

Proposed Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis on Bowen Island

Public Engagement Summary

Acknowledgements

Thank you to everyone who provided input on the first phase of public engagement for the proposed regional park at Cape Roger Curtis on Bowen Island. Metro Vancouver embraces collaboration and innovation to provide sustainable regional services, contributing to a livable and resilient region, and a healthy natural environment for current and future generations. The purpose of the first phase of engagement was to listen and learn from the community, and staff will use this feedback to create guiding principles and draft concepts for the proposed regional park. We appreciate your time as well as the insights and comments you shared with us in the first phase. We invite you to participate in the second phase of engagement later in 2023.

About Metro Vancouver

Metro Vancouver is a federation of 21 municipalities, one electoral area, and one treaty First Nation that collaboratively plans for and delivers regional-scale services. It delivers regional-scale drinking water, wastewater treatment, and solid waste utility services. Metro Vancouver also regulates air quality, plans for urban growth, manages a regional parks system, and provides affordable housing. The regional district is governed by a Board of Directors of elected officials from each local authority.

Cover photo:
View to East from Cape Roger Curtis on Bowen Island

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Second growth Douglas-fir forest

1. About the Proposed Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis on Bowen Island

The proposed regional park at Cape Roger Curtis contains 15 plant communities listed as provincially threatened or endangered. The land encompasses about 700 metres of waterfront, ranging from high bluffs to low banks and access to the water's edge. Along the shore, the coastal bluff plant communities are dominated by arbutus, shore pine, Douglas fir, and some 400-year-old maritime juniper. Huszar Creek flows through the site. In recent years, there have been frequent sightings of both orcas and humpback whales from this site.

Metro Vancouver has an agreement to purchase 24 parcels of land on the southwest tip of Bowen Island at Cape Roger Curtis, totalling 97 hectares that Metro Vancouver aspires to turn into a new regional park. The proposed regional park would preserve a large area of ecologically important and sensitive ecosystems, and provide opportunities for residents of the region, including the Bowen Island community, to connect with nature.

Metro Vancouver has started the park planning process for the proposed regional park at Cape Roger Curtis. Developing a concept plan for the park will run concurrently with an application to Bowen Island Municipality to rezone the properties from rural residential to park, as well as an amendment to the Official Community Plan from residential to regional park use. The rezoning and OCP amendment would allow for supervised overnight tent camping.

The park planning process includes background research, inventory, and analysis. Each project phase will include engagement with First Nations, the public, stakeholders, and government agencies.



2. Executive Summary

The first phase of public engagement received significant attention and garnered a very high response rate for Metro Vancouver projects on the online engagement platform, with a large number of responses from the public who reside on Bowen Island and in the City of Vancouver. Engagement opportunities during this phase included two in-person open houses (375 attendees), two online webinars (60 attendees). Additionally, 2,364 people submitted comments through the online feedback form.

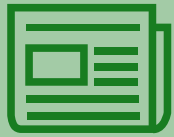
The objective of this public engagement phase was to listen and learn from the community. Metro Vancouver sought to gather feedback and input from the public to ensure that the park's design and implementation align with the community's needs and values.

Overall, there was more support for the project than not, with nearly half of feedback form respondents indicating that they support the project (45.85% of respondents). The level of support for the proposed regional park varied between regional (85% in support) and Bowen Island residents (19% in support, 14% felt they didn't have enough information).

Key themes respondents noted through the first phase of engagement included:

- Concerns about transportation, particularly ferry capacity
- A preference for a park shuttle as the top choice for alternative transportation modes
- A priority to protect environmentally sensitive areas
- Concerns about overnight use and potential impacts on-island (such as wildfires, street use)
- Support for hiker/biker/paddle-in camping among the camping options
- A top activity choice to walk or hike at the proposed regional park
- A priority to improve public transit connections on Bowen Island

The public's likes, dislikes, and priorities, alongside advice from technical experts, will be incorporated into the draft concepts, which will be shared in the second phase of public engagement for the proposed regional park.



37
media articles

Over **11 million** media reach



285,000
social media reach

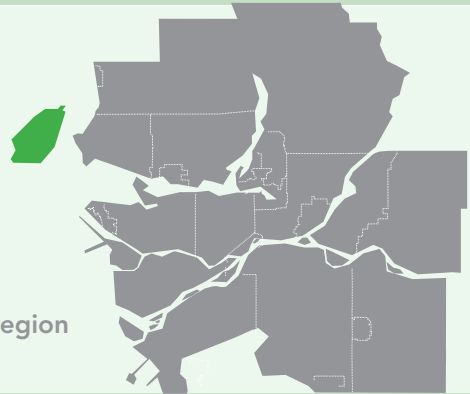


Over **2,000** social media likes, comments, and shares

Respondents from Metro Vancouver

54% Bowen Island Municipality

46% Elsewhere in the region



5,000+
Regional Parks
monthly newsletter
subscribers



25,158
feedback form questions answered



Over **350** attendees
at public open houses

2,364
feedback form starts



3. About the Engagement Program

From February 10 to March 20, 2023, Metro Vancouver invited the public to share their feedback about the proposed regional park for the first phase of engagement for the proposed regional park at Cape Roger Curtis. The goal of this engagement

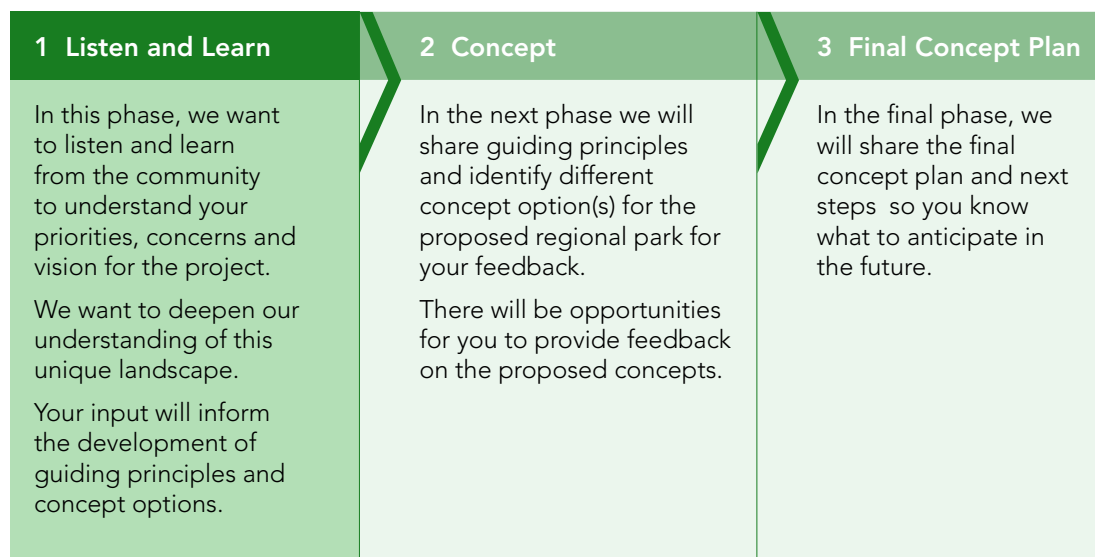
phase was to listen and learn from Metro Vancouver residents about priorities, concerns, knowledge, and preferences to inform the development of a concept plan for a new regional park.

The first phase of engagement included the following tactics:

TACTIC	DESCRIPTION	TIMING
Online Feedback Form	A public feedback form on Civil Space, an online engagement platform, to seek feedback on values, priorities, and preferences for the new proposed regional park on Bowen Island.	February 10 to March 20, 2023
Virtual Technical Focus Group	Feedback from organizations will complement the valuable input from individuals and the general public received during Phase One of the engagement on the proposed regional park.	March 1, 2023
Public Open Houses	Open house drop-in sessions with Metro Vancouver Regional Parks staff for residents of Bowen Island to learn about the proposed regional park, share their hopes and concerns, ask questions of staff, and provide place-based knowledge.	March 4 & 8, 2023
Public Webinars	Two-hour long virtual webinars to build awareness about the proposed regional park, and allow both local and regional stakeholders an opportunity to participate. Attendees had the chance to pose questions to Metro Vancouver staff and provide feedback about the proposed regional park.	March 9 & 10, 2023
Outreach at Regional Parks Events	Staff attended two events at Pacific Spirit Regional Park, Family Day Campfire and Night Quest, to raise awareness within the region about the proposed regional park on Bowen Island. Provided background information and share feedback opportunities.	February 20 & March 18, 2023
Stakeholder Meetings	Metro Vancouver meetings with stakeholders as an opportunity to hear input on the proposed regional park, and for stakeholders share their knowledge.	Ongoing

The proposed regional park at Cape Roger Curtis will have significance for interested and impacted parties and residents. The focus of Metro Vancouver’s engagement plan is to hear from a wide range of audiences, align their values with Metro Vancouver’s vision to protect natural areas while providing more opportunities for people to connect with nature, and to address their concerns and preferences in the proposed regional park design.

This was the first phase of an open, transparent, and collaborative three-phase engagement process to ensure the community is involved as the project progresses and has opportunities to provide feedback to the project team.



First Phase



4. First Nations Engagement

The proposed regional park at Cape Roger Curtis on Bowen Island is within the territories of the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw/Squamish Nation, xʷməθkʷəy̓əm/Musqueam Indian Band and sálílwətaʔ/Tsleil-Waututh Nation. We respectfully acknowledge the significance of Bowen Island and the Howe Sound for all three Nations, particularly the Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw/Squamish Nation.

The proposed regional park presents an opportunity to advance collaboration and reconciliation with First Nations. Metro Vancouver is engaging local First Nations to explore opportunities to work collaboratively on this project.

5. Engagement Promotion

The public engagement opportunity was promoted to all Metro Vancouverites, which includes Bowen Island residents. In addition to Metro Vancouver’s promotion, several local news media outlets shared articles about the program and engagement opportunity.

Website

Two webpages were used during the engagement promotion: a dedicated [project page](#) that highlighted information about the proposed regional park, and an [engagement page](#) with detailed information about the engagement approach and process, and how to provide feedback. (While the project webpage was included on most of the communications materials, the main call to action drove people directly to the feedback form on Civil Space.) From February 9 to March 21, there was a total of 12,733 page views to both pages. Visitors spent an average of 1 minute 53 seconds on the project page and 3 minutes 10 seconds on the engagement page. Information about

the public engagement opportunity was also shared on Metro Vancouver’s [home page](#), overall [community engagement webpage](#), and [events calendar](#).

The majority of website traffic came from within the Metro Vancouver region, with the top locations reflecting proximity to the project and population size: Vancouver, West Vancouver (including Bowen Island), North Vancouver, Surrey, Burnaby, and Coquitlam.

Social Media

We used Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn to deliver information about the proposed regional park and to promote the public engagement opportunity. In addition to organic social media posts, we ran paid ads on Facebook and Instagram.

Social media performed strongly with over 285,000 reach, nearly 4,200 link clicks, and over 2,000 social media likes, comments, and shares.

Metro Vancouver E-newsletters

Six e-newsletters were sent to the project email list. Over the engagement period, the number of subscribers grew from 406 to 603.

DATE	SUBJECT	DELIVERED
February 10	Have Your Say – Phase One Public Engagement for the Proposed Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis is Now Open	406
February 23	Attend a Public Open House – Proposed Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis	520
March 2	Reminder! Attend a Public Open House – Proposed Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis	547
March 10	Closing Soon + What We’ve Heard – Phase One Public Engagement for the Proposed Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis	569
March 17	Share Your Feedback by March 20 – Phase One Public Engagement for the Proposed Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis	581
March 21	Thank You for Your Feedback! – Phase One Public Engagement for the Proposed Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis	603



Public Open House at Bowen Island Community School

The engagement was also featured in other Metro Vancouver newsletters, including the Metro Vancouver Update (1,104 subscribers) and the Metro Vancouver Regional Parks Newsletter (5,925 subscribers).

Mailouts to Bowen Island Residents

A postcard was mailed to all Bowen Island residents. A notification letter was mailed to residents within 500 metres of the property.

Signage

Posters were put up in Bowen Island community hubs, in Horseshoe Bay, and in all Metro Vancouver regional parks.

Print Ads

Three print ads ran in the Bowen Island Undercurrent when the engagement period launched and leading up to the public open houses on Bowen Island.

Earned Media

A media release was issued on February 9, the day before engagement opened. There were 37 media hits over the engagement period. Most were from mainstream news outlets and the Bowen Island Undercurrent, and there were also some articles in niche publications. There were a number of opinion pieces and letters to the editor from Chair McEwen, Bowen Island Councillor Gedye, and other prominent Bowen Island residents. The tone was overall balanced.

Video Presentation

A video presentation was created for open house events to provide an overview of the project, the engagement timeline, and opportunities to provide feedback. This video was available on the project webpage and had 177 views.

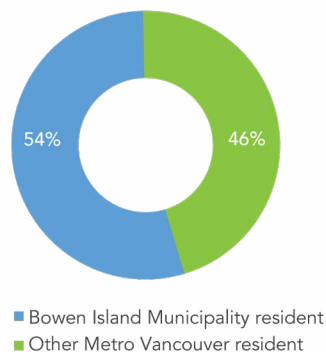
6. Engagement Participation – Feedback Form

We invited the public to provide feedback by completing a feedback form that was available online and in hard copy format. A discussion guide was created as a resource document to learn more about the history of the land, the project scope, and engagement timelines. Through the feedback form, we asked residents and visitors to share their hopes and concerns about the proposed regional park and transportation issues, in addition to knowledge on ecosystem values. During the online engagement period 2,364 participants provided feedback submitting over 25,000 responses and comments.

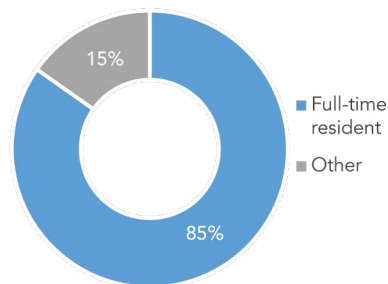
Metro Vancouver uses ZenCity for online engagement which provides opportunities for qualitative and quantitative input through a range of preference ranking, open ended and direct questions. While online engagement is an important component of a comprehensive engagement strategy, it does not provide statistically relevant data. ZenCity participation does not require registration or a password, and does not protect against multiple submissions. Online feedback form submissions included of 496 duplicate IP addresses which could indicate multiple submissions on one electronic device or network, from an individual, family, or group of people.

Of people who responded, 54% were from Bowen Island and 46% represented the rest of the Metro Vancouver region. Of the respondents from Bowen Island, 85% are full-time residents. The following graphs provide more information about respondent demographics.

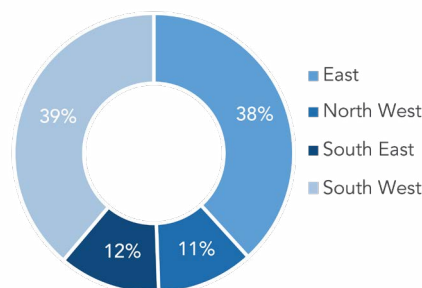
Proportion of Respondents Living on Bowen Island



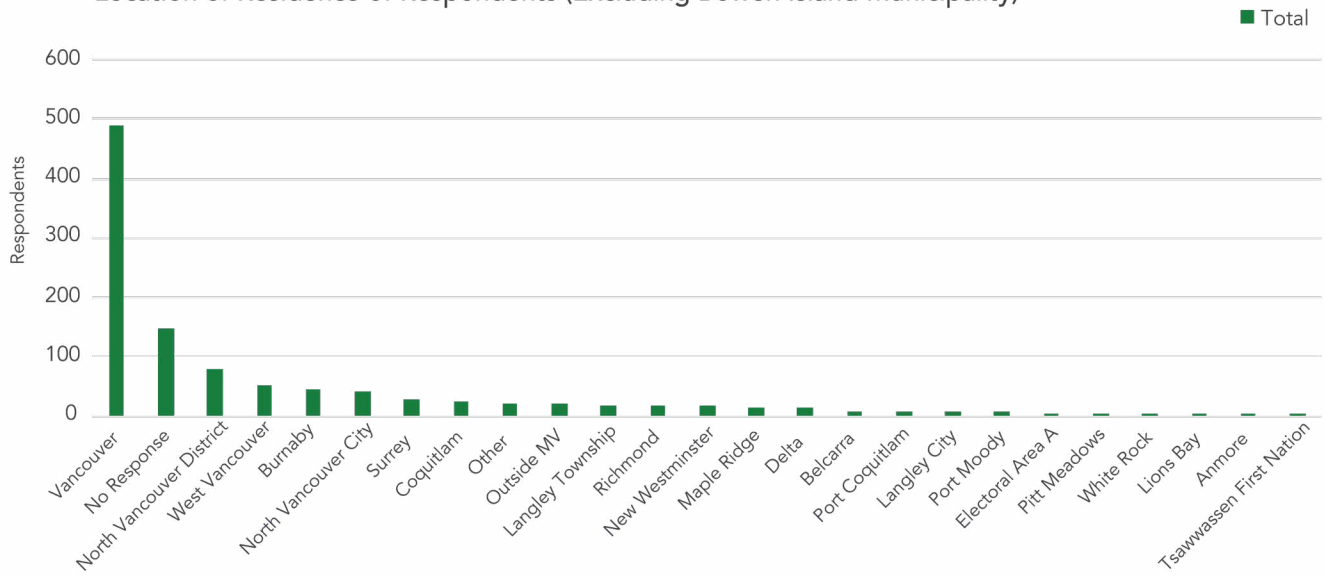
Bowen Island Residents – Status



Bowen Island Residents Where on Bowen Island do Respondents Live?



Location of Residence of Respondents (Excluding Bowen Island Municipality)

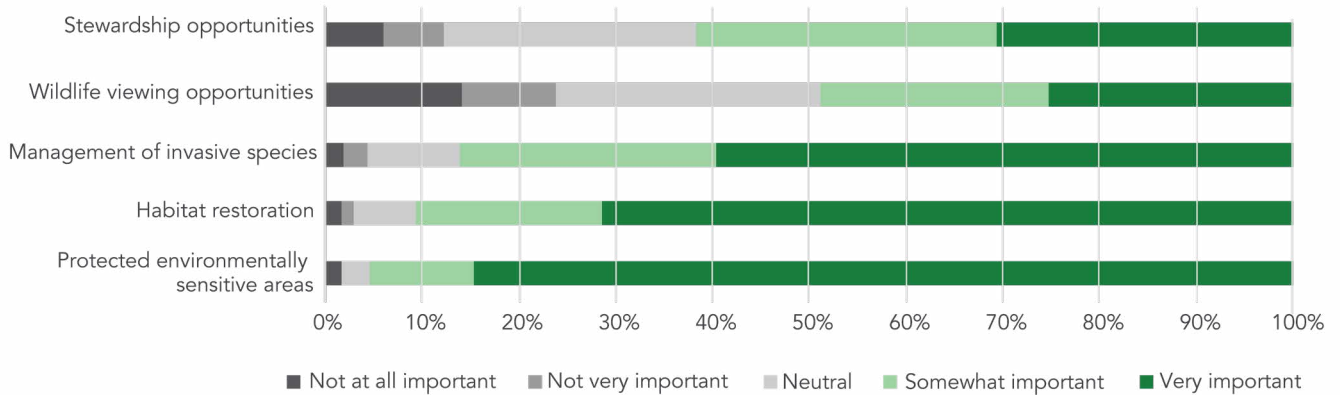


22% of regional respondents indicated they live in Vancouver, followed by 4% from District of North Vancouver.

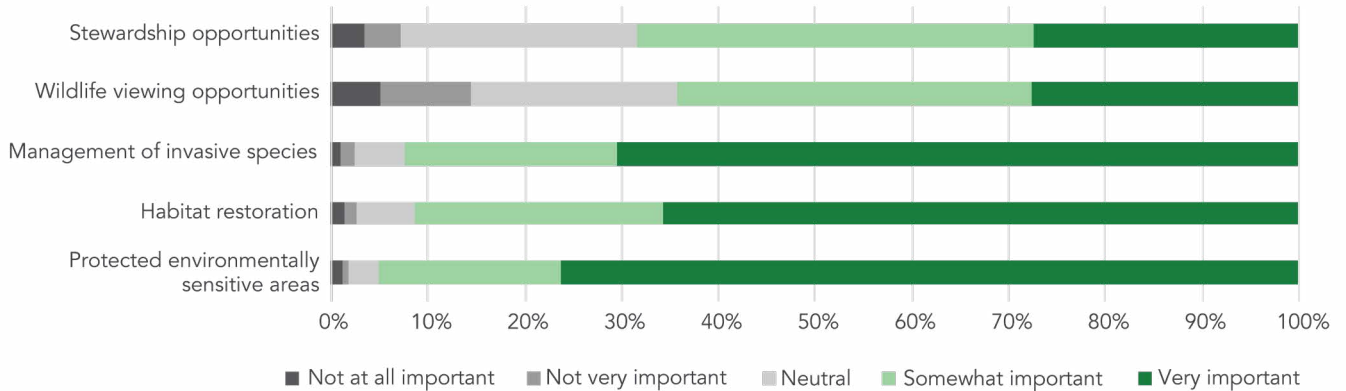


Participants at a Public Open House

Please rank the importance of the following elements to you in shaping the proposed regional park
Bowen Island Municipality residents

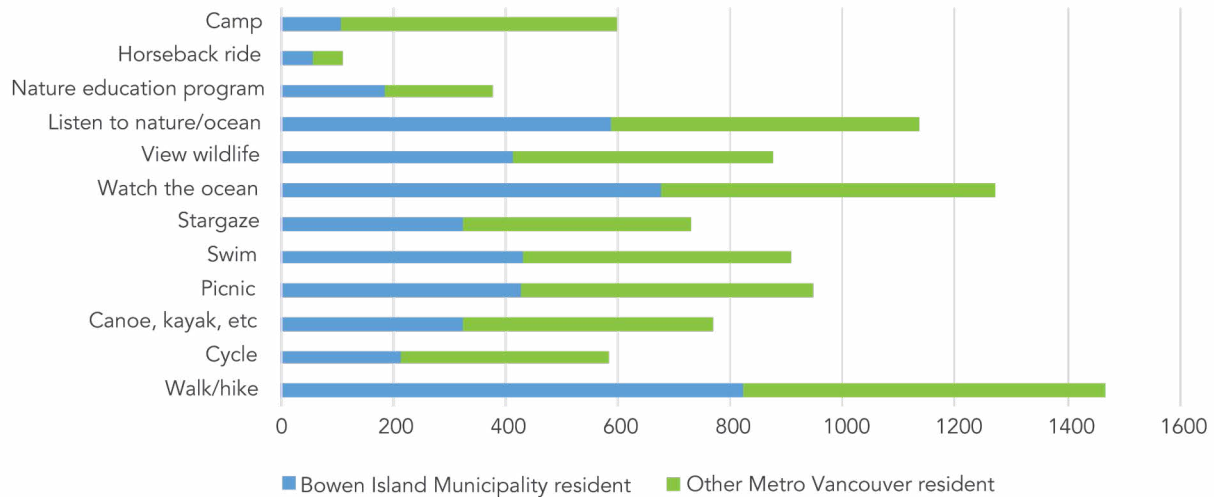


Please rank the importance of the following elements to you in shaping the proposed regional park
Other Metro Vancouver residents



The majority of respondents indicated that their top priority is the protection of environmentally sensitive areas. In terms of the next top two priorities, Bowen Island respondents indicated that habitat restoration and then management of invasive species were important. Responses from regional respondents were the same, except they switched the ranking of the second and third priorities.

What activities would you like to do at the proposed regional park at Cape Roger Curtis?

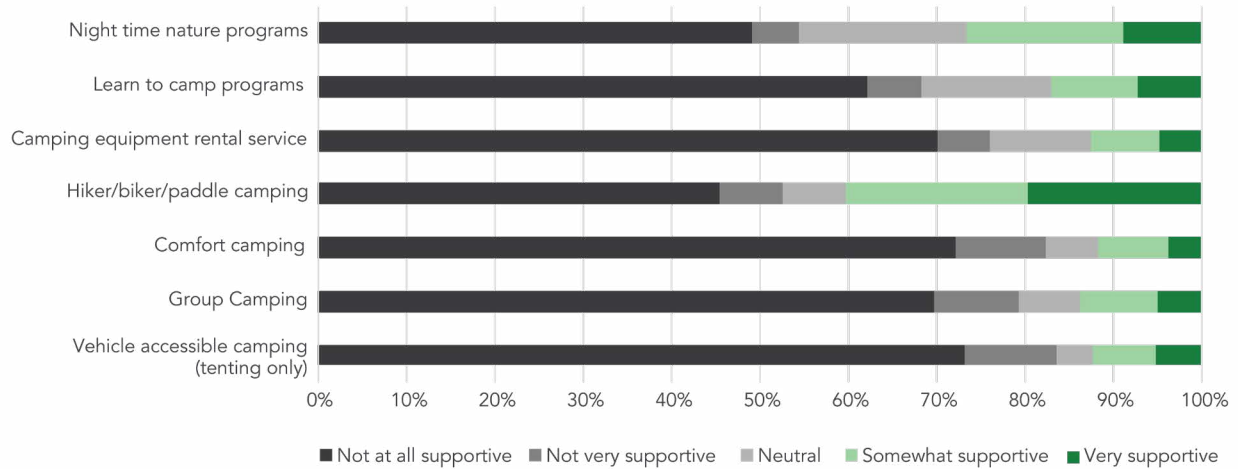


The top activity choice for all respondents is to walk or hike at the proposed regional park. Following that, the next highest activity options for respondents were to watch the ocean and listen to nature and the ocean. Many more regional respondents indicated they would like to camp at the proposed regional park than Bowen Island residents did.

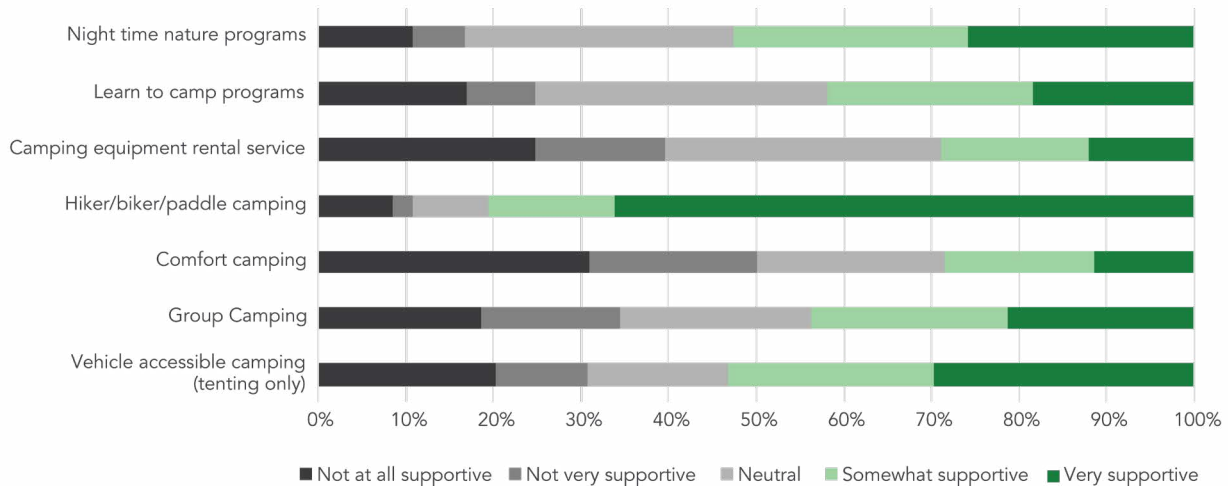


View along shore to east at Cape Roger Curtis on Bowen Island

What overnight use facilities and programs should be included in the proposed regional park?
Rate your level of support for each fo the following.
Bowen Island Municipality residents



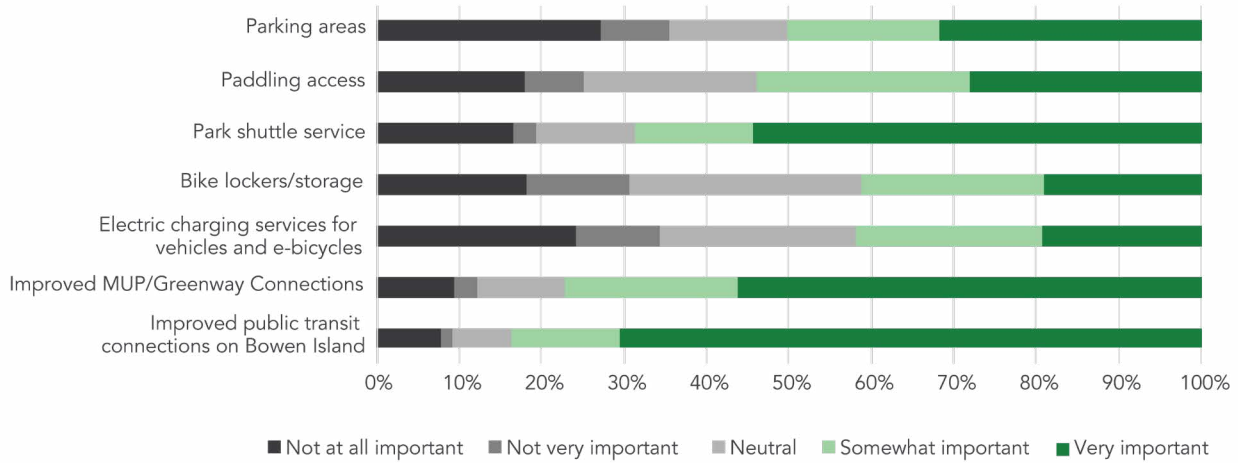
What overnight use facilities and programs should be included in the proposed regional park?
Rate your level of support for each fo the following.
Other Metro Vancouver residents



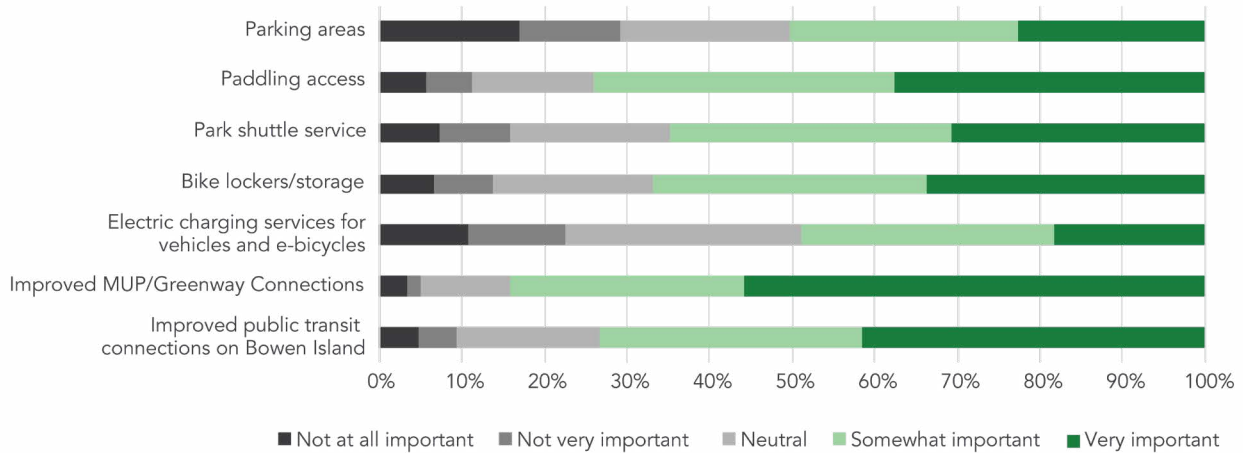
On the topic of overnight use, differences between Bowen Island respondents and those from elsewhere in the region emerge. The majority of Bowen Island respondents were not supportive of any overnight programs.

However, the overnight program with the most support from Bowen Island and regional respondents was hiker/biker/paddle camping. Subsequently, night time nature programs followed by learn to camp programs received the most support from Bowen Island respondents. Regional respondents were also interested in vehicle accessible (tent only) camping followed by night time nature programs.

Identify your priorities for accessing the proposed regional park
Bowen Island Municipality residents



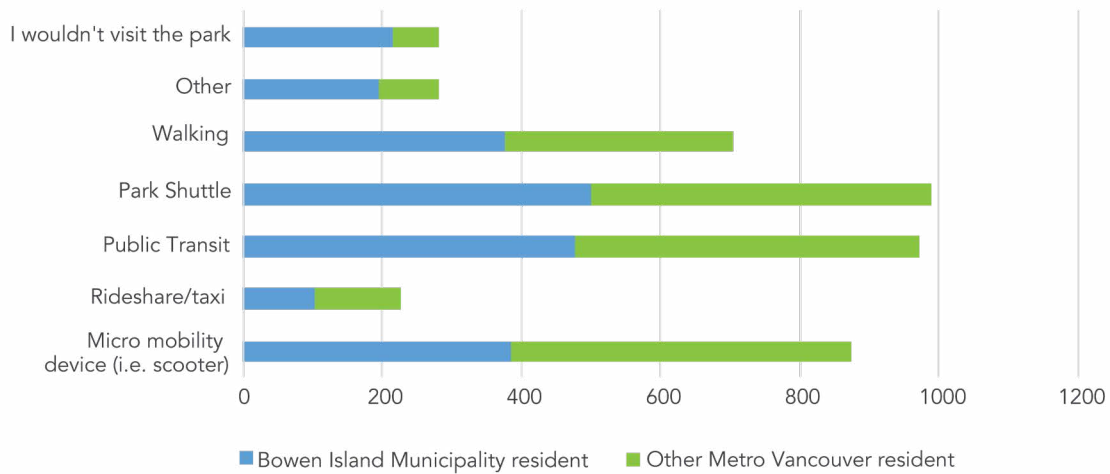
Identify your priorities for accessing the proposed regional park
Other Metro Vancouver residents



Bowen Island respondents indicated improved public transit connections on Bowen Island was their top priority. Their next two priorities were improved multi-use pathways/greenway connections followed by park shuttle service. Regional respondents indicated that improved multi-use pathways/greenway connections was their top priority. Their next two priorities were improved public transit connections on Bowen Island followed by paddling access.

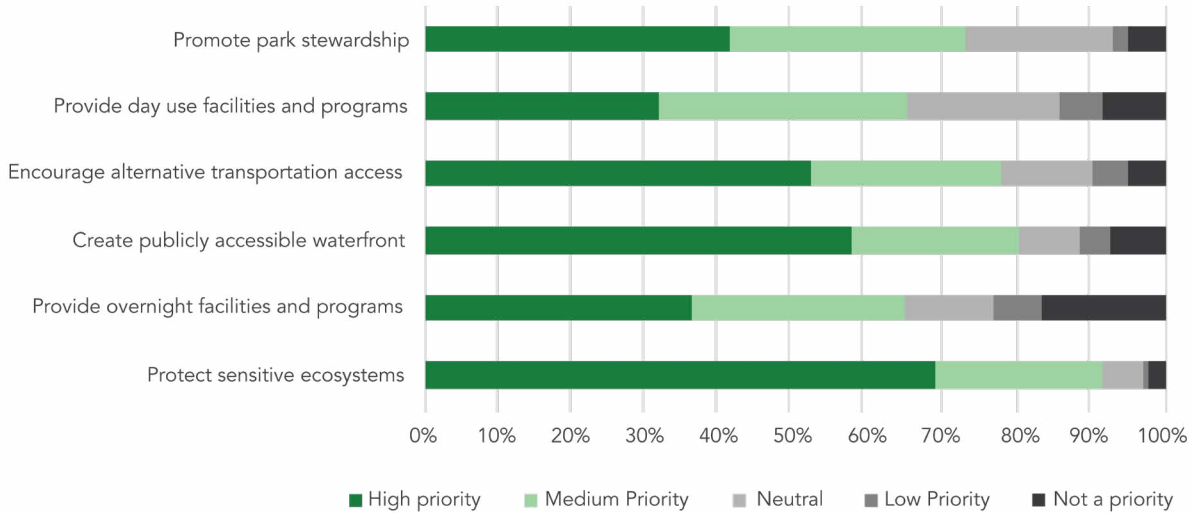


If private vehicle access was limited and alternative transportation modes were available, which of the following would you consider using to access the proposed regional park?

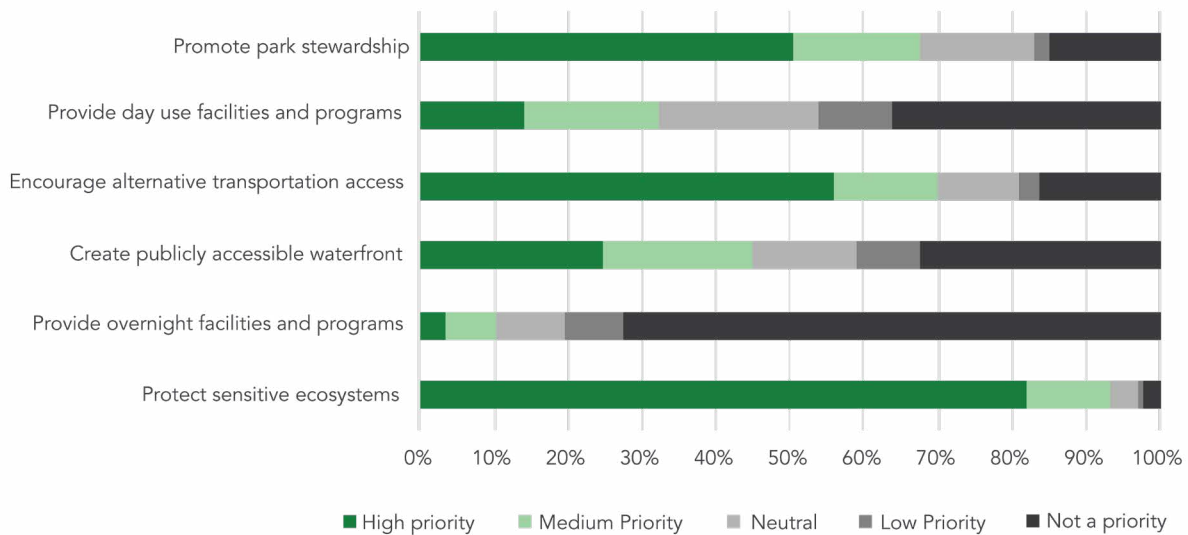


The majority of respondents indicated that a park shuttle is their top choice for alternative transportation modes followed by public transit and micro-mobility devices, such as bicycles and scooters. The top three choices for Bowen Island and regional respondents were the same.

What are your hopes for the proposed regional park?
Bowen Island Municipality residents

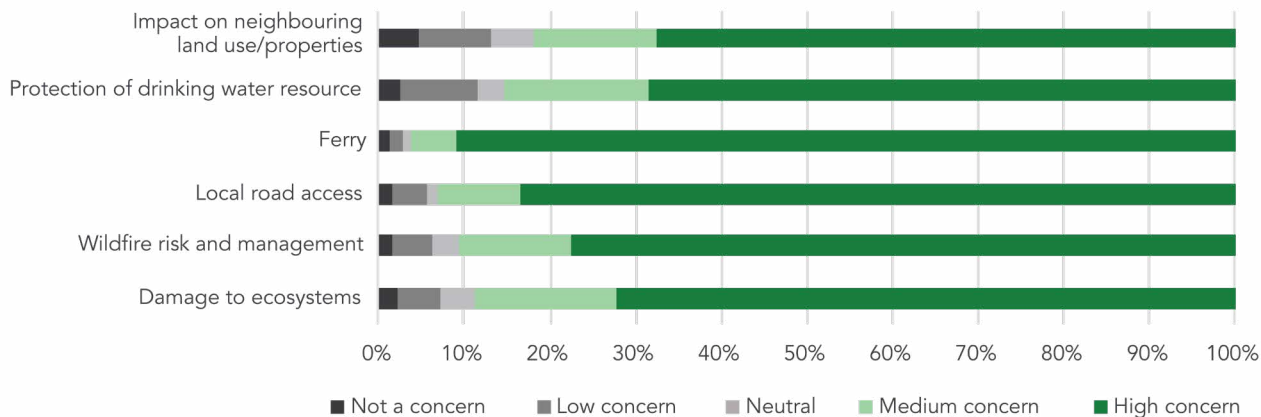


What are your hopes for the proposed regional park?
Other Metro Vancouver residents

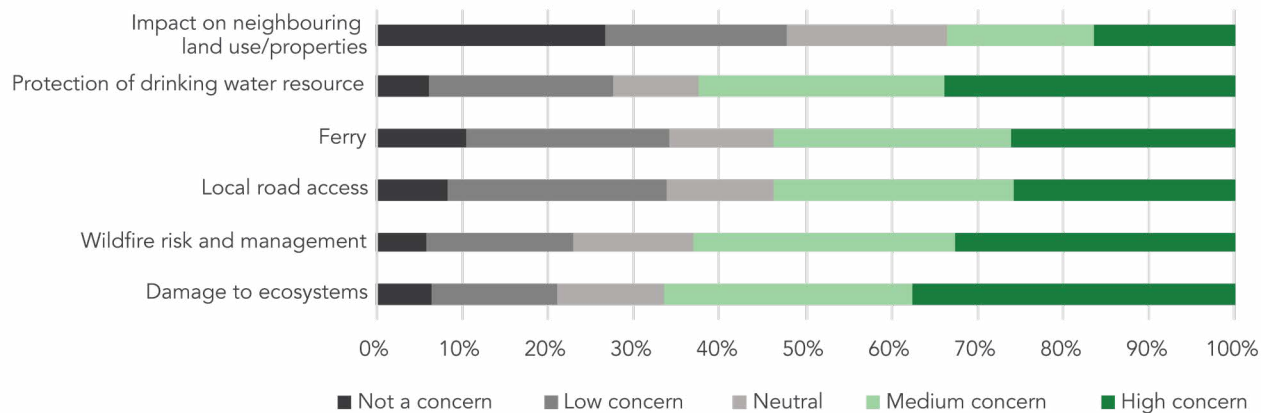


Bowen Island respondents indicated that their top three hopes for the proposed regional park were to protect sensitive ecosystems, create publicly accessible waterfront, and encourage alternative transportation access. The top three hopes of regional respondents were only slightly different; their hopes were to protect sensitive ecosystems, encourage alternative transportation access, and promote park stewardship.

What are your concerns for the proposed regional park? Bowen Island Municipality residents

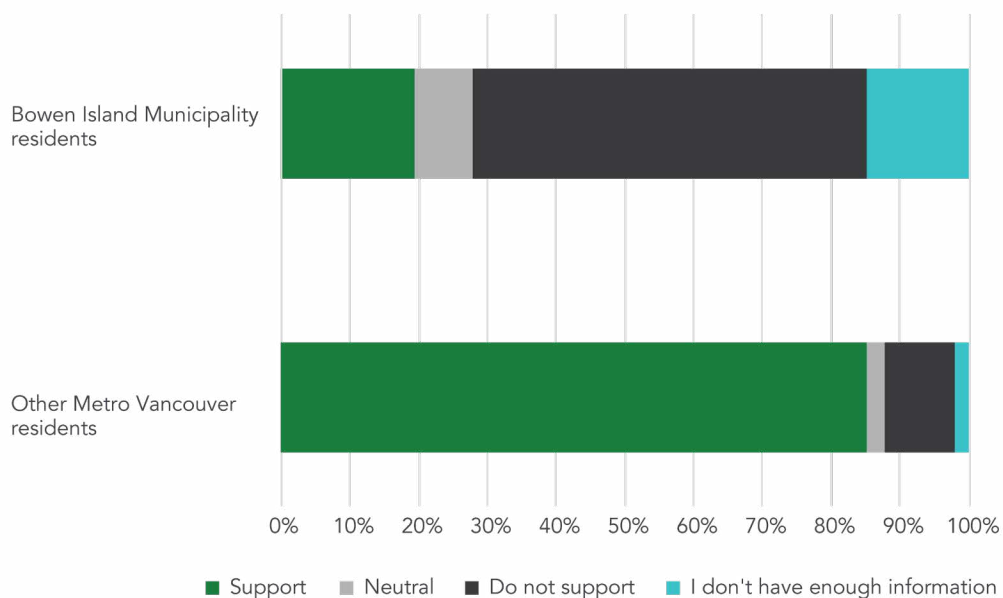


What are your concerns for the proposed regional park? Other Metro Vancouver residents



Bowen Island respondents indicated their top three concerns for the proposed regional park is the ferry, local road access, and wildfire risk and management. Regional respondents indicated their top three concerns are damage to ecosystems, protection of drinking water resource, and wildfire risk and management.

Level of Support For Proposed Regional Park at Cape Roger Curtis



Overall, there was support for a proposed regional park, with nearly half of feedback form respondents indicating that they support the project (45.85% of respondents). Of the 1029 respondents who indicated they live on Bowen Island, 198 supported (19%), 590 did not support (57%), 89 were neutral (9%), and 152 indicated that they did not have enough information to decide at this time (15%). Of the 696 respondents from the rest of Metro Vancouver, 592 supported the proposed park (85%), 71 did not support (10%), 18 were neutral (3%), and 15 (2%) didn't have enough information to decide at this time. (Note, total numbers to this question were lower than total number of feedback form starts, due to drop offs through the feedback form).

However, the level of support for the park varied between regional and Bowen Island residents. Regional respondents overwhelmingly were supportive of the proposed regional park. For Bowen Island respondents, 19% support the proposed regional park and 14% felt they didn't have enough information.

7. Engagement Participation – Public Events

During the engagement period we held four events open to the public and one technical focus group with representatives from organizations with expertise and technical knowledge important to the planning of the proposed regional park. The public events were held in-person and virtually to provide options to allow as many people to attend as possible.

These events were well attended, with the majority of participants coming from Bowen Island.

- 2 Public Open Houses (combined): 375 attendees
- 2 Public Webinars (combined): 60 attendees
- 1 Virtual Technical Focus Group: 21 attendees

Metro Vancouver staff also conducted outreach at two Regional Parks events at Pacific Spirit Regional Park: Family Day Campfire and Night Quest. Approximately 699 people attended the Family Day Campfire, and 1,699 attended Saturday night at Night Quest.

Ongoing meetings are being held with First Nations, government agencies, and interested and affected parties.



8. Engagement Participation – Letters

Throughout the engagement period, the project team received letters to the project email inbox BowenIslandParkPlanning@metrovancover.org and at Open Houses. A total of 20 letters were received.

The overall themes of these letters aligned with what we heard at public engagement events and through the online feedback form.

Overarching themes of these letters included:

- Concerns about transportation, particularly ferry capacity
- Support for the proposed regional park, and the associated ecological preservation
- Concerns about overnight use and potential impacts on-island (such as wildfires, street use)



Participation at a Public Open House

9. What We Heard and How We're Responding

Throughout the first phase of engagement, input through events, conversations, email communication, and the public feedback form was considered by Metro Vancouver. The below table provides a high level overview of the common themes that were heard throughout the first phase of engagement. Additionally, we have provided a column of the work we are undertaking to try to address what we heard. This work will continue as the project progresses, and additional conversations and engagement will inform how we respond.

INTEREST	WHAT WE HEARD:	HOW WE'RE RESPONDING:
<p>Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns regarding ferry capacity, especially during summer and peak hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle and pedestrian/cyclist capacity Vehicle impacts at Snug Cove and Horseshoe Bay Comments that Bowen Island residents rely on the ferry system for medical appointments, school, and work: "The ferry system is our lifeline." Support for implementing the cross-island multi-use pathway (MUP). Concerns about cycling safety on the current route to the park, including the route, elevation, and impacts on existing travel patterns. Support for improving public transportation for the park as this would benefit the whole Island's transportation network; requests to see Transit On-Demand Pilot service reinstated. Requests to explore a passenger-only ferry or water taxi service. Request for a comprehensive transportation plan to be presented. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans for the park will prioritize non-vehicular access. Integrated and sustainable transportation options to the park include a park shuttle, multi-use pathway, and other means of regional connections. Metro Vancouver will continue to engage with BC Ferries, TransLink, and other transportation service providers to understand the issues and potential for utilizing existing capacity and adding service where feasible. Metro Vancouver will work with Bowen Island Municipality to implement the cross-island multi-use path (MUP). Metro Vancouver completed a traffic trip generation analysis during the first phase of engagement, and confirmed that road traffic associated with the overnight camping program is less than what would be expected from potential development associated with the existing approved land use. A detailed traffic study is underway, which will provide specific recommendations for implementation of the park shuttle service, and demand management tools.
<p>Park Access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about local traffic impact (Whitesails Drive). Requests to explore alternative access and connections to the proposed regional park. Concerns that visitors will not use alternative transportation modes, especially if they are camping. Support for kayak and marine access to the park. Caution on the nature of the water (can be rough) on the marine access side of the park. Support for Bowen Island residents to have vehicle access and requests to limit the impact of non-residents driving to the proposed park Requests for some parking provision primarily for seniors, young families, or people with mobility challenges. Concerns are that if parking is reduced, people will park on neighbouring streets. Concerns that accessing parkland without a personal vehicle is challenging for people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To bring pet/s; To bring equipment (i.e. kayak, tents); or Experiencing mobility challenges. Comments that a park shuttle service from Snug Cove limits on-island residents accessing the park easily. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metro Vancouver would establish a park shuttle service. In addition to service from Snug Cove to the proposed regional park, consideration will be given to connections and stops in the Metro Vancouver region. Metro Vancouver has completed an access analysis that identifies options for alternative access to the park. Preferred routing will be confirmed with further feasibility testing and engagement with Bowen Island Municipality, First Nations, impacted and affected parties, and the public. Some parking would be developed at the proposed park primarily for accessibility and local day-use access. Parking capacity would be designed as part of a holistic transportation and visitor management program. Metro Vancouver is considering implementing visitor demand strategies such as a reservation system to manage traffic and park visitation. Any day-use reservation system would be developed in consultation with the community. Metro Vancouver has considerable experience managing parking across jurisdictions in complex situations.

INTEREST	WHAT WE HEARD:	HOW WE'RE RESPONDING:
Park Capacity and Visitor Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions on the projected day-use and overnight-use visitation. • Questions on how overnight uses will be made available. • Concerns that Bowen Island residents will be excluded from the park if a day-use reservation system is implemented. • Concern that park visitors will attend local beaches, which are already at capacity and subject to peak season over-crowding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver has produced a park visitation estimate to better understand estimated levels of visitation. The estimation will be publicly available. • Metro Vancouver would implement a reservation system for all types of overnight use. No first-come-first-served campsites are proposed. Existing reservation systems used by Metro Vancouver allow the public to book facilities by phone or online. • Metro Vancouver is exploring strategies to manage day use so that visitor numbers aren't too high. One tool is a day-use reservation system. Similar systems require people using a vehicle to make a simple online reservation. Reservation systems could be used when demand is high (summer weekends). • Metro Vancouver will work with Bowen Island Municipality to understand existing capacity and issues at municipal beaches and ensure that this impact is considered as part of broader park planning and management.
Land-Use/ Regional Park Creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments that people are already visiting the area to rock climb, hike, and dog walk. • Support for the protection of the area. • Suggestions that the land should "stay the same as it currently is." • Comments in support of sharing this unique area and making it public permanently for future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver would create a regional park out of what is currently private property this would protect 97 hectares of land in perpetuity. • Metro Vancouver proposes changing the land use from rural residential to park, with a variance to allow for supervised tent camping. • Only 16% of the site area is currently protected through conservation covenants—monitored and enforced by the Municipality. The remaining area can be logged and developed. Dedication as a regional park would allow for enhanced protection and management of the whole area.
Overnight Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about overnight use and potential impacts such as noise, transportation, safety, and methods of management. • Suggestions for a lower-impact camping program include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced quantity of campsites • Reduced provision of vehicle-accessible campsites • Marine access campsites, bike/walk-in campsites only • Request to phase in camping use. • Support for affordable options for people to visit and stay on Bowen Island. • Support for camping for young families and opportunity for youth to experience nature. • Concern about how walk-in/bike-in/paddle-in sites would be enforced to prevent people from driving in and then accessing these sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If approved, park development will occur in two to three distinct phases, each taking two to three years. Full park development would happen over seven years. • Metro Vancouver will take an adaptive approach to detailed planning, design, implementation, and operation, learning and evaluating before adjusting and proceeding with the next phase. Programs such as the park shuttle and visitor reservation system will also take an adaptive approach. • Overnight uses would be supervised, additional information on potential impacts such as transportation, noise, and safety will be mitigated through planning, design and operational programs. • Camping fees would be affordable and in line with existing regional and provincial camping options. In other regional park campgrounds, discounts are available for youth groups, people with disabilities and seniors. • Metro Vancouver would undertake monitoring and ensure that overnight facilities are being used as intended, through a continuous approach of adjustment and adaptation.

INTEREST	WHAT WE HEARD:	HOW WE'RE RESPONDING:
Day-use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific requests for activities and programs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational and stewardship programming • Trails (including suggestions on design and location) • Ocean watching, solitude, wildlife viewing • "More trails to enjoy the land" • Comments that waterfront and beach access is unsafe and not desired. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A day-use program is planned. Input from engagement will inform a program including conservation areas, hiking trails, viewpoints, and picnic areas. • Detailed suggestions from engagement will be considered during the concept development phase. • During the subsequent planning phases, issues around waterfront access and management will be explored.
Wildfire Risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns that the dry coastal landscape makes the area particularly vulnerable to wildfires. • Concerns that overnight uses encourage fire use (even if prohibited). • Concerns that Bowen Island has limited capacity to deal with wildfires. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver would prohibit open campfires at the proposed regional park. • A proposed regional park would provide increased surveillance, stewardship, and maintenance of the area through dedicated onsite staff and full-time site supervision for the overnight program. • Metro Vancouver will develop a park-specific response to wildfire management grounded in an understanding of the unique wildfire risk of the land and location. • Responsibility for wildfire preparedness and response would not be placed exclusively with Bowen Island Fire Rescue. Metro Vancouver manages wildfire risk in regional parks through the Wildfire Preparedness and Response Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every regional park has a Fire Preparedness and Response Plan and wildfire suppression equipment. • Metro Vancouver's bylaw is enforced, and risk is actively managed throughout the wildfire season. • Metro Vancouver staff are trained in fire suppression and supported by our watershed fire protection program. Together these teams include some of the most skilled crews in the Province.

View looking south at Cape Roger Curtis on Bowen Island



INTEREST	WHAT WE HEARD:	HOW WE'RE RESPONDING:
Ecosystem Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the land for future generations. "I support the park's conservation, preservation, and ecological management." • Queries related to how Metro Vancouver will manage potential environmental damage caused by significant increases in the number of visitors (i.e. trampling of vegetation). • Concerns about damage to the bluffs, and the moss/ lichen on the bluffs. • Concern that visitors won't follow the rules put in place to protect the environment (i.e. staying on trails). • Concern about the environmental impact of other elements of human activities on wildlife (noise, light pollution, dogs). • Concerns about impact on the riparian areas connected to the site including Fairy Fen, Huszar Creek, and the Huszar Creek watershed. • Concern about the environmental impact of roads, driving, and parking. • Concern about impact of developing park amenities such as roads and washrooms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver will protect the site's most sensitive ecosystems and resources. Careful planning will ensure that people and facilities are directed away from fragile ecosystems. Designed and engineered solutions such as viewpoints or boardwalks give visitors an experience, but limit the disturbed footprint. Enforcement of the Regional Parks Bylaw, which states that people should remain on trails, will be supported through education and signage. • Metro Vancouver will ensure that vegetated buffers are retained between the proposed park and the existing surrounding land-uses. Trails and roads will not be lit, any lighting that may be associated with a key park facility such as a washroom will be minimal and designed in accordance with best practices related to maintaining dark skies. Additionally, Metro Vancouver will ensure that the park bylaw in relation to quiet times and noise is enforced. • Creation of the regional park will protect a significant portion of the Huszar Creek watershed that could be cleared. • Approximately 15% of the total area has been cleared and prepared for residential subdivision. Park development would focus on the cleared area with other areas being restored. Unused logging grades present an opportunity for creating a trail network. Across the whole regional park's system 1% of 13,500 Ha is developed.
Potential Impacts on Island Services and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about impacts on water supply on Bowen Island. • Concerns about potential effects on Bowen Island's emergency response services, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCMP (policing) • BC Ambulance Service • Consideration should be given to evacuation planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed park has over 20 drilled and registered wells. A study is underway on water supply and demands anticipated with the proposed park program. • Metro Vancouver will engage with RCMP, Bowen Fire Department, and BC Ambulance Service. • Metro Vancouver will work with Bowen Island Municipality to review, amend, and enhance the Bowen Island Municipality Evacuation Plan (2020) to provide information on how the proposed park can be evacuated.
Project Process and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns regarding engagement, especially failure to engage Bowen Island Residents earlier and before making commitments to the camping. • Requests for more transparency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Vancouver remains committed to an open and transparent engagement process. • Future phases of engagement will build upon lessons learned and provide opportunities for on-island community workshops and regional-scale engagement tactics.

10. Engagement Feedback

In terms of overall feedback on the engagement process, 53% of respondents said they received enough information to participate in this engagement in a meaningful way followed by 20% who indicated that they received sufficient information to “mostly” engage in a meaningful way. Over 70% of respondents would like to receive project updates and indicated that they would like to be involved in the next engagement phases.

Members of the public view engagement boards at Public Open House



11. FAQ

Is camping at Cape Roger Curtis the best location for camping in a regional park? Are there better locations in other parks, such as Crippen Regional Park?

There is camping offered at other sites in the regional parks system. The site for the proposed regional park has existing infrastructure such as cleared and levelled homesites, paved roads, driveways, underground electricity, and drilled wells. This infrastructure can be easily adapted for overnight uses.

What habitat and species at risk studies do you currently have? What additional studies on natural features will you be doing? How would Metro Vancouver plan to manage the increased pressure on natural landscapes due to increased visitorship?

Because the site has been on the naturalists' radar for more than 100 years, there is a wealth of background information available. Additionally, because the site was being prepared for development, there are studies and surveys that were required by law, e.g., ecosystem and forest cover mapping, amphibian mapping, species at risk.

Now that the landscape is being considered as a park, we have an opportunity to bring all of the existing research together and explore in greater detail the potential to improve and enhance the unique ecological values of the site. This site includes important and locally rare ecological features. This important work will be advanced through active collaboration with community groups, and through citizen engagement, research partnerships, and stewardships.

Bowen Island is a year-round destination. Will campsites be monitored year-round?

Metro Vancouver is exploring a May to October camping season, modeled on other campgrounds we operate. The campground would be supervised. All parks are controlled and managed on a year-round basis, with a dedicated park operator. The intention is for the proposed regional park to have dedicated staff to manage the park year-round.

What legal protection is the park going to have to make sure it will never be used for any other kind of development?

All Metro Vancouver parks have a purpose to protect the area in perpetuity. Through municipal rezoning, this park will be zoned appropriately, then owned and managed by Metro Vancouver as a park that will be protected moving forward.

Metro Vancouver undertakes an annual process to dedicate land acquired for regional parks purposes. Typically this is an annual process, where a dedication bylaw is approved by the Metro Vancouver Regional District Board. The dedication bylaw protects the land for regional parks purposes.

What are the expected overnight fees for reserving a campsite at the proposed regional park?

Camping fees will be nominal and in line with other regional and provincial camping options. Campsite fees in other Metro Vancouver Regional Parks currently vary from approximately \$25 per night for an individual site to \$120 - \$230 per night for a group camp site. Discounts are available for youth groups, people with disabilities, and seniors.

Metro Vancouver has an agreement to purchase the land for the proposed regional park. Will Bowen Island Municipality be required to pay the costs for the additional park infrastructure?

Metro Vancouver would be responsible for all servicing, land management, and oversight of the park including waste management, park bylaw enforcement, water servicing, development and maintenance of park facilities and infrastructure, conservation, and all other related work.

Metro Vancouver would provide an investment in the proposed regional park to transition the land from its current state to parkland. These funds will go towards the development of park amenities – trails, boardwalks, open space, washroom facilities, interpretive displays and learning areas, camping amenities, the restoration, enhancement and protection of ecologically sensitive landscapes, and safety improvements. This investment will ensure the park is safe, ecologically resilient, and accessible in perpetuity. As the park planning process moves forward, a detailed cost estimate will be developed.

The park will be staffed with full time employees who oversee park operations and maintenance. Engineers, biologist, interpreters, rangers, and other regional staff will support the management of land, natural and built infrastructure. Metro Vancouver will fund the proposed park shuttle and other improvements required to ensure sustainable access to the park. In addition, Metro Vancouver is working with Bowen Island Municipality through the rezoning process, to determine what upgrades to municipal infrastructure outside the park, are required.



12. How Feedback Will Be Used

The feedback, suggestions, and additional analysis and research in this phase of the engagement will inform the development of guiding principles and concept options, which will be shared in the second phase of public engagement for the proposed regional park. It will also inform and support decision making by the Metro Vancouver Board, and will be provided to the Bowen Island Municipality for consideration as part of the rezoning and official community plan amendment process.

13. Next Steps

The next phase will be concept development. During this phase we will share guiding principles and identify different concept option(s) for the proposed regional park. The second phase of engagement will focus on sharing the principles and concept plans for feedback. Feedback received in this phase of engagement will inform the final concept for the proposed park.

