



Hornby Island Residents' and
Ratepayers' Association

HIRRA

Hornby Community Trails Survey Results

April 2025

The Hornby Island Regional Parks and Trails Advisory Committee is the community liaison group of HIRRA connecting Hornby and the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) who manage the maintenance and upgrades on trails in Mount Geoffrey Regional Nature Park, the adjoining Mount Geoffrey Crown Lands, and the Roadside Trails. The CVRD is also responsible for maintenance of the Regional Community Parks at the following beach accesses: Sandpiper Beach, Grassy Point, Hidden Beach, Clamshell Beach, Tralee Point.

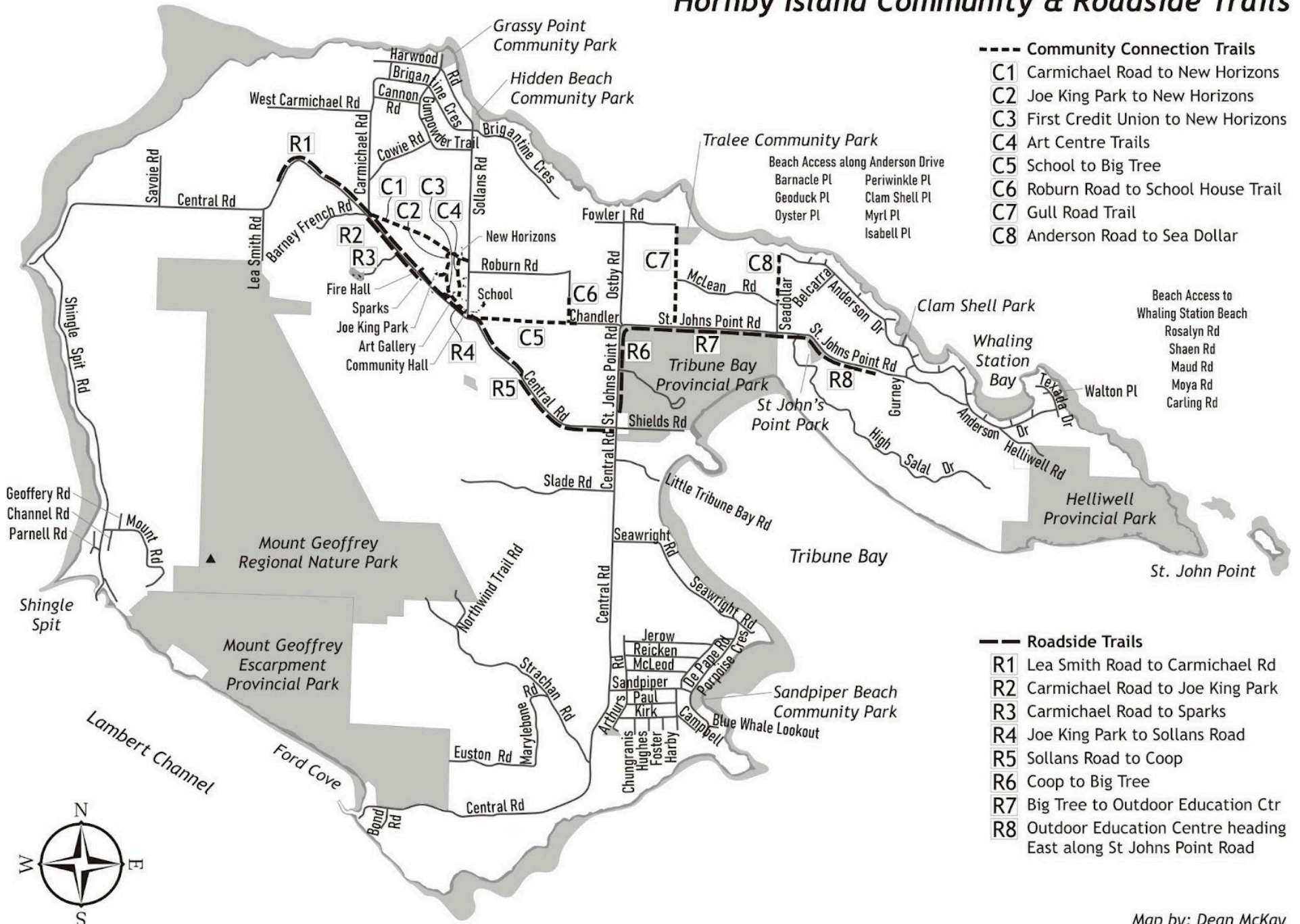
In December 2024 and January 2025 the Regional Parks and Trails Advisory Committee conducted a survey looking for input on the use of our **Community Connection and Roadside Trails Network** (16 trails not in Mount Geoffrey Regional Nature Park). The survey asked about frequency of use and mode of travel on the trails, requested comments on existing conditions and where you would like to see improvements, and solicited ideas on where new trails should be developed.

The information gathered will be used by the committee to advise CVRD Staff on issues regarding these trails and inform us of areas people would like to see the trail network expanded. More work and input from the community is necessary prior to any new trails being developed.

Thank you to all who participated in the survey.

Reference Map of existing Community and Roadside Trails.

Hornby Island Community & Roadside Trails



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Trail Use and Mode Results

Community Connection Trails

These trails are well used and well liked. Three quarters of the respondents use the trail between Joe King Park and New Horizons. Other high use trails include the School to Big Tree and New Horizons/Library to Credit Union/Community Hall to Joe King Park. Clearly illustrating the use of trails connecting community facilities.

Walking is by far the highest travel mode on the Community Connection Trails.

Mode(s) - W walking, C cycling, E e-bike, H horseback

rank	trail name	Responses out of 131 # %	mode %
1st	C2. Joe King Park to New Horizons	98 75%	W42% C20% E3% H1%
2nd	C5. School to Big Tree (School House Trail)	97 74%	W35% C24% E5% H1%
3rd	C3. First Credit Union to New Horizons (Jan B)	93 71%	W44% C16% E3% H1%
4T	C1. Carmichael Road to New Horizons	84 64%	W32% C20% E4% H1%
4T	C4. Art Centre Trails	84 64%	W41% C14% E3% H0%
4T	C8. Anderson Road to Sea Dollar	84 64%	W26% C24% E5% H1%
7th	C7. Gull Road Greenway	79 60%	W31% C21% E4% H1%
8th	C6. Roburn Road to School House Trail	61 47%	W21% C15% E2% H1%

Comments regarding maintenance issues or improvements on the Community Trails

- The comment we heard the most was of appreciation. Many participants expressed gratitude for the trails and the connections they make through the forest setting.
- Specific maintenance requests included; better drainage, root armouring, trimming overgrowth/poor sight lines, danger trees and fuel load.
- Some comments touched on trail design including trail width (too narrow), adding benches, and poor sight lines.
- There were few suggestions for signage along trails, both wayfinding and destination.

Roadside Trails

There is one roadside trail on Hornby Island that runs along Central Road and St Johns Point Road. For the purpose of this survey it was divided into 8 sections.

These trail sections are well used and appreciated. Highest use was on Joe King Park to the Hall followed closely by Big Tree to Outdoor Education Centre and between the Co-op and Big Tree.

Primary travel mode is walking with cycling close behind.

Mode(s) - W walking, C cycling, E e-bike, H horseback

<i>rank</i>	<i>trail name</i>	<i>Responses out of 131 # %</i>	<i>mode %</i>
1st	R4. Joe King Park to Sollans Road	101 77%	W39% C29% E6% H1%
2nd	R7. Big Tree to Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre	99 76%	W37% C28% E5% H1%
3rd	R6. Co-op to Big Tree	98 75%	W37% C27% E7% H1%
4th	R5. Sollans Road to Co-op	93 71%	W35% C28% E6% H1%
5th	R8. Tribune Bay Outdoor Education Centre heading East along St Johns Point Road	85 65%	W28% C25% E5% H1%
6th	R2. Carmichael to Joe King (Fire Hall side)	84 64%	W28% C24% E5% H1%
7th	R3. Carmichael to Sparks (Depot side)	78 60%	W26% C24% E2% H1%
8th	R1. Lea Smith Road to Carmichael Road	73 56%	W21% C24% E4% H1%

Comments regarding maintenance issues or improvements on the Roadside Trails

- Maintenance issues garnered the most comments including; roots/bumps, request for smoother trail surface, narrowness making it hard to share/pass and see, overgrowth, and drainage/mud.
- Appreciation was also expressed for the roadside trails especially for children.
- Design issues/suggestions noted that it is hard to “share the trail” when the trail is narrow, poor sight lines, trail between the Hall and cemetery is too close to the road and that it is nice when trails can be setback from the road.

New Community Connection Trail Suggestions

Half the respondents gave suggestions for new community connection trails. The most requested community trail at 38% being between Sollans/Brigantine and Fowler/Ostby which would connect the Galleon Neighbourhood to Ostby/Sea Breeze/Gull Road Trail. Other suggestions included: Hall to Grassy Point, Co-op to Sandpiper (not along the road), Ferry to Lea Smith, Sandpiper to Ford Cove, and Ford Cove to Euston. There was also a request for a connection from the end of Sollans/the Hall to Beulah Creek Trail.

New Roadside Trail Suggestions

Over 60% of respondents gave suggestions for new roadside trails. The most requested roadside trail at 34% being between the Co-op and the Sandpiper Neighbourhood with many requests that it continue all the way to Ford Cove. Others included Ferry Terminal to Lea Smith (connecting to the existing network), Continuing the St Johns Point trail all the way to Whaling Station (or at least to Gurney), Hall to Grassy Point especially along Sollans, and a few requests for the entire island/all over/everywhere.

Next steps to Create New Trails

We appreciate the feedback from all the people who responded to this survey, including the suggestions for new trails. The results will be shared with the CVRD and the Hornby community and will inform future planning for the Hornby trails network. However, it is important to be aware that the Hornby Island Parks and Trails Advisory Committee and CVRD will not necessarily be able to meet requests to build particular new trails.

If you are eager to advocate for a new trail, you can certainly talk with people in the area; identify who might be impacted by the change; the best trail route; any challenges to building it; and even present a detailed proposal and/or petition to the HI Parks and Trails Advisory Committee and CVRD.

Any proposal for a new trail on Hornby would be evaluated for feasibility of the site, safety concerns, usage issues, initial costs, and projected regular maintenance costs. It is important to be aware that creating any new trail is a long process given the number of stakeholders who have to be involved in such an endeavour, including HIRRA, CVRD, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), and private landowners. Once a trail is built, someone has to be legally responsible for it and maintain it as time goes on. Both initial trail-building and ongoing maintenance costs are significant.

It is helpful to think about this process in the context of the whole island and in conjunction with the vision statement for Hornby Island on HIRRA's website, as follows:

Hornby Islanders envision a future in which our community remains diverse, sustainable, and viable. Central to this vision are the values we share as a community: living in balance with the natural world, working together cooperatively and peacefully, taking personal and collective responsibility for the well-being of the community, and celebrating the special spirit and energy

of this unique island and its people. We embark on a spirit of reconciliation with our First Nations neighbour communities and honour cooperatively working together on the unceded territory we call Hornby Island.

Seeing trails as part of the big picture involving diversity, sustainability, and viability helps us consider how best to maintain and enhance them for everyone's enjoyment.