

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN

FOR ELECTORAL AREA G (Houston/Granisle Rural)



2026

The development of this plan was guided by input from the following groups and individuals:

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Staff

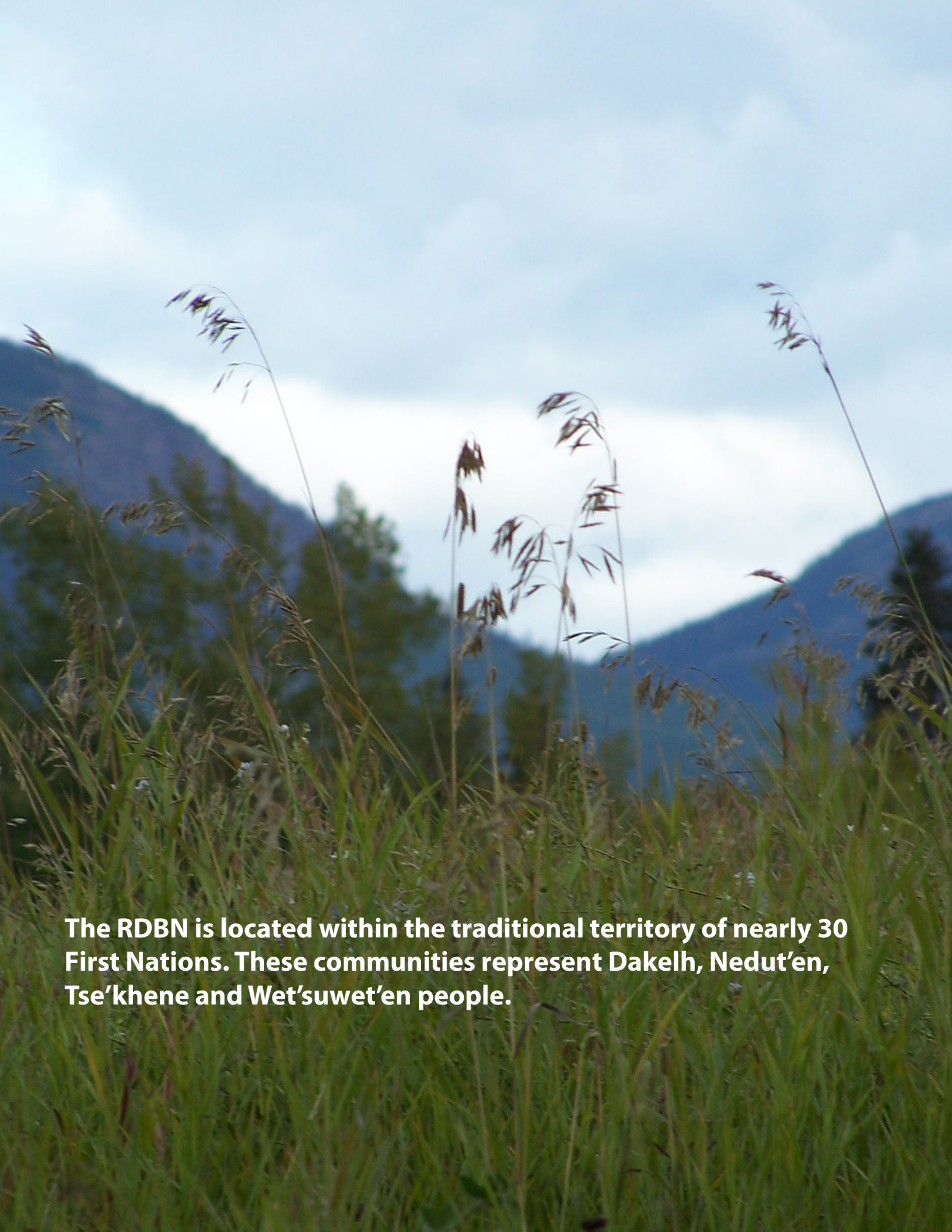
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LEES
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ASSOCIATES

Thank you to those residents and members of the public who shared their thoughts and ideas through the engagement process.

A photograph of a field of tall, green grass with several thin, brown seed heads reaching upwards. In the background, there are blue mountains under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid in the bottom left corner.

The RDBN is located within the traditional territory of nearly 30 First Nations. These communities represent Dakelh, Nedut'en, Tse'khene and Wet'suwet'en people.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



In 2020, the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) established a vision for delivering outdoor recreation across the regional district and subsequently created a Parks and Trails Service Area and a Recreation Contribution Grant Service Area for Electoral Area G, the District of Houston, and the Village of Granisle, as well as three other service areas. This Parks and Trails Master Plan is the first step in implementing these services for Electoral Area G, providing a framework for investment over the next 10 years.

The Parks and Trails Master Plan (the Plan) was developed in five phases from June 2025 through June 2026. Initial phases focused on understanding the inventory of existing parks and trails provided by others and engaging with stakeholders and the public to understand values, gaps and challenges. This review showed a strong foundation of parks and trails provided by the District of Houston, Village of Granisle, BC Parks, and Recreation Sites and Trails BC. Community-led outdoor recreation organizations have championed substantial initiatives, such as the cross-country ski trail network at Morice Mountain and mountain biking at Mount Harry Davis, and continue to make significant contributions through community organizing, maintenance, fundraising, and expansion projects.

Across Electoral Area G, there are four-season trail networks for hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and ORV riding, as well as park amenities that support camping and access to lakes and rivers for swimming, fishing, and boating. Camping and water-related activities like fishing and boating are most popular among those who participated. However, wildlife concerns, maintenance issues, and a lack of information were identified as barriers.

At the same time, several challenges and gaps emerged, including limited volunteer capacity, funding constraints, concerns about potential loss of access, and the complexity of the jurisdictional and regulatory landscape. Engagement results showed that community priorities included new trail connections, improved amenities, and better information and signage, and revealed opportunities to expand lake access, enhance existing trails and connections, and strengthen partnerships.

Combining the findings from the inventory and analysis, research on best practices, and community engagement, the Plan sets out an aspirational vision statement for parks and trails services and amenities over the next 10 years (2026-2036). The RDBN will contribute to parks and trails that build on community strengths, create safe connections, provide diverse and accessible recreation opportunities, celebrate the region's natural beauty, and support a diversified economy.

To help achieve the vision, a set of goals and recommendations was developed and is summarized on the following pages. The recommendations will be implemented incrementally as resources allow. Some initiatives will depend on external partnerships, regulatory approvals, and additional funding (i.e. grants). The Board's endorsement of the Master Plan indicates a preliminary agreement, without implying a financial commitment. The Board will make specific decisions regarding financial allocation as part of the financial planning process.

VISION STATEMENT

The RDBN's Parks and Trails Service for Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) will:

- **Build on Community Strengths.** The RDBN seeks to build upon the strengths of the recreation services provided by others, including First Nations, and recreation organizations. These partnerships will create a cohesive and sustainable system that enhances the overall recreational experience for all.
- **Create Safe Connections.** The parks and trails system will support connections between residents and key recreation and community destinations, focusing on accessible and multi-use linkages.
- **Provide Diverse and Accessible Recreation Opportunities.** The parks and trails system will offer diverse and accessible recreation options for all ages and abilities that will lead to increased participation in outdoor activities, increased health and well-being for residents, and enhanced tourism capacity. This will be achieved by maintaining and improving existing infrastructure and creating new or expanded parks, trails, and amenities to address gaps.
- **Celebrate the Region's Natural Beauty and Unique Features.** The parks and trails system will facilitate access to unique natural features and important community destinations and will contribute to a sense of place that attracts residents and visitors to the region.
- **Support a Diversified Economy.** The parks and trails system in Electoral Area G will support a vibrant economy and expansion of tourism by developing high-quality outdoor recreation amenities that enhance quality of life and attract residents and visitors to the region.

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Four goals emerged to support the RDBN in achieving the vision for parks and trails. Each goal is linked to a set of action-oriented recommendations to enhance parks and trails in Electoral Area G across a 10-year period from 2026 to 2036.

- **Goal 1:** Establish tools and processes to support the delivery of the parks and trails service in Electoral Area G
- **Goal 2:** Strengthen partnerships and build community capacity
- **Goal 3:** Increase access to outdoor recreation
- **Goal 4:** Enhance the user experience at parks and trails

A summary of the recommendations is provided on the following pages. Partnerships with other levels of government, First Nations, and community organizations will be critical to successful implementation. More information about resources required, partnerships, and collaboration is provided in the full Implementation Plan section of this report.

The Regional District Board's endorsement of the Master Plan indicates a preliminary agreement, without implying a financial commitment. The Board will make specific decisions regarding financial allocation as part of the financial planning process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

	Recommendation	Priority
Goal 1: Establish tools and processes to support the delivery of the parks and trails service in Electoral Area G		
1.1	Continue to engage with other levels of government and community organizations to prioritize opportunities for the RDBN to provide parks and trails through partnerships, direct acquisition, and management.	High
1.2	Establish service levels and management plans for parks and trails, in line with the standards for other service areas.	High
1.3	Consider adding staff to support the implementation of parks and trails projects across the RDBN's four parks and trails service areas.	Medium
1.4	Continue to work with First Nations communities, other levels of government, and community groups to maintain and expand land use agreements for recreation and conservation and to address questions about the future use of recreation sites and provincial parks, specifically the Lamprey Creek Recreation Site which has been closed by the Province and where public access has been restricted due to First Nations use.	Medium
Goal 2: Strengthen Partnerships and Build Capacity		
2.1	Continue to engage and build relationships with First Nations, including for the protection and enhancement of cultural and ecological values.	High
2.2	Continue to implement the Recreation Contribution Grant Program that provides allocation of multi-year funding to recreation organizations.	High
2.3	Continue to increase awareness of the RDBN's capacity to support outdoor recreation organizations.	High
2.4	Facilitate collaboration between outdoor recreation groups who are actively engaged in maintaining parks and trails features within Electoral Area G.	High
Goal 3: Increase access to outdoor recreation		
3.1	Work with the Village of Granisle and partners to explore the development of a multi-use trail between Granisle and Topley Landing.	High

3.2	Work in partnership with the First Nations, BC Parks, RSTBC and the Houston Hikers to explore a potential canoe route in Old Man Lake Park.	Medium
3.3	Collaborate with BC Parks and RSTBC to establish a trail connection from Nadina Mountain Park to the Owen Lake recreation site.	Medium
3.4	Secure long-term access to recreation and tourism areas by working with the community to identify priority resource roads.	High
Goal 4: Enhance the user experience at parks and trails		
4.1	Follow accessibility standards, such as the Universal Design Guide by BC Parks, when establishing or upgrading trails.	Medium
4.2	Collaborate with the Houston Mountain Bike Association to establish a campground near the Mt. Harry Davis mountain biking trails.	Medium
4.3	Develop a naming policy for trails and look for opportunities to incorporate Indigenous stories and histories into interpretive signage along trails, where appropriate.	Medium
4.4	Support the Houston Hikers in the enhancement and promotion of high-use trails as day hiking destinations.	Medium
4.5	Support the Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club and Houston Hikers in the maintenance and improvement of the abundant trails and amenities around Silverthorne Lake and the Morice Wilderness Area.	Medium
4.6	Work with RSTBC to identify priority sites for increased maintenance and management.	High
4.7	Update the RDBN's website to provide more information about outdoor recreation destinations, parks, trails, and campgrounds.	Medium
4.8	Explore opportunities to develop a trail along the route of the historic Dominion Telegraph Line that falls within Electoral Area G.	Low

1 INTRODUCTION



1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The RDBN lies within the north-central region of British Columbia between Prince George and Prince Rupert. The region's landscape is characterized by lakes, mountains, and expansive forests with diverse recreation opportunities such as hiking, biking, fishing, climbing, skiing, hunting, paddling, camping, ATVing, and snowmobiling. Outdoor parks and trails within the region are essential to enhancing the well-being of residents and visitors alike, as well as bolstering the local economy through tourism. Residents in the region live in and around communities along the Highway 16 corridor, though smaller settlements are found throughout the region. The region's primary economic opportunities include agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting.

The RDBN is home to 14 First Nations alongside others with identified Aboriginal rights or title whose Nations have stewarded the lands since time immemorial and continue to have significant cultural values and interests.

The RDBN's *Parks and Outdoor Recreation Study* (2020) identified the need for a regional parks and trails service to meet the growing demand for outdoor recreation in the region's rural areas and address gaps in the recreation services provided by volunteer clubs, municipalities, Recreation Sites & Trails BC, and BC Parks. In response to the 2020 study, the RDBN initiated the creation of four Parks and Trails Service Areas, including the District of Houston, Village of Granisle, and Electoral Area G. The RDBN also established four Recreation Contribution Service Areas that provide financial assistance to organizations offering recreational activities for residents and visitors. To facilitate the implementation of these services, the Regional District is developing Parks and Trails Master Plans for each service area. This plan is the first for Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural).

1.1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Electoral Area G Parks and Trails Master Plan builds on the progress made by municipalities, community groups, and other parks and trail managers in providing outdoor recreation experiences in Electoral Area G. The plan sets out a community-driven Vision and Goals to guide the management of parks and trails in the region over the next 10 years, along with specific recommendations to enhance them in a coordinated, collaborative, and cost-effective way.

1.1.2 PLANNING AREA

The RDBN is within the unceded traditional territories of the Dakelh, Nedut'en, Tse'khene, and Witsuwit'en speaking peoples. There are 14 First Nations with communities in the RDBN, and many others with traditional territory. The First Nations with reserve communities in Electoral Area G include the Lake Babine Nation.

This plan focuses on Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural), the rural area surrounding the municipalities of the District of Houston and the Village of Granisle. There are several unincorporated communities, including Perow, Buck Flats, Kuldo, Smithers Landing, Topley, and Topley Landing. Lake Babine Nation has three communities within Electoral Area G including Fort Babine, Old Fort and Tachet.

The 2021 Census reported a population of 836 in Electoral Area G, just over 3,000 in the District of Houston, and 330 in the Village of Granisle. It is generally believed that the population of the rural areas is relatively stable at around 1,000 residents. An additional 1,000 people reside in the First Nations communities. The population of Electoral Area G accounts for approximately 2.2% of the total population of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako.

The average age for Electoral Area G is 46.6 years which is slightly higher than the RDBN (41.1) and BC (43.1). In general, there is a smaller percentage of children and youth under the age of 19, in comparison to RDBN and BC. There is a higher percentage of adults aged 50 and over than both RDBN and BC.



Figure 1: Electoral Area G boundary.

1.2 THE PLANNING PROCESS

Phase 1 – Review of Relevant Background Materials

The first phase included background research, reviewing relevant regional strategies and bylaws, and mapping the existing inventory of parks and trails in the region.

Phase 2 - Community Engagement Round 1

In the second phase, site visits, discussions with RDBN staff, and community engagement occurred. This involved outreach to local First Nations, interviewing interest-holders, a public in-person pop-up event, and a public online survey. These sessions aimed to introduce the community to the project, understand their values and priorities, and identify challenges and opportunities regarding parks and trails in the region. Findings from engagement activities were summarized in a Draft Engagement Summary.

Phase 3 - Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan

This phase involved developing the draft Parks and Trails Master Plan, including information gathered in the first two phases of the project and a draft vision, goals, and recommendations.

Phase 4 - Community Engagement Round 2

Phase 4 featured a second round of community engagement to report the draft plan's findings back to the community and collect feedback on the draft vision, goals, and recommendations. Round two of engagement included a second online survey and a virtual open house. Engagement findings from both rounds of engagement were summarized in a final engagement report, found in Appendix A.

Phase 5 - Final Parks and Trails Plan

Phase 5 of the project incorporated feedback from round 2 of community engagement into the draft plan to develop the final Parks and Trails Master Plan. The final Plan was presented to the Regional District's Board of Directors.



Figure 2: The project timeline for the Parks and Trails Master Plan.

1.2.1 RELATED PLANS AND POLICIES

The Electoral Area G Parks and Trails Master Plan is informed by the following RDBN strategic documents.

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako 2022-2026 Strategic Plan

The RDBN's Strategic Plan outlines the vision, mission, and priorities of the Regional District as it plans for future community growth between 2022 and 2026. The Plan outlines four strategic focus areas: relationships with First Nations, advocacy with the Province, housing supply, and community and economic sustainability.

Implications for the Parks and Trails Master Plan: Park and trail planning and development present opportunities to implement the Plan's recommendations for collaborating with First Nations on areas of mutual interest. They also serve as opportunities to act on the recommendation to provide services to First Nations communities. Additionally, outdoor recreation-based tourism could help advance the goal of economic diversification in Electoral Area G.

Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Parks & Outdoor Recreation Study – 2020

This study was part of the groundwork that led to the development of the Parks and Trails Service. It reviewed community demand for outdoor recreation across the Regional District and surveyed outdoor recreation clubs that operate in the region. It also gives an overview of regional district park services across British Columbia and their service-delivery strategies. The study presents potential strategies for the RDBN to provide park and recreation services to residents in rural regions of the Regional District.

Implications for the Parks and Trails Master Plan: This study established the vision for delivering outdoor recreation in the region, where volunteer-based clubs continue to play a vital role in providing recreation experiences, backed by support and collaboration from the Regional District.

Bulkley-Nechako Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee - Accessibility Plan – 2024

The Accessibility Plan identifies barriers that people living with accessibility concerns experience in the RDBN. The plan includes recommendations to promote a more accessible built environment, including in parks, trails, and outdoor public spaces.

Implications for the Parks and Trails Master Plan: The Accessibility Plan recommends the design or upgrading of recreation infrastructure to adhere to standards set out in the BC Parks Universal Design Guide Front-Country Parks.

RDBN Value of Tourism Report – 2017

The report identifies the value of tourism for communities across the RDBN in accordance with Tourism BC's Value of Tourism Model. The report summarizes the benefits of tourism in the RDBN and includes an estimate of tourism spending in the region. The report also contains a review of local planning documents related to tourism.

Implications for the Parks and Trails Master Plan: The Report contains no specific recommendations relevant for the Parks and Trails Master Plan, but its findings demonstrate that infrastructure is in place to allow the RDBN to benefit from tourism, which is often driven by outdoor recreation in the region.

Parks And Trails Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1928, 2020

A bylaw to establish a parks and trails service for Electoral Area G.

Implications for this Plan: This bylaw authorizes the RDBN to establish, operate, and promote regional parks and trails, thereby supporting the implementation of recommendations in this Plan related to creating new parks and trails.

1.2.2 ROLE OF THE REGIONAL DISTRICT

The role of the Regional District Parks and Trails Service is to establish, manage, and promote parks and trails, and by extension, support healthy and active living, foster community bonds through recreation, and enable individuals to enjoy the natural environment. It is the intention of the RDBN to complement and coordinate with the overall network of parks and trails in the region but not duplicate the services of other agencies in fulfilling its mandate. The general role of the park and trails system is to provide opportunities for the public to access and enjoy scenic and historically significant destinations for a range of year-round outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, biking, walking, boating, paddling, fishing, wildlife viewing, picnicking, and swimming.

The RDBN intends to take a phased approach to the development of parks and trails, focusing first on providing access to day-use recreation areas, improving access to lakes and shorelines, and supporting the efforts of other government and non-governmental organizations in providing recreation services.

1.2.3 REGIONAL DISTRICT SERVICES

In addition to the Parks and Trails Service and Recreation Contribution Service, the RDBN also does the following:

- **Grants in Aid:** The RDBN provides grants to community organizations through an application process which is reviewed by the RDBN Board. Grants may be used for cultural, charitable, sporting, recreational, service activities and special events for the purpose of benefiting the community.
- **Canada Community-Building Fund:** The federal government provides predictable, long-term funding for local governments to invest in infrastructure and capacity-building projects. The fund is administered through UBCM to the RDBN, which then makes decisions on its use locally. Local non-profit organizations can apply for support on a variety of community projects, including outdoor recreation capital projects. This would primarily fall under the Community Works Fund.
- **Transfers to Partner Municipalities for Recreation Services:** The RDBN can collect property taxes from rural residents by establishing a service area to contribute to the costs that municipalities incur for providing recreation services.

- **Grant Writing Support:** The RDBN has an economic development team with proposal writers on staff that can assist non-profit organizations with the grant writing process.¹

¹ Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Parks & Outdoor Recreation Study – June 2020



2 CURRENT PARKS & TRAIL SYSTEM



2.1 THE PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM

Parks and trails play a crucial role in the region and are greatly appreciated by the community for providing recreational opportunities that enhance health and wellness. They serve as avenues for experiencing nature, engaging in outdoor activities, and safeguarding open spaces for the benefit of future generations.

Electoral Area G provides outdoor recreation opportunities year-round through an abundance of highly valued parks, trails, and natural areas. Highlights include the many lakes and rivers offering places for relaxing, fishing, and hunting and an extensive trails network provides activities including hiking, mountain biking, and riding off-road vehicles. Visitors seek out the area for fishing opportunities, backcountry lodges, and wilderness experiences, while residents enjoy the benefits of the independent lifestyle and easy access to cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and hiking. It's also a close drive to three extensive backcountry snowmobile areas.

Many recreation opportunities are provided by BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, the District of Houston, the Village of Granisle, and considerable effort is provided by volunteer-based outdoor recreation organizations including the Houston Hikers, Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club, Houston Snowmobile Club, and Houston Mountain Bike Association. The RDBN seeks to identify ways to support, enhance, and build upon the existing network of parks, trails, and outdoor recreation opportunities provided by partner organizations.

2.1.1 REGIONAL PLANNING

The RDBN's Parks and Trails Service is administered by the Regional District's Planning Department. In each of the four service areas, planning staff are responsible for overseeing the development of the Parks and Trails Service, coordinating with government and community recreation organizations, offering recreation services in the regional district, and administering planning and capital projects.

Each Parks and Trails Service Area has distinct outdoor recreation needs which present unique opportunities and challenges. A key challenge for the RDBN is how to balance resources and staff time across service areas. In 2025, 20% of staff time was dedicated to the Village of Granisle and the District of Houston/Electoral Area G. As the parks and trails service in each area grows, additional staff resources may be needed to address inequities.

Due to the geographic shape of Electoral Area G, some locations that are valued and highly used by Electoral Area G residents may actually be in Electoral Areas A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) or B (Burns Lake Rural). While this plan focuses only on the parks and trails service for Electoral Area G, there are opportunities for coordination between these three electoral areas.

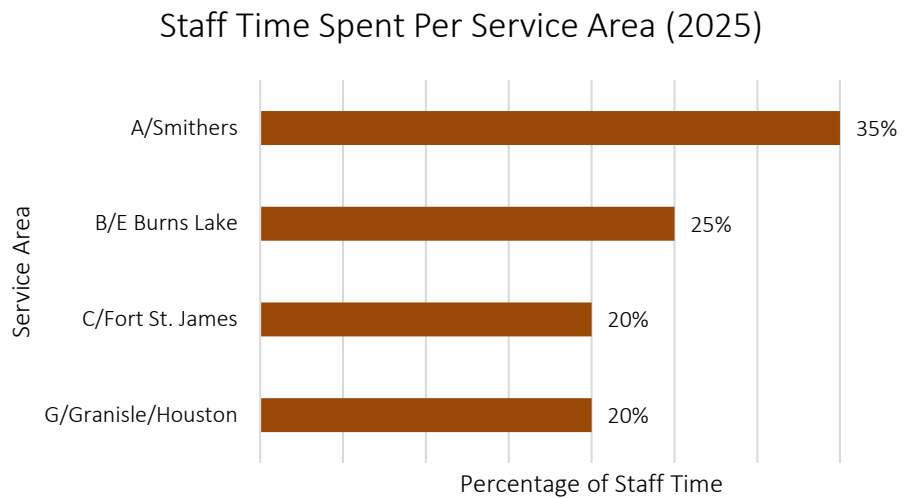


Figure 3: Percentage of Regional District staff time spent per service area in 2025.

2.1.2 PARKLAND ACQUISITION

The RDBN has the authority to establish and operate parks and recreation services as set out in *Part 10 of the Local Government Act*. The *Act* allows the RDBN to acquire land for parks and trails and pass regulatory bylaws with respect to managing those parks. With the RDBN's establishment of a parks function by bylaw, the following funding streams are the main sources of revenue:

- **Property Taxes:** Property taxes are the most common revenue stream for supporting a parks and recreation function.
- **Canada Community Building Fund and other Senior Government Grants:** The RDBN has access to various government grant programs to fund parks and recreation infrastructure. Typically, these programs do not provide funding for maintenance or operational costs.

Although not currently in use or commonly available, the following additional tools can be used to generate revenues for parks and recreation services, should opportunities arise:

- **Parkland or Cash-in-Lieu of Parkland at Time of Subdivision:** The *Act* gives the RDBN authority to require parkland dedication or cash in lieu of parkland dedication equivalent to the market value of 5% of the land at the time of subdivision.
- **Development Cost Charges (DCCs):** Through a Development Cost Charges (DCC) Bylaw the RDBN may charge developers a fee at the time of development. DCCs for parks can be used for land acquisition and for specific improvements, such as trails and picnic areas.
- **Ecological gifts, bequests, life-estates, land donations:** The RDBN has the authority to accept ecological gifts of land. It can be a considerable tax benefit to a donor to have a land donation recognized as having "ecological significance" by Revenue Canada.

In each service area, there will be a separate **Parkland Reserve Fund**. Revenue collected within each service area will be used to cover the expenses for the capital, operational, and administrative aspects of the parks and trails service, specifically in that area.

2.1.3 OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION SERVICE PROVIDERS

Various levels of government, contractors, and recreation organizations play a significant role in parks and recreation in the planning area, including:

- **First Nations** – First Nations in the region are important partners and land stewards, with Aboriginal title and rights that inform the planning, management, and provision of parks, trails, and recreation opportunities on reserve lands and within their traditional territories.
- **District of Houston** – The District of Houston owns and manages municipal parks, trails, and sidewalks within the District boundaries, supporting community organizations and public users of parks and trails. The District also manages some parks and trails outside the District boundary.
- **Village of Granisle** – The Village of Granisle owns and maintains several small municipal parks and trails. The Village also oversees a larger neighbourhood park and marina on Babine Lake which provides access to recreational boating and fishing opportunities.
- **Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC)**, their contractors, and partner recreation organizations are responsible for the operation and maintenance of trails and recreation sites on Crown and community forest lands. RSTBC has four partnership agreements.
- **BC Parks** – BC Parks holds tenure and manages provincial parks. Some are undeveloped designated park lands, while others have been improved with amenities like campsites, trails, and boat launches.

2.2 PARKS AND TRAILS INVENTORY

The following section provides an inventory of parks and trails within the study area. Currently, there are no parks or trails managed by the RDBN in Electoral Area G. The inventory focuses on sites managed by the District of Houston, Village of Granisle, RSTBC, and BC Parks and enables the RDBN to bridge existing gaps in the parks and trails system and explore opportunities to expand services. A map of the parks and trails are provided in Appendix B. A full parks and trails inventory list can be found in Appendix C.

2.2.1 RDBN PARKS AND TRAILS IN ELECTORAL AREA G

The Regional District collaborates with other recreation service providers to support the delivery of parks and trails in the area. The Houston, Topley, Granisle OCP (2011) identified the China Nose Trail, Houston Palisades Trail, Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club trail network, and the Houston Snowmobile Club trails for their high-value recreation opportunities.

The RDBN primarily supports outdoor recreation organizations such as the Houston Hikers and Houston Mountain Bike Association through the recreation contribution grant funding program. The Houston Mountain Bike Association recently received funding from the program to support trail maintenance for mountain biking and hiking trails on Mount Harry Davis.

2.2.2 MUNICIPALITIES

The District of Houston and Village of Granisle provide municipal parks, walking trails, and outdoor recreation opportunities, described in the following sections.

District of Houston

The District of Houston manages eleven parks and several local trails. A summary of parks and trails provided by the District are provided in Table 1 below, which includes two park areas outside the District boundaries on Crown lands, through partnership with RSTBC. There is also the Houston Community Forest with trails and a day-use area in a working forest.

Table 1: Summary of parks and trails managed by the District of Houston.

Park/Trail/Rec Site Name	Type	Amenities
Avalon Park	Park	Playground
By-Mac Park*	Park	9 unserviced campsites; a shelter; boat launch; picnic areas; outhouses
Four Seasons Park	Park	4 ball diamonds; rodeo grounds; riding area
Hagman Park	Park	Playground
Irrigation Lake*	Rec Site	Picnic area; fire pits; beach; change rooms; outhouses
Jamie Baxter Park	Park	Skateboard park; ball diamond; BMX track; playground; outhouses; picnic area
Nadina Park	Park	Swings; picnic area
Northside Park	Park	Ball diamond; outhouses; playground; picnic area; walking trails

Park/Trail/Rec Site Name	Type	Amenities
Northwood Picnic Site	Rec Site	Picnic areas; outhouse
Ruiter Heights Park	Park	Playground
Steelhead Park	Park	Walking trails; playground; dog run; picnic areas; fountains; flower gardens
Duck Pond Walking Trails	Trail	Platforms; benches; garbage cans; dock
Circle Pathway		7 km of trails that connect to the pathways along Buck Creek and the Bulkley River.
Bulkley River/Buck Creek Junction	Trail	Short trail along Buck Creek from the Visitor's Centre.
Buck Creek Drive	Trail	Trail along the dike of Buck Creek

**Note: These two parks are located outside municipal boundaries, within Electoral Area G, but are operated by the municipality.*

Village of Granisle

The Village of Granisle manages a Visitor's Centre with adjacent park, a lakefront park, and marina. The Village has developed a Granisle Downtown Revitalization Plan (2023) that leverages outdoor recreation assets like the lakefront and enhancing camping and trail opportunities to boost tourism. A summary of the parks and trails is provided in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Summary of parks and trails managed by the Village of Granisle.

Park/Trail/Rec Site Name	Type	Amenities
Granisle Memorial Park	Park	Seating, picnic tables, accessible pathway, horticultural planting beds, and band shell; adjacent to the Granisle Travel Information Centre
New Beach	Park	Beach access, day-use, outhouses, and campsites with and without electrical hook-ups.
Whiskey Jack Trail/Eagle Way Trail	Trail	Perimeter trails around the Village
Lakeshore trail/Beach Trail	Trail	Lakeside trail connecting the marina to Lions Beach

Granisle Lions Club

The Granisle Lions Club maintains Granisle Lions Beach Park, located just outside of the Village and Red Bluff Provincial Park which are managed by the Province. Granisle Lions Beach Park provides 21 RV camping sites, a playground, beach access, and a dock. Social media posts note the sites are operated on a first-come, first-served basis, and visitors occupy the waterfront sites throughout the summer.

2.2.3 RECREATION SITES AND TRAILS BC

Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) manages 22 recreation sites and 529 km of trails within Electoral Area G. Due to the proximity of Electoral Area A (Smithers/Telkwa Rural) to the west and B (Burns Lake Rural) to the east, residents of Area G frequently access recreation sites and trails beyond their electoral boundaries. This highlights the need for the RDBN to coordinate across electoral areas.

Recreation sites support a variety of outdoor recreation activities including camping, trails, and lakes access. While some sites rely on volunteer maintenance, RSTBC typically contracts maintenance services for sites with infrastructure present.

RSTBC has four partnership agreements with the Houston Mountain Bike Association, Houston Hikers Society, Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club, and Houston Snowmobile Club which authorize the trail organizations to maintain sites and trails and in the case of the Owen Hill Recreation Site, a fire lookout. New trails or other major recreational works on Crown land require a formal application to the RSTBC.

Recreation sites are summarized in Tables 3 and 4, with mapping provided in Appendix B.

Table 3: Summary of recreation site type.

Recreation Site Type	Amount of Feature
Recreational Trail	529 km
Recreation Sites	22 Sites

Table 4: RSTBC Sites in the Service Area.

Recreation Site Name
Aspen
Bairnsfather Creek
Chapman Lake
Dungate Meadows Cabin
Dungate Meadows Trails
Doris Lake
Helen Lake
Lamprey Creek (closed by the Province due to First Nations use)
Lamprey Lake
Morin Lake
Mt. Harry Davis
Old Fort
Owen Flats
Owen Hill
Owen Lake
Paul Lake
Peacock Falls
Silverthorne Lake
Starvation Lake
Sunset Lake
Tanglechain Lake
Telkwa Mountain Trail
Telkwa Mountain Cabin

Mt. Harry Davis Mountain Bike Trails

The Houston Mountain Bike Association has developed a cohesive network of trails and is focused on building, maintaining, and promoting mountain biking in the Houston area.

Morice Mountain

The Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club maintains and manages a significant outdoor recreation hub offering trails, camping, and access to Silverthorne Lake. The club has expanded beyond cross-country skiing to support multi-sport and multi-season non-motorized activities including water sports, paddling, trail biking, hiking, running, camping, groomed cross-country skiing, ungroomed exploring, alpine cabin accommodation, snowshoeing, and fat biking.

Houston Hikers Society Trails

The Houston Hikers are a well-established outdoor recreation organization dedicated to promoting Houston and the surrounding area as hiking destinations for tourists and locals. The Houston Hikers maintain many kilometers of trails and have developed their capacity for trail building and maintenance with the goal of getting the existing trails up to a higher standard. The organization has been instrumental to provide local trail information, hosting a website with search options by activity and difficulty, as well as maps of some hikes that are georeferenced and useable on a smartphone with the Avenza maps application.

The RDBN has provided funding through the recreation contribution grant program, allowing the group to hire contractors to perform additional maintenance beyond the capacity of the volunteer base.

Recreation Sites with Camping

Within Area G, recreation sites offering camping are typically maintained by contractors, with some sites receiving a higher level of service. Northwest of Houston, Helen Lake is an example of a contractor-maintained site, featuring an accessible gravel trail, dock, and campsites. However, some camping recreation sites in Area G lack infrastructure and are user maintained.

Other RSTBC Trails

There are also many trails documented by RSTBC, including those maintained by the outdoor recreation organizations described above. However, maintenance is not necessarily consistent or to a specific standard and RSTBC has limited resources to keep trail data updated.

There are also many unauthorized trails on Crown lands that do not have status under the Forest and Range Practices Act (FRPA) Section 57 and are not maintained or managed by RSTBC.

2.2.4 BC PARKS

BC Parks manages 148,676 hectares of parkland in Electoral Area G, however much of the parkland is remote and is not easily accessible, either located significant distances down forest service roads or boat access only. Some locations are easier to reach from communities outside Electoral Area G (Smithers, Burns Lake) and are therefore not considered recreation assets of Area G.

The Morice Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and associated government-to-government discussions with the Office of the Wet'suwet'en has resulted in the creation of seven new parks and protected areas in recent years. Most do not have amenities or facilities but do allow backcountry camping.

Table 5: BC Parks and Conservation Area summary.

BC Park or Conservation Area Name	Park Area (ha)	Front country camping	Boat Launch	Formal Trails	Day Use Area with Amenities	Backcountry Camping	Other Recreation
ATNA RIVER PARK	21,031					x	Access from Houston; adjacent to Morice Lake Park
MORICE LAKE PARK	52,498	x	x			x	Access from Houston; adjacent to Atna River and Neneikekh/Nanika-Kidprice Parks; backcountry cabin
NENEIKEKH/NANIK A-KIDPRICE PARK	17,015					x	Access from Houston via Lamprey Lake Recreation Site; four-lake canoe route; adjacent to Morice Lake Park
RED BLUFF PARK	156	x	x	x	x		Popular camping, fishing, boating area near Granisle
TOTAL Parkland with Amenities	90,700						
NADINA MOUNTAIN PARK				x			Trail doesn't receive regular maintenance; potential rock climbing on the granite spire
OLD MAN LAKE PARK			x	x			Formal trail to viewpoint completed in 2025
TOPLEY PARK							Management plan does not support recreation
BURNIE-SHEA PARK						x	Helicopter or floatplane access only
MORICE RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE						x	Only low-impact recreation is allowed; no facilities
BABINE RIVER CORRIDOR PARK			x				Access from Smithers

BC Park or Conservation Area Name	Park Area (ha)	Front country camping	Boat Launch	Formal Trails	Day Use Area with Amenities	Backcountry Camping	Other Recreation
TORKELSEN LAKE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE							Access from Smithers
RAINBOW ALLEY PARK							Boat access only, closest to Smithers
LONG ISLAND CONSERVANCY							Boat access only, Babine Lake
WILKINSON-WRIGHT BAY CONSERVANCY							Boat access only, Babine Lake
PORT ARTHUR CONSERVANCY							Boat access only, Babine Lake
SANCTUARY BAY CONSERVANCY							Boat access only, Babine Lake
BEAR ISLAND CONSERVANCY		x					Boat access on Babine Lake with camping road access
NORTH SPIT CONSERVANCY							Boat access only, Babine Lake
BABINE LAKE MARINE PARK - SMITHERS LANDING SITE		x					Vehicle accessible campsites

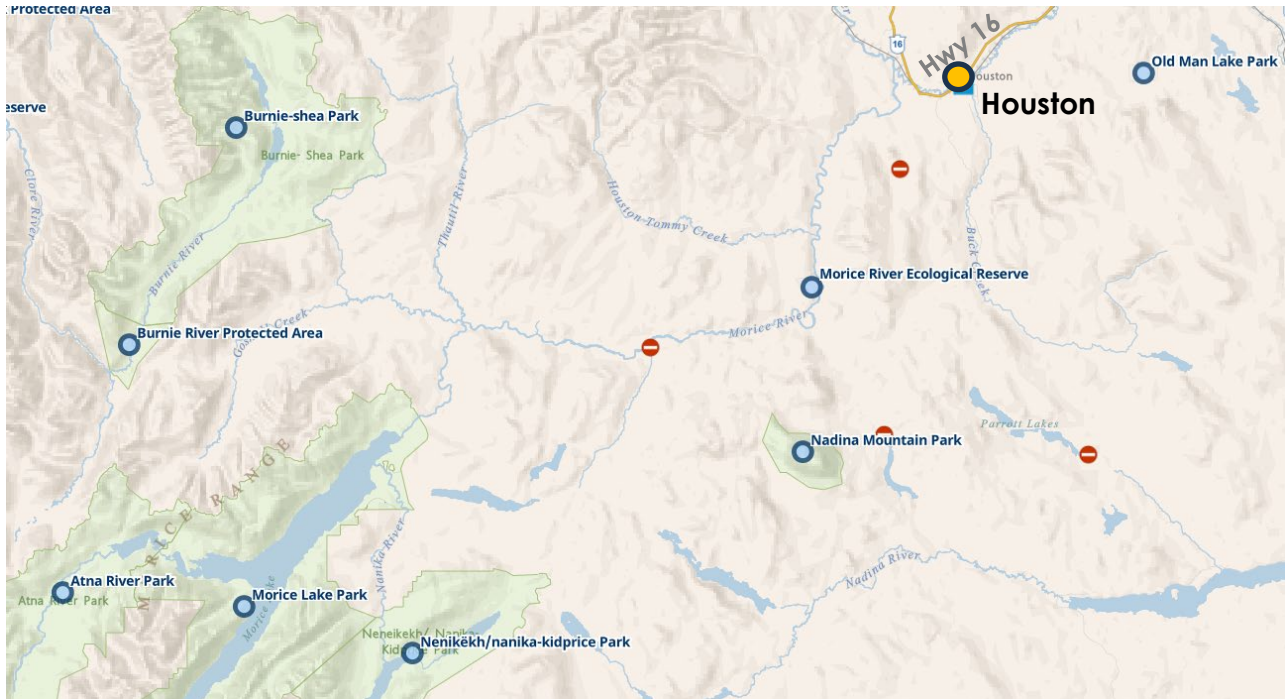


Figure 4: BC Parks and conservation areas south of Houston.

Morice Lake Park (Wet-zuhn-buhn)

Morice Lake Park boasts highly valuable ecosystems and wildlife habitat and offers canoeing, camping, and fishing opportunities. Located 84 kilometers from Houston, the park is user-maintained, pack-in-pack-out with 18 frontcountry campsites equipped with picnic tables, fire rings, and pit toilets, suitable for tents and small trailers. Backcountry camping is available along Morice Lake, though no facilities are provided. The site features portage trails between Morice Lake and Atna Lake. A gravel boat launch is located at the north end of the Morice Lake campsite. There is no formal day-use area.

Nadina Mountain Park

Nadina Mountain Park, located 42 kilometers southwest of Houston, provides access to Nadina Mountain via a single strenuous hiking trail. Wilderness camping is permitted; however, no facilities are available. An alternative route begins at Nadina Mountain Lodge on Owen Lake, offering a longer and more challenging ascent that passes Klate Lake and Base Lake before climbing steeply to the summit. This route has not been cleared for several years, making travel difficult. The park's primary conservation role is to protect an isolated granitic mountain and its associated natural values, including mountain goats, grizzly bears, lichen communities, and distinctive granitic spires.

During engagement, the connection between the Nadina Mountain Wilderness Lodge and Nadina Mountain was highlighted as a possible future trail improvement opportunity. As the park boundary encompasses the peak of the mountain only, trail improvement would require across-agency support as the bulk of the work would be outside the BC Park Boundary.

Nenikëkh /Nanika-Kidprice Park

Located within the traditional territory of Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Nenikëkh translates to canoe swerving against the current to make its way upstream. The park is located between the Sibola Mountain Range and the Morice Range and is a popular destination for multi-day canoeing, fishing, and marine-accessible camping containing a chain of four lakes and three portage trails. The western boundary of the park joins with Morice Lake Park including Nanika Falls and the lower Nanika River.

Old Man Lake Park

Old Man Lake Park includes Old Man Lake, Beaver Lake and a portion of McBreirie Lake and is located approximately 20 kilometers east of Houston with access via a forest service road. These lakes are valued for their ecologically rich wetlands, marsh fringe ecosystems, and rare grassland habitat that support migrating birds. Canoeing, hiking, and wildlife viewing are found in the park; however, the removal of dam infrastructure located outside the park boundary has resulted in lower water levels in the lake shifting the original canoe launch location.

In 2025, BC Parks partnered with the Houston Hikers Society and private landowners to rehabilitate the Old Man Lake portage route following damage from a 2023 wildfire. This work also re-established and rerouted the Beaver Lake Bluff trail, restoring access to a viewpoint while former skid trails provide additional informal viewpoints overlooking Beaver Lake and China Lake. Improvements have been made to the park including new signage and a gate installation to assist canoe transportation; a foot bridge is scheduled for installation in the fall of 2026.

During engagement, BC Parks noted collaboration between BC Parks, RSTBC, and the RDBN could help secure and improve access to the park and a non-motorized boat launch area. Since the dam has been removed, the canoe launch site is 100 meters further upstream from where the access road meets the waterway.

Red Bluff Park

Located just south of the Village of Granisle, between Granisle and Topley Landing, this park is located on the shore of Babine Lake and offers a variety of outdoor activities, including camping, swimming, fishing, boating, and a short 3 km trail. The front country campground features 27 reservable campsites along with additional non-reservable, vehicle-accessible sites. Visitors can also take advantage of a convenient boat launch and a day-use area for relaxing by the water. The park is packed with visitors in the warmer months.

Other Conservancies

There are many conservation areas along Babine Lake that lack facilities and are accessible by boat only.



Figure 4: BC Parks and conservation areas along Babine Lake.

2.3 OUTDOOR RECREATION SERVICES

The following section summarizes community recreation facilities and services provided by outdoor recreation service providers. The intention of this section is to provide a snapshot of the outdoor recreation services available in Electoral Area G and identify gaps and potential opportunities for the RDBN to address unmet needs in the planning area.

During the initial round of community engagement, participants emphasized the significance of having a wide range of outdoor recreational options, including activities like fishing, hiking, camping, swimming, cross-country skiing, ATV/snowmobiling, and mountain biking. Numerous outdoor recreation organizations actively contribute to the planning area's outdoor recreation. Additionally, land managers such as RSTBC, the District of Houston, the Village of Granisle and BC Parks, are vital contributors to ensuring access to outdoor recreation opportunities within the planning area.

Table 6 summarizes recreation facilities and services delivered by government entities, land managers, and outdoor recreation organizations. There were no significant gaps in the variety of services identified, but the engagement results indicated the challenges are related to quality, accessibility, and capacity of what is available.

Table 6: Community recreation facilities and services provided by outdoor recreation service providers.

Outdoor Recreation Service Providers	Campgrounds	Walking/ Hiking / Biking Trails	Skiing / Snowshoeing Trails	ATV / Snowmobiling Trails	Beach Access/ Beaches	Boat Launches/dock	Outdoor event space/ Fair Grounds
RDBN							
District of Houston	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Houston Community Forest		✓		✓			
Lions Club (Granisle)	✓				✓	✓	
Village of Granisle	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
BC Parks	✓	✓			✓	✓	
Recreation, Sites, and Trails BC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Community Recreation Organizations		✓	✓	✓			✓

2.3.1 COMPARISON WITH OTHER PARKS AND TRAILS SERVICE AREAS

Gaining insights into the provision of parkland and outdoor recreation amenities in each of the RDBN's parks and trails service areas will empower the RDBN to make informed decisions regarding the specific types of services and amenities required in each respective area. Table 7 is an inventory of the number of regional, provincial, and municipal parks by service area. Additionally, the table includes the number of recreational sites in each service area, recognizing their significance as integral components of the recreational landscape in RDBN.

Compared to the other Parks and Trails Service Areas in the RDBN, Electoral Area G has the highest number of provincial parks and the second-highest number of municipal parks; however, it is important to note that the provincial parks and recreation sites in the planning area are predominantly rustic sites with limited amenities and, in many cases, are remote and difficult to access. There is also concern that access to some recreation sites could be lost as forest service roads are decommissioned. Although outside the RDBN's jurisdiction, the RDBN continues to advocate to the Province for continued maintenance on important access roads.

Table 7 - Electoral Area parks opportunities compared to other RDBN service areas.

Service Areas in RDBN	RDBN Parks	Provincial Parks	Municipal Parks	Recreation Sites
Village of Burns Lake, Electoral Area B, and Electoral Area E	2	10	13	35
Town of Smithers and Electoral Area A	2	3	21	21
District of Fort St. James and Electoral Area C	0	9	7	26
District of Houston, Village of Granisle, and Electoral Area G	0	11	19	21

2.4 PARKLAND NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Parkland Needs Assessment involves an exploration of the gaps and opportunities within the parks and trails system that have been identified during the planning process. A benchmarking exercise was also conducted comparing the provision of parkland to comparable communities in BC.

There is no definitive way to determine whether a region has an adequate supply of parkland; it depends on the values, desires, and needs of the communities. However, several common metrics can be employed to gauge the adequacy of parkland, such as comparing with other regions, assessing the amount of parkland available per capita, and evaluating the proximity of parks to residents. The following section analyzes parkland averages to understand the inventory and distribution needs of the RDBN.

2.4.1 PARKLAND PER CAPITA ANALYSIS

Parkland area and population estimates were used to determine the amount of parkland in Electoral Area G per 1,000 residents. Since the establishment of the Parks and Trails Service in 2020, the RDBN has acquired approximately 43.5 hectares of parkland, resulting in an overall average of 1.2 hectares of parkland per 1,000 residents in the RDBN. The RDBN has a below-average supply of parkland compared to similar regional districts. However, as the RDBN's Parks and Trails Service is newly established, this is anticipated to change over the next 10 years.

To meet the average of 2.8 hectares per 1,000 residents, 62.16 additional hectares are required throughout the RDBN. **Proportionally, Electoral Area G would need 3-4 hectares to meet this target.**

Table 8 - Parkland supply compared to similar Regional Districts.

Regional District	Population (2021)	Total Area of Regional Parks (ha)	Parkland (Ha) Per 1,000
Bulkley-Nechako	37,737	43.5	1.2
Thompson-Nicola	143,680	67	0.5
Peace River	61,532	72	1.2
Central Kootenay	62,509	86	1.4
East Kootenay	65,896	254	3.9
Fraser Fort-George	96,979	330	3.4
Central Okanagan	222,162	2,020	9.1
Average			2.8

3 COMMUNITY PROFILE



3.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

Developing a community profile for RDBN’s Electoral Area G is an important step towards understanding the community’s present and future needs for parks and recreation. As of 2021, the planning area had a total population of 836, accounting for approximately 2.2% of the population of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. Based on 2021 Statistics Canada Census data, Electoral Area G experienced a 7.4% population decrease between 2016 and 2021. However, the Regional District believes that the census may have undercounted the population, suggesting that the actual decline might not be as significant, and the population has remained relatively stable throughout the planning area since 2011.

The primary population centers within the planning area are the District of Houston and the Village of Granisle. The area is home to several unincorporated communities in addition to these population centres, including Fort Babine, Kuldo, Tachet, Perow, Buck Flats, Old Fort, Smithers Landing, Topley, and Topley Landing. Since 2016, the population increased by 2.0% in the District of Houston and grew by 11.2% in the Village of Granisle. However, like in the rural areas, it is acknowledged by these communities that these estimates may be inaccurate, and it is believed that their populations have likely remained relatively unchanged since the 2011 census. An additional 1,000 people reside in the First Nations communities.

Table 9 – Current population from the 2021 Census.

	2021 Census Population	Population Density (per km ²)	Percent of Total Population
RDBN	37,737	0.5	100%
Electoral Area G	836	0.1	2.2%
District of Houston	3,052	41.9	8.1%
Village of Granisle	337	8.5	0.9%

Age distribution, household incomes, and industrial activities are pivotal demographic factors shaping the recommendations in this Master Plan. The Statistics Canada Census Reports (2021) unveil key characteristics about the planning areas:

Average Age

- Electoral Area G has an average age of 46.6, which is slightly higher than the RDBN (41.1) and British Columbia (43.1).

Household Incomes

- In 2020, the median annual household income in Electoral Area G was \$81,000, which is slightly lower than British Columbia and RDBN (both at \$85,000).

Key Industries

- According to the 2021 Census, the largest employment sectors are agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting, followed by manufacturing and construction. The area is also rich in mineral resources.

These demographic trends underscore the necessity for the parks and trails system to adapt to accommodate an aging population, but also to attract and retain families. A robust parks and trails system is an important quality of life factor for existing and new businesses, as the local economy faces challenges from declines in mining and milling industries. Given the diverse range of household incomes in Electoral Area G, it is crucial to plan for low-cost recreation opportunities in the parks and trails system.

3.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3.2.1 PURPOSE OF ENGAGEMENT

The volunteer community in the planning area, including an extensive network of community organizations and sport/interest groups, is actively engaged in the provision of recreation opportunities in Electoral Area G. Therefore, understanding the community's vision and goals for local parks and recreation is critical to the success of the Parks and Trails Master Plan. Through community engagement, significant challenges and opportunities were identified, providing key input that guided the recommendations included in this Master Plan.

3.2.2 FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

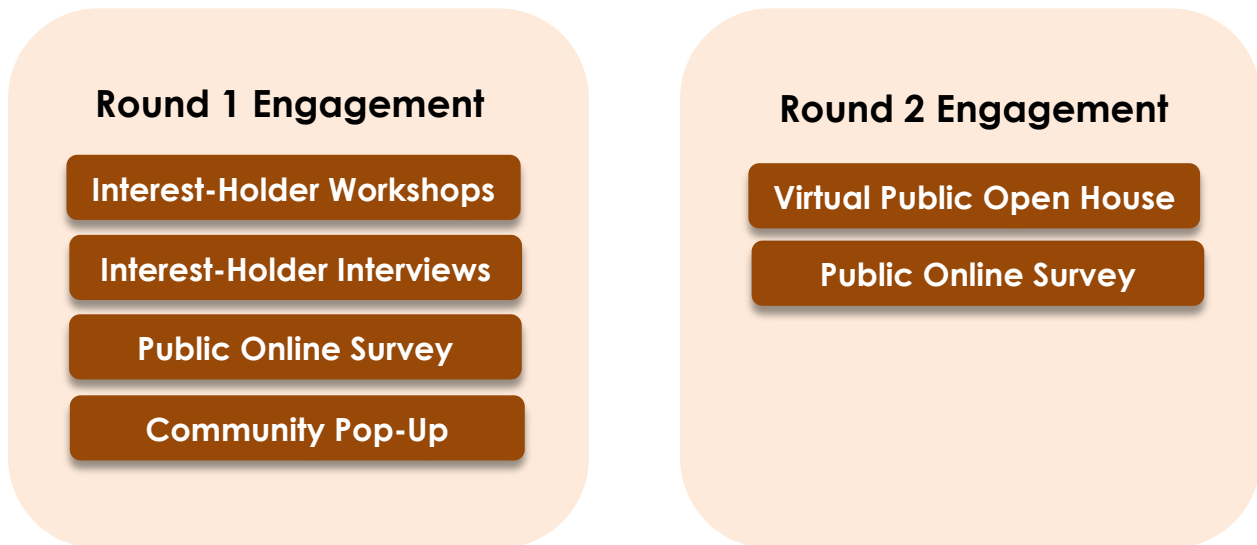
The RDBN invited sixteen First Nations that have indicated they have consultation interests within Electoral Area G to participate in individual rights-holder meetings. The invitation was also extended to participate in the public pop-ups and online surveys. There have been no requests for meetings to date.

The RDBN is committed to fostering robust relationships with local First Nations and acknowledges the significance of considering their interests and values. This includes the protection of culturally significant areas within the parks system. As further input is provided, it will be integrated into the decision-making process.

3.2.3 WHAT WE DID

The first round of community engagement, held in summer 2025, asked stakeholders and potential partners and the public to provide information about how they use parks and outdoor recreation facilities and programs within Electoral Area G. The feedback from the first round of engagement informed the vision and goals for the Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan and helped to identify potential opportunities for the future parks and trails system.

The second round of engagement, held in early 2026, shared the results from the first round of engagement and asked for community feedback on draft vision, goals, and recommendations to inform the final Parks and Trails Master Plan. The following summarizes the engagement activities by phase. A detailed description of the engagement activities and findings is included in **Appendix A**.



3.2.4 WHO WE HEARD

Public consultation activities and participation numbers in both rounds of engagement included:

- 125 survey respondents in two online surveys
- Five (5) participants in the community workshops
- Six (6) participants in the virtual open house
- One (1) in-person pop-up event at the Houston Farmer's Market

3.2.5 COMMUNITY VALUES

In the first round of engagement, the community was asked what recreation opportunities they value and how they currently use parks and trails within RDBN Electoral Area G. The following are key findings informing the Parks and Trails Master Plan. Further results can be found in Appendix A.

- **Trail use** – More than three quarters of respondents use trails on a weekly basis.

- **Popular activities and recreation habits** - The community participates in diverse recreational activities, with the most popular among adults including hiking, walking, and snowshoeing with children finding hiking, ATV/snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, dog walking, and mountain biking as popular activities. Camping is a popular outdoor recreation activity as well as water-based activities.
- **Barriers to park and trail access** – Primary barriers to accessing parks and trails include wildlife concerns (28%), poor maintenance (26%), lack of information (20%), and being too busy (20%). Roughly a quarter of respondents don't face any barriers (28%).
- **Key destinations:** Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club is the most mentioned destination from participants followed by China Nose Mountain (not in Electoral Area G) and the Babine Lake hiking trails.
- **Trail networks and connections:** Respondents indicated the creation and management of new trail networks should be prioritized over the next 10 years.
- **Park priorities:** Respondents indicated campgrounds, environmental protection, opportunities to be active, connecting with nature, and more park amenities are the main park priorities.
- **Trail priorities:** Respondents indicated hiking and walking, trail signage, and improved trail connections to community amenities are their main priorities for trails and active transportation.
- **Tax increase** – More respondents were supportive of tax increases to fund parks and trails improvements than those opposed (47% supportive compared to 29% opposed).
- **Additional comments** – Many respondents commented on the need for improved connectivity, maintenance, and more information, wayfinding, and signage.

3.2.6 KEY FINDINGS

Key themes were identified across engagement activities through both rounds of engagement, including challenges, opportunities, and priorities identified in community workshops and interviews, online surveys, the in-person pop-up event, the virtual open house, and additional feedback from organizations.

Overall, there was strong support for the Parks and Trails Master Plan, including 80% of online survey respondents supportive of the vision and 90% supportive of the goals.

Challenges

- Volunteer capacity and funding
- Potential loss of road access, specifically Palisades, Morice Lake Park, and Nadina Mountain access are a concern, as well as questions about future use of recreation sites and provincial parks, some of which are currently occupied by First Nations.
- Concerns about the level of maintenance and quality of trails and amenities
- Unmaintained and unsanctioned boat launches limit access
- Better information and signage are needed for trails

- Presence of wildlife can be a barrier to park and trail use

Opportunities

- Grow the trail network, such as a trail connecting Granisle to Topley Landing and a new trail along the Owen Connector.
- Establish a link between the Morice Mountain cabin and the Owen Lookout Cabin.
- Formalize boat launches and lake access to increase recreation opportunities.
- Improve partnerships and collaboration between community organizations and with the RDBN.
- Improve trail maintenance and management by establishing funding pathways to build capacity.
- Improve information, wayfinding, and education.

Priorities

- Expand trail networks to increase connectivity between communities and key destinations, such as a 10-kilometre trail linking Granisle to Topley Landing and a connection between Nadina Mountain Park and the Owen Lake Recreation Site.
- Plan and construct a trail along the historic Dominion Telegraph Line.
- Develop a three-lake canoe route incorporating Old Man Lake Park to enhance water recreation opportunities.
- Prioritize improvements to provincial recreation sites to support camping and day use, with a focus on Owen Lake, Silverthorne Lake, and Mount Harry Davis.
- Work with local First Nations to ensure ongoing communication and engagement is developed to support shared stewardship of public recreation sites, support cultural and ecological practices, and ensure clear communication.
- Establish a new campground near the Mt. Harry Davis mountain biking trails in collaboration with the Houston Mountain Bike Association.
- Establish a parks and trails working group to share resources and knowledge to support and improve parks and trails opportunities.

4 BENEFITS & TRENDS



4.1 BENEFITS OF PARKS AND TRAILS

The following section presents research showing that parks and trails improve health and wellbeing, advance reconciliation, strengthen local ecosystems and the environment, and provide economic growth and tourism.

Health and wellbeing

Spending time in nature and participating in outdoor recreation reduces stress and promotes social connections. In 2023, the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC² (ORCBC) conducted a survey on outdoor recreation participation, highlighting the significance of outdoor recreation for creating positive social connections and preserving mental well-being during the winter. In the RDBN, the Houston Hikers, Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club, Houston Snowmobile Club, and Houston Mountain Bike Association are examples of organizations that spend considerable time and energy to provide recreation opportunities, fostering a sense of community through their commitment to outdoor recreation.



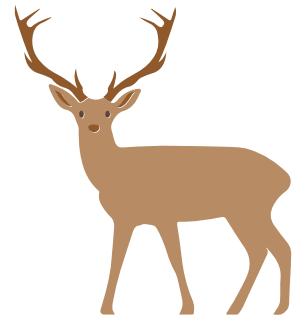
Reconciliation

The RDBN is located within the traditional territory of nearly 30 First Nations. These communities represent Dakelh, Nedut'en, Tse'khene, and Wet'suwet'en people. Addressing the impact of colonization on parks and trails is essential to building respectful relationships with First Nations to support governance on their traditional territories. One example is to support language revitalization programs by creating initiatives with local First Nations to introduce First Nations place naming for parks and trails. Listening and sharing, with consent, the stories of parks and trails in traditional territory through educational signage and materials connects the larger community. Practicing meaningful engagement and prioritizing First Nations' values and needs in park and trail development are crucial steps towards Reconciliation.



Environmental Benefits

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), parks and trails serve a vital role in conserving natural resources, providing wildlife habitat, safeguarding air and water quality, offsetting carbon emissions, and preserving open spaces for future generations. Engaging in stewardship and participating in volunteer activities within parks allow the public to actively contribute to preserving these spaces for the future while also increasing awareness of environmental issues at both local and global levels.



2 Lopez, X.D. (2023). The Impacts of Outdoor Recreation in Rural B.C. Communities. Outdoor Recreation Council of BC.

In the RDBN, parks can play a significant role in safeguarding essential ecosystems and natural features, such as rivers, lakes, spawning areas, and marshes. Their diverse and protected ecosystems serve as valuable habitat for a range of wildlife, including bears, moose, beavers, osprey, and many more.

Tourism

The RDBN's natural attractions are becoming increasingly popular with tourists seeking outdoor activities in rural areas. As interest grows, parks and trails in the area may become significant tourist destinations. Additionally, visitors are likely to stop in local communities to stock up on supplies before embarking on outdoor adventures, potentially boosting economic activity.



Economic Benefits

Parks and trails encourage people to get outside and move, contributing to long-term reductions in healthcare costs associated with the health burden of physical inactivity and associated chronic diseases. Research suggests that even a 10% increase in physical activity rates among Canadians could lead to a substantial \$150 million reduction in direct healthcare costs³.

Parks and trails serve as attractive destinations for both visitors and residents. The infrastructure of these parks and trails provides opportunities for generating revenue through various means, including venue rentals, events, educational programs, and interpretive activities. A 2020 study reveals that outdoor recreation in British Columbia contributes over 15 billion dollars in economic value to the residents of the province each year⁴.



3 Katzmarzyk, P.T. *The economic burden of physical inactivity in Canada*. 2000, November 28. Canadian Medical Association Journal, pp. 163(11):1435-40.

4 Smith, Patrick Lloyd. *The Economic Benefits of Recreation in Canada*. 2020, August 25. Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics, University of Saskatchewan. <https://plloydsmith.github.io/files/LloydSmith_RecCJE.pdf>

4.2 TRENDS OF PARKS AND TRAILS

The following section examines key trends shaping parks and trails in Area G, including climate change, communication and wayfinding, recreation, accessibility, park use, and volunteer capacity.

Climate Change

Northern British Columbia is experiencing effects of climate change that contribute to wildfire risk, extreme weather events, and other changes that impact residents' health and community infrastructure. To adapt existing parks and plan for new parks, prioritizing strategies to address climate change in operational practices, maintenance considerations, and park acquisition is critical. The RDBN needs to understand how emergency access and wildfires might impact parks and trails infrastructure, incorporate FireSmart practices for buildings and key access points, and ensure forests and ecosystems are managed for human safety and ecosystem health.



Wayfinding

Interpretive signage and guided tours within parks can help educate park visitors to learn about the area they are exploring, providing a more profound and meaningful experience beyond just being present in the space. In discussions with stakeholders, the suggestion emerged that parks could benefit from an increased presence of interpretive panels, which offer valuable information to visitors.



Long Term Access and Resource Roads

Access to many important outdoor recreation locations is by resource roads that are currently maintained by those in the mining and forest industry. Outdoor recreation investment will need to be focused in areas where continued maintenance of access roads will continue in the long-term.

Recreation

Activities such as hiking, walking, snowshoeing, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, and fishing continue to increase in popularity in the RDBN. Trends in recreation activity highlight the importance of planning and managing for diverse use and potential conflicts associated with shared use of parks.

The Bulkley-Nechako area provides outstanding opportunities to view undisturbed wildlife in remote locations, a growing attraction across Northern BC. Wildlife viewing offers a flexible, equipment-light activity suitable for all ages. However, educating park visitors is crucial to ensuring public safety during wildlife viewing and to minimizing human-wildlife conflicts effectively.



Accessibility

With an aging population in the RDBN Area 'G', a growing number of individuals will face mobility challenges at a time when the significance of staying active and getting outdoors increases. In parks, providing a range of options that are safe and enjoyable for seniors and those with limited mobility are critical to increase the accessibility of parks and trails. These amenities can be used by people of all age groups, including parents with strollers and children.



The issue of accessibility extends beyond the younger and older demographics. According to the Canadian Survey on Disability Report, in 2022, 27% of the Canadian population aged 15 and older had one or more disabilities, ranging from mild to severe⁵. That percentage is up from 22% in 2017. These disabilities pose challenges in accessing parks and trails to the most vulnerable members of the community. Trails that are safe and easily accessible play a crucial role in encouraging and empowering children and youth to engage in physical activity.

Year-Round Park Use

The RDBN experiences winter weather conditions for approximately six months each year. Encouraging and embracing outdoor recreation during this period is essential to keep people active and engaged with parks throughout the entire year. By providing opportunities for these winter activities, parks can cater to a broader range of visitors and ensure that the enjoyment of outdoor spaces extends beyond the warmer months. The Houston Snowmobile Club is one example of a group in the RDBN that works hard to maintain the safety of trails for snowmobiling in the winter.



Volunteerism

The 2023 ORCBC study⁶ emphasized that volunteer retention can be challenging, with factors such as burnout and aging demographics contributing to this issue. Outdoor recreation clubs expressed that the burden of work falls on the same few volunteers consistently. The combination of an ageing volunteer base and a relatively small population presents difficulties in meeting a high level of trail maintenance. Providing support to build community capacity and volunteerism is crucial to sustaining a network of volunteers with shared priorities.



⁵ Statistics Canada. *A demographic, employment and income profile of persons with disabilities aged 15 years and over in Canada, 2022*. 2024, May 28. <<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-654-x/89-654-x2024001-eng.htm>>

⁶ Ipsos. *Trails and Outdoor Recreation in BC*. 2023, June 2. <<https://www.ipsos.com/en-ca/trails-and-outdoor-recreation-bc>>

5 VISION & GOALS



5.1 VISION

The RDBN's Parks and Trails Service for Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) will:

- **Build on Community Strengths.** The RDBN seeks to build upon the strengths of the recreation services provided by others, including First Nations, and recreation organizations. These partnerships will create a cohesive and sustainable system that enhances the overall recreational experience for all.
- **Create Safe Connections.** The parks and trails system will support connections between residents and key recreation and community destinations, focusing on accessible and multi-use linkages.
- **Provide Diverse and Accessible Recreation Opportunities.** The parks and trails system will offer diverse and accessible recreation options for all ages and abilities that will lead to increased participation in outdoor activities, increased health and well-being for residents, and enhanced tourism capacity. This will be achieved by maintaining and improving existing infrastructure and creating new or expanded parks, trails, and amenities to address gaps.
- **Celebrate the Region's Natural Beauty and Unique Features.** The parks and trails system will facilitate access to unique natural features and important community destinations and will contribute to a sense of place that attracts residents and visitors to the region.
- **Support a Diversified Economy.** The parks and trails system in Electoral Area G will support a vibrant economy and expansion of tourism by developing high-quality outdoor recreation amenities that enhance quality of life and attract residents and visitors to the region.

5.2 GOALS

Four goals emerged to support the RDBN in achieving the vision for parks and trails. Each goal is supported by specific recommendations to be accomplished over the next 10 years. These recommendations are outlined in the next section.

- Goal 1: Establish tools and processes to support the delivery of the parks and trails service in Electoral Area G
- Goal 2: Strengthen partnerships and build community capacity
- Goal 3: Increase access to outdoor recreation
- Goal 4: Enhance the user experience at parks and trails

6 RECOMMENDATIONS



The following section outlines key recommendations specific to each goal for Electoral Area G.

GOAL 1: ESTABLISH TOOLS AND PROCESSES TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE PARKS AND TRAILS SERVICE IN ELECTORAL AREA G

This goal establishes a comprehensive approach to delivering parks and trails services in Electoral Area G. By providing a clear framework and consistent processes, this goal ensures the strategic allocation of resources for the parks and trails within Electoral Area G.

Recommendation 1.1

Continue to engage with other levels of government and community groups to identify and prioritize opportunities for the RDBN to provide parks and trails through partnerships or through direct acquisition and management.

This could take the form of a parks and trails “working group”. An example of this model is the Shuswap Trails Alliance, which brings together interest-holders across all sectors to one table for regular meetings to discuss, collaborate, coordinate, and share resources and knowledge. By bringing interest-holders together, the RDBN will help build community capacity and volunteerism and can also help identify ways to remove administrative burdens and increase collaboration toward shared priorities.

The members could be invited from First Nations, District of Houston, Village of Granisle, BC Parks, RSTBC, local outdoor recreation organizations, local stewardship organizations, local outdoor recreation businesses, youth representatives, etc.

Recommendation 1.2

Establish service levels for parks and trails, in line with the standards for other service areas.

For parks, develop a park management plan for any future parks and update every five years. Management plans should consider maintenance levels, infrastructure development and upgrades, universal accessibility, protection of environmentally sensitive areas, and invasive species management. Plans may also be informed by existing provincial park management plans.

For trails, once maintenance responsibilities are assumed, conduct regular trail inspections as described in the RDBN Parks and Trails Inspection and Maintenance Policy. This will help ensure trails are safe, well-maintained, and that appropriate resources and budget are allocated to maintenance.

First Nations consultation and archaeological assessments may be required for both parks and trails.

Recommendation 1.3

Consider adding staff to support the implementation of new parks and trails projects across the RDBN’s four parks and trails service areas and ensure equitable distribution of staff time between the service areas as the network of parks and trails grows.

Recommendation 1.4

Continue to work with First Nations communities, other levels of government, and community groups to maintain and expand land use agreements for recreation and conservation. There is also a need for consultation among the Province, RDBN, and First Nations regarding the future use of recreation sites and provincial parks, specifically the Lamprey Creek Recreation Site, which has been closed by the Province and where public access has been restricted due to First Nations use.

GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AND BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY

This goal emphasizes the importance of building robust partnerships and enhancing community capacity in the realm of parks and trails services. By fostering collaboration, providing financial support, and expanding land use agreements, this goal aims to build a stronger community foundation and ensure effective management and development of parks and trails services.

Recommendation 2.1

Continue to engage and build relationships with First Nations, including for the protection and enhancement of cultural and ecological values.

Recommendation 2.2

Continue the Recreation Contribution Grant Program that supports the RDBN in allocating multi-year funding to recreation organizations providing recreation services, such as regular maintenance of the snowmobile trail network. Continue to monitor the success of the program and adjust criteria for funding and reporting requirements as needed. Increase funding availability as resources allow, if needed.

Recommendation 2.3

Continue to increase awareness of the RDBN's capacity to support outdoor recreation organizations, such as grant writing and coordination between different levels of government.

Recommendation 2.4

Facilitate collaboration between outdoor recreation groups who are actively engaged in maintaining parks and trail features within Electoral Area G.

GOAL 3: INCREASE ACCESS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION

This goal focuses on increasing access to outdoor recreation, particularly lakes and trails. By enhancing access, this goal aims to improve recreational opportunities while recognizing the significance of these natural assets. The recommendations below primarily arose during the first round of engagement.

Recommendation 3.1

Work with the Village of Granisle to explore the development of a multi-use trail between Granisle and Topley Landing. This potential connection could provide active transportation options for residents and

visitors travelling between various destinations along Babine Lake. The proposed trail will cross multiple jurisdictional boundaries and the RDBN may have an important role in facilitating coordination.

A feasibility study for a 10 kilometer trail between Granisle and Topley Landing was completed in 2021. The Village of Granisle, the RDBN, and residents have expressed interest in the potential implementation of this trail. Further action would require coordination with BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, the Ministry of Transportation and Transit, and private landowners. For example, non-motorized trail access would need to be accounted for in the BC Parks section of the trail in Red Bluff Provincial Park.

Consultation with Lake Babine Nation and residents of Tachet is needed. Topics for discussion may include the protection of sensitive ecological areas along the Fulton River and Babine Lake; the protection of important cultural and archaeological sites; opportunities to connect to Tachet; and opportunities to include First Nations recognition and art in signage and interpretive elements.

Recommendation 3.2

Work in partnership with First Nations, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, BC Parks, and the Houston Hikers to explore the potential of a canoe route in Old Man Lake Park to connect Old Man, Swans, and Elwin Lakes via designated portages. Engagement with First Nations will guide if and how connections between lakes are appropriate, with partners supporting future planning as directed.

Recommendation 3.3

Collaborate with BC Parks and RSTBC to establish a trail connection from Nadina Mountain Park to the Owen Lake recreation site. Consult with the Wet'suwet'en First Nation community Felix George No. 7 IR located adjacent to the recreation site north of Owen Lake before initiating this work. This would improve access to the Nadina Mountain climbing and hiking area.

Recommendation 3.4

Secure long-term access to recreation and tourism areas by working with the community to identify priority resource roads in the Electoral Area. Identifying key access routes will strengthen advocacy to the Ministry of Forests to keep key access roads open for outdoor recreation and tourism. Investment should be prioritized for parks and trails along access roads that are most likely to receive regular maintenance.

GOAL 4: ENHANCE THE USER EXPERIENCE AT PARKS AND TRAILS

This goal aims to improve overall user experience within Regional District parks and trails. By prioritizing accessibility, information availability, cultural inclusion, and amenity expansion, this goal aims to create an enriched and user-friendly parks and trails, enhancing community enjoyment and engagement.

Recommendation 4.1

Follow accessibility standards, such as the [Universal Design Guide](#) by BC Parks, when establishing or upgrading parks and trails. Support organizations managing trails by providing guidance on accessibility improvements and identifying potential funding sources.

Recommendation 4.2

Collaborate with the Houston Mountain Bike Association to establish a campground near the Mt. Harry Davis mountain biking trails. This project would require collaboration with RSTBC and First Nations consultation.

Recommendation 4.3

Develop a naming policy for trails and look for opportunities to incorporate Indigenous stories and histories into interpretive signage along trails, where appropriate.

Recommendation 4.4

Support the Houston Hikers in the enhancement and promotion of high use trails as day hiking destinations. Enhancements could include priority trail upgrades, signage and wayfinding upgrades, improved support amenities such as benches or picnic tables, and interpretive elements.

Trails should be established under a FRPA Section 57 authorization through RSTBC, if they aren't already, before investments are made to ensure they will be protected as recreation assets in the long term.

Recommendation 4.5

Support the Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club and Houston Hikers in the maintenance and improvement of the abundant trails and amenities around Silverthorne Lake and the Morice Wilderness Area (RSTBC) to further enhance this area as a recreation hub.

Recommendation 4.6

Work with RSTBC to identify priority sites for increased maintenance and management. Priority sites will include locations that improve public access to lakes and shorelines, offer unique viewpoints or natural features, and have a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Recommendation 4.7

Update the RDBN's website to provide more information about outdoor recreation destinations, parks, trails, and campgrounds, including information about accessible features, safety, wayfinding, and amenities. Work with Houston Hikers who have done considerable work in this area. Ensure that trails the RDBN promotes are authorized under FRPA Section 57 or are on BC Parks lands.

Recommendation 4.8

Explore opportunities to develop a trail on Crown lands in Electoral Area G along the route of the historic Dominion Telegraph Line. The Dominion Telegraph Line operated from 1900 to 1936 and connected Quesnel to Dawson City and the section within the RDBN is also referred to as the Yukon Telegraph Line.

In 2025, the RDBN Planning Department mapped portions of the line located on Crown lands and identified its route through the five electoral areas traversed by the line, including Electoral Area G.

Within the RDBN, the Electoral Area G line segment includes some of the longest continuous stretches on Crown land. Developing a trail could be a significant local and tourist asset and would support the 2016 Statement of Significance that recognizes the line as a Provincial Historic Place, Site, and Trail.

7 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN



This Master Plan identifies recommendations to enhance parks and trails in Electoral Area G across a 10-year period from 2026 to 2036. The Board’s endorsement of the Master Plan indicates a preliminary agreement, without implying a financial commitment. The Board will make specific decisions regarding financial allocation as part of the financial planning process.

An implementation table on the following pages outlines recommended actions, prioritization levels, timelines, and required resources. Operational tasks are recommended to support staff work plans and departmental resources. Capital projects will be evaluated and integrated into budget planning, as subject to Board approval based on available resources and priorities.

RDBN’s partners will be responsible for implementing actions where they are the primary provider. Responsibilities for partners are highlighted in the implementation table for reference by the RDBN in discussions, monitoring, and assessing generated value from the RDBN’s investments. Aligning the objectives and priorities of community members and the RDBN will help improve their ability to meet community needs.

7.1 TIME FRAME

The table defines three time frames for implementation including:

- **Short term** – 0-5 years
- **Medium term** – 5-10 years
- **Long term** – 10+ years

Longer-term actions may be completed ahead of short-term actions depending on funding opportunities, partnerships, or other influencing factors. Actions will be sequenced as determined by the RDBN’s annual work plans to accommodate changing community needs and funding availability.

7.2 RESOURCES REQUIRED

Actions described in the implementation table come with associated costs including staff time, operational expenses, and/or capital investments. Resource requirements are categorized in the table as follows:

- **\$ - Low** – less than \$50,000
- **\$\$ - Medium** - \$50,000-\$100,000
- **\$\$\$ - High** – more than \$100,000

	Recommendation	Priority	Timeline	Resources	Other/Partners
GOAL 1: ESTABLISH TOOLS AND PROCESSES TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF THE PARKS AND TRAILS SERVICE IN ELECTORAL AREA G					
1.1	Continue to engage with other levels of government and community organizations to identify and prioritize opportunities for the RDBN to provide parks and trails through partnerships or through direct acquisition and management.	High	Ongoing	\$	- Community groups - RSTBC - BC Parks - First Nations - District of Houston - Village of Granisle
1.2	Establish service levels for parks and trails, in line with the standards for other service areas. For future parks and trails, develop management plans and update the plans every five years. (see report for full recommendation details).	High	Medium	\$	
1.3	Consider adding staff to support the implementation of parks and trails projects in Electoral Area G and across the RDBN’s four parks and trails service areas.	Medium	Medium	\$\$-\$\$\$	
1.4	Continue to work with First Nations communities, other levels of government, and community groups to maintain and expand land use agreements for recreation and conservation and to address questions about the future use of recreation sites and provincial parks, specifically the Lamprey Creek Recreation Site which has been closed by the Province and where public access has been restricted due to First Nations use.	Medium	Long	\$	- BC Government - First Nations - Community groups
GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS AND BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY					
2.1	Continue to engage and build relationships with First Nations, including for the protection and enhancement of cultural and ecological values.	High	Ongoing	\$	First Nations
2.2	Continue to implement the Recreation Contribution Grant Program that provides allocation of multi-year funding to recreation organizations providing recreation services.	High	Ongoing	\$\$	Community groups
2.3	Continue to increase awareness of the RDBN’s capacity to support outdoor recreation organizations, such as grant writing and coordination between different levels of government.	High	Short - Ongoing	\$	- Internal: RDBN grant writers - Outdoor recreation groups
2.4	Facilitate collaboration between outdoor recreation groups who are actively engaged in maintaining parks and trail features within Electoral Area G.	High	Short - Ongoing	\$	- Internal: RDBN grant writers - Outdoor recreation groups

	Recommendation	Priority	Timeline	Resources	Other/Partners
GOAL 3: INCREASE ACCESS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION					
3.1	Work with the Village of Granisle and partners to explore the development of a multi-use trail between Granisle and Topley Landing.	High	Short term initiation Long term implementation	\$-\$\$\$* *Dependent on project	- Village of Granisle - Ministry of Environment and Parks (BC Parks, RSTBC) - Lake Babine Nation - Ministry of Transportation and Transit
3.2	Work in partnership with the First Nations, BC Parks, RSTBC and the Houston Hikers to explore a potential canoe route in Old Man Lake Park to connect Old Man, Swans, and Elwin Lakes via designated portages.	Medium	Medium	\$\$	- First Nations - RSTBC - BC Parks - Houston Hikers
3.3	Collaborate with BC Parks and RSTBC to establish a trail connection from Nadina Mountain Park to the Owen Lake recreation site. Consult with the Wet'suwet'en First Nation community Felix George No. 7 IR located adjacent to the recreation site north of Owen Lake before initiating this work. This would improve access to the Nadina Mountain climbing and hiking area.	Medium	Medium	\$\$	- BC Parks - RSTBC - First Nations
3.4	Secure long-term access to recreation and tourism areas by working with the community to identify priority resource roads. Identifying key access routes will strengthen advocacy to the Ministry of Forests to keep key access roads open for outdoor recreation and tourism.	High	Short	\$	Province of BC
GOAL 4: ENHANCE THE USER EXPERIENCE AT PARKS AND TRAILS					
4.1	Follow accessibility standards, such as the Universal Design Guide by BC Parks, when establishing or upgrading trails. Support organizations managing trails by providing guidance on accessibility improvements and identifying potential funding sources.	Medium	Medium	\$\$* *Dependent on grant funding opportunities	Internal: RDBN Accessibility Committee
4.2	Collaborate with the Houston Mountain Bike Association to establish a campground near the Mt. Harry Davis mountain biking trails.	Medium	Long	\$\$* *Dependent on joint funding opportunities	Houston Mountain Bike Association

	Recommendation	Priority	Timeline	Resources	Other/Partners
4.3	Develop a naming policy for trails and look for opportunities to incorporate Indigenous stories and histories into interpretive signage along trails, where appropriate.	Medium	Medium	\$-\$\$	First Nations
4.4	Support the Houston Hikers in the enhancement and promotion of high-use trails as day hiking destinations.	Medium	Medium	\$* <i>*Dependent on joint funding opportunities</i>	Houston Hikers
4.5	Support the Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club and Houston Hikers in the maintenance and improvement of the abundant trails and amenities around Silverthorne Lake and the Morice Wilderness Area (RSTBC) to further enhance this area as a recreation hub.	Medium	Medium	\$\$	- Houston Hikers - Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club - RSTBC
4.6	Work with RSTBC to identify priority sites for increased maintenance and management.	High	Short	\$	RSTBC
4.7	Update the RDBN’s website to provide more information about outdoor recreation destinations, parks, trails, and campgrounds. Work with Houston Hikers who has done considerable work in this area.	Medium	Medium	\$	- Houston Hikers - BC Parks - RSTBC
4.8	Explore opportunities to develop a trail along the route of the historic Dominion Telegraph Line that fall within Electoral Area G.	Low	Short - Long	\$\$	Province of BC

APPENDIX A
WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

Regional District of Bulkley Nechako

Parks and Trails Master Plan

Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)

Engagement Summary

Prepared for:



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako (RDBN) is developing a Parks and Trails Master Plan for Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural). The Plan will set strategic actions for parks and trails that reflect the region's unique character, culture, and geography.

Community input is key to the success of the Master Plan. Interest holders, rights holders, potential partners, and the public were invited to provide feedback on parks, trails, and recreation areas. Engagement aimed to understand community needs, identify challenges and opportunities, and develop strategies to improve coordination of park and trail operations.

To ensure the Plan reflects a community vision and a wide range of perspectives, engagement included outreach to the public and key rights and interest-holders, including outdoor clubs, community groups, and local First Nations communities. The Engagement Summary presents feedback received during two rounds of public engagement.

1.2 OVERALL PLANNING PROCESS

Five phases guided the Plan, including a background review, round 1 community engagement, preparation of the draft Plan, round 2 engagement, and development of the final Parks and Trails Master Plan (Figure 1). Two rounds of engagement included:

- **Round 1:** Stakeholder meetings and interviews, a public online survey, and a public pop-up event. Participants helped shape the vision and priorities for parks and trails.
- **Round 2:** A public online survey and virtual public open house. Participants provided feedback on the Draft Master Plan.

Engagement activities are described below including key findings and how the input was used to inform the final Master Plan.



Figure 1 – Project timeline

1.3 FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

The RDBN is committed to fostering robust relationships with local First Nations and acknowledges the significance of considering their interests and values. This includes protecting culturally significant areas within the parks system. The RDBN invited sixteen First Nations within the RDBN’s Electoral Area G to participate in individual rights holder meetings, as well as extending the invitation to participate in the public pop-ups and online surveys. There have been no meeting requests to date. However, as further input is offered in the future, it will be integrated into the decision-making process.

1.4 WHAT WE DID

OUTREACH AND PARTICIPATION

Public consultation activities included virtual interest-holder workshops, two public online surveys, a community pop-up event, and a virtual open house. Further details about each activity and a summary of results are provided below.

To encourage participation, a combination of phone calls, email invitations, newspaper advertisements, and social media posts were used. The RDBN website provided a landing page for all updates, information on how to participate, and links to the online surveys and virtual open house.

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Round 1

Interest-holder Workshops and interviews

Four virtual workshops were held with a diverse set of interest-holders, including local and provincial government representatives, community organizations, land managers, youth, and education groups.

Engagement by the Numbers

125 participants in two online surveys

5 participants in the community workshops

6 participants in the virtual open house

1 pop-up event at the Houston Farmer's Market

Interviews with individual knowledge holders were also conducted. Participants included representatives from the following:

- Elected officials from the RDBN Electoral Area 'G', Village of Granisle, and District of Houston
- District of Houston Leisure Services Staff
- Houston Hikers
- Houston Mountain Bike Association
- Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC) Staff
- BC Parks Staff

Representatives were introduced to the project through workshops and interviews and were asked about their organization's role in parks and trails. They were also asked to provide feedback on challenges and opportunities within parks and trails.

Round 1 Online Public Survey

Public input was gathered through an online survey posted on the Regional District's website. Results were collected through the online platform Survey Monkey and summarized in Section 2.1 of this report.

The first survey received 54 responses collected between August 15th to September 30th, 2025. Survey questions asked the community to reflect on their needs and aspirations for parks, trails, and recreation.

Round 1 Public Pop-Up Event

One in-person pop-up event was held at the Houston Farmer's Market on August 22nd, 2025 from 12:00-4:00 pm. Facilitators from the Regional District and LEES were present to gather feedback, guide conversation, and answer project questions.

The pop-up event introduced the project to the community and shared information about parks and trails in the planning area. Display boards prompted participants to share their vision for parks and trails, identify key locations they would like prioritized, and share important features and amenities. The pop-up event also encouraged participation in the first online survey.

Round 2

Virtual Open House

A virtual open house was held in March of 2026. Interest-holders from the first round of engagement were invited in addition to an open invite to members of the community via the RDBN's website. The open house included a presentation on the draft Parks and Trails Master Plan followed by a brief discussion providing space for questions and feedback on the Plan.

Round 2 Online Public Survey

Public input was gathered through a second online survey posted on the Regional District's website. The results were collected through the online platform Survey Monkey and are summarized in Section 2.2.

Survey responses for round 2 of engagement were collected from February 26th to April 6th, 2026, with a total of 71 responses. Survey questions asked for community feedback on the Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan, including the level of support for the vision and recommendations and the highest priorities.

2 ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

2.1 ROUND 1 ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

2.1.1 COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AND INTERVIEWS

The following section outlines key points raised during the community workshops and interviews of elected officials, Houston Leisure Services, and the Houston Hikers.

Elected Officials

- A meeting held with the Ministry of Forests at Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) discussed their commitment to a ten kilometre trail between the Granisle and Topley Landing previously explored in a 2021 feasibility study by the Village of Granisle. This is a top priority for the municipality.
- Future forestry campsites and access roads will be important to trail and recreational access planning, as forestry companies may not continue to maintain all roads.
- Changes to permitting requirements mean a larger number of permits will likely be required to establish new projects, particularly along lakeshores and rivers. Focusing on maintaining existing assets over establishing new infrastructure may reduce required permits.
- Fishing along the Morice River and lake access were identified as priorities, alongside closing gaps in hiking trails along lake and river frontages.
- Unmaintained and unsanctioned boat launches along waterfronts present a hazard. Barrett and Klinger Lakes were identified as sites in need of improved amenities and parking.
- Stronger partnerships with local First Nations are needed to support access to public recreation sites and improve communication with the public, especially as Provincial reconciliation processes may change future access to Crown land. Several long-term, well-used recreation sites are now exclusively used by First Nations. Elected officials expressed the importance of collaborative approaches, including culturally respectful signage that acknowledges First Nations sites and encourages responsible use.

Houston Leisure Services

- A challenge identified was limited volunteer capacity within a small population.
- Priorities identified included accessibility, safety, trail connectivity, and improved signage.

Houston Hikers

- Challenges include trail maintenance and limited funding streams for operational work .
- There is interest in establishing a link between the Morice Mountain cabin and the Owen Lookout Cabin.

- Interest was expressed in establishing trails and access along Old Man, Swans and Elwin Lakes in partnership with RSTBC.
- Members noted several long-standing recreation sites are now exclusively used by local First Nations, and the community feels the loss of these areas. They suggested exploring opportunities to develop new sites or expand existing ones to maintain recreation capacity.

Key Locations Shared:

- Morice River
- Barrett Lake
- Klinger Lake
- Owen Lake
- Helen Lake
- Silverthorne Lake
- Old Man Lake
- Swans Lake
- Elwin Lake
- Irrigation Lake (District of Houston)
- By-mac Campground (District of Houston)
- Northwood Park (District of Houston)

2.1.2 ROUND 1 PUBLIC POP-UP EVENT

During the pop-up event, the following themes emerged:

- **Nadina Mountain:** Participants identified the Nadina Mountain area as a place of interest valued for its wilderness lodge, Nadina Mountain Provincial Park, and the Owen Lake Recreation Site.
- **Road access:** Concerns over maintaining road access after industry decommissioning was discussed, with specific reference to Palisades, Morice Lake Park, and Nadina Mountain access along the Owen Connector.
- **BC Recreation Sites:** Sites located close to town were described as popular and favored by locals due to their ease of access including Silverthorne Lake, Helen Lake, and Sunset Lake.
- **Bike trails:** Participants expressed interest in improved bike safety, increased community connections, and development of more trails in the area. Mountain biking emerged as the main topic, however an opportunity for introducing gravel bike trails was identified.

2.1.3 ROUND 1 ONLINE SURVEY

The following key findings shared in the round 1 online survey include:

- **Trail use habits:** Three quarters of respondents use trails at least on a weekly basis (76%).
- **Popular activities:** The most popular activities among adults include hiking, walking, and snowshoeing. Among children, hiking, ATV/snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, dog walking, and mountain biking were the most popular activities. Though not as popular as summer activities, a significant portion of respondents participate in winter trail activities.
- **Outdoor recreation habits:** Camping is a popular outdoor recreation activity enjoyed by many adults (83%) and children (95%) and respondents enjoy water-based activities including canoeing and kayaking, swimming, going to the lake, and fishing.
- **Barriers to access:** Primary barriers to accessing parks and trails include wildlife concerns (28%), poor maintenance (26%), lack of information (20%), and being too busy (20%). Roughly a quarter of respondents don't face any barriers (28%).
- **Key destinations:** Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club is the most mentioned destination from participants followed by China Nose Mountain (not in Electoral Area G) and the Babine Lake hiking trails.
- **Trail networks and connections:** Respondents indicated the creation and management of new trail networks should be prioritized over the next 10 years, with 78% ranking it in their top two, followed by connections between communities (56%), preservation of natural areas (38%), and acquiring land (29%).
- **Park priorities:** Respondents indicated campgrounds, environmental protection, opportunities to be active, connect with nature, and more park amenities are the main priorities for parks.
- **Trail priorities:** Respondents indicated hiking and walking (82%), trail signage (49%), and improved trail connections to community amenities (56%) are their main priorities for trails and active transportation.
- **Tax increase:** More respondents were supportive of tax increases to fund parks and trails improvements than those opposed (47% supportive compared to 29% opposed).
- **Additional comments:** Many respondents commented on the need for improved connectivity, maintenance, and more information, wayfinding, and signage.

2.2 ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

2.2.1 VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

The following input was shared during the virtual open house including:

- The Houston Mountain Bike Association (HMBA) and the Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club (MMNSC) are jointly developing summer biking maps and signage;
- The Owen-Nadina connection should be restored to provide 4x4 access; and
- A shortened version of the final plan would be helpful for the public and for grants.

2.2.2 ROUND 2 ONLINE SURVEY

The key findings shared in the round 2 online survey include:

- **Vision and goals:** The majority of respondents support the draft vision statement (80%) and the five goals (90%). When asked to describe overall goals missed, a few respondents mentioned a desire for providing garbage maintenance.
- **Parks and Trails working group:** The majority of respondents support the creation of a parks and trails working group (77%). However, 21% feel neutral or unsure.
- **Granisle and Topley Landing multi-use trail:** The majority of respondents (59%) support creating a new multi-use trail between Granisle and Topley Landing and 33% feel neutral. With further engagement, the project has a strong potential to build even broader community support.
- **Expansion of trail networks:** Support was strong for both initiatives, with a slight preference for Nadina Mountain trail connection to the Owen Lake recreation site (52% ranked as their top priority) followed by developing a three-lake canoe route integrated with Old Man Lake Park (48% ranked as their top priority).
- **Outdoor recreation organization and land manager initiatives** – Respondents would like the RDBN to prioritize establishing a campground near the Mt. Harry Davis mountain biking trails with the Houston Mountain Bike Association (61% ranked as their top two priorities). Both enhancing the Houston Palisades Trail and improving Silverthorne Lake and the Morice Wilderness Area were equally prioritized (48% ranked as their top two priorities).
- **Provincial Recreation Site improvements:** Respondents prioritized upgrades at Owen Lake (26 votes), followed by Silverthorne Lake (24), Mt. Harry Davis (20), and the Aspen sites (19). They highlighted needs such as better signage and maps, improved accessibility, better access to the Morice River and Lamprey Creek, more trails and benches, and additional camping options, particularly at Mt. Harry Davis.
- **Dominion Telegraph Line trail:** The majority of respondents (60%) support creating a new trail following the historic Dominion Telegraph Line and 33% feel neutral or unsure, suggesting further distribution of information to build community support.

- **Further comments:** Additional comments included not finding information on the planning process, the importance of highlighting that the western portion of Area E is often considered a “Houston area” for recreation and a desire of advertising to get input from neighbouring areas.

2.2.3 ADDITIONAL FEEDBACK RECEIVED

The RDBN received additional feedback through email messages from organizations including:

- **Houston Hikers:** Provided feedback on content related to Houston Hikers trails and a recreation site.
- **BC Parks:** Shared feedback on recommendations related to BC Parks, including insight into trail upgrade projects, specifically Old Man Park, and engagement with Houston Hikers and First Nations.
- **Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC):** Provided information on sites under jurisdiction, including missing trails and recreation site closures.
- **Village of Granisle:** Clarified municipal jurisdiction of parks and trails.
- **Mayor of Granisle:** Shared input on making a user-friendly version of the plan.

3 SUMMARY OF KEY THEMES

Section three summarizes key themes from both rounds of engagement, including challenges, opportunities, and priorities found from the community workshops and interviews, online surveys, the in-person pop-up event, and the virtual open house.

3.1 CHALLENGES

Key challenges include:

- **Volunteer capacity and funding:** Volunteer capacity is limited by a small population and ongoing operational work is limited by a lack of stable funding.
- **Loss of road access:** The decommissioning of roads by forestry companies is a significant concern, particularly for the Palisades, Morice Lake Park, and Nadina Mountain.
- **Current level of maintenance:** Declining quality of trails and amenities has raised concern about the current level of park and trail maintenance.
- **Access to water recreation:** Unmaintained and unsanctioned boat launches have limited access to recreational use of lakes.
- **Lack of information and signage:** Missing information and signage on parks and trails was identified as a challenge.
- **Wildlife concerns:** Presence of wildlife was identified as the biggest barrier to access.

3.2 OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities include:

- **Grow the trail network:** Open up the trail network to provide additional opportunities for hiking. Trails could provide additional access to Nadina Mountain, including a new trail connecting Granisle to Topley Landing and a new trail along the Owen Connector.
- **Improve cabin access:** Establish a link between the Morice Mountain cabin and the Owen Lookout Cabin.
- **Improve water access:** Provide improvements to access the Morice River and Morice Lake, as well as Barrett and Klinger Lake, by formalizing boat launches to increase recreation opportunities for water sports.
- **Build partnerships:** Strengthen collaboration between organizations and the RDBN, including partnering with the RSTBC to develop trails and provide access to Old Man, Swan, and Elwin Lakes, helping to increase volunteer capacity, and building ongoing relationship with local First Nations.

- **Improve trail maintenance:** Establish funding pathways through tax increases, grants, or creating a parks and trails working group to enhance maintenance and management of the trail system, as well as build capacity.
- **Improve information, wayfinding, and education:** Develop clear trail wayfinding, information on the trail system, and education. Providing information on wildlife-human interactions could help address wildlife related concerns.

3.3 SUPPORT FOR THE PLAN

Overall, there was strong support for the Parks and Trails Master Plan, including:

- **80%** of online survey respondents were supportive or very supportive of the vision.
- **90%** of online survey respondents were supportive or very supportive of the goals.
- Participants of the virtual open house expressed support for the Draft Master Plan.
- Organizations providing feedback expressed support for the Draft Master Plan.

3.4 PRIORITIES

Community priorities place emphasis on expanding trail networks, improving trail connectivity, and improving amenities. Key priorities identified include:

- **Expand and connect trail networks:** Expand trail networks to increase recreation opportunities and improve connectivity between communities and key recreation destinations. This could include developing a 10-kilometre trail linking the Village of Granisle with Topley Landing and establishing a connection between Nadina Mountain Park and the Owen Lake Recreation Site.
- **Establish a historic trail:** Plan and construct a trail along the historic Dominion Telegraph Line to support tourism, enhance local recreation, and highlight the area's historical past.
- **Enhance water recreation opportunities:** Develop a three-lake canoe route incorporating Old Man Lake Park.
- **Improve Provincial Recreation Sites:** Support improvements to provincial recreation sites including enhanced amenities, signage, and improved access, with a focus on Owen Lake, Silverthorne Lake, and Mount Harry Davis.
- **Strengthen Relationships with Local First Nations:** Work with local First Nations to ensure ongoing communication and engagement is developed to support shared stewardship of public recreation sites, support cultural and ecological practices, and ensure clear communication in planning and management conversations.
- **Establish a new campground:** Establish a new campground near the Mt. Harry Davis mountain biking trails in collaboration with the Houston Mountain Bike Association.

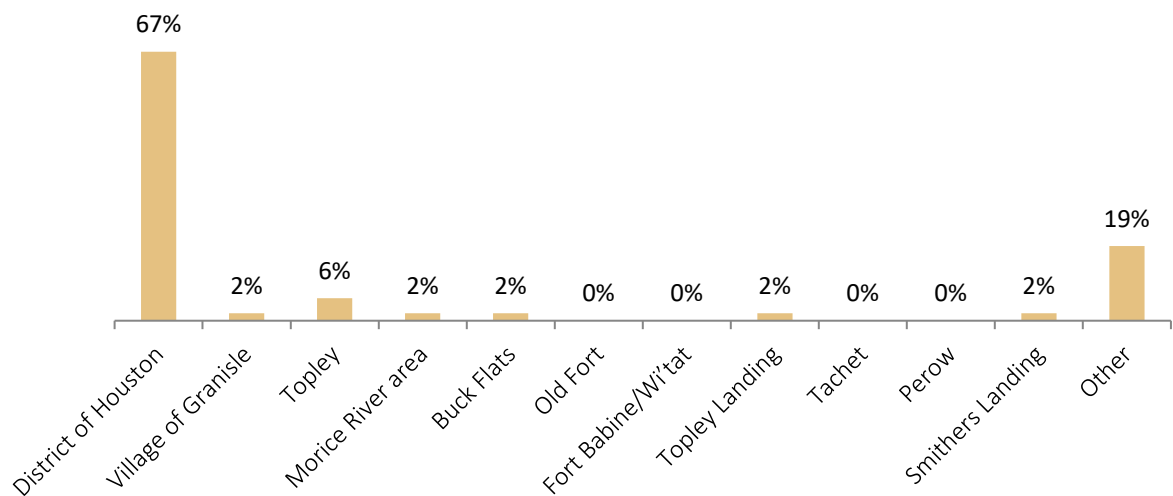
- **Create a Parks and Trails Working Group:** Establish a parks and trails working group to build partnerships, collaborate, and improve community capacity, bringing together local organizations, land managers, other levels of government, and First Nations to collaborate and share resources and knowledge to support and improve parks and trails opportunities.

APPENDIX A – ONLINE SURVEY 1 SUMMARY

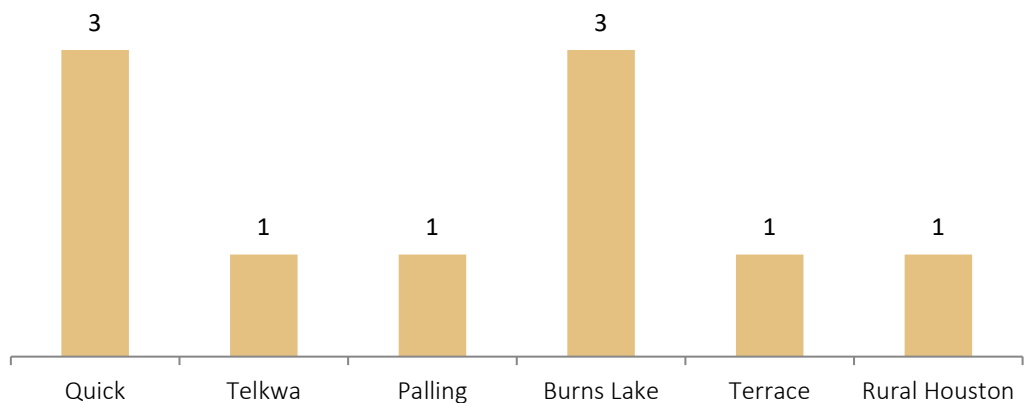
Who Responded

- The survey was completed by a total of 54 respondents.
- The majority of respondents identified as women (80%).
- The largest age group of respondents were between 35 and 49 years of age (43%).
- Less than half of respondents noted having children under the age of 18 living at home (38%).
- The majority of respondents were from the District of Houston (67%).

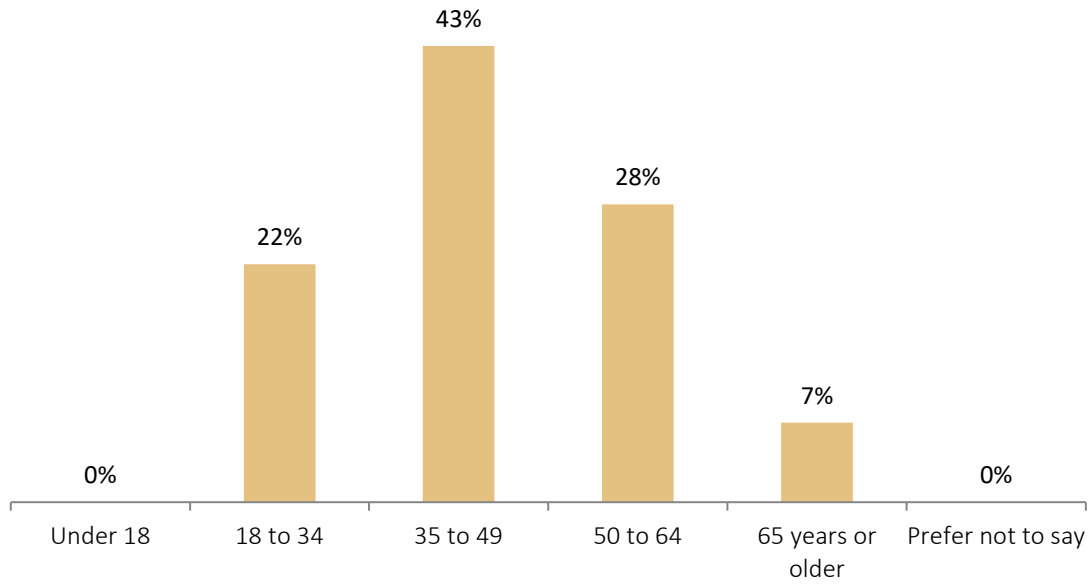
Where do you live?



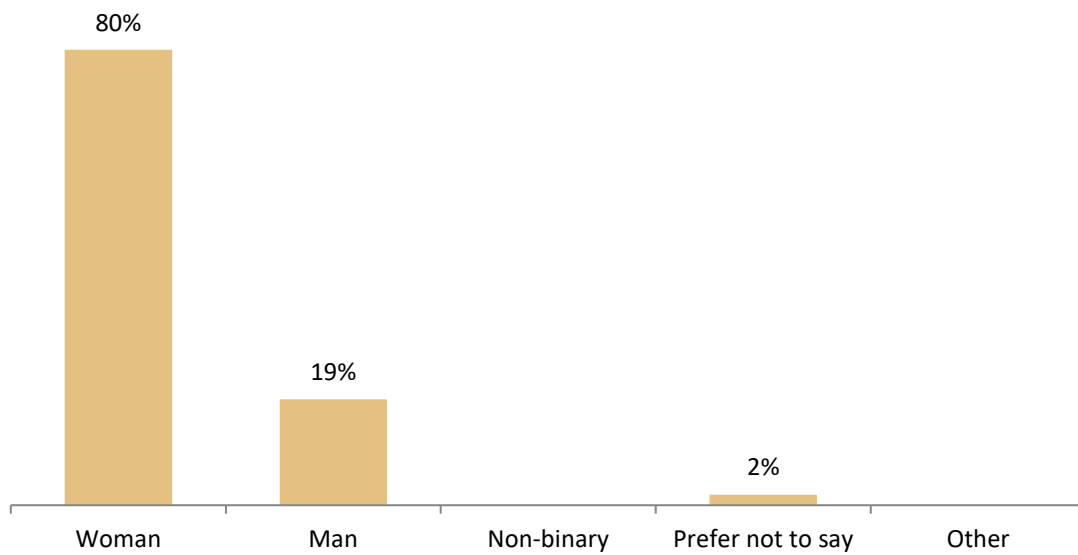
Other Areas of Residence



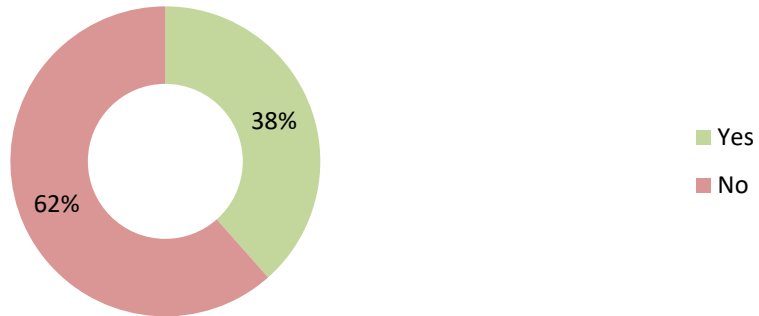
What age category are you?



What gender do you identify with?



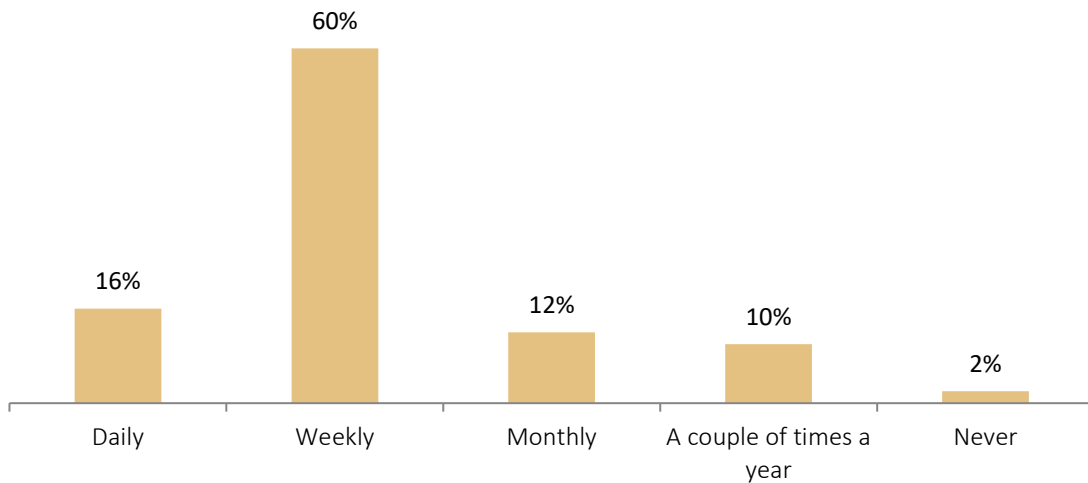
Do you have children under the age of 18 living at home?



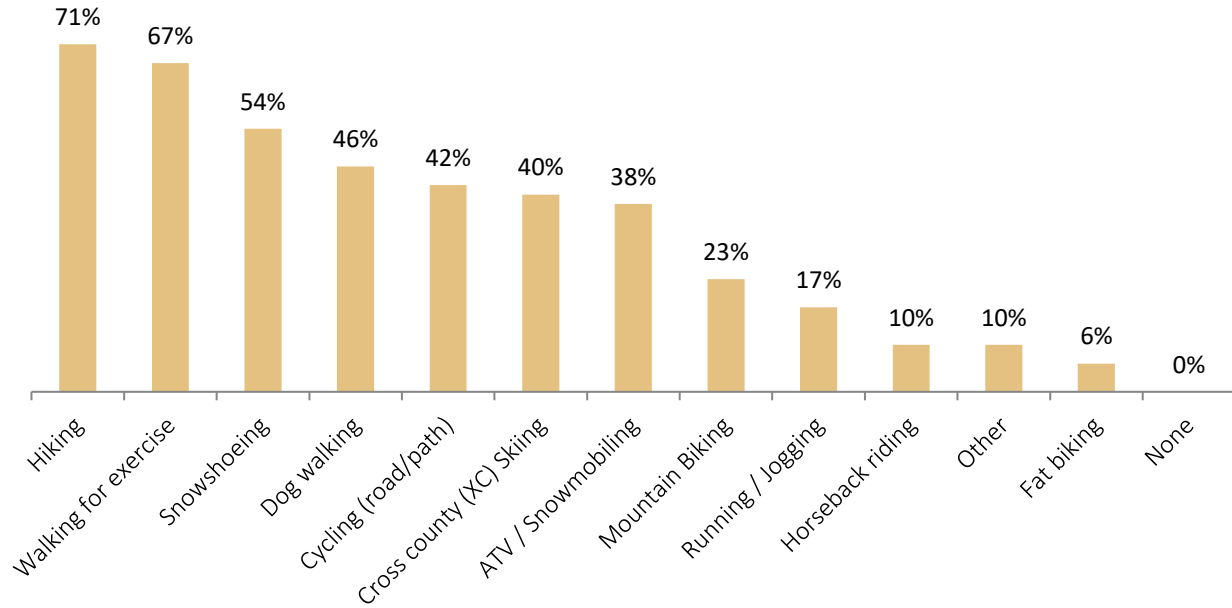
Trail Use Habits

- Roughly three-quarters of respondents noted using trails at least on a weekly basis (76%).
- The most popular trail activities among respondents were hiking (71%), walking for exercise (67%), and snowshoeing (54%).
- Though not as popular as summer activities, a significant portion of respondents reported participating in winter trail activities.
- The most popular trail activity among the children of respondents was hiking (65%), though ATV/snowmobiling (45%), cross-country skiing (45%), dog walking (40%), and mountain biking (40%) were also common responses.

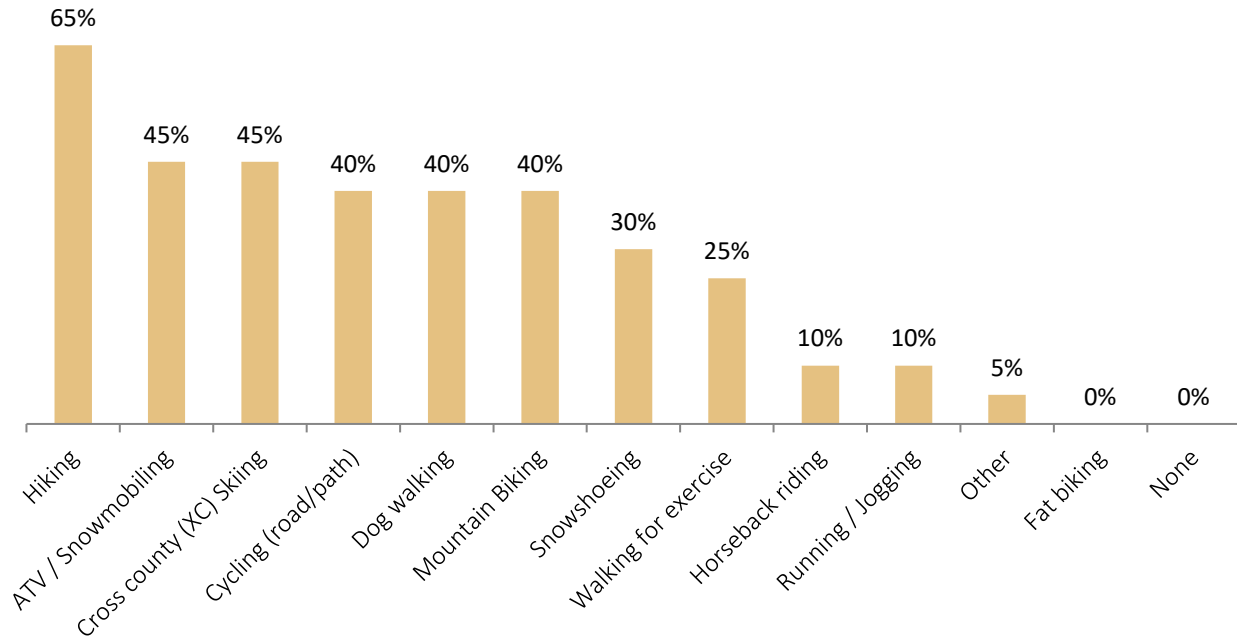
How often do you use trails?



What types of trail activities do you do most often?



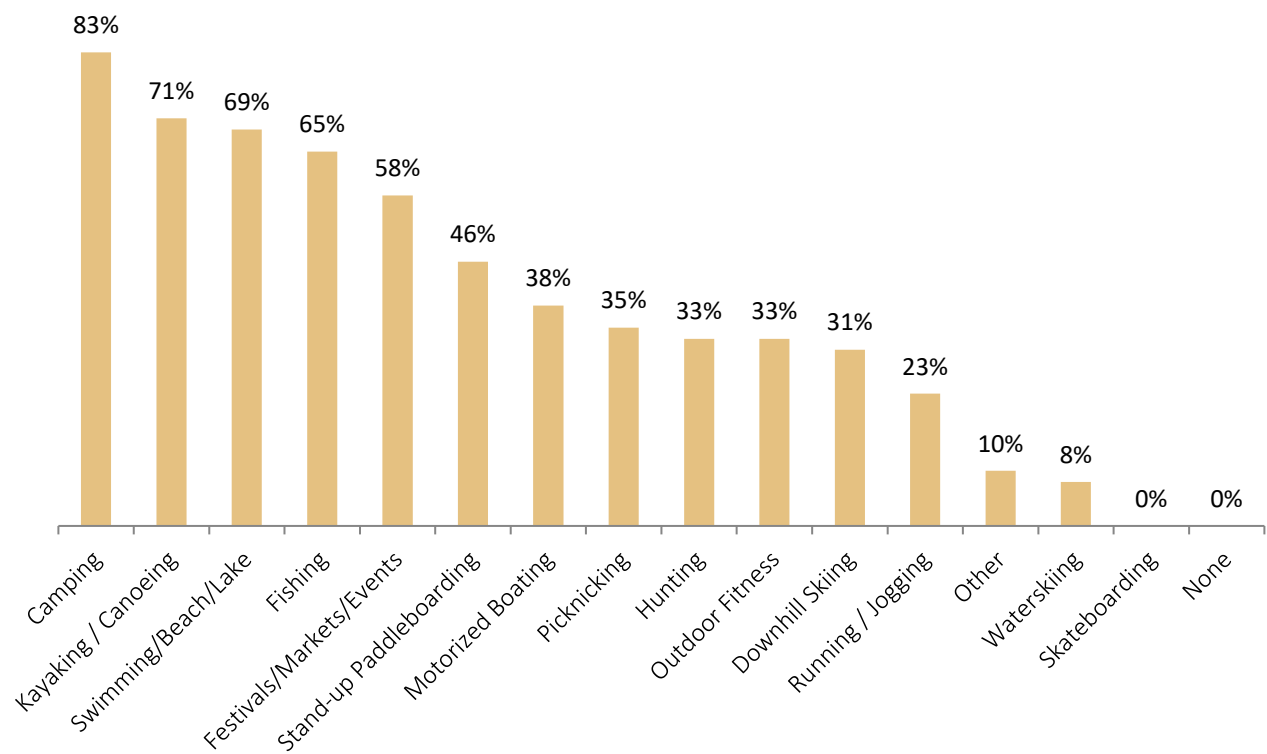
What types of trail activities do your children do most often? (Select all that apply).



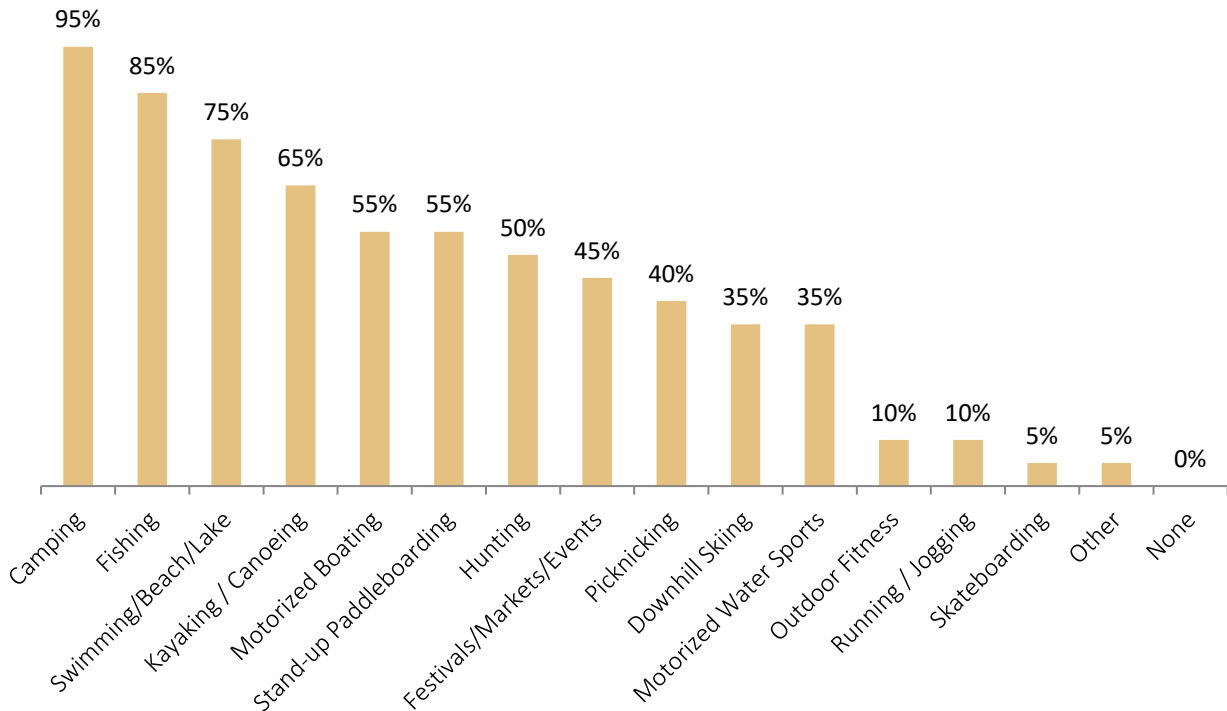
Outdoor Recreation Habits

- Camping was the most popular outdoor recreation activity among respondents (83%).
- Many respondents participated in water-based activities such as canoeing/kayaking (71%), swimming/going to the lake (69%), fishing (65%), stand-up paddleboarding (46%), and motorized boating (38%).
- The most popular outdoor recreation activities among the children of respondents were camping (95%), fishing (85%), and swimming/going to the lake (75%).

What types outdoor activities do you enjoy? Think of all seasons and times of the year.
(Select all that apply).



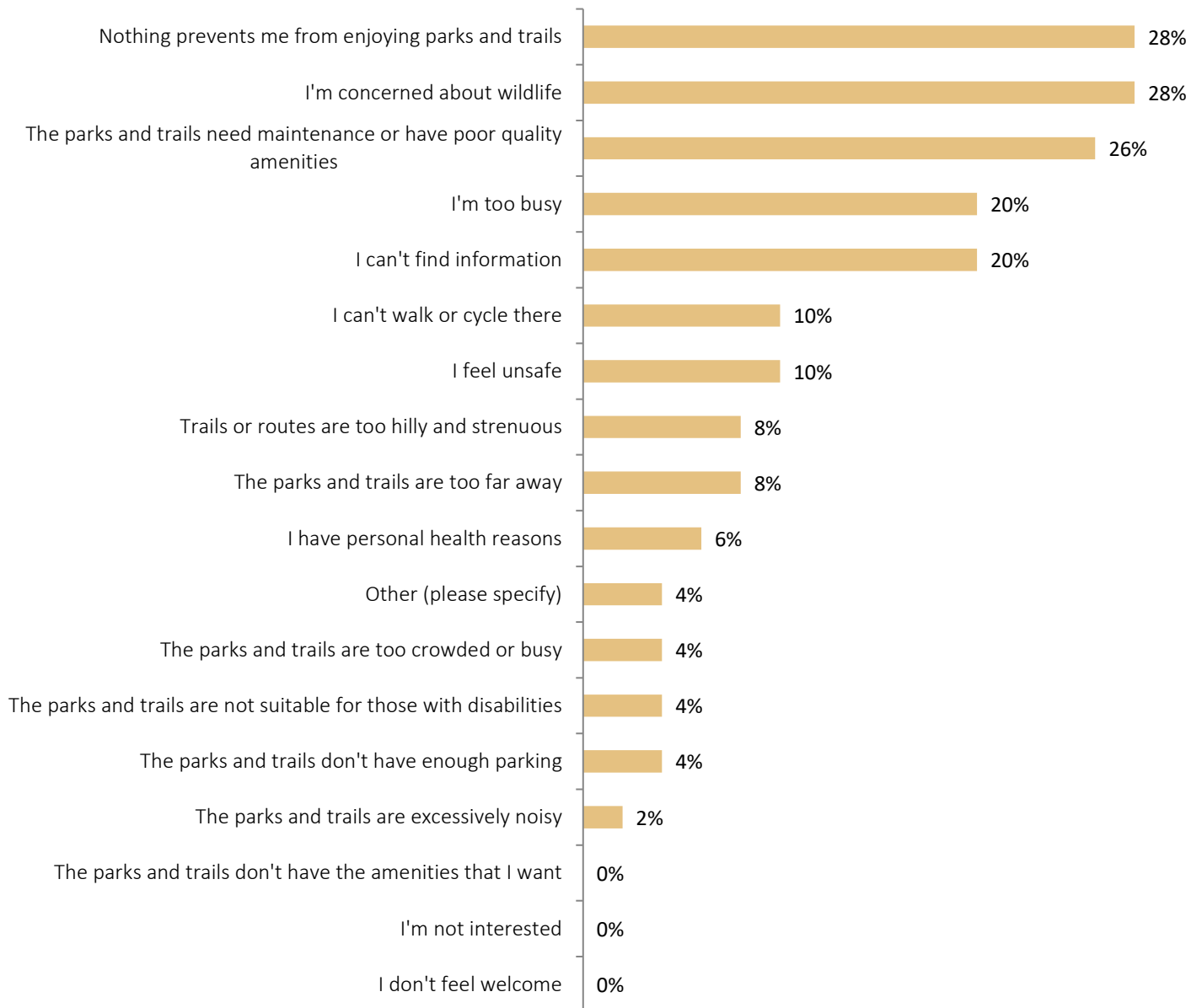
What types outdoor activities do your children enjoy? Think of all seasons and times of the year. *(Select all that apply).*



Barriers to Accessing Outdoor Recreation

- The primary barriers to using parks and trails more often were wildlife concerns (28%), poor park and trail maintenance (26%), a lack of information (20%), and being too busy (20%).
- Roughly one-quarter of respondents said they don't face any barriers in accessing parks and trails (28%).

What, if anything, keeps you from visiting parks or getting out on trails more often? (Select your top 3 reasons).



Key Destinations

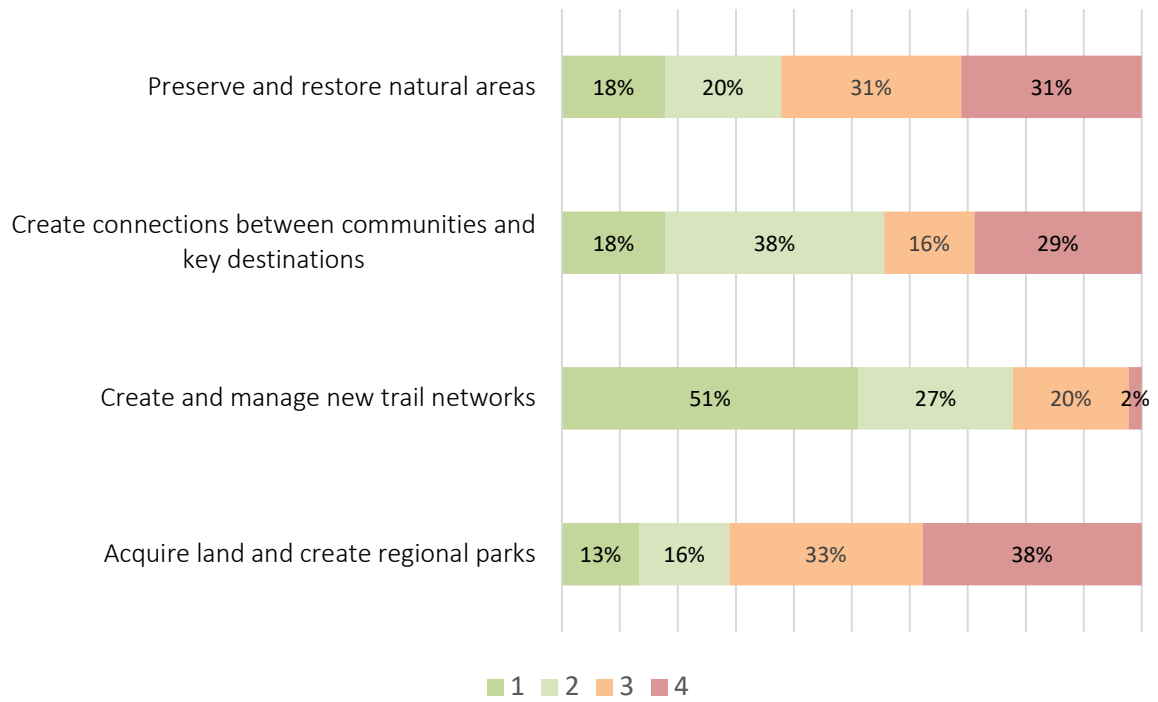
Destinations raised by engagement participants included:

- Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club (n=10)
- China Nose Mountain (n=7) (Note: This is not in Electoral Area G)
- Babine Lake Hiking Trails (n=6)
- Equity Ice Falls (n=4)
- Barret Hat Hiking Area (n=3)
- Owen Lake (n=3)
- Duck Pond (n=2) (District of Houston)
- Telkwa Range (n=2)
- Sunset Lake (n=1)
- Buck Creek Falls (n=1)
- Perow Falls (n=1)

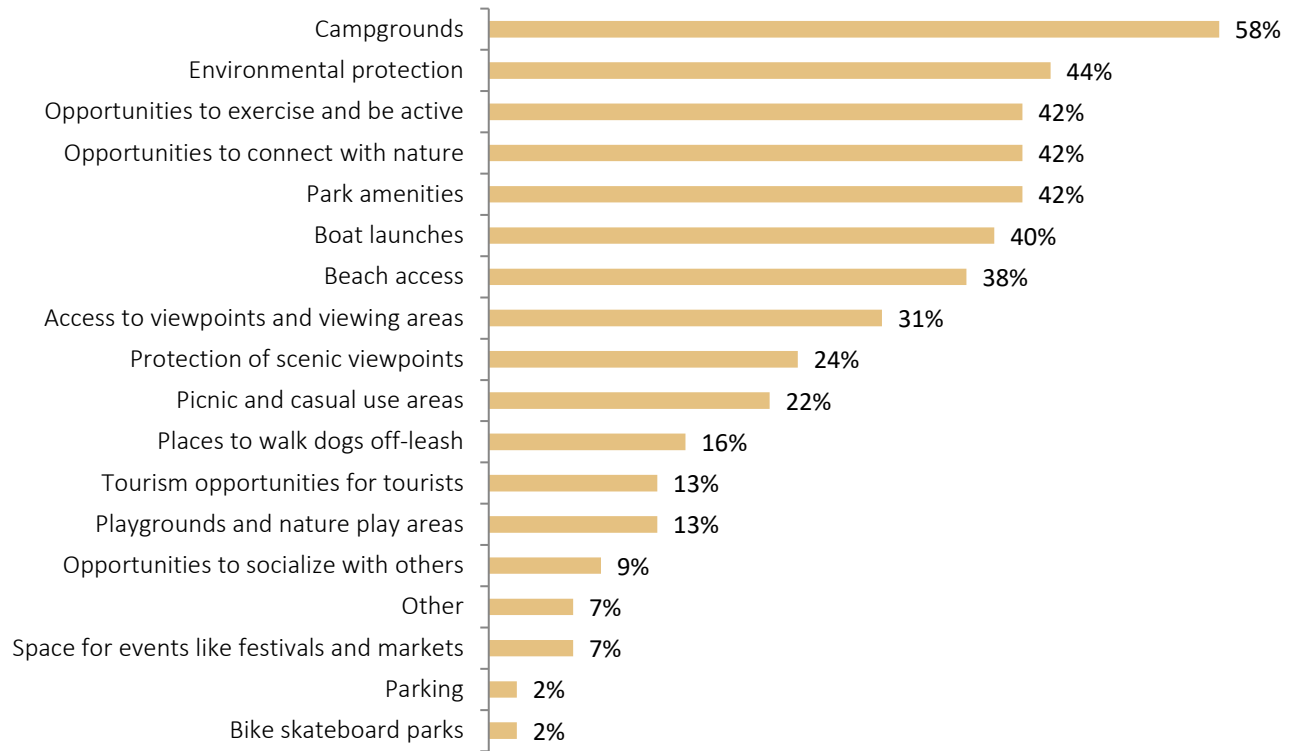
Park and Trails Priorities

- Respondents indicated that the **creation and management of new trails networks** should be prioritized over the next 10 years (78% of respondents selected as their top two priorities), followed by the **creation of connections between communities and key destinations** (56% of respondents selected as their top two priorities).
- Respondents indicated that **campgrounds** (58%), **environmental protection** (44%), **opportunities to be active** (42%) and **connect with nature** (42%), and park **amenities** (42%) are their main priority for parks in Electoral Area G.
- Respondents indicated that **hiking and walking** (82%), trail **signage** (49%), **improved trail connections to community amenities** (36%), **hard-surface multi-use pathways** (33%), and **ATV/snowmobile routes** (31%) are their main priorities for trails and active transportation in Electoral Area G.
- More respondents were supportive of tax increases to fund parks and trails improvements than those opposed (47% supportive compared to 29% opposed). A quarter of respondents (24%) were neutral regarding increased taxation.
- When asked what else we need to know, many respondents commented on the need for improved connectivity (n=9). Improved maintenance (n=6) and the need for more information, wayfinding, and signage (n=4) were also commonly mentioned.

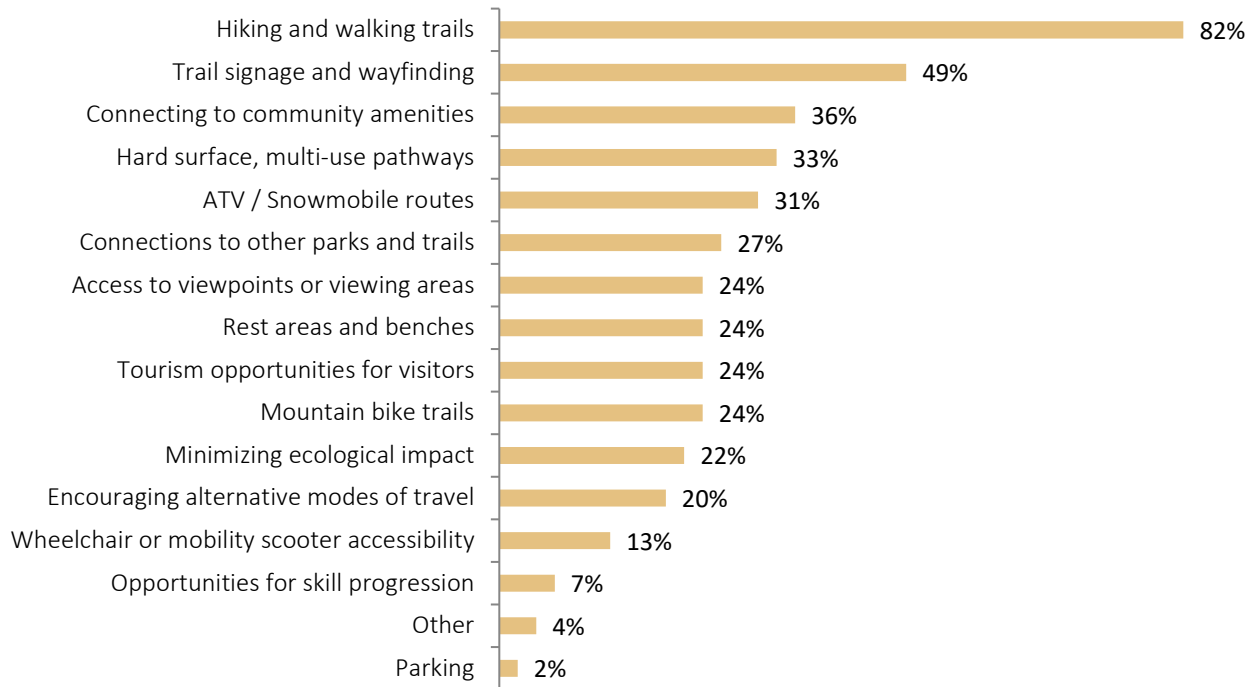
What should the RDBN prioritize in parks and trails over the next 10 years? (Rank options in order of priority)



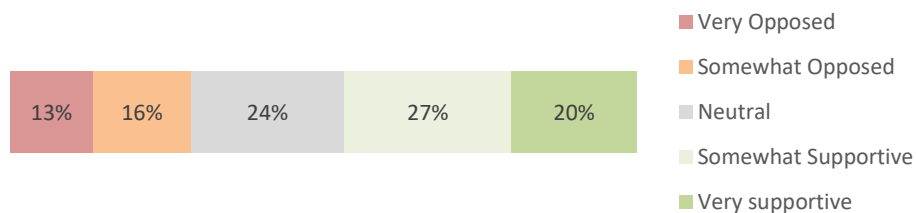
What are your main priorities for parks in Electoral Area G-Houston/Granisle Rural? (Select your top 5)



What are your main priorities for trails and active transportation in Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural)? (Select your top 5).



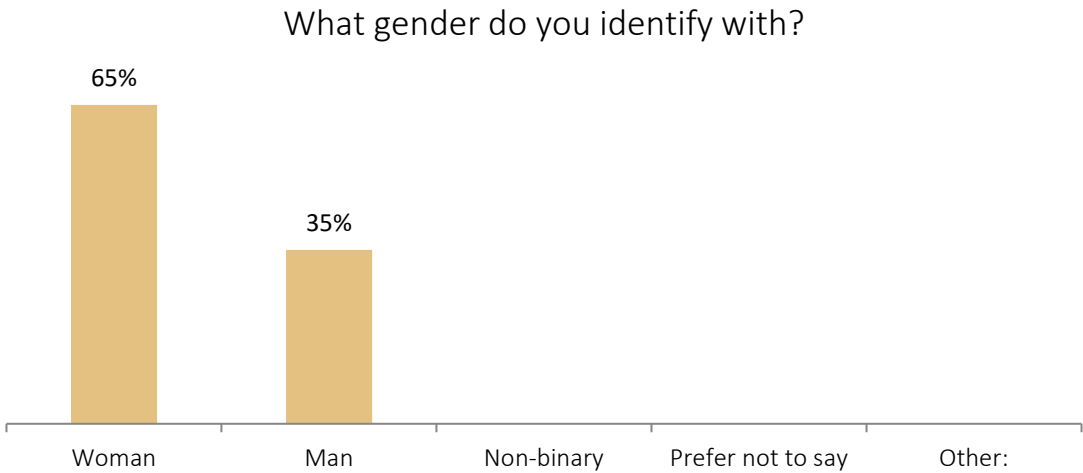
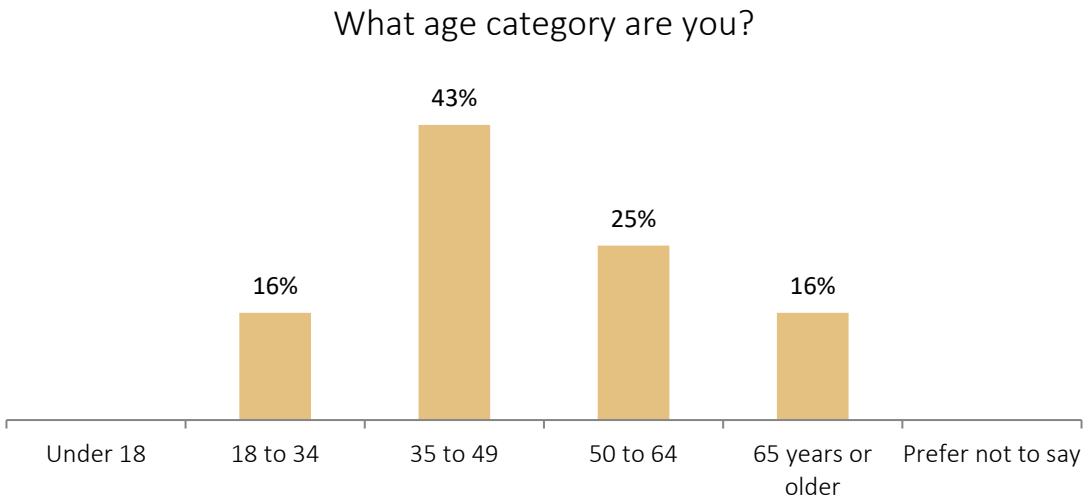
How supportive are you of a tax increase to fund the acquisition of new parks and trails, or the development of new infrastructure in parks and trails?



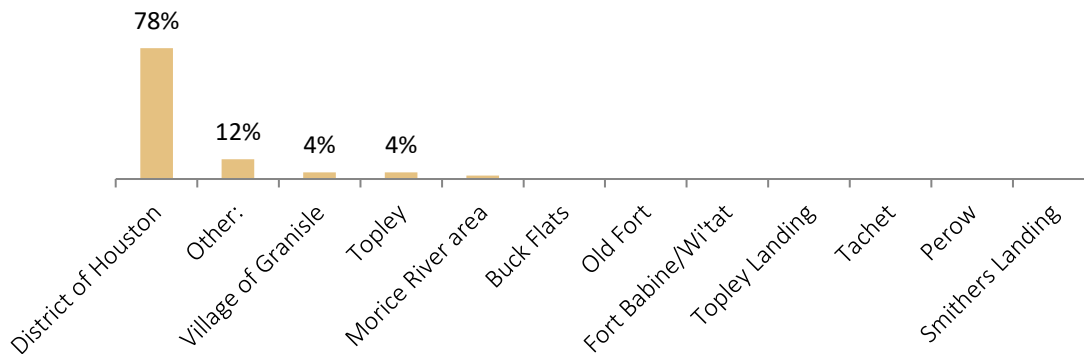
APPENDIX B – ONLINE SURVEY 2 SUMMARY

Who Responded

- The survey was completed by a total of 71 respondents.
- The majority of respondents are between the ages of 35-64 (69%)
- 65% of respondents identify as a woman.
- The majority of respondents live in the District of Houston (78%) with the remainder from the Village of Granisle, Topley Landing, or a location not listed (e.g. Smithers).



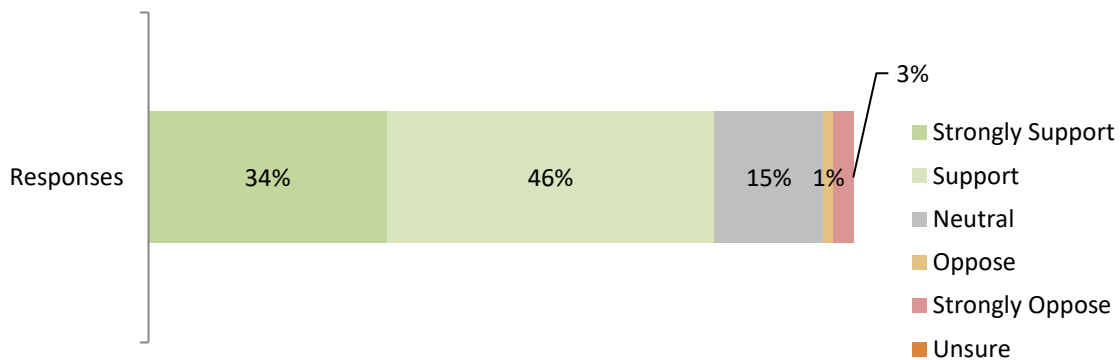
Where do you live?



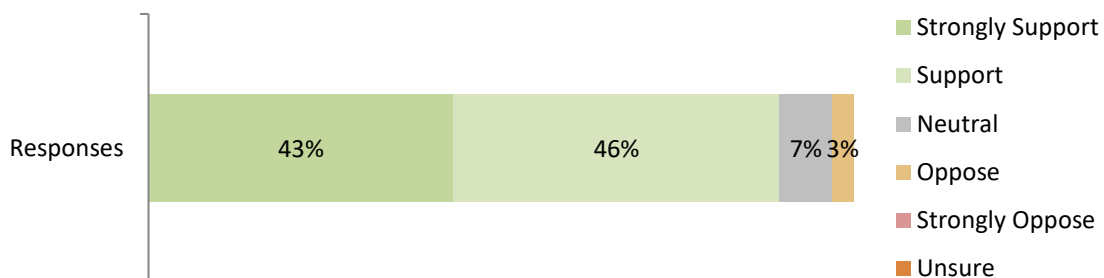
Vision and Goals

- The majority of survey respondents support the vision statement (80%).
- The majority support the five goals presented (94%)

To what extent do you support the Vision Statement?



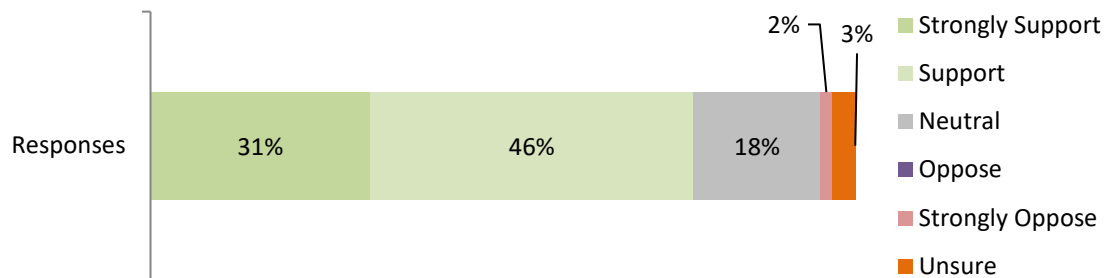
To what extent do you support the five goals?



Parks and trails working group

- The majority support the RDBN in creating a parks and trails working group (77%). However, it should be noted, 21% were neutral or unsure suggesting room for more feedback.

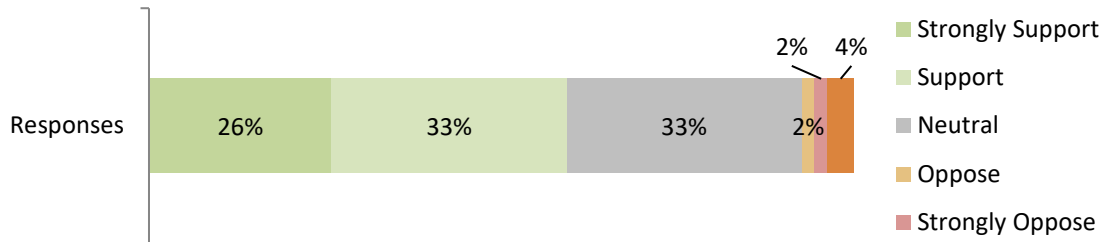
How supportive are you of the RDBN helping to form a parks and trails working group?



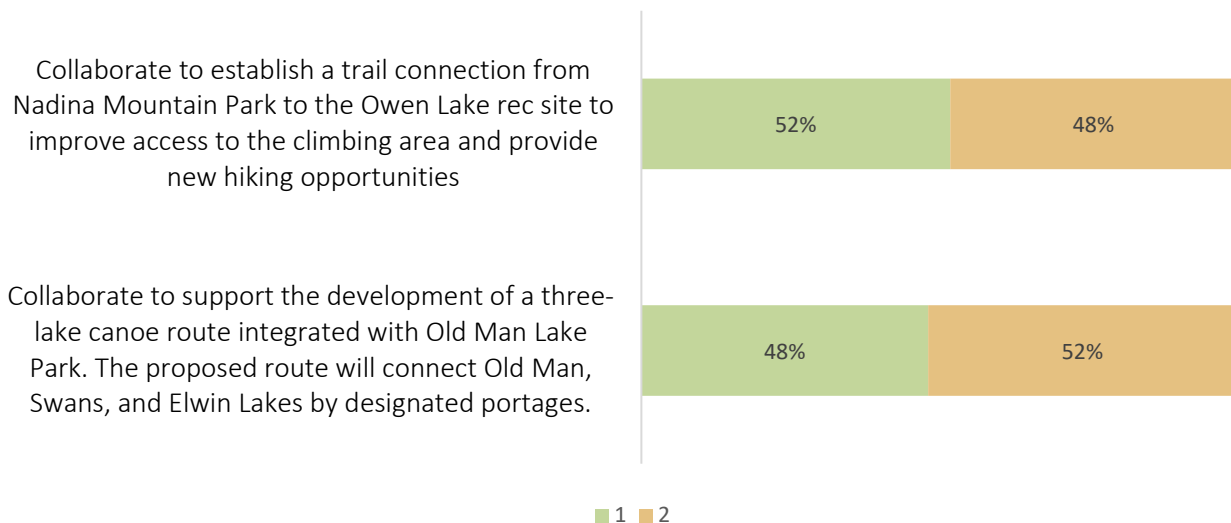
Park and Trails Priorities

- **Granisle and Topley Landing multi-use trail** – The majority of respondents (59%) support creating a new multi-use trail between Granisle and Topley Landing and 33% feel neutral. With further engagement, the project has a strong potential to build even broader community support.
- **Expansion of trail networks** – Support was strong for both initiatives, with a slight preference for Nadina Mountain trail connection to the Owen Lake recreation site (52% ranked as their top priority) followed by developing a three-lake canoe route integrated with Old Man Lake Park (48% ranked as their top priority).
- **Outdoor recreation organization and land manager initiatives** – Respondents would like the RDBN to prioritize establishing a campground near the Mt. Harry Davis mountain biking trails with the Houston Mountain Bike Association (61% ranked as their top two priorities). Both enhancing the Houston Palisades Trail and improving Silverthorne Lake and the Morice Wilderness Area were equally prioritized (48% ranked as their top two priorities).
- **Provincial Recreation Site improvements** – Respondents prioritized upgrades at Owen Lake (26 votes), followed by Silverthorne Lake (24), Mt. Harry Davis (20), and the Aspen sites (19). They highlighted needs such as better signage and maps, improved accessibility, better access to the Morice River and Lamprey Creek, more trails and benches, and additional camping options, particularly at Mt. Harry Davis.
- **Dominion Telegraph Line trail** – The majority of respondents (60%) support creating a new trail following the historic Dominion Telegraph Line and 33% feel neutral or unsure, suggesting further distribution of information to build community support.

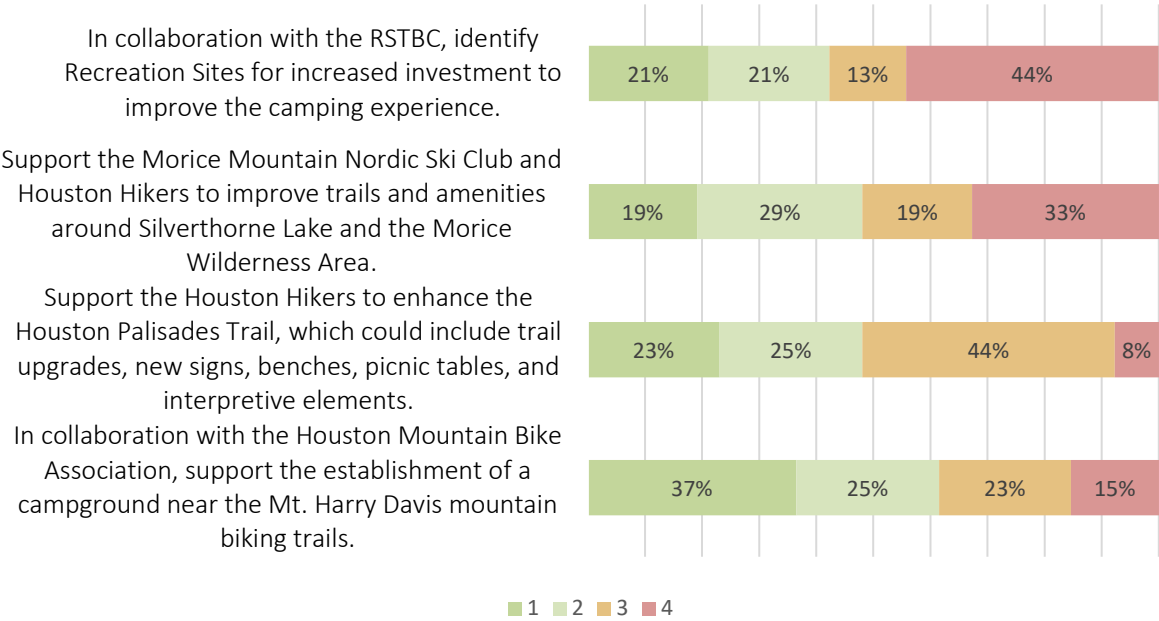
How supportive are you of the RDBN working with the Village of Granisle to explore the development of a multi-use trail between Granisle and Topley Landing?



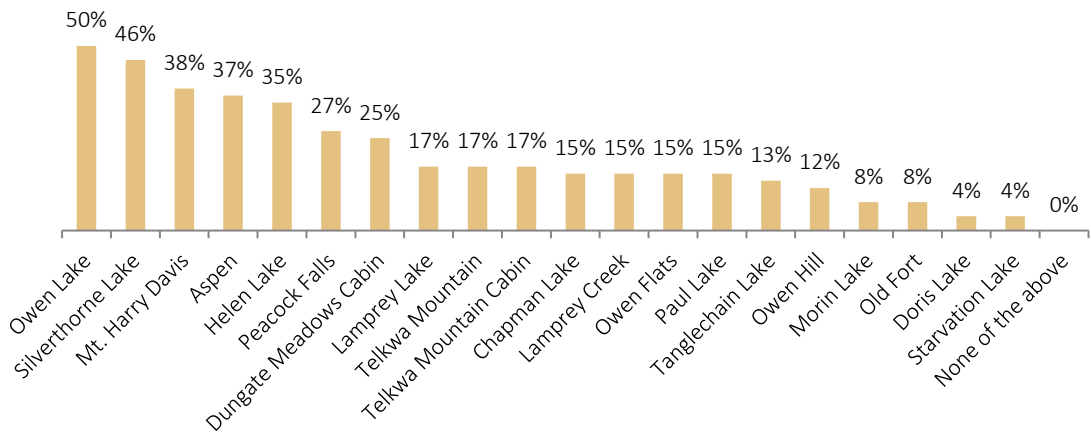
Expanding trail networks and recreation opportunities requires collaboration across recreation service providers. The RDBN can work with land managers and outdoor recreation organizations, such as RSTBC, BC Parks, and Houston Hikers, to secure access to e



The RDBN is aiming to support existing outdoor recreation organizations and land managers to enhance the user experience at existing park and trail locations. Which of the following initiatives are most important to you? Rank from highest priority to lowe



Which Provincial Recreation Sites in Area G would you like to see improved? Please select all the sites you'd like to prioritize and reference Figure 1 for locations.



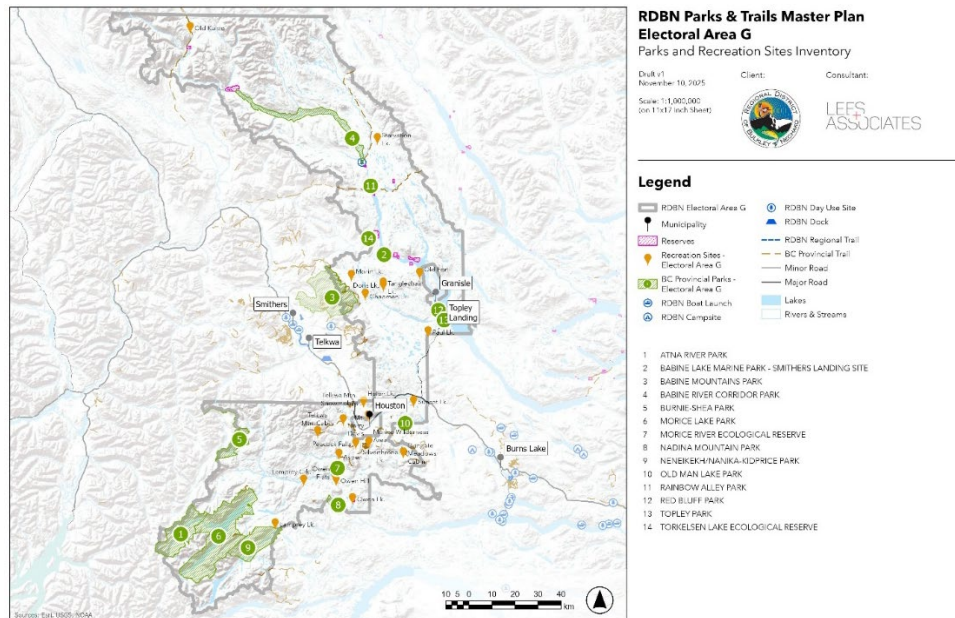
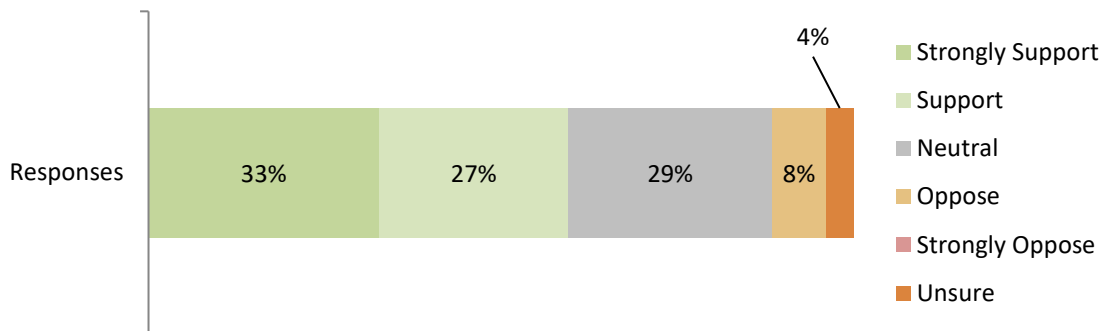


Figure 1

How supportive are you of the RDBN constructing a new trail based on the Dominion Telegraph Line ?



APPENDIX B
MAP

RDBN Parks & Trails Master Plan
Electoral Area G

Parks and Recreation Sites Inventory

Final
June 2026

Client:

Consultant:

Scale: 1:1,000,000
(on 11x17 Inch Sheet)



LEES
ASSOCIATES

Legend

- RDBN Electoral Area G
- Reserves
- Recreation Sites - Electoral Area G
- BC Provincial Parks - Electoral Area G
- Lakes
- Rivers & Streams
- Municipality
- Major road
- Minor road

Note: There were no RDBN owned or managed parks, trails, or outdoor recreation amenities in Electoral Area G at the time of this plan.

BC Provincial Parks in Electoral Area G

- 1

ATNA RIVER PARK
- 2

BABINE LAKE MARINE PARK - SMITHERS LANDING SITE
- 3

BABINE MOUNTAINS PARK
- 4

BABINE RIVER CORRIDOR PARK
- 5

BURNIE-SHEA PARK
- 6

MORICE LAKE PARK
- 7

MORICE RIVER ECOLOGICAL RESERVE
- 8

NADINA MOUNTAIN PARK
- 9

NENEIKEKH/NANIKA-KIDPRICE PARK
- 10

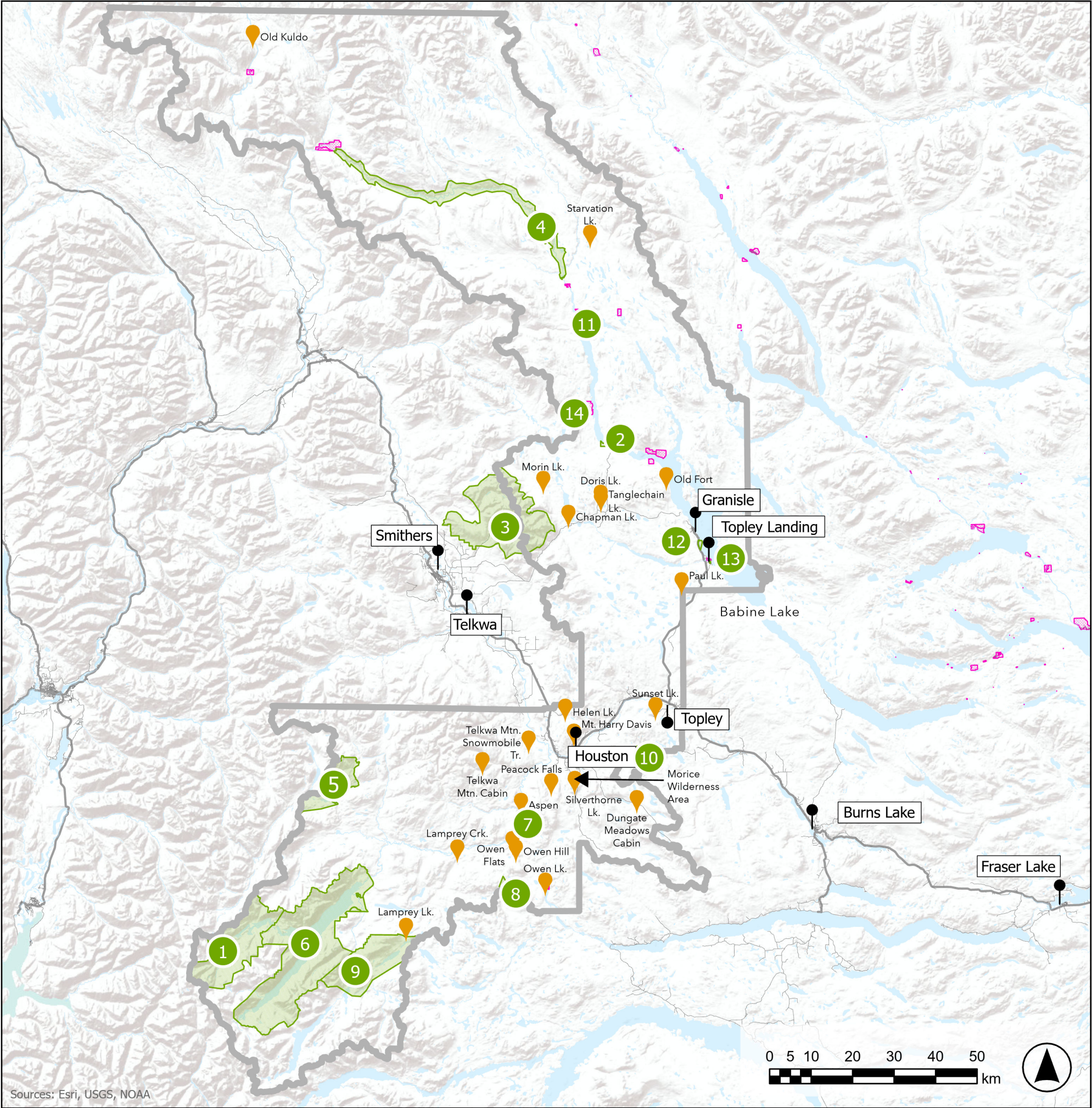
OLD MAN LAKE PARK
- 11

RAINBOW ALLEY PARK
- 12

RED BLUFF PARK
- 13

TOPLEY PARK
- 14

TORKELSEN LAKE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE



APPENDIX C
PARKS AND TRAILS INVENTORY

Recreation Sites and Trails BC
Aspen
Bairnsfather Creek
Chapman Lake
Dungate Meadows Cabin
Dungate Meadows Trails
Doris Lake
Helen Lake
Lamprey Creek (Closed by the Province due to First Nations use)
Lamprey Lake
Morin Lake
Mt. Harry Davis
Old Fort
Owen Flats
Owen Hill
Owen Lake
Paul Lake
Peacock Falls
Silverthorne Lake
Starvation Lake
Sunset Lake
Tanglechain Lake
Telkwa Mountain Trail
Telkwa Mountain Cabin

District of Houston
Avalon Park
By-Mac Park*
Four Seasons Park
Hagman Park
Irrigation Lake*
Jamie Baxter Park
Nadina Park
Northside Park
Northwood Picnic Site
Ruiter Heights Park
Steelhead Park
Duck Pond Walking Trails
Circle Pathway
Bulkley River/Buck Creek Junction
Buck Creek Drive

**Note: These two parks are located outside municipal boundaries, within Electoral Area G, but are operated by the municipality.*

Village of Granisle
Granisle Memorial Park
New Beach
Whiskey Jack Trail/Eagle Way Trail
Lakeshore trail/Beach Trail
Granisle Lions Club
Granisle Lions Beach Park

BC Parks
Atna River Park
Morice Lake Park
Neneikekh/Nanika-Kidprice Park
Red Bluff Park
Nadina Mountain Park
Old Man Lake Park
Topley Park
Burnie-Shea Park
Morice River Ecological Reserve
Babine River Corridor Park
Torkelsen Lake Ecological Reserve
Rainbow Alley Park
Long Island Conservancy
Wilkinson-Wright Bay Conservancy
Port Arthur Conservancy
Sanctuary Bay Conservancy
Bear Island Conservancy
North Spit Conservancy
Babine Lake Marine Park - Smithers Landing Site