



PRINCE RUPERT PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN

Community Survey Summary





Prepared for:

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All images provided by the City of Prince Rupert
or Urban Systems unless noted otherwise.

Overview

As part of the City of Prince Rupert Parks and Outdoor Recreation Plan, an online community survey was available through the Rupert Plays RupertTalks page between August 26 to October 2, 2022. It received 342 responses. The survey was designed to gather feedback on the current use and perceptions of Prince Rupert's parks, trails, and outdoor amenities.

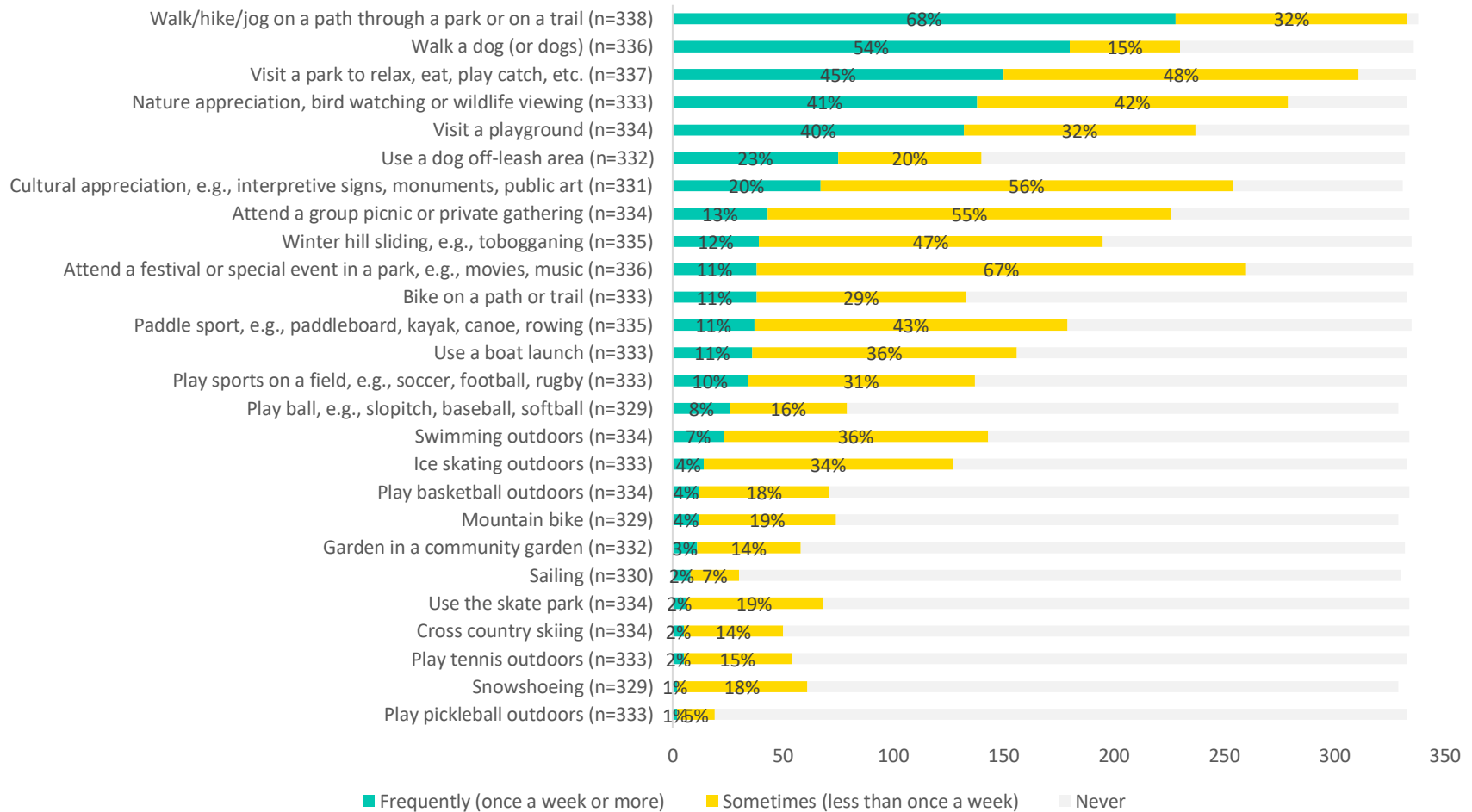
The following is a summary of the input received. Themes of open-ended questions are listed for topics mentioned by more than one person.



Results

Participation in Outdoor Activities

Question 1 In the past year, did you participate in the following outdoor activities at a park or trail in the City? (select all that apply)

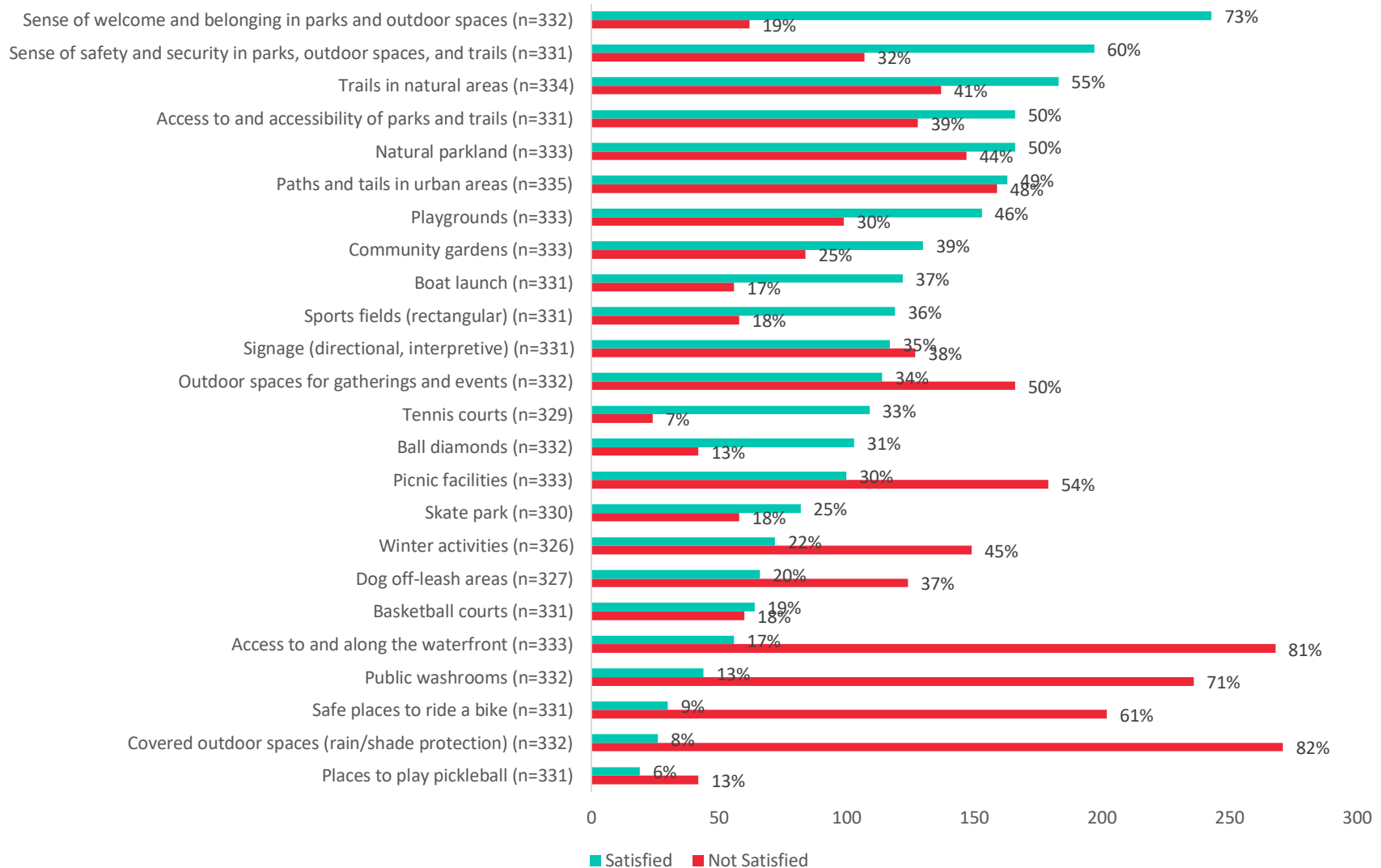


Participants were invited to share any other outdoor activities that they participate in within the City of Prince Rupert. Responses included:

- Golf (16)
- Walking (12)
- Foraging (6)
- Hiking (6)
- Dirt biking (5)
- Community events/markets (5)
- Beachcombing/rock hounding (4)
- Biking (4)
- Camping (3)
- Geocaching (3)
- ATVing (2)
- Disc Golf (2)
- Fishing (2)
- Going to the Park (2)
- Litter clean-up (2)
- Shooting Range (2)
- Soccer (2)
- Sword Fighting (2)
- Volleyball (2)
- Yoga (2)

Satisfaction with Parks and Outdoor Amenities

Question 2 What is your level of satisfaction with park and outdoor amenities, features, and characteristics in Prince Rupert?



Participants were invited to provide comments to help explain their satisfaction ratings. Responses with two or more comments included:

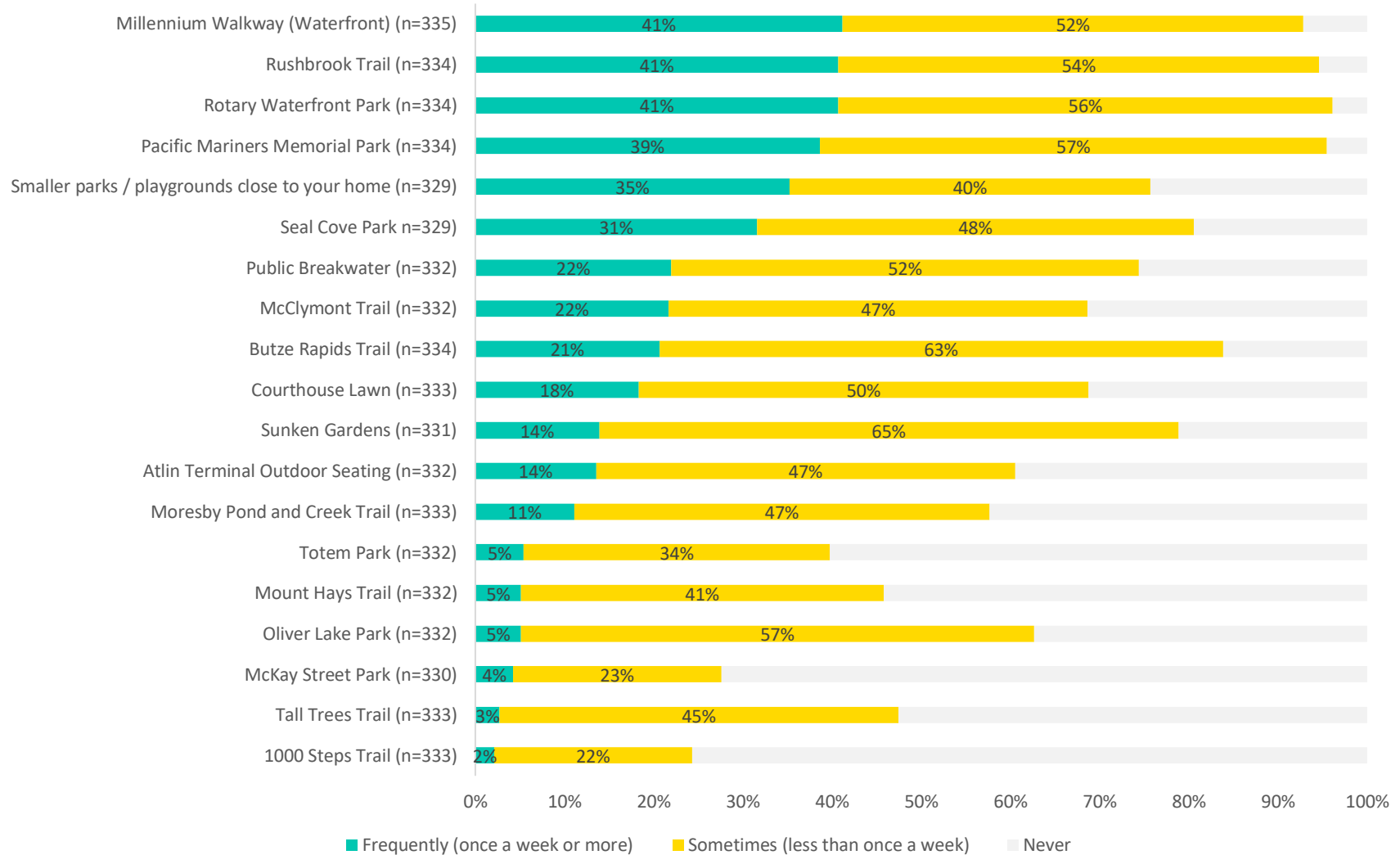
- Need more (and better) public access to the waterfront and beach areas (51 responses)
- Need more covered areas in parks (26 responses)
 - Spaces for gathering
 - Picnic tables
 - Play spaces for children
 - Sports fields and courts (basketball and tennis courts)
- Need more public amenities in parks and along trails (20 responses)
 - Year-round washrooms
 - Rest areas
 - Garbage bins
- Need more dog-friendly and off-leash spaces (18 responses)
 - Need a dog park on the east side of the city
- Need more bike lanes and trails (16 responses)
- Expand trail network (13 responses)
- Need more parks and trails accessible for all ages and abilities (13 responses)
 - Playgrounds for young children
 - Play spaces for users with diverse abilities
- Improve condition of trails and sidewalks (13 responses)
 - Degraded, overgrown, in disrepair
 - Poorly signed or marked
 - Unsafe
 - Too narrow
 - Uneven surfaces
 - Need amenities including lighting, fencing, and paved surfaces
- Concerned about transients and drinking in the park and public spaces (12 responses)
- Improve bylaw enforcement (12 responses)
 - Dogs being off leash
 - Public drinking
- Upgrade and expand boat launch (11 responses)

- Include a fish washing station
 - Dedicated launch for kayaks and canoes
- Want more outdoor activities and community events (9 responses)
- Improve cleanliness of parks and trails (8 responses)
 - Remove glass, litter, dog waste, used needles
- Need more parks, playgrounds, and recreation facilities (8 responses)
 - Soccer fields
 - Multi-use pathways
- Improve signage and wayfinding (7 responses)
 - Current signs are in poor condition
 - Install interpretive signage
- Want a water park/splash pad (7 responses)
- Improve trail maintenance (7 responses)
- Need trails for mountain biking, dirt biking, and motocross (7 responses)
- Improve appeal of Prince Rupert for newcomers and visitors (highlight city attractions) (5 responses)
- Upgrade parks and playgrounds (5 responses)
 - Need more inclusive equipment
 - Need to upgrade unsafe materials (splintering wood)
- Improve maintenance at dog parks (remove dog waste) (4 responses)
- Improve access to trails (4 responses)
 - More parking at trail heads
 - Local transit options for accessing trails
- Improve maintenance of facilities (4 responses)
 - Debris covering courts and skate park
- Need more space dedicated to winter recreation (4 responses)
- Personal safety concerns (transients living near trails) (4 responses)
- Unsure where to find information about the parks and services (4 responses)
- Want to see parks improved (4 responses)
 - Not just minor repairs
- Need more bike and skate parks (3 responses)
- Need more indoor recreation facilities (3 responses)

- Improve safety around parks (3 responses)
 - Install fencing where parks front roadways
 - Lighting at night
 - More crosswalks near playgrounds
- Protect natural environment (3 responses)
- Need picnic areas along the waterfront (2 responses)
- Improve condition of parks and facilities (2 responses)
 - Sports facilities in disrepair
- Need fewer parks and recreation facilities (2 responses)

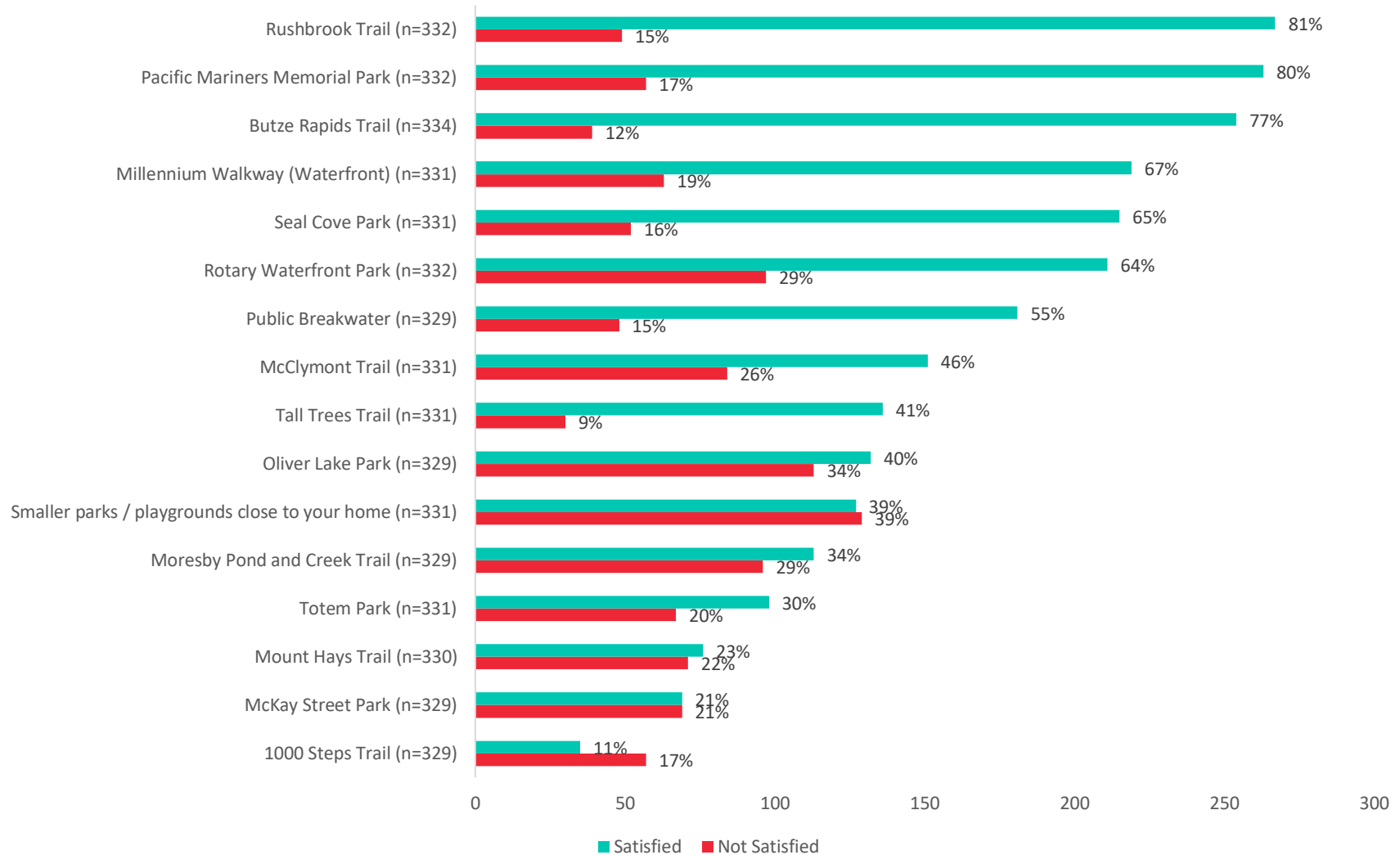
Visiting Parks and Trails

Question 3 In the past year, did you visit any of the following major parks or trails?



Satisfaction with Outdoor Recreation

Question 4 What is your level of satisfaction with the following parks and trails?



Participants were invited to provide comments to explain their satisfaction ratings. Below is what we heard for the specific parks and trails.

Rushbrook Trail (19 responses)

- Enjoy this trail
- Safety concerns around the steep cliffs and sharp turns
- Would like to see the trail expanded and incorporate more biking facilities
- Needs amenities, including rest areas, garbage bins, and public washrooms
- Trail should incorporate public beach access
- Concerned about public drinking along the trail
- North trailhead needs improvement

McClymont Trail (15 responses)

- Need to improve conditions (unkept, muddy trails, need to add more gravel fill)
- Improve maintenance and cleanliness (clear litter)
- Personal safety concerns (interactions with transients, previous abduction attempt)
- Improve signage and wayfinding
- Should install picnic areas along the trail

Millennium Walkway (Waterfront) (15 responses)

- Enjoy this trail and how well it is maintained
- Need to improve cleanliness (clean up litter and dog waste)
- Would like covered areas along the walkway (including basketball and tennis courts)
- Should allow for public access to the beach
- Would like connections to other areas
- Need better enforcement of leash bylaws

Moresby Pond and Creek Trail (14 responses)

- Trail is in poor condition (unkept, overgrown, need to add more gravel fill)
- Improve maintenance and cleanliness (clear litter and overgrown vegetation)
- Personal safety concerns (poorly lit, concerned about transients along the trail)

Seal Cove Park (14 responses)

- Enjoy this park
- Needs amenities, including public washrooms, garbage bins, and covered areas
- Would like to see the park expanded, and potentially a clam garden in the lagoon
- Would like a playground installed

Mariners Park (12 responses)

- Enjoy this park and how well it is maintained
- Need to improve cleanliness (clean up litter)
- Playground needs to be updated
- Would like a fence where the park fronts the roadway
- Concerned about transients and public drinking in the park
- Need more rest areas and activities in the park

1000 Steps Trail (10 responses)

- In poor condition (unkept, deteriorating, dangerous conditions)
- Poorly marked, need to improve signage and wayfinding

Butze Rapids Trail (10 responses)

- Like this trail
- Difficult to access without a car
- Safety concerns (wildlife encounters, tripping hazards along the trail, off-leash dogs)

Mount Hays Trail (7 responses)

- Feel unsafe with trail being so close to the road
- Need to improve signage
- Need to improve cleanliness (clear trash and dumped appliances)

Rotary Waterfront Park (6 responses)

- Needs more play equipment, picnic tables, and covered areas

- Should have public access to the beach
- Concerned about unleashed dogs
- Needs public washrooms

Odd Eidsvick Memorial Park (5 response)

- Playground needs to be updated (equipment is old and unsafe)
- Needs picnic tables

Oliver Lake Park (5 responses)

- Need to improve cleanliness (clean up litter and dog waste)
- Need more covered areas and picnic tables

McKay Street Dog Park (4 responses)

- Need to install a dog water fountain
- Park is very noisy and unattractive

Totem Park (4 responses)

- Need to improve maintenance and cleanliness (clear litter and used needles, clear overgrown vegetation)
- Needs a rest area
- Would be a great to have a coffee shop near by
- Need to improve park signage

Tall Trees Trail (3 responses)

- Need to improve the trail conditions (unkept)
- Need to improve trail signage

McKay Street Park (2 responses)

- Need to improve upkeep (add more gravel fill, garbage bins, and update signage)

George Casey Park (2 responses)

- Need updated playground equipment

Moose Tot Park (2 responses)

- Playground equipment needs to be updated
- Need public washrooms at this park

Atlin Terminal (1 response)

- Well maintained

Kiwanis (1 response)

- Should provide a connection to Tall Trees

Omenica (1 response)

- In need of repair

Public Breakwater (1 response)

- Dislike that it is not open to the public at all times

Some participants provided comments on the parks and trails in general.

General Comments on Parks and Trails (70 responses)

- Satisfied with Prince Rupert's parks and trails
- Need more public amenities, including public washrooms, garbage bins, lighting
- Need more covered areas in parks and along trails
- Need to improve condition of parks and trails (parks and trails are in need of repair)
- Need to improve maintenance and cleanliness in parks and along trails (clearing litter, broken glass, dog waste, and vandalism)
- Playground equipment is outdated and dangerous
- Need to improve signage and wayfinding around parks and trails
- Need more parks and playgrounds

- Need more parks and playgrounds that are accessible for those with diverse abilities and children of all ages
- Personal safety concerns (concerned about isolated and hidden areas, and transients in parks or along trails)
- Would like to see more effort on improving the visual appeal of Prince Rupert, including featuring public art in public spaces
- Would like a multi-use pathway that crosses the city
- Need more dog-friendly and off-leash areas
- Need better bylaw enforcement (leash and drinking bylaws)
- Need more public access to the waterfront
- Need mountain biking trails
- Do not approve of closing public spaces (Public Breakwater has limited hours)
- Would like community garden spaces
- Parks should have fencing when they front roadways
- Would like to see focus on more natural spaces, and less on built spaces

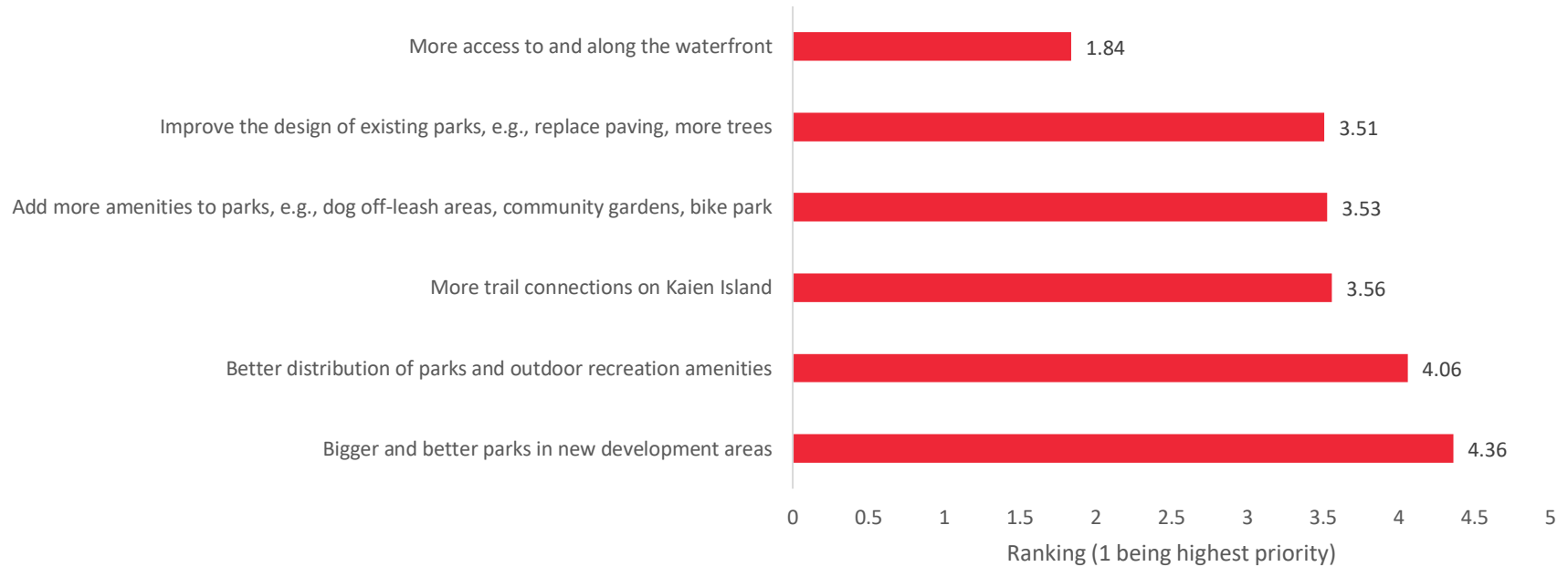
General Comments Specific to Trails (27 responses)

- Enjoy all trails, are well maintained
- Would like to see the trail network expanded
- Improve maintenance and cleanliness of trails
- Trails are in poor condition (unkept, degraded, unsafe)
- Need to improve maintenance and cleanliness (clear litter and overgrown vegetation)
- Concerned about transients along the trails
- Need amenities, including public washrooms, garbage bins, and rest areas
- Trails should be made accessible for users of all ages and abilities
- Need updated signage and wayfinding
- It is difficult to access trails outside the city without a car

Planning for the Future

The City identified six broad priorities for the Parks and Open Spaces Plan. Respondents were asked to rank the priorities, with 1 being the highest priority.

Question 5 Please indicate in order the priorities most important to you (n=330)

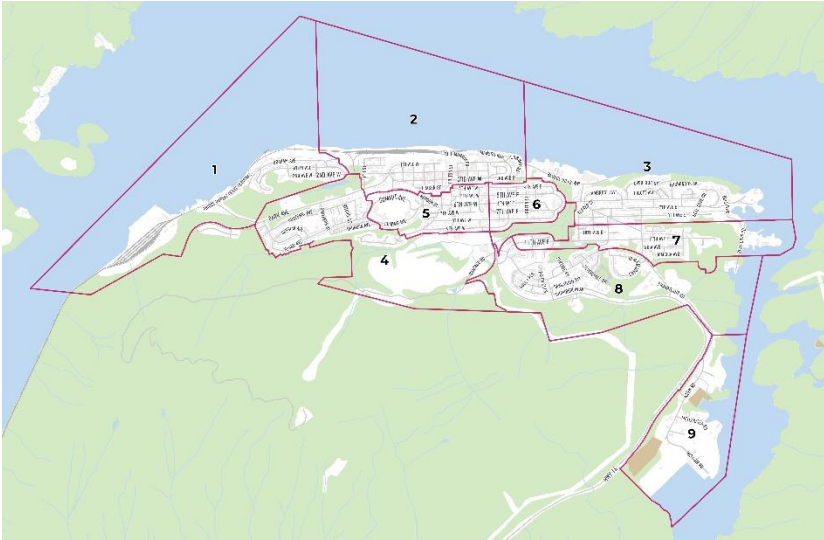


Respondents were asked to elaborate on their priorities. Responses by two or more respondents included:

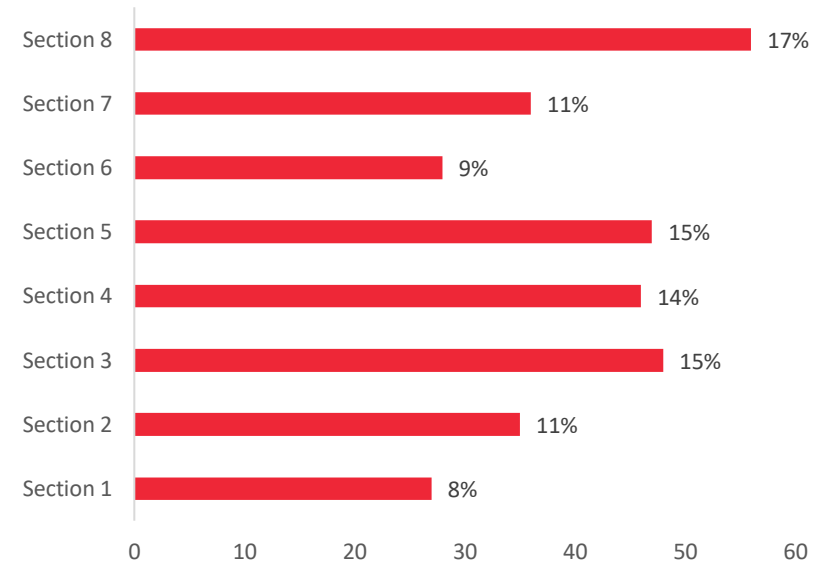
- Need more public access to the waterfront and beach (42 responses)
- Would like to see improvements to existing parks and trails (32 responses)
- Need more parks, playgrounds, and sport facilities (16 responses)
- Need more bike facilities, including trails for mountain biking and motocross (15 responses)
- Improve trail connections throughout the City (13 responses)
- Need more parks and trails accessible for those with diverse abilities and users of all ages (13 responses)
- Improve maintenance and cleanliness of parks and trails (clear litter and broken glass, pressure wash surfaces) (13 responses)
- Want more covered areas for picnics, gathering, play spaces, and community events (12 responses)
- Need more amenities, including public washrooms, garbage bins, lighting, and dog waste bags (10 responses)
- Need more off-leash and dog-friendly spaces, including amenities for dogs (dog water fountain) (10 responses)
- Find ways to revitalize parks and trails, including incorporating art into public spaces and hosting community events for all ages (10 responses)
- Improve safety at parks and trails (fences where parks front roadways, monitoring transients) (8 responses)
- Expand the trail and sidewalk networks (8 responses)
- Would like a water park or splash park (6 responses)
- Need to upgrade and expand the boat launch, and include a boat launch for non-motorized boats (canoes and kayaks) (5 responses)
- Need more bylaw enforcement (leash bylaws) (4 responses)
- Need to improve signage and wayfinding at parks and trails (4 responses)
- Need more bike and skate parks (4 responses)
- Need more indoor recreation facilities (2 responses)
- Prioritize the natural environment (less built spaces) (2 responses)

Demographics

Based on the map provided below, respondents were asked which section of Prince Rupert they live in. There was a good distribution of participants.

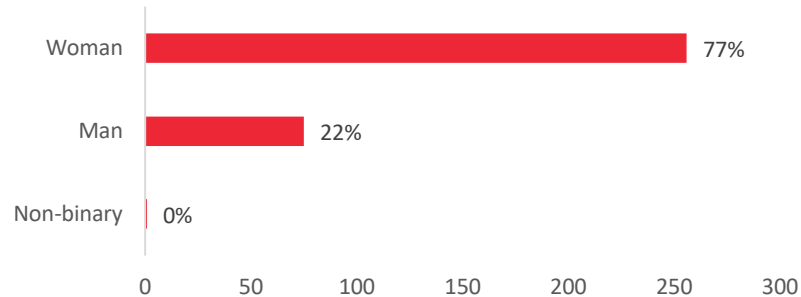


Question 6 In what section of town do you live? (n=323)



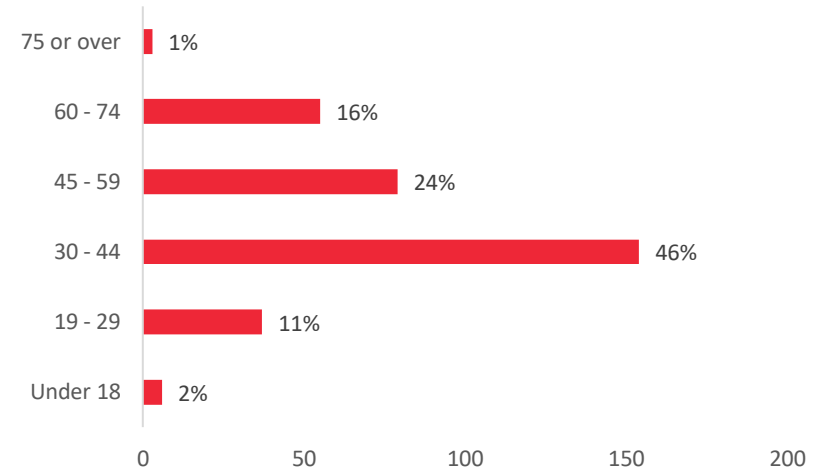
Women were overrepresented in this survey, as they represent 49% of Prince Rupert's population based on the 2021 Census results.

Question 7 With which gender identity do you most identify? (n=334)



Based on the 2021 Census, Prince Rupert residents under the age of 30 are underrepresented in these survey results.

Figure 8 What is your age bracket? (n=334)



Question 9 If you have answered for children in your household, what are their age brackets? (n=165, multiple answers accepted)

