



SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - VERSION 3

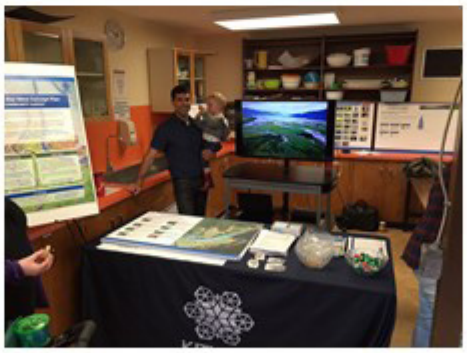
Minette Bay West Concept Plan

30 August 2017



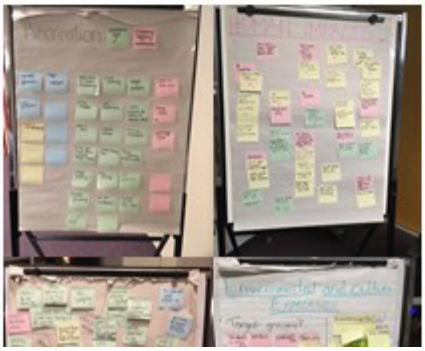














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Minette Bay West Concept Plan

Summary of Community Engagement – Version 3

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Section 1. Introduction

This document summarizes all of the public input received through the planning process for Minette Bay West. Approximately 1,100 – 1,200 contacts[1] with community members were made throughout the process using a variety of communication tools and many engagement activities. During the three phases of work, the project team:

- Facilitated two open houses, four booths at community events and a stakeholder workshop
- Held two community-wide surveys
- Engaged in ongoing dialogue with community members and stakeholders through e-mail, phone, letters and in-person
- Shared information with the public through digital and print communications

Diverse comments and opinions about the recreation potential of Minette Bay West were heard throughout the process. Many participants expressed a desire for public waterfront access and/or a range of recreation amenities, while others indicated that they would prefer to see the site minimally developed or preserved in its current state.

Sections 3 and 4 of this document provide a detailed summary of all of the input and feedback received in 2016 and 2017 respectively. **Section 2** includes a summary of project communications and **Section 5** describes next steps for this project.



View of Minette Bay West shoreline, looking southwest from the causeway (DOK, 2016)

[1] This number represents the number of interactions, or inputs into the process, including attendance and participation at open houses, workshops and booths; completed surveys; phone conversations; e-mail exchanges; in-person meetings; submission of letters and other forms of participation. Contacts are not a direct representation of the number of individuals who have participated in the planning process. One contact can represent the thoughts of multiple community members; for example, when one survey is completed on behalf of a household of two or more people. Conversely, multiple contacts can represent the thoughts of one person, if that one person has participated in the planning process in multiple ways.

Section 2. Project Communications

Open, transparent and frequent communication with the community was a fundamental component of the planning process. The following and other methods were used to inform residents and stakeholders of events and surveys, project updates, release of project-related studies and reports, and other details:

- **Web page** – DOK launched a project web page on September 21, 2016. Regular updates (over 30 in total) were made throughout the planning process to ensure web page content was current and comprehensive.

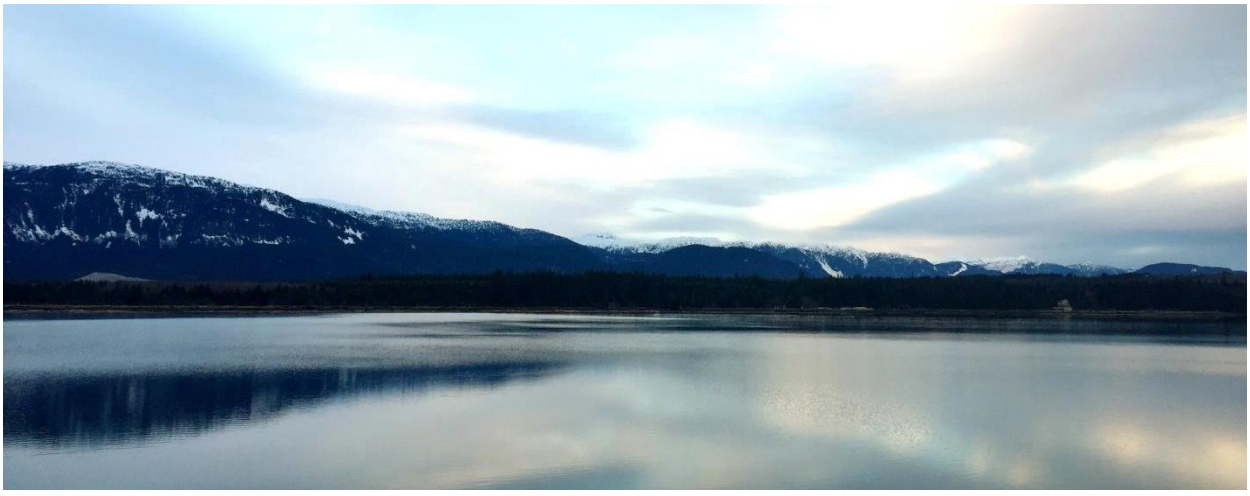
- **E-mail list** – Staff sent over a dozen informative messages, timed in accordance with key project milestones, to e-mail list subscribers. By the end of the planning process, the list included over 80 individuals.

- **Social media** – Staff posted project-related information on DOK's Facebook page more than 20 times. Information was also shared on Twitter and LinkedIn.

- **Posters** – Posters were displayed throughout the community at different points in the planning process. Locations included DOK's notice boards in City Centre Mall, downtown businesses, and high-traffic areas of DOK's facilities. Posters were typically in place for approximately one month leading up to a key event, survey deadline or other milestone.

- **DOK external newsletters** – Articles about Minette Bay West were included in six editions of DOK's external newsletter, including three editions in 2016 and three in 2017.

- **Newspaper** – DOK sponsored project advertisements in the Kitimat Northern Sentinel and Kitimat Northern Light papers. Further, reporters from the Sentinel and other media outlets have been covering the Minette Bay West planning process from the outset.



View of Minette Bay West from the east side of Minette Bay (DOK, 2017)

Section 3. 2016 Engagement (October to December)

3.1 Open House #1

a. Event Details

A project open house was held on October 26, 2016 to mark the end of Phase 1. The intent of Open House #1 was to display results of site investigation and provide an opportunity for public input. The open house was advertised for a month leading up to the event via social media, DOK website, posters, public notices, e-mails, newspaper advertisements and word of mouth. Over 90 people attended the open house to learn about Phase 1 and provide their thoughts about recreation opportunities at Minette Bay West.

The open house included multiple opportunities for attendees to receive information and provide input into the planning process. Project team members were available throughout the event for one-on-one and group conversations with attendees, and poster boards were displayed throughout the room highlighting Phase 1 results and findings, including:

- general project and site information;
- environmental and archeological findings;
- climate change considerations; and
- strengths and challenges for recreation.

The poster boards from this open house are available for download at www.kitimat.ca/mbw (see “Phase 1” under the “What is the Current Status of the Project” heading).



Open House #1 at Riverlodge Recreation Centre (DOK, 2016)

One of the eleven poster boards invited attendees to comment on their vision and priorities for the site. Post-it notes were supplied and attendees were asked to provide written responses to three questions: (1) past experiences in Minette Bay; (2) preferences for future amenities on the Minette Bay West site; and (3) vision for Minette Bay West. Participants also had the option to take home a comment form with the same three questions and provide a detailed response.

Many attendees also took away hard-copies of Community Survey #1, which launched the same day as the open house. Information about Survey #1, including a summary of results, is provided in **Section 3.2** of this document.

On the same evening of and immediately following Open House #1, the project team held a roundtable meeting with the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) to discuss Phase 1 site investigation results. Project consultants attended the meeting to discuss their respective findings and answer questions.

b. Summary of Input

A significant amount of community input was received via the comment board and comment forms at Open House #1. **Appendix A** includes a comprehensive (verbatim) list of all comments received. A summary of this input is included in **Table 1** on the following page. In **Table 1**, individual responses have been grouped into common themes. The number in parenthesis beside each theme indicates the number of times a response applicable to that theme was noted.



Comment board at Open House #1 (DOK, 2016)

Table 1 – Summary of Input from Comment Board and Forms (see Appendix A)

Q1: Have you been to Minette Bay before? If so, what did you do?	*Q2: What would you like to do here [at the Minette Bay West site] in the future?*	*Q3: What is your vision for the future of this site?*
-Hike or walk (14) -Non-motorized boating (13) (dragon, kayak, canoe) -Nature & wildlife observation (7) -Visit Minette Bay Lodge (3) -Boat moored at Minette Bay Marina (3) -Dog walking (2) -Snowshoeing (2) -Horseback riding (2)	-Hike or walk on trails or elevated boardwalks (21) -Launch a canoe, kayak or other non-motorized craft (13) -View nature and wildlife from a look-out platform (6) -Have an interpretive and educational experience (6) -Have a picnic (5) -Photography (4) -Enjoy a public pier, look-out area on the breakwater or other amenity on/near the water (4) -Enjoy scenery (3) -Walk dogs (3)	-Destination for walking, hiking or running (20) -Environmentally sustainable site that has amenities but is kept in a natural state (9) -Universally accessible features for seniors and persons with disabilities (8) -No motorized boats (8) -Access to the ocean for pedestrians via dock, pier or other waterfront amenity (8) -No ATVs (7) -Day use only / no camping (7) -Protect and preserve wildlife habitat (7) -Interpretive and educational destination (7) -Destination for non-motorized water craft (6) -No fires (6) -Destination for wildlife viewing (6) -Destination for picnicking (6) -Untouched - i.e., “leave it alone” (3) -Camping destination (3) -Pedestrian only - no road/car access (3) -Safe and family-friendly (3)

3.2 Community Survey #1

a. Survey Details

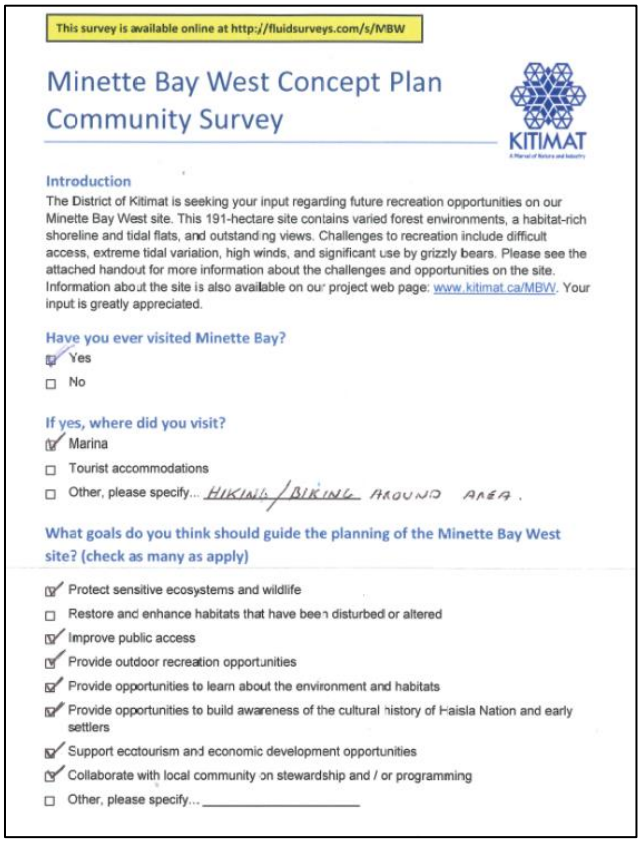
An online community survey was available to the public from October 26 to November 28, 2016. The intent of Community Survey #1 was to collect information on community priorities and perspectives with respect to recreation opportunities at Minette Bay West. In total, 224 surveys were completed and 14 were partially completed, for a 94% completion rate.

Community Survey #1 was available online as well as in hard-copy; hard copies were available at District of Kitimat facilities throughout the duration of the survey. Although the online component of the survey closed on November 28, DOK staff continued to accept completed hard copies until December 2.

Survey #1 was widely advertised throughout the community during the last week of October and throughout November. General information about the survey was posted on the DOK website, social media, and posters at our municipal facilities. An e-mail regarding the survey was sent out to subscribers of our project e-mail list on November 25. Further, staff handed out surveys and provided information about the project (to encourage and support survey completion) at three community events in November:

- Annual Fall Craft & Gift Sale (Nov. 4-5);
- Love Kitimat Trade Show (Nov. 25); and
- Light Up Kitimat (Nov. 27).

The survey included nine questions in total. The questions were multiple choice with some opportunities for open-ended input through "other" responses. The survey results and a summary of open-ended feedback are included in the following section.



This survey is available online at http://fluidsurveys.com/s/MBW

Minette Bay West Concept Plan Community Survey

KITIMAT

Introduction

The District of Kitimat is seeking your input regarding future recreation opportunities on our Minette Bay West site. This 191-hectare site contains varied forest environments, a habitat-rich shoreline and tidal flats, and outstanding views. Challenges to recreation include difficult access, extreme tidal variation, high winds, and significant use by grizzly bears. Please see the attached handout for more information about the challenges and opportunities on the site. Information about the site is also available on our project web page: www.kitimat.ca/MBW. Your input is greatly appreciated.

Have you ever visited Minette Bay?

- ☑ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, where did you visit?

- ☑ Marina
- ☐ Tourist accommodations
- ☐ Other, please specify... HIKING / BIKING AROUND AREA.

What goals do you think should guide the planning of the Minette Bay West site? (check as many as apply)

- ☑ Protect sensitive ecosystems and wildlife
- ☐ Restore and enhance habitats that have been disturbed or altered
- ☑ Improve public access
- ☑ Provide outdoor recreation opportunities
- ☑ Provide opportunities to learn about the environment and habitats
- ☑ Provide opportunities to build awareness of the cultural history of Haisla Nation and early settlers
- ☑ Support ecotourism and economic development opportunities
- ☑ Collaborate with local community on stewardship and / or programming
- ☐ Other, please specify... _____

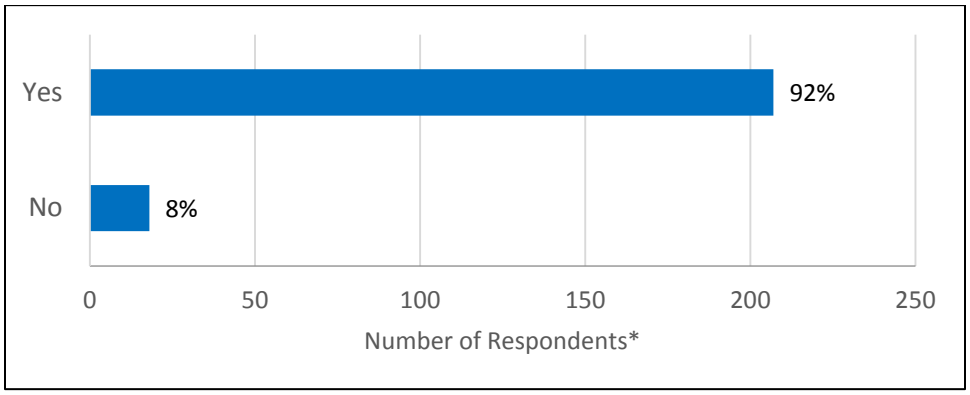
Figure 1 – Sample survey

b. Results

Questions 1 and 2

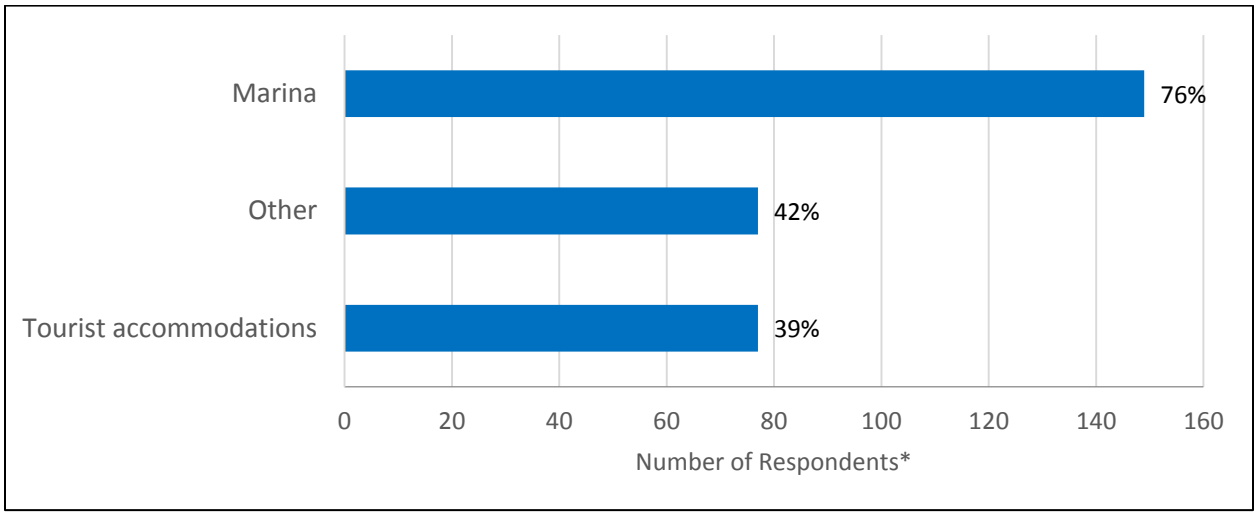
The first two questions of the survey asked respondents if they have visited Minette Bay in the past, and if so, where they visited. The vast majority of respondents, 92%, indicated that they had been to Minette Bay. Of these respondents, over three quarters had visited Minette Bay Marina, and approximately 40% had visited Minette Bay Lodge or an "other" destination in the Minette Bay area. "Other" responses have been grouped into themes and are listed in **Table 2** on the following page. The number in parenthesis beside each theme in **Table 2** indicates the number of times a response applicable to that theme was noted.

Figure 2 – Q1: *Have you ever visited Minette Bay?*



**Total responses: 225*

Figure 3 – Q2: *If yes, where did you visit?*



**Total responses: 196*

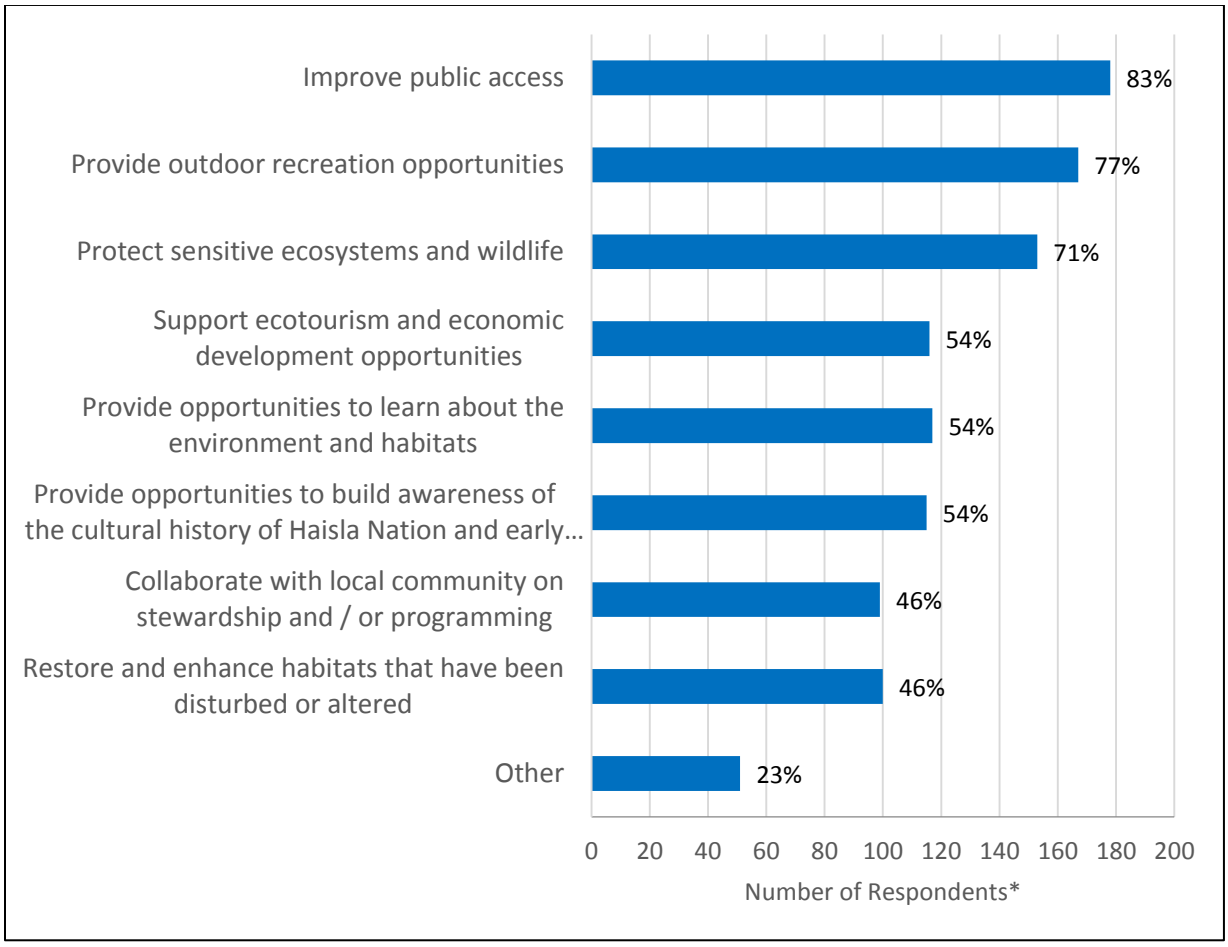
Table 2 – Responses within Other Category in Q2

Responses within "other" category	
Activity – land (14)	Private property (2)
The flats (13)	Corduroy Road (2)
Activity – water (11)	A-frame (1)
Shoreline (10)	Jetty (1)
Logging area (8)	Proposed recreation site (1)
Pine Creek Trail (8)	West side (1)
Minette Bay Lodge (9)	Old dock (1)
Braun Farm (3)	

Question 3

Question 3 asked respondents to choose goals they think should guide the Minette Bay West Concept Planning process. Respondents were able to choose one or more options, including "other". A list of responses within the "other" category is included in **Table 3** on the following page.

Figure 4 – Q3: *What goals do you think should guide the planning of the MBW site?*



**Total responses: 215*

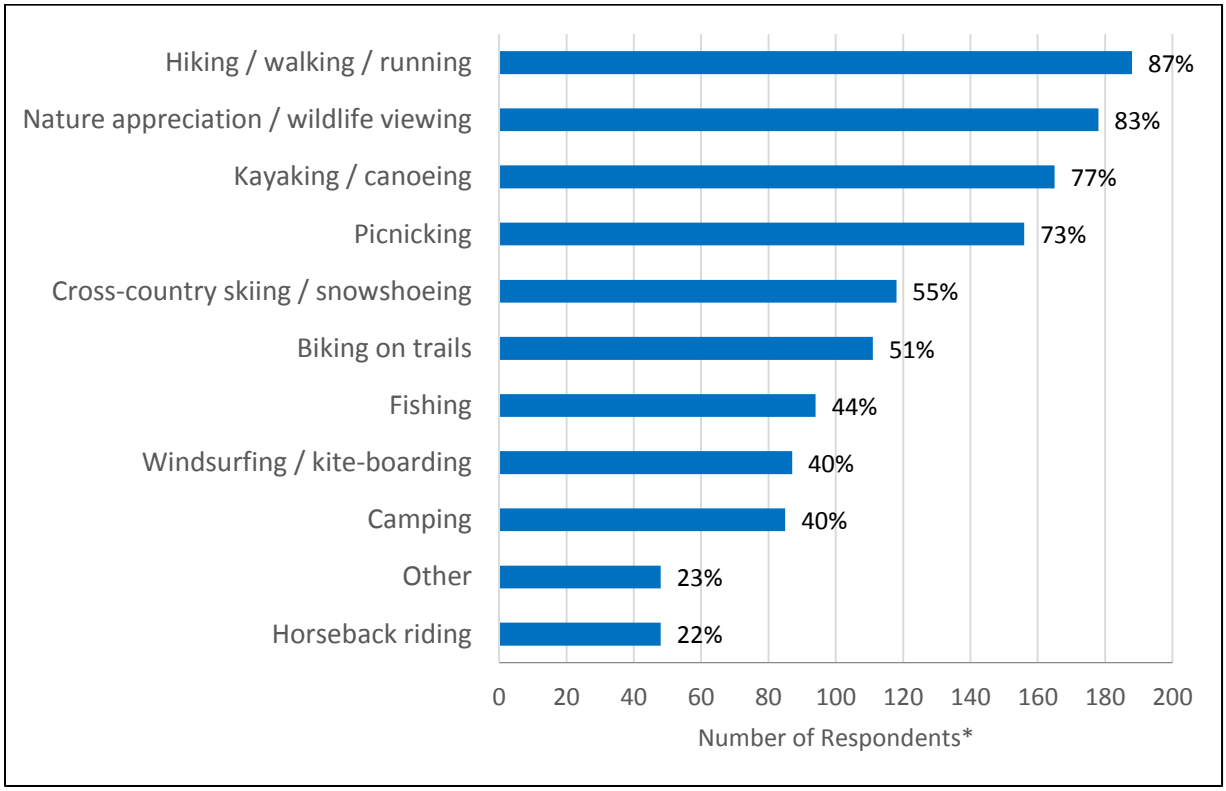
Table 3 – Responses within Other Category in Q3

Responses within "other" category
Mention of specific outdoor recreation opportunities (14)
Mention of specific eco-tourism and economic development opportunities (13)
Similar to Cow Bay in Prince Rupert (11)
Mention of specific ways to protect sensitive ecosystems and wildlife, or specific areas to be protected (10)
Universal accessibility (9)
Preservation (8)
Mention of specific ways to improve public access (8)
Mention of specific learning opportunities regarding the environment and habitats (3)
Mention of specific collaboration opportunities (2)
Traditional practices (2)
Mention of specific ways to build awareness of the cultural history of Haisla Nation and early settlers (1)

Question 4

Question 4 asked respondents to indicate the recreation activities they think should be available in the future at the Minette Bay West Site. Respondents were able to choose one or more options, including "other". A list of responses within the "other" category is included in **Table 4** on the following page.

Figure 5 – Q4: *What recreation activities should be available for visitors to Minette Bay West?*



**Total responses: 215*

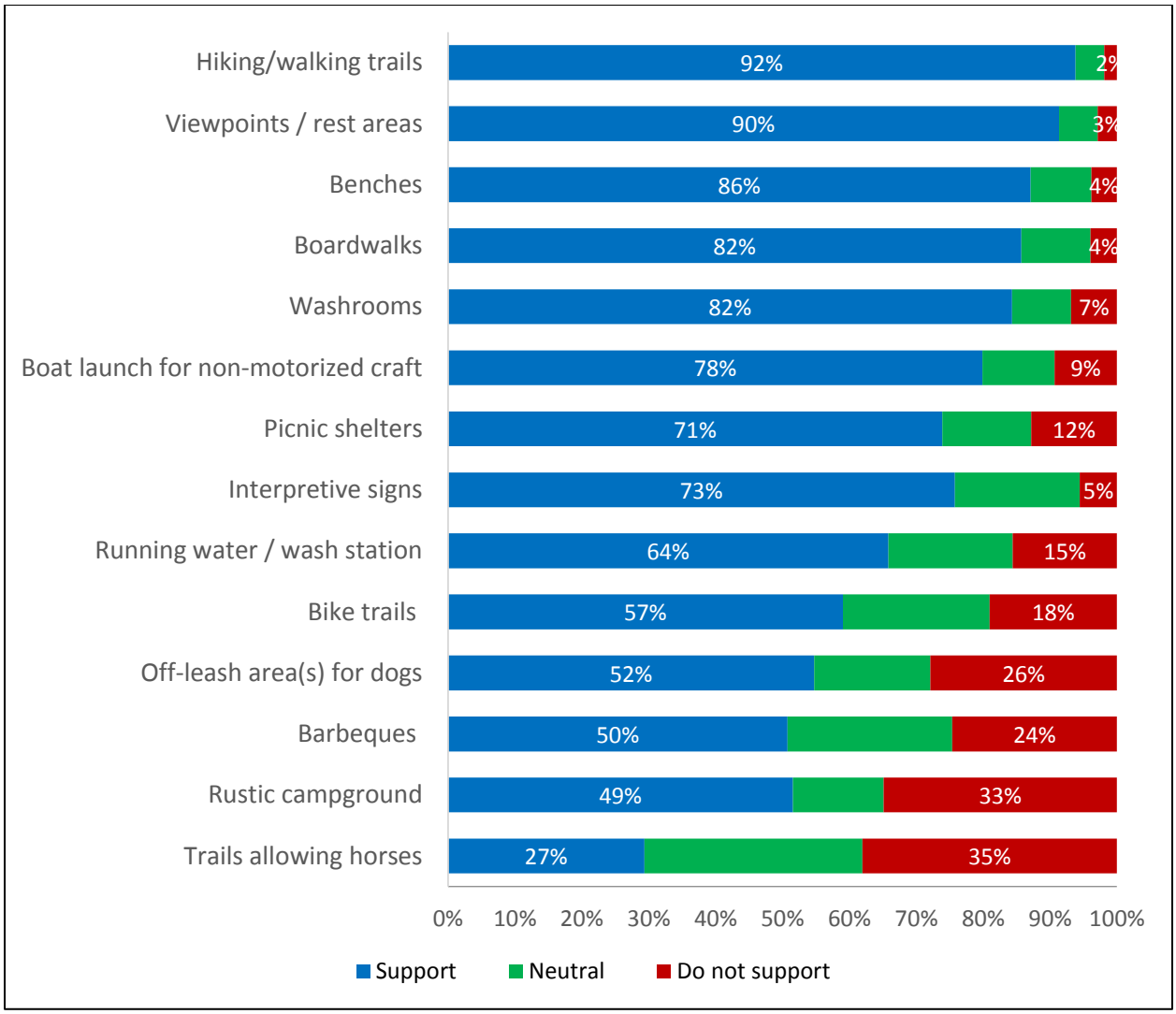
Table 4 – Responses within Other Category in Q4

Responses within "other" category	
Shops/restaurants (boardwalk) (7)	Off-leash areas for dogs (2)
None (7)	Paddle boarding (1)
Hunting (6)	Swimming (1)
Waterfront area (marina)/boat launch (6)	Tours (1)
Bird watching (3)	Accessible activities (1)
Motorized snow sports (3)	Kite-boarding (1)
Boating/sailing (2)	

Question 5

Question 5 asked respondents to provide perspectives on potential amenities for the site. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they support, do not support or are neutral on each amenity.

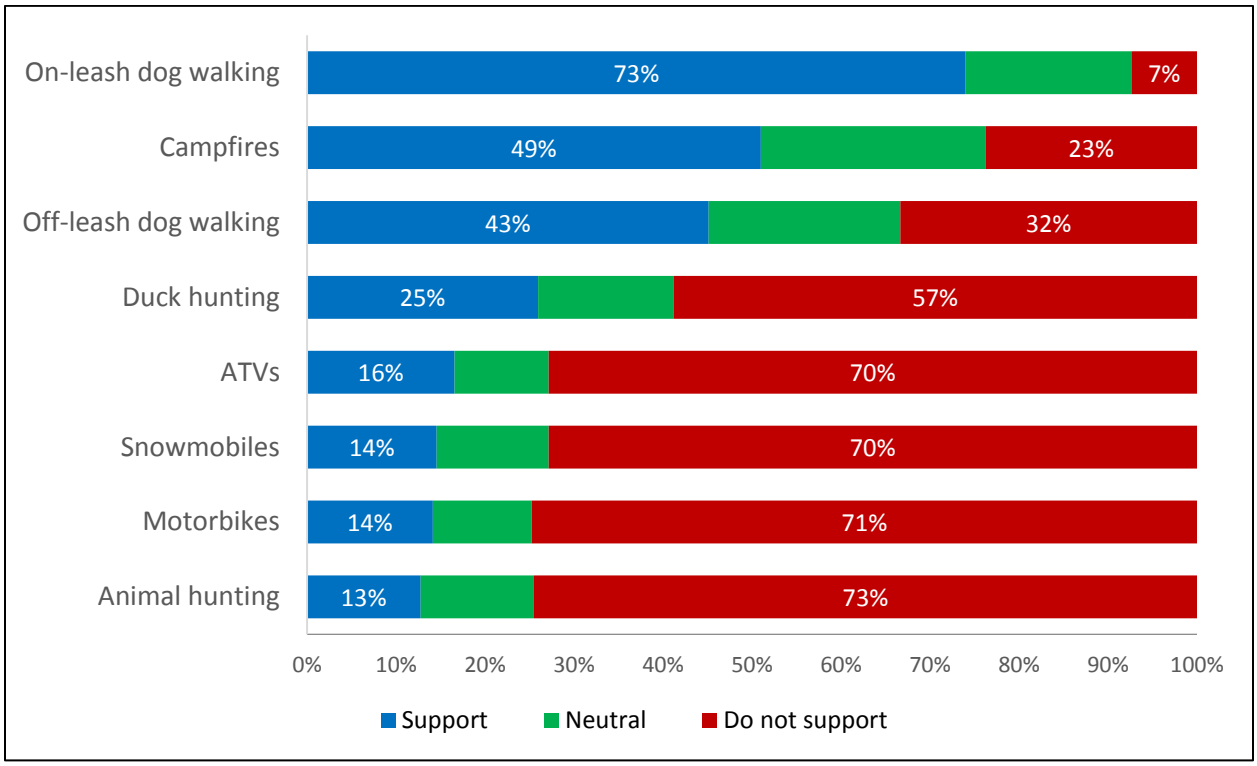
Figure 6 – Q5: *What are your perspectives on the following potential amenities for the site?*



Question 6

Question 6 asked respondents to provide perspectives on past and existing uses of the Minette Bay West site. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they support, do not support or are neutral on each use.

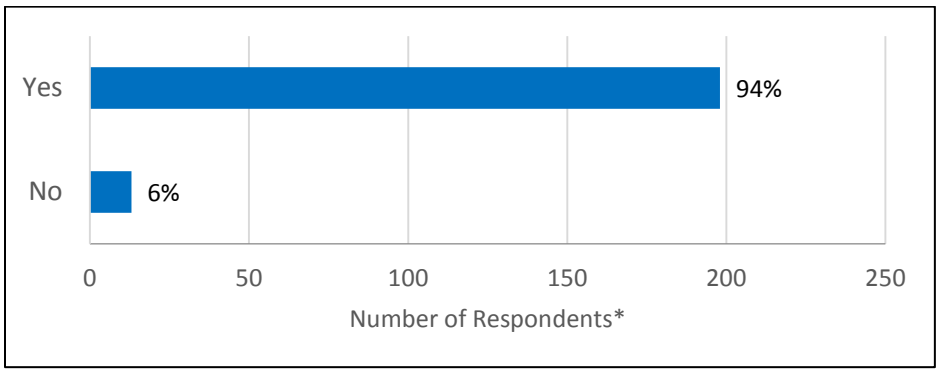
Figure 7 – Q6: *What are your perspectives on the following past and existing uses of the site?*



Questions 7, 8 and 9

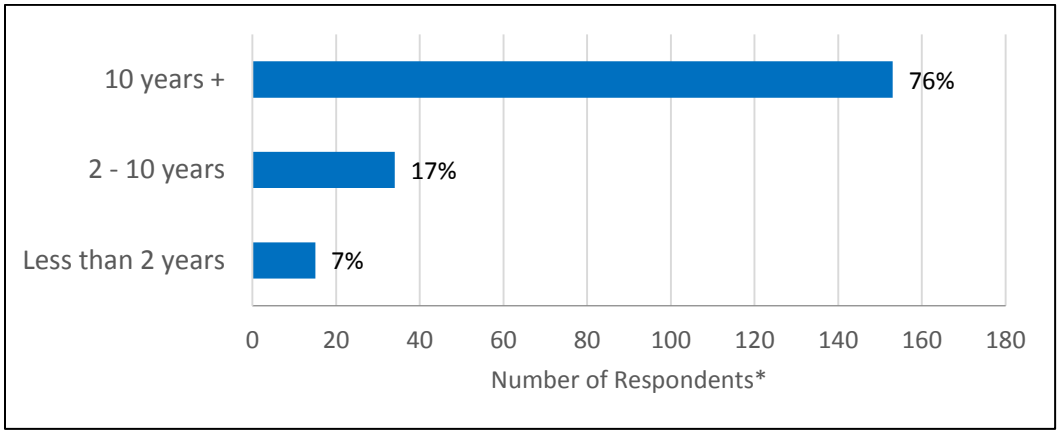
The final three questions of the survey asked for contextual information about respondents. Questions 7 and 8 asked if respondents reside in Kitimat or Kitamaat, and if so, how long they have lived in either community. Question 9 asked if respondents are dog owners and/or have children, and if they are in one of two age categories (over 64 or under 20). The results indicate that the vast majority of respondents are long-time Kitimat or Kitamaat Village residents between the ages of 20 and 64; almost one-quarter are 65 or older; almost half live in a household with children; and about two-thirds own a dog.

Figure 8 – Q7: *Do you live in Kitimat or Kitamaat Village?*



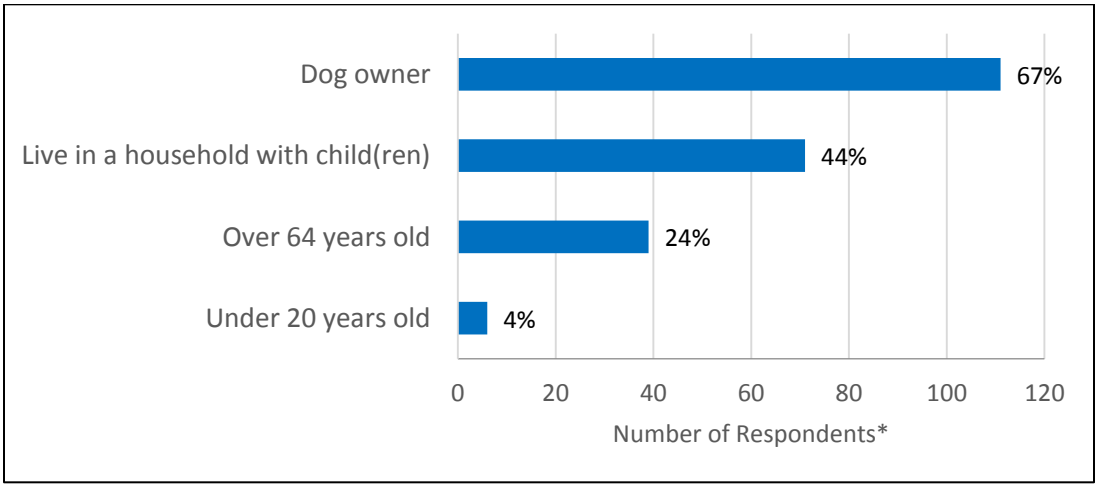
**Total responses: 211*

Figure 9 – Q8: *If yes, how long have you lived in Kitimat or Kitamaat Village?*



**Total responses: 202*

Figure 10 – Q9: *Which of the following pertain to you?*



**Total responses: 162*

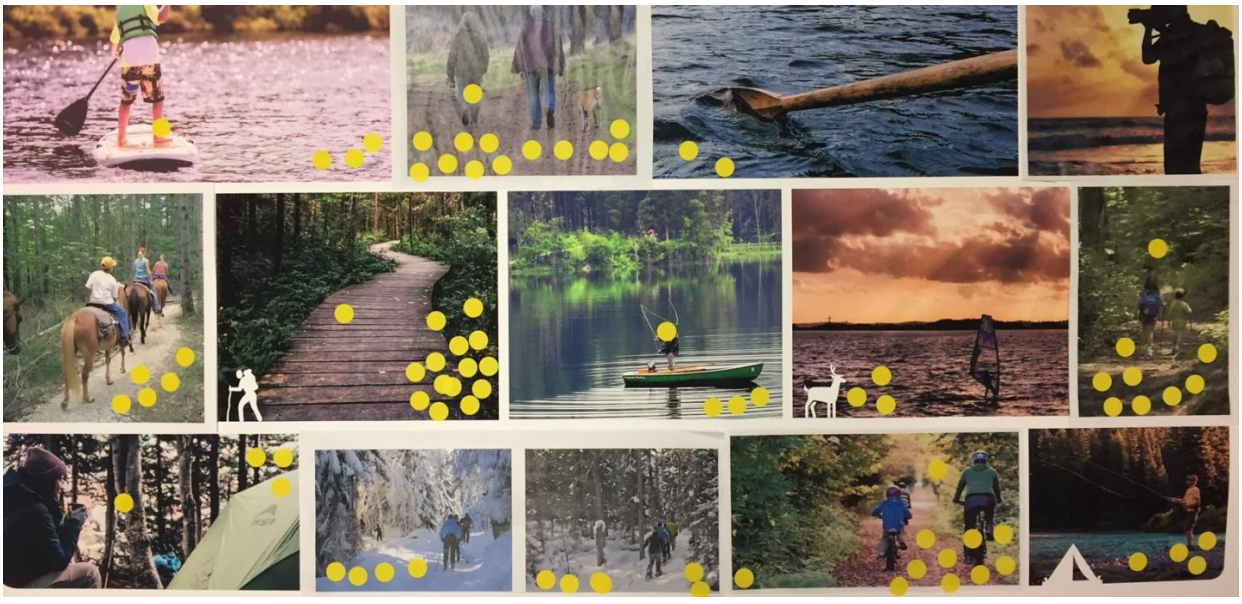
3.3 Booths at Community Events

DOK staff set up project booths at three community events in November 2016: Annual Kitimat Fall Craft & Gift Sale (Nov. 4-5); Love Kitimat Trade Show (Nov. 25); and Light Up Kitimat outdoor festival (Nov. 27). The intent of the booths was to give community members an opportunity to access information and participate in the planning process in a casual and convenient setting.

Three to four hundred community members visited the booths. Many copies of Community Survey #1 were handed out and input was received through conversations, comment forms and interactive displays. The Craft Fair booth included a comment board (the results of which appear in **Table 1**), and the Light Up Kitimat booth included a voting exercise on potential activities at the Minette Bay West site.



Project booth at Light Up Kitimat outdoor festival (DOK, 2016)



Voting exercise at Light Up Kitimat outdoor festival (DOK, 2016)

3.4 Council Workshop

On November 30, 2016, a workshop was held with Kitimat Council and the project team, including staff, consultants and representatives from Haisla Nation's Lands and Resources Department. The purpose of the workshop was to update Council on the results of Phase 1 and to seek input on vision and priorities for the site.

Four topics pertinent to planning of Minette Bay West were explored during the workshop, including: human and wildlife/habitat interactions, human impacts, recreation, and environmental and cultural experiences. Comments within each of the topic areas were transcribed and displayed on a screen by the facilitator. The group then voted on their top five ideas using digital keypads. The responses were automatically weighted in order (first choice = 5 points, second choice = 4 points, etc.). Participants were not able to vote for one idea more than once, or required to select five ideas per topic.

The results of the voting exercise are included in **Table 5** on the following page. Ideas are listed in numerical order under each topic heading, starting with the idea (in bold) that received the highest votes/points.



Nov. 30 Council Workshop at Kitimat Public Library (DOK, 2016)

Table 5 – Results of Voting Exercise

Human and Wildlife/Habitat Interactions	**1. Raised walkways can help people see bears** 2. Observation towers to allow safe viewing 3. Narrow band along coast is focus for recreation and not for bears (trails) 4. Educate visitors about bears (e.g., no food on trails) 5. Provide garbage bins and fire pits 6. Permanent noise makers along trails 7. Off leash dogs can attract bears
Human Impacts	**1. No motorized uses on land** 2. Designated fire pits near park entry – no fires elsewhere 3. Respect that Haisla members hunt and trap here 4. Education on fire risks 5. Consider fire fuel and collection of wood for fires 6. No hunting
Recreation	**1. Acquire access to breakwater/old log dump** 2. Provide distance markers on trails 3. Acquire formal road access 4. Boardwalk trail near park entry for all visitors 5. Non-motorized boat launch 6. Gazebo 7. Pit toilets that are universally accessible 8. Interpretive tours 9. Integrate with Minette Bay Lodge trails if owners are willing 10. Bike trails
Environmental and Cultural Experiences	**1. Opportunities to safely view birds and wildlife** 2. Haisla traditional use information – stories, medicine, food 3. Interpretive and site signage 4. Protect the values we want people to appreciate 5. Virtual tours 6. Early settler history – Corduroy Road 7. "Stay on the trail" – code of ethics for site use 8. Multiple types of animals – opportunity for interpretation 9. Ecotourism – partnerships, tours 10. Pamphlets at staging areas

3.5 Stakeholder Visioning Workshop

a. Event Details

On November 30, 2016, a workshop was held with project stakeholders. The purpose of the workshop was to provide an update on the project, present community survey outcomes, and collect input on vision and priorities for the Minette Bay West site.

Over 40 participants attended the event, including representatives from local special interest and recreation user groups, neighbouring property owners, DOK advisory commission members, staff from Haisla Nation's Lands and Resources Department, representatives from LNG Canada and Rio Tinto, and others. The workshop was facilitated by DOK staff and consultants.



Nov. 30 Stakeholder Visioning Workshop at Kitimat Public Library (DOK, 2016)

The event included separate table discussions on key topics that were identified based on community input leading up to the workshop. The topics included: human and wildlife/habitat interactions, human impacts, recreation, and environmental and cultural experiences (note - these same topics were also explored with Council on Nov. 30 during a separate workshop; see **Section 3.4.**

Workshop participants were assigned to their first table (30-minute session) and were asked to choose a second table based on their interests and concerns. The second group at each table added to the ideas generated by the first group (see **Figure 11** on the following page). Near the end of the discussion, each table selected their top ten ideas, which were then transcribed and displayed on a screen by the facilitator.

All participants voted, using digital keypads, to determine the top ideas for each topic. The responses were weighted in order (first option = 5 points, second option = 4 points, etc.). Participants were not able to vote for one idea more than once and were able to select up to five ideas per category. A summary of voting results is included in the following section.

Figure 11: Flip charts after workshop table discussions (2016)



b. Summary of Input

The following is a summary of voting results and input from the four discussion tables. The top ten ideas, as determined through voting, are listed in numerical order under each topic heading, starting with the idea (in bold) that received the highest votes/points. The bulleted items below the numbered lists are additional ideas from the group discussions. Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of similar ideas.

Table 6 – Workshop Input and Voting Results

	Human and Wildlife/Habitat Interactions
Top Ten Ideas (Voting Results)	**1. Protect existing values** 2. No motorized vehicles 3. Design controls to prohibit ATVs (e.g., elevated trails, posts) 4. Universal access areas (e.g., seniors, wheelchairs) 5. Designate use areas 6. Commitment to patrol the area 7. Designate some areas for bears only (no people) 8. Provide non-motorized boat access 9. Educational signage 10. Need for appropriate control (signage)
Other ideas, priorities and concerns	• Duck/waterfowl hunting (2) • Value grizzly habitat above human recreational use (2) • Provide opportunity to get to water but keep out of sensitive areas • No camping • Minimize footprint • Boardwalk • Parking away from area • No boat access at breakwater of any kind • No high-impact activities • Encourage volunteer bird/animal counts • Workshops onsite periodically • Education re: sharing land with wildlife • No garbage bins – pack-in/pack-out • Incentive to marina to allow kayak for free • Coexist with wildlife • Awareness and education • Garbage attracts wildlife • Concern over fire and distance from town • Concern about industrial noise in estuary • Seasonal uses • Search and rescue access via water • Confine amenities to one area • Opportunity for ongoing community involvement • Loops or figure eight trails • Value of having on-site manager

	Human Impacts
Top Ten Ideas (Voting Results)	**1. No camping, day use only** 2. No fires 3. Start slowly (trails) and monitor use 4. No motorized vehicles – pedestrian use only 5. Rustic accessible toilets 6. Eco park (focus on education) 7. Need garbage bins and park maintenance 8. Seasonal closures if needed due to bears 9. Duck hunting in specified area away from other park users; no high-powered rifles 10. Don't "steal" budget from other parks
Other ideas, priorities and concerns	• Bear habitat is getting reduced (5) • Need bear awareness (3) • Vandalism (3) • Bikes have major impacts • Rather than providing a launch on the west side, subsidize fees at existing marina • Designated on-leash dog area • Prohibit vehicle access (provide parking areas) • Eco-friendly parking lots • No toilets • Reduce containers – properly marked bins • This site may not attract many people due to the smells (mud and fish, doesn't flush well, mosquitos, flies)



Voting on discussion topics and ideas at Stakeholder Visioning Workshop (DOK, 2016)

	Recreation
Top Ten Ideas (Voting Results)	**1. Minimal impact** 2. Trails of all levels 3. Elevated walkway – low impact on marshland 4. Non-motorized activities 5. Viewing towers for bird watching 6. Kayak launch (free) 7. Tourism 8. Education 9. Reconnect with nature 10. Picnic tables
Other ideas, priorities and concerns	• Target groups – Younger generation – Older generation – Everyone • Infrastructure – Garbage cans – Hiking trail development – Pack-in/pack-out policy for waste – Incremental approach to implementation • Activities – No fires and no camping (2) – Loop trail with higher accessibility – Local traffic – Hike in only – If it's just trails, revive existing trails elsewhere in community instead – Dragon boating – Paddle boarding – Figure-eight trail – Day hiking – Small floating dock – Wildlife conflict – Yes to motorized activities – Duck hunting (yes) – Duck hunting (none) – Illegal dumping – Grizzly tracking – Bird watching as a regional and international draw – Wildlife conflict – No picnics – Similar trails to Minette Bay Lodge • Treat the site as a recreational pond

	Environmental and Cultural Experiences
Top Ten Ideas (Voting Results)	**1. Preserve sensitive areas /minimize impacts** 2. Boardwalks and accessible paths 3. Natural trails – intimate but well maintained 4. Bird/wildlife/sunset watching platforms 5. Education facilities for school groups 6. Interpretive signage – cultural, flora, fauna, Braun Farm 7. Parking lot access 8. Visitor centre – education, rentals 9. Haisla coastal architecture – poles, longhouse, artists, etc. 10. Partnerships for stewardship, funding, programs, maintenance, etc.
Other ideas, priorities and concerns	• Target groups: – Students (school kids and college) – Birders – Naturalists – Tourists • Draws to the site: – Being close to water (2) – Pine creek trail (2) – Forest – Haisla heritage • Necessary infrastructure: – Accessibility is important (2) – Ongoing capital maintenance – Fountain drinking water – Gazebo – Food trucks – Interpretive centre – Mobile trailer for kayak rentals – Benches at regular intervals – Charter boat/eco-tourism – No development of coffee shops – Pier – improve the existing spit/breakwater – Public access and parking lot • Cultural Experiences: – Braun Farm – Integrating First Nation and school group education – Convergence of cultures • Environmental Experiences: – No fires – Find environmental funding to showcase nature – Be sensitive to the environment – Preserve areas of the site, rare sites are disappearing – Leave some areas of the site natural / rustic

3.6 E-mail and Other Correspondence (2016)

From the inception of this project through year-end 2016, DOK staff received many e-mails and had informal conversations—over the phone and in person—with engaged community members regarding their ideas, concerns and priorities for the Minette Bay West site. In recognition of the value of all types of community input, while maintaining DOK's duty of confidentiality, a summary of key messages, themes and issues is provided below:

- Minette Bay West site should be improved for recreation purposes and to allow public access to the water but should be kept as natural as possible, with an emphasis on re-purposing areas already disturbed by logging and other activities.

- Another motorized boat launch is needed, given that there is limited boat access elsewhere in Kitimat.

- To minimize disturbances on the site, the existing road to Minette Bay West should be the main site access, if a road agreement can be reached between private property owners.

- Minette Bay and the Kitimat River estuary present significant wildlife viewing opportunities.

- Minette Bay West is not a good location for motorized boat access, given site conditions and the fact an existing marina is nearby.

- There is general concern about the impacts of increased human activity on the site.

- Minette Bay West is frequented by grizzly bears and other wildlife; the potential to preserve some (e.g., the southern area) or all of the site to prevent human/wildlife interactions should be considered.

- Depending on how the site is developed, there may not be a conflict between duck hunting and other recreational uses. Duck hunting largely occurs in the southern portion of DL 95 and in the estuary.

- Motorized forms of recreation (e.g., ATVs, dirt bikes, etc.) are not supported at this site.

- Existing rock breakwater/old log dump area presents an opportunity for a non-motorized boat launch (e.g., a dock) and pedestrian amenities.

Section 4. 2017 Engagement (January to August)

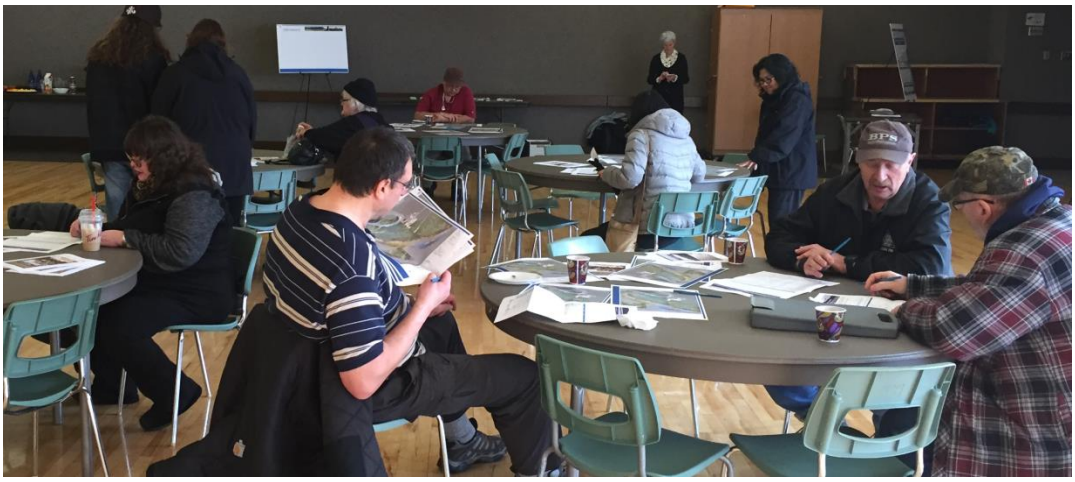
4.1 Open House #2

A project open house was held on February 28, 2017 to mark the end of Phase 2. The intent of Open House #2 was to present and collect community input on three concept plan options and guiding statements (i.e., vision, goals and objectives) for the Minette Bay West site. Phase 1 site investigation materials were also displayed at the Open House for context and orientation.

The three concept plan options are a culmination of extensive work completed in 2016, including site investigation and numerous community engagement activities. The options represent different priorities and perspectives within the community. Option 1, with the goal of "Maximizing Environmental Protection", was inspired by participants who desire to see the site maintained in a natural state with minimal recreation amenities. Option 3, with the goal of "Maximizing Recreation Opportunities", was inspired by those who have a desire for a public waterfront that provides diverse and extensive amenities but still respects the natural environment. Option 2 strikes a balance between recreation and environmental protection.

Open House #2 was advertised for a month leading up to the event via social media, DOK website, posters, public notices, e-mails, newspaper advertisements and word of mouth. Approximately 50 people attended the event to learn about Phase 2 and provide their thoughts about the guiding statements and concept plan options. The open house included multiple opportunities for attendees to receive information and provide input, including poster boards, handouts, a questionnaire and a comment board. Staff, members of Kitimat Council and a representative from Haisla Nation's Lands and Resources Department were also available throughout the event for discussion with attendees.

Display materials from this open house, including copies of the three concept plan options, are available for viewing and download at www.kitimat.ca/mbw (see the bottom of "Phase 2" under the "What is the Current Status of the Project" heading). Community input received at the open house via completed questionnaire forms is included in **Section 4.2**.



Open House #2 at Riverlodge Recreation Centre (DOK, 2017)

4.2 Community Survey #2

a. Survey Details

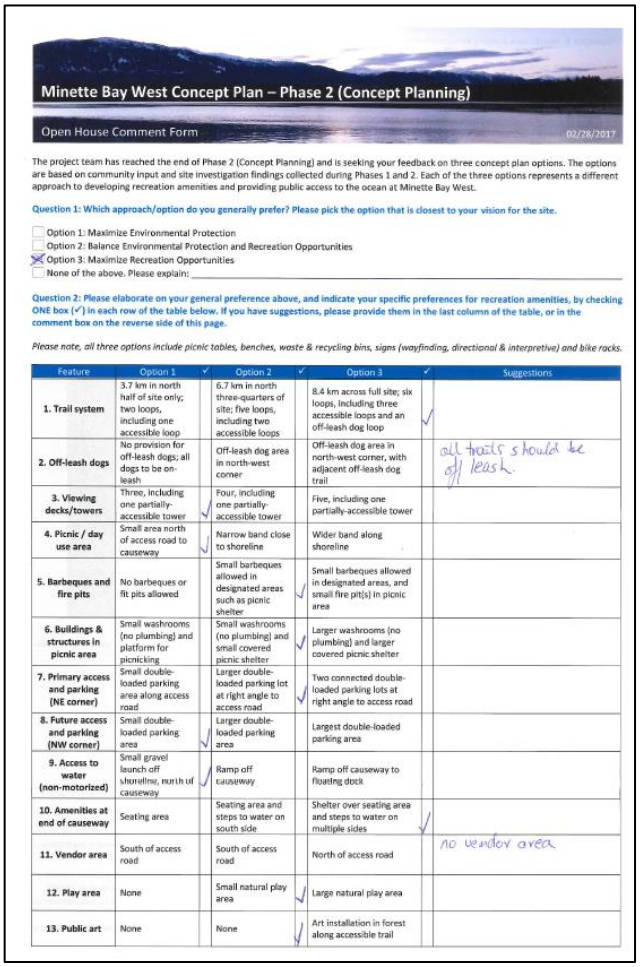
For approximately one month (March 2 to April 3, 2017), the project team collected community input on the three concept plan options via an online survey. Community members were asked to indicate their preferences for, and provide comments on, different recreation amenities in the three options. Respondents were also asked to provide their general thoughts regarding duck hunting on the Minette Bay West site.

Survey #2 was originally scheduled to close on March 20 but was extended to April 3 by Kitimat Council. This two-week extension provided community members more time to learn about the planning process and fill out the survey. In total, 214 completed surveys were received before the deadline. This number includes online responses as well as completed hard-copy questionnaires from Community Open House #2 on February 28 (see **Section 4.1** for information regarding Open House #2).

Survey #2 was widely advertised throughout the community during March and the first week of April. General information about the survey was posted on the DOK website, social media, and mobile displays at our municipal facilities. Handouts with information about the three options and the survey were also available at our municipal facilities.

E-mails regarding the survey were sent out to subscribers of our project e-mail list on March 2, 16 and 31. Further, staff handed out online survey information and provided details about the project—to encourage and support survey completion—at a booth at the annual Spring Craft Fair on April 1. Information about this project booth is included in **Section 4.3**.

The survey consisted of four questions. The first three questions were multiple-choice with space for comments, and the fourth was entirely open-ended. Results for questions 1-3, including quantitative and qualitative feedback, are included in the following section. Verbatim responses to question 4 are included in **Appendix B.**



Minette Bay West Concept Plan – Phase 2 (Concept Planning)

Open House Comment Form 02/28/2017

The project team has reached the end of Phase 2 (Concept Planning) and is seeking your feedback on three concept plan options. The options are based on community input and site investigation findings collected during Phases 1 and 2. Each of the three options represents a different approach to developing recreation amenities and providing public access to the ocean at Minette Bay West.

Question 1: Which approach/option do you generally prefer? Please pick the option that is closest to your vision for the site.

- ☐ Option 1: Maximize Environmental Protection
- ☐ Option 2: Balance Environmental Protection and Recreation Opportunities
- ☒ Option 3: Maximize Recreation Opportunities
- ☐ None of the above. Please explain: _____

Question 2: Please elaborate on your general preference above, and indicate your specific preferences for recreation amenities, by checking ONE box (✓) in each row of the table below. If you have suggestions, please provide them in the last column of the table, or in the comment box on the reverse side of this page.

Please note, all three options include picnic tables, benches, waste & recycling bins, signs (wayfinding, directional & interpretive) and bike racks.

Feature	Option 1	✓	Option 2	✓	Option 3	✓	Suggestions
1. Trail system	3.7 km in north half of site only; two loops, including one accessible loop		6.7 km in north three-quarters of site; five loops, including two accessible loops		8.4 km across full site; six loops, including three accessible loops and an off-leash dog loop	✓	
2. Off-leash dogs	No provision for off-leash dogs; all dogs to be on-leash		Off-leash dog area in north-west corner		Off-leash dog area in north-west corner, with adjacent off-leash dog trail		all trails should be off leash.
3. Viewing decks/towers	Three, including one partially-accessible tower	✓	Four, including one partially-accessible tower		Five, including one partially-accessible tower		
4. Picnic / day use area	Small area north of access road to causeway	✓	Narrow band close to shoreline		Wider band along shoreline		
5. Barbeques and fire pits	No barbeques or fit pits allowed		Small barbeques allowed in designated areas such as picnic shelter	✓	Small barbeques allowed in designated areas, and small fire pit(s) in picnic area		
6. Buildings & structures in picnic area	Small washrooms (no plumbing) and platform for picnicking		Small washrooms (no plumbing) and small covered picnic shelter	✓	Larger washrooms (no plumbing) and larger covered picnic shelter		
7. Primary access and parking (NE corner)	Small double-loaded parking area along access road		Larger double-loaded parking lot at right angle to access road	✓	Two connected double-loaded parking lots at right angle to access road		
8. Future access and parking (NW corner)	Small double-loaded parking area	✓	Larger double-loaded parking area		Largest double-loaded parking area		
9. Access to water (non-motorized)	Small gravel launch off shoreline, north of causeway	✓	Ramp off causeway		Ramp off causeway to floating dock		
10. Amenities at end of causeway	Seating area		Seating area and steps to water on south side		Shelter over seating area and steps to water on multiple sides	✓	
11. Vendor area	South of access road		South of access road		North of access road		no vendor area
12. Play area	None		Small natural play area	✓	Large natural play area		
13. Public art	None		None		Art installation in forest along accessible trail	✓	

Figure 12 – Sample survey/comment form from Open House #2

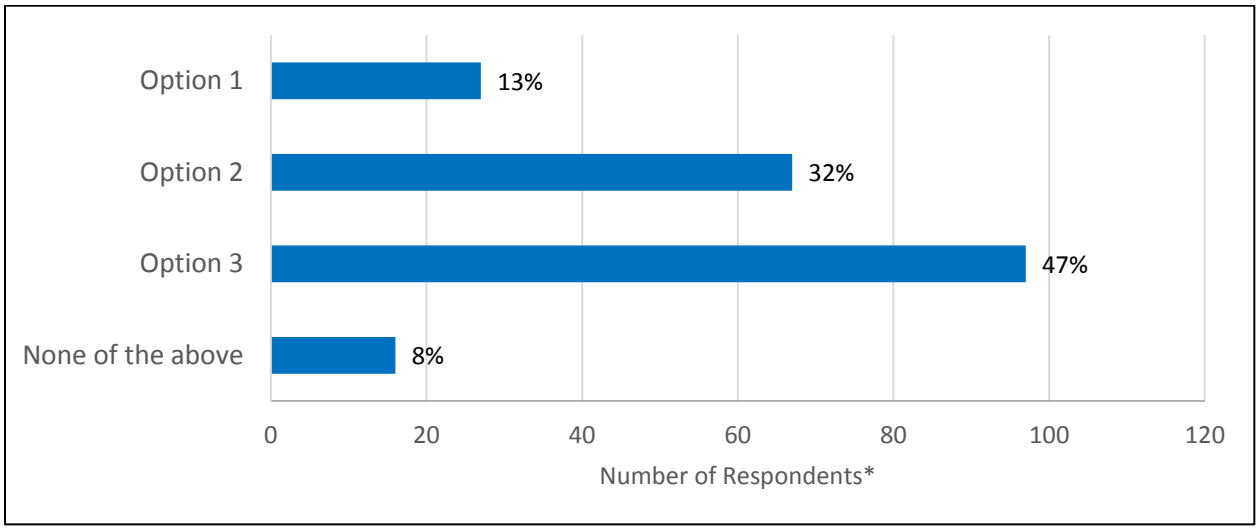
b. Results

Question 1

The first question of the survey asked respondents to indicate which of the three concept plan options for Minette Bay West they generally prefer: (1) Maximize Environmental Protection; (2) Balance Environmental Protection and Recreation Opportunities; or (3) Maximize Recreation Opportunities. Respondents were asked to pick the option closest to their vision for the site. If respondents did not prefer any of the three options, a fourth option (i.e., "none of the above") was provided with space for an open-ended explanation. If more space was needed, respondents could elaborate on their answer in a large comment box in question 4 (see **Appendix B** for a list of verbatim responses to question 4).

As shown in **Figure 13** below, approximately half of respondents to Question 1 indicated that their vision is closest to Option 3. Approximately one-third of respondents think Option 2 is closest to their vision, and 13% of respondents prefer Option 1. 8%, or 16 of the 207 respondents who answered Question 1, chose "none of the above". Open-ended responses to the "none of the above" answer have been grouped into themes and are listed in **Table 7** below. The number in parenthesis beside each theme in **Table 7** indicates the number of times a response applicable to that theme was received.

Figure 13 – Q1: Which option do you generally prefer? Which is closest to your vision for the site?



**Total responses: 207*

Table 7 – Comments provided with "none of the above" response to Q1

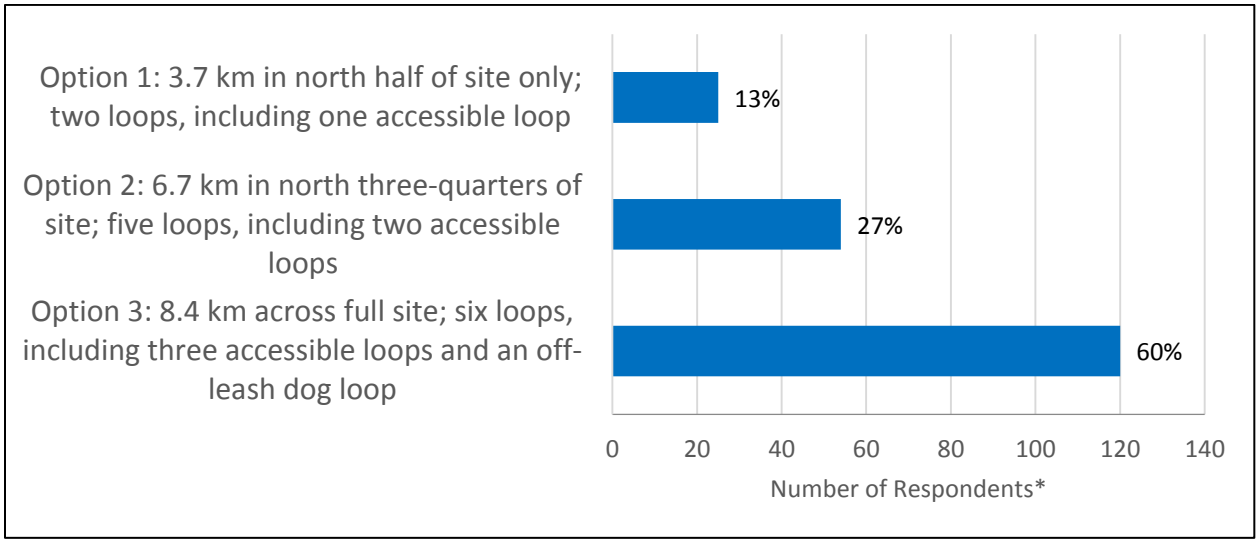
Comments
Concerns re: potential wildlife disturbance and/or displacement (4)
Desire to see a campground included in one of the options (3)
Leave Minette Bay West undeveloped (3)
Concerns re: potential human/wildlife conflicts (3)
Concerns re: lack of maintenance of existing DOK parks (e.g., Radley Park and Hirsch Creek) (3)
Concerns re: duck hunting access and rights (2)
Wish to see a Option 1 and a slow incremental approach to development (2)

Question 2

Question 2 asked respondents to elaborate on their answer to Question 1 by providing details about their specific preferences for Minette Bay West. Respondents were asked to choose their preferred recreation amenities within 13 discrete categories. Three options were provided per category; respondents were asked to pick one option per category and space was provided for comments.

Responses to Question 2 are displayed in **Figures 14a – m**. Each figure includes an accompanying table summarizing open-ended comments (see **Tables 8 – 20**). The number in parenthesis beside each theme in **Tables 8-20** indicates the number of times a response applicable to that theme was received.

Figure 14a – Q2: *Preference, Trail System*

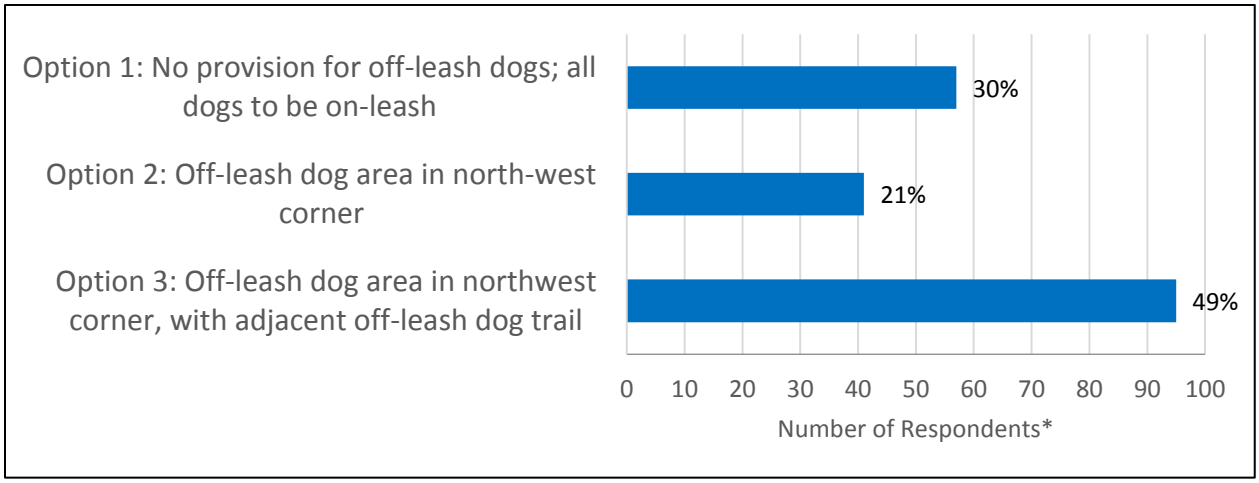


**Total responses: 199*

Table 8 – Comments, Trail System

Comments
Maximize trail network and access throughout the property (13)
Minimize impacts on the natural environment and wildlife (12)
Leave the site undeveloped (9)
Accessible trails are needed for seniors and persons with disabilities (7)
Not supportive of dog off-leash trails (5)
Trails at MBW would provide outdoor health and fitness opportunities (4)
Supportive of dog off-leash trails (4)
Family-friendly trails are needed (i.e., accessible with strollers and children) (2)
Concerns re: duck hunting access and rights (2)
New park at Minette Bay West should be built slowly/incrementally (2)
Desire for cycling opportunities on trails at Minette Bay West (2)
Minimal trails should be developed (2)
Concerns re: potential human/wildlife conflicts (2)

Figure 14b – Q2: *Preference, Off-Leash Dogs*

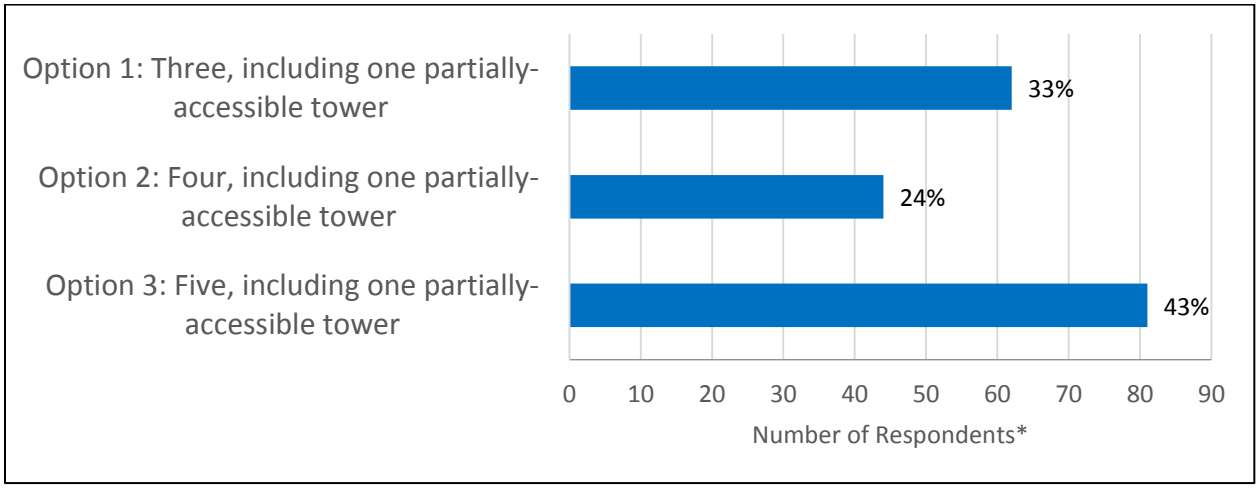


**Total responses: 193*

Table 9 – Comments, Off-Leash Dogs

Comments
All dogs should be leashed, for safety, courtesy and other reasons (11)
People should be responsible dog owners (i.e., pick up droppings, leash when needed, etc.) (11)
Concerns re: potential impacts of off-leash dogs on the natural environment and wildlife (9)
All trails should be off-leash (7)
A contained off-leash area/dog park is needed (7)
No dogs (7)
Bags for dog waste and disposal bins should be provided (3)
Leave site undeveloped (3)
Kitimat is a dog-oriented community and the new park should reflect this (2)
Concerns re: aggressive and larger dog breeds and untrained dogs (2)

Figure 14c – Q2: *Preference, Viewing Decks / Towers*

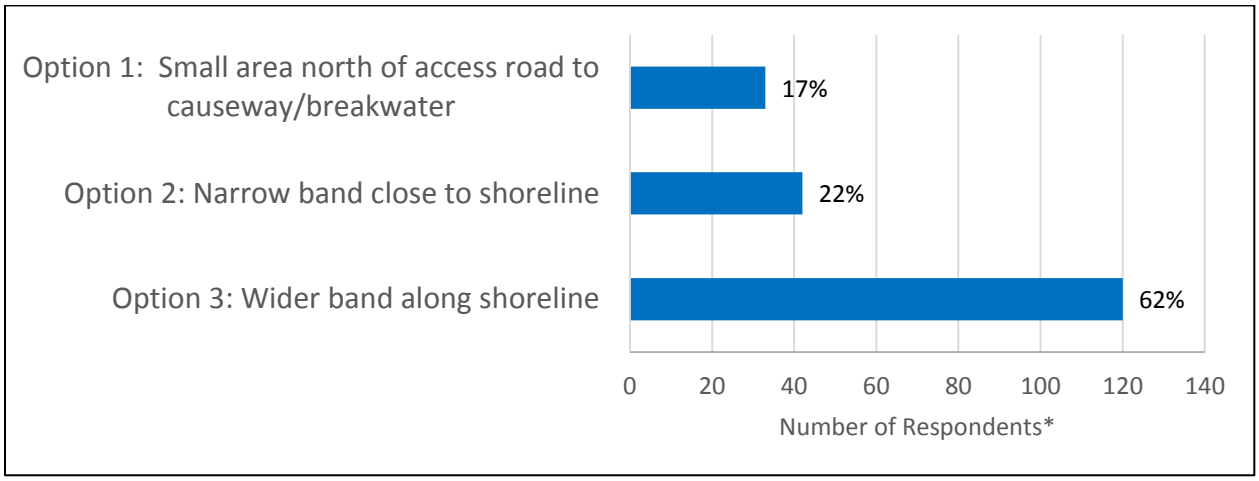


**Total responses: 187*

Table 10 – Comments, Viewing Decks/Towers

Comments
No viewing towers or platforms (unnecessary, expensive to build & maintain, eyesore, etc.) (13)
Towers would provide significant birding, wildlife viewing and general sightseeing opportunities (11)
"Option 1 is plenty", "Three is enough" (3)
Maximize number of towers and platforms (3)
Minimize number of decks & towers and put them in special/prime locations (2)

Figure 14d – Q2: *Preference, Picnic / Day Use Area*

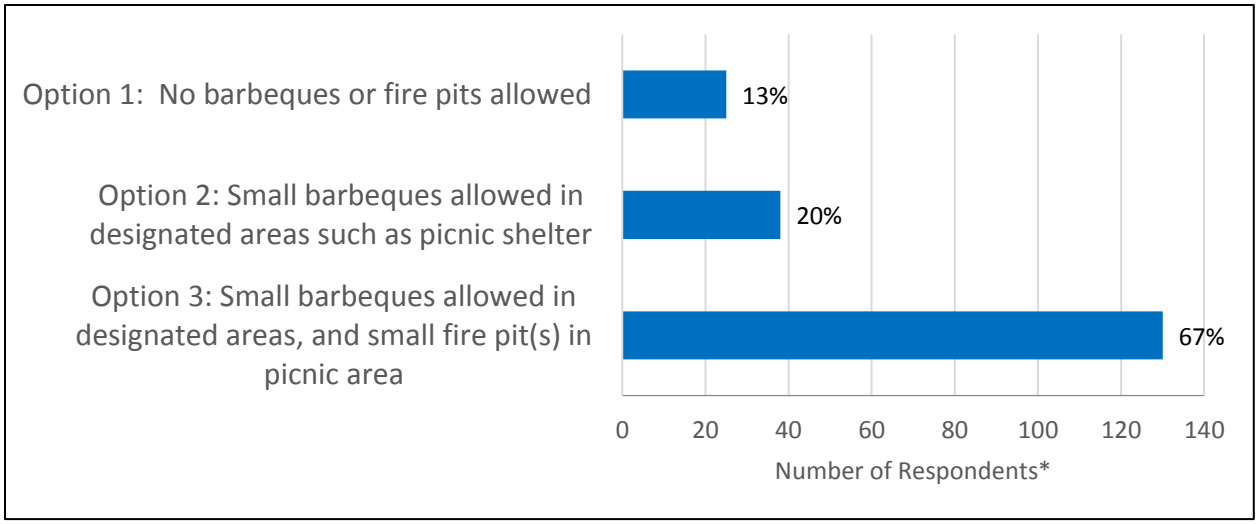


**Total responses: 195*

Table 11 – Comments, Picnic / Day Use Area

Comments
Maximize/optimize day use area as there is a current lack of public waterfront in Kitimat (5)
Positive comments about potential to picnic in day use area (5)
No picnic area (concerns: littering, garbage, visitors, potential human/wildlife conflicts, etc.) (5)
Minimize impacts on the natural environment and wildlife (4)
Desire for campsites (2)
Desire for covered area for weather protection (2)
Leave site undeveloped (2)
Provide bear-proof garbage cans and ensure they are emptied regularly (2)
Picnic area should not be limited to day use only (2)

Figure 14e – Q2: *Preference, Barbeques and Fire Pits*

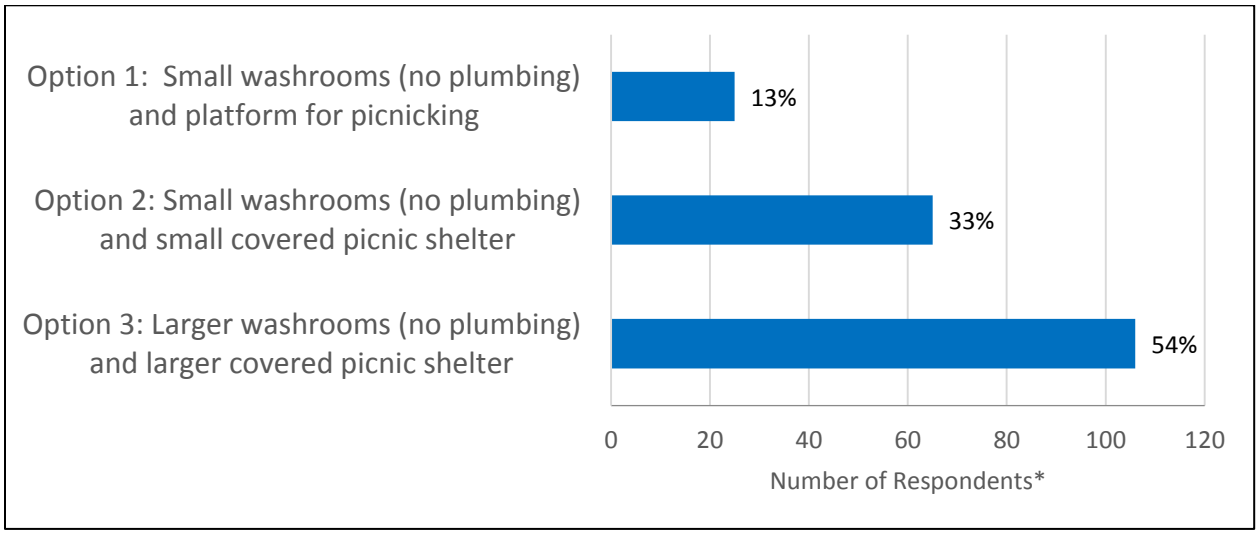


**Total responses: 193*

Table 12 – Comments, Barbeques and Fire Pits

Comments
No fire pits or barbeques (concerns: forest fire risk, dangerous, unnecessary, attracts partiers) (12)
Positive comments re: campfires in general and potential for campfires at Minette Bay West (9)
Positive comments re: potential to prepare food at Minette Bay West (hot dog roasts, BBQs, etc.) (7)
Suggested strategies to manage risks (signage, monitoring/policing, trial period, fire bans, etc.) (5)
Desire to see multiple fire pits at Minette Bay West (3)
Desire for similar fire/cooking amenities as at Radley Park or Furlong Bay Provincial Park (3)
Don't limit to day use only and allow evening fires (2)

Figure 14f – Q2: *Preference, Buildings and Structures in Picnic Area*

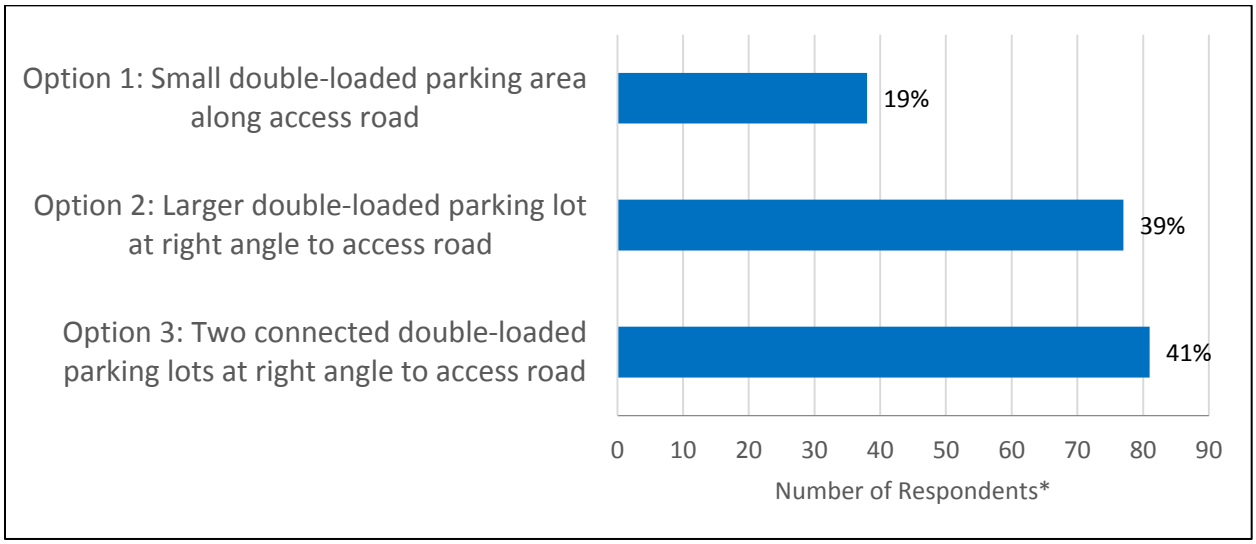


**Total responses: 196*

Table 13 – Comments, Buildings and Structures in Picnic Area

Comments
No buildings or structures in picnic area (5)
Large covered area is needed for events, school field trips, family functions, etc. (5)
Covered area(s) needed for weather protection (4)
Some form of washroom is needed on this site (3)
Keep it simple/minimal (3)
Leave site undeveloped (2)
Washroom with plumbing is desired (2)

Figure 14g – Q2: *Preference, Primary Access and Parking (Northeast Corner of Site)*

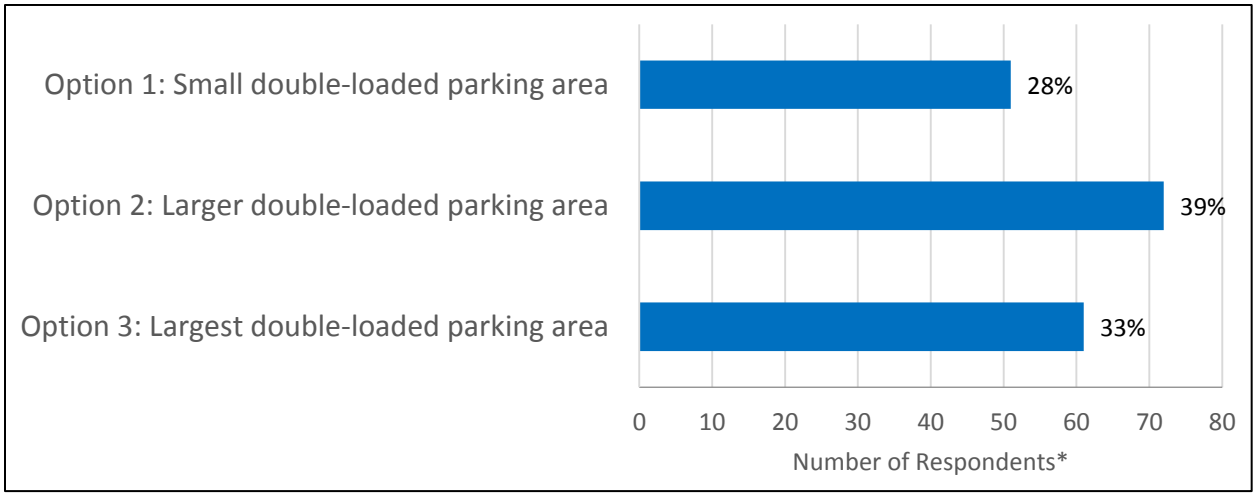


**Total responses: 196*

Table 14 – Comments, Primary Access and Parking (Northeast Corner of Site)

Comments
Start small and add future parking if warranted by demand (5)
No parking area in northeast corner of site (4)
Option 2 is safer for pedestrians and motorists than Option 1 (2)
Parking area should accommodate school buses (include turnaround, parking, etc.) (2)
Minimize impacts on the natural environment (2)

Figure 14h – Q2: *Preference, Future Access and Parking (Northwest Corner of Site)*

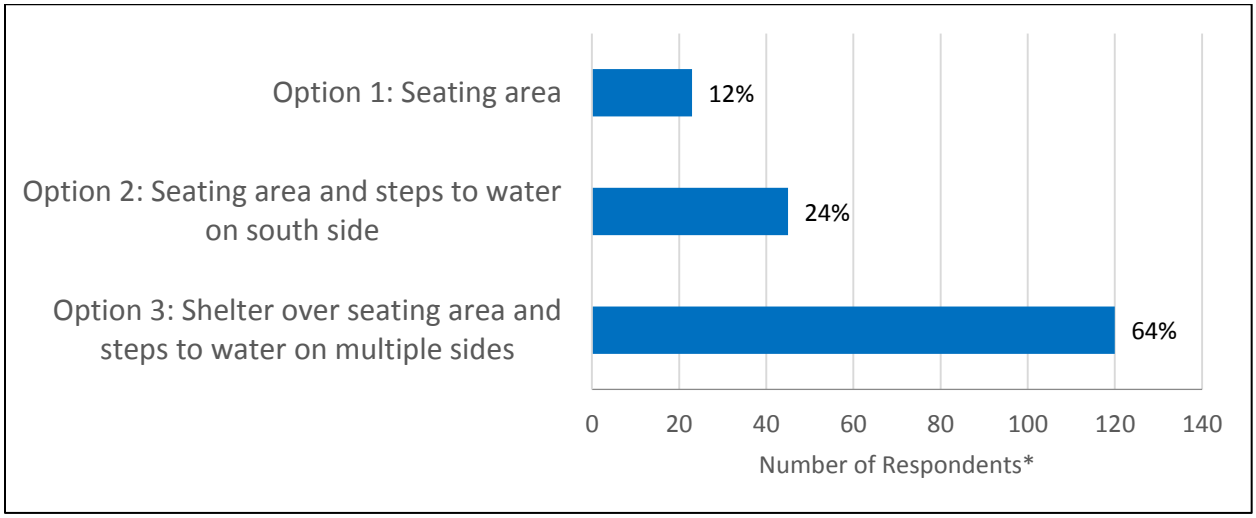


**Total responses: 184*

Table 15 – Comments, Future Access and Parking (Northwest Corner of Site)

Comments
Future demand / need should dictate provision of parking in northwest corner (6)
No parking in northwest corner of site (4)
Start small and build incrementally as needed (2)
Provide walking and cycling access and linkages (2)

Figure 14i – Q2: *Preference, Amenities at end of Causeway*

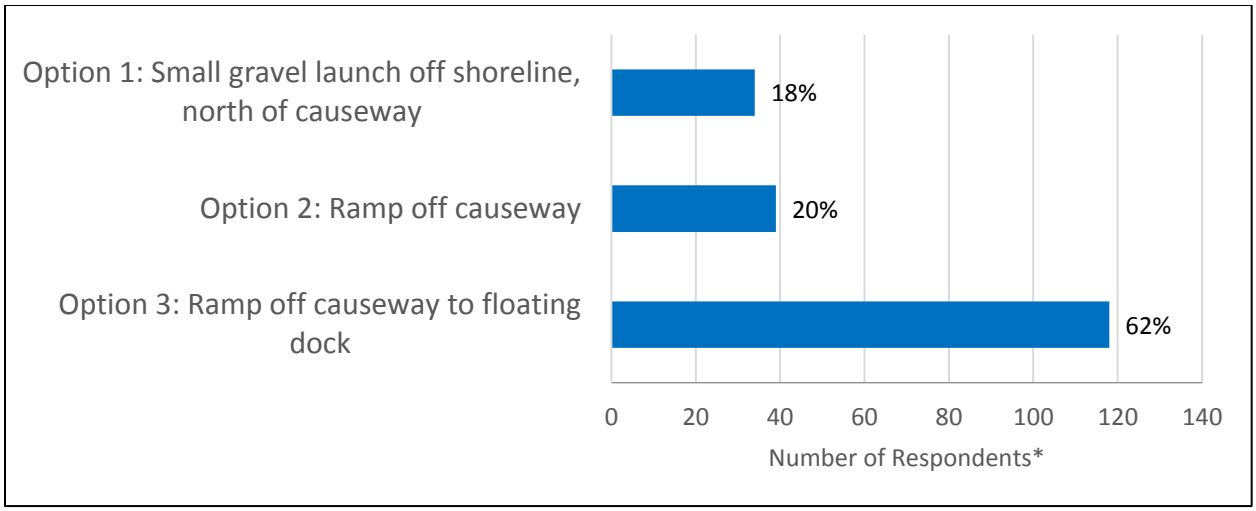


**Total responses: 188*

Table 16 – Comments, Amenities at end of Causeway

Comments
Provide improvements for weather protection (6)
Positive comments about potential improvements to causeway (6)
Keep it minimal (5)
No improvements to causeway (2)

Figure 14j – Q2: *Preference, Non-Motorized Access to Water*

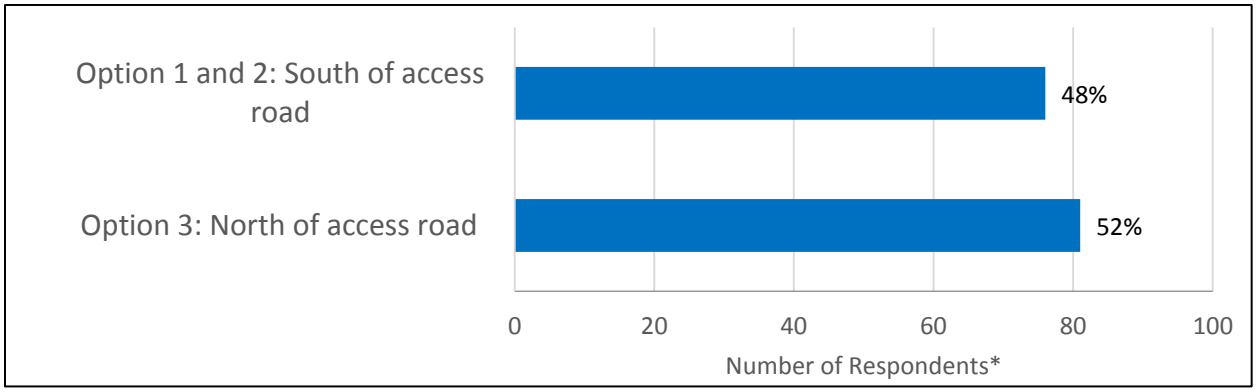


**Total responses: 191*

Table 17 – Comments, Non-Motorized Access to Water

Comments
Need a ramp or dock off causeway for non-motorized boat and pedestrian interface with water (6)
Provide amenity for the launching of canoes, paddle boards, kayaks, etc. (5)
Provide accessibility features for elderly residents and persons with disabilities (3)
Allow motorized boats (3)
Do not allow motorized boats (3)
Do not provide any amenities for access to water (3)
Start small and build incrementally as needed; add amenities if demand warrants (2)
Maximize/optimize non-motorized access to water (2)
Signage is needed to warn users of dangers in Minette Bay (2)
Positive comments re: possibility to swim / have direct interface with water at Minette Bay (2)
Positive comments re: possibility for non-motorized boating (2)
Need motorized boat launch (2)

Figure 14k – Q2: *Preference, Vendor Area*

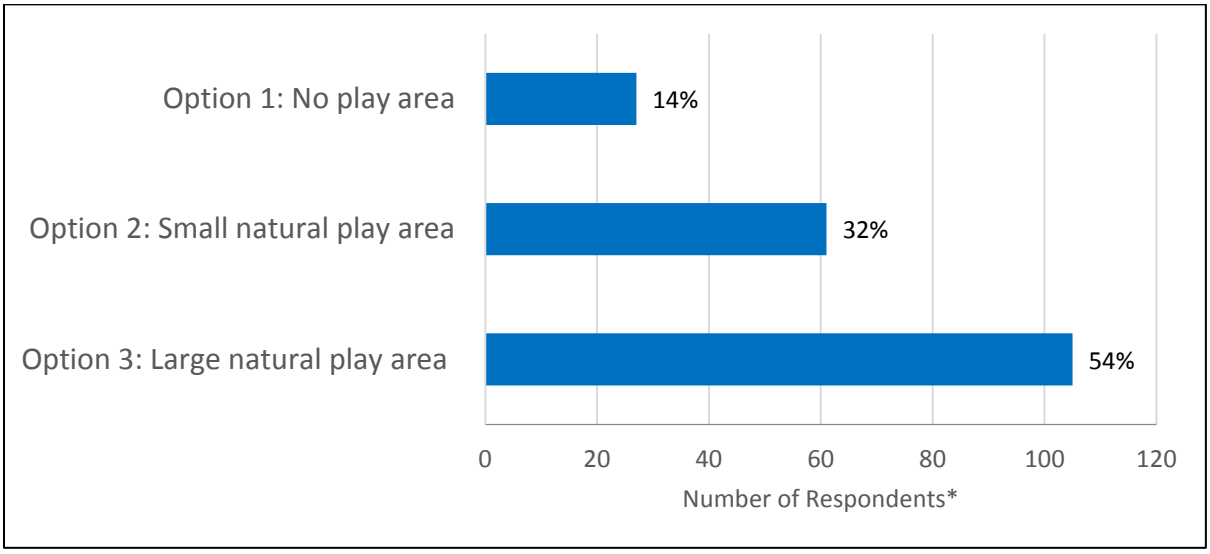


**Total responses: 157*

Table 18 – Comments, Vendor Area

Comments
Do not provide a designated vendor area (concerns: bears, garbage, visitors, unnecessary, etc.) (21)
Questions about the need for, or purpose of, a vendor area at Minette Bay West (7)
Positive comments about possibility of vendors at Minette Bay West (4)
Comments/suggestions re: potential small restaurant (2)
Yes to vendor area but in different location (2)

Figure 14l – Q2: *Preference, Play Area*

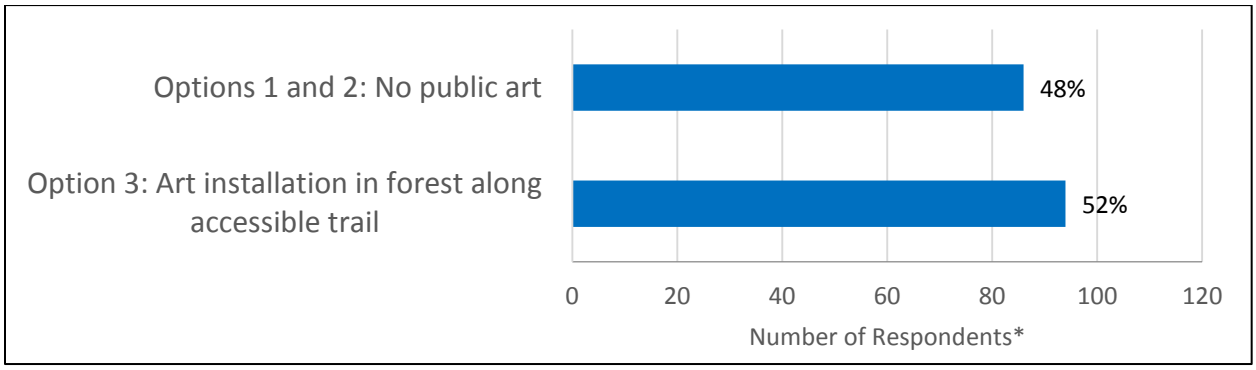


**Total responses: 193*

Table 19 – Comments, Play Area

Comments
Positive comments about potential play area (11)
Do not provide a natural play area (5)
No need for a natural play area as Minette Bay is already a natural playground (3)
Keep site as pristine as possible (2)
Small play area only; minimize environmental impact (2)

Figure 14m – Q2: *Preference, Public Art*



**Total responses: 180*

Table 20 – Comments, Public Art

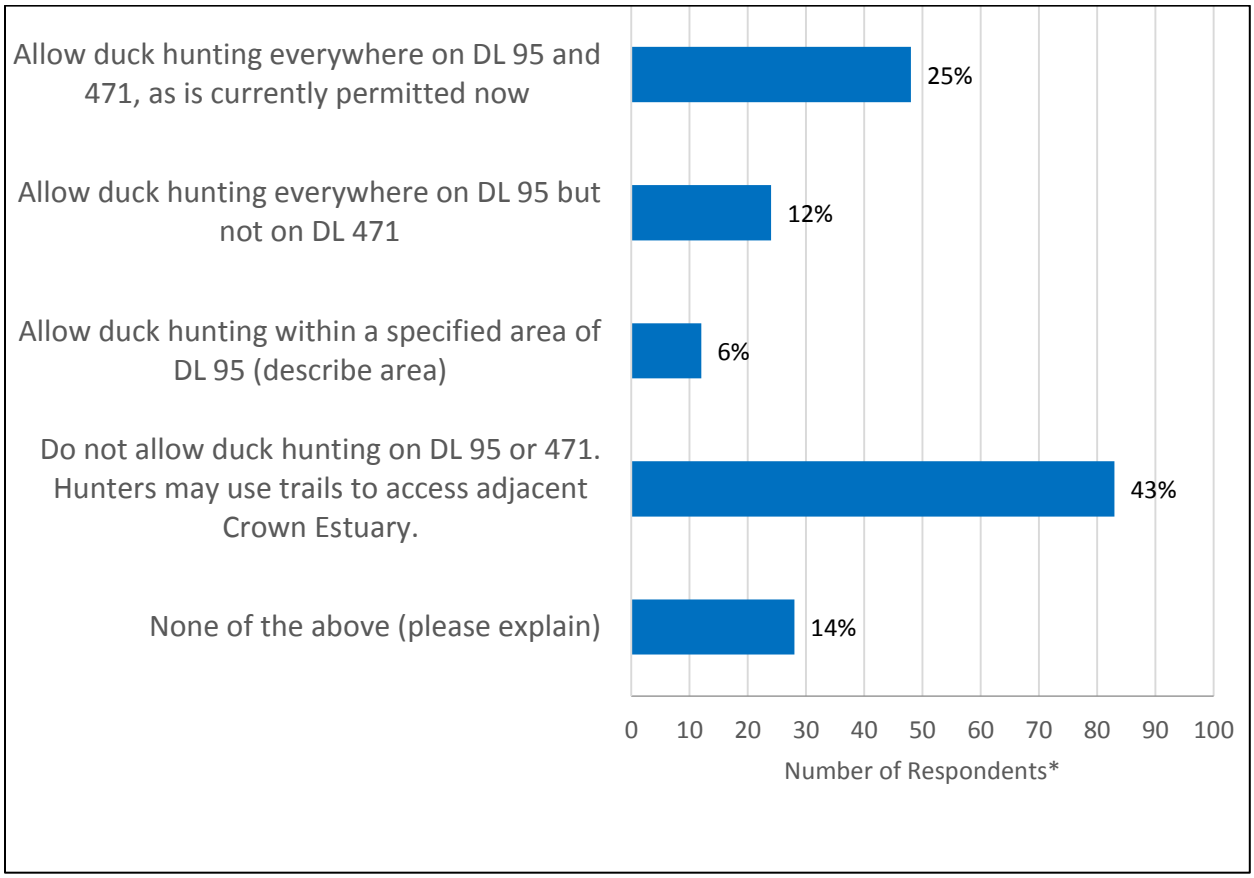
Comments
No public art (concerns: cost, potential target for vandalism, environmental impact, etc.) (11)
Different suggestions re: types of art that might be appropriate at Minette Bay West (8)
Positive comments about public art at MBW (7)
No art at first but possibly add later (2)
Keep it natural ("nature is art") (2)

Question 3

Question 3 asked respondents to indicate if they think duck hunting should be permitted at Minette Bay West, and if so, where it should be permitted. Respondents were asked to choose one of five options (see **Figure 15**).

As shown in **Figure 15**, 43% of respondents feel that duck hunting should be allowed on part(s) or all of Minette Bay West, and 43% feel that duck hunting should not be allowed on the site. 14% of respondents chose "none of the above". Some respondents who chose "none of the above" left open-ended explanations; these responses have been grouped into themes and are listed in **Table 21**. Open-ended comments provided with the third option, "allow duck hunting within a specified area", are included in **Table 22.**

Figure 15 – Q3: *Should duck hunting be permitted in Minette Bay West (District Lots 471 and 95), and if so, where?*



**Total responses: 195*

Table 21 – Details provided with "none of the above" response to Q3

Comments
No duck hunting (concerns re: stray bullets, safety concerns, conflicts, abuse of duck hunting, etc.) (9)
No knowledge of duck hunting, unfamiliar with duck hunting, need more info, etc. (5)
Minette Bay West should be a refuge for birds (3)

Table 22 – Description of specific area where duck hunting should be permitted

Comments
Allow in southwest corner of site (4)
Allow in portions of site left undeveloped (e.g. southern 2/3, southern 1/3, etc.) (2)
Impose restrictions on park during duck hunting season (2)
Provide distance/buffer between duck hunting and any public uses (2)
Allow on District Lot 95 (2)

Question 4

Question 4 asked respondents if they have any additional comments or feedback regarding the three concept plan options for Minette Bay West. This question included a large comment box (with no word limit) for open-ended responses. 108 of the 214 survey participants (51%) provided a response to Question 4. Some opted to write lengthy comments while others left only a few words or a short sentence.

A list of verbatim responses is included in **Appendix B.** The comments were very diverse in terms of scope, depth and overall nature of content, reflecting the many different perspectives and priorities of community members in Kitimat and Kitamaat. Some respondents expressed a desire to see the site preserved as is or minimally developed (for a variety of reasons), while others indicated that they wish to see significant recreational development and diverse amenities. Other respondents indicated that their priorities lie at various points along this continuum, and that DOK must endeavour to balance environmental protection and recreation opportunities.



View of northwest Minette Bay at high tide, looking north from the causeway (DOK, 2016)

4.3 Booth at Spring Craft Fair

A project booth was set up at the Spring Craft Fair on April 1, 2017 at Riverlodge Recreation Centre. Staff were available throughout the event to provide information and answer questions about the concept planning process, as well as to encourage community members to fill out Community Survey #2 (see **Section 4.2** for details about the survey).



Project booth at Spring Craft Fair (DOK, 2017)

The intent of the Spring Craft Fair booth—similar to the three project booths in 2016—was to give community members an opportunity to access information about the project and participate in the planning process in a casual and convenient setting. The Spring Craft Fair provided outreach to community members who might not otherwise have heard of or had the time to participate in the planning process. Spring Craft Fair event organizers have confirmed that attendance exceeded 1,000 people.

Approximately 100 community members, or 10% of Spring Craft Fair attendees, visited the project booth. Staff answered many questions and had numerous discussions with previously engaged community members and new participants to the planning process. Many information packages about the project were handed out along with business cards advertising Community Survey #2. Display materials included a slide show and video of Minette Bay West, posters of the three concept plan options, copies of background documents and studies, poster boards from previous open houses and other supporting materials.



View of Spring Craft Fair "Food Room" taken from Minette Bay West project booth (DOK, 2017)

4.4 E-mail and Other Correspondence (2017)

Throughout 2017, community members have been providing input to the project team in various ways outside of the formal engagement process. In addition to the formal (i.e., scheduled and organized) opportunities described in **Sections 4.1-4.3**, DOK had an 'open door' throughout the project, meaning any community member who wished to provide input was encouraged to do so over the phone, by e-mail or letter, or in-person at the municipal office.

In recognition of the value of all types of community input, while maintaining DOK's duty of confidentiality, a summary of key messages, themes and issues is provided below:

Need for Public Waterfront Access in Kitimat

- Some residents feel that Kitimat is in desperate need of public oceanfront access, and that Minette Bay West is currently underutilized. There is an opinion that, if built, the park could be an asset to the community
- Some residents feel that Kitimat cannot rely solely on "major projects". A park at Minette Bay West could provide an amenity to the Kitimat area to boost tourism (including eco-tourism) and make Kitimat a more livable community for current residents. It could also potentially attract new residents and grow the tax base
- Some community members believe that families, elderly residents and persons with disabilities need better access to the outdoors. There is optimism around the possibility of universally-accessible amenities on the ocean
- There are some mixed opinions on whether the park would be well-used. Some community members say they wouldn't go down to Minette Bay West while others would and are excited about the prospect of a park at this location
- Some community members feel that now is not the time to develop Minette Bay West as Kitimat is shrinking and does not have any major projects underway

Campground at Minette Bay West

- Some community members feel a campground is desirable at Minette Bay West, given the large size of the site (191 hectares) and the lack of serviced campground spaces in Kitimat. There is a feeling that day-use only for Minette Bay West is too limiting, as it would restrict such activities as evening campfires, overnight tenting and RV'ing

Duck Hunting

- Open season for duck hunting at Minette Bay West is from October 1 to January 13, a time period when park visits by other users may be low due to inclement weather and other factors. Duck hunters reportedly only use the southern shoreline of Minette Bay West and the adjacent Crown Estuary for hunting, and high-powered rifles are not used. For these reasons, there could be minimal to no conflict between duck hunting and other recreational uses of the Minette Bay West site

Bears

- There is concern about potential impacts on bears and bear habitat at Minette Bay West. Concerns include possibility of human/bear conflict, potential degradation of bear habitat, bear habituation, potential displacement of bears, and conflict resulting in bears being euthanized
- Some community members think Minette Bay West should be left undeveloped to minimize risk and impacts to bears, while others recognize bears live all around Kitimat and are willing to accept some risk so long as appropriate preventative measures are undertaken (e.g., install signage, maintain line of sight, implement seasonal closures, ensure responsible refuse management, etc.)
- Grizzly bear study was appreciated and considered to be well-done by some community members while others expressed concern about the methodology used
- There is some concern about the timing of the bear study; some individuals would have preferred that DOK conduct the bear study prior to conducting any community engagement on the three options (*staff note: bear study was conducted at time recommended by professional biologists, and in response to options identified as preferred by the community)*

State of Municipal Parks and Infrastructure

- There is concern about the current state of Radley Park, Hirsch Creek Park and other DOK amenities and infrastructure. Some community members feel that DOK should develop a strategy for its existing parks and infrastructure, and focus on rehabilitating Radley Park, Hirsch Creek Park, roads, sidewalks and/or other infrastructure before developing a new park at Minette Bay West
- Some residents think DOK should address riverbank camping before developing a new park
- Some community members do not support tax dollars being spent on a new park when, in their opinion, improvements are needed elsewhere within the municipality

Forest Fire Risk

- There is concern about forest fire hazards at Minette Bay West, given the frequent high winds in Minette Bay, increasingly dry Kitimat summers, and close proximity of the DL 471 shoreline to the forest. Some community members would prefer to see no small fire pits and/or barbeques at Minette Bay West

Site Conditions and Characteristics

- Positive comments about the scenery and natural beauty of the Minette Bay West site and views down the bay towards Kitimat Arm and Douglas Channel
- Some feel that Minette Bay West has characteristics that limit recreational value and opportunities. These include significant tidal range; potential wildlife habitat conflict areas; and low-lying, wet, environmentally-sensitive portions of the site. There have also been reports of flies and unpleasant smells in some seasons and in different tidal and wind conditions
- There have been reports that kayaking in Minette Bay can be dangerous for inexperienced paddlers, particularly near the exit/entry to Kitimat Arm, due to rapidly moving tides
- The Minette Bay West property and surrounding area are considered by some community members to be a “natural playground” and therefore playground infrastructure is not required

Planning Process

- Some community members have expressed that the planning process has been, in their opinion, consultative and thorough. Others feel that more consultation and engagement is needed, such as a third open house and/or third survey on the final concept plan and cost estimates
- Some residents believe that cost estimates should have been released sooner to help inform the planning process. Although estimates are included in the *Minette Bay West Concept Plan – 30 August 2017* package, some community members feel that cost estimates for potential amenities should have been made available before or during community engagement on the three options
- Some community members who participated in the first round of community engagement feel that their input was ignored by the project team
- It has been suggested that DOK should hold a referendum, plebiscite and/or town hall for residents to debate and vote on Minette Bay West
- Some community members have said that Community Survey #2 did not provide an option for respondents to choose "no development" *(staff note: For clarification, Survey #2 had an option for respondents to choose "none of the above", as well as additional areas for open-ended feedback. Please refer to **Figure 13** and **Table 7** in **Section 4.2** for details)*
- Some community members have submitted negative comments regarding amount of money spent on the planning process

Park Maintenance and Monitoring

- Some community members are concerned about whether a future park at Minette Bay West would be adequately monitored and maintained by DOK and if park rules (e.g., dog on leash, day-use only, etc.) would be enforced by DOK or respected by park users
- It has been suggested that DOK should considering a full-time park monitor
- Some community members report an increase in visitors as well as litter, campfires and ATV use since a barricade on the road to Minette Bay West was removed. Although DOK staff are regularly visiting, monitoring and maintaining the area, a feeling remains among some community members that the road should be closed to vehicles

Environmental Sensitivity

- Some community members are concerned about the potential environmental impact of the three options that were proposed in Phase 2, and have requested that the Silverwood Bio-Inventory report recommendations for DL 471 and 95 be followed and reflected in the plan
- Minette Bay has been referred to as a tranquil setting where various flora and fauna live in harmony. The final Minette Bay West Concept Plan must protect and preserve the environment to the greatest extent possible
- Some community members have the perception that DOK is proposing development in the estuary *(staff note: the proposed concept plan for Minette Bay West focuses on pre-disturbed upland areas in the northeast corner of DL 471. No amenities are proposed in the estuary)*

Minimal or No Development at Minette Bay West

- Some members of the community feel that Minette Bay West should be kept as natural as possible or not developed at all. Some specific opinions and ideas include:
    - Leave the site untouched and do nothing
    - Leave the site untouched and label it a Grizzly Bear Sanctuary
    - Leave the site mostly untouched, with a simple parking area near the fork in the access road on DL 452 (Rio Tinto property) and restrict access to Minette Bay West to walk-in only. Install gazebo at the end of the causeway for sitting, meditation, etc.
    - Focus on providing simple access and parking at Minette Bay West. Take an incremental approach; start small and conduct a public review after five years to gauge the community's appetite to go further
    - Provide as little development as possible (e.g., parking lot, a few trails, raised walkway, viewing platform, small dock, good refuse containment) with seasonal closures in high use areas and closures when bears are lingering in a particular area. No camping and no overnight parking

Alternative Locations

- Some community members feel that public waterfront should be pursued/established by DOK in a different location. Suggestions included Emsley Cove and Jesse Lake on the west side of Douglas Channel
- Negative comments regarding site conditions and lack of development potential of DL 471; some have suggested that Rio Tinto should take DL 471 back and give DOK a site with better ocean access

Road Access

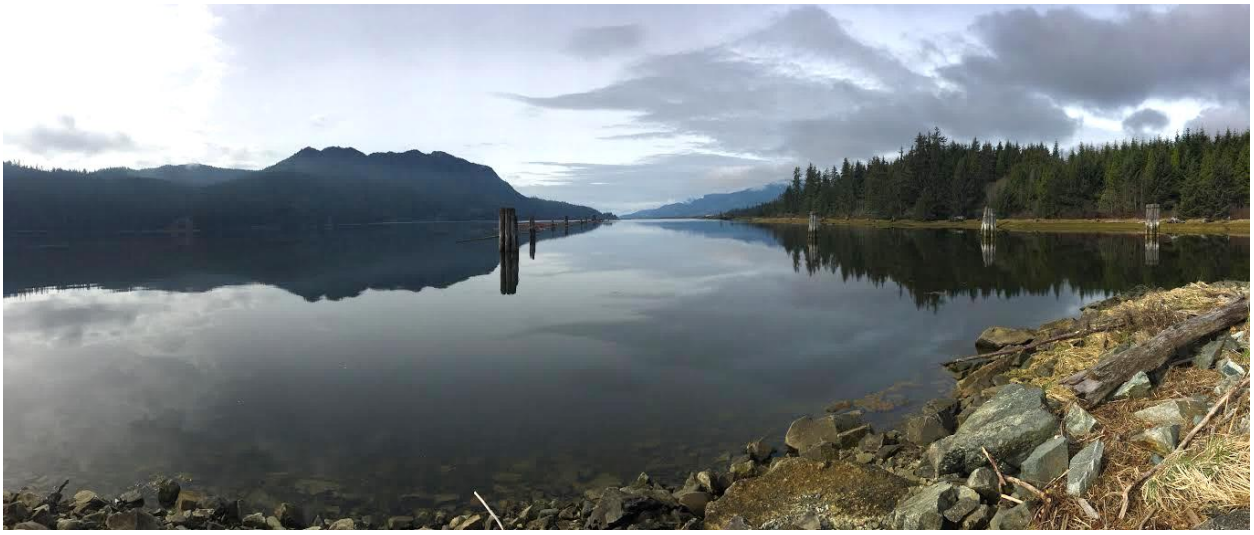
- Some community members have expressed concern regarding the primary and future access points shown on the three concept plan options. These concerns include, in no particular order:
    - Undesirable impacts on neighbouring properties if primary access in the NE corner of DL 471 is designated and developed as proposed
    - The secondary/future access (in the NW corner of DL 471) may not get constructed for ten years or more, as Phase 10/11 of Strawberry Meadows is not currently under development
    - The primary access road crosses multiple private properties and a formal access agreement has not yet been reached with all parties
    - Discussions regarding road access did not occur early in the planning process

Section 5. Next Steps

This document presents a wealth of community input received in 2016 and 2017 through the Minette Bay West Concept Planning process. The District of Kitimat thanks everyone, including community members, project stakeholders and all Kitimat and Kitamaat residents who provided their ideas, thoughts and concerns with respect to recreation opportunities at the Minette Bay West site.

Earlier versions of this Summary of Community Engagement were used as the basis for the project guiding statements (i.e., vision, goals and objectives) and three concept plan options. This third Summary of Community Engagement was used to prepare the *Minette Bay West Concept Plan (August 30, 2017)* document, which includes maps, visuals, proposed phasing, preliminary management strategies, site information and history, and other details. It will be presented to Kitimat Council on Tuesday, September 5 at 7:30 pm in Council Chambers at 606 Mountainview Square, and will be livestreamed: www.kitimat.ca/EN/main/municipal/mayor-council/council-meeting-livestream.html.

The *Minette Bay West Concept Plan (August 30, 2017)* will be available for public viewing before the meeting. The plan and a cover report to Council will be included in Council's agenda package for September 5, which will be posted online by 4:30 pm, Friday September 1; see www.kitimat.ca/EN/main/municipal/mayor-council/meeting-agendas/2017.html. Community members are encouraged to attend the September 5 meeting and are welcome to comment on the plan prior to a decision by Council.



View of Minette Bay West shoreline, looking southwest from the causeway (DOK, 2017)

Appendix A – Written Input on Comment Boards and Forms (2016)

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Have you been to Minette Bay before? If so, what did you do?	What would you like to do here in the future?	What is your vision for the future of this site?
• Hike, kayak and dragon boat • Hike – plant identification • We have a sailboat moored there – NOTE: this area is a resting area for great blue herons and osprey • I have travelled that area for 42 years, duck and goose hunting. Unless there is major work done it will only be enjoyed by very few • We have a boat moored at Minette Bay Marina • Walked Pine Creek Trail to the shoreline • No traffic on road to ocean – walk access only • Hike, canoe, Minette Bay Lodge • Hiked, walked and observed nature (frogs, herons, etc.) • Hike, snowshoe, kayak, food harvest, history, visitors, school groups • Wandered, looked at osprey nest, canoed • Canoed, have done lots of birding • Hiked, canoed, kayaked • Went for walk • Horseback ride • Kayak, visit Minette Bay Lodge • Walk trails in area (love Pine Creek Trails at Minette Bay Lodge property – beauty, easy with kids, groomed but natural, feels like thought put in which makes it a "destination" – bridges, etc.), went to see land the DOK acquired for the project • The Thorne brothers took us on a hike and showed us numerous plants (chocolate lily) and signs, pointing out areas where these grow • Kayak, dragon boat, snowshoe • Dragon boating • Dragon boat, kayak, hike, sit and look at water and wildlife	• Hike, meditate, yoga, forage, view sunset, observe nature/bird watch/photography from boardwalk or trails, be inspired, bike on path if available • Kayak access, walking/biking trails, picnic area • Don't forget the bears – they need space and habitat, keep the development small; walkways only • Picnic, hike, canoe, kayak • Elevated boardwalks along the marsh, a few platforms for scopes/birding, canoe and kayak access • Climb the rocks • Leave it alone – other places, easy access • Public pier, boat access, picnic area, swim beach • Enjoy nature walks, picnic, water access for kayaking and canoeing, vehicle access and parking near water sport access point • Access to water, more hiking trails, canoe launch • Public access to the water to put in canoe, trail along the shoreline for a walk • Don't bother the bears, leave it alone • Moor our boat, go walking/hiking, have picnics • Tree twirlies, wooden nature megaphone, hiking trails, bird watching, photography, seal and whale watching • Hike, snowshoe, kayak, food harvest, learn history, bring visitors, bring students • Wildlife viewing in large three storey tower that is wheelchair accessible to 2nd level • Interpretation signs showing First Nations usage of plants and areas • Preserve the beauty that is there, do nothing to interfere with the animals, birds and plants that live there, no camping/tires/motorboats/boat launches, it should be maintained as a sanctuary, board walks, look out stations, maybe a covered look out at the spit for meditation, should be for bird watching/photography/interpretive stations, circular trail • Shoot geese, rent a canoe or kayak • Put kayak in, boardwalk, walkway, trails	• Public access • Senior friendly • Municipal marina – kayak/canoe, boat launch, bird watching, boardwalks, picnic sites, campground away from water • Keep the area as natural as possible, no motorized, no dredging • Limited access by keeping walkways elevated with platforms for viewing the channel – no camping, no fires, no road access, no quads • Where is there a plan for this to be a replacement "Alcan Beach"? • Hike trails, boardwalks, pier for diving off (not easy to walk on mud), senior accessible trail/boardwalk, birdwatch • Left alone – Kitimat=a marvel of industry and nature, if development has to happen, protect the grizzly habitat first, minimal footprint, no park or campground, no fires, no noise, no mess • Boardwalks with viewing platforms, trails, picnic areas, kayak launch area • Public water access, family friendly, picnic site, beach access, trails/hiking • No car traffic, foot access only, keep as natural as possible, hiking trails, no dredging, wooden nature megaphone, no motorized boats allowed, animal information signs, no camping, no fires, environmentally sensitive development, no ATV's, dirt bikes etc., human activity in specific uses in lower impact areas • Hiking trails/boardwalks, interpretive, small commercial: e.g., ice cream, coffee, canoe/kayaking, picnic area, public access, senior accessibility • Horse trail, campsite • Running loop • Leave it alone, keep it natural • Easy access for wheelchairs, wheelchair friendly trails, wheel chair washrooms • No motorized vehicles, trails with boardwalks, interpretive signs, birding signs, amphibian info • A hiking trail with elevated areas for birding, wheel chair access would be good, no camping, no fires, this is our last grizzly habitat close to town • Safe access for public and habitat security for all animal species using the area • Hiking trails, access to the water, keep as natural as possible • Safe, easy access, environmentally friendly, washrooms • I do not want to see wildlife displaced, especially if Shell goes ahead and habitat on the Kitimat Delta is already significantly reduced, a day use area with interpretive trails is what I want to see, no camping, no motorized water/land sports, etc. • Disability accessible, if trails then make them wheelchair accessible and perhaps viewing platforms as well • Environmentally sensitive development: boardwalks, day use only, no camping, no fires (strong on shore winds pose significant threat of forest fires), no boat launch (the foreshore is too sensitive and there is boat access on other side of bay already), protect the grizzly habitat • Any water sports must be human or wind powered, motorcraft will disperse bird life, seals and disturb the bears, bear encounters with humans – only a matter of time • Public wharf • Camping area • Dock – play in water for kids

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Have you been to Minette Bay before? If so, what did you do?	What would you like to do here in the future?	What is your vision for the future of this site?
• I have walked my dog, ridden my horse, driven my ATV & paddled a dragon boat on and around Minette Bay • I fully appreciate the abundant wildlife in this little area and its use as a safe place for seals to raise their pups. I also know that a wolf family dens nearby and the kits have been seen by the water. And I believe this will be some of the last remaining wilderness on the ocean in the Kitimat Valley especially if LNG Canada eventually develops….we need to protect it • Sailboat is moored at Minette Bay • Yes hiking, kayaking, dog walking and we have had encounters with bears and left (when you have a bear encounter what will you do? You know bears live there) • Boating, ocean fishing, river fishing and diving • Walk around the bay • Kayak, paddle board, dragon boat	• Walking trails, dog area • Play at playground • Put my feet in water with my dogs • Camping area • Café • Boardwalk with coffee shop • Walk, trails • I would love a set of nature trails with interpretative stops/signs. I also think it could be used to launch non-motorized watercraft as long as there is information on the risks involving tidal outflow so people aren't caught unaware and dragged out into the Douglas Channel. I think dogs should be leashed at all time and kept on the trails, not allowed to roam. Overnight camping encourages vandalism and partying so I would not be in support of campgrounds or even day use areas • Nature viewing platforms with interpretive signs, hiking, taking nature photography from safe "blind", snow shoeing in the winter • Kitesurf (is it possible?) • Hiking, kayaking, dog walking (problems: access, bears, fires and garbage from people) • Tourism to hot springs, whale watching, camping • Walk on trails – enjoy view points and interpretive areas	• Beneficial insect hotel and demonstration forage path, boardwalk near water and paths (foot and bike and mobility challenged) that loop and offer different lengths/experiences/environments, meditation/yoga pavilion, wooden megaphone that amplifies forest sounds, no overnight camping or uncontained burning, sunset lookout platform, windy site – art in trees that is shiny and/or reflects light and twirls (ie., crystals) and/or music installation (eg., chimes, bamboo tubes, panpipes, etc.), profile historical Braun Farm in some way, if bike path; consider making it possible to bike from town (not just safe to drive there and unload bikes), wind power generator, limit impact on species currently calling the area home, focus on human activity on specific uses in lower impact areas, no motorized recreation vehicles on land or water), no motor boats, no ATV's, no dirt bikes, etc. • Walking trails with picnic areas and viewing platforms, kayak dock • Walking and running trails • Picnic area, boat launch, campground, trails • Have access with my boat; need it dredged • Event location, picnic, water access, trails, dock • Walking trails • I think it could be a great place for non-motorized recreation in all seasons; a source of public/school education about the ecology, First Nations and early settlers history; and a draw to tourists or a place for locals to bring visitors (with easy access) to show off the valley. Some shorter trails with boardwalks might be appropriate for people in wheelchairs, on scooters or that have difficulty walking on rougher ground • An area where elevated animal viewing and animal interpretive signage is available. See Haida Gwaii Port Clements estuary viewing tower • A kitesurfing destination • Keep it as is. Leave the bears alone. This is the last of their habitat after LNG Canada destroys the rest. Bears, people, dogs, horses and ATVs don't belong together. People are pigs – they leave garbage, beer cans and bottles all over this area. It is upsetting • Sustainable project that is environmentally friendly…power project for the tides coming into Minette Bay, community gathering point at the water's edge, floating accommodations • Very little "footprint" trail, ONLY. No boat launch – boats can be launched at Minette Bay Marina. Nothing that would interfere with the natural order of the bay • Do not disturb and you won't have to restore. People are pigs, they leave their garbage everywhere they go • Consultation with the registered trap line holder needs to occur prior to implementation of the plan • It should be an area to relax a bit – don't want to hear gunfire or ATVs

Appendix B – Responses to Question 4 in Community Survey #2

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Do you have additional comments or feedback regarding the three concept plan options?

- Add on doggy poop bag dispensers so people will pick up and have somewhere to put it.
- Are we maintaining Radley Park and Hirsh Creek? Do we have finances to take this on and maintain it? We are concerned about the 'push' on wildlife in this area ...being part of waterfront and rivermouth area
- Area should be retained in its natural state as much as possible. Trails should not intrude into sensitive habitat. Existing uses of the area such as duck and goose hunting should be protected
- Bike trails
- Beach/Sand beach shoreline
- Get rid of log booms out front
- Large walkway/bridge over river
- Camping
- Could we be allowed to bike on accessible loop? Even just one portion of option 3 closest to NW art area
- Omit loop in NW of DL 95
- Disturb this site as little as possible - use it respectfully and keep it pristine. If you have a dog, train it to mind and keep it leashed and CLEAN up after it. Same with the children!
- This is a learning site for all of how to peek in at nature NOT overwhelm it with human needs
- DL 95 - off leash trails
- DL 471 - on leash trails (closer to picnic tables etc.)
- Skip dog leash area - save money
- Picnic tables - more all along path - private, natural, basic
- Do not cut off access to hunting grounds over our trails. We like hiking there, keep it more to the nature side of things. It already is a park for us, don't take away what we use and like already
- Ensuring an accessible trail will be important. Pat Harris from spinal cord injury BC would be good to review plans
- Finally get some use
- For the most part, I favor keeping the trail system to a minimum. I believe water access for non-motorized craft should be maximized. A ramp will help but problems with low tide will still create difficulties getting launched or dragging your craft over the mud when returning. A small dock that floats at low tide should minimize this
- I favor keeping the trail system short with viewpoints overlooking the water. This should help keep grizzly bears and people away from each other
- Get rid of log boom out front
- Beach front
- Good to see the project progressing so fast and pleased to see the inclusion of off leash access in 2 of 3 options
- Haisla totem pole in day use area installed at a ceremonial opening
- Could be good to strengthen community ties
- Has the District considered the idea of campgrounds? This would be a beautiful area for a campground and something the District has not capitalized on in the past or has underutilized what we have already
- How about bat condos?
- I am adamantly opposed to the provision of any camping sites in this area. Hirsch Creek Park should be fixed up and reopened for camping.
- Put doggie bag stands
- Out houses
- I believe that at this point the District should be focusing on maintaining and improving the outdoor recreation amenities that already exist. However, it is good to have a plan in place in case the demand for outdoor recreation increases with a significant increase in population
- I can't wait for this to become reality and to be able to take my kids to a spot to enjoy nature super close to home!
- I do not think they should have hunting
- I do not understand why you would not put any campsites or why you would try to restrict the area to day use only. Kitimat is a shift working town and with the inclusion of campsites we would be able to bring in tourists.
- I don't want to see this area disturbed. Our Haisla members used to have an oolichan camp close to the creek, used to bring canoe loads of oolichans to make grease, smoke oolichans for winter food. Until big companies came in and polluted Kitamaat River. That space is taken up now. In those days there were no environmental concerns. "0" leave as is

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- I feel strongly that the District of Kitimat should show leadership as custodians of the precious and sensitive piece of land. It should be a nature park and bird sanctuary walk in access only. A gazebo should be built at the rock spit for people to quietly watch the multitude of life down there without the danger of it being destroyed. Be courageous and do something different. It is not ocean access
- I like the ability to go from 1 to 3 as far as increasing the number and length of trails as money and time allows. At least there is that possibility as far as trails are designed, it might be worth having person with disabilities to come out and use the trails to see how accessible they are to persons with disabilities and seniors. This might also be worthwhile to help figure out where to put benches/rest areas along the trail
- Persons with disabilities can see what the trails are like to walk and wheelchair on
- Would there be dredging required to allow boats even if they are non-motorized? Assume not
- Have dollars from the municipality already been budgeted for the project?
- I like the idea in general and I suggest it be implemented with initial project cost and future maintenance costs in mind
- Do all the work upfront that would be expensive or difficult to do later, parking areas, clearing for play areas, paths etc
- Design paths, platforms, play area, everything to minimize up keep and maintenance even if it costs a bit more. This will be here a long time so legacy costs need to be considered
- Design things so they can be upgraded or added in the future as the public demands
- This will be a really cool addition to our community and it should look good and robust not cheap and poorly planned. I would rather see things done properly in a simple basic fashion than in an elaborate cheap fashion
- We want our citizens and visitors to feel good about it not think it's a waste of money
- I look forward to seeing this area develop
- I love the ideas presented and the variety of options. The District staff have done a great job engaging the community and allowing everyone to be heard. My only concern is that our property taxes do not go up substantially due to this project. As far as I'm concerned anything that makes Kitimat a better place to live is favorable
- I worry that duck hunting would limit dog and child safety
- I would be very sad to see a large amount of tax dollars go into this project without first addressing the condition of the two parks that we have presently. Radley Park is in definite trouble and our lack of good camping sites for tourism is also a problem. Sitting down with RT, the Haisla and Council and/or members of the public to address our present concerns re: Radley Park, Hirsch Creek and River camping should be a priority before any further decisions are made. Maybe a town hall is in order
- I would like to see as little of the natural land damaged and taken away. I feel that option one and two provide better recreation accessibility for the community than we currently have, while maintaining how the area naturally is.
- In my opinion I believe it is paramount to allow public access in Kitimat to the Ocean. Option 3 utilizes the DOK land to the best of its ability. There is still minimal impact with option 3 if compared with other port cities around the world.
- It seems that there would be a lot more cost in Option #3 then Option #1
- If we choose #3 there would be ""x"" amount of dollars spent
- If we choose #1, less money invested
- Where does the money go that we don't spend on lessor options?
- It would be great to have a wheel chair and stroller accessible trail!
- It would be wonderful to have campsites available at this site. It would draw people to the area to stay and explore our beautiful town. Have the playground for kids and walk trails and access to the shoreline to view, boat or relax
- Keep it as natural as possible and as accessible as possible for all of our citizens
- Keep the good work that has begun to make this a reality
- Kitimat needs this
- Leave area pristine as possible. No work towards development until the community and current infrastructure has been secured. Fix the streets etc.
- Leave the area as pristine as possible. This project should only be developed after Radley Park and Hirsch Creek Park are upgraded
- Re Question 3: I would be in favour of allowing duck hunting at the Southern Part of DL 95
- Let's have this a light-use place for people second and wildlife first
- No pets - they disturb wildlife just by their presence
- Looking forward to sitting by the water with a coffee and a good book, warming by a fire on a cool day, walking around the trails, and going for a paddle around Minette Bay
- I am a grade 5 student at Kildala Elementary School (15 responses like this one)
- Will be nice to be able get to the ocean without having to drive all the way to Alcan Beach
- This park should be built with the residents of Kitimat in mind. Of course tourists are welcome, but the average Kitimatian who doesn't have a boat will certainly enjoy being able to get a little closer to the water
- Love that we will actually have our own access. Would also love to help out in any way I can. Personally I have lived in Kitimat since 63 and we have enough green space and natural areas to explore. Not enough ocean water access to spend time with loved ones
- Love the ideas thus far, however I would love to see an actual developed beach area, with sand if at all possible

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- Make somewhere where you can see the sunset! Confusing loops because I want to see the sunset over the river! Do not allow duck hunting it is terrible and the worst. Add lots of accessible trails. You could remove the Northwest trail loop
- Nicely done
- No Brainer! Option 3. This is what Kitimat needs. Don't cheap out!
- No fires!
- I have been to all the open houses and info sessions all with input sessions. I was under the understanding that the people wanted minimal amount of impact in that area with no fire pits. We have had to deal with forest fires caused by other individuals and put them out at a great expense - where is the fairness with this. Not happy
- No further comments, just really excited about this
- No mention of using the area for educational tours
- No work should be done or money allotted until Both Radley and Hirsh Creek parks are upgraded
- Only 8,000 people in town - no need to be elaborate
- Open door park public event park for live bands and shows
- Option 1 is overall the best option because it provides enough access without compromising the environment
- Option 3 is a great option. It allows the most use and access to the water front and our beautiful outdoors
- Outdoor recreation - volleyball, horseshoes, stage for live or amateur events
- Biking rails
- Sandy beaches (a must)
- Please don't study this project to death, and put together a feasible development plan the city can afford in the near future
- Please leave this area pristine. Believe when I say that area is just a giant mud hole, in the summer months all you have is horse flies and mosquitoes at low tide it stinks of sulphur, in the fall you have so many grizzly bears eating spawning salmon and to introduce outside food, vendors and subsequent garbage is going to lead to many many problems with wildlife. I frequent that area a lot since I was 3 years old with my father and not recommend being down there without a loaded gun. Please take this into consideration
- Post signs grizzly in area and leave it the way it is
- Prime grizzly bear area. No developments at all preferred as development generally will create influx of visitors, garbage, problem bears-human interactions
- Provision for cycling
- Put in campsites please or at least let all of the people decide. Most of Kitimat did not know about the meetings that you had
- Salmon fishing majority fact of industry in Kitimat for tourists. Salmon preservation is key
- Should have been more publicized as most people didn't seem to even know there were three options or any options for this land at all. We have zero decent camping in Kitimat. Enough with the nature trails we have trails all over to use
- Thank you for this thorough look at the site. Hopefully it will come all together for the good of all
- The area is a wild space, provide access to the bay leave the rest alone
- District of Kitimat does not have the right to determine if duck hunting occurs in Minette Bay. There is not a conservation issue or safety issue
- The community really needs a better area with access to salt water for small marine craft that is family friendly
- The idea of developing anything in this low and swampy, fly ridden marshland is foolhardy, dangerous and a complete waste of tax payers money. Leave it alone, draw a red line around it, call it a ""Grizzly Bear Sanctuary"" and go to town with it as it fits the town motto "A marvel of nature and industry" perfectly
- Re duck hunting: DOK has no jurisdiction over flats
- The key component is to restore and provide simple access to the estuary for resident public to enjoy and continue to use the area as they have historically. There was no push by citizens for decades to increase amenities in the area when public access existed via the Eurocan Haul road. When this was lost residents spoke out wanting access restored. I think the District is over thinking this plan and should concentrate on providing simple public access and parking. After this is established wait 5 years and review if expanding amenities is required. From my perspective simple access is all that users of the area want. There may be those that don't typically use the area who propose a host of amenities (a wish list), but would result in degrading the historical value and use of the area in question
- The off leash dog park and trail would be great! Just make sure to enforce scoop bylaws and supply baggies
- The public would know when duck hunting is occurring on DL 95. Phasing would allow Council to fund development annually. Limiting cyclists to certain trails. Mixed use with cyclists and pedestrians can be challenging
- There should be free public access, if possible, to launch a motorized boat
- This area is sensitive and pristine and should be left as is
- This is a huge opportunity for Kitimat. To open up access to the water front can potentially change the dynamics of the town. While it is important to preserve the nature and beauty of the area I believe it is also important to have the foresight that the area may be able to harbour some

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KITIMAT
A Marvel of Nature and Industry



- Retail and restaurant development. Prince Rupert currently thrives off the tourism surrounding the water but I believe Kitimat has potential to tap into this industry as well; being only 35 minutes from the region's major airport access is much easier than that of Prince Rupert. Hopefully with careful planning and foresight we can turn this park into a destination on the must do list for tourism in the area
- This project has me very excited. We live in a beautiful area and we need more accessible trails that encourage our residents to be active and engaged in the environment around us
- I do not think that it would be wise to allow the discharge of a firearm in any area close to a public recreation spot! I am not sure how close any of the suggested areas are though or, how many duck hunters on average currently use that area, are there any other prime areas for duck hunting not so close by
- If there is a large number that presently hunt ducks in there, I think it would be unfair to put an end to it all of a sudden. I guess an option would be to close access during duck season, I just hope that it is a short season
- This town needs more access to recreation areas. And access to that cove will be great for kayaking, canoeing, and to enjoy a day out with the family
- Try to route traffic away from residential area through Strawberry Meadows
- Understanding how this could influence duck hunters who frequent this location will be very important. Building an area then informing duck hunters they can no longer hunt here would create a very negative spin to this project.
- We are so excited to see this happen. Can't wait
- We should have camping spaces for everyone to enjoy the outdoors that living in Kitimat offers
- Well done so far. Press on please
- What are the financial implications between the choices? Both immediate and long term maintenance? This would aid in my decision making, like any investment decision that I am required to make in my own life. Is there opportunity to start small and revise if use if larger than anticipated? Analysing the actual impact on the land?
- What Kitimat really lacks is 1. Something that makes it feel like a town - a main strip like Smithers or the Cow Bay area of Rupert - and 2. Convenient ways to access its natural beauty. The City Centre is an eye sore and the opposite of what #1 should be. For #2, the trail system around Kitimat is mostly maintained by interest groups like the snowmobile club. I'm all for having a waterfront and I think leaving it too natural is a mistake. Closer to town like that, people will forgive a boat launch and a paved strip with a picturesque restaurant. Further from town we should be taking a page from the national parks in the US and develop lengthy and well maintained hiking trails to draw more ecotourism. Have you been on Bish cove trail? It's a wreck. There is so much natural beauty here that is poorly developed and poorly exploited. Maybe it's impossible because of corporate interest in the land, but if that's the only reason it's a huge shame
- Why are we spending money on dogs in Kitimat. We have many areas for walking dogs
- Would like basic campsites with limits on time. Some people park trailers in prime spots all spring and summer
- You can't please everyone