophysical inventory has not been completed for the park.

#### Existing Ecosystems

Crescent Valley Beach is characterized by a young to mature coniferous woodland of interior Douglas-fir lodgepole pine and Ponderosa pine with pockets of broadleaf trees and shrubs such as black cottonwood, black hawthorn and paper birch. The deciduous pockets occur within the riparian fringe of the Slocan River and also in moister areas, such as near the entrance of the park west of the existing parking lot. The park occurs within the Dry Warm Interior Cedar – Hemlock (ICH dw) biogeoclimatic zone which is described by the Biogeoclimatic Ecosystem Classification (BEC) program (Braumandl and Curran 2002). This zone typically occurs on the valley bottoms; has soils that dry out during the summer and a winter snowpack that is shallow and of short-duration.

Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping has not been completed for the park, but preliminary Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) mapping has been undertaken for the Slocan Valley and is inclusive of the park (Durand 2013) (Figure 1.2). There are eight SEI ecosystem polygons that intersect the park boundary. The ecosystem types include young coniferous forest, mature and young mixed forest (broadleaf and coniferous), a grass and herb dominated herbaceous community, and a narrow linear riparian fringe and beach that is associated with the Slocan River. In addition, a non-sensitive polygon, defined as a disturbed and permanently developed/modified area, extends into the park from the east and includes the existing parking lot.

The ecosystems within the park are largely intact and encompass a native tree, shrub and herbaceous understory. Weedy species are prevalent in certain areas that have been impacted by historical land uses, including the former Patrick saw mill. A wildlife/danger tree assessment of black cottonwood and paper birch within the park was recently undertaken that revealed 14 high value and 4 moderate value trees<sup>2</sup> (see Figure 1.2). Four additional veteran Ponderosa pines were also noted near the western boundary of the park and are also high value wildlife trees. A wildlife tree is any standing dead or live tree with special characteristics that provide valuable habitat for the conservation or enhancement of wildlife. The value of a tree as wildlife habitat depends on attributes such as structure, age, condition, abundance, species and surrounding habitat features (Wildlife Tree Committee of BC 2008).

#### Aquatic Resources

The Slocan River (Watershed Code: 340-047200) flows east along the southern boundary of Crescent Valley Beach. The river provides unique and important habitats and forms a core conservation area and movement corridor for wildlife. The riparian communities associated with the river, act as a transitional zone between aquatic and upland terrestrial ecosystems. This riparian fringe community provides critical nesting and perching habitat and adds to the overall biodiversity of the park.

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<sup>2</sup> This assessment was not a comprehensive assessment of all potential wildlife trees within the park.



## Species At Risk

The potential for Species at Risk was determined through discussions with local biologists, by provincial data inquiry requests, online sources (i.e., BC Conservation Data Centre) and is based on the availability of habitats to support important life functions such as breeding, migrating, feeding, resting and hibernating. The ecosystems within the park provide suitable habitat and likely support several Species at Risk, including Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), Western Screech-Owl (*Otus kennicottii macfarlanei*), Western skink (*Plestiodon skiltonianus*) and Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*).

Mature black cottonwood and Ponderosa pine within the park provide valued habitat for both the Western Screech-Owl and Lewis's Woodpecker, listed as federal and provincial endangered species. The screech owl nests are located in natural cavities of live or dead trees and are strongly associated with riparian woodlands dominated by black cottonwood, water birch and trembling aspen. The owl is also typically associated with a matrix of dry coniferous woodland predominately comprised of Ponderosa pine and interior Douglas-fir (COSEWIC 2012). The park occurs within the annual home range of two adult Western Screech owls, whose movement and habitat use patterns have been detected using radio telemetry. The owls have been detected using the park for foraging and roosting (Hausleitner 2013). Similarly, the Lewis's Woodpecker prefers open woodland also dominated with Ponderosa pine and riparian woodlands. A provincial Lewis's Woodpecker dataset indicates an observation approximately 150 m northeast of the park.

Local biologists have also indicated that the Western skink, a species of special concern may utilize the remnant concrete structures of the Patrick Mill site (pers. com. Jakob Dulisse, RPBio). The Western skink is partial to open wooded foothills and is typically dependent on -rocky outcrops and talus for basking and denning activities. The BC Conservation Data Centre documents occurrences of Western skink within 2 km of the park.

## Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) were determined and classified based on ecosystem polygons identified through preliminary SEI mapping for the Slocan Valley (Durand 2013). The ranking of ESA was completed based on ecosystem characteristics, including riparian contribution and wildlife habitat suitability. Professional judgment was also used to evaluate each ecosystem polygon based on criteria including: provincial status (i.e., Red or Blue listed), rare and endangered species observations or occurrence potential, landscape condition (i.e., connectivity, fragmentation), successional status, regional rarity and relative biodiversity. Each polygon was assigned a value rating based on the above criteria, which reflect the relative habitat condition (i.e., higher scores represent higher value). Ecosystem polygons were ranked using the environmental sensitivity classes described below:

- **Very High:** These areas represent extremely high ecological value and typically contain rare or critical habitat areas for sensitive or at risk species, undisturbed or pristine ecosystems and habitats, and biodiversity hotspots (e.g., wetlands, old growth forest). They substantially contribute to the regional habitat function and connectivity and are highest priority for conservation.
- **High:** These areas contribute to the regional biodiversity and connectivity of the surrounding landscape but lack critical habitats for at risk species (e.g., riparian areas,



mature forest). Development should generally avoid these areas to conserve the important features or to allow potential progression to the Very High category (e.g., mature forest becoming old growth). Encroachment into these areas should be compensated for by restoration in other areas to work towards achieving a no net loss of High value habitats.

- **Moderate:** Ecosystems of moderate significance represent disturbed habitats or fragmented features with the potential to return to High value through natural succession (e.g., young or fragmented forest, degraded habitats). Moderate areas contribute to the diversity of the landscape; however their condition and adjacency may limit significant function. These areas will benefit from restoration and enhancement activities which will facilitate succession to higher value habitats.
- **Low:** These areas contribute little to no value with regard to habitat diversity and have limited potential for supporting significant wildlife (e.g., heavily impacted or disturbed sites). Development is typically focused on these areas based on their limited contribution to regional biodiversity and limited capacity to return to high value through natural succession. These areas may be restored through intensive remediation and management practices.

The ESA composition of the Park is depicted on Figure 2.1 – *Ecosystem Classification and Environmental Sensitivity*. The vast majority of the park (i.e., 71.6%) was classified as having High ESA value, based on the above criteria. The woodland ecosystems are largely intact and provide critical habitat. The remainder of the park (i.e., 28.43%) was classified as having Moderate ESA value. These areas are associated with the existing parking lot and the previously disturbed sites that were historically used for agriculture and lumber mill activities.



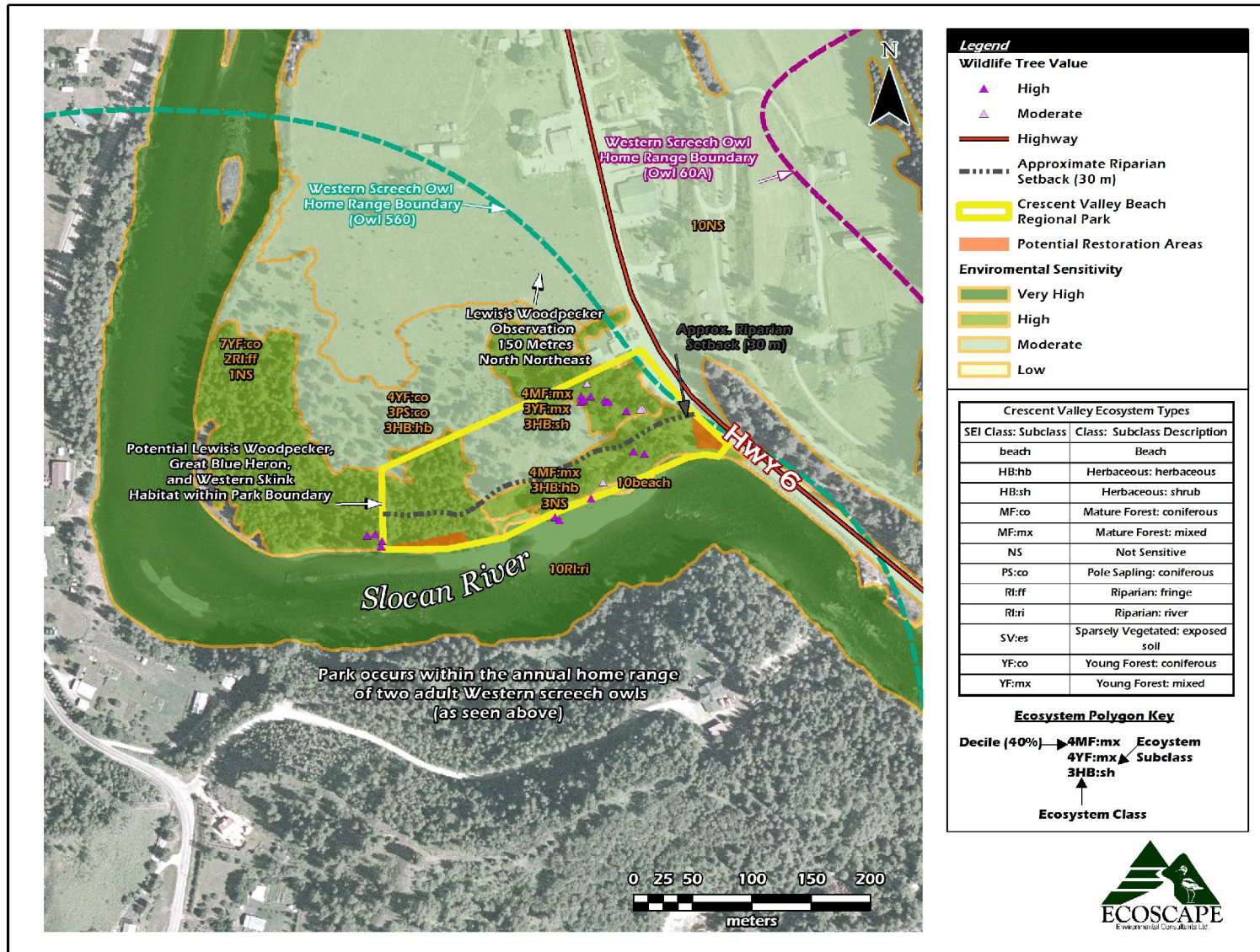


Figure 1.2 Ecosystem Classification and Environmental Sensitivity

### 1.1.3 Cultural and Historical Features

The park is within the asserted First Nation territories of the West Bank First Nation, Lower Kootenay Band, Ktunaxa Nation Council, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Okanagan Indian Band and the Splots'in First Nation. The park serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about First Nations' spiritual, social, cultural and economic relationships to the land. For example, historically, First Nations have made use of cottonwoods, such as those found within the park, for dug out canoes and a number of other uses.<sup>3</sup>

A recent archaeological overview assessment of the park indicated that two registered archaeological sites extend into the park (Choquette 2012). The first, is associated with First Nations people and the other showcases Euro-Canadian history through its use as a former sawmill. Lumber baron Joseph Patrick (Patrick Lumber Co.) established the mill there in 1908. A small sawmill was erected and began producing boards that would be used for building the larger mill on the same site, completed in 1909. The Patrick Mill, when it was constructed, was a state of the art steam driven mill that burnt its own waste to create more steam. The remains of the boiler tower, the heart of the mill, can be seen today along with stone ruins and pylons that stretch along the shore of the Slocan River. The pylons, originally 40 feet tall, were set with planks that were used to guide the logs down the river and corral them into holding areas where they would be conveyed up to the mill using a jack lander. At its height, the mill employed over 200 loggers and had camps going far up the Little Slocan River. Shortly after construction, fires and floods impacted operations. Patrick sold the mill in 1911.

The Patrick Mill also has significant history linked to the creation of today's National Hockey League. Funds from its sale were invested in the careers of the Joseph Patrick's sons, Lester ("The Silver Fox") and Frank, and in the creation of the Pacific Coast Hockey Association. The Association pioneered the construction of Canada's first artificial rinks and introduced such innovations as the blue line, goal crease, forward pass and playoff system. The Association later became part of the National Hockey League.

The Doukhobors, a Christian religious group of Russian origin, settled in south-eastern British Columbia in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and modern descendants of the first Canadian Doukhobors continue to live in the Kootenay region, southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. Today the estimated population of Doukhobors in Canada is approximately 40,000.

### 1.1.4 Recreational Features

The park has been a popular long-time day use location for both local and regional residents, and its popularity is expanding to include those beyond the region.

The Crescent Valley Beach shoreline functions as a pick-up and drop-off point for rafting, canoeing and kayaking. The downstream stretch of the river includes many large surf waves and holes popular for intermediate through expert paddlers able to negotiate the Class Two and Class Three whitewater. The

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<sup>3</sup> The Okanagan people made cottonwoods into sideboards for riding and cradles to flatten their children's heads. Cottonwood burns well and was used to make friction fire sets. Ashes were used to make a cleanser for hair and buckskin clothing. The Thompson people produced soap from the inner bark.

three kilometer run from Crescent Valley Beach to the Railway Bridge at Shoreacres takes between one and three hours.

Up river from the park, paddlers and rafters are frequently dropped off at the Vallican Bridge and come to shore at Crescent Valley Beach. This section of the river is rated Class One whitewater and is known as a great place to practice ferrying, eddy turns and surfing small waves. Pylons along the river, however, are serious hazards and are deceptively dangerous to those coming ashore. Less experienced paddlers must also be cautious of continuing down the river into higher rated whitewater.

The Crown foreshore adjacent to Crescent Valley Beach is used for swimming and the upland park is enjoyed by sunbathers and others relaxing in the scenic environment. A trail within the park currently extends from the parking area down a short hill to the river. A longer trail stretches along the foreshore, past a clearing in the middle of the park and extending beyond the west boundary of the park (onto private land) towards the community fire hall. The foreshore trail is used throughout the year, frequently by visitors walking dogs. The beach is also a popular spot for dog walking and dog exercise.

The abandoned railway right of way across Highway 6 from Crescent Valley Beach is part of the regional multi-use Slocan Rail Trail. The trail extends from South Slocan, through Crescent Valley, Slocan Park, Passmore and Winlaw, eventually reaching Slocan City. Crescent Valley Beach is five kilometres along the trail from the South Slocan Trailhead and 45 kilometres south of the Slocan City Trailhead. Crescent Valley Beach and the local shops and services are advertised as points of interest along the trail and park visitors may currently (or in the future) be using the park as an unofficial trailhead. The official local trailhead is sited just north of the Crescent Valley Bridge.

#### **1.1.5 Park Infrastructure**

Improvements at Crescent Valley Beach prior to acquisition included a small, undeveloped parking area off the shoulder of Highway 6, a garbage and recycling receptacle and river safety signage maintained by a stewardship group, funded by the Area H Director. The site does not have access to potable water and has no washroom facilities. No drainage infrastructure, fencing or boundary signage exists.



## Chapter 2 - Management Challenges

### 2.0 Introduction

In the development of the Crescent Valley Beach Management Plan, a number of management challenges have been identified. The following points provide a brief summary of some of these identified challenges.

#### 2.1 Environmental Concerns

**Intensive Use by Park Visitors** – Intensive recreational use by park users has the potential to impact the biological biodiversity of the park and the protection of key habitats known to support plants, vertebrates, and invertebrates at risk of becoming locally or globally extinct.

**Surrounding Land Uses** – The agricultural lands north of the park have the potential to act as a weed source through the disbursement of weed seeds. Given that non-native plants are already established within the park, active weed management is important to limit the proliferation of non-native species.

**Unsanctioned Trail Use** – The establishment of new, unsanctioned trails can result from park users taking shortcuts, rather than staying on designated routes. The shortcuts then get established, and it becomes difficult to discern between sanctioned and unsanctioned trails. There are several concerns with regards to ever-expanding trail networks. First, trail development often leads to the establishment of introduced and invasive plants. As the density of trails expands over relatively small areas, individual plant invasions can meld together; completely displacing the native plant community. Second, trails on steep sloped areas act to facilitate the movement of water and can become hotspots for down cutting and erosion. Finally, trails can also negatively impact local wildlife, often times resulting in a reduction of species richness and abundance.

**Off Leash Dogs** – Uncontrolled off-leash dogs can cause numerous problems including harassment of wildlife, disruption of ground level nesting birds, spread of invasive plants, trampling of native vegetation, degradation of aquatic ecosystems, and conflicts with other park users. The two biggest environmental concerns with off-leash dogs are the potential for conflicts with wildlife and the attraction of dogs to wetland areas. Deer, coyotes, marmots, ground squirrels, and snakes, to name a few, will attract dogs and cause stress to the wildlife and potentially lead to injury of either the wildlife or the dog. Dogs are also often drawn to creeks and other open water areas. These sensitive ecosystems are particularly at risk from erosion, compaction, trampling, and water quality degradation from dog activity.

**Human/Wildlife Conflict** - Human/wildlife conflict is defined as any interaction between wildlife and humans which causes harm, whether it's to the human, the wild animal, or property. Human-wildlife conflict is most likely to occur in late spring/early summer during dispersal and nesting seasons. Education that informs park users of appropriate behavior when encountering wildlife may be key to reducing conflicts.

## 2.2 Visitor Safety and Risk Management

**Highway Safety** - The current undeveloped parking area off the shoulder of Highway 6 includes space for approximately 15 vehicles. During summer months, visitor parking fills quickly and spills out north and south onto the highway right-of-way owned and managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, creating dangerous conditions for highway drivers and park visitors climbing in and out of vehicles, often with river craft in hand. Pedestrians travelling to and from the park to services north of the park must also find their way around cars parked along the highway.

**River Safety** – The Aquatic Crown Land owned and managed by the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources Operations, south of the park, includes a number of remains from the Patrick Mill operations. In high water, remains are buried or partly buried underwater. Hazards vary from stands of old pylons to underwater concrete, metal and screws at the popular swimming hole. The river also presents challenges for swimmers and those seeking the whitewater. Exiting the river from upstream requires kayakers, canoeists and rafters to avoid the pylons. Those not able to handle Class Two and Three rapids downstream must also exit the river to avoid extending themselves beyond their ability.

**Hazard Trees** - The park, including the park area planned to accommodate the expanded parking area, includes a number of black cottonwoods and other trees that have been identified as potential hazards. Large branches or whole trees have the potential to fall down and may be a threat to park users. The difficulty, however, is that many of these trees also provide valuable wildlife habitat. As an example, the Western Screech-Owl (*Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei*) is known to nest in black cottonwoods, has been documented within close proximity to the park, and is a federally and provincially endangered species.

**Alcohol Use** – Although, alcohol consumption is not permitted within the park or on Crown land, some visitors disregard this rule or consume it while on the river. During the time the land was privately owned, some visitors grew accustomed to such uses. Some attribute unruly behaviour in the park to the use of alcohol and intoxication and note that such activities make the park environment unattractive for families. Park bylaws prohibit alcohol use; currently, bylaw staff are not assigned to enforce park bylaws. The RCMP are responsible for enforcement of traffic safety laws.

**Uncontrolled and Off Leash Dogs** – The number of uncontrolled, off leash dogs, especially during the peak season, has also been noted as making the park unattractive for young families. Excessive dog waste is also a concern.

## 2.3 Maintenance and Operations

**Park Litter and Cleanliness** – Litter, including bottles and cans, has historically been a challenge within the park, particularly during peak summer month when the volume of users is high. Garbage and recycling bins are provided; however, collection routines have not always kept pace with demand. The lack of washrooms has also led to use of the natural area for toileting.

**Dog Waste** – Throughout the year and especially during the off season, the park is frequently used by visitors and their dogs, including owners who have not picked up after their pets. The frequency of dog waste is noted as a problem, as it detracts from the aesthetic value of the park.

## **2.4 Heritage and Cultural**

Heritage Preservation – The remains of the Patrick Mill site are located both within the park and below the high water level of the Slocan River. These features provide an interesting opportunity to learn about the history of the park and the Patrick family and more generally, they contribute to the unique identity of the area and the history of the Province. The old boiler tower, unfortunately, is tagged with graffiti. Other features are overgrown and beyond activity areas, providing some level of protection. The mill remains may require a higher level of protection from park visitors.

Archaeological Sites - Two registered archaeological sites extend into the park and there is a need to manage the park in such a way that minimizes impacts to these sites.

## **2.5 Accessibility**

Accessibility – Many waterfront access parks are located in natural areas that present significant challenges for accessibility. Crescent Valley Beach, however, has only moderate elevation changes and provides a good opportunity to support wheelchair accessibility to the waterfront and central activity areas.

## **2.6 Neighbour Relations**

Residential Neighbour – Park neighbours to the north include a large unimproved field and a separate smaller residential parcel. The development of a new parking lot will require that the encroaching residential parking be contained within the residential parcel to the north. A clear definition between the two parcels will need to be established. Traditionally, the neighbour has also experienced issues with park visitors trespassing and parking on his property. The Design Concept should also aim to discourage park visitors from venturing beyond the boundary of the park onto private land.

Agricultural Neighbour – No clear boundary currently exists along the property line shared between the park and the agricultural property to the north. Park visitors do not know when they are leaving the park and entering private property and this could lead to conflicts with the existing or future land owner, and if the land was put to agricultural production or grazing, damage to crops or conflict with animals.

## **2.7 Regulation and Enforcement**

Lack of Bylaw Staff – Currently there are no bylaw staff assigned to enforce park bylaws. Regular offences include off leash dogs, alcohol consumption and littering.

Traffic Safety – The RCMP is responsible for enforcement of traffic safety in the area. Enforcement action in specific geographic areas such as Crescent Valley Beach is, however, dependent on available resources.

## Chapter 3 - Vision and Goals

### 3.0 Introduction

The long-term vision for Crescent Valley Beach and the set of ten-years goals for the Management Plan explain the desired future condition for the park and the purpose and direction of the Management Plan. The vision and goals were developed to focus priorities during the creation of the Management Plan and will be referred to as part of the on-going operation of the park. The outcomes of the public involvement process contributed significantly to the development of the vision and goals. Other significant factors in their development included the current and historic park uses, direction set by the original intent of the land donation, and applicable local, provincial, and federal policy. Implementation of the vision and ten-year goals is achieved through the Design Concept, and through the Plan's direction to park operations.

### 3.1 Long Term Vision Statement

The long term vision describes the aspirations for the park, beyond the ten-year scope of the Management Plan. The vision is designed to inspire and motivate those who have a role in the management and stewardship of the park.

*Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park is an active waterfront and natural area park where the Slokan River and upland park are enjoyed by area residents in all seasons, and in summer months, by many others from throughout the region. The unique and attractive recreational opportunities offered by the river and upland park area are supported by a safe and functional park design. Visitors' needs are planned for and managed to preserve the park's natural beauty and to align with environmental, cultural and heritage values in the park. Special areas of the park are reserved for primarily for wildlife habitat.*

### 3.2 Management Plan Ten-Year Goals

The Management Plan goals are designed to help those who have a role in the management and stewardship of the park to work towards achieving the vision. The goals have been developed with a ten-year scope in mind; however, many of the goals should be renewed in a similar form after the ten-year scope.

#### **Goal 1 – Balance Park Use with Impacts on the Environment**

The park Design Concept and construction of park improvements (including the parking lot, washrooms, day use area, and park trails) will attempt to retain high value wildlife trees and to minimize the overall impact on the park's natural environment. Restoration areas will be identified and marked within the park along the Slokan River shoreline.

#### **Goal 2 – Align Park Facilities and Services with Visitors' Needs**

Park facilities and services will adequately address the functional needs and safety requirement of park visitors. On-site parking, washroom facilities, garbage and recycling services will be provided and operated to respond the volume of visitors during peak summer months.

**Goal 3 – Improve Park Amenities to Enhance Visitors’ Experiences**

Park amenities such as a day use area and trails will be designed and improved to better respond to the way visitors are using the park and to enhance their experience. Trail access to the waterfront will be improved, loop trails will be created and a day use area will be developed within the centre of the park, including picnic tables, a simple play structure, and a wheelchair accessible access trail.

**Goal 4 – Enhance Visitor Safety throughout the Park**

Visitor safety will be enhanced within the park, signage will advise users of hazards, and recommendations will be made to the Province to improve safety for visitors below the high water mark and on Highway 6.

**Goal 5 – Recognize the Cultural and Historical Values of the Park**

Opportunities will be explored for the park to raise awareness about First Nations’ spiritual, social, cultural, and economic relationships to the land within the region. The remains of the Patrick Mill will be protected and interpreted to ensure park users have opportunities to learn about the Euro-Canadian history of the land and the Patrick family.

**Goal 6 – Respect Neighbouring Residents**

Boundary signage, fencing and/or landscaping will be designed and maintained to clearly define the boundary of the park for park visitors and to discourage visitors from crossing onto private land.

**Goal 7 – Engage Park Stewards**

The local community, local businesses and interested community groups will be encouraged to participate on aspects of park stewardship and plan implementation. Actions will be identified that the community can pursue to support environmental well-being, species at risk and a healthy riparian area.

## Chapter 4 - Design Concept

### 4.0 Introduction

The Design Concept is a central feature of the Management Plan. It includes the Plan's direction to the management and use of specific areas through the establishment of park management zones and the development of a conceptual design concept for access and appropriate levels of recreational use. The Design Concept also includes the physical improvements necessary to support the design.

Like other components of the Management Plan, the Design Concept was developed to support the implementation of the vision and the 10-year goals. It is intended to meet the needs of the RDCK, park users and residents of Crescent Valley. It reflects the direction of the terms of the parkland donation, the public involvement process, consultation with the RDCK Project Resource Team, an understanding of the environmental and archeological values and the existing pattern of public use within the park.

### 4.1 Designation of Park Management Zones

There are features within the park, both ecological and cultural, that have varying degrees of sensitivity and importance. Given this, the park will be managed in such a way that provides a greater protection for sensitive ecosystems and cultural/heritage features (i.e. precontact archaeological artefacts), and focuses recreational activities to less sensitive locations where there is an existing level of disturbance. To achieve this, park management zones have been established. They include: 1) Special Feature; 2) Limited Recreation; 3) Natural Environment; and 4) Park Services.

Figure 4.1 – *Park Management Zones*, depicts the management zones within the park.

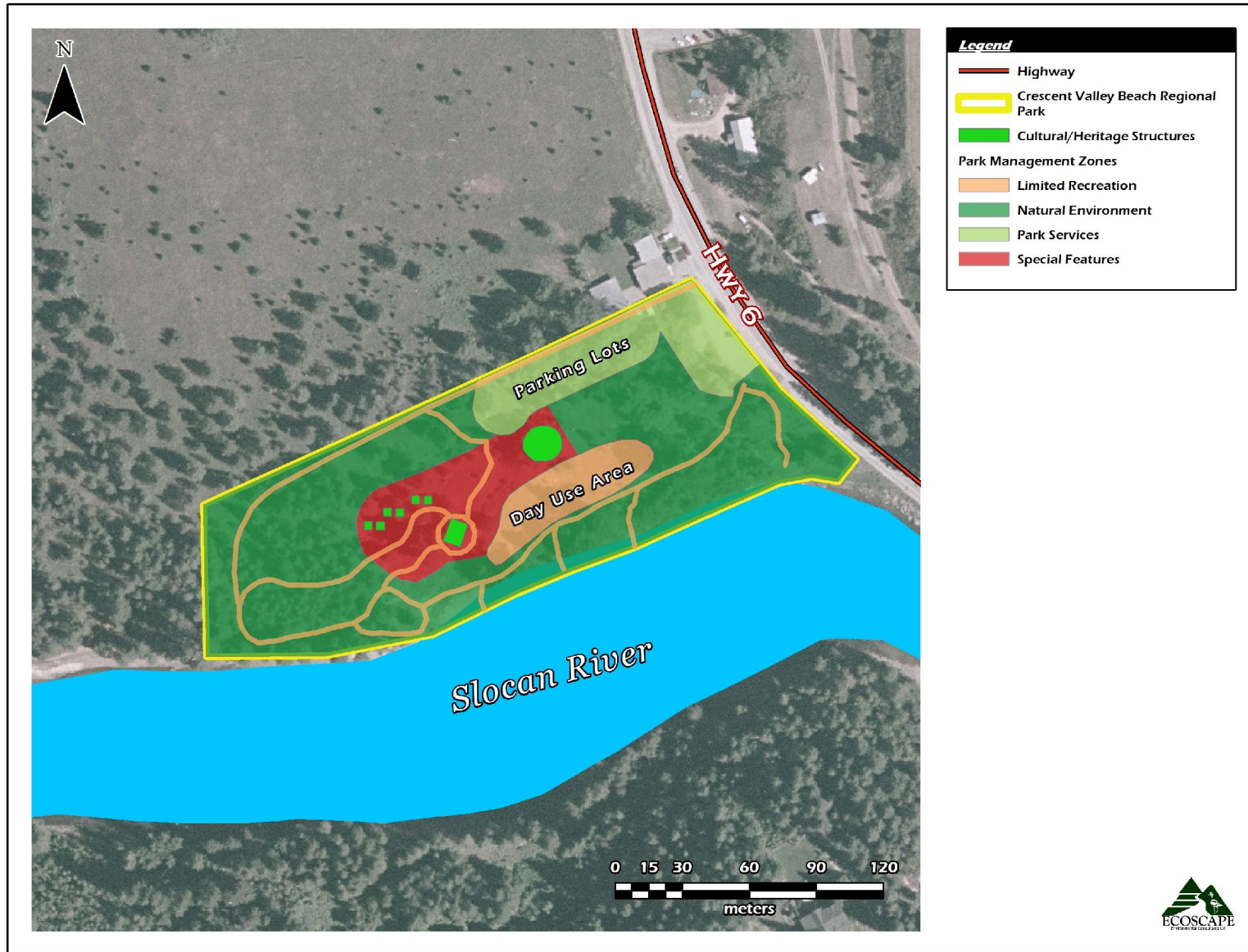


Figure 4.1 Park Management Zones



#### 4.1.1 Special Feature



The Special Feature Zone includes the former Patrick Brothers Sawmill comprised of a number of masonry and concrete structures, including a Kiln and Bee hive Burner. It is centrally located on the third terrace above the Slocan River. The goal of the Special Feature zone is to better manage the heritage landscape to create a positive impact.

The presence of this heritage site presents an excellent opportunity for education through interpretive signage. Choquette (2012) highlights further opportunities for educational interpretation of both the cultural and natural

aspects of the landscape evolution, as there are examples of trees originating from the heritage features.

#### 4.1.2 Limited Recreation

The Limited Recreation Zone includes the proposed trail network and day use area. The proposed trail network is conceptual and provides a series of loop trails. A larger loop extends along the outer boundaries of the park, and the inner loop trails provides access to the cultural and heritage features. The day use area is elevated and setback from the foreshore of the Slocan River. The understory in this area is disturbed, and includes non-native and invasive plants.

The following considerations pertain to the Limited Recreation Zone.

- Critical wildlife habitat, specifically wildlife trees, should be retained whenever possible. The presence of these features should be considered in the finalization of the trail network. Ideally trails should avoid higher risk areas adjacent to mature trees with high wildlife value (e.g. potential nest cavities, and perches) to mitigate the need for hazard tree management.
- Where existing sanctioned trails bisect areas deemed high risk with respect to hazard trees (notably mature pine, fir and cottonwood), options should be considered to realign portions of trails to avoid the need for tree removal or management practices that may otherwise have high impacts – especially if trees are providing important nest cavities and roosts for species at risk.
- The proposed trail network should be capped with fine gravel to protect the archaeological content that is currently being exposed by trail use (Choquette 2012).
- The proposed day use area should have test excavations undertaken to ascertain whether any archaeological remains are present prior to the development of this site (Choquette 2012).

#### 4.1.3 Park Services

The Park Services Zone includes the newly designed parking lots, a turnaround intended for pickups/drop offs, garbage receptacles and washroom facilities. This zone acts as a staging area to service the remaining portions of the park. Trails extend from both parking lots, providing access to the



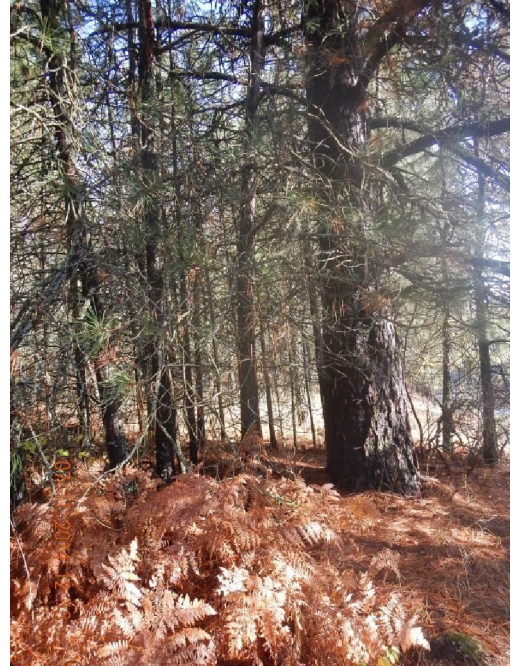
larger park area. Mature trees, including those that are dead and/or decaying (snags) should be left standing, unless they pose an immediate public safety hazard.

#### 4.1.4 Natural Environment

The Natural Environment Zone represents the remaining woodland that occurs throughout the remainder of the park. This zone is intended to protect provincially significant natural ecosystems for their intrinsic value, contribute to the park's biodiversity, and insure preservation of archaeological artifacts for long-term appreciation.

The following considerations pertain to the Natural Environment Zone.

- Any unsanctioned trails within this zone should be decommissioned. Where unsanctioned access has degraded the natural condition, restoration efforts in conjunction with future access management should be implemented.
- Native vegetation planting may be useful to speed up the process of trail decommissioning and to naturalize areas of enhanced disturbance.
- The Natural Environment Zone should be evaluated for non-native and invasive plant species, and a weed management strategy should be implemented.
- Mature trees, including those that are dead and/or decaying (snags) should be left standing, unless they pose an immediate public safety hazard.
- Habitat enhancement opportunities (i.e. construction of nesting platforms, nest boxes, etc.) for rare and endangered species should be undertaken.
- Consider thinning interior Douglas-fir and pine saplings to achieve a more open forest canopy. Removal of these young stems will improve shrub development, reduce fire risk and increase browse for ungulates.



## 4.2 Permitted Uses

The management plan recommends the following permitted uses which will then be incorporated and regulated under the park regulation bylaw. Figure 4.2 - *Summary of Permitted Uses*, outlines the permitted activities that can occur within each Management Zone.

**Figure 4.2 Summary of Permitted Uses**

Permitted Uses	Management Zones			
	Special Feature	Natural Environment	Limited Recreation	Park Services
Parking				✓
Hiking/Walking/Running			✓	
Nature Appreciation			✓	
Biking			✓	
Geocaching			✓	
Picnicking			✓	
Cross Country Skiing			✓	
Snow Shoeing			✓	
On-Leash Dog Walking***			✓	✓
Special Uses and Events*			✓	✓
Commercial Uses**				✓

\*"Special Use" means any service, activity or event as defined and required by RDCK special use permit.

\*\*Requires prior approval by RDCK. Permitted access is by foot only.

\*\*\*Although on-leash dogs are permitted on designated trails and within the Limited Recreation and Park Services zones, dogs are not allowed on the beach.

All other RDCK permitted uses/restrictions are consistent with the Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 2173. Typical restrictions include:

- No alcohol
- No alteration to natural features
- No fires
- No fireworks
- No firearms
- No hunting/trapping
- No overnight camping
- No overnight parking
- No off-road vehicle use
- No dumping or disposal
- No smoking
- No littering
- No off-leash dogs
- No pickle ball

It should be noted that dogs must be on-leash within the park and are permitted in the Park Services and Limited Recreation zones only. Dogs are not allowed on the beach. The hours of operation for Crescent Valley Beach are from sunrise to sunset.

#### **4.3 Proposed Infrastructure Improvements**

Figure 4.3 –*Design Concept*, depicts the proposed design concept. The specific elements of the various design features are further described in the following sections. The key elements include parking/access, an improved trail network and signage, washrooms, and a day-use area.



Figure 4.3 Design Concept



### 4.3.1 Parking and Access

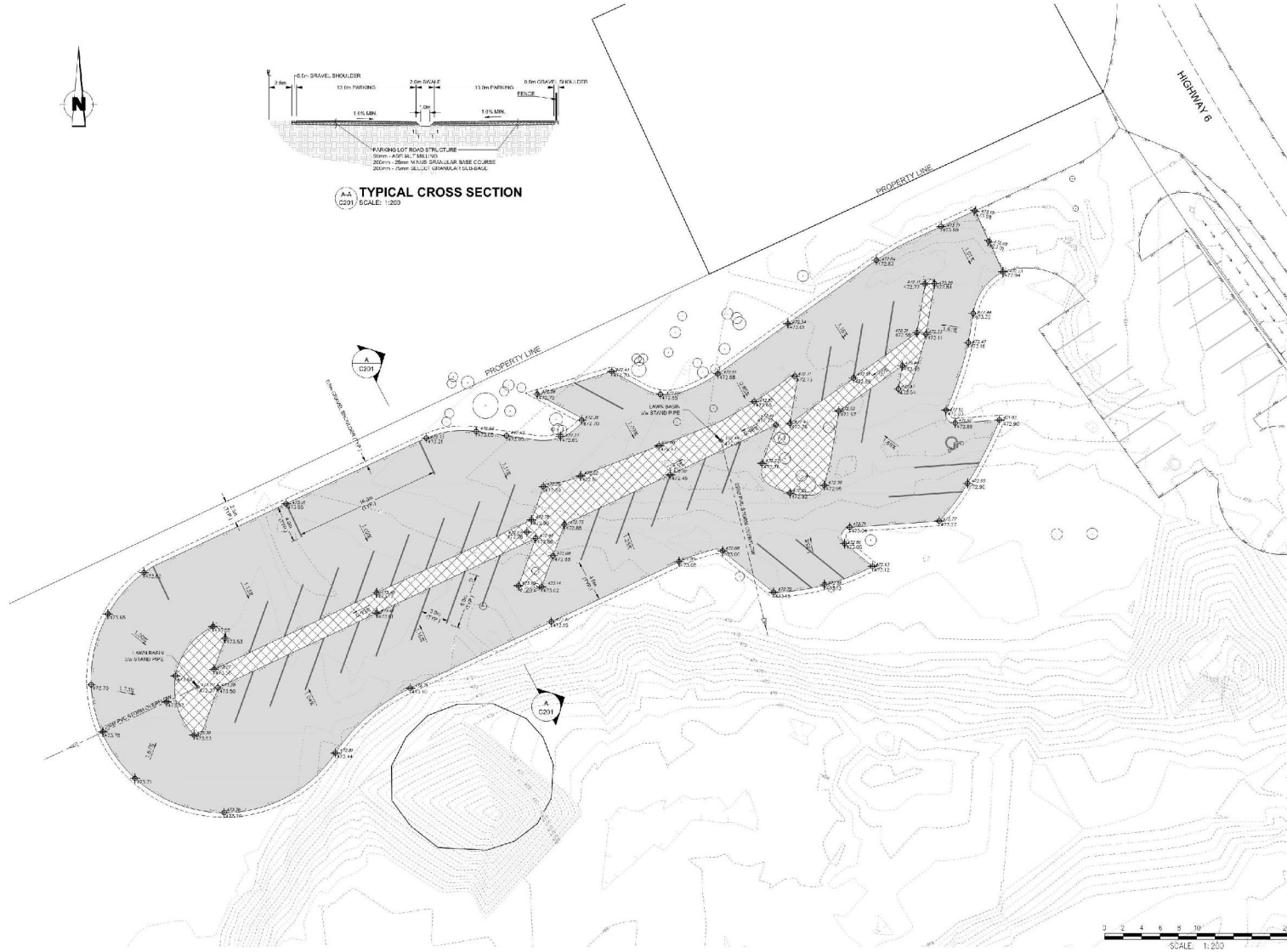
The current undeveloped parking area off the shoulder of Highway 6 can only accommodate about 15 vehicles. During summer months, visitor parking spills out on the north and south side of the highway right-of-way, creating dangerous conditions for highway drivers and park visitors. The expansion and development of the parking lot is a key element of the design concept. Figure 4.4 - *Conceptual Parking Lot Design*, depicts the preferred concept, based on input from project stakeholders. Originally three parking lot concepts were presented for stakeholder input.

The preferred conceptual design includes two distinct parking lots. A smaller front lot (Lot 1) will be located within the current undeveloped parking area and will accommodate 14 parking stalls for cars and trucks only. A turnaround at the south end of the parking lot will be provided for pick-up/drop-off at the main beach access trailhead, as well as for servicing of the washroom building. This parking lot will be paved and will remain open year around.

A larger, unpaved back parking lot will extend along the northern park boundary (Lot 2). Where possible, it has been designed to incorporate existing native trees and vegetation. This lot will accommodate two larger RV's, buses or trailers along the northern and southern edges of the parking lot and will act as an overflow parking lot during peak season. It should be noted that a continuous 5 m planted buffer with fencing is required along the northern and western park boundary where it is adjacent to ALR lands. This buffer has been incorporated into the parking lot design, but may need to be adjusted at the final design stage. Lot 2 has been designed with 2 oversized vehicle spaces and 38 regular sized parking spaces. A control access gate will be installed at the entrance of this lot, and it will be closed during off hours and during the winter months. A fence will be constructed along the southern edge of the parking lot to funnel park users to designated trails. The whole parking lot design (Lots 1 and 2) will accommodate 54 spaces in total.

Access to the park will continue to be limited to one point of entry off of Highway 6. The implementation of the proposed parking lot design may require the construction of a slip-lane on Highway 6 that will be facilitated by Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure if required to enable uninterrupted westbound traffic.

The environmental and archeological impacts of the proposed parking lots will be determined once the concept design is finalized. The parking lot design, in particular Lot 2, extends across a mature, mixed woodland that is classified as having high ESA value (see Figure 1.2). There is currently no Official Community Plan or zoning for the southern half of Area H, and therefore there is no regional legislation to guide the construction of this parking lot. Nevertheless, this woodland is important to the biodiversity and ecological functioning of the area, and ideally a no net loss of high value habitat would be achieved. Potential restoration areas that could be used to mitigate lost habitat are identified in Figure 1.2. These sites are limited to areas that are not extensively used by park visitors, and in locations where the greatest environmental benefit would be achieved (i.e. immediate adjacency to the Slocan River). The potential restoration areas are likely not large enough to achieve a no net loss, and therefore off site compensation, or other mitigation measures may need to be considered.



**Figure 4.4** Conceptual Parking Lot Design



### 4.3.2 Washroom Facility

Two washroom buildings will be sited near the south end of parking lot 1 close to the beach access trailhead. These buildings will be handicap accessible and will provide separate pit style toilets for men and women. Depending on levels of park use, additional pit style toilets may be considered for the day-use area in future years. If pit toilets are constructed in this area, they should be located outside of the 30 m riparian setback from the Slocan River.

### 4.3.3 Day Use Area

The intent of the day use area is to provide a central gathering location within the boundary of the park. The proposed site takes advantage of a relatively flat area with an existing level of understory disturbance (i.e. site is weedy) and has direct views of the Slocan River. Proposed infrastructure includes a covered picnic structure, seating areas and a nature themed playground suitable for young children. The day use area will be turfed to facilitate both passive and active play, but it is expected that the site will be developed without the removal of trees. Permanent structures will be located outside of the 30 m riparian setback. The day use area will have ready access to the Slocan River via the beach access trail and will also be connected to the upslope heritage features by a set of wooden stairs. There will also be a direct connection from the day use area to parking lot 2, either with a set of stairs or with a meandering trail (to be determined at the final concept stage).



### 4.3.4 Beach Access and Trail Concept

The concept design includes the improvement of existing trails, the creation of new trails, and the decommissioning of redundant or non-essential trails. The main beach access trail that leads from parking lot 1 to the shoreline of the Slocan River will be improved and resurfaced with aggregate to a 2.5 m width. The widening of this trail will accommodate users during peak times, will allow access for service vehicles and will also facilitate full accessibility for people with disabilities, and for the hauling of beach gear, kayaks, etc.

This main beach access route will then tie into a narrower, trail network (1.5 m width) that will provide access to the other key points along the waterfront and will also extend into two trails, one that provides access to the historic Patrick Mill site and the other will act as a perimeter trail along the northern boundary of the park. The loop trail network is intended to act as a good walking route for owners with on-leash dogs, to provide access to the heritage sites, and to enable park user to explore the various ecosystems within the park. The loop trails provide connection to the parking lots, enabling park users to access the full trail network without having to double-back on the same trail.

The trail network as shown on the Design Concept (see Figure 4.3) is theoretical in that it has been designed on paper. Prior to finalizing the specific trail routes, the conceptual trail locations should be verified, with alignments adjusted to avoid high value wildlife trees and other environmentally sensitive features. Trail construction should also be consistent with archeological recommendations put forth in Choquette (2012) to reduce exposure of artifacts.



The trail network outlined in the Design Concept has 985 m of trail; 445 m of which are pre-existing and 540 m will be newly constructed. There is also 150 m of trail that is slated for decommissioning. These trails should be actively decommissioned with surface roughening, the application of native mulch, a dissolved mycorrhizae solution, an appropriate native seed mix and potentially tree planting. Large woody debris available throughout the park will also be useful in trail decommissioning. The naturalization of non-sanctioned trails should be regularly monitored to ensure effectiveness and that invasive weeds are not overrepresented.

The Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) requires that a 5 m vegetated buffer and fencing separate the park from the agricultural lands that occur north and west of the park. There is currently a well-used trail that extends from the western end of the park along the Slocan River into the agricultural lands. Although the trail segment that extends to the park boundary has been slated for decommissioning, fencing in this area will be constructed with a gate or break in the fence to will allow continued access beyond the park boundary.

#### 4.3.5 Heritage Site Improvements



The remains of the historic Patrick Mill site are currently in poor condition. The boiler tower is littered with garbage, there are ashes and smoke stains on the inside, and it has been extensively tagged with graffiti. Several of the historic features are grown over with vegetation. Works should be undertaken to improve the current condition of these features (i.e. site clean-up, graffiti removal, etc.). The goal is to better manage the heritage landscape to create a positive impact through education with interpretive signage.

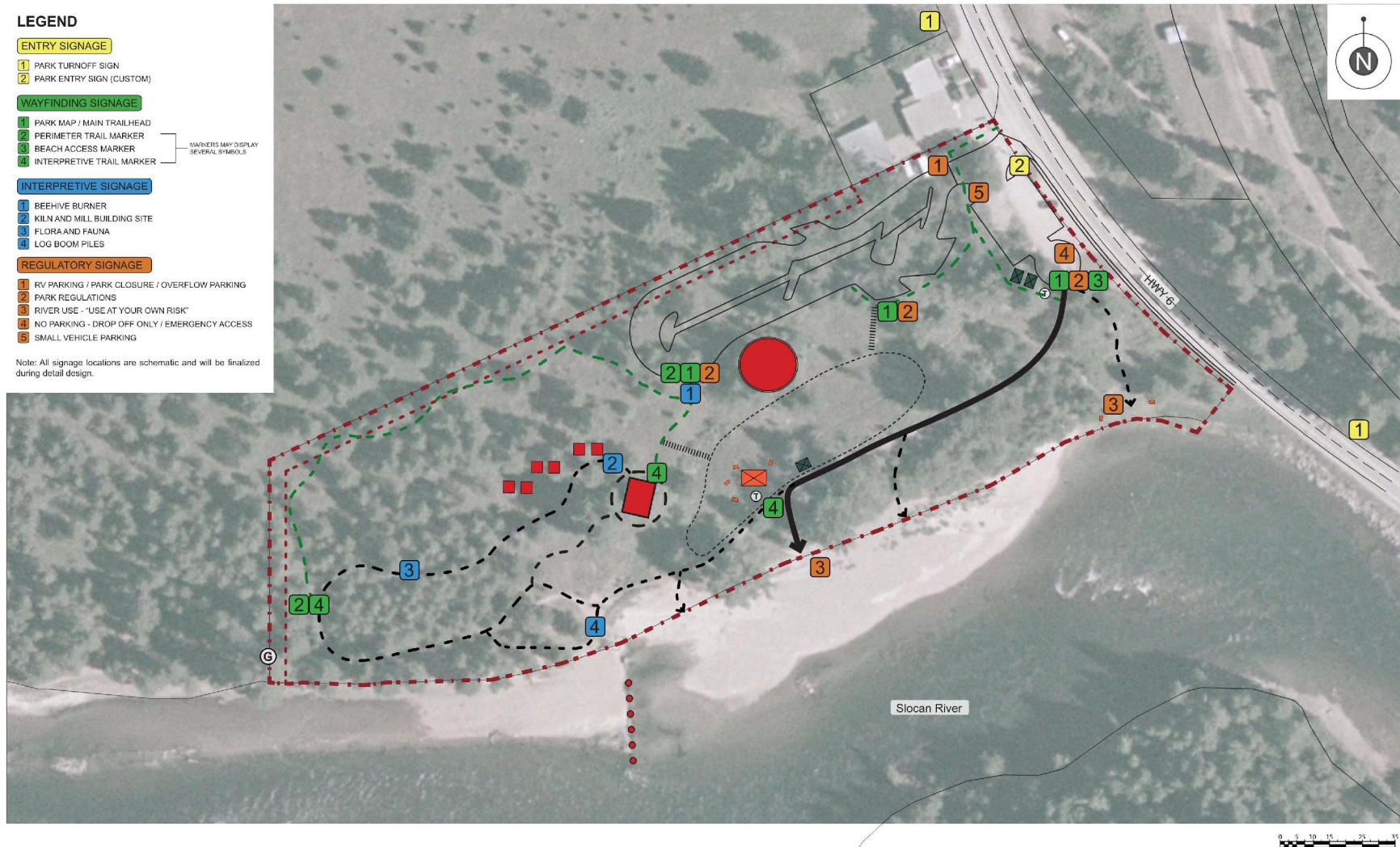
A public safety assessment of the remnants of the Patrick Mill operations within the park should also be undertaken to ensure safety for park visitors. Hazards should be reduced and warning signage posted as necessary.

#### 4.4 Signage Plan

Increased signage in the form of wayfinding, regulatory, and interpretive signs will be incorporated to further establish park rules and to enhance the user experience. Design standards for signage will be consistent with other regional district parks.

Figure 4.5 – *Conceptual Signage Plan*, depicts the locations of entry, wayfinding, interpretive and regulatory signage.





**Figure 4.5 Conceptual Signage Plan**



## Chapter 5 - Operations and Maintenance

### 5.0 Introduction

The operation and maintenance of Crescent Valley Beach will be centrally coordinated by the RDCK's Community Services Department in a manner that will be consistent with the vision, goals and overall direction of the Management Plan. Maintenance activities will include a series of on-going responsibilities related to park facilities and infrastructure. Operational activities will include responsibilities such as issuing permits, enforcing bylaws, undertaking inspections, coordinating communications and monitoring plan implementation and the park's environmental health. One-time activities that fall within the scope of park operations will also be necessary as the Management Plan begins implementation (e.g., public safety hazard assessment).

The Official Regional Parks Plan No. 2044, and the Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw No. 2173, , contain policies that provide specific direction to regional park operations. The Parks Regulation Bylaw outlines the authority of the General Manager of Community Services, the Parks Operation Supervisor (or Authorized RDCK personnel) and members of the RCMP to enforce the provisions of that bylaw and issue tickets in accordance with the RDCK Municipal Ticketing Information Bylaw. Park operations and maintenance must also comply with the terms of the RDCK covenant with the Agricultural Land Commission as well as other local, provincial and federal regulations, policies and bylaws.

Public safety will be an important element of the RDCK's operational responsibilities. Although each visitor is responsible for his or her own safety while using parklands, the RDCK will be conscious to exercise its duty of care obligations.

The RDCK also places a high value on working with community organizations, interested individuals and park neighbours. The passion and enthusiasm of community organizations and volunteers could be employed for activities such as park patrols, visitor education, environmental monitoring, trail maintenance and invasive weed management. Community stewardship and community partnerships are addressed below to reflect the important role that the community will play in park operations and maintenance.

The following sections of the chapter address key actions related to operating and maintaining the park and implementing the Management Plan. *Figure 5.1 – Operational and Maintenance Responsibilities*, summarizes the preliminary set of responsibilities that will need to be assigned.



**Figure 5.1 Operational and Maintenance Responsibilities**

Operational Responsibilities – Ongoing	Maintenance Responsibilities – Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Plan implementation coordination</li> <li>– Bylaw enforcement</li> <li>– Issuing permits</li> <li>– Overseeing park construction projects</li> <li>– Overseeing community stewardship projects</li> <li>– Overseeing educational programs</li> <li>– Supporting philanthropic initiatives</li> <li>– Staff communications</li> <li>– Intergovernmental communications</li> <li>– Public communications (website etc.)</li> <li>– Volunteer training and coordination</li> <li>– Hazard tree assessments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Parking lot upkeep</li> <li>– Washroom servicing</li> <li>– Garbage/recycling collection</li> <li>– Trail upkeep</li> <li>– Signage upkeep</li> <li>– Fencing upkeep</li> <li>– Invasive weed management</li> <li>– Snow plowing</li> <li>– Security duties</li> <li>– Routine safety inspections</li> </ul>
One-Time Operations Initiatives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Park site hazard assessment</li> <li>– Required assessments associated with the Concept Design and parking lot development (e.g. environmental, geotechnical, survey, etc.)</li> <li>– Five year plan review</li> <li>– Ten year plan review</li> </ul>	



**Figure 5.2 Operational and Maintenance Strategies and Actions**

<b>5.1.1 Roles and Responsibilities</b>	
<p><b>Strategy 1</b> <i>Provide clear definitions of roles and responsibilities for operational and maintenance needs.</i></p>	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Assign the responsibility for coordinating the overall implementation of the Management Plan to the RDCK General Manager of Community Services. - Year 1</li> <li>1.2. Outline the detailed list of operational responsibilities; assign the staff members responsible for overseeing each, utilizing existing structures and processes for service delivery and providing guidance for service levels where appropriate. - Year 1</li> <li>1.3. Assign the staff member or private contractor responsible for maintenance activities and determine service levels as appropriate. - Year 1</li> <li>1.4. Assign a staff member to coordinate a park specific bylaw enforcement schedule. - Year 1</li> </ol>
<b>5.1.2 Public Safety and Duty of Care</b>	
<p><b>Strategy 2</b> <i>Ensure due diligence is exercised in addressing public safety.</i></p>	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Undertake a public safety assessment of the remnants of the Patrick Mill operations within the park site, reduce hazards as appropriate and post warning signage. - Year 1</li> <li>2.2 Request the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations to first undertake an assessment of the Aquatic Crown Land and second, to reduce hazards outside of the park below the high water mark. - Year 1</li> <li>2.3 Work with the Slocan Riverwatch Society to design and post signage warning users about the danger of the river in this location. - Year 1</li> <li>2.4 Encourage the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to improve pedestrian connectivity between the park and adjacent services and amenities. – Year 1</li> <li>2.5 Post signage clearly stating that alcohol is not permitted within the park and encourage the RCMP to implement enforcement programs to prevent impaired driving. – Year 1</li> <li>2.6 Conduct regular hazard tree assessments. Post signage that warns of increased risk of tree fall during windy periods. – Year 1</li> <li>2.7 Ensure contact information is available to the public on signage at the park for users to report hazards, fire and other threats. – Year 1</li> <li>2.8 Develop a schedule for RDCK park safety inspections. – Year 1</li> </ol>
<b>5.1.3 Park Etiquette and Bylaw Enforcement</b>	
<p><b>Strategy 3</b> <i>Educate park patrons about park etiquette and take enforcement action.</i></p>	<p><b>Actions</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1 Develop a bylaw enforcement schedule detailing the time and frequency of bylaw inspections. – Year 1</li> <li>3.2 Target peak user days to host “friendly” park etiquette education sessions with patrons. – Annually</li> <li>3.3 Enhance communication and education with park neighbors on ways to limit their impacts to the park. - Annually</li> <li>3.4 Ensure that park signage and brochures are available and adequately convey park etiquette and park values, including: park history, unique features, biodiversity, and at risk species. – Years 1-3</li> </ol>



<b>5.1.4 Community Engagement</b>	
<p><b><u>Strategy 4</u></b>  <b><i>Engage community stewardship, develop community partnerships and facilitate philanthropic initiatives.</i></b></p>	<p><b><u>Actions</u></b></p> <p>4.1 Continue communications with First Nation representatives and park stakeholders to explore opportunities in the park to interpret native culture and heritage. - Years 1-3</p> <p>4.2 Investigate educational partnerships with local school districts and other opportunities for the park to serve as a venue to connect the region's youth with the natural environment in a hands-on way. - Years 3-4</p> <p>4.3 Continue to update the RDCK website with information about the actions taken to implement the Management Plan. - Ongoing</p> <p>4.4 Support interested organizations in their efforts to raise funds for the implementation of the Management Plan by developing an annual set of priorities for projects that could be funded by philanthropic organizations. - Annually</p> <p>4.5 Engage interested groups to peruse stewardship projects within the park. - Ongoing</p> <p>4.6 Continue communication with adjacent property owners and pursue future parkland donations. - Ongoing</p>
<b>5.1.5 On-going Park Monitoring</b>	
<p><b><u>Strategy 5</u></b>  <b><i>Monitor ecosystem health, levels of recreational use, invasive species, and other park impacts.</i></b></p>	<p><b><u>Actions</u></b></p> <p>5.1 Undertake regular inspections of restoration areas (including decommissioned trails) and make adjustments as necessary to ensure success. - Ongoing</p> <p>5.2 Regularly monitor recreational uses to ensure they are consistent with the Management Plan goals. - Ongoing</p> <p>5.3 Develop a Wildlife Tree Management Plan, including the stratification of natural areas versus developed areas and strategies for allowance and/or creation of future high-value wildlife trees (see Ellis 2011). - Years 1-3)</p> <p>5.4 Hazard trees that are removed from the 30 metre riparian zone should be subject to the provincial tree replacement criteria. - Ongoing</p> <p>5.5 Establish a working relationship with the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) to most effectively manage invasive plants within the park. The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) is in the process of finalizing an invasive species plant management strategy for the Central Kootenay region. The goal of the strategy is to provide a working framework for the coordination of invasive plant management.</p> <p>5.6 Revisit the Management Plan at five years and ten years to ensure the management practices are working effectively and are aligned with the Management Plan goals. - Years 5 and 10</p>



<b>5.1.6 Environmental and Archeological Responsibility</b>	
<p><b><u>Strategy 6</u></b>  <b><i>Ensure due diligence (from an environmental and archeological perspective), is exercised in the build out of the design concept.</i></b></p>	<p><b><u>Actions</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6.1 Engage a geotechnical engineer to conduct a geotechnical assessment of the parking lot area. – Year 1</li> <li>6.2 Engage an archeologist to identify impacts of the proposed design concept and to mitigate risk during construction. Likely works include capping of the trail network and test excavations of the parking lot and day use areas (see Choquette 2012). – Year 1</li> <li>6.3 Ensure the build out of the Design Concept is constructed following previous archaeological recommendations put forth in Choquette (2012). Year 1</li> <li>6.4 Engage an environmental professional (e.g. Registered Professional Biologist) to conduct an environmental impact assessment of the proposed parking lots and final design concept. Year 1</li> <li>6.5 Ensure that the Design Concept is constructed following best management practices and is consistent with the Provincial Develop With Care: Environmental Guidelines <a href="http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare/Year_1">http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare/Year_1</a></li> <li>6.6 Prioritize storm water management and surface water runoff to ensure that the Slokan River is not impacted. Limit the amount of impervious surfaces and compacted soils. Year 1</li> <li>6.7 Consider habitat enhancement opportunities to offset habitat losses from the parking lot. Years 1-3</li> <li>6.8 Encourage retention of the natural ground cover (including trees) to maintain the range of flora, fauna and community types. Ongoing</li> </ol>



## Chapter 6 - Implementation Plan

Figures 6.1 through 6.3, *Costing for Implementation of Concept Design, Operational and Maintenance Responsibilities*, provides estimated costs for the Design Concept development items, and ongoing operational and maintenance responsibilities over the next ten years. These preliminary cost estimates will become more accurate with further design work and site assessments. Based on the estimates provided, the capital investment needed to undertake the Design Concept is approximately \$611,400. Although this budget is allocated over ten years, \$333,000 is slated for the short-term (years 1-3), \$114,000 for the medium term (years 4-7) and \$62,500 for the long term (years 8-10). Short-term work focuses on parking lot improvements, park boundary signage, screening/fencing, the construction of washroom facilities, and upgrades to the trail network. Medium term priorities include development of the day use area, heritage site improvements and implementation of an interpretation signage plan. Development of a playground and another washroom facility within the day use area is slated to occur over the long term. A 20% contingency has also been added to cover unforeseen costs.

The operational and maintenance costs are estimated at \$262,050 over the ten-year period, with spending distributed much more consistently throughout the Management Plan period. Therefore, the total estimated 10 year capital and operating costs for Crescent Valley Beach is approximately \$873,450. Implementation of these works over the timeline specified is dependent on staffing capacity and on the availability of funding. The outlined costs are only inclusive of development items within the park boundary. Possible funding sources include taxation, donations, grants (e.g. community works funding), fundraising, and in kind work. Possible funding organizations may include the National Hockey League or recreational groups including rafting/outdoor adventure organizations.

Additional costs are expected to be incurred by other governmental agencies. For example, the parking lot improvement will require additional work outside of the park including the creation of a slip lane on Highway 6, shoulder improvements and the installation of ditch and drainage. It is expected that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure will be responsible for these improvements.



**Figure 6.1 - Costing for Implementation of Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park Concept Design**

Development Plan Items	Cost	Short Term (Years 1-3)			Medium Term (Years 4-7)				Long Term (Years 8-10)			Yr. 1-10 Total
		year 1	year 2	year 3	year 4	year 5	year 6	year 7	year 8	year 9	year 10	
<b>Upgrade of parking lot (as per conceptual plan)</b>												
Final parking lot design and administrative costs	\$35,000.00	\$35,000										
Capital cost to upgrade Lot 1 (inclusive of asphalt and subbase gravels, concrete parking barriers, and swales/rock pits for drainage)	\$75,000.00	\$75,000										
Detailed survey of the parking lot (emphasis on Lot 2 areas)	\$4,000.00		\$4,000									
Geotechnical assessment of parking lot areas prior to construction	\$5,000.00	\$5,000										
Environmental assessment of final parking lot design prior to construction	\$3,500.00	\$3,500										
Archeological monitoring of parking lot construction	\$1,500.00		\$1,500									
Capital cost to upgrade Lot 2 (inclusive of clearing and grubbing, topsoil removal and stockpiling for re-use, earthworks and subgrade preparation, asphalt and subbase gravels, concrete parking barriers, and swales/rock pits for drainage)	\$110,000.00		\$110,000									
Installation of a primary access gate	\$3,500.00					\$3,500						
Installation of a secondary access gate at Lot 2	\$3,500.00			\$3,500								
Installation of fencing along the southern and western boundaries of parking lot 2	\$3,500.00			\$3,500								
Installation of two bear aware trash receptacles (includes concrete slab)	\$5,000.00	\$2,500		\$2,500								
Planting and revegetation associated with parking lot disturbance and establishment of a vegetated buffer as per ALR requirements	\$20,000.00			\$20,000								
<b>\$269,500.00</b>												
<b>Install two washroom buildings adjacent to Lot 1</b>												
Design and administrative costs	\$500.00			\$500								
Capital cost to supply and install two washroom buildings (as per RDCK supplied design)	\$25,000.00			\$25,000								
<b>\$25,500.00</b>												
<b>Development of day use area</b>												
Design and administrative costs	\$5,000.00					\$5,000						
Removal of herbaceous vegetation and weedy topsoil, surface grading, new topsoil and hydroseeding	\$7,500.00					\$7,500						
Playground (includes basic structure and safety surfacing)	\$50,000.00								\$50,000			
Day-Use Area Shelter - as per RDCK design, includes piles and gravel pad	\$23,000.00						\$23,000					
Eight wood picnic tables (includes concrete slab)	\$12,000.00					\$12,000						
Install a bear aware trash receptacle (includes concrete slab)	\$2,500.00					\$2,500						
Capital cost to supply and install a unisex washroom building (as per RDCK supplied design) in the day use area	\$12,500.00										\$12,500	
<b>\$112,500.00</b>												
<b>Upgrade of trail network and establishment of 5 m buffer</b>												
Design and administrative costs	\$1,500.00		\$1,500									
2.5 m aggregate surfacing (125 lm)	\$8,500.00		\$8,500									
1.5 m existing trail upgrades (aggregate/mulch surfacing) (310 lm)	\$8,200.00		\$8,200									
1.5 m - width new trail construction (540 lm)	\$21,800.00		\$21,800									
Stairs to connect day use area to heritage site and parking lot 2	\$6,000.00					\$3,000	\$3,000					
Install three benches along trail network	\$4,500.00				\$4,500							
Decommissioning and re-vegetation of approximately 150 m of trail	\$1,500.00		\$1,500									
Fencing along northern and western park boundary as per ALR requirements (300 lm)	\$15,000.00				\$15,000							
<b>\$67,000.00</b>												
<b>Heritage Site Improvements</b>												
Hazard assessment	\$2,000.00				\$2,000							
Exposure of the beehive burner and other enhancements of heritage features	\$3,000.00				\$3,000							
Removal of graffiti from boiler tower	\$2,500.00				\$2,500							
<b>\$7,500.00</b>												
<b>Signage Plan</b>												
Design and administrative costs	\$5,000.00						\$5,000					
Capital cost to supply and install two park turn off signs	\$1,000.00						\$1,000					
Capital cost to supply and install a custom park entry sign	\$2,500.00							\$2,500				
Capital cost to supply and install wayfinding signage including two Park Map / Main Trailhead (design and construction) and eight markers	\$9,000.00							\$9,000				
Capital cost to supply and install four interpretive signs	\$8,000.00							\$8,000				
Capital cost to supply and install eight regulatory signs	\$2,000.00							\$2,000				
<b>\$27,500.00</b>												
		<b>\$121,000</b>	<b>\$157,000</b>	<b>\$55,000</b>	<b>\$27,000</b>	<b>\$33,500</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>	<b>\$21,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	<b>\$509,500</b>
<b>Contingency (20%)</b>												<b>\$101,900</b>
<b>TOTAL 10 YEAR CAPITAL COST ESTIMATE</b>												<b>\$611,400</b>



Figure 6.2 - Costing for Operational Responsibilities

Operational Responsibilities - Ongoing	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Yr. 1-10 Total
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	
Plan implementation (coordination, capital project management, oversight of restoration/stewardship projects, preparation of on-time reports (e.g. wildlife tree management plan), initiation of partnerships, intergovernmental communications)	\$7,000	\$15,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$45,000
Public Safety Assessment of the park, including Heritage Features	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Archeological assessment or comment on the dayuse area and trail development within the park	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Danger Tree Assessment and Regular Monitoring	\$1,500	\$500	\$1,500	\$500	\$1,500	\$500	\$1,500	\$500	\$1,500	\$500	\$10,000
Park Specific Public Communications (website, brochures, etc.)	\$500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$6,500
Bylaw enforcement	\$0	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$29,250
Five/Ten-Year Management Plan Review	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$10,000
	\$9,000	\$24,750	\$12,750	\$16,750	\$11,750	\$5,750	\$6,750	\$5,750	\$6,750	\$10,750	\$110,750
<b>TOTAL 10 YEAR OPERATIONAL COST ESTIMATE</b>											<b>\$110,750</b>

Figure 6.3 - Costing for Maintenance Responsibilities

Maintenance Responsibilities - Ongoing	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Yr. 1-10 Total
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	
Park upkeep and garbage removal	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$107,000
Washroom servicing	\$0	\$0	\$600	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$9,300
Trail upkeep	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$7,000
Maintenance of day use area (including summer mowing)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$12,000
Signage and fencing upkeep	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$1,000
Snow plowing of lot 1	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$15,000
	\$12,200	\$12,200	\$12,800	\$14,400	\$16,400	\$16,400	\$16,400	\$16,900	\$16,400	\$17,200	\$151,300
<b>TOTAL 10 YEAR MAINTENANCE COST ESTIMATE</b>											<b>\$151,300</b>

<b>TOTAL 10 YEAR CAPITAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COST ESTIMATE</b>											<b>\$873,450</b>
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## **Appendix A: Crescent Valley Beach Management Plan Summary Table**



Management Challenge and/or Identified Issue	Comments	Importance Level	Recommendation	Related Plan Goal	Suggested Timeframe	Capital Cost	Operating Cost (over 10 years)
Road Safety	The current undeveloped parking area off the shoulder of Highway 6 includes space for approximately 15 vehicles. During summer months, visitor parking fills quickly and spills out north and south onto the highway right-of-way owned and managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, creating dangerous conditions for highway drivers and park visitors climbing in and out of vehicles, often with river craft in hand. Pedestrians travelling to and from the park to services north of the park must also find their way around cars parked along the highway.	Very High	The design concept includes two distinct parking lots. A smaller front lot (Lot 1) will be located within the current undeveloped parking area and will accommodate 11 parking stalls for cars and trucks only. A larger, unpaved back parking lot will extend along the northern park boundary (Lot 2). Lot 2 has been designed with 7 oversized vehicle spaces and 51 regular sized parking spaces. The whole parking lot design (Lots 1 and 2) will accommodate 69 spaces in total.	Goals 1 and 3 - Align Park Facilities and Services with Visitor Needs, and Enhance Visitor Safety Throughout the Park	Parking Lot Upgrades - <i>Short-term (1-3 years)</i>	\$269,500	n/a
River Safety	The Aquatic Crown Land owned and managed by the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources Operations, south of the park, includes a number of remains from the Patrick Mill operations. In high water, remains are buried or partly buried underwater. Hazards vary from stands of old pylons to underwater concrete, metal and screws at the popular swimming hole. The river also presents challenges for swimmers and those seeking the whitewater. Exiting the river from upstream requires kayakers, canoeists and rafters to avoid the pylons. Those not able to handle Class Two and Three rapids downstream must also exit the river to avoid extending themselves beyond their ability.	Very High	Request the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations to first undertake an assessment of the Aquatic Crown Land and second, to reduce hazards outside of the park below the high water mark.	Goal 3 - Enhance Visitor Safety throughout the Park	Intergovernmental Communications - <i>Short-term (1-3 years)</i>	n/a	\$1,000
Hazardous Trees	The park, includes black cottonwood and other broadleaf trees that may act as potential hazards, especially during periods of high wind. Large branches or whole trees can fall and may be a threat to park users. The difficulty, however, is that many of these trees also provide valuable wildlife habitat. As an example, the Western Screech-Owl ( <i>Megascops kennicottii macfarlanei</i> ) is known to nest in black cottonwood, has been documented within close proximity to the park, and is a federally and provincially endangered species.	Very High	The following management priorities should be undertaken to address hazard trees: a. Regularly monitor and identify hazard trees b. Develop a Wildlife Tree Management Plan, including the stratification of natural areas versus developed areas and strategies for allowance and/or creation of future high-value wildlife trees c. If a hazardous tree is removed from the 30 m streamside protection and enhancement area of the Slocan River, replacement trees should be installed following the provincial tree replacement criteria within identified restoration zones or other acceptable locations	Goals 3 and 4 - Enhance Visitor Safety throughout the Park and Balance Park Use with Impacts on the Environment	a. Tree Monitoring - <i>On-going</i> b. Wildlife Tree Management Plan - <i>Short-term (1-3 years)</i> c. Tree replacement as per the provincial tree replacement criteria - <i>ongoing</i>	n/a	a. \$10,000; b. \$3,000 c. \$2,000
Alcohol Use	Although, alcohol consumption is not permitted within the park or on Crown land, some visitors disregard this rule or consume it while on the river. During the time the land was privately owned, some visitors grew accustomed to such uses. Some attribute unruly behaviour in the park to the use of alcohol and intoxication and note that such activities make the park environment unattractive for families. Park bylaws prohibit alcohol use; currently, bylaw staff are not assigned to enforce park bylaws. The RCMP are responsible for enforcement of traffic safety laws.	Very High	Post signage clearly stating that alcohol is not permitted within the park and encourage the RCMP to implement enforcement programs to prevent impaired driving.	Goal 3 - Enhance Visitor Safety throughout the Park	a. Regulatory Signage - <i>Short-term (1-3 years)</i> ; b. Intergovernmental Communication - <i>ongoing</i>	a. inclusive within the signage plan	b. \$1,000
Communication with Neighbours	Park neighbours, were very interested in the process and outcomes of the Park Management Plan, and will be equally interested in aspects of implementation.	High	It will be important to continue to provide interested individuals and community groups with access to information (i.e., website updates, brochures, letters, etc.) as the various aspects of the Plan are implemented.	Goal 6 - Respect Neighbouring Residents	a. Communication - <i>ongoing</i>	n/a	a. \$4000

Management Challenge and/or Identified Issue	Comments	Importance Level	Recommendation	Related Plan Goal	Suggested Timeframe	Capital Cost	Operating Cost (over 10 years)
Heritage Preservation	The remains of the Patrick Mill site are located both within the park and below the high water level of the Slocan River. These features provide an interesting opportunity to learn about the history of the park and the Patrick family and more generally, they contribute to the unique identity of the area and the history of the Province. The old boiler tower, unfortunately, is tagged with graffiti. Other features are overgrown and beyond activity areas, providing some level of protection. The mill remains may require a higher level of protection from park visitors.	High	Works will be undertaken to improve the current condition of the heritage features (i.e. site clean-up, graffiti removal, etc.). The goal is to better manage the heritage landscape to create a positive impact through education with interpretive signage. A public safety assessment of the remains of the Patrick Mill operations within the park should also be undertaken to ensure safety for park visitors. Hazards should be reduced and warning signage posted as necessary.	Goal 5 - Recognize the Cultural and Historical Values of the Park	a. Site Heritage Improvements - <i>Medium-term (4-7 yrs)</i> b. Public Safety Assessment - <i>Short-term (1-3 yrs)</i> c. Signage - <i>medium-term(4-7 yrs)</i>	a. \$7,500 c. inclusive within the signage plan	b. \$3,500
Human-Wildlife Conflict	Human/wildlife conflict is defined as any interaction between wildlife and humans which causes harm, whether it's to the human, the wild animal, or property.	High	The following management priorities should be undertaken to reduce human-wildlife conflict: a. Installation of additional bear proof garbage cans. b. Installation of signage within the park that informs park users of proper conduct when encountering wildlife.	Goal 4 - Balance Park Use with Impacts on the Environment	a. Bear proof garbage cans - <i>Short to Medium-term (1-7 years)</i> b. Regulatory signs - <i>Short to Medium-term (1-7 years)</i>	a. \$7,500 for bear proof garbage cans b. inclusive within the signage plan	n/a
Intensive use by park visitors	Intensive recreational use by park users has the potential to affect the biological biodiversity of the park and the protection of key habitat known to support plants, vertebrates and invertebrates at risk of becoming locally or globally extinct.	High	There is a need to balance recreational use of the park with habitat protection. Park management zones are established to direct recreational activities to appropriate areas and to ensure that a portion of the park is actively managed as natural habitat for the benefit of wildlife. To this end, the majority of the park area is designated as Natural Environment and recreation is limited to designated trails and the day use area.	Goal 4 - Balance Park Use with Impacts on the Environment	Plan Implementation - <i>Immediately</i>	n/a	\$45,000
Limited signage within the park	In general, the existing signage within the park is poor. There is one park sign near the existing parking lot, but there are no other signs within the park.	High	The Signage Plan for the park includes wayfinding, regulatory, and interpretive signs that will be incorporated to further establish park rules and to enhance the user experience.	Goal 1 - Align Park Facilities and Services	Signage Plan <i>Medium Term (4-7 years)</i>	\$27,500	n/a
Off-leash Dogs	Uncontrolled off-leash dogs can cause numerous problems including harassment of wildlife, disruption of ground level nesting birds, spread of invasive plants, trampling of native vegetation, degradation of aquatic ecosystems, and conflicts with other park users.	High	Given the environmental sensitivities of Crescent Valley Beach, off-leash dogs should not be allowed within the park. Park users should be informed via signage and education. Bylaw enforcement should also be undertaken to ensure compliance.	Goal 4 - Balance Park Use with Impacts on the Environment	a. Signage - <i>Medium Term (4-7 years)</i> b. Bylaw Enforcement - <i>ongoing</i>	n/a	\$29, 250
Park Litter, Cleanliness and Dumping	Litter, including bottles and cans, is a challenge within the park, particularly during peak summer months when the volume of users is high.	High	Signage indicating proper conduct within the park should be posted, as well as increased bylaw enforcement. Finally, staff resources are needed to ensure the park is kept clean and free of garbage during peak times.	Goal 1 - Align Park Facilities and Services	a. Signage - <i>Short to Medium Term (1-7 years)</i> b. Bylaw Enforcement - <i>ongoing</i> c. Park upkeep and garbage removal - <i>ongoing</i>	a. inclusive within the signage plan	b. inclusive within bylaw enforcement c. \$107,000

Management Challenge and/or Identified Issue	Comments	Importance Level	Recommendation	Related Plan Goal	Suggested Timeframe	Capital Cost	Operating Cost (over 10 years)
Plan Monitoring and Review	The park management plan is the key tool to guide decision-making for Balfour Beach.	High	Five and ten year reviews of the plan are important to determine the effectiveness of the plan in achieving goals and addressing management challenges.	Goal 7 - Engage Park Stewards	a. Plan Review - <i>periodic</i>	n/a	a. \$10,000
Protection of Archeological Resources	Provincial regulations and best practices require that the park be managed in such a way that park development does not impact cultural resources and values.	High	Opportunities will be explored for the park to raise awareness through the signage plan about First Nations' spiritual, social, cultural, and economic relationships to the land within the region. The park design will be limited as to not disturb archeological features and an archeological assessment will be undertaken prior to disturbing the ground.	Goal 5 - Recognize the Cultural and Historical Values of the Park	a) Archeological assessment - <i>Short to Medium-term</i>	a. \$5000	n/a
Invasive Weed Management	The mixed use of the park leads to the potential for weed establishment and encroachment from surrounding agricultural areas. Non-native plants are well established within the park. Active weed management is necessary to adequately control invasive plants.	Moderate	The Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Committee (CKIPC) is in the process of finalizing an invasive species plant management strategy for the Central Kootenay region. The goal of the strategy is to provide a working framework for the coordination of invasive plant management. RDCK staff should establish a working relationship with the CKIPC to most effectively manage invasive plants within the park.	Goal 4 - Balance Park Use with Impacts on the Environment	Implementation of Management plan - <i>Immediately</i>	n/a	inclusive within plan implementation
Unsanctioned Trail Use	The existing trail network within the park has not been formalized.	Moderate	The concept design includes the improvement of existing trails, the creation of new trails, and the decommissioning of redundant or non-essential trails. Once the trail network has been formalized, it should be regularly monitored to ensure that additional unsanctioned trails are not established over time.	Goal 2 - Improve Park Amenities to Enhance the Visitor Experience	a. Formalization of trail network <i>Short-term (1-3 years)</i> b. Danger tree assessment and regular monitoring - <i>ongoing</i>	a. \$67,000	\$10,000
Encroachment by surrounding residents	The park boundaries are not clearly defined and residential neighbors have encroached into the park in some locations. Documented activities include storage of personal items.	Moderate	The following management priorities should be undertaken to reduce encroachment by park neighbours: a. Installation of park boundary signs at key locations b. Enhance communication and education with park neighbors on ways to limit their impacts to the park	Goal 6 - Respect Neighbouring Residents	a. Signs - <i>Medium-term (4-7 years)</i> b. Park specific communication <i>Annually</i>	a. inclusive within the signage plan	b. \$6,500
Stewardship	The local community, local businesses and interested community groups will be encouraged to participate in aspects of park stewardship and plan implementation.	Moderate	Actions will be identified that the community can pursue to support environmental well-being, species at risk and a healthy riparian area.	Goal 7 - Engage Park Stewards	a. Communication - <i>periodic</i>	n/a	a. \$2,000

## **Appendix B: Crescent Valley Beach: Public Involvement Plan**



# Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park Management Plan Project Public Involvement Plan Summary

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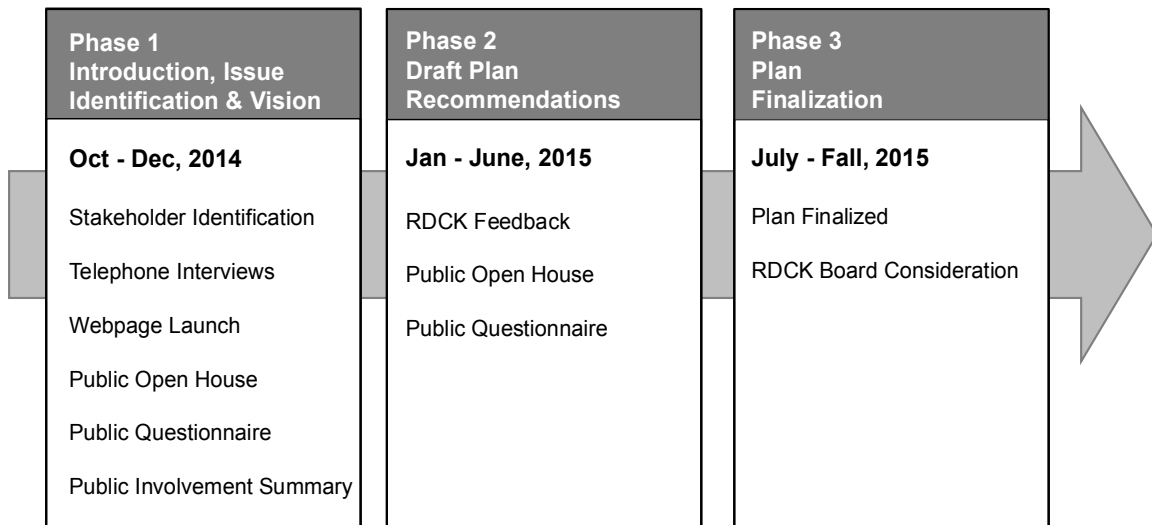
## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Public Involvement Plan for the Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park management plan project was designed to engage residents of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK), specifically those living in the adjacent communities. The Public Involvement Plan also sought to generate feedback on key project decisions from the RDCK's Community Services and Development Services Departments and other interested government and non-government organizations. The following document outlines the public involvement process, the range of interested organizations, the communication and notification methods and the input received from participants.

## 2.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN PROCESS

The Public Involvement Plan was implemented through three phases, over the course of approximately ten months. Implementation began in October 2014 and was complete in the fall of 2015. *Figure 1.0 – Public Involvement Process*, provides a high level view of the process.

**Figure 1.0 – Public Involvement Process**



### 2.1 Phase 1: Introduction, Issue Identification and Vision Development

Phase 1 of the public involvement process took place between October and December 2014. This phase focused on identifying stakeholders and introducing these groups and individuals to the park and the management plan process. The project team established a website, contacted stakeholder organizations and conducted a number of telephone interviews to build their understanding of the interests of potential stakeholders.

A public open house was held on November 6, 2014, to explore the issues and challenges that participants believe to be central to the management plan and to understand participants' visions for the future of the park. The format for the open house included the display of a series of presentation boards. Seven project representatives were on hand to guide attendees

through the boards and to answer questions. Project representatives gathered verbal feedback and questionnaires were available for participants to complete. The open house presentation boards and questionnaire were also posted online on the project website (<http://www.rdck.ca/EN/main/services/parks/park-management-plan.html>).

## **2.2 Phase 2: Draft Plan Recommendations**

Phase 2 of the Public Involvement Plan took place in the spring of 2015. In anticipation of the Phase 2 public involvement events, a long-term park vision, a set of 10-year management goals and a draft management plan was prepared. The development of these materials was informed by the:

- feedback gathered from the Phase 1 public involvement events
- environmental and other site-specific research
- direction set by the original intent of the Crescent Valley Beach land donation
- current and historic park uses
- regional and provincial regulations affecting the use of the land, and
- research on best practices in park management.

The vision, goals and draft management plan, was presented for discussion and feedback to the RDCK project management staff. Stakeholder organizations were circulated the draft plan and RDCK residents were invited to find out more about the recommendations and provide their feedback through questionnaire and a second open house held on June 23, 2015. The questionnaire was available to complete at the open house as well as online.

## **2.3 Phase 3: Plan Finalization**

During Phase 3 of the public involvement process, the project team will finalized the development of the management plan. The plan was submitted to the RDCK project management team and posted on the RDCK website for stakeholder organizations and the public to provide final comments. Final comments and the management plan will be presented to the RDCK Board of Directors for consideration in the fall of 2015.

## **3.0 PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS**

### **3.1 RDCK Project Resource and Management Team**

The RDCK project resource and management team included the RDCK's:

- General Manager of Development Services, Sangita Sudan
- General Manager of Community Services, Joe Chirico
- Parks Operations Supervisor, Cary Gaynor
- Planning Manager, Meeri Durand; and
- Planner, Mark Crowe
- Manager of Recreation, Jim Crockett

The resource and management team was a central focus for consultation and reporting activities throughout each phase of the management plan project. The RDCK had significant knowledge to bring to the project and a significant interest and investment in the outcome of

the management plan. The RDCK Board of Directors makes park policy and budget decisions for the park.

### **3.2 Potential Stakeholders**

In further developing the initial list of individuals and organizations that could be interested in the management plan, consideration was given to what was known about the central focus of the project and the scope of the project decisions. The following points touch on some of the considerations that contributed to the development of the initial stakeholder list.

- As a public entity, the actions and investments of the RDCK in parks and other services are of interest to local residents. The RDCK staff and the RDCK Board of Directors are accountable to the public and have an interest in identifying and responding to public needs.
- The RDCK is committed to working and communicating effectively with other government bodies and agencies (e.g., federal, provincial, municipal, First Nations, etc.). Provincial ministries, agencies and commissions could have important decision-making roles on specific aspects of the management plan implementation (i.e, the Agricultural Land Commission). The RDCK follows provincial processes for consultation with First Nations and will apply these processes throughout the project.
- Previous decisions and the direction established within existing RDCK policy documents will also shape the management plan and impact the scope of consultation (e.g., Official Regional Parks Plan Bylaw 2044, and the Slokan, Silverton, New Denver and Electoral Area H Regional Parks Extended Service Area Bylaw No. 875, 1991).
- Although the overall project is complex, ensuring highway safety and the safety of park patrons through construction of on-site parking is a central focus of the project. Equally important is the approach to balancing environmental and wildlife protection with desires for active recreational uses and passive recreational uses in the park. Planning for the operational and maintenance needs of the park will also be important.
- A number of stakeholder groups could be interested in participating in the project due to the park's popularity and wide recognition as a destination for patrons enjoying river water sports. Many users also enjoy the park's atmosphere all year round for walking, hiking and dog walking.
- The public involvement process could provide opportunities to grow a resource of organizations interested in on-going stewardship of the park.

### 3.3 Interested Organizations

Over 40 government and non-government organizations were approached at the onset of the public involvement process to assess their interest in participating in public involvement events and to understand their desired level and method of involvement. *Figure 2.0 – Stakeholder Consultation and Information*, lists those organizations participating in the public involvement process and those circulated project information.

**Figure 2.0: Stakeholder Consultation and Information**

Organizations Participating in Phase One Consultation	Additional Organizations Circulated Project Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Agricultural Land Commission</li> <li>– Borderline Boaters, West Kootenay</li> <li>– Columbia Power Corporation</li> <li>– Crescent Valley Fire Department</li> <li>– Endless Adventure Rafting</li> <li>– Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program</li> <li>– Kootenay Lake School District 8</li> <li>– Ministry of Environment, Environmental Protection</li> <li>– Ministry of Environment, Fish and Habitat</li> <li>– Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resources Operations, Regional Operations Division</li> <li>– Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure</li> <li>– Nelson Kayak and Canoe Club</li> <li>– Nelson Whitewater Rafting</li> <li>– Provincial Agricultural Land Commission</li> <li>– Regional District of Central Kootenay</li> <li>– Slokan District Chamber of Commerce</li> <li>– Slokan River Streamkeeper</li> <li>– Slokan Riverwatch</li> <li>– Slokan Valley Economic Development Commission</li> <li>– Slokan Valley Rail Trail</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Adams Lake Indian Band</li> <li>– Akisqnuq First Nation</li> <li>– Columbia Basin Trust</li> <li>– Interior Health Authority</li> <li>– Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Agency</li> <li>– Land Donor</li> <li>– Lower Kootenay Band</li> <li>– Lower Similkameen Indian Band</li> <li>– Ministry of Energy and Mines</li> <li>– Neskonlith Indian Band</li> <li>– Okanagan Indian Band</li> <li>– Okanagan Nation Alliance</li> <li>– Osoyoos Indian Band</li> <li>– Penticton Indian Band</li> <li>– Secwepemc Nation</li> <li>– Shuswap Indian Band</li> <li>– Splots'in First Nation</li> <li>– St. Mary's Indian Band</li> <li>– Tobacco Plains Indian Band</li> <li>– Upper Nicola Band</li> <li>– West Kootenay Invasive Weed Council</li> </ul>

### 3.4 RDCK Residents and Park Neighbours

Residents of the RDCK were invited to participate in the project through the public open house events, open house one-on-one discussions with hosts, open house questionnaires and/or through online questionnaires. Approximately 40 people participated in the Phase 1 open house and approximately 35 people participated in the Phase 2 open house. Seventy questionnaires were completed in Phase 1 and 31 questionnaires were completed in Phase 2. *Figure 3.0, Project Notification and Participation*, lists the public involvement events, the feedback tools, the communication notification methods and the levels of participation achieved.

**Figure 3.0: Project Notification and Participation**

Public Involvement Events		Notification Methods		PARTICIPATION	Stakeholder Organizations Phone Interviews/Emails	Surrounding Residents Direct Mail and Email Contact List	RDCK Website Update	RDCK Press Releases/PSAs	RDCK Facebook/Twitter	Pennywise –Slocan/Castlegar ed. Advertisement	Nelson Star Advertisement	Kootenay Morning Radio News Story	Castlegar News Article	The Goat FM	Poster in Local Gas Station & Grocery Store
<b>Phase 1</b>															
October (2014)	Project Introduction Outreach Website Launch	n/a	✓	✓	✓										
Oct/Nov (2014)	Website Questionnaire Launch	70		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Public Open House	40													
Nov (2014)	Questionnaire Reminder	n/a			✓	✓	✓								
<b>Phase 2</b>															
June (2015)	Website Update & Questionnaire	31		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	Public Open House	35													
<b>Phase 3</b>															
Fall (2015)	Draft Plan Posted Board Consideration			✓	✓	✓	✓								

## **4.0 PHASE 1 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OUTCOMES - KEY DIRECTIONS**

### **4.1 Phase 1: Comment Themes**

Through Phase 1 (Introduction, Issue Identification and Vision Development) of the public involvement process, the project team received a series of detailed comments from participants. All of the comments were reviewed and considered by the project team. The following sections summarize the key comment themes heard through Phase 1. It is important to acknowledge, in some of these areas, a range of opinions was expressed and there was not unanimous agreement. It should also be noted that some of the themes raise competing objectives.

#### ***Theme A: Improve Parking Conditions***

Participants strongly emphasized the need to improve parking conditions to ensure vehicles are not parked along the adjacent highway. The on-site parking concepts proposed at the open house were welcomed by participants, although some indicated the number of spaces should be increased, and that there should be measures in place to ensure no overnight RV camping takes place.

#### ***Theme B: Keep the Park Clean***

Participants felt strongly that washroom facilities were needed to serve park patrons and keep the park clean. Garbage receptacles, regular garbage collection and efforts to ensure dog owners are cleaning up after their pets were also noted as important aspects of park operations.

#### ***Theme C: Dogs***

Participants expressed a wide range of views about dogs in the park. Some believed that dogs should be kept out of the park completely due to their potential to disturb other users, to damage wildlife habitat as well as the failure of some owners to clean up after their pets. Others expressed strong desires for a dog-friendly approach including more relaxed rules and an off-leash dog area. One suggestion was made to consider a seasonal approach to dog regulations, allowing off-leash dogs, except during busy summer months.

#### ***Theme D: Support River Sports***

During the summer months, the park is used by many as an access and staging point for kayaks, canoes, rafts and tubes. Such users desire unobstructed access to the water and a good launch site. Related suggestions were also made to plan for a modified whitewater feature for a slalom course and freestyle training area.

#### ***Theme E: Environmental Stewardship***

The importance of environmental stewardship and supporting the natural beauty of the park was expressed by many participants. Considering the volume of summer visitors, some participants were looking to the RDCK to manage the impacts of these users on the park, others encouraged stewardship through efforts to enlist community schools and other locals in park caretaking. Many expressed the desire for the park to remain as natural as possible. Caution was expressed specifically in relation to the black cottonwood trees. These trees provide important habitat and should be carefully considered when assessing public safety hazards and

the location of trails and public accesses. Concern was also expressed in relation to the park's value as habitat for the western screech owl, great blue heron, western skink, northern rubber boa and harlequin duck. Some participants noted these species are being displaced during the breeding season by the congestion of the park.

### ***Other Points of Interest***

The following points, although they did not develop into common themes, were also of note.

- Highlight the history of the land (i.e., Mill Site, Patrick Brothers History).
- Add a crosswalk to the Endless Adventure and Evergreen services.
- Incorporate a waterfall site/river access into the parking lot design for the Crescent Valley Fire Department.
- Impaired drivers leaving the park area a concern concern.
- Keep the homeowner on the edge of the property protected from the noise and view of the parking.

## **4.2 Phase 1: Questionnaire Results**

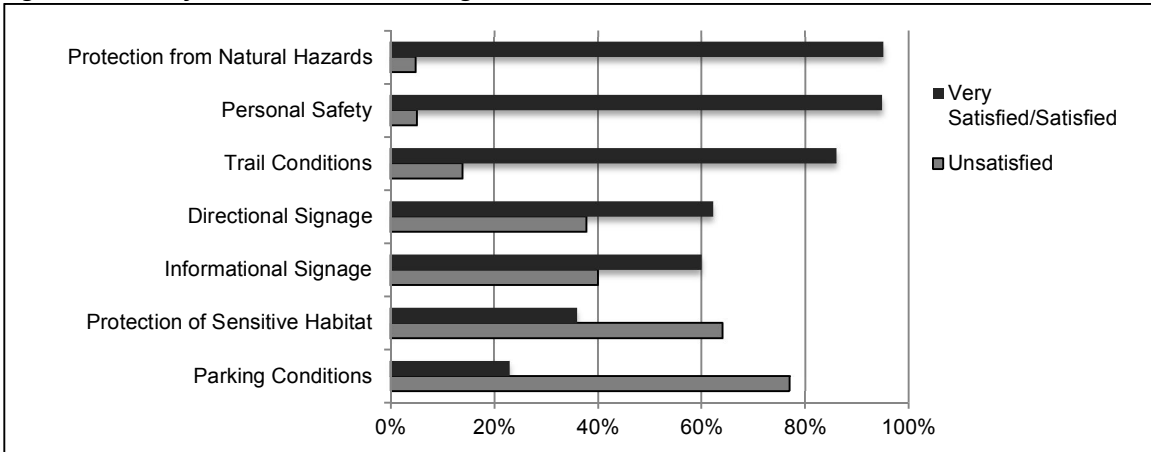
Throughout the introductory phase of the project, a public questionnaire was made available on the project website for interested individuals to complete. Residents within the RDCK were made aware of this opportunity through the RDCK's social media channels, press releases and paid advertising. The majority of those in attendance at the November 6, 2014, public open house also completed the questionnaire. The questionnaire received a total of 70 responses.

Respondents largely represented the communities of the Slocan Valley (70%), with the largest share of respondents living in Crescent Valley itself (38%). Other respondents lived in Nelson, Castlegar or Bonnington. The majority had very good knowledge of the park. Almost 60% had visited the park more than 10 times over the past two years. The most popular park activities included walking, hiking and swimming; however, patrons also used the park for a wide range of other activities, including nature appreciation, boating, kayaking, canoeing, tubing, whitewater rafting, paddle boarding, fishing, dog walking, picnicking, research, bonfires and park clean up.

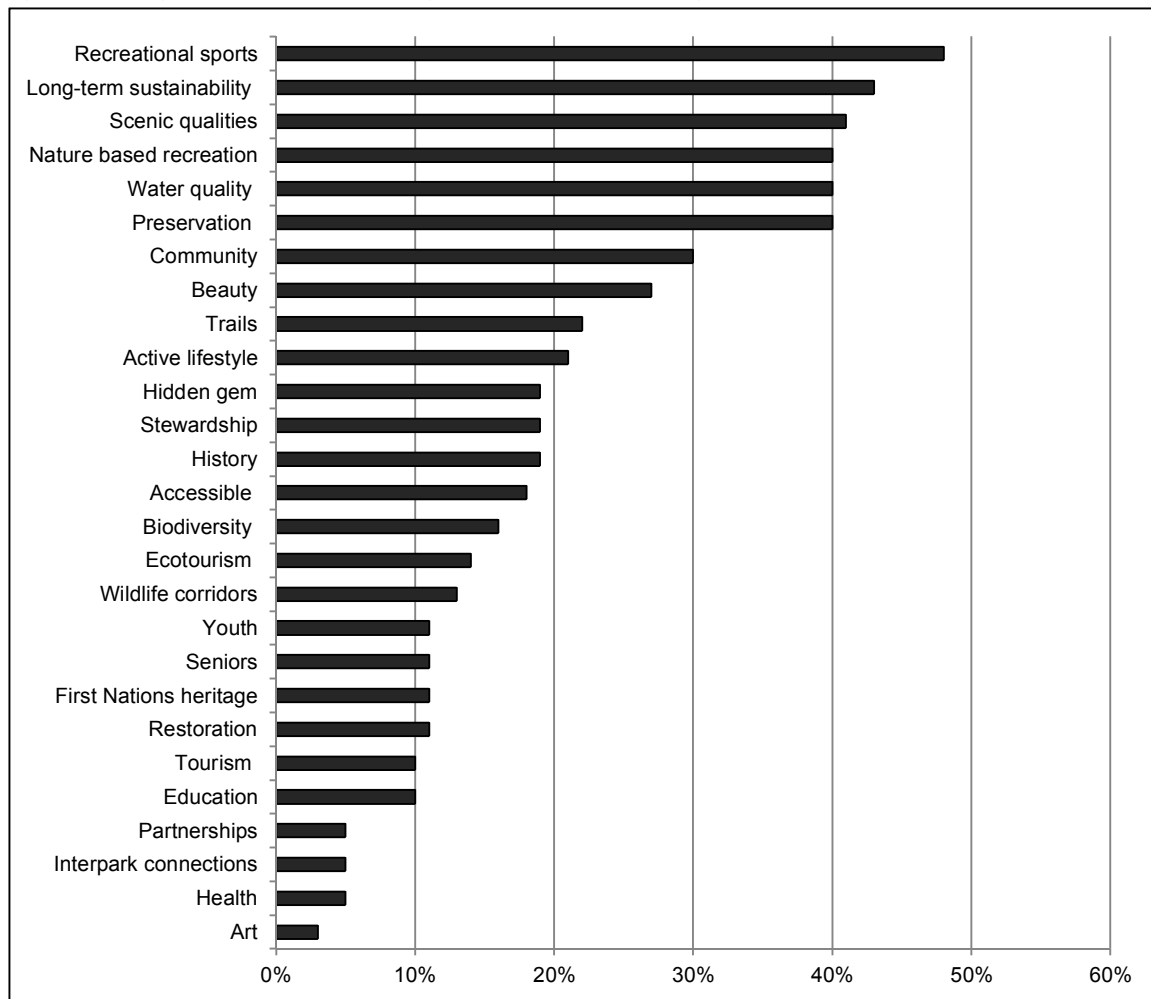
Ninety five percent of the respondents were generally "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with their sense of personal safety and protection from natural hazards, and 86% were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the condition of hiking trails. Sixty two percent of patrons were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the directional signage and 60% were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the informational signage. Respondents were least satisfied with existing measures to protect sensitive natural habitat from park users, and with the existing parking conditions. Sixty four percent of responded were unsatisfied with measures to protect the park and 77% were unsatisfied with parking conditions. *Figure 4.0 – Satisfaction Levels with Existing Conditions*, provides the questionnaire results of those who expressed opinions about existing conditions.

Respondents were to identify five words and phrases they believed to be important to developing a vision for the park. *Figure 4.1 – Top Words and Phrases Important to Vision Development*, sets out the response.

**Figure 4.0 - Satisfaction Level with Existing Conditions**



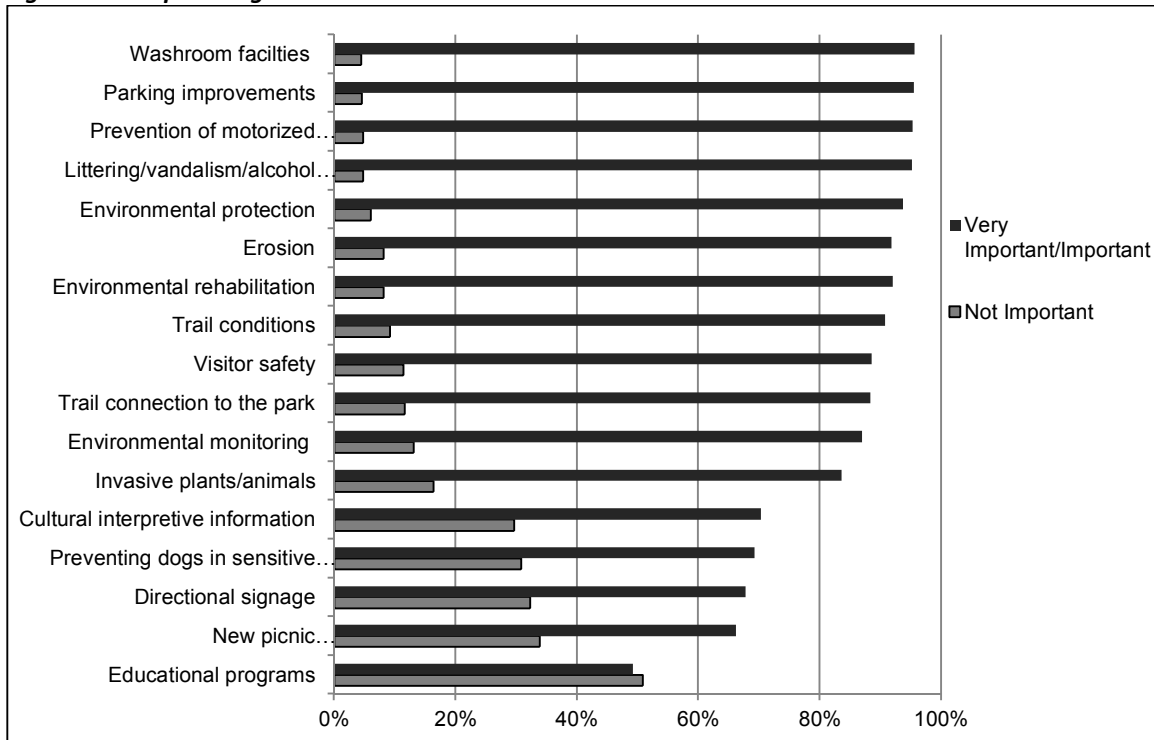
**Figure 4.1 - Top Words and Phrases Important to Vision Development**





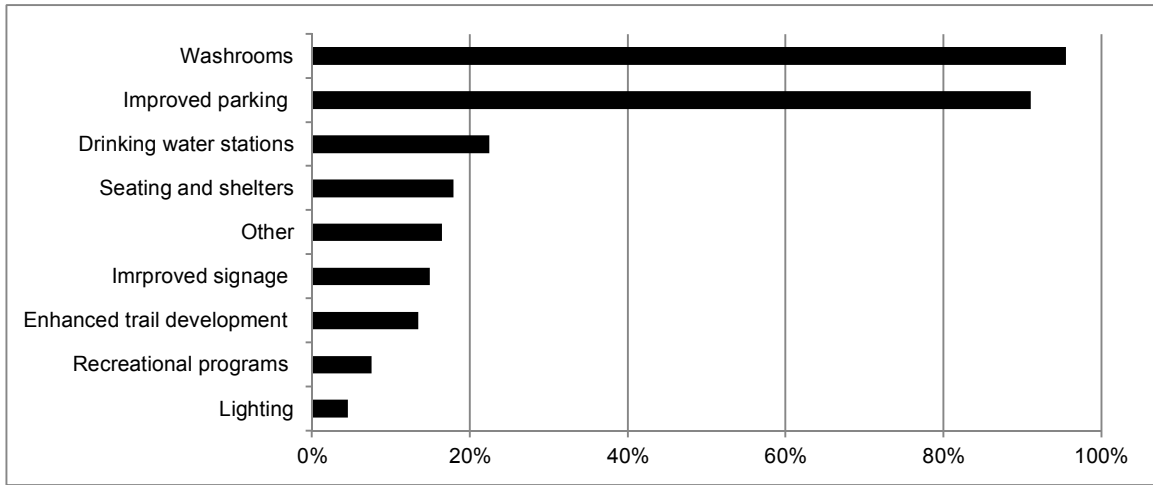
Almost all of the respondents indicated that the top priorities for the management plan should be to build washrooms (96%) and improve parking (95%). Equally important were efforts to prevent motorized vehicle access, vandalism, littering and alcohol consumption (95%). Environmental protection (94%), rehabilitation (92%), efforts to address erosion (92%) and trail conditions (91%) were also noted as “important” or “very important” by an overwhelming majority of respondents. *Figure 4.2 – Top Management Plan Priorities*, provides the questionnaire results of those who expressed opinions about management plan priorities. Notably, educational programs within the park were a low priority for over half of the respondents.

**Figure 4.2 - Top Management Plan Priorities**



When asked specifically about their top three priorities for services, facilities and/or programs, respondents indicated their highest priorities were for washrooms (96%) and parking improvements (91%). Other desirable facilities and services noted by respondents included off-season garbage collection, more policing, a playground and a launch for kayaks, canoes and rafts. A modified whitewater feature for a slalom course and freestyle training area was also noted. *Figure 4.3 – Top Services, Facilities and Programs*, highlights the questionnaire results of those who expressed opinions about services, facilities and programs.

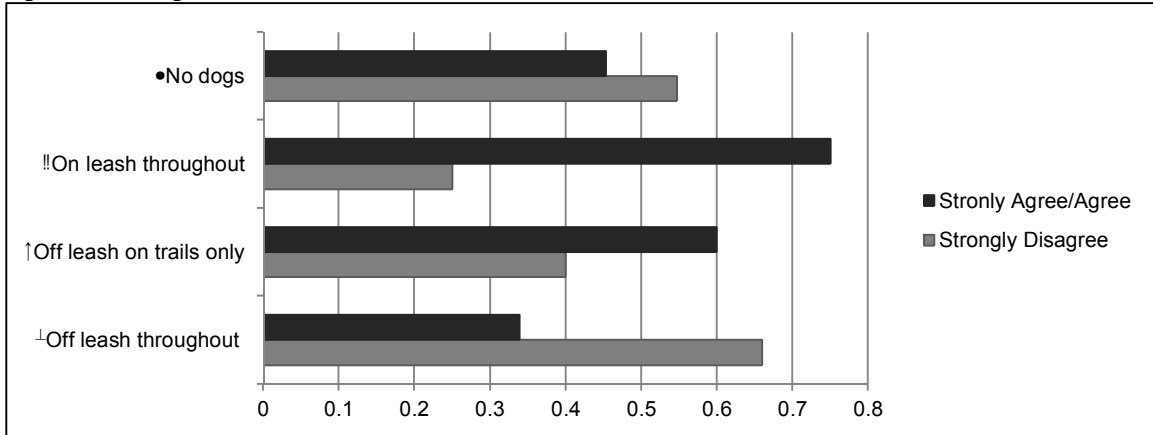
**Figure 4.3 - Top Services, Facilities and Programs**



Respondents were also asked if they supported tourism and ecotourism uses in the park where these uses are compatible with conservation and environmental values. Approximately 70% supported such uses, 20% did not and 10% were indicated they were unsure.

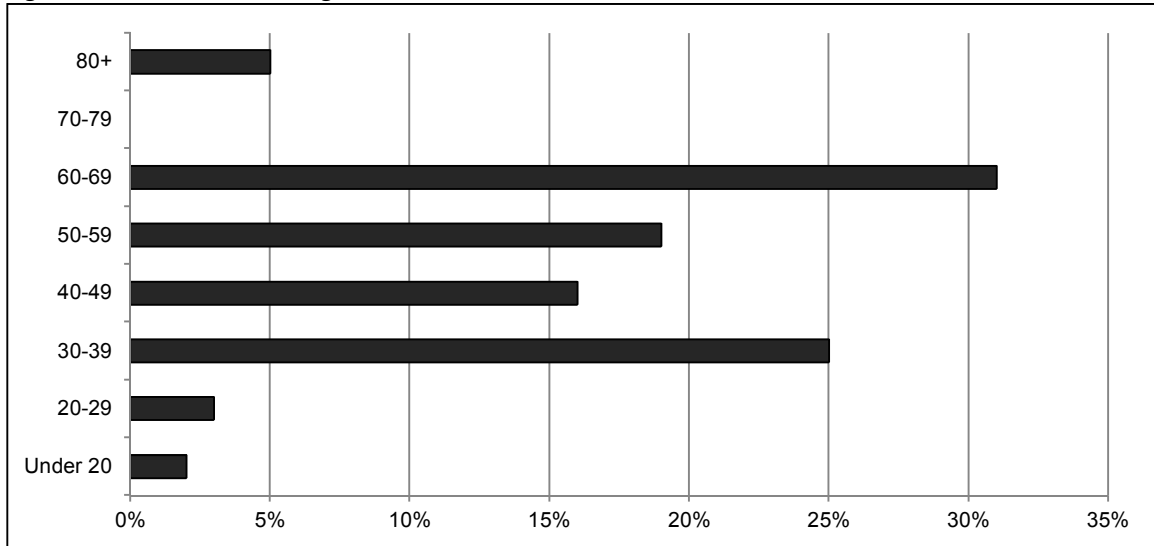
Lastly, 45% of respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that dogs should not be allowed in the park. Thirty four percent of respondents thought dogs should be allowed off-leash throughout the park. Seventy five percent thought dogs should be on-leash throughout the park and 60% agreed or strongly agreed that dogs should be allowed off-leash on trails only. *Figure 4.4.– Dog Restrictions*, highlights the responses received from four questions concerning dog restrictions.

**Figure 4.4 – Dog Restrictions**



Respondents were relatively evenly split between male (54%) and female (46%). Thirty one percent were between the ages of 60 and 69. The questionnaire was able to capture a good number of respondents in their 30s, 40s, and 50s. It is typically difficult to capture respondents under 30 without special public involvement outreach strategies. Figure 4.5 represents the age distribution of respondents.

**Figure 4.5 – Questionnaire Age Distribution**



## **5.0 PHASE 2 – PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OUTCOMES - KEY DIRECTIONS**

Phase 2 (Draft Plan Recommendations) of the public involvement process was underway in the spring of 2015. In anticipation of the related public involvement events, the draft park management plan was prepared including the long term park vision and the set of ten year management goals. During Phase 2, the draft plan was presented for discussion and feedback to the RDCK project management staff and Electoral Area Directors. Stakeholder organizations, interested individuals and park neighbours were also notified and provided online access to the draft plan. RDCK residents were invited to find out more about the recommendations and provide their feedback through a second questionnaire and public open house on June 23, 2015. Approximately 35 people attended the open house and a total of 31 responses to the questionnaire were received.

### **5.1 Phase 2: Comment Themes**

The project team received a series of comments on the draft plan. All of the comments were reviewed and considered by the project team. The following sections summarize the key comment themes heard through Phase 2. It is important to acknowledge, in some areas, a range of opinions was expressed and there was not unanimous agreement.

#### ***Theme A: Concern that Off-Leash Dogs will not be allowed***

Although some respondents strongly supported the proposed on-leash dog policy (or no dogs at all), many others were concerned about new park rules that would not allow dogs to be off-

leash. They noted that off-leash dog walking has been a historical use of the park for many years and is the primary park use during winter months. The rule was anticipated to create conflict among park users and enforcement practices and resources were under question. It was also noted that the beach is Aquatic Crown Land and outside the park boundary and that there will be confusion about whether the leash policy applies there or not. It was also believed the rule would create trespassing of dog walkers on adjacent property, and that dog impacts on wildlife are overstated. Some proposed an off-leash dog should be considered in less busy months.

**Theme B: Strong Support for Parking, Washrooms, Garbage Collection**

Participants were supportive of the proposals for parking improvements, the addition of washrooms and improved facilities and garbage collection. At least 80% of questionnaire respondents believed these improvements to be “very important” or “somewhat important.” Some respondents noted, however, parking improvements were too significant and were detrimental to the park’s environmental values. Seventy six percent of participants supported efforts to undertake an environmental assessment (EA) of the final parking lot design and to follow through on EA recommendations.

**Theme C: Overall Concern for Environmental Protection and Natural Values**

A number of participants expressed concern with the impact of the park design on the park’s environmental values and rural character. Concern was expressed for at-risk species and damage to their habitat, and it was noted more ecological study is required. The design plan was noted to result in development in very high value habitat, while preservation is planned for low value habitat. Some respondents noted the importance of the trees and desire to keep the park wild.

**Other Comments and Points of Interest:**

- Thorough, concise, honest. Good luck, can’t wait to see it come to life.
- Drinking and driving near the park is a serious issue and the RDCK should strongly encourage the RCMP to enforce zero alcohol and driving. Too many rafters are driving after drinking all day. CVB is like a big frat party in the summer, not a family beach.
- Clean up deflated rafts and beer cans along the Slokan River upstream.
- Enforcing park boundaries is important.
- Provide vender areas.
- The non-motorized boat launch will be useful.

**5.2 Phase 2: Questionnaire Results**

During Phase 2 (Draft Plan Recommendations) of the process, a questionnaire was made available, both at the spring open house and on-line, requesting input on the Draft Plan Recommendations. The following comments and figures summarize the questionnaire response.

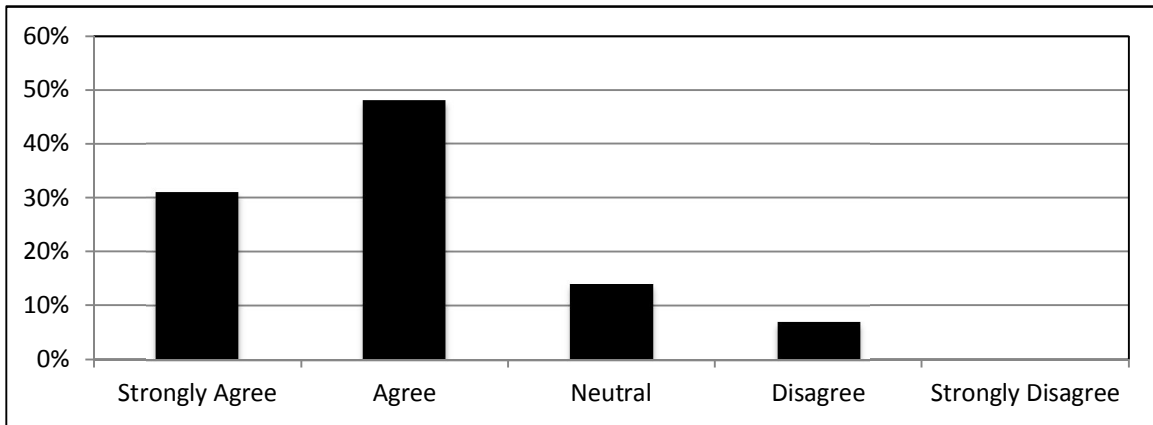
The questionnaire asked respondents about their level of support for the proposed vision statement for Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park.

*Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park is an active waterfront and natural area park where the Slokan River and upland park are enjoyed by area residents in all seasons, and in summer months, by many others from throughout the region. The unique and attractive*

*recreational opportunities offered by the river and upland park area are supported by a safe and functional park design. Visitors' needs are planned for and managed to preserve the park's natural beauty and to align with environmental, cultural and heritage values in the park. Special areas of the park are reserved primarily for wildlife habitat.*

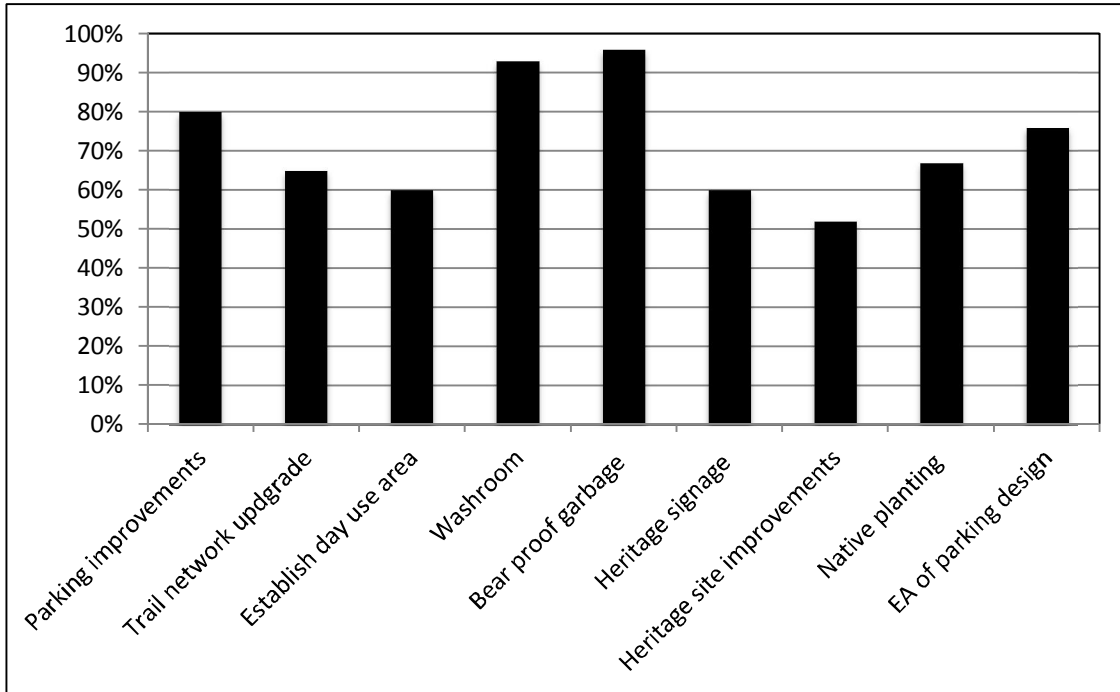
Seventy nine percent of respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the proposed statement, 14% were neutral and 7% disagreed. Those that disagreed believed an appropriate balance had not been achieved with the park’s environmental values.

**Figure 5.0 – Vision statement support**

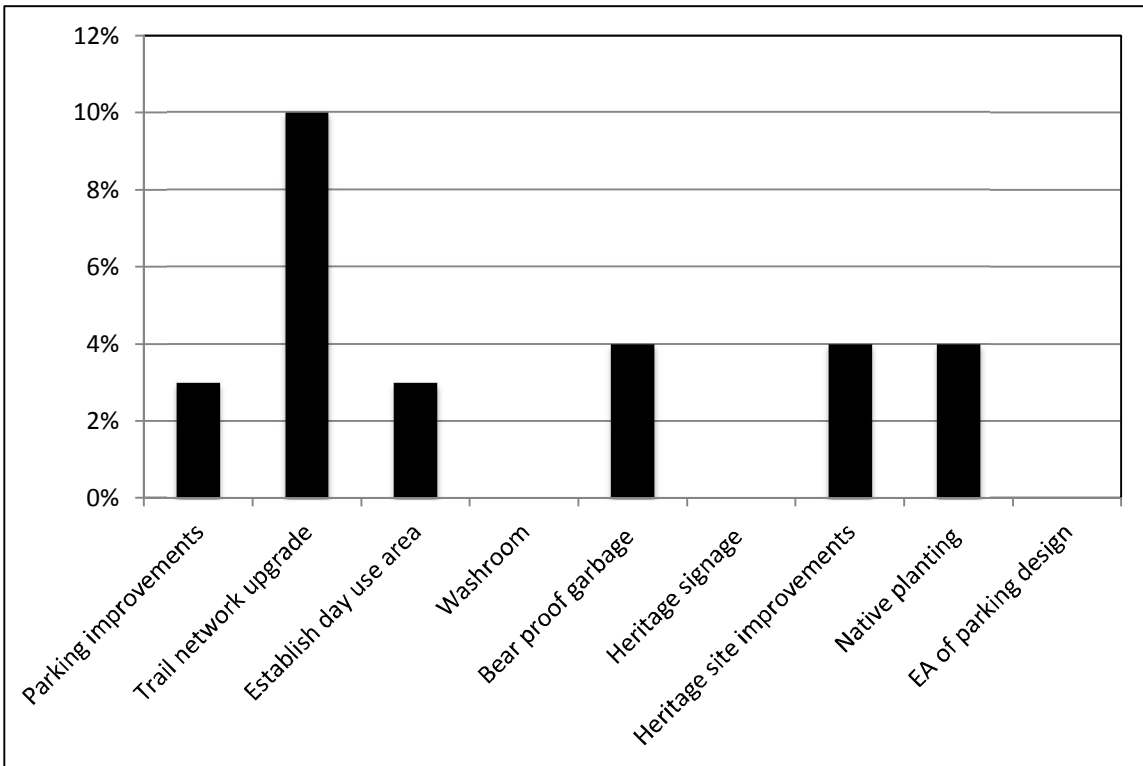


The design concept for Crescent Valley Beach Regional Park proposed a number of park improvements. The questionnaire asked respondents how important each of the improvements was to them and if some proposals should not be pursued. Figures 5.1 through 5.12, beginning on the following page, summarize the results of the series of questions related to park improvements. There was a general level of support for most of the proposed improvements; however, heritage site improvements, heritage signage, the day use area and trail upgrades received the least support. Parking and washrooms received the highest levels of support.

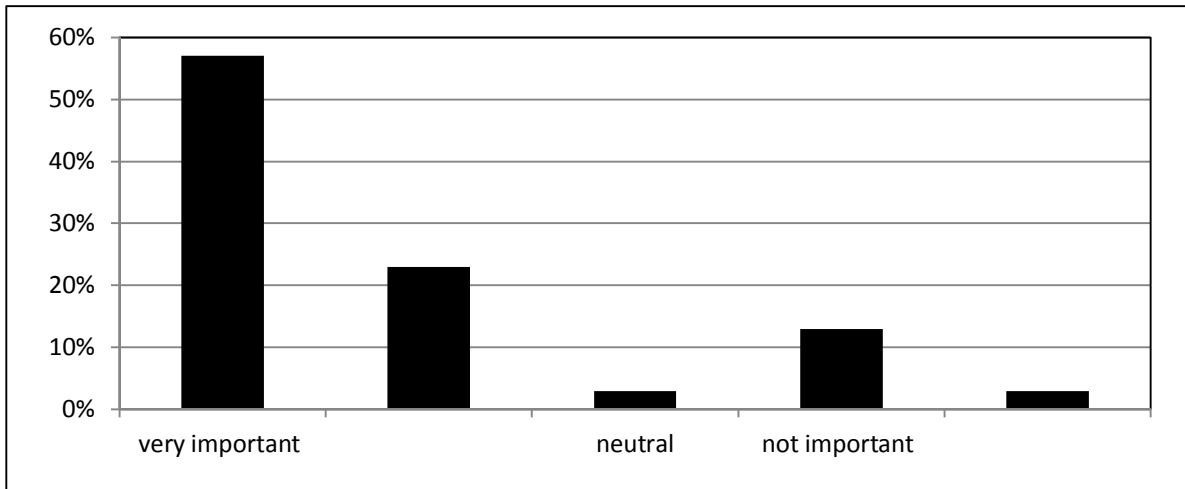
**Figure 5.1 – Percentage of respondents ranking improvements as “very important” or “somewhat important”**



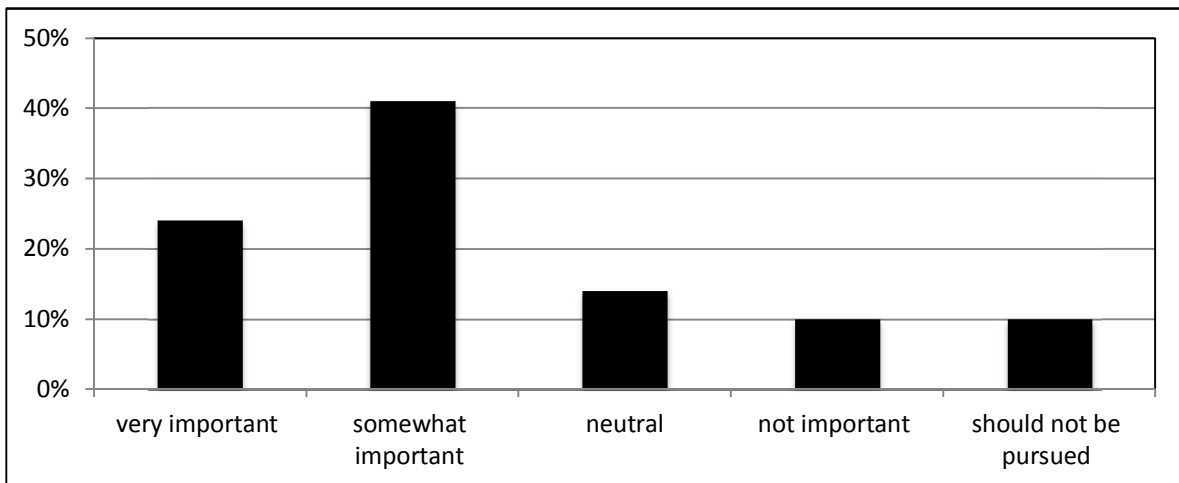
**Figure 5.2 – Percentage of respondents ranking improvements as “should not be pursued”**



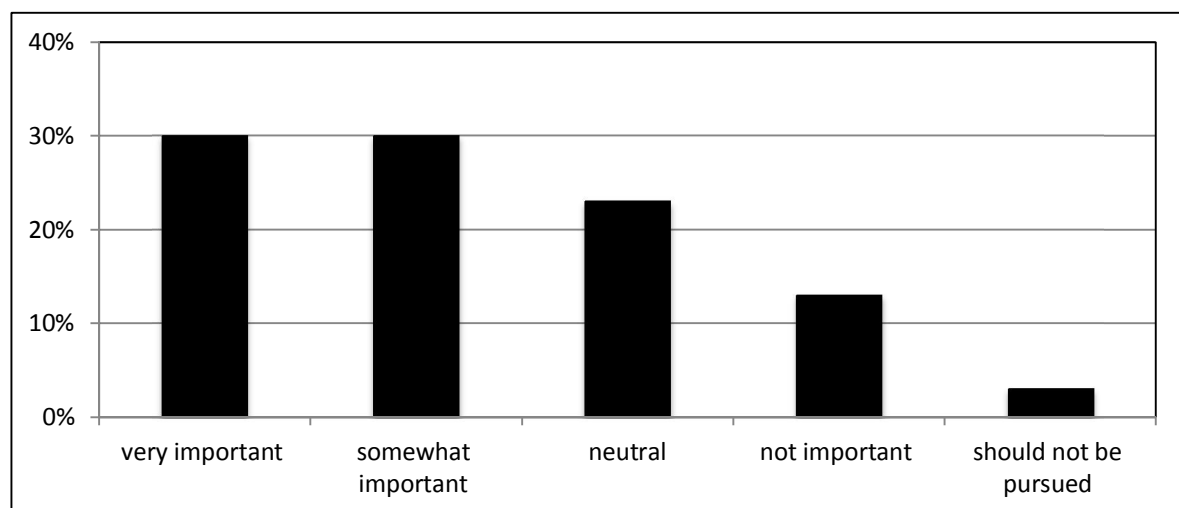
**Figure 5.3 – Undertake parking improvements and increase on-site parking spaces**



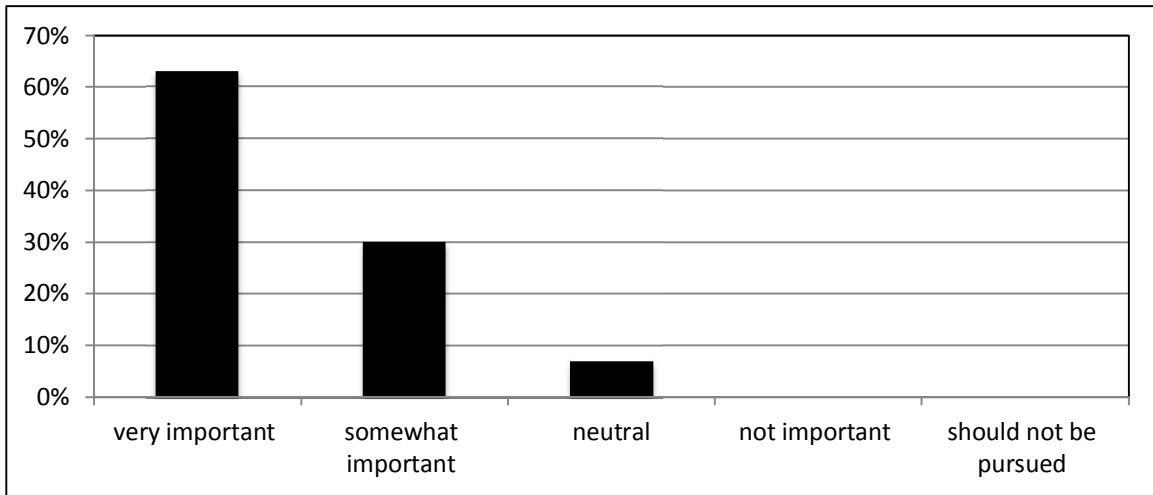
**Figure 5.4 – Define and up-grade trail network**



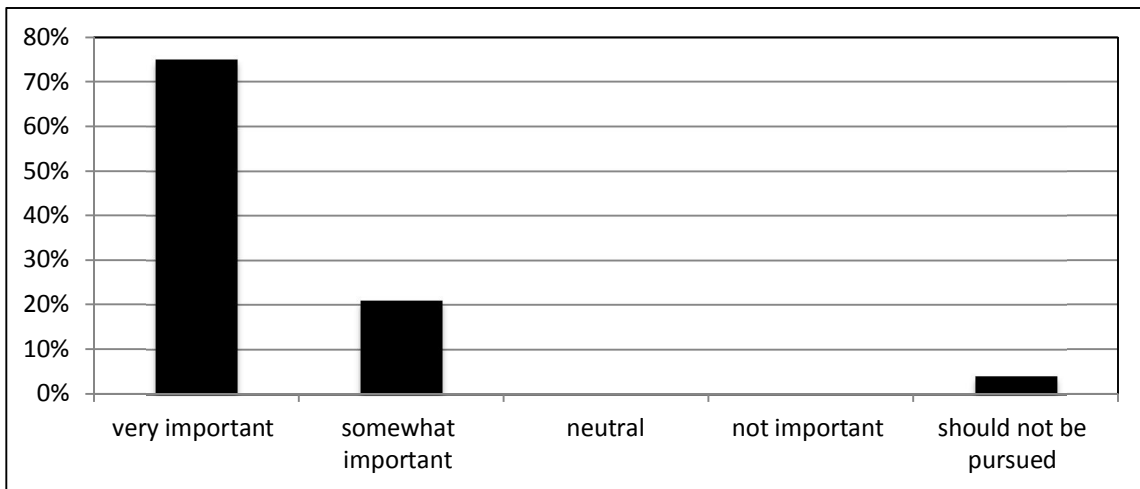
**Figure 5.5 – Establish day use area including a shelter and picnic tables**



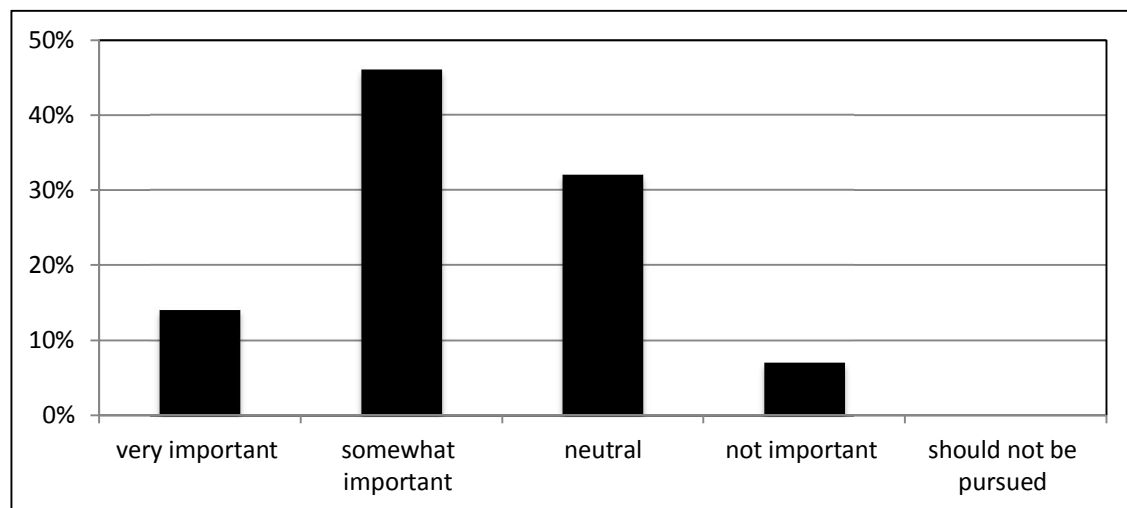
**Figure 5.6 – Add a park washroom**



**Figure 5.7 – Add bear proof garbage containers**

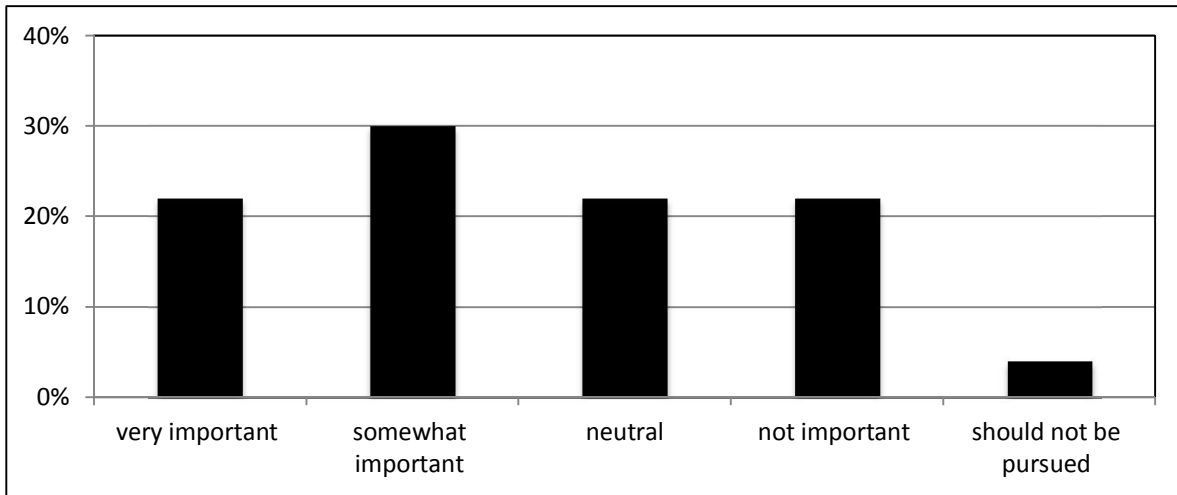


**Figure 5.8 – Add interpretive signage to the heritage site**

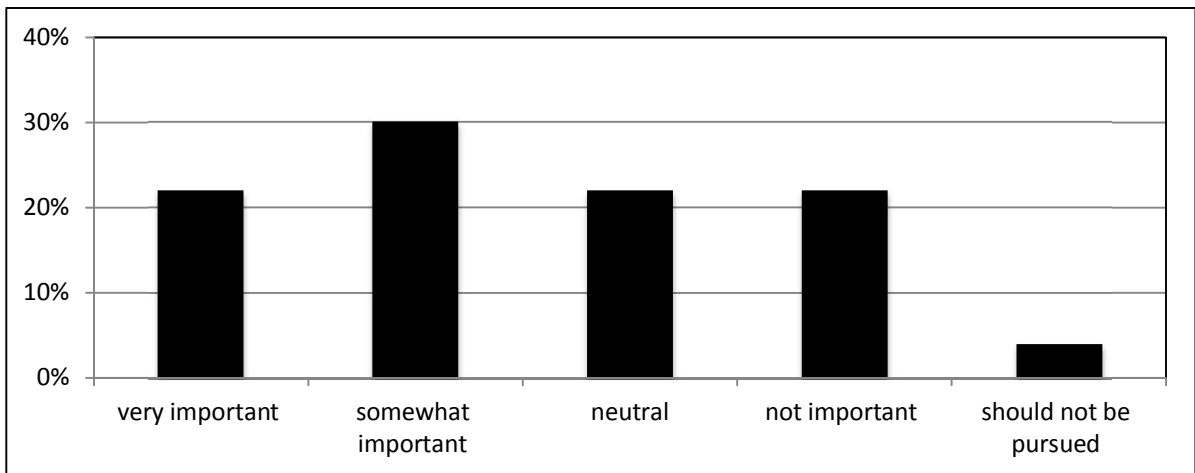




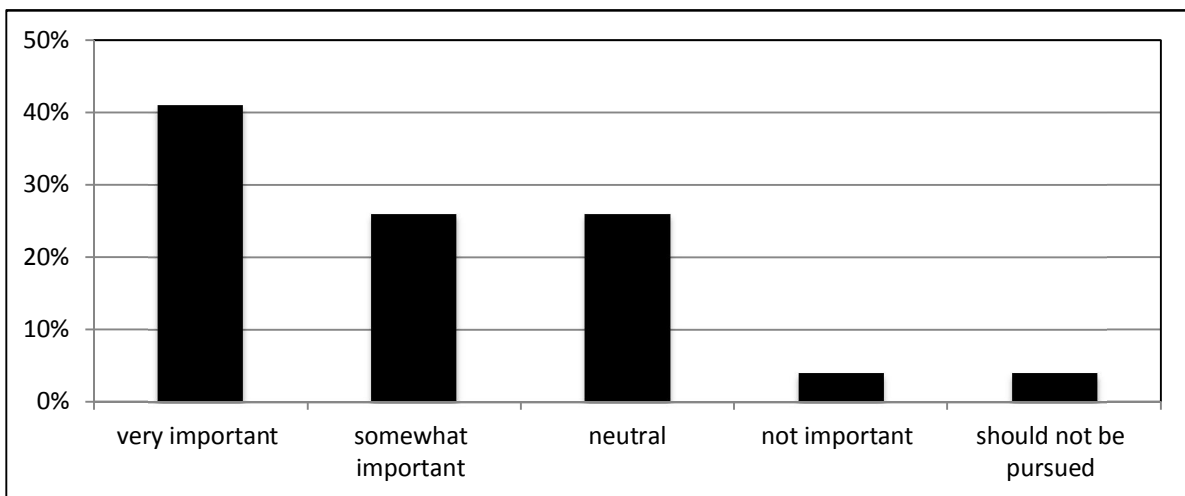
**Figure 5.9 – Add interpretive signage to the heritage site**



**Figure 5.10 – Undertake works to improve condition of heritage site features**



**Figure 5.11 – Undertake native planting to enhance habitat values**



**Figure 5.12 – Undertake an environmental assessment (EA) of the final parking lot design and follow through on EA recommendations**

