



RDBN Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) Draft Parks and Trails Master Plan

Virtual public workshop
Tuesday, March 10th, 2026
6:30 pm

LEFS
+
ASSOCIATES





The RDBN Office in Burns Lake is located on the unceded traditional territory of Ts'il Kaz Koh, Wet'suwet'en First Nation, Nee-Tahi-Buhn, Stellat'en First Nation, and Witset First Nation. While the office is in Burns Lake, the RDBN's work extends much further. 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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Agenda

- Project Overview
- Role of the RDBN
- Current State
- Demographics + Service Providers
- Opportunities for Parks and Trails
- Community Engagement
- Vision
- Goals + Recommendations
- Questions?



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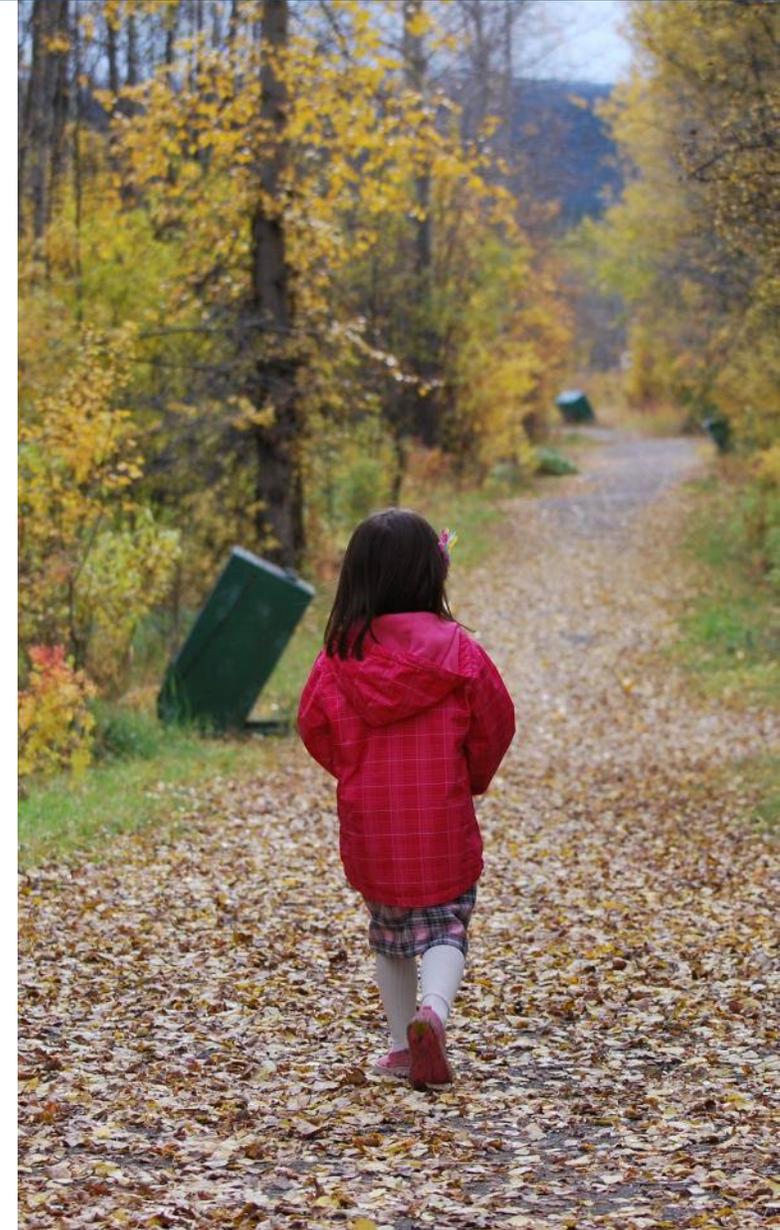
Overview

RDBN's Parks and Outdoor Recreation Study identified the need for a regional parks and trails service and created four Parks and Trails Service Areas.

This plan is the first for Electoral Area G (Houston/Granisle Rural) and will provide direction for the next 10 years.

The Plan will:

- Build on the accomplishments of outdoor service providers
- Share a community vision and goals for parks and trails
- Provide cost-effective recommendations
- Outline key projects to address recreation needs



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Project Timeline



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Role of the RDBN

The purpose of the parks and trails service is to create, operate, and support parks and trails within the Electoral Areas.

This is the first parks and trails plan for Electoral Area G.

Funding is primarily through property taxes. The RDBN also pursues grant funding for capital projects.

RDBN could support parks and trails by:

- Continuing support for outdoor recreation organizations (Recreation Contribution Grant Program, Grant-in-Aid, Grant Writing Assistance)
- Collaborating with organizations and other levels of government
- Leading or collaborating on trail and active transportation initiatives
- Acquiring tenure for trails, parks, or lake access points to be operated by the RDBN

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Demographics

- 836 people in Electoral Area G, ~3,000 in the District of Houston, and 330 in the Village of Granisle
- First Nations communities total ~1,000
- Rural population relatively stable at ~1,000 residents
- Slightly older population compared to the RDBN and BC overall
- Smaller percentage of children and youth under 19 than RDBN and BC



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Service providers

District Municipality of Houston

11 parks (Bymac Park, Irrigation Lake, etc.), a community forest, and walking trails

Village of Granisle

Granisle Marina, Memorial Park, New Beach, community forest

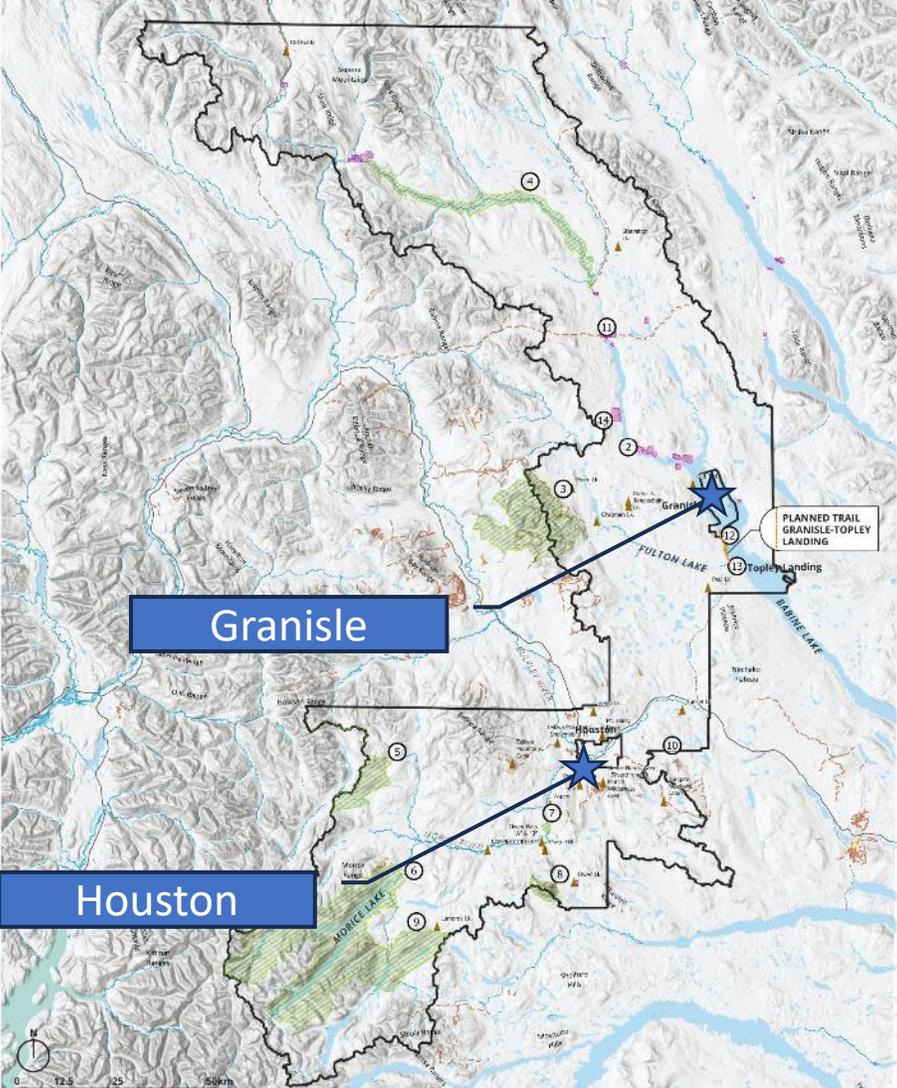
BC Provincial Parks

14 Sites - Red Bluff Park, Topley Landing Park, Nadina Mountain Park, Morice Lake Park

Recreation Sites and Trails BC

529 km of trails; 19 rec sites (e.g. Silverthorne Lake, Dungate Meadows Cabin, Helen Lake, Sunset Lake)

First Nations



BC Provincial Parks

- 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

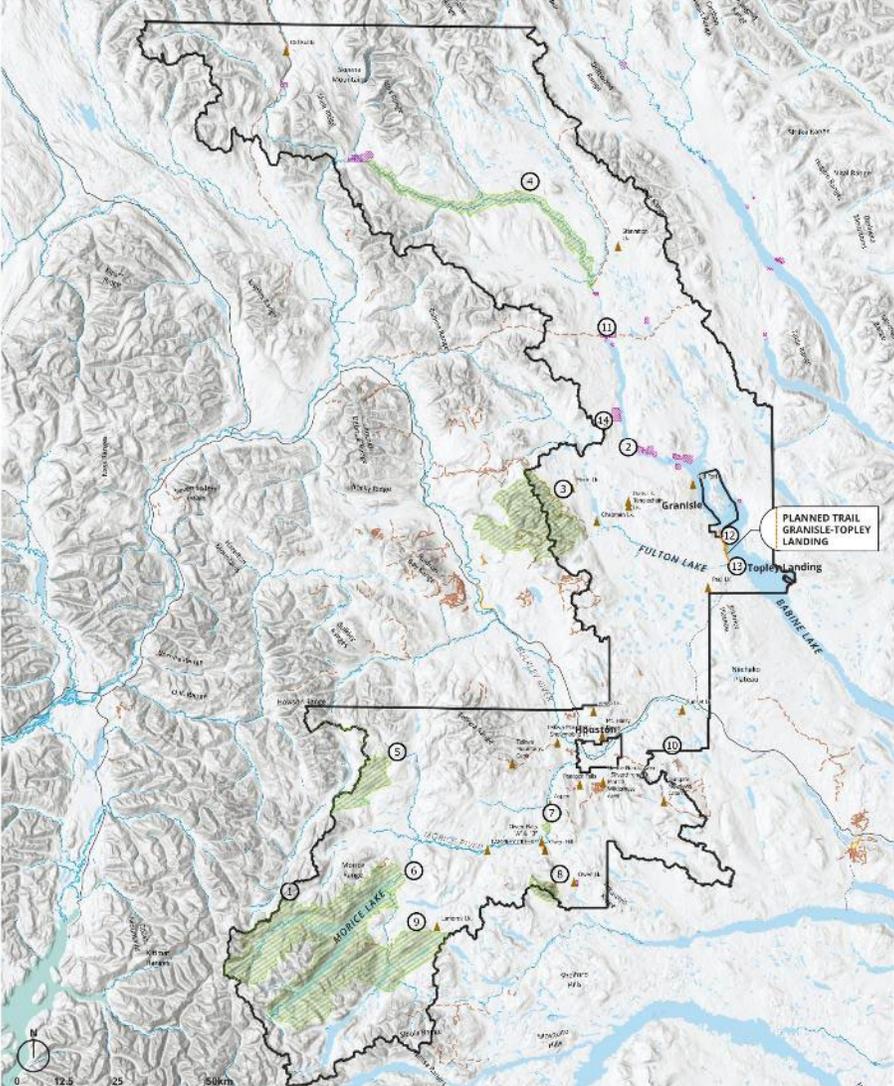
- ELECTORAL AREA BOUNDARY
- ▨ FIRST NATIONS RESERVES
- ▨ BC PROVINCIAL PARK
- LAKE
- RIVER OR STREAM
- ROAD
- - - BC PROVINCIAL TRAIL
- RDBN PLANNED TRAIL
- ▲ BC REC SITE

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Many Outdoor Recreation Organizations

Examples

- Houston Snowmobile Club
- Morice Outdoor Recreation Society
- Nadina Offroad Society
- Pleasant Valley Horse Club
- Houston Hikers Society
- Houston Mountain Bike Association



BC Provincial Parks

- 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

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Other Land Managers

Examples

Ministry of Forests

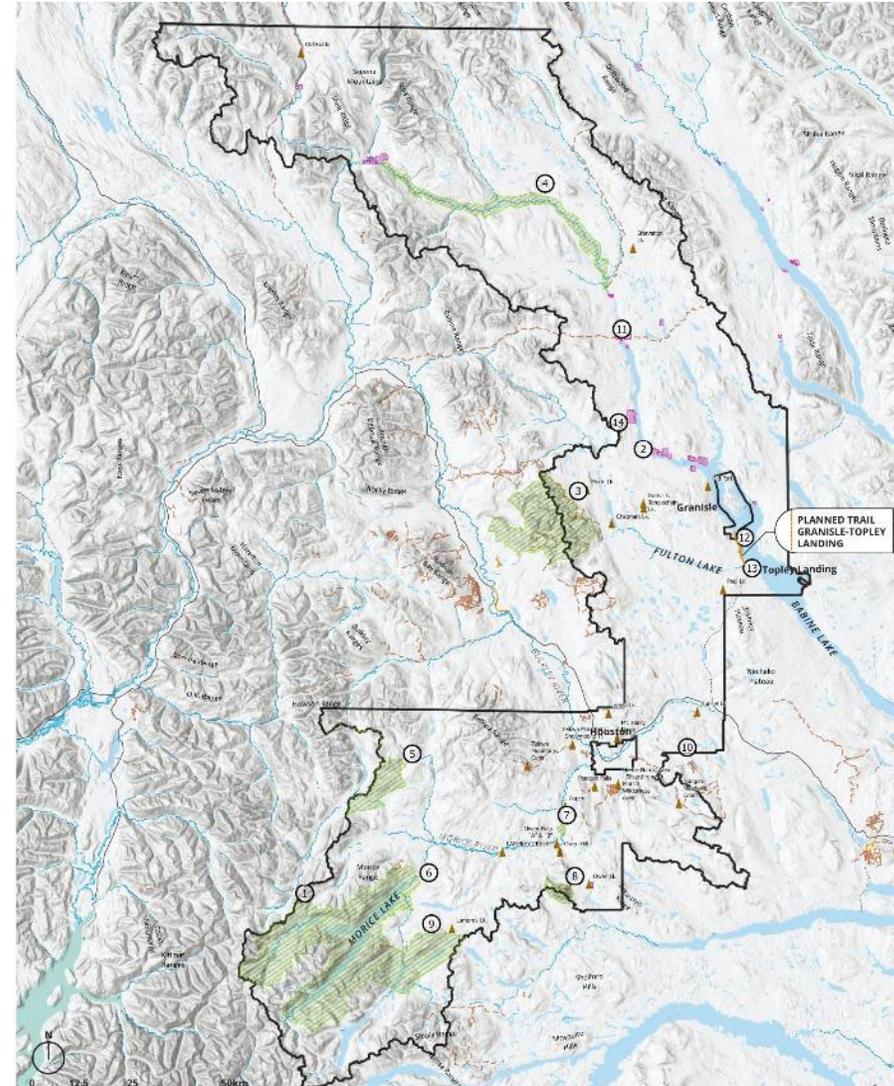
Dungate Community Forest

Babine Lake Community Forest

Skeena Wild Conservation Trust

School Districts #54 (Houston) and #91 (Topley, Granisle)

Private Industry



BC Provincial Parks

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- ② BABINE LAKE MARINE PARK - SMITHERS LANDING SITE
- ③ BABINE MOUNTAINS PARK
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Key opportunities for parks and trails



Create and manage new trail networks

Connect towns with trail destinations

Improve boat launches and lake access

Partner with First Nations and community organizations

Improve maintenance of trails & amenities

Provide more access to existing trails and lakes

Additional information and signage

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Community Engagement

WHAT WE DID

- 1 public online survey
- 1 pop-up at Houston Farmers Market
- 4 virtual interest-holder workshops

PARTICIPATION

- 54 participants in the online surveys
- 7 participants in workshops
- 20 in-person engagements at the Houston Farmers Market

First Nations

The RDBN reached out to 16 First Nations with reserve communities and/or Aboriginal rights or title within Electoral Area G to invite participation.

As further input is received it will be integrated into the decision-making process.

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KEY FINDINGS

Trails are highly used with **76%** of respondents using trails on a weekly basis.

Respondents noted wildlife concerns and poor park and trail maintenance as the top barriers.

Key destinations noted within Area G include Morice Mountain Nordic Ski Club Trails, Babine Lake Hiking Trails, and Equity Ice Falls.



COMMUNITY VALUES

NEW TRAIL NETWORKS

Strong community support for creating new trail networks, such as trails along the Morice River and Morice Lake.

TOP ACTIVITIES

Camping and lake activities are top activities, with a strong interest in formalizing boat launches, lake access, and canoe routes.

CONNECTING TRAILS

Connecting communities and key destinations is a strong desire, for example a trail between Granisle to Topley Landing.

BETTER AMENITIES

Better information, signage, and improved park amenities are desired.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

Improving partnerships between RDBN, levels of government, community organizations, and First Nations is desired.

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VISION

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

Build on community strengths

Create safe connections

Provide diverse + accessible recreation opportunities

Celebrate the region's natural beauty & unique features

Support a diversified economy



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GOALS for parks & trails



Goal 1: Define the RDBN approach to the delivery of the Parks and Trails Service in Electoral Area G



Goal 2: Strengthen partnerships and build community capacity



Goal 3: Improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities



Goal 4: Enhance the user experience at parks and trails



Goal 5: Enhance outdoor recreation and cultural tourism opportunities

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Goal 1 – Define the RDBN approach to the delivery of the Parks and Trails Service in Electoral Area G

Recommendations:

- 1.1 Engage other levels of government and community organizations to identify and prioritize opportunities (e.g. create a working group).
- 1.2 Establish service levels for existing parks and trails and develop management plans for future parks and trails with updates every five years.

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. Within this, continue to advocate for continued maintenance of forest service roads (FSRs) that link to important outdoor recreation locations.
- 1.3
- 1.4 Consider adding staff to support the implementation of parks and trails across Electoral Area G and the RDBN's four service areas



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Goal 2 – Strengthen partnerships and build community capacity

Recommendations:



- 2.1 Continue to build relationships with First Nations and prioritize protection and enhancement of cultural and ecological values.
- 2.2 Continue to implement the Recreation Contribution Grant Program that provides allocation of multiyear funding to recreation organizations providing recreation services.
- 2.3 Facilitate collaboration between outdoor recreation groups who are actively engaged in maintaining parks and trail features.

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Goal 3 – Improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities

Recommendations:

- 3.1 Work with the Village of Granisle to explore the development of a multi-use trail between Granisle and Topley Landing.
- 3.2 Collaborate with RSTBC, BC Parks, and Houston Hikers to support the development of a three-lake canoe route integrated with Old Man Lake Park. The proposed route will connect Old Man, Swans and Elwin Lakes by designated portages.
- 3.3 Collaborate with BC Parks and RSTBC to establish a trail connection from Nadina Mountain Park to the Owen Lake Recreation Site.
- 3.4 Continue advocating with the Province of BC to stop decommissioning and ensure continued maintenance of important access roads for outdoor recreation and tourism.



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Goal 4 – Enhance the user experience at parks and trails

Recommendations:

- 4.1 Follow accessibility standards when establishing or upgrading regional parks and trails.
- 4.2 Collaborate with the Houston Mountain Bike Association to establish a campground near the Mt. Harry Davis mountain biking trails.
- 4.3 Support the Houston Hikers in the enhancement and promotion of the Houston Palisades Trail as a day hiking destination.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 Work with Recreation Sites and Trails British Columbia (RSTBC) to identify priority sites for increased maintenance, management, or financial support from the RDBN.



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Goal 5 – Enhance outdoor recreation and cultural tourism opportunities

Recommendations:

- 5.1 Update the RDBN’s website to provide more information on parks, trails, and recreation opportunities.
- 5.2 Develop wayfinding and signage plan consistent with standards for other service areas and service providers. Ensure RDBN trails are identified with wayfinding and signage. Consider incorporating local artists and First Nations culture into signage and promotional materials.
- 5.3 Work with First Nations communities to develop a naming policy for trails and to incorporate Indigenous stories and histories into interpretive signage in trails where appropriate.
- 5.4 Explore opportunities to develop a new trail in Electoral Area G along the historic Dominion Telegraph Line.



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ONLINE SURVEY

Take the five-minute survey on the **draft Master Plan's** vision, goals, and recommendations to shape the future of parks and trails in Electoral Area G.

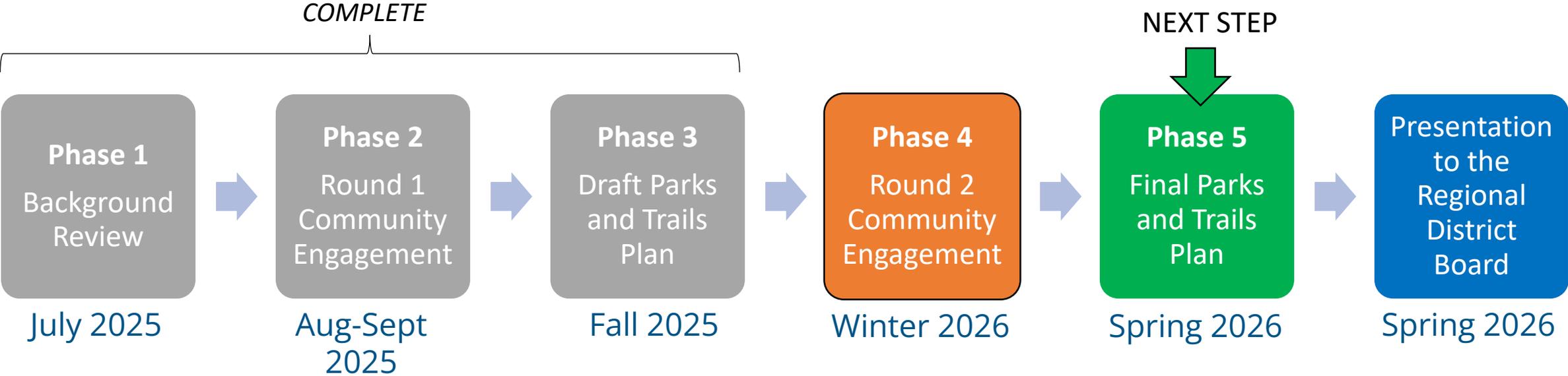
The survey will close on **April 6th, 2026**.
Please share the survey across your network!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RDBNparksandtrailsG>

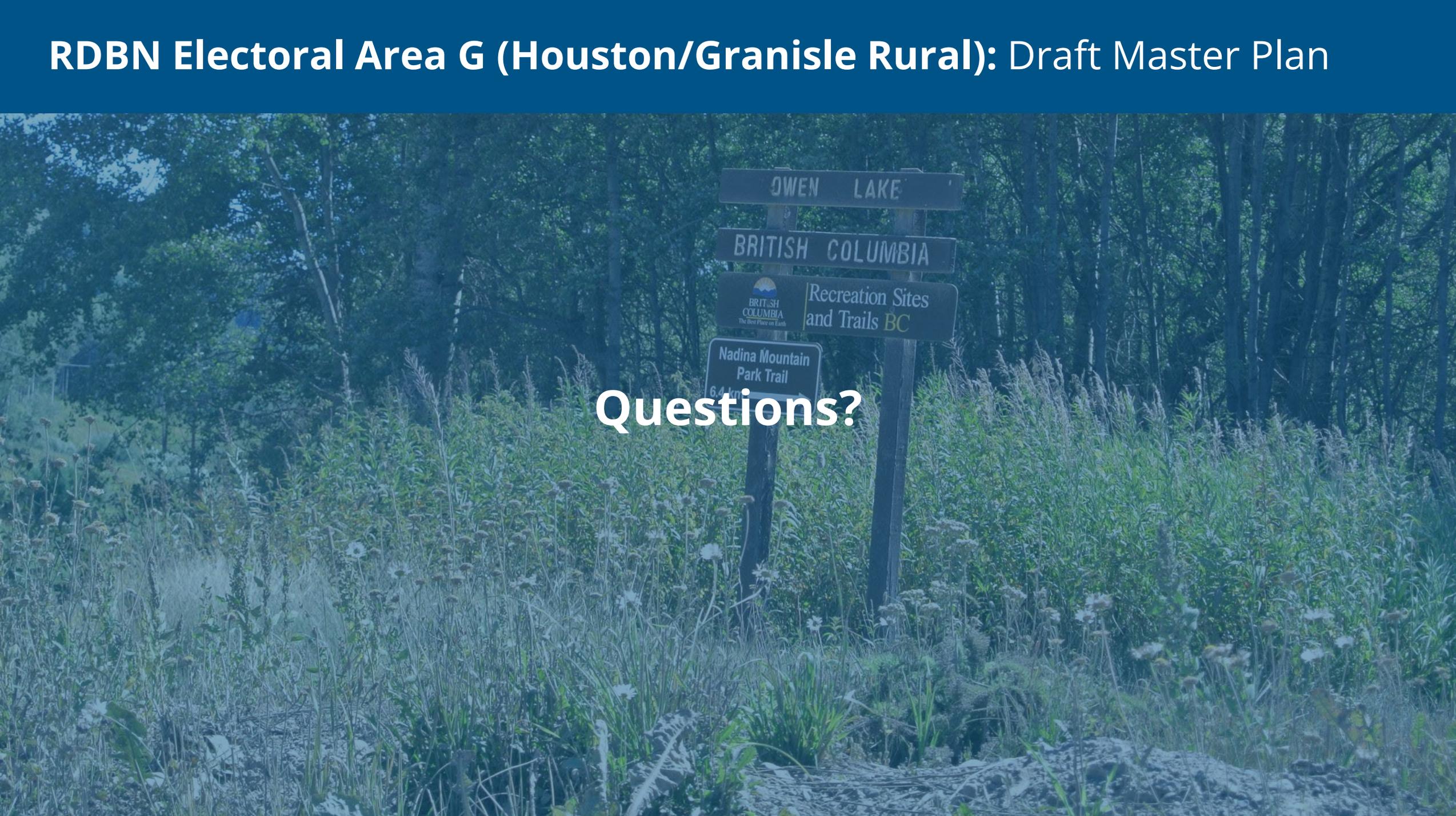


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Project Timeline



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Questions?



THANK YOU