

MARINE ACCESS
REVIEW



SQUAMISH MARINE ACCESS REVIEW

FINAL EDITION

April 30, 2024
District of Squamish
Community Development

Final Presentation



Council Special Meeting

May 7, 2024

Community Development



Recommendations

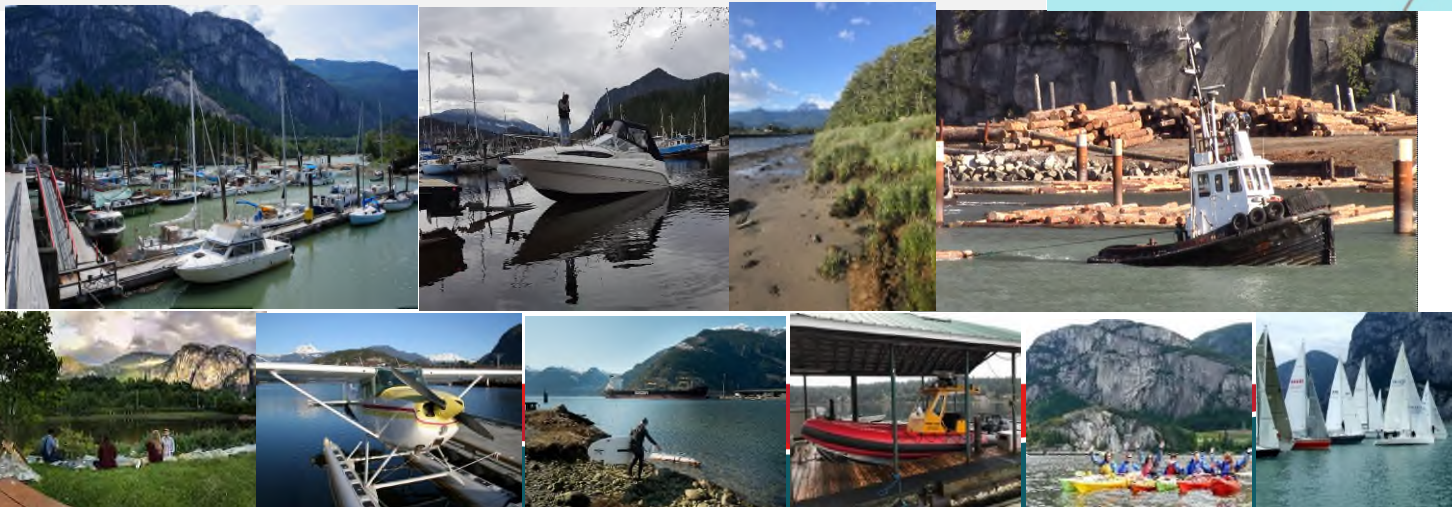
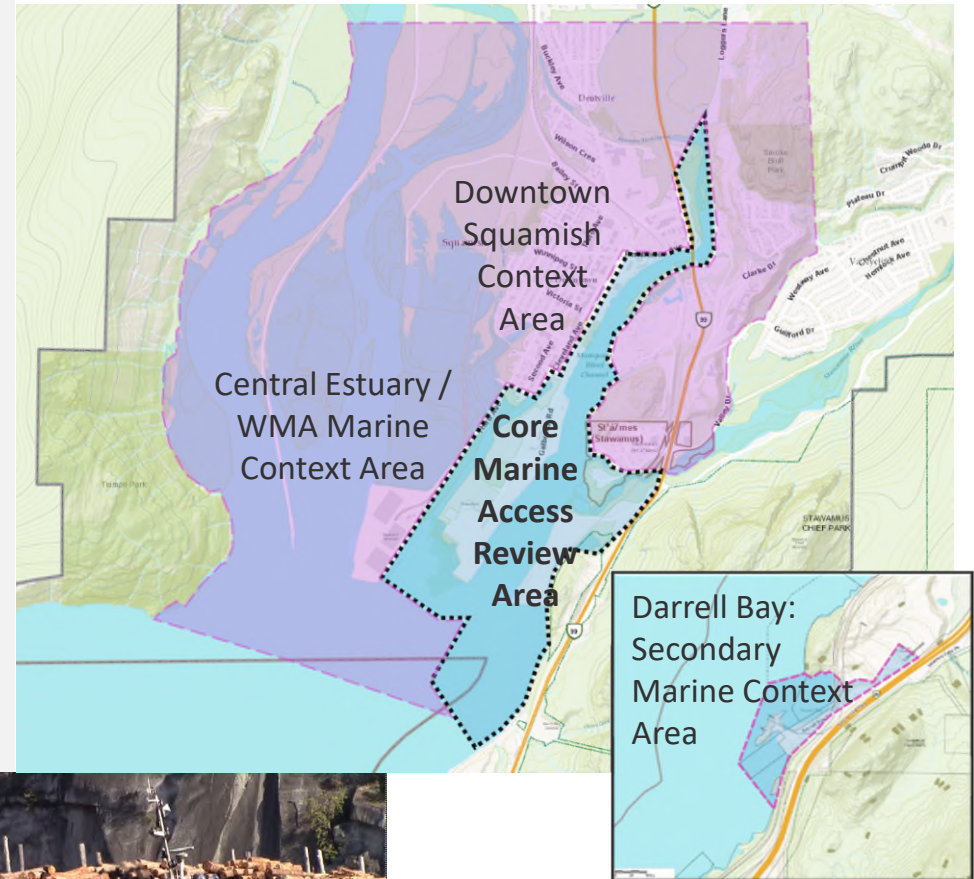
MARINE ACCESS REVIEW



1. Endorse the final District of Squamish Marine Access Review (April 2024)
2. Refer the inputs and recommendations gathered as part of the Squamish Marine Access Review to the District's future Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update in 2025
3. Direct Staff to refer additional priority actions identified in the Squamish Marine Access Review to the Strategic Plan process for further prioritization and budget consideration.

Purpose + Core Marine Review Area

Assess marine access needs to improve tactical planning and coordination of access areas and infrastructure, for enhanced accessibility and management of existing, interim and future proposed marine access points in Squamish.



Project Stages, Tasks + Deliverables

1 Marine Access + Needs Mapping (Jan – March 2022)

- ✓ Collect and map marine access needs, opportunities, activity areas and infrastructure recommendations
- ✓ Draft community-based marine access maps
- ✓ Initiate marine access surveys and boat launch special study

2 Draft Directions + Recommendations (April 2022 – June 2022~~3~~)

- ✓ Review marine access inputs and draft recommendations (Council workshop April 12, 2022)
- ✓ Evaluate boat launch needs and options (interim and long term)
- Community review and comment period (online and community pop-ups, open house)

3 Final Marine Access Recommendations (~~Fall~~ Spring 202~~2~~4)

- Consolidate final inputs for consolidated marine access areas map
- Present recommendations for Council to inform ongoing waterfront access plans and implementation (resourcing)

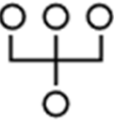
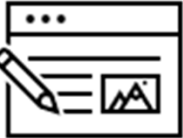


Community Engagement

IAP2 CONSULT LEVEL
OVERALL FOR PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION



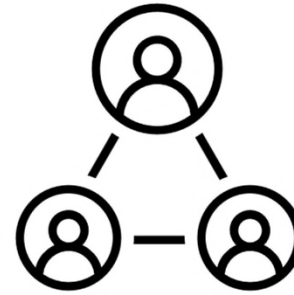
Engagement Tools + Reach

 LetsTalkSquamish.ca 460+ new registrations 3.9 K total site visits 263 max per day	 weekly e-News Blasts Feb 17-March 11, 2022 Oct 20-Nov 24 2023	 Newspaper Ads¹ 3 x Squamish Chief 2 x Pique NewsMagazine	 Direct email outreach² marine stakeholder group contacts
 6 Facebook Posts Feb 17-March 10 6 Instagram Posts 2 stories Feb 17-Mar 13	 Sponsored social posts 6,698 Post Reach, 284 Link clicks, 3,098 post engagement 2,770 video plays	 5 Community Pop Ups 70+ In-Person Connections	 350 pins Online Map Tool 113 Contributors
 Project Poster Displays + Promotional Flyers Squamish Public Library, Municipal Hall, Brennan Park, Boat Launch Xw'nekw Park, Adventure Centre	 Community Newsletters Squamish Economic Development Tourism Squamish, Squamish Chamber, Downtown BIA	 2 Surveys (Stage 1) + 1 Quick Poll (Stage 2) 390+ Contributors	 In Person + Virtual Cross-Promotions³ 9+ community groups



Final Engagement Activities (2023)

- ✓ Discussion Draft online review period (Let's Talk Squamish) Summer 2023
- ✓ 3 Community Pop-Up(s) Fall 2023
- ✓ Continued outreach to Squamish Nation
- ✓ Direct outreach and request for final comment from recreational groups and organizations, commercial operators and sectors
- ✓ Work with Tourism Squamish, Chamber of Squamish and Downtown BIA (MBC channel maintenance focus)
- ✓ Provincial and Federal Government outreach advocacy letter on channel navigation safety and maintenance (September 2023)



**Let's Talk
SQUAMISH**



A group of people are gathered outdoors for a community meeting. In the foreground, a man in a plaid shirt and sunglasses stands on the left, and a woman in a dark jacket and cap stands on the right, both looking towards the center. In the background, several other people are gathered around a table, looking at documents. The setting appears to be a waterfront area with a building and a boat visible in the distance under a blue sky with clouds.

Recap!

Marine Access Review Parts 1+2

Engagement Highlights



SQUAMISH

Public Participation

347 Community / Rec Surveys

83% Resident, 14% Visitor

Broad age range (11-82!)

65% active members of local marine recreation or stewardship groups

80% used non-motorized watercraft

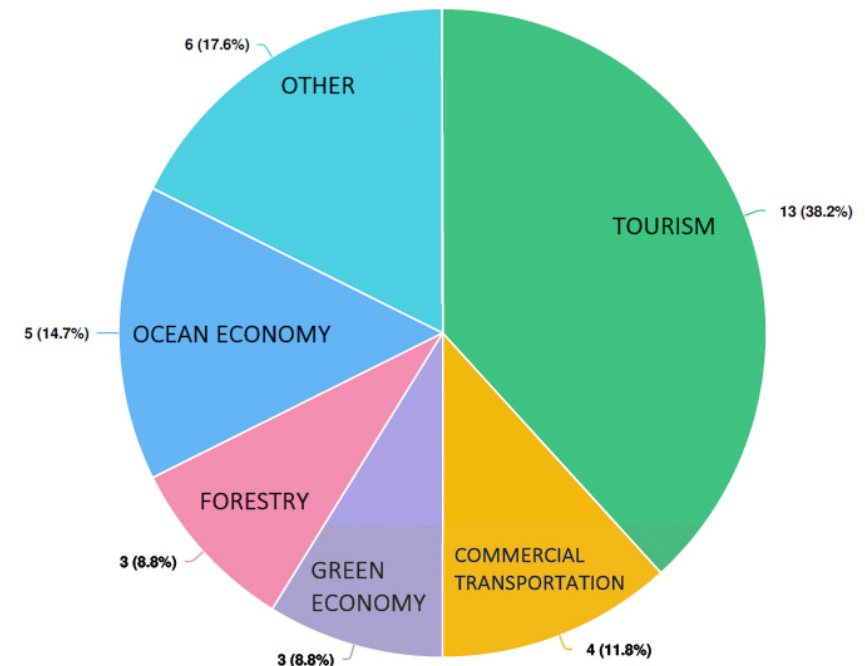
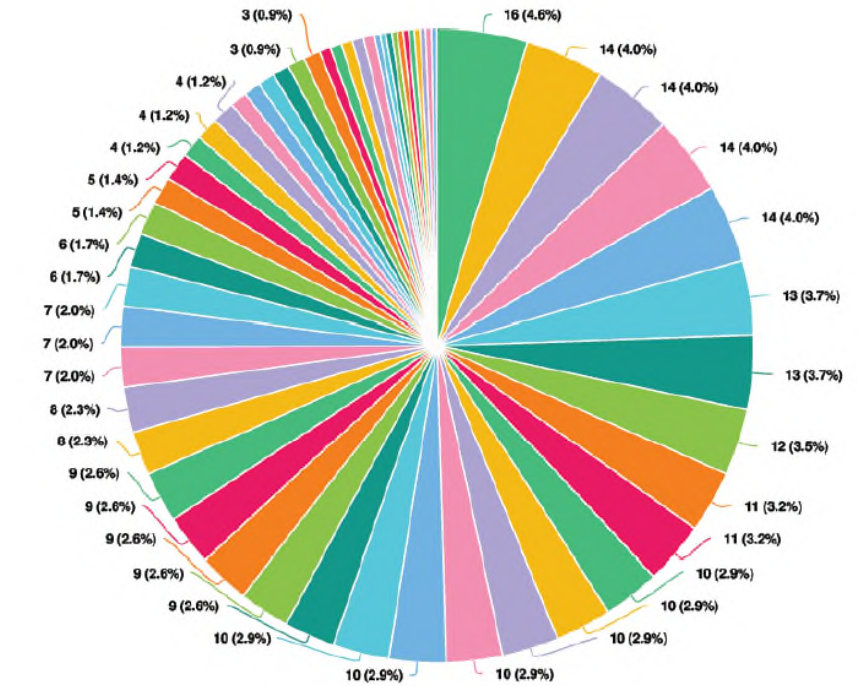
41 Business / Industry Surveys

34 + 7 Public Sector Agencies

Multi-sector representation

53% on the water daily

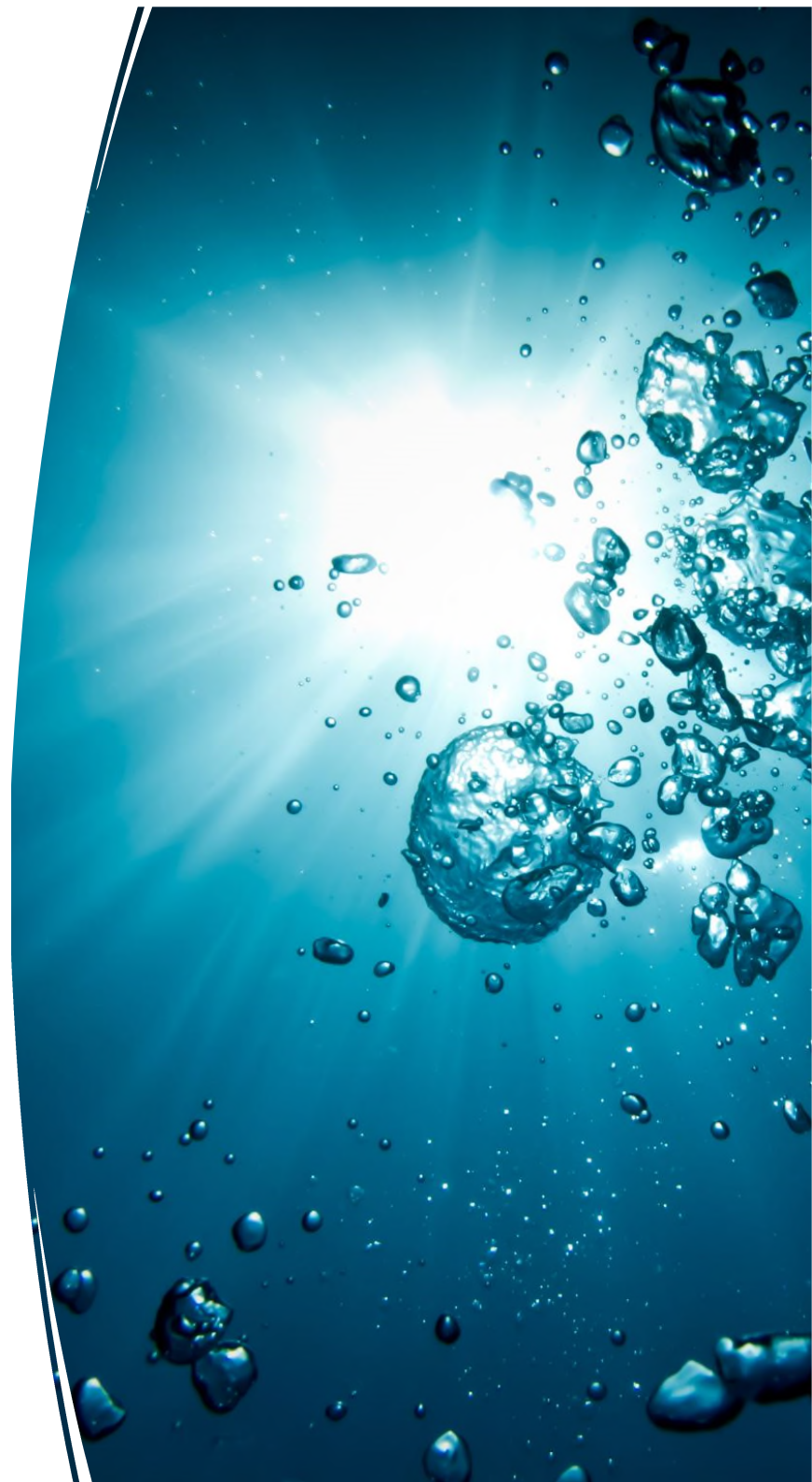
70% motorized 30% non-motorized



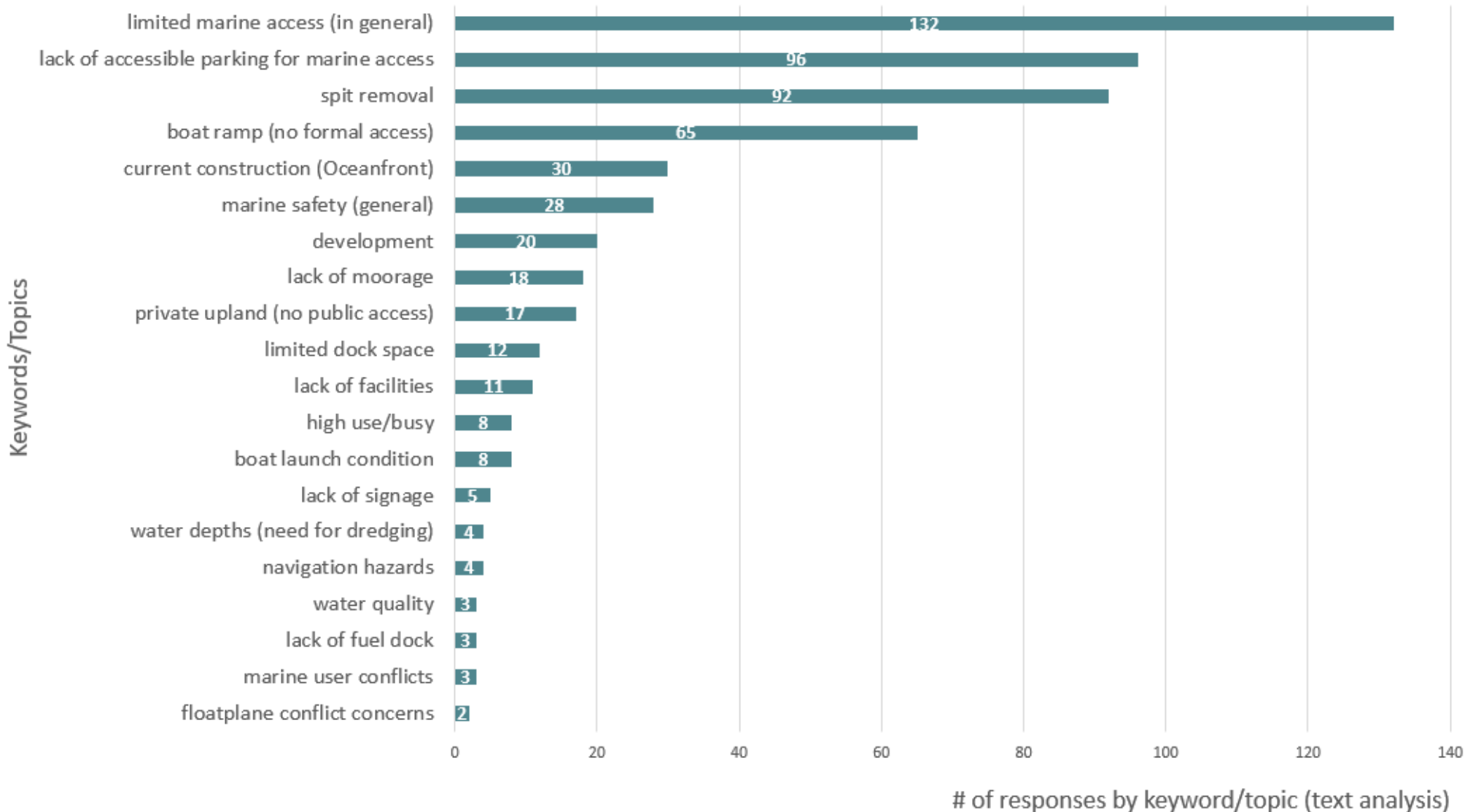
Community Input

Key Themes

- Vital importance of ocean access for all
- High concern:
 - Construction+ disruptions and lack of interim access/staging plans
 - Growing pressure + demands on limited access areas
 - Impacts on sensitive foreshores and cultural areas
 - Changes to and loss of access at Squamish Spit (Estuary)
- Need for:
 - Clear holistic picture of marine access areas and planned infrastructure
 - Enhanced focus and leadership to prioritize and integrate access, particularly for water-dependent uses, public safety and business sectors
 - Active management of shared use areas and focus on marine safety



Top Marine Access Barriers



Marine Access Perspectives

- Navigation area in MBC needs better delineation, as well as greater awareness and boating safety education
- Navigation is generally safe but channel depths in MBC are of concern
- Marine debris and sunken vessel removal also important
- Community users do not feel industrial areas are well understood/demarcated
- Increased oversight in MBC needed for navigation safety
- Clearly marked marine access points and use areas desired as well as signage for environmentally and culturally sensitive areas
- Most important access and amenity needs are increasing non-motorized and motorized access, securing public foreshore access, and designating staging and parking areas, and increasing moorage supply
- Separation of motorized and non-motorized launch sites stated as important by all to avoid use conflicts
- Public washroom facilities also seen as highly important

Final inputs received (Stage 2)

- **Boat Launch advocacy group**
– ongoing deterioration of launch, issues with commercial barge traffic use of private facility, support for alternative launch site feasibility review (Darrell Bay), support for Sailing Centre with community space integration and marine hubs
- **Request for clarifications re: Sea Plane navigation areas in MBC and mapping clarifications for Site B** and annotations with emphasis on public education and safety with industrial marine-based activities
- **Recreational marine groups (SYC, SPC and Dragon Boat Association) – shared vision** for marine welcome centre at Xwu'nekw Park for facilities, programs and events
- **Squamish Marine Search and Rescue operational needs and priorities** for marine safety support space (long term moorage, parking, storage and training space)
- **Marine access advocacy letter** (Squamish Harbour Authority, Tourism Squamish, Squamish Chamber)



Recap!

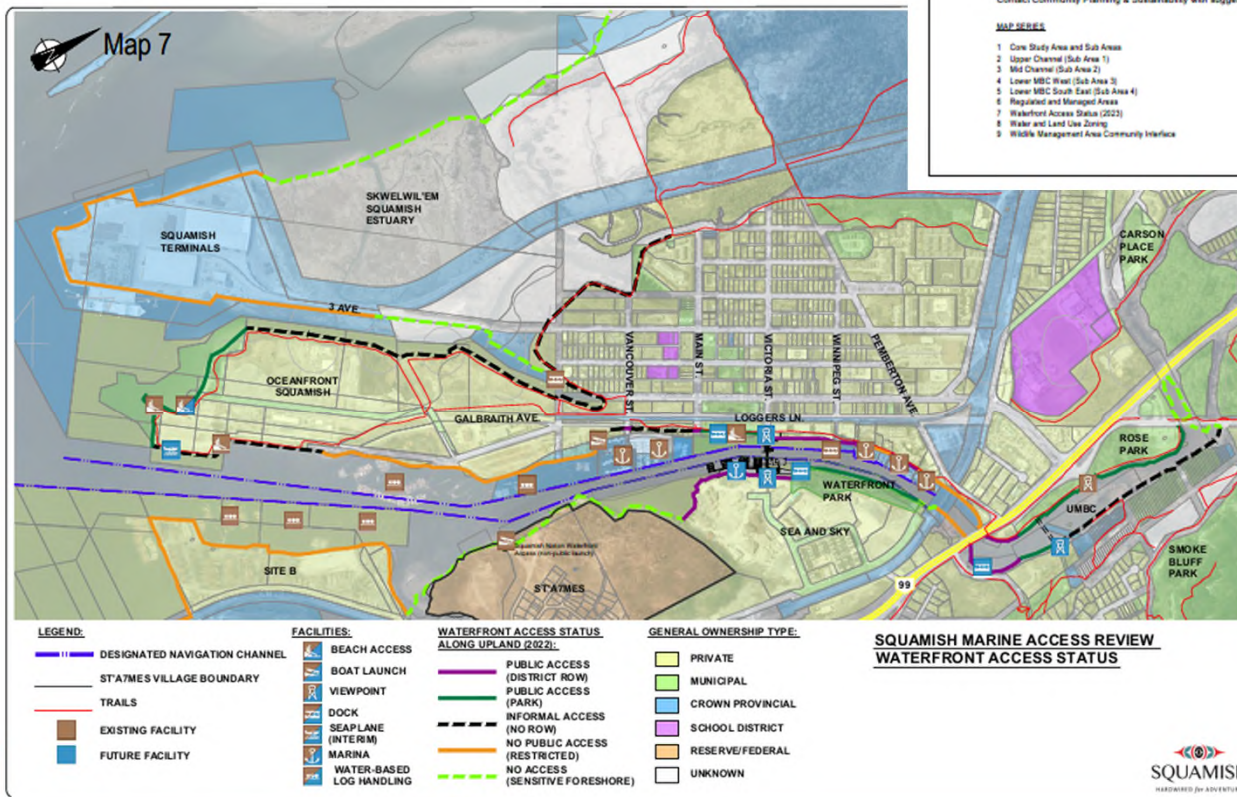
Marine Access Review

Final Deliverables

Marine Access Reference Maps

Provide a consolidated community marine access snapshot for marine and waterfront planning and coordination efforts in the next 2-5 years.

Squamish Marine Access Maps - June 2023 (Final Draft)



SQUAMISH
HARDWIRED FOR ADVENTURE

**DISTRICT OF SQUAMISH
MARINE ACCESS REVIEW**

REFERENCE MAPS - JUNE 2023

Developed as part of the Downtown Marine Access Review, the enclosed map series presents a consolidated community marine access snapshot highlighting downtown lands and waters, managed areas and water and upland uses, key access points along the foreshore and waterfront facilities and infrastructure (both existing and future planned, to date). Marine access maps provide a point of reference for ongoing community input and discussion and continued planning and management efforts. They are intended for information purposes to help guide and coordinate tactical plans for improved connectivity, accessibility, marine safety, protection and stewardship of marine areas in Squamish.

The information contained in these maps should be used for reference purposes only; inconsistencies and irregularities may occur. More accurate information may exist in other records. For additional information please see Squamish Webmaps at www.squamish.ca

Contact Community Planning & Sustainability with suggestions and questions: planning@squamish.ca

MAP SERIES

- 1 Core Study Area and Sub Areas
- 2 Upper Channel (Sub Area 1)
- 3 Mid Channel (Sub Area 2)
- 4 Lower MBC West (Sub Area 3)
- 5 Lower MBC South East (Sub Area 4)
- 6 Regulated and Managed Areas
- 7 Waterfront Access Status (2023)
- 8 Water and Land Use Zoning
- 9 Wildlife Management Area Community Interface

STYPLAN

SQUAMISH MARINE ACCESS REVIEW

21477 0m-300m



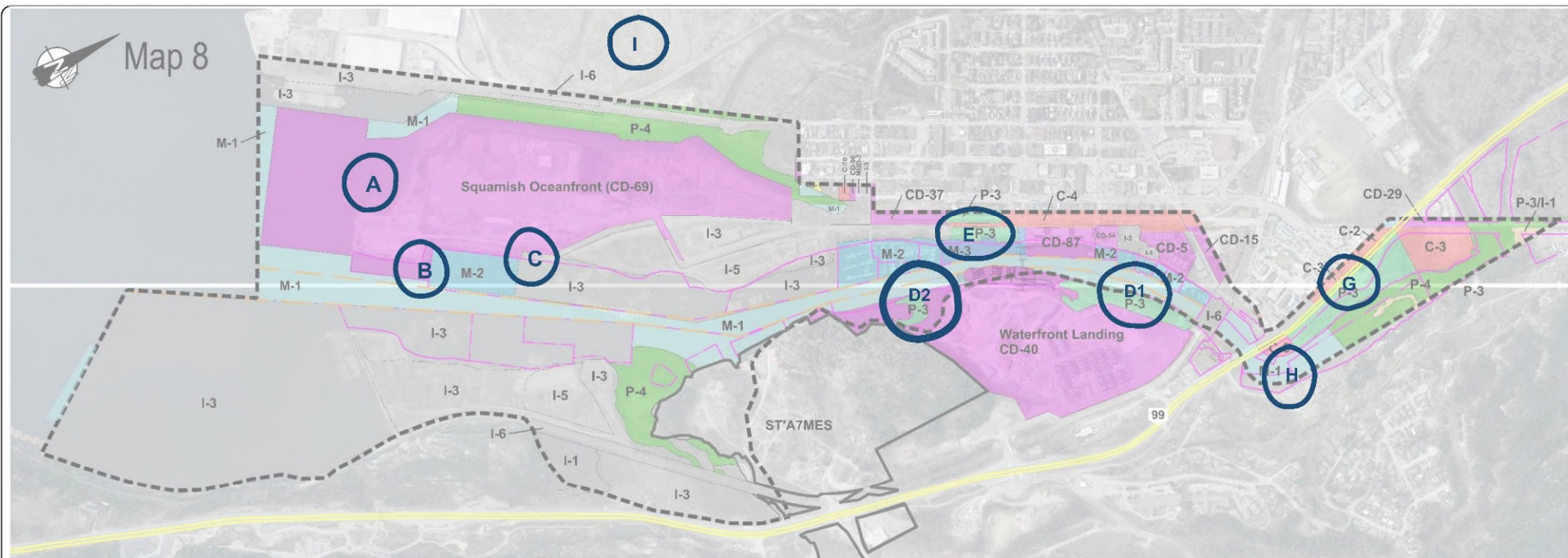
Waterfront Park Inventory + Amenities

Existing + Future Proposed Waterfront Parks Inventory + Amenities (Table 1)

MAP	Site / Location	Park Class + Zone	Total Area (ha)	Shoreline	Facilities / Amenities										Access + Management	
				Coastal Flood Protection	Public Beach	Waterfront Trail Connectivity	Public Dock or Float	Boat Ramp/ Launch	Vessel Moorage	Temp Drop Off Area	Washroom Facility	Parking	Equipment Storage	Play Areas (kids, pets)	Ownership / Secured Access mechanism	Development Status
A	Sp'akw'us Feather Park, Squamish Oceanfront	District Park (CD-69)	5.55 ha (13.7 acres)	Raised beach profile backshore 15m H	2 beach areas	Perimeter	N/A	Beach	No	Main	Park	44 Back surface	TBD	Dedicated	Dedicated Park	Construction
B	Future Sailing Centre, Squamish Oceanfront	Community Facility (CD-69)	TBD													
C	MBC 'Contemplation' Park, Squamish Oceanfront (MBC West)	Neighbourhood Park TBD Zone	TBD													
D1	Sea and Sky Waterfront Parks (MBC East)	Community Park North (P-3)	North Park 1.77 ha													
D2		Community Park South (P-3)	South Park 0.6 ha 2.56 ha (water lot) Marine Village Area													
E	Xwu'nekw Park, MBC (Victoria + Main)	District Park (P-3) upland; -M-3 Marine Recreation (water)	0.8 ha (upland) 0.8 ha (water)													
F	Winnipeg Public Float, MBC	Community Facility (Sirocco CD-87)	M2 (Marine Mixed Use)													
G	Rose Park, UMBC	District Park P-3 (C-3 parking lot)	3.67 ha (includes parking lot)													
H	Red Bridge Waterfront Park, UMBC	Community Park CD-77	2,260 m2 (0.23 ha)													
I	Wildlife Management Area, Squamish Estuary	Wildlife Management Area (Wildlife Act); Ecological Reserve & Protection Zone (P-4)	673 ha													

- Almost 16+ ha of new waterfront park with marine access opportunities
- Integration of coastal flood protection, habitat enhancement and waterfront trail connectivity
- Clarifies variety of public amenities and facilities

Existing + Future Proposed Waterfront Parks Inventory + Locational Map



MAP	Site / Location	Park Class + Zone
A	Sp'akw'us Feather Park, Squamish Oceanfront	District Park (CD-69)
B	Future Sailing Centre, Squamish Oceanfront	Community Facility (CD-69)
C	MBC 'Contemplation' Park, Squamish Oceanfront (MBC West)	TBD Zone
D1	Sea and Sky Waterfront Parks (MBC East)	Community Park North (P-3)
D2		Community Park South (P-3)
D3		Marine Village
E	Xwu'nekw Park, MBC (Victoria + Main)	District Park (P-3) upland; M-3 Marine Recreation (water)
F	Winnipeg Public Float, MBC	Community Facility (Sirocco CD-87)
G	Rose Park, UMBC	P-3 (C-3 parking lot)
H	Red Bridge Waterfront Park, UMBC	CD-77
I	Wildlife Management Area, Squamish Estuary	Wildlife Protection Area; Ecological Reserve & Protection Zone (P-4)

DISTRICT OF SQUAMISH MARINE ACCESS REVIEW WATER AND LAND USE ZONING

LEGEND:

- STUDY AREA
- DESIGNATED NAVIGATION CHANNEL
- EXISTING WATER LOTS
- ST 'A7MES VILLAGE
- DARREL BAY: MARINE CONTEXT AREA

WATER BASED ZONING (BYLAW 2771):

- MARINE - GENERAL USE (M-1)
- MARINE - MIXED USE (M-2)
- MARINE - RECREATION (M-3)
- MARINE - LOG STORAGE (M-4)
- MARINE - MARINE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE (M-5)

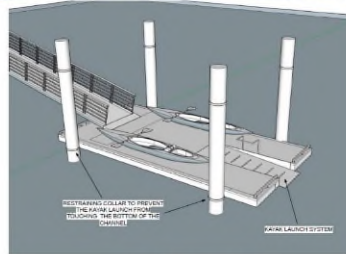
UPLAND ZONING (BYLAW):

- COMMERCIAL (C)
- COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT (CD)
- ECOLOGICAL RESERVE (P-4)
- INDUSTRIAL (I)
- MIXED USE DISTRICT (MUD)
- PARK (P-3, P-5)
- PARK, RECREATION AND INSTITUTIONAL USE
- RESIDENTIAL (RS, RL)
- RESOURCE (RE)

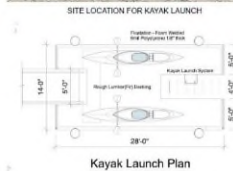
Future Waterfront Park Access Infrastructure examples



RedBridge Development (Upper Mamquam Blind Channel) – Concepts for non-motorised public access (shoreline water access near future bridge and kayak launch from float)



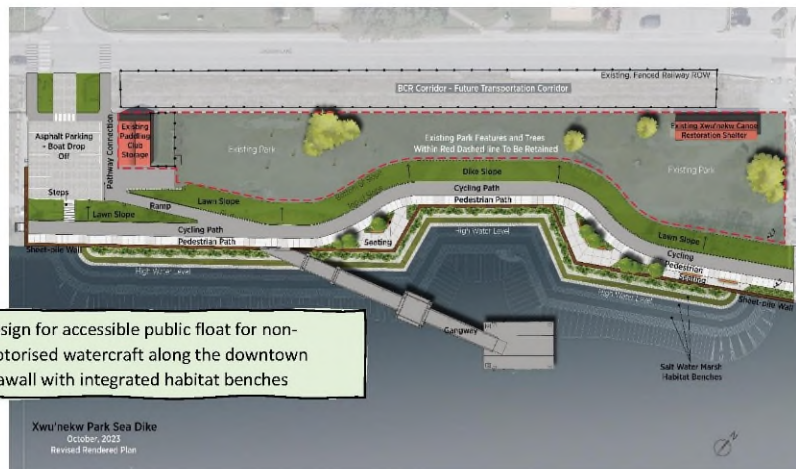
CONCEPT FOR KAYAK LAUNCH



Kayak Launch Plan



Sea and Sky (Waterfront Landing) – South Park concept with non-motorised public access and storage in designated area outside of habitat enhancement zone



Design for accessible public float for non-motorised watercraft along the downtown seawall with integrated habitat benches



Squamish Oceanfront – Waterfront Beach Access at Sp'akw'us Feather Park opening in 2024

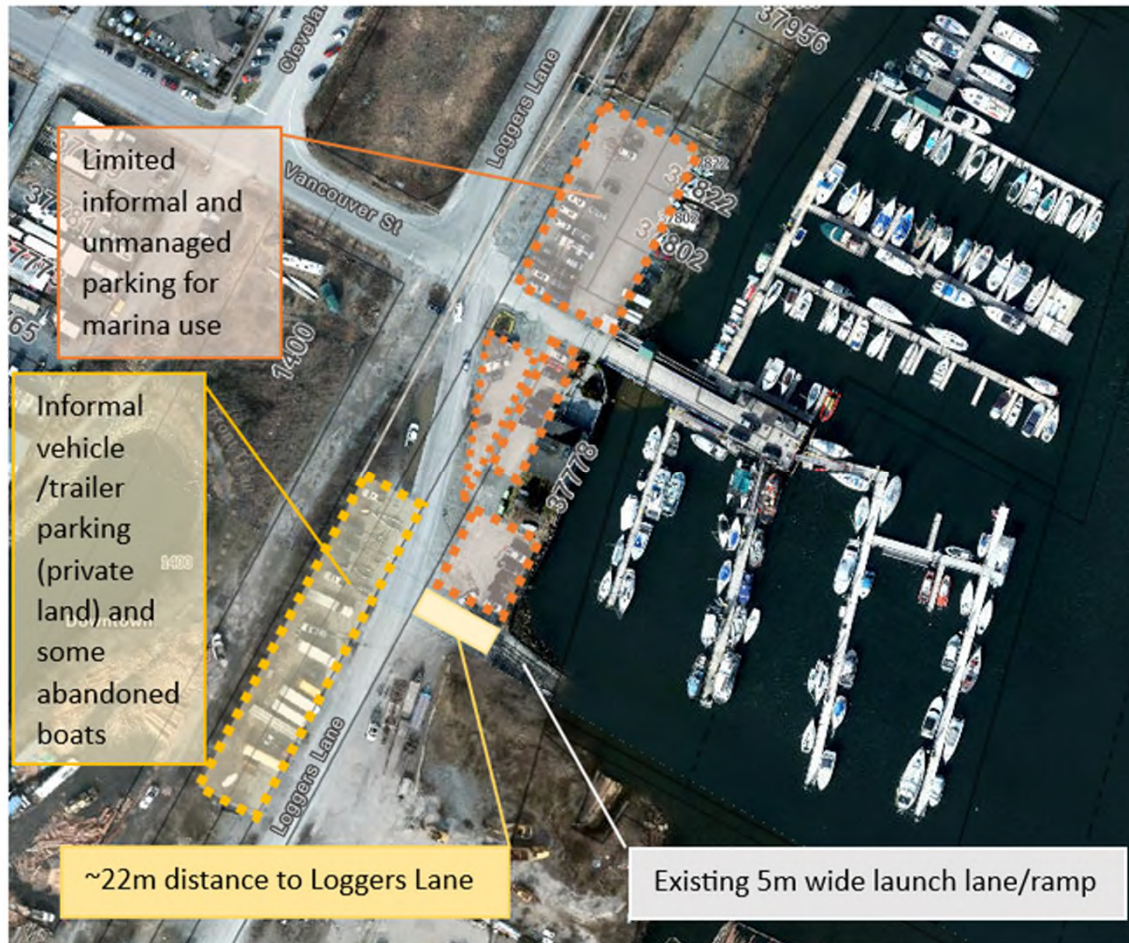


Boat Launch Situation Report

- No defined future site
- Increasing demands on private unmanaged facility
- Shared all-season recreational and commercial use (+both motorized and non-motorized watercraft)
- Unmaintained; in poor physical condition, tidal constraints; unsafe below 8-10', no tie up floats
- Limited capacity and parking (frequent wait times; peak periods)
- MBC sedimentation and water depths (need for dredging for safe navigation)



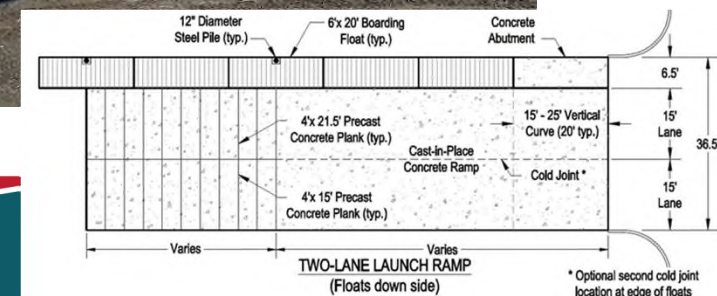
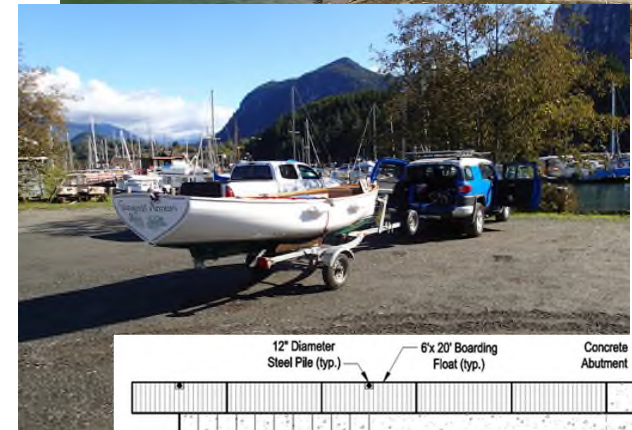
Existing Conditions (Block 45)



- Downtown convenience but congestion on upland and water lot (Small Craft Harbour)
- Limited upland area for maneuvering and parking; poor road network integration
- Physical ramp improvements and additional launch ramp, dedicated day (+ overnight) parking highest priorities for current site

Launch Site Planning + Design Criteria

- Minimum 2 lane facility with parking
- Min 0.7-0.8 ha (1.8 to 2 acres) upland area
- Site circulation and road network integration
- Site suitability:
 - Land and water use adjacencies
 - Integrated or stand-alone facility, or facilities?
 - Potential for shared recreation and commercial use? Also user separation (motorized, non-motorized)
 - Road network and flood hazard integration within downtown vs outside of downtown



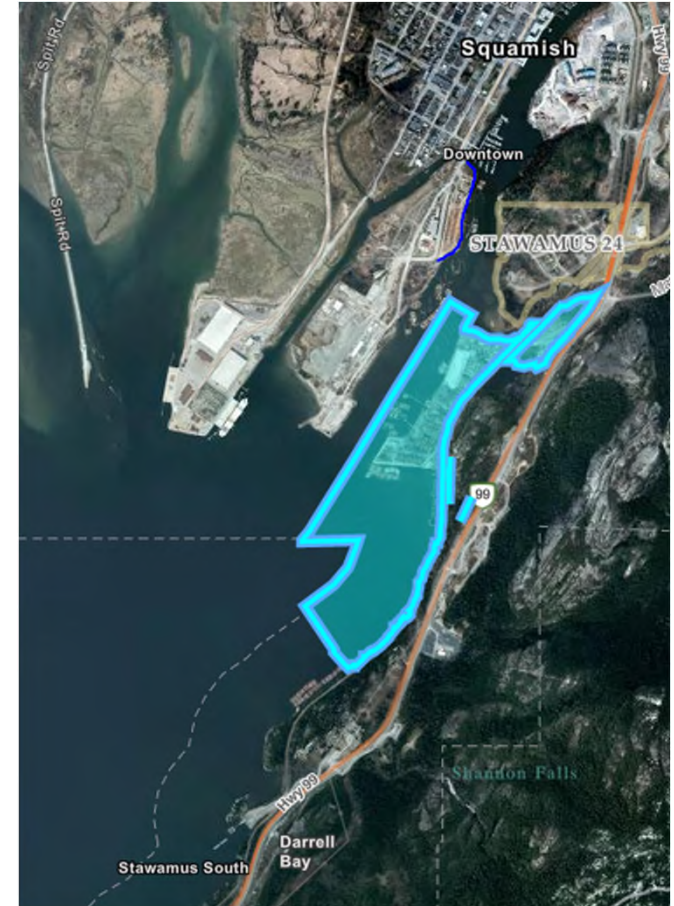
Exploring marine launch+ opportunities



Darrell Bay – long-term future co-location at south bay (M5 Zone)



MBC West – potential synergies with planned commercial node; explore waterfront employment uses and access



Site B – Squamish Nation planning underway; explore marine-supportive uses and access opportunities

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in British Columbia, Canada. The town is nestled between a river and snow-capped mountains. The river flows through the town, with a marina area visible on the left. The mountains in the background are rugged and covered in snow. The foreground shows a sandy beach area with some wooden pilings and debris. The text 'Final' is written in large, red, cursive font across the middle of the image. Below it, 'Marine Access Review' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, 'Recommendations' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Final

Marine Access Review

Recommendations

1 MARINE ACCESS INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

2 COMMUNITY BLUEWAY NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

3 DOWNTOWN MARINE USE PLANNING + MGMT

Recommendations

1 MARINE ACCESS INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

1.1	Maintain and display SMAR Marine Reference Maps identifying existing and planned marine access areas and infrastructure (online). Emphasize navigational and working waterfront areas for community awareness.	Immediate; Ongoing
1.2	Document waterfront park construction periods and work with developers and landowners to communicate short-term parking and staging sites for interim public wayfinding and access.	Immediate; Ongoing
1.3	Budget for, design and install access and educational signage at key marine access sites. Continue to engage with Squamish Nation on priority areas and align signage to protect sensitive marine shoreline and culturally-important areas.	3-5 Years
1.4	Expand the District's <i>Responsible Recreating Guide</i> to include a marine lens and publish information about marine regulations, safety and resources for marine conditions. Work with Squamish Nation, Transport Canada, Squamish Marine Search and Rescue and local stewardship organizations to align content. Contribute towards a community education campaign (May~Safe Boating Month)	1-3 Years
1.5	Engage with the Province of BC and Squamish Nation on least-impact marine recreation access points and necessary signage in the Skwelwil'em Squamish Estuary, in close consultation with local stewardship organizations, recreation user-groups and tourism sector.	1-3 Years



Recommendations

2 COMMUNITY BLUEWAY NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

2.1	Forward SMAR community marine access needs to advance planning for ‘blueways’ in the next <i>Park & Recreation Master Plan</i> update. Detail marine access points and facilities and address identified needs, gaps and opportunities for ongoing park planning coordination. Focus areas to include: • Rose Park revitalization and connectivity to Smoke Bluffs Park waterfront trail network in the UMBC and situating non-motorized water access areas in southern portion of UMBC • Confirming Xwu’nekw Park long-term uses, design and integration of MBC waterfront recreational access and marine transportation connections • Squamish Oceanfront Sailing Centre integration • Sea and Sky South Park planning and marine access amenities	1-3 Years
2.2	Identify and integrate concept of ‘marine adventure hubs’ that can provide basic amenities (signage, waste bin, equipment storage) and coordinate with transportation plans (convenient transportation connections and future shuttles, watercraft drop off areas and short-term + overnight parking for marine trail users, centralized storage, etc).	3-5 Years
2.3	Create and embed Universal Accessibility Guidelines for marine access facilities and docks for community accessibility and launch sites. Address grades, surfacing and other accessible and adaptive design parameters.	3-5 Years

Recommendations

3 DOWNTOWN MARINE USE PLANNING + MGMT

3.1	Advocate for senior funding and partnership opportunities necessary to advance the long-term Mamquam Blind Channel maintenance strategy in close consultation with Squamish Nation.	3-5 Years
3.2	Prioritize planning for siting and securing a permanent multi-ramp boat launch facility in the community. Investigate boat launch and barge ramp feasibility and future integration in identified sites, including Darell Bay, Downtown MBC west, or potential interests and as part of comprehensive Squamish Nation-led planning for marine waterfront lands (Site B and Sta'7mes).	1-3 Years
3.3	Examine and support community land leasing/licensing on a short-term basis to support cost-neutral interim parking and access solutions in the vicinity of the current launch site downtown.	1-3 Years
3.4	Examine and engage on options for integrating long-term infrastructure and support space for marine transportation and safety for community, marine sector and employment areas (fuel dock, secure moorage, support spaces, storage etc).	3-5 Years
3.5	Continue to work with windsports users on seasonal transportation plans for Pepahim (Spit Island) in order to confirm a long-term, accessible boat shuttle staging location.	1-3 Years
3.6	Integrate SMAR engagement inputs and identified needs and priorities as part of a future <i>Marine Sector Impact Study</i> (grant fund dependent) to assess sector-strengthening opportunities related to marine economic activity.	3-5 Years

Supporting MAST Focus Areas + Priorities

Focus Area 1

Governance + Shared Leadership

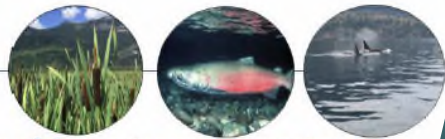
Mobilize shared leadership to enhance coordination and good governance of the marine environment.



Focus Area 2

Coastal Ecosystems

Support stewardship and the protection of the marine environment and our local coastal ecosystems.



Focus Area 3

Marine Economy

Support a thriving marine economy and working waterfront in harmony with community social, cultural, environmental and economic aspirations.



Focus Area 4

Marine Gateway

Enhance the community's connection to the water through an improved, safe and accessible gateway to our local marine environment for the social, cultural and recreational enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.



safe and
effective access
to coastal waters

commercial
recreation +
marine based
business
opportunities

marine industry
access + land use
compatibility

marine-related
infrastructure,
amenities and
facilities

public
waterfront
accessibility

Marine Action Strategy

Recommendations_Main Motion

THAT the Committee:

- Endorse the final District of Squamish Marine Access Review (April 2024);
- Refer the inputs and recommendations gathered as part of the Squamish Marine Access Review to the District's future Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update in 2025; and
- Direct Staff to refer additional priority actions identified in the Squamish Marine Access Review to the Strategic Plan process for further prioritization and budget consideration.

ALTERNATE MOTION

THAT Council:

- Not endorse the District of Squamish Marine Access Review final document and reference maps and direct Staff to allocate resources to other workplan priorities.

A photograph of a couple sitting on a wooden dock by a body of water. The woman is on the left, wearing a striped tank top, and the man is on the right, wearing a grey t-shirt and a green cap. They are both looking out at the water. A blue and white surfboard lies on the dock to the right. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting. The bottom of the image is torn away, revealing a dark grey background.

Thank you!