

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

Lake Banook Coordination Plan

March 2025

HALIFAX

Policy & Planning | Parks & Recreation

Introduction

Document Intent

The intent of this document is to provide an overview of the common themes and overall approval ratings and the survey's emergent themes.

Origin of the Coordination Plan

Lake Banook is a large freshwater lake located within downtown Dartmouth. As the first lake encountered between the Shubenacadie Canal and the Minas Basin, it holds cultural and ecological significance at the municipal and regional levels. Its central location and proximity to residential neighbourhood have made it an important recreational hub for the local community, while its near 1000m length and north-to-south orientation have earned its recognition as a valuable natural racecourse by international and national paddling organizations.

In January of 2020, Regional Council passed a motion to “assess the need for a new Master Plan for Lake Banook, that would include all stakeholders, after Canoe '22”. This recommendation originated from discussions with International Canoe Federation (ICF) organizers, who indicated that Lake Banook could be overlooked in the future unless significant improvements were made to meet the event's increasingly technical standards.

In March 2024, staff responded to the motion with the recommendation that a master plan was not required and a Coordination Plan should be developed instead. The report outlined that the plan would identify park improvements based on recommendations from Lake Banook's two previously completed master plans. The motion was approved by Regional Council with the stipulation for public consultation to ensure the final plan's recommendations support community use and meet hosting requirements for future ICF events.

Engagement

The plan's engagement process included internal stakeholder interviews, a Shape Your City Survey, and a public open house.

Shape Your City Survey

The Shape Your City survey ran from November 25, 2024 to December 20, 2024. A total 3,200 people were aware of the survey and had visited at least one page online. 1,800 people were informed, meaning they had engaged with one piece of online content, and 218 people participated in the survey.

A decline in engagement was identified two weeks after the survey opened. In response, the municipality launched a social media campaign to increase public awareness. An improvement in visitor numbers was noted for the remainder of the survey's duration.

Open House Engagement

An open house session was held on December 2, 2024, at the Kiwanis Grahams Grove Community Building. Illustrative boards from the draft Coordination Plan were presented to encourage public discussion. There was approximately 30 people in attendance.

Stakeholder Engagement

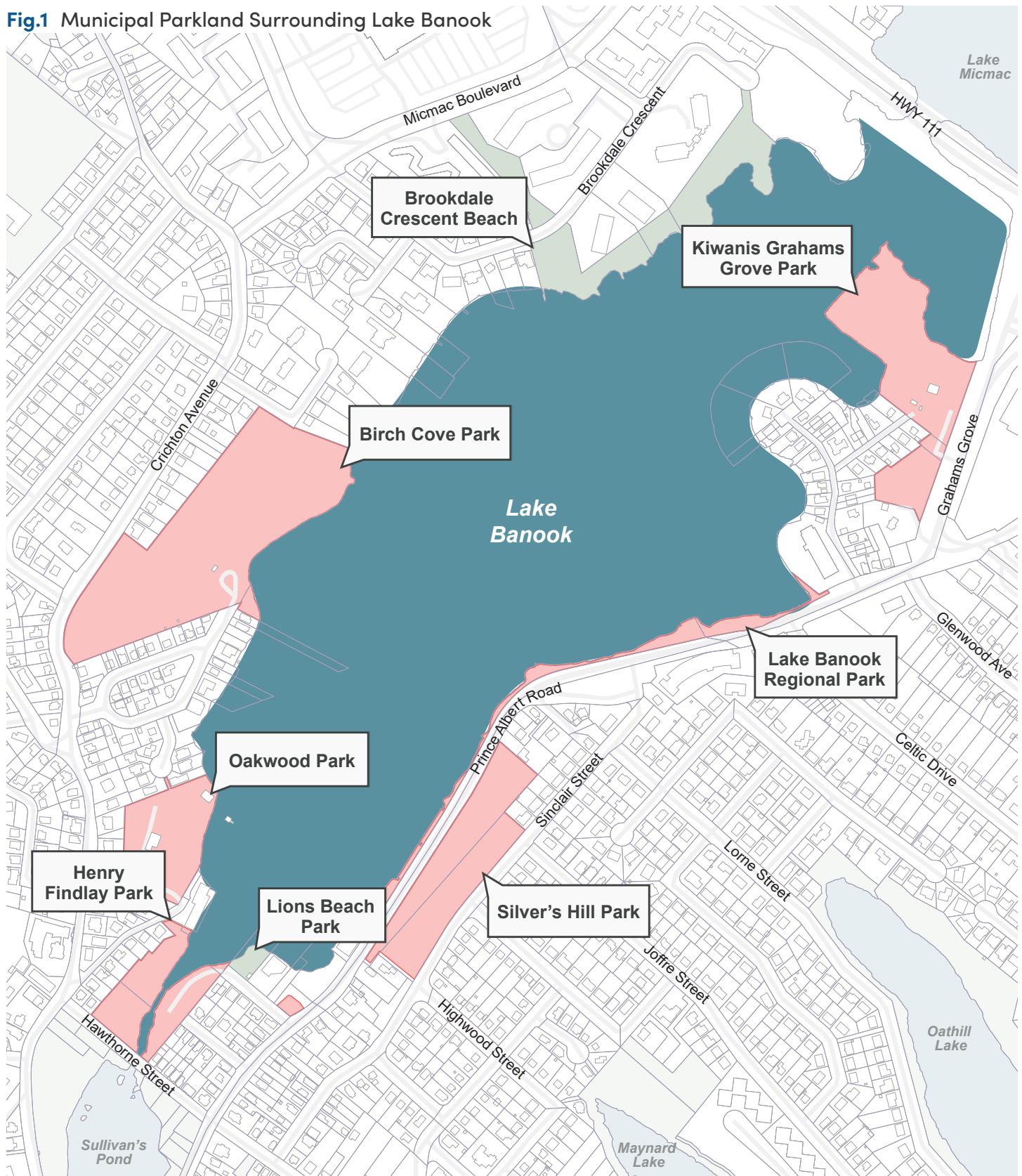
Staff conducted internal engagement sessions with municipal and provincial staff, representatives from the paddling community, and organizers from the ICF event. Conversations focused on developing an understanding of technical requirements and the improvements required to host future events.

Outcome

Feedback from the open house and stakeholder engagement sessions will be reviewed alongside Shape Your City's survey results. Comments will be used to refine the proposed improvements to develop the final plan, which will be presented to Regional Council for approval.

Once approved, the plan will be used to guide infrastructure improvements over a series of Capital budget cycles. Recommendations will focus on ensuring the lake's readiness to host future events and enhancing facilities for community use.

Fig.1 Municipal Parkland Surrounding Lake Banook



- Municipal parkland identified for improvement
- Municipal parkland not identified for improvement
- Parcels

- Roads/parking lot
- Existing buildings
- Lake Banook
- Water



Part One

Improvements to the Municipal Parkland Surrounding Lake Banook

This section asked participants to rate their level of support for the overall improvements being proposed within the Lake Banook Coordination Plan

Overall Park Improvements

A map detailing the parkland identified for improvements and common recommendations was presented to survey users. Improvements included: Proposed locations for wayfinding/signage and naturalization projects, and water quality considerations.

Approval for the Overall Park Improvements

Respondents were asked to review the proposed improvements within the municipal parkland and rate their level of agreement (Fig.1):

- Over 75% (85%) of respondents approved of the Coordination Plan's recommendations: 47.9% strongly agree and 37.4% agree
- "Strongly disagree" was the most unpopular category (3.2%), followed by respondents who identified that they did not have an opinion (3.7%)
- Less than 10% (7.8%) of respondents disagree with the proposed improvements.

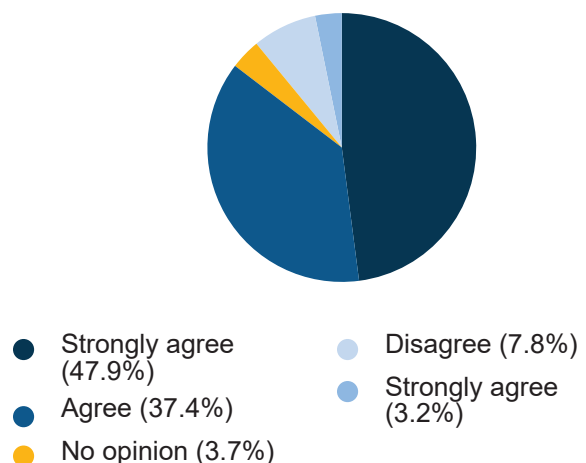
Comments

Respondents were asked to provide additional comments about the improvement:

Water Quality: The largest portion of respondents identified additional support for the recommendation to maintain the lake's water quality (21 of 106 respondents). Some participants supported the proposed naturalization projects (5 of 106 respondents), but others felt that naturalization was not an adequate solution and that other initiatives, such as stormwater management, filtration, and a management plan that includes the larger watershed should be considered (3 of 106 respondents).

Conflicting User Groups: Several participants raised concerns about the lack of access to municipal parkland and its trails during regattas and ICF events and recommended that the plan include strategies to improve public access (14 of 106 respondents). Some also expressed concern that improvements focused too heavily on ICF uses rather than long-term recreational uses that would support the community (6 of 106 respondents).

Fig.2 Please rate your agreement with the following statement: "I support the overall proposed improvements that have been identified for the municipal parkland surrounding Lake Banook."



Additional Improvements

Participants were asked whether they felt additional improvements were necessary beyond those that had been recommended within the plan (Fig.3):

- The majority of respondents (45.7%) did not know/were unsure.
- Almost half of the participants (40.6%) selected “Yes”
- 13.7% of respondents of users did not think additional improvements were required.

Comments

They survey asked participants to identify the improvements that should be included within the final version of the plan:

Trail Connectivity: The largest portion of participants identified the lack of trail connectivity between Birch Cove Park and Brookdale Crescent Park as their primary concern (24 of 86 respondents).

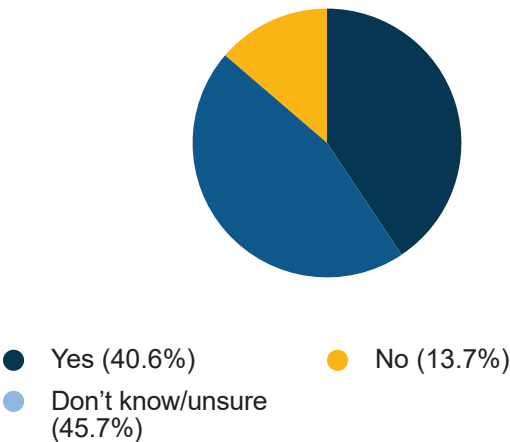
Washrooms and Drinking Water: Several respondents identified the need for additional washroom facilities and water fountains to support community use (16 of 86).

Maintenance: Improvements to maintenance and infrastructure, such as additional garbage cans, re-paving existing park pathways (14 of 86 respondents), and lighting (9 of 86 respondents) were identified by participants. In addition, survey users said that the condition of the existing multi-use pathway that connects Lake Banook Regional Park to Brookdale Crescent Park should be improved (9 of 86 respondents).

Lighting: Several respondents identified the need for improved lighting within the parks (9 of 86). Recommended locations included the trails in Brookdale Crescent and along Lake Banook Regional Park’s multi-use pathway.

Signage: Many participants highlighted the need for improved signage surrounding the lake (10 of 86). Recommended topics included: Education panels about the lake’s history and ecology, wayfinding between parks, and flow patterns (how different user groups use the lake).

Fig.3 Are there additional improvements that you think should be included?



Individual Park Improvements

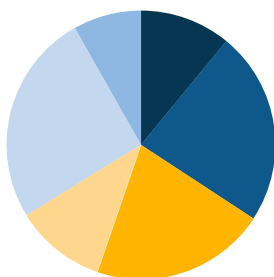
The remainder of the section focused on the individual parks identified for improvement. Respondents were asked about how their current park use and a series of questions related to the plan’s recommendations. The identified parks have been grouped by question to facilitate comparison and discussion.

Park Visitation

Respondents were asked how often they visit each of the parks (Fig. 3 to 8):

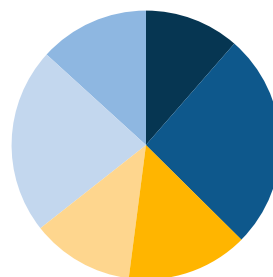
- Lake Banook Regional Park (18.3%), Henry Findlay Park (13.0%), and Oakwood Park (11.4%) were identified as the top three parks respondents visit every day.
- Silver’s Hill Park (15.1%), Oakwood Park (13.2%), and Henry Findlay park (8.4%) received the highest number of responses in the “Never” category, which indicates these parks have the lowest visitation rates.
- Silver’s Hill Park received the highest ranking in the “Less than once per month” category (36.1%) and the lowest ranking in the “Daily visitation” category, indicating that it comparatively receives the fewest visitors.
- “A few times per week” was the most popular category overall.
- The “Never” category had the lowest response rate, meaning respondents are unlikely to never visit a park.

Fig.4 Birch Cove Park – Visitation



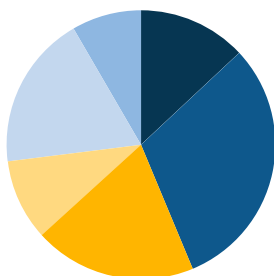
- Every day (11.0%)
- A few times per week (23.3%)
- Once every couple of weeks (21.0%)
- Once per month (11.0%)
- Less than once per month (25.6%)
- Never (8.2%)

Fig.5 Oakwood Park – Visitation



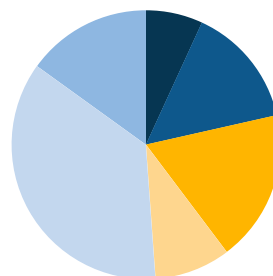
- Every day (11.4%)
- A few times per week (26.0%)
- Once every couple of weeks (14.6%)
- Once per month (12.3%)
- Less than once per month (22.4%)
- Never (13.2%)

Fig.6 Henry Findlay Park – Visitation



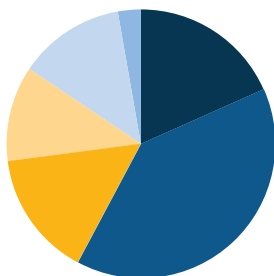
- Every day (13.0%)
- A few times per week (30.7%)
- Once every couple of weeks (19.5%)
- Once per month (9.8%)
- Less than once per month (18.6%)
- Never (8.4%)

Fig.7 Silver’s Hill Park – Visitation



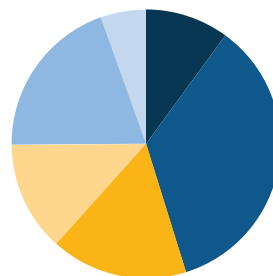
- Every day (6.8%)
- A few times per week (14.6%)
- Once every couple of weeks (18.3%)
- Once per month (9.1%)
- Less than once per month (36.1%)
- Never (15.1%)

Fig.8 Lake Banook Regional Park – Visitation



- Every day (18.3%)
- A few times per week (39.4%)
- Once every couple of weeks (15.1%)
- Once per month (11.5%)
- Less than once per month (12.8%)
- Never (2.8%)

Fig.9 Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park – Visitation



- Every day (10.0%)
- A few times per week (35.2%)
- Once every couple of weeks (16.4%)
- Once per month (13.2%)
- Less than once per month (19.6%)
- Never (5.5%)

Approval

Respondents were asked to rate their level of agreement for the proposed improvements identified within the individual parks (Fig.10 to 15):

- Birch Cove Park (42.9%), Henry Findlay Park (40.1%), and Lake Banook Regional Park (39.7%) were the top ranked in the “Strongly agree” category.
- Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park (7.3% “Strongly disagree”), Lake Banook Regional Park (5.5% “Strongly disagree”), and Birch Cove Park (5.0% “Strongly disagree”) received the lowest approval rating.
- Two of top three parks in the “Strongly disagree” category — Birch Cove Park and Lake Banook Regional Park — were also among the top-ranked and received more votes in the “Strongly agree” category, indicating that more participants were in favour of the recommendations.

Comments

Participants were asked to identify additional improvements that should be considered within the final plan:

Birch Cove Park: Participants expressed support for the proposed naturalization projects (15 of 74 respondents). However, many also raised concerns about the limitations the pilot project created for beach access (10 of 74 respondents). Other identified needs included: Addressing off-leash dogs (6 of 74 respondents), additional seating (4 of 74 respondents), maintenance concerns (7 of 74 respondents), and improvements to the existing pathways and washroom facilities (4 of 75 respondents).

Oakwood Park: The need to improve trail accessibility was identified by the largest portion of respondents (9 of 63). In addition, participants also supported the proposed pathway improvements (5 of 63 respondents) and re-grading the park to address drainage (5 of 63 respondents). Many also recommended that implementation of durable ground cover that could withstand the park’s heavy foot traffic and recreational uses (6 of 63 respondents).

Henry Findlay Park: The most respondents identified approval for keeping the playground in its existing location (36 of 90 respondents). However, some participants did not approve of the proposed improvements (13 of 90 respondents) and identified the following concerns: Too much focus on programming for ICF events (9 of 90 respondents), the need for continued park and playground access during events (7 of 90 respondents), and a lack of proposed facilities that support daily use by the local community (13 of 90 respondents).

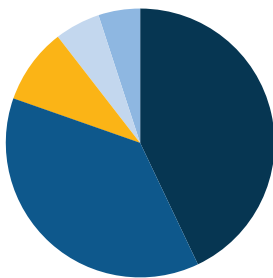
Silver’s Hill Park: The powerline’s removal was the most popular recommendation (13 of 59). Some respondents identified that it is the forested area, not the powerlines, that obstructs views of the racecourse and recommended the partial removal of the forested area (6 of 59 respondents). Participants also stated that the recommendations were unnecessary, as the park had already undergone a sufficient number of improvements prior to previous ICF events (7 of 59 respondents).

Lake Banook Regional Park: The need to improve the existing multi-use pathway was identified by the most respondents (12 of 71). Participants were also concerned that the swimming access points could pose safety risks between swimmers and boaters in the lake and recommended their reconsideration within the final plan (11 of 71 respondents).

Respondents also identified additional support for the following recommendations: Addressing the conflict points between the parking lots and multi-use trails, (7 of 71 respondents), naturalization (10 of 71 respondents), seating improvements (7 of 71 respondents), and reducing the speed and volume of traffic on Prince Albert Road (5 of 71 respondents).

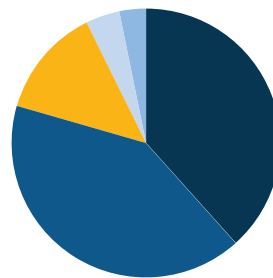
Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park: Participants expressed concern with the proposed fountain (14 of 73 respondents) and swimming access points (14 of 73 respondents) due to potential safety hazards for swimmers; however, many also identified support for these amenities (“water fountain” 11 of 73 respondents and “access points” 10 of 73 respondents). In addition, it was recommended that the dragon boat community’s use within the park and on the lake should be considered in the final plan (13 of 73 respondents).

Fig.10 Birch Cove Park - Approval Rating



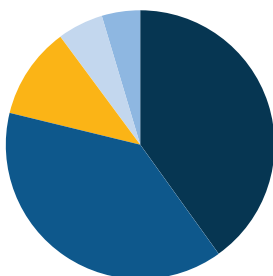
● Strongly agree (42.9%) ● Disagree (5.5%)
 ● Agree (37.4%) ● Strongly disagree (5.0%)
 ● No opinion (9.1%)

Fig.11 Oakwood Park- Approval Rating



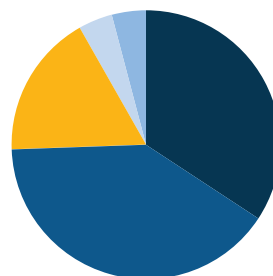
● Strongly agree (38.4%) ● Disagree (4.1%)
 ● Agree (41.4%) ● Strongly disagree (3.2%)
 ● No opinion (13.2%)

Fig.12 Henry Findlay Park - Approval Rating



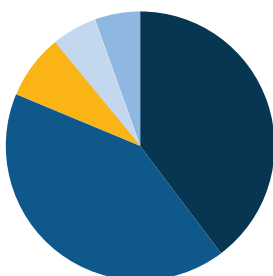
● Strongly agree (40.1%) ● Disagree (5.5%)
 ● Agree (38.7%) ● Strongly disagree (4.6%)
 ● No opinion (11.1%)

Fig.13 Silver's Hill Park - Approval Rating



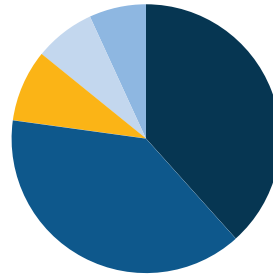
● Strongly agree (34.2%) ● Disagree (4.1%)
 ● Agree (40.2%) ● Strongly disagree (4.1%)
 ● No opinion (17.4%)

Fig.14 Lake Banook Regional Park - Approval Rating



● Strongly agree (39.7%) ● Disagree (5.5%)
 ● Agree (41.6%) ● Strongly disagree (5.5%)
 ● No opinion (7.8%)

Fig.15 Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park - Approval Rating



● Strongly agree (38.4%) ● Disagree (7.3%)
 ● Agree (38.8%) ● Strongly disagree (6.8%)
 ● No opinion (8.7%)

Additional Park Improvements

Respondents were asked to identify whether they felt additional park improvements should be included in the final plan (Fig. 16 to 21):

- Birch Cove Park (24.0%), Henry Findlay Park (22.5%), and Lake Banook Regional Park (21.9%) were the top parks where participants identified that additional improvements were required.
- Respondents identified Silver's Hill Park (27.5%), Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park (26.0%), and Oakwood Park (26.5%) as the top parks that did not require additional improvements.
- Birch Cove Park was the only park where "Yes" (24.0%) received a higher response rate than "No [additional improvements were not required]" (22.6%).

Comments

Respondents who indicated that additional improvements were required were asked to provide additional details:

Birch Cove Park: Many respondents noted that the existing washroom facility required improvement (7 of 47). Participants also expressed a need for improved trail connection to Brookdale Crescent Park (5 of 47 respondents). Additionally, concerns about maintenance, as well as the addition of more waste receptacles, seating, and picnic areas, were identified (15 of 47 respondents)

Oakwood Park: Paving the existing desire path (6 of 31 respondents) and supporting the plan's proposed re-grading (6 of 31 respondents) were the most common improvements. Participants identified the need for drinking fountains (5 of 31 respondents), improved public access (4 of 31 respondents), and the need for signage communicating public and private uses (5 of 31 respondents). Additional garbage cans and improved maintenance was also recommended by several users (5 of 31 respondents).

Henry Findlay Park: Many respondents recommended the implementation of a permanent washroom facility to complement the playground and beach areas' uses (10 of 44 respondents). Participants also noted that the multi-use pathway is

frequently used, but its location, limited capacity, and the speed that users travel causes safety concerns within the park. The need for improved delineation between cyclists and pedestrians was identified (6 of 44 respondents).

Additional recommendations included: Improvements to the existing playground (4 of 44 respondents), the relocation of the gym equipment (4 of 44 respondents), and changes to existing parking lot's size (4 of 44 respondents).

Silver's Hill Park: Survey participants recommended the relocation of the existing crosswalk to address pedestrian-related safety concerns (7 of 31 respondents). The need for additional washroom or drinking water facilities (5 of 31) and improvements to the pathway through the park's wooded area (4 of 31) were also identified.

Lake Banook Regional Park: The most respondents identified concern for the existing multi-use pathway (15 of 44). Recommendations included re-paving and implementing separate cycling facilities. New drinking fountains and washroom facilities (7 of 44 respondents), maintenance concerns (6 of 44 respondents), and the need to address the identified conflict points (4 of 44 respondents) were also recommended.

Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park: Improving lake access for launching non-motorized watercraft received the highest response rate (5 of 41 respondents), but some individuals echoed comments regarding safety concerns that additional water access could cause for swimmers (2 of 41 respondents).

Respondents also identified the need to improve seating along the park's shoreline (3 of 41) and address off-leash dogs within the park (3 of 41 respondents). In addition, many supported the proposed location of the naturalization initiatives (3 of 41) and recommended a strategy to address the Canadian geese population (3 of 41 respondents).

Fig.16 Birch Cove Park - Additional Improvements

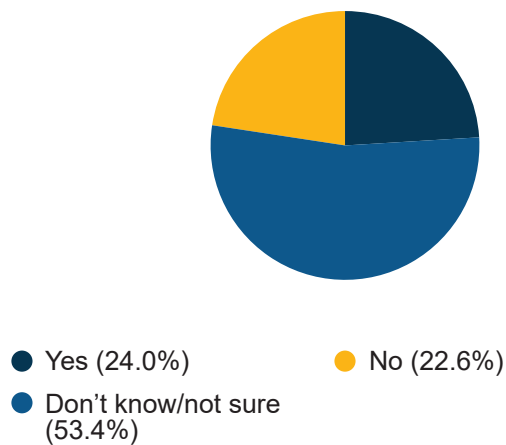


Fig.17 Oakwood Park - Additional Improvements

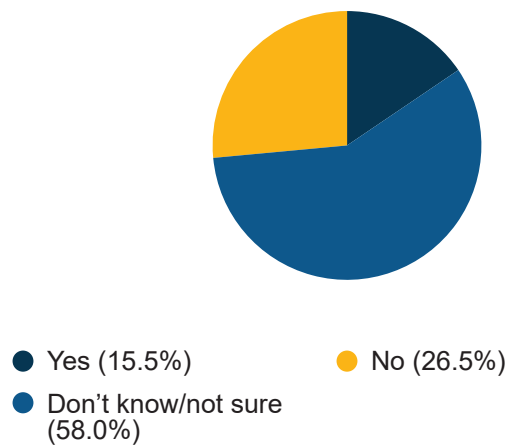


Fig.18 Henry Findlay Park - Additional Improvements

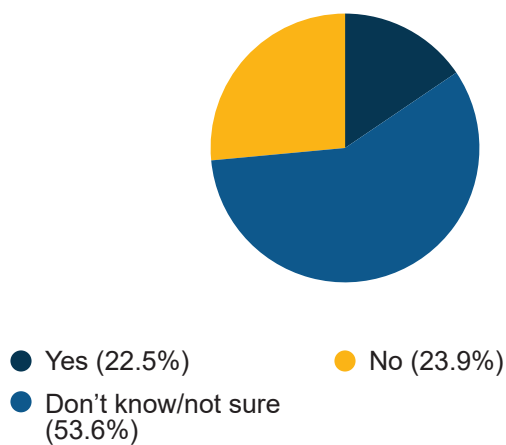


Fig.19 Silver's Hill Park - Additional Improvements

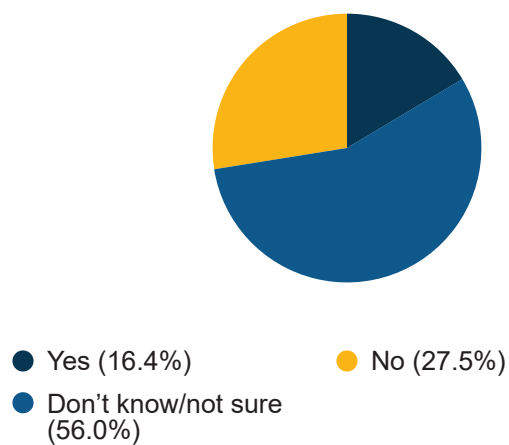


Fig.20 Lake Banook Regional Park - Additional Improvements

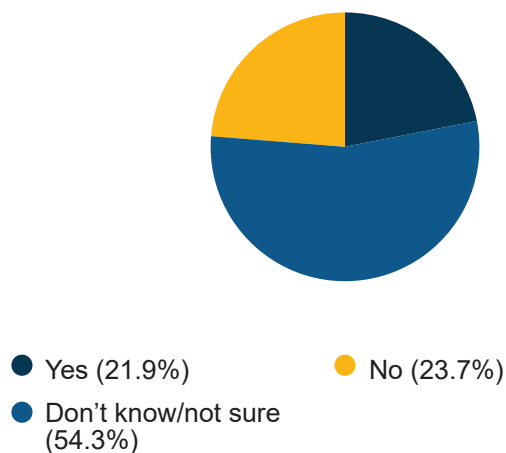
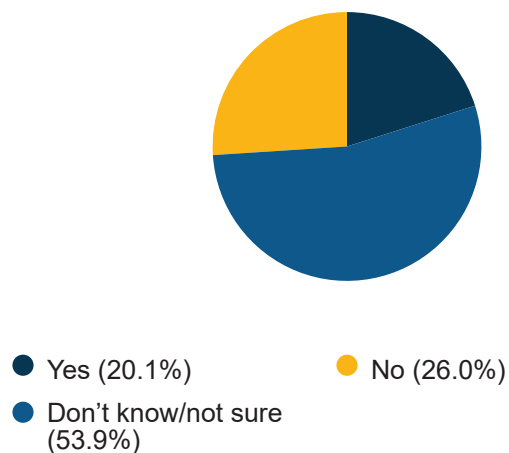


Fig.21 Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park- Additional Improvements



Part Two

Interest and Phasing

The second section of the survey asked participants how they engage with paddling events and how the existing facilities could be enhanced to support daily community use. Respondents were also asked to identify their interest in the Coordination Plan's proposed improvements to understand how they should be prioritized.

Silver's Hill Park Spectator Seating

Respondents were asked whether they use the spectator seating in Silver's Hill Park to watch paddling events (Fig.22):

- Over half of the respondents (55.7%) watch paddling events from the park
- 44.3% do not.

Participants who selected "No" were asked why (Fig.23):

- Over half (66.7%) of survey respondents selected "Other"
- Almost one-quarter (24.0%) of respondents identified that the park was "Too far from the racecourse"
- "Cannot access the seating area"(5.2%) and "Power lines interrupt view" (4.2%) were the least popular options.

Lake Banook Regional Park - Multi-use Pathway

Participants were asked whether the mixture of users creates issues along the multi-use pathway (Fig.24):

- "Sometimes" (34.9%), "Yes, on a regular basis" (27.5%) and "Yes, but only during events" (13.3%,) were the most popular options.
- "Never" (1.4%), "Don't know/not sure" (3.7%), and "No, if rarely ever" (19.3%,) were the least popular options.

Comments

Respondents recommended painting the pathway to delineate user groups or implementing separate active transportation facilities (34 of 109). Several participants identified additional safety concerns created by different user groups sharing the pathway (30 of 109 respondents), and commented that their

Fig.22 Do you use Silver's Hill Park to watch paddling events?

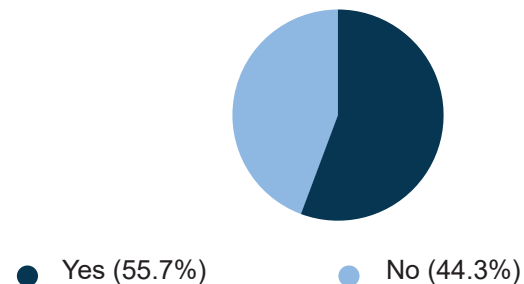


Fig.23 If you selected no, which of the following options best matches why you selected no:

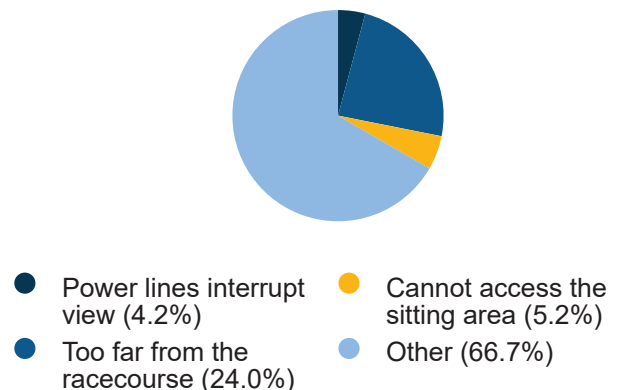


Fig.24 Do you believe a mixture of users (including, cyclists, e-scooter users, and pedestrians) along the pathway creates issues?

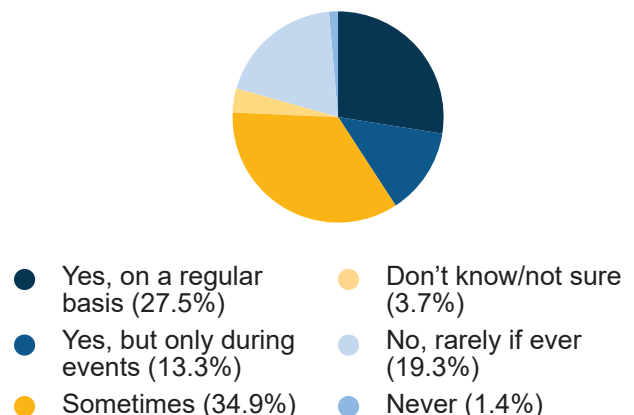
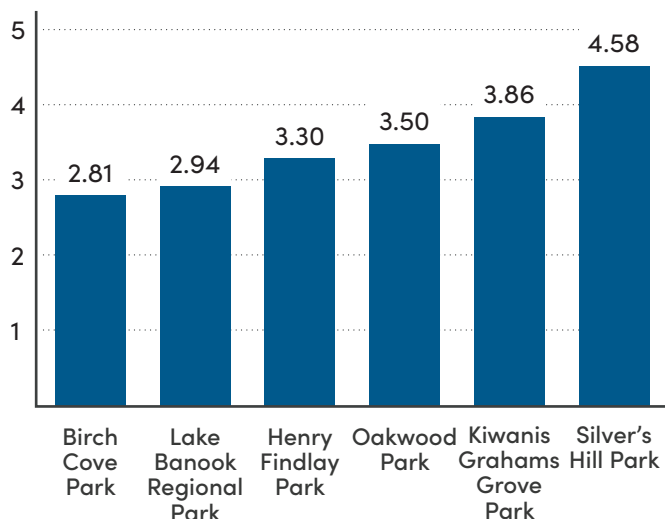


Fig.25 Please rank the following parks in order of importance for implementation based on the proposed improvements (1= most important, 6 = least important)



Multi-use Pathway Comments - Continued

safety was impacted by the increased frequency and speed of e-bike and e-scooters (27 of 109 respondents) and that conflicts between user groups increased during events. A strategy to mitigate conflicting uses was recommended (14 of 109 respondents).

In addition, respondents suggested that developing an educational campaign about active transportation etiquette could improve user safety (11 of 109 respondents).

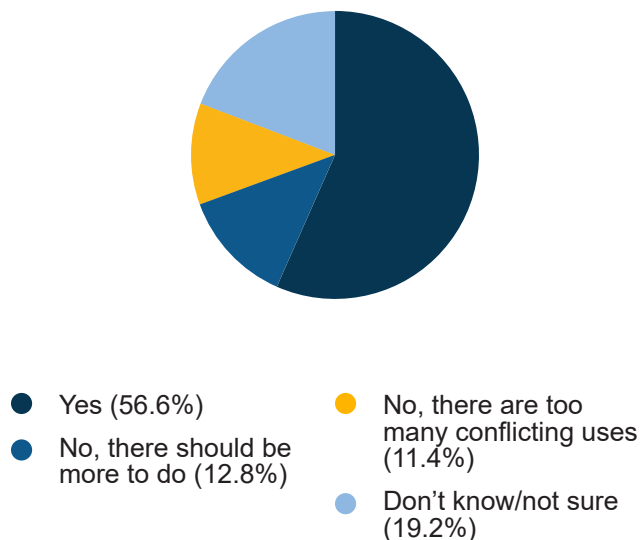
Park Improvements

Participants were asked to rank the order in which they would like park improvements implemented.

Lower numbers indicate more interest, whereas higher numbers indicate less importance (Fig.25):

- Respondents identified the most interest in seeing park improvements implemented in Birch Cove Park, followed by Lake Banook Regional Park and Henry Findlay Park.
- Participants are the least interested in the improvements identified in Silver's Hill Park, followed by Kiwanis Grahams Grove Park, and Oakwood Park.

Fig.26 Once all the improvements are implemented, do you feel Lake Banook's parkland will have the right balance of activities.



Park Balance

Respondents were asked whether they thought the municipal parkland surrounding Lake Banook would have the right balance of activities if the improvements were fully implemented (Fig.26):

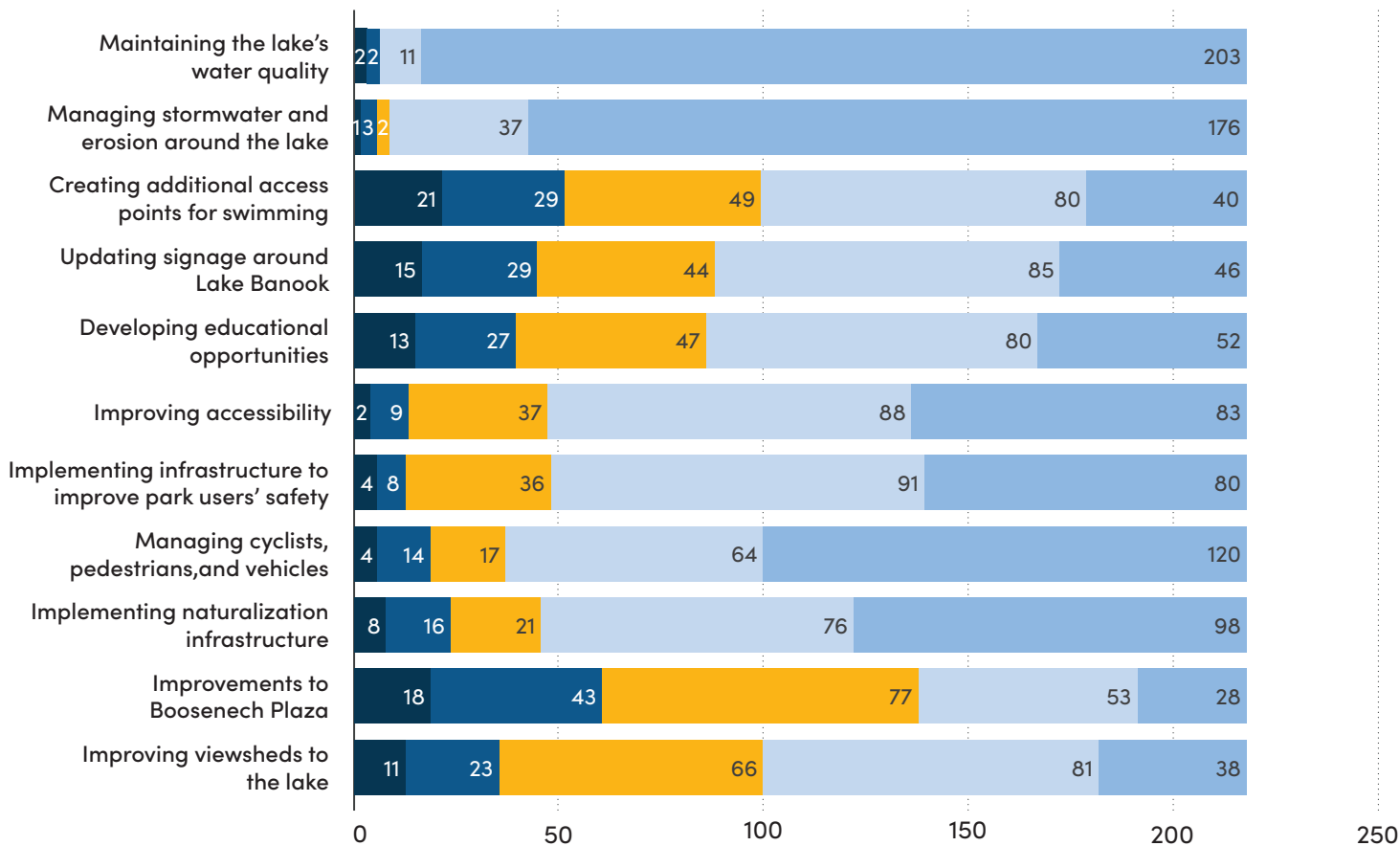
- The majority of participants (56.6%) selected "Yes".
- Over a quarter (24.2%) did not think there would be the proper balance: 12.8% said there should be more things to do and 11.4% said there were too many conflicting uses.
- 19.2% said they were didn't know/unsure whether the parkland would have the proper balance of activities`

Additional Comments

Respondents who selected "No" were asked to provide additional context:

- The most respondents identified concern that the plan did not address or resolve conflicts between the lake's user groups (11 of 52 respondents). Other concerns, such as too much focus on event programming (7 of 52 respondents), and not enough on supporting recreational use by the community (10 of 52 respondents), were also identified.

Fig.27 Please prioritize the following categories of improvement, based on what is important to you:



Very important

- 1. Maintaining water quality (203 of 219 respondents)
- 2. Managing stormwater (176 of 219 respondents)
- 3. Managing cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles (120 of 219 respondents)

Somewhat important

- 1. Updating signage around Lake Banook (85 of 219 respondents)
- 2. Improving viewsheds to the lake (81 of 219 respondents)
- 3. Additional access points for swimming (80 of 219 respondents) and developing educational opportunities (80 of 219 respondents)

Neutral/no opinion

- 1. Improvements to Boosenech Plaza (77 of 219 respondents)
- 2. Improving viewsheds to the lake (66 of 219 respondents)
- 3. Additional access points for swimming (49 of 219 respondents)

Somewhat unimportant

- 1. Improvements to Boosenech Plaza (43 of 219 respondents)
- 2. Updated signage around Lake Banook (29 of 219 respondents) and additional access points for swimming (29 of 219 respondents)
- 3. Developing educational opportunities (27 of 219 respondents)

Not at all important

- 1. Additional access points for swimming (21 of 219 respondents)
- 2. Improvements to Boosenech Plaza (18 of 219 respondents)
- 3. Updating signage (15 of 219 respondents)

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Neutral/no opinion
- Somewhat unimportant
- Not at all important

Implementation Priorities

Respondents were asked to prioritize the plan’s improvements based on their perceived importance (Fig.27):

- Maintaining water quality (203 of 219 respondents), managing stormwater and erosion (176 of 219 respondents), and managing cyclists, pedestrians and vehicular traffic (120 and 219 respondents) were the top ranked improvements in the “Very important” category.
- None of the top-ranked improvements in the “Very important” category was top-ranked in another.

“Creating additional access points for swimming” was one of the top-ranked improvements in the “Somewhat important category” (80 of 219 respondents). However, it also appeared as one of the highest ranked improvements in the following categories:

- Neutral/no opinion (49 of 219 respondents)
- Not at all important (18 of 219 respondents)

Two proposed improvements were top three in “somewhat unimportant” and “not at all important” categories:

- Improvements to Boosenech Plaza (43 and 18 of 219 respondents)
- Updating signage around Lake Banook (29 and 15 of 219 respondents) was the second most popular option in the “Somewhat unimportant” category, but was also the top ranked option in the “Somewhat Important” category (43 of 219 respondents).

Parkland Experience

Participants were asked how their parkland experience could be improved during events (Fig.28):

- “Access to public washrooms, drinking water, and hand washing stations” (155 of 214 respondents) and “defin[ing] spaces/areas to accommodate both spectators and regular park users” (128 of 214 respondents) and “Communication regarding parkland closures (109 of 214 respondents) were the most popular options
- “Improved seating to accommodate spectators (102 of 214 respondents), “Offering and

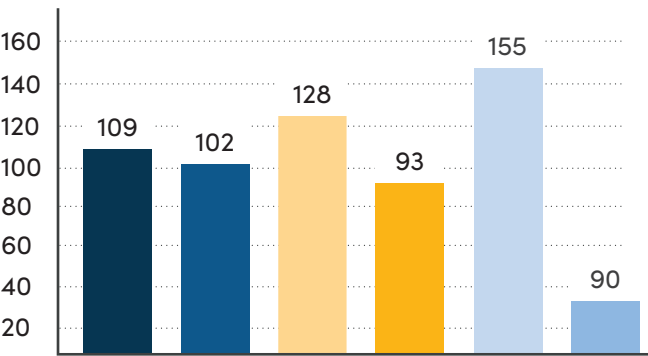
communicating alternative trail routes when parks are closed due to events (93 of 214 respondents), and “Other” (29 of 214 respondents) were the least popular options.

Paddling Competitions

Survey participants were asked to describe what they enjoy about paddling events and any concerns they have:

- The most respondents expressed support for paddling’s benefit to the local community, particularly for its youth (50 of 130 respondents). Many also enjoyed watching competitions (40 of 130 respondents) and said that doing so renews their appreciation for the lake and the recreational opportunities it provides (21 of 130 respondents).
- The events’ energy (16 of 130 respondents), proximity to the racecourse (14 of 130 respondents), and the historical importance of paddling in Dartmouth (8 of 130 respondents) were also positively identified by several survey users.

Fig.28 Throughout the year, there are several paddling events that take place. How could Lake Banook’s parkland experience be improved during these events? Select all that apply:



- Communication regarding parkland closure
- Improved seating areas to accommodate spectators
- Define spaces/areas to accommodate both spectators and regular park users
- Offering and communicating alternative trail routes when parks are closed due to events
- Access to public washrooms, drinking water, and hand washing stations
- Other (please specify)

- The most respondents indicated the lack of parking during events as their primary concern (20 of 119 respondents). Additionally, traffic created by street closures (15 of 119 respondents), and disruptions, such as noise pollution and litter (9 of 119 respondents) were also noted by survey users.
- Several participants expressed their repeated concern about restricted public access to the parkland during events (18 of 119 respondents)

Naturalization

A pilot naturalization project was implemented by the municipality in the 2024. The plan identifies the proposed location of several similar initiatives throughout the municipal parkland surrounding Lake Banook. The survey asked respondents to rate their level of interest (Fig.29):

- Over three quarters of respondents identified interest: 53.4% were very interested, and 25.6% were somewhat interested.
- 9.6% did not know or were unsure.
- 11.4% were not interested.

Additional Comments

Almost half of the survey's respondents (30 of 66) identified additional support for naturalization. However, some said they would only approve of future initiatives if the efficacy of the pilot project was measured and was determined to be effective (4 of 66 respondents).

Participants also identified conflicts between the pilot project and public water access as their primary concern (9 of 66 respondents), with many saying they were not supportive because the pilot project limits the use of Birch Cove Park's beach (7 of 66 respondents). Others said that naturalization would not improve or maintain the lake's water quality and is an unnecessary expenditure (5 of 66 respondents).

Fig.29 During spring 2024, the municipality implemented a naturalization project within Birch Cove Park. Please rate your level of interest in having similar initiatives implemented throughout the municipal parkland surrounding Lake Banook:

