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# POWELL RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN

## STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Two workshops were held in the Powell River Regional District in January 2010 to gain input from stakeholders on parks and greenspaces. Representatives from government agencies, community organizations, industry and First Nations were invited to attend a workshop on parks and greenspaces. Participants were asked to offer their thoughts on the opportunities and challenges that the Plan should address. This document is a transcription of the written input provided by stakeholders in facilitated small group discussion sessions.

January 2010 stakeholder workshops details:

**Mainland**

Date: Monday, January 18th, 2010

Time: 2:00 – 4:30 pm

Location: Town Centre Hotel, Jervis Room, 4660 Joyce Avenue

**Texada Island**

Date: Wednesday, January 20th, 2010

Time: 2:00 – 4:30 pm

Location: Texada Community Hall, 2602 Gillies Bay Road

WHAT ARE THE 3 MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THAT THE PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE?

GROUP 1

RECREATION	FACILITIES + MANAGEMENT	ACCESS	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	COORDINATION	TRAILS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversify recreation opportunities to provide for motorized and non-motorized uses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop small boat launch ramps – fresh and saltwater locations</li> <li>Create drop off points for refuse – not all will bring out what they take in</li> <li>Develop low-impact small campsites at specific fresh and saltwater locations</li> <li>Change rooms and water supply for dive sites e.g. the Mermaid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear paths to access dive sites (easy to carry dive gear to site)</li> <li>Parking for divers and kayakers on waterfront areas</li> <li>Access to recreation in jeopardy</li> <li>Access for persons of limited mobility</li> <li>Ensure adequate saltwater access</li> <li>Limit development (e.g.) residential or industrial on remaining accessible waterfront (and crown land) e.g. Stillwater bluffs, Lang Creek, Eagle River</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consideration of ecological goods and services</li> <li>Clear science-based approach to what is ecologically significant</li> <li>Our islands are special jewels. They should be accessible for public enjoyment. We need public parks on Savary, Hernando, Harwood and north end of Texada</li> <li>The environmentally sensitive areas in the vicinity of Davie Bay on Texada must be protected from damage by industrial development</li> <li>Protect sensitive fish areas – fresh and salt water</li> <li>Protect old growth on Mt. Ironbirdge (Saltery Bay)</li> <li>Rehabilitate Cranberry Lake</li> <li>Wildlife habitat corridors need to be preserved along all salmon rivers</li> <li>Conservation in sensitive ecological areas – restrict use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding sources for outdoor groups to do what they do</li> <li>Clear process for acquiring lands and protecting that are ecologically significant</li> <li>Large Malaspina park – southward including Manzanita bluffs</li> <li>Cooperation between recreation and industrial users on the road networks (adequate and timely information)</li> <li>Work with Provincial agencies to enable greater efficiency of resources</li> <li>Better coordination of groups and marketing of what we have (more funding needed) Need a hook!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect SCT along with its highway access trails – a linear park</li> <li>Connectivity of trails on overall plan for PRRD</li> </ul>

WHAT ARE THE 3 MOST IMPORTANT THINGS THAT THE PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE?

GROUP 2

ACCESSIBILITY	ACCESS TO THE OCEAN	ECOSYSTEM PROTECTION	TRAILS	PRESERVE CLIMBING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canoe route portages wheelable (canoe carts)</li> <li>• Accessibility for all abilities</li> <li>• Keep forest open for public use (roads)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to the ocean</li> <li>• Public access to beach (ocean)</li> <li>• Access to shoreline (public)</li> <li>• Contiguous greenspaces and trails</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoreline natural (balance)</li> <li>• Protecting biodiversity</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Riparian parks and greenspaces</li> <li>• Wildlife protection areas</li> <li>• Maps – identifying biosensitive areas for planning and protection</li> <li>• Containing development particularly waterfront</li> <li>• Protect land along ocean and trail development along these areas</li> <li>• Save 2 special forests within the city 1) the crown land at the foot of Penticton Street 2) city forest land at the top of Penticton Street east of Ontario Street</li> <li>• Manage areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bicycle trail across the top of town</li> <li>• Trails – Penticton Area (protection) – city and rural</li> <li>• All hiking n/walking trails need to be identified</li> <li>• Funding for trail upkeep</li> <li>• Identify and establish public access to shoreline</li> <li>• Leave larger buffers around trails and lakes</li> <li>• Trails connectivity – shoreline, urban, alpine, woodland</li> <li>• Protect developed trails</li> <li>• Hold companies accountable to keep trails clear and signed after activity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve areas (climbing)</li> <li>• Accessible trails to Stillwater Buffs</li> </ul>

WHAT ARE THE 3 BIGGEST CHALLENGES THAT THE PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS?

GROUP 1

CONFLICTS	FUNDING	POLITICAL WILL	IMPLEMENTATION	COORDINATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflicts with ownership e.g. extensive private management forest lands (without public access to management plans)</li> <li>• Existing land use conflicts</li> <li>• Prioritizing critical areas (conflict of values)</li> <li>• Conflict between special interests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find vision and fund it – taxes</li> <li>• Continuing flow of money convince funders of importance of plan</li> <li>• Funding – who is going to help?</li> <li>• Resources</li> <li>• No money</li> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Local governments must be able to recognize the importance of conservation to the degree that tax dollars go to parks and greenspace</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingness of RD to become involved in parks and greenspace and funding plans</li> <li>• Continuity of proponents considering inevitable political change – ensuring follow through of plan in perpetuity</li> <li>• Lack of political will (plans not followed through – save what we have now)</li> <li>• Plan dies on shelf (as fed. White paper)</li> <li>• Community approval</li> <li>• Powell River must shift from a resource extraction mentality to an ecotourism mentality</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long range plan with deliverables and accountability</li> <li>• Implementation of plan</li> <li>• Lack of scientific understanding of what is important</li> <li>• Lack of RD tools for acquiring land</li> <li>• Burn out of volunteers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside forces – industry, senior governments, etc</li> <li>• Coordination of various agencies, gov't bodies, and bureaucracies will require a paid position for environmental resource officer</li> <li>• Common vision</li> <li>• Coordination under what branch of government or group – new group?</li> <li>• Individual agendas ‘cooperation of all user groups’</li> </ul>

WHAT ARE THE 3 **BIGGEST CHALLENGES** THAT THE PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS?

GROUP 2

CONFLICT	FUNDING	COMMUNICATION	ACTION	ECOSYSTEM INTEGRITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conflict with resource industry</li> <li>• Pressure from development</li> <li>• Conflicting interests for certain areas (e.g. accessibility vs. wild areas)</li> <li>• Interaction with existing uses</li> <li>• Balancing different user groups / interests</li> <li>• Multiple uses of park (not on dimensional)</li> <li>• Reconciling the need for greenspaces and development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding – acquisition, establishment</li> <li>• Funding so we can keep access open</li> <li>• Funding acquisition</li> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Funding</li> <li>• Find a way to purchase or obtain holdout or blocks in the overall plan</li> <li>• Land trust – partnerships – managing for values without purchasing land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Referrals and consultation or lack thereof by Provincial Gov't e.g. gravel pit</li> <li>• Cooperation between local government, provincial government and businesses dealing with resource extraction or residential development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting forest company to listen to our pleas for access</li> <li>• Public and industry awareness and respect of our greenspace values</li> <li>• Gaining cooperation of different interests</li> <li>• Action/leadership</li> <li>• Incentives for respecting and improving values – prizes, honour, recognition, \$\$</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical limitations (terrain)</li> <li>• Protecting diversity</li> <li>• Areas and corridors big enough to protect the wildlife</li> <li>• Finding ways to connect greenspace and trails in a very fragmented area</li> <li>• Making sure that sensitive habitat is considered, mapped and protected and respected</li> </ul>

WHAT ARE THE 3 **MOST IMPORTANT** THINGS THAT THE PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE?

GROUP 1

MANAGEMENT + FINANCE	WATERFRONT ACCESS	PARKS + PUBLIC AREAS	PROTECTION	VISUAL AESTHETICS	RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where does the money come from, Who is managing the areas?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foreshore access on Texada</li> <li>Public access to waterfront</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordination and enhancement of protected areas</li> <li>Better utilization development of existing parks/Reg. District land</li> <li>To ensure more public areas for recreation</li> <li>More accessible/available recreational sites, i.e. Heischolt Lake</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect all forested crown land from turtle lake up to edge of recent logging and the 6 acre parcel between the legion bog in Van Anda and the wall st. Pumphouse</li> <li>Protect all crown land between crescent bay and Texada quarrying LTD. From coastline to top of surprise mtn. and the priest lake watershed</li> <li>Ensure a protected area at and in proximity to the UREP at Davie Bay</li> <li>Protect all forest crown land in the eagle cove-sturt bay area</li> <li>Protect the rare glass sponge reefs located in St. of Georgia between S. tip of Texada and Sechelt</li> <li>Protect the best habitats for woodwardia ferns – rare plants</li> <li>To protect areas of ecological value</li> <li>Protect lakes streams wildlife</li> <li>Unique or endangered ecosystems (old growth, Texada cactus bluffs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To preserve and increase aesthetic qualities for public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cycling/jogging trails on Texada (we have none now)</li> </ul>

WHAT ARE THE 3 **MOST IMPORTANT** THINGS THAT THE PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE?

GROUP 2

HABITAT	ENHANCE EXISTING PARKS	ACCESS	PROTECT PROPERTY + INDUSTRY RIGHTS	OTHER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protection of Salmon + Trout creeks for spawning and tearing</li> <li>• Area for hatchery for community kids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the existing parks + trails that are already established</li> <li>• Eye to development of existing park at southern end of island – paths + ATV with control</li> <li>• Respect for the status of the Sanderson trail</li> <li>• Extend development of Shelter Point Park</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More shore access by Road</li> <li>• Access for public in upper 1/3 rd of Island to beaches and paths</li> <li>• Signage for the already existing govt. road access to Waterfront</li> <li>• The trails that exist – marked</li> <li>• Trails to creeks</li> <li>• Accessibility</li> <li>• A generalize trail map – for island on public land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No impact on mining operations or mineral tenures</li> <li>• Respect private property and industry</li> <li>• Do not infringe on private property</li> <li>• No allegations of potential marine terminals/log sorts</li> <li>• Protect logging and workers and industry</li> <li>• To use public lands only</li> <li>• Protect mining and working and industry</li> <li>• Protect quarry and Quarry Jobs</li> <li>• No impact on forestry resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aesthetics/beauty</li> <li>• Variety</li> </ul>

WHAT ARE THE 3 BIGGEST CHALLENGES THAT THE PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS?

GROUP 1

MOTIVATION	FINANCE	POLITICAL	BALANCE	PROCESS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any form of consensus</li> <li>• Lack of Will</li> <li>• Apathy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Funding</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Persuade Prov.Govt.to compensate tenure holders for loss of logging prerogative as appropriate</li> <li>• Wrestling land from existing tenures</li> <li>• Seeking support of taxpayers to invest environmental conservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political Support</li> <li>• Persuading Prov. Govt. to establish a system of new protected areas on crown land on Texada</li> <li>• Inclusion of Parks Plan in all Reg. Dist. OCP's</li> <li>• First Nation access</li> <li>• PRRD staff tie (could create local groups to work on projects)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding the balance between conflicting users of land i.e. forestry/hiking trails; industry/recreation</li> <li>• Balance + coordination between access/protection + private/industry</li> <li>• Getting established industries to buy into the green economy</li> <li>• Preserve ecology allow/increase public access – counter intuitive.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persuading P+GS Consultants to do an on the ground reconnaissance of all the recommended sites with photos + appropriate documentation</li> </ul>

WHAT ARE THE 3 BIGGEST CHALLENGES THAT THE PARKS AND GREENSPACE PLAN WILL HAVE TO ADDRESS?

GROUP 2

JURISDICTION + OWNERSHIP	MANAGEMENT	SURVIVAL	MONEY	BALANCE BETWEEN USES	OTHER
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given preponderance of crown land what is the prov. Gov. policy on inclusion in a greenspace plan?</li> <li>• Distribution of Private property and existing tenures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who</li> <li>• Management</li> <li>• Who will organize? Who will decide areas?</li> <li>• Local Participation (employment)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community survival</li> <li>• Industrial survival</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Money</li> <li>• Money</li> <li>• Financial</li> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Who's going to pay for it</li> <li>• \$\$</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finding a reasonable balance in respect to industry &amp; public use on Texada</li> <li>• Finding balance between Rec/Industry</li> <li>• Conflict resolution</li> <li>• Co exist with industry already here +future development</li> <li>• Keeping a balance</li> <li>• Balance between private &amp; public lands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Will</li> <li>• Prioritization</li> <li>• Habitat survival</li> <li>• Given the industries on the Island – what are they willing to do to help to enhance green spaces? Liabilities?</li> </ul>