

BC Parks

Tribune Bay Park Engagement Engagement Results & Outcomes Report

Prepared for:

BCParks

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LEES
+
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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

BC Parks is embarking on a project that will improve the experience for visitors to Tribune Bay Park by offering a range of camping opportunities that promote sustainable, low-impact camping options and include improved access for those with limited mobility.

In 2021, BC Parks acquired two private properties to expand Tribune Bay Park on Hornby Island. Since then, BC Parks has been creating a long-term plan for the new park areas, as well as improvements to the existing park property. The expanded park will protect additional lands and offer opportunities to enhance natural, cultural, and recreational values at the park.

There has been consultation with First Nations and engagement with the public and stakeholders throughout the process. Building on the information gathered through site assessments as well as conversations with the community, BC Parks has prepared a design for park improvements that includes:

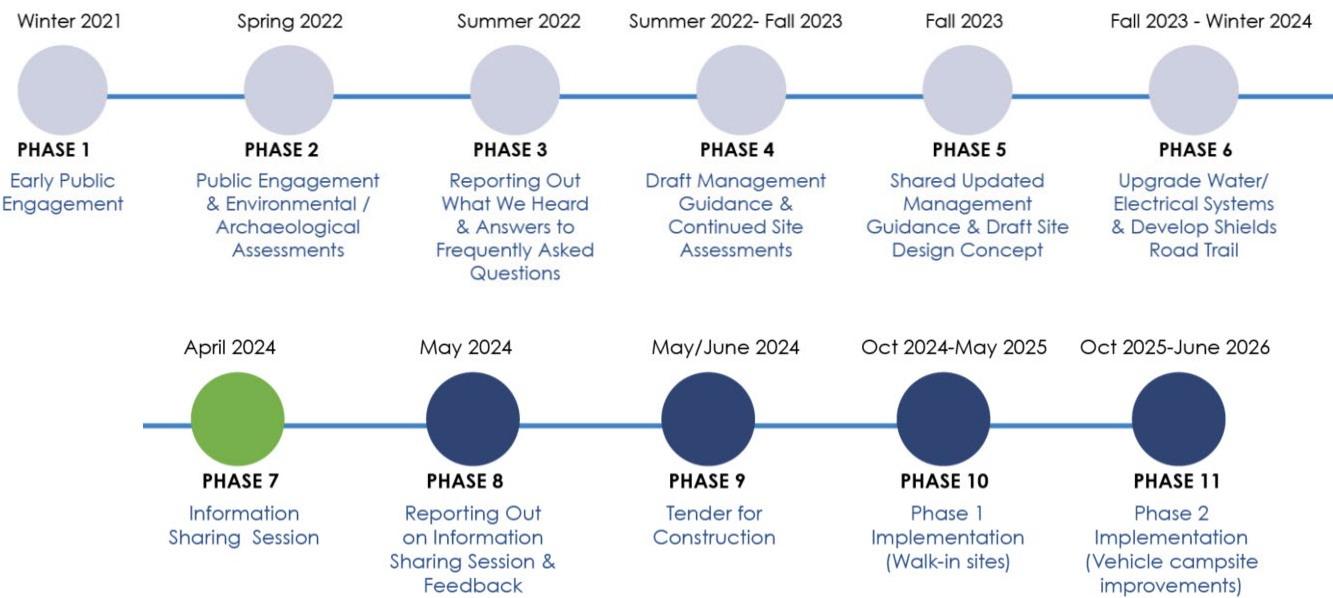
- Providing a range of camping options including walk-in/bike-in sites, vehicle campsites and bunkies¹ while keeping the overall number of campsites similar;
- Improving water management by adding stormwater ponds to the existing campground and including water conservation measures to facility design;
- Protecting forest, shoreline and wetland values;
- Upgrading trails to provide safe, inclusive trail access to the shoreline; and,
- Reducing traffic congestion on the existing campground entrance road.

BC Parks would like to thank all participants who have taken part in past engagements. Your input has shaped the plan over the course of the project.

¹ A bunkie is a rustic micro-cabin with basic features.

1.2 PROJECT TIMELINE

The following timeline shows the project process since the project was initiated in 2021:



We are reaching the final stages of the project planning with a target to complete construction in two phases. A tender for construction is anticipated to be posted in June, with the construction of walk-in sites (Phase 1 Implementation) targeted for October 2024 - May 2025. Improvements to the existing campground (Phase 2 Implementation) is targeted to take place between October 2025 – June 2026.

Over the past few years, there has been extensive engagement with the public regarding this project. The plans have been adapted based on comments received from the public (see tables in Section 2.1). The following timeline shows the various engagement events that have taken place:



1.3 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document is a summary of what was heard during the most recent community engagement on this project. In addition, recent changes to project plans are summarized in the table below. These changes are based on feedback and comments from the public over the course of project planning, and information gathered through professional assessments.

BC Parks has been made aware of concerns about the accuracy of some of the information shared in the community, in the media, and online, and is addressing this with the release of this report.

For a summary of previous engagement feedback, please refer to the Tribune Bay Park Addition - What We Heard Summary Report (June 2022) posted on the following website: <https://helpshapebc.gov.bc.ca/tribune>.

2 ENGAGEMENT RESULTS

2.1 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK AND MITIGATION

The following is a summary of comments received from the Public Engagement events over the course of this project with corresponding key outcomes or actions that have been taken in response to the comments received.

What We Heard: The importance of environmental conservation and protection.

What We Heard	Mitigation
Concerns about the layout of the new camping area and related infrastructure impacting existing ecosystems, wildlife and trees.	The recreation site plan was designed using detailed information gathered from site-specific assessments of hydrology, wildlife trees, and ecological and cultural values. BC Parks has revised the site design and proposed locations for walk-in campsites to protect wetlands, mature/significant trees and other ecological values. Existing wetland areas will be preserved. A detailed wildlife and danger tree assessment has been completed. Mature and wildlife trees will be retained wherever possible within the walk-in campground area. Walk-in campsites will be carefully field-fit during construction to minimize impact to natural vegetation and ecologically sensitive features. The new walk-in sites will be built in an area encompassing approximately 2ha (5ac); however, the actual disturbed area within this footprint will be much smaller than that as individual sites will be field fit to minimize impact and retain as

	many trees and natural features as possible. The new walk-in parking lot will be built in a previously disturbed area and will be approximately 0.2ha (0.5ac) in size. For reference and comparison, the total combined size of the two purchased parcels is approximately 9.3ha (23ac)
Concerns about ensuring invasive plants are controlled in a safe and ecologically friendly manner.	BC Parks has initiated a plan for invasive species removal and management. There are no plans for chemical treatment of invasives at the present time.
Concerns about the impacts of construction activities on wildlife.	BC Parks is developing environmental management plans for construction that include sensitive timing windows for migratory breeding birds, bald eagles, and other species to guide project timelines and minimize impacts. Environmental monitors will also be on-site during construction.
Desire to keep the property as natural as possible.	By completing a detailed survey of tree health, the recreation enhancement plan will maximize tree retention. Walk-in campsites are accessed by trails and have a smaller foot print than traditional car-accessed campsites. The walk-in sites will work with surrounding natural features, and offer a quieter, nature-based camping experience. Re-vegetation and planting for disturbed areas is also being planned.
Concerns about impacts to the Katimavik Trail and suggestion to use boardwalk over sensitive areas.	The Katimavik Trail will be maintained as is, except for portions of lower Katimavik Trail that will be upgraded to improve

	access to the beach for people of all abilities. Boardwalk sections will be incorporated to avoid impacting wet areas where appropriate.
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What We Heard: Infrastructure and Development Comments.

What We Heard	Key Outcome
Concern about the development of the new walk-in campsites and how that may impact Katimavik Trail.	New walk-in campsites will be located approximately 30m from the Katimavik Trail to provide a vegetated buffer to block sounds and views. Campers accessing walk-in sites will use a separate access trail, so that Katimavik Trail users are separated from walk-in campsite pedestrian traffic. Most of the Katimavik Trail will be kept as-is with accessibility improvements to the trail surface and width only at key sections (i.e., access to the beach).
Interest in walk-in/bike-in campsites that encourage travelling by foot or non-motorized transportation.	Approximately 1/3 of the existing car-accessible campsites will be converted to walk-in/cycle-in only. The long-term goal is to promote sustainable tourism and transportation and help reduce impacts to ferry capacity and from vehicle traffic. Bike lock-ups and food caches will be provided in the walk-in campsite area to support use by cyclists.
Desire for no increase in overall campsite numbers due to congestion, ferry and traffic concerns.	The overall number of campsites will remain approximately the same as existing and conversion of approximately 1/3 of the sites to walk-in/cycle-in sites is

	expected to promote reduced vehicle and RV traffic over the long term.
The desire for less crowding at the existing campsites and improved privacy between sites.	An improved camping experience is planned for the existing camping area including improved storm water management, re-vegetating areas with native species and providing more privacy between campsites. The total number of campsites in the existing campground will also be reduced resulting in reduced density and crowding.
Interest in improved facilities at the campground	Many of the existing campground facilities are at the end of their service life and require replacement to ensure long term enjoyment of visitors. The proposed plan includes new accessible toilets, a new playground, improved stormwater management, new electrical and water infrastructure, and improvement/resurfacing of existing campground loop roads, among other improvements.
Comments about the impacts of the proposed parking location, concerns about the number of parking stalls and questions about the need for parking for the new walk-in campsites.	The number of proposed new parking stalls has been reduced from the original concept, while still providing adequate parking for campers. Providing some parking for walk in-sites is required and intended to mitigate other problems that would arise if no additional parking were available, such as overflow parking on community roads or overuse of day use parking areas. The new parking lot will also allow those arriving with a vehicle and wheelchair or other mobility aids to be able to access the walk-in sites.

	The location of the walk-in campsite parking lot has been moved to a previously disturbed location, and further away from the Katimavik Trail in response to public concerns.
Interest in minor trail development to connect the campground to the beach.	A trail has been developed along Shields Road to allow for safe pedestrian access between the beach, the campground and other community amenities.
General support for the plan and support for walk-in/bike-in campsites.	All new campsites added will be walk-in/bike-in campsites.

What We Heard: Park Operation and Use of the Park:

What We Heard	Key Outcome
Interest in low-impact campground operations.	Water conservation measures at the campground will include low flow fixtures, monitoring of water system use with flow meters, and providing water conservation messaging to campers. Surface water management will be improved within the existing campground by using constructed ponds/wetlands which will help reduce peak flows, retain more water locally, and manage water more naturally.
Concern about air quality and wildfire risks associated with campfires within the camping area.	Fire rings will not be provided in campsites and fires will not be permitted in the campground to reduce wildfire risks and to reduce impacts to local air quality.

Interest in more opportunities to educate the public about the park's natural and cultural values.	Providing interpretive and educational signage about natural and cultural values within the park is identified as a management strategy. In addition, BC Parks will look for opportunities to collaborate with community partners to promote nature stewardship and responsible recreation to island visitors.
Desire for a non-motorized marine zone along the beach and concerns about impacts of boating on eelgrass.	Future plans include the development of a recreation strategy to provide specific guidance regarding activities on the beach, including fires, swimming, dog walking and boat access. In addition, BC Parks will work with partner agencies to understand the potential impacts of recreational activities on ecological values in the marine and foreshore areas.
Conflicting comments about the desire for dogs to be permitted on areas of the beach.	BC Parks will work with the local community to explore options for providing limited opportunities for allowing leashed dogs on the beach if ecological values can be protected. Seasonal, temporal or spatial restrictions for dog walking may be considered to minimize potential negative impacts to wildlife or other beach users.

3 NEXT STEPS

A tender for construction is anticipated to be posted in June, with the construction of walk-in sites (Phase 1) targeted for October 2024 through May 2025. Improvements to the existing campground (Phase 2) is targeted to take place between October 2025 – June 2026.

BC Parks will continue to share important updates with the community as this project progresses into the next phase.

Appendix A – Public Information Session ENGAGEMENT DETAILS

The following section outlines the most recent public engagement activity that took place in April 2024. Please see the **Tribune Bay Park Addition - What We Heard** from June 2022 for more details on previous engagement findings.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

On April 24, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, a public information session was held at the Hornby Island Community Hall. Approximately 70 people attended the event.

ONLINE FEEDBACK

Email feedback was received by parks staff via the emails provided on the “Help Shape BC” Webpage. Thirteen (13) individuals provided feedback by email.

Questions from the public were also received via the “Help Shape BC” Webpage. Eleven (11) questions were received and answered.

PUBLICITY AND OUTREACH

SOCIAL / LOCAL MEDIA

The public information session was advertised on The Hornby Tribune Facebook page on April 17th.

It was also advertised in the April 17th and 24th copies of The Hornby Tribune that is distributed to mailboxes on Hornby Island.

PRINTED / EMAILED MATERIALS

Hard copy and emailed versions of the engagement boards were provided to community members who had previously submitted comments/written letters the week of April 15th, 2024.

WEB PAGE

The dedicated public webpage (HelpShapeBC.gov.bc.ca/tribune) was updated with environmental reports, engagement boards which included a timeline for the project, an overview of past public engagement outcomes and a summary of key topics.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FEEDBACK – SUMMARY

The following is a summary of comments received from the Public Information Session and online feedback along with corresponding key outcomes or actions that have been taken in response to the comments. Feedback was gathered both through written comments, including over 130 sticky notes placed on engagement boards, as well as through verbal conversations with staff present at the event.

The importance of environmental conservation and protection.

We heard about the desire to:

- Protect ecosystems, wildlife and trees (X9)
- Respect the rare and precious ecology including wetlands (X3)
- Respect nature (X3)
- Proactively protect endangered species (X1)
- Preserve undeveloped areas (X1)
- Protect the watershed and drainage systems (X3)
- Monitor water quality (X1)
- Prioritize environmental protection over recreation (X1)
- Plan for climate change (X2)
- Control invasive plants without the use of chemicals (X1)
- Plant rare or native species for re-vegetation e.g. skunk cabbage, Sitka alder, twin berry, osoberry, dogwood (X1)

We also heard comments regarding:

- The perception environmental assessments do not adequately address the extent of species present and proposing insufficient protection measures.
- Concern for the potential presence of red-listed species near the proposed campsites.
- Concern that the human footprint expansion with new trails will have a greater impact than expected.
- The desire to ensure environmental best practices are adhered to.

Infrastructure and Development Comments.

We heard about the desire to:

- Limit the development of buildings (e.g., bunkies, condos) (X5)
- Support the development of bunkies (X2)
- Improve outhouses (X1)
- Develop boardwalks as opposed to gravel over ecologically sensitive areas, specifically on Katimavik Trail (X11)
- Minimize use of gravel, specifically on Katimavik Trail (X9), in the meadow area (X2) and in the new campsites (X1)
- Develop a parallel trail instead of improving the existing one (X2)
- Limit/ restrict RVs (X6)
- Protect significant First Nations cultural sites (x2)
- Keep Katimavik Trail as is (X4)
- Keep the campground as is (X2)
- Move walk-in parking lot to current day use parking lot (X1)
- Ensure the campsites cannot be viewed from the beach or trail (X2)
- Know more about what the markings on the trees represent (X1)
- Relocate the new camping (walk-in sites) area to the meadow/ out of the forest/other cleared areas (X11)
- Locate walk-in campsites within the outdoor education center area to generate summer revenue and alleviate pressure on the park (X3)
- Enhance the existing campground experience by reducing the number of sites (X1)
- Expand the existing parking lot rather than creating additional lots (X1)

We also heard:

- General support for the plan and support for certain aspects of the plan such as:
 - Overall support for the project (X8)
 - Support for walk-in sites (X11)
 - Support for no increase in the number of campsites (X2)
- A desire to make walk-in campsites for bikes too (X1)
- Concern regarding the number of new sites (X1)
- A desire to see more information and details about services in the concept plan (i.e. change rooms, toilets, water sources, shelters, showers, RV disposal dumps). (X2)

Park Operation and Use of the Park:

We heard about the desire to:

- Consider alternative water sources and conservation methods (x3)
- Learn more about water management, planned water infrastructure and water conservation efforts (X2)
- Keep 24/7 public access to the tide line/ Tribune Bay (x2)
- Concern regarding campground design, including sewage and grey water discharge management and alteration of water flow to wetland areas (X2)
- Provide opportunities to educate visitors about the impact of invasive species, i.e. eel grass beds and boats (x1)
- Hire more locals (X1)
- Discourage vehicle use by limiting parking (x2)
- Provide public education and interpretation i.e. collaboration with natural history centre (X1)
- Provide signage and bags for dog owners (X1)
- Manage potential conflicts between day-use visitors and campers over access to amenities (X1)

We also heard:

- Questions about the cost to local taxpayers and inconveniences caused by hosting the park, particularly due to the large number of campers compared to other accommodations on Hornby.
- Inquiries requesting more details on the well locations and functionality. (X2)
- The suggestion of implementing an "eco" levy for campers similar to successful models seen in Tofino.
- Critique of excessive spending on perceived unnecessary developments.