



Burnaby Lake Regional Park Management Plan

Phase 1 Engagement Summary

Acknowledgements

Metro Vancouver acknowledges that the region's residents live, work, and learn on the shared territories of many Indigenous peoples, including 10 local First Nations: ǫíćǻý (Katzie), ǫʷa:ńłǻń (Kwantlen), kʷíkʷǻłǻm (Kwikwetlem), máthxwi (Matsqui), xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), qíqéyt (Qayqayt), Semiahmoo, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), scəwəθən məsteyəxʷ (Tsawwassen), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh).

About Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is a diverse organization that plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management. It also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, provides affordable housing, and serves as a regional federation. The organization is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation located in the region of the same name. The organization is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each member jurisdiction.

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COVER PHOTO: BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK WITH METROTOWN TOWERS VISIBLE IN THE DISTANCE



PIPER SPIT BOARDWALK AND VIEWING TOWER, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

1. About the Burnaby Lake Regional Park Management Plan

Metro Vancouver, in collaboration with the City of Burnaby, is developing a long-term management plan for Burnaby Lake Regional Park. The plan will guide how we care for and improve the park over the next 20 years. The management plan will outline a clear vision, goals, and strategies that focus on three key areas: protecting natural ecosystems, connecting people to nature, and balancing public use with protection of ecological values and cultural resources.



2. Executive Summary

During the first phase of engagement for the Burnaby Lake Regional Park Management Plan, Metro Vancouver sought input from First Nations, stakeholders, and the public to help inform the development of a long-term vision, goals, and strategies for park management over the next 20 years. Engagement activities were designed to gather early input on key issues, opportunities, and priorities to guide the draft management plan.

Engagement opportunities included meetings with First Nations, municipal staff, and stakeholders, a workshop with representatives from nine organizations, five community pop-up events (114 participants), and an online questionnaire (779 responses). Engagement was supported through a dedicated project webpage (2,493 unique visitors), social media, email newsletters, and in-park promotional materials.

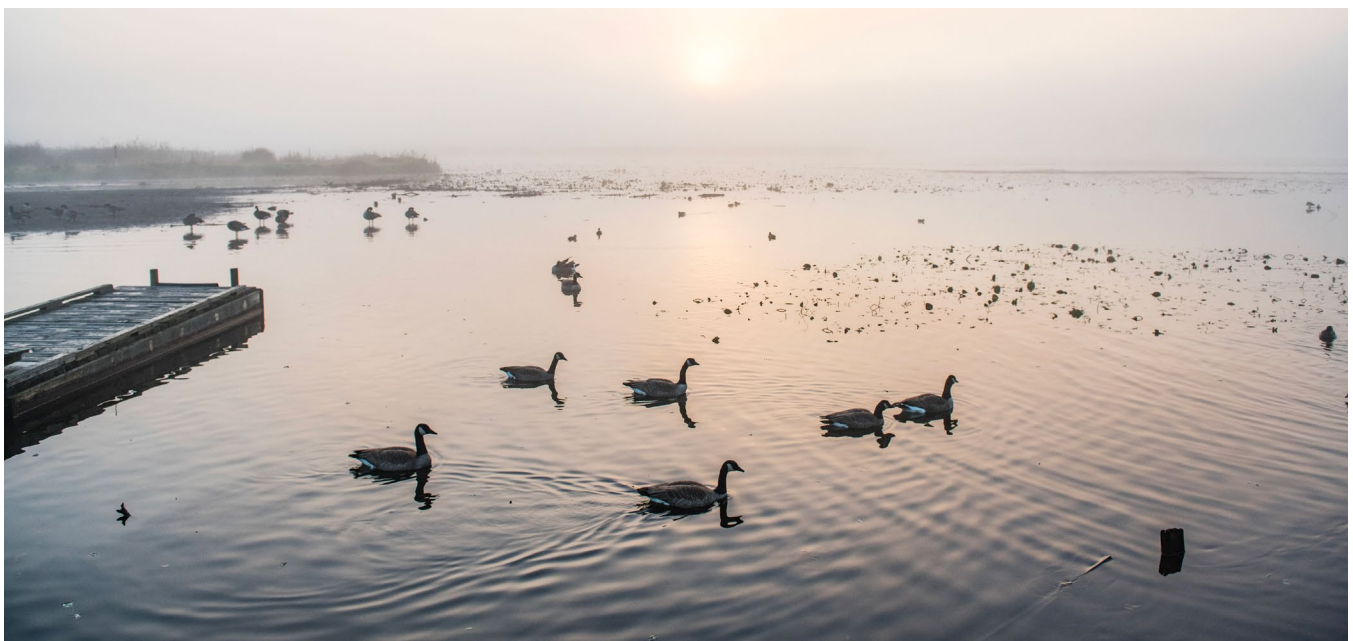
Information presented during this phase introduced the management planning process and invited feedback on park use, values, challenges, and opportunities. Participants were encouraged to share perspectives and ideas on protecting the park's natural ecosystems, connecting people to nature, and supporting a range of recreational activities.

Key themes respondents expressed through the Phase 1 engagement period included:

- **Environmental protection** – strong support for protecting and restoring ecosystems, including managing invasive species, improving water quality, and prioritizing habitat conservation.
- **Mobility and access** – desire for safe, well-maintained, and accessible trails, with particular concern about user conflicts between cyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians.
- **Amenities and facilities** – interest in improving amenities such as washrooms, signage, and opportunities to access and view the lake, while avoiding overdevelopment.
- **Learning and education** – support for expanding environmental education, stewardship initiatives, and Indigenous cultural awareness and interpretation.
- **Balancing growth** – concern about increasing urban development and park use impacting the park's ecological integrity and tranquil character.

Engagement feedback has helped to inform the creation of a draft Burnaby Lake Regional Park management plan. For detailed thematic findings, see section titled “What We Heard and How We Are Responding”.

PIPER SPIT, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK



3. About the Engagement Program

This engagement program ensures that the park management plan includes input from First Nations and stakeholders, including park users, other government agencies, community groups, and non-profits that operate within the park. Grounded in local knowledge, best practices, ecological data, and public input, the plan aims to reflect the diverse values and needs of those who use and care for the park.

The two-phase engagement program allows for input on the development of the draft plan, followed by feedback on the draft plan before it is finalized and submitted to the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board for approval. During this first phase of engagement, areas of input were focused on concerns and challenges, understanding priorities and values, and gathering ideas for the future. Participants shared information about their favourite places in the park, opportunities to enhance ecosystem protection, amenity needs and preferences, challenges that they experience, and their ideas for the future of the park. First Nations were also invited to comment on their interests, concerns, and opportunities to integrate Indigenous knowledge into the park’s long-term management.

Engagement summary reports issued at the end of each phase of engagement reflect how input received has informed the draft and final plan.



The table below provides a summary of engagement activities including intended audience(s).

Activity	Audience	Timing	Medium
First Nations project introduction letters and ongoing correspondence	- First Nations whose traditional territories overlap with the park lands: - kʷikʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem First Nation) - xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band) - Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) - səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)	June 2025	Online
Individual meetings with First Nations	- kʷikʷəłəm (Kwikwetlem First Nation) - səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)	July–September 2025	In-person
Meetings with stakeholders	- Burnaby Lake Park Association - Burnaby Horsemen’s Association - Wildlife Rescue Association of BC	September/October 2025	In-person
Stakeholder workshop	Representatives from non-profit organizations who are operating in the park or have an interest in the park, including: - Burnaby Lake Park Association - Burnaby Horsemen’s Association - Wildlife Rescue Association of BC - Burnaby Lake Rowing Club - Burnaby Canoe and Kayak Club - HUB Cycling - Eagle Creek Stream Keepers - Coastal Painted Turtle Project - Nature Vancouver	October 14, 2025	In-person
Online questionnaire	Public, stakeholders	October 14 to November 30, 2025	Online (advertised through E-blast, project webpage, business cards, in-park kiosk flyers, QR code at pop-up events)
Pop-ups at in-park events	Public, targeting those attending events in the park: - Rubber Ducky Race - Salmon Sunday - Fall Funday	October/November 2025	In-person
Pop-ups and Information Boards at off-site events	- World Rivers Day - New Westminster Farmers Market	September and October 2025	In-person

4. Engagement Promotion

Information on the engagement opportunities was shared with the public and stakeholders in multiple ways, including through a dedicated Metro Vancouver project website and on social media. Opportunities were also shared through email promotion, newsletters, and park kiosk flyers.

Website

A dedicated project webpage for the Burnaby Lake Regional Park management plan was used to provide background information, promote public engagement opportunities, and host the online questionnaire. QR codes linking to the mailing list signup and the online questionnaire were included on promotional materials such as kiosk posters, business cards, and information boards. During the engagement period, there were over 3,180 project webpage views and visits from 2,493 unique users.

Social Media

Engagement opportunities were promoted on social media (Instagram and Facebook) in October and November. The social media strategy was to use a series of organic and boosted posts to build awareness of the project, encourage feedback, and inspire social sharing. Through social media, engagement opportunities reached audiences through 18 social media posts which received 13,937 views, and 101 comments, reactions, shares, and clicks.

E-blasts

Engagement opportunities were shared using direct email promotion sent to project subscribers, stakeholders, and others to share with their networks.

Park Kiosk Flyers

A QR code linking to the project webpage was displayed on the three information kiosks in Burnaby Lake Regional Park, as well as at several locations in Deer Lake Park and the Christine Sinclair Community Centre.

Information Boards

Information boards advertising the engagement opportunity were installed by the Burnaby Lake Park Association at the World Rivers Day event at Burnaby Village Museum on September 29, 2025, to help raise awareness about the opportunity to provide feedback.



SOUTH SHORE BOARDWALK, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

5. Engagement Participation

The graphic and table below outline the level of participation in each of the engagement opportunities offered. Overall, Metro Vancouver staff facilitated 1 workshop, 11 meetings, received 779 responses to the online questionnaire, and reach 114 participants at community events and pop-ups. 8 organizations, 4 First Nations, and the City of Burnaby were engaged. The Burnaby Lake Park Association attended and hosted 2 community events and promoted the online questionnaire.





FALL FUNDAY EVENT, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

Engagement feedback was gathered using the below techniques.

Events and Pop-ups

Metro Vancouver staff attended in-park and off-site events to host pop-ups with information boards and supporting materials, which included a plain-language summary describing the park and the purpose of the management plan. Each person received a business card with a QR code linking to the online questionnaire to gather input and identify opportunities. Those who preferred to provide in-person feedback could do so at the booth using sticky notes and dot voting.

Government-to-Government Engagement with First Nations

First Nations are being engaged as part of a separate, government-to government process. In summer 2025, letters were sent to First Nations whose traditional territories overlap with the park lands: kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem First Nation), xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam Indian Band), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation). The letters introduced the project and invited participation in engagement activities, and welcomed feedback on interests, concerns, and priorities at the outset of the management plan process. Engagement has included correspondence and meetings to discuss the project, understand level of interest, discuss engagement preferences, and learn about interests, concerns, and priorities.

Stakeholder Meetings

Meetings were held with stakeholders, including Burnaby Lake Park Association, the Burnaby Horsemen's Association, and the Wildlife Rescue Association of BC. These meetings were an opportunity for Metro Vancouver staff to meet and speak with stakeholders one-on-one in advance of the joint stakeholder workshop.

Stakeholder Workshop

Metro Vancouver staff facilitated one workshop with nine non-profit and community organizations operating in or with a vested interest in the park. Project information was shared, and participants were provided with an opportunity to identify issues and opportunities, and to share their feedback and ideas. Metro Vancouver representatives explained the purpose and process of the Burnaby Lake Regional Park management plan, answered questions, and gathered feedback.

Online Questionnaire Responses

An online questionnaire was hosted to gather feedback from the public and stakeholders. The questionnaire consisted of seven questions, in addition to demographic questions, and allowed the public and interested parties to self-select which sections they wished to respond to. The questionnaire aimed to understand typical activities in the park, and to explore thoughts, ideas, or concerns about the future of the park, as well as priorities for park amenities.





BRUNETTE HEADWATERS TRAIL, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

6. First Nations Engagement

Metro Vancouver is situated within the shared territories of many Indigenous peoples, including 10 First Nations that currently have communities in the region: ǥícǥy (Katzie), ǥʷǥ:ǥǥǥ (Kwantlen), kʷikʷǥǥ (Kwikwetlem), máthxwi (Matsqui), xʷmǥθkʷǥǥ (Musqueam), qiqǥyt (Qayqayt), Semiahmoo, Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish), scǥǥǥǥǥ mǥsteyǥxʷ (Tsawwassen), and sǥlilwǥǥǥ (Tsleil-Waututh).

The Burnaby Lake Management Plan presents an opportunity for Metro Vancouver to advance collaboration and strengthen relationships with First Nations whose traditional territories overlap with the park lands. The plan also supports meaningful integration of First Nations' knowledge, feedback, and perspectives into the long-term management of the area.

Metro Vancouver has been engaging in a distinct government-to-government process with four First Nations whose traditional territories overlap with Burnaby Lake Regional Park:

- kʷikʷǥǥ (Kwikwetlem First Nation)
- xʷmǥθkʷǥǥ (Musqueam Indian Band)
- Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation)
- sǥlilwǥǥǥ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation)

Metro Vancouver will continue to engage with First Nations as the draft plan is finalized and throughout its implementation.



7. What We Heard and How We Are Responding

Across all engagement activities, participants described Burnaby Lake Regional Park as a rare natural refuge in the city, valued for its ecosystems, wildlife, recreational features, and sense of escape. While specific user groups emphasized needs related to their activities, there was broad alignment that ecosystem protection must guide the park's future, and that increased use, nearby development, and unmanaged recreation pose risks to the park's ecological health and to user experience.

Key themes across all audiences:

- Protect and restore ecosystems (wetlands, habitat, water quality)
- Support nature education, First Nations cultural visibility, and environmental stewardship
- Maintain safe, accessible, and well-maintained trails and reduce user conflicts (between cyclists, pedestrians, and equestrians)
- Improve activities and amenities (washrooms, signage, education, lake access) while avoiding over-development
- Preserve the park's natural character amid growing urban density



Summary of Feedback from First Nations

Interest	What We Heard	How We're Responding
Invasive Species	Concerns about invasive species and suggested additional action to manage invasive species.	The draft plan includes strategies to monitor and manage invasive species, including through the continued inventory and management of invasive species following the regional parks <i>Invasive Species Integrated Pest Management Plan</i>.
Habitat Protection and Restoration	- Importance of protecting and restoring critical habitats, including the Pacific water shrew, northern red-legged frog, western painted turtle, great blue heron (fannini subspecies), Nooksack dace, and Pacific salmon. - Importance of ecological studies, such as biodiversity assessments, informing the plan.	"Ecosystem Protection and Enhancement" is an area of focus in the management plan, providing specific strategies for habitat restoration and species protection. - The draft plan includes a strategy to continue undertaking baseline studies for several species, including western painted turtle and snowshoe hare.
Cultural Practices and Culturally Significant Species	- Opportunities for the planting, re-planting, and relocation of culturally significant vegetation. - Suggestion to include strategies to support cultural practices in the park.	- The draft plan includes a strategy to incorporate culturally significant species for preservation and planting. - The draft plan includes a strategy to work with First Nations to understand and explore opportunities for traditional use of parklands.
Education, Public Awareness and Cultural Recognition	- Opportunities for programming and interpretive elements that highlight First Nations connection to the area and increases cultural visibility. - Nation-led initiatives related to climate change, stewardship, and wildlife conservation are a priority.	- Strategies in the draft management plan include: - Working with First Nations to identify opportunities to increase cultural visibility and highlight First Nations connection to the area through programming and interpretive elements. - Exploring opportunities to conduct monitoring to measure ecological trends and impacts of climate change, in collaboration with First Nations.
Archaeology	Importance of protecting areas of high archaeological sensitivity.	"Balance Public Use with Protection of Ecological Values and Cultural Resources" is one of the guiding principles that will guide management of the park. - A strategy related to this principle: Guide maintenance, enhancement, and development of facilities to avoid impacts to archaeological resources and culturally sensitive areas.

Summary of Feedback from Stakeholders and the Public

Interest	What We Heard	How We're Responding
Environmental Protection	- Appreciation for the park's rich biodiversity, including wetland ecosystems, migratory birds, western painted turtles, and important fish habitat, as well as opportunities to connect with nature and wildlife. - Nature viewing is one of the top reasons survey respondents visit the park, and comments underscore the importance of Burnaby Lake Regional Park as a nature park. - Several suggestions for ecosystem protection, including removing invasive species, restoring habitats, dredging the lake, forest enhancements, enforcement of no bird feeding, among others. - Concerns about environmental impacts of park and adjacent uses (e.g., runoff from development, dogs, lost fishing gear) and the need to balance park use with protecting natural areas.	"Ecosystem Protection and Enhancement" is an area of focus in the management plan, providing specific strategies for habitat restoration and species protection. For example, to protect wildlife health and habitats, wildlife feeding is no longer permitted at Piper Spit. Feeding birds or other wildlife is also not permitted anywhere else in the park. "Balancing Public Use with Protection of Ecological Values and Cultural Resources" is one of the guiding principles of all work that Metro Vancouver undertakes in regional parks. Metro Vancouver is collaborating with the City of Burnaby to identify sources of environmental impacts that are outside of the park's boundaries.

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CANOEING, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK



Interest	What We Heard	How We're Responding
Mobility and Access	- Walking or hiking is the top reason survey respondents visit the park, in addition to dog walking, cycling, running, and horseback riding. - Concerns and suggestions to improve trail lighting, removing barriers to accessibility on the 10-km loop trail, wayfinding, and maintenance, particularly in the event of heavy rain. - Concerns and suggestions to improve safety and minimize user conflicts. Some comments anticipate increased traffic with the new Highway 1 overpass. Suggestions include separate, or multi-use pathways for walking and cycling; separate cycling and equestrian trails; physical controls like maze gates, speed bumps. - Suggestions to provide additional loop trails/shorter routes for pedestrians, preserving a pedestrian-focused experience in designated areas. - A desire to maintain and expand equestrian access, unpaved surfaces for shared trails, clear signage and education around trails shared with equestrians, and coordination in advance of large, organized events. - Comments noted the park is centrally located in the region. Some suggestions to improve accessibility with public and active transportation connections, as well as accessible parking, and expanded parking at Piper Spit Ave. entrance.	- Metro Vancouver is considering strategies for a trail network that supports a wide range of activities and user abilities, recognizing trails as a core component of the park experience. Examples are improving and maintaining trails and facilities to provide universal accessibility, including rest areas and pullouts for interpretive purposes; providing an "All Persons Trail" which, in addition to being universally accessible and providing a range of rest opportunities, includes tactile features and other multi-sensory elements that create multiple ways of interacting with the natural environment. - Opportunities to improve wayfinding, interpretive signage, and lighting in key locations, will be explored while balancing environmental and ecological considerations. - Trail designations are regularly reviewed based on trends and park use, with potential improvements including clearer signage, education initiatives, and physical design elements implemented. - The draft plan includes a strategy to develop a trail user code of conduct and education program for shared trails, including communication of behaviours around events and peak park use periods. - Explore options to improve accessibility for a range of users while aligning with broader transportation and environmental objectives.

Interest	What We Heard	How We're Responding
Stewardship, Learning, and Education	• Appreciation for the park's role in education and environmental awareness. • Suggestions to expand the park's role in Indigenous awareness and education (e.g., place names, history). • Suggestions to upgrade the Wildlife Rescue Centre, reimagine the Nature House, and expand environmental and cultural interpretive signage. • Suggestion for a yearly event/open house to bring together all organizations operating in the park to encourage coordination and shared stewardship. • Concerns and suggestions to mitigate wildlife conflicts (e.g., bird feeding, bears).	• Metro Vancouver will explore opportunities to strengthen cultural awareness and education within the park, informed by collaboration and guidance from First Nations, and aligned with broader reconciliation objectives. • The draft plan proposes to replace the Burnaby Lake Nature House with a new nature education centre to provide spaces for nature education, nature interpretation, and community partnerships. It also considers interpretive infrastructure, including potential upgrades and expanded signage, to support diverse learning experiences while respecting ecological sensitivities.
Amenities and Facilities	• Appreciation for the park's diversity of uses and activities, both on water and land. Existing amenities of importance include the Burnaby Lake Nature House, water fountains and washrooms, lake viewing areas, benches and picnic tables, pedestrian trails, and interpretive signs. • Suggestions for new and improved park amenities including washrooms, fountains, wildlife viewing, lake viewing, bike rentals, canoe/kayak rentals, a new boat launch, separate canoe/kayak and rowing facilities, and a boathouse.	• The draft plan includes opportunities for new or improved amenities that support access to water, lake views, and day use while balancing safety, demand, environmental protection, and operational considerations.
Balancing Growth	• Appreciation for the park's tranquility, many describe the park as an "oasis" in the city and emphasize the mental health benefits it provides. • Concerns about community growth and nearby development increasing pressures on the park (e.g., overcrowding, runoff, changing views). • A desire to protect the isolation experience and maintain a "green-blue" park character.	• A key objective of the overall approach of the management plan is to more evenly distribute visitor activities that are currently concentrated at the Piper Avenue Entrance to reduce pressure on facilities and adjacent natural areas, and to make better use of underutilized and previously disturbed areas. • The draft plan includes strategies to design facilities that provide public access while protecting ecological values. These include using boardwalks in more sensitive areas and maintaining quiet, pedestrian-focused opportunities for nature viewing and connection to nature.



8. Detailed Engagement Feedback - Online Questionnaire

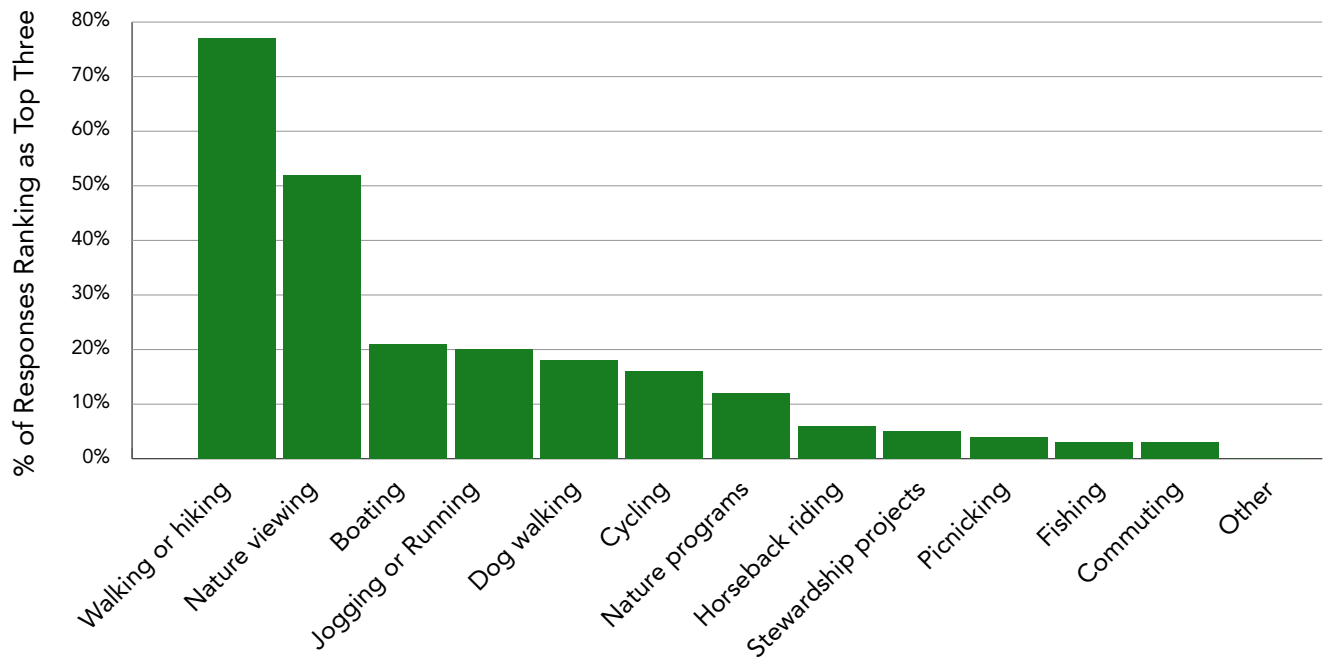
A total of 779 participants responded to an online questionnaire, which consisted of seven questions in addition to demographic questions. The questionnaire was open from October 14 to November 30, 2025, and aimed to understand typical activities in the park, and to explore thoughts, ideas, or concerns about the future of the park as well as priorities for park amenities.

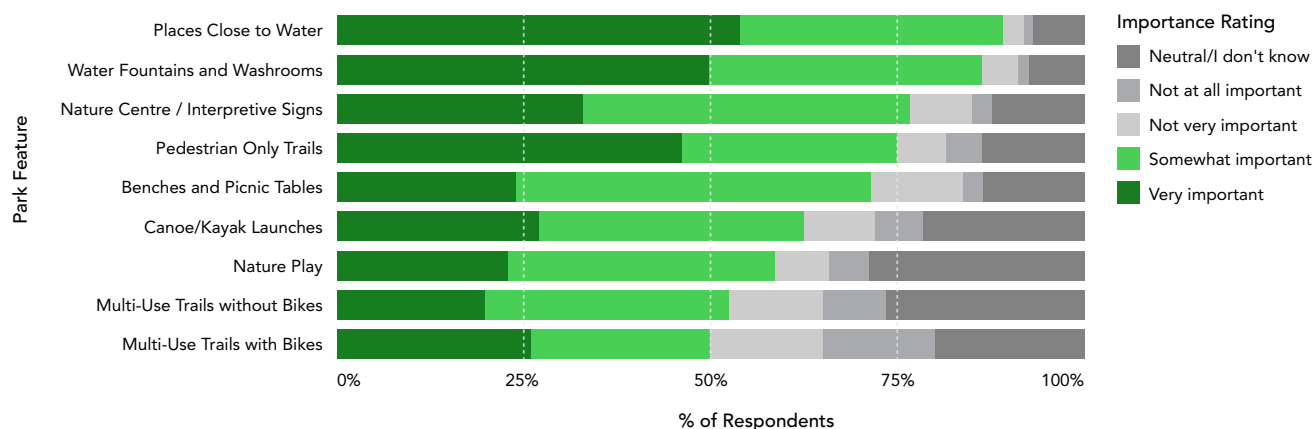
Most individuals who responded to the questionnaire were between 40 and 69 years old. The age distribution of survey respondents is roughly aligned with census data for the region. Most people who completed the survey live in the City of Burnaby (65%). Other respondents live in Vancouver (11%), New Westminister (5%), and Coquitlam (4%).

A summary of questionnaire results is presented below. Comments from the questionnaire were included in the analysis of qualitative feedback that has been summarized in the 'What We Heard and How We Are Responding' section.

Park Activities

Questionnaire respondents were asked to choose the top three activities they commonly do at Burnaby Lake Regional Park. **Walking** was the most popular activity at Burnaby Lake Regional Park, with 77 per cent of respondents ranking it in their top three. Walking was followed by **nature viewing** (52%), **rowing/paddling** (21%), and **jogging** (20%).





Special Attributes of the Park

When asked what makes Burnaby Lake Regional Park special, respondents emphasized **nature and wildlife** (288 comments). Comments described an appreciation for the diversity of habitat and wildlife that the lake supports, including birds and unique species like the western painted turtle. The park is also seen as an **oasis in the city** (236 comments), with comments noting the importance of maintaining a peaceful, natural area within an urban setting that offers both retreat for people and space for wildlife. The **convenient and accessible location** of the park is key for many regional park users as it is well connected by bike and transit routes (116 comments).

Other attributes included the size of the park and its ability to support a variety of activities and community connections among park visitors.

Favourite Places in the Park

Questionnaire participants dropped pins on a map to share their favourite places in Burnaby Lake Regional Park. The most popular places were Piper Spit, Cariboo Dam, the Burnaby Horsemen's Association, and rowing pavilion (the latter two are outside of the regional park).

Ecosystem Protection

Participants were asked to share opportunities they see for protecting ecosystems in the park. The most common theme was the removal of **invasive species and restoration of native habitat** (145 comments). Suggestions also included opportunities for **public education and involvement** (80 comments) through park stewardship activities, naturalist tours, and signage.

Park Amenities

Overall, almost every amenity was ranked by over 50 per cent of the respondents as somewhat or very important. The only amenity ranked as important by less than 50 per cent of respondents was multi-use trails with bikes. This was also the amenity most frequently ranked as not at all important. **Places close to water** were ranked as the most important amenity overall.

The most common requests for new or other amenities that would help people connect with nature or enjoy more activities included **non-motorized boating infrastructure and boat rentals** for kayaks/canoes (71 comments), **nature education and signage** (63 comments), **bike trails and racks** (56 comments), and **washrooms and water fountains** (45 comments). Some participants expressed that **no amenities should be added** (26 comments) to prioritize conservation and avoid any disturbance to wildlife habitat.

Concerns and Ideas

Park users emphasized the importance of **protecting the park's ecosystem and its primary use as a natural space** (66 comments) as the city of Burnaby densifies. Many were concerned with **impacts of development** or human activity on the park's ecosystems and existence, including concern that the park could be sold to developers or overpopulated (29 comments). There were requests to separate cyclists from pedestrians and equestrians to improve safety of park users, and to expand non-motorized boating infrastructure (i.e., boathouse, boat launch).

9. How Feedback Was Used

Feedback from this engagement process and additional analysis and research has informed the development of a draft management plan, including priority actions, and considerations for implementation.



COTTONWOOD TRAIL, BURNABY LAKE REGIONAL PARK

10. Next Steps

The draft management plan, along with this engagement summary report, will be presented for consideration by the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board. A subsequent Phase 2 engagement process will invite participants to review the draft plan and provide input to help refine and finalize the management plan.

Phase 2 engagement is anticipated to take place in late Summer/Fall of 2026.

If you have any questions or comments about this project, please contact 604-432-6350 or regionalparks.info@metrovancover.org.

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