



Panama Flats Concept Plan Questionnaire

- **Project:** Panama Flats Concept Plan Update
- **Period:** June 25, 2025 - July 16, 2025

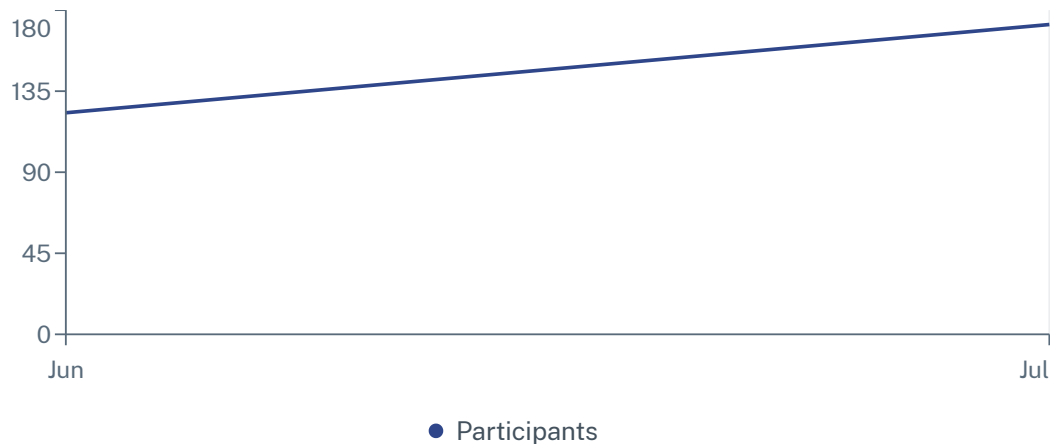
Participants timeline

Total participants

295

Participation rate ⓘ

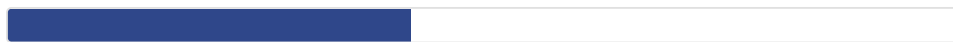
24%



Please choose your #1 priority from the following key Actions:

295/295 - Multiple choice - choose many - required

Build a trail system for walkers, runners, dog-walkers and cyclists 42.4% (125 choices)



Formalize disturbance-free area for wildlife 27.8% (82 choices)



Create opportunities for bird-watching (viewpoints, bird blinds) and nature appreciation 13.6% (40 choices)



Explore restoration opportunities with stewardship groups 8.1% (24 choices)



Formalize dogs off-leash areas 4.4% (13 choices)



Build community gardens in Colquitz Park north of Roy Road (if there is sufficient interest and a group comes forward to manage it) 2.4% (7 choices)



Create a community gathering space and nature education hub 1.4% (4 choices)



Please choose your #2 priority from the following key Actions:

295/295 - Multiple choice - choose many - required

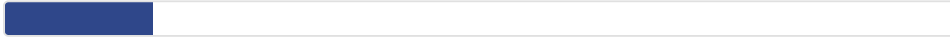
Create opportunities for bird-watching (viewpoints, bird blinds) and nature appreciation 28.8% (85 choices)



Formalize disturbance-free area for wildlife 22% (65 choices)



Explore restoration opportunities with stewardship groups 15.6% (46 choices)



Build a trail system for walkers, runners, dog-walkers and cyclists 13.9% (41 choices)



Formalize dogs off-leash areas 8.8% (26 choices)



Build community gardens in Colquitz Park north of Roy Road (if there is sufficient interest and a group comes forward to manage it) 5.8% (17 choices)



Create a community gathering space and nature education hub 5.1% (15 choices)



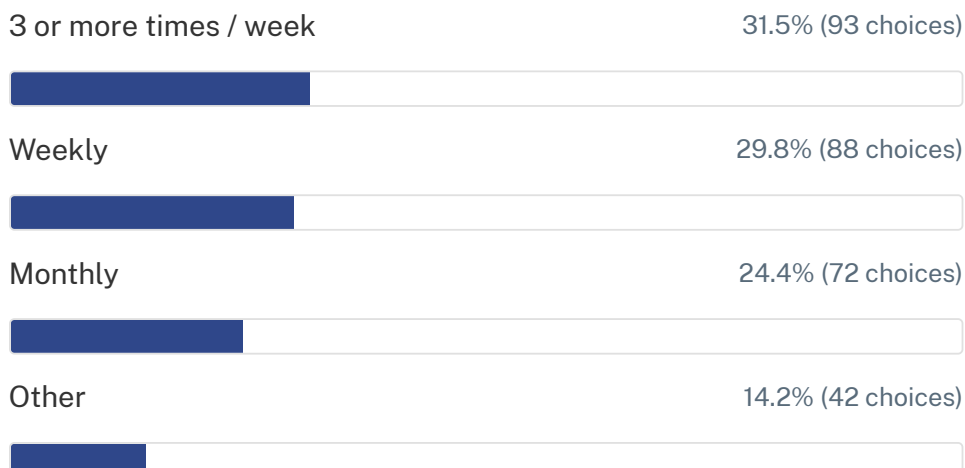
Please choose your #3 priority from the following key Actions:

295/295 - Multiple choice - choose many - required



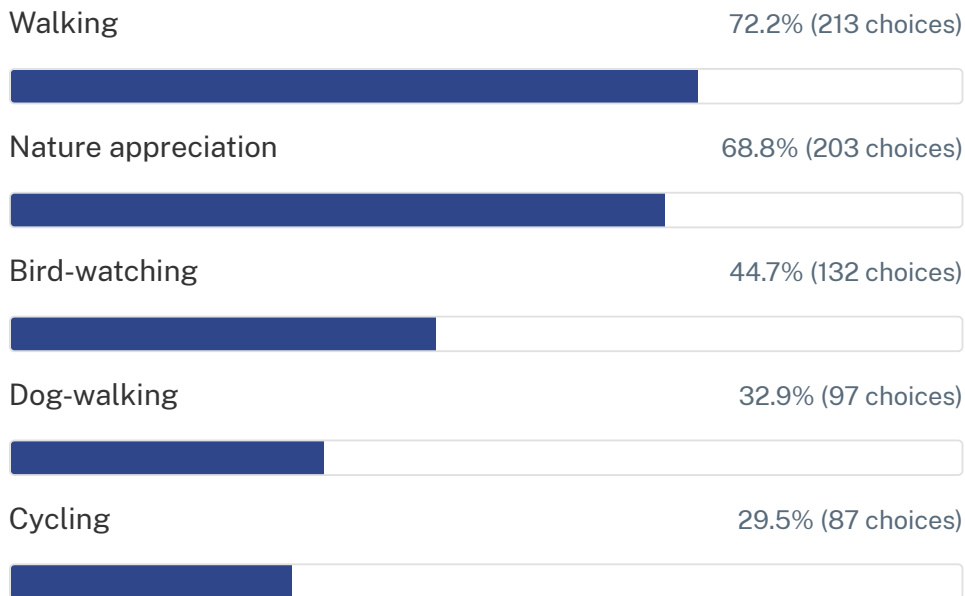
How often do you visit Panama Flats?

295/295 - Multiple choice - choose one - required



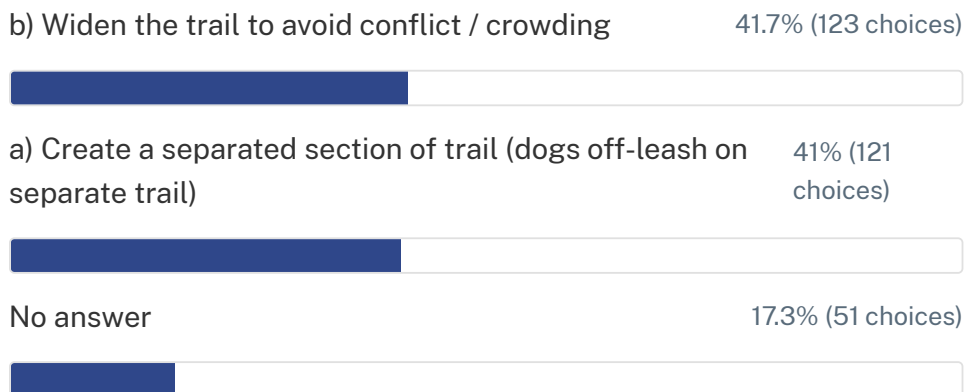
How do you use Panama Flats? (indicate all that apply)

295/295 - Multiple choice - choose many - required



Assuming that use will increase following park improvements, please indicate which of the following you support for the multi-use Colquitz River Trail. If neither, you may provide feedback in the next question.

244/295 - Multiple choice - choose one - optional



Long Answer Question AI-Generated Summaries:

Have we missed anything?

Many respondents emphasized the importance of preserving the natural state of Panama Flats, with several calling for minimal intervention, protection of wildlife habitat, and the establishment of a nature sanctuary or bird sanctuary. Many specifically mentioned the need to prioritize bird habitat and restrict off-leash dogs or dogs entirely in sensitive areas

Trail maintenance and improvements were frequently mentioned, including calls for all-weather trails, better maintenance (e.g., cutting back bushes), and addressing flooding issues. Some want a full-circle trail and better connections to existing trail networks.

Cyclist and pedestrian safety was a recurring concern, with requests for speed limits for bikes, signage for cyclists to warn pedestrians, and addressing conflicts with motorized bikes.

Dog use was divisive: some advocated for off-leash trails or more dog-friendly spaces while others strongly opposed off-leash areas or any dogs in wildlife zones

Restoration efforts were supported by several respondents, especially invasive species removal (notably blackberry and hawthorn), riparian restoration, and native species promotion.

There were multiple calls to prevent illegal dumping, particularly on Roy Road.

Other suggestions included:

- Adding public washrooms and more picnic tables
- Improving accessibility for people with limited mobility and children
- Consulting with local First Nations and birding organizations
- Maintaining existing access points and not adding new ones to protect neighbourhoods
- Keeping skating opportunities when the flats freeze

A few respondents requested lighting on trails interactive/educational stops for children and disc golf at Hyacinth Park. There was also a strong sentiment against any residential development near the flats.

Overall, the dominant themes were: prioritizing ecological preservation (especially for birds and wetlands), careful management of dogs and cyclists, improved trail maintenance and connectivity (without overdevelopment), restoration of native habitats, and basic amenities like washrooms.

Any other comments for us?

Many respondents emphasized the importance of protecting wildlife and bird habitat at Panama Flats, with a strong majority expressing opposition to off-leash dogs in the area. Numerous comments called for dogs to be kept on-leash at all times, citing concerns about disturbance to birds and other wildlife, and some suggested banning dogs from sensitive areas entirely. Several respondents noted that there are already sufficient off-leash dog parks elsewhere in the city and that Panama Flats should prioritize its role as a nature sanctuary.

A smaller number of respondents supported some form of off-leash area, but generally only in less sensitive zones or with clear separation from wildlife habitats. Some suggested fencing or designated dog parks as alternatives.

Trail conditions were another frequent topic. Many users requested improvements to trail surfaces to address issues like slipperiness, flooding, and overgrowth, especially on the Carey side. However, several cautioned against widening trails or increasing infrastructure, arguing that this could disturb wildlife and increase user conflicts. Some advocated for keeping trails as natural as possible and not paving them.

Conflicts between user groups — especially between cyclists and walkers/dog owners — were mentioned repeatedly. Suggestions included separate trails for bikes and pedestrians/dogs, bike calming measures, or even banning bikes in certain areas. Concerns were raised about cyclist speed and safety at trail blind spots.

Other recurring themes included requests for more signage (especially educational signage about wildlife and responsible dog ownership), improved drainage to prevent trail flooding, and maintaining the natural character of the area. Some respondents also requested better trail connections and access points and a few mentioned the need for birdwatching areas accessible from both sides of the park.

Overall, the dominant trends were strong support for wildlife protection (especially limiting or prohibiting off-leash dogs), cautious or minimal trail development to preserve natural habitat, and addressing user conflicts through thoughtful trail design and clear rules.