

PROPOSED NATIONAL URBAN PARK IN GREATER VICTORIA



SOUNDING BOARDS

Date: March 16 -
April 24, 2026
Location: Various
Attendees: N/A

Sounding boards were set up at various locations throughout the City, including the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre, Colwood Pacific Activity Centre, and Quality Foods in Royal Bay. The sounding boards were designed to introduce key information about the national urban park (NUP) program and to gather targeted feedback from the public on park priorities, park boundaries, and ways the NUP objectives could be incorporated into the park.

WHAT WE HEARD – SUGGESTIONS BY KEY THEMES

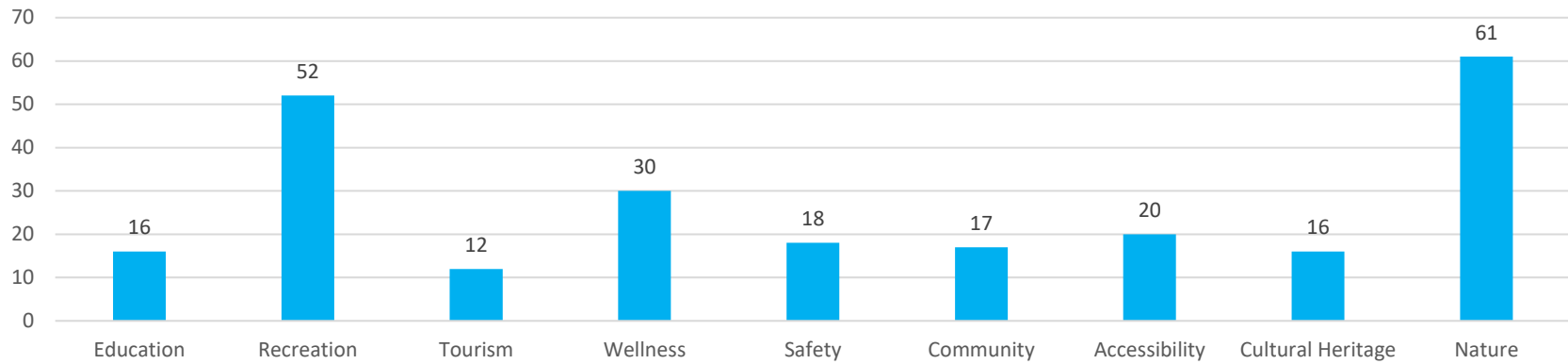
Amenities & Infrastructure

- This was the only major theme that emerged.
- Improve transportation infrastructure (e.g., parking, bike lanes, sidewalks).
- Provide park amenities (e.g., waste facilities).

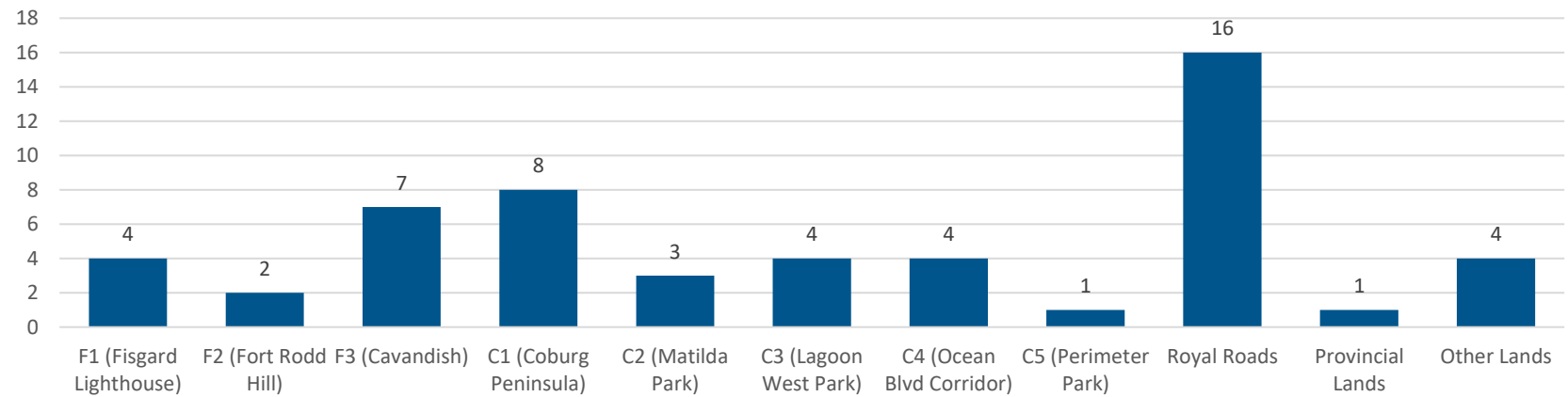
Other Themes

- Environment and biodiversity (e.g., wildlife protection, concerns about impacts of traffic on wildlife and migratory bird sanctuary, reducing pollution, interest in nature houses).
- Accessibility and inclusion (e.g., cost, ensuring that park amenities can accommodate all people).
- Safety and comfort (including lighting, litter control, offering a smoke-free environment).
- Transportation and traffic impacts (e.g., reducing commuter traffic through Esquimalt Lagoon).

PARK PRIORITIES



PARK BOUNDARIES



PROPOSED NATIONAL URBAN PARK IN GREATER VICTORIA



SURVEYS

Date(s): March 16 – May 10, 2026
Location: Let's Talk Colwood
Responses: 101

Surveys were available online through the Let's Talk Colwood project page, and paper copies were available at community sessions. The Let's Talk Colwood page provided background information on the national urban park (NUP) program and the Greater Victoria candidate site. The surveys contained both multiple choice and open-ended questions on all the main topics of engagement, including park priorities, parks boundaries, connections and access, and ways the park could achieve the NUP program objectives.

WHAT WE HEARD – SUGGESTIONS BY KEY THEMES

Nature

- Nature, environmental protection, and biodiversity should be considered main park priorities.
- Conserving nature should be prioritized over the provision of new infrastructure of amenities.
- Maintain areas for the quiet enjoyment of nature.

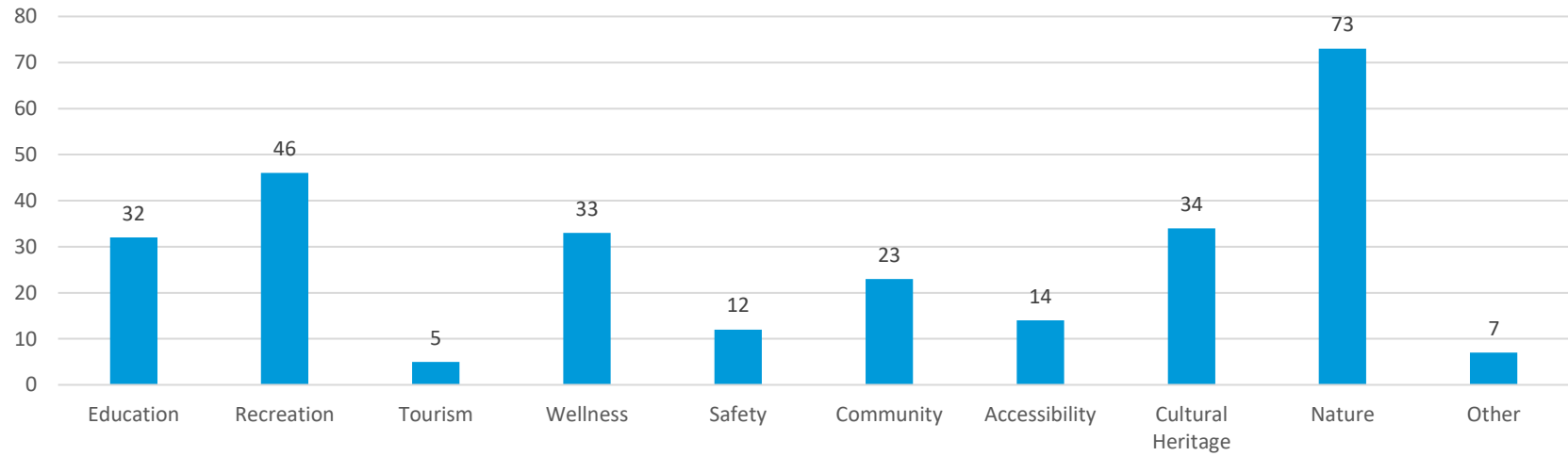
Recreation and Infrastructure

- Consider low-impact recreation opportunities and infrastructure, preserving existing natural areas (e.g., hiking trails, informational signage).
- Consider locating additional infrastructure in previously disturbed areas (e.g., seating areas, washrooms, paved paths).

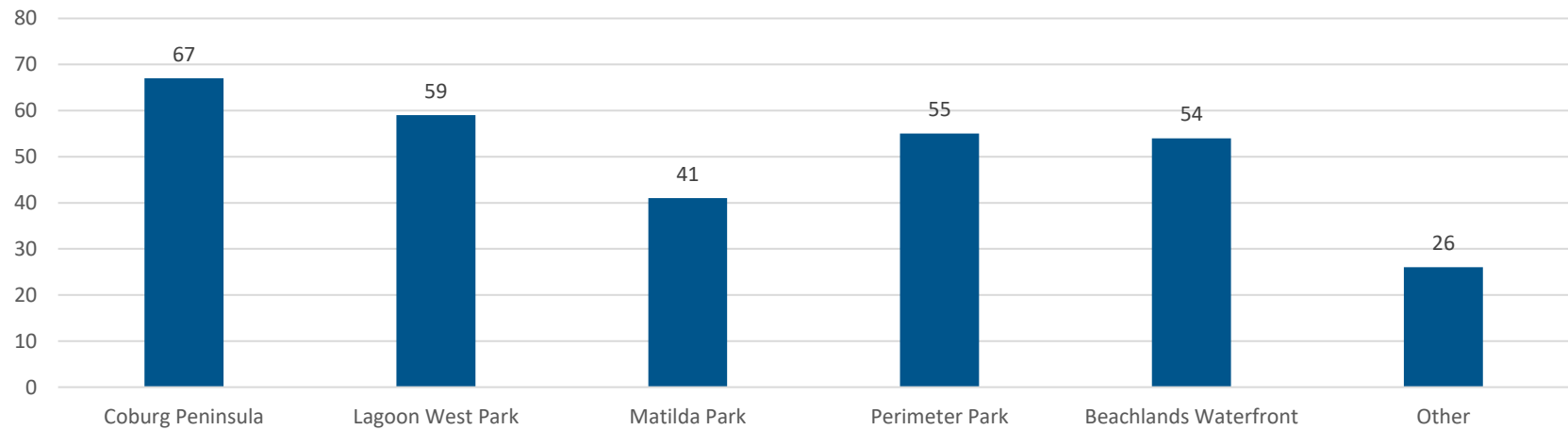
Access and Convenience

- Consider transportation and site access improvements including connections to existing local and regional trails and separated multi-use paths.
- Support inclusion of accessible pathways and infrastructure.

PARK PRIORITIES



PARK BOUNDARIES



PROPOSED NATIONAL URBAN PARK IN GREATER VICTORIA



WORKSHOPS

Date(s): April 16 & 17, 2026
Location: City Hall
Attendees: 35

Three workshops were held with Colwood City staff, Committee/Council, and interested parties. At these workshops, the project team provided a brief presentation to share background information about the project and led the groups through three activities to gather input on park priorities, boundaries/connections, and ways the park could achieve program objectives.

WHAT WE HEARD – SUGGESTIONS BY KEY THEMES

Nature

- Provide an abundance of healthy trees and green spaces, including landscaped areas and preservation of old growth forest.
- Protect and restore sensitive ecosystems.
- Avoid impacts to ecosystems (e.g., toxin runoff from roads into streams, off-leash dogs).

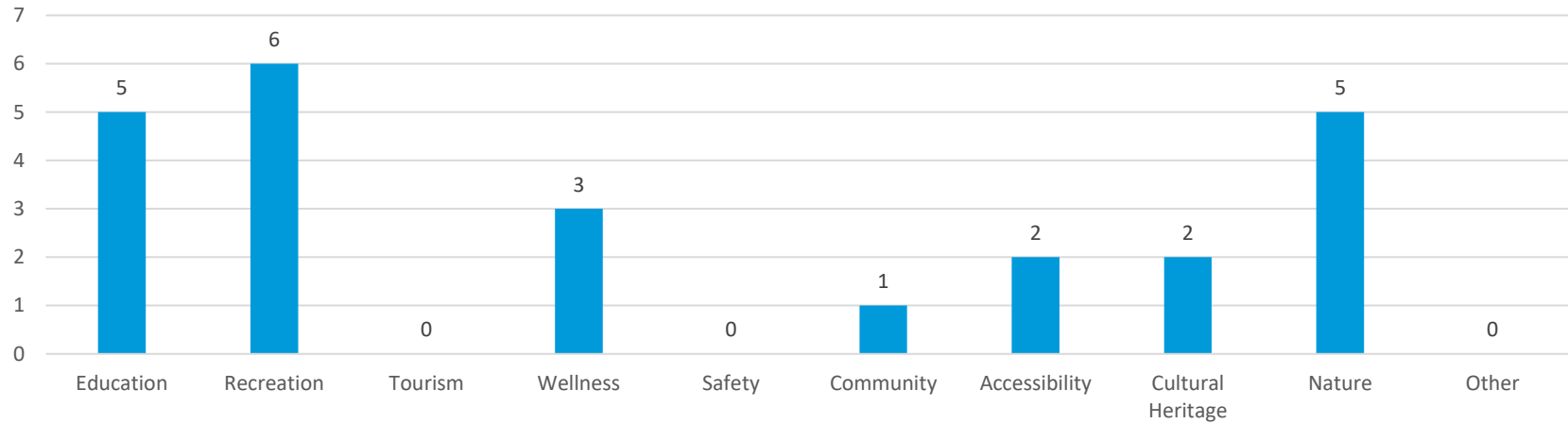
Recreation

- Provide spaces where people can gather and do things.
- Offer park amenities that support recreational activities (e.g., seating, shaded areas, tables, trails, etc.).
- Provide different park amenities or uses to support a variety of park users (e.g., families, children, people with accessibility needs).

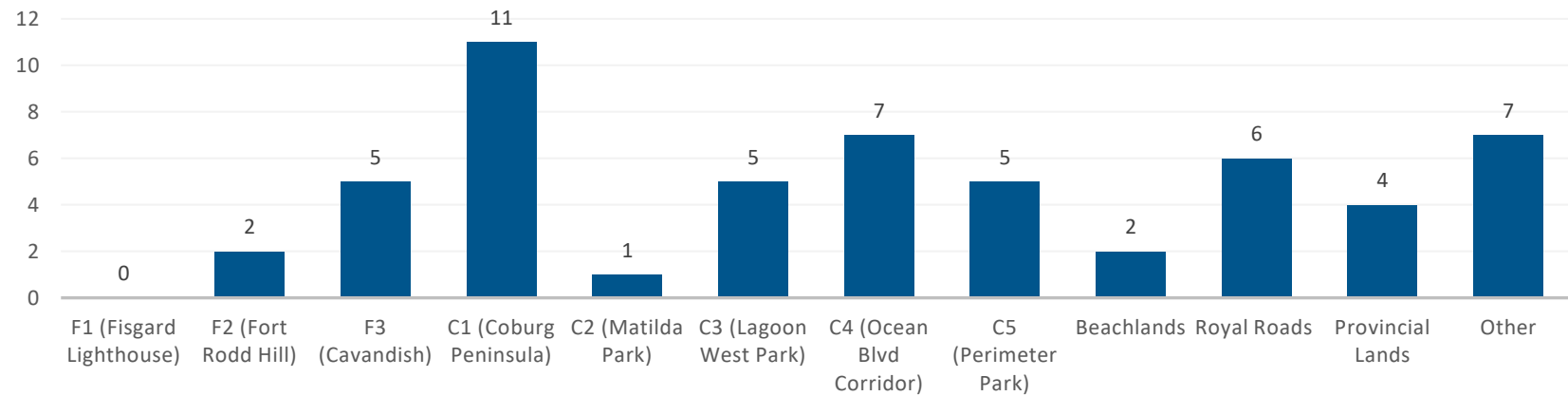
Transportation & Connectivity

- Manage vehicular traffic through the park and consider making Ocean Boulevard vehicle-free.
- Make the park walkable and provide trail connections and pathways throughout.
- Improve public transit access to and from the park.
- Support active modes of transportation, including bicycling and walking.

PARK PRIORITIES



PARK BOUNDARIES



PROPOSED NATIONAL URBAN PARK IN GREATER VICTORIA



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT (DUNSMUIR MIDDLE SCHOOL)

Date: May 6, 2026
Location: Dunsmuir Middle School
Attendees: ~84

City of Colwood and Parks Canada representatives attended three classes at Dunsmuir Middle School to conduct 50-minute workshops. Following an introductory presentation on the project, students participated in three engagement activities to provide feedback on the proposed national urban park (NUP) on a digital engagement board. These activities focused on the topics of what makes a good park, park priorities, and implementation of the NUP objectives, Connecting People to Nature, Conserving Nature, and Advancing Reconciliation.

WHAT WE HEARD – SUGGESTIONS BY KEY THEMES

Strong Interest in Recreation

- Consider including larger recreational amenities and facilities such as sports courts/fields/arenas, bike trails, and playgrounds.
- Consider use of events, workshops, and activities as methods for engaging with the Indigenous culture and history of the area.

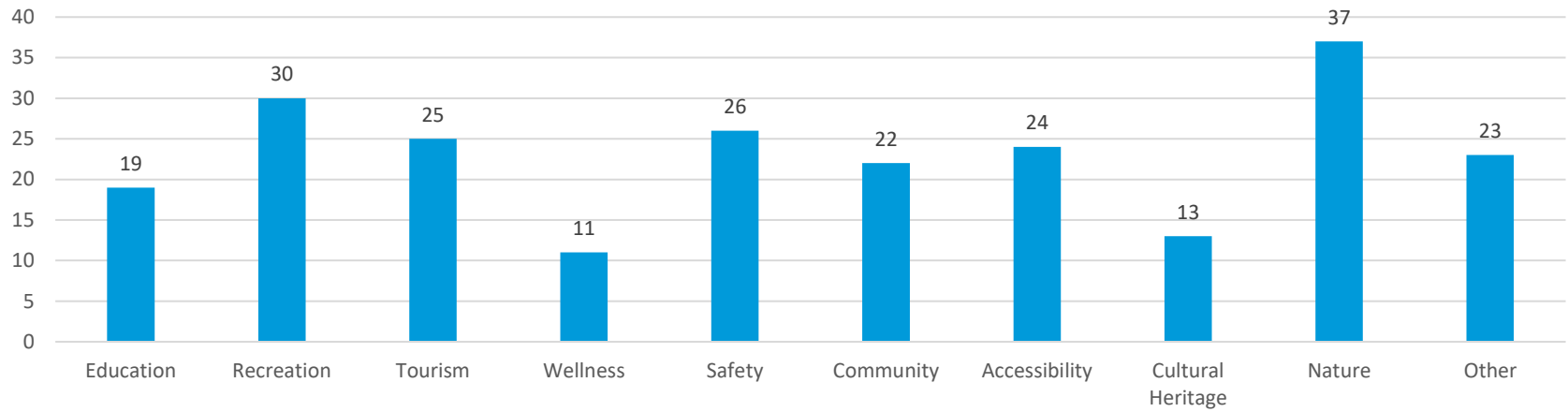
Infrastructure and Amenities

- Use infrastructure/amenities to reduce barriers for park users (e.g., bike/walking paths, parking, seating, washrooms, accessible paths), to support conservation goals (e.g., recycling and garbage facilities, e-vehicle charging spots, active transportation options), and to share the Indigenous culture and history of the area (e.g., signage, art, architecture).

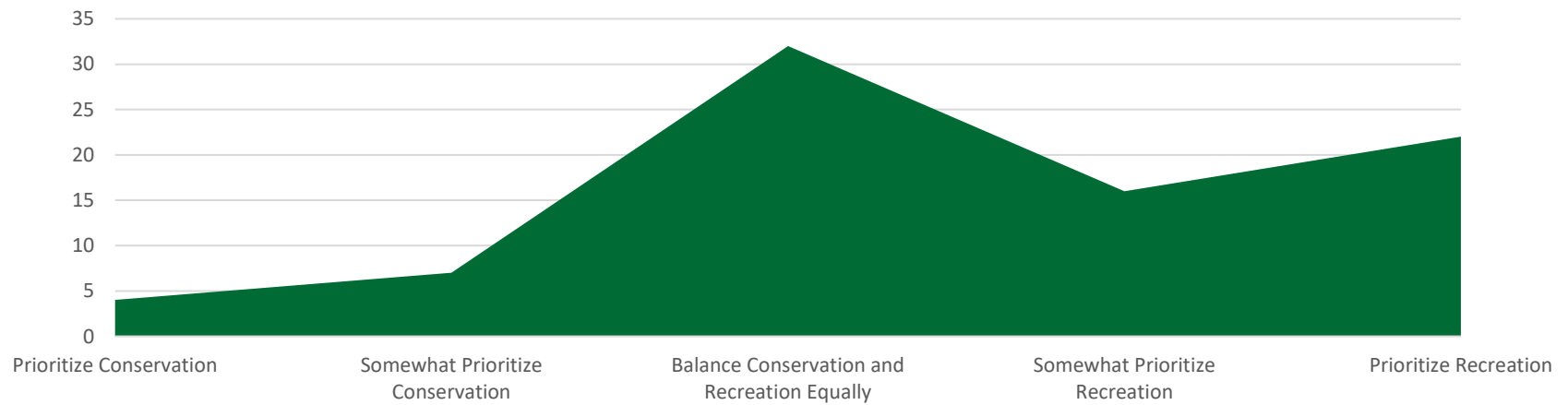
Nature

- Nature should be considered a main park priority.
- Include infrastructure to support recreation in and enjoyment of nature, including hiking trails, seating areas, fishing spots, camping, and open fields.

PARK PRIORITIES



BALANCING CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



PROPOSED NATIONAL URBAN PARK IN GREATER VICTORIA



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT (ROYAL BAY SECONDARY SCHOOL)

Date: June 1, 2026

Location: Royal Bay
Secondary School

Attendees: ~56

City of Colwood attended the Royal Bay Youth in Action Event to engage students on the proposed national urban park (NUP) in the Greater Victoria area. There were multiple tables and stations at the event with information on organizations, opportunities, and projects throughout the community. The NUP table featured information boards to provide background on the project, and digital and physical sounding boards for students to provide feedback on what makes a good park, park priorities, and the NUP objectives, Connecting People to Nature, Conserving Nature, and Advancing Reconciliation.

WHAT WE HEARD – SUGGESTIONS BY KEY THEMES

Nature and Conservation

- Nature should be considered a main park priority.
- Prioritize the conservation of existing natural areas over the provision of new amenities or recreational opportunities.
- Natural areas should be considered valuable park features.

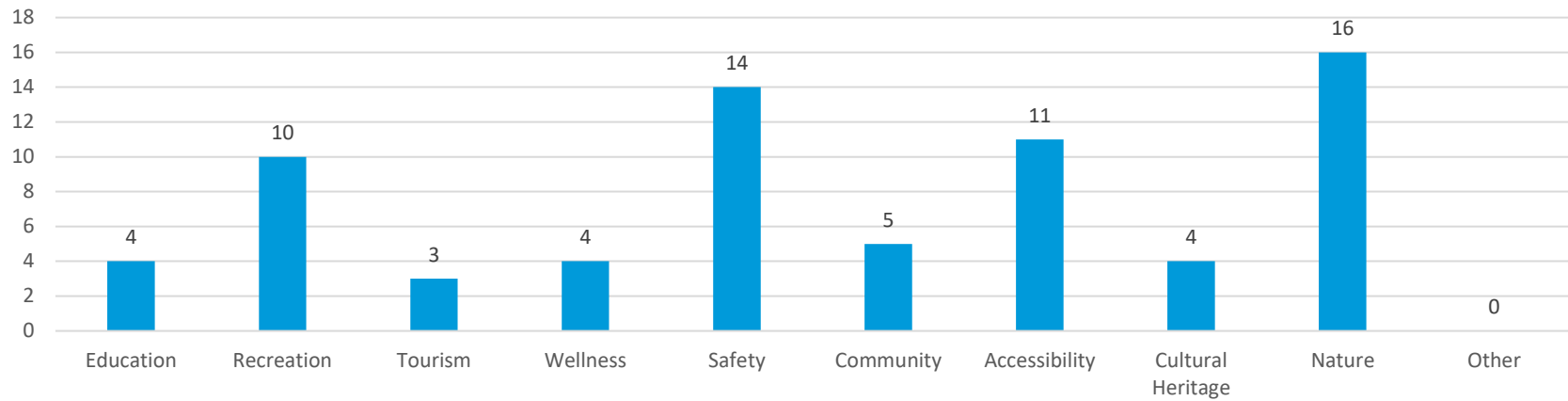
Recreation in Nature

- Consider recreational uses that integrate with the natural environment and provide opportunities for the enjoyment of nature (e.g. hiking, biking, camping).
- Consider quiet areas that prioritize the peaceful natural environment.

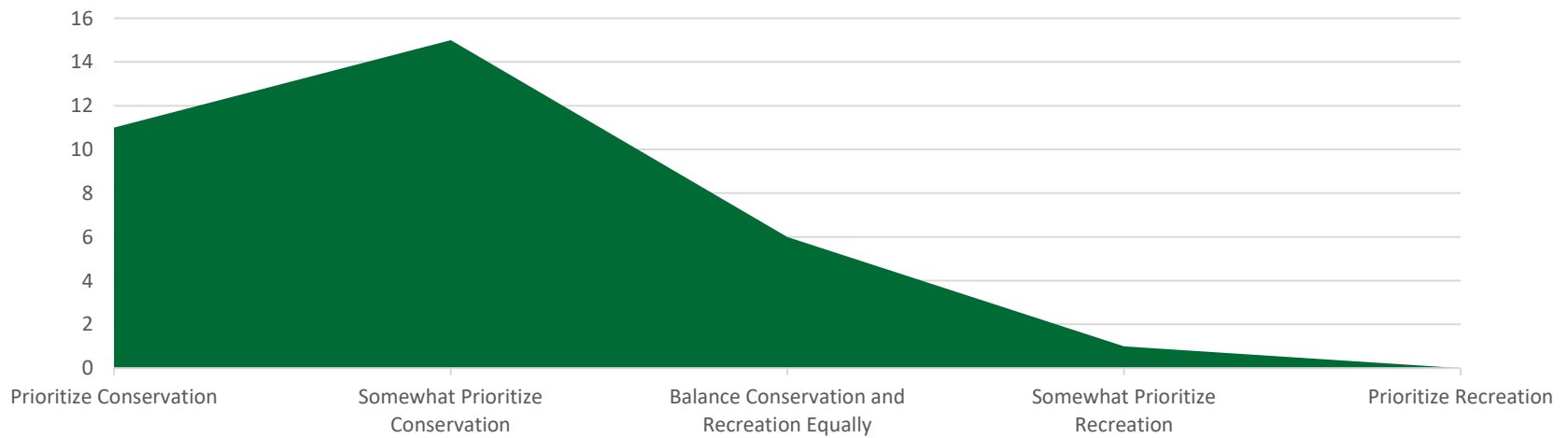
Infrastructure and Amenities

- Use infrastructure and amenities to reduce barriers for park users (e.g. clean, accessible washrooms, accessible paths, parking), promote safety (e.g. lit paths), and to share the Indigenous culture and history of the area (e.g. architecture, storytelling, art).

PARK PRIORITIES



BALANCING CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



PROPOSED NATIONAL URBAN PARK IN GREATER VICTORIA



COMMUNITY SESSIONS

Dates: April 15, April 29, & May 2, 2026
Location: Quarry Park, Fort Rodd Hill
Attendees: 70

The Project Team hosted an engagement tent at three pop-up events held at Quarry Park and Fort Rodd Hill. Poster boards and project information were available for attendees to learn about the project and provide general feedback and input on potential park boundaries, park priorities, and ways that the national urban park could meet program objectives.

WHAT WE HEARD – SUGGESTIONS BY KEY THEMES

Infrastructure and Amenities

- Consider including outdoor sports/exercise facilities to support wellness and community gathering.
- Include amenities that support playing (e.g., swings, slides) and comfort (e.g., benches, picnic tables, waste facilities).

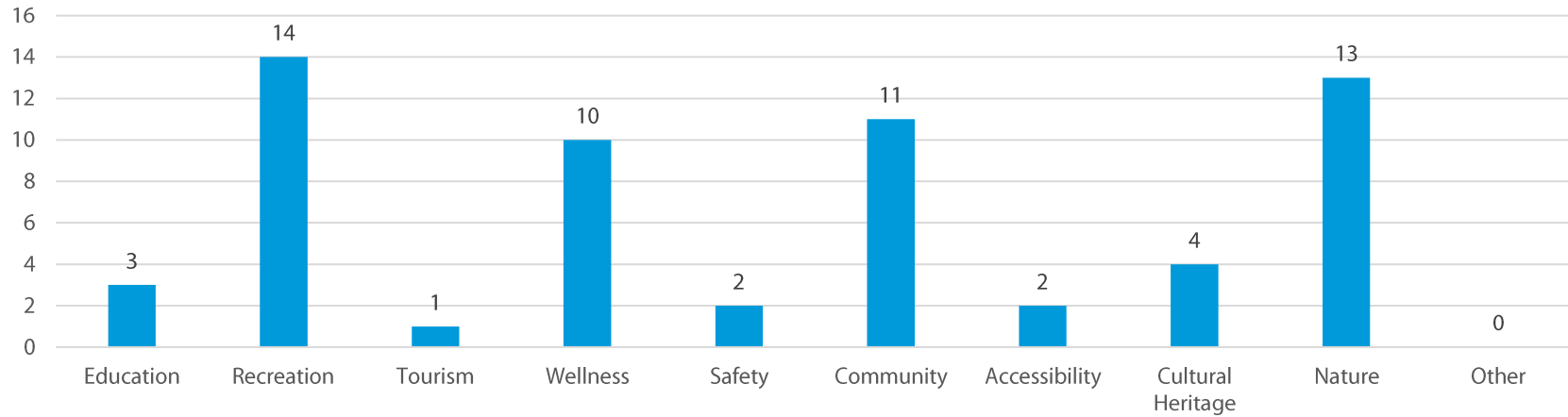
Low Impact Development

- Minimize impacts to the natural environment, including the federal migratory bird sanctuary.
- Preference to see some or all areas kept natural.

Nature

- Preserve and protect the natural environment (including trees) through various means (e.g., fencing, designated trails to keep people out of sensitive areas).

PARK PRIORITIES



PARK BOUNDARIES

