

Bowen Island Parks Plan

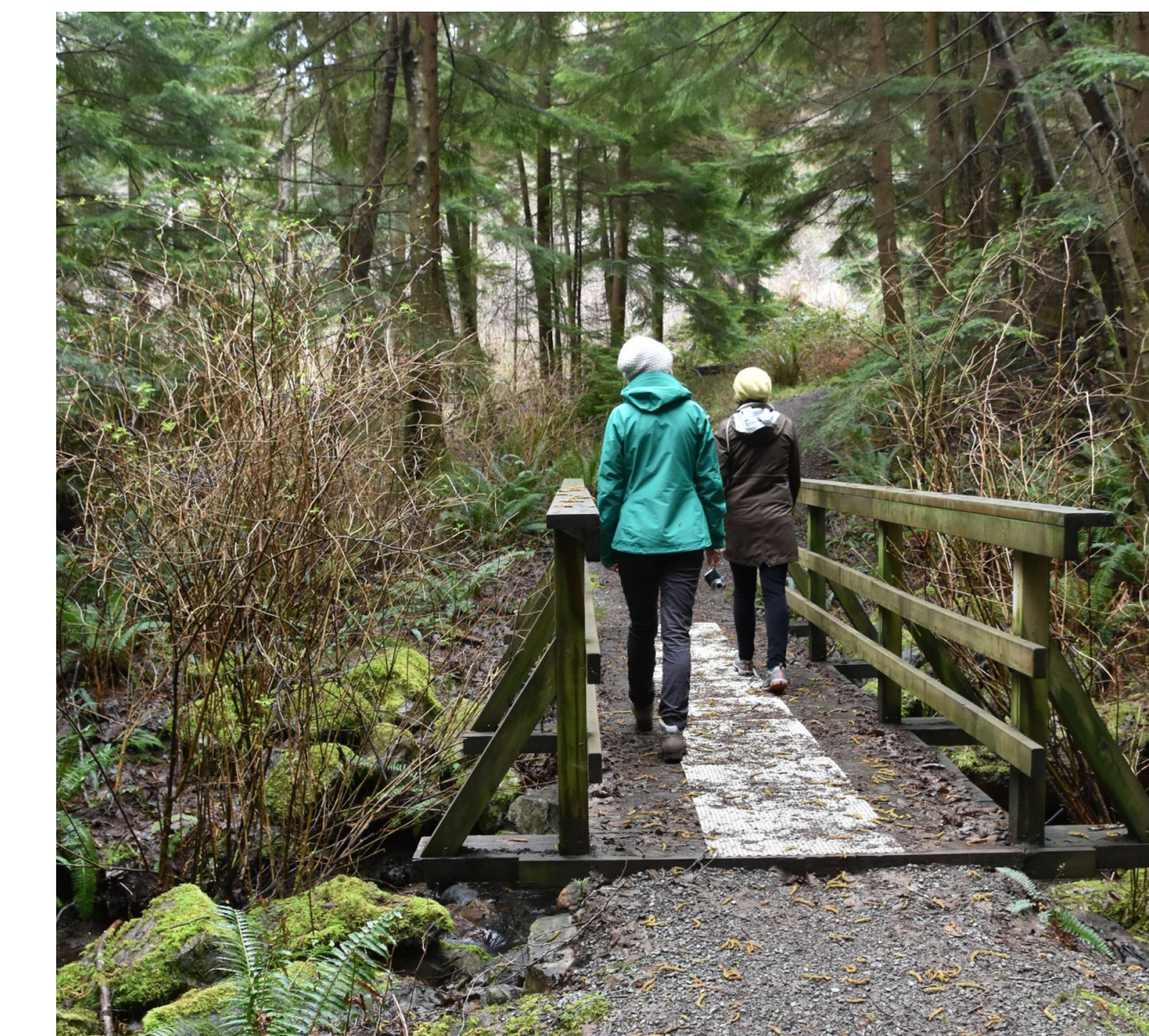


THE VISION

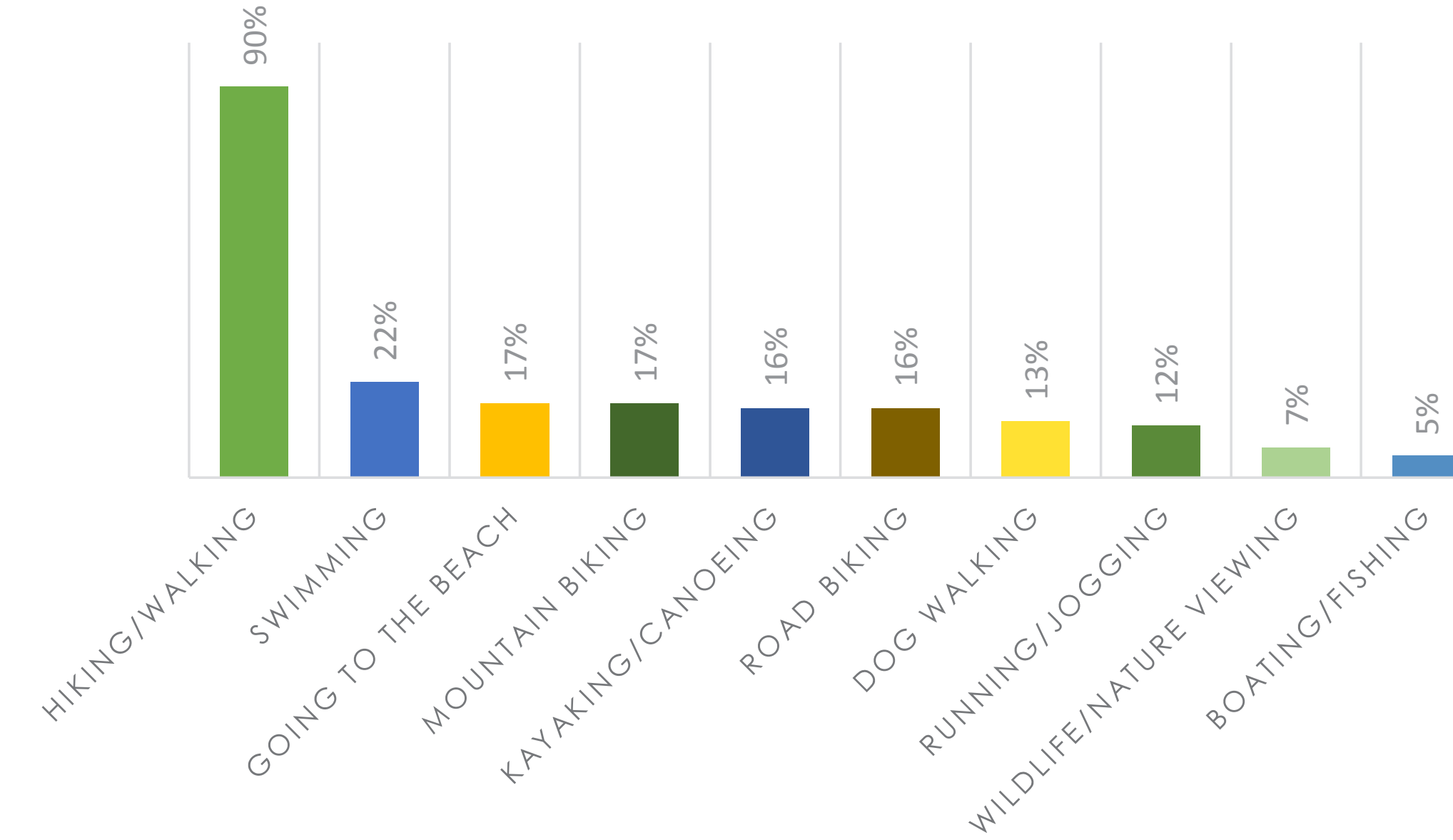
Bowen Island's public parks, trails and beaches provide places where people can connect with nature and with each other. Outdoor spaces enhance our community's well-being by drawing people outdoors to walk, hike, ride, play and explore the Island. Multi-generational, inclusive and accessible outdoor spaces contribute to our community's strong sense of belonging. Bowen Island's parks, trails and beaches protect diverse terrestrial and marine ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, inspire stewardship and maintain the Island's peaceful, natural character.

WHY IS THE PLAN NEEDED?

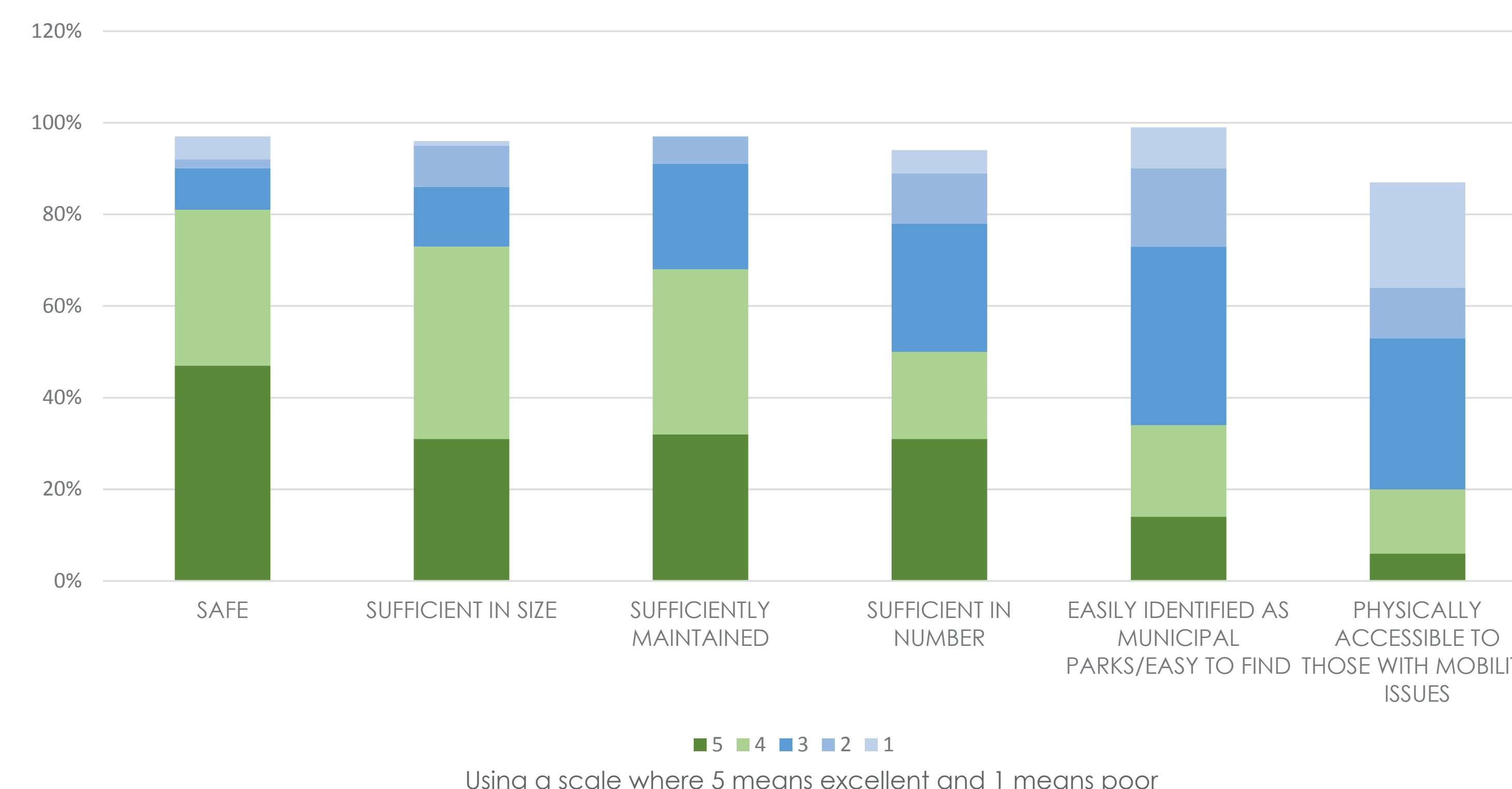
- » To ensure high quality, usable municipal parkland is acquired, developed and maintained by the Municipality.
- » Changing lifestyles and expectations affect public demand for parks and trails.
- » This plan will help the Municipality and community work toward creating parks and trails according to a shared vision.
- » The Municipality needs to prioritize spending and investments to reflect the direction of the community.
- » To provide strategic direction to the Municipality for the next 5 to 10 years.



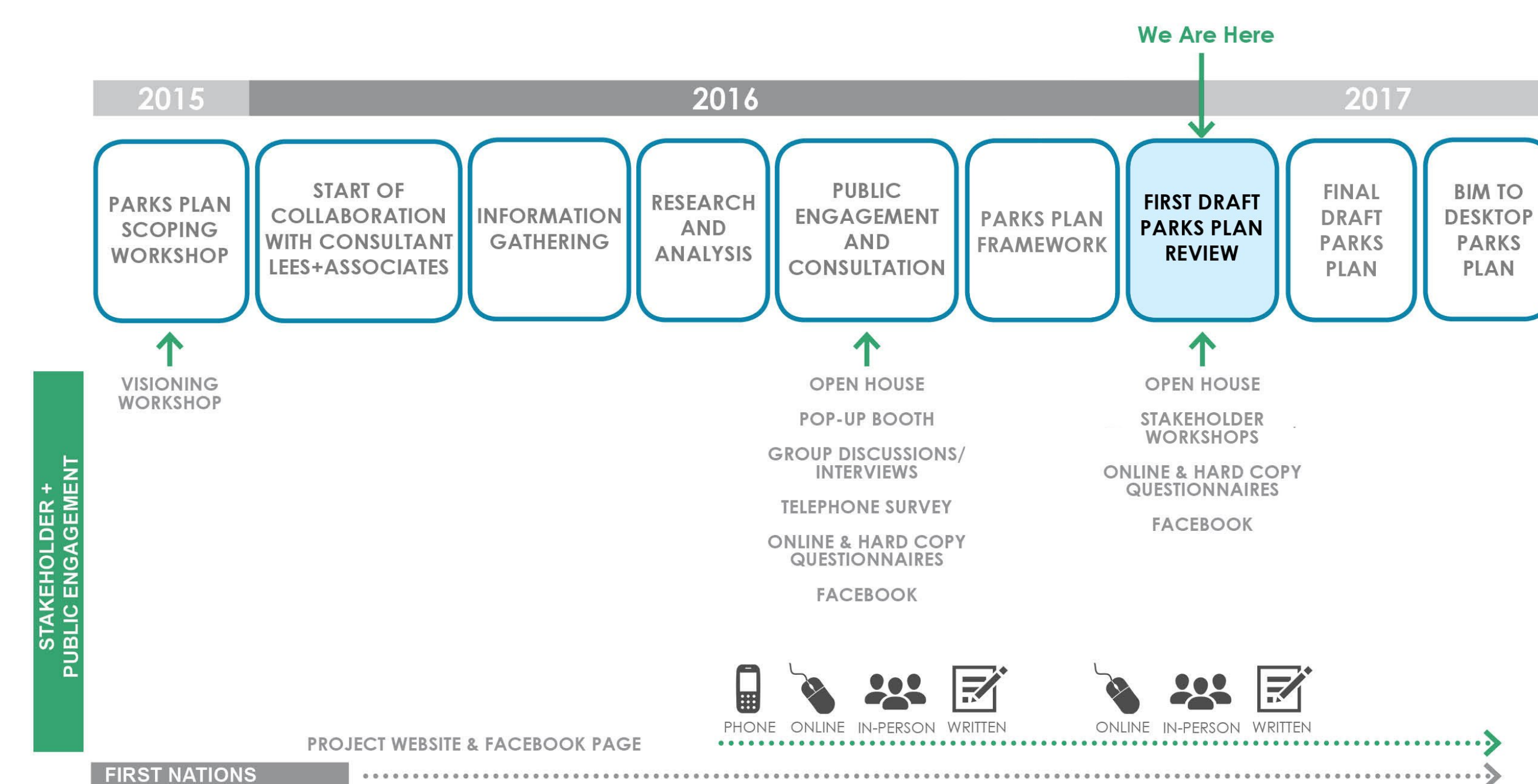
TOP TEN OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES (PHONE SURVEY-UNAIDED)



SATISFACTION WITH ASPECTS OF MUNICIPAL PARKS, TRAILS AND BEACHES



PROJECT PROCESS



THE GOALS

1. Parks

Bowen Island's parks support a healthy, vibrant community that is connected to the Island's ecosystems.

2. Trails

The Island's neighbourhoods, parks and key destination are connected through an Island-wide network of linked trails.

3. Beaches

Opportunities for the community to experience the marine environment are enhanced while foreshore habitat is protected.

4. Acquisition

Parks, trails and coastal access points are acquired across the Island to serve the community's needs and protect the Island's biodiversity.

5. Natural Capital (the Island's land, water, air and resources)

Bowen Island's natural capital is protected for current and future generations.

6. Aboriginal Culture

Local Aboriginal traditional knowledge and culture is incorporated into Bowen Island's parks and trails.

7. Stewardship and Partnerships

Meaningful stewardship programs and partnerships enhance the experience the Island's parks, trails and beaches.



Parks Inventory and Analysis

PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Community Parks

These are parks that serve the entire community and provide opportunities for special events and active recreation. They embody the character of Bowen Island and are places to gather, celebrate and play. Community parks are generally greater than 2 hectares in size, though they may be smaller if they provide a destination amenity, such as a sports field or bike park.

Neighbourhood Parks

These small parks provide opportunities for active recreation as well as informal open spaces. Amenities should respond to the demographics and needs of the catchment area (~800 meter radius). Neighbourhood parks include pocket parks, tot lots and informal lawn areas and can vary in size from 0.1 - 2.0 hectares. It is essential that a neighbourhood park is properly configured to maximize usability, especially if it is small.

Waterfront Parks

These are parks located at the waterfront that provide opportunities to experience the marine environment. They include land behind the foreshore and are larger than beaches and shoreline access points (which have a separate classification system). Waterfront parks may include accessible beaches with relevant amenities or they may provide viewpoints of the ocean where accessibility to the shoreline is not feasible.

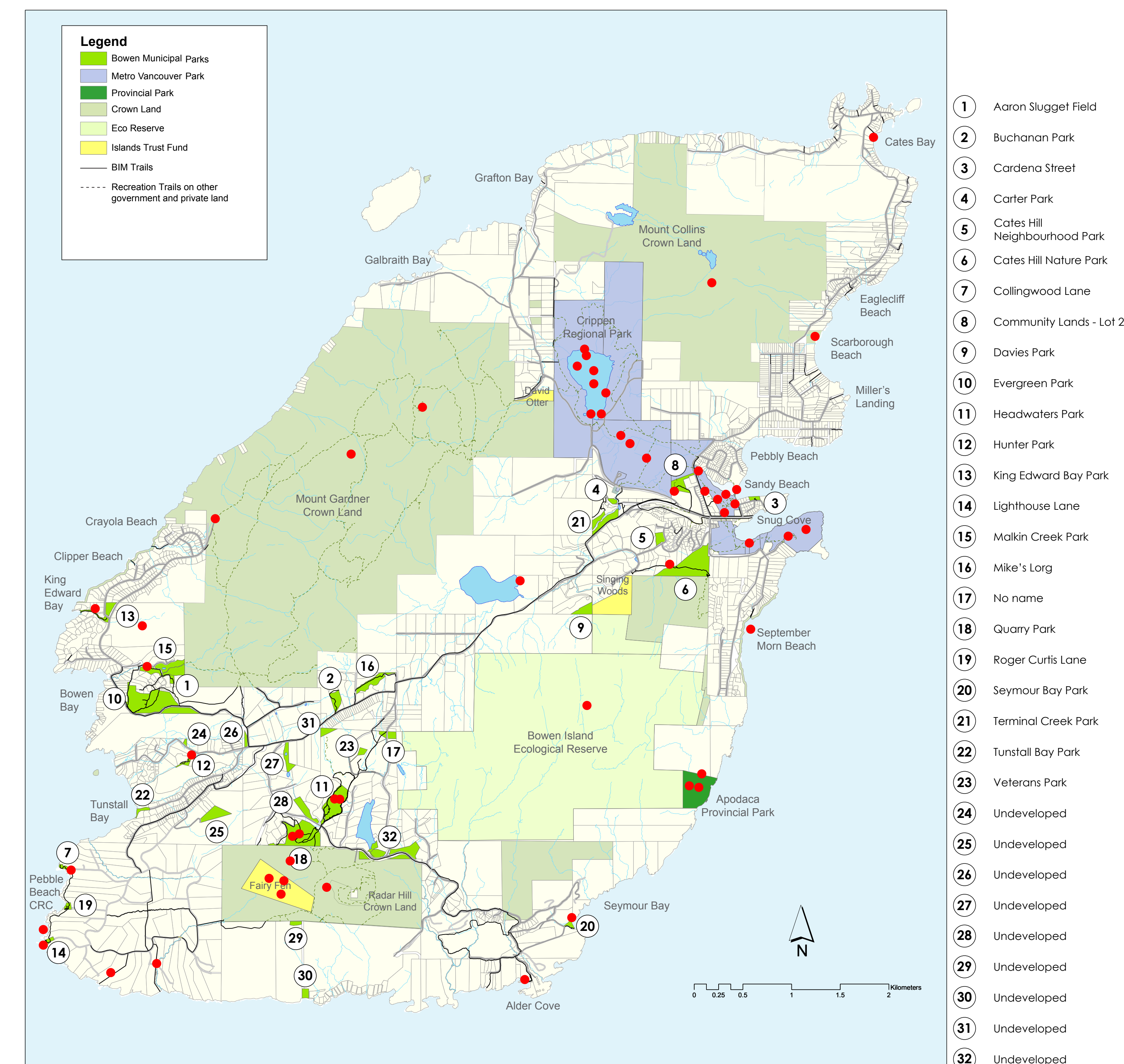
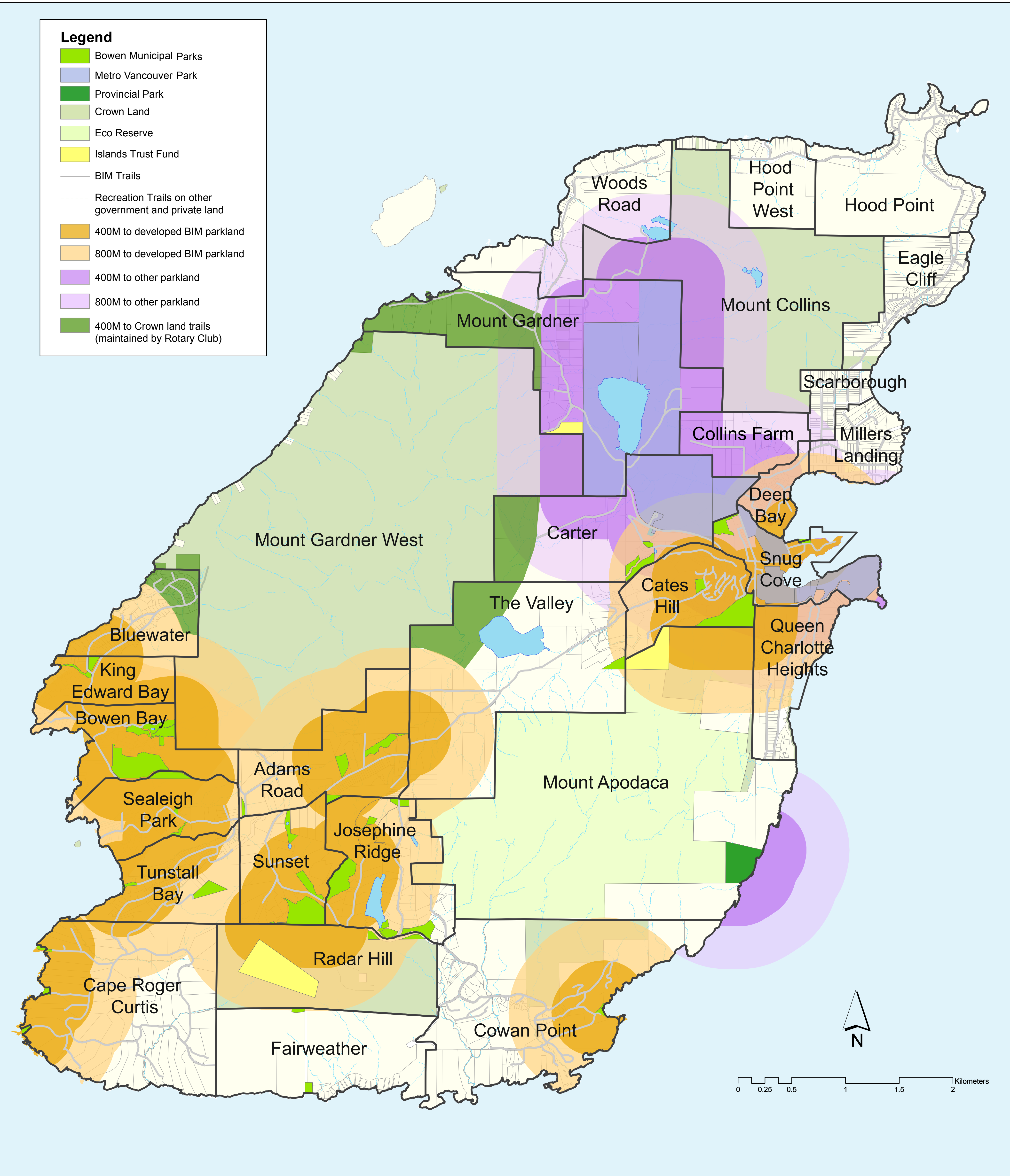
Nature Parks

These are green spaces that provide opportunities for passive recreation such as walking or wildlife viewing. Nature parks allow people to connect to nature in the form of forests, stream corridors and other environmentally significant features. There are generally few opportunities for development of built park amenities, with the exception of trails, seating areas and viewing points.

Environmental Areas

These include environmental significant features that are not suitable for park development, such as ravines, wetlands or steep slopes. They serve an ecological function and act as visual amenities. Environmental areas have limited (if any) access for the public, with the exception of allowing access to key viewpoints.

Special Places



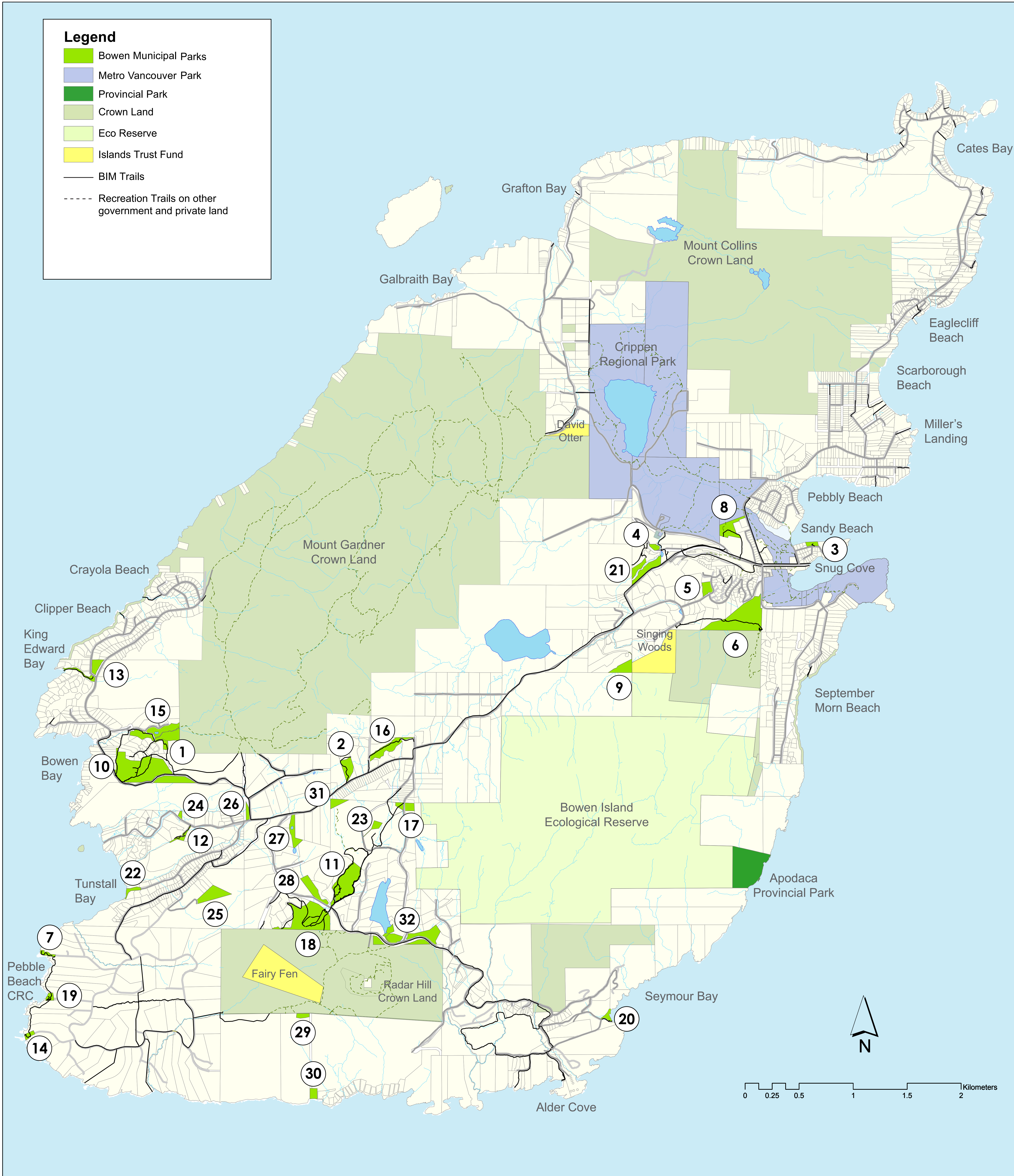
PARK QUICK FACTS

- Bowen has 53 hectares of developed municipal parkland, plus an additional 13 hectares of undeveloped parkland.
- The current supply of developed municipal parkland is 14.5 ha/1000 residents.
- Metro Vancouver's Crippen Regional park provides an additional 221 hectares of parkland.



Parks

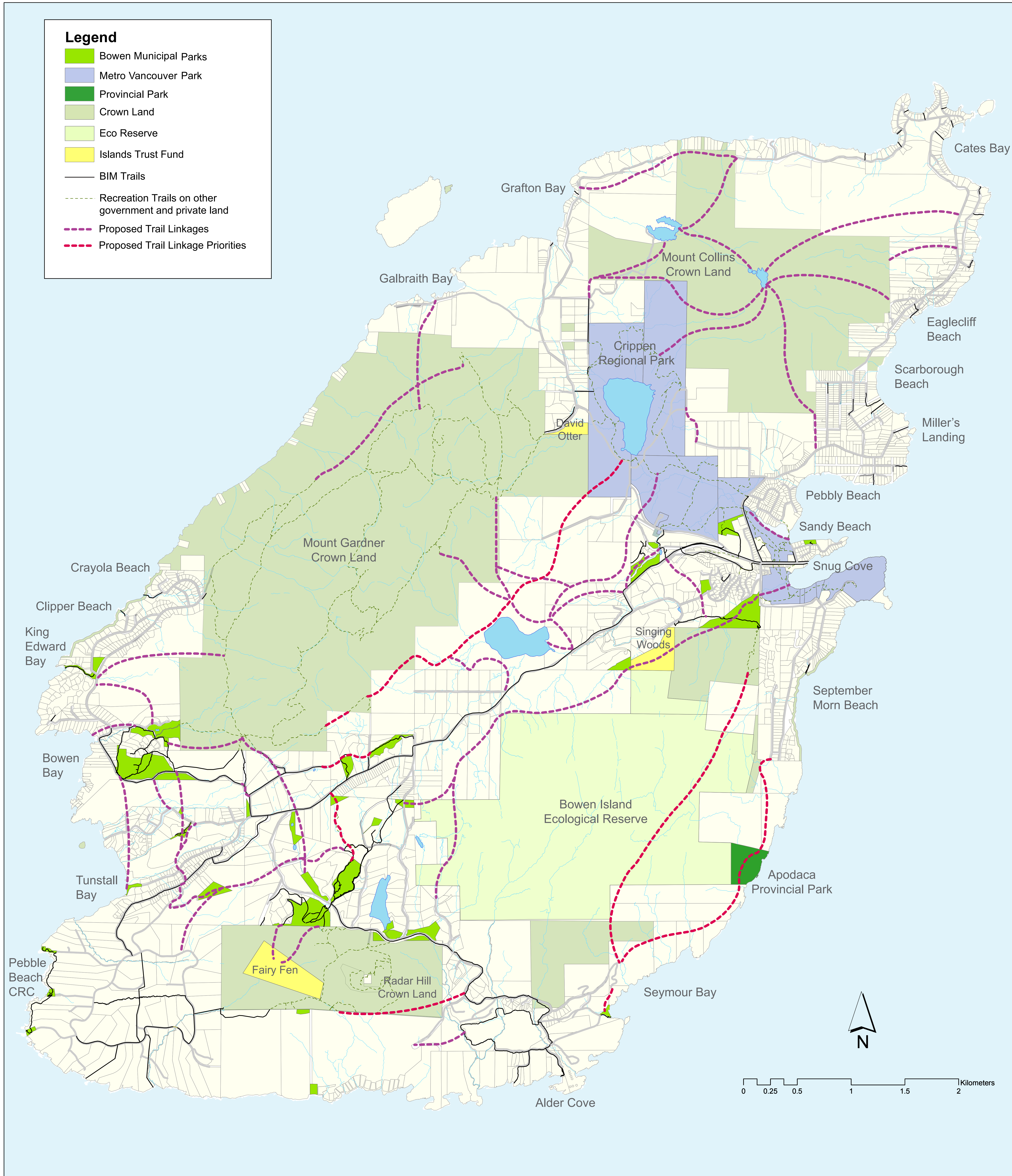
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS



- 1 Aaron Slugget Field
- 2 Buchanan Park
- 3 Cardena Street
- 4 Carter Park
- 5 Cates Hill Neighbourhood Park
- 6 Cates Hill Nature Park
- 7 Collingwood Lane
- 8 Community Lands - Lot 2
- 9 Davies Park
- 10 Evergreen Park
- 11 Headwaters Park
- 12 Hunter Park
- 13 King Edward Bay Park
- 14 Lighthouse Lane
- 15 Malkin Creek Park
- 16 Mike's Lorg
- 17 No name
- 18 Quarry Park
- 19 Roger Curtis Lane
- 20 Seymour Bay Park
- 21 Terminal Creek Park
- 22 Tunstall Bay Park
- 23 Veterans Park
- 24 Undeveloped
- 25 Undeveloped
- 26 Undeveloped
- 27 Undeveloped
- 28 Undeveloped
- 29 Undeveloped
- 30 Undeveloped
- 31 Undeveloped
- 32 Undeveloped

- 1.1.1 Adopt the new proposed Park Classification System.
- 1.1.2 Ensure equitable distribution of parks and protection of ecosystems across the Island. Neighbourhoods that are lacking developed parkland include:
 - Cape Roger Curtis
 - Cowan Point
 - Fairweather
 - The Valley (Grafton Lake)
 - Millers Landing
 - Scarborough
 - Eagle Cliff
 - Woods Road
- 1.2.1 Continue to support the Bowen Bike Park Group on the proposed bike park on the Community Lands – Lot 2.
- 1.2.4 Install a multi-use, sport court that can accommodate a range of future uses. Consider installation at Cates Hill Neighbourhood Park.
- 1.2.5 Incorporate community gardens, into community and neighbourhood parks and work with volunteers to ensure ongoing maintenance.
- 1.2.6 Consider a disc golf course at a community or neighbourhood park.
- 1.3.2 Create an inventory of all bridges and stairs and replace aging structures with sustainable alternatives. Ensure new built structures improve accessibility wherever possible.
- 1.3.3 Create an inventory of all park furnishings (benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, dog bag dispensers, etc.) and replace aging park furnishings throughout the park system with BIM standards that are attractive, durable, safe, and sustainable.
- 1.3.5 Construct new public toilet facilities at Aaron Slugget Field, Quarry Park and Veteran's Park.
- 1.4.2 Pursue a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy.
- 1.4.3 Develop and adopt an Invasive Species Management Plan and control priority invasive species on parkland.
- 1.4.6 Continue to protect Grafton Lake and pursue opportunities to enhance protection of the lands around Grafton Lake.
- 1.5.2 Develop a plan for the new Veteran's Park to ensure that the park serves the needs of the community over the next decade.
- 1.6.1 Collaborate with the Province to establish a low-impact, walk-in/kayak-in only campground on Crown land.
- 1.7.1 Work with the community and the Squamish Nation to name unnamed municipal parks, trails and beaches.
- 1.7.2 Install new park entry, trailhead signage (with maps) and coastal access signage at all municipal parks, trails and coastal access points.
- 1.7.4 Ensure that all municipal trails are clearly signed and marked with designated trail classifications, appropriate warnings, regulations and educational components.

Conceptual Map of Desired Trail Linkages



TRAILS QUICK FACTS

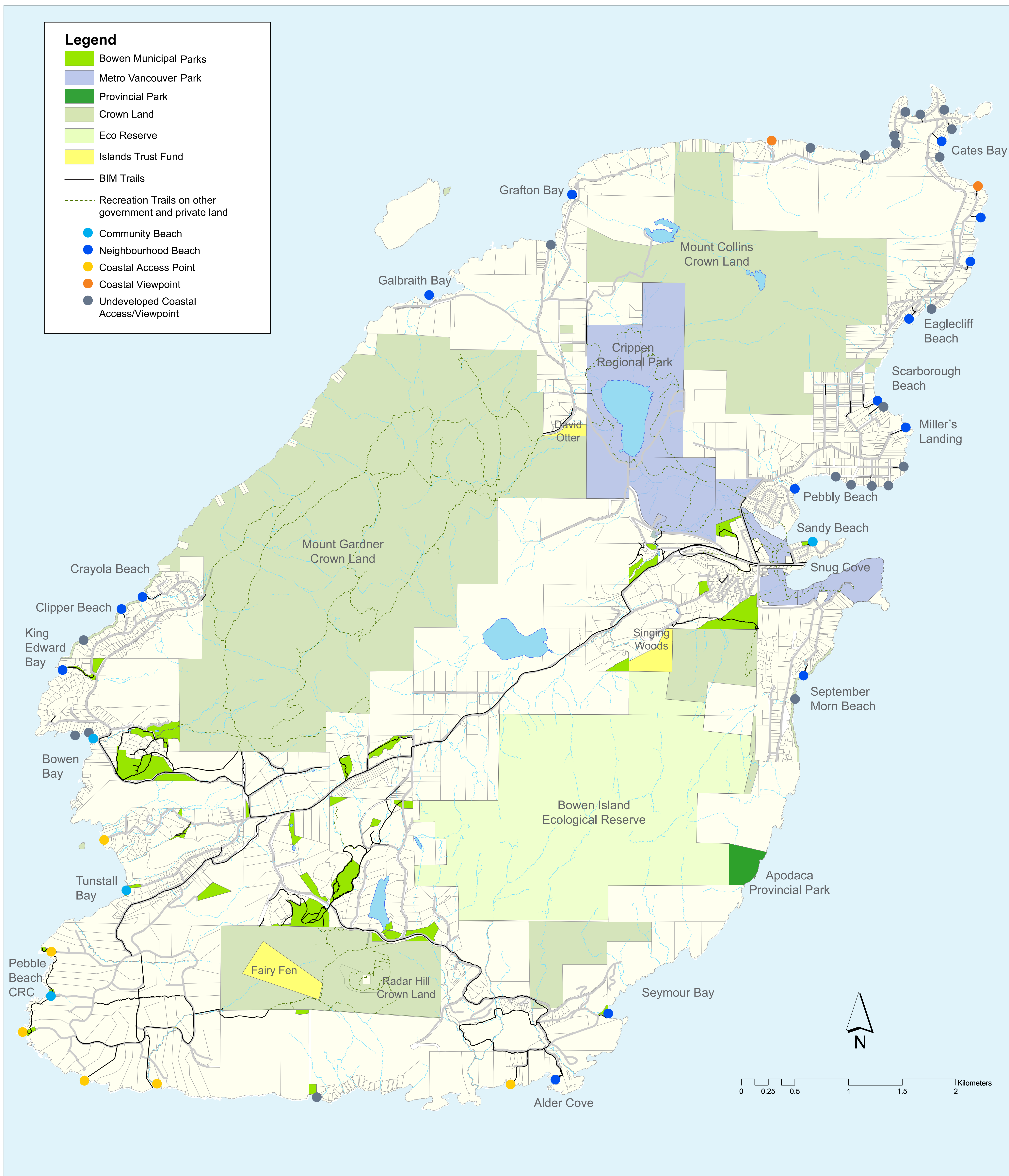
- Bowen has approximately 92km of trails across the Island, with 45km being Bowen Island municipal trails.
- The current supply of municipal trails is 12km/1000 residents.
- There are approximately 13km of trails in Metro Vancouver's Crippen Regional Park and 32km of trails on Crown land.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1.1 Develop a Bowen Island Trails Master Plan to identify trails and gaps in the system on Bowen Island, building upon the proposed linkages map derived from public and stakeholder consultation. Include at a minimum the following:
 - GPS mapping of trails
 - Collection and analysis of trail counter data
 - Trail classification system
 - Standards for trails, trail rights-of-way and easements
 - Signage and wayfinding standards
 - Implementation plan
- 2.1.3 Investigate the possibility of establishing or formalizing priority trail linkages (shown in red on the map).
- 2.1.8 To enhance accessibility for seniors and those with limited mobility, ensure that relatively flat trails are developed within the trail system.
- 2.1.9 Work with Metro Vancouver, the Province and private land owners to establish rights of ways and easements to improve trail connectivity across the Island.



Beaches



BEACH CLASSIFICATIONS

Community Beaches

These are the most popular beaches that are frequently visited by the entire community. These beaches are also popular with off-island visitors. They are easily accessible and require the highest degree of maintenance.

Neighbourhood Beaches

These beaches are heavily used by residents in their respective neighbourhood, especially residents who live in close proximity (~800m radius). Some neighbourhood beaches may be quite popular with residents from across the Island, but the beaches are smaller and not as easily accessible. Neighbourhood beaches require less maintenance than community beaches.

Coastal Access Points

These are points along the coast that provide access to the water. Coastal access points are smaller than community and neighbourhood beaches and the shoreline is typically rocky or even covered at high tide. In some instances, access may be challenging for those with mobility issues due to steep topography.

Coastal Viewpoints

These are points along the coast that provide opportunities for views of the ocean. Access to the shoreline is not feasible in these locations due to steep slopes or unstable ground. Some coastal viewpoints are easily accessible by vehicle, while others require walking a short distance to an outlook.

Undeveloped Coastal Access/Viewpoints

These are typically right of ways (ROW) that BIM has the legal right to access but are currently inaccessible. In some instances, future development may enable public access. Some undeveloped coastal access points may never be developed if the area poses significant public safety risks due to steep slopes or unstable ground.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1.1 Adopt the new proposed Beach Classification System.
- 3.1.2 Identify key beaches and coastal access points to upgrade that are distributed across the Island and adjust access for dogs if required. Beaches to prioritize for upgrades include:
 - Cates Bay
 - Eaglecliff Beach
 - Grafton Bay
 - King Edward Bay
 - Pebble Beach
 - Pebbly Beach
 - Scarborough Beach
 - September Morn Beach
 - Seymour Bay
- 3.2.1 Develop and adopt a Shoreline Management Plan.
- 3.2.2 Identify sensitive foreshore areas that provide habitat for marine wildlife and manage human access in these areas. (To be identified as part of the Ecosystem Management Study.)
- 3.3.1 Enhance access for non-motorized vessel launching at Community Beaches.



Natural Capital



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

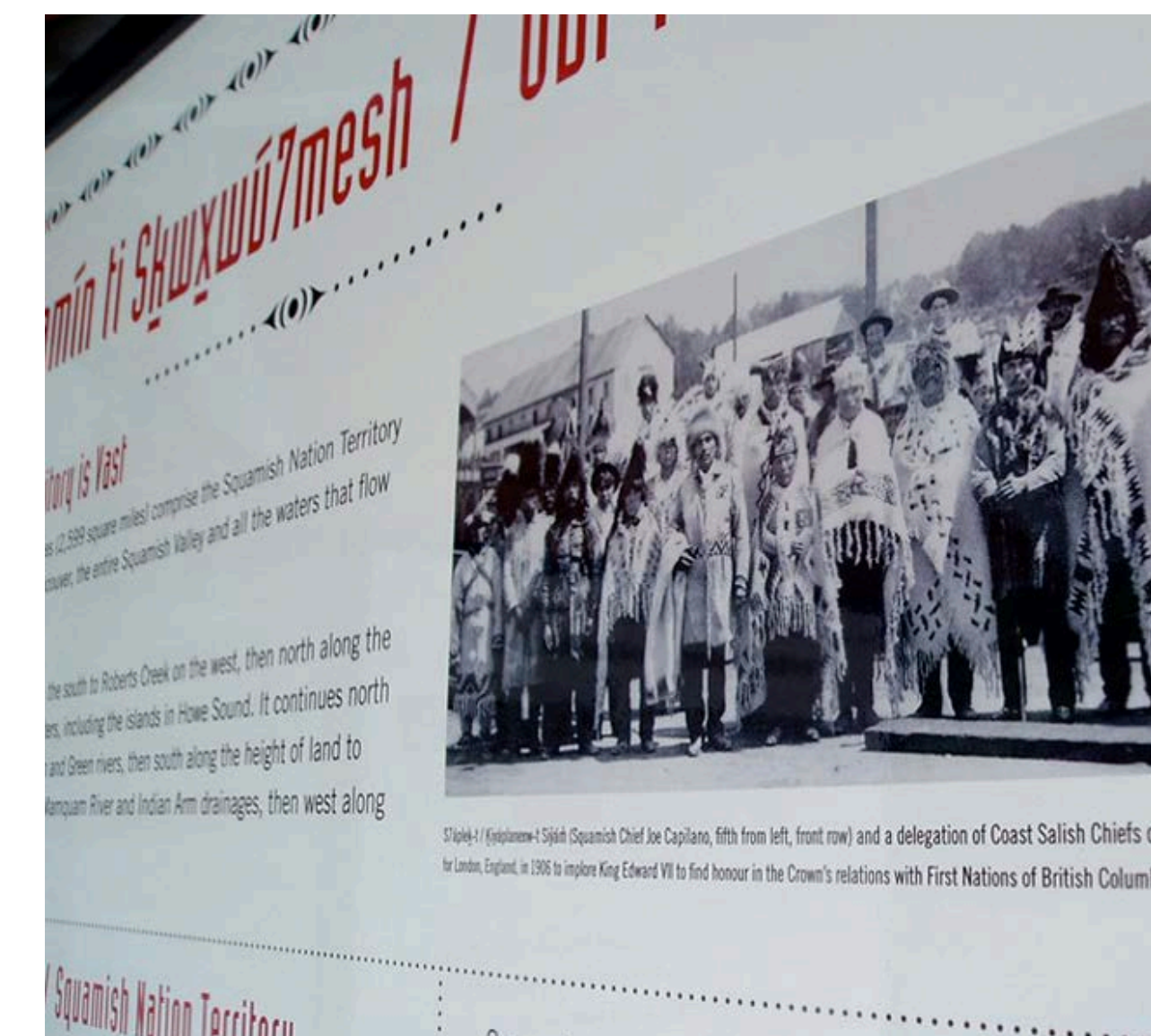
- 5.1.1 Complete GIS-based inventories of biodiversity and natural capital on Bowen Island. (To be included in the Ecosystem Management Study.)
- 5.2.1 Protect and enhance critical natural capital ecosystems by designating resource protection zones. Critical natural capital areas include:
 - Grafton Lake for water storage
 - Riparian ecosystems for maintaining stable hydrological conditions and water quality
 - Foreshore ecosystems for extreme weather protection, habitat provision for marine species and recreation and tourism benefits
 - Old growth and watershed forests for wildlife habitat and water filtration.
 - Killarney Lake and Headwaters Nature Reserve wetlands as buffer areas to maintain stable hydrological conditions and water quality, as well as wildlife habitat.
- 5.3.1 Create effective public communications and outreach to educate residents about their role in natural capital stewardship and conservation.
- 5.4.1 Complete an economic analysis of Bowen Island ecosystem services.

Aboriginal Culture

Kwilakm is the traditional Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) language name for Bowen Island, a place used by the Squamish Nation for countless generations. This Parks Plan acknowledges this traditional territory, and honours the relevance of the Island today to Aboriginal neighbours. The records show that a number of place names have been used in association with the Island such as qwhel-hoom or calm bay and q"wli-ləx'm which translates to beat a fast rhythm.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.2 Designate a proposed route for a cross-island pedestrian and biking trail as a Bowen Island Spirit Trail, extension of the North Shore Spirit Trail. Liaise with the North Shore Municipalities and the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to obtain authorization and support for the Bowen Island Spirit Trail. (To be pursued as part of the Integrated Transportation Management Plan.)
- 6.2.4 Begin a process of naming key park, trail and beach sites using traditional Skwxwú7mesh place names and names for Island flora and fauna. Consult the Squamish nation and local elders to determine a fair and appropriate process.
- 6.2.5 Gain permission and input from the Squamish and Lil-wat Nations to adapt the highly successful Cultural Journey kiosks interpretive program for placement of two or three signature kiosks at key Bowen Island public spaces or visitor hubs.



Cultural Journey kiosks on the Sea to Sky Highway

Stewardship and Partnerships

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1.1 Form a volunteer working group to mobilize the community and support ongoing park volunteer initiatives as well as special community events and festivals.
- 7.1.3 Develop and deliver interpretive nature events and programs on the Island such as guided-nature walks, bird-watching and marine education, in collaboration with partners.
- 7.1.4 Work with stewardship groups on ongoing trail maintenance and invasive species removal.
- 7.2.1 Work closely with Bowen Island Schools and School District 45 West Vancouver to provide opportunities for outdoor recreation and educational programs.
- 7.2.2 Work with Metro Vancouver to develop a joint-use agreement for Crippen Regional Park, in particular to formalize community use of the baseball field.
- 7.2.4 Work with the Province to ensure ongoing protection and recreational use of the Mt Gardner Crown land and to protect other Crown lands and special places on the Island.
- 7.2.5 Continue to work with the Islands Trust, Islands Trust Fund, Bowen Island Conservancy and other agencies to protect natural areas on the Island.



WHAT IS NATURAL CAPITAL?

Natural capital refers to the Island's land, water, air and resources. This capital is organized and bundled within the earth's natural ecosystems, which provide resources and flows of services that enable all life to prosper on earth.

From: Natural Capital in BC's Lower Mainland

Acquisition

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1.1 Update the Development Cost Charge bylaw.
- 4.1.3 Focus on acquiring parkland suitable for neighbourhood parks, trails linkages, coastal access points, protection of special places and protection of representative ecosystems.
- 4.1.4 Work with developers to ensure contribution of park and trail amenities that are beneficial to the community.
- 4.2.1 Work with private land owners to establish trail rights-of-way and easements where trail linkages are desired.
- 4.2.2 Work with the Province (and the Rotary Club) to formalize trails on Mount Gardner and work with the Province to authorize public, recreational access to Mount Collins.

