

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CVRD invites public participation for Old Baldy Mountain Park Management Plan

DUNCAN, BC - The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is excited to announce comprehensive public engagement is now underway to provide input on shaping the future for Old Baldy Mountain Park in Electoral Area B/Shawnigan Lake. Local residents, community interest groups, partners and park enthusiasts are invited to contribute ideas, preferences, and insights towards developing a sustainable and inclusive park management plan for Old Baldy Mountain.

The public engagement process has already kicked off with a survey designed to gather valuable input on the community's ideas for Old Baldy Mountain Park. The survey is accessible online at <u>planyourcowichan.ca</u> from March 9 to April 9, 2024, and printed surveys are available for pick up and drop off at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre.

To complement the survey, the CVRD is hosting a Public Open House event at the Shawnigan Lake Community Centre on April 6, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This event will provide an opportunity for residents to engage directly with CVRD staff and the consulting team preparing the management plan. Attendees can learn more about the current state of Old Baldy Mountain Park, ask questions, and share their thoughts and ideas on how the park can best serve the community.

"I'm thrilled that the local community will have the opportunity to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of Old Baldy Mountain Park by engaging with the management plan," said Sierra Acton, CVRD Board Director for Area B/Shawnigan Lake. "Old Baldy Mountain Park is a cherished natural space, and it's essential that the community is involved with developing a plan that reflects the needs and desires of residents and visitors while supporting environmental preservation."

The Old Baldy Mountain Park public engagement process aligns with CVRD's commitment to sustainability, environmental stewardship, community inclusion, and access to a quality of life that is fulfilling for residents. The information gathered through the survey and public open house event will guide the development of a comprehensive park management plan that balances environmental protection of sensitive ecosystems with outdoor recreational opportunities, ensuring Old Baldy Mountain Park remains a valuable asset for current and future generations.

Residents and partners are encouraged to participate in the survey, attend the public open house, and contribute their thoughts and ideas to this exciting community-driven initiative. Together, we can create a park management plan that reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of the Shawnigan Lake community and region.

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For more information, visit <u>PlanYourCowichan.ca</u> or contact:

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