
Highlands Municipal Trails Plan Newsletter #1 March 2009

Highlands Council has authorized the preparation of a municipal trails master plan. Over the coming months, residents will be invited to provide their views on trail needs, routes, and priorities through survey questionnaires and open house meetings. Based on your input, as well as an analysis of different routes, trail standards, costs and priorities, a Highlands trails master plan will be prepared for Council approval.

Municipal trails can serve an important role in connecting residents with each other and with nearby parks and municipal facilities. They encourage outdoor activity and provide health benefits to all residents. In recent years, there has been a movement towards improving universal accessibility, so that trails are designed to serve the needs of parents with strollers, people in wheelchairs, or other residents with mobility difficulties.

Highlanders are proud of the system of parks and trails in our community. There are trails within provincial and regional parks, and some designated trails in municipal parks and within road rights-of-way. In areas without roadside trails, Highlands roads are sometimes used as trails. There are also trail

easements through power line rights of way and across private land.

The 2001 District of Highlands Parks and Recreation Master Plan survey questionnaire indicated that the majority of respondents (69%) supported more trails. It was considered important to cater to all age groups and, where possible, to design trails for multi-use by hikers, horse riders, and cyclists. Issues cited were improving roadside safety for children and linking different areas of the Highlands.

In 2002, the Trails Advisory Committee prepared a map showing a proposed network of trails alongside major roads in the Highlands, as well as existing trails in municipal parks, and proposed local trails. While this map did not indicate trail standards or implementation priorities, it provides the starting point for a Highlands trail system master plan.

The current plan, which will focus on municipal road rights-of-way and other municipal lands, will provide a more detailed assessment of resident opinions, and recommendations for trail standards, routes, costs, and priorities.

Highlands Trail Survey March 2009

You are invited to complete the survey below which will provide valuable information on trail use as well as the opinion of residents on a number of trail issues.

Please refer to the Highlands map on the reverse side of this newsletter. If you need more room, please attach another sheet of paper.

1. *Do you or others in your family use public trails in the Highlands? (if yes, please check)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Roadside trails</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Highlands park trails</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Regional or Provincial park trails</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Trail easements across private land</i> |

2. *Which Highlands roads or trails do you currently use for non-vehicle travel? Please also indicate on the attached map.*

Roads: _____

Roadside Trails: _____

Other Trails: _____

3. *What is your purpose in using trails? (check applicable purposes)*

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Exercise/Recreation</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Visiting friends</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Travel to park, mailbox or a municipal facility</i> |
|---|--|---|
- (See continuation of survey on back.)*

4. Do you use Highlands roads for non-vehicle travel? (if yes, please check)

- Walking Cycling
 Running Horse Riding

Comments _____

5. Are you or others in your family unable to use Highlands trails, parks, or facilities due to mobility difficulties?

- Yes No

Comments _____

6. Which Highlands trails, parks, and facilities would be most important to make fully accessible?

Comments _____

7. Are you concerned about the safety of pedestrians, cyclists or horse riders using roads you travel on?

- Yes No

Comments _____

8. In your opinion, would it be desirable to have a roadside trail along the road(s) you travel?

- Yes No

Comments _____

9. In your opinion, should roadside trails be;

- Single purpose (pedestrians only) Multiple purpose (pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders)

Comments _____

10. How important is it to have roadside trails located off the road edge, where feasible?

- Important Not Important

Comments _____

11. Which specific routes in the Highlands should be priorities for roadside trails? Please also indicate on the attached map by priority number.

#1 priority route _____

#2 priority route _____

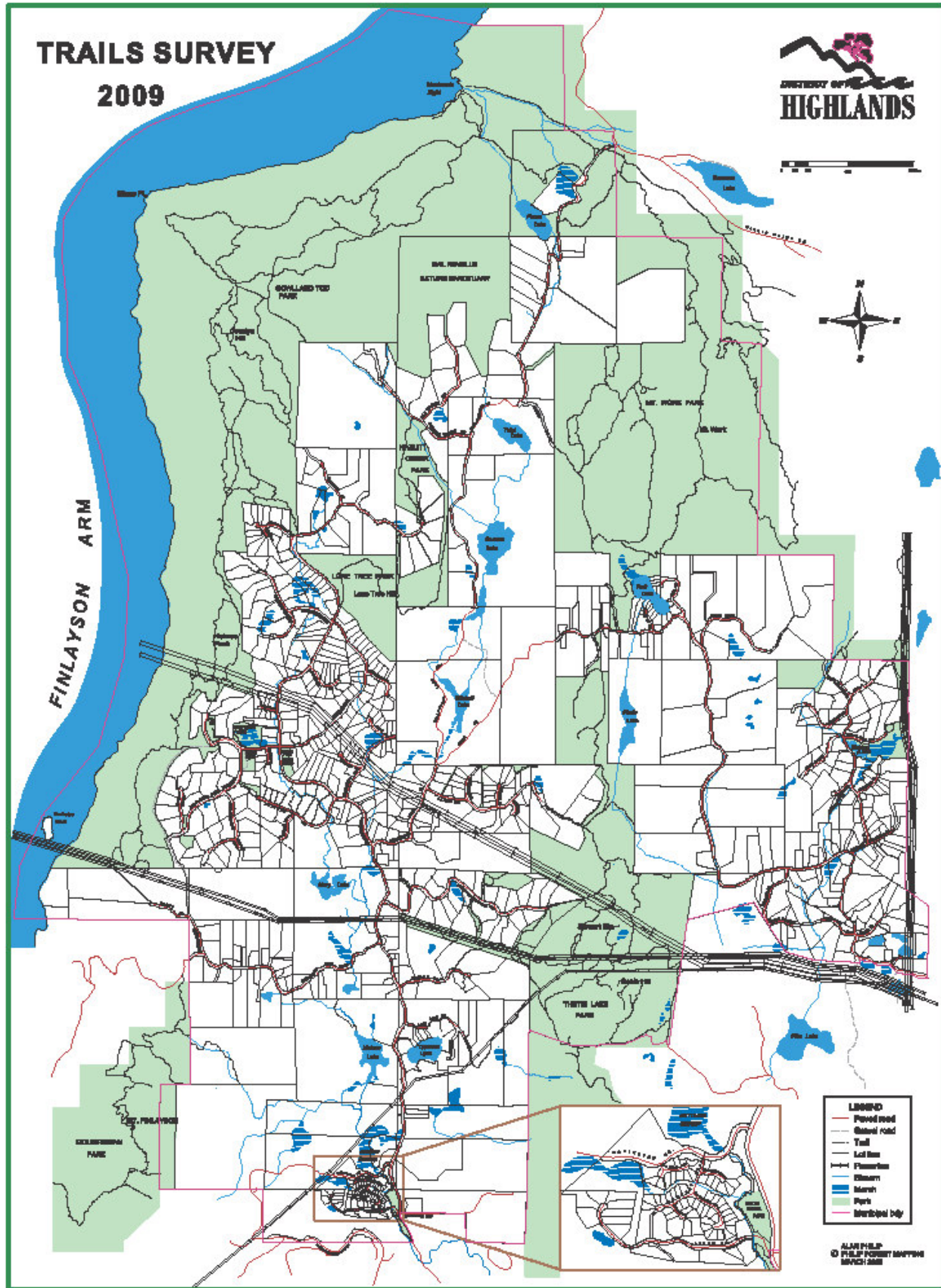
#3 priority route _____

Comments _____

Your response would be greatly appreciated. Please return surveys by **March 31, 2009** to:

District of Highlands, 1980 Millstream Road, Victoria, B.C., V9B 6H1 (Fax: 250-474-3677)

TRAILS SURVEY 2009



FINLAYSON ARM

GOLLARD'S PARK

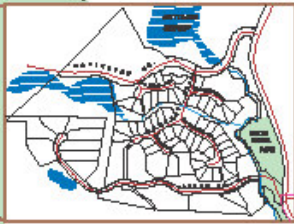
PARKVILLE NATURE SANCTUARY

MR. BRUCE PARK

LAKE THREE PARK

THREE LAKES PARK

DEERBERG PARK



LEGEND

- Paved road
- Other road
- Trail
- Lot line
- Fenceline
- Stream
- Marsh
- Park
- Municipal city

ALAN HILL
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2009