

REGIONAL RECREATION PLANNING

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



1. What is the purpose of the project?

The project will help assess the current state of recreation services in the Cowichan region, including:

- utilization of facilities;
- satisfaction levels; and
- potential future needs/demands.

The information collected through the project will help inform future decision making and planning undertaken by the CVRD and its municipal partners.

2. Will the project provide recommendations and specific facility priorities?

This project is not intended to provide specific recommendations or identify facility priorities for capital investment. It will more simply establish a baseline of needs and issues that may require attention. However, the information collected may help inform future phases of planning related to these important recreation service considerations.

3. What geographic areas are within the project scope?

Municipalities:

Town of Lake Cowichan

Town of Ladysmith

City of Duncan

Municipality of North Cowichan.

Electoral Areas:

Area A (includes Malahat and Mill Bay)

Area B (includes Shawnigan Lake)

Area C (includes Cobble Hill)

Area D (includes Cowichan Bay)

Area E (includes Cowichan Station, Glenora and Sahtlam)

Area F (includes Cowichan Lake South and Skutz Falls)

Area G (includes the Gulf Islands and Saltair)

Area H (includes Diamond and North Oyster)

Area I (includes Meade Creek and Youbou)

4. How is information being collected?

The project team is collecting feedback from residents and stakeholders through surveys, focus group discussions and attendance at community events. The consulting team is also supplementing this engagement with research into trends, the regional supply of facilities, population and demographics, and other key indicators that impact recreation services.

5. How can I provide feedback?

There are a number of ways that residents can provide input this fall:

- **Resident Survey:** A postcard with a survey access code and instructions on how to complete the survey online will be sent to households later in October. When you receive the postcard, please take the time to complete the survey! While residents are encouraged to complete the survey online as instructed on the postcard, paper copies will also be made available at recreation facilities throughout the Cowichan region (including the Islands Savings Centre, Cowichan Aquatic Centre, Kerry Park Recreation Centre, Frank Jameson Community Centre and the Cowichan Lake Sports Arena).
- **PlaceSpeak:** Topics will be posted throughout the duration of the project. Please participate in the discussion and provide your input! You can access PlaceSpeak via the CVRD website (www.cvrld.bc.ca) or www.placespeak.com
- **Public Focus Groups** being held on the following dates:
 - » Monday, November 6, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. @ the Kerry Park Recreation Centre (Denis McLean Room)
 - » Tuesday, November 7, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. @ the Island Savings Centre (Koksilah Room)
 - » Wednesday, November 8, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. @ the Frank Jameson Community Centre
 - » Thursday, November 9, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. @ the Lake Cowichan Lower Centennial Hall
- **Consultant attendance at community events throughout the CVRD in October.** If you see a representative from the consulting team please take the opportunity to say hello and provide your feedback on recreation!

In addition to the above engagement opportunities, representatives from the consulting team will be collecting utilization data on-site at recreation facilities in the Cowichan region this fall. This valuable information will help further clarify facility use characteristics (i.e. residency of users, amenities used at facilities, etc.).

6. Who is conducting the project?

RC Strategies+PERC, a consulting firm specializing in community and recreation planning, has been retained by the CVRD to conduct the project. The consulting team is reporting to CVRD recreation staff and elected representatives of the CVRD.

7. Will the project take into account facilities beyond the CVRD boundaries?

Yes. While the focus is on recreation facilities and services in the Cowichan region, the project team understands that residents participate in recreation and leisure pursuits in neighbouring regions and municipalities. As such, these factors will be taken into account during the engagement and research.

8. When is the project scheduled for completion?

The project is scheduled for completion in late 2017 or early 2018. Updates will be posted on the Parks & Recreation page of the CVRD website (www.cvrld.bc.ca) and PlaceSpeak (www.placespeak.com) throughout the project.