



Boundary Road Restoration Plan

What We Heard report and response on the day-use area community survey

Background

Parks Canada conducted an anonymous community survey from December 3-19 2024 to gather input on the conceptual day-use area for the former Boundary Road Swing Bridge site, following the decision not to replace the bridge. This survey was available to complete online or by paper and was targeted to nearby residences with the intent of hearing the voices of those who would most directly interact with former bridge site. The following report provides a high-level summary of the feedback collected and how Parks Canada is responding to “what we heard”.

Summary

- Parks Canada received 46 survey responses, in addition to direct emails from residents sharing their thoughts on the design.
- Many respondents held concerns that the proposed day-use area would bring negative impacts to the local community and stated little to no intent to use the site.
- An overview of the survey results is provided below. For detailed results, please consult the *Survey Results - Boundary Restoration Plan* document.
- Based on the feedback received, the restoration plan is being revised to focus on naturalizing the site, including the removal of all buildings and roadway infrastructure and planting of native flora.

Key Survey Results

Visitation Frequency:

- 31 respondents (68%) indicated they would rarely or never visit the site, while 10 (21%) indicated they would visit either monthly, weekly, or daily.
5 respondents (11%) provided no answer.



Travel Methods:

Note that multiple answers were allowed for this question.

- The three most popular travel methods to the sites according to 26 respondents (57%) were by car (12 answers), by walking (10 answers) and bicycling (8 answers).
However, 20 participants (43%) provided no response.

Activities:

Note that multiple answers were allowed for this question.

- The four most popular activities at the sites according to 20 respondents (46%) were picnicking (10 answers) and relaxing or enjoying nature (10 answers) while fishing and walking/running each received 8 mentions.
26 respondents (56%) provided no response.

Picnic Area and Accessible Pathway Concepts:

- 27 respondents (59%) felt the proposed picnic area on the north bank OR the south bank's accessible pathway with a canoe/kayak launch held no value to them.

Site Furnishings and Landscaping:

Note that multiple answers were allowed for this question.

- 20 respondents (43%) indicated they would not use the proposed furnishings, while 10 (21.5%) felt the furnishings would enhance their visits.
- 22 respondents (48%) chose low-maintenance flowering perennials (20 answers) and deciduous trees for shade (14 answers) as their preferred landscaping for the site.

Educational and Interpretive Signage:

- Only 8 respondents (18%) indicated interest in educational signage about native plants, and 12 respondents (27%) felt interpretive signage about the history of the Trent-Severn Waterway would hold value.



Comments on Improvements to Overall Design:

- While some respondents used the comments section to suggest design improvements, such as adding washrooms, swimming docks, and shaded structures, most expressed opposition to the plan, advocating for the reinstatement of the swing bridge, raising concerns about species habitats, and supporting the site's naturalization.

Conclusion

The feedback highlights diverse community perspectives, with the majority of respondents voicing concerns and opposing the proposed community day-use area plan.

In response, Parks Canada is revising the restoration plan to focus on naturalizing the site, meaning removing buildings and roadway infrastructure and planting native flora such as shrubs, trees, flowers, and plants that will provide food and habitat for fauna and contribute to ecosystem connectivity and resiliency. The restoration plan will no longer include parking, trails, fishing pads, paddling launches, or furniture as part of the new design direction. Parks Canada administers park facilities nearby, including at Bolsover Lock 37 which offers parking, washrooms and picnic areas for recreational purposes.

Parks Canada would like to thank the community for their contributions to the survey and will continue to provide updates regarding the Boundary Road restoration plan as they become available.

To receive updates by email, please sign up by emailing trentsevern@pc.gc.ca and include “Boundary Road” in the subject line.