

— FRIENDS OF —
GARIBALDI PARK

May 27, 2024: Response to BC Parks Day-Use Pass Announcement

Friends of Garibaldi Park Society (FOGPS) is once again disappointed with the announcement that the BC Parks day-use pass system will be returning to Garibaldi Provincial Park for 2024. We strongly believe that expanding park capacity rather than limiting access would more effectively use BC Parks' staff and resources for the benefit of the public and our unique parks.

Instead of spending hundreds of thousands of dollars (\$900,000 was spent just on the initial launch in 2020) to keep people out of provincial parks, BC Parks' resources would be better spent increasing accessibility to them—that means building and maintaining trails, expanding inclusive recreation opportunities, and promoting carpooling and bus or shuttle options. A 2022 [survey commissioned by the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC](#) found that 85% of BC residents who participate in outdoor recreation activities want to see greater government investment in trails and other outdoor recreation opportunities.

From BC Parks recent day-use pass announcement, it is apparent that where the day-pass program is implemented, the number of available passes is based on parking availability rather than grounded in research into ecological impacts. The BC Parks website states: "The number of passes available each day is based on parking lot capacity. There is space for 55 vehicles at Diamond Head, 220 at Rubble Creek, and 50 at Cheakamus." These parking spaces are for backcountry campers, wilderness zone users, and day users. There is no limit to the number of people in the park per day. There is no research to justify the number of passes other than parking availability. While overuse will affect a park, existing trails, and infrastructure, there is no research or data available to show what trail and ecosystem capacities should realistically be or how the park could be managed more effectively to provide more accessible and inclusive outdoor recreation opportunities. FOGPS will continue to advocate for the expansion of the trail network and recreation opportunities as the best solution to potential overuse, while increasing the accessibility of the park, dispersing park users and minimising ecological impacts.

FOGPS is pleased to see that this year passes will not be required on weekdays in September and October, for which FOGPS previously advocated. Eliminating the need for passes in the fall removes one barrier, making the park more accessible. It also eliminates the need to employ park operators to check tickets, freeing up resources to put into improving Garibaldi Park instead.

It is clear that the day-use pass program is not going away, as the "Pilot Project" has ended and day-use passes are now standard practice in southwest BC parks. While saddened by this practice, FOGPS will continue to advocate on behalf of Garibaldi Park and its users.

Friends of Garibaldi Park Society