

WATERLOO EDDY REGIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN



Prepared For:
Regional District of Central Kootenay

Prepared By:
Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd.
Juliet Anderton Consulting Inc.

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The Management Plan Consulting Team:

Mary Ann Olson-Russello, M.Sc., R.P.Bio. (Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd.)

Juliet Anderton, MPL, MCIP, LGC (Juliet Anderton Consulting Inc.)

RDCK Project Resource Team:

Sangita Sudan, General Manager of Development Services

Joe Chirico, General Manager of Community Services,

Cary Gaynor, Parks Operations Supervisor

Meeri Durand, Planning Manager

Mark Crowe, Planner

Jim Crockett, Castlegar Recreation Manager

Authors of the Management Plan:

Mary Ann Olson-Russello, M.Sc., R.P.Bio. (Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd.)

Juliet Anderton, MPL, MCIP, LGC (Juliet Anderton Consulting Inc.)

Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping and analysis:

Rachel Plewes, M.Sc., (Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd.)

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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

Waterloo Eddy Regional Park (Waterloo Eddy Park) is located on the eastern shore of the Columbia River, in the community of Ootischenia and Electoral Area “J” of the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK). This picturesque waterfront park encompasses 3.3 hectares of land and forms a functional connection with the Columbia River and the natural river eddy after which the park is named. The park’s waterfront is a desirable destination for boating, fishing and swimming, and the upland park area is enjoyed by visitors as a day use recreational area for activities including hiking, walking, and picnicking.

Waterloo Eddy Park and the adjacent waterfront also provides valuable wildlife habitat and has the potential for rare and endangered species. The Columbia River supports more than 20 species of fish and the back channel of the eddy provides critical rearing habitat for juveniles. During periods of high water, portions of the north end of the park can be underwater; during low water, the back eddy becomes isolated from the river.

Waterloo Eddy Park became a RDCK park in 2012 through the issuance of a Licence of Occupation by the Provincial Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The RDCK’s success in obtaining the licence provided an opportunity to secure the land for the long-term enjoyment of the public and to invest in, and manage, recreational uses for the benefit of the public and the natural environment. Soon after attaining the licence, the RDCK initiated the process to develop a 10-Year Park Management Plan. The Waterloo Eddy Park Management Plan (the Management Plan) is set out within this document and will guide future development, investment, operations 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, on the recommendation of the Castlegar and District Community Recreation Commission (TBD).

The Management Plan was prepared by a consulting team composed of Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd. and Juliet Anderton Consulting Inc., and was informed by direction provided by the RDCK’s Development Services and Community Services Departments. A number of factors shaped the nature of the plan, including:

- feedback gathered through the public involvement process
- current and historic park uses
- the terms of the RDCK’s Licence of Occupation
- regional, provincial and federal policies and regulations, 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: multiple points of waterfront access, unregulated parking, poorly defined boundaries, nuisance and fire safety, visitor safety, impacts on the environment, trail connections and accessibility. 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,

Waterloo Eddy Regional Park is a scenic natural area park on the eastern shores of the Columbia River. The park is valued for its rustic charm and as a local and regional destination for fishing and other nature based recreational activities. Park stewardship, visitor use and park activities actively preserve the park's natural values and align with the long term enjoyment and sustainability of the park and its ecosystems.

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 included:

- improve access for fisherman and improve parking
- protect the river
- value park trails and plan for trail connections
- improve signage

The park Design Concept provides high level direction for a new parking area and washroom facility, as well as other important features of the park's design layout, including protection of cultural and environmental features, a central gathering area, strategically placed boundary fencing and an enhanced signage plan. Management Zones have been designated to provide direction to the use and management of specific geographic areas.

Beyond direction to physical improvements, the Management Plan also establishes strategies and actions for the on-going operation and maintenance of the park. It sets out recommendations to pursue important initiatives and funding opportunities with other government bodies and interested organizations and to provide avenues for continued public involvement.

The Management Plan concludes with a preliminary Implementation Plan, outlining the priorities necessary to implement the park Design Concept and to undertake park operations and maintenance over a 10-year period. Preliminary cost estimates are provided; however, it should be noted that figures are not precise, and will need to be refined as additional site-specific information is gathered through the detailed design process and through other implementation activities. The total estimated 10-year capital and operating costs for Waterloo Eddy is approximately \$419,800. The implementation of these works over the timeline specified is dependent on staffing capacity and on the availability of funding. To reduce costs, it is recommended that the RDCK partner with conservation organizations and apply for a grant through BC Hydro's Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program to eliminate motorized access and implement restoration of the back eddy.



1.1 Park Context

1.1.1 Park Location and Description

Waterloo Eddy Park is 3.3 hectares (8 acres) in size and is located in Electoral Area “J” of the RDCK, on the eastern shoreline of the Columbia River. The park is located in Ootischenia, at the south end of the Waterloo Road, approximately 4 km south of the Castlegar Airport. The upland park area is relatively flat with only small changes in elevation. From the end of Waterloo Road, the grade slopes downward to the waterfront. While the majority of the park is treed, the central area of activity at the north end of the park is largely clear of trees and includes multiple dirt access roads.

The park is owned by the Provincial Crown, and the RDCK holds a 30 year Licence of Occupation (#40447, expiring in 2042) issued by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations. The Licence allows the RDCK to manage the park for regional park purposes, according to the park Management Plan. A small strip of land at the north end of the park (0.1 hectares) is associated with a pending seven lot residential subdivision. Once the subdivision is complete this area is expected to be acquired as a parkland donation (RDCK Staff Report).

Although the park’s foreshore forms a functional connection to the park, the Province owns and regulates the Aquatic Crown land, including the land up to the high water mark. The RDCK’s Licence of Occupation does not extend to this area. Water levels can vary considerably as a result of flows from the Kootenay and Columbia River systems due to the operation of hydroelectric dams on these rivers. During periods of high water, much of the foreshore adjacent to the north end of the park can be underwater; during low water, a large area of water, referred to as the “back eddy,” becomes isolated from the river. Adjoining lands to the south are also owned by the Crown. Teck Metals Ltd. (Teck) owns the lands immediately east of the park.

Waterloo Eddy Park is designated by the RDCK as a Waterfront Access Park. The Official Regional Parks Plan (Bylaw 2044) defines a Waterfront Access Park 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. The park is within the plan area of the Kootenay Columbia Rivers Official Community Plan (OCP), Bylaw 1157 (1998) and will be zoned PR - Parks and Recreation (Bylaw 1675 - 2004) upon adoption of the Management Plan.



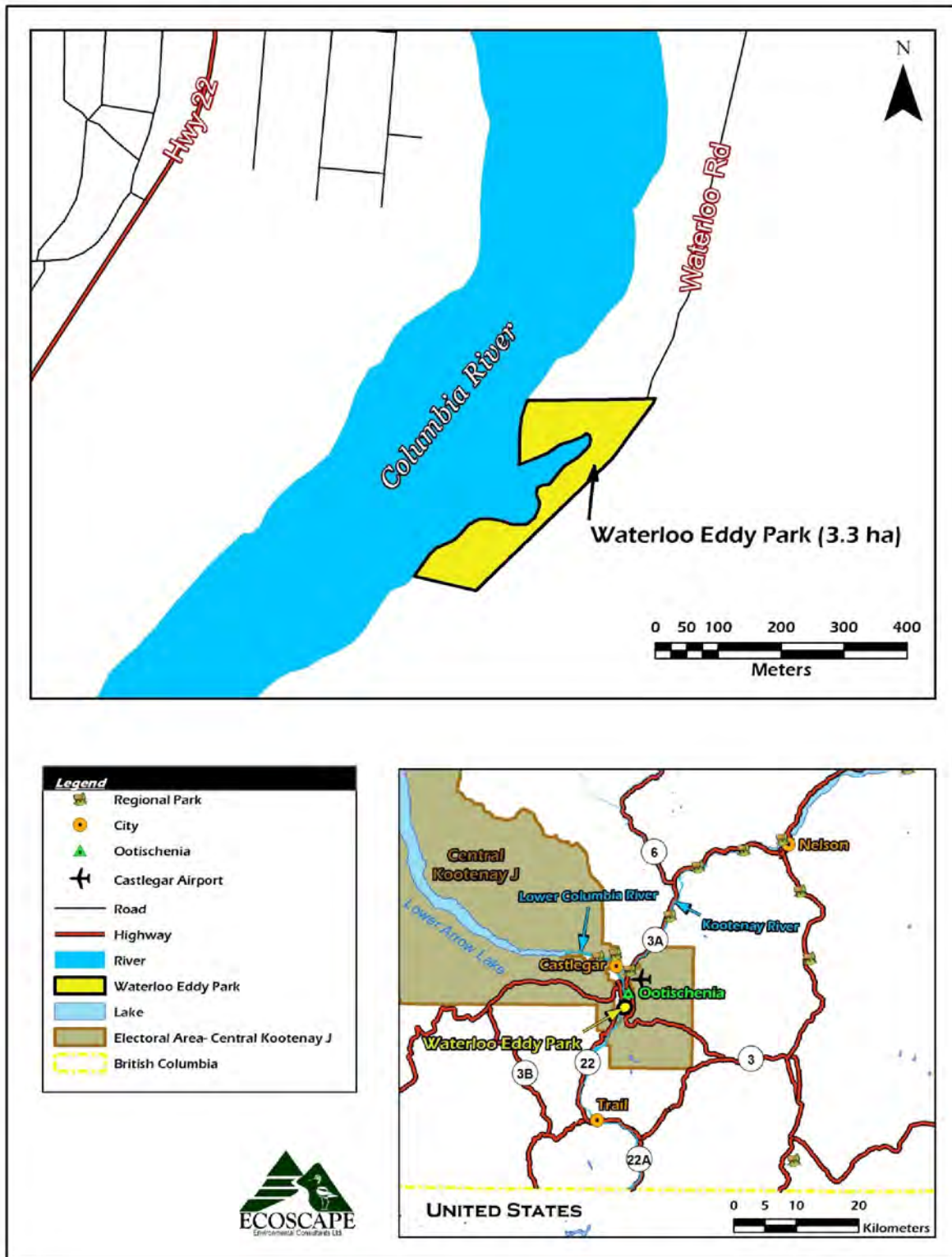


Figure 1.1 Park Location Map



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

Waterloo Eddy Park is characterized by a lodgepole dominated, mixed woodland and has a fringe cottonwood riparian community along the shoreline of the Columbia River. 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.

Ecosystem Mapping data is not publicly available for the park; therefore, Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory (SEI) mapping classifications that were undertaken for the Slocan Valley have been applied to this park (Durand 2013) (Figure 1.2). Using air photo interpretation, the park was divided into four ecosystem polygons, which are inclusive of four different ecosystem classifications. The polygon at the north end of the park is classified as a pole sapling (PS), mixed ecosystem. The polygon to the south, is a riparian (RI) fringe that borders the Columbia River, but it has been modified by human activities such as vegetation removal and regular disturbance. Portions of this polygon are seasonally inundated. The narrow strip of land in the center of the park is also a riparian fringe but is minimally disturbed. The riparian fringe has high habitat value for wildlife because it consists of broadleaf trees such as black cottonwood, trembling aspen and paper birch. These trees can provide critical nesting and perching habitat and this ecosystem adds to the overall biodiversity of the park. The fourth and most southern polygon consists of a young coniferous forest ecosystem.

The ecosystems within the park are largely intact and encompass a native tree, shrub and herbaceous understory. However, there is significant disturbance in the riparian fringe modified polygon. Although an inventory of weedy species has not been undertaken, weeds likely dominate areas of disturbance and also within road/ trail buffers.

Aquatic Resources

The mighty Columbia River (Watershed Code: 300-000000) flows along the western boundary of Waterloo Eddy Park, and the park surrounds an extension of the river known as Waterloo Eddy. The river corridor provides important wildlife conservation habitat and forms a core conservation area. The eddy is a unique feature of the river, as it creates a backwater environment that is desirable for fish, wildlife and humans alike. Waterloo Eddy is known as one of the best local fishing areas on the river and the backwater environment provides critical juvenile fish rearing habitat. Other species that depend on the eddy include the river otter, whose population is thought to be small but viable (Enns 2007) and the North American beaver.

Cai Creek (watershed code 300-634600) is identified in the provincial mapping database. The park site visit, however, showed no evidence of a creek channel or flow. Open House attendees suggested that



the creek does have surface flows in the highlands above the park but goes to ground upslope of 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 terrestrial ecosystems within the park provide suitable habitat and could likely support several Species at Risk, including Lewis's Woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*), Western Screech-Owl (*Otus kennicottii macfarlanei*), Great Blue Heron (*Ardea Herodias*) and Western Skink (*Plestiodon skiltonianus*). Although Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*) has been documented close the park, the treed ecosystems of the park are not likely to support their presence.

Mature black cottonwood and other broadleaf trees within the park provide valued habitat for the Western Screech-Owl, Lewis's Woodpecker and Great Blue Heron, each of which is federally and provincially endangered. The screech owl nests in natural cavities of live or dead trees is strongly associated with riparian woodlands that are dominated by black cottonwood, water birch and trembling aspen (COSEWIC 2012). The annual home range of a breeding pair of Western Screech-owls in Blueberry Creek occurs within 1.5 km of the park (Hausleitner 2013). The closest observations of Lewis's Woodpecker are near the Columbia and Kootenay River confluence, approximately 6 km north of Waterloo Eddy Park (BC CDC 2015). Cottonwood trees also provide habitat for the blue-listed Great Blue Heron, which can be seen periodically flying overhead.

The Western skink is partial to open wooded foothills and is typically dependent on a rocky outcrops and talus for basking and denning activities. There was a Western skink observation within a powerline right-a-way approximately 5 km north of Waterloo Eddy (BC CDC 2015).

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) were determined and classified based on ecosystem polygons that were delineated using the classification system of 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. 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 1.2 – *Ecosystem Classification and Environmental Sensitivity*. More than half of the park (i.e., 67%) was classified as having Very High ESA value. These areas included the riparian ecosystem areas associated with the Columbia River. The pole sapling and young forest ecosystem communities (i.e., 33%) were classified as having High ESA value.



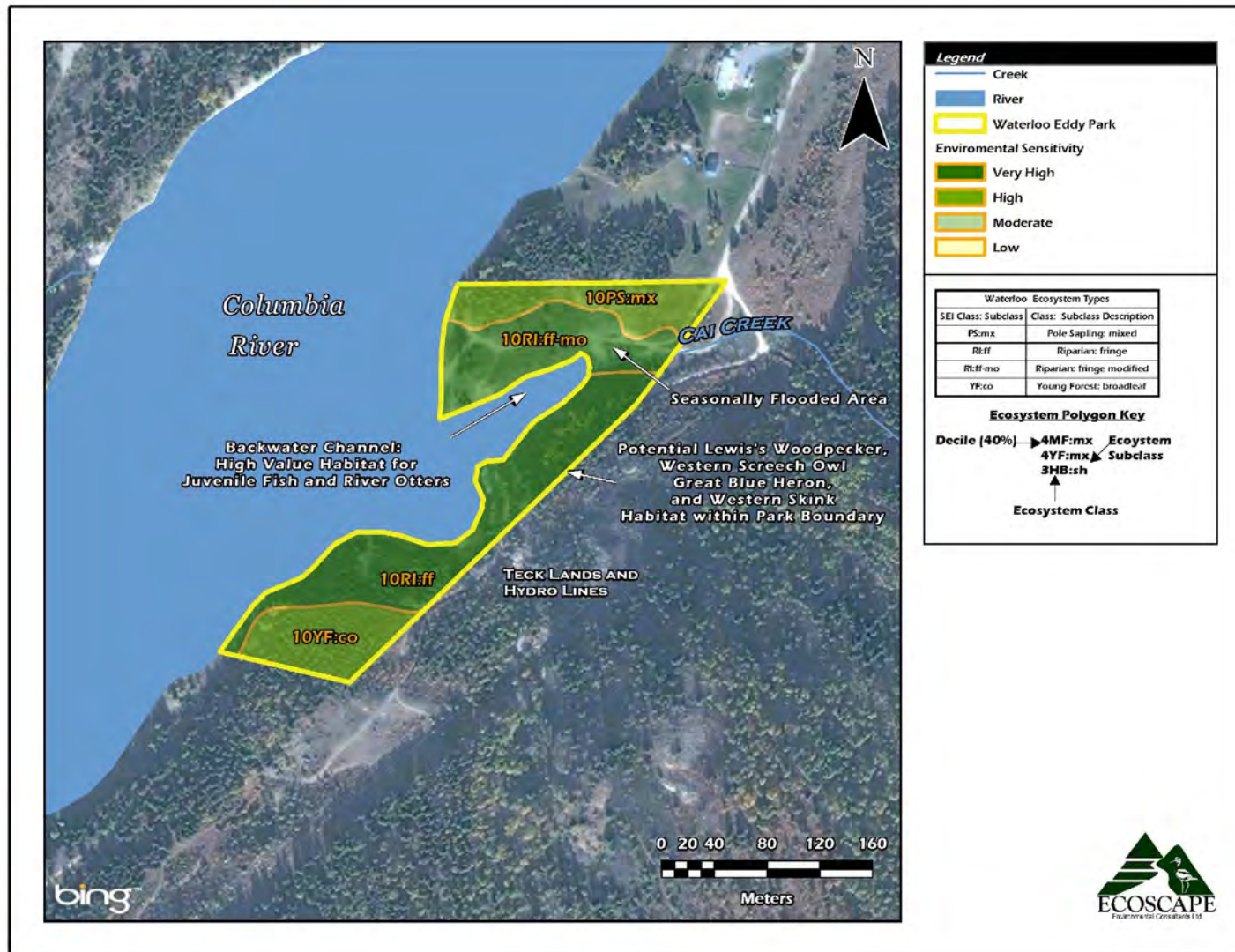


Figure 1.2 Ecosystem and Sensitivity Mapping



1.1.3 Cultural and Historical Features

The Waterloo area has a rich history. In 1895, Waterloo was a mining town that sprung up almost overnight when gold, silver and copper was discovered in the hills behind Castlegar (CBI 2015). Within a year there were forty houses in Waterloo. The mining claims were eventually abandoned and Waterloo became part of the land purchased and occupied by the Doukhobor people in the early 20th century. Other interesting historical facts include the Waterloo Ferry that was used to transport vehicles and supplies across the river and a smokehouse that was located at Waterloo Eddy and was maintained and operated by Indian Alex or Alex Christian. He used cedar bark to smoke fish hung above an enclosed fire pit (CBI 2015).



Waterloo Eddy Park is within the asserted First Nation territories of multiple bands, but the strength of the claim for this area is with the Okanagan Nation Alliance and the Ktunaxa Nation Alliance. A cursory archeological assessment was commissioned in 2007, and it identified the potential for archeological features within the southernmost areas of the park. The assessment recommended that this area remain in its natural state until further archeological assessment could be conducted (Choquette 2007).

The RDCK's Licence of Occupation requires that the District take all reasonable precautions to avoid disturbing or damaging any archaeological material found on or under the land. If archaeological materials are discovered, the RDCK must immediately notify the Ministry responsible for administering the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

Common Camas (*Camassia quamash*) (pictured) has been found within the modified riparian fringe community of Waterloo Eddy park (pers. com., Eva Johansson, Kootenay Native Plant Society). The culturally significant camas is a native perennial herb that blooms in early spring and is restricted to low-elevation sites typically in proximity to water. Camas is culturally significant, as the plant's roots were a dietary staple for indigenous people. Common Camas has been called a 'cultural keystone species' and maintaining its presence within Waterloo Eddy Park is an important priority.

1.1.4 Recreational Features

Waterloo Eddy Park has been used as a destination for boaters and anglers from throughout the region. Two, sometimes three, different areas at the north end of the park have been used to launch boats, depending on current water levels and accessibility. The eddy, created by a variation in the direction of the river current, is a popular fly fishing destination. Anglers also fish from boats and the shoreline. A rafting company is known to use the park as a location to access the river for commercial operations. Commercial recreational uses in the park are regulated by the Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations. Fishing is regulated by BC Fish and Wildlife.

Many locals also enjoy the area for swimming, hiking and picnicking. During low water, the swimming hole or "back eddy" is isolated from the river. A large rock above the swimming hole is a popular spot to



jump from, gather and socialize. Swimmers itch, an allergic reaction to microscopic parasites that burrow into skin, can be an issue in the eddy during the summer months.

The park's trail network includes a main north south road/trail between the park entrance and southern sections of the park. The road/trail extends beyond the south end of the park and serves as a connection to the Trans Canada Trail network. Narrower trails extend from the main access road to the waterfront. Sections of the road veer beyond the eastern boundary of the park and onto Teck land. Trails are currently used for hiking, walking, dog walking, and horseback riding. Motorized vehicles are also using the trails, and trucks are known to "mud-bog" in the back eddy and in seasonally flooded areas.

1.1.5 Infrastructure

Infrastructure at Waterloo Eddy Park is limited to an undeveloped parking area at the end of Waterloo Road, a series of dirt access roads at the north end of the park created by users and informal parking within the park. The site does not have access to potable water and has no washroom facilities, drainage infrastructure, fencing or boundary signage.



Chapter 2 - Management Challenges

2.0 Introduction

A number of management challenges were evident in developing the Waterloo Eddy Park Management Plan. The following points provide a brief summary of key challenges.

2.1 Multiple Points of Waterfront Access and Motorized Uses

The desire for boat access has led to the creation of multiple roads and boat launch sites at the north end of the park. Launch sites are chosen in part by the existing water level on the Columbia River. The series of access roads and launch sites present difficulties for protecting the sensitive shoreline and back eddy.

The current configuration of road access to the eddy does nothing to physically prevent motorized uses or “mud bogging” in the muddy areas of the eddy. Terrestrial and aquatic habitat can be severely impacted by such activity. These activities are unlawful in this context and are regulated by the *Off-Road Vehicle Act - Bill 13*. The act applies to off-road vehicle use on Crown land and clearly states that off-road vehicles must not be used to harass wildlife.

2.2 Boat Launch Improvements

Significant improvement to the boat launch sites are limited by seasonal changes to water levels. The BC Hydro and Power Authority has a flood reserve (associated with the Hugh Keenleyside Dam) affecting Waterloo Eddy Park. The Authority cautions that facilities and infrastructure within this reserve could be directly affected either by river flows and flooding, or indirectly by erosion/deposition, floating debris, or elevated groundwater levels.¹ The formalization of a boat launch, depending on the proposed works, would also require provincial approvals.

2.3 Unregulated Parking

Visitors to the park choose a number of locations to park their vehicles and, or, boat trailers. The park entrance and various areas along the dirt access roads at the north end of the park are common parking areas. A small number of users with vehicles that have the capacity to navigate the dirt road through the park, park on the south side of the mouth of the eddy. At busy times of year, haphazard vehicle and trailer parking restricts functional access for vehicles launching boats and can impact the environmental values of the back eddy.

2.4 Poorly Defined Boundaries

Waterloo Road provides vehicle access to the park. The park entrance functions as access to both the park and to adjacent lands to the east, owned by Teck. Two of the three dirt roads extending from the

¹ The BC Hydro and Power Authority reserve restricts the alienation of Crown land below 434.34 m from the Hugh Keenleyside Dam down to the international Border. The Columbia River in the vicinity of Waterloo Eddy is at the 420m contour level.



entrance cross into Teck land and then veer back into the park. At the south end of the park the main dirt road/trail through the park, again, veers beyond the park into Teck land. The boundary between Waterloo Eddy Park and Teck land is not clearly defined, leading users to create routes that respond to their interests and on-site conditions.

Teck's policy is to not allow unauthorized access to land that it privately owns. As use of this area shifts from recreational use of Crown land, to management by the RDCK as a regional park, Teck has articulated a desire to review the feasibility of installing an access management structure near the entrance of the park to prevent motorized access on Teck lands. Pedestrian access to Teck lands at the south end will require the RDCK to seek approval from Teck.

2.5 Nuisance and Fire Safety

The land that is now Waterloo Eddy Regional Park was formally under the management authority of the Provincial Crown. The rural nature of the Crown land and the limited management and supervision practices of the Crown, have, in past years, created challenges for protecting the area from people dumping garbage, littering, using the natural area for toileting, or using the area for partying. Users have been known to light fires, at times cutting area trees for wood and creating forest fire hazards. Although alcohol consumption is not permitted within the park or on Crown land, some users disregard this rule. RDCK Park bylaws set out prohibited uses; however, the RDCK will need to consider assigning bylaw enforcement resources to encourage compliance.

2.6 Visitor Safety

Waterfront Access parks are often associated with natural area safety hazards. Although the Aquatic Crown Land owned and managed by the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources Operations is not within the park boundary, the waterfront forms a functional connection with the park. The natural conditions of the Columbia River, including the rocky terrain and river current, present safety hazards and conflicts can arise among swimmers, boaters and anglers.

A detailed risk assessment of the upland park was not undertaken; however, it is expected that dead or dying trees near activity areas may also be hazards to visitors.

2.7 Impacts on the Environment

Environmental challenges in the park have been touched on in previous sections. Examples of impacts include:

- motorized access (e.g. mud bogging) and associated impacts on fish and wildlife that depend on the back eddy
- park users cutting park trees for use in bon fires
- off-leash dogs frequenting the eddy, disturbing nesting habitats and/or trampling native vegetation
- establishment of invasive plant species, and
- disturbance of areas where the culturally significant Common Camas is known to grow.



2.8 Trail Connections

The park is potentially a staging area for users of the Trans Canada Trail. The main trail through the park extends from the south end of the park to Columbia River trail and on to the City of Trail. The trail from the park, however, does not appear to directly connect the park to the Crown land to the south, without first veering onto Teck lands. Some realignment or access agreement with Teck may be necessary.

2.9 Accessibility

Many Waterfront Access parks are located in natural areas that present significant challenges for accessibility. Waterloo Eddy Park, however, has only moderate elevation changes and may provide a good opportunity to enable accessibility to the waterfront and activity areas.



Chapter 3 - Vision and Goals

The Management Plan for Waterloo Eddy Park provides the long-term vision and ten-year goals for the park. Together they express the desired future condition for the park. 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 direction from the RDCK planning team, current and historic park uses, direction set by the licence of occupation, 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.

The Kootenay Columbia Rivers Official Community Plan (OCP), Bylaw 1157 (1998) provides direction to area park and recreation, stating that recreation activities are to be compatible with the area's rural character and that recreation facilities are to be directed toward community needs first. Recreational opportunities for tourists should not stress existing facilities, services and resources or generate undue cost to local taxpayers.

3.0 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.

Waterloo Eddy Regional Park is a scenic natural area park on the eastern shores of the Columbia River. The park is valued for its rustic charm and as a local and regional destination for fishing and other nature based recreational activities. Park stewardship, visitor use and park activities actively preserve the park's natural values and align with the long term enjoyment and sustainability of the park and its ecosystems.

3.1 Management Plan Ten-Year Goals

The Management Plan goals are designed to guide those who have a role in the management and stewardship of Waterloo Eddy 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 – Protect the Environmental Values of the Back Eddy

Motorized vehicle access will be restricted to the designated parking lot at the north end of the park. Landscape design, barriers and fencing will be used to prevent motorized access to the back eddy, seasonally flooded areas, and remaining areas of the park. Existing roads will be decommissioned and/or converted to walking/biking trails and restoration of disturbed areas surrounding the back eddy will be undertaken. Bylaw enforcement will play a role to encourage compliance.

Goal 2 – Limit the Recreational Impact on the Park's Natural Environment

Park uses and activities will be concentrated at the northernmost end of the park and will support nature-based recreation, including nature appreciation, hiking, fishing and birdwatching. New facilities and infrastructure will be limited to the creation of a parking lot and staging area near the entrance of the park, a unisex washroom, garbage bins, signage and a day use area.



Goal 3 – Define a Functional Parking Area

A parking area (6-8 spaces) will be created near the entrance of the park, on the west side of the road. Landscape design features and fencing will prevent motorized activity beyond the designated parking area.

Goal 4 – Work with Neighbours to Control Vehicle Access and to Legitimize Existing Trails

The RDCK will cooperate with Teck to determine optimal fencing, landscape design and signage to restrict motorized access to adjacent Teck lands at the entrance to the park, and will seek to legitimize existing pedestrian trails at the south end of the park that cross over the park boundary.

Goal 5 – Maintain Trails and Facilitate Inter-Regional Trail Connections

Park trails will be maintained to a good standard and will support inter-regional trail connections as a staging area for the Trans Canada Trail.

Goal 6 – Protect Areas with Archeological Potential

Access to the southernmost areas of the park will be discouraged by establishing a special preservation zone and signage that prohibits recreational activities beyond the designated trails.

Goal 7 – Recognize Opportunities for Cultural and Environmental Education

Opportunities will be explored for the park to raise awareness about the park's natural values and cultural significance for First Nations' spiritual, social, cultural, and economic relationships to the land.

Goal 8 – Enhance Visitor Safety throughout the Park

Visitor safety will be enhanced within the park, signage will advise users of hazards, danger trees will be monitored, and recommendations will be made to the Province to improve safety for visitors below the high water mark. Following a full risk assessment some activities may not be encouraged or prohibited (swimming).

Goal 9 – Seek Funding Contributions for Major Capital Expenditures

A variety of options will be explored to raise a portion of the funds for parking area enhancements, trail decommissioning and restoration of the back eddy, including appeals to the fishing community/user groups and the Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program.

Goal 10 – Engage Park Stewards

The local fishing community, park neighbours and other interested community groups will be encouraged to participate in aspects of park stewardship and plan implementation.



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 and park users. It reflects the Licence of Occupation, 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

The Management Plan uses zoning to assist in the planning and management of the park. The park is divided into four zone categories: Park Services, Special Feature, Limited Recreation and Natural Environment. Figure 4.1 – *Park Management Zones*, depicts the management zones within the park.

It should be noted that park zones end at the park boundary, including the boundary set by the high watermark. Areas below the high watermark, although they form a functional connection to the park, are within the management jurisdiction of the Province and are not regulated by the RDCK. The management objectives of each zone are described in the following sections.



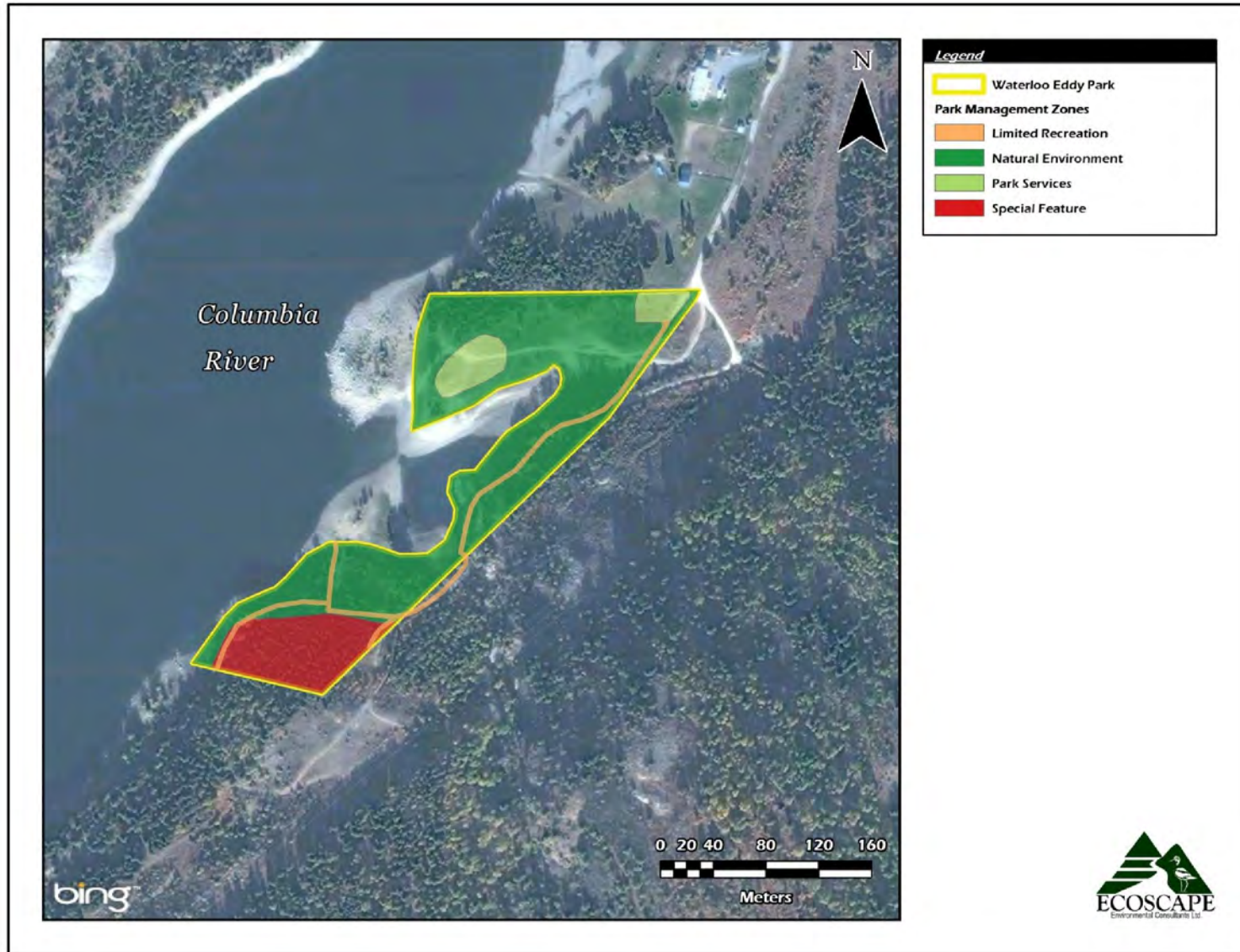


Figure 4.1 Park Management Zones



4.1.1 Park Services Zone

The Park Services Zone encompasses the main parking and staging area and the central gathering area. The objective of the Park Services Zone is to provide basic infrastructure for park patrons in a manner that minimizes the environmental impact on the back eddy and frequently flooded areas.

4.1.2 Special Feature Zone

The Special Features Zone includes the southernmost end of the park. In 2007, an Archeological Assessment Report was prepared, indicating this area has some archeological potential (Choquette 2007). It was recommended that this area not be disturbed without a prior archeological impact assessment, including subsurface testing to ascertain the presence and significance of any pre-contact archeological deposits or features. The Special Feature Zone prohibits disturbance within this zone, including new trail development. Existing trails through the area are recognized and are zoned Limited Recreation. Dogs, horses, bicycles and motorized vehicles are not permitted within the Special Feature Zone.

4.1.3 Limited Recreation Zone

The Limited Recreation Zone includes the park's planned trail network and overlays the Natural Environment and Special Feature Zone. This zone establishes the park's trail network, and allows for bicycles, horses, hiking, walking, and on-leash dog walking. Motorized vehicles are not permitted on the trails (or beyond the designated parking area), and dogs must be on-leash throughout the park.

A trailhead at the south end of the parking lot will be constructed to establish access to the park's trail network. The trailhead will also feature perimeter fencing and/or landscape design to prevent motorized access. It should also be noted that there are several smaller footpaths that extend from the main trail network to the water's edge. These occur within the Natural Environment Zone².

4.1.4 Natural Environment Zone

The remaining areas of the park occur in the Natural Environment Zone. The objective of the Natural Environment Zone is to prevent motorized access to the back eddy and Columbia River foreshore, to allow natural and active restoration of seasonally flooded areas and to generally preserve the environmental conditions of the park. Bicycles are not permitted within the Natural Environment Zone and park users are expected to access the waterfront on pre-existing footpaths.

4.2 Permitted Uses

Figure 4.2 - *Summary of Permitted Uses*, outlines the permitted activities that can occur within each Management Zone.

² The use of footpaths within the Natural Environment Zone should be monitored to ensure that the paths remain narrow, do not introduce sediment to the Columbia River and do not multiple over time.



Figure 4.2 Summary of Permitted Uses

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

*Walking access within the Natural Environment Zone is permitted on existing footpaths that extend from the main trail to the water's edge.

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

*** Due to the ecological sensitivities in the park, off leash dog walking is not permitted.

**** Commercial Uses – by RDCK permit only, and are also required to apply to Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for permission for a put-in or take out Licence of Occupation. Anglers do not require a tenure at this time.

✓* On sanctioned trails only

✓** Parking and motorized access are only permitted in the parking lot and not within the central gathering area.



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

- No alcohol
- No alteration of 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

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. The hours of operation for Waterloo Eddy Park are from sunrise to sunset.

4.3 Design Concept

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 a parking lot, a washroom facility, a central gathering area, improved signage and trail network and restoration of the back eddy.

A key aspect of the design concept is to restrict motorized access to the designated parking area at the north end of the park. Preventing motorized access is thought to be the best way to minimize impacts to the sensitive shoreline and back eddy. However, it is acknowledged that boat launch access for anglers to the Columbia River is inadequate. For this reason, motorized access for launching boats will not be eliminated until another boat launch location can be identified and constructed.



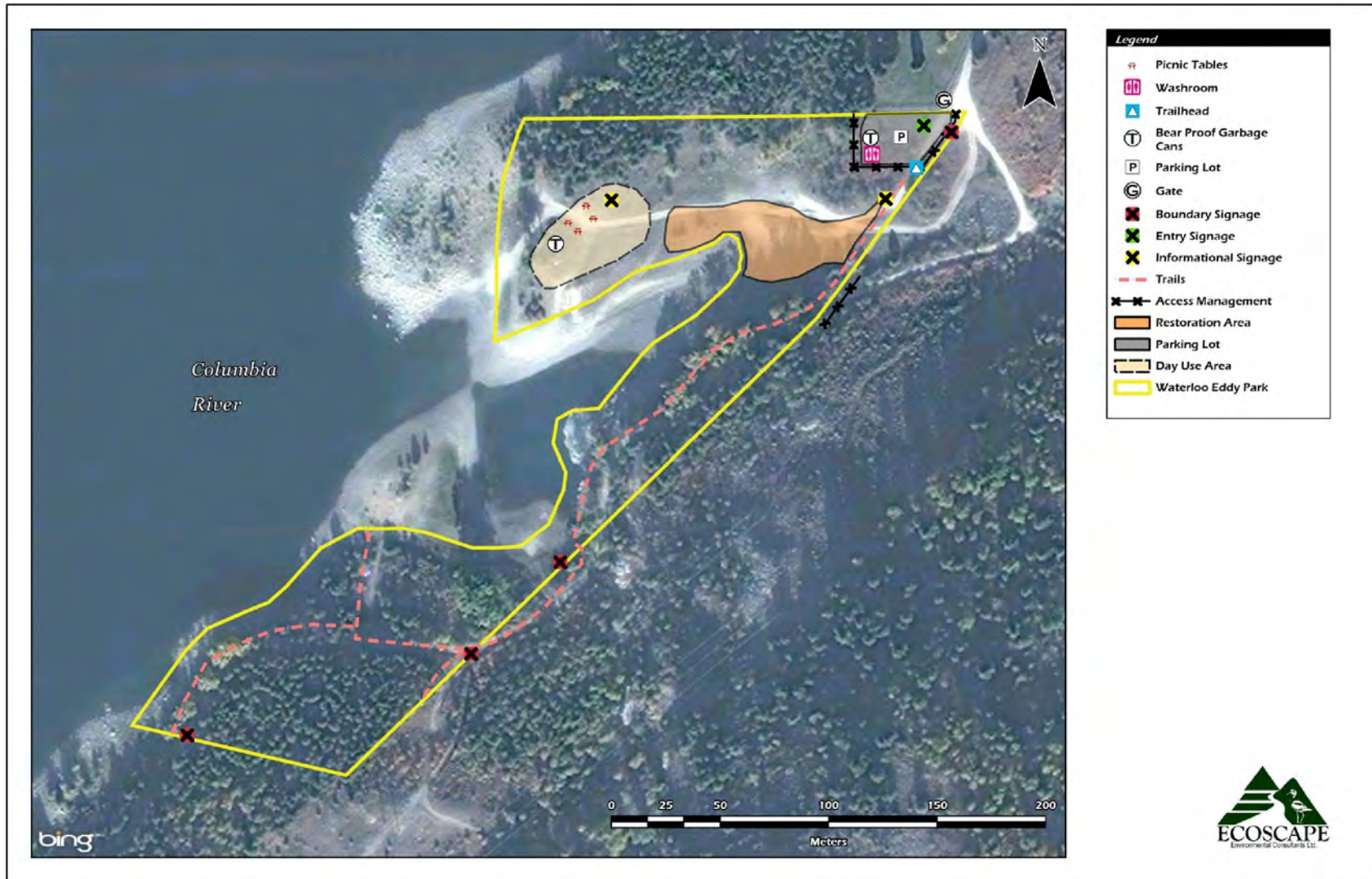


Figure 4.3 Design Concept



4.3.1 Parking Lot, Staging Area and Washroom

The Design Concept provides for vehicle access at the north end of the park only. A parking area for six to eight vehicles is set out for the west side of the road at the entrance of the park. A single unisex, handicap accessible washroom building will be sited near the south end of parking lot close to the trailhead, along with a bear proof trash receptacle. A park welcome sign is also planned for this location to provide a description of the trail network and to outline park bylaws and the expected visitor “code of conduct” for the use of the park. The entrance of the park will include a park gate to allow the park to be closed as necessary.

No driving access or parking will be permitted south of the proposed parking lot. Access management in the form of fencing and landscape design will be installed along the perimeter of the parking lot to prevent motorized access. Boundary signage will also be installed at this location to define the limits of the park.

4.3.2 Central Gathering Area

A pedestrian accessible central gathering area is planned adjacent to the Columbia River near the north end of the park. The gathering area is strategically located to provide unobstructed views of the Columbia River and sits within a higher elevation area that is not seasonally flooded. The area is expected to function as a place to socialize and to educate users (e.g. signage) about the park’s natural and cultural values. Amenities in this location could include picnic tables, informational signage and a bear proof trash receptacle.

4.3.3 Trail Concept

The park trail concept includes a trail head and informational signage at the main parking lot and makes use of an existing road/trail that extends from the entrance of the park to its southern boundary. Trail signage should provide information about the park trail as well as the role this trail plays in connecting to the Trans Canada Trail. The management plan prohibits the use of motorized vehicles on the trails, limiting use to bicycles, hiking, walking and horses. The trail alignment will remain in its current location with the exception of improvements to address erosion in select locations, and the decommissioning of sections of the road network near the park entrance and in the wetted areas. Trail re-surfacing will also be undertaken to improve trail conditions as necessary. Park benches will be strategically located along the main trail.

The main trail crosses into and out of Teck land along the south east boundary of the park. The RDCK should mark the boundary of the park at these locations and should apply to Teck to legitimize the existing trail. Beyond the main trail, there are numerous narrow footpaths that extend from the main trail down to the water’s edge. These footpaths should be quantified and monitored to ensure that they remain narrow and do not multiple over time. Redundant footpaths should be decommissioned as necessary.

Because Waterloo Eddy Park has only moderate elevation changes it may provide a good opportunity to support wheelchair accessibility to the waterfront. Improvements to the main trail could facilitate wheelchair access to the waterfront in some locations.



The main trail extends through the Special Feature Zone in the southern section of the park, but no additional trail development is planned for this area.

4.3.4 Restoration of the Back Eddy

The prevention of motorized vehicles below the high water mark of the back eddy will encourage the re-establishment of native vegetation, including the culturally significant Common Camas. Regenerating wetland areas should be roped off, signed accordingly and monitored for vegetation re-establishment. Park managers should seek partnerships with the Kootenay Native Plant Society or others to establish a restoration plan for disturbed areas surrounding the sensitive back eddy. The restoration area shown in Figure 4.3 is conceptual in nature and should be better defined within the restoration plan. Restoration options may include active planting of native riparian species, placement of large woody debris to deactivate existing trails/roads and boat launch sites, or passive exclusion of certain areas to allow existing species to take hold.



Chapter 5 - Operations and Maintenance

5.1 Introduction

The operation and maintenance of Waterloo Eddy Park will be centrally coordinated by the RDCK 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 the plan's implementation. One-time activities that fall within the scope of park operations will also be necessary as the Management Plan begins implementation (e.g., hazard assessment).

Bylaw 2044, the Official Regional Parks Plan, and Bylaw 2173, the Regional Parks Regulation Bylaw, contain policies that provide specific direction to regional park operations. The Parks Regulation Bylaw outlines the authority of the General Manager of Community Services, Bylaw Enforcement Officers (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 Licence of Occupation issued by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations 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.

The following sections address key actions related to operating and maintaining the park and implementing the Management Plan.

5.2 Operations and Maintenance

Figure 5.1 – Operational and Maintenance Responsibilities, summarizes the preliminary set of responsibilities that will need to be assigned, and *Figure 5.2 – Operational and Maintenance Strategies and Actions*, outlines preliminary strategies and actions that will need to be undertaken to successfully implement the Management Plan.



Figure 5.1 Operational and Maintenance Responsibilities

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



Figure 5.2 Operational and Maintenance Strategies and Actions

5.2.1 Roles and Responsibilities	
Strategy 1 <i>Provide clear definitions of roles and responsibilities for operational and maintenance needs.</i>	Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Assign the responsibility for coordinating the overall implementation of the Management Plan to the RDCK General Manager of Community Services. 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. 1.3. Assign the staff member or private contractor responsible for maintenance activities and determine service levels as appropriate. 1.4. Assign a staff member to coordinate a park specific bylaw enforcement schedule.
5.2.2 Public Safety and Duty of Care	
Strategy 2 <i>Ensure due diligence is exercised in addressing public safety.</i>	Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Undertake a public safety assessment and post warning signage about river safety, jumping from rock features, and potential conflict between fishing and swimming. 2.2 Request the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations to first undertake a risk assessment of the Aquatic Crown Land and second, to introduce a no wake zone within the back eddy swimming area. 2.3 Post signage at the park providing contact information to report hazards, fire and other safety threats. 2.4 Conduct regular hazard tree assessments of trees that occur within proximity of the main trail and within the Park Services Zone. 2.5 Develop a schedule for RDCK park safety inspections.
5.2.3 Park Etiquette and Bylaw Enforcement	
Strategy 3 <i>Educate park patrons about park etiquette and take enforcement action.</i>	Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1 Develop a bylaw enforcement schedule detailing the time and frequency of bylaw inspections. 3.2 Ensure that park signage adequately conveys park bylaws, etiquette and park values.
5.2.4 Community Engagement	
Strategy 4 <i>Engage community stewardship groups to develop community partnerships and facilitate philanthropic initiatives.</i>	Actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1 Communicate with First Nation representatives to explore opportunities in the park to interpret native culture and heritage. 4.2 Investigate educational partnerships with local schools 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. 4.3 Continue to update the RDCK website with information about the actions taken to implement the Management Plan. 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. 4.5 Communicate with adjacent property owners and pursue future parkland donations.
5.2.5 Plan Monitoring and Environmental Stewardship	



<p><i>Strategy 5</i> <i>Monitor ecosystem health, levels of recreational use and back eddy restoration initiatives.</i></p>	<p><u>Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1 Undertake regular inspections of restoration areas and make adjustments as necessary to ensure success. 5.2 Monitor the footpaths that extend from the main trail to the water's edge to ensure that the paths remain narrow, do not introduce sediment to the Columbia River and do not multiply over time. 5.3 Regularly monitor recreational uses to ensure they are consistent with the Management Plan goals. 5.4 Develop a Wildlife Tree Management Plan, including the stratification of natural areas, developed areas and strategies for allowance and/or creation of future high-value wildlife trees (Ellis 2011). 5.5 Retain fallen trees, conserve standing trees and snags for nesting, denning and perching habitat, in accordance with the Wildlife Tree Management Plan (to be developed). 5.6 Remove invasive plants as necessary. 5.7 Retain the natural state of the park over the long-term to not only benefit wildlife within its borders, but to also provide safe passage for wildlife moving through. 5.8 Revisit the Management Plan after five and ten years to ensure the management practices are working effectively and are aligned with the Management Plan goals.
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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 \$220,200. Although this budget is allocated over ten years, \$89,500 is slated for the short-term (years 1-3), and \$94,000 for the medium term (years 4-7). No concept design improvements have been scheduled for the long term (years 8-10). Short-term work focuses on development of a small parking lot and access management to prevent motorized vehicle access beyond the designated parking area, as well as the installation of a unisex washroom building. Medium term priorities include development of a central gathering area, implementation of trail improvements, a signage plan and restoration of foreshore areas surrounding the back eddy. A 20% contingency has also been added to cover unforeseen costs.

The operational and maintenance costs are estimated at \$199,600 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 Waterloo Eddy Park is approximately \$419,800. 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. Additional costs are likely to occur outside of the park boundary. For example, it is expected that further access management in the form of fencing and landscape design, will be needed to prevent motorized access to Teck lands that occur immediately east of the park.

To reduce costs, it is recommended that the RDCK partner with conservation organizations and apply for a grant through BC Hydro's Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program to restrict motorized access and implement restoration of the back eddy. Restricting motorized access is thought to be the best way to minimize and reduce impacts to the sensitive shoreline and back eddy. However, it is acknowledged that boat launch access for anglers is inadequate along this stretch of the Columbia River. For this reason, motorized access for launching boats will not be eliminated until another nearby boat launch location can be identified and constructed. The target timeline for implementing access control in Waterloo Eddy is within three years after approval of the management plan.



Figure 6.1 - Costing for Implementation of Concept Design

Development Plan Items		Short Term (Years 1-3)			Medium Term (Years 4-7)				Long Term (Years 8-10)			Yr. 1-10 Total
	Cost	year 1	year 2	year 3	year 4	year 5	year 6	year 7	year 8	year 9	year 10	
Parking lot, access control and improvements												
Design and administrative costs	\$15,000.00		\$15,000									\$80,000
Capital cost to develop a small parking lot (6-8 vehicles)	\$30,000.00			\$30,000								
Detailed survey of the park (with emphasis on parking lot, Columbia River high water level and property boundaries)	\$4,000.00		\$4,000									
Various assessments that may be required for the development of the parking lot (e.g. geotechnical, environmental, etc.)	\$5,000.00		\$5,000									
Installation of a primary access gate	\$3,500.00				\$3,500							
Installation of one bear aware trash receptacle (includes concrete slab)	\$2,500.00		\$2,500									
Access management (fencing and landscape design) to prevent motorized access beyond the designated parking area	\$20,000.00			\$20,000								
\$80,000.00												
Installation of unisex washroom building at the parking lot												
Administrative costs	\$500.00			\$500								\$13,000
Capital cost to supply and install a unisex washroom building (as per RDCK supplied design)	\$12,500.00			\$12,500								
\$13,000.00												
Development of central gathering area												
Design and administrative costs	\$5,000.00				\$5,000							\$21,000
Surface grading, new topsoil and hydroseeding	\$7,500.00				\$7,500							
Four wood picnic tables (includes concrete slab)	\$6,000.00					\$6,000						
Install a bear aware trash receptacle (includes concrete slab)	\$2,500.00					\$2,500						
\$21,000.00												
Road/Trail improvements												
Design and administrative costs	\$1,500.00					\$1,500						\$27,500
Existing road/trail upgrades (564 lm)	\$10,000.00						\$10,000					
Install three benches along trail network	\$4,500.00						\$4,500					
Decommissioning and re-vegetation of approximately 200 m of road/trail	\$1,500.00						\$1,500					
Strategically placed fencing along the eastern property boundary (to be undertaken in cooperation with Teck)	\$10,000.00						\$10,000					
\$27,500.00												
Restoration of foreshore areas surrounding the back eddy												
Administrative costs	\$500.00					\$500						\$26,500
Environmental restoration plan	\$3,500.00					\$3,500						
Capital cost for installation of restoration plantings	\$20,000.00						\$20,000					
Access management (fencing and landscape design) to support no access areas	\$2,500.00						\$2,500					
\$26,500.00												
Signage plan												
Design and administrative costs	\$4,000.00				\$4,000							\$15,500
Capital cost to supply and install a custom park entry sign	\$2,500.00				\$2,500							
Capital cost to supply and install wayfinding and boundary signage	\$4,000.00						\$4,000					
Capital cost to supply and install two interpretive signs	\$4,000.00						\$4,000					
Capital cost to supply and install four regulatory signs	\$1,000.00						\$1,000					
\$15,500.00												
		\$0	\$26,500	\$63,000	\$22,500	\$14,000	\$57,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$183,500
Contingency (20%)												\$36,700
TOTAL 10 YEAR CAPITAL COST ESTIMATE												\$220,200

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, initiation of partnerships, intergovernmental communications)	\$0	\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$29,000
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
	\$2,000	\$7,750	\$10,750	\$9,750	\$15,250	\$9,250	\$6,750	\$5,750	\$6,750	\$10,750	\$84,750

TOTAL 10 YEAR OPERATIONAL COST ESTIMATE \$84,750

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	\$0	\$5,350	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$10,700	\$90,950
Washroom servicing	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$8,400
Trail upkeep	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$5,000
Maintenance of central gathering area	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$9,000
Signage and fencing upkeep	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$1,500
	\$0	\$5,350	\$10,700	\$11,900	\$13,400	\$14,900	\$14,400	\$14,900	\$14,400	\$14,900	\$114,850

TOTAL 10 YEAR MAINTENANCE COST ESTIMATE \$114,850

TOTAL 10 YEAR CAPITAL, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COST ESTIMATE \$419,800

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Appendix A: 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)
Multiple Points of Waterfront Access for Launching Boats	The desire for boat access has led to the creation of multiple roads and boat launch sites at the north end of the park. Launch sites are chosen in part by the existing water level on the Columbia River. The series of access roads and launch sites present difficulties for protecting the sensitive shoreline and back eddy.	Very High	A parking area (6-8 spaces) will be created near the entrance of the park, on the west side of the road and motorized access will be eliminated from the rest of the park. Eliminating motorized access is thought to be the best way to minimize impacts to the sensitive shoreline and back eddy. However, it is acknowledged that boat launch access for anglers to the Columbia River is inadequate in the area. For this reason, motorized access for launching boats will not be eliminated until another boat launch location can be identified and constructed. The target timeline for implementing access control in Waterloo Eddy is within three years after approval of the management plan.	Goal 1 – Protect the Environmental Values of the Back Eddy	Parking Lot, Access Control and Improvements <i>-Short-term (1-3 years)</i>	\$80,000	n/a
Mud bogging and general habitat destruction	The current configuration of road access to the eddy also currently does nothing to physically prevent motorized uses or “mud bogging” in the muddy areas of the eddy. Terrestrial and aquatic habitat can be severely impacted by such activity. These activities are unlawful in this context and are regulated by the Off-Road Vehicle Act - Bill 13. The act applies to off-road vehicle use on Crown land and clearly states that off-road vehicles must not be used to harass wildlife.	Very High	Motorized vehicle access below the high water level, and throughout the park, will be limited to a small parking lot at the north end. Landscape design, barriers and/or fencing will be used to prevent motorized access to the back eddy, seasonally flooded areas, and remaining areas of the park. Existing roads will be decommissioned and/or converted to walking/biking trails. Restoration and closure of disturbed areas adjacent to the back eddy will be undertaken to improve the environmental conditions of the site.	Goal 1 – Protect the Environmental Values of the Back Eddy AND Goal 2 - Limit the Recreational Impact on the Park's Natural Environment	a. Parking Lot, Access Control and Improvements <i>-Short-term (1-3 years)</i> b. Restoration of foreshore areas <i>- Medium-term (4-7 years)</i>	a. See capital costs for Multiple Points of Waterfront Access b. 26,500	n/a
Unregulated Parking	Visitors to the park choose a number of locations to park their vehicles and, or, boat trailers. The park entrance and various areas along the dirt access roads at the north end of the park are common parking areas. A small number of users with vehicles that have the capacity to navigate the dirt road through the park, park on the south side of the mouth of the eddy. At busy times of year, haphazard vehicle and trailer parking restricts functional access for vehicles launching boats and can impact the environmental values of the back eddy.	Very High	The Design Concept provides for a parking area for six to eight vehicles on the west side of the road at the entrance of the park. No driving access or parking will be permitted beyond the proposed parking lot. Access management in the form of fencing and landscape design will be installed along the perimeter of the parking lot to prevent motorized access.	Goal 3 – Define a Functional Parking Area	Parking Lot, Access Control and Improvements <i>-Short-term (1-3 years)</i>	See capital costs for Multiple Points of Waterfront Access	n/a

Management Challenge and/or Identified Issue	Comments	Importance Level	Recommendation	Related Plan Goal	Suggested Timeframe	Capital Cost	Operating Cost (over 10 years)
Visitor Safety	Waterfront Access parks are often associated with natural area safety hazards. Although the Aquatic Crown Land owned and managed by the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources Operations is not within the park boundary, the waterfront forms a functional connection with the park. The natural conditions of the Columbia River, including the rocky terrain and river current, present safety hazards and conflicts can arise among swimmers, boaters and anglers. It is expected that dead or dying trees near activity areas may also be hazards to visitors.	Very High	The following actions are recommended to enhance visitor safety. a. Undertake a public safety assessment. b. post warning signage about river safety, jumping from rock features, and potential conflict between fishing and swimming. c. Request the Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations to first undertake a risk assessment of the Aquatic Crown Land and second, to introduce a no wake zone within the back eddy swimming area. d. Post signage at the park providing contact information to report hazards, fire and other safety threats. e. Conduct regular hazard tree assessments of trees that occur within proximity of the main trail and within the Park Services Zone. f. Develop a schedule for RDCK park safety inspections.	Goal 8 – Enhance Visitor Safety throughout the Park	a. public safety assessment -immediately b. and d. Signage -Medium-term (4-7 years) c. Intergovernmental Communications - Short-term (1-3 years) e. Hazard tree assessments - ongoing f. Safety Inspection Schedule - immediately	b. and d. inclusive within the signage plan	a. and c. inclusive within management plan implementation e. \$10,000 f. not costed
Boat launch improvements	Significant improvement to a boat launch site is limited by seasonal changes to water levels. The BC Hydro and Power Authority has a flood reserve (associated with the Hugh Keenleyside Dam) affecting Waterloo Eddy Park. The Authority cautions that facilities and infrastructure within this reserve could be directly affected either by river flows and flooding, or indirectly by erosion/deposition, floating debris, or elevated groundwater levels. The formalization of a boat launch, depending on the proposed works, would require provincial approval and significant financial resources.	High	Due to the environmental sensitives of the park and the challenges of constructing a single launch that could be accessed year around, it has been recommended that motorized access within the park be restricted to the parking lot only. It is acknowledged that access for launching boats is limited, and the RDCK is actively seeking alternative boat launch locations.	Goal 1 – Protect the Environmental Values of the Back Eddy	Parking Lot, Access Control and Improvements -Short-term (1-3 years)	See capital costs for Multiple Points of Waterfront Access	n/a
Financial Limitations	The consulting team believes that the design concept presented is the best option to minimize impacts to the sensitive shoreline and back eddy. It is acknowledged, however, that the design concept as presented will require significant financial resources.	High	To reduce costs, it is recommended that the RDCK partner with conservation organizations and apply for a grant through BC Hydro’s Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program to eliminate motorized access and implement restoration of the back eddy.	Goal 1 – Protect the Environmental Values of the Back Eddy	Management Plan Direction -Immediately	not costed	not costed
Limited Infrastructure and Recreational Amenities	Infrastructure at Waterloo Eddy Park is limited to an undeveloped parking area at the end of Waterloo Road, a series of dirt access roads at the north end of the park created by users and informal parking within the park. The site does not have access to potable water and has no washroom facilities, drainage infrastructure, fencing or boundary signage.	High	A single unisex, handicap accessible washroom building will be sited near the south end of parking lot close to the trailhead, along with a bear proof trash receptacle. A new central gathering area is also planned. The gathering area is strategically located to provide unobstructed views of the Columbia River and sits within a higher elevation area that is not seasonally flooded. The area is expected to function as a place to socialize and to educate users (e.g. signage) about the park’s natural and cultural values. Amenities in this location could include picnic tables, informational signage and a bear proof trash receptacle.	Goal 2 – Limit the Recreational Impact on the Park’s Natural Environment	a. Washroom Facility -Short-term (1-3 years) b. Washroom Servicing - ongoing c. Central Gathering Area -Medium-term (4-7 years) d. Maintenance of Central Gathering Area - ongoing	a. 13,000 c. 21,00	b. 8,400 d. 9,000

Management Challenge and/or Identified Issue	Comments	Importance Level	Recommendation	Related Plan Goal	Suggested Timeframe	Capital Cost	Operating Cost (over 10 years)
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 2 – Limit the Recreational Impact on the Park's Natural Environment	a. Bear proof garbage cans -Short to Medium -term (1-7 years) b. Regulatory signs -Medium -term (4-7 years)	a. \$7,500 for bear proof garbage cans b. inclusive within the signage plan	n/a
Limited signage within the park	There is limited to no signage 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 2 – Limit the Recreational Impact on the Park's Natural Environment; Goal 7 – Recognize Opportunities for Cultural and Environmental Education; Goal 8 – Enhance Visitor Safety throughout the Park	Signage Plan - Medium Term (4-7 years) Signage Upkeep -ongoing	a. \$15,500	b. \$1,500
Plan Monitoring and Review	The park management plan is the key tool to guide decision-making for Waterloo Eddy Regional Park.	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 10 – Engage Park Stewards	a. Plan Review - periodic	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. Park management zones have been established to prevent and/or limit development in areas with high archeological potential.	Goal 6 – Protect Areas with Archeological Potential	a) Signage - Medium-term b) Plan Implementation -Immediately	a. inclusive within signage plan	b. \$29,000
Nuisance and Fire Safety	The land that is now Waterloo Eddy Regional Park was formally under the management authority of the Provincial Crown. The rural nature of the Crown land and the limited management and supervision practices of the Crown, have, in past years, created challenges for protecting the area from people dumping garbage, littering, using the natural area for toileting, or using the area for partying. Users have been known to light fires, at times cutting area trees for wood and creating forest fire hazards. Although alcohol consumption is not permitted within the park or on Crown land, some users disregard this rule.	High	RDCK Park bylaws set out prohibited uses; however, the RDCK will need to consider assigning bylaw enforcement resources to encourage compliance. Signage indicating proper conduct within the park should also be posted. Finally, staff resources are needed to ensure the park is kept clean and free of garbage during peak times.	Goal 3 – Protect the Environmental Values of the Back Eddy	a. Signage -Medium Term (4-7 years) b. Bylaw Enforcement -ongoing c. Park upkeep and garbage removal -ongoing	a. inclusive within the signage plan	b. \$29,250 c. \$96,300

Management Challenge and/or Identified Issue	Comments	Importance Level	Recommendation	Related Plan Goal	Suggested Timeframe	Capital Cost	Operating Cost (over 10 years)
Poorly Defined Boundaries and Encroachment on Teck Land	Waterloo Road provides vehicle access to the park. The park entrance functions as access to both the park and to adjacent lands to the east, owned by Teck. Two of the three dirt roads extending from the entrance cross into Teck land and then veer back into the park. At the south end of the park the main dirt road/trail through the park, again, veers beyond the park into Teck land. The boundary between Waterloo Eddy Park and Teck land is not clearly defined, leading users to create routes that respond to their interests and on-site conditions.	High	Teck's policy is to not allow unauthorized access to land that it privately owns. As use of this area shifts from recreational use of Crown land, to management by the RDCK as a regional park, Teck has articulated a desire to review the feasibility of installing an access management structure near the entrance of the park to prevent motorized access on Teck lands. Pedestrian access to Teck lands at the south end will require the RDCK to seek approval from Teck.	Goal 4 – Work with Neighbours to Control Vehicle Access and to Legitimize Existing Trails	a. Establish a working relationship with Teck to prevent motorized access on Teck land <i>-Immediately</i>	n/a	not costed
Invasive Weed Management	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 2 – Limit the Recreational Impact on the Park's Natural Environment	Implementation of Management plan <i>-Immediately</i>	n/a	inclusive within plan implementation
Lack of a Formalized Trail Network	The existing trail network has not been formalized, is haphazard in some locations and also has redundant roads/trails that encompass a larger footprint than necessary.	Moderate	The park trail concept includes a trail head and informational signage at the main parking lot and makes use of an existing road/trail that extends from the entrance of the park to its southern boundary. Trail signage should provide information about the park trail as well as the role this trail plays in connecting to the Trans Canada Trail. The management plan prohibits the use of motorized vehicles on the trail, limiting use to bicycles, hiking, walking and horses. The trail alignment will remain in its current location with the exception of improvements to address erosion in select locations, and the decommissioning of sections of the road network near the park entrance and in the wetted areas. Trail re-surfacing will also be undertaken to improve trail conditions as necessary. Park benches will be strategically located along the main trail.	Goal 5 – Maintain Trails and Facilitate Inter-Regional Trail Connections	a. Formalization of trail network <i>-Medium-term (4-7 years)</i> b. Signage <i>- Medium-term</i> c. Trail upkeep <i>- ongoing</i>	a. \$27,500 b. inclusive within signage plan	c. \$5,000
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.	Moderate	Given the environmental sensitivities of the eddy, 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 3 – Protect the Environmental Values of the Back Eddy	a. Signage <i>- Medium Term (4-7 years)</i> b. Bylaw Enforcement <i>-ongoing</i>	inclusive within signage plan	inclusive within bylaw enforcement
Stewardship and Good Neighborly Relations	The local fishing community, park neighbours and other 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 10 - Engage Park Stewards AND Goal 4 – Work with Neighbours to Control Vehicle Access and to Legitimize Existing Trails	a. Communication <i>- periodic</i>	n/a	a. \$6,500

Appendix B: Waterloo Eddy Public Involvement Plan



Waterloo Eddy Regional Park Management Plan Project Public Involvement Plan Summary

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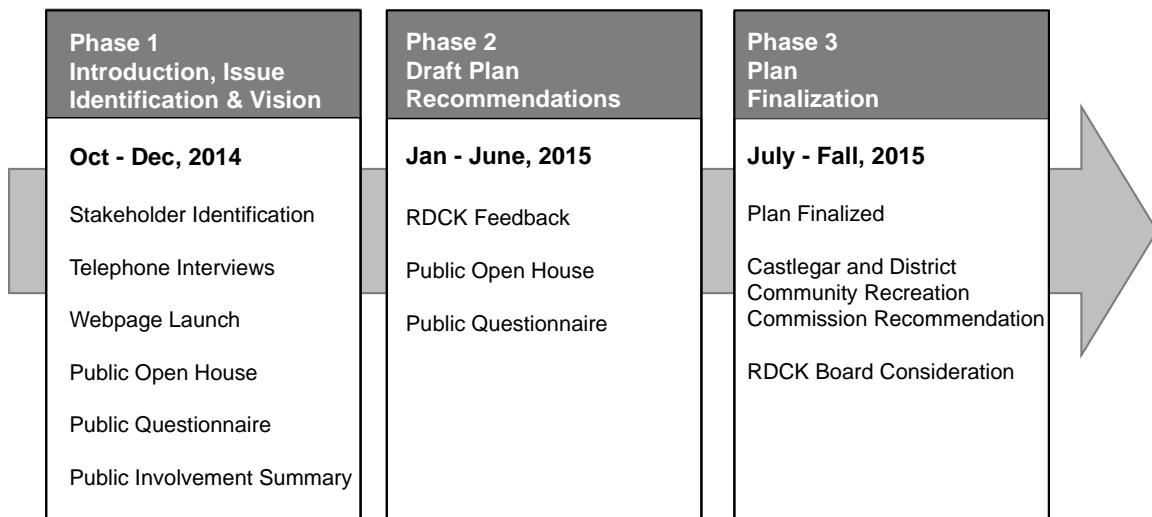
1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Public Involvement Plan for the Waterloo Eddy 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. 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 5, 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: Preliminary 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
- 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, as well as the Phase 1 public involvement outcomes 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 a second open house and questionnaire in the spring of 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 finalize the development of the management plan. The plan will be submitted to the RDCK project management team and posted on the RDCK website for stakeholder organizations and the public to provide final comments. Final amendments will be made to the management plan and the plan will be presented to the Castlegar and District Community Recreation Commission and to the RDCK Board of Directors for final approval.

3.0 PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

3.1 RDCK Project Resource and Management Team

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

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

The resource and management team is a central focus for consultation and reporting activities throughout each phase of the management plan project. The RDCK has 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 based on the recommendations of the Castlegar and District Community Recreation Commission.

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 Castlegar and District Community Recreation Commission, the RDCK staff and the RDCK Board of Directions 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. The RDCK values provincial processes for consultation with First Nations and will apply these processes throughout the project.
- Previous decisions and the direction established within existing RDCK’s policy documents will also shape the management plan and impact the scope of consultation (e.g., Official Regional Parks Plan Bylaw 2044 and the Castlegar, Area I and Area J Service Area Bylaw 533).
- The public involvement process could provide opportunities to grow a resource of organizations interested in the 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 Phase 1 public involvement process and those circulated project information.

Figure 2.0: Stakeholder Consultation and Information

Participating Organizations	Additional Organizations Circulated Project Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advisory Planning Commission – Area E - BC Hydro - Castlegar Chamber of Commerce - Castlegar Communities in Bloom - Friends of Castlegar Parks and Trails - Friends of West Kootenay Parks - Kootenay Lake School District #8 - Kootenay Mountaineering Club - Ministry of Environment, Environmental Protection - Ministry of Environment, Fish and Habitat - Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resources Operations, Regional Operations Division - Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure - Regional District of Central Kootenay - Rotary Club - Selkirk College – Fish and Wildlife - Selkirk College – Integrated Planning - TECK Metals - West Kootenay Fly Fishing Club - West Kootenay Invasive Weed Council - West Kootenay Naturalist Association 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adams Lake Indian Band - Advisory Planning Commission – Area J - Akisqnuq First Nation - Columbia Basin Trust - Interior Health Authority - Ktunaxa Lands and Resources Agency - Lower Kootenay Band - Lower Similkameen Indian Band - Ministry of Energy and Mines - Neskonlith Indian Band - Okanagan Indian Band - Okanagan Nation Alliance - Osoyoos Indian Band - Penticton Indian Band - Secwepemc Nation - Shuswap Indian Band - Sinixt - Splots'in First Nation - St. Mary's Indian Band - Tobacco Plains Indian Band - Upper Nicola Band - West Kootenay Invasive Weed Council

3.4 RDCK Residents and Park Neighbours

Residents of the RDCK were invited to participate in Phase 1 of the project through the public open house events, open house one-on-one discussions with hosts, an open house questionnaire and/or through the online questionnaire. Approximately 55 people participated in the Phase 1 open house and approximately 25 people participated in the Phase 2 open house. Fifty four questionnaires were completed in Phase 1 and 20 questionnaires were completed in Phase 2. *Figure 3.0 - Project Notification and Participation*, lists the public involvement events, the feedback tools, the communication and notification methods and the levels of participation achieved.

Figure 3.0 - Phase 1 - Project Notification and Participation

Public Involvement Events (2014)		Notification Methods		PARTICIPATION	Stakeholder Organizations Phone Interviews/Emails	Surrounding Residents Direct Mail	RDCK Website Update	RDCK Press Releases/PSAs	RDCK Facebook/Twitter	Pennywise – Castlegar/Slocan Valley ed. - Advertisement	Castlegar News Advertisement	Kootenay Morning Radio News Story	Castlegar News Article	The Goat FM	Poster in Castlegar and District Community Complex	
October	Project Introduction Outreach Website Launch	n/a	✓				✓	✓	✓							
Oct/Nov	Website Questionnaire Launch	100		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Public Open House	55														
Nov	Questionnaire Reminder	n/a					✓	✓	✓							
Phase 2																
June (2015)	Website Update & Questionnaire	20		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
	Public Open House	25														
Phase 3																
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 Access for Fishermen and Improve Parking

Castlegar was identified as an area that is defined by its rivers and that it is increasingly becoming a fly fishing destination. Some participants noted that the community uses the rivers to market itself and public access to the rivers is considered an important component of this equation. The need for a safe and functional river access for fisherman and their boats was a common theme among participants. Desired improvements included repair of the road to the water and the development of a simple boat ramp. A number of participants suggested the lower boat access was often too muddy and that the main access should be moved to higher elevation. The majority of participants were also unsatisfied with current parking conditions and the desire for improvements was a common request.

It should be noted that two of three dirt access roads in or near the park cross Teck's private lands. Teck's policy is to not allow unauthorized access to lands that it privately owns. As part of its on-going access management planning, Teck will review the feasibility of installing access management structures at this site, primarily designed to control motorized vehicles.

Theme B: Protect the River and Trails

Many participants noted the importance of protecting the park's natural habitat. A high priority was to put an end to mud bogging through the river and along the banks. A number of participants felt strongly that the solution was to ban motorized recreational vehicles from the park; however, a few others shied away from the outright ban, as well as other management rules that would restrict current park uses and access. Beyond some improvements to parking, boat access, washrooms and garbage collection, many participants believe development and services should be minimal to protect the park's natural values and "rustic charm".

Theme C: Value Park Trails and Plan for Trail Connections

Hiking and walking in the park were the most common activities. Participants noted that the park trails were a central feature of their long term vision for the park and reported varying levels of satisfaction with existing trail conditions. Erosion was identified as an important management plan topic. A number of participants also noted the importance of the park as a trail connection to the Trans Canada/Columbia River Trail.

Theme D: Improve Signage

Participants noted a desire for improvement to both directional signage to the park and within the park and to informational signage within the park. Notably, there currently is no signage directing users to the park. Examples of desired informational signage included signage to identify environmentally sensitive areas and to help educate users about the history and culture of the area.

Other Points of Interest

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

- Protect native meadow plants (camas) in seasonally flooded areas.
- Consider the purchase of the five acres in foreclosure next to the park.
- Consider walk-in tent sites.
- Make the park wheelchair accessible by moving some rocks at the eddy.
- Do not gate the park, allow open access and 24 hour usage.

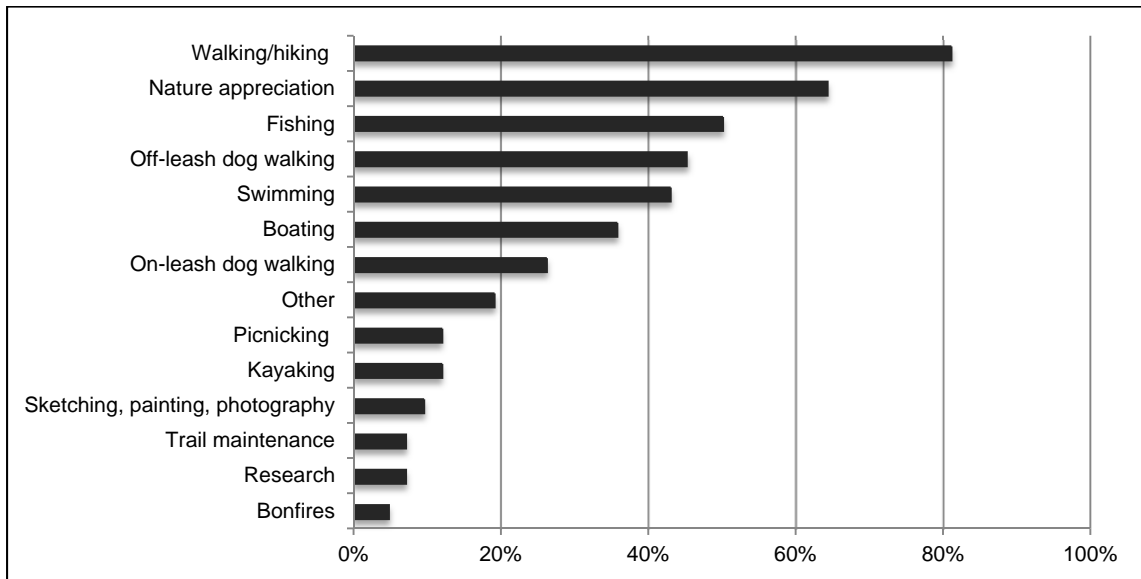
4.2 Phase 1: Questionnaire Results

Throughout the introductory phase of the management plan 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 5, 2014, public open house also completed the questionnaire. A total of 54 responses were received.

Almost all respondents were from Ootischenia, Castlegar, Robson, Pass Creek or Trail, and half considered themselves park neighbours. Fifty seven percent had visited the park more than five times over the past two years. Only 15% had never been to the park, or had not been in the last two years. The most common reasons noted were that they did not know about the area or that they felt access was too challenging.

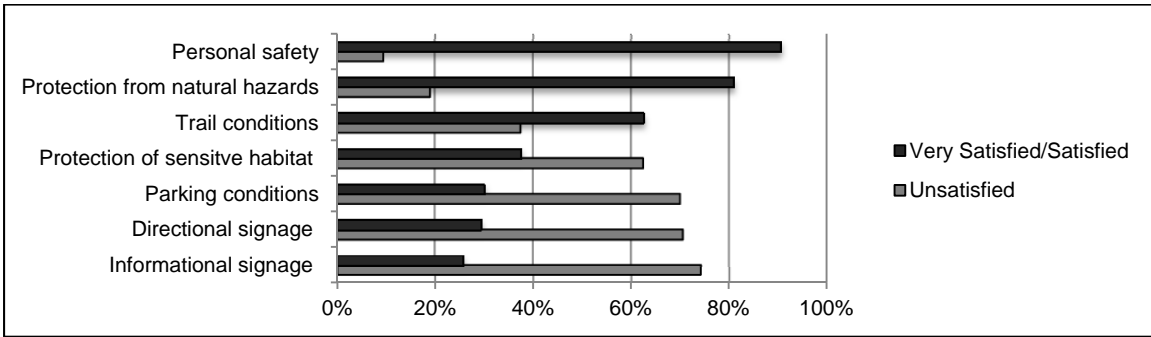
The top three park activities included walking and hiking, nature appreciation (including wildlife viewing and birding) and recreational fishing. However, visitors also enjoy the park for a wide range of other activities, including off-leash dog walking, swimming, boating and on-leash dog walking. *Figure 4.0 – Participation in Park Activities*, outlines the percent of respondents who participate in the various park activities. Within the category noted “other” respondents indicated they have participated in park clean-up activities or enjoy the park for motorized recreational vehicle use, snowshoeing, access to the Columbia Trail, biking, or paddle boarding.

Figure 4.0 – Participation in Park Activities



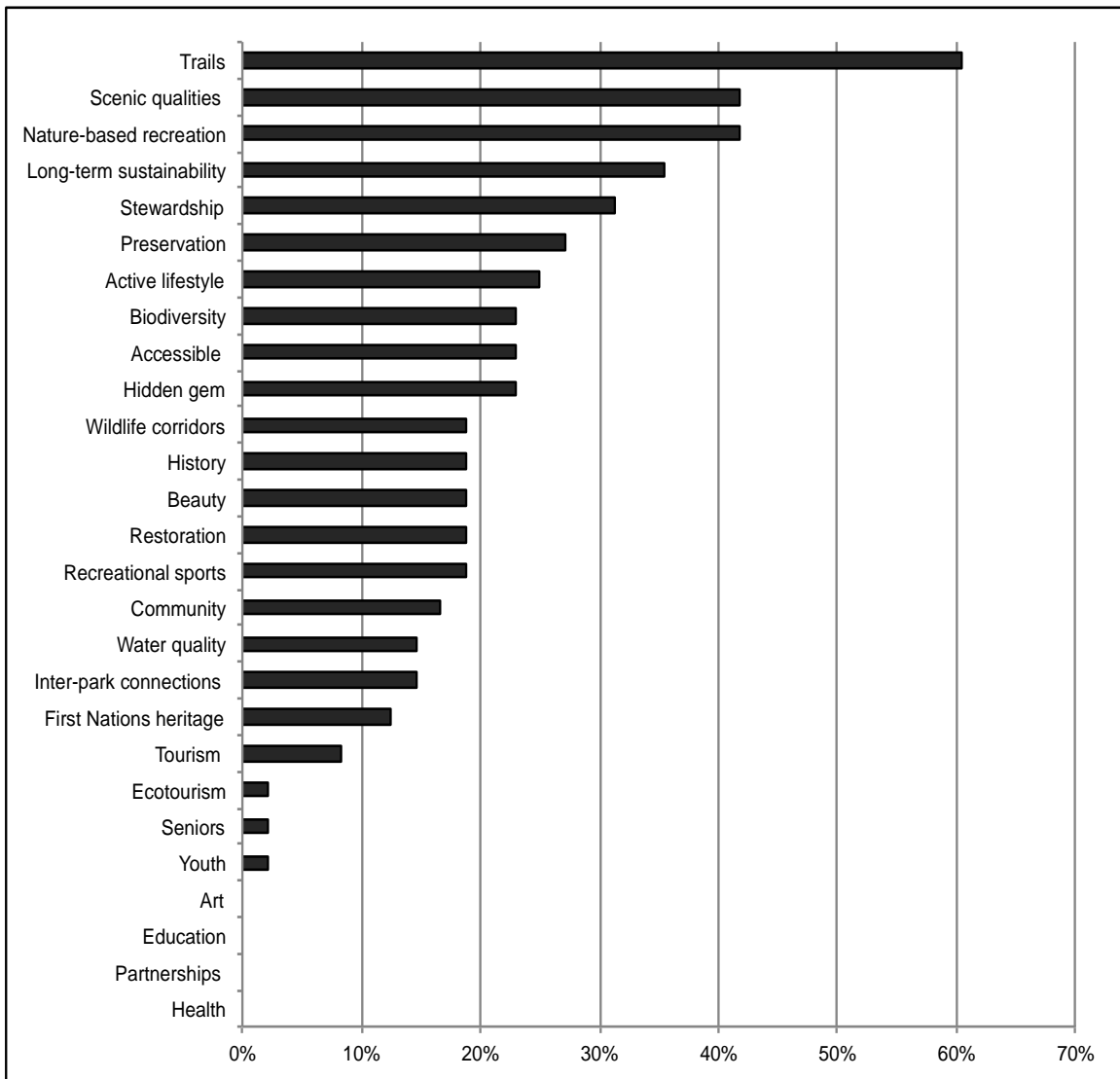
Respondents generally noted they feel safe in the park. Ninety percent were generally “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their sense of personal safety and 81% were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with their sense of protection from natural hazards. Sixty three percent were also “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the current condition of hiking trails. Much lower satisfaction levels were found with the current level of sensitive habitat protection, parking conditions, directional signage and informational signage. Between 63% and 75% of respondents were unsatisfied with current conditions in all of these categories.

Figure 4.1 - Satisfaction Levels with Existing Conditions



Respondents were asked to identify five words or phrases they believed to be important to developing a vision for the park. *Figure 6.0 – Top Words and Phrases Important to the Development of the Park Vision*, sets out the response.

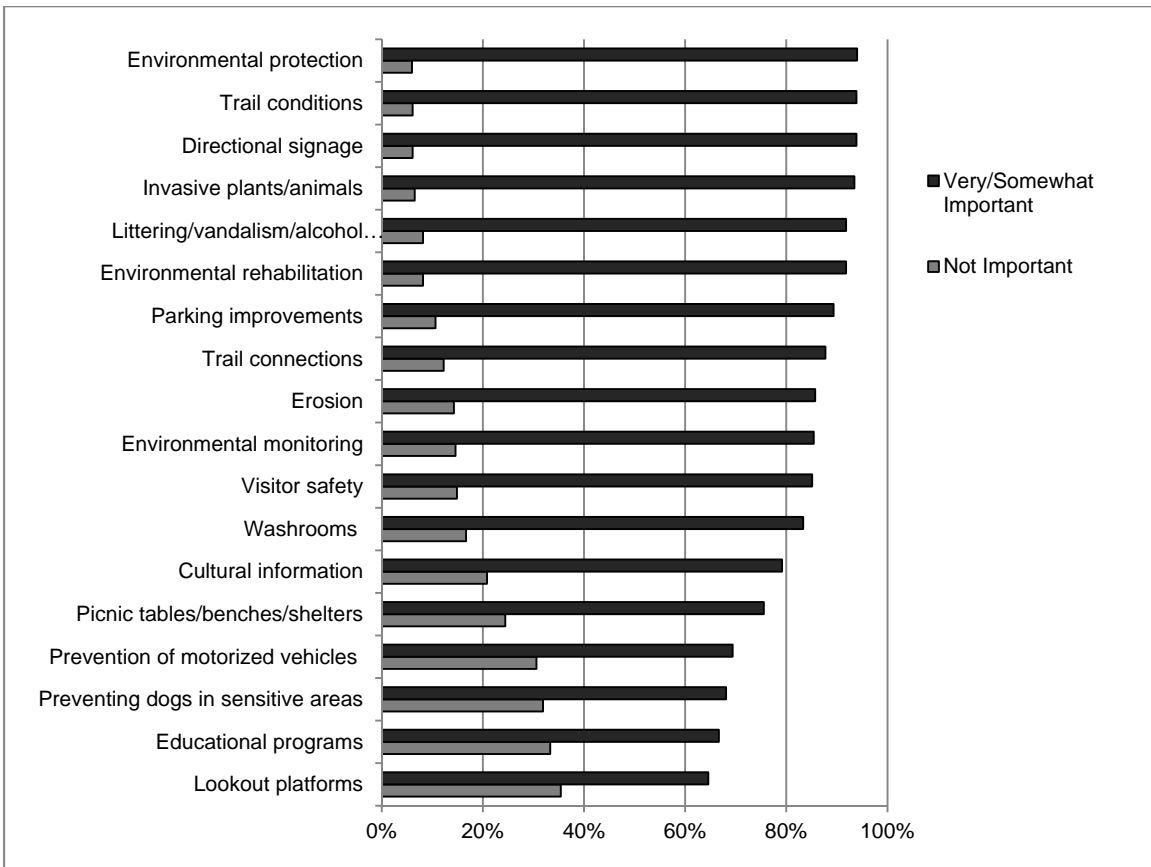
Figure 4.2 - Top Words and Phrases Important to the Development of the Park Vision



Note: Those responding "other" noted the vision should include the terms "fishing" and "natural".

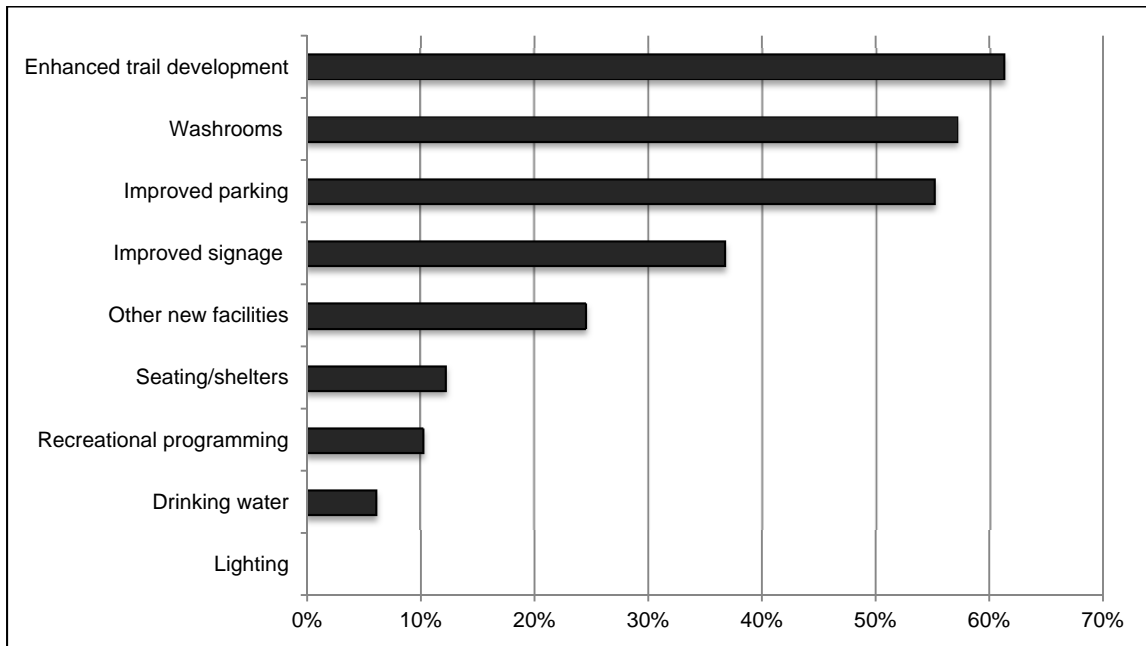
When asked about their priorities for the management plan there was strong support for many potential management plan topics. Two thirds of the topics were considered “very important” or “somewhat important” by over 80% of the respondents and over 65% considered all topics “very important” or “somewhat important.” Environmental protection, trail conditions, and directional signage (for the park and for trails) received the highest level of support; however, many other management plan topics followed closely as high priorities. *Figure 7.0 – Top Management Plan Priorities*, provides the questionnaire results of those who expressed opinions about management plan priorities. Some respondents also noted that priorities should also include a boat launch, preventing mud-bogging, providing access to the Columbia Trail, keeping the park as natural as possible and protecting the Camassia quamash plant.

Figure 4.3 - 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 enhanced trail development and maintenance (61%), washrooms (57%) and improved parking (55%). Only 12% included seating and shelters within their top three service priorities, 10% included recreation programs, 6% included drinking water, and no respondents included lighting. Some respondents noted their desires for other facilities and services, including a boat launch, improvements to the access road, garbage bins, a fish cleaning station, picnic tables and a children’s playground. Some noted they felt the park should remain as it is with no improvements. *Figure 8.0 – Top Services, Facilities and Programs*, highlights the questionnaire results of those who expressed opinions about services, facilities and programs.

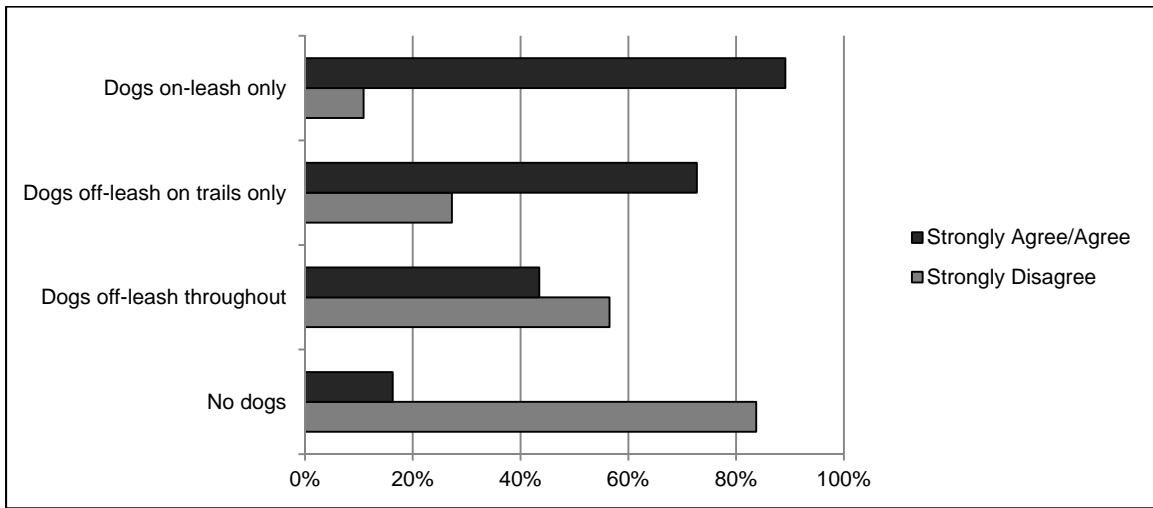
Figure 4.4 - Top Services, Facilities and Programs



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 75% supported such uses, 13% did not and 13% indicated they were unsure (percentages exceed 100% as a result of rounding).

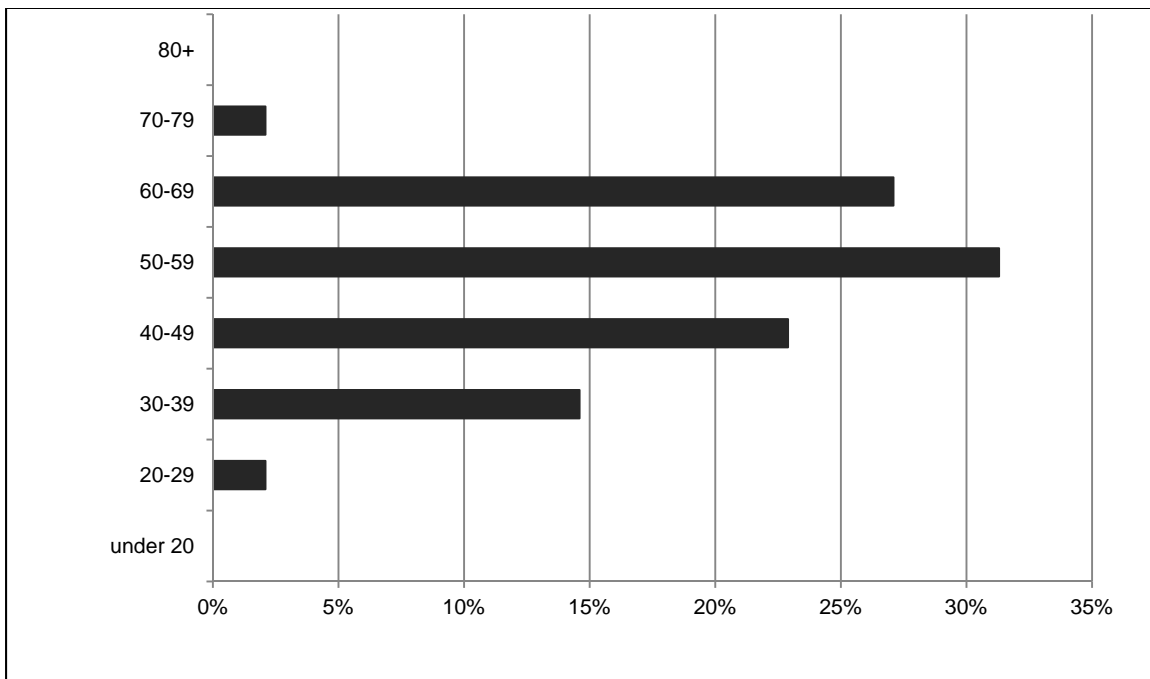
When asked for their opinions about dogs in the park, 84% “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that dog should be allowed in the park. Although, the vast majority (89%) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that dogs should be kept on a leash. When asked specifically about allowance for off-leash dogs on trails only, 73% “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with such an allowance. Fifty seven percent “strongly disagreed” with the suggestion that dogs be allowed off-leash throughout the park. *Figure 9.0 – Dog Restrictions*, highlights the responses received from four questions concerning dog restrictions.

Figure 4.5 – Dog Restrictions



The profile of respondents was relatively evenly split between male (58%) and female (42%). Figure 10.0 represents the age distribution of respondents.

Figure 4.6 – 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 22, 2015. Residents within the RDCK were made aware of this opportunity through the RDCK's social media channels, press releases and paid advertising. A total of 20 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: Overall Support for Management Efforts

Participants expressed support for the majority of the draft management and design proposals. Seventy five percent of questionnaire respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the vision statement, and at least 65% of questionnaire respondents believed improvements to the following were “very important” or “somewhat important”: parking, signage, washroom services, fencing, trail improvements and environmental restoration. Even boat launch improvements (65%) and the related access road improvements (61%) received support from the majority of respondents. However, it should be noted with respect to the proposal to consolidate the boat launch, 29% felt strongly that it should not be pursued and 17% felt that access road improvements should not be pursued (see discussion below). The proposal to create a socializing area received low levels of support.

Theme B: Divided Opinions on Boat Launch and Access Road Proposal

A range of opinions was expressed during the open house and through the questionnaires in response to the proposal to realign road access and create a single, improved, boat launch that would function at a range of water levels. There was clear interest in supporting boat access to the Columbia River; however, respondents were more divided about whether Waterloo Eddy Park was the best place for such an investment. When asked specifically about the importance of consolidating boat launch areas and constructing a single boat launch that could function at a range of water levels, 65% of respondents indicated this was “very important” or “somewhat important”. Realigning the access road to the boat launch to prevent motorized access to environmentally sensitive areas also received a similar level of support (61%). When respondents were asked to choose between support the financial investment in the road and boat launch, or closing the park to vehicles and boat launch activities (designating the park for conservation) respondents were relatively evenly split. Forty seven percent of respondents

supported the proposed investment, while 41% supported the idea of designating the park a conservation park (the remaining 12% did not support either option).

Some participants argued strongly that Waterloo Eddy is a well used park that should receive attention to improving boat launch access and activities (i.e., through an “inexpensive” boat launch) and to minimizing the impacts of these activities on the back eddy. Others suggested the launching conditions were challenging, unsafe and congested in a park of this size. Some suggested there are more suitable areas for the level of investment under discussion. The area just north of the park was noted as an alternate location, others suggested investment in existing launch areas (e.g., between Robson and Trail).

Environmental protection was also a factor deterring investment in the proposed road and boat launch. It was noted that the proposed development of the road would run through a highly sensitive and valued plant community and that the plan would destroy remnant patches of camas. It was stated that improvements would also allow for many more boaters to use the area, putting additional pressure on many aspects of the park’s environmental sustainability and negatively affecting people fishing off-shore. It was suggested that restoration work in the back eddy would be challenged by nearby swimming and picnicking activities. Some suggested the park should be a walk-in park only.

Theme C: Prevent Motorized Access into Sensitive Areas and Police Partying

Respondents supported proposed fencing and access management to prevent motorized access to environmentally sensitive areas, and more specifically “mud-bogging” (i.e., motorized vehicles driving through muddy areas). There was some concern the proposed plan had not adequately addressed policing of parties at the park and overnight camping.

Other Points of Interest

- A better overall assessment of historical, cultural and ecological values needs to be completed.
- Conserve, restore and protect natural values and assets.
- The camas meadow (within the proposed road location) should be designated as a “special feature” like the areas with high archeological potential and should be managed accordingly.
- Make the park bigger by purchasing the land to the north.
- Allow for off-leash dogs, there are limited opportunities for in the broader area.
- Improve swimming access.
- A loop trail is nicer to hike than having to turn-around.
- The public needs public access to drive through the park.

5.2 Phase 2: Questionnaire Results

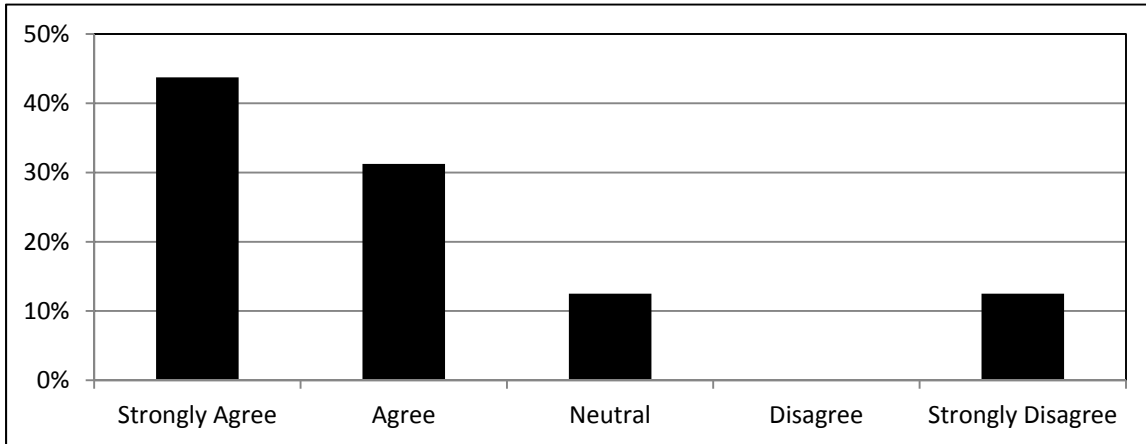
During Phase 2 (Draft Plan Recommendations) of the process, a questionnaire was made available, both at the spring open house and on-line, requesting input on the Draft Plan Recommendations. The following comments and figures summarize the questionnaire response.

The questionnaire asked respondents about their level of support for the proposed vision statement for Waterloo Eddy Park.

Waterloo Eddy Regional Park is a scenic natural area park on the eastern shores of the Columbia River. The park is valued for its rustic charm and as a local and regional destination for fishing and other nature based recreational activities. Park stewardship, visitor use and park activities actively preserve the park's natural values and align with the long term enjoyment and sustainability of the park and its ecosystems."

Seventy five percent of respondents agreed or strongly agreed with the proposed statement; while 12.5% strongly disagreed and 12.5% were neutral.

Figure 5.0 – Vision statement support



The design concept 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 5.11 summarize the results.

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

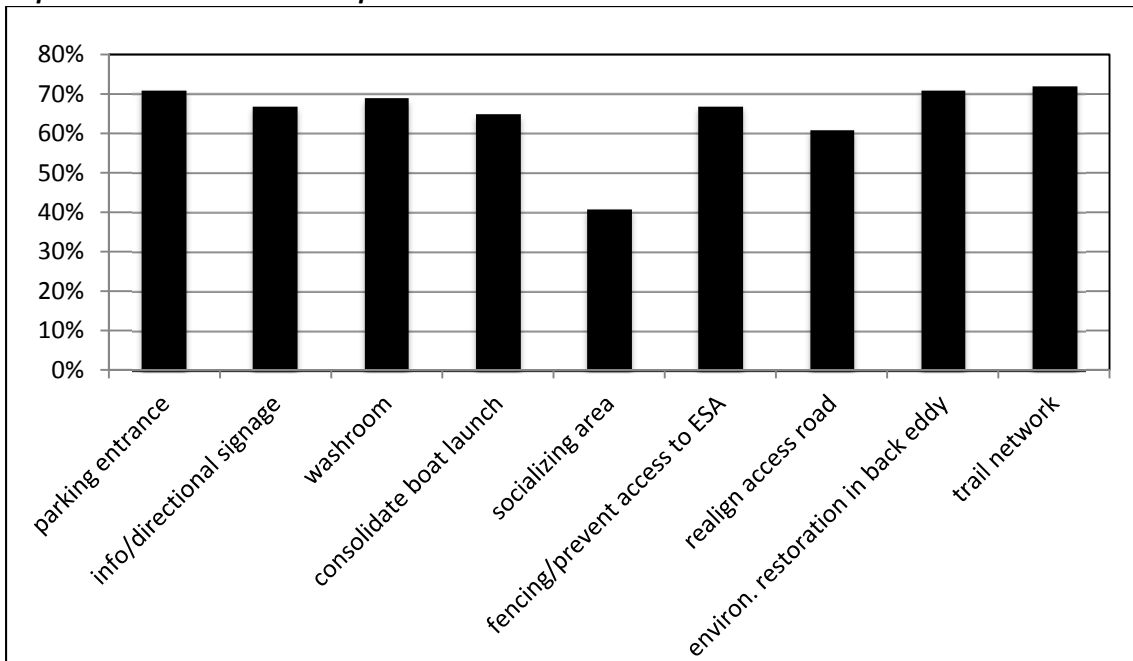


Figure 5.2 – Percentage of respondents ranking improvements as “should not be pursued”

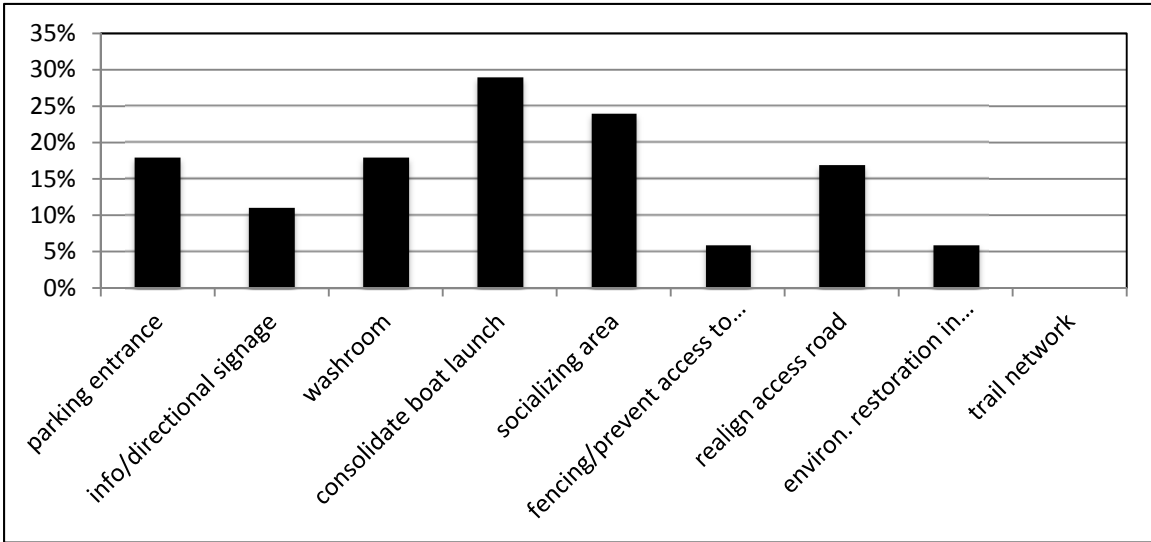


Figure 5.3 – Improve entrance parking

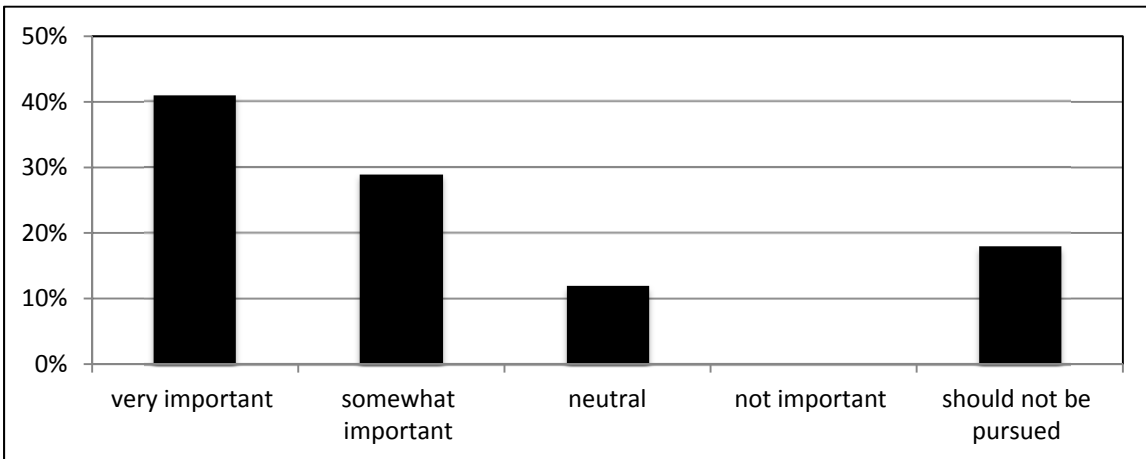


Figure 5.4 – Add informational and directional signage

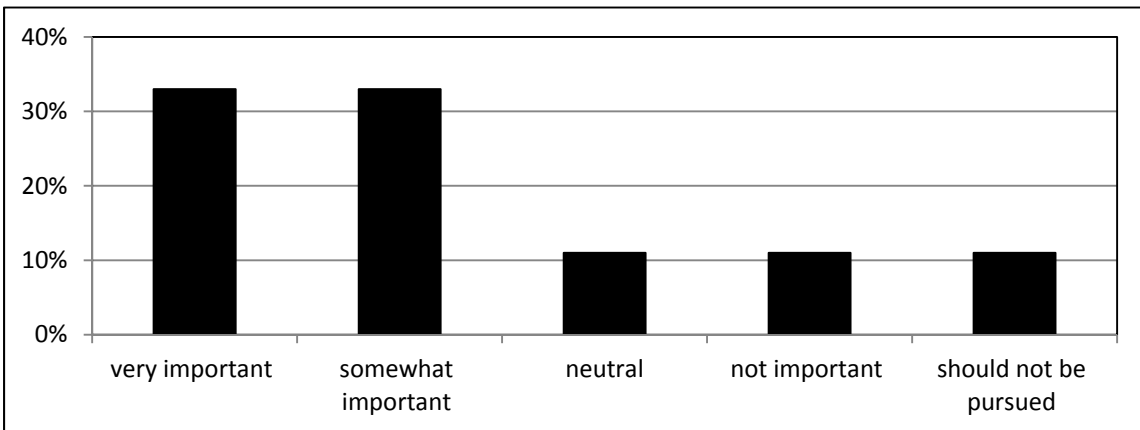


Figure 5.5 – Add a washroom

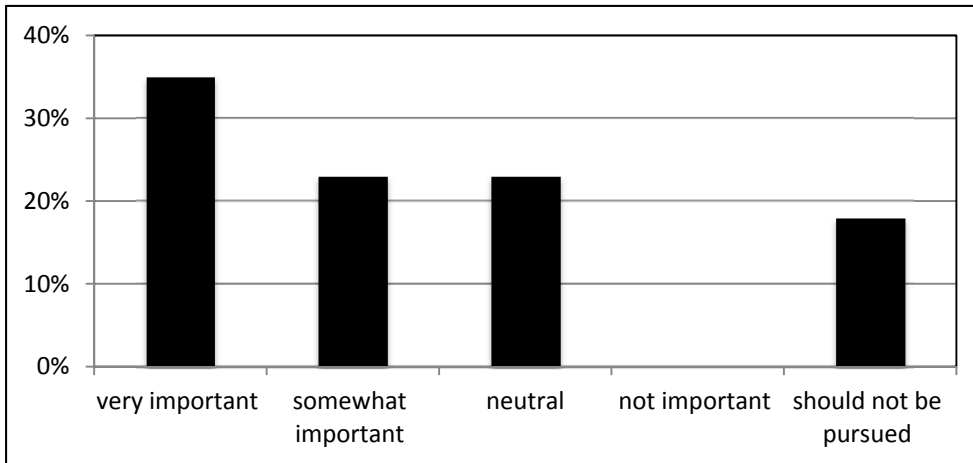


Figure 5.6 – Consolidate boat launch areas and construct a single boat launch that can function at a range of water levels

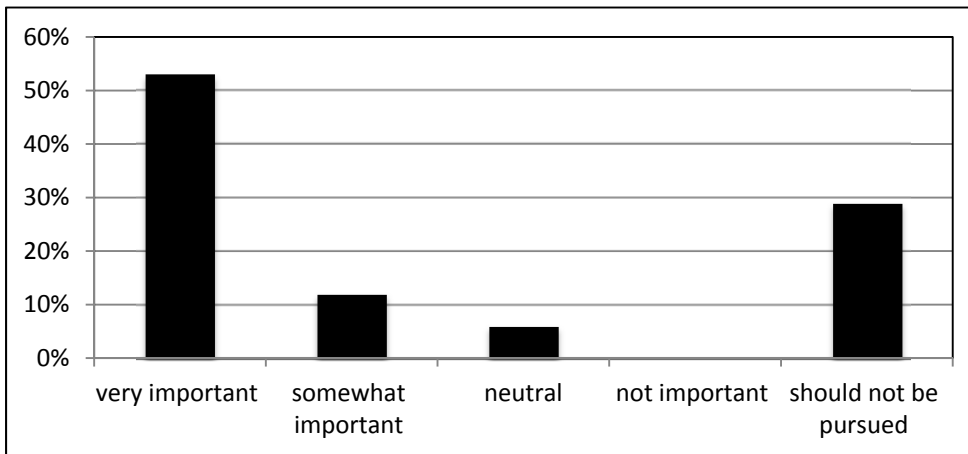


Figure 5.7 – Create a gathering and socializing area above the boat launch

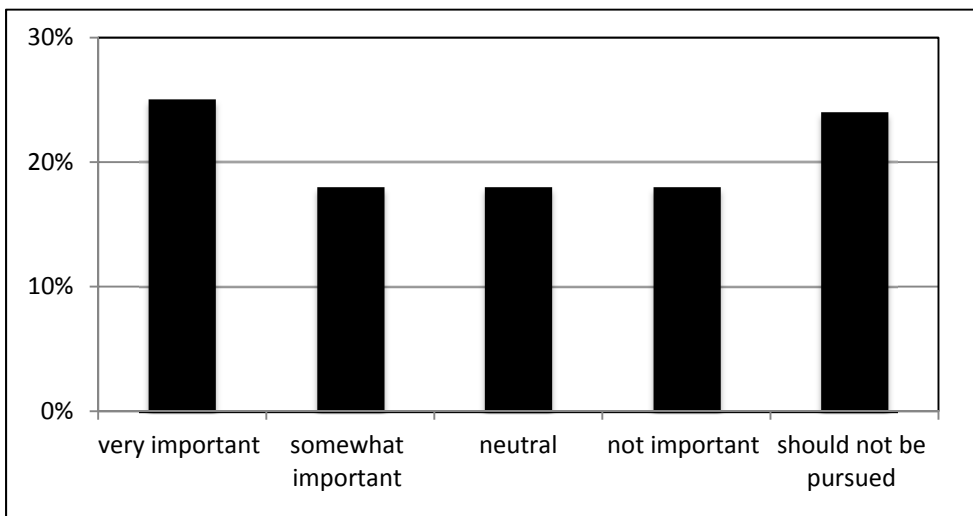


Figure 5.8 – Install fencing and landscaping to prevent motorized access to environmentally Sensitive Areas

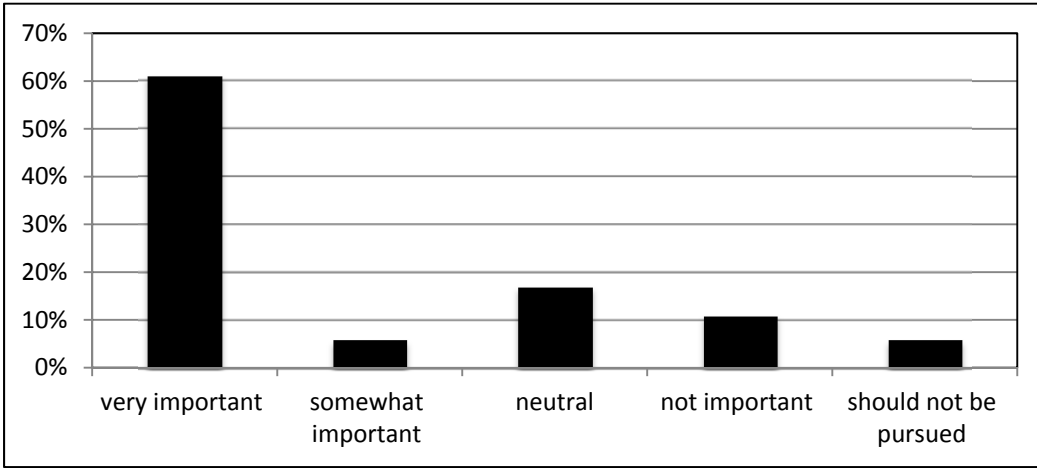


Figure 5.9 – Realign the access road to the boat launch to prevent motorized access to environmentally sensitive areas

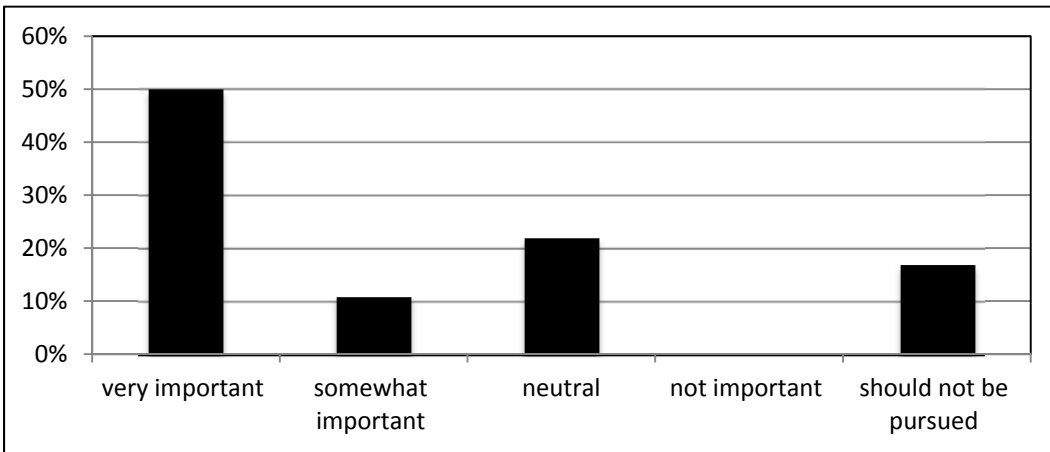


Figure 5.10 – Undertake environmental restoration in the back eddy

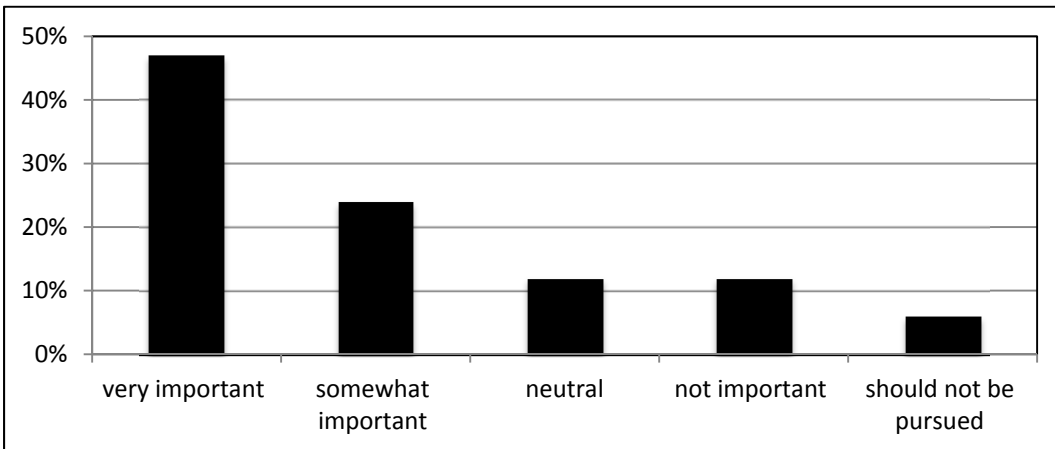


Figure 5.11 – Better define the existing trail network through signage and undertake minor trail improvements

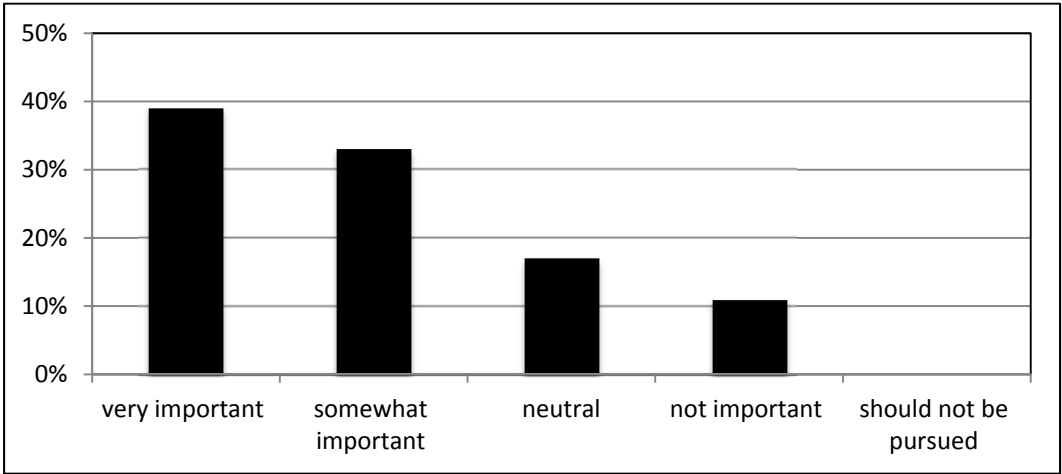


Figure 5.12 shows that of those participating in the questionnaire, 61% do not use boat launch areas at Waterloo Eddy, 33% use boat launch areas 1-5 times per year, and 6% use boat launch areas 6-10 times per year.

Figure 5.12 – Waterloo Eddy boat launch use

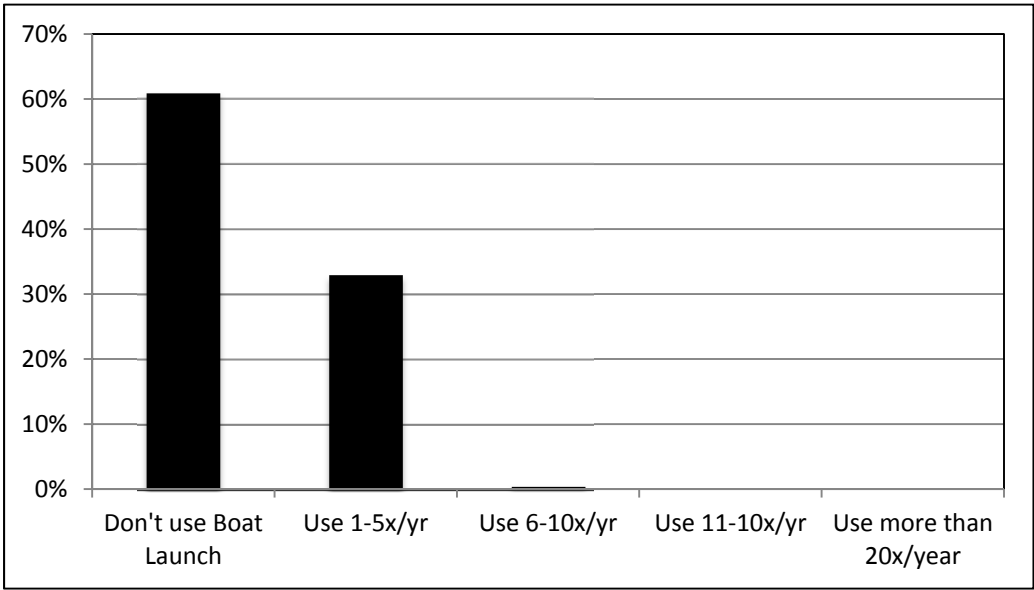


Figure 5.13, as discussed in Theme B above, shows a relatively even distribution of respondents between two quite different choices for the management direction for Waterloo Eddy Regional Park.

Figure 5.13- Support for road and boat launch improvements compared to support for a conservation park designation

