



Cowichan Valley Weir Design

July 22, 2020

Prepared for:

Cowichan Valley Regional District

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Table of Contents

SUMMARY	1
SURVEY RESULTS	2
Do you live in the Cowichan Valley Regional District?.....	2
Do you own a recreational property in the Cowichan Valley Regional District?	2
Survey participants that live or own a recreational property in the Cowichan Valley Regional District.....	2
There is potential for the outflow to serve as both a fishway and a watercourse. Would you like to see recreational opportunities included in the design if possible? If so, let us know your thoughts in the comment box below.	3
Do you think we should consider a walkway across the weir?.....	14
Should the walkway be accessible during the entire year?.....	18
Would you support incorporating or connecting the weir into the surrounding park and trail system?	21
Have you ever used the boat lock?	24
What improvements would you like to see in the new design?	25
Would you like to see interpretive signs, or a small visitor centre or information booth included in the new design?	27
Although all safety features (such as signage, buoys, and warning lights) will follow the Navigation Protection Act regulations, there may be other items we have not considered. Any thoughts?.....	31
Would you support the option of including a small hydro power producing option if it is possible?.....	34
Would you like to see the concrete stamped?	38
Would you like to see inlays used in the concrete?	42
Would you like to see the steel elements coated in colour?.....	45
Would you like to see artwork incorporated into the steel elements?.....	48
Would you support the opportunity for public art? This could include a local artist painting the steel elements which would then be sealed to protect the art or artwork (non-structurally compromising) being mounted to the weir.....	51
Other ideas? Please comment in the box below.....	54



SUMMARY

Of the 239 total respondents, 54% live or own a recreational property in the Cowichan Valley District. To compare responses, they were compiled into three charts: all respondents, resident or property owners, and non-residents/non-property owners. In general, the charts are fairly similar (within 6% on average), with some exceptions.

The paddler community was very active in the survey and in the *all respondents* chart, 78% of survey respondents would really like/like to see recreation opportunities included in the design if possible. When broken down into the two other charts, this was less supported by residents or property owners at 59% and more strongly supported by non-residents/non-property owners at 99%. There were comments supporting recreational opportunities as well as comments expressing concern about conflicts with the environment and cost. Comments expressed a general understanding that fish passage is the priority.

Incorporating or connecting the weir into the surrounding park and trail system also has a strong positive response of 82% that would really like/like to see this feature.

Responses for including a walkway across the weir, interpretive signs, a small hydro power producing option, stamped concrete, and public art were between 50-70% in favour of the options presented (really like/like to see the feature/option). Responses fall below 50% for using inlays in the concrete (47%), coating the steel elements in colour (35%), and incorporating artwork into the steel elements (42%).

Participants are supportive of features that will connect the weir to the community. This includes incorporating the weir into the surrounding park and trail system, including interpretive signs, and involving local artists (notably from the First Nations communities) where opportunities permit.

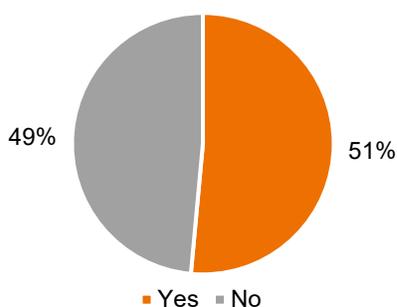
Participants are generally supportive of the project and are mostly concerned with a functional weir that is cost effective. Comments also noted concerns about budget, money, and who is responsible for maintenance.



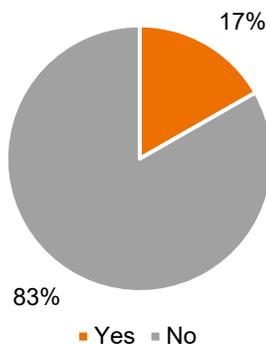
SURVEY RESULTS

Results are compiled from the survey on Placespeak that ran from June 12 to July 12 and the survey available on cowichanwup.ca through Hosted in Canada Surveys that ran from June 16 to July 12. There was a total of 239 respondents, but not all respondents answered every question and the number of respondents has been noted for each question. Comments from the discussion board on Placespeak have been included in the results for the last question, “Other ideas?”.

Do you live in the Cowichan Valley Regional District?



Do you own a recreational property in the Cowichan Valley Regional District?



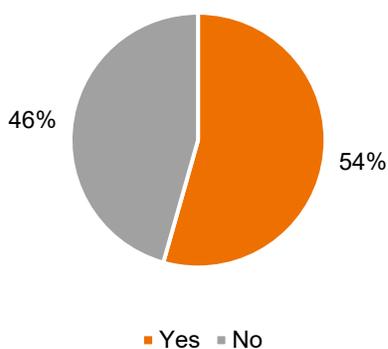
239 respondents

NOTE: N/A responses on the Hosted in Canada

Survey were considered as a “Yes” response for this chart.

239 respondents

Survey participants that live or own a recreational property in the Cowichan Valley Regional District



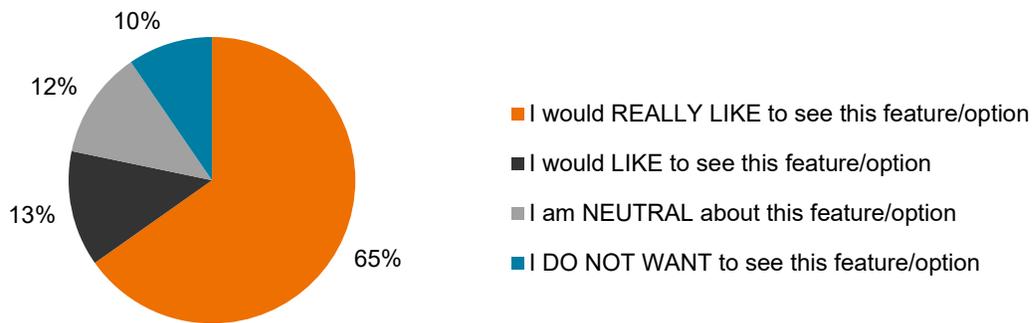
239 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

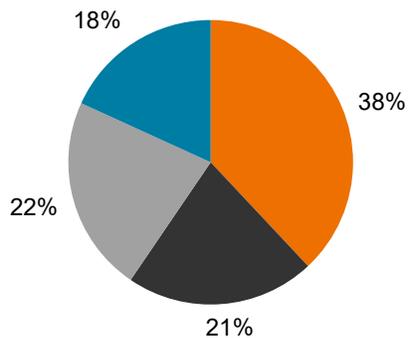
There is potential for the outflow to serve as both a fishway and a watercourse. Would you like to see recreational opportunities included in the design if possible? If so, let us know your thoughts in the comment box below.

ALL RESPONDENTS



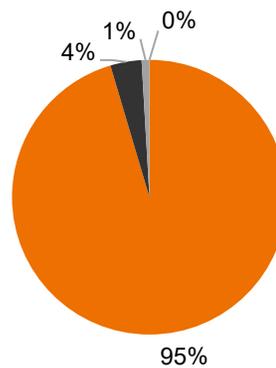
121 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



109 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



230 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

There is potential for the outflow to serve as both a fishway and a watercourse. Would you like to see recreational opportunities included in the design if possible? If so, let us know your thoughts in the comment box below.

Comments
A watercourse would be amazing!
I visit the Cowichan Valley regularly and would like to purchase recreational property on Cowichan Lake. I am a paddler and see a great recreational opportunity for the district to include a watercourse in the weir design. Visitors come to enjoy the beauty of Cowichan Lake/River and surrounding parkland and appreciate the recreation they provide. I see both the fishway and a watercourse as great economic benefits to the region and future visitors.
The Cowichan River is a spectacular learning river for whitewater sports.
My priority is a fishway. If low impact recreation doesn't disturb fish habitat, isn't ongoing during spawning, and doesn't disturb the riparian zone, perhaps some form of recreation could cohabitate with fish well being
It would be a great opportunity to practice white water sport during the summer when other river are to low
I have been visiting the Cowichan River for recreational whitewater kayaking for close to 30 years. The possibility of creating an accessible location with play features is incredibly exciting. I would love to see a partnership between the district, the kayak community and local interests in creating a park that could serve multiple users and that would promote safe and sustainable waterways use for years to come. Thank you for including this in the discussion!
would interfere too much with wildlife - kayaks but NO motorized boats
Water supply is primary consideration, but budget permitting, it would be great to provide for recreational opportunities
An organized and managed water park could remove traffic from the river.
I come to the Cowichan Valley often to whitewater kayak on the river. I strongly support developing the recreation opportunities at the outflow, specifically whitewater play features. This has been done in several locations in Western Canada already, and would be amazing to have something like this on the Cowichan. There is the opportunity for some benefit to the local community as well, through increased visitation and tourism. Thanks!
Hey if you can incorporate some kind of recreational feature in the design , like water slides I commend you for thinking ahead like that.
We would need to know cost before deciding.
but it depends on cost/benefit analysis, and whether it significantly slows down the design and replacement of the weir I think paddlers can be a great, eco-friendly addition to the local economy, and they create a connection to the river.
It's not where I would want to put my money. It depends on how desperate we are for more water recreation sites. in thr area.
The city of Bend, OR constructed a whitewater park on the Deschutes River that would serve as a valuable template to learn from if a engineered rapids were an approved element of the weir design (https://www.bendparksandrec.org/facility/bend-whitewater-park/). On both of my visits to Bend, the wave has been in use by both surfers and kayakers. As both a surfer and kayaker who values the Cowichan River as my "home" river (I live in Victoria), I know that myself and many other members of the island paddling community would view a whitewater park as an incredibly valuable resource. I'm fairly confident that the construction of a park would draw paddlers to the lake in the summer when the river is otherwise too low to be runnable.



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Comments
<p>Tubing is ruining the health and vitality of this precious 'heritage' river and should be banned!</p> <p>Between every other person urinating in the water and the toxic sunscreen they slather on - all life in the water is at risk!</p> <p>The Tube Shack gives out sunscreen with titanium dioxide that they claim is eco friendly but it's been recognized as a carcinogen!</p> <p>No recreational use!</p>
<p>We need to protect our water ways and having people tubing all the time in summer months with so many people it's not helping the river. We need to figure out a new plan not to shut all tubing down but implement a more river friendly ways</p>
<p>It would be nice if it was possible to transfer small craft such as canoes or kayaks from lake to river without having to use the lock. I do not support any more people in the water below the weir for recreational purposes. we do not need another attraction for tourist to foul the water which is hurting already with unregulated tubing where so many defecate in the water, we are a pristine waterway which has become a toilet for so many. CVRD is great at pulling wool over the peoples eyes by being untruthful in their actions. I don't trust anything they do or say.</p>
<p>Leave the river as natural as possible, no tinkering with it except as necessary to protect it</p>
<p>The original owners need to be involved in the planning, conservation and management of the weir. If recreational is going to take place, this activity does not take priority to the salmon and the First Nations interest.</p>
<p>As a heritage river it should be for the fish and swimming only</p>
<p>I would love to see a white water course with standing waves built into this weir with more focus on freestyle kayaking and surfing over slalom.</p>
<p>The river is a playground in the summer and brings in cash flow. Please consider some time for these activities realizing that August may be too low a flow.</p>
<p>I grew up near Calgary AB which had a recreational white water course. All year round people would gather to use it. As a paddler I think it allows canoeist, kayakers, stand-up paddler boards and other white water discipline to learn and recreate on the river. The white water slalom discipline is an Olympic sport and a white water course would allow for youth to pursue sport opportunities.</p>
<p>I'm a keen whitewater kayaker and hence a whitewater course would be a great attraction for me and my family</p>
<p>I don't want my taxes to be used for promoting environmental polluting activities such as thousands tubing down the river wearing sunscreen, leaving their garbage behind them with no regard for the damage they do. Talk to people who live here. They see the detrimental changes to the flora and fauna. They see the pollution effect.</p>
<p>Kayaking through would be nice</p>
<p>A place for tubers and paddlers to play using the weir outflow would be awesome. This would allow families to remain on the shore watching while people of all ages could play on waves safely. It would also be a boaters (canoe/kayak/tube) destination venue if designed properly. Great tourist possibilities for local eateries and accommodations. Win-win!!!!</p>
<p>Fish passage very important but any recreational feature must avoid creating conflicts with ecological values including fish, lampreys, water birds, crayfish etc.</p>
<p>The closest waterpark that is suitable for open boats (whitewater canoes) is in Idaho. It would be great to have one in our own province!</p>
<p>Feature for lake, feature for river no.</p>
<p>The Cowichan River is already a fabulous resource for many user groups. Please continue to consider paddle sports in your designs.</p>



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

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Comments
This opportunity allows for the potential of extra economic activity through paddler user-fees and tourism (attracting paddlers from all over the Island in the summer months when whitewater rivers are dry here).
I have been a whitewater kayaker since I learned how to do it in high school, and I had the privilege of learning how to do it on the Cowichan River. Over my years in the Whitewater Community the Cowichan River has been the most reliable source of fun and consistent water flows to have on the island, so I would often make the trip from Victoria to the river every weekend when the season was in. To this day many of the teachers who taught me continue to teach new youth paddlers on this River every year. Vancouver Island has a vibrant Whitewater Community, yet no controllable wave feature like one that could be built in this proposed Weir. I think it would bring the community great joy to see a feature like this added to the Cowichan River, a River we rely on and love to play on.
As an avid canoe and kayak paddler and a novice surfer, I am excited about the potential for a weir re-design to incorporate a moving water recreational area. The economic impact of designing a whitewater park with fun features would be massive for the town. In the late spring thru fall, moving water features on the island dry up, so many islander paddlers travel to the mainland. A kayak friendly feature would attract recreational use on a large scale. Depending on the design, this could also attract competition style events, and the establishment of a club with educational programs for youth and adults. If the design also incorporates a wave that would be surf board friendly, the combination of the warm water with a predictable wave has the potential to create an influx of surfers to Lake Cowichan on days when the waves at Sombrio and Jordan River are too small.
As a frequent visitor (from Metchosin) I would Love to help this amazing idea come to fruition.
I am a recreational whitewater kayaker and would love to see a 'play feature' added below the weir. A play feature specifically design for whitewater enthusiasts has the potential of becoming an important tourism destination and economic generator for Lake Cowichan.
Supporting the whitewater kayaking community by adding a recreation feature such as a standing wave for surfing would provide great recreation opportunities.
I would like to see a wave feature for river kayaking and surfing.
It would be amazing if we could have this weir have a play feature for kayakers! I really love the cowichan valley and am excited about this oppurtunity!
A "play hole" feature at the weir would be an invaluable asset to recreational kayakers. The Cowichan River is such a wonderful resource on Vancouver Island - it is one of the only rivers that can be paddled year round. The Cowichan River is a great training area for youth and newer paddlers to learn about river safety and how to safely recreate around moving water. A play feature here would provide an incredible opportunity to not only grow our sport, but also to teach and provide progression opportunities for all paddlers. Every year, the Vancouver Island Whitewater Paddling Society (VIWPS) puts on the Cowichan River Youth Kayak Festival (CRYKF), which brings over 50 youth together from Vancouver Island and the lower mainland. A play feature at the weir would be such an incredible resource to teach youth about river features and progress their paddling skills in a safe and controlled environment. The more people who recreate in this area, the more people who will gain an appreciation for the local environment, and will endeavour to act as stewards for the land and environment.
Whitewater parks exist around the US and Europe and are huge economic drivers and greatly benefit their communities. As a whitewater paddler who lives on the Mainland, I'd love to see a whitewater park here and would definitely go out of my way to visit!
Creating a wave feature would benefit the paddling community and bring \$\$ to the community from paddlers around the island
A play wave feature for kayakers would be a really incredible and friendly way for people to get into the sport. Getting more people into kayaking is an incredible way to teach people to understand, love and respect the river.
Adding recreation opportunities will not interfere with water storage, or fish habitat.
It will provide increased tourist revenue to the town, especially in the off season.



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Comments
I am an avid whitewater kayaker and the Cowichan River is considered the most important river on Vancouver Island for paddlers. The consistent flows that the weir provides allow it to be run more often than any other local river, and it has a great breadth of difficulty levels on it that make it a key resource for training beginners new to the sport. Play features would add to these features to make it a destination for paddling and provide a reliable, predictable, and safe place to paddle.
i love river fun
Yes please. Excellent for tourism.
I travel to the area often and would be inclined to stay longer if there was a play feature.
I would come here a lot, eat here, sleep here, and possibly live here
As a recreational user of the river, this would only entice me to visit the area more. My partner and I typically make a day out of visiting the Cowichan Valley to paddle, eat and shop in Duncan. In the rainy season, when the Cowichan River runs at its best we will come around once every two weeks. If there were a recreational watercourse as pictured above that could support the lower water levels of summer, we would surely be extending our visits well into the dry season as well!
A whitewater feature for kayakers, canoeists, and other river users would be an amazing recreational resource that would draw visitors from both within the Cowichan Valley and from across Vancouver Island.
A watercourse play feature like a standing wave would expand the attractiveness of the CVRD to the paddling and tourist community.
Play features for white water sports.
This would be a huge draw for me to visit the area when I'm on the island.
From southern Ontario now permanently in Langford. I grew up close to features like this on the gull river, the black river in NY among a few others. This feature is significantly safer than that which we use to train new paddlers young and old. This area could serve well long term for the safe introduction to a recreational sport with a high level of perceived risk. Expect some growing pains to balance between recreators, some fisherman may want to fish in the eddys (reverse current) where kayakers will periodically be sitting to take rests in between playing and surfing. Consider safety options for recreators who are floating down the river as this is already popular on the river and those who choose this option to spend their free time tend to be less knowledgeable about the real risks of moving water, preventative measures suggested to avoid floating down stream to skutz where things could rapidly get out of hand. When your building a feature consider including whitewater kayakers and associations, many have experience with creating proper shapes waves or holes for surfing. If you can make a feature of each which surfs well on a short play boat (6 foot or less) then the max number of recreators will be able to surf features as longer boats will catch them with ease. Eddy service (meaning cross current immediately beside feature) is invaluable for maximizing play time, convenient place to line up for your turn and more importantly subconsciously improve the skills of any paddler using the space as they'll be rolling their kayak or canoe after mistakes made while doing tricks surfing. Coming from the east coast, I can tell you there are a lot of paddlers on the west coast who's paddling skills are superior to their rolling/self rescue skills and it has resulted in long days of getting your friends out of a crappy situation. Please put these features in, I will voluntarily be there passing on kayaking and canoeing knowledge to anyone who comes to play while I'm already in the eddy. Cheers



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Comments
<p>A play feature at the weir site would propel the Cowichan River into another dimension of value as a recreational resource for kayakers, canoers, SUPers, and river surfers. Currently the Cowichan is one of the best paddling resources on the island and hosts numerous events including the Cowichan River Youth Kayaking festival, an event I have volunteered at, that brings together approximately 50 youth to introduce them to the river or help them develop their river skills further. I have lived in Calgary, which is in close proximity to two artificial whitewater courses, and have seen how they can grow river sports, especially for youth and beginners who benefit from a more consistent (and usually more safe) set of features that artificial courses provide.</p>
<p>If a suitable feature was constructed, I would help to organize a freestyle kayaking competition at the site with the backing of the Vancouver Island Whitewater Paddling Society. This even would be a boost to the local tourism industry in the shoulder season. A similar event at the man-made course on the Kananaskis river near Calgary attracts a couple hundred people each summer.</p>
<p>If the decision is made to go ahead with this feature, I would advocate for an industry leader in artificial whitewater courses like S2O Design to take part in the design process and for the river-user community to be involved. This is because it is possible to design a feature that is not optimal for surfing and could have unintended hazards. It would be a shame to outlay funds for this project and have it not meet expectations or be unsafe.</p>
<p>This project could cement the Cowichan River as the island's hub for whitewater sports, be an invaluable resource for teaching youth and beginners, and broaden the river-users community. The more people who are connected to our rivers, the more advocates there are for these life-sustaining waterways.</p>
<p>I strongly support a play section for recreational paddlers</p>
<p>I would love the opportunity for a Wave/whitewater course to be included in the design of the new weir</p>
<p>I am a whitewater kayaker living in Comox BC, and I run the Cowichan river a few times per year. I would go there more often if there were whitewater play spots there. I have seen good examples of these on the Kananaskis river near Canore AB and Boise ID.</p>
<p>Although I do not live in the area, BC does not have many/any good whitewater watercourse locations, and I would readily travel to the valley in order to paddle there if it was installed!</p>
<p>I used to live in Orillia, Ontario, and would travel up to Minden Ontario 3 hours away to paddle regularly. I would recommend taking a look at the Gull River Whitewater Preserve as an example of low-med flow (10-50cms) with appropriate whitewater features. The gradient and elevation drop of the Gull river might be slightly higher than the Cowichan river, but the concept and river features could be very similar.</p>
<p>Source: https://www.whitewaterontario.ca/recreation/facilities/minden-whitewater-preserve/the-gull-river/</p>
<p>A whitewater kayaking play wave would be an incredible addition to the Cowichan River.</p>
<p>I would like to see a Whitewater Play Park for human powered craft (Canoe, Kayak, SUP, Surf Board, etc. My friends and I have been driving Cascade Idaho to visit Kellys Water Park. This report provides an idea of the economic and social benefits to be gained by a community with a water park. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5617ffade4b0f733b489eab8/t/5e2a13233d32b23b07d659e5/1579815718014/Cascade%2C+ID.pdf The Kellys Park including parking is a model design for recreation activities.</p>
<p>My concern would be that I'm not wanting a property TAX increase. If his option were to be added, I would hope that the town of Lake Cowichan not be TAXed.</p>
<p>I'm more interested in local hydro electric generation</p>
<p>I am a frequent user of the Cowichan river and would love to see a watercourse as part of the design!</p>
<p>The Cowichan River is a heritage stream and famous as a fishery. It must continue to be honoured as such.</p>



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Comments
As part of the lower Vancouver Island paddling community and paddling clubs, I would like to see paddling-related features incorporated as much as possible. It is important for health and connectness to our landscape and environment to get young people out onto this river.
This would be a great attention to lake cowichan and the cowichan valley as a whole, both for locals, and from a tourism standpoint. From a whitewater kayaking/canoeing standpoint, class 2+ 3+. I've seen some artificial whitewater that are far too difficult, that none uses them. Whistler comes to mind. class 5, no one can use it. What a shame.
I think this would be a wonderful addition to the recreational activities in Cowichan Valley.
I visit this area every year. I would love to see a surf wave here
Although I don't live in the area. Having a whitewater park would draw myself and my family to the area to use it. Our family has travelled 1000km to Calgary to use their whitewater park for holidays.
I would really welcome a weir design that provided recreational features for river kayakers. This would serve as an excellent teaching and play area for both beginner and more advanced river kayakers, especially during the seasons when there is typically less water in the Cowichan for running the river. I have played in similarly designed features in the UK and would welcome this in the Cowichan Valley.
Recreation is very important!
I have been kayaking in the Cowichan Valley for over 23 years. Spending time on rivers is very enjoyable. I have been coming to the valley from the Comox Valley to paddle the Cowichan, Gordon, Lens, and Chemainus in the surrounding area. Having worked at a couple of manmade courses in Nottingham and Sydney, Australia, This could be a great opportunity for the Cowichan Valley. They provided a great area for different groups to paddle, provided revenue and had international teams training at both. Look forward to seeing how this project progresses.
It would be such a great recreational opportunity and educational device for teaching about restoration.
It would be GREAT to build the weir in a way that creates a whitewater paddling feature similar to the one shown in the photo!
Having a recreational kayak site with a play feature is an excellent idea and will draw recreational users to the area, as well as providing an extra recreation site for locals - much like well-designed bike trails, pump-tracks, and skate-parks that exist elsewhere. There is a dearth of play features like this in BC!
I think it is essential to build in a fishway. Including features for recreation boating (kayak, canoe) would build a valuable and attractive resources for paddlers year round, but especially in the summer when other rivers are low. It would provide another important recreational draw and an economic resource for the region. (Incidentally, the photo does not show how much fun a play-feature can be.)
Hi, I live in Victoria but I come up to the Cowichan Valley to white water kayak and mountain bike 30-40 times per year (prior to COVID-19). I will often camp, buy groceries and eat dinner while I'm in town. I would like to move to the area if I could find a job in my field that would allow me to work in the area. I would absolutely love to have some sort of safe, fun whitewater feature located in the town of Cowichan Lake. I've seen similar features in other areas which work super well. Weir ready!
a whitewater park would be an amazing addition the Cowachin valley i am currently living in Calgary and the park here is an amazing addition to the area



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Comments
<p>these types of features are great for not only kayakers but also surfers, stand up paddle boards, canoes, swimmers, floating tubes etc.. They are a great draw card not only for the users but also the general public for viewing etc. I have visited a number of global locations that have specific built whitewater features like this, sometimes specifically because they have them (NZ - Hawea, Mangahao, Tekapo, Auckland; USA - Reno NV, Bend OR; Norway - Sjoa; Canada - Kananaskis) for examples of some of the locations I've been and paddled. Bend Oregon is a classic example of how well a feature including the rest of the river is used by the general public with hundreds of users each day over the summer.</p>
<p>This is an awesome way to get people more involved in river sports. Man-made features on natural rivers can make friendly and fun water features for beginner to advanced paddlers and surfers to have fun. River sports can be a difficult sport to get into, especially because river flows are inconsistent and natural river features are usually not ideal for fun(surfing) and learning (because of hazards). The Calgary area has by far the biggest population of whitewater paddlers and that is largely from the availability of river runs and parks where beginners and intermediates can learn. It has the Kananaskis river with artificial features and a slalom course, along with Harvie Passage in downtown Calgary. Something like this in BC would be a first in BC for a park for beginners (unlike the Rutherford course which was built so hazardous it is rarely even used by advanced paddlers) . This would open up new opportunities for recreation on Vancouver Island and bring more people into the world of outdoor sports, which is a great way to have more community stewardship for natural areas.</p>
<p>I am a Whitewater Kayaker and I have traveled to Vancouver Island 4 times for whitewater paddling. Vancouver Island kayaking is very sporadic. It depends highly on rain and weather patterns to make conditions that are prime for kayaking. Having a recreational aspect to the new design of the weir on the Cowichan would create versatility and consistency that is lacking overall on the Island's Rivers. The Cowichan river itself is already one of the most versatile and consistent sections of river to paddle on the Island. It is close enough to the major population centers that a whitewater park would be very widely used.</p>
<p>I suggest creating at least one intermediate level freestyle kayaking hole feature. It is hard to come by high quality features like this in nature and it is a perfect training ground for kayakers who want to progress. It would draw people from far and wide to come kayaking if it were designed well.</p>
<p>waste of money</p>
<p>Like to see the passive rec activities (tubing/partying etc) restricted somewhat but swimming, kayaking etc are fine. Neutral on the feature/option</p>
<p>While I don't live in the Cowichan Valley Regional District I visit frequently to camp and kayak. If there was a wave and possibly a slalom course in addition to the weir there would possibly be kayaking opportunities year round, which currently isn't the case as the Cowichan River drops significantly in the summer, and the Gordon River is too low to kayak at all. I'd also love to one day be able to afford a recreational property in the area. If the recreational feature were to be included in the weir design it would attract more tourists who kayak and canoe that would support the local economy.</p>
<p>This has huge potential to be both a function and fun addition to the community. Please include a surf wave for paddlers</p>
<p>I am teacher and adventure therapist as well as an avid whitewater paddler. I strongly believe that if some type play feature or surf wave could be included in the weir design it would provide a wonderful way to enrich the community. It would serve as a convenient and safe way to teach people, young and old about not only river safety, but also how to get out and enjoy nature.</p>
<p>The Cowichan river is the heart and soul of the Vancouver Island whitewater community. It offers whitewater for every level in an accessible environment. Adding a play feature to this river would be a wonderful addition, attracting even more kayakers and canoers to the area who inevitably pay for campsites, go to restaurants, and fill up at gas stations. A play feature would be great for boaters and great for local communities.</p>
<p>I am concerned about the cost of this kind of recreational course, plus I am worried about how this kind of course and recreation might affect fish migration.</p>



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

There is potential for the outflow to serve as both a fishway and a watercourse. Would you like to see recreational opportunities included in the design if possible? If so, let us know your thoughts in the comment box below.

Comments
I am opposed to raising the weir.
I recreationally white water canoe and kayak - and teach others the sport on the Cowichan River. The season is often cut to a close in the summer due to lack of water. The only times I go to the weir currently is when I am teaching beginner basics on the river -3 times a year- which the lower section Of the Cowichan can easily supply. If play features are introduced or waves created from the weir, I will be visiting the weir site much much more often.
YES. This is a crucial part of the design. Recreating on rivers increases public awareness of river safety and contributes to public care for river spaces.
Recreation is both an economic stimulus for the area and a positive option for mitigating stress - effectively assisting individuals mental health. Paddlers are a positive community that are river stewards, promoting clean rivers and environmental care. By adding this option the businesses, communities and the individuals on the water would all benefit.
A recreational feature is a major attraction for me as a whitewater paddler. They change something that is just utilitarian infrastructure to become a community facility. Many locations in Canada such as Calgary (Harvey Passage), Ottawa (Pumphouse) have implemented them. Reno boast that a playwark in the city brings in \$5 million a year to the economy. Make features that for traditional paddlers and tubers so that everyone can enjoy it safely.
A feature for white water boaters would be excellent, well used, and be an excellent recreational opportunity.
As a former national team freestyle and slalom kayaker I can attest to the fact that a whitewater feature will be a big draw for locals and non-residents alike. These types of features have long existed all over small communities in Europe and have lead to significant user growth in the sport. Not only will this promote a healthy, fun sport for residents to participate in, it will potentially lead to drawing non-residents and potentially competitors to the area if designed and implemented properly. A well designed whitewater feature will be a relatively unique feature in Canada, not just BC or Vancouver Island.
Although I am all in favour of recreational opportunities in Cowichan Lake, the Cowichan River requires more protection as a heritage waterway and important fish-bearing stream. The weir design should maximize storage to adequately protect fish habitat in low flow years even if this diminishes recreational opportunities in the river.
The riparian area comes first. We have enough noisy boaters on the lake
I would travel to the Cowichan Valley for the opportunity to kayak on a river feature. I regularly take young athletes from Alberta to various whitewater parks around North America to recreate and compete. We have a great whitewater park in Calgary (in your picture) which has taken off in popularity and is bring tourism dollars to the community.
Too much recreation, like boats, tubes, etc, will pollute the river and make it uninhabitable for fish and wildlife around the dependant on the river.
The watercourse is a nice idea, but needs to be monitored 100% of the time to ensure the privacy of the property owners, and respect for their property, along the way. Proper disposal receptacles for all types of litter (garbage/recyclable) need to be available and maintained, at no charge to home owners in the town/area. This could be a very successful venture, such as the canal tubing in Penticton, and an increase to economics in Lake Cowichan Lake and surrounding valley areas.
I am an avid whitewater paddler, and I would love to see a watercourse feature. While I do not live in the CVRD, I have thought of moving up there just for the paddling opportunities. Having a watercourse would be a great way to build the whitewater recreation community.
It is a great idea, but i am concerned if the cost is too dear. There probably are many options to discuss.
Recreational opportunities are traditional on the river, just downstream of the current weir, primarily with tubing. Safety would need to be a top priority for recreational use, along with the other types of uses.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

There is potential for the outflow to serve as both a fishway and a watercourse. Would you like to see recreational opportunities included in the design if possible? If so, let us know your thoughts in the comment box below.

Comments
Adding active use features would be great. If we do it we also need to think about supports like parking, change rooms, toilets.
If a design could accomplish that,, it will support tourism,,,,that is good.
A great way for people to be involved in a healthy outdoor human powered activity. Possibly a good draw to local businesses....food, lodging etc.
I started white water kayaking when I was 12, I'm 36 now and would love to introduce my son to freestyle kayaking, however the Island doesn't have many play features either a standing wave or a hydraulic hole. When I was younger I even tried out for the junior freestyle team, it would be great for my Son and I to have something we can do together. I really believe incorporating a wave or hole for freestyle kayaking would be a great benefit to the island and the cowichan community.
A Whitewater Play Park with features designed for kayaks and other appropriate craft would bring alot of visitors and therefore revenue to local business. Increased camping, small business purchases among other valuable positive consequence would result in adding a Whitewater Play Park. Whitewater kayaking, canoeing, rafting is a very popular sport around the world and would also certainly result in foreign interest in the area. Again, more positive monetary results for the local economy.
The opportunity for development of recreational features is amazing. The Cowichan River has long been a Mecca for whitewater paddlers on the island. Often it is the only place to recreate in a canoe or kayak year round. The opportunity to have a course built at the weir would offer business opportunities for teaching kayaking and canoeing, tourism for paddlers, a place for safety and river rescue courses to be taught for fire departments, search and rescue groups and recreationalists looking to be safer in their hobbies. This is also a huge tubing river and if designed properly might create a safer access for tubers that would have less negative impact on the community of lake Cowichan.
a park for whitewater paddling would provide opportunities for a large number of people, organizations and schools. The impact on the river and other users would be minimal. This is a unique opportunity for the valley and the South Island.
Adding a safe, year round water sport training area to the Cowichan River is great idea! My family lives in Victoria and would really appreciate a local opportunity to learn river skills and would be happy to pay for lessons as they become available.
some sort of river surfing wave would be amazing. People travel from all over the US to visit this example: https://www.bendparksandrec.org/facility/bend-whitewater-park/
I live in Victoria and would like this feature for sure and I would benefit from it greatly. This will allow us to use the COW river system more regularly.
I live in Whitehorse Yukon I own a whitewater paddling school. If there was a guaranteed or pretty good chance of a place to paddle on Vancouver Island I would come there to paddle in the winter and may even look to bring students from the Yukon there in Winter months or in the off season of yukon. This would bring outside dollars to your region.
A water park can bring huge spinoffs for a small community, I have been to several water parks in small communities in Colorado and WOW
A fish and recreational friendly outflow should be a goal. No roller dam outflow should be permitted.
Whitewater play parks are great for both local residents and to generate tourism and economic development. Our family travels around North America spending time at kayaking whitewater parks all year round. Being based on the West Coast we would love to have something closer to home to spend time with. It is also great from a sport development perspective to create future provincial and national team athletes for Freestyle and Slalom kayaking.
I'm part of the Vancouver Island White Water community and as a kayaker it would be unbelievably wonderful to be able to enjoy a play feature .



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

There is potential for the outflow to serve as both a fishway and a watercourse. Would you like to see recreational opportunities included in the design if possible? If so, let us know your thoughts in the comment box below.

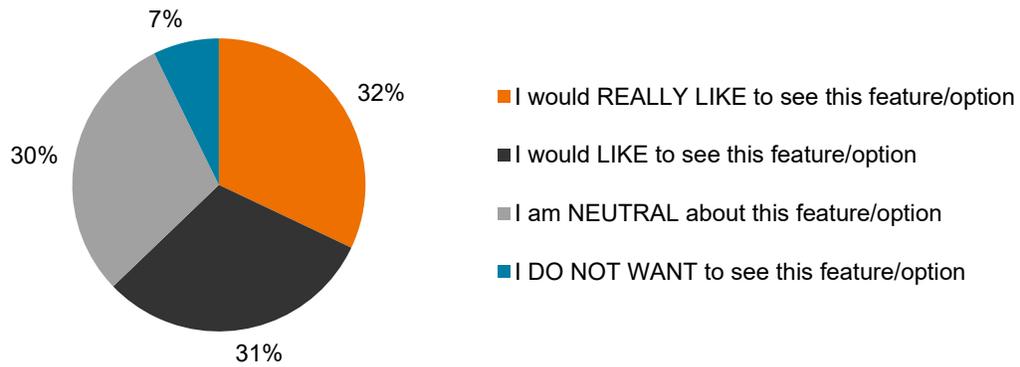
Comments
A whitewater park would be an excellent use of the site, and would be an excellent tourism feature and income boost to the area!
As a Yukoner, this would be great to go down during the winter and get some paddles in
My husband paddles the Cowichan and Chemanis River frequently and it would be great to have another site for paddlers to go that is safe for the fish as well.
I would love to see it as I believe it would bring a positive influx of diverse tourism. This in turn I believe would also have a positive effect on the surrounding communities.
A whitewater feature would be an amazing addition to our valley
A tubing feature associated with the weir would be good for the community and also lessen the pressure on more ecologically sensitive areas of the river. First priority must be adequate fish passage for juvenile and adult salmonids
Kayaking is an incredibly great form recreation with virtually no environmental impact.
This should be a community amenity as well as necessary eco-system protection.
This would be a missed opportunity if this was not included in the design work. There will be numerous benefits if watercourse features are included.
The Cowichan River is a popular waterway for whitewater kayaking and this should be taken in to consideration when planning the levels and rate of flow.
I would like to see a canoe/kayak spillway so people can take small un motorized transport from the lake to the river.
A whitewater park will be very good for the area and region in that it will provide a safe training and practice area to enhance the sport and bring more tourism dollars to the region.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

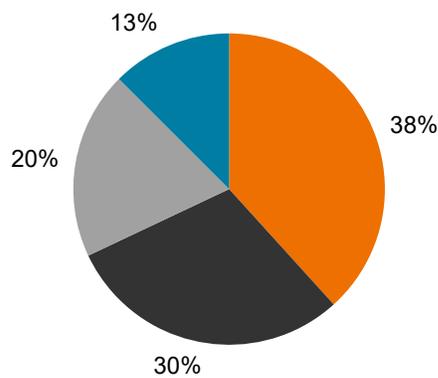
Do you think we should consider a walkway across the weir?

ALL RESPONDENTS



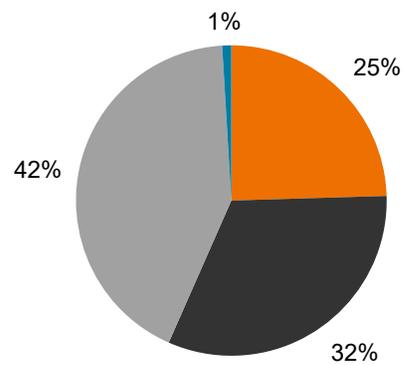
128 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



106 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



234 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Do you think we should consider a walkway across the weir?

Comments
It would serve as a good place to view the paddlers playing on the watercourse!
Are there a river trail on either side of the river that the walkway could connect with ?
It looks beautiful. I don't see a downside.
Good opportunity for public education and engagement
Public access to major investments of public funds improves connection of people and nature.
Why would we need this?
As above - depends on cost/benefit. It seems that Lake Cowichan has excellent water access already so I'd rather see funds invested elsewhere unless its easy and inexpensive to add on.
A walkway over the weir with a viewing platform overlooking a whitewater park would serve as a destination that would draw locals and tourists to the river. Railings, benches and totems designed by local Coast Salish artists and carvers would earn my nod re: a design theme.
expensive, dangerous and people will just throw garbage in the water
It would be GREAT to have ability to cross over the weir from the north to south side of the lake by bicycle. So, some kind of pedestrian/bicycle path.
See above
Cost ?? Would b nice to be able to install after the fact if expensive now
This would also be a tourist draw and an educational opportunity especially to show how fish can navigate spring and fall.
Who would be paying for this? The cost will be outrageous. Look at anything built in BC recently. Poor design with outrageous over budget projects such as the "Blue Bridge" in Victoria.
Creating a cross access would be a nice addition
There are a number of advantages in having a way for residents and visitors to clearly observe the weir and its workings and how it fits into the River management. Understanding the weir is crucial for ensuring that the current changes and future modifications have community support.
not critical but would be nice
Please make it universally accessible if a walkway is included. I am a wheelchair user kayaker and will want to access this area.
If a feature like this were to be added perhaps it would be a tourist draw if it had a play wave for kayakers to play on as well, visible from the walkway. I am reminded of the Skookumchuck Rapids in Egmont BC where you have a 45-minute Trail to view the amazingly strong currents where kayakers surf. Visitors and locals alike will Austin make the will often make the hike, especially when kayaking surf clothes are in as it makes quite the spectacle. A walkway here could make a similarly great viewing point.
If there are recreational whitewater features, the walkway would allow for better spectating.
A walkway would be a bonus for anyone who appreciates a scenic walk adjacent to water.
Walking is healthy recreation. A walkway would provide easy access from north shore residents to access shopping etc. on the south shore without increasing vehicular traffic.
Good if affordable
This could offer a safe means to cross the river for hikers, fishermen and boaters alike.
Is the purpose of a walkway to be able to cross the river or is it just to provide a viewing area? Clarification as to the purpose of the walkway would be helpful.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Do you think we should consider a walkway across the weir?

Comments
I think this is potentially an attractive feature, but I wonder about the cost/benefit ratio of installing this feature. If it is a smaller, economical, metal/concrete design it would be functional but probably not very pretty. If it is a larger structure it might be more aesthetically pleasing but would cost much more. I would rather see that money invested in a well-designed whitewater park and walking paths along the shore.
I believe this would quickly become a very popular activity for both locals and tourists. It is a no-brainer.
I can see both benefits and potential negative aspect in this regard.
Making the area people-friendly is excellent foresight. Trails and public spaces by the water are very popular in other towns and cities, and when done well they add a lot to the vibrancy and heart and appeal of a town.
I think it would be nice, but it should not detract from the whitewater/ recreational feature
People like to get over the water, especially fast-flowing water. It might add some expense but it would increase the attractiveness of the weir. It would also be good for photographing the fun in the play features, and the fish in the fishway.
Seems like a great way for people to enjoy the area who aren't comfortable being in the water. I like it.
It's great to have access to both sides as well as a visual from top. Lower access downstream in the vicinity is also acceptable.
I think this would improve safety around the weir.
people will just jump off of it and hurt themselves
Nice and educational to have people see the water source. I recall walking the Cleveland Dam in North Vancouver many decades ago to see where my drinking water came from. Useful.
A walkway would allow people to watch other people playboat on the recreational feature. It would make the feature enjoyable for everyone.
This would be fun and a tourism draw if it did not cost a lot.
I am opposed to raising the weir.
I think a walkway would just encourage people to jump off of it so more dangerous.
I think this is a great safety feature and a nice way for others to look at the power of moving water.
Walkways allow people to connect with the water which I am for. A poor design could be detrimental - graffiti, suicide, pollution, safety issues, ect.
Sush a walk way could complement any whitewater feature built as a part of this project.
Good idea.
Being able to get across any waterway improves safety and spectating
I would like to see a walkway whose walls were as unobtrusive as possible so that observation from this walkway could occur in all seasons. I think that informational signs pointing out all the aspects of the nature of the structure and our unique opportunity to control flows in invaluable natural resource. Perhaps an overhead covering of a translucent nature could be useful for year-round passage.
This would enhance trail development in the area.
This would be a bonus for people who love to walk. There should be a clear and defined area for foot traffic that does not interfere with boat launching. Should this go ahead, a sidewalk on North Shore Road, at least from entrance to the weir to Park Road/Lambs Hill intersection needs to be installed to ensure the safety of those taking advantage of this feature.
Only if the cost is reasonable.
On the one hand, having a walkway is a very exciting opportunity for people to see the weir in action ... although when the water is flowing over (in our climate), it is unlikely to be a beautiful day, like in the picture. On the other



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Do you think we should consider a walkway across the weir?

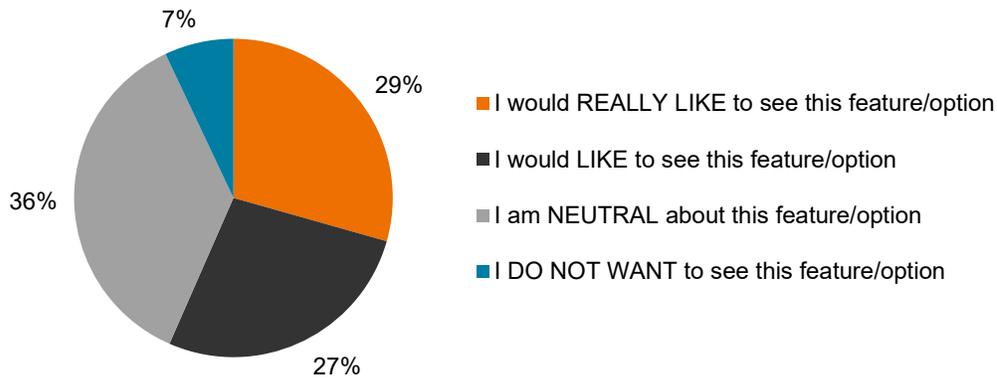
Comments
hand, as a superstructure, it could be quite invasive visually, given that the weir is located in a populated area where the preferred view is of the lake, rather than the superstructure.
The weir in Penticton has a walkway that incorporates educational presentations as well as a practical way to cross the river. As I remember it it was a great way to watch the fish movement as well as understanding the strategy of the role the weir played in fish management and flood control.
A foot bridge would be fantastic
I have walked across many dam sites and enjoy them all. Again a good tourism attraction.
This should be considered as a long term replacement for the Ohtaki Park Friendship Bridge, given the age/condition and upkeep costs and a pedestrian bridge over the weir can serve several functions inclusive of public use, emergency response/safety, regular inspection/operational monitoring of the weir. In the short term there would be duplication/close proximity of the Ohtaki Bridge and the weir, but as noted longer term unless major re-investment the Ohtaki bridge would no longer be functional/servicable for public use. Incorporation of the public walkway feature into the weir would secure this long term connectivity of the north and south communities in this area.
There is a walkway across the river very close by. I am not opposed to the idea if it is a no/ low cost addition.
My family and I would certainly traverse this feature, but the whitewater park is our personal priority for this project
Could be a good tourist attraction and if a feature was setup could create a spectator area or competition judging for sports like slalom kayaking.
great for spectators and builds a community around the river
Some ability to cross from one side of the river to the other is ideal as it broadens the recreation potential and brings people to the area that just want to get outside for a walk or some fresh air.
Yes!! Then we could then have competitions because the judges would be able to easily see the competitors
This is a nice feature but if it's too expensive I would not be disappointed if it was not done
It would be great, but I am not certain it is needed
Would be an excellent feature for residents and visitors alike.
Absolutely. A way to improve community connectivity, with transportation, public health and climate change benefits.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

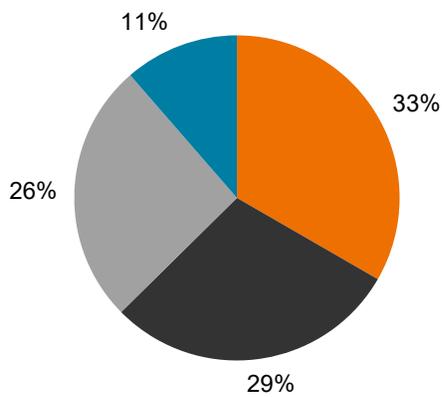
Should the walkway be accessible during the entire year?

ALL RESPONDENTS



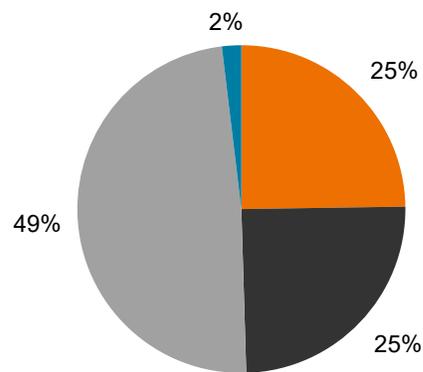
123 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



105 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



238 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Should the walkway be accessible during the entire year?

Comments
Paddling on the island happens all year round!
If it is present, I can't see why not. I am unclear as to what the concerns may be?
If safe
Tofino has built tourism on winter storms - access to view nature both in summer and winter adds value
Only if safe to do so.
Winter maybe become a slippery time and consideration is needed in the design for all weather access and safety.
NO! Search and Rescue get ready! Most people would be conscious of the risks around waterways but the few that take chances would cost us dearly.
Winter water flows have been controversial and thus this could be desirable.
would be nice but if not practical could be flooded during the winter
Weather depended
Absolutely yes!
recreational opportunities can only be good for the community.
Yes, absolutely considering how little snowfall we receive.
Recreational walking is a year-round activity. Having a walkway might encourage the Town to provide open washrooms in Saywell Park all year-round.
Mist, ice risk of injury and slip into river, not worth long term risk.
The Cowichan river is one of few rivers that is available to paddle year-round on Vancouver Island.
Of course it should. Do not limit unless there are weather or other considerations.
If you are building a walkway, make it accessible!
I can't think of a reason why it should be closed at some times.
Yes, the most interesting flows in the river are during the winter. So would be nice for people to access it year round.
the facility should be able to be used all year round. flows are going to be higher in winter so more likley to be used by kayakers then. low summer flows may not be sustainable for kayaking but general public use like swimming etc. Maybe fishing.
Unless there are flooding risks I think it should be.
waste of money
Yes, especially if the recreational feature is runnable year round.
What's most important is building something cost effective and safe.
I am opposed to raising the weir.
Yes, especially because if these recreational pieces are put in place, the Cowichan is usually run by white water boaters in the winter and will be coming to this site.
Not sure why restrictions based on season would be necessary.
Yes, why not?
Of course why else build a seasonal walkway?
Weather conditions in winter and spring with faster water flow and slippery surfaces might make this a hazard.
see above



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Should the walkway be accessible during the entire year?

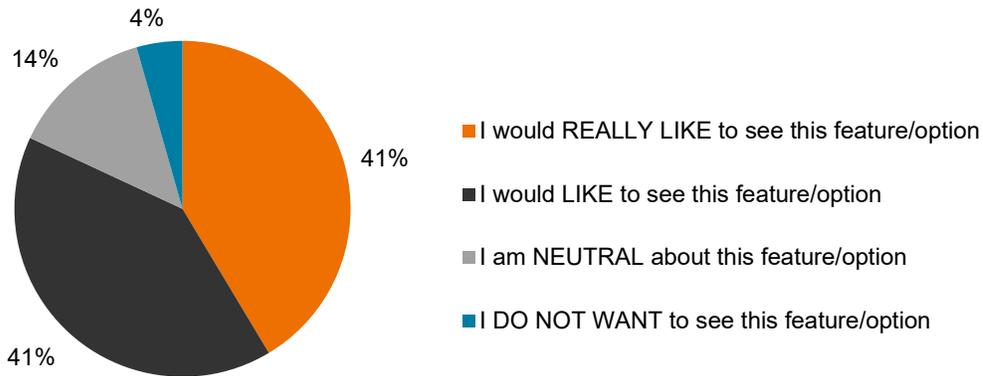
Comments
Weather and icy conditions may make this a liability issue that needs to be carefully considered by owners and design team.
If the walkway could safely be used to walk between the north shore of the lake and the south shore, i think this is a great idea.
If there will be a walkway, which can be made safe to walk on during the entire year, that would be the best way. One additional concern re safety is the question of suicide, and how to prevent the weir walkway from being used for this purpose.
Being able to watch the changes over the year would be great.
People could witness and experience high and low water levels
Yes, for public use, emergency response/safety, regular inspection/operational monitoring of the weir
Again, if it is a no/low cost option.
Safety first. Decision for the engineers in my opinion
If it is incorporated it should be built to be accessible year round.
It would be great to see the river from this vantage point year round to see how powerful it can become in the winter months.
I am concerned that such a feature, if done well, would compromise the budget for an optimal outflow facility.
Yes, this allows maximum accessibility to all recreations - paddlers, people fishing, general recreation etc.
Definitely!
Would see more use in the summer. I would support this as a seasonal feature if year round access were cost prohibitive.
Of course. Possible exception during extreme weather events like snow and flood.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

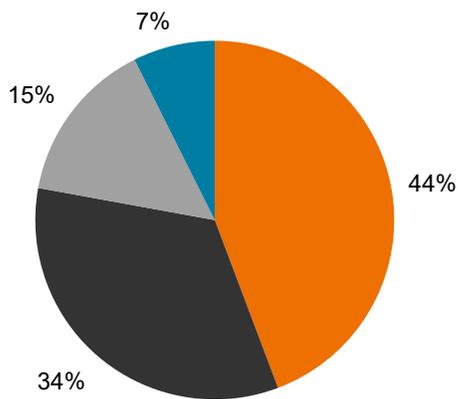
Would you support incorporating or connecting the weir into the surrounding park and trail system?

ALL RESPONDENTS



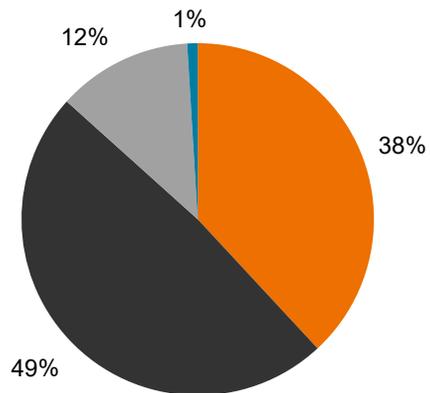
122 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



105 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



233 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you support incorporating or connecting the weir into the surrounding park and trail system?

Comments
Absolutely! What a great chance to build a multi-use location that incorporates the weir.
Enhances value of walkway
The combination of the weir area within Saywell park could enhance the entertainment value while securing fish and fish habitat values as well
If it could be integrated without significant cost.
Why don't we just pay Catalyst a fee to cross our river with a trail, better yet they should pay us!! Trails that connect in Lake Cowichan and area are a joke, you can not even travel from outlying communities safely on the sides of the roadside and the town gave up it's only waterfront walkway to development so it had to build a wharf and call it a walkway OMG
Especially if it could be a turnaround point for the Trans-Canada/Cowichan Valley Trail
Again this is educational. Dams have their opponents and indicating the trade-offs can build support.
Again, who would pay for this and how would it be maintained? I don't want to see any more destruction in this area.
Anything that would entice people to get outside and exercising would be beneficial for humanity!
again not critical but would be nice
More protected park space is always good for a community. This weir project has the potential to add to the recreational possibilities sin The Valley and the island as a whole. Please include in surrounding par and trail systems.
Providing better rec facilities for the town can only have an upside. I would encourage considering many facilities in the larger plan - a climbing wall, cycling trail, bike pump track, skateboard park, whitewater park, walking/running trail, playgrounds, etc
Yes, this would be fabulous and beneficial to everyone.
Seamless opportunities for increasing non-vehicular travel make sense.
This would help reduce the weir being a potential hazard for river users as it's presence would be well known and if there were a walkway over/around it, well avoided too.
Connecting
We need more and more tourist options. The forest industry is quickly becoming a sunset industry. We need a way to attract folks to our beautiful valley and hiking is a popular activity.
A well-connected network of trails and parks is a great idea, and supports public and community recreation, fitness, and wellbeing.
Yes, it should be integrated into the other recreation features or trails into the area
This would make it more usable and used, and would help draw recreationists into the town of Lake Cowichan.
walking and/or biking trails.
I think this would be great and get people closer to the river safely.
Again. Educational and recreational.
Yes, it would be a wonderful addition to the trail system to pass over the weir/recreational feature. It would also encourage users of the trail system to stop in town.
Again if this can be done in an economically viable way.
What surrounding park and trail system? I am opposed to raising the weir.
A good idea for all to see the water.
Currently the weir has little connection to the community



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you support incorporating or connecting the weir into the surrounding park and trail system?

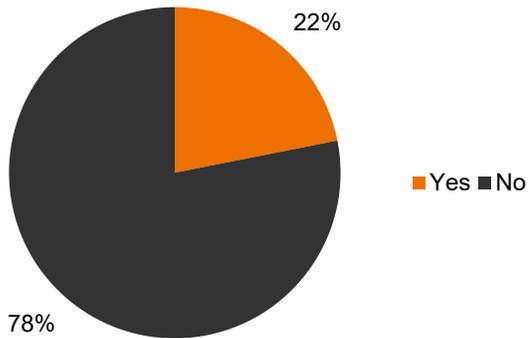
Comments
This just makes sense. If public money is invested in this project, it should also serve some useful purpose. Connecting trails and designing it around potential users, like kayaking and/or canoeing, is a value added project that will be a legacy for generations to come.
Great idea!
Absolutely, any river enhancement should be considered in conjunction with its surroundings. Access and integration into the community are crucial.
This is such a valuable addition and as the opportunity is so readily available, it would be a tremendous loss not to do so.
If the walkway is installed, this will happen anyway. Please refer to comment two questions back.
Yes, I would support this. There are too many places in our region where trail options are out and back, and not connected with other opportunities to make loops or provide options.
Lots of active recreation could be inlcorated in the area if the two sides of the river can be bridged there.
This could support tourism but design must include protecting the fish-way from vandalism
If a walkway is incorporated it should not be a stand-alone option.
Could be an asset for access for the Whitewater Play Park and also for emergency access.
It should allow for doing "laps" of the feature whether kayaking or canoeing to allow people to practice skills. It should be incorporated so that users are not forced to use private property for access or egress.
The better connected it is to an overall parks system, the better the use will be and the more it will be a multi-user destination, which results in happier & healthier residents and economic development opportunities.
Definitely!
That would be a great way to incorporate recreational opportunities of the weir with other members of the public
Of course If this feature were included there would be a natural opportunity for this, particularly on the south side of the weir
Without a doubt!!!!



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

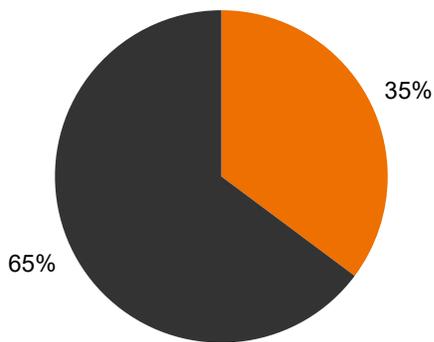
Have you ever used the boat lock?

ALL RESPONDENTS



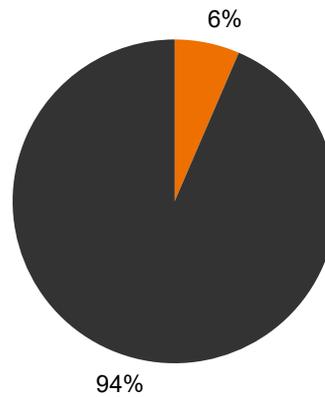
125 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



108 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



233 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

What improvements would you like to see in the new design?

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unsure but the state of the art should be investigated
Incorporate all opportunities for enhanced recreational potential. It's all about promoting health.
Larger motorized boats should not be accommodated in the lock.
Better bumpers in and outside of the lock
I would like it to blend in with the environment more
Not sure. I only used it to kayak through the the lake.
As long as it works
earthquake proof and aesthetically pleasing not a taj mahal
I love it just the way it is. Old fashioned and functional
Public friendly
river paddle boat
It works fine as is.
Protect boats from damage from the walls. Proper fendering. I am opposed to raising the weir.
I think using the opportunity to make the river and surrounding area accessible to people of all abilities and as a gathering place is important
Boating play spot & features.
The addition of recreation features.
features for paddlers
Standing wave feature for surfing/ kayaking
Playwave!!
Play hole feature for whitewater kayaking
Whitewater feature(s)!
A wave feature for recreational whitewater paddlers to enjoy
A recreational whitewater course and a fishway
I would like the new design incorporate watercourse play features such as a standing wave for paddlers to access.
a surf wave
When designing a weir for recreational use it's important to make sure that it is safe (no strong suck-back) and also ensure that it can be used for surfing by a variety of different craft (kayak, stand-up paddleboards, bodyboards). Eddy service (i.e. an eddy below and adjacent to the feature on either side to catch boaters who have gone off the wave) is also important. It is easy to design these features, but also easy to get them wrong so please get a designer with experience on whitewater features
no comments on the boat lock. something that is safe and user friendly to use. Not aware if there is any historical significance of the existing lock but no concerns either way in regards to this.
A reliable surfable wave please
Incorporating the communities needs along with making it more than just a functional piece of infrastructure
A whitewater play feature!
Water play features for white water boaters.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

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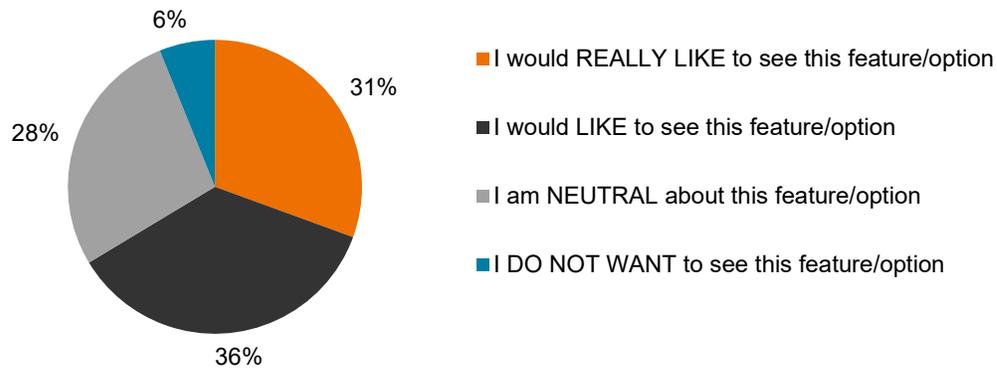
Whitewater paddling features
Only used once so unable to note any improvements
Boat bumpers so your boat doesn't bang or scratch.
I love our old boat lock. My girlfriends and I go through from the river to the lake in kayaks. Grateful that it is operated 7 days/week during daylight hours.
Lock bypass for single person watercraft
I don't know have a suggestion for this as it was many, many years ago. I kind of like how it worked from a nostalgia point of view, keeping the same idea would suit me. Having anything significantly larger may invite too many houseboats on the river, and that I wouldn't like to see.
Enclose the boat lock to reduce noise
Paddle and rowing level docks 6—8 inches above water surface.
Needs to be bigger
I am not so sure we need a boat lock. Try that question in your survey. There have been near drownings in the existing lock, possibly due to irresponsible users. but safety features like sensors that activate automatically may be effective for the next 50 years.
Simple operation and quiet.
I think it is really important that the boat lock is only about accessing Jakes or letting the river people access the Lake but speed limits must be strict and well signed right in the boat lock itself as well as in the approaches.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

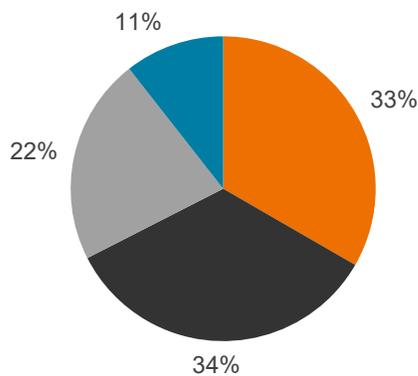
Would you like to see interpretive signs, or a small visitor centre or information booth included in the new design?

ALL RESPONDENTS



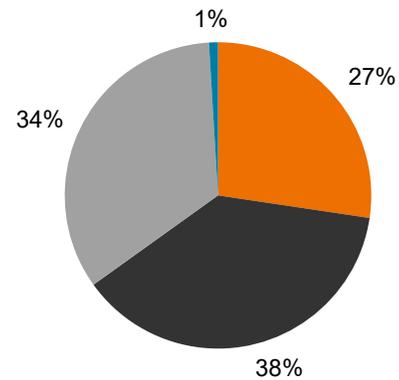
123 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



106 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



229 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see interpretive signs, or a small visitor centre or information booth included in the new design?

Comments
This weir project has great potential and would be a signature piece for the region. It would be important to have an information booth or kiosk explaining the features of the project and the surrounding area for visitors. Paddlers and surfers would be extremely interested in the watercourse features and development.
A weir can appear as a very natural feature. Explaining the purpose it serves for industry, the environment, fish and for recreation would seem like a good idea.
This is an educational opportunity. Using signage that explains the rationale of the project; problems and solutions illustrated on signage, at key points, that can be grasped by school children.
Again, public education important
Small cost to ensure the message is delivered
I would like to see education about the ecology of the river and why different water levels are needed in different seasons, and how the weir supports that.
Bend's park includes pathways, public washrooms, interpretative signs and small clusters of wild & native riparian vegetation to serve as habitat for wildlife.
These signs are just promotional material and make work security projects for CVRD they don't tell us █████ about LC and area history or the volunteers who built these communities long before CVRD became our fiefdom , but they do tell us who paid for it and who blows the most smoke up their █████.
Signage would be good, explaining why the weir is necessary. I don't think a booth would be needed.
Managed and operated by Cowichan Tribes.
A small covered room with weir history, river ecology, real time lake levels and river flow would help visitors understand the necessity of the weir.
It is important to explain water use issues to the public and how the weir can help.
These signs are used around Cowichan to help educate visitors and are a welcome addition.
Unmanned interpretive signs would be an excellent idea.. and not create an ongoing cost such as a visitor's centre would.
Designing a new weir would not be necessary if the province would pay attention to the scientists. The logging practices that have gone on and are still on-going in our area have been the major contributor to lake and river changes. This is why we have the flooding and droughts. We have been watching this lake and river for over 50 years. Mother nature is fighting back.
Please include historic seasonal water flows and importance of managing water flows for fish, Ecosystem functions, recreation, industry agriculture and domestic use.
Since I'm not from the area, it's always nice to have additional context.
an explanation similar to what is currently in the park with respect to weir operations
Interpretive signs would be beneficial for the tourists
Assuming the local First Nations are part of the consultations on this project, I would encourage interpretive information about the significance of this place to local First Nations.
These are always beneficial for infrequent visitors or tourists.
I think interpretive signs are a great way to inform the public not only about recreational opportunities in the area, but also about environmental, conservational, and Indigenous perspectives.
Education is a fundamental part of our world. People need to know as much as they can about this fabulous environment.
Yea, I think this adds to the user experience and helps both tourists and locals make decisions about their use of the park.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see interpretive signs, or a small visitor centre or information booth included in the new design?

Comments
Interpretive signs with maps would be a very good idea, to help people know what is available and where they are.
This would provide a good opportunity for public information and education about environmental (fish, hydrology), recreational and other issues.
Yes I find it's nice to have a bit of info on the history, geology or ecology of an area when I visit. So why not.
Just enhances the overall visitor experience. Add things like history of the area etc.
An explanation of the weir's purpose and hazards would be good.
waste of money
Again. Educational re water supply and climate change impacts.
Yes, interpretive signs are a great way to connect visitors with the local history.
Interpretive signs would be good.
It would be great to explain the weir's function and how it works with the environment.
If something is built, a cost-effective sign would be nice. I am opposed to raising the Weir.
It is a good idea to explain what/how the weir works to the public and the changes it creates. A good small learning opportunity.
Info helps people understand the weir and can serve for further education.
Yes, important to let the public know about the challenges facing the Cowichan watershed and the impacts industrial forestry has had on the whole ecosystem.
Educating tourists on the sensitive nature of our Lake and mountains is key to sustainability
Great to educate
Including first nation's history of the area and use of plant materials that are native would help us appreciate both/
A visitor centre and detailed interpretative signs on the role of the Lake in the health of the whole river ecosystem would be valuable. Also a viewing station combined with the fishway would be highly educational. The watershed model and fishway at the Big Qualicum hatchery is one example. Real time information on storage and flow levels would also be useful. An educational focus on the importance of the weir as public infrastructure critical to the valley ecosystem could also help offset the misguided focus of some solely on the role of the weir as a water source for Paper Excellence.
The current visitor centre, should the walkway be installed, is only a few minute walk away. Adding another would not be necessary. However, an interpretive sign would be nice.
It may be an ideal way to share information so residents and visitors alike can see the (potential) trail system, and appreciate the role of the weir.
Whether or not the weir ends up having recreational features integrated into it, having interpretive signage so people understand the functioning and purpose of the weir will be very important.
The new weir is a great opportunity to establish the Saywell Park as an educational destination. The existing signage on riparian restoration there is excellent, the Gerald Thom native plant garden can be incorporated, the Kaatza Museum is great but under appreciated and an education visitor centre which highlights the key role a weir plays in maintaining the whole river ecosystem not just flows for the mill is really needed. A centre which also highlights the weir as key public infrastructure not a private asset is needed.
this would be very important to all visitors as are all interpretative sign in the valley.
The signs would great.
Public educational signage should be included. Eg. what is a weir and why is it needed.
Signs are great for locals and visitors alike. Visitor Centre may not be as much of a priority.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see interpretive signs, or a small visitor centre or information booth included in the new design?

Comments
Always good to provide local area and traditional knowledge and to set expectations and layout liability of/for users.
Interpretive signs are a nice feature
signage and education are great.
Make sure the interpretive signs are current as well has historical (ex Why this feature was built, etc)
This feature would be cheap and easy and could inform public about the ecological and economic impacts of the weir as well as the ecology of the watershed in general. No reason not to do this.
Signage yes!!! visitor center NO!! Anything more than signage would be a huge waste of money and resources. Perhaps a shelter and picnic tables if you had more money that you needed to spend.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Although all safety features (such as signage, buoys, and warning lights) will follow the Navigation Protection Act regulations, there may be other items we have not considered. Any thoughts?

Information about the importance of protecting the riparian (edge) of any water course.
Having lived on or near the river most of my life it is obvious that more police enforcement is required during the summer months. We spend many hours on a relatives wharf and have witnessed anything from defecation to intoxication to nudity to trespassing and obscene language which carries across the water as we all know. A Police presence has been lacking over the last few years .Lets make it more Family friendly .
a water gauge that goes from high high water to low low water out of the influence of the water flow for easy reading
No amount of signage will protect you from the irresponsible activities of a certain segment of the population.
Dont let the rich property owners lobby you to ensure their shoreline doesn't change. they need to understand that the lake is the source of many many needed habitats. they can lose a few feet each spring
Slippery surfaces on walk ways.
I am opposed to raising the weir.
There should be signage for boaters to see from the river and good explanations of the hydrologic features should be there. Good footing and eddies on the side are important for safety and rescue.
I suspect that many lake boaters, particularly those using human-powered craft that don't require a Restricted Operator's Certificate, won't know what the various bouys and signage used in Canada's Aids to Navigation system mean. Whatever the signage, you need to assume that some boaters won't understand or obey, so phycial fail-safe mechanisms need to be in place.
I appreciate all you have included above.
washrooms, rain shelter...
Portage signs marked above major rapids (mainly marking Skutz)
A river gauge (preferably one that can update levels to a website automatically) would be helpful for both fishing and paddling communities to know when it's safe/best to use the river. Please involve the paddling and sport fishing community in signage designs and safety warnings. Current warnings and activity explanations may be helpful for the community and visitors to appreciate the various design aspects of the weir.
Having a section that is navigable by inflatable inner tubes in the summer would greatly increase the number of users capable of using the facility
As per previous comments, the feature should have: 1 - no strong suckback (that can hold a swimmer) but enough retention to allow for surfing 2 - eddies on either side to catch boaters/swimmers 3 - nothing dangerous downstream (no cables, underwater rebar, trees in the water etc. 4 - Preferably be flowing into a large pool or gently moving water
Information about hydrology; safety information and rules of use for playboaters, anglers, etc.
Make sure you engage experienced designers for the whitewater features. These can be tricky to get right if you don't have the experience and usually leads to a lot of modifications after the fact or playing around trying to make features safe and usable. Not advocating for him but someone like Scott Shipley from S20 Designs has a lot of experience in whitewater parks and artificial courses and would be useful to bring on as a consultant (or any other qualified designer). Maybe ban jet boats from such area (if they are currently allowed to operate in this zone). Add lights for night time use.
Warnings to wear personal flotation devices (PFD's)



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Although all safety features (such as signage, buoys, and warning lights) will follow the Navigation Protection Act regulations, there may be other items we have not considered. Any thoughts?

No, following the NPA will be good.
I cannot think of any. The walkway would be a nice safety feature for white water boaters to scout what the water looks like before dropping in.
Ensure the design is graffiti proof. The last thing is to make the weir a canvas for vandalism.
An adjustable surf feature adds a lot of functionality to a recreation park.
First Nation laws take priority...
While construction ongoing. Remove the existing water way navigation hazards. ie piles
Ease of use (an intuitive and obvious process) for boaters to use in passing through the lock.
If a new weir is built and more people take advantage of this beautiful area, there will be more environmental damage without adequate oversight.
There are some trees that come up from the bottom of the lake occasionally. I have been wondering who takes care of this as it is a safety hazard for swimmers/boaters and if they come loose they may float down to the weir.
I am not a boater, but anything that enhances awareness (especially during high/low water periods) would be good
We are not a large town, we prefer simplicity and proper planning, we do not need this to stick out like a sore thumb any more than it does already. CVRD should have nothing to do with waterway regulations at all. They have enough troubles dealing with internal issues and concocting untruths as it is. They are not the best fit for our community and need to be more engaged and accountable, truthful and not spineless. They say all agree but they never ask all, only the ones they know will agree with their ponsie schemes and outlandish ideas of how to improve the area we live in.
Usage monitoring, or regular status updates on safety violations/public intoxication (cameras, rotating time inspections to include all hours)
numbers using the facility will probably be a problem. How you police this is also a problem.
Trees fall in the river and these sweepers can be deadly. There could be an inspector to ensure they are well marked and the tribes might best provide someone with knowledge and experience to communicate to guides and individual users of the river. Above the weir there were shallow areas when the water level was very low last spring. I assume these will be indicated and charted.
Wiers and white water are inherently dangerous. Consider providing the public with free to use life jackets. The cost of a life jacket is a lot less than a fire/EMS response.
Buoys are great, however, from personal experience, boaters who use the water once or twice a year tend to forget what different ones mean. Signs/words on buoys would be helpful in this case. Having a better "waiting area" for those boaters waiting in line would also be helpful as there is limited space in the area. Boaters trying to take their boats out sometimes get caught in a circle/circus of boats as their wait their turn, and with a new weir, I can see many people trying it out. Perhaps a log boom on the south side of the lake where boaters can temporarily tie up until it is their turn. These spots could be numbered and boaters move ahead one spot as the one in front moves forward or through the weir.
My thoughts are primarily around how slippery the deck of a potential walkway might be (with the growth of moss and lichen on it), water-based activity near the outflow which might cause dangerous currents and therefore require separation until these can dissipate, and the potential for despairing people to suicide off the superstructure of the weir, as they do off of the bridge in Duncan.
Downstream hazards should be included. I am a fan of placing QR type codes on signs that can be updated or linked to online resources.
Speed limits. Environmental signage.
i think a historic monument with engraved information would be classy.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

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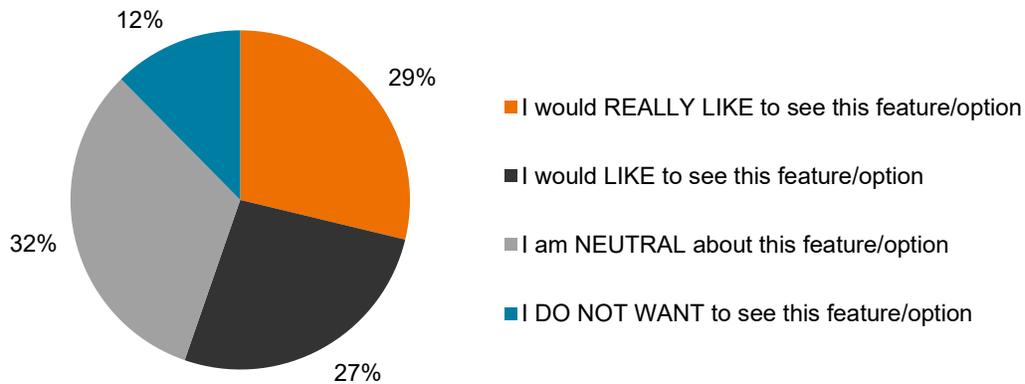
<p>Cowichan Lake and River, during the absence of road or rail transportation in the early years, were considered navigable water ways, complete with a gov't wharf and water lot. That is why the existing weir had to have a boat lock. That need and purpose has long been dis-continued except for the occasional local resident's pleasure use, to pass from river to lake and visa-versa on a fishing trip. So much so, that the various governments over the years neglected their wharf to disrepair and public danger. Finally since it was a liability to them but the water lot still a valuable asset, they gave it up for sale to anyone with the money. I believe the right thing to have done at that time was grant it to the town of Lake Cowichan. It is now a privately owned RV Park. Since the government divested themselves of all responsibility for the navigable water act, and water lot, I think they are excluded from any authority over a new weir. A new weir should "not include a boat lock" and there-by save a lot of money in construction as well as the future expense of an operator.</p> <p>In consideration of occasional extreme high water such as we had this past winter (it is the fourth or fifth time in the 50 years that I have lived here to see water in my yard) I would consider it prudent to provide an alternate escape route for that extra water that will be held back. Such a route could go west via a drainage-ditch to the head waters of the Nitnat River which are not so far away. A drainage ditch (for want of a better description) need not be an elaborate construction. The appropriate elevations and capacity are easy for your engineers to calculate and if need be It could be a buried pipe. For sure we don't want more flood damage like that seen in the past.</p>
<p>Moving water creates a hazard that many people do not understand fully. I would suggest getting in touch with a recognized safety professional to provide comment and recommendations. Raven RSM as an example.</p>
<p>I have a particular interest in natural habitats and conservation. This comment is not directly related to safety but I am hopeful that some concern will be raised about precautions needed to not introduce invasive species during the construction faze of this project. The Cowichan River already has a knotweed problem that I am not sure has been addressed yet and it would distressing to have more invasives introduced to this beautiful region.</p>
<p>The movement of water is energy - if energy production can be incorporated into new weir design, it should to present to the public that the project is viable down to the energy used and produced.</p>
<p>A well designed series of features at the outflow should manage risk appropriately, with the understanding that the people who would be using the whitewater features would have a skillset to navigate the features appropriately.</p>
<p>Boater safety would need to be considered in the design of the waterpark.</p>
<p>Signage describing the Whitewater Play Features and related safety guidelines.</p>
<p>If the recreation area increases raft, kayak and tuber traffic, dangerous rapids could be an issue for anyone new to the river. I would hate to see something bad happen to put a damper on such a great project. Maybe signage would help....</p>
<p>Signage identifying river obstacles such as water falls and perhaps dangerous sections.</p>
<p>Water feature for us recreational kayakers and canoeists.</p>
<p>There are a number of great examples across North America that have done fabulous jobs of integrating all of the different user groups and making the locations of interest to travellers. I'm assuming you have looked at some of these examples to see what they have done? If not, check out the new additions to the Boise Whitewater Park, Buena Vista Colorado riverwalk/whitewater park, and Bend, Oregon</p>
<p>Night lighting!</p>
<p>Sounds like safety is a priority - should always remain so.</p>



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

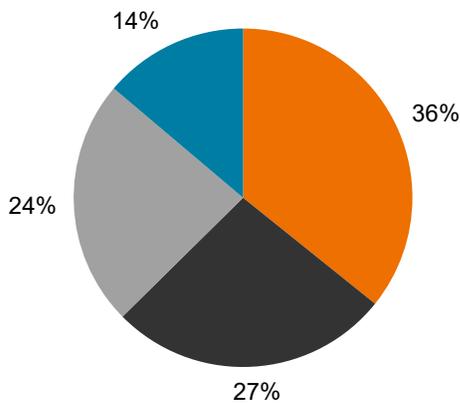
Would you support the option of including a small hydro power producing option if it is possible?

ALL RESPONDENTS



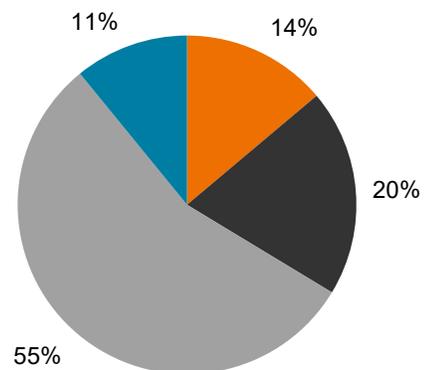
123 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



101 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



226 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you support the option of including a small hydro power producing option if it is possible?

Comments
As long as a fish ladder is incorporated into the plan!
As I don't live there and only access the river a couple weekends per year, I am neutral and would rather leave it to the residents there to decide.
I would need to see the design. If it is low impact on the environment and residents, yes.
My primary desire is to incorporate play features for recreational (kayak) use but it would seem to make sense to generate power if at all possible. This may be a nice way to recoup some of the project cost?
Again, subject to budget considerations
Even if not much energy, lighting or other feature value from the power produced is the right message
Super idea. it could light up the weir for sure. Just get tried and tested methods . Great idea, though.
Absolutely if it doesn't impact fish.
It depends. I would need more information. It would be nice to become more power independent since our energy comes from the mainland. Does the flow rate make it worth it, how would the design affect the salmon and surrounding ecosystem? Would it be a private ROR project or a public B.C. Hydro project?
In situ micro-hydro opposite a fish migration channel would definitely be something that island residents would support.
So long as the hydro power production does not in any way harm fish or fish habitat during any time of year or environmental flow condition, I am all for it.
Who would reap the benefit from this, will it mean we do not have 90 hour power outages again? Would it meant the town firehalls would not just help their friends during and emergency, but would look out for the entire community? Would it mean our seniors and vulnerable we will be taken care of properly instead of being ignored and left on our own to endure yet another failure of CVRD where the school board had to step in to help. You have your priorities mixed up with helping yourself and actually helping the communities you say you represent!
I would support it if it generated enough power to cover it's cost.
NO!
Managed, owned and operated by Cowichan Tribes, the owners of this land, river and resources.
Only if an official environmental assessment is done.
If there is a net benefit.
Several low head sub surface facilities below the weir (considering recreational river uses) and/or even an installation within or related to the weir structure would ensure we burn fewer hydrocarbons. Lower electricity charges could help industry consider locating to Lake Cowichan.
I am neutral on this option as I don't trust the design process. It would be a great innovation but again who pays?
there should be power generation for sure
Interesting idea! If the cost of incorporating it into the design would be offset by any profit from the electricity down the road (10 years?), I think this a scathingly brilliant idea!
The primary, in fact sole purpose of the weir should be to store and manage water. Our concern is that power production could potentially fetter this core function.
maybe not the best idea. The penstock drop would not be large, the power production would not be large, the result would be an additional demand on the water level control over what we have now: maintaining water flow for the fish and Catalyst, preserving lake levels for recreation and homeowners, protecting from flooding and now add minimum or maximum levels/flow for the hydro and possibly the demand in peak periods. (maybe peak demand would only be in the winter so maybe it would not interfere with the other demands.
Only if it is within the budget
Only if it doesn't impact the primary recreational feature(s).



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you support the option of including a small hydro power producing option if it is possible?

Comments
If it is cost effective without reducing the other uses, I would support this. In Seu D'Urgell, Spain, a whitewater park was constructed for the 1992 Olympic Games. In the winter months when the river is high, the natural flows are used to generate power. IN the summer months, the river there is too low for a whitewater park, so the turbines are run in reverse using money generated by power sales to pump water into the whitewater park so that key events can be held. This site continues to host regional, national and international whitewater events.
This would be a brilliant showcase addition if feasible.
would be awesome, also has web camera and water gauge level meter
I would not want to see this reducing the flow of the river
Inexperienced recreational whitewater enthusiasts could look at the weir think itâ€™s smart to go over or worst intentionally surf underneath it, the shape of the hydronic off the end of the weir is one of the most lethal and that might be missed without an experienced paddler to share the information.
If it makes sense financially then I think it's a great idea.
As long as the power generation does not jeopardize the recreational activities, I could support the addition of a power generating facility
I am not in favour of any sort of Run of The River type project. Hydro has encouraged this type of development in the past and they are now cancelling or not renewing the agreements. Theses plants are not small and they are very disruptive to the river. A Google image search for the The Elho River ROR plant outside of Squamish shows it to be a significant industrial installation.
Absolutely. If it is "green" I am all for it.
Only if it does not affect the fish.
not if it diverts water away from the play wave
I think making use of water to create energy would be an excellent plan .
This could be a good idea, if this can be combined with the recreational and other features in a safe and aesthetic way. I don't know enough about this to comment in an informed way.
In my experience hydro power generation needs often run counter to recreation needs so preferably not. A small hydro station will probably produce a negligible amount of power and will likely have a negative impact on recreation through reduced safety (e.g. intake points) and diversion of flows or controlling of flows at levels that may not be optimal for recreation.
I am interested in the idea but I do not know enough about the benefits or costs.
Make sense. generally released water is wasted for generation. If this could somehow be incorporated then that can only benefit the operators and community. Seems like a greener option than building separate facilities elsewhere. If power generation diverts the water from the course then that is not a great option unless power was only generated at night. May be cost prohibitive. Assume you will do a cost/benefit analysis though.
I do not like the use of rivers for hydropower.
only if the business case works.
don't know if there will be enough head to generate a substantial amount of energy...
If practical. Plan for the future. Growth is going to happen whether we want it or not.
Given BC's expansive hydro the energy is already reasonably green. If adding hydro here impacts the local environment in anyway it is not worth it.
Seems smart if it is economically feasible.
I am opposed to raising the weir. There are several dams which are being decommissioned in the US. This decommissioning is leading to the return of the wild salmon stocks.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

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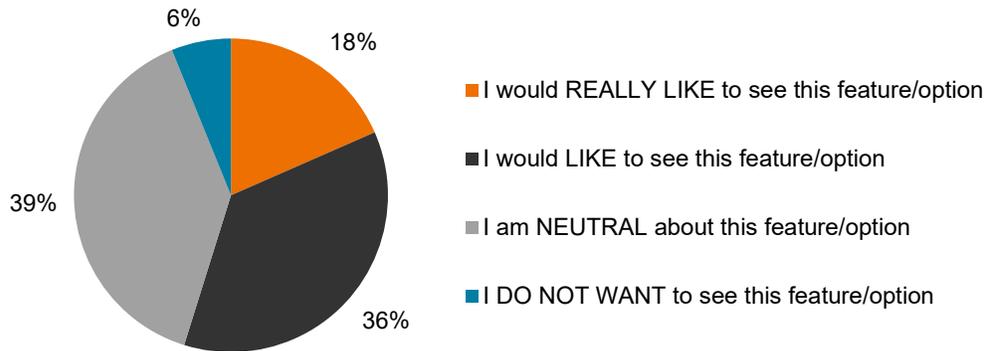
Comments
Interesting concept but if it is noisy then NO.
I do not know enough about how this would change the design.
Yes, but only if it is constructed with proper ecological assessments.
Certainly - if it cost effective over the lifespan and doesn't have negative environmental impact all for it, even if it reduces the chance of a recreational feature being implemented.
Only if it protects the environment and the fish habitat.
Only if it did not impact fish and wild life
I do not think that the cost of that feature is economically viable.
I like this idea, as long as there is no environmental conflict to the fish, riparian, or any other environmental issue in the area. Excess noise would also need to be considered. I wouldn't want to hear it and take away from the awesome nature and natural surroundings.
If the hydro produced would be a way of the area reducing costs, yes.
Yes, given the amount of investment already being made, if there was a way to generate affordable local power for the local community and/or First Nation, that would be great.
If done it should be a public not private investment.
That option should be included automatically
I think this would be a great addition to the weir, if possible. Perhaps revenues generated could offset costs?
Clean energy to support LOCAL needs is always a step in the right direction
Renewable energy can often be incorporated into recreational facilities and should be considering with any large project as we move forward. The design of this should not be taken lightly and using other designs from around the world such as New Zealand, Australia or Europe is highly suggested. Take the hydro project at Rutherford Creek as an example. This could have been a huge success story instead was poorly designed and not thought out which created a whitewater hazard that can be life threatening and a site that is now unused for paddling.
Absolutely! The weir would pay for itself and produce clean energy without further interruption of natural river flow.
As long as it is well thought out and doesn't disturb the fish.
This depends on technology. If it can promise cost effective long term energy benefits then I am supportive of this goal (but not at the expense of recreation or environmental plans)
If it can be included and not negatively impact the recreational opportunities then I think it definitely makes sense to integrate green energy in a collaborative fashion.
Sure, that seems like a logical use of the site if it did not interfere with the recreation potential.
Why not would be another great addition
I would support this if it was not cost prohibitive and a wise investment - i.e. if the power produced could be expected to cover the cost of the infrastructure in a reasonable amount of time. Support also conditional on not interfering with the recreational features discussed in the survey
Only if it makes long term financial sense. Which seems unlikely under current BC Hydro, BCUC and BC Government directions in regard to local power.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

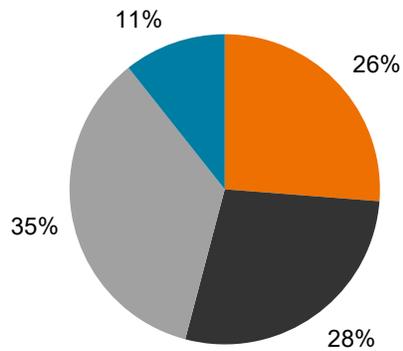
Would you like to see the concrete stamped?

ALL RESPONDENTS



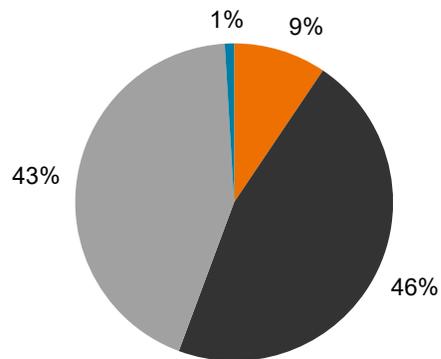
122 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



106 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



228 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see the concrete stamped?

Comments
The first picture is the coolest example (hint, hint)
I support expenditures to make the construction and materials eco friendly over fancy schmancy.
Incorporating public art is an excellent idea.
The Cowichan River is a heritage river and breeding grounds for salmon. I would like to see stamped concrete depicting this. Maybe a native design.
Attractiveness would enhance public perception
nothing tacky. I like the FN carvings
Depending on cost.
Should be designed by a local indigenous artist to showcase the this areas rich cultural history and as an act of reconciliation. Showcasing the detrimental colonial impacts to the forests and river should be displayed on signage and within the design.
I would like to see the actual plan and not have to join Placespeak to give my opinion. Good to see 750 people on placespeak will be making this decision for so many who are not online. I can not afford any more taxes on my 1200 sq ft home (more than \$220 per sq ft) for very little representation at all, I believe it is called taxation without representation! You continue to waste money on frivolous things that do not help the general taxpayer but surely help CVRD's bottom line. Sure why not add some money grabbing feature like fancy concrete. The waterfront owners will foot the bill no sweat. I do not support any worthless and useless spending on the CVRD's whim and will not, until I see actual improvements in their staff and directors. I have lost all confidence in their abilities and dedication to the people CVRD serves.
The bird and plant one
FN design
Don't spend too much money on aesthetics
Depends on cost
You have to use forms and the forms could have designs such as carvings and patterns. These maybe shared with other civil projects in the province
As you may have noticed this taxpayer is not a fan of this project. I can see the graphiti now.
Since the weir is visible and is part of the landscape it should be patterned to fit into its surroundings
Aesthetics are important to engender public acceptance and support.
Once again it is best to be working & designing within the budget and continued maintenance of the stamped concrete.
There is a possibility of making the weir attractive visually, then I think its a great idea. Perhaps art from local First Nation peoples? Salmon?
In the long term, the aesthetic appeal has significance, so some thought into making the project feel like a good place to be is important. I am not sure if concrete stamping is the way to go here, but the overall design must create a public space that attracts all members of the community.
While initially attractive, water will simply destroy this aesthetic within a few years, and I doubt the ROI of this decorative aspect.
First Nations art
This would be a great opportunity for local and/or Indigenous artists to add to the beauty of the feature
Looks like an economical way to improve the appearance.
This could be an excellent opportunity to tell the story of the river
If it is cost effective it would improve the look of the weir



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see the concrete stamped?

Comments
The photos at the top and bottom above look nice.
Especially along the waterline for safety reasons - inlays/stamped textures provide grip in the case of emergency rescues, or if someone is entering or exiting the water.
Aesthetics matter in terms of tourism.
So I get it that it would be nice to have all the bells and whistles for this dam but what about the cost? Who will pay for this? Our property Taxes are through the roof as it is.
Aesthetics are important. A simple lump of concrete will not cut it.
Not a major item of concern
stamped
Yes, I feel it is important to create aesthetically pleasing structures, especially in concrete, which can be stark and ugly unless it is made with thought.
Making the cement features look appealing would make the whole area more appealing and more of a public draw.
If the feature is more attractive, it will attract more visitors.
local artists
For the weir structure itself? Not too worried either way. Avoid sharp protrusions if it is somewhere boaters/swimmers will end up. Would be ideal to have the banks below the weir as natural as possible.
I would prefer what looks the most natural. Ideally natural stones.
Salmon and First Nations theme might be a good idea
waste of money
Subtle stamping seems like the best way to go. Also, if any Indigenous art is use please make sure to consult with the community and have local Indigenous artist make the art, pay them for it, and give them clear and explicit credit.
The stamped design is pretty cool, if economically feasible.
I am opposed to raising the weir. I don't know that the weir needs to be replaced.
Keep the costs of building as low as possible.
A wonderful chance to include local artists in the community!
Makes the site more graffiti proof!
Spend the money on protecting the environment, the fish habitat, and on educating the public about the challenges the watershed faces.
With a First Nation design from our local FN communities.
Love the texture and again, some first nation designs from local communities would be inspiring.
This would make our community more of a destination. Would compliment our beautiful surroundings.
Although this is a lovely idea, we have a graffiti artists in this area that seem to tag anything new. Stamped concrete would be too hard to clean up graffiti.
This matters less to me, than the possibility of having a walkway over the weir. I would guess that creating a 'mural' or theme would be quite expensive, although the most unique... and MAY enchant visitors.
Perhaps a local First Nations artist could make a design, so that the weir was both functional and beautiful, and culturally appropriate.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see the concrete stamped?

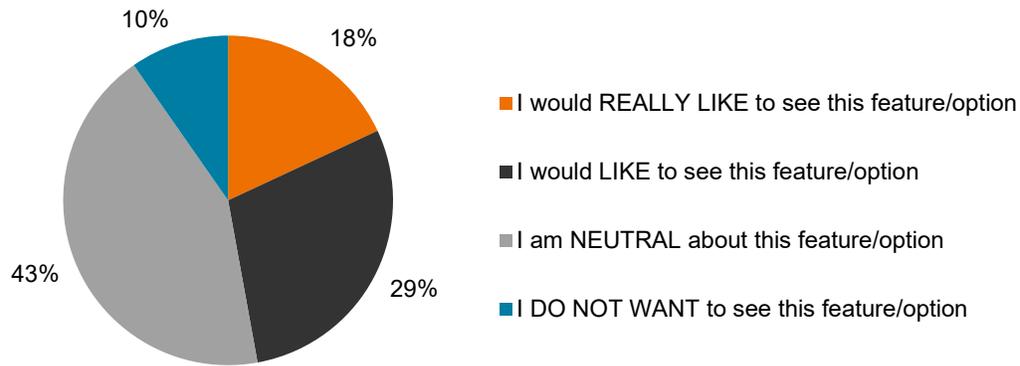
Comments
Stamping examples I have seen have great additions to walls I have seen.
The cost is too high for this to matter
Engineers like to make their creations so pretty,,,,,,with someone else paying the bill. I do not care about good looks compared to good function!
Stamped or patterned concrete would help limit issues with graffiti
If artwork or design is to be stamped, I would like to see it be nature themed with a local Coast Salish design.
Stamped concrete of Native Art would be esthetically pleasing, a tourist "wow" factor and highlight the rich Native past, present and future of the area.
The design should have First Nations input, match some of the design of the community and not create more hazards.
Some of the options are appealing. Please avoid having really rough surfaces that rub up against kayaks, paddle boarders, swimmers etc.
Something very significant to the Community
Yes but does it need to be for the cost
No concerns with making the concrete more attractive as long as the resources allocated to it didn't prevent incorporation of some of the recreational features discussed previously
Should not be an eyesore like current structures
I natural concrete stamp goes a long way aesthetically.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

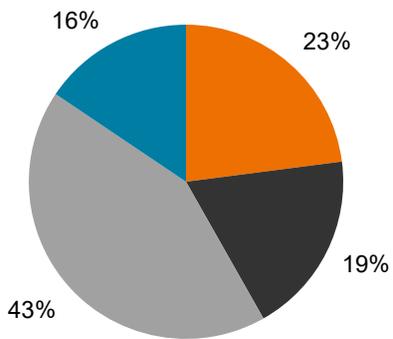
Would you like to see inlays used in the concrete?

ALL RESPONDENTS



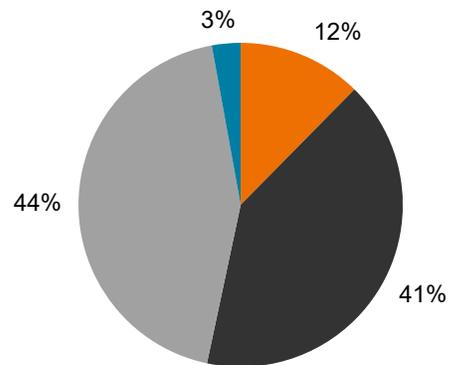
122 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



105 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



227 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see inlays used in the concrete?

Comments
I support expenditures to make the construction and materials eco friendly over fancy schmancy.
Incorporating public art, such as inlays, is an excellent idea.
Good if not overused - certain key locations
Hey good thinking planners. let people submit their art for inlay and allow people to vote their choice.
Stamping would be sufficient.
Cost dependent... I love it but I think the region has other economic priorities.
Perhaps a collaboration with First Nations artists (same goes for stamping of concrete).
Coast Salish art inlaid in the concrete would be an aesthetic feature that I would definitely support.
How about a few hundred pictures of the loggers in tribute to those who died for and in our forests while building our town. Or maybe the founders of our community who built this town on the backs of their fathers, not the backs of their volunteers. STOP wasting taxpayers money and do your [REDACTED] jobs as stewards and representatives of US. We don't need fancy we need affordable, sustainable and usable features that benefit ALL not a select few
At what additional cost???
Inlays are pleasurable but carving patterns in the forms might be a better long term choice. Inlays might be better for walk ways or to enhance displays or other art work.
See previous answer.
Pricey? Save the money for a play park that we could USE for our health and physical enjoyment!!!
Adding artistic features that are aesthetically pleasing will be appropriate and should garner more support for the weir. Local indigenous artists could be asked for ideas or encouraged to compete for several designs.
Balancing cost with the aesthetics of course.
Concerns would be maintenance & costs. Are we able to have local artists and or art students to participate for the inlays.
see previous comments
If possible, and if it was absolutely done permanently and wouldn't be destroyed in ten years...
First Nations art
Looks expensive (?) I'd rather look at the view of the lake and hillside, than look at inlays.
This could be an excellent opportunity to tell the story of the river
Inlays of natural rock along the shore/waterline provide grip in the case of emergency - if someone is entering or exiting the water, or needs to scramble onto shore.
These are attractive and do add to the overall experience of a park user. That said there is an aesthetic/cost trade off.
Fabulous idea. Let us make this an attractive piece.
could be important for connecting with our environment.
Yes, I feel it is important to create aesthetically pleasing structures, especially in concrete, which can be stark and ugly unless it is made with thought.
It would be interesting to see some cultural history of the cowichan valley incorporated into the design.
They will probably not last - stamping would be better
As above. It will add cost, but it will be worth some investment to make the weir attractive.
Yes that seems like a visually appealing addition. Especially if it used a design from a local artist.
These look great. Maybe some First Nations art or something relevant to the area.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see inlays used in the concrete?

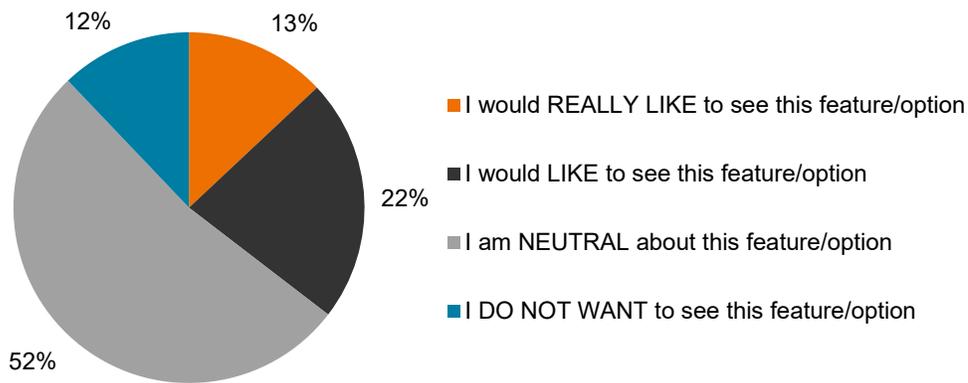
Comments
That would be cool.
waste of money
Seems a bit much.
If you have to, then add art. Do not overpay for the art. I am opposed to the weir being raised and do not know if this expenditure is necessary.
Consult local artist/designers from the community - what their vision might be.
What looks good and the cost are why i voted the way i did in this question.
Nice, but not necessary. Limited amount is ok, again as long as the design can stand the test of time and doesn't add too much cost. The weir design is primarily to regulate the flow, not to be a piece of public art.
This is "window dressing." Spend the money on protecting the environment, the fish habitat, and on educating the public about the challenges the watershed faces.
Perhaps a plaque to tell about local species.
A nice chinook and coho motif would look good.
Same as previous answer. "Although this is a lovely idea, we have a graffiti artists in this area that seem to tag anything new. Stamped concrete would be too hard to clean up graffiti."
This is also a wonderful option to improve or enhance the aesthetics of the future infrastructure.
Examples of this I have seen have been great.
see previous comment "Engineers like to make their creations so pretty,,,,,,with someone else paying the bill. I do not care about good looks compared to good function!"
First nations art
If artwork or design is to be included, I would like to see it be nature themed with a local Coast Salish design.
Stamped inlays would be esthetically pleasing and a tourist "wow" factor
adds a lot of cost
great idea if the budget will allow. lower priority vs functional items.
That would Be very cool but once again is it needed
Good idea as long as the resources allocated to it didn't prevent incorporation of some of the recreational features discussed previously
Inlays can come across as tacky.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

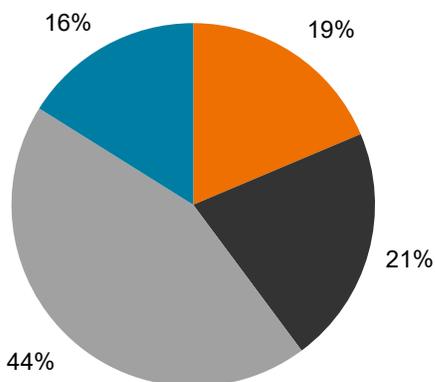
Would you like to see the steel elements coated in colour?

ALL RESPONDENTS



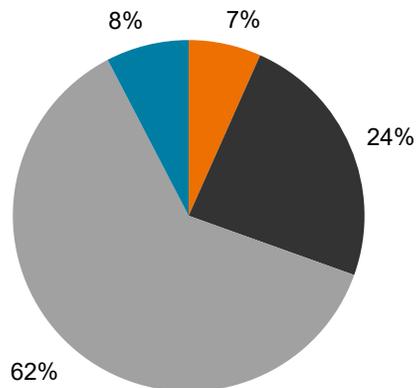
118 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



105 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



223 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see the steel elements coated in colour?

Comments
Yellow is a great colour
I support expenditures to make the construction and materials eco friendly over fancy schmancy.
Turquoise
Blue
Anything but grey!
Cost dependent... I love it but I think the region has other economic priorities.
I'd rather see a design similar to the bridge over the Gorge on Admirals Road. Something more neutral with a brushed metal (presumably aluminum?) finish.
money money money... it is not mine so why should I care how much is spent, spoken like a true politician...
Do what is best for longevity. Will painting reduce rusting. If yes then do it
You might be better to use a higher copper alloy architectural structural steel which doesn't need to be painted to keep the maintenance cost lower in the long term.
Again, I can't see the advantage to any of this.
Natural earth tones
Save the money for the play park!! But, if it must be painted to stop it from rusting or some such, then OK.
Colours that blend with the environment.
Once again yearly maintenance & costs
see previous comments.
Subdued colours to protect the material, but NOT detract from the beauty of nature...
If paint will decrease rusting, then sure! But would it increase maintenance costs to have to repaint regularly?
Yes, beautify the project!
If the steel elements are painted, might as well choose nice colours. I would also be OK with grey galvanized if it reduces maintenance requirements.
white/grey with various colour accents
These are attractive and do add to the overall experience of a park user. That said there is an aesthetic/cost trade off.
I am an old fella but something funky appeals to me.
seems unnecessary. we should have structures that blend into the environment.
Yes, I feel it is important to create aesthetically pleasing structures.
Color is nice.
Green/brown colours to match the natural environment. Doesn't matter too much though.
As natural as possible.
Coloured steel would be nice to see, but almost certainly susceptible to rust/corrosion. When that occurs, the structure will dilapidated. So maintenance costs would be an item.
whatever is the most cost effective
I would prefer the color blends in with the nature around them. I would prefer it is not a distracting focal point.
What is most sustainable. If it is painted, isn't that a higher cost to maintain?
I am opposed to raising the weir. Do not put in unsightly colored walkways.
I think it is ugly but if it is better for safety maybe?



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see the steel elements coated in colour?

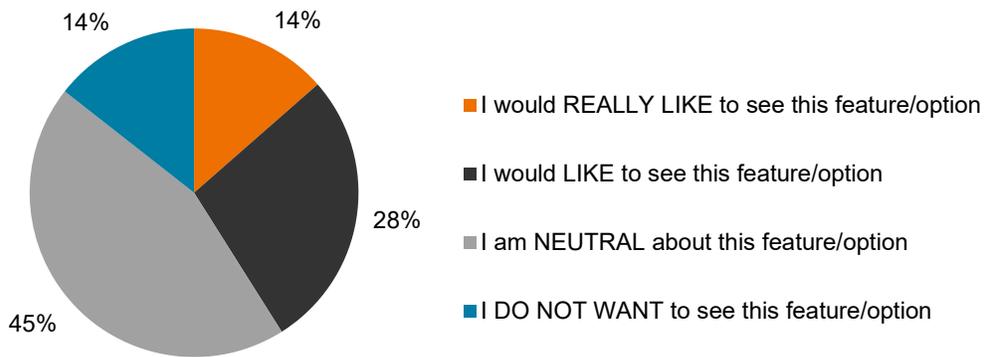
Comments
I really don't care about Colour. What I want is the structure to last forever.
If it avoids rust and prolongs the life 10 ⁶ m for it.
Not if this requires more costly maintenance. The weir will function without this additional feature. Spend the money on protecting the environment, the fish habitat, and on educating the public about the challenges the watershed faces.
Yes I get pretty sick of grey during the fall and winter months. Brighten our world!
Coastal colours would be perfect.
That blue looks good.
This feature would be nice, but how will this be maintained? Who will be paying for this? Is it environmentally friendly if it peels off?
Excellent idea! A colour that draws the eye would remind people to use the (potential) walkway; or come view the signage. It becomes a landmark instead of something to ignore.
I have no objection to coating the steel elements in colour. Everything would depend on the final design and aesthetic that was selected for the weir.
Higher maintenance costs....go stainless or HSS
Present a more natural appearance to blend with the beautiful natural surroundings.
Depends on the colours and how it matches the rest of the area. I prefer natural tones.
colour is always better!
Unfortunately the individuals that seem to like to ruin places with their graffiti will only spray the steel so I don't think wasting money on painting it is worth it
Fine as long as the resources allocated to it didn't prevent incorporation of some of the recreational features discussed previously
Natural material colours look better in my opinion.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

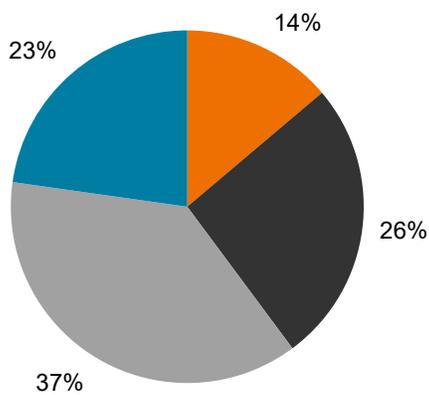
Would you like to see artwork incorporated into the steel elements?

ALL RESPONDENTS



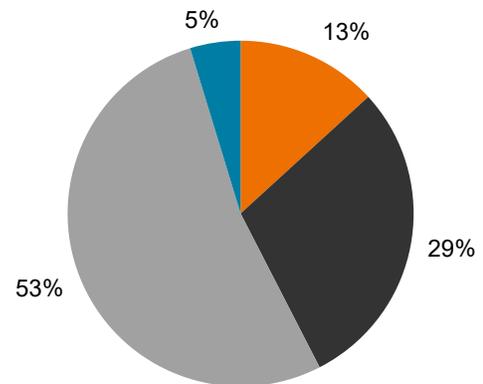
123 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



106 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



229 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see artwork incorporated into the steel elements?

Comments
If it supports local artists.
Employ the KISS principle.
local artists only, please! (possibly local Cowichan Tribes artists?)
Am concerned about the walkway in winter. Will it be slippery when it snows?
Used judiciously
Maybe something interchangeable if there is a walkway
Cost dependent... I love it but I think the region has other economic priorities.
It should relate clearly to local community.
Yes, but I think it would be most appropriate if the art featured in the design were exclusively designed in a Coast Salish design by artists from the Cowichan Tribes.
FN designs
Depends on cost. If high then no. If reasonable. Then yes
Laser cutting can provide these at a reasonable price and provide an interesting visual for tourists and locals using the paths.
seems like it would add cost without looking that great
Who would pay for this?
Only if they are related to the local natural environment, nothing of the human nature, there is enough of that with development.
Save the money for a play park.....
Using local talent
Yes! Let's show case local artists and talents!
aesthetics are important - specific are not. See previous comments
This would be fun if cost wasn't too outrageous.
First Nations art
Given the choice between looking at the view of the valley and lake from the top of the weir, or looking at small steel panels, I'll choose the former every day.
This could be an excellent opportunity to tell the story of the river
These are attractive and do add to the overall experience of a park user. That said there is an aesthetic/cost trade off. If it is done the artwork should avoid turning it space into a kiddie park.
Yes indeed. Let us make this weir not only functional but also something attractive.
Looks great. Something to do with First Nations or local artists.
another waste of money
Please see my above thoughts on the use of Indigenous community and artists if you choose to use their art.
This seems like a low maintenance idea, but again should be economically feasible.
If you have to, then add art. Do not overpay for the art. I am opposed to the weir being raised and do not know if this expenditure is necessary.
Yes! Support local artists!
Once again it's a mater of cost.
Again, cost verse value should be considered.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you like to see artwork incorporated into the steel elements?

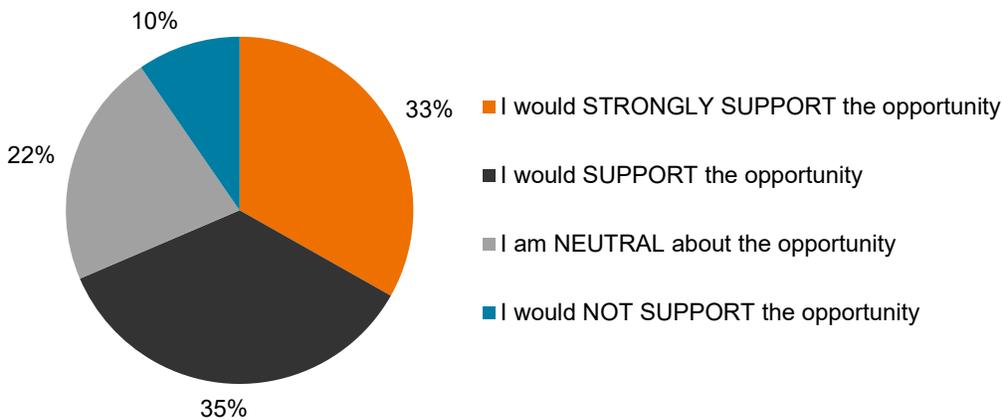
Comments
Spend the money on protecting the environment, the fish habitat, and on educating the public about the challenges the watershed faces.
Indigenous design please
Creates opportunities for community artists and adds interest.
A fish theme would work well.
This would be the best choice if artwork is incorporated into the design! I would suggest nature scenes to go with our more rural settings, and mix in some indigenous designs to represent the Lake Cowichan Tribes.
Very nice ... ideas could be motifs of fish; or of the forestry industry.
These examples look excellent. Everything would depend on the final design ...
If artwork or design is to be included, I would like to see it be nature themed with a local Coast Salish design.
Steel Artwork would be esthetically pleasing, a tourist "wow" factor and highlight the rich Native past, present and future of the area.
As long as it doesn't start to look tacky.
yes please - ideally from a local artist
Again, it ends up looking tacky.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

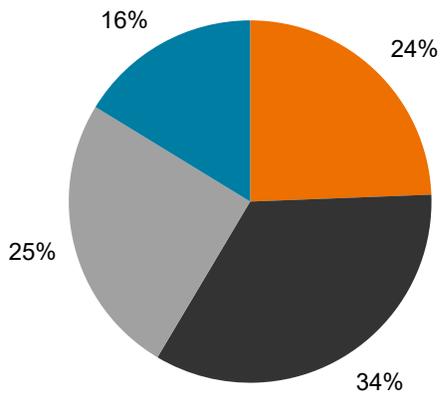
Would you support the opportunity for public art? This could include a local artist painting the steel elements which would then be sealed to protect the art or artwork (non-structurally compromising) being mounted to the weir.

ALL RESPONDENTS



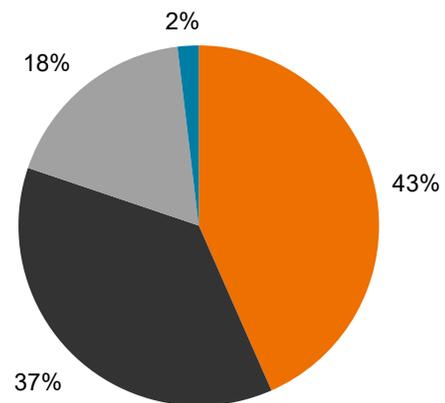
123 respondents

RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS



106 respondents

NON-RESIDENTS / NON-PROPERTY OWNERS



229 respondents



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you support the opportunity for public art? This could include a local artist painting the steel elements which would then be sealed to protect the art or artwork (non-structurally compromising) being mounted to the weir.

Comments
of course!
This type of addition can easily become junk.
Public art can be pretty controversial if it's not conventional. I would be worried about the cost.
Use cautiously
home grown art work helps
You bet . i know this stuff is costly and some may even call it frivolous but I say go for it and the more creative the better. Wow an underwater observation area????>?
Cost dependent... I love it but I think the region has other economic priorities. Could it be built in such a way that it could incorporate that later. Blank canvass to be completed over the decades to come?
Zak Stokes is not the only artist in town, we have enough sporadic art as it is. Do not add something that will become outdated and only represent the grade 4 class of 2020 or a crotchity old man who carves good. I wonder how much of his retirement you have supported :(
FN's
How about a few commissioned totem poles or other local art objects in flower beds? This would provide a more direct connection to other initiatives in the area.
Lovely to look at but again who pays for it and who maintains this? We pay the highest taxes here on the lake and I would like to see better environmental practices and nature as it is supposed to be. We are in a sensitive area and the environments protection is paramount especially in this challenging time.
no, natural environment only, there are way to many opinions on what would be acceptable, someone will always be offended.
It IS a nice feature if not expensive. Public artwork may always be purchased and added as ongoing projects later and not necessarily required for current building budget.. I will return to my usual mantra.....save the money for a public play park!!!
It seems to me that First Nations commissions would be a good idea for a project like this.
Yes, brilliant.
Excellent opportunity further to involve the community, and to link with our heritage.
Above all previous beautification options, this seems the best
At the artists expense
This could be a great opportunity to commission indigenous artists.
Supporting local artists is key!
I would support a limited amount of public art. With public art the appreciation always differs for each user. The safe bet in the past 20 + years has been indigenous art however this is already well represented in Cowichan. These can be attractive and do add to the overall experience of a park user. That said there is an aesthetic/cost trade off. If it is done the artwork should carefully selected.
Indeed. Great idea. Let us support our local talent.
Keyword here would be local - only if this can be achieved
Yes, I feel it is important to create aesthetically pleasing structures and the opportunity for local artists to have a part in partnering with designers to create how local structures look.
I don't care too much about the aesthetics overall but would love to see involvement and support of local artists, particularly First Nations people.
Local art would be a great way to connect with the area.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Would you support the opportunity for public art? This could include a local artist painting the steel elements which would then be sealed to protect the art or artwork (non-structurally compromising) being mounted to the weir.

Comments
local artists not tendered to american artists
Gives it more of a community feel and broadens the range in interested user groups.
one piece of art should suffice if we have to
As long as it blended in with the surroundings. Not too colourful and distracting.
My suggestion would be that the artwork be low maintenance, whatever it would be,
If you have to, then add art. Do not overpay for the art. I am opposed to the weir being raised and do not know if this expenditure is necessary.
Again ... keep the cost of building as low as possible and just make sure there is no flooding of the houses along the lake when we have heavy rain. Need good management of this weir for water levels during high water.
Cost is the factor.
Some art would be nice, as long as it doesn't become a target for vandalism.
Not as part of the weir itself but perhaps adjacent to an interpretative/educational display station.
My only concern is vandalism. Cleanable surfaces.
The sasquatch figures at the weir at Harrison Lake are really vibrant. The art at the Transfer station in Lake C. is well done and would look good downtown as well.
Who is going to choose the public art? Some designs are just junk with high price tags.
I would actually like to see the whole infrastructure designed to be a lasting piece of art. Interpretive signage should credit all of the designers, not just the engineers.
Yes this a great opportunity to liven up the area. the art at the Recycling centre at Meades Creek really livens up that place. The red and black Sasquatch figure on the pumphouse at the river outlet to Harrison Lake really livens up the spot. There already other examples at the Community Hall in Honeymoon Bay and the murals at lake Cowichan Secondary School. A public call for ideas and then an unveiling at the opening of the weir could help keep public interest in the process.
This could be added at a later date. I think we risk adding too many things to the project. The focus needs to first be on controlling the water flow/level, second on structures in the water and after that frilly design features.
Always support local artists
yes please but local artists only
Would be nice to provide opportunity for local student involvement and/or local FN artists.
Don't spend 10's of thousands on it.
If done tastefully, yes. No abstract art please!



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Other ideas? Please comment in the box below.

Comments
I'd like to see the weir allow cold water to enter the river to support the fisheries. My main concerns are the ecosystem and the environment. Ecosystem first - people second.
Surf wave Kayak Slalom parcour
Turquoise bridge and copper inlays (like the fish above) with indiginous flair.
I think public education, and gaining public support, is an important part of this project. If features can be included which help to generate income for the community, that is a plus. Most important feature, however, is improved water storage going into the future!
The big thing is to store enough water to serve valley residents. Should have been done years ago.
Lake front owners should be compensated for loss of land due to rising the weir.
Thank you for asking for our opinion. Keep it up I get the sense that this is going to be a feature in our area . Keep asking for ideas someone may come up with a gem. Incorporating a hydroelectric project sounds great but don't kill one fish or the ideas dead for me..
I am so Grateful to live in such a beautiful sacred place! I would like to help get the invasive plants on the trails gone, it will only get worse if it's not dealt with. I see all kinds spreading and choking out Native plants. Love this Town, it is Home! ❤️🙏
Be accountable, truthful, and dedicated to keeping costs manageable for ALL. Do your jobs so the volunteers you walk over do not make you look any worse than you do already. Limit comments and personal agendas to only things that really matter to your communities and stop blowing smoke up your own asses as you become better at lying, covering up injustices, spreading untruths and not being accountable to the taxpayers who fund YOUR jobs. Your lack of fortitude is very poor and your petulance is ridiculous. I have seen better behaved individual in preschools and daycares.
I would simply like the new Weir to do the required job effectively to protect the ecosystem. It doesn't have to be fancy to do that. A walkway could be dangerous so we certainly don't need that. Fancy art work will just add to the cost. All we need is a new weir that will enable us to store more water in the lake so we can feed the river when necessary. An enhanced fish ladder system must be part of the new design, otherwise keep it simple.
On site security visits, public info warning re. safety, reminders about courtesy and responsibility for garbage, toilet usage, and public drunkenness/drunken boating. Reporting numbers would be useful.
There will be no movement forward without reconciliation, recognition of the original owners, and UNDRIP; specifically implementing the UN Sustainable Development goals related to recognition of the original owners, management of the weir, priority to the FN's river, land and water laws; control of water licenses, Employment opportunities and procurement opportunities.
IMO. The weir needs to be built. Do it. Build it within reasonable cost.
Consider providing a walking trail as a path wandering from lake Cowichan down to the sea that would allow folks to follow the river. There are already flood dikes from the silver bridge in Duncan to the estuary and this might be a start. I expect getting permits for all the river maybe impossible
This sounds like another government fiasco. Who will benefit?
Great to hear the weir project is moving forward,
This entire process is much needed and you all are doing an excellent job trying to tap all users opinions and ideas. Kudos and THANKS!!



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Other ideas? Please comment in the box below.

Comments
There is no question or information in this survey about water storage in the weir, the most challenging and important function and primary purpose. It is extremely important to ensure that the weir is not limited to storage capabilities that quickly become outdated as climate change evolves and droughts worsen. In 1990 it was determined by the KPA Engineering Report that 57 cm of additional water storage was required. Thirty years later building a weir for that level will not likely be sufficient. This must be calculated carefully with the future needs in mind.
PLEASE, let's get a decent boat ramp built for the people of Lake Cowichan and the area to use. As a boat owner, I would not mind paying a reasonable fee for use of a good boat ramp. Please consider this in your plans.
Thanks for considering this!
I understand the need for a new wait. More importantly as a taxpayer, working within the budget is key.
As a whitewater enthusiast, I am excited that the potential exists to create a whitewater park or feature in my region. I encourage the decision makers to look at the examples of many other places that have created such recreational facilities to see how this might have a positive impact on the Cowichan region.
You have covered all ideas thoroughly... Thanks!
Features for paddlers would greatly enhance the recreational use of the river.
If this could be designed like Kelly's™s Whitewater Park in Cascade Idaho, I think it would be a huge asset to the community. Having a great whitewater feature is the highest priority for me. But anything that can draw the community to the area like nice walkways is a great
I would strongly encourage a wave feature to be built. Other municipalities have built similar features when reconstructing weirs. Standing wave features are a great opportunity to encourage people to get outdoors. They promote a healthy active community by providing a safe area to learn and build river paddling skills required to navigate fast flowing rivers. There are currently no wave features on the Island although there is a large whitewater boating/ surfing community who would greatly benefit from such a feature. Thanks for your consideration on this matter.
I just want to reiterate my support for a whitewater feature here! It would be a game changer for British Columbia. Whitewater parks are proven drivers of economic activity in small communities and building one here could give us momentum in the rest of the province! Not to mention I would love to visit and use the park.
1. Weirs have a bad reputation for creating dangerous entrapment hazards -- (swimmers, boaters). Can the design ensure that anyone caught in the water near the weir be safe? 2. In my opinion, the huge potential for the weir to provide a wide variety of active recreational opportunities will contribute not only to the public's health, but also to the town's tourist revenue. Aesthetics less so. Regardless, this invitation for public input is important. Thanks for the opportunity.
Given that the weir controls the flow from the lake, standing waves could be engineered through the strategic placement of submerged barriers that would allow paddlers of all kinds to be able to play and surf in these man-made waves.
Greenspace park beside the river feature? Small stage for music? Many paddlers play instruments ;)
As mentioned above I feel a Whitewater park would be an important element in driving tourism and community engagement in the Cowichan area. Kelly's Waterpark in Cascade Idaho is a model to consider.
Platforms for anglers . Lighting for use in the evenings.
So it would be good to have a discussion on where the money is coming from to pay for this dam. This project is definitely needed but if the town of Lake Cowichan is footing the bill via taxes then lets keep it simple.
Overall, I think it's important to focus on fundamental design, not on decorations. Good design will have its own esthetic quality. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.
I'm looking forward to the start and completion of this long awaited project.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Other ideas? Please comment in the box below.

Comments
A nice grassy picnic site/recreation area with some trees for shade adjacent to the river would also add to the feature
This is an excellent initiative. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I wish you the very best with this project!
My main focus is on the whitewater park. Would be nice to have a whitewater slalom course included as well. This may increase the cost, but there are 4 Olympic medals in whitewater slalom (https://olympic.ca/sports/slalom/) and Cowichan Lake has one of the best temperatures for year round training of anywhere in Canada. It's also a great way to introduce young people to paddling.
I would also really like it if any play feature was usable in the summer months if possible. During the winter there are lots of other rivers to paddle, but in the summer they all dry up, so a play feature would get the most use then.
a Whitewater park with a variety of levels from beginner to advanced if you want people coming to the valley spending money in the local business paddlers will do this it would be the only one on the island and would be a destination all year long
Range of features from beginner to expert. Bend Oregon course is a great example of multiple lines for harder or easier options. Manages to work in some sensitive habitat as well. Big surf wave would be great (see Hawea wave in New Zealand).
we want a lean mean water retaining machine period !
I think that this is an essential project. We need to minimize the negative impact on shorelines (as I see is being studied) but with smaller snowpack (snow is ... or was... a reservoir), increasing water demand, and decreasing precipitation, this must be done. Using access as a recreational / educational tool is hugely important.
The cosmetic aspects, I support but would not seriously object were they found to be too expensive for some folks to support.
The survey is very hard to find/ navigate and should be easier to find. and use. More obvious at the start of the web site . The weir is greatly needed but the budget needs to be watched very carefully and public art isn't a good use of public money!!!!
It is important to get this weir built, but all the extras are costing more money so lets just get it built the sooner the better. We need the extra water!!!!



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Other ideas? Please comment in the box below.

Comments
<p>You might realize that I am opposed to this project. I do not know if the weir needs to be replaced. It definitely does not need to be raised. The water level of the lake needs to be managed. This year (2020) is the first time it has been managed in many years. If you raise the level of the weir, you will be putting in a dam. Dams are being removed in several rivers in the US and fish stocks are returning.</p>
<p>You have not contacted the property owners around the lake regarding this. On our property we rarely see and have use of our entire property due to the current weir. In addition, in the winter we regularly are flooded by high lake levels. This is due to the mismanagement of the current weir. If you raise it another 27.5 inches our home will be in jeopardy.</p>
<p>There has been no mention of the reimbursement which was promised and never given to property owners in the 1950s. What kind of reimbursement will you be providing to affected property owners? When are you planning on talking with them? The only time you contact property owners is with your hand out for money, at tax time. This survey is simply not enough. You must communicate with each individual property owner.</p>
<p>If you need to store water, it must be done elsewhere, in the community in which you require it, along the banks of the Cowichan River, or in the mountains above Cowichan Lake. If you really want to contribute to the fish stocks, stop the jet boats, wake boats and loud yahoos on the lake. Stop people making docks using unsealed styrofoam for flotation. Our beach is littered with LOTS of that styrofoam, an environmental nightmare.</p>
<p>Please, please, please DO NOT PROCEED WITH THIS PROJECT.</p>
<p>Include the local First Nations- I do not know the direct history of this specific area of the river but perhaps there is an oral legend that explains its significance that may have been brushed over. I find more meaning in places where I have learned the significance it has held for those before me. It makes me appreciate these places in a way that I would not have before.</p>
<p>I am very happy to see that the Weir if finally being improved and raised.</p> <p>Building trails and recreational water ways are important but most important:</p> <p>Please don't build something that isn't adequate to hold water to supply an ever expanding population base.</p>
<p>In my opinion, what is required to increase the storage capacity is a well-designed, well-constructed weir. Good, unembellished structural design should be able to visually stand alone and not require a lot of the so-called "aesthetic" additions of concrete stamping and inlays, or coloured steel work. Many of these additions would (I imagine) increase structural and maintenance costs. I think additional monies would be better spent on protecting the surrounding environment and fish habitat and on educating the public (through interpretative displays) about the challenges facing the Cowichan watershed and local fish populations.</p>
<p>Great opportunity for school use. Story trail for local history, native plants.....</p>
<p>Questions: As the weir is for the benefit of Crofton Mill, what happens when it closes? Will the company still be able to sell surplus water? Without the mill we would probably have sufficient water for all our needs?. If the water level was left to build during the spring rather than releasing it (incompetent operation) to make the water shortage appear worse, we may well have enough. I know getting the fishing/salmon element involved the proponents of raising the weir gain support. Are the owners of waterfront properties be compensated for loss of land and reduced taxes as the raised lake level will take some of their properties? So why don't these "partnerships/Stewards of the local lands and water do something about what is helping limit the water flow into the lake/river. Reforestation limits instant run off in the catchment area by gradually allowing rain/precipitation so water enters the lake etc. at a reduced rush rather than as a sudden amount and its gone. At the end of the day this whole plan is to benefit Crofton Mill as a commercial enterprise who have constantly been reducing employees (down from 600) getting tax breaks through threats to CVRD of closure. The mill has not bothered with recycling the water/Storage ponds and look at the lake and river as a constant source without putting anything back.</p>



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Other ideas? Please comment in the box below.

Comments
The Saywell Park end of the weir includes significant riparian restoration work and interpretative signage, the Gerald Thom Native Plant Garden and the Kaatza Museum. Putting the Weir info centre there among these other attractions could make for a good focused information destination especially if they are advertised more prominently.
This is the opportunity to create/install something updated/new that will benefit everyone in the Cowichan Valley. I am not sure if this survey has been given to the residents of the entire Cowichan Valley, or just the Cowichan Lake area residents. If there is a way to listen to the actual residents of this area versus the residents in the Cowichan Valley, that would be my preference ... after all, we are the ones who actually live here. Thank you for allowing our Cowichan Lake community members the opportunity to weigh in.
Design and colour choices should be made with a view to having it blend in with the surrounding area/nature; meaning it should not be too stark in design or bright in colour.
The new Johnson Street bridge in Victoria is a good example of using contemporary design, and having a very functional bridge which accommodates different users: walkers, bikes, and cars.
widen boat launch and parking areas as well as dock tie up areas while loading and unloading it becomes quite the zoo
The time for a weir has come. Thanks for the work that you are doing to make this a reality!
*Skip the boat lock. Underused and not necessary * Overbuild on weir height and make provision for emergency overflow if extreme rainfall experienced. *Build the weir now. Have a plan for the aesthetics to be incorporated at a later date. Water storage capability is the key. Deal with the hurt feelings later.
Some kind of visual element that easily illustrates the state of storage and river flow levels that can be taken in at a glance from the park or the boat launch or Jake's balcony would be a good addition.
Some children's art from our surrounding schools.
My home is located in the flood plain now. Of course raising the lake 70cm (28 inch) plus a winter storm will be dangerous for my home and me. I want to know what considerations, if any, are being discussed about the many home owners around the lake in the same predicament. The land and preparations for building my home (part of the Castaway Resort in the mid fifties) must have occurred about the same time as plans for the existing weir 1957. Who would have foreseen the future calculation of a 200 year flood plain regulation? I came here in 1970 and no one then was talking about this regulation. As a senior now, if I get flooded out I will need major compensation to rebuild at a higher elevation
People being active in and around the water should be encouraged.
Whitewater Play Park
The design should also consider rescuer access in case of incident. The fire department needs access for their boat, anchor attachment points for rescue swimmers or inflatable kayak access with SAR personnel.
I highly support the addition of a whitewater recreation area to the weir re-design.
Would rather spend any budget on water features or for more practical use
Thanks to all civic leaders for trying to make this project the best possible. I am a regular user of the Cowichan River, canoeing and hiking. Maximizing paddling opportunities from the new weir would be fantastic.
Build it paddlers will come.
Watersport safety, aesthetics, and environmental concerns are important. We need to be especially fair to migrating fish.
Build a whitewater park! Such an amazing idea, with so much recreation potential.
As a waterfront owner I am still very concerned about raising the weir. Flooding already occurs and management seems to be the problem. Close the weir earlier depending on rainfall. I do not wish my taxes to go to this project at all.



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Other ideas? Please comment in the box below.

Comments
Please add a whitewater feature
Appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to seeing the results of the survey and how it influences final design of the structure.
I am a resident in the greater Victoria area who spends recreational time in the Cowichan Valley. If done right, this project will continue to attract recreational people like me to the Cowichan Valley.
Yes, add my voice to those who would like to see a whitewater feature added to the weir project. Both Bend, OR and Boise ID have whitewater parks which are very popular with local surfers. (You can find live webcams on youtube to see them in action.) It can only benefit a local tourist and outdoor adventure industry which has been devastated by the current COVID crisis.
Support the idea of somehow incorporating a small whitewater park or play wave for kayaking, canoeing and surfing. A great opportunity for the area!!!
Yes, add my voice to those who would like to see a whitewater feature added to the weir project. Both Bend, OR and Boise ID have whitewater parks which are very popular with local surfers. (You can find live webcams on youtube to see them in action.) It can only benefit a local tourist and outdoor adventure industry which has been devastated by the current COVID crisis.
I like the suggestions made so far about balancing the commercial and community needs in designing and engineering this project. In my mind having rapids and a water park for example would fulfill a recreational need. Raising the lake level and providing more continuous seasonal flows would also be good for both industrial and environmental reasons. Environmental engineers are well aware of the benefits of a dual approach to planning and designing projects and that these features are not necessarily mutually exclusive.
Surrounding paths and park lands may not be funded from the same project fund source but the municipality could surely take care of those aspects as the entire project is beneficial to the whole community. Having too long and protracted a consultation process leads to increasing project expenses and in some cases has scrupled perfectly viable projects. I'm not sure at this point where funding is to come from but whether private or public we should get on with this as quickly as possible.
Having a play feature at the weir would be an incredible asset for whitewater paddlers on Vancouver Island. The whitewater paddling community is very excited to be a part of this discussion as the Cowichan river is an invaluable resource to all paddlers. It is a fantastic river to learn on and progress ones skills, and is one of the only rivers on Vancouver Island that is "runnable" year round. A play feature at the weir would help us to grow our sport in a safe and responsible manner. Every year, the Cowichan River Youth Kayak Festival is run through the Vancouver Island Whitewater Paddling Society, and introduces youth to the benefits of kayaking. As a Canadian Heritage River, the Cowichan River's "Recreational Potential" (one of the criteria for this designation) allows so many recreational users to find balance and flow, and mitigate stress with both physical and mental health benefits. A professionally designed play feature at the weir would allow paddlers to to progress their skills further, and find deeper meaningful connections with their local natural environment, which fosters a sense of responsibility for stewardship of the Cowichan River.
Hello, I would just like to add that making this project about a new weir and tapping into public use is the way to go. Building a whitewater feature for example will be a huge draw to the community and will lead to a long term, viable public resource for local and non-resident users. These types of features have long existed in small European communities with great success (Olympic Gold Medalists and World Champions are predominantly from such communities). These types of parks are also starting to crop up in the US, particularly such states as Colorado. And they are well received and used by locals and tourists. It will be a great investment for years to come!



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Other ideas? Please comment in the box below.

Comments
<p>I think it's critical to balance the ecological impacts and the social desires for a project like this. There is huge potential to create whitewater play features, and a beautiful surrounding park system that would draw visitors from around Vancouver Island to interact with this river in a low impact, eco-friendly way. I also think it's necessary to consider the ecological role that the Cowichan river plays in the surrounding ecosystem and taking steps to minimize negative impacts of this modification on the watershed needs to be kept as necessary criteria for any plan that is considered. I've heard of some cool weir projects that seem to balance these needs such as the bend weir in Oregon https://www.bendparksandrec.org/facility/bend-whitewater-park/ and I have no doubt that there are other great examples to draw from. This is an exciting project with tons of potential and I really hope it comes together!!!</p>
<p>Let's not scrimp on the height. Make sure it will last for several decades based on ever changing conditions.</p>
<p>We need to re-build the natural systems that have provided water in the Cowichan for millions of years. There are simple ways to do this, but we need to be looking at a watershed level. As a restoration ecologist I believe that it is critical to look at the root cause of problems, not try to add some patchwork solution on top.</p>
<p>Would be amazing to see a whitewater feature or park here - it would be such an asset for the region. There's nothing like this anywhere on the mainland or the island (apart from the course in Whistler which is essentially closed to the public). Great for surfers, paddle boarders and kayakers!</p>
<p>Additional water storage in Lake Cowichan is necessary, if not every year then every other year. And the weir is how to do that, by keeping the lake at the height it hits in the winter longer and letting water out more gradually. And it may prevent some of the massive river blowouts we have seen from the midwinter rains. So lets all get behind this long overdue project, before we have another major drought year. Great work team.</p>
<p>North Cowichan will soon be the host town to World Class Canadian Rowing Club. The area around the valley will be used by many athletes for rigorous training. A water feature from the new weir may well be a perfect place for these athletes as well as others from closeby or faraway places, to come visit and enjoy.</p>
<p>I have not seen a preliminary plan for this project but am sure there is a way for marine life to enter and exit Lake Cowichan safely. Would like to hear what the plans would be for that route.</p>
<p>I also support the development of a whitewater kayaking play feature built into the new weir construction. I've relocated to Vancouver island from Western North Carolina where the remote Nantahala River Gorge enjoys a more than \$100 million positive economic impact from the whitewater recreation industry. The Cowichan River, holds a special potential with its year round flow, to support economic growth in the adventure/eco tourism industry. A well designed whitewater "play-feature" could be a great boon to the local economy as well as a one-of-a-kind resource for recreation for boaters around the pacific north west.</p>
<p>I am encouraged that the idea of re-designing the weir is spurring investigations into how this project might benefit the community beyond just the changes to water supply. There is a large scale international movement to re-design weirs and dams and many of the projects elsewhere incorporate recreational benefits into the priorities of the project design. I hope that this opportunity is taken advantage of. The potential to design a full range of recreational facilities into the whole project can transform the community in so many positive ways. Trails for running, hiking, cycling, pump tracks and bike parks, climbing walls or parkour parks and cool spaces to hang out should all be incorporated on the edges of the weir design. Incorporating water park features to create a venue for river surfing on boards and whitewater kayaking/canoeing will draw people from all over Vancouver Island and beyond - particularly when other natural features are too dry to use for recreation. The potential of this to have a lasting, positive economic effect for the Cowichan Valley is huge, not to mention the benefit of having unique recreational facilities for locals to use.</p>
<p>I love the idea of building in some hydraulic features for a small whitewater park or play wave for kayaking, canoeing and surfing. It would be a great resource for paddlers and an economic asset for Lake Cowichan.</p>
<p>I suggest installing several large pipes, perhaps with twin valves, at the base of the new weir, so that water flow can continue even at low lake levels.</p>
<p>Is there any possibility that power generation could be incorporated into the weir? It seems clean energy is there for the taking and the power made could offset energy costs of the weir itself plus feed back power to the grid!</p>



COWICHAN VALLEY WEIR DESIGN

Other ideas? Please comment in the box below.

Comments
I have my doubts about the viability of hydro at this location - the drop in elevation is small and hydro adds a whole lot of complications (e.g. safety at intake, diversion of water away from the recreational site, unsightly and expensive transmission infrastructure, etc.) that likely add cost and detract from any recreational opportunities

