



Natural Areas Trails Strategy

Phase 2 Engagement
Summary Report
October 2023

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the second engagement for the Natural Areas Trail Strategy is to collect feedback on the draft Natural Area Trails Strategy from a broad range of audiences and stakeholders. Overall, online survey respondents were highly supportive of the draft Strategy.

Participation

Engagement opportunities included an online engagement survey (completed by 823 respondents), three pop-up engagement events at Parkgate Library, Lynn Valley Library, and the Fromme trailhead (200 participants), stakeholder workshops and meetings (21 participants), and government-to-government meetings with Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. Overall, we heard from trail users, residents and visitors, local recreational, environmental, and community organizations, land managers, and First Nations governments.

Notification

The District promoted the engagement opportunities using the following methods: District of North Vancouver website, District of North Vancouver online engagement survey site, postcard mailed to addresses near trailheads in the study area and within the study area, social media posts, information signs at key trailheads, print and digital advertisements in the North Shore News newspaper, emails to stakeholders and local First Nations governments (Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Key findings and themes

Key findings from the online survey include:

- 91% (730 of 803 respondents) agree or strongly agree with the vision statement
- 89% (708 of 798 respondents) agree or strongly agree with the guiding principles
- 87% (692 of 792 respondents) agree or strongly agree with the three goals
- The top 3 comment themes when asked about the Strategy overall include:
 - Support for dog off leash trails/areas (85)
 - Concern about dogs (environment, dog waste, user conflicts, enforcement) (33)
 - Expand trail network (27)
- 91% (696 of 767) of respondents are from North Vancouver

The top 3 comment themes from the pop-up events include:

- More easy trails (e.g. beginner, for kids, flat, easy, flow) (16)
- More trail maintenance (15)
- Appreciation for trails and trail maintenance (15)

Feedback was also received from stakeholder workshops and meetings (Appendix C) and four emails received (Appendix E).

The District also met with Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation (Appendix D).

Who we heard from

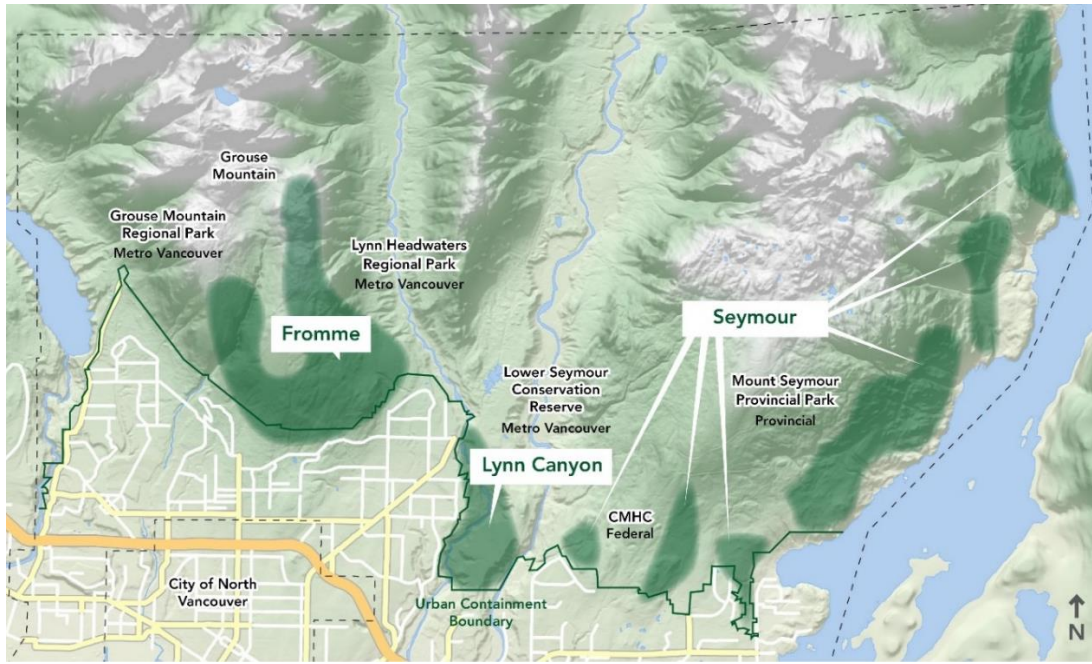
North Vancouver residents represented 91% of online survey respondents (by postal code). Refer to the demographic sections of Appendix A for further information.

Next steps

Key themes emerging from this phase of engagement will be considered as the draft strategy is refined. Then, the draft strategy will be presented to Council for consideration.

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The District is developing a Natural Areas Trails Strategy to guide the planning and management of trails in natural areas managed by the District.



Study area

This report summarizes feedback received through the Phase 2 engagement.



In Phase 1, we learned more about key community values, ideas, and opportunities through public and stakeholder engagement in spring 2022. This report is available at [DNV.org/trails-strategy](https://dnv.org/trails-strategy).

In Phase 2, we asked for feedback on the draft Natural Areas Trails Strategy.

There were **over 1,000 interactions** with people in at least one of the engagement opportunities. There were several ways for respondents to share their input:

- Online survey: 823 respondents completed the survey
- Pop-up events: 200 participants
- Stakeholder meetings and workshops: 21 participants
- Government-to-government meetings with Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. (Musqueam Indian Band was also contacted.)

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The engagement program to inform the community and collect feedback on the Natural Areas Trails Strategy took place in September-October 2023.

There were more than 1,000 interactions with people at one or more of the engagement opportunities, which included an online survey, pop-up events, and stakeholder workshops and meeting. Government-to-government meetings with Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation also took place.

The District promoted the engagement opportunities using the following methods:

Notification Method	Description	Dates
District of North Vancouver website	New page with project information and link to the online survey.	Webpage launched on September 11, 2023
Online engagement survey	Site including background information about the project and survey questions. The survey had 823 respondents.	Engagement open from September 11 to October 2, 2023
Pop-up events	Pop-up, drop-by events were held at three locations across the District: Parkgate Village, Lynn Valley Village, and the Fromme parking lot. There were 200 participants.	September 19, 20, 22, 2023
Stakeholder workshops and meetings	An email invitation for stakeholder workshops were sent to local recreational, environmental, community organizations, and land managers. The draft strategy was presented at a meeting of the Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee (PNEAC). There were 21 participants in total.	Meeting dates: April 15, 2023 (PNEAC), September 14-29, 2023
Postcard mail out	Notification cards with a link to webpage and online survey were mailed to 6,657 District addresses near study area trailheads and 227 non-District owned parcel owners within the study area.	Postcards mailed on September 11, 2023
Social media	Facebook and Twitter posts to promote the online survey. Combined total: 501 engagements; 11,562 impressions 9,046 Facebook post reach 40 Twitter Link Clicks	Posts on September 11, 15, 19, 24, 28
Information signs	Two 4' x 4' and 14 2' x 2' information signs posted near key District trailheads.	Sign installed on September 11, 2023
Newspaper advertisements	Digital and print advertisements in the <i>North Shore News</i> to promote the Natural Areas Trails Strategy engagement.	One ¼ page print ad ran Sept. 13, 2023

Digital ads targeted to District residents resulted in 33,331 total impressions and 40 clicks.

Digital ad ran on *North Shore News* website on Sept 11-Oct 1, 2023

APPENDIX A: ONLINE SURVEY

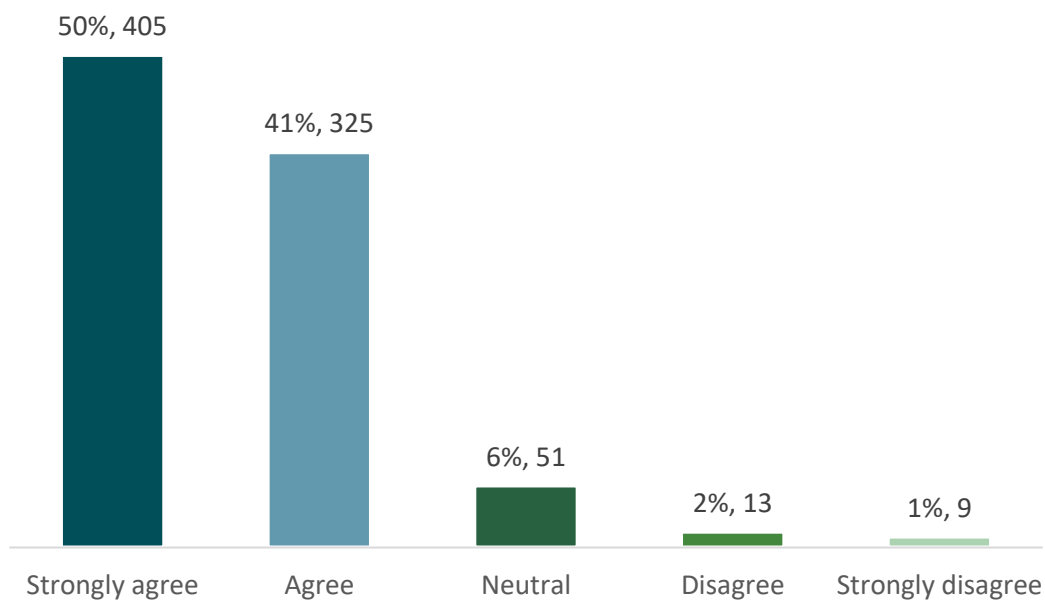
A total of 823 respondents completed the survey, which was available online through the CivilSpace engagement platform. Paper copies of the survey were available upon request (there were 0 requests).

Q1. Do you agree with the vision?

Total respondents: 803

This question provided the vision statement:

Our natural areas and recreational trails are a model of sustainable recreational management, striking a balance of environmental protection and recreational access. There is a well-developed natural trail network where recreational use respects and supports ecosystems while providing access to nature for physical, social, cultural, and spiritual well-being.



Q2. If you have comments about the vision, please share.

Total respondents: 176

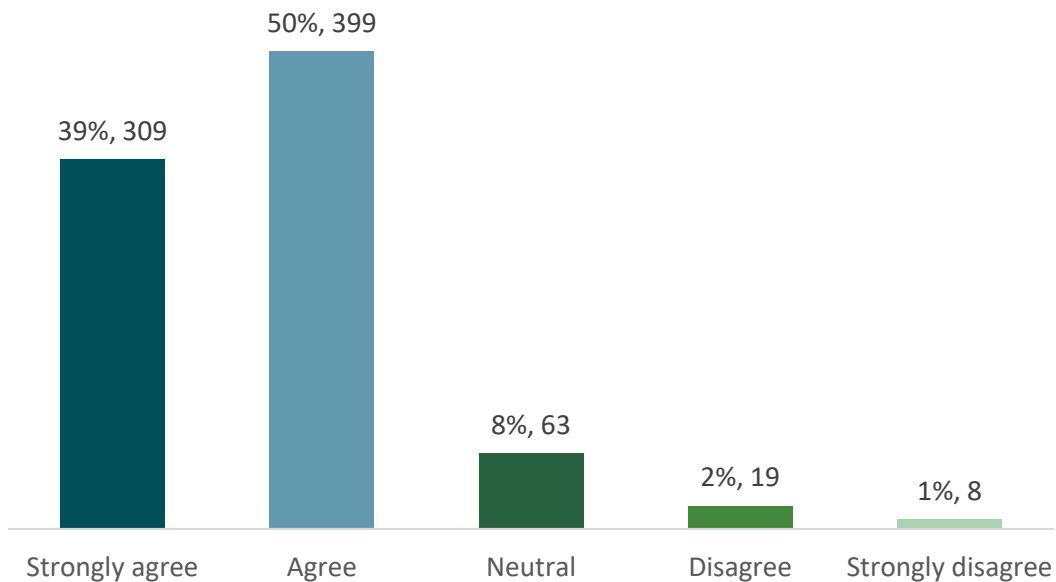
Respondents mentioned one or more comment themes. Themes with more than 5 responses reported below.

- Support for dog off leash trails/areas – 28
- Expand trail network – 22
- Concern about environment (wildlife, ecosystems) – 22
- Vision is too generic, not action-oriented enough – 18
- Concern about bikes (environment, user conflicts, etiquette, e-bikes) – 17
- Concern about dogs (environment, dog waste, user conflicts, enforcement) – 13
- More trail maintenance (garbage, erosion, trail braiding) – 11
- Love the trails – 9
- Support stewardship (community groups, land managers) – 8
- Keep trails natural, don't over develop – 7
- Consult with dog owners, do research – 7
- Manage increase in trail use – 7
- Ensure access and enjoyment for all – 6

Q3. Do you agree with the guiding principles?

Total respondents: 798

This question provided the guiding principles (environmental sustainability, collaboration, risk management, shared use, adaptive management, and resourcing) and descriptions for each.



Q4. If you have comments about the guiding principles, please share.

Total respondents: 152

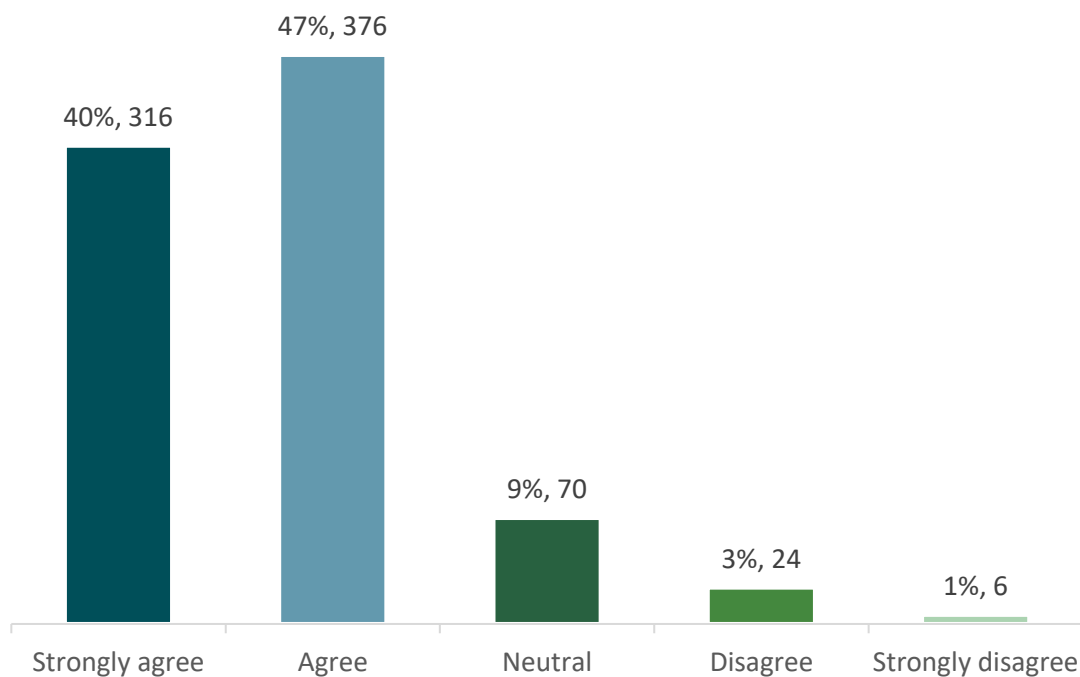
Respondents mentioned one or more comment themes. Themes with more than 5 responses reported below.

- Concern about bikes (environment, user conflicts, etiquette, e-bikes) – 21
- Support for dog off leash trails/areas – 15
- Concern about dogs (environment, dog waste, user conflicts, enforcement) – 15
- Concern about shared trails (user conflicts, enforcement) – 13
- Concern about environment (wildlife, ecosystems) – 12
- Consult with First Nations – 11
- Support stewardship (community groups, land managers) – 10
- Manage wildfire risk (no smoking) – 9
- Guiding principles are good – 9
- Expand trail network – 8
- Ensure access and enjoyment for all – 7
- Provide more funding for trails – 5
- Guiding principles are somewhat unclear – 5
- Manage increase in trail use – 5

Q5. How much do you agree with the three goals?

Total respondents: 792

This question provided the goals (experiences, ecosystems, and stewardship) and descriptions for each.



Q6. If you have comments about the goals, please share.

Total respondents: 236

Respondents mentioned one or more comment themes. Themes with 5 or more responses reported below.

- Support for dog off leash trails/areas – 62
- Concern about dogs (environment, dog waste, user conflicts, enforcement) – 42
- Provide more clarity/definitions ("dog management", "shared stewardship", "safe") – 17
- No issues with dogs, okay with dogs on trails (under control) – 17
- More trail signage (routes, distances, uses) – 17
- Concern about bikes (environment, user conflicts, etiquette, e-bikes) – 16
- Goals are too generic, not action oriented enough – 14
- Concern about environment (wildlife, ecosystems) – 12
- Expand trail network – 10
- Support stewardship (community groups, land managers) – 10
- More trail maintenance (garbage, erosion, trail braiding) – 8
- More trail etiquette signage (dogs, bikes) – 7
- Support allowing dogs on trails – 6
- Create dog off leash code of conduct, increase education – 6
- Balance off leash and on leash trails – 6
- Keep trails natural, don't over develop – 6
- Allow for some level of risk for mountain biking – 6
- Goals are good – 5

Q7. Do you have any other comments about the draft strategy, please share.

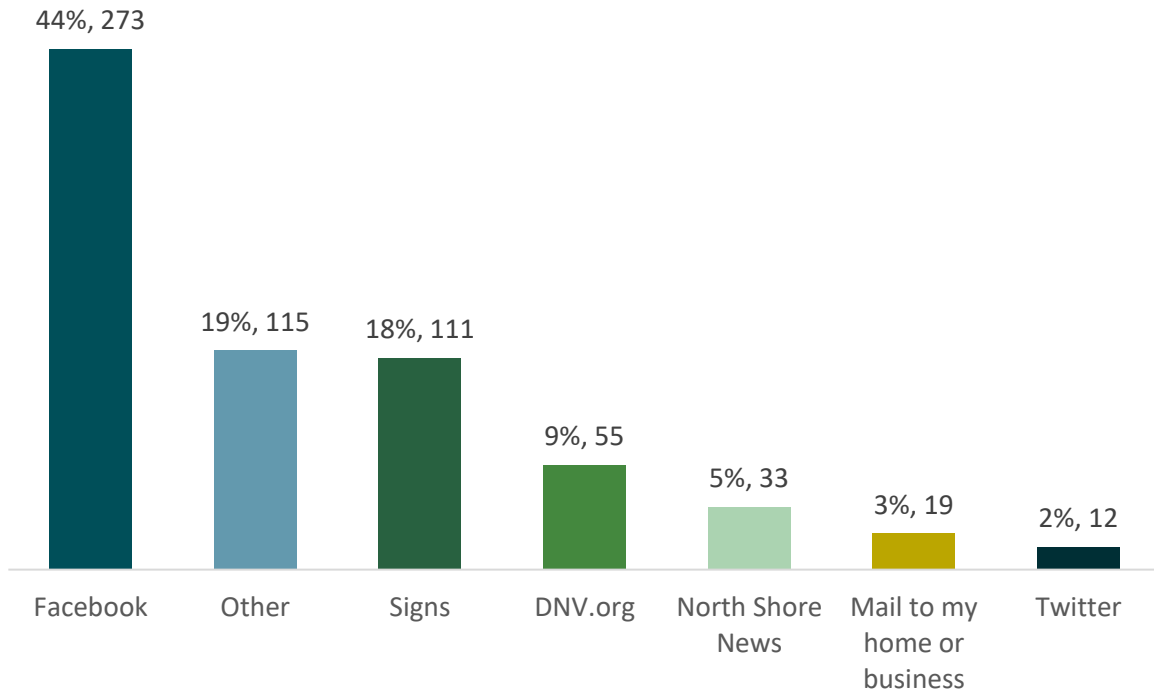
Total respondents: 307

Respondents mentioned one or more comment themes. Themes with 5 or more responses reported below.

- Support for dog off leash trails/areas – 85
- Concern about dogs (environment, dog waste, user conflicts, enforcement) – 33
- Expand trail network – 27
- More trail signage (routes, distances, uses, etiquette) – 24
- Strategy is too generic, not action oriented enough – 22
- Concern about bikes (environment, user conflicts, etiquette, e-bikes) – 21
- Consult with dog owners, do research – 20
- Support stewardship (community groups, land managers) – 18
- Manage wildfire risk (signage, smoking) – 15
- Strategy is good – 15
- More trail maintenance (garbage, erosion, trail braiding) – 11
- Concern about environment (wildlife, ecosystems) – 11
- Increase access to trails (transit, cycling, accessibility) – 10
- Improve shared trails or separate trails for different uses – 10
- More garbage bins, dog bins – 9
- Improve parking – 9
- Support allowing dogs on trails – 8
- Create dog off leash code of conduct, increase education – 8
- Provide more clarity/definitions ("dog management") – 7
- Manage increase in trail use – 7
- More amenities (washrooms, drinking fountains, disc golf) – 6
- Love the trails – 6
- Support rock climbing – 6
- Improve etiquette and enforcement of trail users – 6
- Keep trails natural, don't over develop – 5

Q8. How did you hear about this engagement? Please select all that apply.

Total respondents: 618



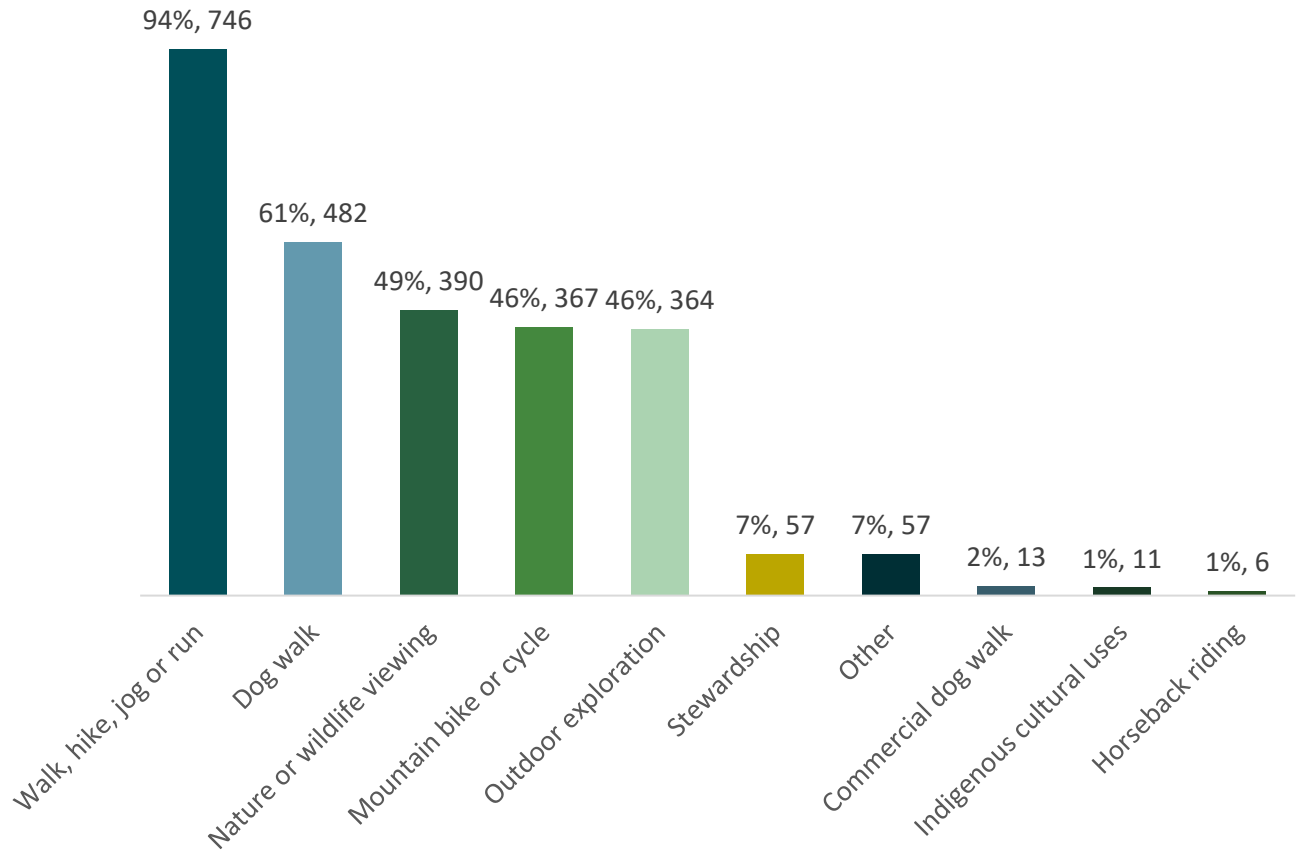
“Other” response themes with 5 or more responses reported below:

- Friend/ family/word of mouth – 51
- Community group/newsletter – 41
- DNV pop-up event/postcard – 10
- LinkedIn – 7
- Discord – 6

Q9. What activities do you do on District trails? Please select all that apply.

Total respondents: 796

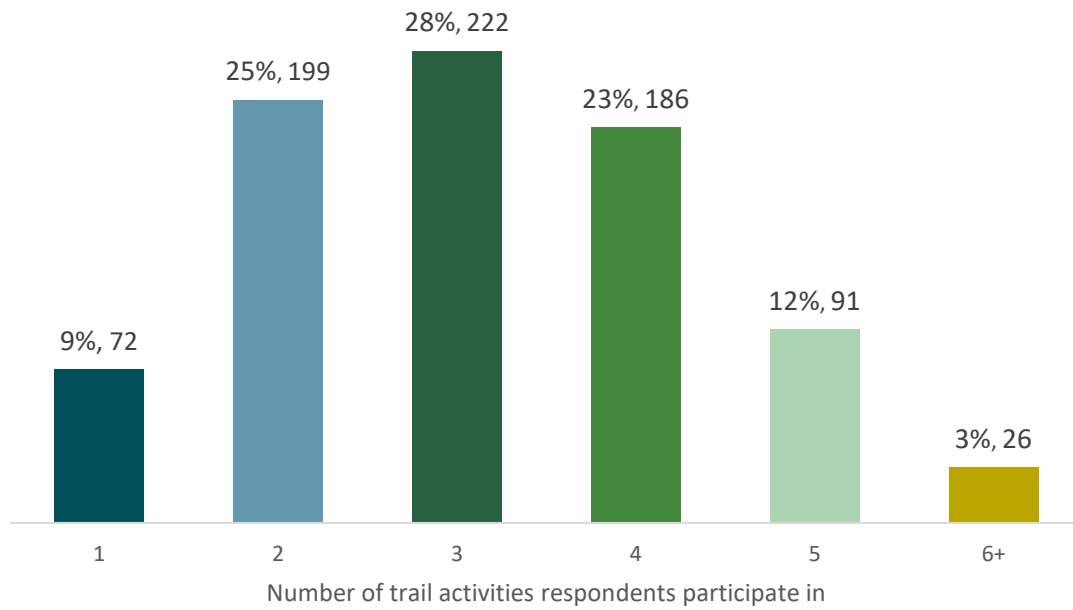
Respondents could select one or more options. Percentages show the number of respondents who selected that activity.



“Other” response themes with 5 or more responses reported below:

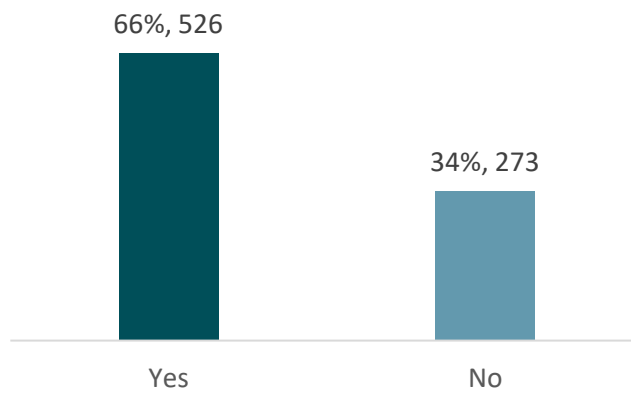
- Rock climbing – 15
- Meditation/forest bathing – 10
- Volunteering – 7
- Orienteering – 5

Over 65% of online survey respondents participate in 3 or more trail activities.



Q10. Do you live within a 5-minute walk of a trailhead near Fromme, Lynn Canyon, or Seymour areas?

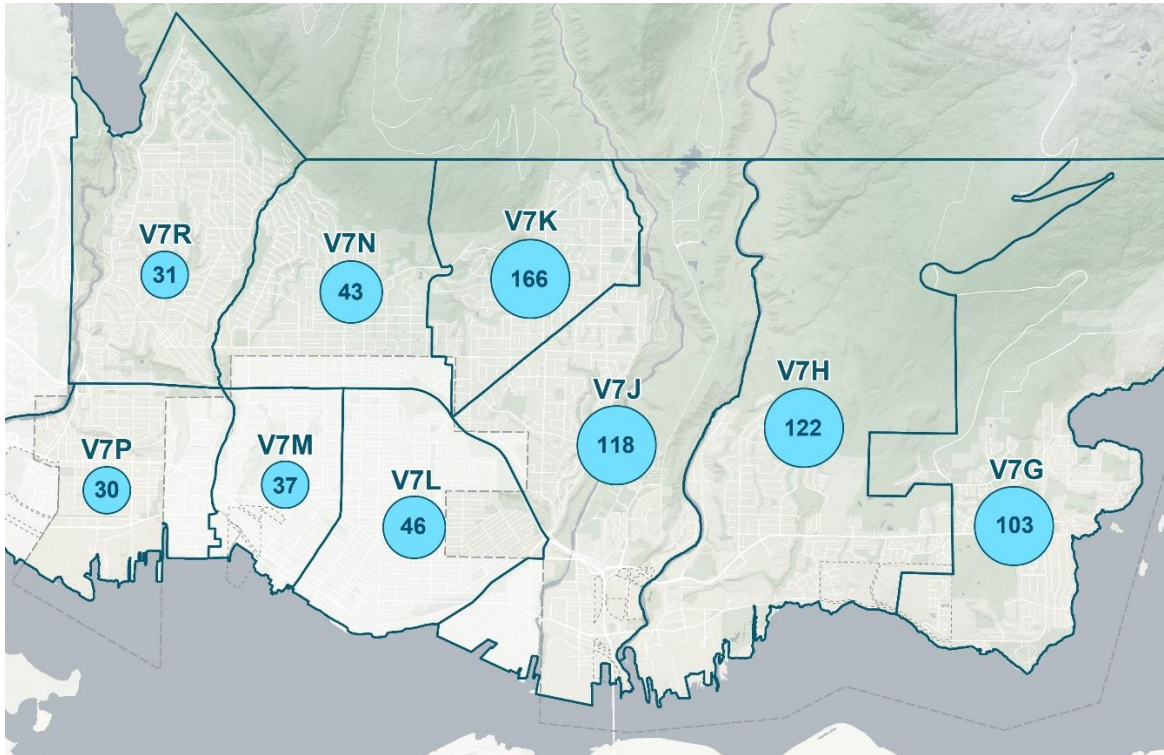
Total respondents: 799



Q11. What are the first 3 digits of your postal code?

Total respondents: 767

Total respondents from North Vancouver: 696 (91%)



Map of respondent postal codes

Respondents from outside of North Vancouver: 71

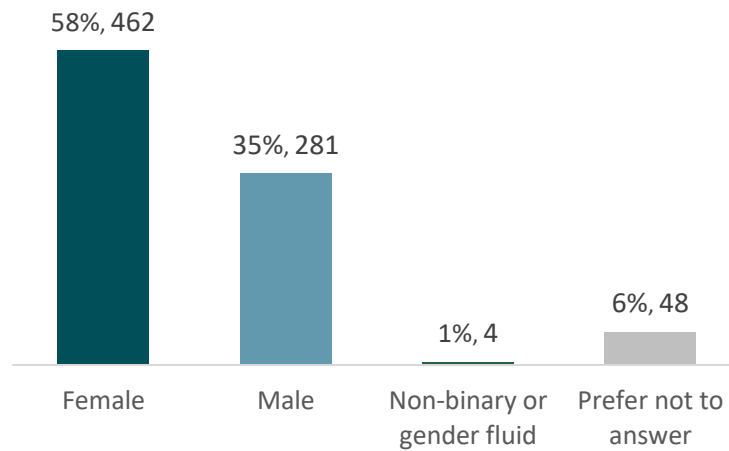
- Vancouver – 44
- Burnaby – 6
- Surrey – 4
- West Vancouver – 2
- Lions Bay – 2
- New Westminister – 2
- Coquitlam – 2
- Port Coquitlam – 2
- Port Moody – 2
- Richmond – 2
- Delta – 1
- Victoria – 1
- Outside BC – 1

Who we heard from: demographic questions

The District asks respondents to share demographic information to help determine if the District’s outreach efforts are reaching a balanced and diverse range of populations in the District.

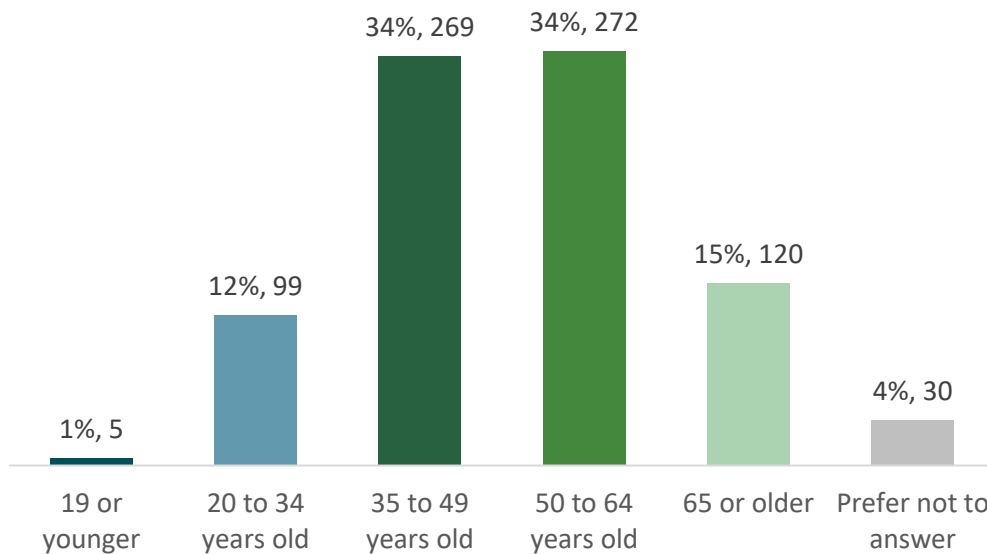
Q12. What is your gender?

Total respondents: 795



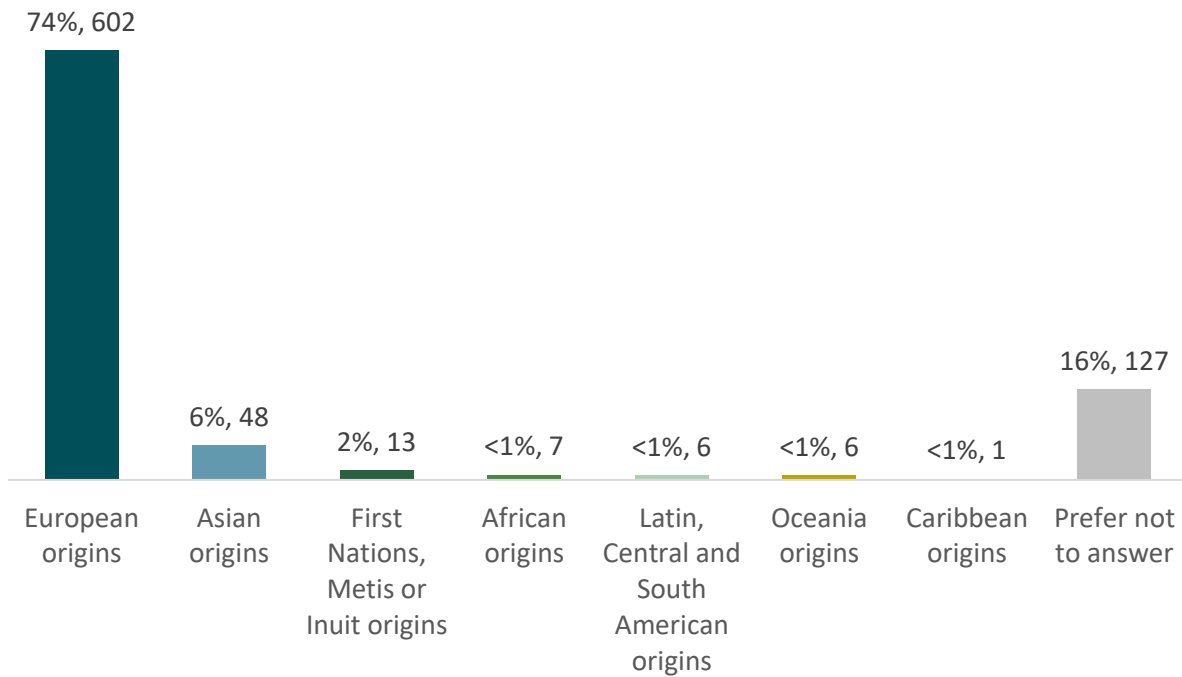
Q13. What is your age range?

Total respondents: 795



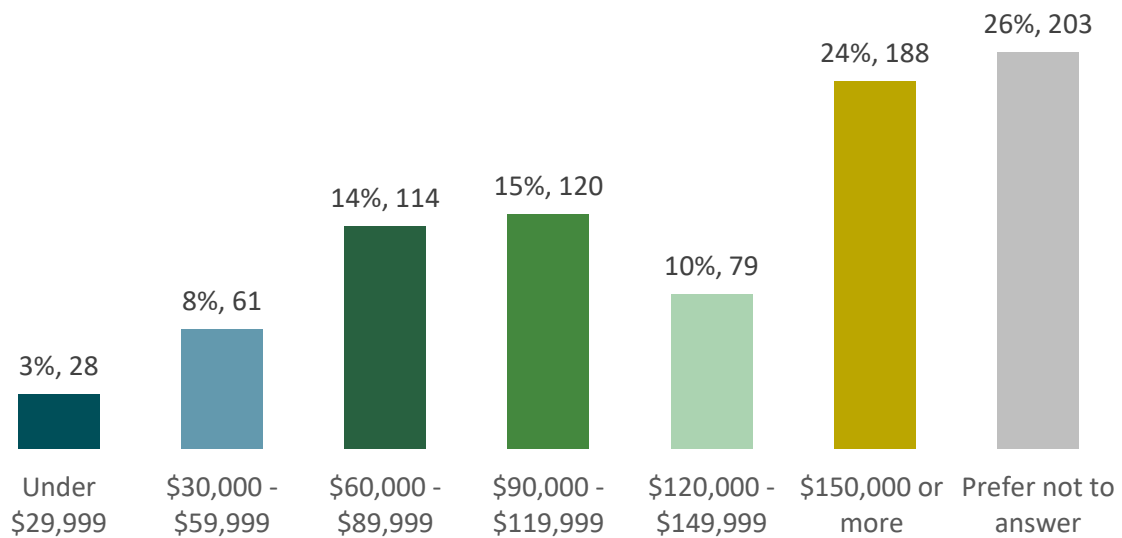
Q14. What is your ethnic origin? Please select all that apply.

Total respondents: 810



Q15. Which best describes your individual annual income?

Total respondents: 793



APPENDIX B: POP-UP ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Format & methodology

The purpose of the pop-up engagement events was to meet with community members and gather feedback on the Strategy's draft vision statement, goals, and guiding principles, and to promote the online survey by handing out postcards. Participants also shared their input on what was working well and what could be improved with District trails. The pop-up engagement events were intended to reach passerby audiences, which may result in hearing from different user types or demographics than other engagement methods. It is intended to complement the results of the online survey.

Three pop-up engagement events were conducted by District staff. In total, there were **200 participants** that interacted with staff at the pop-up events.

The events were held at:

- Parkgate Library / Community Centre, Tuesday, September 19, 2023, 10:00 am – noon (2 hours)
- Lynn Valley Public Library, Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 3:00 – 5:00 pm (2 hours)
- Mount Fromme trailhead, Friday, September 22, 2023, 1:00 – 3:00 pm (2 hours)

Locations and times for the events were selected for having high visibility, high likelihood of pedestrian and cyclist passersby, and a variety of days and times (during daylight).

Summary of main themes

Participants were able to provide comments that were recorded on sticky notes. Themes with 5 or more responses reported below.

- More easy trails (e.g., beginner, for kids, flat, easy, flow) – 16
- More trail maintenance – 15
- Appreciation for trails and trail maintenance – 15
- Support for signage (e.g., directional, educational, with pictures, defined shared use) – 12
- Concern about bikes (e.g., trail user conflicts, etiquette, speed, off-trail use, separation) – 9
- Concern about dogs (e.g., waste, etiquette, under control, management) – 9
- More parking/parking management – 8
- Support accessible trails (e.g., mobility devices, accessible mountain bike, safety features) - 7
- More washrooms – 7
- Expand the trail network – 6
- Manage increase in trail use – 6
- Support safety/preparedness education and information – 5

APPENDIX C: FIRST NATIONS ENGAGEMENT

In Phase 1 (spring 2022), the District contacted Musqueam Indian Band, Squamish Nation, and Tsleil-Waututh Nation to introduce the process to develop the Natural Areas Trails Strategy and invited the respective Nations to meet to share early input. Staff met with Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation and heard topics and interest and concerns about recreational trails in natural areas.

In Phase 2 (this phase of engagement, 2023), the District followed up with Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation, shared the draft Strategy, outlined how their early input was incorporated into the draft Strategy, and invited the opportunity for conversation and input. The draft Strategy was also shared with Musqueam Indian Band. Squamish Nation and Tsleil-Waututh Nation expressed interest and government-to-government meetings were held with the respective Nations in summer-fall 2023 to discuss the draft Strategy and each Nation provided feedback. A high-level summary of the themes discussed include interest in:

- Working more closely together and continuing conversations
- Environment, cultural, archaeological heritage (e.g., cultural vegetation, biodiversity, traditional uses, cultural practices)
- Opportunities for education for the public and for Nation members
- Indigenous representation (e.g., traditional language for trail names, welcome signs)
- Early and ongoing engagement on projects in natural areas and implementing the actions in the Natural Areas Trails Strategy (e.g., Seymour Area Trail Plan, etc.)

APPENDIX D: STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS & MEETINGS

Invitations were sent to representatives from community groups, local recreation organizations, local environmental organizations to participate in a stakeholder community workshop. Workshops and meetings were also held with adjacent land managers. The District's Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee also provided feedback.

The format of the sessions included a presentation about the draft Natural Areas Trails Strategy, followed by facilitated discussion.

Overall, **21 participants** attended the workshops and meetings.

- Parks and Natural Environment Advisory Committee – April 26, 2023
- Community stakeholders – September 27, 2023, 6:00-7:00 pm
 - Golden Age Hiking Group
 - North Shore Streamkeepers
 - Greater Vancouver Orienteering Club
 - North Shore Mountain Bike Association (and additional meeting on September 29, 2023)
- Adjacent land managers
 - Metro Vancouver, BC Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails BC, City of North Vancouver – September 14, 2023
 - Grouse Mountain Resort – September 28, 2023

Some of the District's partners provided input by email including:

- North Shore Emergency Management
- RCMP

Summary of main themes

This is a summary of the main themes heard from stakeholders. The themes are not presented in any particular order.

- Support for strategy overall
- Support protection of ecologically sensitive areas (mapping, may need "no-go" zones)
- Improve wildlife corridors
- Interest in more information on new trail development and trail decommissioning
- Increase the priority for the action to address emerging trail users (e-bikes, e-dirt bikes, e-unicycles), need to take action
- Interest in opportunities to donate to trail initiatives
- Support for educating trail users
- Concerns about bear health and safety (near residential areas, garbage & bear attractants)
- Concerns about dog management (education, dog waste)
- Concerns about crowding on trails, more difficult to access (parking, permitting, etc.)
- Concerns about invasive species (Looper moths, ivy etc.)
- Provide access opportunities for people with mobility challenges, disabilities, and with strollers, such as trails with gentle terrain
- Signage that communicates with people who cannot read English
- Include a land acknowledgment and increase opportunities for reconciliation and inclusion of Indigenous knowledge, wisdom, partnerships, and rights

APPENDIX E: OTHER RECEIVED INPUT

In addition to the engagement opportunities provided, 4 emails from members of the public were received.

Summary of comment themes

- Appreciate the trails (walking, hiking, mountain biking, dog off-leash)
- Support for several actions in the strategy
- Support for more interpretive signage (nature, ecology, education, stewardship)
- Suggestion for wildlife impact studies in sensitive habitats before trail development
- Support for new trail development (e.g., beginner “green” trails, difficult “double black” trails, jump trail)
- Support and promote partnership with North Shore Mountain Bike Association
- Do not support removing trails
- Concern about limiting dog off-leash access on trails
- Concern about adding too many amenities along trails, reducing difficulty
- Concern about bureaucracy involved in trail maintenance and development