



Boundary Road Restoration Plan

Survey results on the proposed day-use area

Introduction

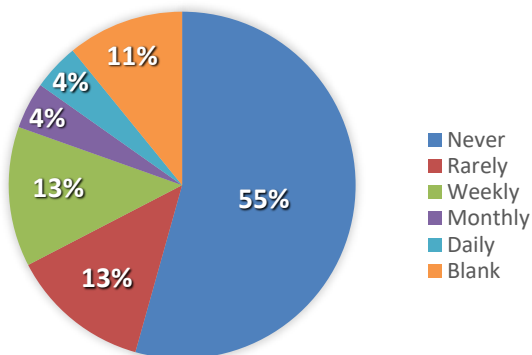
Parks Canada recently invited community members to participate in a survey during the conceptual design phase for a new day-use site at the former Boundary Road Swing Bridge, part of the Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site. This initiative aimed to gather valuable public input to help shape a space that meets the community's needs.

The anonymous survey, conducted from December 3 to December 19, 2024, allowed participants to share their feedback either online or through a physical drop-off location. Parks Canada ensured that all responses were handled in accordance with privacy laws, including the *Privacy Act* and the *Access to Information Act*.

This report summarizes the feedback received from participants 46 and highlights how the community's insights will inform the final concept design for this project.

Survey Results

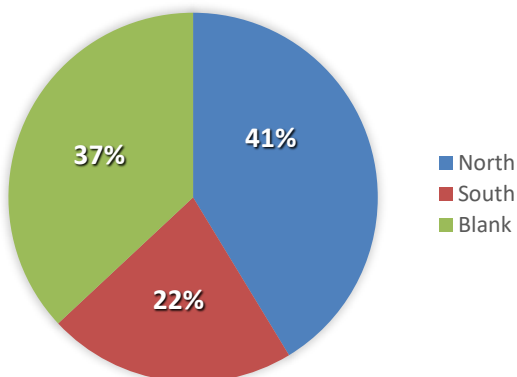
Question 1: Two (2) new day-use areas are proposed along Simcoe Street and Mara-Eldon Boundary Road at the Talbot River, as depicted in the proposed concept design illustrations. They are located on the north and south banks of the river and would be day-use areas maintained during the navigation season. How often could you see yourself visiting the site?



Out of a total of 46 total survey returns.

- The majority of respondents (25) indicated they would **never** visit the site. (55%)
- Six people said they would **rarely** visit. (13%)
- Six respondents mentioned they would visit **weekly**. (13%)
- Two respondents said they would visit **monthly**.
- Two people indicated they would visit **daily**. (4%)
- There were five **blank** responses. (11%)

Question 2: Which side of the Talbot River would you visit most?

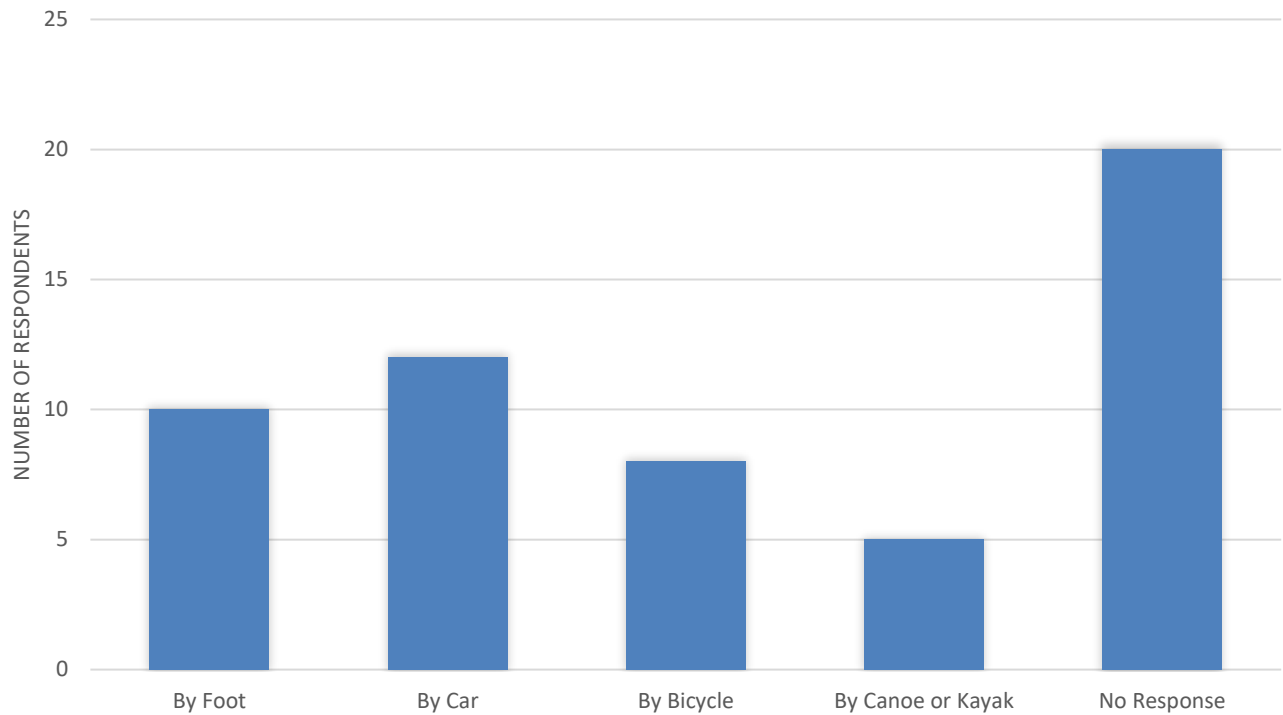


Out of a total of 46 total survey returns.

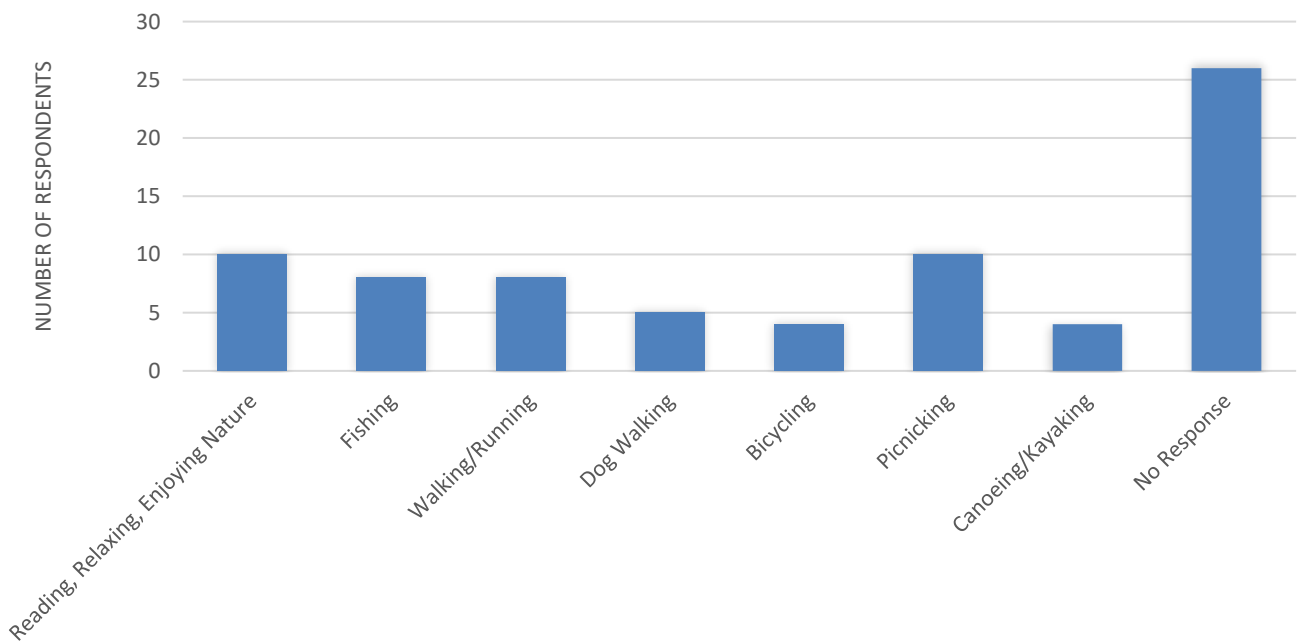
- The majority of respondents (19) indicated they visit the **north** side more. (41%)
- Ten people said they would visit the **south** side more. (22%)
- There were seventeen **blank** responses. (37%)



Question 3: How would you travel to the site?
(respondents were able to indicate multiple choices with this question)



Question 4: How would you spend your time at the site?
(respondents were able to indicate multiple choices with this question)





This question provided the opportunity for other comments. A sample of them are provided below.

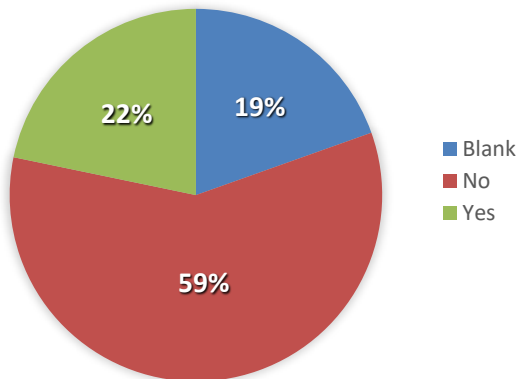
- Grounding on grass with bare feet, exercising.
- Launch Boat.
- Kite flying.

- Need a bridge over the water
- I would never use this site and don't want to make it comfortable to encourage people to use it.
- We do not need any additional day time parks in the area.
- We will never spend time on this site! It's of NO BENEFIT TO THE RESIDENTS in our community as we already live on the water.
- Wishing that the bridge had been replaced.
- As a paying resident I will not use it.

Question 5: The concept design illustrations depict a variety of site furnishings, including picnic tables, benches, fishing areas, animal-proof waste receptacles and bicycle racks. The furnishings proposed recognize the functional concepts proposed for each area as follows. Note that due to the steep drop into the water and proximity to boats in the navigation channel or departing the marina, the site is not safe for swimming.

- The north day-use area is considered a land-based visitation site offering a picnic spot, and rest stop with river views and access to the riverbank for shore fishing.
- The south day-use area is accessible by land, canoe, kayak, or paddleboard should water levels and flows allow. Visitors will enjoy an accessible multi-use pathway that winds along the causeway that formerly served as the extension of Simcoe Street, leading to the former bridge. Benches along the way allow for sunset and sunrise views of the river. A fishing platform along the pathway is conveniently elevated closer to the water level.

5a: Is the functional concept of a picnic area and rest stop at the north riverbank of value to you?



Out of a total of 46 total survey returns.

- The majority of respondents (27) indicated there would be **no** value to them. (59%)
- Ten people said **yes**, there would be value to them. (22%)
- There were nine **blank** responses. (19%)

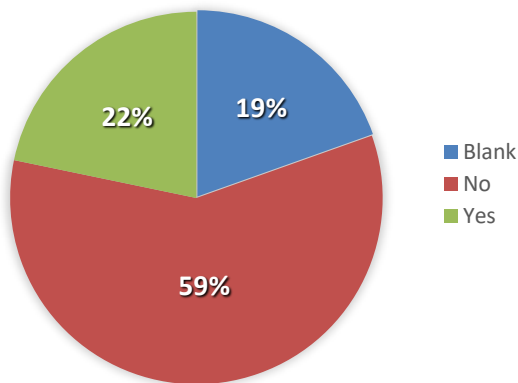


This question provided the opportunity for other comments. A sample of them are provided below.

- A bridge over the canal.
- We want the bridge back.
- An area for tents.
- Kayak/canoe launch.
- Consideration for porta-potty.
- Natural habitat for animals.
- I would like to see it returned to a natural habitat for wildlife.
- Bring back the bridge or just clean up the area to make it safe and leave it natural.
- NO! As a resident we do not want any public day use site.
- Should not be a public space that invites the general public.
- I would remove everything as it will only lead to garbage being left and attract unwanted wildlife in our backyards such as racoons and bears.

- There is no value for a picnic area/rest stop at this residential location. There are four day parks within a 3.4 km of this site. The infrastructure of the area does not support additional daytime / evening traffic or population.
- I would just finish the water edge off so it's safe and plant some trees and shrubs. I moved to retire in this area with peace and tranquility escaping the busy city life. This proposed site will bring everything I moved to escape back on my doorstep. It will be busy, noisy and disruptive to our lifestyle choice. With limited parking people will park on the road, garbage will be a problem. People will go to the washroom on the property. Unsafe for my grandkids to walk by.

5b: Is the functional concept of an accessible pathway with a canoe/kayak launch at the south riverbank of value to you?



Out of a total of 46 total survey returns.

- The majority of respondents (27) indicated there would be **no** value to them. (59%)
- Ten people said **yes**, there would be value to them. (22%)
- There were nine **blank** responses. (19%)

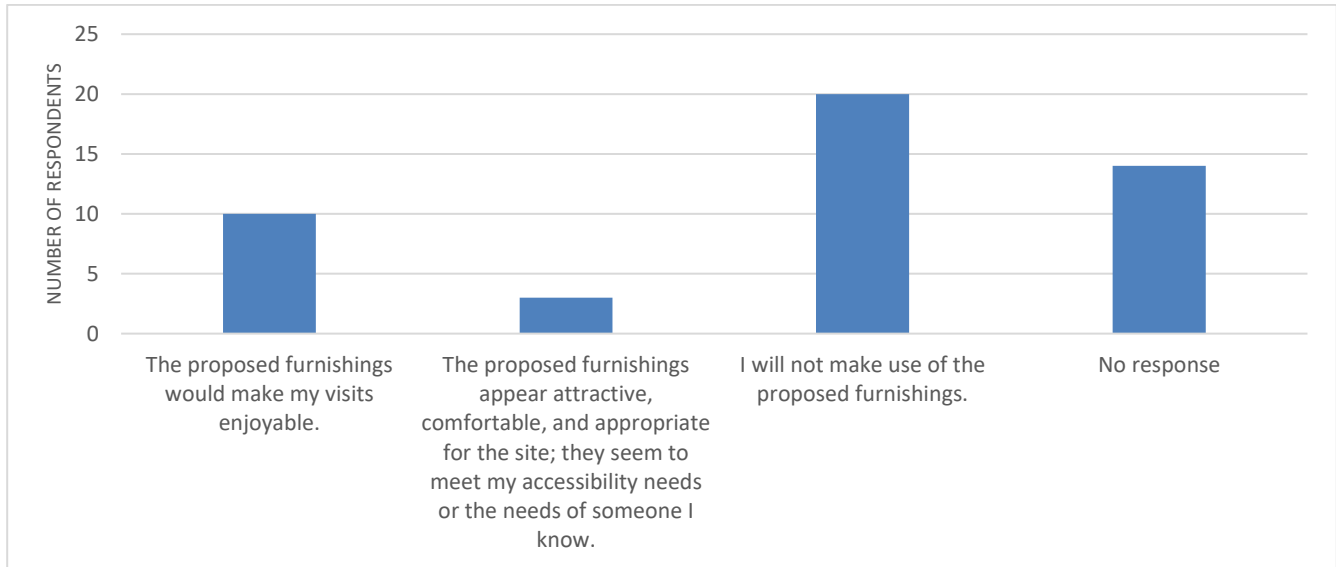
This question provided the opportunity for other comments. A sample of them are provided below.

- Don't put anything at either site if you aren't willing to replace our bridge.
- Make a path from one side of the river to the other side for access to mailboxes or bring our bridge back. Otherwise build nothing in this area.
- Make it natural habitat.
- NO! As a resident we do not want any public day-use site. We want the bridge back.
- Why give the non-paying tourists another fishing spot.
- No. It will impact water species.

- Replace our bridge as promised! No parks that will attract unwanted extra traffic, people littering, pets with owners who don't clean up their mess, etc.
- There is no value for a canoe/kayak launch at this location. There are 2 locations currently, "Port of Call Marina & Storage" and "Sunset Cove Marina" that need to be supported by paying customers to launch boats. There are four day parks within a 3.4 km of this site. The infrastructure of the area does not support additional daytime/evening traffic or population.



5c: What are your impressions of the proposed site furnishings?
(respondents were able to indicate multiple choices with this question)



5d: The following three statements about furnishings provided the opportunity for comments. A sample of them are provided below.

Statement 1:

There are too many furnishings, and they should be reduced. If so, what would you limit, where and why?

- Don't do anything. Leave natural.
- We do not want any site furnishings to draw people to the area.
- We want the bridge at the replaced or nothing except clean up the area to make it safe. Spend the money removing the concrete in the water.

Statement 2:

Something is missing that could make my visits more enjoyable. If so, what is missing and where?

- Nothing is missing. Leave it the way it is.
- More areas for fishermen away from the picnic and possible camping areas.
- Swing bridge.
- 1) waste receptacle at the fishing area; 2) a pergola or shade shelter of some kind; 3) a historical plaque showing the former bridge and bridge master house; 4) osprey nesting platform.
- Natural habitat for animals, no asphalt.
- This is a residential area. There are other parks within 800 m. As a resident of Matheson Road, I am concerned about more traffic on our road looking to park their cars.

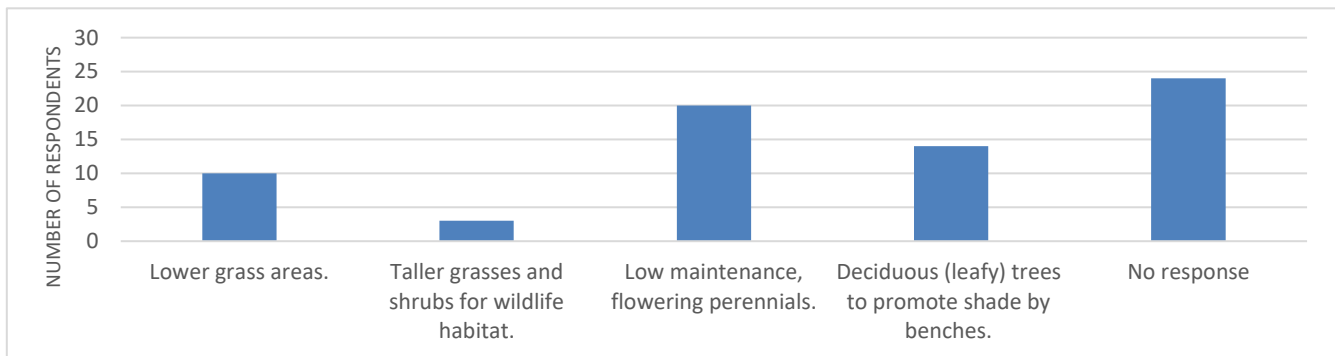


Statement 3:

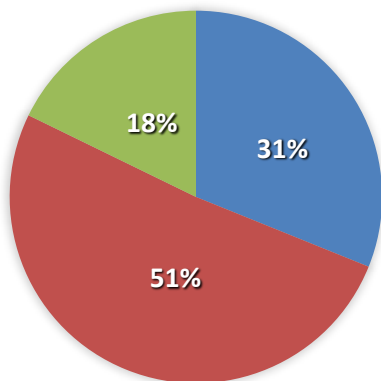
I have concerns about the proposed furnishings' appearance, quantity, or nature. (If so, what are your concerns, and what would you change to improve the proposed design?) Note that all furnishings will be selected with accessibility in mind.

- Cancel the whole restoration project.
- DO NOT KILL THE APPLE TREE ALREADY THERE!!! Also keep osprey nests there.
- The design is a huge problem for residents of the area. It will bring a lot of people parking on the road as there is limited parking. Garbage will be strewn all over attracting wild animals. People will relieve themselves as there is no washrooms. It will be noisy and smelly at all times.
- I would like to see the area returned to natural habitat.
- Absolutely no furnishings that would encourage day use.
- This area has a lot of fish, bank beavers, otters, mink, herons. No bridge so give it back to them.
- They will be vandalized.
- Do not want this area to be accessible to the public for safety and environmental reasons as well as so many other concerns.
- I have concerns about upkeep and litter from visitors. The lockstation close by had to bar people from fishing in the past. A lot of debris left behind.

Question 6: What type of landscaping would you prefer to see?
(respondents were able to indicate multiple choices with this question)



Question 7: Would educational signage about native plants and their benefits enhance your experience at the site?



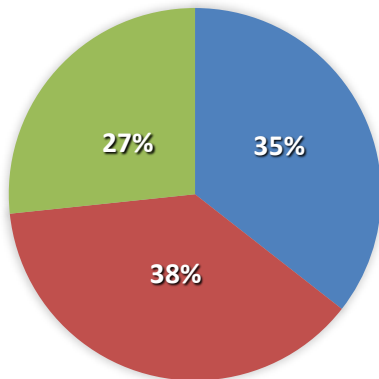
Out of a total of 46 total survey returns.

- Blank
- No
- Yes

- The majority of respondents (23) indicated there would be **no** value to them.
- Eight people said **yes**, there would be value to them.
- There were fourteen **blank** responses.



Question 8: Would you like to see interpretive signage at the site to highlight the history of the Trent-Severn Waterway in this area?



Out of a total of 46 total survey returns.

- Blank
- No
- Yes

- The majority of respondents (17) indicated there would be **no** value to them. (38%)
- Twelve people said **yes**, there would be value to them. (27%)
- There were sixteen **blank** responses. (35%)

Question 9: Are there any other features you feel would improve the overall design and functionality of the new proposed day-use areas?

This question provided the opportunity for other comments. A sample of them are provided below.

- The site should remain open past the end of the navigation season until November 30th to view migrating waterfowl and add a floating dock on the east side of the south area to allow swimming. People will swim there anyway since the site is not staffed - may as well make it a designated and safe location.
- Tall flat square planks for osprey nests. Areas where water birds like herons, ducks, swans can feel safe and people can still enjoy watching them from a safe distance; however, keep the menacing geese out because they poop everywhere! Possibly a small beach-like area without the rough big rocks that are impossible to walk on to wade in the water. The area at lock 37 doesn't have anywhere where a child could splash in a shallow sandy area to enjoy the water so maybe a consideration could be made in this new proposal. Public facilities for daytime use only.
- As stated above none of the area's residents including myself want this or any visitation site for people to congregate, make noise, leave garbage, go the washroom on the property, camp out and cause a threat of theft to our homes. My grandkids won't even feel safe walking past this site. All we want is our historical site bridge back and if Parks Canada won't do that then they should respect what the residents want in its place - which is just finish the property off so its safe and build a walkway so we can get from one side to the other of the river to retrieve our mail. **NO ONE WANTS THIS!** I doubt if any of you from Parks Canada lived in this area you would want this site in your backyard either, so be respectful of the people in their senior years.
- Give us our lifeline back to all 3 communities, by replacing our bridge as promised. We need the comfort of health & safety for us as seniors that need an accessible route for emergency services!
- If you refuse to put in the bridge, leave the site natural for the wildlife to enjoy. You will be creating a more negative impact to the environment in this area. Signage on both sides pointing so boaters are able to see it - "no wake zone and 10 miles per hour". Since bridge has been removed boats now are going faster and swamp our boat tied at the dock.
- Local residents do not want and would never use a day-use area. It will impact the quality of our waterway and the natural habitat of local wildlife i.e. osprey, turtles, fish, beaver, mink etc. There are day-use areas at every lock, of which there are 5 just to get to Lake Simcoe. A fence on the north side will be sufficient until we get our bridge back.
- Save the time and money and concentrate on repairs that need to be done at the locks. One specifically being the lower level at Lock 37. **WE DON'T WANT** a day use area that is only going to attract people from the city that will camp out all day. There is enough public space at all the locks. We have been through enough the past few years dealing with the loss of our bridge!!



Conclusion

This report summarizes the feedback received from 46 participants and highlights the community's insights on the proposed day-use area on Boundary Road. Parks Canada will use this information to guide the project moving forward.