



Resort Municipality  
of Whistler

Add Your  Voice

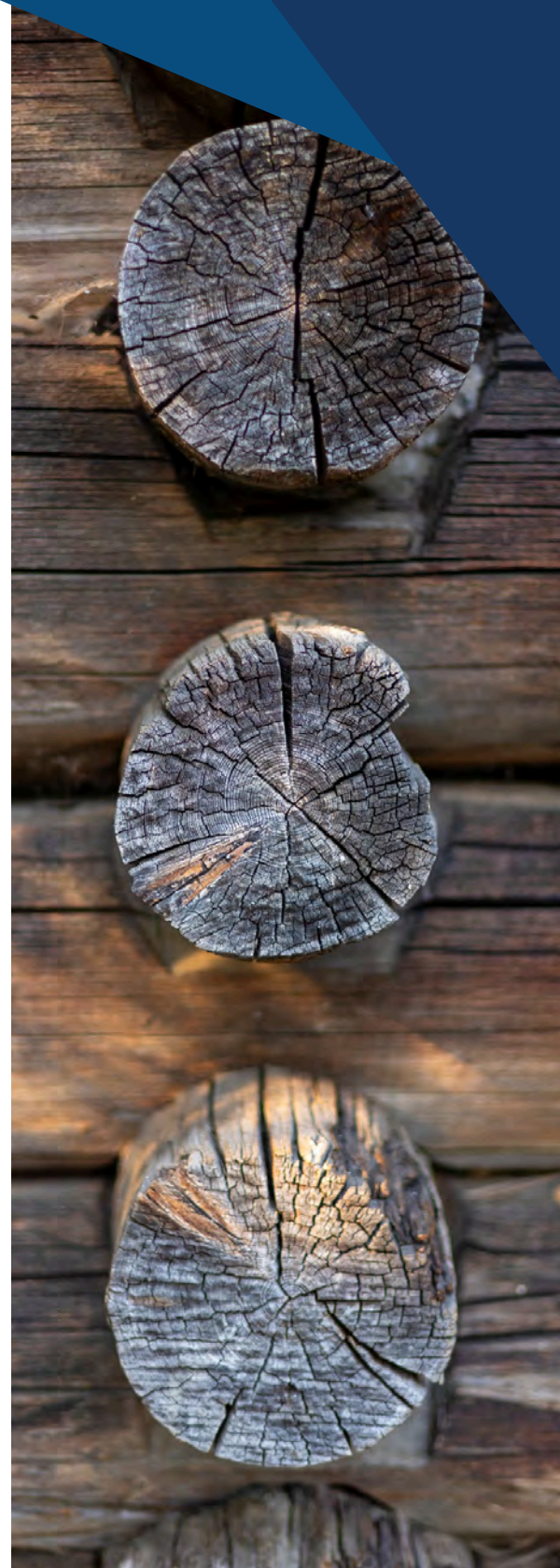
# What We Heard

PARKS & VALLEY TRAIL STRATEGY  
ENGAGEMENT REPORT



# Contents

Introduction .....	3
Guiding Principle 1 .....	5
Guiding Principle 2 .....	9
Guiding Principle 3 .....	13
Guiding Principle 4 .....	17
Guiding Principle 5 .....	21
Guiding Principle 6 .....	25
Draft Vision Statement.....	28






# Parks & Valley Trail Strategy

## Introduction

Phase 2 engagement focused on collecting community feedback to validate and refine the proposed Vision, Guiding Principles, and Supporting Statements.

Participants were invited to provide input on one or all of the six Guiding Principles, each of which included a set of 'We Will' statements outlining how the Strategy would be put into action.

Feedback was analyzed and grouped into common themes to identify gaps and opportunities for improvement. The input outlined in this report reflects the community's priorities and concerns, and provides valuable direction for shaping the final plan.



*The Whistler Parks and Valley Trail Strategy will guide the future of Whistler's parks and Valley Trail over the next 10 years.*

## Online Survey Participant Statistics



### Age Demographic

**9 %** 20 - 39

**6 %** 30 - 39

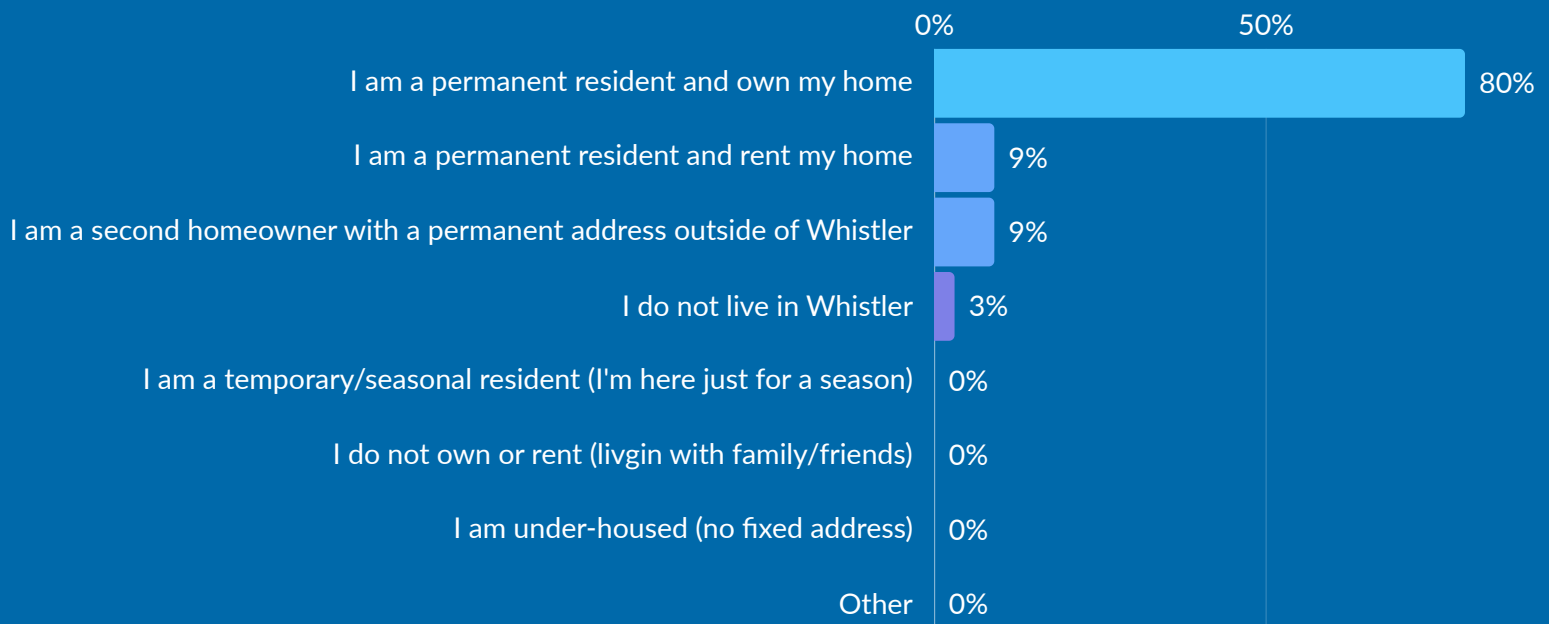
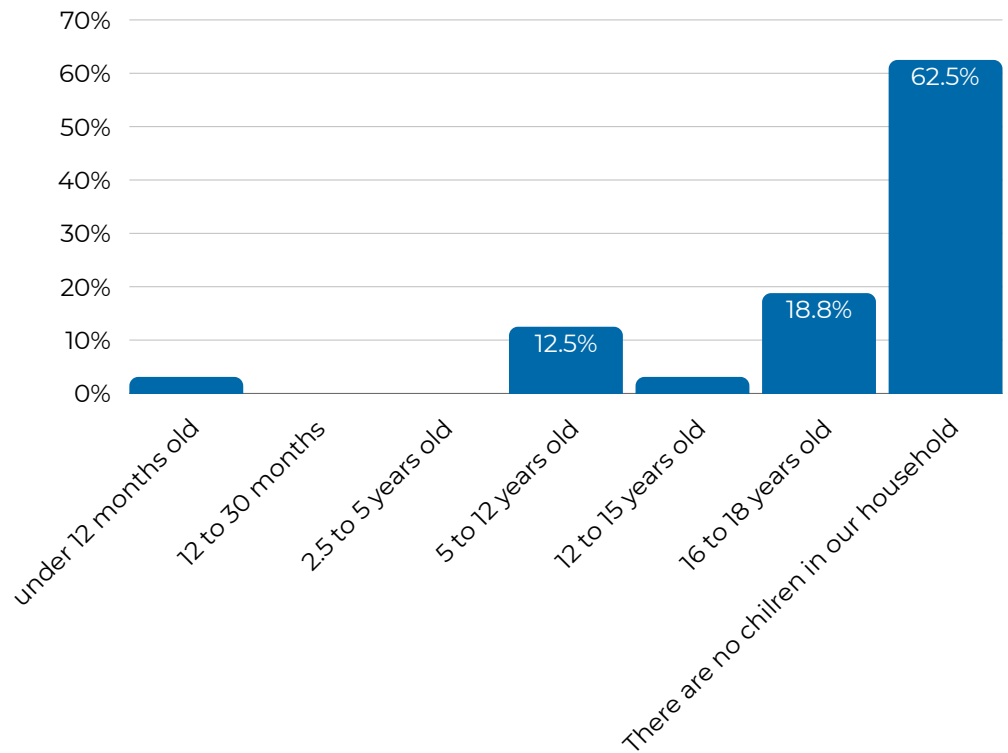
**2 %** 40 - 49

**39 %** 50 - 59

**19%** 60 - 69

**23%** 70 - 79

If there are children in your household, what age group are they?



# Guiding Principle #1

Foster climate resilience, biodiversity and environmental stewardship

"To protect and repair Whistler's unique natural environment in the development and management of our parks, natural areas and Valley Trail System"

## Question 1



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 1

● Strongly Disagree ● Disagree ● Neutral ● Agree ● Strongly Agree



## Question 2



Is there anything missing from Guiding Principle 1 that should be added?



Create safe environments so there is harmony and wildlife and the environment health is cared for by all that visit.



Consider the term "enhance" which is not just about enhancing for human benefits but enhance also means environmental enhancement, biodiversity enhancement and natural area enhancement



Improving safety of the valley trail system

# Guiding Principle #1

## Summary of Feedback:

*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*



### Funding and Responsibility

- MRDT should contribute to park and trail maintenance costs proportionally to tourist



### Safety and Infrastructure

- Improve safety on the Valley Trail
- Concerns about asphalt's carbon footprint; consider sustainable alternatives
- Create safe environments for visitors and wildlife to coexist.



### Waste Management and Environmental Health

- Year-round garbage pickup in parks and trails.
- Garbage near sensitive habitats attracts wildlife and poses risks.
- Closure of waste/recycling receptacles has led to litter issues.



### Habitat and Biodiversity

- Expand “enhance” to include environmental and biodiversity improvements, not just human benefits.
- Mixed views on balancing environmental features vs. usable space (e.g., planters vs. recreation areas).



### Education and Wildlife Protection

- Increase public education and signage on bear safety; position Whistler as a wildlife-friendly destination.



### Broader Priorities

- Some respondents feel climate initiatives are overemphasized; suggest focusing more on housing and basic needs.

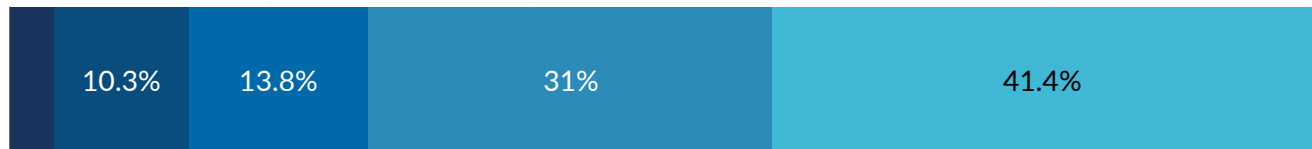
# Guiding Principle #1

## Question 3



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 1 “We Will” statements

☐ Strongly Disagree
 ☐ Disagree
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Agree
 ☐ Strongly Agree



### WE WILL ...

- *Protect sensitive ecosystems and priority habitats on municipally controlled lands to support biodiversity, ecological integrity, climate resilience, and authentic natural experiences.*
- *Avoid negative impacts on environmentally sensitive areas and use the 2023 Priority Habitat Framework and maps to guide planning and design decisions.*
- *Pursue land acquisition, protection, and restoration strategies, supported by a sustainable funding model, to advance environmental and park objectives.*
- *Plan, design, and manage Parks, Natural Areas and the Valley Trail as climate-resilient spaces that support plants, wildlife, and people. Incorporate blue/green infrastructure and floodwater management where feasible to enhance ecological function and climate adaptation.*
- *Integrate carbon accounting into planning, design, and construction of capital projects, with the goal of achieving net-zero emissions.*
- *Include on- and off-site habitat restoration and invasive species management –both on and off site– in the development of capital projects.*
- *Promote stewardship opportunities that foster environmental awareness, learning, and positive social experiences.*
- *Support responsible enjoyment of Whistler’s public outdoor spaces to ensure long-term ecological health and preservation.*
- *Encourage access through active and public transportation to decrease reliance on private vehicles and support climate action goals.*



# Guiding Principle #1

## Question 4



Is there anything missing from those “We Will” statements that should be added?

## Summary of “We Will” Statements Feedback:

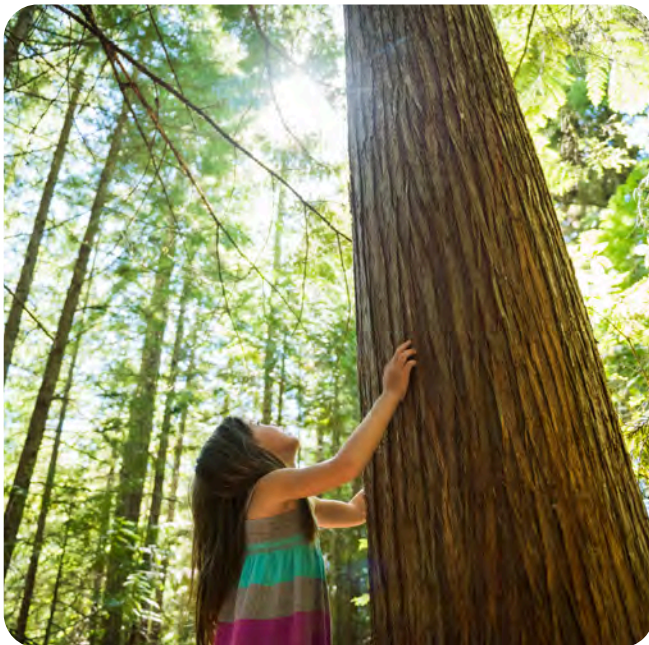
*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*

### Access and Prioritization

- Support for environmental protection measures even if they reduce recreational access.
- Prioritize active transportation (walking, cycling) over motorized transportation on the Valley Trail.

### Environmental Stewardship

- Emphasize habitat protection, including proper garbage management to prevent wildlife attractants.



### Basic Needs

- Some respondents highlight broader priorities like ensuring basic necessities (food and shelter), suggesting balance between environmental goals and community needs.

### Climate-Conscious Recreation

- Strong endorsement for Whistler Sailing as a model for zero-emission, nature-connected recreation.
- Sailing fosters stewardship, education, and community engagement, and respondents want it included in future implementation plans.



## Guiding Principle #2

Advance First Nations rights, truth and reconciliation.

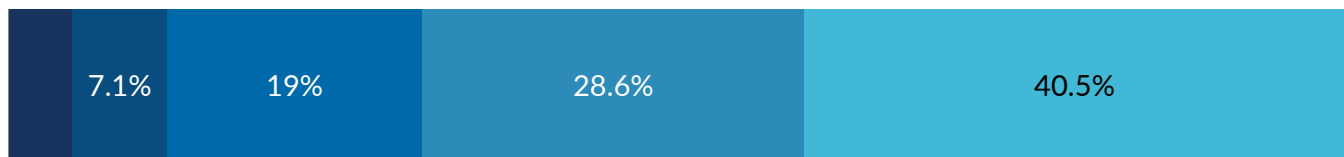
"In the spirit of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), to collaborate with the Lilwat7úl and Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw to foster meaningful relationships and shape Parks, Natural Areas, and the Valley Trail in ways that honour their history, culture, and knowledge."

### Question 1



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 2

☐ Strongly Disagree
 ☐ Disagree
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Agree
 ☐ Strongly Agree



### Question 2



Is there anything missing from Guiding Principle 2 that should be added?

"Given what is happening in Richmond, this raises many concerns. It defies logic in that we pay taxes to RMOW while it acknowledges that the land belongs to the Nation. Perhaps handing over the control and operation of the municipal hall and its finances to the nation is a reasonable argument."

"Safety, keep our community members and guests educated and safe while enjoying the outdoors. Wildlife info and education."

"Educational information and opportunities for non-indigenous people to learn about indigenous beliefs and practices that promote healthy ecosystems. I agree that we need to recognize past and ongoing injustices but we also need to learn to share common values which will shape the future."

## Guiding Principle #2

### Summary of Feedback:

*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*



#### Indigenous Collaboration & Governance

- Mixed perspectives: some support collaboration and cultural recognition, while others expressed concerns about governance, taxation, and perceived implications of UNDRIP.
- Suggestion to explicitly reference provincial legislation (DRIPA) alongside UNDRIP for clarity.



#### Education & Cultural Awareness

- Interest in providing educational opportunities for non-Indigenous residents and visitors to learn about Indigenous history, culture, and ecological practices.
- Desire to foster shared values and mutual understanding for shaping the future.



#### Community Access & Safety

- Emphasis on safety education for outdoor activities, including wildlife awareness.
- Requests for improved accessibility through active/public transport and shared park amenities (e.g., BBQs, paddleboards, canoes).



#### Environmental Stewardship

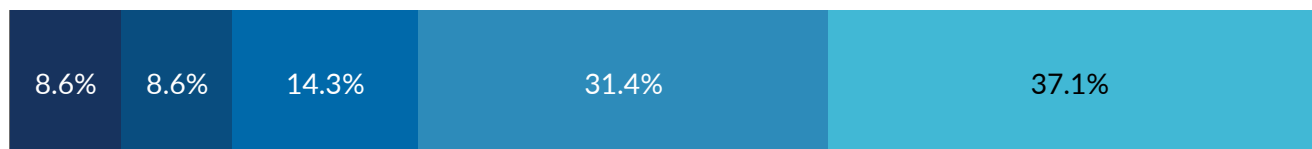
- Recommendations to prevent invasive species, promote zero waste in park infrastructure and clean-ups, minimize light pollution, maintain quiet hours for wildlife, and restore ecosystems (e.g., reintroducing beavers at Alpha Lake).

### Question 3



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 2 “We Will” statements

☐ Strongly Disagree
 ☐ Disagree
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Agree
 ☐ Strongly Agree



## Guiding Principle #2

### WE WILL ...

- Adopt the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as a guiding framework for reconciliation, especially in the planning, management, and potential acquisition of lands for Protected Natural Areas, Parks, and the Valley Trail.
- Collaborate with the *Łilwat7úl* and *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* to develop a reconciliation and decolonization guidance document to inform the planning, design, construction, and stewardship of Whistler's Parks, natural areas, and Valley Trail.
- Engage with the *Łilwat7úl* and *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* at the start of each project to understand their desired involvement and incorporate opportunities land-based engagement such as project walks.
- Listen, learn, and apply *Skwxwú7mesh* and *Łilwat7úl* perspectives to support shared goals related to climate, biodiversity, and land stewardship.
- Explore opportunities to reflect *Skwxwú7mesh* and *Łilwat7úl* cultures and languages cultures and languages in the design and interpretation of Parks, Natural Areas and the Valley Trail.
- Review and update public art and place-naming policies to include *Skwxwú7mesh* and *Łilwat7úl* history, heritage values, and memory practices.
- Enhance archaeological protocols in collaboration with the BC Ministry of Forests and BC Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts to ensure respectful treatment of cultural resources.
- Avoid culturally sensitive areas through proactive planning and consultation.
- Establish a mutually agreed-upon Chance Find Protocol to guide responses to unexpected cultural discoveries during project implementation.

### Question 4



Is there anything missing from those “We Will” statements that should be added?

## Guiding Principle #2

### Summary of “We Will” Statements Feedback:

*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*

#### Indigenous Collaboration and Governance

- Support for meaningful consultation with Lílwat7úl and Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw, particularly in prioritizing protection of natural resources.
- Suggestions to strengthen alignment with provincial legislation (DRIPA) and heritage conservation protocols in development projects.
- Some respondents raised questions about roles, responsibilities, and clarity around governance and taxation in the context of land acknowledgments.

#### Cultural Education and Engagement

- Interest in creating opportunities for cultural exchange and learning, such as involving First Nations representatives in interpretive programs (e.g., guided walks in parks).
- Desire to promote understanding of Indigenous history, culture, and ecological practices as part of community education.



#### Implementation and Accountability

- Recommendations to refine “We Will” statements to include adherence to the Heritage Conservation Act and ensure strategic land use decisions consider impacts on archaeological sites.
- Calls for clear processes and protocols to guide collaboration and decision-making.

#### Equity and Community Cohesion

- The importance of treating all residents fairly was mentioned and ensuring that approaches strengthen, rather than divide, the community.





## Guiding Principle #3

Facilitate Equity, diversity and inclusion.

"To create an inclusive system of parks, natural areas and Valley Trail that reflect Universal Design principles, celebrate cultural diversity, and support participation across all ages, abilities and identities."

### Question 1



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 3

☐ Strongly Disagree
 ☐ Disagree
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Agree
 ☐ Strongly Agree



### Question 2



Is there anything missing from Guiding Principle 3 that should be added?



Potentially hosting regular events/gatherings that help to represent different aspects of DEI. At our hotel we do a lot of different meals and things that represent various cultural backgrounds and acknowledge different DEI calendar days. Would love to get involved with something like this."



Safety, keep our community members and guests educated and safe while enjoying the outdoors. Wildlife info and education."



Recognize inclusive recreation programs like Whistler Sailing that welcome participants of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. Sailing fosters confidence, belonging, and connection to nature through a supportive and community-focused environment."

# Guiding Principle #3

## Summary of Feedback:

*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*



### Accessibility and Universal Design

- Emphasis on improving accessibility for all ages and abilities, including infrastructure for mobility devices and seniors' amenities.
- Interest in equitable access to equipment through sharing systems and clarification of Universal Design principles.



### Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- Suggestions to celebrate cultural diversity through events and programs that represent different aspects of DEI.
- Recognition of inclusive recreation programs that foster belonging and connection to nature.



### Community Roles and Expectations

- Comments seeking clarity on the scope of municipal responsibilities and the intent behind DEI initiatives.
- Requests for specific examples to better understand how these principles will be implemented.



### Safety and Shared Use

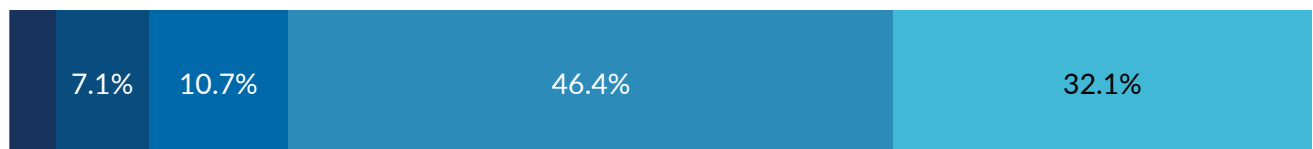
- Concerns about safe coexistence of different transportation modes (e-bikes, scooters, pedestrians) on trails.
- Desire for spaces where everyone feels valued, included, and safe.

## Question 3



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 3 “We Will” statements

☐ Strongly Disagree
 ☐ Disagree
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Agree
 ☐ Strongly Agree



## Guiding Principle #3

### WE WILL ...

- Apply Universal Design principles in the planning and design of new and upgraded facilities, in alignment with Official Community Plan policy direction.
- Ensure inclusive access by providing adequate accessible parking, transit options, washrooms, rest areas, and other supportive features across Whistler's parks and Valley Trail network.
- Incorporate a gender equity and non-discrimination lens to support participation by people of all gender identities and cultural backgrounds.
- Design for meaningful participation across all ages and abilities, ensuring that public spaces are welcoming, safe, and usable by everyone.
- Create opportunities and experiences that are respectful, inclusive, and culturally appropriate for diverse ethnocultural communities.

### Question 4



Is there anything missing from those “We Will” statements that should be added?

### Summary of “We Will” Statements Feedback:

*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*

#### Accessibility and Universal Design

- Strong emphasis on improving accessibility features such as adequate parking, transit options, washrooms, rest areas, and infrastructure for mobility devices.
- Requests for clarification on Universal Design principles and suggestions for equitable access to equipment through sharing systems to reduce cost and environmental impact.
- Specific mention of seniors' amenities and improved washroom facilities throughout the Valley Trail and parks.



## Guiding Principle #3

### Inclusive Recreation and Cultural Engagement

- Support for partnerships with inclusive recreation programs that welcome participants of all ages and abilities and foster community connection.
- Suggestions to create culturally respectful and inclusive experiences for diverse communities, ensuring spaces feel welcoming and safe for everyone.

### Maintenance and Supportive Amenities

- Importance of maintaining clean parks and trails, including year-round garbage and recycling receptacles to prevent wildlife attractants.
- Feedback noted disappointment with recent closures of garbage cans and emphasized the need for consistent upkeep.

### Balance and Practical Considerations

- Comments about ensuring accessibility improvements remain balanced with other priorities, such as minimizing paved areas in natural settings.
- Questions about cost implications and requests for clear examples of how these principles will be implemented in practice.



“

*Where everyone  
feels valued,  
included and safe.”*



## Guiding Principle #4

Strengthen community well-being and connection

"To create a safe and vibrant system of parks, natural areas and Valley Trail that enhances quality of life, supports social connection and cultural expression, and promotes healthy, active, and inclusive lifestyles."

### Question 1



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 4

● Strongly Disagree   ● Disagree   ● Neutral   ● Agree   ● Strongly Agree



### Question 2



Is there anything missing from Guiding Principle 4 that should be added?



*I underscore the need for safety on the valley trail through a program of monitoring speed and enforcing safe practices on electric bikes, skateboards, scooters etc.. It is impossible to enjoy a sense of well-being on the Valley Trail when one needs to be constantly aware of speeding EV's on the trail."*



*If you build it and allow access you must maintain the park."*



*Continue to allow historic usage of Whistler's park systems and facilities by Whistler community recreational associations by granting long term leases that allow the community associations to invest in the maintenance and upgrading of their existing facilities in the parks."*

# Guiding Principle #4

## Summary of Feedback:

*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*



### Park Maintenance and Environmental Stewardship

- Expand access only with a commitment to ongoing park maintenance.
- Protect natural areas and avoid unnecessary paving in sensitive locations.



### Inclusive Representation and Community Voice

- Ensure planning and decision-making processes include all community perspectives.
- Balance representation so all residents feel heard and respected.



### Support for Community Recreation and Historic Use

- Promote programs that enhance physical and mental well-being through outdoor activities.
- Maintain historic access for local associations and enable long-term investment in facilities.



### E-Bike Integration and Safety

- Support e-biking as a sustainable option while addressing safety concerns.
- Implement measures such as speed monitoring, designated zones, and enforcement for respectful trail sharing.



### Managing Growth and Overcrowding

- Develop strategies to manage increasing visitor numbers and protect outdoor experiences.
- Address strain on parks, trails, and infrastructure caused by population growth and tourism.



### Cost and Strategic Partnerships

- Consider financial implications of proposed initiatives.
- Explore partnerships to provide affordable or free access to recreational opportunities.

# Guiding Principle #4

## Question 3



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 4 “We Will” statements

☐ Strongly Disagree
 ☐ Disagree
 ☐ Neutral
 ☐ Agree
 ☐ Strongly Agree



### WE WILL ...

- Recognize the role of Whistler's Parks, Natural Areas and Valley Trail in supporting the physical, mental, and spiritual well-being of residents and visitors.
- Explore creative solutions that serve both residents and resort visitors, including shared spaces and areas tailored to specific community needs.
- Design flexible spaces that accommodate a variety of recreational and social activities.
- Minimize wildlife conflicts and conflicts between user groups through thoughtful planning and management.
- Develop new spaces, amenities, and experiences that meet diverse needs and encourage people to spread out across the Parks and Valley Trail network.
- Support active transportation options by improving connectivity between neighbourhoods and destinations.
- Avoid over-promoting spaces and allowing some areas to remain quiet and less used.
- Communicate Whistler's values and expectations around respectful use, behaviour and etiquette on the Valley Trail and in parks and public spaces.
- Maintain appropriate safety standards across all public spaces and amenities.
- Engage the community meaningfully, using appropriately scaled and varied engagement methods based on project size, scope, and potential impact, in alignment with the International Association of Public Participation's engagement principles.
- Ensure engagement opportunities are inclusive and widely communicated, especially to interested, affected, and hard-to-reach groups.

# Guiding Principle #4

## Question 4



Is there anything missing from those “We Will” statements that should be added?

## Summary of “We Will” Statements Feedback:

*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*

### Balance Between Community and Visitors

- Desire for more emphasis on local residents having dedicated spaces and a sense of community.
- Concern about overdevelopment and the need to define limits to protect natural environments.
- Preference for maintaining Whistler’s natural beauty rather than creating overly “contrived” or urban-style spaces.

### Safety and Responsible Use

- Calls for speed limits and improved safety standards on the Valley Trail.
- Greater public awareness and education on trail etiquette, especially regarding e-bikes and scooters.
- Interest in clear communication of Whistler’s values and expectations for respectful behavior in parks and public spaces.



### Year-Round Access and Connectivity

- Support for an all-season trail network connecting all neighborhoods to key amenities.
- Requests to remove dawn-to-dusk park restrictions and encourage winter-friendly features like fire pits.
- Desire for infrastructure improvements such as more garbage cans in busy areas.

### Community Engagement and Partnerships

- Avoid scheduling engagement sessions during peak summer when many locals are away.
- Interest in partnerships with community organizations to promote active, inclusive lifestyles.
- Questions about cost implications and ensuring investments align with community priorities.





## Guiding Principle #5

### Plan for the future

"To thoughtfully plan and invest in Whistler's parks, natural areas, and Valley Trail with foresight into demographic, economic, and environmental changes to ensure these valued spaces continue to thrive and provide experiences that define Whistler."

#### Question 1



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 5

● Strongly Disagree   ● Disagree   ● Neutral   ● Agree   ● Strongly Agree



#### Question 2



Is there anything missing from Guiding Principle 5 that should be added?

“

*We must add natural environment to the priority. Only visitors and residents are mentioned in the 'balance' to thrive.”*

“

*You need to focus on the community first.  
The community needs to feel they matter.*

“

*Support the inclusion of public park space in any new community developments. Explore alternative funding mechanisms for park spaces directed at the regional or destination visitors.”*

# Guiding Principle #5

## Summary of Feedback:

*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*



### Prioritize Natural Environment

- Strong emphasis on protecting nature as a core priority in future planning.
- Concern that development and beautification projects may compromise Whistler's natural character.
- Calls for clear limits on creating new spaces to avoid encroaching on natural areas.



### Community-Centered Planning

- Desire for planning that prioritizes local residents and ensures they feel valued.
- Requests for dedicated community spaces separate from visitor-focused areas.
- Avoid scheduling engagement during peak summer when many locals are away.



### Sustainable Recreation and Partnerships

- Support for structured, community-led recreation programs that promote well-being and low-impact outdoor activities.
- Interest in partnerships to enhance healthy, active lifestyles while balancing resident and visitor use.



### Safety and Responsible Use

- Suggestions for speed limits on Valley Trail and improved safety standards.
- Greater public awareness and education on trail etiquette, especially for e-bikes and scooters.
- Clear communication of Whistler's values and expectations for respectful behavior in parks and public spaces.



### Year-Round Access and Connectivity

- Calls for an all-season trail network connecting all neighborhoods to key amenities.
- Requests to remove dawn-to-dusk park restrictions and add winter-friendly features like fire pits.
- Infrastructure improvements such as more garbage cans in high-use areas.



### Financial Responsibility

- Questions about cost implications of new developments and beautification projects.
- Suggestions to explore alternative funding mechanisms, especially targeting regional or destination visitors.

# Guiding Principle #5

## Question 3



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 5 “We Will” statements

● Strongly Disagree   ● Disagree   ● Neutral   ● Agree   ● Strongly Agree



### WE WILL ...

- Incorporate population growth projections into planning, recognizing an anticipated 41% increase in Whistler's local population from 16,063 in 2023 to almost 25,000 by 2043.
- Acknowledge the influence of regional population growth, including the Squamish–Lillooet Regional District, Fraser Valley, Metro Vancouver, and Washington State, with a projected increase of 2.8 million people by 2043.
- Recognize the importance of parks and natural spaces for residents living in medium- to high-density housing, ensuring equitable access to nature and recreation.
- Balance the benefits and challenges of increasing visitation to Whistler's Parks, natural Areas and Valley Trail by addressing community well-being, tourism, economic value, and environmental sustainability.
- Redesign parks using the latest best practices to optimize space, accommodate more users, enhance experience, biodiversity and mitigate environmental impacts.
- Adopt a strategic approach to parkland, natural areas and lakefront acquisitions, considering long-term benefits, high costs, and realistic funding strategies.

## Question 4



Is there anything missing from those “We Will” statements that should be added?

# Guiding Principle #5

## Summary of “We Will” Statements Feedback:

*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*

### Manage Growth and Protect Natural Spaces

- Concern that current statements imply unchecked growth, which could compromise other guiding principles.
- Calls to set clear limits on development and prioritize keeping parks and natural areas intact.
- Emphasis on maintaining Whistler’s natural character rather than creating overly urbanized or “contrived” spaces.

### Safety and Infrastructure Planning

- Need to address the impact of electrification (e-bikes, scooters) on Valley Trail safety.
- Suggestions for speed limits and strategies to ensure safe shared use of trails.
- Requests for improved infrastructure, including garbage cleanup and watercraft storage aligned with demand.



### Community-Centered Future

- Desire for planning that focuses on residents first, not just visitors or tourism growth.
- Recognition that Whistler is evolving into a lifestyle destination, meaning not all facilities should prioritize tourism.
- Support for partnerships with community organizations to meet recreation needs sustainably.

### Demand Management and Transportation

- Feedback stresses that planning should include managing and mitigating demand, not just accommodating growth.
- Concerns about projected population and bed-unit increases leading to overcrowding.
- Suggestions for transit improvements and parking/shuttle systems to reduce traffic congestion.





## Guiding Principle #6

Support equitable and sustainable funding

“To fund Whistler’s parks, natural areas and Valley Trail systems maintenance and enhancement through thoughtful financial planning, strategic investment, and sustainable asset management.”

### Question 1



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 6

● Strongly Disagree   ● Disagree   ● Neutral   ● Agree   ● Strongly Agree

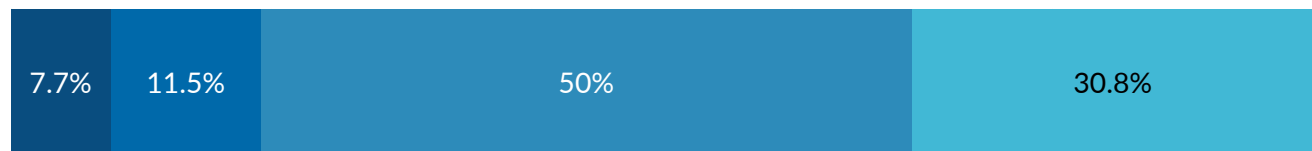


### Question 2



Please rate your level of support for Guiding Principle 6 “We Will” statements

● Strongly Disagree   ● Disagree   ● Neutral   ● Agree   ● Strongly Agree



## Guiding Principle #6

### WE WILL ...

- Prioritize the renewal of aging infrastructure to ensure safety, functionality, and long-term sustainability.
- Develop flexible asset management plans that support ongoing maintenance and future renovations with minimal public disruption.
- Allocate funding strategically, balancing local taxpayer contributions with external grants and tourism-related programs like the RMI.
- Strengthen reserve contributions to ensure fair and timely asset replacement across generations.
- Explore non-tax revenue sources, such as private partnership and sponsorship, commercial and event recreation user fees, parking fees and Works and Services Charges, to support Park and Valley Trail improvements.
- Engage the community in financial planning and budgeting processes to align funding strategies with public needs and expectations.
- Maintain high-quality operations and maintenance standards to preserve the value and usability of Whistler's Parks, Natural Areas and Valley Trail.

### Question 3



Is there anything missing from those “We Will” statements that should be added?



*Please stay natural. Please don't make us into a city. Our community needs to stay authentic and rural and not become a mini city.”*



*Explore less maintenance dependent recreation options at parks.”*



*It is unfair to have local tax payers funding infrastructure that is used for tourism. The industry profits from the visitors and should fund infrastructure visitors use. BTW please add staff housing to the responsibility of the industry.”*

# Guiding Principle #6

## Summary of “We Will” Statements Feedback:

*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*

### Fair and Sustainable Funding

- Strong concern that local taxpayers should not bear the cost of infrastructure primarily used by visitors.
- Tourism industry should contribute more to infrastructure and staff housing.
- Explore sustainable funding for community programs and avoid over-reliance on private sponsorship or naming rights.

### Community-Centered and Authentic Design

- Emphasis on keeping Whistler authentic and natural, avoiding urban-style amenities.
- Avoid creating features aimed at regional/destination visitors unless funded by tourism programs.
- Support local non-profits and partnerships that enhance community well-being and environmental stewardship.



### Operational Efficiency and Maintenance

- Focus on solving operational issues (e.g., geese cleanup) before investing in large upgrades.
- Consider less maintenance-heavy recreation options and phase out costly, non-natural features when they reach end of life.
- Climate-conscious landscaping (drought-resistant plants, reduced irrigation) to lower long-term costs.

### Safety and Capacity Management

- Concerns about overcrowding and overbuilt infrastructure that may not be financially sustainable.
- Valley Trail safety issues for pedestrians and dogs due to congestion.
- Plan renovations and upgrades with realistic capacity and operational budgets in mind.



# Draft Vision Statement

“Whistler’s Parks and Valley Trail are iconic, inclusive amenities that reflect the community’s active lifestyle, identity, and aspirations—sustainably fostering well-being, First Nations reconciliation, climate resiliency, environmental stewardship, and a tourism-based economy by connecting people to nature, community, culture and history.”

## Question 1

➤ Please rate your level of support for the draft Vision Statment

● Strongly Disagree   ● Disagree   ● Neutral   ● Agree   ● Strongly Agree



## Question

➤ Is there anything missing from the draft Vision Statement

### Summary of Feedback:

*Note: Public feedback and comments are presented alongside the questions they were asked. In some cases, comments may not directly address the question but are included to reflect the full range of input received.*

#### Growth and Tourism Concerns

- Perception that the vision prioritizes a tourism-based economy and unchecked growth, which may undermine other principles.
- Calls for honesty about growth pressures and their impact on community and environment.

#### Community-Centered Focus

- Desire for stronger emphasis on local community needs rather than tourism.
- Suggestions to replace “well-being” with more tangible concepts like recreational opportunities.
- Recognition of community partners as key contributors to achieving the vision.



# Draft Vision Statement

## Summary of Feedback:

### Environmental and Natural Character

- Requests to keep Whistler's natural character intact and avoid overdevelopment.
- Concerns about garbage collection in outlying areas and maintaining clean, natural spaces.

### Cultural Considerations

- Need for clarity on how cultural aspects fit into the vision without overshadowing other priorities.

### Transportation and Connectivity

- Emphasis on active transportation and viewing the Valley Trail as essential infrastructure, not just recreation.
- Safety concerns on trails due to e-bike use and congestion.



*To the list of things being fostered add 'active transportation'. RMOW should view the Valley Trail as not just a recreational amenity but also as transportation infrastructure that can be used in lieu of passenger vehicles."*