

# MARYLAND PARK CONCEPT PLAN



## PHASE 1 – EARLY IDEAS CONCEPT EXPLORATION ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

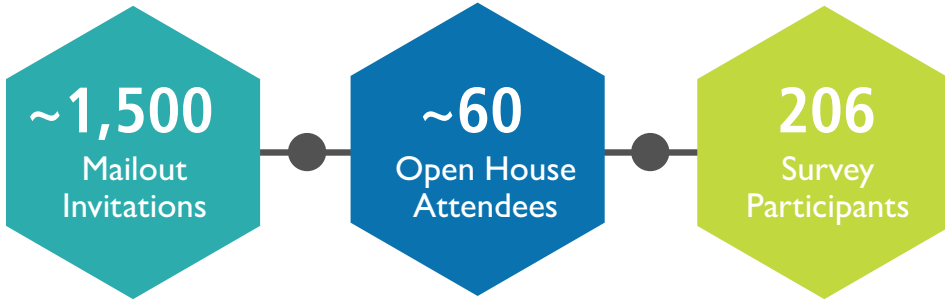
FALL 2022



City of  
Campbell  
River



# What We Heard ...



## PHASE 1

EARLY IDEAS  
& CONCEPT  
EXPLORATION

## ➤ SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS:

### PARTICIPANTS SUPPORT:

- 1 Play Area
- 2 Primary Trails
- 3 Waste Receptacles
- 4 Benches and Seating
- 5 Picnic Area



### PLAY VISION KEY WORDS:



NATURAL

ACCESSIBLE

IMAGINATIVE

### PARTICIPANTS HAD MIXED OPINIONS ABOUT:

- **Changes in the park:**
  - » Some respondents prefer to leave the park as it is while others invite change
- **Dogs in the park:**
  - » Multiple respondents indicated their concern of dogs being off-leash within the park for safety and cleanliness reasons
  - » Several respondents indicated desire for an off-leash dog park



### TOP PLAY PRIORITIES

Participants' top play components to consider at Maryland Park:

#### Main Play Component

- Swings
- Slide
- Rope/ web climber

#### Small Play Component

- Log steppers
- Balancing element
- Boulders



Maryland Park - Palmer Meadows



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PROJECT PROCESS DIAGRAM



# I | ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

## 1.1 OVERALL PROCESS OVERVIEW

In Fall 2022, the City of Campbell River initiated the Concept Plan process for Maryland Park. The intent of the Concept Plan is to guide decision-making and amenity upgrades for park development over the next 10 years. Key considerations include trails, connectivity, environmental conservation, and park maintenance.

The project process includes two phases, with each phase involving engagement and community feedback. The diagram on the adjacent page provides an overview of the process.

- » During **Phase 1**, community members and staff were engaged to provide ideas about park opportunities, challenges, and early directions for park improvements. Phase 1 confirmed key themes and priorities.
- » Moving into **Phase 2**, the feedback heard in **Phase 1** will inform the draft concept plan and recommendations for Maryland Park. The draft concept plan and recommendations will be referred back to the community for review and feedback in Winter 2023.

This document summarizes feedback gathered during Phase 1.

### ENGAGING IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19

Following over 2 years of changing protocols it was exciting to engage through an in person open house for the Maryland Park process.

Recognizing that there may be varying levels of community comfort with attending in-person events, the community input questionnaire and information materials were also made available online and were active for two weeks after the event.



To raise community awareness of the process signs were posted in the park as part of Phase 1 outreach

## 1.2 PHASE 1 OUTREACH

The following outreach tools were used to inform community members about engagement opportunities:

- **City of Campbell River Parks Website:** A project page was created for the Park Management Plan process at [campbellriver.ca/Maryland-Park](http://campbellriver.ca/Maryland-Park). This page features an overview of the plan process and provides important links to project materials.
- **Social Media Posts:** Posts were completed on the City of Campbell River's social media accounts to reach followers.
- **Email Notice:** Emails were sent out to those who signed up for project updates.
- **News Release:** The City of Campbell River posted a news release on their website to promote engagement opportunities.
- **Posters:** Printed posters were placed in the park advertising the process and opportunities to provide input.
- **Postcard Mail-Out:** Postcard invitations were distributed to more than 1,500 addresses in the neighbourhood surrounding Maryland Park providing information about the open house and the online survey.
- **City Hall:** Project information and hard copy input questionnaires and documents were made available at City Hall.



# 1.3 PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES



## Open House

**DATE** Tuesday November 22 at 4:30-6:30 pm

**LOCATION** Willow Point Community Hall

**DETAILS** City of Campbell River staff with support from Lanarc Consultants hosted an open house to gather community member input on potential park improvements, answer questions, share information about the concept plan process, and inform about input opportunities throughout the process.



## Community Input Questionnaire

**DATES** November 23rd - December 8th

**LOCATION** Online at [www.campbellriver.ca/Maryland-Park](http://www.campbellriver.ca/Maryland-Park)  
Hard copy versions in person at City Hall or at the open house on November 22, 2022 in Willow Point Community Hall

**DETAILS** A feedback form was available at the open house, at City Hall, or online. The focus of the feedback form was to review and confirm existing park use, issues, and opportunities, and receive feedback on potential park improvements.

## WHO PARTICIPATED?

**206**

Completed Surveys

**~60**

Visited the open house at Willow Point Community Hall







*Participants provided feedback on early ideas and priorities at the open house at Willow Point Community Hall on November 22, 2022.*

## Survey Feedback Summary

### 2 | WHAT WE HEARD

The following pages summarize the feedback that was received from the Phase 1 open house and survey.

This information is summarized as follows:

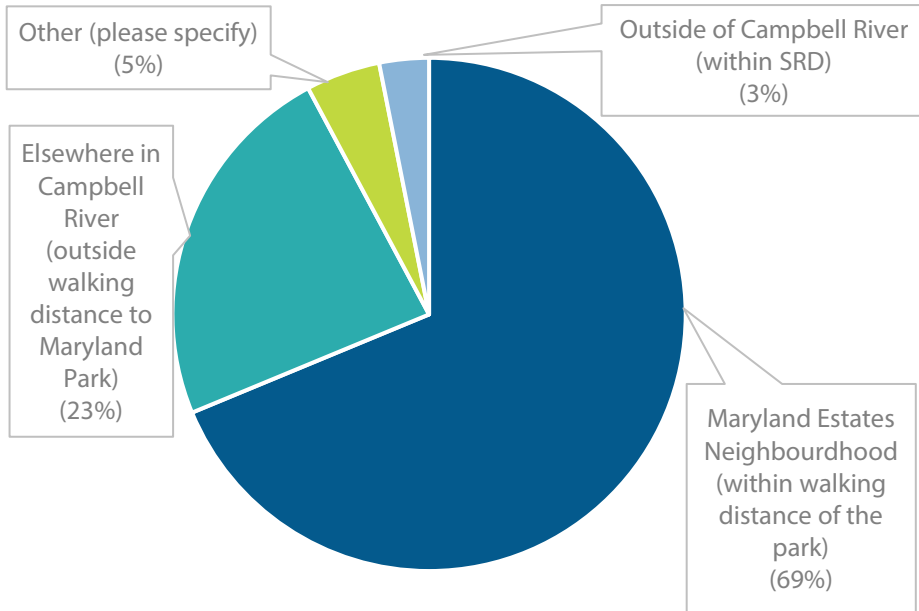
- Who We Heard From (Demographics)
- Early Ideas, Priorities, & Other Ideas
- Park Use & Challenges



## 2.1 WHO WE HEARD FROM (DEMOGRAPHICS)

### LOCATION OF RESPONDENTS

Where do respondents live?

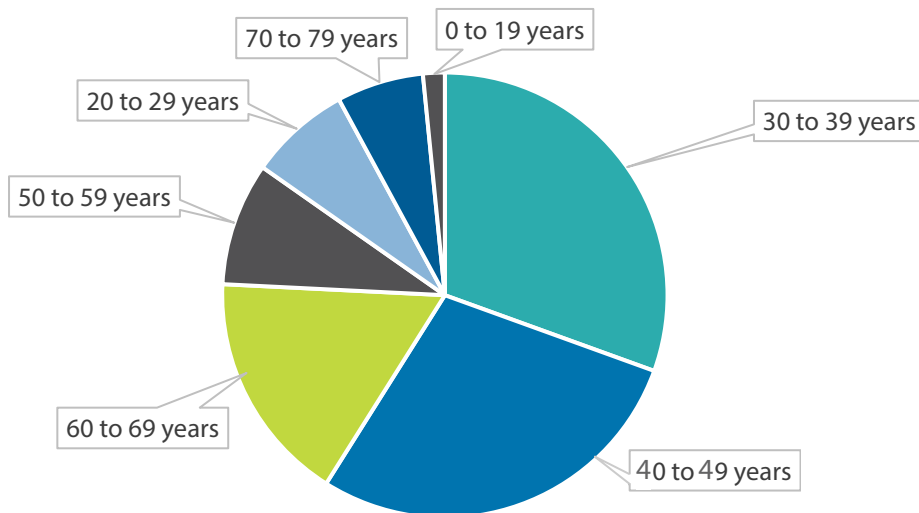


#### KEY FINDINGS:

- The majority of respondents live within Maryland Estates neighbourhood and walking distance from Maryland Park (69%)
- 97% of respondents live within the City of Campbell River
- Respondents who selected "other" indicated that they live within walking distance of the park but not within the Maryland Estates neighbourhood

### AGE OF RESPONDENTS

What age are respondents?

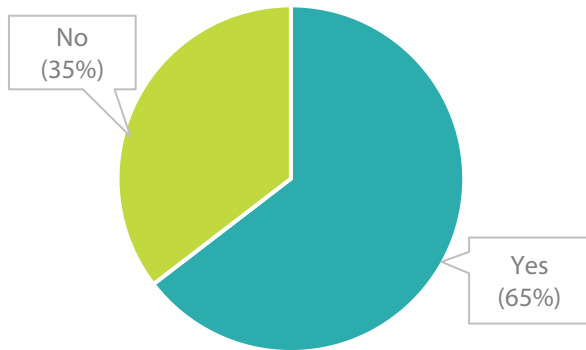


#### KEY FINDINGS:

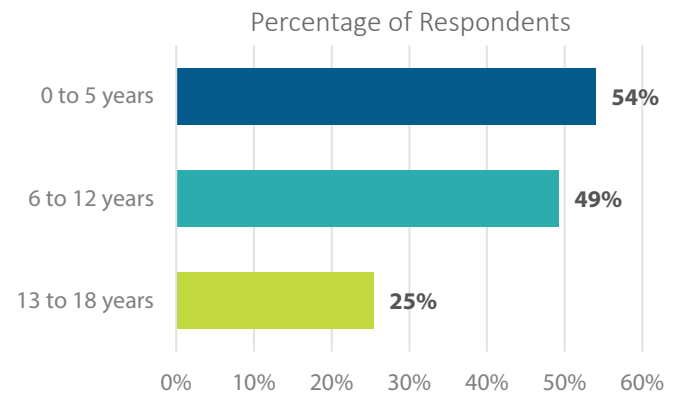
- Respondents from a wide range of age groups participated
- There was limited representation of the younger demographic (under 30)

## HOUSEHOLD

Do you have children under 18 in your household?



If you have children in your household, what ages?



\* NOTE: Respondents were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of total respondents that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

### KEY FINDINGS:

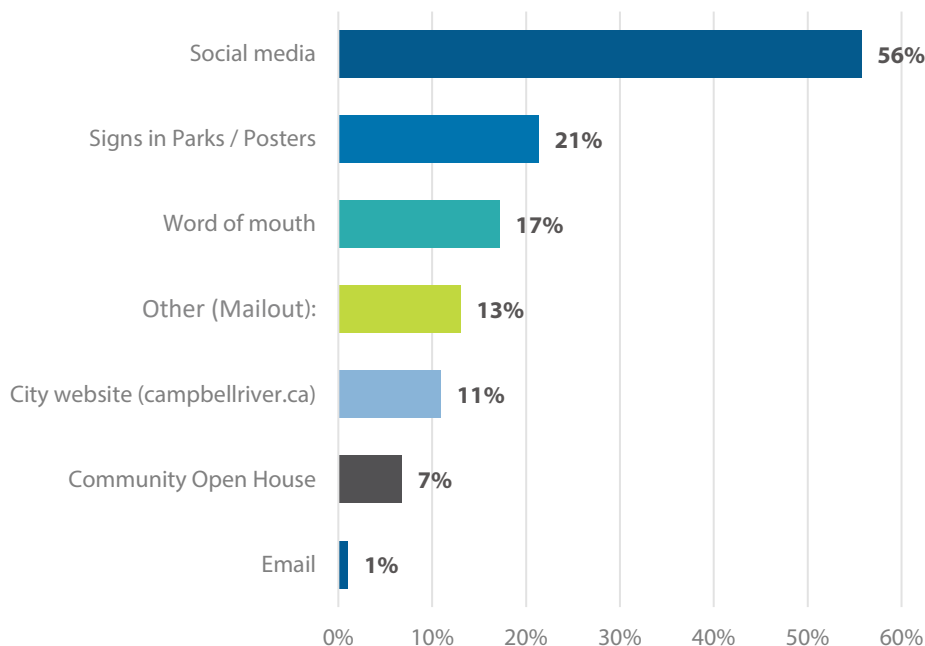
- The majority of respondents (65%) have children under the age of 18 and would have responded to represent the needs of their household, including children / youth
- 35% of respondents do not have children at home.

### KEY FINDINGS:

- Of respondents who do have children, the ages were quite evenly distributed among the three categories
- Approximately half of the respondents had children ages 0 to 5 years and/or 6 to 12 years.

## OUTREACH (DIGITAL & NON-DIGITAL)

How did respondents find out about this survey?



### KEY FINDINGS:

- Most participants learned about this survey through social media (56%)
- Many others found out about the survey through the mail out postcard sent out by the City of Campbell River
- Respondents learned about the project process through a range of both digital and non-digital outreach options.

\* NOTE: Respondents were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of total respondents that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

## 2.2 EARLY DIRECTIONS AND PRIORITIES

Participants were asked to review the below Early Ideas Map and list of early ideas for improvements to Maryland Park. The early ideas were generated from discussions with City staff, conversations with community members, and technical analysis of opportunities and constraints within the park.

### PARK IDEAS MAP



# EARLY IDEAS LIST

## FEATURE AMENITIES

- 1 Develop Primary Trails
- 2 Develop a Play Area
- 3 Add a Park Picnic Area
- 4 Provide Flexible Open Space

## SUPPORTING AMENITIES

- 5 Integrate Benches and Seating
- 6 Improve Park Entry Signage
- 7 Add Interpretive Signage
- 8 Designate Accessible Parking
- 9 Provide Bicycle Parking
- 10 Add Waste Receptacles
- 11 Add a Footbridge (over the drainage swale)

## NATURAL AREAS

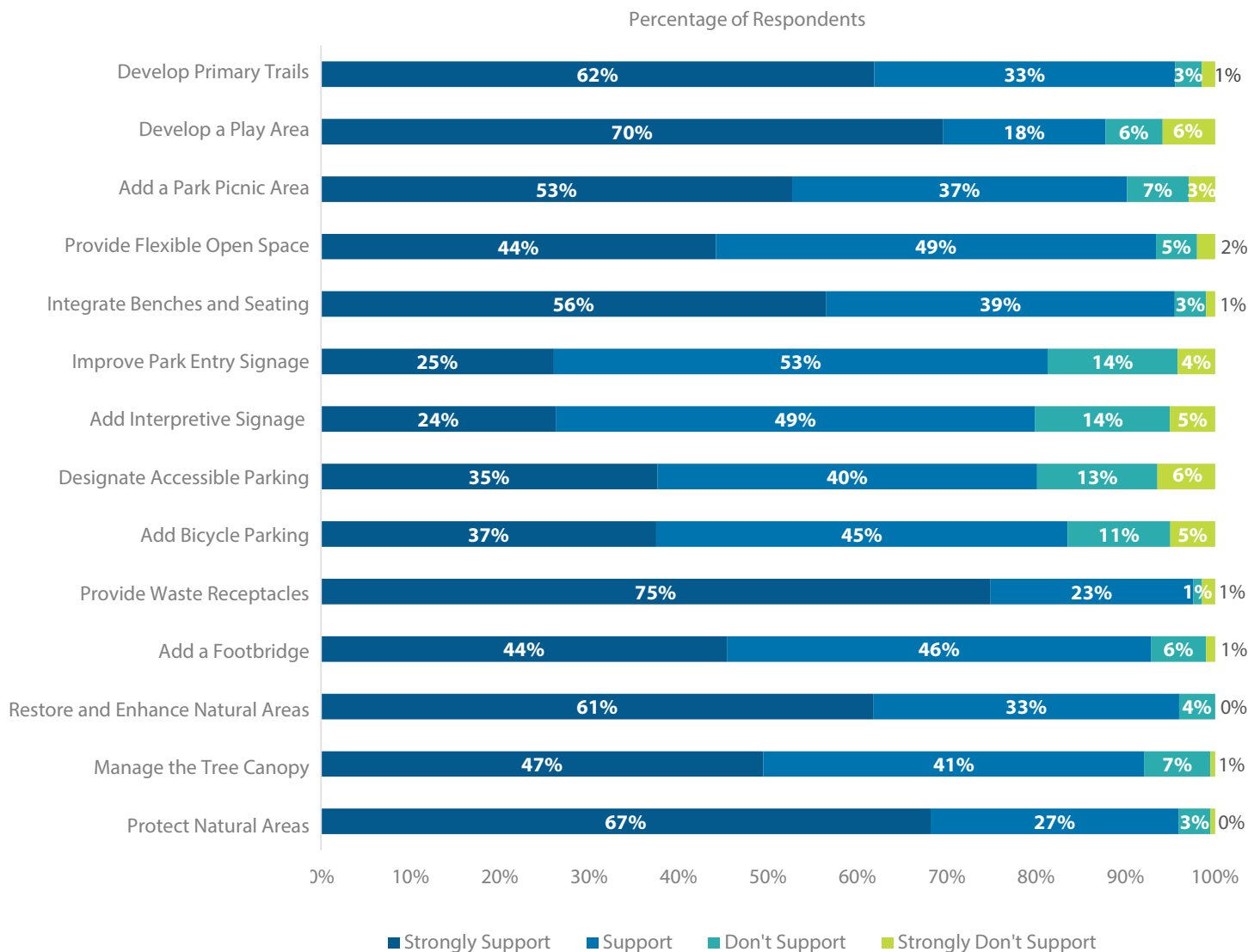
- 12 Restore and Enhance Natural Areas
- 13 Manage the Tree Canopy
- 14 Protect Natural Areas



## SUPPORT FOR PARK IDEAS

After reviewing the early ideas map and list, participants were asked to indicate their level of support for each idea (strongly support, support, do not support, strongly do not support, or prefer not to answer).

What early ideas do respondents support or not support?



\* NOTE: The response selections for "n/a / Don't know" are not included in this graph summary



## KEY FINDINGS:

- Overall, participants were supportive of all the early ideas proposed.
- The TOP 5 MOST SUPPORTED early ideas:
  - » Provide waste receptacles
  - » Develop primary trails
  - » Integrate benches and seating
  - » Protect natural areas
  - » Develop a play area

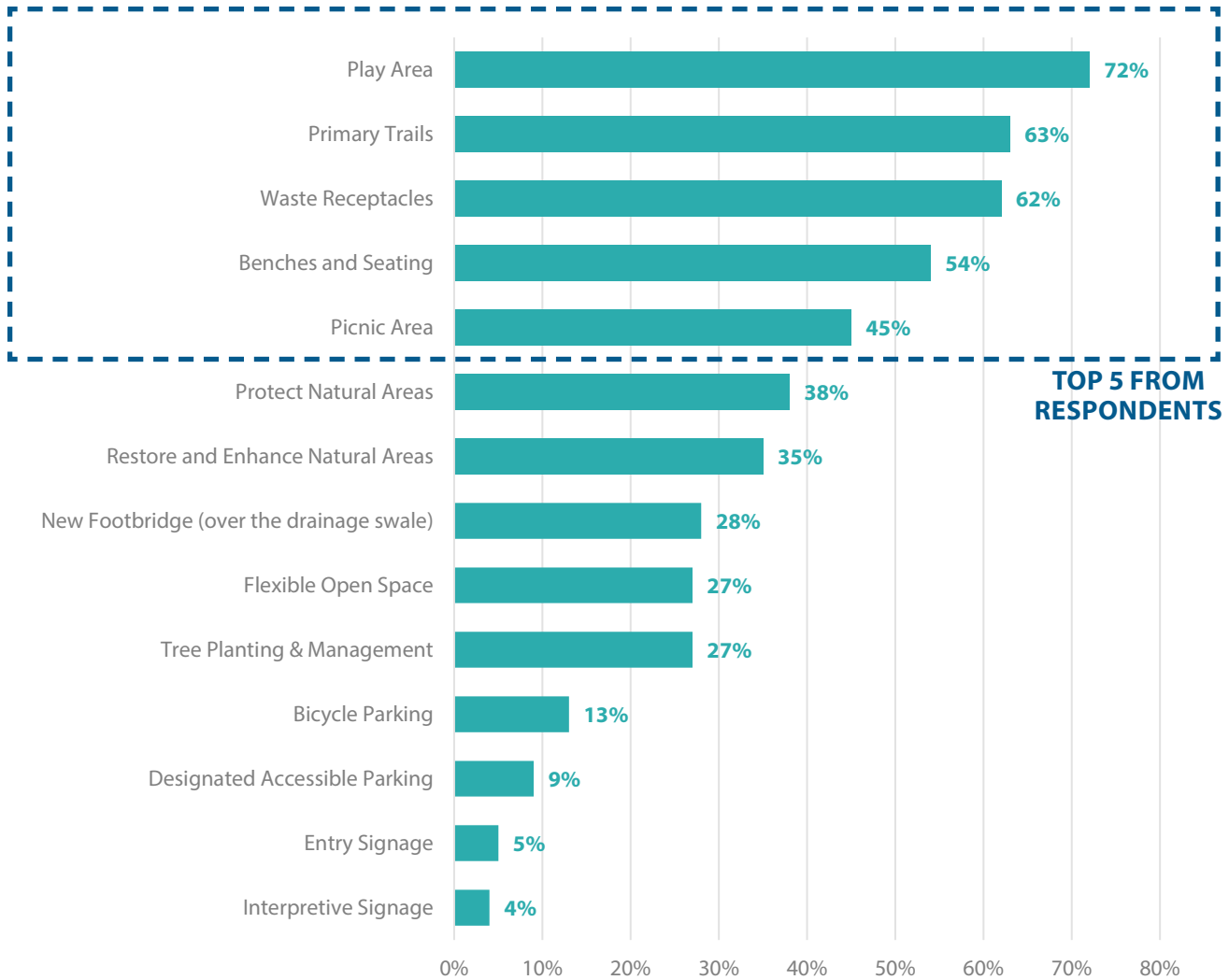
- The LEAST SUPPORTED early ideas:
  - » Addition of interpretive signage (19% of respondents chose either don't support or strongly don't support)
  - » Designate accessible parking was also not as well supported (19% of respondents chose strongly do not support or do not support).
  - » Improve park entry signage (18% of respondents chose either don't support or strongly don't support)



## PARK PRIORITIES

In addition to noting their level of support for early park ideas, participants were asked to select up to 5 key priorities from the early ideas list

What are respondents top priorities for improvements to Maryland Park?



\* NOTE: Respondents were asked to select up to five (5) priorities (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of total respondents that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

### KEY FINDINGS:

- The top 5 key priority ideas were:
  - » Play Area (72%)
  - » Primary Trails (63%)
  - » Waste Receptacles (62%)
  - » Benches & Seating (54%)
  - » Picnic Area (45%)
- In general, ideas related to developing a park amenities and trail development were prioritized.

- Park ideas that were less prioritized and received lower levels of general support included improving park entry signage and interpretive signage.

## OTHER IDEAS

In addition to the ideas presented on the early ideas map and list, participants shared a range of ideas for park amenities and improvements. Key themes included:



### Preserving the Park's Natural Character

- Many respondents shared how much they appreciate the unique natural character of the park and would like to see it preserved.
- Some participants expressed concerns about integrating too many improvements to the park that could impact the existing natural character.



*I use this park regularly, leave it natural, I'm happy with that! If a few trees pose a safety risk, yes, cut them down, otherwise, I love the naturalness of it.*



### Dogs in the Park

- Several respondents preferred the park remain on-leash for the safety of all park users and to maintain cleanliness within the park.
- Some participants expressed the desire for a dog park in close proximity to their homes.



*This is a link to the trails and primarily used by dog walkers. Add a water source and consider conflicts. A Play area has a dog setback and there may be issues given the size of the park.*



### Trail Improvements

- Many respondents shared ideas about the importance of the park trails.
- Key themes for the trails included accessibility improvements, improved trail routes, seating, lighting, and garbage bins at key park entries.



*This is part of the separated bike connector from Willow Creek through to Jubilee so a paved pathway where kids and cyclists can comfortably ride would be very valuable and improve a route that doesn't require going all the way down to the highway or up to dogwood.*

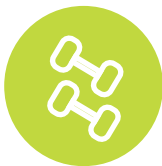


### Children, Amenities, and Play

- Many respondents shared ideas about creating play opportunities for children and families within the park and noted the lack of existing play opportunities in the Maryland Estates neighbourhood.
- Many respondents shared ideas about the type of amenities that they would like to see in the park including: water play, a water fountain, washrooms, and sports amenities.



*Large playground area for various ages. The kids in this neighborhood need something more, there's already lots of green space and even more around this neighborhood.*



### Adult Fitness and Experience

- Several respondents indicated interest in adult exercise equipment and all ages play amenities within the park.



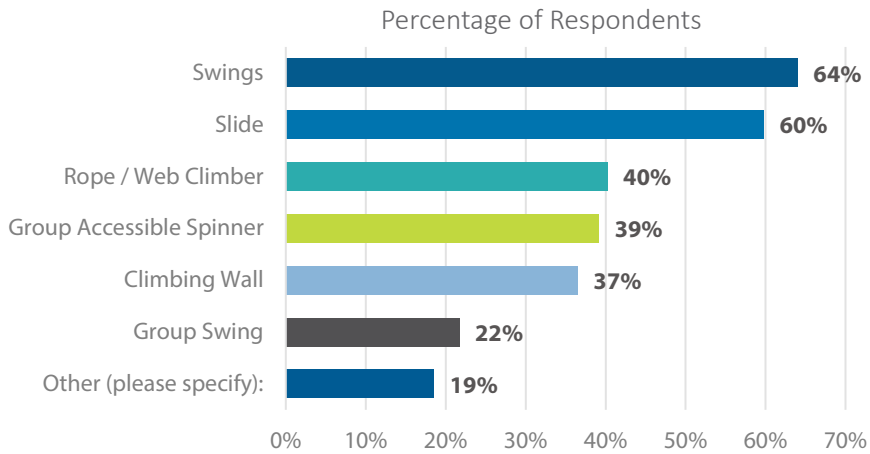
*I would love to see adult exercise equipment near the playground so parents can do something while the kids explore.*



## 2.3 PLAY AREA PREFERENCES

### MAIN PLAY COMPONENT

Respondents were asked to select their top (3) main play components?



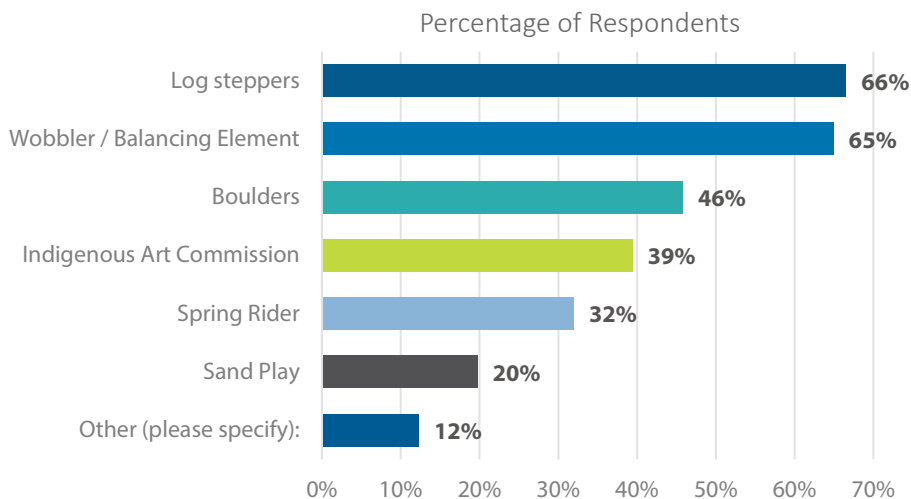
\* NOTE: Respondents were asked to select their top (3) preferences (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of total respondents that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

#### KEY FINDINGS:

- The top 3 main play components include:
  - » Swings (64%)
  - » Slide (60%)
  - » Rope/ Web Climber (40%)
- Respondents who selected "other" indicated
  - » Multi age play features
  - » Water play
  - » Custom features
  - » Sport courts

### SUPPORTING PLAY COMPONENT

Respondents were asked to select their top (3) supporting play components?



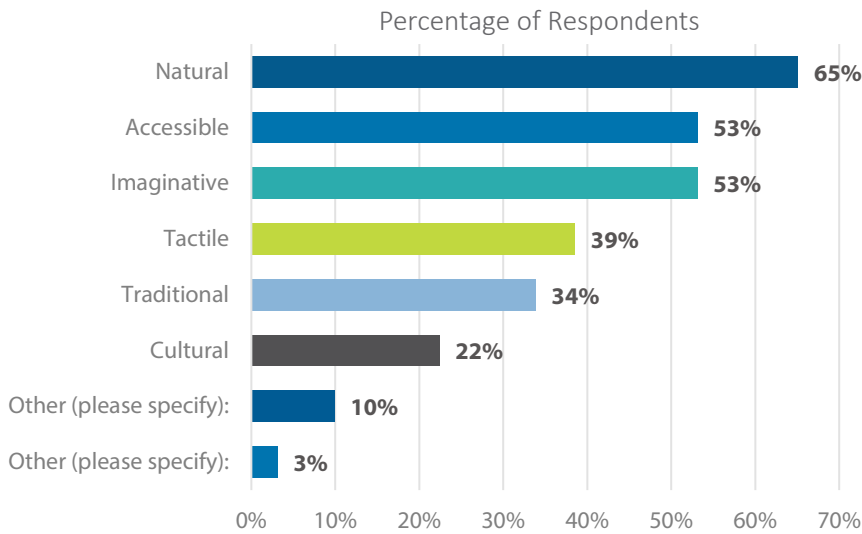
\* NOTE: Respondents were asked to select their top (3) preferences (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of total respondents that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

#### KEY FINDINGS:

- The top 3 supporting play components include:
  - » Log steppers (66%)
  - » Wobbler/ balancing element (65%)
  - » Boulders (46%)
- Respondents who selected "other" indicated:
  - » Play hut
  - » Gross motor skills elements (seesaw, monkey bars, trampoline)

# CHARACTER OF THE PLAY AREA

Respondents were asked to select their top (3) key words for the character of the neighbourhood play area?



\* NOTE: Respondents were asked to select their top (3) preferences (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of total respondents that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

## KEY FINDINGS:

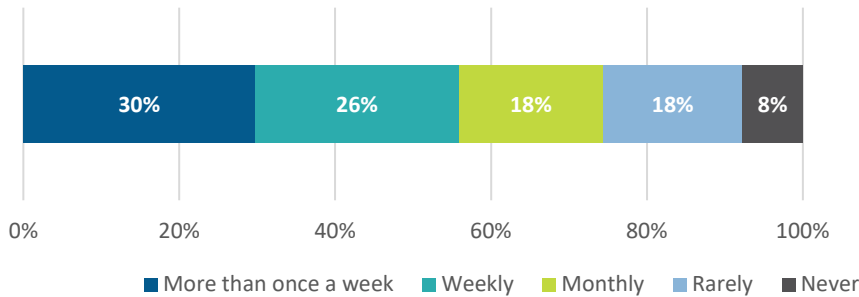
- The top 3 key words for the character of the play area:
  - » natural
  - » accessible
  - » imaginative
- "Other" character key words included: unique, safe, fun, cooperative, creative, and durable



## 2.4 PARK USE & CHALLENGES

### PARK VISITATION

How often do respondents visit Maryland Park?

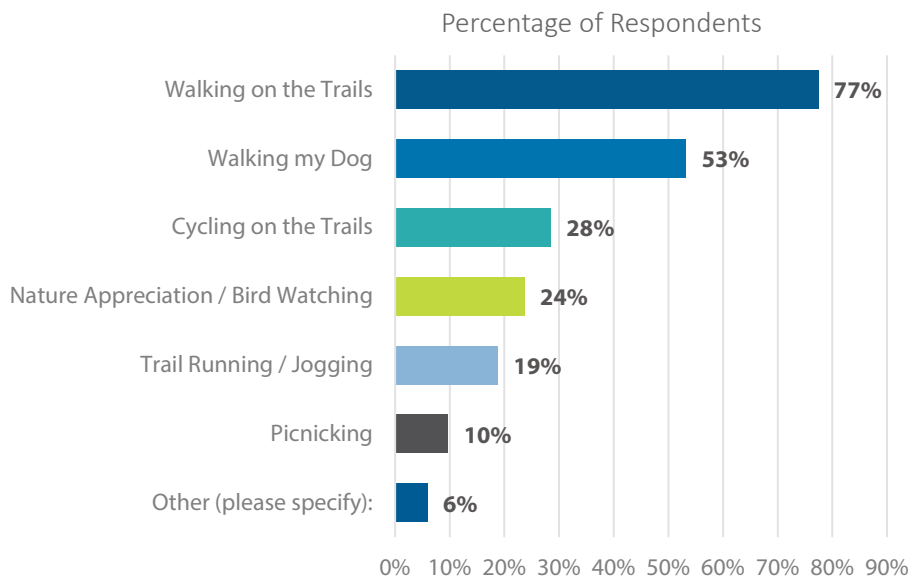


#### KEY FINDINGS:

- Respondents are frequent visitors to Maryland Park! 56% of respondents reported visiting the park at least weekly

### PARK ACTIVITIES

What types of activities do respondents partake in when visiting Maryland Park?



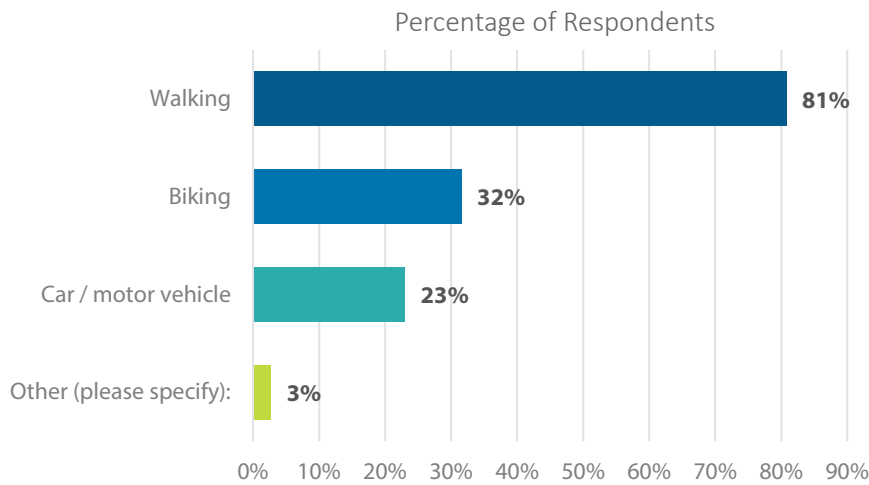
#### KEY FINDINGS:

- Most users travel through the park using the trails
- Over 50% of the participants walk their dog here
- "Other" uses include: visiting the park for their kids to play, geocaching, and exploring

\* NOTE: Respondents were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of total respondents that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

## ACCESS TO THE PARK

How do respondents access the park?



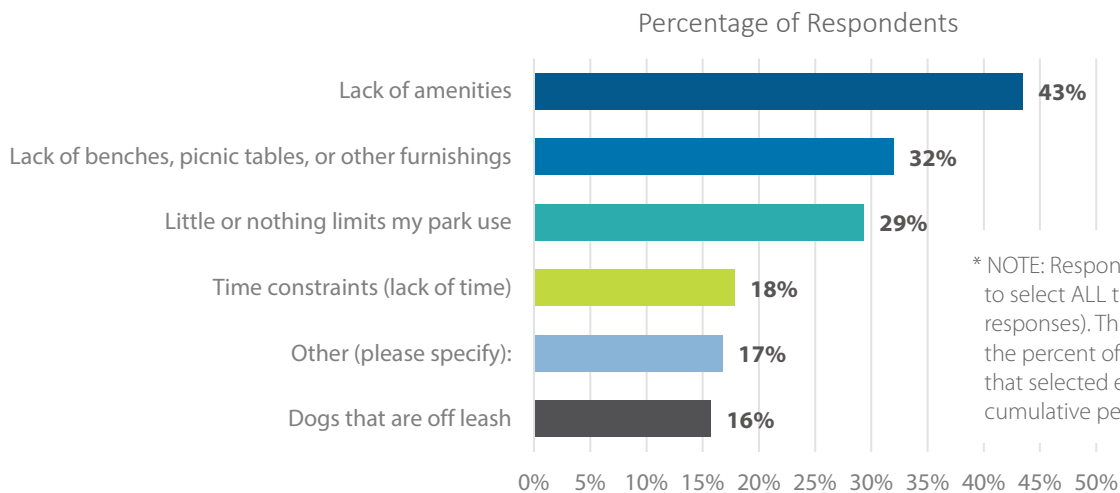
### KEY FINDINGS:

- The majority of respondents access Maryland Park by walking (81%)
- Respondents who selected "other" access the park by running, or an electric wheelchair or scooter

\* NOTE: Respondents were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of total respondents that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

## LIMITATIONS TO PARK USE

What typically limits respondents' use of Maryland Park?



\* NOTE: Respondents were asked to select ALL that apply (multiple responses). This graph depicts the percent of total respondents that selected each item (therefore, cumulative percentages exceed 100%).

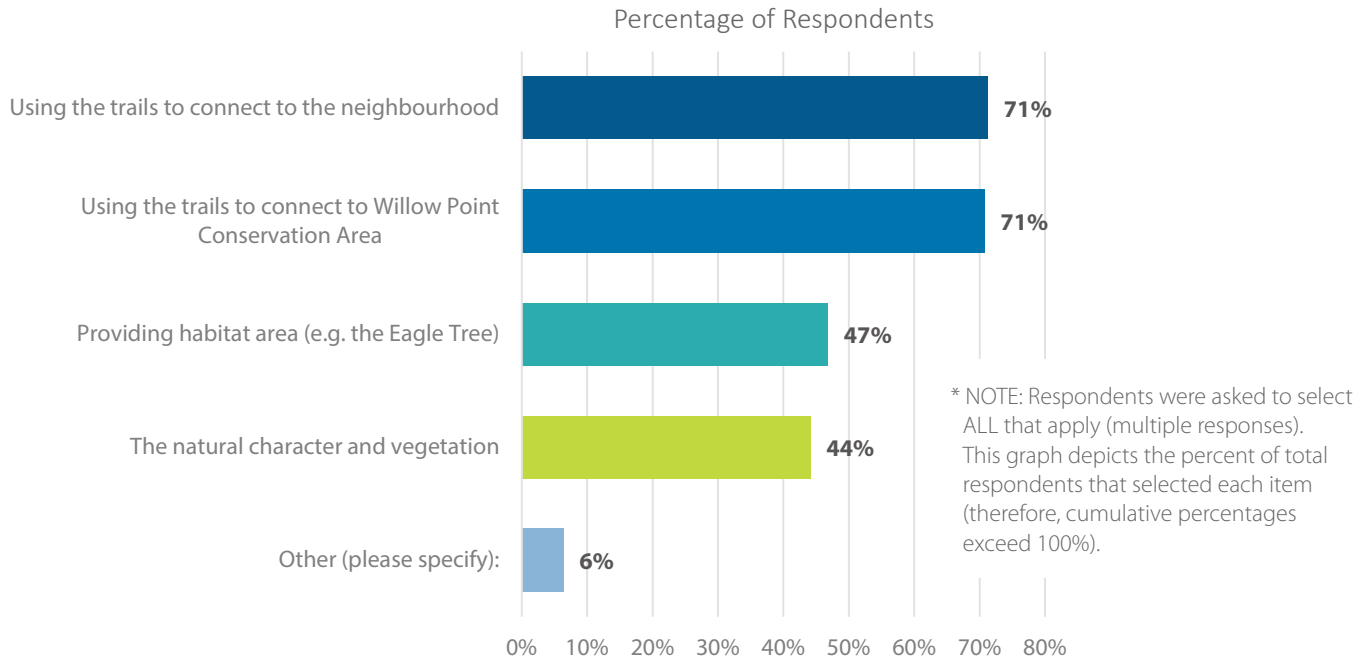
### KEY FINDINGS:

- The most frequently selected limitation to park use was "lack of amenities" (43%)
- Respondents also noted "lack of furnishings" (32%) and "little to nothing" (29%) as top limitations to park use.

- Respondents who selected "other" cited a range of limitations including seasonal flooding of trails, lack of maintenance/cleanliness, health or disability, and that they live too far away from the park.

## VALUES AND ASSETS

What do respondents value most about Maryland Park and Palmer Meadows area?



### KEY FINDINGS:

- Trails and connections are the highest existing park values.
- Respondents who selected "other" valued the open space for kids to play, the location of the park in close proximity to their home, and how the park acts as a social hub to meet new neighbours.



# 3 | NEXT STEPS

The community input and feedback from Phase 1 will inform development of the draft Concept Plan for Maryland Park in Phase 2.

Next steps in the process include:

- Update about what we heard during Phase 1 of the engagement process (this summary).
- Development of the draft Maryland Park Concept Plan including detailed recommendations in Winter 2023
- Referral and review to the public in February/ March 2023.
- Continued updates posted to the Project webpage: [www.campbellriver.ca/Maryland-Park](http://www.campbellriver.ca/Maryland-Park)

**Thank you for your participation in this process!**





*Participants provided feedback on early ideas and priorities at the open house at Willow Point Community Hall on November 22, 2022.*

## 4 | APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS

The following pages list the verbatim comment responses for:

- Other Ideas
- Main Play Components
- Supporting Play Components
- Play Vision Key Words
- Current Park Uses
- Current Park Limitations
- Values & Assets
- General Comments



## 4.1 OTHER IDEAS

### Question 3: Do you have OTHER IDEAS for Maryland Park improvements that aren't captured by the early ideas list and map?

- ▶ Provide off leash dog area
- ▶ Parking for Willow Creek Conservation as well as Maryland Park. Proper path for walkers, strollers, bikes, etc. Also "Dog's On Leash" Keep secondary swale for adjacent residents on Willow Creek. Remove invasive species (Cottonwood trees, etc.)
- ▶ Move the southern part of walking trail to the east. I don't want it against my/ our fence. Give us planning permission to increase the height of our fence. Too many people looking in our yard.
- ▶ Priority hierarchy: 1- Develop a play area 2- Provide waste receptacles 3- Provide bike parking 4- Add a park picnic area 5- Add a footbridge (over the drainage swale)
- ▶ Additional selection: protect natural areas
- ▶ Water bottle refill. Add a park picnic area away from the road.
- ▶ Retain trail through meadow. Dogs on leash allowed.
- ▶ Water refill station
- ▶ A covered area would be great for year round usage, and to get out of the sun. Our summers can be long and hot and sun protection is increasingly important, and our family like many use the playgrounds year long whatever the weather. A playground for a variety of ages of kids would be great, from very little to older kiddos, swings are a must.
- ▶ The current field gets a lot of use now with a lot of dog walkers and bicycles. The existing bridge is fine. If the goal is to improve the area I'd suggest the willow creek connector. That used to be a pleasant trail allowing access from Palmer meadow to Willow Creek Park. It was completely destroyed when it became a short term access road. Add a walking path, trees and appropriate shrubs there would be very welcome.
- ▶ move connector trail to north side of drainage swale at play area or Maryland Rd, thereby offering trail users and adjacent residents more privacy. move proposed location of new bridge (#11 on map) closer to play area and Maryland Rd.
- ▶ A community vegetable garden or flower garden would be nice - fenced off with a gate.
- ▶ Washrooms (something as simple as outhouses - same idea as Hagel Park), water fountain. Both close to the play/picnic area.
- ▶ At the park entrance off Rose Place, there is an existing sidewalk type trail. (There is a "star" on the ideas map at this spot) At the end where it turns to gravel, the last 10 feet or so of the concrete floods during the rainy/snow season. It is impassable and you have to walk up onto the bank to avoid it. It is slippery and unsafe to do so however. It would be nice if that area was raised up to avoid being flooded. Also, the path is in the shade, mostly so maybe keep it graveled.

# APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS



- ▶ In addition to the ideas already identified as important (play area), we would like to see this space include an area for butterflies and bees to inhabit. Their dwindling numbers would be supported by planting milkweed, goldenrod, lavender, yarrow, etc. The inclusion of a butterfly and bee garden would be beautiful and important for our environment. Signs could be included near the garden explaining each plant and it's importance in supporting our endangered butterflies and bees.
- ▶ This entire subdivision area has no children's play area. This region of Campbell River needs a space for families to connect and grow together, a children's play area should be an absolute priority.
- ▶ I would like to see a covered seating/picnic area for shade in the summer and cover from rain showers. Also adult exercise equipment neat the play ground so parents can do something while the kids explore.
- ▶ Love this idea. This area is full of young families with no park near by. This will be well used and loved. My only feedback is that it might be nice to have the picnic area close to the kids play area and farther from the road to make it safer. Especially if caregiver is sitting with one child and the other is playing.
- ▶ This is part of the separated bike connector from Willow Creek through to Jubilee so a paved pathway where kids and cyclists can comfortably ride would be very valuable and improve a route that doesn't require going all the way down to the highway or up to dogwood.
- ▶ Make it all accessible. Washrooms?
- ▶ I am very excited about this. There are so many families in the Maryland area and no good place for kids to play. We cannot wait for a playground. (With swings please :))
- ▶ This is a local spot used by walkers, bikers and people walking dogs. Needs to be multi-use for all ages. Easy to maintain.
- ▶ Play area centered in wider space, benches to the side or view of play area, picnic area close to play area not by road, water drinking fountain, lights around play area for safety and prevent vandalism, possibly a sun shade over picnic area
- ▶ Please make sure that traffic on the road is managed. The park is near a blind corner with cars going way too fast.
- ▶ In the flex space it feels very important to have level playable grass for people to play on. Somewhere to kick a ball, play catch, frisbee, tag, yoga, roll around (non- dog area) It could also be used for picnic or neighborhood meet up on the grass. Currently kids hang out on the round about, which is unsafe. And doesn't promote outdoor movement or play.
- ▶ Outdoor exercise area, with equipment.
- ▶ Open area for play (ball play, frisbee, etc)
- ▶ Anything but a dog run/park. This area would benefit the neighborhood with a place for children to play and enjoy the outside. Fields, courts, etc would be the best
- ▶ What About Putting the Singles Tennis Court on this park so people don't have to travel to find another tennis court.
- ▶ Ensure there is a space that pet owners are allowed as we use this area to get to willow creek trail
- ▶ If a play area is incorporated it should be located on Willow Creek Road, better parking and space.



# APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS



- ▶ I think in a section of the willow creek conservatory it would be a good idea to make a sort of obstacle course play ground with slack lines etc.. I hope the play area is substantial and is geared to older children... monkey bars, swings etc.. Or maybe add in outdoor exercise equipment?
- ▶ If picnic and play areas are installed, lighting to deter unsavoury activities and or individuals
- ▶ Leave as natural and peaceful as possible, and discourage off leash dogs
- ▶ Would like to see a water fountain with lower tap and attached bowl for dogs Would also like to see lighting in and around picnic/play area
- ▶ To add a zip line to the play area
- ▶ Please provide doggy bags and garbage can. Also designated snow plowing sidewalk in front of park. Yet to happen. Also plowing of trail exit and crosswalk. No dog park. As it is most large dogs are off leash. Also a sign saying dogs on leashes. If you are putting a kids park there than no dog should be off leash. Currently. Large dog poo everywhere.
- ▶ provide dog waste bag stations at either end of park No to off leash dog park perhaps washington park could be upgraded and have no playground at this park. leave it as a natural area to be enjoyed install an eagle perch beside existing eagle tree, to maybe bring the eagles back
- ▶ No to playground. maintain natural beauty of park. add canopy of trees. improve walkway and build foot bridge over muddy parts behind the houses. no off leash dogs/ dog park. add dog poo bags. maintain the lawn. get rid of the blackberry's. put picnic benches in the park to hang out with friends/ family.
- ▶ Badly need a playground in the neighborhood
- ▶ The (so called) eagle tree needs to go and the whole area should be park, eagle never use the tree and it's a waste of good park space, willow creek nature area is just around the corner no point saving that area as well.
- ▶ Manage invasive species in wildlife tree area (blackberries, broom, etc) Leave natural vegetation in place for wildlife habitat.
- ▶ Yes, 1: when redoing paths use bark mulch and not gravel. Gravel spreads onto grass through foot traffic and is a hazard to staff maintaining and mowing the grass. 2. a fully fenced bottom to 4 feet tall dog park LIMITED to small dogs (2 to 25 lbs). Maryland retirees most of population have small dogs .. benefit interacting with other small dogs in a safe place for free play. Big dogs have all of Beaver Lodge lands and other parks. put overhead nets or flags to deter eagles
- ▶ Largely leave as is. Well used. Dog walkers cyclists geocaching. Protect the eagle and other wildlife by leaving it as is, only enhance or repair what is necessary environmentally.
- ▶ Dog friendly
- ▶ A bathroom and a water fountain somewhere in the park. More play spaces for children is amazing, but I'd rather they didn't have to do nature pees.
- ▶ Play area: swings and play structures for all ages
- ▶ Washroom facilities are very important for all ages.
- ▶ A good playground is key! Hopefully stroller-friendly trails
- ▶ Off leash dog area please.
- ▶ Playground equipment
- ▶ It would be great if our park was as amazing as Hagel park. This could be our dream

# APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS



- ▶ It would be so nice to have 1 washroom (like the one at the Ken Forde Boat Ramp--- if it's in the budget). Also, if there could be another waste receptacle closer to the play area (just makes a lot of sense for young families who might have mobility issues, less chance of littering too)... Speaking of which, the whole area between Maryland and Jubilee could really use another waste receptacle or two for the amount of people who walk dogs around the area.
- ▶ Accessible playground equipment, don't need a lot
- ▶ I did not see either a drinking fountain (water bottle refill, dog water too?) or a washroom facility.... especially important if you are encouraging folk to walk/bike there, and for those with younger children
- ▶ This is a link to the trails sand used be dog walkers. Add water source and consider conflicts. A play area often has a dog set back and there may be issues given the park size
- ▶ Keep trail as gravel!!! Pavement is less appealing and not natural Play area should contain big slide (unique attribute of the park) and the same workout equipment as maple park The eagle nest side could be cleared up a bit
- ▶ A water park would be a better idea than a play area.
- ▶ Direct more people here. Hagel park is too far out for town.
- ▶ Sensible play equipment that is vandal proof.
- ▶ Paved bicycle path like at Hagel Park
- ▶ Kids Zip line
- ▶ Please have a fenced playground. It would be a nice feature for parents with toddlers.
- ▶ Add a designated dog area. The current dog park in Penfield area over subscribed and parking limited.
- ▶ City of CR needs to quit planting non-native ornamental trees and plant native, long lived, shade trees like fir, hemlock, spruce. We will need shade in 100 years. Also, green belts need to be interconnected and more abundant. It's sickening how large Maryland is, and how little green space there is.
- ▶ Washroom? Drinking fountain? In the middle somewhere
- ▶ Washroom facilities oilfield be an essential addition.
- ▶ Basketball court, something for older kids as a large part of the subdivision is on a hill and not safe to shoot hoops etc. - we love the idea of the playground space that's fantastic! The waking trails need to be widened and made clear and are for walkers to use and connect into willow creek trails - a free area is nice, might a dog run area also be considered - speed zones need to be in place, people go very fast on Maryland and it needs more people to slow down
- ▶ Have a hard play surface(basketball/street hockey) also have slow traffic controls on Maryland in park area
- ▶ What about another water park and playground
- ▶ Zip line for kids
- ▶ Large playground area for various ages. The kids in this neighborhood need something more, there's already lots of green space and even more around this neighborhood.



# APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS



- ▶ I use this park regularly, leave it natural, I'm happy with that! If a few trees pose a safety risk, yes, cut them down, otherwise, I love the naturalness of it. Do not add a dog park/children's park, it attracts more 'things' to deal with, ie, maintenance. We need more 'wild', please! Leave it alone!
- ▶ There are a lot of dog walkers through this area, I think it should be made a priority to accommodate this with signage and rules for clean up etc.
- ▶ No. I think a park and tables would be amazing in the area.
- ▶ Bike pump track or skate park splash pad
- ▶ Perhaps a water fountain for filling water bottles & giving dogs a drink. This area is primarily used by "walkers" & people with dogs. A garbage can would be nice but only if it was maintained (emptied) regularly. I am an avid walker in this area & the one can that is located at the entrance To Willow Creek Conservation area is often overflowing & in bad shape. Would not want to see the same scenario repeated on the Maryland entrance. (ran out of room see comments at end)
- ▶ Water fountains, with one short enough for children to drink from
- ▶ Play structures to be suitable for not only young children but older children also.
- ▶ Removal of invasive species: blackberries.
- ▶ Water fountain for people and dogs. Sponsored benches by neighbourhood residents. Establish a permanent walk way, lined with timbers & filled with wood chips – no gravel. No dog park
- ▶ Make it family-friendly: playground, picnic tables, trails, bike parking, open green space, etc.! I've heard rumors of a dog park – no thank you!
- ▶ Make it an accessible playground with picnic areas and bike paths – hagel park but accessible and more trees. The tiny pump track there is rad.
- ▶ Dog park fenced in area





## 4.2 MAIN PLAY COMPONENT

### Question 4: What are your top (3) MAIN play components?

#### "Other" responses:

- ▶ None – park on Washington not used
- ▶ None – not enough children in the area
- ▶ wishing well
- ▶ Pirate Ship (like the one at the park in Tofino)
- ▶ Hagel Park play structures are great
- ▶ Raised platform with steering wheel, climbing wall, group swing, bridge, different levels, Robert ostler park, willow point park
- ▶ using the natural landscape
- ▶ Rope Zipline
- ▶ None
- ▶ Monkey bars, obstacle course type playground
- ▶ Do not support playground
- ▶ Zip line!!!
- ▶ Zip line
- ▶ Slide no play house. Older kids will use at night time to be out of sight
- ▶ Water park
- ▶ Water park
- ▶ swings for kids and adults
- ▶ Rather to leave as is. If outvoted prefer accessible!!!!
- ▶ Fitness based equipment that promotes balance, upper body strength
- ▶ No playground
- ▶ Love the long swing at Parksville park and slides!
- ▶ A playground structure like the main one at sportplex would be amazing something the kids can climb, play on and play “grounders” very important to children
- ▶ None
- ▶ Workout amenities and dont forget water fountain
- ▶ None, I feel like neighborhood parks are not used
- ▶ Toddler play are for 1-3 years old.
- ▶ None
- ▶ Basketball court or hockey surface for road hockey
- ▶ Hard play surface
- ▶ No thanks
- ▶ Small structure for little kids, big structure for bigger kids
- ▶ Do not support-keep as natural greenspace & a walking trail through it
- ▶ In-Ground trampolines (like at the parksville playground)
- ▶ No play area, this equipment is junk and sterile
- ▶ Roller slide and zip line





## 4.3 SUPPORTING PLAY COMPONENT

Question 5: Select your top (3) SUPPORTING play component options.

"Other " responses:

- ▶ None - see above
- ▶ fort
- ▶ monkey bars
- ▶ Other natural looking play structure
- ▶ Low elevation walkway between trees
- ▶ Single person trampoline
- ▶ Do not support playground
- ▶ Adult equipment
- ▶ Water park
- ▶ Water park
- ▶ No playground
- ▶ Round bouncy trampolines in ground like Parksville park
- ▶ Creative play space/house...can become a fairy house, store, school or whatever
- ▶ None
- ▶ None, in my experience neighborhood parks are not used. These parks are better situated in recreational areas like the sportsplex
- ▶ Hand operated well and wet play area. Nothing big like at Sportplex just a little area where they can play with water and build mud castles
- ▶ None
- ▶ Hard play surface
- ▶ Seesaw
- ▶ No thanks
- ▶ pickel ball courts
- ▶ Do not support
- ▶ No play area. Equipment suggested will be used once & left



## 4.4 PLAY VISION KEY WORDS

**Question 6: What are your top (3) KEY WORDS for the character of a neighbourhood play space at Maryland Park?**

**"Other" responses:**

- ▶ Many people love walking their dog through this trail
- ▶ Fun, creative, they don't need above options, let them be kids
- ▶ forest fun
- ▶ Fitness
- ▶ Unique from every other park we already have
- ▶ Peaceful
- ▶ No sand grass is better
- ▶ why the focus on kids?
- ▶ Untouched it is also accessible tactile imaginative
- ▶ Cooperative play
- ▶ No playground
- ▶ Unique
- ▶ Safe
- ▶ Adventure
- ▶ Hard play surface
- ▶ No thanks
- ▶ Varying age park
- ▶ Do not support
- ▶ No play area. Not to be snotty but young families can not afford area
- ▶ Durable
- ▶ Exciting and promotes bravery
- ▶ Respectful
- ▶ exercise stations for adults
- ▶ Don't feel a park is worth the cost
- ▶ Providing parking will only bring people from other areas. What is there now is close to perfect. Add a trail perhaps





## 4.5 CURRENT PARK USES

**Question 8: What types of ACTIVITIES do you typically partake in at Maryland Park?**

"Other " responses:

- ▶ Kids playing
- ▶ Kids run on grass
- ▶ Wagon rides with my 2yr old daughter
- ▶ There is no park lol
- ▶ There's nothing but trails, needs a playground so we can visit
- ▶ Geocaching
- ▶ Family walks
- ▶ Playing with my children
- ▶ None-too far from my home
- ▶ Just plain old exploring...sometimes outside for a photography session in and about nature's wonder
- ▶ Didnt even know it was there



## 4.6 CURRENT PARK LIMITATIONS

Question 10: What typically LIMITS your current use of the park?

"Other " responses:

- ▶ bad weather causes trails to be slippery + muddy
- ▶ The park doesn't currently facilitate our family needs.
- ▶ Muddy trail
- ▶ Muddy trails, too dark
- ▶ Ice and mud in shaded areas
- ▶ New to area. Not aware it existed.
- ▶ Didn't know about the park
- ▶ Lack of maintenance in this space
- ▶ There isn't a playground.
- ▶ No maintenance? The grass is always 3feet high and the path is made by daily walkers
- ▶ The mud
- ▶ Muddy trails
- ▶ Walking
- ▶ There's nothing there
- ▶ Poor condition of walking trail due to weather
- ▶ No playground
- ▶ Disability
- ▶ I don't live very close
- ▶ Wet areas
- ▶ Lack of playground for children
- ▶ When it gets too muddy to walk through...
- ▶ Brambles
- ▶ There is nothing to encourage me to hang out there ...just walk dogs though / access other parts of trail
- ▶ Wet, muddy trail
- ▶ Dog poop
- ▶ The weather currently
- ▶ Nothing else to do there
- ▶ Health
- ▶ there's lots of great trails in town, but few really good park/family zones on this side of town
- ▶ Other parks are closer to me
- ▶ Its way out the other side of town
- ▶ No playground





## 4.7 VALUES & ASSETS

**Question 11: What do you value most about Maryland Park and Palmer Meadows area?**

"Other " responses:

- ▶ open area to play frisbee
- ▶ N/a
- ▶ It's vastly under utilized and Maryland area has many young families, a playground is needed
- ▶ Summer Shade
- ▶ Proximity to home
- ▶ The fact that it could be great for kids!
- ▶ It is a corridor for animals in the area including deer, bear, Western red squirrels, rabbits
- ▶ Connecting with other users
- ▶ Play area for kids
- ▶ Safety from homeless people
- ▶ The area
- ▶ Social to meet other area residents



## 4.8 GENERAL COMMENTS

### Question 18: Do you have any additional comments or ideas about Maryland Park that you would like to share at this time?

- ▶ Do you have any additional comments or ideas about Maryland Park that you would like to share at this time?
- ▶ Improve trails, include off leash dog park, no parking, make it for people walking.
- ▶ Keep up the great work! More fun family areas please! <3
- ▶ Concern for young teens meeting in the park for drinking, gathering, etc., and from that incidents of theft/ property destruction will occur! (Property of public and private).
- ▶ Install bollards to prevent vehicle access to park area. Personally, I am satisfied with the current situation. The developers doing the upper portions of the neighborhood should be doing their bit to provide park amenities for their customers.
- ▶ Some kind of protection from vandals + graffiti
- ▶ No sand in the playground area. It will become a litter box. This is a great idea. There is no playground in this area.
- ▶ I think a kids park should be in another area as most of the people in the adjoining area to the park do not have kids. We live right next door and do not want the noise and problems with older kids hanging out at night.
- ▶ Play area should be appropriate for school aged children.
- ▶ Thank you for engaging with the community for this space. There needs to be more public areas in the new subdivisions. Places for people to come together where children can play. Something within walking distance to so many homes in a residential area. I frequent this area often to walk my dogs and my parents live in this area. They have nowhere to take their grandchildren to play aside from the forest. A playground would be wonderful. Thank you
- ▶ I am just hoping to see a playground in this area. We are waking distance and it's a shame that there is no playground in Maryland estates and little America. This is a growing area and needs this amenity to encourage our children to play outside and have a gathering place.
- ▶ Please please please a covered space, and at the very least some good shade trees to get out of the sun.
- ▶ As I mentioned the park gets a lot of traffic now -- ie it's not wasted space. A few trees would certainly be good but I don't think a big investment is necessary. A bigger plus would be cleaning up the short connector to Willow creek park, currently a moonscape.



# APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS



- ▶ This is NOT the appropriate area for any form of dog park! –post signs prohibiting motorized vehicles in the park and all trails. –focus on input from residents in close proximity to park. –move connector trail away from residential fence lines and into timbered area as much as possible (ie: north side of drainage swale). –re-forest the open spaces.
- ▶ We love it just how it is. However, anything to improve it or make it better is welcomed.
- ▶ I would love to see an additional access trail to the park. Specifically, I would like this trail to connect the park to lower down on Twillingate road. Right now, people on Twillingate have to walk up to Willow Creek Road and loop around to the park. A more direct trail from the park to Twillingate would be a nice addition for increased accessibility.
- ▶ A park / picnic area would be awesome in this area. We often bike the loop through willow creek, and through the Maryland park area, and then down to the sea walk and home, and we have to eat snacks on the sidewalk because there is nowhere in the region to stop for a good rest with kids. This area is the perfect middle spot for the loop we often do on our bikes in this area.
- ▶ We really need a children's park, the small one on Utah just isn't enough. Have to drive grandkids to Sportsplex to a decent playground
- ▶ Please protect the eagle tree, and all bird nesting trees.
- ▶ Transit access at some time in the future would be good
- ▶ As big and wonderful of a play area park and playground with picnic area as possible, few other amenities can be fit around those, kids need a place to go
- ▶ So hoping this comes to fruition sooner than later – it is long overdue to have a park/outdoor play space in this neighborhood!
- ▶ Strong no for a dog park or off leash area in this Park. We have a dog, but find there are many spots we can walk to. There is nothing in the neighborhood for kids or people to gather or play in. This is a MUST to have for a connected engaged community. All the older areas of CR have neighborhood parks, & I grew up next to one. It is a critical space for neighbors & visitors. We would also love to see a hard surface area for basketball & envision kids getting together to play pickup ball
- ▶ Please don't do a sand box or involve sand in any way at the playground. It's awful for parents to have to deal with.
- ▶ Parks need to be fun and challenging for kids. Don't spend a lot of money on equipment that won't be used, and will deteriorate. Incorporate a natural growing landscape into the play area. With the natural drainage there incorporate water into the park for the wildlife, which will attract more wildlife. Maryland Rd is a busy area put the kids play area on Willow Creek Drive.
- ▶ Moving in January very close to this park and look forward to using it more
- ▶ Again, please avoid a dog park. We have a dog and we love dogs, but this space needs to avoid the dog thing.
- ▶ Thanks for allowing my participation in the survey
- ▶ My Ideas about this park to install the Pit Toilet Building so people so have go into forest to go use the washroom.



# APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS



- ▶ We really need a well developed and thought out play area in our neighbourhood. We already have many walking trails and nature nearby. I hope the focus of this park is a play area.
- ▶ Be respectful of the money being spent. You have raised our taxes in this city far too often. Ensure this is feasible to build and to maintain. Some forethought would be helpful. Do not ban dogs from this area.
- ▶ Honor the history and leave the name Palmer Meadows. Love the natural of this area. No parking on Maryland, it's residential, and lovely as is.
- ▶ Bike jumps would be great too.
- ▶ Please note there are a lot of cats that live in the neighbourhood so if you put in a sandbox you've effectively put in a big litter box. Please put dog waste bags as some people forget to bring their own for their dogs.
- ▶ I love the idea of planting shade trees however they will take time to mature Perhaps utilize shade sails (similar to those at water park) until trees mature
- ▶ No dog park, Majority of population in this area are retired adults. Adult gym equipment . No parking spots. No need. Plowing in the winter side and crosswalk will make this accessible to all people . Right now a stroller can not use the crosswalk and the sidewalk is not plowed. Let alone a disabled person . When it snows it must be looked after.
- ▶ no to playground maintain natural beauty of park add canopy of trees improve walkway and build foot bridge over muddy parts behind the houses
- ▶ No to playground. maintain natural beauty of park. add canopy of trees. improve walkway and build foot bridge over muddy parts behind the houses. no off leash dogs/ dog park. add dog poo bags. maintain the lawn. get rid of the blackberry's. put picnic benches in the park to hang out with friends/ family.
- ▶ We badly need a playground in the neighborhood, it's a joke the amount of taxes we pay to have to drive 10 mins a playground
- ▶ Badly need a park in the neighbourhood, it's a joke that we need to drive 10min to find a playground for our kids
- ▶ Pleased to see eagle tree reserve area retained primarily as wildlife area, with minimal encroachment. Our lot backs directly onto this area, and witness daily the importance of this area as habitat for a large population of birds, deer, etc. The large cottonwood, although no longer an active nesting tree, is still an important perch tree for eagles and other birds.
- ▶ Big focus on childrens activities ... has anyone walked around and looked at the predominant demographic that borders this area??!! .. older, retired, Maintaining natural habitat, hypocrisy? 7 years ago we looked at a lot for sale on Marie Place didn't buy cus city staff advised we could not build on back half of lot, not remove scrub or build fence as this was within eagle tree habitat.. short time later.. lot sold and clear cut and fenced where was city staff re nat habitat??
- ▶ This area has been missing a park for children for decades
- ▶ No playground. Just open concept park that is dog friendly please.



# APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS



- ▶ I would support this park as being an off leash area for dogs like hagel park. As most people who walk through here allow their dogs off leash already.
- ▶ Wish this had happened when we lived in the area
- ▶ Washrooms are very important for all ages, but especially young children.
- ▶ Parksville park/water park has the best park on the island with lots of fun ideas! I would highly recommend having a look :)
- ▶ Play Park to take our kids!!! We so need this in this area with so many new homes and lots of young families. So excited for this
- ▶ We need more areas for kids to play!!
- ▶ Please protect the eagle tree (they cut the one down on twillingate someone should look into this! Also please instal a playground with swings for kids to play at. Use Hagel park as inspiration.
- ▶ Having a place for families to play and picnic would be ideal! A place for parents and grandparents to sit and watch the kids in a safe and accessible environment that is in keeping with the conservation area goals.
- ▶ Need a child's playing park badly!!!!
- ▶ My kids used to go have picnics with their friends. What a great idea to preserve whatever natural elements you can, add trees, and have a play area
- ▶ Equipment for older kids/all ages. – timed lighting to extend winter early evening use – footpath with material that enables mobility scooters to travel easily – washroom and water fountain – picnic benches away from road/ small split rail fence to reduce risk to escaping children – accessibility parking only – small dog off leash area or flat grass for ball play. Both? – open up access to area by eagle tree as safe to do so...keep natural, remove invasive, stop dumping garden waste
- ▶ About time. Big and cool slide please Not another boring 3 feet slide I had a 25 feet tall slide growing up, this is my best memory of my park. Kids would say, lets meet at the giant slide park!
- ▶ More significant play spaces for kids 5–8 in town.
- ▶ Keep enhancing natural beauty and develop parks in as many neighbourhoods as possible.
- ▶ No other decent playgrounds nearby, needs to be done. Thanks for doing.
- ▶ Leave it to nature. The trails are great. If there was a little play area for kiddos that would be a fun destination. Otherwise we just walk through. Planting native vegetation and trees would also be great. A lot of dog walkers use this area.
- ▶ Don't put up too many signs as will just get vandalized.
- ▶ Higher percentage of green space needs to be allocated to new development. Mayland was a poor example of good practice in that regard. Retain mature trees. Dont wipe them out and then plant new ones. Come on CR, this is common sense.
- ▶ Please install a playground for the kids in this area... for such a heavily populated family neighborhood we have one small park (on Washington and Dakota). This area is only growing and needs more outdoor activities for the kids on the area.
- ▶ Please don't make it easier for the homeless to camp in this park by adding hiding spaces and trees and benches for them to sleep on
- ▶ Maybe a small area to throw a ball for dogs to run and catch

# APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS



- ▶ Bathroom, dog/human water station/play ground for big kids too, accessible parking only not for everyone and other people can walk Somewhere to play basketball and soccer, and chain up my bike. I want to hang out with friends there Get rid of hackberries on other side of the road so we can explore
- ▶ It would be wonderful to have a local park that all could share and enjoy. A lot of people use the trails already, but the Concept Plan would encourage more to use it. It would be important to make the park accessible for all ages.
- ▶ I think it is long overdue to have an accessible park, the one at the lower end of the subdivision is hard to access. I'd really like to see a hard top surface for kids to shoot pucks on or basketballs. I'd also appreciate the eagle tree area being preserved. We often see deer and rabbits in there and the kids love picking blackberries. We also would like speed limits in place on Maryland for the safety of the users.
- ▶ It needs a hard play surface
- ▶ An accessible park would be SUCH a major asset to Campbell River.
- ▶ Water park for kids
- ▶ It would be so wonderful to see this area turned into a nice park for our community. We just moved here in February and there's no parks close by for me to take my kids too.
- ▶ love all of this!!
- ▶ When looking for a home we specifically didn't choose a house in Maryland Estates because of the lack of playground amenities for children.
- ▶ It would be such a tremendous addition to this community to have a shared space to gather. We struggle to find amenities for our kids in the are, and as a young family, a park and playground in the neighborhood would be an absolute game changer. It is the one thing that's always felt is "missing" for us and our neighbors
- ▶ I feel that our neighbourhood needs additional play structures for children within walking distance.
- ▶ A bathroom would be a nice feature, also some lounge-style seating (hammocks?)
- ▶ Signage about what lives in the area (wildlife) along with information on natural plants and possibly the eagles. Maybe something interactive on a playground with eagles! Or some sort of native tribute for the lovely birds in the area.
- ▶ Nothing fancy- just a place where we can take our kids to play.
- ▶ The eagles are gone, that side should have more youth oriented activities basketball or a court of some sort. Also lots of retired folks in the area it would be good to have tennis/pickekbball court.
- ▶ Bike pump track would be so fun for little ones. There isn't any near by and biking is very popular. It would also help preserve the willow creek conservation area which sometimes gets used as a makeshift lump track.
- ▶ I live adjacent to the park. As the west end of Maryland estates has developed there has been a significant increase in traffic. I would recommend adding speed control measures at both ends of the park.



# APPENDIX A: VERBATIM COMMENTS



- ▶ Why are we looking to change 2 lovely natural walkway into a structure/plastic cluttered area? Sadly, due to rising house prices, few young families live in the actual Maryland area. Those that do tend to have extensive playground equipment in their backyards. This area is heavily used by dog owners & walking enthusiasts. Could be please clean up & maintain this are as such with definite not to the history of the area. Could we not shift a playground over to the "Jubilee Parkway" area.
- ▶ I love this plan!! We would use the park so much more as the closest we use is currently Hagel and we live just above the Willow point conservation area
- ▶ This is an important wildlife corridor so I would like to preserve and maintain it. I like the idea of a naturescape playground as long as it does not interfere with natural habitat. You should also preserve the meadow as it is important for all wildlife. Consider planting more native wildflowers and plants and limiting access with natural fencing like in Willow Creek. Thank you!
- ▶ The present park is nearly perfect. Add an upgraded path with wood chips (no rock), a bridge upgrade and maintain lawn with more frequent mowings. If playground etc added, it too will become an eyesore due to lack of maintenance.
- ▶ I would like to understand why Maryland Park was chosen for this expensive upgrade. I note that the upgraded Penfield West playground and open space along the linear park is rarely used despite the upgrades that were made in the area. It's a shame really. I would prefer to see upgraded park spaces in areas without large homes with gardens, perhaps in areas where families live in apartments and condos.
- ▶ Consider accessibility options on the playground for children with physical disabilities so they can participate in play as well
- ▶ The Willow Creek Road section which was opened for traffic during highway construction last year now is a wide lane of crush and concrete barriers. Not very attractive. Seems like a natural flow to run this new Maryland park improvement plan right through there to the Conservatory entrance. Please and thank you.
- ▶ Please just NOT a dog park. I run and walk through these parks as an alternative to Willow Creek and Jubilee trails where there are always off-leash dogs. I've been run at and nipped countless times on those trails; it's nice to have a safe place to run.
- ▶ Parks staff deserve a raise – they work so hard and do such an awesome job!
- ▶ Safe places for dogs to exercise/train so entire family can enjoy park.





City of Campbell River  
301 St. Ann's Road  
Campbell River, BC  
V9W 4C7

### Questions about the Project?

Email your questions or comments to [parks@campbellriver.ca](mailto:parks@campbellriver.ca) or call **250-286-7275**

For project updates and ongoing information about the project please visit:

[campbellriver.ca/Maryland-Park](http://campbellriver.ca/Maryland-Park)