

Wabamun Area Vision

Stage 2 Public Engagement Summary

August 2022

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Project Introduction

Parkland County is creating a long-range vision for the Wabamun Area. The Wabamun Area Vision will inform the future of the region, helping the County make consistent, coordinated decisions about planning and development. This is a planning process that will result in two planning documents:

- **The Wabamun Area Long Range Plan** will provide high level vision and direction for the broader Wabamun Study Area around Wabamun Lake, identifying opportunities for growth, development, and collaboration over the next 30 years.
- **The Hamlet of Wabamun Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP)** is a land use plan specific to the Hamlet. This plan will provide future land use, transportation, servicing, and public space priorities along with a series of actions to revitalize the area over the next 15 years.

Project Timeline

The Wabamun Area Vision process started in Winter 2021 and will be completed in Spring of 2023. Understanding and learning from local knowledge and community feedback is critical for creating plans that will serve this transitioning area effectively. There are four main stages of engagement as part of the planning process.

- **Stage 1: | Spring 2022**
The first phase of engagement confirmed the draft vision and pillars and gathered insights and ideas from the community on issues and opportunities in the Wabamun Area.
- **Stage 2: | Summer 2022**
Stage two involved gathering feedback on the Wabamun opportunities mapping completed to date and brainstorming implementation actions for the Wabamun Area, the Hamlet, and Waterfront Park. This stage is summarized in this report.
- **Stage 3: | Fall 2022**
Stage three will involve showcasing the draft Long Range Plan and prioritizing actions for the Hamlet Area Redevelopment Plan.
- **Stage 4: | Spring 2023**
Stage four includes the public hearing for the Hamlet Area Redevelopment Plan and associated Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw amendments.

Engagement Approach

Why We Engaged

The aim of this second stage of engagement was to share the opportunities analysis and to gather feedback to help determine where future uses and development should be prioritized in the Wabamun Area. Feedback from Stage 2 also informed a list of implementation actions for the Hamlet Area Redevelopment Plan and generated ideas to inform the redevelopment of Waterfront Park.

Who We Engaged

In Stage 2, we engaged with the general public, including residents of and visitors to the Wabamun Area as well as other Parkland County residents.

How We Engaged

Stage 2 engagement involved both in-person events and online engagement. All of these events, activities, and communication tactics are summarized on the following page.

A total of 172 people completed the survey and 91 comments were collected through the online mapping tool. There were 22 attendees of the public sessions and over 60 interactions at the pop-up farmer's market events.

Stage 2 engagement was open from **July 3 to July 31, 2022**.

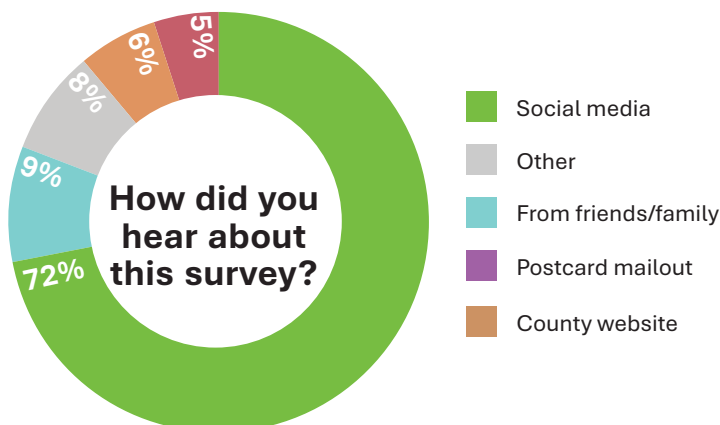
172
ONLINE SURVEY
RESPONSES

91
ONLINE MAP
COMMENTS

700+
UNIQUE VISITORS
TO THE WEBSITE

22
PUBLIC SESSION
ATTENDEES













60+
POP-UP EVENT
INTERACTIONS



Similar to Stage 1, most participants found out about the online survey via social media (72%).

In addition to the listed categories, people said they heard about the survey from:

- a newspaper
- farmer's market
- online public session
- Seba Beach website

RESOURCES	DESCRIPTION	STATS	AUDIENCE
Engagement Opportunities			
 Public Survey	The online survey was a primary means used to collect input from residents. The survey ran from July 3 to 31, 2022. Paper copies of the survey were also available by request at the County office and the Wabamun Library.	172 survey respondents	Public
 Mapping Tool	Opportunity for people to provide spatial comments on a map of the study area. The mapping tool was available from July 3 to 31, 2022.	91 comments	Public
 In Person Drop-in Public Sessions	At the two in-person sessions, participants could stop by at anytime during the session to learn about the project and participate in three activity stations. These events were hosted on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 8, 2022 from 6-8 PM at Jubilee Hall July 9, 2022 from 2-5 PM at Jubilee Hall 	19 participants	Public
 Virtual Public Session	At the zoom session, participants received a presentation about the project and participated in two activity stations hosted on a virtual whiteboard (mural.com). The event was hosted on July 12, 2022 on zoom from 6-8 PM.	3 participants	Public
 Farmer's Market Pop-ups	The project team setup a station at two farmer's market days at the Fire Hall to share information about the project and encourage people to fill out the online survey. The market pop-ups were hosted on July 3 and 10, 2022 from 12-3 PM at the Wabamun Fire Hall.	60+ visitors	Public
Communications Tactics			
 Project Webpage	All project information was available on the project website at wabamun.ca .	700+ unique webpage visits	Public
 Social Media	Posts on Facebook and Twitter throughout July 2022 directed people to the public events and online survey.	6 posts, 31 likes, 4 interactions, 12 shares	Public
 Emails	Two email posts with the link to the website/survey were sent to those subscribed to the Parkland County Wabamun update list on July 4 and 25, 2022.	65 subscribers	Public
 Postcard	Postcards were handed out at the various engagement events to encourage people to fill out the survey.	100+ postcards handed out	Public
 Digital Sign	The Parkland County lobby sign & Wabamun digital sign ran from July 4 – 31, 2022.	2 digital signs	Public
 Newspaper Ad	A newspaper ad ran on July 1 and 8, 2022 in the Stony Plain Reporter and Spruce Grove Examiner.	4 newspaper ads	Public
 Public Calendar	All scheduled public engagement events were posted on the County's event calendar.	4 calendar events	Public

Engagement Findings

What We Asked

In this second stage of engagement, we asked about where participants wanted to see certain types of development, what actions should be considered as part of the redevelopment plan for the Hamlet, and how Waterfront Park should be redesigned. The results from both the online and in-person sessions are reported together in the following sections.

Demographics (survey only): We asked the age of participants and whether they were a resident, seasonal resident, resident of another part of parkland county, or visitor to the Wabamun Area. Depending on the response, participants were asked one of the following follow-up questions:

- Where do you live in the Wabamun Area?
- Where is your permanent residence?

Prioritizing Opportunities in the Wabamun Area: We asked where participants wanted to see nine types of development prioritized. Participants were given a map with potential areas identified for each use to respond to. The nine development types were:

- Full-time residential
- Vacation residential
- Destination resort
- Commercial
- Energy & production
- Motorized recreation
- Non-motorized recreation
- Agriculture
- Naturalized and restored areas

Hamlet: We asked two questions about the Hamlet area.

- What sorts of actions would you like to see implemented in the Hamlet to:
 - improve the quality of life of residents
 - generate more activity,
 - support local businesses
- Which places should be prioritized for reimagination and reinvestment?

Waterfront Park: We asked for feedback to inform a new concept for waterfront park. In-person, participants could put coloured sticky notes on the map of the park with comments or choose an image from the image bank to reflect the types of experiences they wanted to have in the park. On the online map, participants could choose to write a comment by placing three types of pins:

- I want this to be a place where I can
- This area is already working well
- This area needs improvement

Key Findings

Focus residential, commercial, and tourism growth and amenities in Wabamun Hamlet

Participants indicated a preference towards prioritizing future full-time residential, destination resort, and commercial development, within the Hamlet of Wabamun. Concentrating development in the established Hamlet will make the area more compact, walkable, and supportive of increased business, tourism opportunities, and amenities. Developing within an already developed area also reduces environmental impacts of developing a new site. Non-motorized recreation was identified as a priority west of the Hamlet, to be accessible to existing and future residents of the area. Overall this indicates a desire to see the Hamlet expand its role as a regional service centre and a complete community for all ages.

Use trails and new routes to stitch together existing experiences and initiatives in the Wabamun Area

The Wabamun Area is diverse and contains a variety of different landscapes, recreation experiences, events, destinations, and communities -- from golf and ice fishing, to art galleries and birdwatching. One of the most important things that the Wabamun Area Vision can do is connect these opportunities and build upon them. Many participants want to see an integrated year-round trail system connecting all of the communities in the area and allowing for access around Wabamun Lake. These trail networks should consider both motorized and non-motorized transportation, including walking, biking, ATViing, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing. Connecting the Hamlet to Wabamun Provincial Park is also a key priority.

Strike a balance between resident and visitor needs

Wabamun plays a dual role as a place to live and a place to visit. Careful consideration needs to be made to ensure that both the resident and visitor experiences can coexist and benefit from one another. Some of the improvements that can have mutual benefits for both resident and visitor experiences include those to public spaces like Waterfront Park, other amenities, public water access points, and

recreation opportunities. Some of the existing conflicts in experiences include traffic backlogs, crowding, trespassing issues, noise, and littering. Enforcement of responsible recreation as well as clear signage, routes, and wayfinding are some of the ways participants suggested to help mitigate these conflicts. New initiatives should also consider and collaborate with existing community champions and organizations.

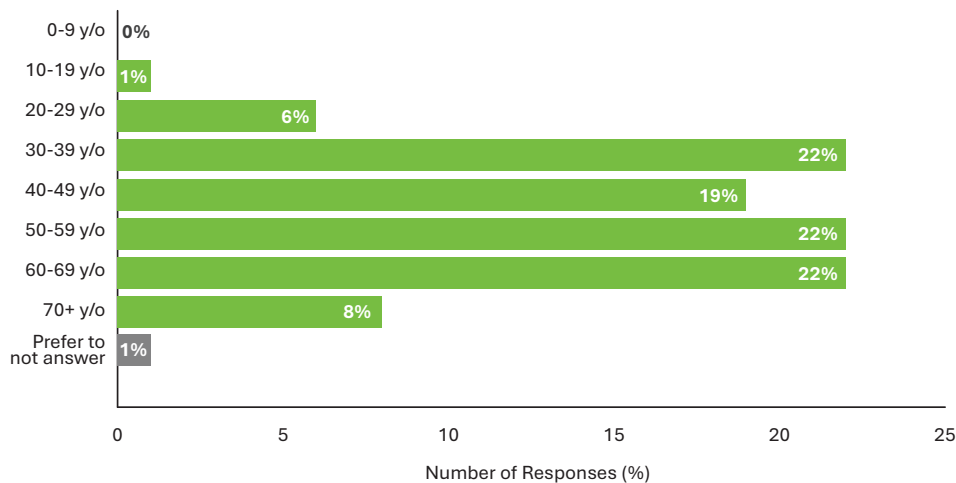
Protect and expand public access to Wabamun Lake

Wabamun Lake is central to all aspects of the visitor and resident experience in the area. In the opportunities section of the engagement, many participants noted that lake health is a critical factor to consider when selecting locations for development. There is a desire to see uses like naturalized and non-motorized recreation expanded near the lake to increase public access while other uses such as energy and production, motorized recreation, and agriculture were more often prioritized further from the waterfront. There is also a strong desire to see Waterfront Park expanded to both allow more beach access and also expand opportunities for quieter nature appreciation spaces along the water.

Demographics

To better understand who was participating in the online survey and where they are from, we asked a series of demographic questions.

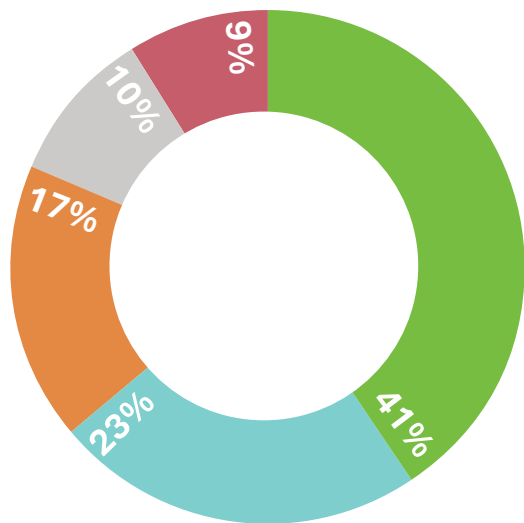
How old are you?



The top three age brackets represented were 30-39, 50-59, and 60-69 years old (each 22%). Ages 40-49 years were also relatively well represented at 19%.

There were no responses from those under 9, and only 1% representation of 10-19 year olds.

Approximately 7% were aged 70 and over.



Are you a...

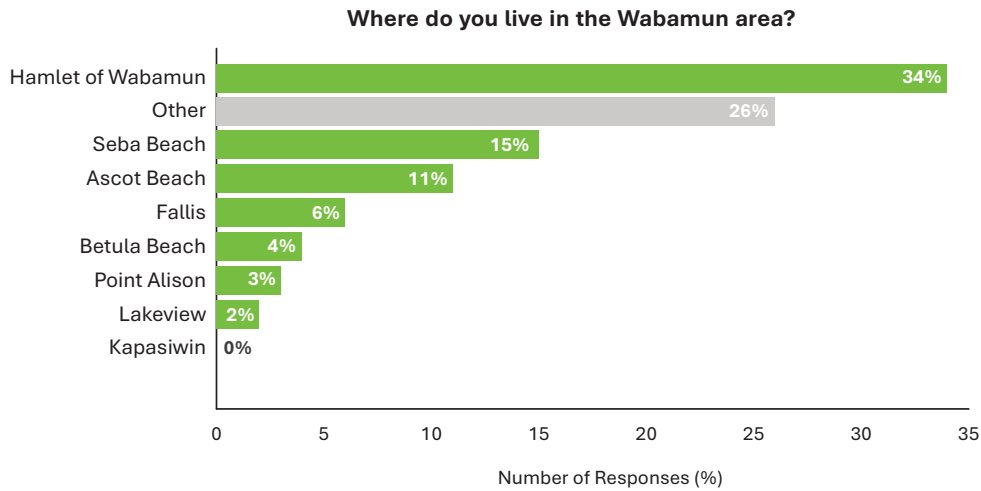
- Permanent resident of the Wabamun area
- Seasonal/temporary resident of the Wabamun area
- Permanent resident of another area in Parkland County
- Visitor to the Wabamun area
- Other

OTHER

- Owner of a property or business in Wabamun
- Live close to Wabamun
- Work in Wabamun
- Future residents of the Wabamun Area
- Lease property or marina slip in the Wabamun Area
- Sailing club member
- WWMC member

Most survey participants were either permanent (41%) or seasonal residents (23%) of the Wabamun area. An additional 17% were residents from other areas of Parkland County and 9% were visitors to the area. There was a total of 10% “other” responses to the question, summarized to the right.

Permanent/Seasonal Residents of Wabamun



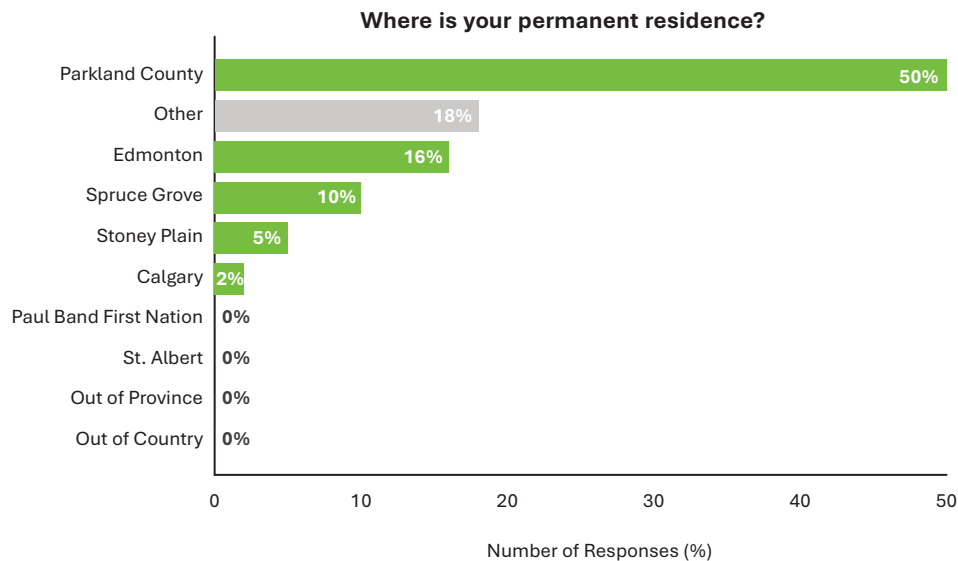
OTHER

- Brookeside Estates
- Riches Point
- Meso West
- Smithfield
- Sherwin
- Whitewood Sands
- Sunshine Bay
- Freewood
- Marina
- Lakeshore
- Gardener's Cove
- Keephills
- Darwell
- Rizzie
- Range roads (40A, 43, 53)

- Multiple Choice Answer
- Other

Of those who selected permanent or seasonal resident, approximately a third (34%) live in the Hamlet of Wabamun. Just over a quarter of those who answered the question (26%) live in an “other” location that was not listed (summarized to the right). About 6% were from Fallis and 8% were from a summer village, except for Kapasiwin which was not represented.

Non-Residents of Wabamun



OTHER

- Lac Ste Anne County
- Leduc County
- Spring Lake
- Slave Lake
- Freeman
- Sturgeon County
- Sherwood Park
- Tomahawk
- Keephills

- Multiple Choice Answer
- Other

Half of seasonal residents, visitors, or “other” participants said they were from another area of Parkland County. Approximately 18% selected “other” and provided another location (summarized to the right). Another 16% were from Edmonton, 10% from Spruce Grove, and 5% from Stoney Plain. There were no responses for Paul Band First Nation, St. Albert, or out of province / country.

Prioritizing Opportunities in the Wabamun Area

After Stage 1 of public engagement, the project team conducted an opportunities analysis for the Wabamun Area. This involved looking at different types of development opportunities and identifying potentially suitable locations for them. The analysis was based on several spatial criteria that influence development, including factors like environmentally sensitive areas, existing servicing / utilities, road access, and many others.

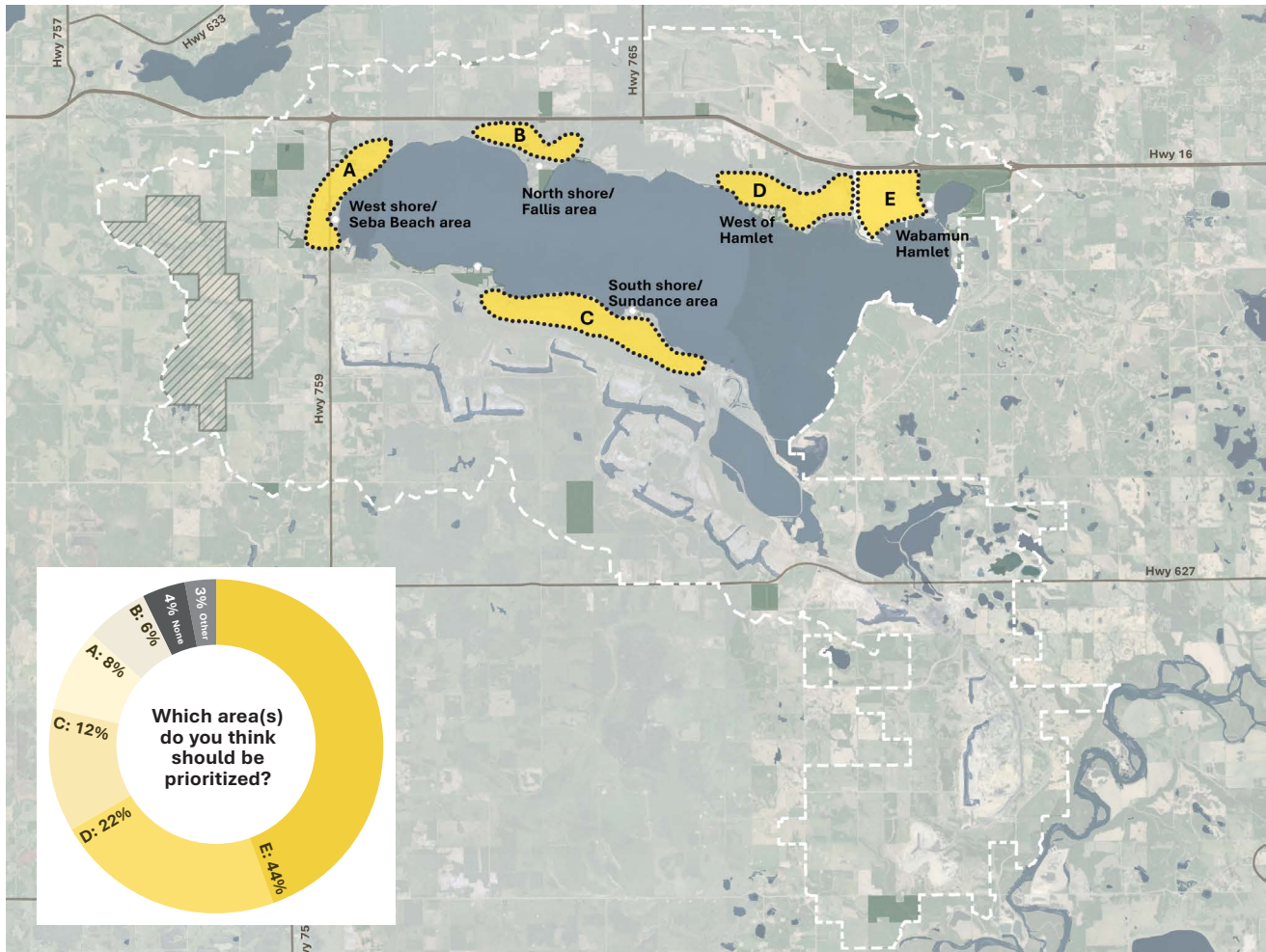
Several maps were generated from that analysis to show these potential locations for each development type. At both the in-person events and through the online survey, participants were presented with nine different maps and asked to choose the areas they felt should be a priority for that type of development.

The results from the following types of development are discussed in the following section:

- Full-time residential
- Vacation residential
- Destination resort
- Commercial
- Energy & production
- Motorized recreation
- Non-motorized recreation
- Agriculture
- Naturalized and restored areas



Full-Time Residential



The Hamlet of Wabamun (E) was identified as a priority area for full-time residential (44% of all selections). The main reasons include:

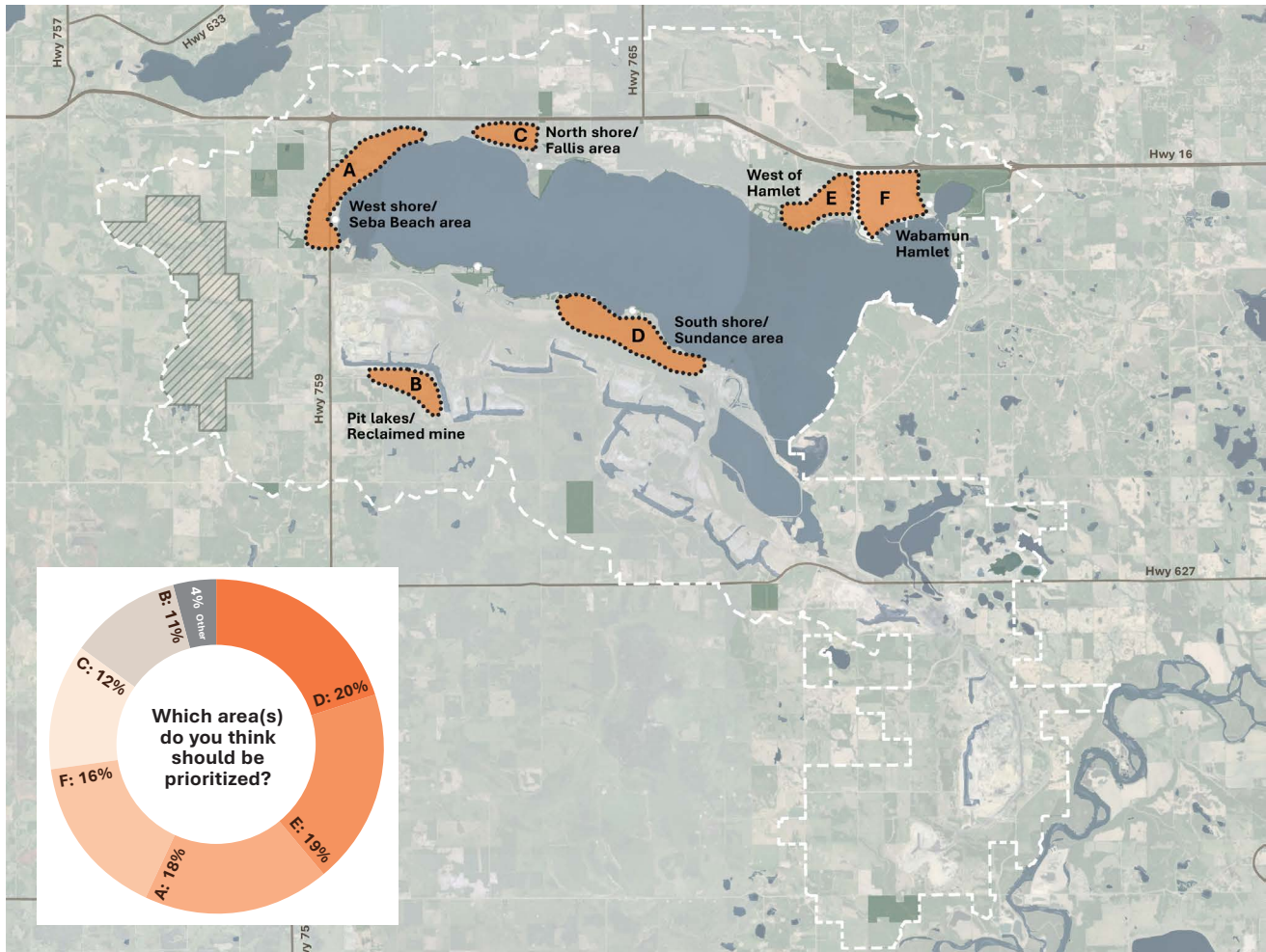
- existing servicing, infrastructure, and amenities to support growth
- concentrating development in established areas helps to reduce environmental impacts
- new development in the Hamlet will be more walkable, especially for seniors
- greater population density will help local businesses and economic development
- close highway access makes it easy to commute from other communities

OTHER

- No opinion
- Not sure
- Range Rd 52 and Highway 627

The area west of the Hamlet (D) was the second most selected option for many of the same reasons.

Vacation Residential



For vacation residential, there was a more even split across area selections with West Shore / Sundance (D - 20%), West of Hamlet (E - 19%), and West Shore / Seba Beach (A - 18%) areas within a percent of each other. Some of the main reasons include:

- concentrating development in established areas helps to reduce environmental impacts
- close to existing amenities, services, and recreation opportunities
- would continue development of existing RV or vacation residential areas
- near the Hamlet to support economic development and tourism
- will give people a feeling of “getting away”

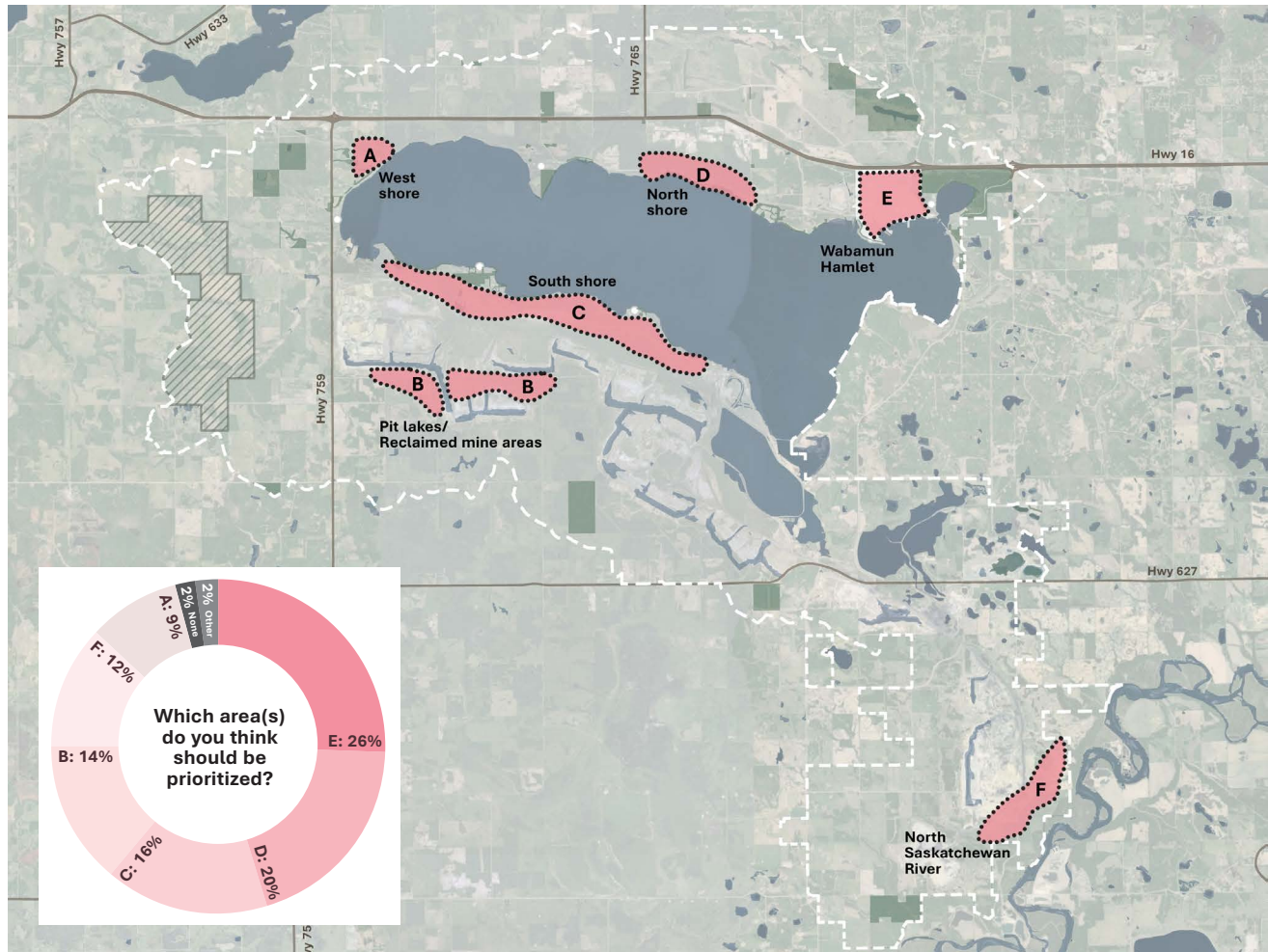
Some participants noted that highway access was important for vacation residential, but not as important as it is for full-time residential who may need to commute more often. There were also a few contrasting opinions on whether there should be more development around Seba beach, with some feeling that it was already too busy and others wanting to see more growth there to support economic development.

It is important to participants that vacation residential development does not negatively impact the lake. There are many opportunities to incorporate recreational development and vacation oriented development in a sustainable way.

OTHER

- No opinion
- Osprey
- West along Lakeshore Road

Destination Resort



Wabamun Hamlet (E) was most selected for destination resort development (26% of total selections), followed by the North Shore (D - 20%). There were differing perspectives on whether resort development should encompass undeveloped or already developed / disturbed areas.

Undeveloped areas were seen as better for incorporation of natural areas, trails, and other recreational opportunities. However, there were some concerns about the environmental impacts, especially to the lake, of creating a new development area.

Developed areas have the advantage of existing services, infrastructure, and amenities. Creating a destination resort specifically within the Hamlet would help to support economic development and local business in the area. Developing in already disturbed areas would also mitigate environmental impacts. Some participants said they wanted to see existing industrial features turned into resort development, such as the pit lakes or the canals from the old power plant.

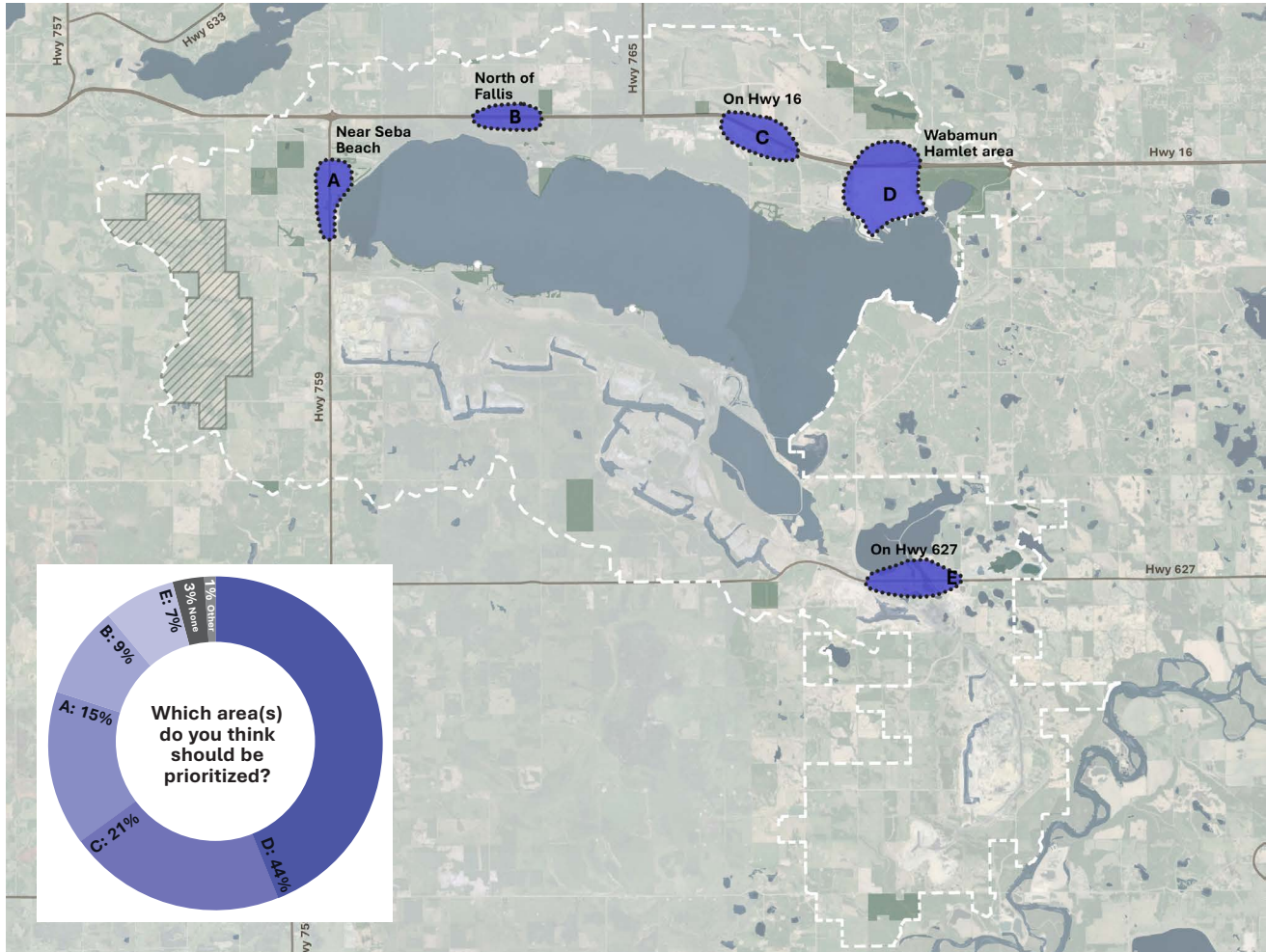
Some additional reasons for selected locations included:

- away from train tracks
- close to highway
- away from full-time residential

OTHER

- No opinion
- Non-hillside areas
- Goosequill Bay
- Discovery Wharf
- Resort like Sunset Shores on the lake

Commercial



The top selected priority area for commercial development was Wabamun Hamlet (D - 44% of total selections). The main reasons include:

- concentrating development in established areas helps to reduce environmental impacts
- more draw and economic development for the Hamlet
- supports year-round residents with services and amenities
- supports continued growth of arts and culture activities and businesses
- preserves rural character by concentrating development in existing centres

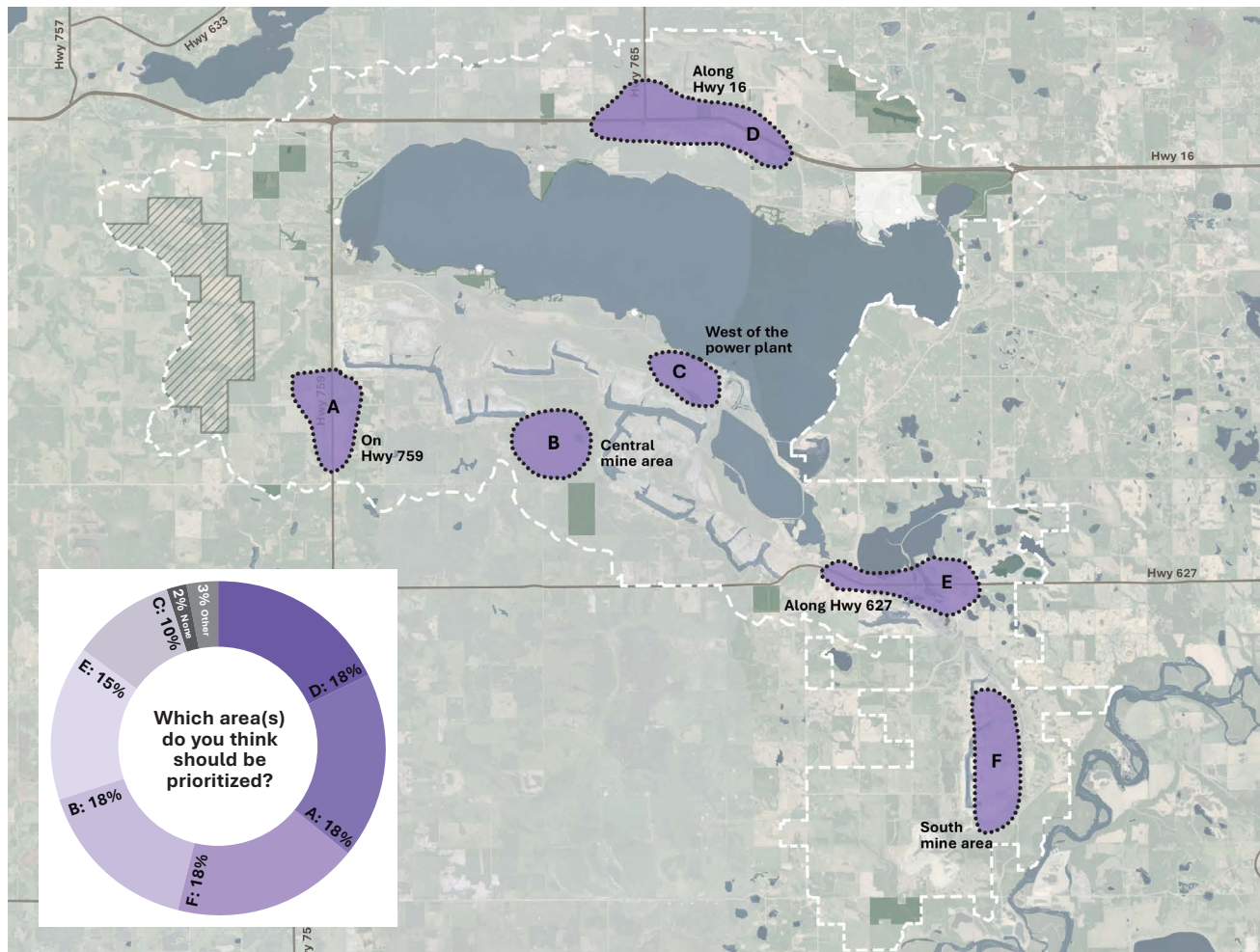
About a fifth of all selections (21%) identified Highway 16 (C) as a priority for commercial. Participants said that highway access was important to capture traffic / business and that development would help support communities north of the highway.

About 15% wanted to see commercial development prioritized around Seba Beach (A) and 9% north of Fallis (B), indicating a preference to concentrate it near existing communities.

OTHER

- No opinion
- Next to existing roadways
- Hydrogen fueling at C
- Power plant site suitable for arena, commercial development
- Need e-charging stations

Energy & Production



Energy and Production was the most divided on what areas to prioritize. There was no clear leader, with along Highway 16 (D), on Highway 759 (A), and the South Mine area (F) each receiving 18% of the total selections and both the Central Mine area (B) and Highway 267 (E) closely behind at 16% each. West of the Power Plant (C) was the least selected option on the map at 10%.

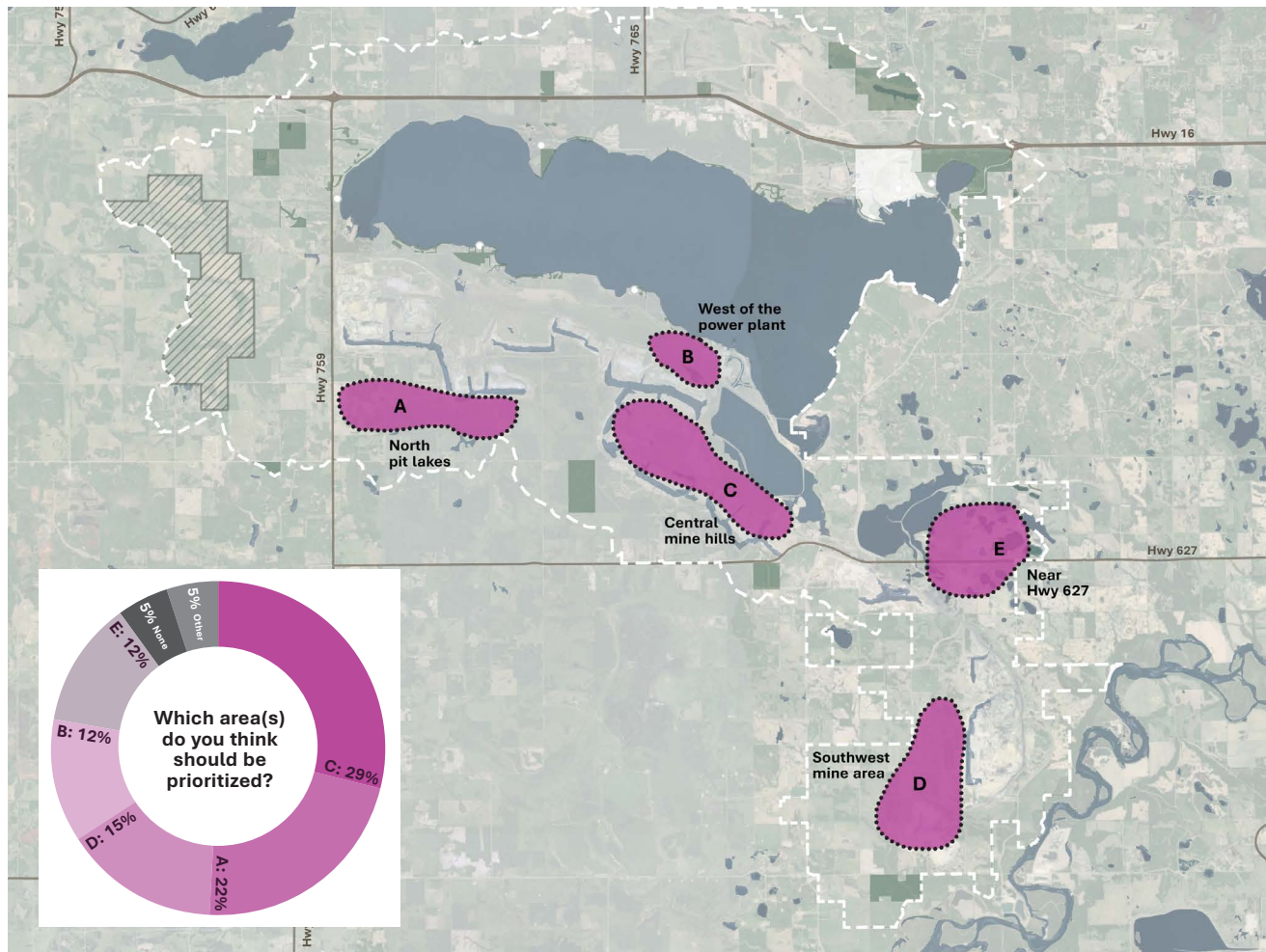
The main reasons included:

- locate it in already disturbed areas
- locate near existing infrastructure, utility corridors, and transportation networks
- locate away from tourist and residential areas
- locate away from the lake (concerns about runoff and algae blooms)

OTHER

- Solar micro-generation in residential areas
- no opinion
- unsure
- reopen the steel mill
- No solar or wind, not economical in this region
- Keephills is a good place for industrial (& restaurant) to support workers

Motorized Recreation



The top two areas selected for new motorized recreation were both former mine sites: Central Mine Hills (C - 29%) and North Pit Lakes (A - 22%). The main reasons included:

- good terrain / topography
- away from existing residential areas and kids camps
- good use of disturbed mine lands

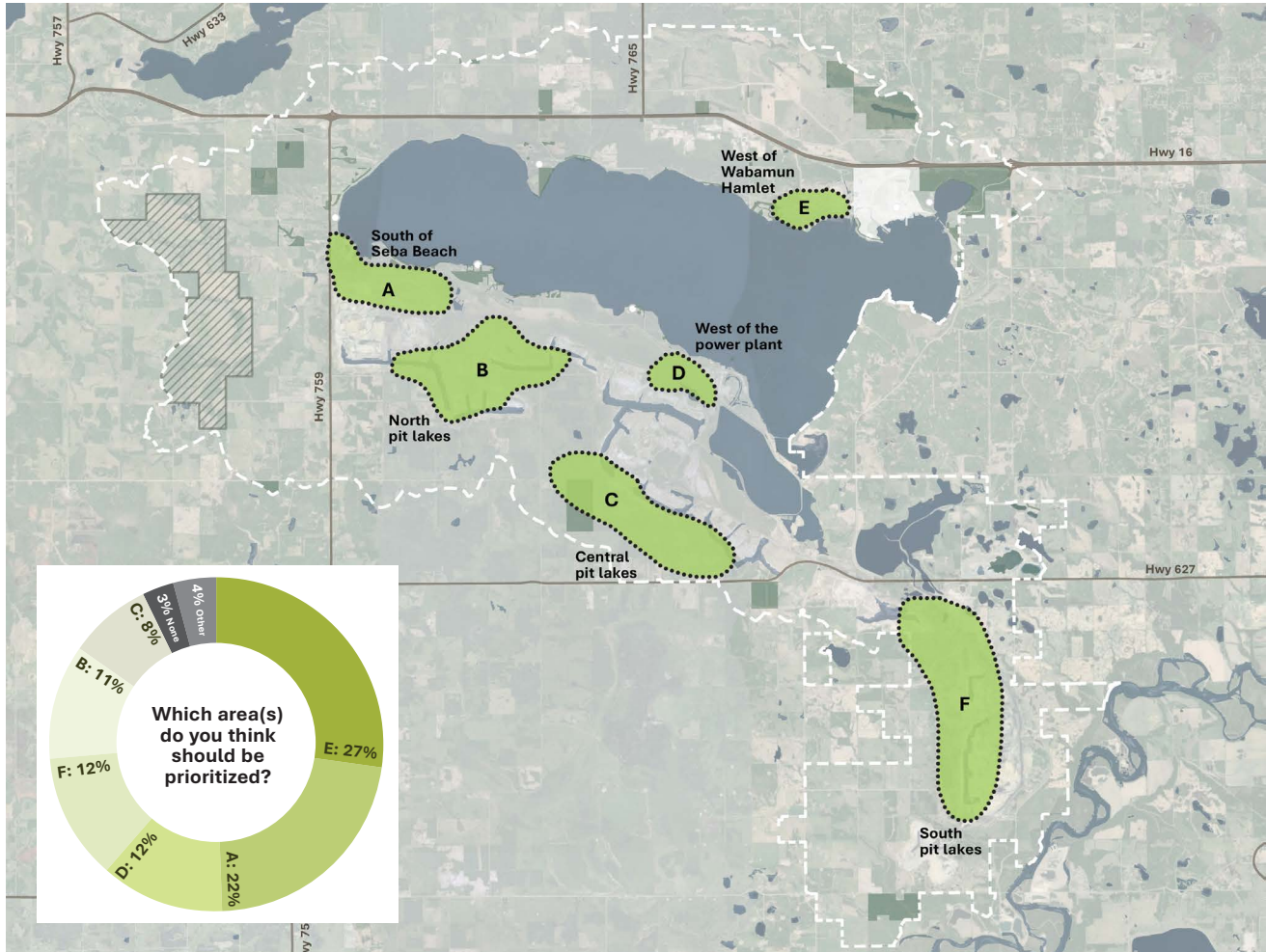
There were some concerns about enforcement of responsible motorized recreation use. Some participants expressed issues with trespassing on private property, noise, conflicts with non-motorized users, and environmental degradation related to motorized use (land and water). Several wanted to see the use located away from the lake and off of main hills that could interfere with views and motorized boats restricted along the shore of nesting areas.

On the other hand, there were comments expressing a desire to see less restrictive regulations and more integration of both motorized and non-motorized use. Connected trails between recreation areas and residential communities were also suggested for motorized users. A minimum distance of 25 km was suggested as a typical day-trip on an ATV or snowmobile.

OTHER

- Range Rd 44 gravel pit
- East pit lake
- Reclaimed Whitewood mine site
- Boat launch on North Saskatchewan River
- Steamship / passenger boat
- Include flight - powered chutes / gliders

Non-Motorized Recreation



The top prioritized new areas for non-motorized recreation were West of Wabamun Hamlet (E - 27%) and South of Seba beach (A - 22%). Participants said they want to see new year-round trail systems connected to already established communities and residential areas, natural areas, and Wabamun Lake. These connections are seen as important for local residents as well as for attracting more visitors to the area. Specific connections that were suggested include:

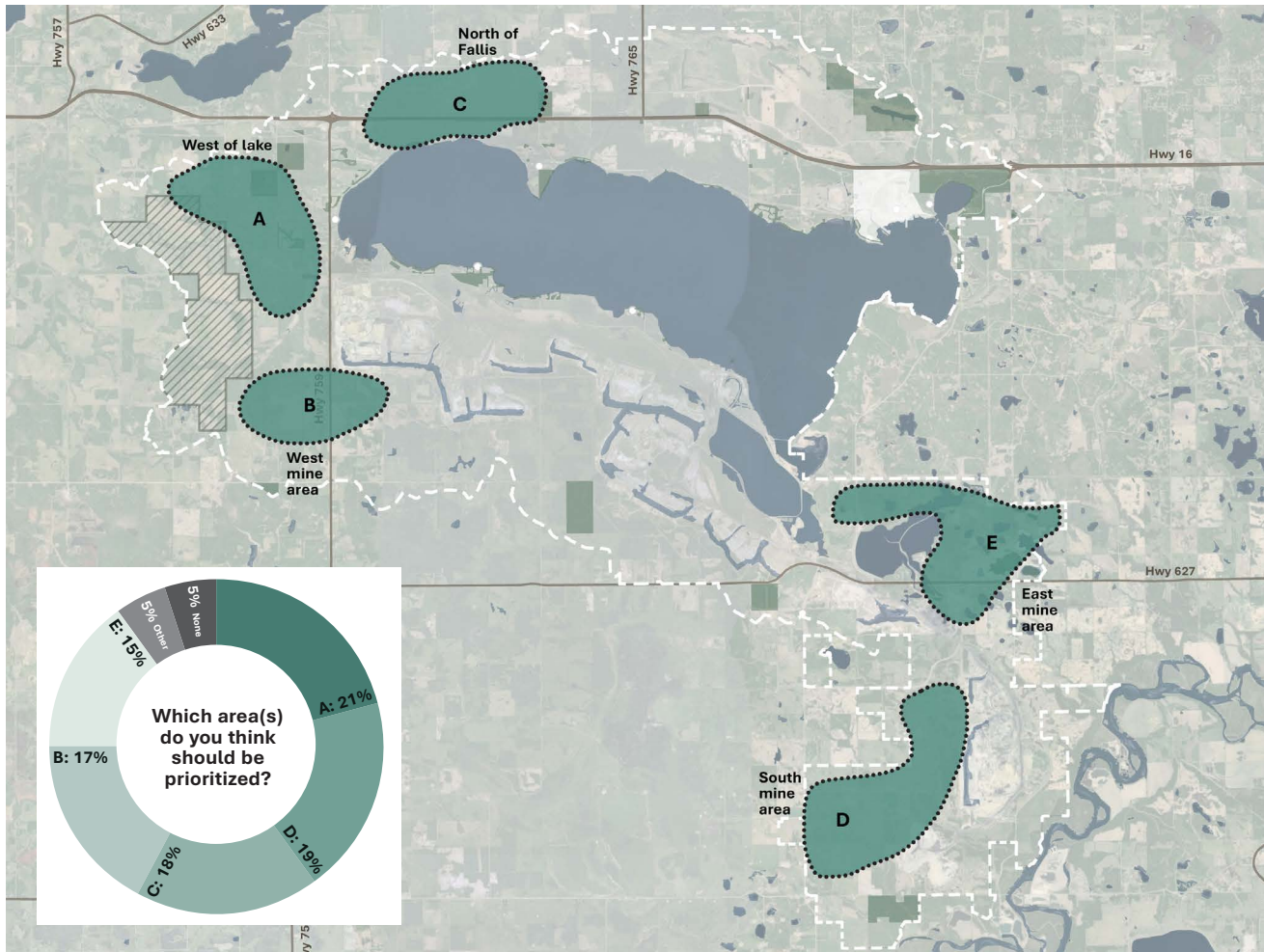
- Hamlet to Wabamun Provincial Park
- Fallis to Seba Beach
- Alternate route to walking on the highways
- Bike trail into Wabamun Hamlet away from Lakeshore Rd.
- Connection to new boat launch

In addition to identifying specific connections, participants expressed the need to balance protection of ecologically sensitive areas and provide access to nature trails. It was generally felt that non-motorized uses were more suitable for areas near the lake and adjacent to residential uses than motorized use.

OTHER

- No opinion
- Within Wabamun Hamlet and Seba Beach
- On the edge of the Hamlet close to the canals
- All areas
- No Discovery Wharf - keep for wildlife
- Transalta land west side, NW of Hamlet could be a wildlife recovery centre
- Golf resort
- Toboggan place by pit lakes
- Ziplines at B

Agriculture



Similarly to energy and production development, there was less of a clear top priority identified for new agricultural uses. West of the lake (A) received 21% of the selections, with the South Mine Area (D), North of Fallis (C), and West mine area (B) closely behind at 19%, 18%, and 17% respectively.

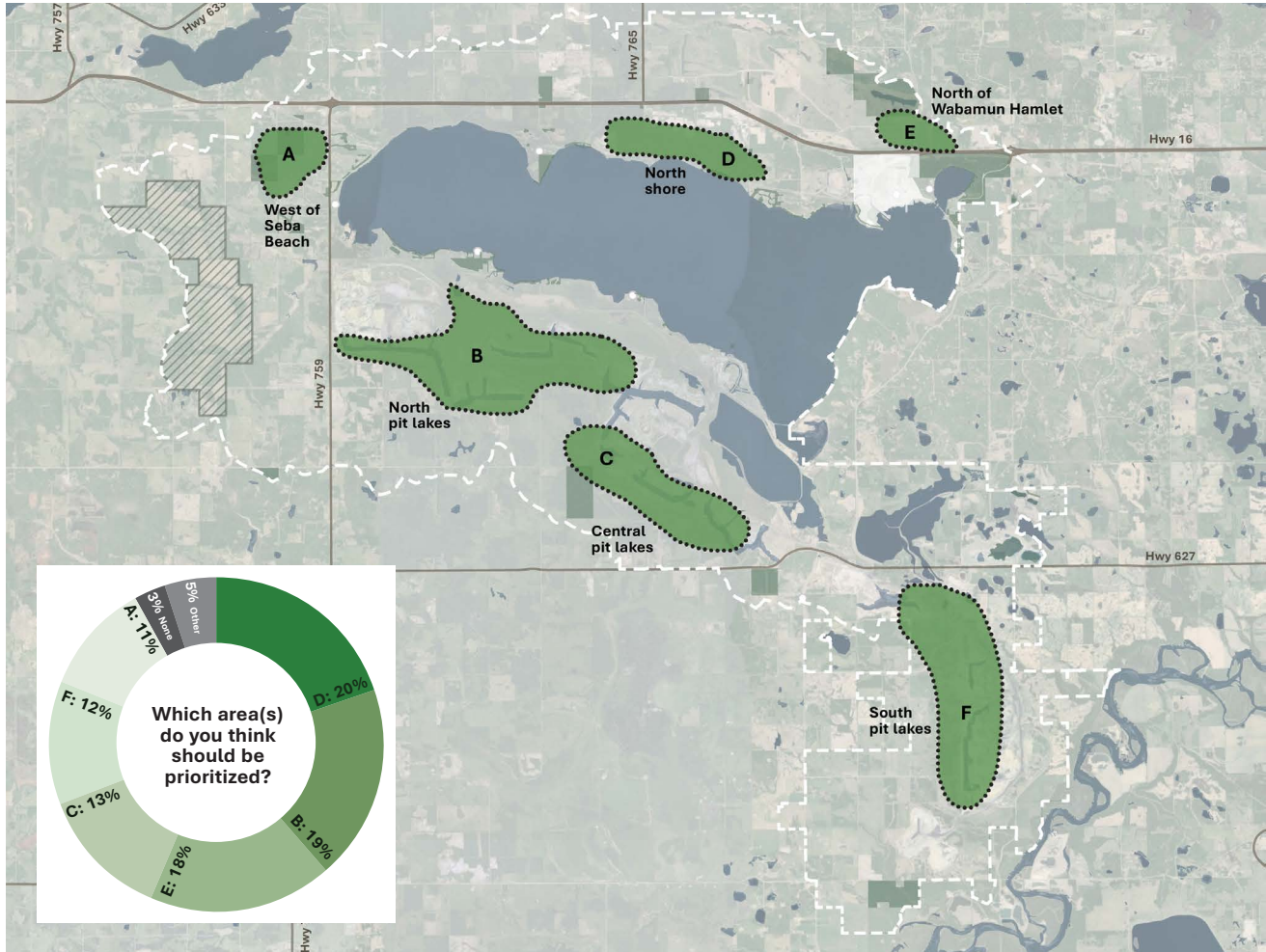
Many participants said that they had concerns about the environmental impacts to the watershed from agricultural use. There was a desire to see these uses located away from the lake and other drainage courses leading into the lake. Some participants also wanted it away from residential areas due to odours. There was a preference noted by some participants for using already disturbed lands for agriculture, rather than disrupting undeveloped areas. Others felt that any mine lands that could not be reforested should be reclaimed for agricultural use.

A few participants wanted to see agriculture located in the areas with the best quality soils.

OTHER

- No opinion
- Not sure
- Keep away from the lake
- All of the above
- Old Whitewood Mine
- Flat land along highway 16
- Include greenhouses (need power and water)

Naturalized & Restored Areas



North Shore (D), North pit lakes (B), and North of Wabamun Hamlet (E) were the top prioritized for naturalized or restored areas at 20%, 19%, and 18% respectively. Several participants felt that all of the areas on the map should be naturalized or restored as well as other areas that are either unsuitable for development or the most damaged.

In addition to restoring ecological function and helping support lake health, participants also wanted to see public access to natural areas, which is a main reason that many selected areas closest to existing settlements. Birdwatching was of particular interest to many participants.

OTHER

- No opinion
- Ascot beach reserve
- All areas other than D
- All areas
- Hillsides west of D
- Anywhere not suitable for agriculture
- The parts of SE9-53-4-W5 and NW/SW of 10-53-4-W5 which are not privately owned
- None, not a priority

Hamlet Area Redevelopment

In this phase of engagement we asked about the places in the Hamlet that should be prioritized for reimagining and reinvestment as well as the types of actions that should be implemented in the area.

Actions

Four main types of actions were suggested to guide responses.

- **Upgrades:** Physical built improvements to the public realm, infrastructure, and buildings.
- **Incentives:** “behind the scenes” tactics like grants or mechanisms that change the conditions of investment.
- **Activities:** Programs or events that are intended to bring life to the Hamlet and its public spaces.
- **Supports:** supports that enable facilitation and coordination of all other actions.

The responses have been grouped into these categories for reporting purposes. A full list of suggested actions is provided on the following page.

Upgrades

The main upgrades that participants wanted to see were:

- improvements and beautification of public streets
- additional sports and community facilities
- repurposing Jubilee Hall, the fire hall, and the former village office for various community uses
- improvements to the waterfront and Waterfront Park

Incentives

The main incentives that participants wanted to see were:

- storefront grants tied to design guidelines
- grants for non-profits, arts & cultural activities, and event organizers
- lower taxes for businesses
- streamline permit processes
- business incubation centre
- targeted incentives to attract specific types of development or services

Activities

The main activities that participants wanted to see were:

- more winter recreation opportunities
- more recreation opportunities for youth and seniors
- guided tours with connections to existing amenities
- more events, concerts, and markets
- group classes and programs

Supports

The main supports that participants wanted to see were:

- more enforcement of traffic, boating, littering, etc
- more support from County staff for organizing events
- broader communications and advertising of events and activities
- ensuring banks are supportive of investment in Wabamun

What sorts of actions would you like to see implemented in the Hamlet to improve the quality of life of residents, generate more activity, and support local businesses?

UPGRADES

- Public streets and beautification
 - more main street development, landscaping, furniture, and seating
 - sidewalk and accessibility upgrades
 - alley upgrades
 - more temporary parking
 - more trees and screening of vacant / underutilized properties
 - remove vacant buildings
 - dead end sign at 54th Ave
- Community Facilities
 - upgrade waterfront park
 - upgrade library and turn into community hub
 - upgrade Jubilee Hall for more events and performances
 - arena / sports centre / indoor pool facility
 - curling rink
 - community gardens
 - indoor public baths / spa
 - outdoor courts (tennis / basketball)
- Connections
 - more public water access points
 - second access from highway
 - relocate railway / have pedestrian trolley
 - create a pathway across the lake
 - connect to Provincial Park

INCENTIVES

- For businesses
 - storefront grants with design guidelines / theme
 - lower taxes
 - remove regulations / streamline permit process
 - business incubation centre
 - grants for renewable energy

- For community organizations
 - grants for non-profits and event organizations
 - grants for arts and cultural programming (public art, art education, artist in residence)
- Encourage / attract specific development
 - daycares
 - healthcare
 - subsidized seniors housing and long-term care
 - retail
 - hotel
 - restaurants / cafes / coffee shops
 - full time RV / resort locations
 - watercraft businesses and rentals

ACTIVITIES

- Guided tours / trails
 - fishing
 - birdwatching
 - walking tour (tied to museum)
 - geocaching
 - name existing trails and provide interpretation
- Recreation
 - winter recreation (tobogganing, skating, skiing, etc)
 - affordable youth recreation and sports (skating, hockey, music, etc)
 - larger playgrounds
 - longer spray park hours
 - birdwatching
- Events
 - races
 - concerts / music festivals
 - events for tourists / more activities like the farmer's market to draw people in

- Programming
 - events and theatre at Jubilee Hall
 - indoor and outdoor group classes
 - food trucks

SUPPORTS

- Enforcement
 - speed limits
 - boaters
 - garbage / littering
- Convince banks that Wabamun is safe to invest in
- Support existing non-profits and community organizations and initiatives
- Multi-layer approach to communications (not just online)
- Advertise events outside of Wabamun (Edmonton, other communities)
- Reduce entrance fees and other barriers to entry (events / programs)
- More staff / public works support for events organization and facilitation

Priority Places

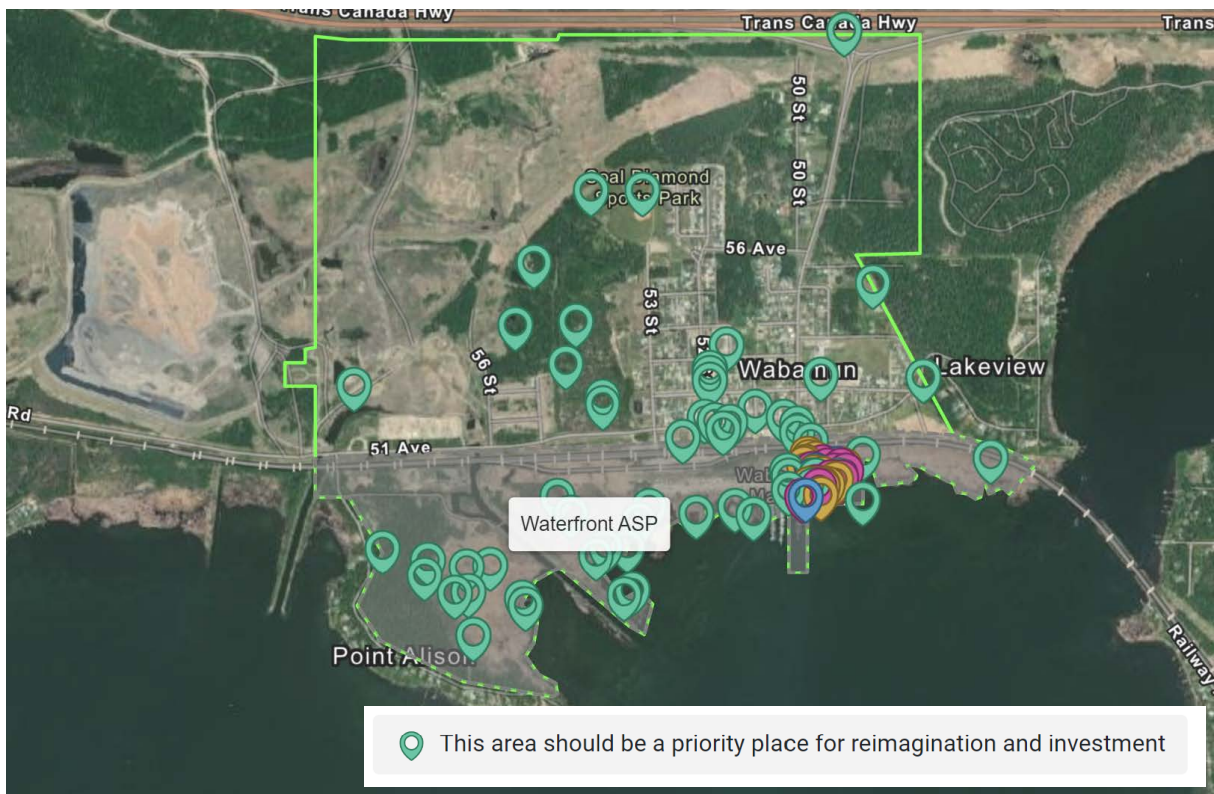
To get a sense of which areas should be a priority for reimagination and reinvestment in the Hamlet, we asked participants to place pins/stars on a map of the area. There were 58 pins provided on the online map and 17 comments from the in-person events. The following key places were identified within the plan boundary:

- Main Street (51 Ave): improve street and buildings, create a better connection to the waterfront
- 52 Street: provide median and traffic circle
- Trail Connection: to the Provincial Park
- Jubilee Hall: upgrade, use for more events and performances
- Former Village office: turn into community hub, move the library here
- Wabamun Commons: replace the Christmas tree, use for markets / events
- Coal Diamond Sports Park: encourage more use, expand camp sites
- Highway junction into Wabamun: provide some type of service stop to encourage people to drive in to town
- WAVES activity park: support / improve on existing skating rink

There were also some comments on the areas within the existing Waterfront Area Structure Plan. Many of these were about the Waterfront Park, which are summarized in the next section. Several comments indicated a desire to see more waterfront development, such as restaurants, shops, resorts, day-use areas, and additional public water access. Other comments wanted to see waterfront lands remain undeveloped or kept natural with some level of trail access.

58
ONLINE MAP
POINTS

17
STICKY NOTE
COMMENTS



Waterfront Park

We asked participants to tell us about what is working well or not in Waterfront Park and what types of experiences they wanted to see in the future. There were 33 points provided on the online map and 32 sticky note comments from the public events.

33
ONLINE MAP
POINTS

What's Working Well

Most of the comments about what is working well in the park were about existing amenities and activities, including:

- public toilets with running water
- spray park / family areas
- bird watching
- natural area east of park
- day use areas
- kids ice fishing
- existing pier
- dragon boats

32
STICKY NOTE
COMMENTS



What Needs Improvement

The main ideas for improvement involved the beach area, expansion of the park, new or improved amenities, parking / traffic, and maintenance / enforcement.

- Beach
 - bigger sandy beach area
 - weed-free swimming area
 - protected from the boat launch
- Park expansion
 - tension between expanding the park and protecting existing natural area
 - concerns that it is too expensive to develop the park further
 - park is too busy / overrun
- Amenities
 - add watercraft rentals
 - add food service or trucks
 - spray park needs recirculation system to allow it to run for longer
 - add beach volleyball courts
 - more infrastructure to support events
 - add small bandshell for live music / events
 - add fishing dock
 - add off-leash park
 - more dock slips or a seasonal floating dock like in BC
- Parking / Traffic
 - fix traffic bottleneck to get to boat launch or remove boat launch from park
 - delineate parking for trailers and day use better
 - allow for some 24 hour parking again
 - allow a season's parking / launch pass for locals
- Maintenance & enforcement
 - not enough enforcement
 - light standards on pier keep getting knocked down
 - need better maintenance and cleanliness
 - washrooms are locked during off hours

Future Experiences

There were several different experiences that participants said they would like to have at the park in the future, including:

- bird watching from towers / canoe tours
- winter skating and hot chocolate
- have a fire in a fire pit
- drop off area for visitors with parking elsewhere
- keep small scale
- participate in outdoor recreation such as yoga classes
- go to a proper beach
- spend time with family and friends
- go swimming
- go to a market
- not pay \$20 every time to launch / take in boat

Next Steps

Thank you to everyone who participated in Stage 2!

Your feedback will be integrated into the creation of the concepts for the Wabamun Vision, the Hamlet Area Redevelopment Plan, and the Waterfront Park Design Concept. Details about Stage 3 will be released soon – stay tuned to wabamun.ca for updates.