

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
A G E N D A

for the meeting to be held on **Tuesday, October 10, 2017**
in the Boardroom of the Fort St. John Branch Office of the Peace River Regional District, 9505
100 St., Fort St. John, BC, commencing at 8:30 a.m.

- 1. Call to Order:**
- 2. Director's Notice of New Business:**
- 3. Adoption of Agenda:**
- 4. Adoption of Minutes:**
M-1 Regional Parks Committee Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2017
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes:**
- 6. Delegations:**
D-1 Jana Zelenski, Principal Landscape Architect, Lanarc Consultants – Blackfoot and Montney Park
Design Preliminary Concept Review
- 7. Correspondence:**
C-1 October 4, 2017 – Re: Parks Committee Update Presentation & Preliminary Concept Review –
Lanarc Consultants
C-2 September 6, 2017 – Re: Park Design Study - Engagement Report - Lanarc Consultants
- 8. Reports:**
R-1 September 29, 2017 – Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator – Trails Policy
Amendment
R-2 – September 27, 2017 – Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator – Wolverine Nordic Ski
Association Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid Amendment Request
- 9. New Business:**
- 10. Adjournment:**



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 10, 2017

PLACE: Room 3, Calvin Kruk Centre for the Arts, 10401 10 Street, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Directors
Director Dan Rose, Meeting Chair
Director Karen Goodings
Director Don McPherson
Director Brad Sperling
Director Bryon Stewart
Director Lori Ackerman

Staff
Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community and Electoral Area Services
Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator
Barb Coburn, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Directors
Director Rob Fraser

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

May 10, 2017 Agenda MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Director Sperling,
That the Regional Parks Committee agenda for the May 10, 2017 meeting be adopted.

Call to Order
Director's Notice of New Business
Adoption of the Agenda
Minutes
M-1 Regional Parks Committee Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2016
Business Arising from the Minutes
Delegations
Correspondence
C-1 April 21, 2017 - Doug Fleming, CAO, District of Chetwynd - Park Proposal on the South Banks of the Peace River
Reports
R-1 April 21, 2017 - Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator - Peace Lookout
R-2 April 20, 2107 - Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator - Blackfoot Park Boat Launch Update
R-3 April 26, 2017 - Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator - Prophet River First Nations - Minaker River Regional Park
New Business
Adjournment

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

M-1
February 6, 2017 MOVED by Director McPherson, SECONDED by Director Sperling,
That the Regional Parks Committee Meeting minutes of February 6, 2017 be adopted.

CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

C-1
Parks Proposal on the
South Banks of the
Peace River

MOVED by Director McPherson, SECONDED by Director Goodings,
That the Regional Parks Committee recommend that the Regional Board not move forward with
examining the feasibility of a park on the south bank of the Peace River given that the District of
Chetwynd has decided to move forward with examining the feasibility of such on their own and no
longer requests the assistance of the Regional District.

CARRIED.

REPORTS:

R-1
Peace Lookout

MOVED by Director Sperling, SECONDED by Director McPherson,
That the Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board to direct staff to bring forward
options to revisit the feasibility and design plans for the Peace Lookout.

CARRIED.

R-2
Blackfoot Park Boat
Launch

MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Director Sperling,
That the Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board that a letter be forwarded to
the Comptroller of Water Rights to request that the decision regarding the requirement for BC Hydro
(Site C) to replace the boat launch at or near Blackfoot Park be revisited, explaining the current
situation and include various options for the boat launch.

CARRIED.

R-3
Prophet River First
Nations - Minaker River
Regional Park

MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Director McPherson,
That the Regional Parks Committee recommends that the Regional Board authorize staff to develop a
public engagement strategy to seek the public's opinion on the possibility of closing Minaker River
Park and returning the lands to the Crown.

CARRIED.

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11 a.m.

Director Rose, Chair

Barb Coburn, Recording Secretary

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDYBLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

Meeting:	Regional Park Design Study Parks Committee Update Presentation & Preliminary Concept Review
Date & Time:	Tuesday, October 10, 2017 8:30 am – 10:00 am
Location:	PRRD Fort St. John Office 9505 100 Street

PRESENTATION PURPOSE

Since receiving initial input from community members on issues, opportunities, and ideas for the two parks, the Project team has been developing preliminary options for further consideration. The purpose of this presentation is to provide an update to Committee members on the process and input received, present preliminary concept options and discuss refinements, and review next steps in the process.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide a process update and summary to date for Committee members
- Present two preliminary concept options and programs for each park
- Discuss strengths, weaknesses, and suggested refinements to each concept
- Discuss potential additional ideas that may warrant consideration in the concepts
- Review next steps in the process, including upcoming public engagement

**REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY**Blackfoot Regional Park
Montney Centennial Regional Park**October 10, 2017**

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

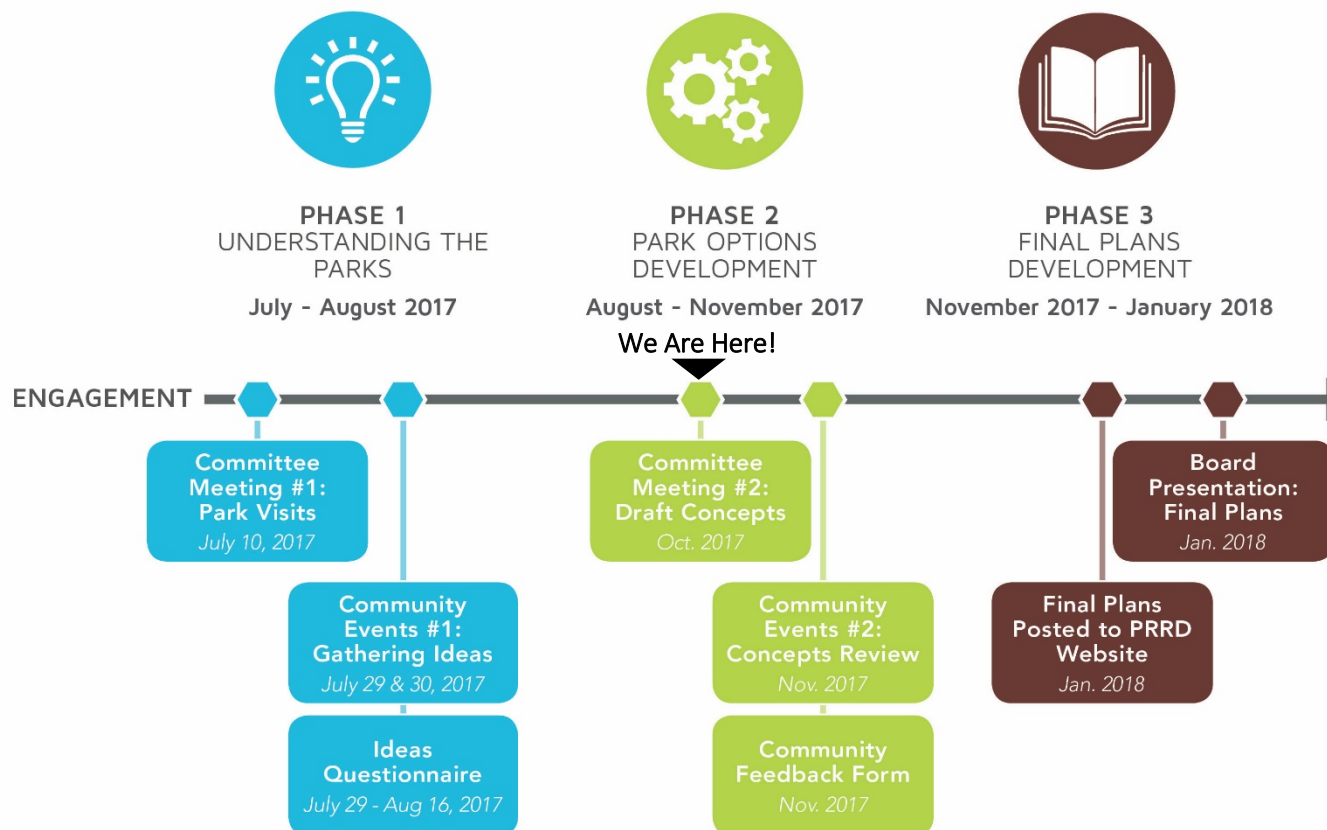
BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

PROPOSED AGENDA

#	AGENDA ITEM	APPROX. TIME
1	Presentation: Public Input #1 Findings & Process Update	10 minutes
2	Presentation & Discussion: Blackfoot Regional Park Preliminary Concept Options	30 minutes
3	Presentation & Discussion: Montney Centennial Regional Park Preliminary Concept Options	30 minutes
4	Presentation: Next Steps in the Process	5 minutes
5	Questions & Other Discussion	5 minutes

PROCESS

The Regional Park Planning process began in July 2017 and is planned to be complete in early 2018. The diagram below shows the anticipated stages of the process and identifies opportunities for community engagement. The process and timeline will be updated as the project progresses.



REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

1 | BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK**OVERVIEW**

Blackfoot Regional Park sits on the south banks of the Peace River, at the former Clayhurst Ferry Crossing site. The park provides a relaxed, natural, and rustic recreational area where users can access the Peace River and enjoy camping, picnicking, swimming, and other activities.

While many people already enjoy the park, the existing park configuration and amenities would benefit from functional improvement. The park also requires more effective operations and management to provide park users with a safe, well-maintained park experience.

BLACKFOOT: WHAT WE'VE HEARD

- ▶ Park users appreciate the relaxed, natural, and rustic feel of the park. Many appreciate that the park offers a peaceful, quiet place to enjoy nature, camping, or picnics.
- ▶ The current park configuration and amenities could be functionally improved. Desirable amenities include more campsites, water supply, improved/more washrooms, improved boat launch, trails, and an enhanced day-use area.
- ▶ A key challenge for users is the uncertainty about camping availability due to a lack of reservation system and limited number of campsites.
- ▶ Many park users desire more supervision and management for safety, particularly for unsanctioned activities and ATV use in family areas, as well as general maintenance.

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

► The following table summarizes key issues and opportunities identified by public and stakeholders:

BLACKFOOT ISSUES	BLACKFOOT OPPORTUNITIES / IDEAS
• Lack of park management and regulation for safety, vandalism, control of parties, ATV use • Confusing campground configuration • Limited number of campsites and no hook ups • No information if campsites are booked • Lack of information or awareness of park • Limited activities and programming for families • Park location and remoteness • Road conditions can be impassable at times • Lack of adequate boat access, seasonal challenges for creating a launch on the Peace River • Lack of marked trails for hiking and walking • Inadequate washroom facilities • Lack of fresh drinking water supply • Concerns about steep slopes and safety • Limited maintenance	• Park attendant for monitoring and regulation of park user activity (e.g. garbage, vandalism, parties, emergencies) • Additional, expanded campsites with some hook-ups • Reservation system • Improved day-use area, parking, and activities including a larger playground, central cook station • Small store selling supplies (associated with attendant position) • Park promotion and programming (e.g. Bike Day, Dog Day, Geocaching Day, Teddy Bear Picnic, educational sessions, astronomy camp-outs) • Clear, directional signage and maps (including proximity to major centres) • Improvement of road conditions to park • Improved boat launch • Marked trails (hiking, biking, and horse riding in summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter, ATV-specific trails) • Clean toilets; fresh drinking water supply • Grassy areas for play and picnics and enhanced tree planting by the river • Remove/manage danger trees

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

BLACKFOOT: PRELIMINARY VISION & GOALS

DRAFT VISION:

Blackfoot Regional Park invites people to explore the natural splendor of the Peace River in a rustic, quiet, and family-friendly forested area; it is the starting point to many great adventures and memories.

DRAFT GOALS:

Increase Park Amenities:

- ▶ Enhance recreational opportunities at the park by providing a range of amenities that appeal to a wide range of users, especially families
- ▶ Expand campsites in a phased manner to continue meeting user needs

Maintain Park Character:

- ▶ Ensure all park improvements align with the rural and rustic atmosphere that is highly valued by park users

Address Safety & User Conflicts:

- ▶ Implement physical and operational park improvements to encourage a family-friendly atmosphere and discourage disruptive activities

Economic Sustainability:

- ▶ Ensure that improvements that significantly increase maintenance and operational demands can be offset through revenue generation

A vision statement describes a long-term future. It is a guiding statement and a touchstone for consideration when making decisions about changes and development.

Goals support realization of the vision by providing specific guidance for future park projects. The goals act as a “checklist” for proposed park improvements. If a proposed project meets the goals, it will support the spirit and intent of the plan.

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

BLACKFOOT: PRELIMINARY PARK PROGRAM OPTIONS

The Park Design Study will develop and assess two conceptual options for Blackfoot Regional Park:

- ▶ **Option A: Rustic and Relaxed**
- ▶ **Option B: Camping Destination**

Each option will have a range of proposed park activities (park program), and related physical park improvements.

Preliminary program options are described below. During the Committee Meeting on Oct. 10, a concept sketch showing these elements will also be presented. Both park program and improvement concepts are open to discussion and refinement. It is likely that all improvements would be phased.

The purpose of these concept options is to explore a range of potential ideas for the park.

Staff, committee, stakeholders, and the public will be invited to review and provide feedback on their likes, dislikes, and preferences about each option.

This feedback will be used to develop a consolidated preferred concept for development into the park plan.

BLACKFOOT PRELIMINARY PROGRAM OPTION A: RUSTIC & RELAXED

Program **Option A** focuses on modest improvements to address existing issues in Blackfoot Regional Park and considers addition of key amenities to attract a range of park users. The investments proposed in this option are more modest in scale and cost, with the intention of maintaining the park as a rustic-style campground with free camping and day-use facilities.

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

Blackfoot Key Elements: Option A

PROPOSED DIRECTION	DETAIL & DISCUSSION
Common to Both Options	
New Boat Ramp: Develop a new boat ramp in the former launch site, following previous design and engineering (same in both options)	- The former boat ramp was one of a limited number of launch sites along the Peace River, but damage from adjacent riprap at the bridge revetment and river flows led to its closure. - In 2010, a Study was completed to review the feasibility of the site for a boat ramp and preliminary design was developed. The Study revealed that the existing launch site was the most feasible option in the park and surrounding area. - Re-establishing the boat ramp will increase recreational opportunities in the park and respond to public input.
Play & Picnic Area: Maintain the park and picnic area, provide day-use parking, and encourage activities and events (same in both options)	- The existing playground and picnic area provides a useful amenity in the park. Some additional small-scale play features (e.g., upgraded swings, spinners, or climbers) could be added to supplement the existing equipment. - The picnic amenities in the space could be expanded (e.g., additional picnic tables, waste receptacles) to encourage more family group events and celebrations in this area. - Day-use parking could be developed in the location of the existing water tank loader to support activities or events that may attract non-camping park users.
Trail Network: Develop and sign new nature trail connections throughout the park (same in both options)	- Expand the trail network to include a nature trail access loop from the central camping area to the east end of the park, looping back along the waterfront bank. - Develop new internal connections within the campsite areas to provide access to key destinations including toilets and the play and picnic area. - Consider a new nature trail route in the treed areas in the southwest of the park. - Identify the southwestern campsites as “ATV” sites that allow direct in/out access to connect to ATV routes outside the park. Sign and manage all other internal park roads and trails as non-ATV routes.
Miscellaneous Items: (same in both options)	- Additional park improvements to be considered include: - Development of a new park entry sign located at the southern park access. - Addition of park signage within the park including trail markers and interpretive information. - Vegetation management including assessment and removal of potential danger trees and ongoing tree planting to encourage vegetation succession.

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

PROPOSED DIRECTION	DETAIL & DISCUSSION
Varied Between Options	
Revised Park Vehicle Access: Redevelop the park entrances and roadway circulation to eliminate unnecessary roadways and simplify circulation	• Circulation improvements are recommended due to poorly defined park entry points and circulation, leading to challenges navigating within the park. Identifying the primary access point and simplifying circulation patterns will increase function. • Consider establishing the northern park entrance as the primary park entry point and redeveloping circulation to form a one-way driving loop through the park. • Refine and simplify the road layout within the central park area. • Consider changing the existing roadway to the eastern campsite into a pedestrian/service access trail only (the eastern campsite would no longer be available for vehicle camping). • The existing road to the eastern campsite is a significant roadway to maintain for a single campsite. In addition, the access road crosses private property that has not been secured. • Maintain roads to current standard with regular brushing and maintenance as required.
Campsite Expansion: Develop additional unserviced campsites to increase the availability of camping opportunities. Maintain Blackfoot Regional Park as an unserviced campsite	• The park has space to establish more campsites. This option considers developing additional campsites, similar to existing, maintaining large, vegetated spaces between campsites to provide a more private and rustic camping experience. Key locations for campsite expansion could include: ○ Additional sites near the water with the creation of a new access road (+/- 4 new sites) ○ Additional sites within the central area with reorganization of the access road (+/- 4 new sites) ○ Additional "ATV-designated" sites along the south access road, with direct access to the west park boundary (+/- 4 sites) ○ Creation of new sites in the existing picnic / tenting area (+/- 3 new sites) • This option considers converting the existing tent camping area to additional vehicle or tenting campsites. Public input suggested that most park users prefer to use the individual campsites, regardless of whether they are camping with a trailer or a tent. The tent-only area appears to be underutilized, potentially due to its open nature. Repurposing of this space to develop additional individual campsites may warrant consideration. • There would be potential to convert the existing eastern campsite into a hike-in tenting area to replace the existing tent only area if needed. This area would require service access for maintenance, but could be restricted to public access by foot only. The hike in distance would be approximately 450 m. • Several of the larger sites could be identified as "group" sites intended to accommodate multiple campers on one site. • This option recommends maintaining unserviced camping only in Blackfoot Regional Park to continue to provide free camping.
Amenities: Maintain and upgrade pit toilets and provide additional toilets in key locations. Consider providing a water tap at the site	• In the north part of the park (near the water), retain the existing upgraded pit toilet and add a second to accommodate additional campsites in this area. • In the central part of the park, remove the two existing older concrete pit toilets, retain the two new pit toilets, and develop one new pit toilet in the picnic area to accommodate additional campsites and park events. • Add a new pit toilet to the proposed new campsite area in the existing picnic/tenting area. • Add a new pit toilet to the proposed tent camping area at the east end of the site. • Consider developing a water tap near the existing water tank loader (that will be removed) for campers to use, subject to current health regulations.

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

BLACKFOOT PRELIMINARY PROGRAM OPTION B: CAMPING DESTINATION

Program **Option B** focuses on enhancing and expanding the camping experience in Blackfoot Regional Park, including a wider range of camping options and related amenities. The park would become a managed campground with paid camping and enhanced operations and maintenance.

Blackfoot Key Elements: Option B

PROPOSED DIRECTION	DETAIL & DISCUSSION
Common to Both Options	
New Boat Ramp: Develop a new boat ramp in the former launch site, following previous design and engineering (same in both options)	- The former boat ramp was one of a limited number of launch sites along the Peace River, but damage from adjacent riprap at the bridge revetment and river flows led to its closure. - In 2010, a Study was completed to review the feasibility of the site for a boat ramp and preliminary design was developed. The Study revealed that the existing launch site was the most feasible option in the park and surrounding area. - Re-establishing the boat ramp will increase recreational opportunities in the park and respond to public input.
Play & Picnic Area: Maintain the park and picnic area, provide day-use parking, and encourage activities and events (same in both options)	- The existing playground and picnic area provides a useful amenity in the park. Some additional small-scale play features (e.g., upgraded swings, spinners, or climbers) could be added to supplement the existing equipment. - The picnic amenities in the space could be expanded (e.g., additional picnic tables, waste receptacles) to encourage more family group events and celebrations in this area. - Day-use parking could be developed in the location of the existing water tank loader to support activities or events that may attract non-camping park users.
Trail Network: Develop and sign new nature trail connections throughout the park (same in both options)	- Expand the trail network to include a nature trail access loop from the central camping area to the east end of the park, looping back along the waterfront bank. - Develop new internal connections within the campsite areas to provide access to key destinations including toilets and the play and picnic area. - Consider a new nature trail route in the treed areas in the southwest of the park. - Identify the southwestern campsites as "ATV" sites that allow direct in/out access to connect to ATV routes outside the park. Sign and manage all other internal park roads and trails as non-ATV routes.
Miscellaneous Items: (same in both options)	- Additional park improvements to be considered include: - Development of a new park entry sign located at the southern park access - Addition of park signage within the park including trail markers and interpretive information - Vegetation management including assessment and removal of potential danger trees and ongoing tree planting to encourage vegetation succession

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

PROPOSED DIRECTION	DETAIL & DISCUSSION
Varied Between Options	
Revised Park Vehicle Access: Redevelop the park entrances and roadway circulation to eliminate unnecessary roadways and simplify circulation	- Consider establishing the northern park entrance as the primary park entry point and redeveloping circulation to form a one-way driving loop through the park. - Refine and simplify the road layout in the central park area. - Consider upgrading primary circulation roads to an asphalt standard. This could focus on the primary access/egress routes with some asphalt lanes and some gravel roads within the campsite areas.
Campsite Expansion: Convert some existing campsites to serviced sites and consider addition of serviced and unserviced campsites to increase the availability of camping opportunities. Develop a paid camping system for the park	- The park has space to establish more campsites. This option considers adding a more substantial number of serviced and unserviced sites that would help offset the costs of improved park amenities. Key locations for campsite expansion could include: - Conversion/establishment of serviced sites on the north end of the park near the water (+/- 20 new serviced sites) - Additional unserviced sites along the southern access road and central area (+/- 15 new sites) - Creation of additional, separate sites in the eastern campsite area (+/- 5 new sites) - Several of the larger sites could be identified as "group" sites intended to accommodate multiple campers on one site. - This option recommends providing a mix of paid serviced and unserviced camping in Blackfoot Regional Park.
Caretaker Residence: Establish a new caretaker residence at the park entry and develop a program for an onsite caretaker from May through September	- Develop a caretaker site with space for a permanent or temporary residence during the summer months. - The caretaker would be responsible for maintenance, park user check-in, and general management of park activities including noise levels. - The caretaker site would require electrical and water service, with sewage septic treatment assumed. - Potential for an associated small business component including sale of camping supplies and refreshments.
Amenity Building: Develop an amenity building that includes flush toilets and showers	- Consider development of one serviced amenity building on the site that provides flush toilets and showers for park users. - Maintain pit toilets in remote parts of the park for convenience.
Event Site: Encourage more gatherings and events in the park by providing a dedicated event site	- Consider redeveloping the existing picnic and tenting area into an event site that could accommodate family reunions, weddings, retreats, and other events. - The site appears to be underutilized for tent camping, but provides spectacular views over the river valley and would provide an exceptional backdrop for events. - Development of a picnic shelter or pavilion could be considered to provide covered space to expand the utility of the site. - A reservation system would need to be developed to allow bookings of the facility.

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

Long-Term Expansion: Consider securing the adjacent Crown-land site in the future if camping demands continue to increase	• People report using the adjacent Crown land site on the west side of 203 Road on an ad hoc basis as an overflow camping site to Blackfoot Regional Park. • There are currently sufficient opportunities to expand camping within the existing park footprint, which would be more efficient and cost effective than development of additional land. The physical separation of these sites by 203 Road is also a potential issue. • In the long-term, if popularity of Blackfoot Regional Park grows as a camping destination, consideration should be given to securing this site for future park expansion; however, it is recommended that current investment focus on improvements to the existing park.
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REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

2 | MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

OVERVIEW

Montney Centennial Regional Park was established by the Montney Recreation Commission on Charlie Lake as a Canada Centennial project in 1967. In 1988, the Commission requested that the park become a Regional Park. The park provides rustic camping opportunities, access to Charlie Lake, and a quiet, tree-covered site that provides an opportunity to get away from it all.

A key challenge for the use of Montney Centennial Regional Park is its location – a rural area at the north end of Charlie Lake, distant from populated areas. The Park Design Study is an opportunity to consider how the park could be improved to encourage use and enjoyment by a wide range of visitors.

MONTNEY: WHAT WE'VE HEARD

- ▶ Many participants appreciate that the park is quiet and secluded with rustic features as opposed to an extensively developed park with fees.
- ▶ Some comments indicated that camping preferences can conflict, notably the noise from generators and motorized activities affecting quieter outdoor pursuits. Improvements could include division of RV camping and tent camping, as well as considering elimination of motorized activities from some park areas.
- ▶ Park users enjoy the park simplicity, but would like to see the park better maintained for safety, camping, and families.
- ▶ Users come to the park mainly to fish, boat, or enjoy picnics. A lack of activities was identified as a significant factor in park use. Participants suggested that the park should offer more family friendly activities and amenities including boat access.
- ▶ Park accessibility is a key factor in park use as the road leading to the park has slopes / surface that can be compromised by adverse weather conditions.
- ▶ In addition to the existing snowmobile club, Ideas were suggested to make the park more multi-functional, including establishment of a multi-use trail / activity network that could accommodate hiking, mountain biking, disc golf, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, etc.

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

► The following table summarizes key issues and opportunities identified by public and stakeholders:

MONTNEY ISSUES	MONTNEY OPPORTUNITIES / IDEAS
• Poor road conditions (muddy, dusty) • Difficult to find due to lack of signage to get to park from highway (recently upgraded) • Charlie Lake is not swimmable (poor water quality, lack of shoreline or beach area) • Open park configuration and lack of privacy (limited campsites, no private campsites) • Lack of park monitoring for safety • Insufficient maintenance and upkeep (littering, dogs) • Limited amenities including adequate boat launch and access point for deep water fishing • Need to address long-term campers • Limited park information • Not enough activities (lack of trails, other activities)	• Improve road conditions to park • Provide directional signage, maps, and park information (e.g. interpretive for environmental impact, bird species, other species) • Provide sandy beach and clean up lake • Reconfigure campground with designated campsites to improve privacy • Provide park monitoring and enforcement • Provide maintenance; removal of dead trees • Provide amenities (e.g. playground/play area for kids, additional walking/hiking trails, designated fire pits, day use parking, boat launch with aggregate or dock with benches, upgraded washroom facilities, ATV trails, disc golf) • Enforce maximum for park stay duration (14 days) • Day use area with grassy areas for picnics and playing, picnic tables, gazebos, covered area

MONTNEY: PRELIMINARY VISION & GOALS

DRAFT VISION:

Montney Centennial Regional Park offers unique, remote recreational experiences on Charlie Lake that invite people to stay for a day or for a week and enjoy recreation and peace in a lakefront forest.

DRAFT GOALS:

Attract a Wide Range of Visitors:

- Expand potential recreational pursuits in the park to attract a broader range of park visitors
- Consider creating unique experiences that are not readily available in the surrounding area

Enhance the Lake Experience:

- Seek ways to better connect park amenities with Charlie Lake, to allow people to enjoy the lakefront experience

Economic Sustainability:

- Endeavour to establish strategic partnerships that may help manage capital and ongoing maintenance costs

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

MONTNEY: PRELIMINARY PARK PROGRAM OPTIONS

The Park Design Study will develop and assess two conceptual options for Blackfoot Regional Park:

- ▶ **Option A: A Quiet Getaway**
- ▶ **Option B: Outdoor Enthusiast Destination**

Each option will have a range of proposed park activities (park program), and related physical park improvements.

Preliminary program options are described below. During the Committee Meeting on Oct. 10, a concept sketch showing these elements will also be presented. Both park program and improvement concepts are open to discussion and refinement. It is likely all improvements would be phased.

The purpose of these concept options is to explore a range of potential ideas for the park.

Staff, committee, stakeholders, and the public will be invited to review and provide feedback on their likes, dislikes, and preferences from each option. This feedback will be used to develop a consolidated preferred concept for development into the park plan.

MONTNEY PRELIMINARY PROGRAM OPTION A: A QUIET GETAWAY

Program **Option A** focuses on modest improvements to address existing issues in Montney Centennial Regional Park and consider addition of key amenities focused on maintaining a quiet camping destination. The investments proposed in this option are more modest in scale and cost, with the intention of maintaining the park as a rustic-style campground with free camping.

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

Montney Key Elements: Option A

PROPOSED DIRECTION	DETAIL & DISCUSSION
Common to Both Options	
Miscellaneous Items: (same in both options)	• Additional park improvements that would be considered include: ○ Retention and refurbishment of the existing park entry sign ○ Addition of park signage within the park including trail markers and interpretive information ○ Vegetation management including assessment and removal of potential danger trees and ongoing tree planting to encourage vegetation succession ○ Upgrades to the existing access road including regravelling
Varied Between Options	
Additional Campsites: Improve existing campsites and add a second-row upland of the existing camping area	• The existing campsites are relatively open, offering limited privacy to campers. • The trees upland of the existing road provides an opportunity to develop new campsites within a treed area providing an alternative to the existing campsites. • Opportunities to better define the existing campsites by narrowing the road and planting trees between each site would improve privacy between the sites. • The campsites would remain unserved.
Lakefront Activity Zone: Consider eliminating the motorized boat launch function, and redevelop the lakefront area as a picnic, play, and beachfront activity area	• The existing boat launch appears to be underutilized as there are other launching sites within a reasonable distance on Charlie Lake. Input suggests it's not an ideal launch location due to prevailing winds and challenging grades. • Consider removing the waterfront campsite and converting the entire lower area into an amenity zone for park visitors that includes a playground, grassy open area, non-motorized launching area, group picnic area, pit toilet, and other key amenities. • Opportunities for beach enhancement could be considered, including clearing of some shoreline scrub vegetation, placement of imported sand, or development of a dock amenity providing access to the water. • Public input suggests that the water quality is a limitation for swimming amenities.
Nature Trail Loop: Develop a nature trail walking loop that includes a waterfront route and upland link	• Public input suggested walking trails would be a desirable amenity for the park. • Currently, there are no trails within the park – pedestrians walk on the roadway. • While grades from the campsite area to the lake are steep, there is potential for a nature hiking trail along the slope with stepped access down from the existing campsites. • The large undeveloped portion of the site would be suitable for a hiking loop routed through the existing trees.
Amenities: Replace the existing pit toilets and provide additional toilets in key locations to support new development	• The two existing pit toilets are at a stage where upgrades are warranted. • It is recommended that three toilets be considered to support future expansion – one at the lakefront activity zone, one near the existing toilet location, and one near future campsite development.

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

MONTNEY PRELIMINARY PROGRAM OPTION B: OUTDOOR ENTHUSIAST DESTINATION

Program **Option B** considers adding a number of recreational functions to attract users of all ages through all seasons. This approach would rely on development of strong partnerships with organizations who wish to use the park for recreation. The park would include enhanced camping opportunities and would become a paid campsite with enhanced operations and maintenance.

Montney Key Elements: Option B

PROPOSED DIRECTION	DETAIL & DISCUSSION
Common to Both Options	
Miscellaneous Items: (same in both options)	- Additional park improvements that would be considered include: - Retention and refurbishment of the existing park entry sign - Addition of park signage within the park including trail markers and interpretive information - Vegetation management including assessment and removal of potential danger trees and ongoing tree planting to encourage vegetation succession - Upgrades to the existing access road including regravelling
Varied Between Options	
Improved Boat Ramp: Develop a new boat ramp in the existing launch site, with enhanced launching facilities	- The existing launch site does not have a ramp and is on native material. Issues with mud can hinder launching and existing grades are a challenge. - Addition of a concrete boat ramp could improve launch facilities for both motorized and non-motorized boats. - The existing campsite in this location could be removed to provide space for trailer parking and amenities near the launch site.
Amenities: Plan expanded facilities to support new development	- If the park is developed into a multi-activity hub, it is anticipated that additional toilets, picnic tables, and other amenities would be required - A small hut or covered area may warrant consideration in association with the activity area.
Additional Campsites: Create different interconnected camping "zones" that invite a broader range of park users	- The existing campsites mainly appeal to RV-style campers. Opportunities may exist to attract other types of campers by providing a range of alternative sites, including: - Additional unserviced RV sites – the distance of the camping area from the road presents a challenge to extending servicing to the campsites. However, there is potential to add unserviced RV sites near the existing campsite area. - Tenting sites – there is potential for the park to attract more non-RV campers if smaller-scale, more enclosed campsites are developed. These could often double as either tenting or RV sites. - Group camping area – youth organizations often seek group camping facilities. A group area with facilities that could accommodate these larger groups could be considered. - Horse camping area – a challenge for Montney Centennial Regional Park is the travel distance from developed areas to the park. A horse camping area could incorporate the journey into the park experience. Horse camping areas include campsites, with the addition of corrals and access to water for the horses. This would require development of a water source on the site. - The addition of more campsites and varied amenities would increase operational costs, likely shifting Montney Centennial Regional Park to a paid camping area.

REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK & MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

PROPOSED DIRECTION	DETAIL & DISCUSSION
Multi-Activity Network: In partnership with committed organizations, consider development of the park as an all-seasons outdoor activity destination	• Organized user groups are often seeking spaces for their activities. The Northland Trailblazers Snowmobile Club already uses a part of the park. • Opportunities could exist to work with committed organizations to develop a multi-use activity destination, potentially including: ○ Disc Golf/Cross-country ski network – during the summer, disc golf holes could be developed into the existing forested areas of the park. This development would require removal of some trees to create “fairways” and holes. The undeveloped parts of the park would be sufficient in size to accommodate an 18-hole course. During the winter, the fairways for disc golf could have potential to double as a cross-country ski network. There are existing cross-country ski trails in nearby Beaton Provincial Park, so demand would need to be carefully considered. ○ Hiking/Snowshoeing network – trails that accommodate hiking in summer and snowshoeing in winter could be established to be compatible with the disc golf/cross-country ski network. ○ All ages mountain-biking network – mountain biking could also be compatible with the disc golf/cross-country network and opportunities may exist to create challenges for all ages, ranging from a small pump track for children to more challenging backcountry trails for seasoned mountain bikers. • These recreational opportunities could attract more campers to the park, potentially increasing demand for camping amenities.



REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT PUBLIC EVENT #1 & IDEAS QUESTIONNAIRE

OVERVIEW

The Peace River Regional District (PRRD) is undertaking a Regional Park Design and Feasibility Study for **Blackfoot Regional Park** and **Montney Centennial Regional Park**. The purpose of the Study is to develop a plan that will enhance the functionality, environmental sustainability, safety, and fiscal and operational viability of the parks.

An integral component of the process is to understand the values and issues amongst community members including park users, Peace River Regional District residents, stakeholders, PRRD staff, Regional Parks Committee, and the Regional Board.

This report provides a summary of **Public Event #1 & the Ideas Questionnaire**, which occurred as part of the first phase of the planning process (Phase 1: Understanding the Parks). This first phase focused on:

- ▶ Introducing the Regional Park Design Study to community members;
- ▶ Gathering information and perspectives about both parks from the community;
- ▶ Gathering input on a collective vision and objectives for the future of each park; and
- ▶ Generating ideas for new activities, amenities, programs, or other potential improvements.

The Regional Park Design Study began in July 2017 and is planned to be complete in November 2017. Subsequent phases of this process will focus on:

- ▶ Park Options Development (Phase 2)
- ▶ Final Park Plans Development and Review (Phase 3)

HOW INPUT WILL BE USED

Input provided during this phase will be considered, along with technical and financial information, to develop improvement options and recommendations for each park. These options will be brought back for public consideration during Phase 2.

This remainder of this summary is organized in the following sections:

Section	Description	Refer to Page:
1 Engagement Process	Provides a brief overview of the process and outreach that was undertaken during Phase 1	2
2 Overview Summary of Input:	Provides a consolidated summary of key input obtained, focusing on repeated and common comments. This section will provide the reader with a high-level overview of the input.	4
3 Detailed Summary of Ideas Questionnaire Results	Provides an expanded summary of all input received through the Ideas Questionnaire if a reader wishes to delve deeper into the information.	6
Appendix A	Verbatim Responses from the Public Events	25
Appendix B	Verbatim Responses from the Ideas Questionnaire	28
Appendix C	Input Questionnaire Form	39

More information about the Regional Park Design Study
is available at www.prrd.bc.ca/engage

October 10, 2017

1 | ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

METHODOLOGY

Between July 14, 2017 to August 20, 2017, the PRRD provided information regarding the Regional Park Design Study and sought initial input from the public through:



Two interactive community events:

- **Montney Centennial Regional Park**
14460 – 279 Road, Charlie Lake, BC
Saturday, July 29th from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
(concurrent with Parks Day)
- **Blackfoot Regional Park**
213 Blackfoot Road, Clayhurst, BC
Sunday, July 30th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

PARTICIPATION

- ▶ 84 Completed questionnaires
- ▶ ~100 people attended two public events (~70 at Montney Centennial Regional Park Parks Day and ~30 at Blackfoot Regional Park)



Questionnaire in online format (using third-party survey software Simple Survey®) or in hard copy format available at:

- Community events
- PRRD website: www.prrd.bc.ca/engage
- PRRD's Official Facebook page: www.facebook.com/OfficialPRRD
- PRRD offices in Dawson Creek or Fort St. John, BC

Participants who submitted a completed questionnaire had the option to be entered into a draw for a chance to win a \$250 Canadian Tire Gift Card. The draw was completed August 25, 2017.



Display Boards to support the events, including the following information:

- **Welcome and Overview** – What is a Regional Park Plan? What is the Process? Design Study Objectives. How to Share Ideas.
- **About the Parks** – History, Location, Amenities, and Potential Challenges for Blackfoot Regional Park and Montney Centennial Regional Park.
- **Explore the Possibilities** – Participant ideas for what they envision in each park in the future. See **Appendix A** for comments.
- **Community Mapping Exercise** – Participant observations and ideas about each park. See **Appendix A** for comments.

NOTIFICATION

- ▶ **PRRD Website:** Communication on main page (link to Project webpage); Engage! Page (www.prrd.bc.ca/engage/regional-park-design-study); and Events Calendar.
- ▶ **PRRD Official Facebook Page:** 7 posts on www.facebook.com/OfficialPRRD from July 14 to August 11 (25 likes, 1 comment).
- ▶ **Online Advertising:** Banners on www.EnergeticCity.ca (Published July 19 – 29 resulting in 4 comments; 4 shares, 2 likes via Facebook); www.TownWall.ca (Twitter via Taylor Comm Services); Tourism Dawson Creek; Fort St. John Tourism; Moose FM event calendar; and coordination with Parks Day communications.
- ▶ **News Release:** Article in [Energetic City.ca](http://EnergeticCity.ca) (<https://energeticcity.ca/2017/07/prrd-inviting-residents-to-share-ideas-for-regional-park-design-study/>) published on July 27, 2017 to announce the public events (14 shares).
- ▶ **Postcard Mailout:** 6,000 postcards distributed to rural addresses within the PRRD the week of July 17.
- ▶ **Poster / Large-Format and Directional Signage:** Displayed in key locations including PRRD solid waste transfer stations; three community bulletin boards in Dawson Creek; both Regional District offices (Dawson Creek and Fort St. John); on the PRRD website; Charlie Lake Fire Station.
- ▶ **Radio Advertising:** Aired on local radio station Moose FM between July 17 and July 29 (twice daily); Peace FM between July 17 and July 29 (twice daily); and Bell Media July 24 to July 29.
- ▶ **Board Highlights:** One newspaper notification was published in *Board Highlights* on July 6.
- ▶ **Email Communication:** Notification of public events and email reminder to identified stakeholders.



2 | OVERVIEW SUMMARY OF INPUT

The following summary outlines key themes in the input received. This information is detailed further under **Section Error!** Reference source not found. Error! Reference source not found.

KEY THEMES

Generally, comments received were positive and participants appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the parks and provide input. The following key themes were observed:

- Participants were mainly residents of Dawson Creek and Fort St. John between 30 and 60 years of age.
- A total of **55%** of questionnaire participants have visited Blackfoot Regional Park and **44%** have visited Montney Centennial Regional Park. Most visit the parks occasionally, typically a few times a year.
- The main limitations for park use include: lack of facilities and amenities that suit people's needs, concerns about unsanctioned activities (parties, ATV use), park accessibility / location, and limited maintenance / upkeep.
- While many appreciate that the parks provide no fee camping, a large percentage of questionnaire participants (43% for Blackfoot and 57% for Montney Centennial) indicated that they would consider paid camping if there were improved/additional amenities.

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

- Park users appreciate the relaxed, natural, and rustic feel of the park. Many appreciate that the park offers a peaceful, quiet place to enjoy nature, camping, or picnics.
- The current park configuration and amenities could be functionally improved. Desirable amenities include more campsites, water supply, improved/more washrooms, improved boat launch, trails, and an enhanced day-use area.
- A key challenge is the uncertainty about camping availability due to a lack of reservation system and limited number campsites.
- Many park users desire more supervision and management for safety, particularly for unsanctioned activities and ATV use in family areas, as well as general maintenance.



Figure 1: Blackfoot Regional Park

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

- Many participants appreciate that the park is quiet and secluded with rustic features as opposed to an extensively developed park with fees.
- Some comments indicated that camping preferences can conflict, notably the noise generated by generators and motorized activities affecting quieter outdoor pursuits. Improvements could include division of RV camping and tent camping, as well as considering elimination of motorized activities from some parks/park areas.
- Park users enjoy the park simplicity, but would like to see the park better maintained for safety, camping, and families.
- The park draws users to mainly fish, boat, or enjoy picnics. A lack of activities was a significant factor in park use. Participants suggested that the park should offer more family friendly activities and amenities including boat access.
- Park accessibility is a key factor in park use as the road leading to the park has slopes / surface that can be compromised by adverse weather conditions.
- Ideas were suggested to make the park more multi-functional, including establishment of a multi-use trail / activity network that could accommodate hiking, mountain biking, disc golf, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, etc.



Figure 2: Montney Centennial Regional Park

ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

Table I lists key comments related to issues and opportunities in each park recorded during the Public Event and Ideas Questionnaire.

Table I: Summary of Issues and Opportunities for Both Parks

	ISSUES	OPPORTUNITIES / IDEAS
BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK	• Lack of park management and regulation for safety, vandalism, control of parties, ATV use • Confusing campground configuration • Limited number of campsites and no hook ups • No information if campsites are booked • Lack of information or awareness of park • Limited activities and programming for families • Park location and remoteness • Road conditions can be impassable at times • Lack of adequate boat access, seasonal challenges for creating a launch on the Peace River • Lack of marked trails for hiking and walking • Inadequate washroom facilities • Lack of fresh drinking water supply • Concerns about steep slopes and safety • Limited maintenance	• Park attendant for monitoring and regulation of park user activity (e.g. garbage, vandalism, parties, emergencies) • Additional, expanded campsites with some hook-ups • Reservation system • Improved day-use area, parking, and activities including a larger playground, central cook station • Small store selling supplies (associated with attendant position) • Park promotion and programming (e.g. Bike Day, Dog Day, Geocaching Day, Teddy Bear Picnic, educational sessions, astronomy camp-outs) • Clear, directional signage and maps (including proximity to major centres) • Improvement of road conditions to park • Improved boat launch • Marked trails (hiking, biking, and horse riding in summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter, ATV-specific trails) • Clean toilets; fresh drinking water supply • Grassy areas for play and picnics and enhanced tree planting by the river • Remove/manage danger trees
MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK	• Poor road conditions (muddy, dusty) • Difficult to find due to lack of signage to get to park from highway (recently upgraded) • Charlie Lake is not swimmable (poor water quality, lack of shoreline or beach area) • Open park configuration and lack of privacy (limited campsites, no private campsites) • Lack of park monitoring for safety • Insufficient maintenance and upkeep (littering, dogs) • Limited amenities including adequate boat launch and access point for deep water fishing • Need to address long-term campers • Limited park information • Not enough activities (lack of trails, other activities)	• Improve road conditions to park • Provide directional signage, maps, and park information (e.g. interpretive for environmental impact, bird species, other species) • Provide sandy beach and clean up lake • Reconfigure campground with designated campsites to improve privacy • Provide park monitoring and enforcement • Provide maintenance; removal of dead trees • Provide amenities (e.g. playground/play area for kids, additional walking/hiking trails, designated fire pits, day use parking, boat launch with aggregate or dock with benches, upgraded washroom facilities, ATV trails, disc golf) • Enforce maximum for park stay duration (14 days) • Day use area with grassy areas for picnics and playing, picnic tables, gazebos, covered area

3 | DETAILED SUMMARY OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

The following section provides a more detailed summary of the results of each question in the Ideas Questionnaire. The Ideas Questionnaire gathering input in four parts:

- ▶ Part 1: Demographics of potential park users
- ▶ Part 2: Blackfoot Regional Park – Current and Future Park Use
- ▶ Part 3: Montney Centennial Regional Park – Current and Future Park Use
- ▶ Part 4: Ideas & Experiences and General Comments

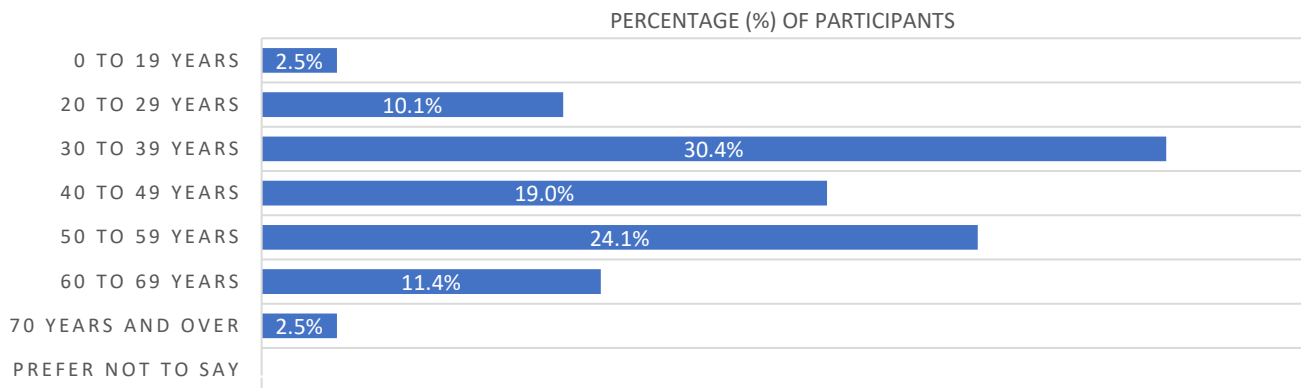
A full record of verbatim comments from the questionnaire input is in **Appendix B**.

PART 1: PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS

To understand park users and demographics, participants were asked to answer the following six questions.

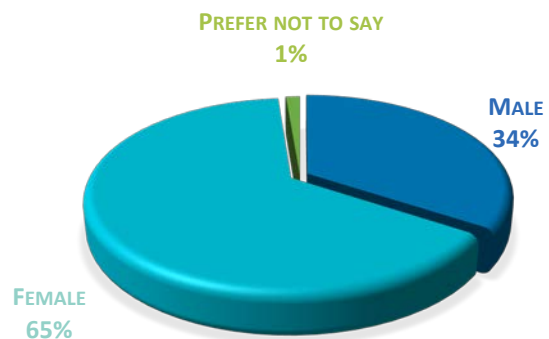
QUESTION 1: IN WHICH AGE GROUP ARE YOU?

- ▶ Most participants were between the ages of 30 to 59 years old (73.5% combined).
- ▶ There was limited participation from individuals under the age of 29 (12.6%) or over the age of 60 (13.9%).



QUESTION 2: WHAT IS YOUR GENDER?

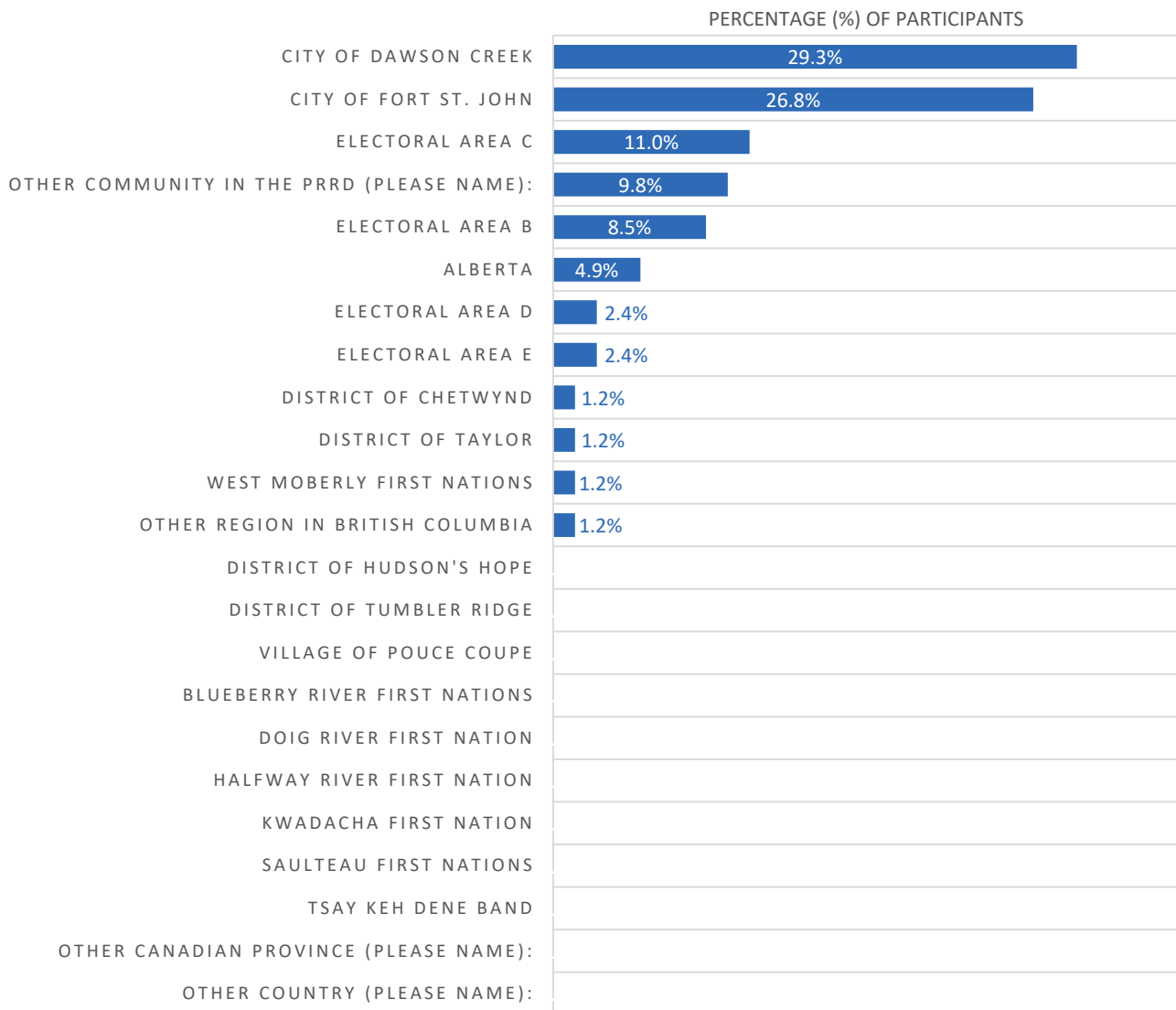
- ▶ More females (64.5%) than males (34.2%) participated in the questionnaire.



QUESTION 3: WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

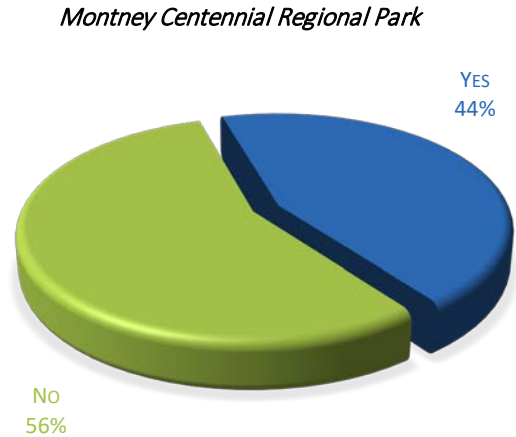
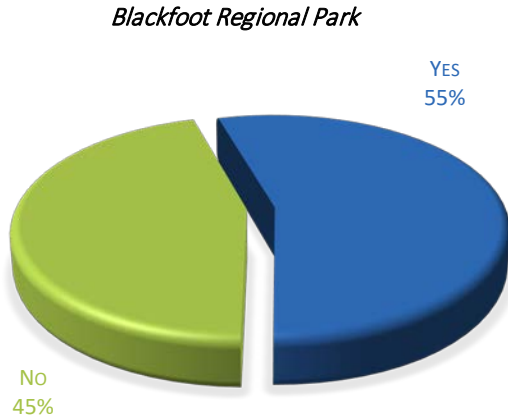
Participants were asked to identify where they lived:

- ▶ The largest percentage of participants reside in either the City of Dawson Creek (29.3%) or the City of Fort St. John (26.8%).
- ▶ Several other participants reside in Electoral Area C (11%) and Electoral Area B (8.5%), or identified living in an other specific community in the PRRD (9.8%).
- ▶ Other communities where participants identified as residing included Rolla, Diamond Willow Sub, Doe River, Farmington, Winnowing, Cecil Lake, and Charlie Lake.
- ▶ Almost 5% of participants reside in Alberta.



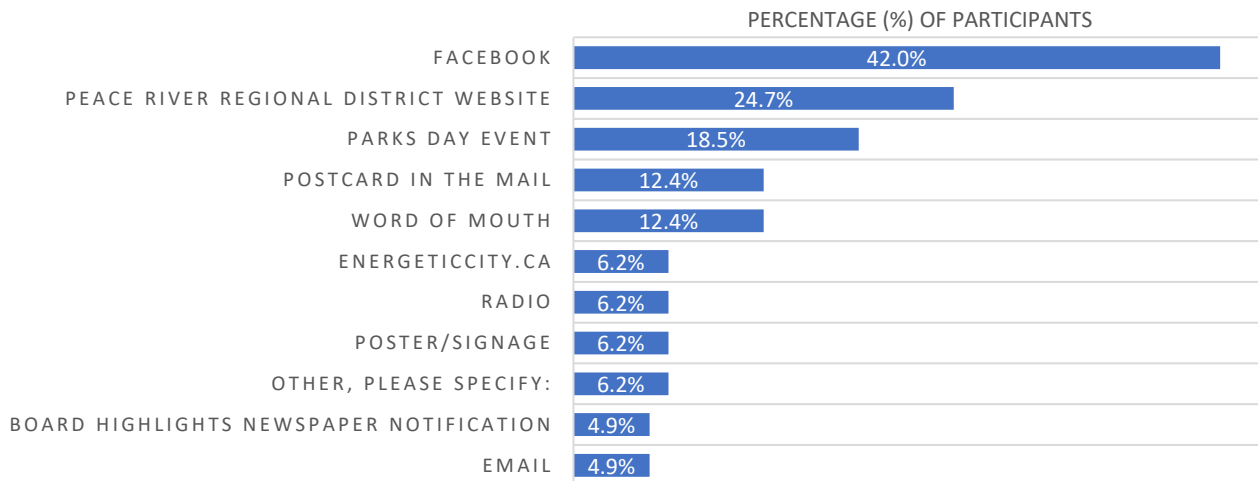
QUESTION 4: DO YOU CURRENTLY USE EITHER OF THE PARKS?

- ▶ 55% of participants identified using Blackfoot Regional Park.
- ▶ 44% identified using Montney Centennial Regional Park.



QUESTION 5: HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THIS QUESTIONNAIRE?

- ▶ A large percentage of participants heard about the questionnaire through Facebook (42%).
- ▶ The Peace River Regional District website (24.7%) and the Parks Day event at Montney Centennial Park (18.5%) also informed a number of participants.



QUESTION 6: I WISH TO PROVIDE INPUT ON:

- ▶ Both Parks (37%)
- ▶ Only Blackfoot Regional Park (32%)
- ▶ Only Montney Centennial Regional Park (31%)

PART 2: BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

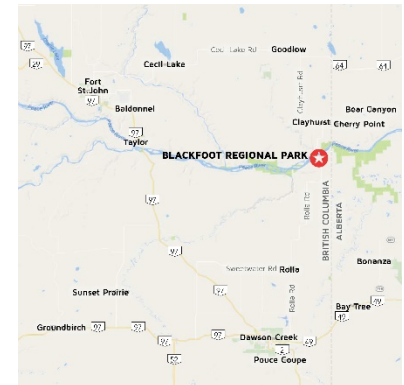
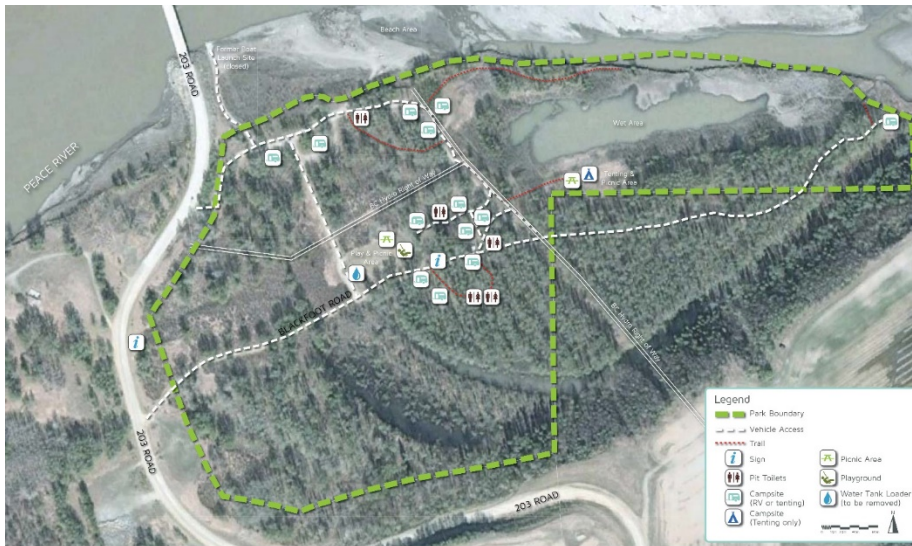
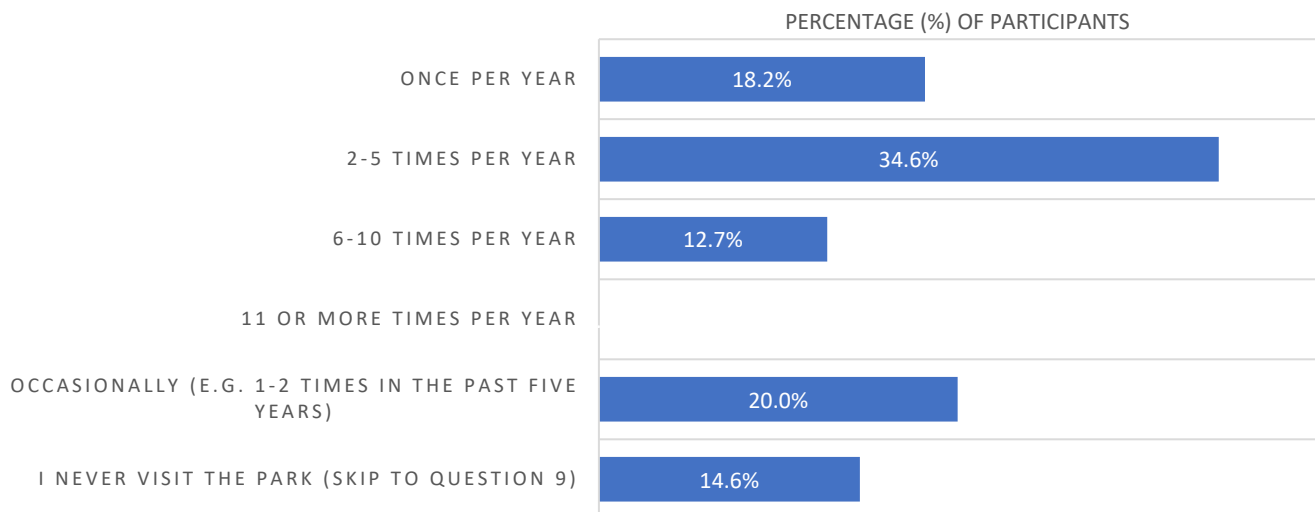


Figure 3: Blackfoot Regional Park Site Map (above) and park location (above right).

CURRENT PARK USE

To understand how visitors currently use Blackfoot Regional Park, participants answered the following five questions.

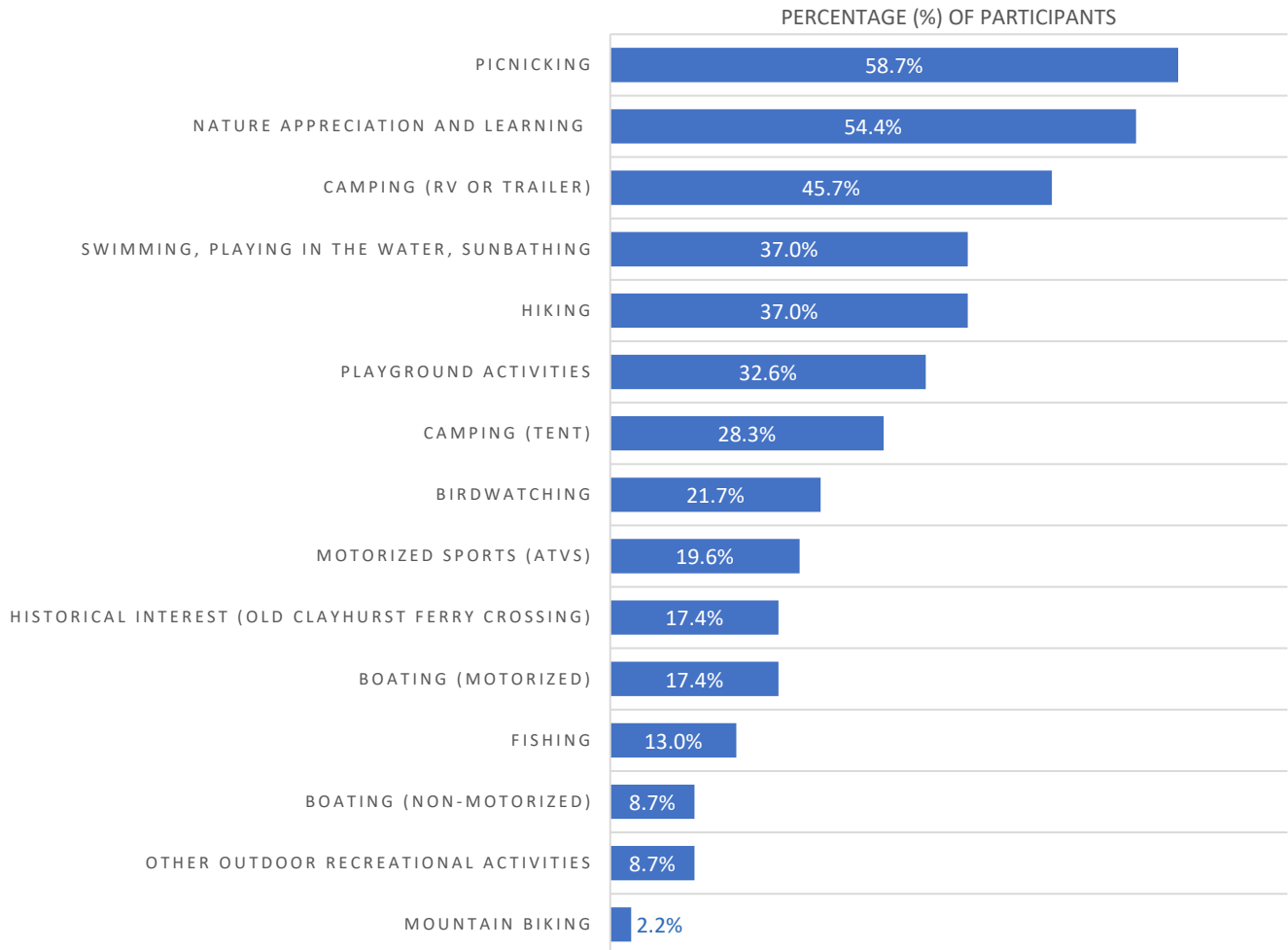
QUESTION 7: HOW FREQUENTLY WOULD YOU SAY YOU VISIT THE PARK?



QUESTION 8: WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN AT BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK?

Top three activities:

1. Picnicking
2. Nature appreciation and learning (e.g. wildflowers, vegetation, wildlife)
3. Camping (RV or trailer)



“Other” identified activities included:

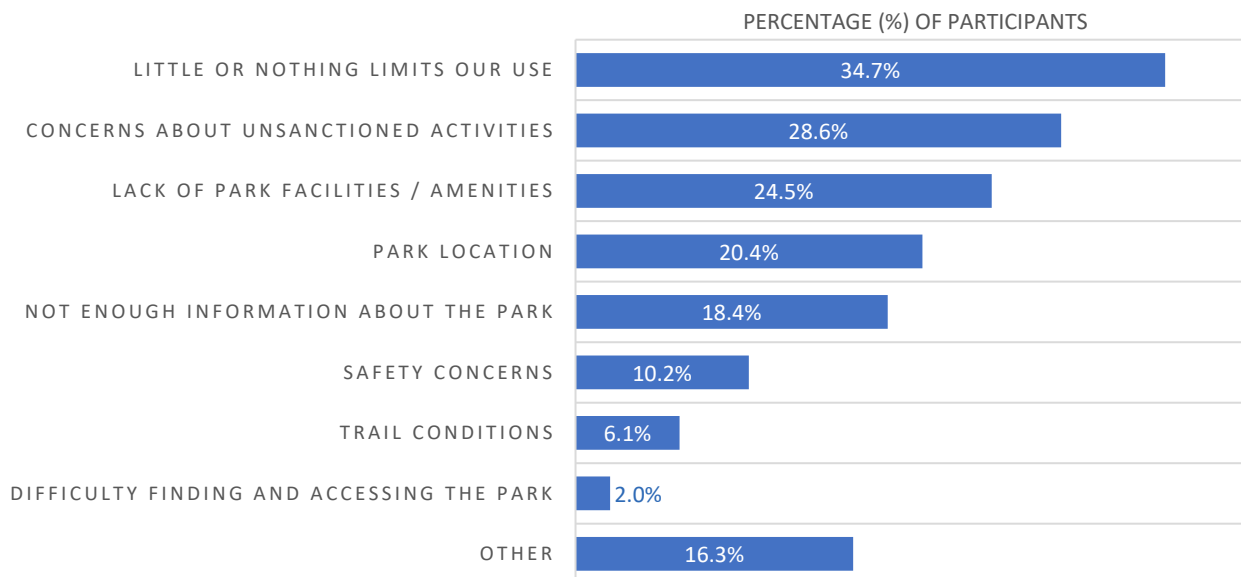
- ▶ Sandcastle building
- ▶ Dog walking
- ▶ Tobogganing

QUESTION 9: WHAT, IF ANYTHING, LIMITS YOUR USE OF BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK?

A large percentage of participants (34.7%) indicated that little or nothing limits their use of the park.

The top three limitations:

1. Concerns about unsanctioned activities (parties, vandalism)
2. Lack of facilities and amenities
3. Park location

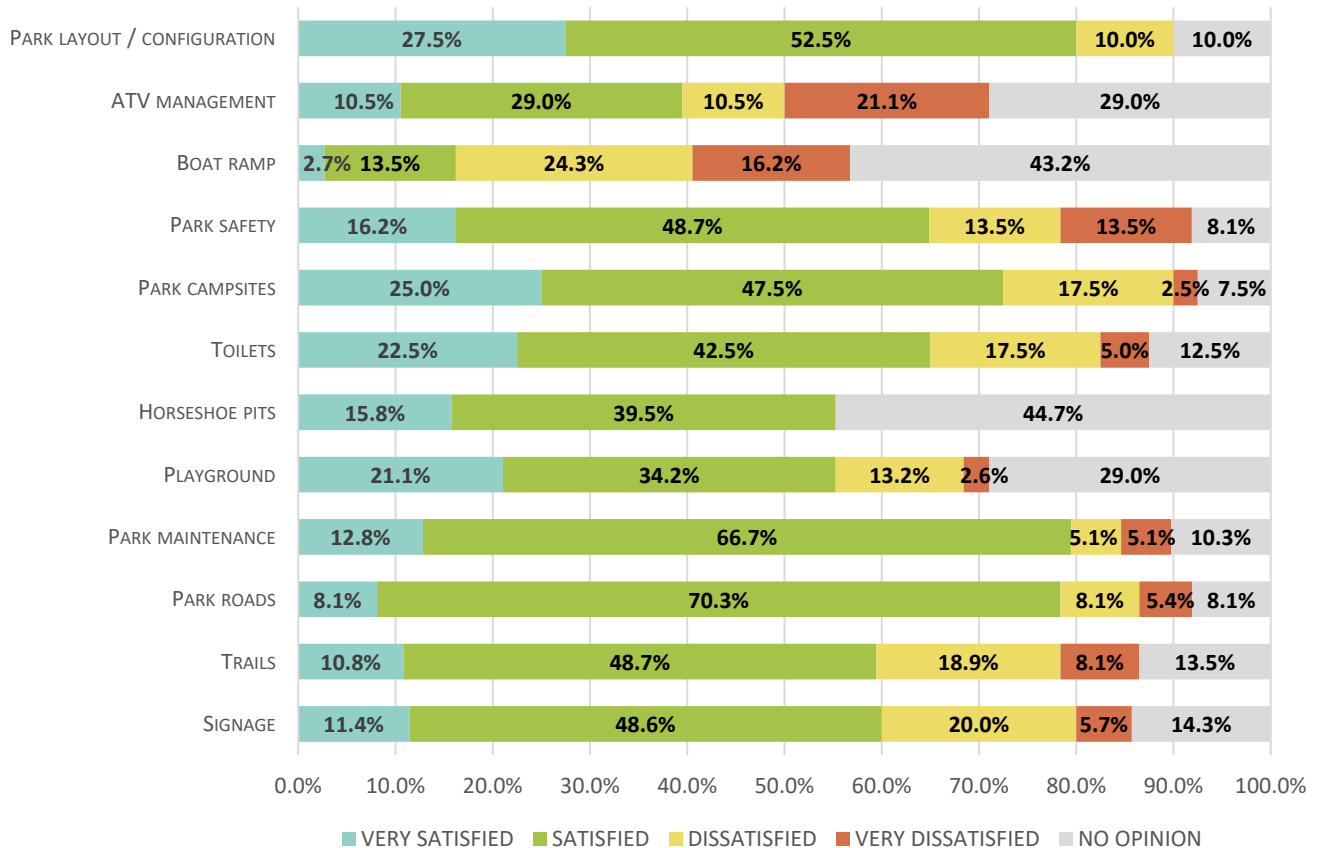


“Other” limitations for park use besides the reasons listed included:

- ▶ Lack of well-maintained trails
- ▶ Lack of control of park user activity such as parties
- ▶ Distance (to travel)
- ▶ No hiking and mountain biking trails
- ▶ No RV hook-ups
- ▶ Unmaintained boat launch and difficult river access
- ▶ Conflicts with motorbike or quad use (lack of management, speed, misuse)
- ▶ Lack of a reservation system

QUESTION 10: IF YOU'VE VISITED BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK, WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS?

- ▶ In general, participants noted that they were satisfied with most park elements.
- ▶ Participants indicated that they were most “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with the boat ramp (40.5%) and ATV management (31.6%).



Other comments concerning park aspects for Blackfoot Regional Park included:

- ▶ Love of the park based on relaxed camping setting, beauty, and that it is a no fee campsite.
- ▶ Desire for improved maintenance (feels neglected).
- ▶ Desire for improved management (concerns about ATV noise, ATV use, and bush parties).
- ▶ Desire for improved amenities including more trails, larger playground, better signage, boat launch for access to the river (which can be seasonally challenging depending on silt and woody debris deposition), more campsites, improved toilets, and day use parking.
- ▶ Easier access to the tenting area – remove big logs blocking the entrance.

QUESTION 11: WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES OR CHALLENGES IN BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK?

- ▶ Lack of park management (park attendant for monitoring of park user activity including garbage and vandalism) and regulation (for safety due to remoteness, control of parties, and ATV management)
- ▶ Campground configuration
- ▶ Limited campsites and no hook-ups
- ▶ No information if campsites are booked
- ▶ Lack of day-use area
- ▶ Lack of activities for families
- ▶ Limited park knowledge – suggested park promotion to increase awareness
- ▶ Lack of programming (suggested programming included Bike Day, Dog Day, Geocaching Day, Teddy Bear Picnic, educational sessions, astronomy camp-outs)
- ▶ Park location (suggestion to provide clear directional signage including proximity to major centres)
- ▶ Park road conditions can be impassable at times
- ▶ Inadequate boat access to river
- ▶ Lack of marked trails (suggestion to develop trails specifically for hiking, biking, and horse riding in summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in winter as well as ATV-specific trails)
- ▶ Lack of clean toilets
- ▶ Lack of fresh drinking water supply

FUTURE PARK USE

To identify potential improvements in Blackfoot Regional Park, participants were asked to provide input on future park use.

QUESTION 12: IF YOU COULD DESCRIBE IN ONE WORD OR SHORT PHRASE YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Words generated:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Safe | • Picnic by the river |
| • Family friendly fun | • Keep natural |
| • Easy going | • Explore the natural beauty of the Peace River |
| • More campsites | • Hidden gem |
| • Better playground | • Free |
| • More supervision | • Green oasis on banks of Peace River |
| • Peaceful and quiet place to relax and enjoy nature | • Well-maintained, clearly marked trails for hiking/biking |
| • Maintain rustic feel | • Cater to larger RV's with hook-ups |
| • Usable | • Boater destination |
| • Functional | • Less vandalism and partying |
| • Responsible quad use | • Beautiful, quiet park to enjoy with family and friends |

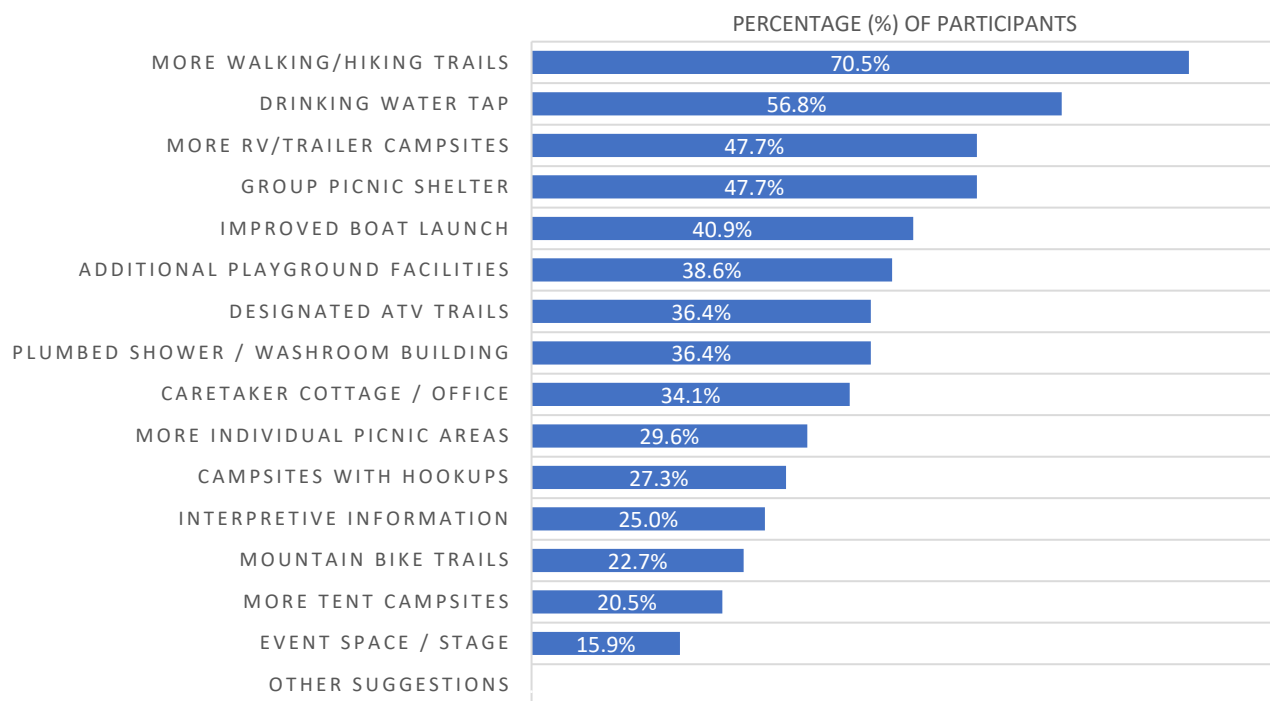
PRELIMINARY DRAFT VISION FOR BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

Blackfoot Regional Park invites people to explore the natural splendor of the Peace River in a rustic, quiet, and family-friendly forest space, becoming the starting point to many great adventures and memories.

QUESTION 13: WHAT AMENITIES DO YOU THINK MIGHT WARRANT CONSIDERATION IN BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK?

The top three amenities that participants felt might warrant consideration for Blackfoot Regional Park included:

1. More Walking/Hiking Trails
2. Drinking Water Tap
3. More RV/Trailer Campsites (tie)
3. Group Picnic Shelter (tie)

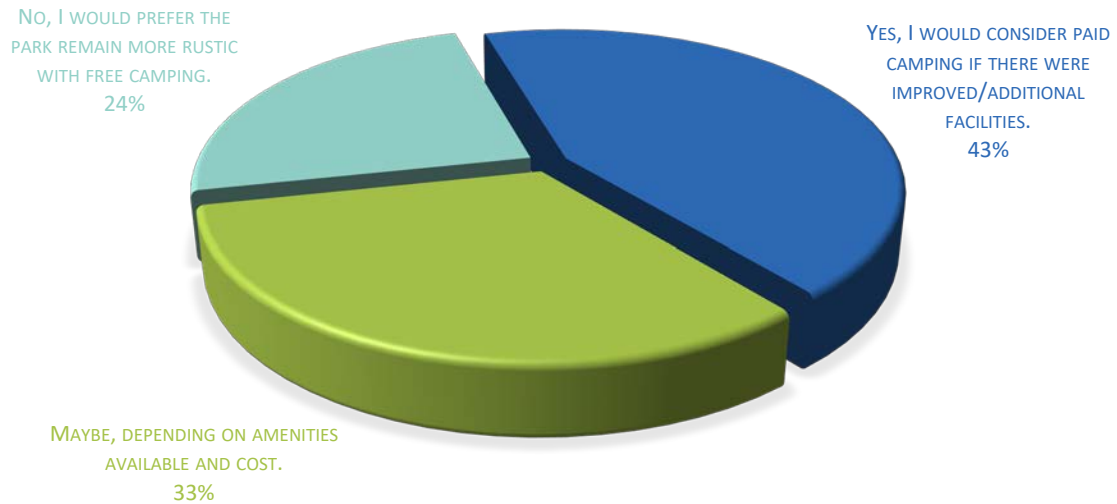


Other suggestions included:

- ▶ Plant new trees to replace the old trees
- ▶ Water (even non-potable water for dishes and putting out campfires)
- ▶ Day use parking
- ▶ Well-maintained washroom facilities
- ▶ Centre cook station with picnic tables and camp wood stove
- ▶ ATV management

QUESTION 14: IF BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK WAS ENHANCED TO INCLUDE IMPROVED/ADDITIONAL FACILITIES, WOULD YOU CONSIDER PAYING FOR CAMPING IN THE PARK?

- ▶ Many participants (43%) indicated that they would support paid camping if it meant that there were improved or additional facilities in the park.
- ▶ About one-quarter (24%) indicated a preference that the park remain more rustic with free camping.



PART 3: MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

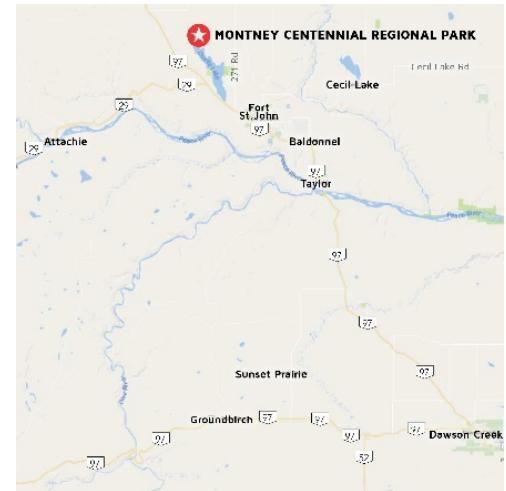
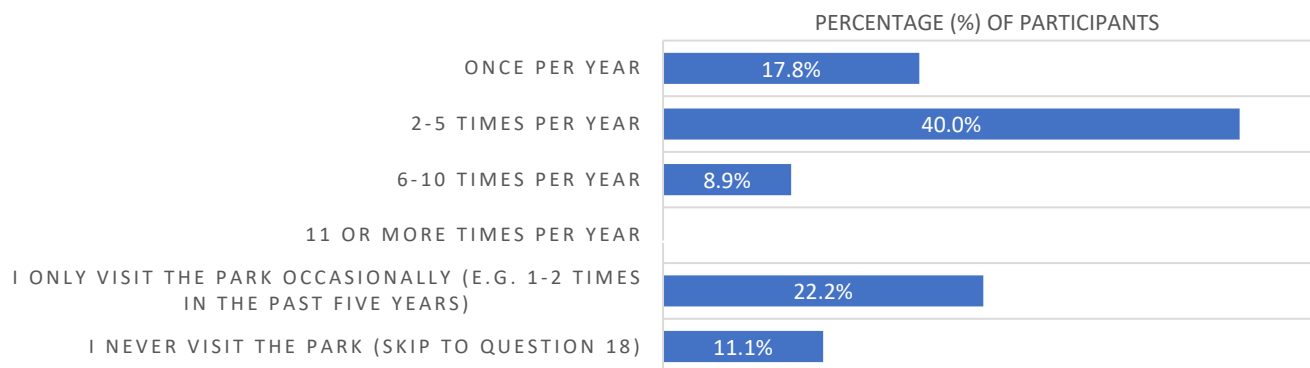


Figure 4: Montney Centennial Regional Park Site Map (above) and park location (above right).

CURRENT PARK USE

To understand how visitors currently use Montney Centennial Regional Park, participants answered the following five questions.

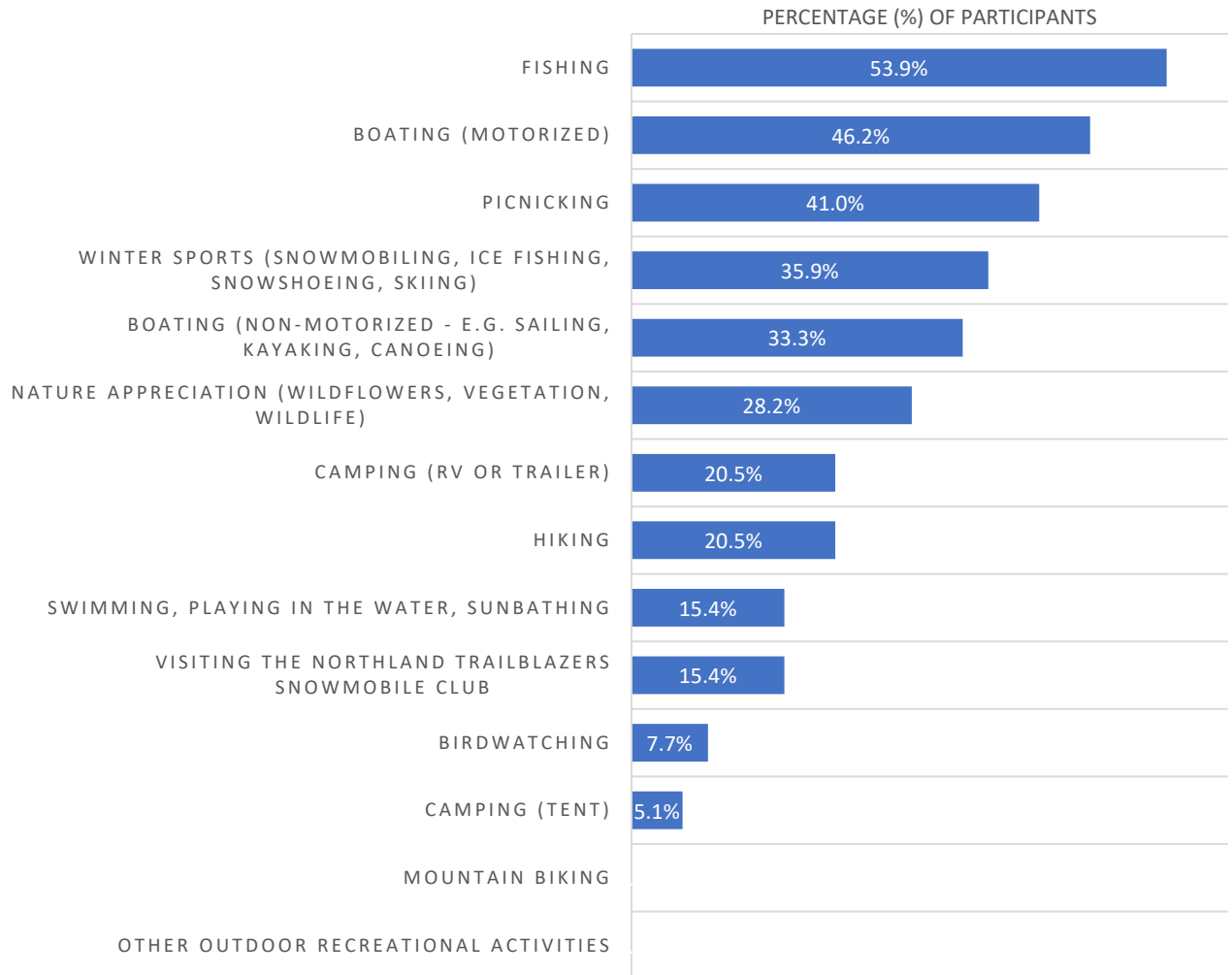
QUESTION 15: HOW FREQUENTLY WOULD YOU SAY YOU VISIT THE PARK?



QUESTION 16: WHAT ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN AT MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK?

Top three activities:

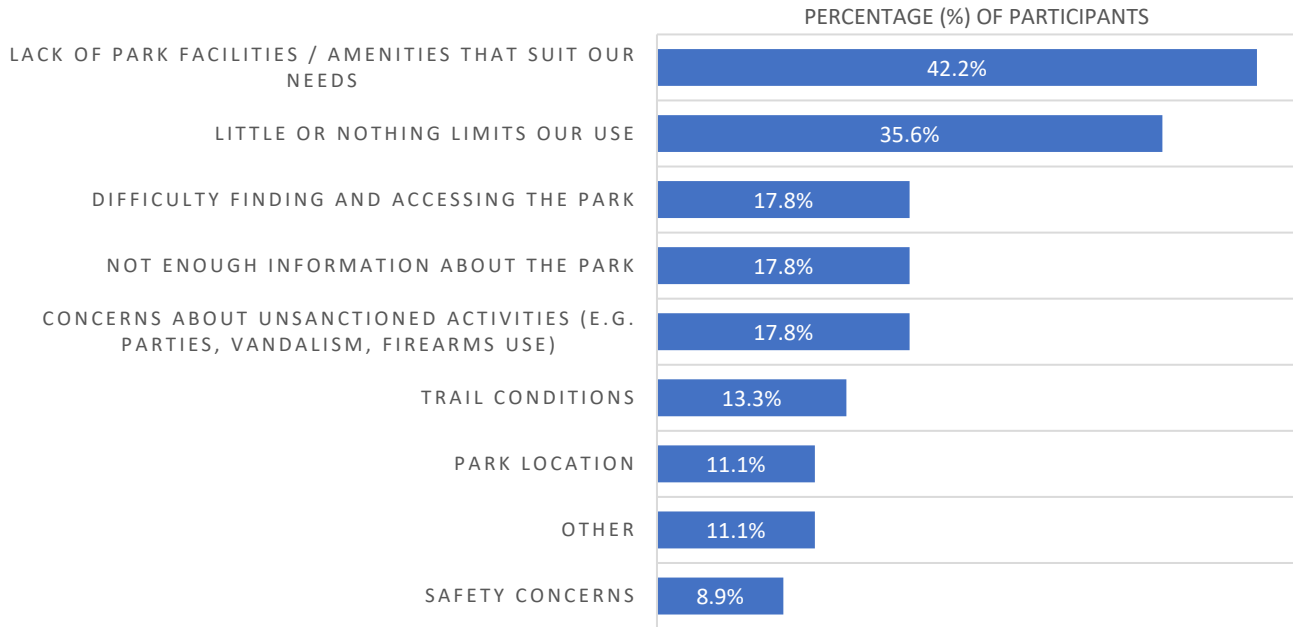
1. Fishing
2. Boating (motorized)
3. Picnicking



Participants did not identify any other activities that they participate in at Montney Centennial Regional Park.

QUESTION 17: WHAT, IF ANYTHING, LIMITS YOUR USE OF MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK?

- ▶ The main reason people do not visit Montney Centennial Regional Park is lack of park facilities/amenities that suit their needs (42.2%).
- ▶ Park accessibility, lack of park information, and concerns about unsanctioned activities were also identified as limitations (each 17.8%).

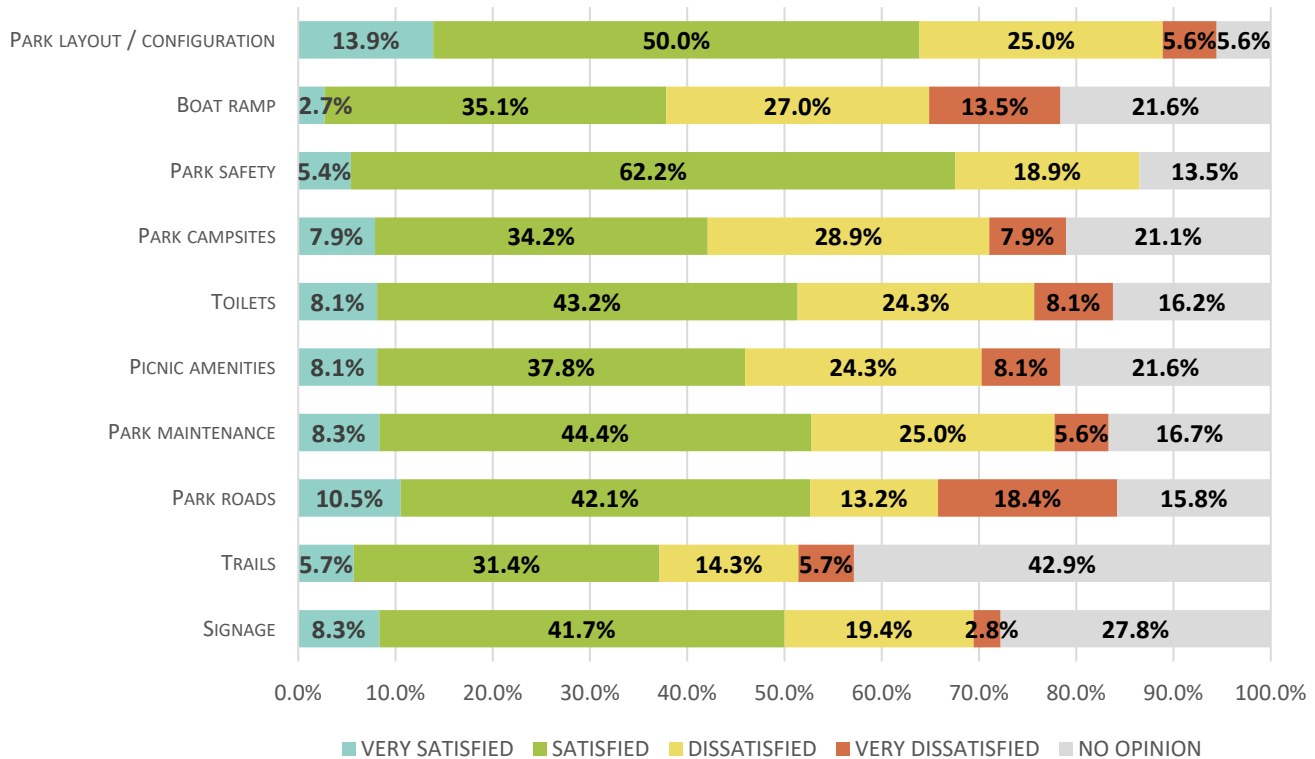


“Other” limitations for park use aside from reasons listed included:

- ▶ Road leading into the park (rough and dusty)
- ▶ Lack of signage
- ▶ Limited day use area
- ▶ Limited available campsites (issues with long-term campers occupying sites for long periods)
- ▶ No campsites with hook-ups
- ▶ Charlie Lake water quality (conditions of the lake water)
- ▶ Lack of a “family” feel
- ▶ Lack of activities

QUESTION 18: IF YOU'VE VISITED MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK, WHAT IS YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS?

- ▶ Generally, many were satisfied with the park elements at Montney Centennial Regional Park.
- ▶ Participants indicated that they were most “dissatisfied” or “very dissatisfied” with the boat ramp (40.5%), park campsites (36.8%), and park toilets and picnic amenities (32.4% each).



QUESTION 19: WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES OR CHALLENGES IN MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK?

- ▶ Poor road conditions (muddy conditions when it rains, dusty conditions)
- ▶ Difficult to find due to lack of signage to get to park from highway recently upgraded
- ▶ Charlie Lake is not swimmable (due to poor water quality, lack of shoreline or beach area)
- ▶ Poor park configuration and lack of privacy (limited campsites, no private campsites)
- ▶ Lack of park monitoring for safety
- ▶ Lack of maintenance and upkeep
- ▶ Limited amenities (e.g. play area for kids, additional walking/hiking trails, designated fire pits, day use parking, boat launch or dock, and upgraded/additional washroom facilities)
- ▶ Need to address long-term campers

FUTURE PARK USE

To understand participant needs and wants for potential improvements for Montney Centennial Regional Park, participants were asked to provide input on future park use.

QUESTION 20: IF YOU COULD DESCRIBE IN ONE WORD OR SHORT PHRASE YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Respondents were asked to provide in one word or a short phrase their vision for the future of the park. Common words and phrases were:

- Leave as is
- Close enough to home but far enough away for a holiday
- Accessible for all campers
- Multi-use area that attracts people
- Day use activities (hiking on designated trails, viewpoints for lake and wildlife)
- Clean water in Charlie Lake
- Quiet, peaceful
- Secret treasure in Peace Country
- Hidden gem
- Better upkeep
- Nicer camping facility
- Fishing or boating dock
- Picnic
- Family friendly campsite
- RV friendly
- Safe
- Upgraded
- Quiet
- Larger
- Rustic
- One with nature
- Safe environment

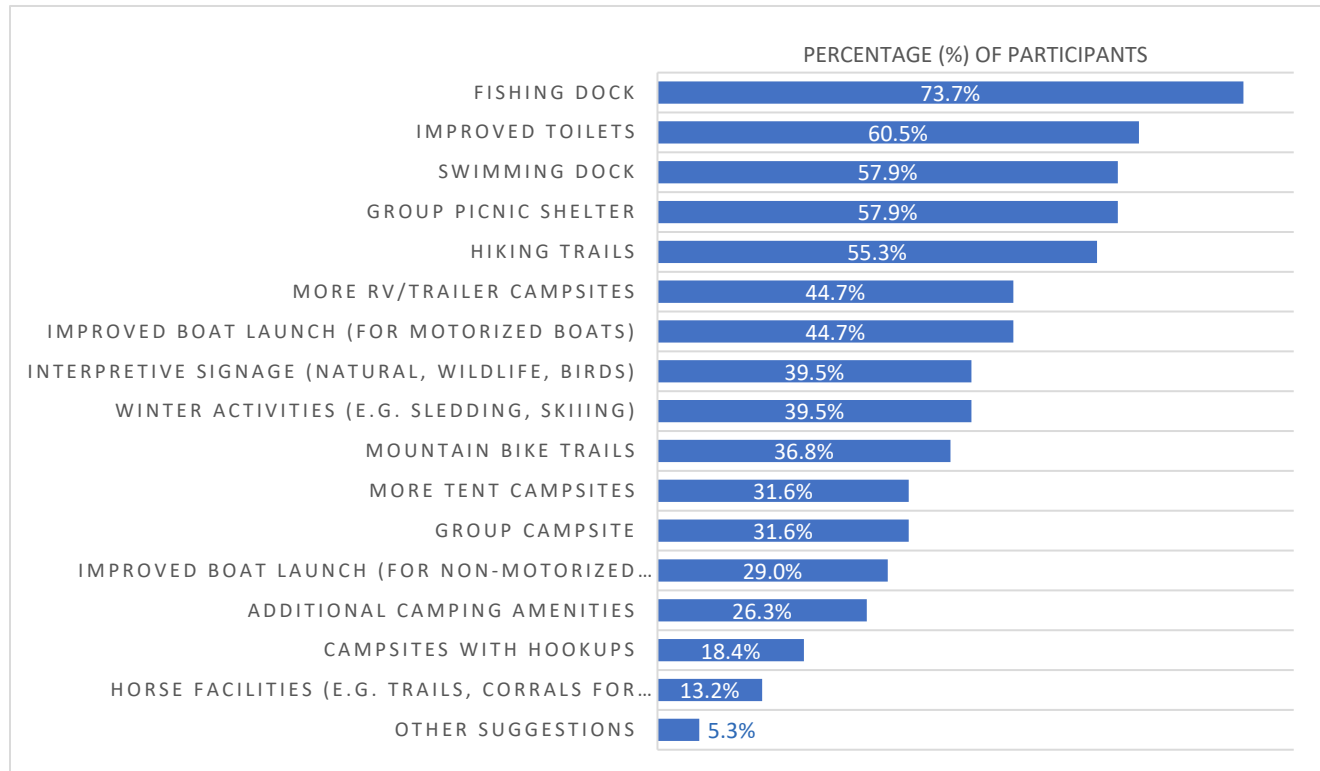
PRELIMINARY DRAFT VISION MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

Montney Centennial Regional Park offers unique, remote recreational experiences on Charlie Lake that invite people to stay for a day or for a week and enjoy solitude and peace in a lakefront forest.

QUESTION 21: WHAT AMENITIES DO YOU THINK MIGHT WARRANT CONSIDERATION IN MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK?

Top three amenities:

1. Fishing Dock
2. Improved Toilets
3. Swimming Dock (tie)
3. Group Picnic Shelter (tie)

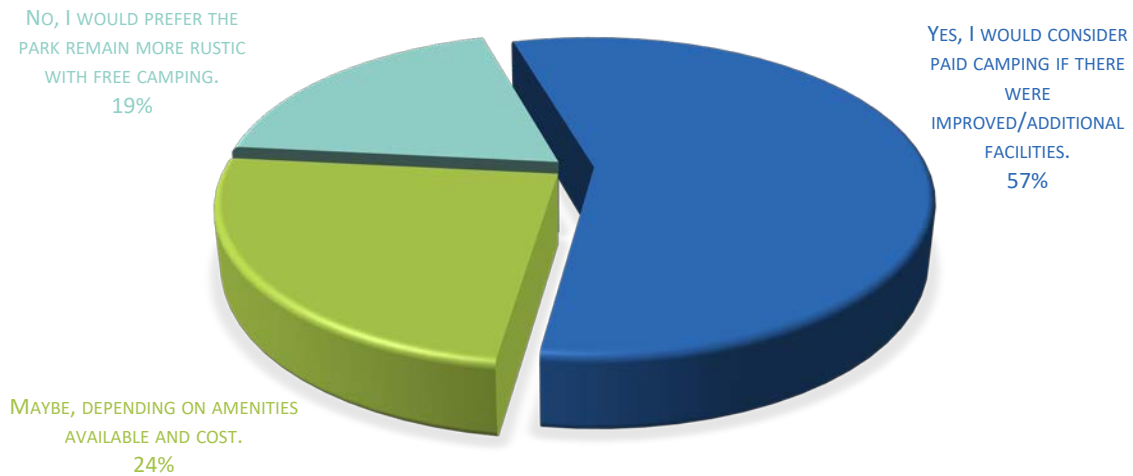


Other suggestions included:

- ▶ Disc golf (positive effects, blends well with other park activities such as skiing and mountain biking, and there is a local club that could support planning / fundraising – Fort St. John Disc Sports Club)
- ▶ Dog management (waste bags)
- ▶ Improved washrooms (handrail)
- ▶ Sandy beach
- ▶ Fishing dock
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Tent sites (few places in the area to go for quiet tent camping while there are many options for RVs)
- ▶ Trails around the lake
- ▶ Motor-free to leave space for quiet outdoor pursuits

QUESTION 14: IF MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK WAS ENHANCED TO INCLUDE IMPROVED/ADDITIONAL FACILITIES, WOULD YOU CONSIDER PAYING FOR CAMPING IN THE PARK?

- ▶ The majority of participants (57%) indicated they would support paid camping if there were additional / improved facilities.



PART 4: GENERAL QUESTIONS

QUESTION 23. HAVE YOU VISITED A PROVINCIAL, REGIONAL, OR OTHER TYPE OF BACKCOUNTRY PARK AND HAD A GREAT EXPERIENCE? IF YES, PLEASE TELL US THE NAME OF THE PARK AND WHAT MADE IT GREAT.

- **Swan Lake Provincial Park (south of Dawson Creek)** – family friendly, boat launch, dock, green areas (but fee)
- **Heart Lake (Pine Le Moray Provincial Park)** – beautiful, rustic, water-side sites, free camping
- **Liard Hot Springs Provincial Park (Alaska Hwy)**
- **Kiskatinaw Provincial Park (Alaska Hwy)**
- **Mile 54 Campground at Charlie Lake (Charlie Lake Provincial Park)** – cleanliness, paths, and very clean outhouse facilities, tidy campsites, ability to reserve
- **William Lake** – well water supply, paved roads, good park attendants
- **Stewart Lake**
- **Galloping Goose Trail (Capital Regional District)** – management of motorized uses
- **Beaton Provincial Park (Charlie Lake)** – paved but natural, good snow shoe trails, good camping facilities, day use area for swimming and picnicking
- **Peace Island Park (Taylor)**
- **Campbell Valley Regional Park (Langley)** – variety of trails, group picnic shelters, parking, wheelchair accessibility, camping, off leash dog areas)
- **Aldergrove Regional Park (Aldergrove)** – variety of trails, group picnic shelters, parking, and educational sessions
- **Tumbler Ridge (Lions Flatbed Creek Campground, Monkman Cascades Trail)** – many great backcountry campgrounds and hiking areas including Monkman Cascades (fire rings, tent sites, and simple but clean pit toilets) and Lions Campground (large play area and creek)
- **One Island Lake Provincial Park (south of Dawson Creek)** – nice campground
- **Juniper Beach Provincial Park (Cache Creek)** – along the Thompson river to explore, great swimming area, good fishing spots, full hook-up sites, grassy tent area, pay showers, play area for children to play and ride bikes
- **Moonshine Lake (Hwy 49, west of Spirit River, AB)** – common area for BBQs, open but treed for privacy
- **Jones Lake Recreation Area (Chilliwack)** – beautiful lake with swimming, variety of campsites for both families and other groups, very rustic, pay shower, secluded (no cell service) but close enough for a weekend getaway, park warden, free camping
- **Desolation Sound Marine Provincial Park** – marine park but good amenities in the park
- **Provincial Parks (e.g. Fintry Park, Christina Lake, Lakelse Lake)** – reservation system so confirmed spot, shower facilities, outdoor kitchen sinks
- **Blackfoot Regional Park** – nostalgic, free to camp, seems well cared for
- **Meziadin Lake Provincial Park (Hwy 37)** – good park operator, well maintained, lakefront sites
- **Southern Interior Campgrounds** – lots of amenities, maintain water resource
- **Whistlers Campground (Jasper)** – wash basins outside of washrooms, fire permit for fee (free wood)
- **Pacific Rim National Park (Tofino)**
- **Carp Lake Provincial Park (near McLeod Lake)** – peaceful solitude, quiet, beautiful, fish cleaning station at boat launch, free firewood
- **Cotillion Park (west of Spirit River, AB)** – shower/washroom facility, but fee
- **Alberta Parks** – many have group picnic shelter, plumbed shower and washroom facility (paid by oil companies working in the area that have profits that can pay for facilities)
- **Oles Lake Provincial Recreation Area (Hwy 2, north of Grande Prairie, AB)** – trail around the lake, sandy beach, and playground
- **Mount Revelstoke National Park** – hiking trails, clean, well maintained
- **Moberly Lake Provincial Park** – natural beauty, clean toilets, regulations on park use (issues in 2017 are due to lack of enforcement on rules at night and hours of generator use)

QUESTION 24: DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, CONCERNS, OR IDEAS ABOUT EITHER PARK THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE AT THIS TIME?

PAID CAMPING / NO-FEE CAMPING

- ▶ Some park users appreciate the no fee option to camp and are satisfied with limited services and the rustic aspect as it allows them to camp more during the summer.
- ▶ A reservation system would be beneficial, as both parks are remote and can be busy and full during the summer months.
- ▶ Some park users suggested that if there is a fee with a park attendant, park users would respect the park more and there would be less misuse.

CAMPING PREFERENCES

- ▶ There are a variety of park users including those who seek out parks for quiet, rustic, and natural settings and those who prefer motorized activities (RVs, quads, ski-dos, power boats, generators). This can impact those park users who prefer a quieter style of camping (tenting, canoeing, snow shoeing) or family recreation.

"The large RV campers do not notice the impact they have on those seeking a different style of camping; their noise trumps the silence of nature. Having a mere buffer of trees does not eliminate the noise or nuisance caused by other types of campers and takes away from the natural serenity."

PARK MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Local community members may not use the parks due to limited management of ATVs, noise, unsanctioned activities, and garbage.
- ▶ Desire for clean, well maintained parks.
- ▶ Desire for an on-site park attendant.
- ▶ Maintenance of roadway trees (to accommodate larger RVs).
- ▶ Improve maintenance of Road 277 to Montney Centennial Regional Park to account for additional traffic during summer.

ENVIRONMENT

- ▶ Take steps to improve the water quality of Charlie Lake.
- ▶ Enhance parks as natural areas.
- ▶ Blackfoot Regional Park has unique presence of fireflies.

AMENITIES

- ▶ Install a water pump at Blackfoot or install signage to use unpotable water at own risk.

GENERAL

- ▶ Need for a Regional Park that is closer to the City of Dawson Creek (suggestion for PRRD take over the Nordic Ski Hill on Bear Mountain and manage it in the summer and winter seasons).



APPENDIX A: COMMUNITY EVENT FEEDBACK

"EXPLORE IT, ENVISION IT" RESULTS

During the community events, participants were asked to help explore the possibilities for Blackfoot and Montney Centennial Regional Parks by writing down words about what they envision for the two parks.

VISION FOR THE PARKS	
BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK	• Less vandalism and partying
MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK	• Boat launch dock/wharf • Interpretive signage (environmental impact) • Reduce littering and smoking • Grassy areas for picnics and playing • Lake "clean-up" • Dock with benches (currently snowmobile club dock is used) • Access to point for deep water fishing • Park signage, maps, and park promotion • Playground • Improved boat launch (better aggregate)

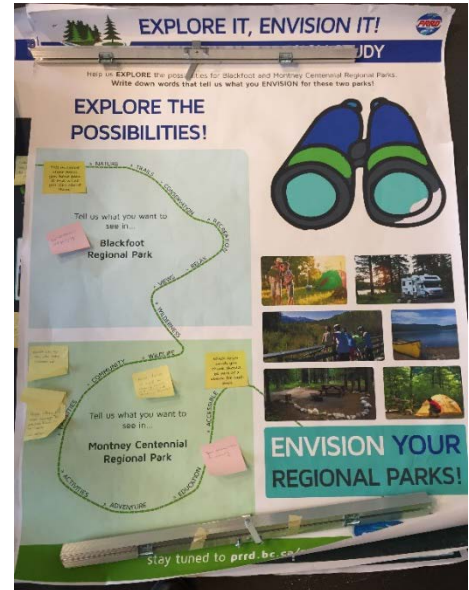


Figure 5: "Envision it, Explore it" Activity

COMMUNITY MAPPING RESULTS

During the community events, participants were asked to record their observations and ideas for each park by adding a sticky note to the park maps.



Figure 7: Community Mapping Exercise for Blackfoot Regional Park

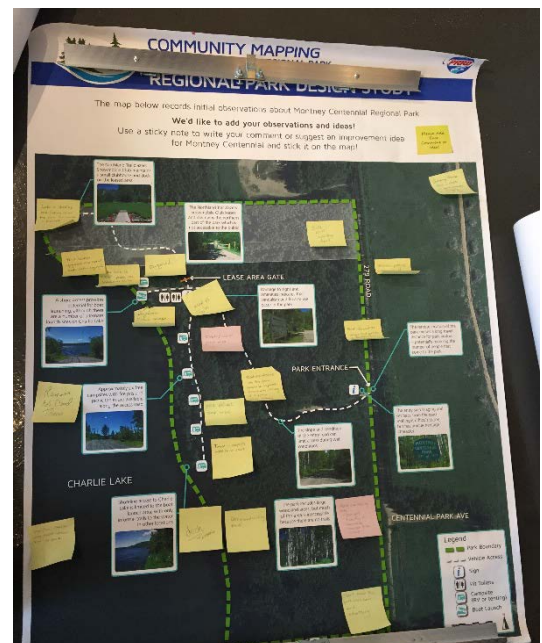


Figure 6: Community Mapping Exercise for Montney Centennial Regional Park.

SUGGESTED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

BLACKFOOT
REGIONAL PARK

- Park management and enforcement potentially with fee (security, emergencies)
- Improved walking trails (to beach, dog walking)
- Consider steep slopes due to safety and liability issues
- Interpretive signage, park maps, and directional signage to park
- ATV management and regulation in park and beach area/sand dune area
- Garbage cans
- Improvements to boat launch for safety
- Enhanced tree planting by river
- Grassy areas for play and picnics
- Paved route to improve campsite accessibility

MONTNEY
CENTENNIAL
REGIONAL PARK

- Dock with benches (currently snowmobile club dock is used)
- Access to point for deep water fishing
- Park signage, maps, and park promotion
- Playground
- Boat launch (better aggregate)
- Improve road maintenance to park to alleviate issues with rain and dust
- Day use or picnic areas including gazebo, picnic tables, or covered areas
- Walking trails
- Designated campsites (improve privacy)
- Remove dead trees
- Enforcement/patrols
- Limitations for park stay duration (14 days maximum)
- Interpretive signage on unique bird species
- Improve multi-use aspects of park (disc golf, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, mountain bike trails)

WHAT PEOPLE LIKE

Blackfoot Regional Park

- ▶ Large, private campsites
- ▶ Group camping (large areas)
- ▶ Shallow swimming area that is ideal for families
- ▶ Trees
- ▶ Relaxed setting
- ▶ No fee campsite

Montney Centennial
Regional Park

- ▶ Secluded park with rustic features
- ▶ Quaint, peaceful park on Charlie Lake
- ▶ No fee campsite



APPENDIX B: IDEAS QUESTIONNAIRE VERBATIM RESPONSES

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

CURRENT PARK USE

QUESTION 9: PARK USE LIMITATIONS

- ▶ Love this park.
- ▶ Safety. Lack of well-maintained trails to walk on.
- ▶ Distance to get there.
- ▶ Lack of additional hiking and/or mountain biking.
- ▶ We live on lake shore property at Swan Lake - it is park like every day!
- ▶ My experience with these types of parks is that it is hard to get a campsite as reservations cannot be made.
- ▶ Busy farming.
- ▶ Would like to see services inside the park such as hook-ups.
- ▶ Unmaintained boat launch; difficult river access for boat launching due to silt deposits from recent flood events.
- ▶ No boat launch.
- ▶ Sometimes parties get out of hand (usually grad parties).
- ▶ Motor bikes and four-wheelers running around camping area at fast speeds.
- ▶ Too many people misusing the park for parting and driving their quads in the park.

QUESTION 10: SATISFACTION WITH PARK ELEMENTS

- ▶ Don't appreciate the ATV noise. Don't use the boat ramp or horseshoe pits. No problem with park safety. Need more trails. Larger playground would be nice.
- ▶ Boat launch not in service but people still use it; signage is minimal.
- ▶ We have been going to Blackfoot for over 25 years and we like the relaxed camping setting. It is beautiful down there, and we like the fact that it is a no-fee campsite.
- ▶ Lack of day use parking.
- ▶ Like it.
- ▶ Maintenance could be better.
- ▶ Boat access to river.
- ▶ It feels neglected. Bush parties and quads are ruining the outdoors in the Peace.
- ▶ Existing boat launch not maintained and river access is seasonally difficult depending on silt and woody debris deposition.
- ▶ Could use a few more camp sites. I am a respectful ATV rider. Boat ramp is gone. Could have more trails for ATV & walking.
- ▶ Should be more camping spots and should have more toilets.
- ▶ There are not enough toilets.
- ▶ Love this park.

QUESTION 11: BIGGEST ISSUES OR CHALLENGES

- ▶ The control of parties and ATV use.
- ▶ ATV use and partying.
- ▶ Vandalism.
- ▶ More campsites would be nice.
- ▶ Lack of attractions for day use.
- ▶ Awareness of location, awareness of proximity to Fort St. John and Dawson Creek.
- ▶ Not enough campsites.
- ▶ Signage has always been confusing.
- ▶ Monitoring the park. Unregulated, I am concerned about camping with partiers.
- ▶ Party spot and feelings of unsafe.
- ▶ Vandalism and lack of things to do.
- ▶ Controlling unsanctioned events (parties) and vandalism.
- ▶ Not enough camping spots.
- ▶ Road condition going down the hill from industrial activity, heavy haulers, etc.
- ▶ Boat access to river.
- ▶ People partying and leaving garbage.
- ▶ Hiking trails
- ▶ Fairly remote - hard to police, maintain.
- ▶ Boat launch.
- ▶ Keep grad parties contained.
- ▶ Need water supply for campers.
- ▶ No boat launch.
- ▶ Needs an attendant to oversee stuff regularly.
- ▶ Park roads make it impassable in some areas.
- ▶ The last time I was there a few year ago it was mainly teenagers partying. Makes me hesitate to take my kids now.
- ▶ ATV's in the park and driving out into the main road, someone will get hurt or killed.
- ▶ Provide safety for park users from others park users.
- ▶ Not knowing if sites are booked.
- ▶ More variety of trails for walking, bicycle, and horses in the summer. Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.
- ▶ No day use area.
- ▶ Highway directions to get there from main roads.
- ▶ Broken glass.
- ▶ ATV use.
- ▶ Lack of fresh water supply.

- ▶ Garbage from inconsiderate campers.
- ▶ Three of camp sites.
- ▶ It feels neglected.
- ▶ Size - more area should be in the park to be utilized for hiking, etc.
- ▶ Lack of advertising - haven't heard much about it.
- ▶ Find ways to expand & increase campsites.
- ▶ Question: Are you going to replace the water supply being removed?
- ▶ Park campsite.
- ▶ A boat launch.
- ▶ Sometimes, depending on who camped there last, the sites can be in a state of disrepair.
- ▶ I don't think it has enough to do for my kids.
- ▶ Need a park attendant to cut the parties down and misuse of the park/ lots of garbage left behind on the road and park.
- ▶ Provide safe camping spots.
- ▶ More weekend activities. Bicycle day at the park. Dog day at the park. Geocaching day. Teddy bears picnic. More educational sessions. Camp-out under the skies with telescopes.
- ▶ No hook-ups.
- ▶ Minimal winter time use.
- ▶ Campground layout.
- ▶ Need more camp spots.
- ▶ Better marked and more developed / distinguished trails.
- ▶ A bit tired looking.
- ▶ Not sure.
- ▶ Increase trails - walking trails & ATV trails.
- ▶ ATV management.
- ▶ Need to expand number of campsites.
- ▶ Lack of signs on hiking trails.
- ▶ People driving ripping up the Goleta Creek Hill and Clay Hurst Hill with quads, side by side, and vehicles.
- ▶ Provide clean toilets and drinking water.

FUTURE PARK USE

QUESTION 12: VISION

- ▶ Safe family fun.
- ▶ More campsites.
- ▶ Large playground, more supervision.

- ▶ Peaceful and quiet.
- ▶ Rustic and usable.
- ▶ Just a nice family park with option to quad responsibility.
- ▶ Some improvements, but please keep it the rustic campsite it is.
- ▶ A place to relax and enjoy nature.
- ▶ Picnic by the river.
- ▶ Overnight and day use campsite.
- ▶ Keep natural.
- ▶ Safe and family friendly.
- ▶ Explore the natural beauty of the Peace River.
- ▶ Family friendly and easy going.
- ▶ Great camping near the Peace River.
- ▶ Hidden gem.
- ▶ Make more sites.
- ▶ Peaceful.
- ▶ Free.
- ▶ Green oasis on banks of river with well-maintained and clearly marked trails both for hiking and biking.
- ▶ More campsites, and more to cater to larger RV's.
- ▶ Boater destination.
- ▶ Family friendly, fun park.
- ▶ Functional.
- ▶ Actual hiking trails in the area would be nice.
- ▶ Family friendly.
- ▶ Better playground, hook-ups.
- ▶ Beautiful, quiet park for people to enjoy with friends and family.
- ▶ Safe place.

QUESTION 13: POSSIBLE AMENITIES

- ▶ Plant new trees to replace the old ones. Have water available to campers - even non-potable water for dishes and putting out campfires.
- ▶ Day use parking.
- ▶ Washroom facilities (whatever they are) need to be well-maintained.
- ▶ Maybe have a Centre Cook Section for people to have use of. With a couple of picnic tables and camp wood stove.
- ▶ I think ATV's should not be allowed in or around the park. The road going by the park is too busy to allow this.

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

CURRENT PARK USE

QUESTION 17: PARK USE LIMITATIONS

- ▶ Rough and dusty road.
- ▶ Lack of signage.
- ▶ Limited day use area for when campsites are full or limited spots to tent.
- ▶ Water quality.
- ▶ More campsites with RV hookups would be nice.
- ▶ Lack of available sites, long term campers occupy campsite for long periods.
- ▶ Condition of the lake waters.
- ▶ Very few campsites.
- ▶ More campsites are needed as there are few to no RV parks in the area.
- ▶ It would be nice if there was a play area for children (park, sand/beach, tables by lake) or quadding trails. Not much to do at this campsite. Last time we camped here there were "squatters". Not much of a "family" feel.

QUESTION 18: SATISFACTION WITH PARK ELEMENTS

- ▶ Need private tucked campsites and better signage.
- ▶ Park monitoring.
- ▶ Signage needs to be more accurate.
- ▶ Don't camp; no trails; much better signage in 2017.
- ▶ The people camping had obviously been there for weeks. It looked like a squatter's camp.
- ▶ Glad to see the new signs on the highway :).

QUESTION 19: BIGGEST ISSUES OR CHALLENGES

- ▶ Muddy road when it rains
- ▶ Need designated fire pits, just so they know exactly where the fire should be.
- ▶ Improved roads, dust control.
- ▶ Poor access.
- ▶ Lack of walking trails.
- ▶ Charlie Lake water is not clean (wouldn't swim).
- ▶ Lack of shore line - beach gone.
- ▶ Lack of walking trails.
- ▶ More parking spaces.
- ▶ Poor layout.
- ▶ Difficult to find.

- ▶ Location.
- ▶ Access roads.
- ▶ Signage to get to the park from highway.
- ▶ No swimming.
- ▶ Need more outhouses. Should have a little more gravel for less dust.
- ▶ Campsites could be more private.
- ▶ Poor monitoring of the park.
- ▶ Boat launch.
- ▶ Better road access.
- ▶ Poor access/signage to get there.
- ▶ Upkeep.
- ▶ Not enough campsites.
- ▶ Lack of boat access.
- ▶ Information available in Regional Visitor Centre teaching me about what's available.
- ▶ Do not want fees.
- ▶ Do not want fees and require more outhouses.
- ▶ Cleaner water.
- ▶ Season long campers on site are tying up the boat launch area.
- ▶ No proper boat launch or dock.
- ▶ Play area for kids.
- ▶ Boat launch.
- ▶ Not enough amenities.
- ▶ Beach area developed and more private campsites.
- ▶ Bathrooms are disgusting.

FUTURE PARK USE

QUESTION 20: VISION

- ▶ Leave it as is.
- ▶ Close enough to home but far enough away for a holiday.
- ▶ Accessible.
- ▶ Create more of a multi-use area to attract people.
- ▶ Day use opportunities for hiking on designated trails, dock for viewing lake/wildlife.
- ▶ Would love to see water in Charlie Lake cleaned up.
- ▶ Quiet, peaceful; secret treasure in the Peace country.
- ▶ Create more of a multi-user area to attract people.

- ▶ I would like to see it kept up a bit better. I didn't actually know it had toilets at all. It seems pretty forgotten! We kayak so the boat launch is okay but a bit of gravel or something would be great (to avoid the muck). People are always fishing there so I think some sort of dock for them would be great.
- ▶ Picnic.
- ▶ Family campsite.
- ▶ More RV friendly / family friendly.

QUESTION 21: POSSIBLE AMENITIES

- ▶ Add disc golf to the park! There are many positive effects and there is a local club. It also blends really well with other activities in the park (i.e., skiing, mountain biking).
- ▶ Handrail to washrooms; baggies for cleaning up after dogs.
- ▶ It is a pretty minimal park. I think the people who go there are trying to avoid the larger parks. It would be great if there were some tent sites and perhaps some trails to explore but overall, I think it should be kept simple, just cleaned up.
- ▶ I want Montney Park to be a quaint, peaceful park along Charlie Lake. There are many options for those who haul large RVs and the similar camping styles that accompany it. For those seeking for a quiet campout in a tent, there are few places to go.
- ▶ Keep it motor-free. Too many motorized activities are taking over. Leave space for quiet outdoor pursuits.
- ▶ A sandy beach with a playground!

GENERAL

QUESTION 23: OTHER SUCCESSFUL PROVINCIAL, REGIONAL, OR BACKCOUNTRY PARKS

- ▶ Swan Lake and Heart Lake.
- ▶ Liard Hot Springs.
- ▶ Swan Lake - very kid friendly. Heart Lake - beautiful area/rustic.
- ▶ Mile 54 Campground at Charlie Lake - I love the cleanliness of it. I love the paths and the outhouse facilities are phenomenal. Very clean!
- ▶ William Lake has a well set up in the park, paved roads, good park attendants, and water supply.
- ▶ Stewart Lake.
- ▶ Beaton Provincial Park. It is paved but still has nature in it.
- ▶ Yes, Beaton Park - good snow shoe trails, good camping facilities and day use (swimming, picnicking).
- ▶ Peace Island.
- ▶ We were on the committee that had the land given for a park.
- ▶ Campbell Valley Regional Park - Awesome park with a variety of trails, group picnic shelters, parking, wheelchair access, camping, dog off-leash areas, etc. <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/parks-greenways-reserves/campbell-valley-regional-park> and Aldergrove Regional Park - Awesome park with a variety of trails, group picnic shelters, parking, and wonderful educational sessions <http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/parks/parks-greenways-reserves/aldergrove-regional-park>

- ▶ Tumbler Ridge has many great backcountry campgrounds. We hiked to the Monkman Cascades this summer and stayed in four of them. They tended to have a fire ring with some logs around it, a tent site, and a pit toilet somewhere nearby. Simple but clean. One Island Lake also was a nice campground (but I don't know if it qualifies as backcountry).
- ▶ Juniper Beach Provincial Park (Cache Creek) - right along the Thompson river, great swimming area, good fishing spots, full hook-up sites, grassy tent area, pay showers, spot for kids to play and ride bikes around, cool areas along the river to explore
- ▶ Jones Lake (Chilliwack) - beautiful lake, very rustic, pay showers (I think), awesome for a close weekend getaway as it's very secluded (no cell service/hard to find), good swimming, lots of different campsites - area for families and then another side where the more rowdy groups go, free camping but has a park warden (not sure how that works).
- ▶ Heart Lake park - signage sucked though
- ▶ Desolation Sound - although it's a marine park and not applicable, but the informational available on it is nice.
- ▶ I like most provincial parks because you can make a reservation so you know you will have a spot when you get there and there are usually nice shower houses and I like the outdoor kitchen sinks they are putting in. Fintry Park was nice by Kelowna and so was Christina Lake and Lakelse Lake.
- ▶ So many parks up here feel neglected and look tired. Too many trailers, quads, ski-doo's, and power boats. We need to leave space for quiet, family recreation. So many people would love to see spaces for tenting, canoeing and snowshoeing.
- ▶ Yes, Blackfoot is nostalgic to me and I spent a lot of time there. It is nice to have free places to camp and have always enjoyed that. The place as always seemed well cared for when I have been there.
- ▶ Meziadin Lake - awesome park operator, one of the best maintained provincial parks I've seen in years. Really appreciated all of the lakefront sites.
- ▶ The campsites in the Southern Interior are very nice. Lots of amenities and they seem to upkeep the water resource.
- ▶ Jasper, too expensive.
- ▶ Pacific Rim National Park, perfect.
- ▶ Carp Lake - LOVE the peaceful solitude. The fish cleaning station at the boat launch is very well appreciated and was well thought out. Free firewood.
- ▶ Whistlers in Jasper - the wash basins on the outside of the washrooms, keeps the food smell not right in the campsites. Pay for a fire permit, but the wood is free.
- ▶ Yes, Charlie Lake Provincial Park. Tidy campsite and the ability to reserve a campsite made it great.
- ▶ Swan Lake - Nice boat launch, dock, green areas, but they charge.
- ▶ Heart Lake - Few spots near the water, others up the hill, free camping.
- ▶ Cotillion Park - Nice shower/bathroom facility but they charge to camp.
- ▶ In Alberta so many parks have a group picnic shelter and plumbed shower and washroom facility that are paid for by the oil companies working in the area. They have huge profits and should pay for these facilities.
- ▶ Lions campground in Tumbler Ridge. Large play area and creek to play in.
- ▶ We love Oles lake. The walking trail around the lake is wonderful, as is the sandy beach & playground. I believe if there were a playground, and more important a sandy beach with fishing dock it would draw more attention to the park. Walking trail could be made along the lake for families to enjoy.
- ▶ Revelstoke National Park. Lots of hiking trails clean and well looked after.

- ▶ We went to Moonshine Lake for a BBQ at the common area and really enjoyed it. The area itself was wide open, but still surrounded by trees, so the group had privacy.
- ▶ Carp Lake is one of my favorite campsites - quiet and beautiful, Tumbler Ridge's hiking trails are awesome.
- ▶ Moberly Lake Provincial Park - Great because of natural beauty, clean toilets, regulations on park use. Problems in 2017 include lack of enforcement of rules - noise at night and hours of generator use.

QUESTION 24: ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, CONCERNS, OR IDEAS ABOUT EITHER PARK

- ▶ Would really like the park to stay free to use or if paying then be able to reserve.
- ▶ Clean park, clean lake.
- ▶ Please consider leaving the park and camp as a no service park. The rustic aspect is received well in the North.
- ▶ Roadway trees cut back for larger RV trailers.
- ▶ The disc golf club is the Fort St. John Disc Sports Club. They know how to put in a course and have done so already in town.
- ▶ Appreciate opportunity learn more through Parks Day.
- ▶ PRRD staff very helpful and informative. Enjoyed seeing critters in Charlie Lake visuals and information.
- ▶ We would like to see a boat launch and more parking spaces.
- ▶ We need a Regional Park that is closer to the City of Dawson Creek. Love to see the PRRD take over the Nordic Ski Hill on Bear Mountain and manage it in the summer and winter seasons.
- ▶ Not all park users seek the same thing. And unfortunately, those who seek out parks for their calm, quiet, rustic nature setting are almost always interrupted by different styles of campers with large RVs, generators, motorized boats, and motorized items in general. The large RV campers do not notice the impact they have on those seeking a different style of camping; their noise trumps the silence of nature. Having a mere buffer of trees does not eliminate the noise or nuisance caused by other types of campers and takes away from the natural serenity. Montney Park has an opportunity to create a non-motorized park: no generators, no motor boats, no large RVs. A campsite that is tailored to day use and tenting. This would be a gem that people seek out. Traditional zoning practices don't place industry next to playgrounds or residential homes. And not all campgrounds should lump RV camping and tent camping together. Take this opportunity to be bold and keep one park natural and quiet.
- ▶ Keep it open! P.S. this is an amazing survey format to get feedback - good work!
- ▶ I think the PRRD would get more tourists if we had better campsites to offer to RV travelers.
- ▶ My family and I enjoy that park. We would like it to stay free as it allows us to camp more frequently during the summer. If we go to paid sites, we are limited to how many times we can take the family camping.
- ▶ We live on the 277 road and would love to see better maintenance of this road to account for the extra traffic that is on the road during the summer.
- ▶ On-site attendants.
- ▶ I feel it could have more hiking available. And a larger area included in the park.
- ▶ In the 47 years I have lived here, Blackfoot Regional Park is the only place in Northeast BC I have seen fireflies. Kind of regionally significant.
- ▶ It would be nice for both campsites (if you had to pay for use) if you could reserve a site just like you can with the Hudson's Hope sites (like Cameron Lake, Dinosaur Lake, etc.). Both parks are a little out of the way and Montney Park can be very busy and full in the summer.

- ▶ Would like to keep it rustic and free. Love the ability to use ATVs. Could use more trails. Would like to see a water hand pump area and maybe a few more camp sites.
- ▶ I think that people should have to pay for staying at the park with a park attendee and then maybe the park will not get misused. The community close to the park rarely uses the park because of all the ATV's and people getting out of hand with their parting. The garbage left behind along the roads from these people is sickening. The ATV's ripping out of the park onto the main road is scary: adults, kids, teens without helmets, doubled up, driving around is not safe, someone will get killed and I hope that my husband isn't the one driving his gravel truck and hit one of these idiots! I love the park but wishes people would use respect. Also, would like the water system to stay as is just put a sign up stating: USE AT OWN RISK! This water is good.



APPENDIX C: QUESTIONNAIRE FORM



REGIONAL PARK DESIGN STUDY

IDEAS QUESTIONNAIRE

Help us plan an exciting future for **Montney Centennial Regional Park** and **Blackfoot Regional Park** – two important outdoor parks in our region!

The PRRD is undertaking a Regional Park Design Study for these parks to understand what improvements could make the parks more enjoyable for visitors now and in the future.

The Regional Park Design Study began in July 2017 and is planned to be complete in November 2017. During this time, the PRRD will be requesting your input for each park to guide future activities, development, and management.

Share Your Ideas for a Chance to Win

Please share your ideas and insights about these two parks by completing this questionnaire. It should take about **10-15 minutes**. Your input will help inform concepts and recommendations for the parks.

Participants who submit a completed questionnaire will have the option to be entered into a draw for a chance to win a **\$250 Canadian Tire Gift Card**. To be entered, please check the contest entry box at the end of the questionnaire and provide your contact details. Contact information is confidential and will only be used to contact the draw winner.

You can submit your questionnaire any time between:
Saturday, July 29 and Monday, August 14, 2017

Would you Prefer to Complete this Questionnaire Online?

Visit prrd.bc.ca/engage and click on the **Regional Park Design Study** link.

Pass it On!

Know someone who might be interested in sharing their ideas for Montney Centennial or Blackfoot Regional Parks? Please let them know about this questionnaire. Don't forget to mention the chance to win a Canadian Tire Gift Card!

Questions?

» Please contact Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator:
T: 250-748-3200 E: bryna.casey@prrd.bc.ca

What is a Regional Park Plan?

A Regional Park Plan that is a strategic, long-term document that the region can use to plan, prioritize, and budget for park improvements over time.

The plan establishes a guiding vision and principles and provides a concept plan and recommendations for development, operations, and management.

How to Submit Your Questionnaire:

In Person:

- » July 29 or 30 at a Park Event

Drop-off to:

- » PRRD Offices in Dawson Creek or Fort St. John
Attn: Bryna Casey

Mail to:

- » Peace River
Regional District
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Hwy
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4H8

Scan and Email to:

- » bryna.casey@prrd.bc.ca

Complete it online:

- » prrd.bc.ca/engage

PART 1: ABOUT YOU

To help us understand who responds to this questionnaire, please answer the following questions.

1. In which age group are you?

- ☐ 0 to 19 years
- ☐ 20 to 29 years
- ☐ 30 to 39 years
- ☐ 40 to 49 years
- ☐ 50 to 59 years
- ☐ 60 to 69 years
- ☐ 70 years and over
- ☐ Prefer not to say

2. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Prefer not to say

3. Where do you live?

In the Peace River Regional District (please select location):

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Blueberry River First Nations | ☐ Saulteau First Nations |
| ☐ City of Dawson Creek | ☐ Tsay Keh Dene Band |
| ☐ City of Fort St. John | ☐ Village of Pouce Coupe |
| ☐ District of Chetwynd | ☐ West Moberly First Nations |
| ☐ District of Hudson's Hope | ☐ Electoral Area B |
| ☐ District of Taylor | ☐ Electoral Area C |
| ☐ District of Tumbler Ridge | ☐ Electoral Area D |
| ☐ Doig River First Nation | ☐ Electoral Area E |
| ☐ Halfway River First Nation | ☐ Other Community, please name: _____ |
| ☐ Kwadacha First Nation | |

Outside the Peace River Regional District (please select location):

- ☐ Other region in British Columbia
- ☐ Alberta
- ☐ Other Canadian Province (please name): _____
- ☐ Other Country (please name): _____

ABOUT YOU

4. Do you currently use either of the Parks?

Blackfoot Regional Park?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Montney Centennial Regional Park?

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. How did you hear about this questionnaire?

☐ PRRD Website

☐ Facebook

☐ Energeticcity.ca

☐ Radio

☐ Poster/signage

☐ Board Highlights Newspaper Notification

☐ Postcard in the Mail

☐ Email

☐ Parks Day Event at Montney Centennial Regional Park

☐ Word of Mouth

☐ Other (please specify):

6. I wish to provide input on:

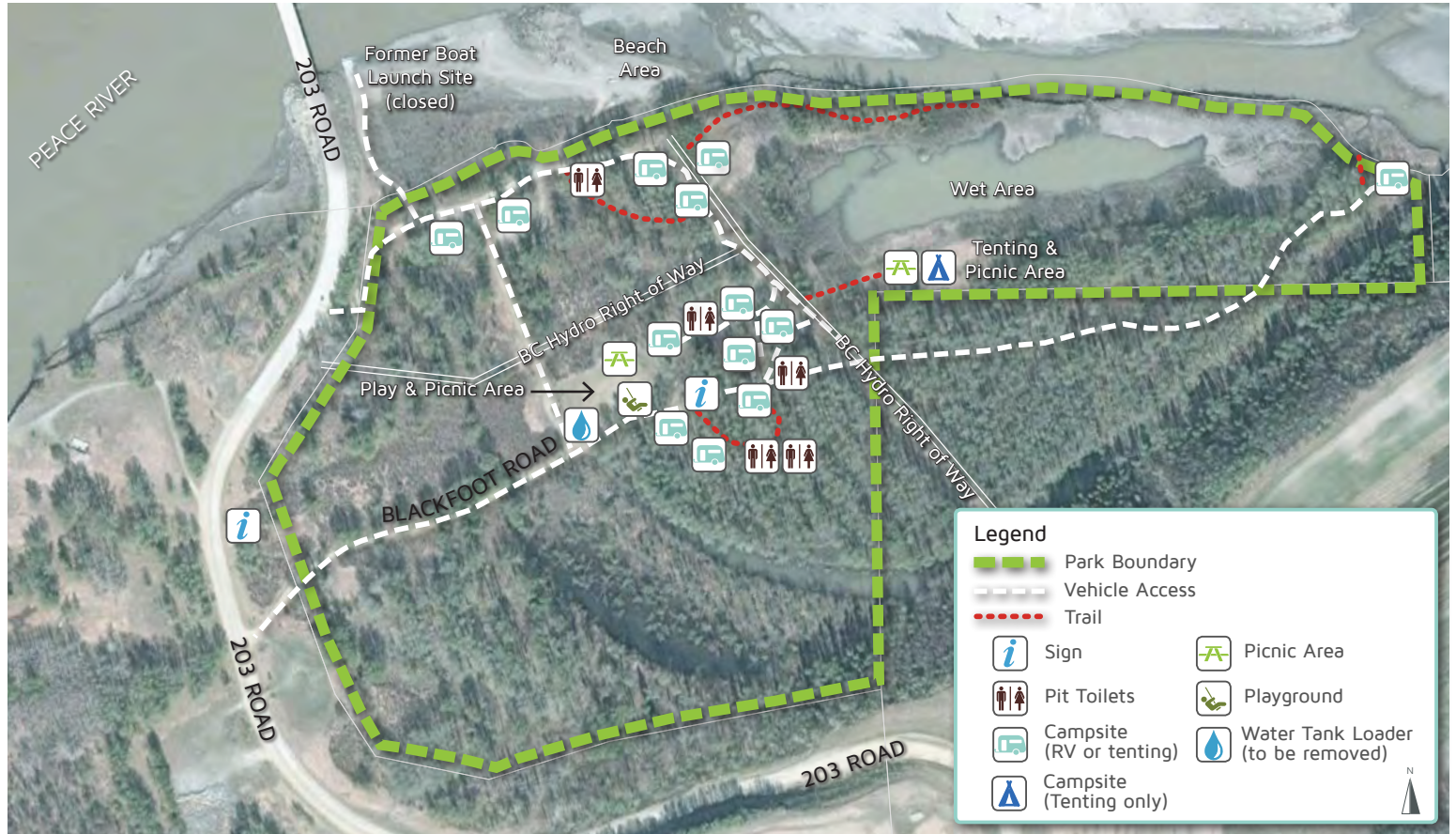
☐ Both Parks (Go to Page 4)

☐ Only Blackfoot Regional Park (Go to Page 4)

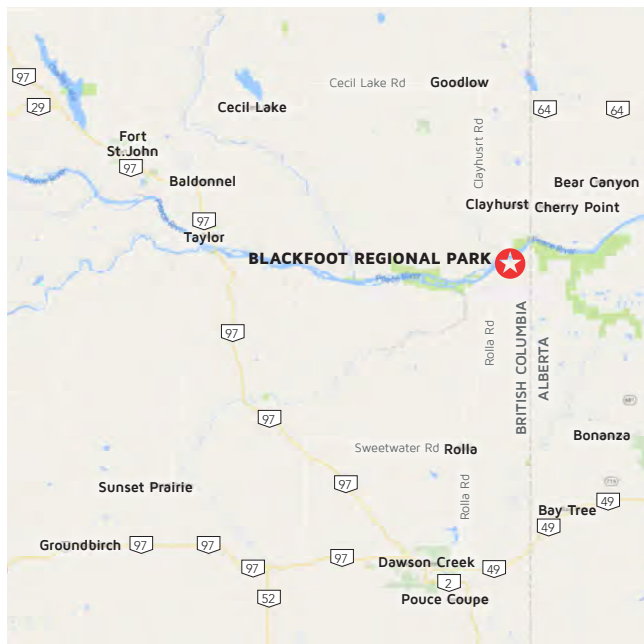
☐ Only Montney Centennial Regional Park (Go to Page 8)

PART 2: BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

Park Overview



Park Site Map



Park Location Map

HISTORY

Before the Don Phillips bridge was built over the Peace River, people crossed on the Old Clayhurst Ferry. Blackfoot Regional Park commemorates the ferry crossing site, providing access to the Peace River and recreation opportunities in a forest area.

AMENITIES & ACTIVITIES

- » 13 rustic free campsites (no hookups)
- » 1 tent camping area
- » Picnic tables
- » Pit toilets
- » Playground
- » Horseshoe pits
- » Open lawn area
- » River access
- » Former boat launch (now closed)
- » Bird and wildlife habitat
- » Water tank loader (to be removed)

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

CURRENT PARK USE

To help us understand how visitors currently use Blackfoot Regional Park, please answer the following questions.

7. How frequently would you say you visit the park?

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Once per year | ☐ Only occasionally
(e.g. 1-2 times in the past five years) |
| ☐ 2-5 times per year | |
| ☐ 6-10 times per year | ☐ I never visit the park (skip to Question 9) |
| ☐ 11 or more times per year | |

8. What activities have you participated in at Blackfoot Regional Park? Please check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Bird watching | ☐ Mountain biking |
| ☐ Boating (motorized) | ☐ Nature appreciation
(wildflowers, vegetation, wildlife) |
| ☐ Boating (non-motorized - e.g., kayaking,
canoeing) | ☐ Picnicking |
| ☐ Camping (RV or Trailer) | ☐ Playground activities |
| ☐ Camping (Tent) | ☐ Swimming, playing in the water, sunbathing |
| ☐ Hiking | ☐ Other outdoor activities (please describe):
_____ |
| ☐ Historical interest (Old Clayhurst Ferry
Crossing Site) | _____ |
| ☐ Motorized sports (ATVs) | |

9. What, if anything, limits your use of Blackfoot Regional Park? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Little or nothing limits our use
- ☐ Park location
- ☐ Difficulty finding and accessing the park
- ☐ Not enough information about the park
- ☐ Trail conditions
- ☐ Lack of park facilities / amenities that suit our needs
- ☐ Safety concerns
- ☐ Concerns about unsanctioned activities (e.g. parties, vandalism)
- ☐ Other, please describe: _____

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

10. If you've visited Blackfoot Regional Park, what is your level of satisfaction with the following aspects?

Please check one box for each category. If you haven't visited the park, skip to the next question.

Park Aspect	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No Opinion	Comments?
Park layout/ configuration						
ATV management						
Boat ramp						
Park safety						
Park campsites						
Toilets						
Horseshoe pits						
Playground						
Park maintenance						
Park roads						
Trails						
Signage						
Other (please describe) 						
Other (please describe) 						

11. What do you believe are the biggest issues or challenges in Blackfoot Regional Park?
(Please describe up to three)

1.	
2.	
3.	

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK

FUTURE PARK USE

The Regional Park Study will consider potential improvements for Blackfoot Regional Park.

12. If you could describe in one word or short phrase your vision for the future of Blackfoot Regional Park, what would it be? (We will use these words and phrases to create a draft vision.)

13. What amenities do you think might warrant consideration in Blackfoot Regional Park?
Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ More walking/hiking trails | ☐ Interpretive information |
| ☐ Mountain bike trails | ☐ Improved boat launch |
| ☐ Designated ATV trails | ☐ Additional playground facilities |
| ☐ More RV/Trailer campsites | ☐ Event space / stage |
| ☐ More tent campsites | ☐ Caretaker cottage / office |
| ☐ Campsites with hookups | ☐ Plumbed shower / washroom building |
| ☐ More individual picnic areas | ☐ Drinking water tap |
| ☐ Group picnic shelter | |

Other suggestions – your ideas could be big or small – we want to hear them all!

14. If Blackfoot Regional Park was enhanced to include improved/additional facilities, would you consider paying for camping in the park?

- ☐ Yes, I would consider paid camping if there were improved/additional facilities
- ☐ Maybe, depending on amenities available and cost
- ☐ No, I would prefer the park remain more rustic with free camping

To provide input on Montney Centennial Park → please go to the next page

To complete your questionnaire without providing
input on Montney Centennial Regional Park → please go to page 11

PART 3: MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

Park Overview



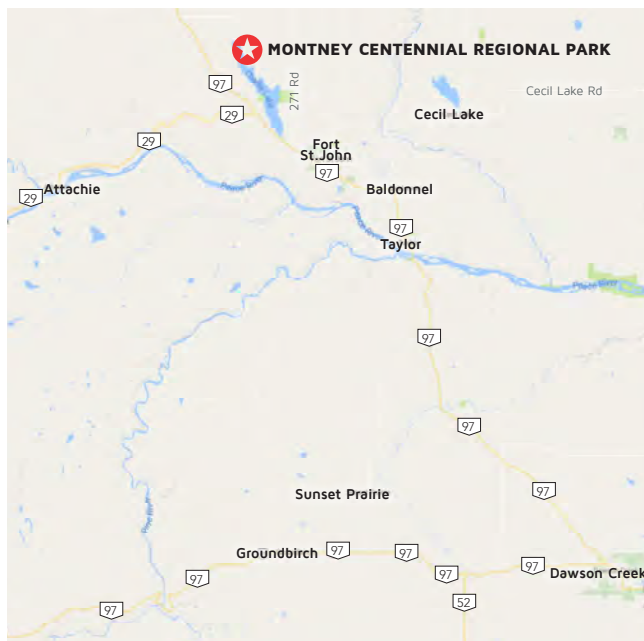
HISTORY

Montney Centennial Regional Park, situated on the northeast shore of Charlie Lake, was established by the Montney Recreation Commission as a Canada Centennial project in 1967. In 1988, the Commission requested that the park become a Regional Park.

AMENITIES & ACTIVITIES

- » 6 Rustic free campsites (no hookups)
- » Picnic tables
- » Pit toilets
- » Lake access
- » Boat launch
- » Bird and wildlife habitat

Park Site Map



Park Location Map

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

CURRENT PARK USE

To help us understand how visitors currently use Montney Centennial Regional Park, please answer the following questions.

15. How frequently would you say you visit the park?

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Once per year | ☐ Occasionally
(e.g. 1-2 times in the past five years) |
| ☐ 2-5 times per year | |
| ☐ 6-10 times per year | ☐ I never visit the park (skip to Question 17) |
| ☐ 11 or more times per year | |

16. What activities have you participated in at Montney Centennial Regional Park? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Bird watching | ☐ Nature appreciation
(wildflowers, vegetation, wildlife) |
| ☐ Boating (motorized) | |
| ☐ Boating (non-motorized - e.g. sailing,
kayaking, canoeing) | ☐ Picnicking |
| ☐ Camping (RV or Trailer) | ☐ Swimming, playing in the water, sun bathing |
| ☐ Camping (Tent) | ☐ Visiting the Northland Trailblazers
Snowmobile Club |
| ☐ Fishing | ☐ Winter sports (e.g. snowmobiling, ice fishing,
snowshoeing, skiing) |
| ☐ Hiking | ☐ Other outdoor activities (please describe): |
| ☐ Mountain biking | _____ |
| | _____ |

17. What, if anything, limits your use of Montney Centennial Regional Park? Select all that apply.

- ☐ Little or nothing limits our use
- ☐ Park location
- ☐ Difficulty finding and accessing the park
- ☐ Not enough information about the park
- ☐ Trail conditions
- ☐ Lack of park facilities / amenities that suit our needs
- ☐ Safety concerns
- ☐ Concerns about unsanctioned activities (e.g. parties, vandalism, firearms use)
- ☐ Other, please describe: _____

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

18. If you've visited Montney Centennial Regional Park, what is your level of satisfaction with the following aspects? Please check one box for each category. If you haven't visited the park, skip to the next question.

Park Aspect	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No Opinion	Comments
Park layout/ configuration						
Boat ramp						
Park safety						
Park campsites						
Toilets						
Picnic amenities						
Park maintenance						
Park roads						
Trails						
Signage (entry, wayfinding)						
Other (please describe) 						
Other (please describe) 						

19. What do you believe are the biggest issues or challenges in Montney Centennial Regional Park?
Please describe up to three.

1.	
2.	
3.	

MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK

FUTURE PARK USE

The Regional Park Study will consider potential future improvements for Montney Centennial Regional Park.

20. If you could describe in one word or short phrase your vision for the future of Montney Centennial Regional Park, what would it be? (We will use these words and phrases to create a draft vision.)

21. What amenities do you think might warrant consideration in Montney Centennial Regional Park? Please check that apply.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Swimming dock | ☐ Mountain bike trails |
| ☐ Fishing dock | ☐ Interpretive signage (nature, wildlife, birds) |
| ☐ More RV/Trailer campsites | ☐ Winter activities (e.g. sledding, skiing) |
| ☐ More tent campsites | ☐ Additional camping amenities |
| ☐ Campsites with hookups | ☐ Improved toilets |
| ☐ Improved boat launch (for motorized boats) | ☐ Group picnic shelter |
| ☐ Improved boat launch (for non-motorized boats) | ☐ Group campsite |
| ☐ Hiking trails | ☐ Horse facilities (e.g. trails, corrals for overnight camping) |

Other suggestions – your ideas could be big or small – we want to hear them all!

22. If Montney Centennial Regional Park was enhanced to include improved/additional facilities, would you consider paying for camping in the park?

- ☐ Yes, I would consider paid camping if there were improved/additional facilities
- ☐ Maybe, depending on amenities available and cost
- ☐ No, I would prefer the park remain more rustic with free camping

PART 4: GENERAL

23. Have you visited a provincial, regional, or other type of backcountry park and had a great experience? If yes, please tell us the name of the park and what made it great. Learning from other successes helps us understand ideas and experiences that might be considered.

24. Do you have any additional comments, concerns, or ideas about either park that you would like to share at this time?

Thank you for providing your input!

CONTEST ENTRY

I wish to be entered into a draw for chance to win a \$250 Canadian Tire Gift Card:

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide your contact details.

Contact information will be kept confidential and will only be used to contact the draw winner.

Name:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Only one entry per person. Winner will be contacted by August 17, 2017.

Stay Connected!

- » Watch for updates on Facebook: Peace River Regional District "Official Page"
- » Subscribe to **PRRD's Engage!** email list
- » Watch for announcements and public events in the parks
- » Visit: prrd.bc.ca/engage



Participation in this questionnaire is voluntary and may require the disclosure of personal information. Questionnaire information will be used on an aggregated basis only (and not on an individually-identifiable basis).



Peace River Regional District REPORT

R-1

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: September 29, 2017

From: Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator

Subject: Trails Policy Amendment

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board that the Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid be amended by;

- 1) Changing the definition and monetary threshold for major and minor capital equipment and adding "Schedule "F" – Minor Capital Equipment Inventory" to the Mandatory Application Documentation; and
- 2) Adding a clause to Section 5.16 of the policy to allow organizations to request a funding amendment for situations where the Society has completed their project with the funds allocated and they have outstanding funds remaining.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Equipment Inventory:

The following resolution was passed at the February 6, 2017 meeting of the Regional Parks Committee;
"that staff draft a proposed change to the policy, requesting that recreational groups applying for a Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid include to provide an inventory of all equipment owned by the that group."

The amended policy is attached for the approval of the Committee. The definition of minor equipment is currently; equipment valued at under \$3,000 and having an extended lifetime over one year. The definition of major equipment is currently; equipment valued at over \$3,000, but staff recommend lowering the threshold to \$500. This change would see groups providing an inventory of all minor capital equipment to ensure that the funding is being used as intended. Note: before recommending that the policy be amended, the Committee should consider whether collecting this information will assist them in determining the level of funding support for each applicant. Further, would the value of the piece of minor equipment be the current value (which could have depreciated since purchase) or would it be the original purchase cost?

Funding Amendment:

The Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid policy was updated in 2015 to add a section regarding amendments to trails applications. Currently, a funding amendment can only be only be applied for in exceptional circumstances where one of the following has occurred (as found in 5.16 Funding Amendment from Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid Policy):

- i. An emergency situation has occurred and if not rectified immediately it will pose a liability to the organization (e.g., major bridge crossing lost and poses a hazard to the public); or

Staff Initials: *Casey*

Dept. Head: *L. Morgan*

CAO:

Chibrik

Page 1 of 3

October 10, 2017

- ii. The location or scope of the project is required to be moved or altered to meet requirements imposed by the land owner.

Staff recommend bringing this policy in line with the Rural Recreational and Cultural Grants-in-Aid Policy, which allows for amendments in such circumstances where the organization has completed the project with the funds allocated and have outstanding funds remaining. This amendment would incentivize organizations to obtain the best value for dollar and would support the objective of the grant – the development and maintenance of public recreational trails.

OPTIONS:

- 1) The Regional Parks Committee recommend that the policy be amended such that equipment at a cost of less than \$500 per individual piece be considered an ineligible expense under the policy.

Discussion: Rather than requiring groups to provide an inventory of tools with their applications, an alternative may be to restrict what may be applied for under the policy. If the intent of the Committee is to not fund the purchase and replacement of minor hand tools (shovels, rakes, etc.), then it may be better to make tools under a certain value (e.g., \$500 or \$1,000) an ineligible expense. Volunteers are often able to provide household hand tools for projects they are completing. The challenge comes in when some tools or machinery is needed year after year that is more costly to obtain such as stump grinders.

- 2) Regional Parks Committee recommend that no changes be made to the policy.

Discussion: The Committee could assess each application as they are received. The Committee can choose on a case-by-case basis what portions of an application will be supported. The challenge is that it is difficult to be consistent between applications and from year to year in the absence of policy detailing ineligible expenses.

- 3) The Regional Parks Committee provide direction to staff.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

Strategic objective 5.1 is to continue to implement the Parks and Trails Master Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Equipment Inventory:

If the Committee chooses to amend the policy such that minor equipment purchases will not be an eligible expense, more funds will be available for other components of projects.

Funding Amendment:

No additional funds will be required and it will incentivize organizations to find the lowest cost option to complete their projects if they can reallocate unused funds for additional projects.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

If adopted, staff will make changes to the Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid as directed and will post on the PRRD website and distribute to any groups who have applied to this grant in the past or who intend to for the 2018 granting year.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

Requiring an inventory of minor capital equipment would increase the amount of time and effort required by organizations to apply for this funding.

Attachments:

DRAFT – Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid Policy

DRAFT - Schedule “F” – Minor Capital Equipment Inventory

Peace River Regional District Statement of POLICY and PROCEDURE			
Department:	Administration	Policy No.	0340-30-8
Section:	Community Services	Issued:	
Subject:	Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid	Effective:	September 3, 2017
Board Resolution # and Date:	RD/15/09/23 September 3, 2015	Page:	1 of 5
		Replaces:	0340-30-8
Issued by:	Trish Morgan, GM Community Services	Dated:	June 25, 2014
Approved by:	Chris Cvik, Chief Administrative Officer		

1. POLICY

That the Regional Board provide grants to non-profit organizations within the region to support the development and maintenance of public recreational trails.

2. PURPOSE

The Peace River Regional District recognizes the importance of recreational trails for its citizens in terms of enhanced quality of life, health and well-being, economic benefits, protection and conservation of the environment and preservation of local history and culture. In accordance with the Peace River Regional District's Parks and Trails Master Plan, the Regional District aims to provide support and supplemental funding for the development, maintenance and improvements of recreational trails within the region for public use.

3. RESPONSIBILITY

The General Manager of Community Services or designate is responsible for ensuring compliance with the Policy.

4. DEFINITIONS

- a) **Board of Directors** in this document refers to the Peace River Regional District's Board of Directors.
- b) **Capital infrastructure** is defined as the addition of a permanent structural improvement or the restoration of some aspect of a property that will either enhance the property's overall value or increase its useful life.
- c) **Debt** is defined as an amount owed to a person or organization for services, products or loans funds not yet paid for.
- d) **Funding amendment** is defined as the reallocation of funds from a previously approved project to a new project or new project location.
- e) **Minor capital equipment** is defined as equipment valued at under ~~\$3,000~~ **\$500** and has an extended lifetime over one year.
- f) **Major capital equipment** is defined as equipment valued at over ~~\$3,000~~ **\$500**.
- g) **Operation funding** is defined as funding provided for costs to ensure the day to day operation of a trail such as insurance and supplies.

- h) **Supplemental funding** is defined as funding that is an addition to other sources of funds or revenue.
- i) **Wages** is defined as any payment, stipend or honorarium made for labour or services to an employee or volunteer under the direction of an employer or organization.

5. PROCEDURE

5.1 Regional Trails Grant Funding

- a) Funding for recreational trail grants will be subject to annual review by the Regional Parks Committee and must be approved by the Board of Directors in the annual financial plan.
- b) Annual recreational trail grant funding will not exceed \$75,000 per year unless determined by resolution of the Board of Directors.

5.2 Eligible Applicants

An eligible applicant must:

- a) be a registered non-profit society in good standing with the Province of BC; and
- b) be based in the Peace River Regional District.

5.3 Application Limit

Each organization is allowed to submit no more than one application per year.

5.4 Amount of Grant

The cost-sharing formula will be up to a maximum of a 75% Regional District contribution, with the balance being the applicant contribution.

5.5 Eligible Projects

Eligible projects must:

- a) Be for construction, renewal, maintenance or expansion of recreational trails available for public use within the Peace River Regional District;
- b) Not start construction prior to approval of the application;
- c) Be duly authorized by resolution of the society(s) making the application – joint applications for partnership projects must include a resolution by all partner organizations;
- d) Be supported by at least one of the following land tenure arrangements:
 - i) Provincial land tenure agreement which may include a Recreation and Trail Sites BC agreement, Park Use Permit, or nominal rent tenure (e.g., license of occupation);
 - ii) Private land owned by the applicant non-profit organization; or
 - iii) Local government agreement supported by Council or Board resolution for projects on local government land.
- e) Avoid creating interface conflict between Crown and private lands.

5.6 Eligible Costs

Eligible costs are defined as all direct costs properly and reasonably incurred and paid solely and specifically in relation to the project. Eligible costs include:

- a) Trail and amenity design and engineering costs;
- b) Construction costs;
- c) Purchase of minor capital equipment (i.e., chainsaws);
- d) Purchase of capital infrastructure (i.e., bridges, warming shelters);
- e) Purchase of signage and trail markers;
- f) Marketing and promotion of the project upon completion;
- g) Volunteer celebration activities; and
- h) Training and safety courses.

5.7 Ineligible Costs

Ineligible costs include:

- a) Administrative costs and overhead;
- b) Major capital equipment purchases (i.e., mulchers, quads, etc.);
- c) Payment of debt;
- d) Direct payment of wages or volunteer honorariums; and
- e) Land acquisition.

5.8 Applicant Selection Criteria

- a) Primary project selection criteria will be focused on whether the project:
 - i. provides opportunities for healthy lifestyles – physical, mental and spiritual;
 - ii. fosters “regional pride” in the natural environment of the Regional District;
 - iii. strives to make recreational trails accessible for multiple different user groups and those with mobility challenges;
 - iv. utilizes public lands (Crown or local government) while avoiding conflict with private lands; and
 - v. builds on the Provincial Trails Strategy (i.e., Connecting Communities).
- b) Secondary consideration will be given to the degree to which projects meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - i. **Geographic coverage:** ideally the regional trail system should be effectively distributed throughout the Regional District. Potential sites should be of interest to the whole region in the interest of servicing all residents.
 - ii. **Environmental, education or heritage representation:** representative or regionally significant landscapes should be considered when developing a new trail or preserving an existing one. Potential sites should be chosen to represent the diverse landscapes that the area encompasses. Balancing wildlife values against the proposed benefits of trail development should also be considered along with the unique historic, cultural, ecological, and educational aspects of the area.
 - iii. **Project and ongoing operational costs:** development, maintenance and ongoing operational costs must be identified to be reasonably manageable by the organization responsible for trail development and ongoing management.

- iv. **Partnerships:** fostering partnerships with interest groups or other government agencies should be considered as it will aid in offsetting costs to develop and maintain existing or future regional trails.
- v. **Proximity:** trails that are located in close proximity to existing trails and parks or similar amenities should be considered.
- vi. **Already established as an unofficial trailhead:** trails that are already established or maintained in a positive manner and demonstrate a high utilization rate should be considered.
- vii. **User and site safety and the capacity to maintain:** user and site must be considered to ensure the non-profit groups are able to maintain them to a reasonable and safe standard expected of a natural trail for the safe enjoyment of the public.

5.9 Mandatory Application Documentation

Applicants must submit the following documents in their application:

- a) Completed application form (Schedule 'A')
- b) Application checklist (Schedule 'D')
- c) Resolution from the society(s) board of directors authorizing the project and application to the Regional District for funding
- d) Project budget which includes:
 - i. detailed cost estimates;
 - ii. sources of confirmed revenue;
 - iii. sources of revenue yet to be confirmed (i.e., other grant applications still pending decision); and
 - iv. Sources of confirmed donations for labour and/or materials.
- e) Three (3) quotes for any items valued at over \$3,000
- f) Current and year-end financial statements (balance sheet and income statement)
- g) Map and pictures showing the location of the project and planned route
- h) Evidence of a land tenure agreement with the Province of BC or local government or proof of ownership by the non-profit organization.
- i) Two (2) letters of support from other organizations or groups supporting the project
- j) Completed inventory of all minor capital equipment (e.g., chainsaws) (Schedule 'F')

Failure to provide adequate documentation during the application process and/or comply with the eligibility requirements for funding assistance may jeopardize funding eligibility. Late applications will not be accepted.

5.10 Application Deadline

- a) Applications must be received by the Regional District by November 15 of each year.

5.11 Adjudication Process

- a) The Regional Parks Committee and the Board of Directors have the discretion to accept, reject or amend any application. Applications may be rejected for the following reasons:
 - i. Incomplete or late applications;

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- ii. Failure to maintain society status;
 - iii. Failure to rationalize the need for funding;
 - iv. Failure to prove that the project is in the best interest of the community at large.
- b) Upon receipt of applications, the Regional Parks Committee will meet to review all eligible applications and to make funding recommendations to the Board of Directors for final decision.
- c) All applications will be adjudicated based on need, availability of funds in the fiscal year and selection criteria noted in section 10 of this policy.
- d) Successful applicants will be advised of the Board's decision by April 15 of each year subject to the adoption of the Annual Financial Plan and funding for the grant has been approved by the Board of Directors.

5.12 Unallocated Funds

Any funds that are not allocated in a calendar year shall be utilized to reduce the tax requisition in the next calendar year.

5.13 Unspent Funds

- a) Organizations must utilize allocated funds within three (3) years of ratification by the Board of Directors and will not be permitted to carry over funds past three years.
- b) Any funds not claimed by an organization after three (3) years will be returned to the service area by resolution of the Board of Directors and utilized to reduce the tax requisition in the next calendar year.

5.14 Claim Reimbursement

- a) Approved applications must provide proof of costs by submitting invoices and a completed claim form attached as Schedule 'B'.
- b) Copies of all invoices must be submitted for expense claim reimbursement. Claims may not be made for goods or services incurred before the approval of the grant.
- c) In exceptional circumstances, organizations may request in advance the total or partial payment of the approved grant from the Regional District. Organizations must make this request in writing to the Chief Financial Officer.

5.15 Annual Reports

- a) All organizations that receive a Regional Trails Grant-in-Aid must complete an Annual Report as attached hereto as Schedule 'C' by the last calendar day in December.
- b) Funds for the current year will not be reimbursed to an organization until any outstanding Annual Reports for that organization have been received by the Regional District.
- c) Photos must be provided showing project progress and/or completion as part of the annual report.

5.16 Funding Amendment:

- a) Organizations may apply for a funding amendment to reallocate funds already approved by the Board of Directors only in exceptional circumstances where the following may occur:
 - i) An emergency situation has occurred and if not rectified immediately it will pose a liability to the organization (e.g., major bridge crossing lost and poses a hazard to the public); or

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ii) The location or scope of the project is required to be moved or altered to meet requirements imposed by the land owner; or

iii) They have completed their project with the funds allocated and have outstanding funds remaining.

b) Applicants must provide:

- i. a completed funding amendment form;
- ii. a resolution of support from their organization;
- iii. a letter from the property owner (e.g., Crown, local government, etc.) detailing why the amendment is necessary, their support of the change to the project and their authorization to proceed; and
- iv. a map of the area(s).

b. The Regional Parks Committee will review the request and recommend to the Regional Board to approve or deny the funding amendment request.

c. The Regional Board has the sole discretion to approve or deny all funding amendment requests.

5.17 Recognition

- a) Grant recipients will recognize the financial contributions of the Regional District by prominently displaying a plaque or sign at the trail head.
- b) Grant recipients who maintain websites, social media sites and/or membership newsletters will provide Regional District with recognition in the form of prominently displaying a note of thanks next to the Regional District's logo.
- c) Grant recipients may be requested to issue a joint press release and photo with the Regional District from time to time.



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid
Schedule "F" – Minor Capital Equipment Inventory

Please provide a listing of all minor capital equipment inventory belonging to your Society

Note: minor capital equipment inventory defined as "equipment valued at under \$500 and has an extended lifetime over one year.

Hand Tools (e.g., hammers, axes, rakes, shovels, etc.)

Power Tools (e.g., jigsaws, chain saws, power drills, etc.)

Other Tools (e.g., wheel barrows, lawn fertilizers/seeder, etc.)



Peace River Regional District REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: August 31, 2017

From: Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator

Subject: WNMS Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid Amendment Request

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board that the following amendment request from the Wolverine Nordic Mountain Society (WNMS) be denied based on not meeting the criteria for amendment and because it is an ineligible cost for funding as per the current Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid policy.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

In 2017, WNMS requested and were approved for funding of \$8,034 through the Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid. The Society applied in order to complete improvements to the Windfall Lake trail and the Greg Duke Memorial trail. The original project was completed in July of 2017 and was well under budget, with only \$4,561 of the \$8,034 being spent. These savings were due to;

- receiving a reduced rate on helicopter service; and
- the organization being able to transport materials using ATVs instead of helicopters as originally budgeted for.

The applicant is now requesting that the original application be amended to include the now complete installation of new boardwalk for 20m of trail on the Babcock Falls trail and 30m on the Bergeron Falls trail. The installation of these boardwalks were completed on the weekend of July 21 and 22, which was previous to the amendment request being brought to staff. The cost of installation was \$1,157.53. The policy states that the payment of debt is an ineligible cost, and as this project has already been completed, this would be considered a debt payment.

Further, the amendment request does not meet the policy requirements for amending an application. Per the policy, a funding amendment can only be only be applied for in exceptional circumstances where one of the following has occurred (as found in 5.16 Funding Amendment from Recreational Trails Grants-in-Aid Policy)

- i. An emergency situation has occurred and if not rectified immediately it will pose a liability to the organization (e.g., major bridge crossing lost and poses a hazard to the public); or
- ii. The location or scope of the project is required to be moved or altered to meet requirements imposed by the land owner.

OPTIONS:

The Regional Parks Committee could recommend to the Regional Board that they approve the amendment request, as the Regional Board has the sole discretion to approve or deny all funding amendment requests.

Staff Initials: *Casey*

Dept. Head: *J. Morgan*

CAO: *Ch. Birk*

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October 10, 2017

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

Strategic objective 5.1 is to continue to implement the Parks and Trails Master Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Should the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board the amendment of the application and payment of the cost of installing boardwalk, \$1,157.53 would be claimed against the remaining funds and paid to the group. \$2,315.47 would remaining to reduce the tax requisition in the next calendar year.

Should the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board the denial of the amendment request, \$3,473 would be carried forward to reduce the tax requisition in the next calendar year.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Once determined as applicable or not applicable, WNMS will receive a letter confirming the status of their amendment request.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

Amendment Request from WNMS



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Regional Trails Grants-in-Aid

Schedule "E" – Funding Amendment

APPLICANT INFORMATION	
Name of Organization: WOLVERINE NORDIC + MOUNTAIN SOCIETY	Date: 03 Aug 2017
Contact: Charles Helm	Phone: 250 242 3984
Mailing Address: Box 1690 Tumbler Ridge V0C 2W0	
Email: helm, c. w @ gmail. com	Fax: 250 242 4076
PROJECT TO PROVIDE FUNDS	
Year Funds Granted: 2017	Amount Granted: \$ 8 034 . 00
Current Project Description: (project for which funds were originally applied for) Enhancements to Windfall Lake trail Enhancements to Greg Duke Lakes trail These projects were completed on time (late July) and well under-budget. This was because we could get by with a Rocon instead of a helicopter for the Greg Duke Lakes trail, and transported the lumber to the trailhead in private vehicles. Also, the helicopter for the Windfall Lake trail was provided at a lower-than-expected rate because of our non-profit status.	
REASON FOR AMENDMENT	
TOTAL Cost of New Project: Proposed New Project: (reason for request and description of project, project budget) We had two other major trail enhancement projects in 2017. 1) Babcock Falls trail boardwalk. In 2014 we received funding from PRRD to install 100 m of boardwalk across a wet meadow - we thought this was sufficient, but over time it became clear that a further 20 m needed boardwalks. We carried the lumber in by hand and built the boardwalks at the site on July 21st. Cost of lumber: \$ 332.27 2) Bergeron Falls trail boardwalk. There was one persistent wet spot of over 30 m which was becoming soggy and degraded. We used a Rocon to get the lumber to the site, and installed the boardwalk on July 22nd. Cost of lumber: \$ 635.46 THESE PROJECTS ARE SO SIMILAR TO WHAT PRRD HAS SUPPORTED IN THE PAST THAT WE ARE ASKING IF THEY CAN BE ADDED TO OUR 2017 PROJECTS AND REIMBURSED.	