# Forest Valley Trails Working Group (FVTWG) PROTECTION, SUSTAINABILITY AND MAINTENANCE OF THE CHAPEL HILL NORTH FOREST AND ITS TRAILS

Public Feedback on the FVTWG Report

Presented at Chapel Hill North Community Association AGM, May 28, 2019

# **Public Feedback Highlights**

# General

- Public Information Meeting Nov.5, 2018: 52 participants. 69% Chapel Hill North residents.
- Written Feedback Oct.-Dec. 2018: 32 submissions. 59% Chapel Hill North residents.
- Appreciation expressed for results accomplished. Many thanks to respondents and participants.
- Identification of concerns and interests passion and caring.
- Preferred way forward Option A Key Priorities with Community Engagement

# **Issues Identified**

# Environmental protection and sustainability

- o Strong support for measures to protect the forest and its existing informal trails.
- o Balancing protection of CHN's urban natural areas with recreation interests.

# Management

- o More active involvement by NCC and City landowners and engagement with CHN.
- Baseline environmental and sustainability reviews prior to design and maintenance.
- o Address user conflicts and behaviours consistent with sustainable management.

#### Public Education and Awareness

- Need to improve public awareness and understanding of the EP status of CHN forest and appropriate usage of forest and trails.
- Lack of informative signage and user protocols for appropriate use and safety.

# Appropriate Use

- o Times have changed. New governing policies and plans. Allowed uses for urban natural areas based on EP status, long-term sustainability and more hands-on oversight.
- Not all trails are necessarily suited to all uses all the time. Time to assess trail rationalization, repositioning and returning some trails to their natural state.
- Determine appropriate uses based on environmental studies, policy maker review and sound management.

# Trail Users and Activities

- CHN urban forest unique, protected and compact natural area. Adverse impact evident and ongoing.
- Accommodation of multiple users based on compatible activities and permitted uses. Other urban and rural natural areas may be more suitable and enjoyable for some users.

# Access, Parking and Traffic

o Planning of official trails and access to consider impact on residential streets and users.

# **Next Steps**

- Option A: Key Priorities with Community Engagement incremental approach.
- Involvement of CHN residents, discussions and feedback.
- Essential mandate, role and authorities of the City, NCC and RVCA.