



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Consulting Services
EOI-P053-2024

Whistler Parks and Valley Trail Strategy

Parks Planning Department

Resort Municipality of Whistler

whistler.ca

Whistler Parks and Valley Trail Strategy

The Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW)

Summary of Key Information

Request Number	EOI-P053-2024
Issued:	February 29, 2024
Closing:	March 21, 2024

Site Visit or Meeting:

No meeting requirement. Interested parties are to submit all enquiries regarding this EOI and/or their expression of interest via email to the Contact Person named below.

Contact Person:

Annie Oja, Parks Planner

aoja@whistler.ca

RMOW Municipal Hall

4325 Blackcomb Way Whistler BC V8E 0X5

Table of Contents

1 Overview	4
1.1 Introduction: The Resort Municipality of Whistler	4
1.2 Purpose of the EOI	4
1.3 Project Background	5
1.4 The Site	5
1.5 Budget	6
2 Scope of Work	6
2.1 Overview of Scope	6
2.2 Project Deliverables	7
2.3 Foundational Documents	7
2.4 Preliminary Project Timeline	8
3 Appendices	9

1 Overview

1.1 Introduction: The Resort Municipality of Whistler

Situated within the shared, unceded territory of the Łilwat7úl (Lil'wat People) and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish People), the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) is a destination resort community, local government organization and leader in providing municipal programs, services, progressive planning and infrastructure for almost 14,000 permanent residents and over three million annual visitors. One of Whistler's major attractions is its extensive park system and multi-use Valley Trail network linking key destinations throughout the Valley.

1.2 Purpose of the EOI

The purpose of this request for expressions of interest / statements of qualifications (the "RFEOI/SOQ") is to:

1. Invite submissions (the "Submission") from respondents (the "Respondent") that describe the desire, relevant expertise, capability, reputation and resources of the Respondent to undertake the project as generally set out in Section 2 Scope of Work; and
2. To select a Respondent or Respondents who may be invited to participate in the next stage of the competitive selection process, if called.

This RFEOI/SOQ is not a solicitation of proposals; rather it is a non-binding invitation to qualified Respondents to make themselves known to the RMOW by providing information and by demonstrating to the RMOW their desire, relevant experience, qualifications, capability, reputation and available resources.

All interested parties should respond to this RFQOI/SOQ as the RMOW does not guarantee that a more formal procurement process (as determined at the RMOW's discretion) will be issued following this RFQOI/SOQ and may elect to directly negotiate with one or more interested parties, or the RMOW may at any time and at its sole discretion decide to cancel this process for any reason.

The RMOW is offering interested Respondents the opportunity to express their interest in providing consulting services to assist municipal staff in the development a Parks and Valley Trail Strategy, within Whistler BC. The Respondent should be skilled and with demonstrated prior experience in parks and open space strategic planning and master planning, landscape architecture, community and land-use planning, community engagement and public interest group engagement.

The Respondent's Team should consist of professionals with the following backgrounds:

- Landscape Architecture
- Urban Planning
- Municipal park management

Members of the Respondent's Team should be in good standing with their respective professional associations where appropriate (ie. BC Society of Landscape Architects). The Respondent is welcome to propose other team members or disciplines as they feel may be required by the Work.

This Expression of Interest is **NON-MANDATORY** and is not a pre-qualification event. There will be no evaluation, ranking, or selection of suppliers as a result of this EOI. If subsequent competitive bidding opportunities are issued, RMOW is under no obligation to advise any supplier responding to this EOI. Suppliers should monitor the BC Bid website (www.bcbid.ca) and RMOW's Business Webpage <https://www.whistler.ca/business> for such opportunities, which will be open to all suppliers, whether or not a response to this EOI was submitted.

1.3 Project Background

Whistler's parks and Valley Trail system are a cornerstone of the Whistler experience. Many of the parks are in outstanding locations, have a full suite of typical park amenities, and they provide diverse outdoor recreation opportunities. Visitation at municipal parks in the summer season has grown significantly in recent years, particularly at waterfront parks. This has been placing pressure on infrastructure and maintenance, as well as creating capacity and conflict issues. Park infrastructure is in some cases approaching the end of its useful lifespan, infrastructure technology and operational approaches have changed, and new parkland has been acquired. Additionally, the community's demographic needs and perspectives on tourism have evolved significantly since the parks were built over 30 years ago, and the municipality is faced with new financial realities.

With the Whistler resident and visitor populations growing and the needs of the community changing, the strategic planning of parks and trails has also changed including new programming opportunities and a shift to reinvestment over new development. As well, important background considerations need to be considered such as climate change, ecological integrity and stewardship, First Nations, accessibility and inclusivity, active transportation, complete communities, refuge from tourism busyness, and the uniqueness of Whistler.

Building off the Parks Vision plan from 1996, the Recreation and Leisure Master Plan completed in 2015, the 2019 Official Community Plan, and the 2019 Draft Parks Master Plan; the 2024 Whistler Parks and Valley Trail Strategy will guide the future of Whistler's parks and Valley Trail over the next 10 years and beyond. The Strategy will help identify priorities that define the future direction, philosophy, policies, and actions and create a framework for future decisions.

1.4 The Site

The Strategy will focus on both Whistler's Park system as well as the Valley Trail network.

The park system consists of 9 major resort parks, 13 neighbourhood parks, 13 natural parks, 3 sports fields owned by School District 48 (See Appendix 1). Also included are the 6 Village Parks - Whistler Olympic Plaza, Florence Petersen Park, Village Park (Amenity Stream), Fitzsimmons Creek Park (Fitzsimmons Bike Park, Whistler Skatepark), Rebagliati Park and Peace Park. The existing spectrum of park types varies based on location, size, and amenities available.

The Valley Trail is a non-motorized, multi-use, paved trail and boardwalk network, connecting Whistler's neighbourhoods, major parks, lakes, commercial centres and schools. The network is more than 50-kilometre

long and is built and maintained for year-round use (See Appendix 2). More recently, the Valley Trail has become a focus for active transportation purposes although its primary purpose remains a recreational trail experience.

1.5 Budget

The approximate budget for this project is \$25,000CDN, and reflects the need to assist municipal staff in developing this strategy. We request proponents to advise the work from the list of tasks within 2.1 Scope of Work that they can provide for within this budget. Proponents are invited to submit value add tasks with accompanying cost estimates for consideration by the RMOW.

2 Scope of Work

2.1 Overview of Scope

The scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the following tasks:

Part 1 - Introduction

- Review and link to existing municipal plans and foundational documents.

Part 2 - Planning Process and Engagement

- Development of, and participation in, a community outreach and engagement strategy to facilitate input from the public and interest groups; and
- Coordinate and lead 2 rounds of public and interest group engagement to ‘Consult’ level on the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum.

Part 3 - Demographics and Trends

- Identify and discuss current trends related to demographics, parks, the Valley Trail, and recreation trails within the Whistler system.

Part 4 – Background Considerations

- Review and discuss relevant background considerations, including but not limited to;
 - Climate change and resilience;
 - Ecological integrity and stewardship;
 - First Nations consultation;
 - Increasing demand and impacts;
 - Balancing community and resort needs;
 - New park lands;

- Active transportation;
- Ageing infrastructure;
- Fiscal reality; and
- Funding strategies.

Part 5 – Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals

- Develop a vision, guiding principles and goals for the Strategy.

Part 6 – Emerging Directions for the Future

- Develop an updated spectrum of park types; and
- Complete an analysis of existing select parks to determine where amenities might be more or less suited.

Part 7 – Implementation Summary

- Identify priorities and provide recommendations for the long-term planning of park.

Part 8 – Supporting Maps

2.2 Project Deliverables

The key project deliverables, to be supplied to RMOW in electronic format are:

- An engaging and public facing Whistler Parks and Valley Trail Strategy Report.

RMOW will provide the following information:

- GIS data (property lines, buildings, roads)
- Aerial Photography (10cm) (2023)

2.3 Foundational Documents

- Whistler’s Official Community Plan (2019)
- Recreation and Leisure Master Plan (2015)
- Draft Parks Master Plan (2019)
- Active Transportation Plan (anticipated complete late 2024)
- Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (2016)

- Climate Action Big Moves Strategy (2020)
- Environmental Protection Bylaw (2012)
- Complete Communities Plan (anticipated complete late 2024)
- Smart Tourism Strategy (anticipated complete late 2024)

2.4 Preliminary Project Timeline

The timeline below is indicative of the anticipated project milestone dates.

Description / Deliverable	Milestone Date(s)
Kick-off meeting	April 2024
Draft Background review, Demographics & Trends, Background Considerations	April – May 2024
Draft vision, guiding principles, and goals	May – July 2024
Public and Interest Group Engagement	August 2024
Draft Emerging Directions for the Future, Draft Implementation Summary	Sept - Oct 2024
Public and Interest Group Engagement	Oct 2024
Final Whistler Parks and Valley Trail Strategy	Nov 2024

3 Appendices

INCLUDED FOR REFERENCE.

- 1- Existing Parks Inventory
- 2- Whistler Valley Trail Map
- 3- Draft Table of Contents - Parks and Valley Trail Strategic Plan

Whistler Valley Trail Map

Legend

- Roadway
- Gravel Road
- Paved Valley Trail
- Valley Trail on Road
- Wide Gravel Trail
- Other Trails
- Sea to Sky Trail
- Gondola/Ski Lift
- Rivers and Creeks
- Railway
- Neighbourhood
- Trail Head
- Parking Area
- Emergency Health Services
- Public Washrooms
- Visitor Centre
- Village Host
- Viewpoint
- Golf Course
- Hiking
- Mountain Biking
- Gondola
- Ski Lift

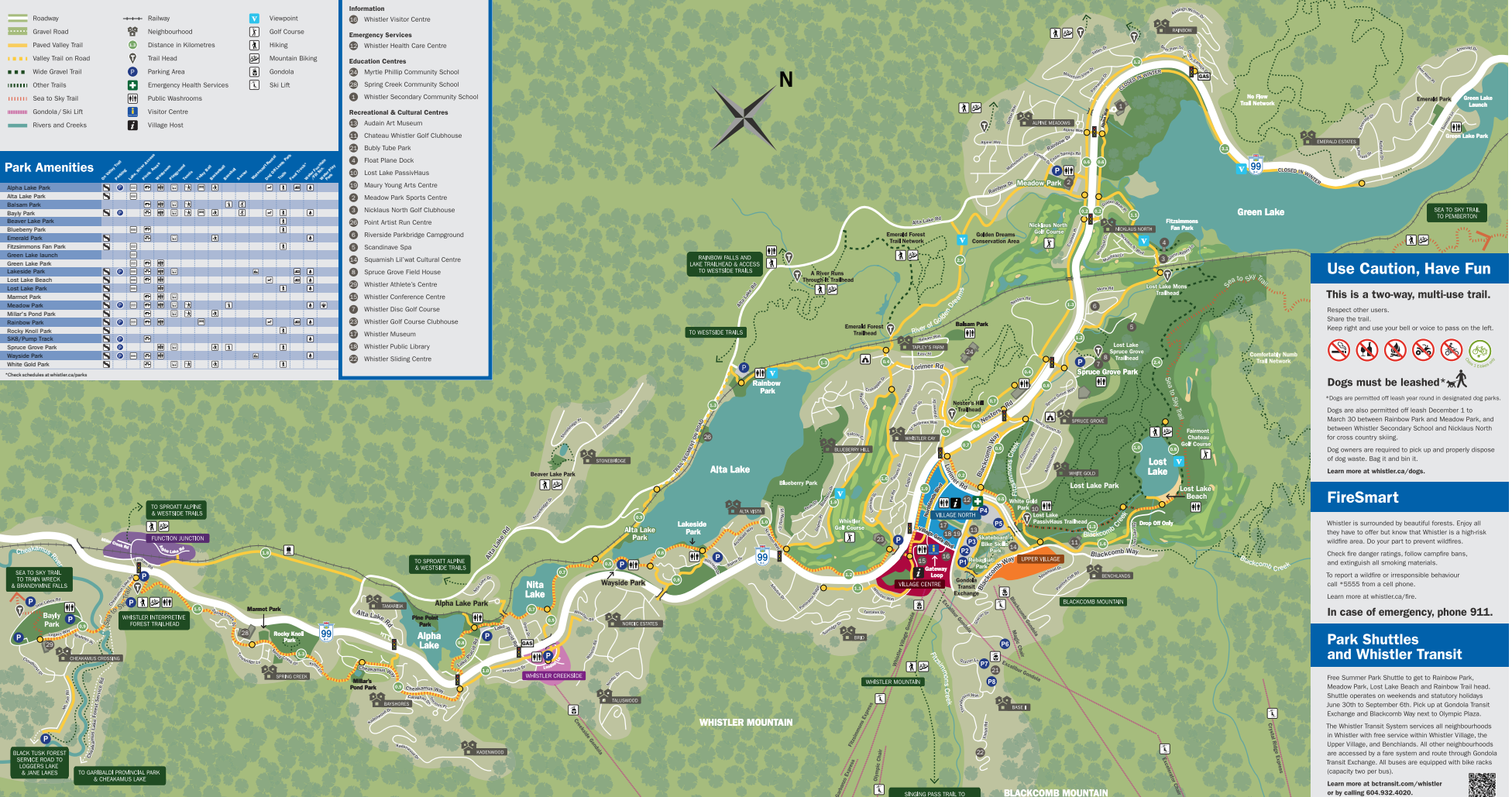
Map Directory

- Information**
- 1 Whistler Visitor Centre
- Emergency Services**
- 2 Whistler Health Care Centre
- Education Centres**
- 3 Myrtle Phillip Community School
 - 4 Spring Creek Community School
 - 5 Whistler Secondary Community School
- Recreational & Cultural Centres**
- 6 Audain Art Museum
 - 7 Chateau Whistler Golf Clubhouse
 - 8 Bubly Tube Park
 - 9 Float Plane Dock
 - 10 Lost Lake PassHaus
 - 11 Maury Young Arts Centre
 - 12 Meadow Park Sports Centre
 - 13 Nicklaus North Golf Clubhouse
 - 14 Point Artist Run Centre
 - 15 Riverside Parkbridge Campground
 - 16 Scandinavian Spa
 - 17 Squamish Li'wat Cultural Centre
 - 18 Spruce Grove Field House
 - 19 Whistler Athlete's Centre
 - 20 Whistler Conference Centre
 - 21 Whistler Disc Golf Course
 - 22 Whistler Golf Course Clubhouse
 - 23 Whistler Museum
 - 24 Whistler Public Library
 - 25 Whistler Sliding Centre

Park Amenities

Park	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Alta Lake Park																									
Alta Lake Park																									
Balsam Park																									
Bayly Park																									
Beaver Lake Park																									
Blueberry Park																									
Emerald Park																									
Flizzenmoos Fan Park																									
Green Lake Launch																									
Green Lake Park																									
Lakeside Park																									
Lost Lake Beach																									
Lost Lake Park																									
Meadow Park																									
Miller's Pond Park																									
Nicklaus North Golf Course																									
Point Artist Run Centre																									
Riverside Parkbridge Campground																									
Scandinavian Spa																									
Squamish Li'wat Cultural Centre																									
Spruce Grove Field House																									
Whistler Athlete's Centre																									
Whistler Conference Centre																									
Whistler Disc Golf Course																									
Whistler Golf Course Clubhouse																									
Whistler Museum																									
Whistler Public Library																									
Whistler Sliding Centre																									

*Check schedules at whistler.ca/parks



Use Caution, Have Fun

This is a two-way, multi-use trail.
 Respect other users.
 Share the trail.
 Keep right and use your bell or voice to pass on the left.

Dogs must be leashed*
 *Dogs are permitted off-leash year round in designated dog parks.
 Dogs are also permitted off-leash December 1 to March 30 between Rainbow Park and Meadow Park, and between Whistler Secondary School and Nicklaus North for cross-country skiing.
 Dog owners are required to pick up and properly dispose of dog waste. Bag it and bin it.
 Learn more at whistler.ca/dogs.

FireSmart

Whistler is surrounded by beautiful forests. Enjoy all they have to offer but know that Whistler is a high-risk wildfire area. Do your part to prevent wildfires.
 Check fire danger ratings, follow campfire bans, and extinguish all smoking materials.
 To report a wildfire or irresponsible behaviour call *5555 from a cell phone.
 Learn more at whistler.ca/fire.

In case of emergency, phone 911.

Park Shuttles and Whistler Transit

Free Summer Park Shuttle to get to Rainbow Park, Meadow Park, Lost Lake Beach and Rainbow Trail head. Shuttle operates on weekends and statutory holidays June 30th to September 6th. Pick up at Gondola Transit Exchange and Blackcomb Way next to Olympic Plaza.
 The Whistler Transit System services all neighbourhoods in Whistler with free service within Whistler Village, the Upper Village, and Benchlands. All other neighbourhoods are accessed by a fare system and route through Gondola Transit Exchange. All buses are equipped with bike racks (capacity two per bus).
 Learn more at bcstransit.com/whistler or by calling 604.532.4020.

APPENDIX 3

DRAFT Parks and Valley Trail Strategic Plan - Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction

- Purpose of Project
- Relationship to Municipal Documents
- OCP
- RLMP
- Climate Action Big Moves Strategy
- Active Transportation Plan
- Strategic Initiatives Plan
- Other
- How this Document Works

2.0 Planning Process and Engagement

3.0 Demographics and Trends

- Demographic Trends
- Park Trends
- Valley Trail Trends
- Recreation Trail Trends

4.0 Background Considerations

- Climate Change
- Ecological Integrity and Stewardship
- First Nations Consultation
- Increasing Demand and Impacts
- Balancing Community and Resort Needs
- New Park Lands
- Active Transportation
- Ageing Infrastructure
- Funding Strategies

5.0 Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals

- Vision
- Guiding Principles
- Goals

6.0 Emerging Directions for the Future

Parks

Valley Trail

Recreational Trails

7.0 Implementation Summary

8.0 Maps etc



APPENDIX 2 - Whistler Valley Trail Map

The Resort Municipality of Whistler

Whistler: A place where our community thrives, nature is protected and guests are inspired.

4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, BC Canada V8E0X5
www.whistler.ca

TEL 604 932 5535
TF 1 866 932 5535