

Thornhill Trails Study – Public Consultation - Summary

The following is a summary of the initial consultations for the Thornhill Trails Study at two open house meetings on September 9 and 22, 2020, held at Whonnock Lake Centre and online from August 25 until October 15, 2020.

A letter invitation was mailed out to 279 addresses within the Thornhill area, encompassing an area approximately 2000m from the main access point of the gate at 256th St. The open house on September 9 was attended by approximately 12 people, who asked questions and discussed the trails study with parks staff. The open house on September 22 was attended by approximately 18 people, who asked questions of parks staff and left 3 hard copy comment forms. Project information and link to a comment form was also shared online by way of emails to contacts at both the Haney Horsemen Association as well as the Fraser Valley Mountain Bike Association. Laminated posters explaining the trails study and providing the survey link were also posted at all main trail entrances onto Thornhill. 790 responses were received through the online form by October 15, 2020. 3 people also emailed in separate comments and 3 people provided hard copy comment forms that were also captured in the summary below.

In total 796 written comment responses were received (790 online, 3 emailed, 3 paper)

Responses were then divided into residents (573 address within Maple Ridge) and non-residents (223 address elsewhere) to further review the data.

72% of respondents indicated their address was in Maple Ridge (Residents)

28% of respondents indicated their address was elsewhere (non-residents)

Non-resident addresses varied from neighboring municipalities (Pitt Meadows, Mission) to encompassing most of the lower mainland cities, including a few further cities such as Victoria and Calgary

Question 1: Which trail user category best describes you?

(Non-exclusive question – Some people selected multiple user types)

Trail User	Resident	Non-Resident
Hiking User	329	23
Mountain Bike User	309	210
Equestrian User	76	9
Other - Trail Runner	23	4
Other - Dog Walking	14	1
Other - Family walks	5	
Other - Disc Golf	2	
Other - Recreational cycling	1	
Other - Bird Watching	1	
Other - Photographer	1	
Total	761	247

Question 2. How often do you visit the trails on Thornhill?

Selectable field question

Frequency	Resident	Non-Resident
Multiple times a week	331	29
Once a week	100	50
A few times a month	88	88
Once a month	33	38
A few times a year	7	18
I don't go/ use	6	0
Total	565	223

Question 3. Where do you primarily access the trails on Thornhill?

Selectable field question

Location	Resident	Non-Resident
256 St. (from the South)	261	171
248 St. (from the West)	109	17
264 St. (from the East)	53	4
256 St. (from the North)	34	12
108 Ave. (from the West, water reservoir)	32	6
Multiple access points	21	1
From 262 St	18	
Grant Ave. (From North East)	15	5
From Ferguson Ave/ 112 Ave	10	
From Trethewey Crs. / South Martyn Trail	5	
From 108 Ave (from the East)	2	
From Erskine St.	2	
From "Duck Pond trail"	2	
From a river crossing the parks trail	1	
From Archibald Way Trail	1	
From Spillsbursy St	1	
Unsure		3
From 266 St		1
Total	567	220

Question 4. Which of the City's maintained trails do you primarily use?

Combined Resident/ Non-Resident

Open ended question – Some people selected multiple

Location	# of respondents indicating
Bear Ridge/ Westview	213
Georges Way / Georges Loop	177
All of them	121
256th Access road way	99
Unnamed trail from 256 to the water reservoir	48
Thornhill Trail	31
Duck Pond/ Thornvale/ Erskine	19
Metro Van Trails (Woods Creek, Hayes, Trethewey)	14
None	4
Other trails not listed above (Informal trails not maintained by City)	254
Total	980

Question 5. In order of importance, what informal trails or routes are the most important to you?

Combined Resident and Non Resident – Open ended question

Trail name	First choice (x3)	Second choice (x2)	Third choice (x1)	Total
O.S.R	552	262	65	879
Thornstar	333	234	93	660
Trail Dweller	213	224	92	529
All of them	246	110	52	408
Georges Way / Georges Loop/ Silver Ghost	201	94	50	345
Bear Ridge	153	70	27	250
Blazing Saddles	96	52	50	198
Rip n Dip	123	50	18	191
Heads Up	66	54	24	144
Ridgeline/ Jump line	45	36	39	120
Unnamed trail from 256 to the water reservoir	52	28	21	101
Flow Rider	45	30	7	82
Metro Van Trails (Woods Creek, Hayes, Trethewey)	51	24	4	79
Nick's	24	24	28	76
Access Road/ Price of Admission/ 256 St.	45	22	4	71
Thornhill Trail	51	12	7	70
Don't know the names	36	12	6	54
Thornhill Grind trail	21	24	8	53
Hodgens Hill/ Trail	33	6	4	43
Tower Trail	18	16	5	39
Lyn's Lane/Ridge Riders	15	14	9	38
Little Water	3	14	14	31
Sessions	6	8	13	27
Bucket Trail	15	8	1	24
Duck Pond/ Thornvale	15	6	3	24
Westview / 248 St	21	2	1	24
Easy going	9	8	0	17
Larry Bremner trail	9	6	1	16
Cross Cut	6	2	2	10
Equestrian looping trails	6	2	2	10

Shalamalamadingdong	0	6	4	10
Moto Loop	0	6	2	8
Sherman Olsen Trail	3	0	0	3
Bosonworth Trail	0	2	0	2

Question 6. Why are these informal trails or routes important to you?

Open ended question categorized by theme. Combined Resident/ Non-Resident

Reason why informal trails are important	# of respondents indicating
To meet other people / Community / Family	139
Health & Exercise	126
Trails are easy to get to / local / close to home	122
Access to nature / outdoors / wildlife	106
Trails connect to other trails / Network / Loops	50
Views / Scenery	36
Keep heritage of Maple Ridge	4
Total	583

Question 7. Is there adequate wayfinding (maps and signage) available for the area?

Open ended question categorized by theme. Combined Resident/ Non-Resident

Response	# of respondents indicating
Yes	356
Yes, with the trail forks app / GPS	146
No	142
No, signage and maps needs improving	92
No, need trail maps at trail heads and junctions	20
No, need trail use designation signage or maps (for bike, hike and equestrian)	19
No, prefer no maps or additional signs	8
Yes, on City maintained trails only	1
Need "No Motorized Vehicles" signs	1
Need signage to identify Aquifer	1
Total	786

Question 8. What would support you as a trail user in this area?

Open ended question categorized by theme. Combined Resident/ Non-Resident

Item	# of respondents indicating
Better signage/ trail markings/ skill level/ distances/ etiquette/ direction/ aquifer	136
Improved parking/ staging area at 256 St.	92
Better/ more trail maintenance / brushing/ fix washouts/ fallen tree removal etc.	70
Nothing/ Leave as is	62
More trail building / expansion of trails	61
Retain the natural environment / No development	55
Separate trail users (Mountain bike and Equestrians/ Hiking)	50
Sanction the informal trails	49
Better trail maps	32
Allow continued access/ use/ maintenance of trails	31
Washroom / outhouse	29
Formalize an agreement for trail maintenance (with FVMBA)	29
Garbage / Recycling cans	21
Keep the trails as they are	19
Commitment from the City to protect the area as park	14
Funding / support for trail building/ maintenance	13
Multi use/ shared use trail designations/ accessible trails	13
Drinking fountain/ water access	12
Safety improvements/ crossings/ footings/ limit speed/ jumps	12
Enforcement of bylaws, creation of rules, off leash dogs, dirt bikes, litter	10
Trails should be for pedestrian and equestrians only	10
A trail society for volunteers/ discussion	10
Limit/ enforce against motorized vehicles better	8
Community education/ support	7
More engagement with local users to build/ maintain network	6
No more trail building	5
Benches and seating areas	3
Vehicle access past the gate on 256 St.	3
More consideration for equestrian users	3
Bike wash station	2
City should maintain mountain bike trails	2
Improve general access to Thornhill	2
More intermediate trail options	2

New technical riding trail	2
Horse trailer parking	2
Regional park protection	2
A bike lift	2
Bridges over un-bridged creeks	1
Emergency contact information	1
Improve drainage on trails	1
Gravel entire Bear Ridge trail for emergency responses	1
Security for parking area	1
Trails should be for mountain biking only	1
Total	887

Question 9. Overall, do you have any other comments to share?

547 additional comments – pending redactions.