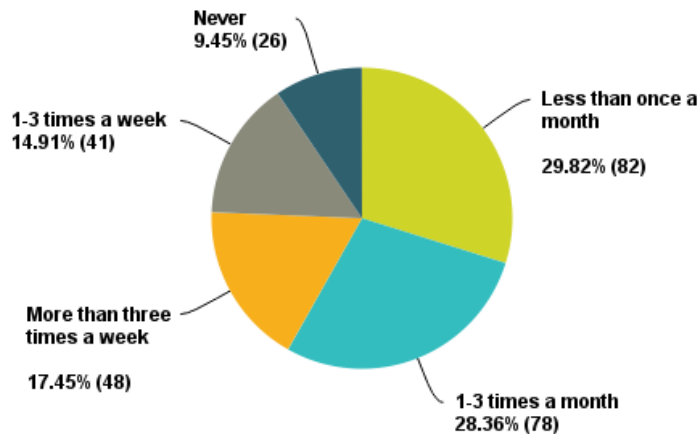


## Bear Lake Survey Results

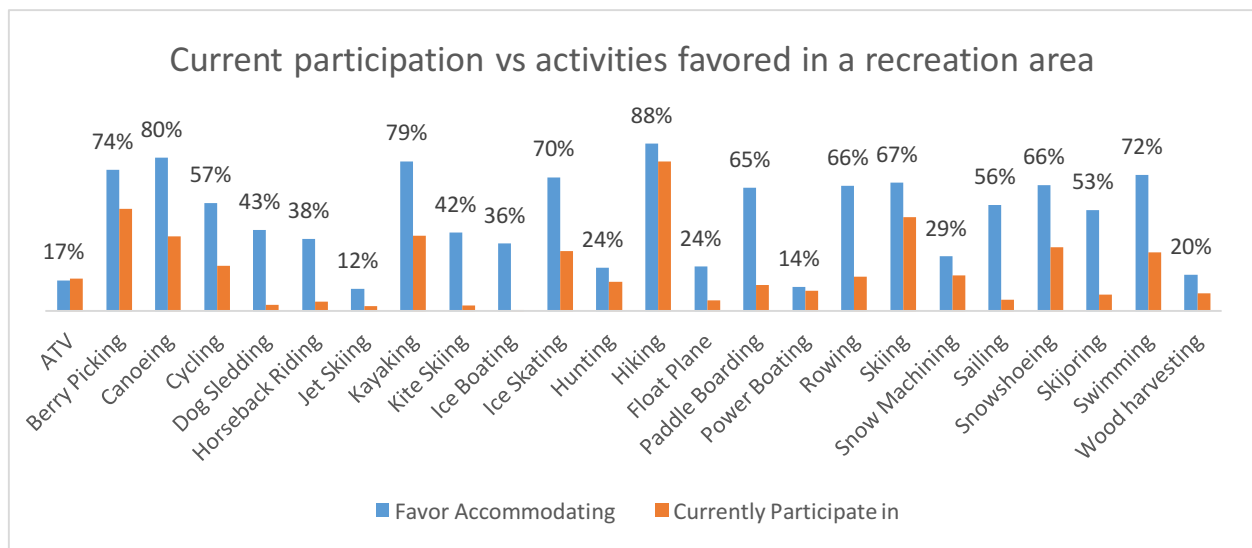
In January of this year the Seward Rotary Club initiated a survey to gauge public interest in developing a recreation area on Bear Lake, utilizing land recently acquired by the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Following are the results of that survey.

### Q1 How often, if ever, do you use Bear Lake for recreation or other uses?

Answered: 275 Skipped: 1



### Question 2 and Question 5



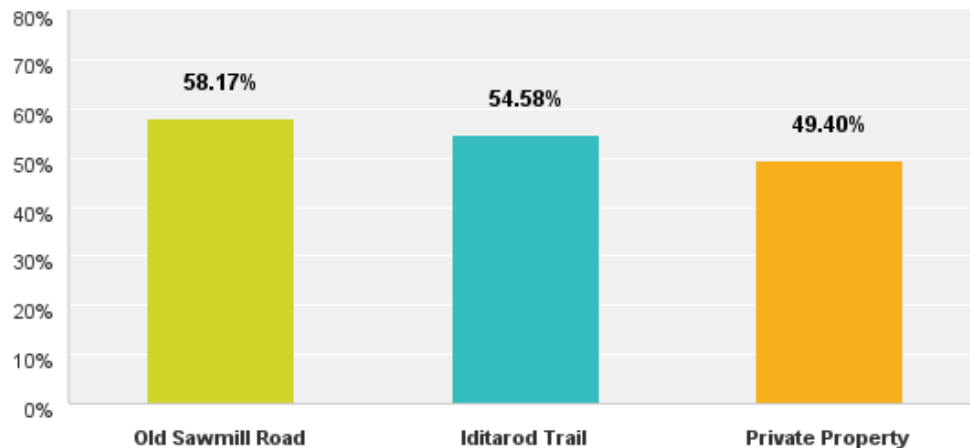
We combined questions 2 and 5 for comparison purposes. The questions asked what activities do you currently participate in on Bear Lake, and what activities do you favor accommodating from a recreation area on Bear Lake if one were set aside. 2910 responses were given from the

## Bear Lake Survey Results

242 that answered question 5, an average of 3.76 per respondent. Responses were varied but large majorities favored hiking, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, snowshoeing and other human-powered sports, while few favored power activities.

### Q3 How do you currently access Bear Lake area?

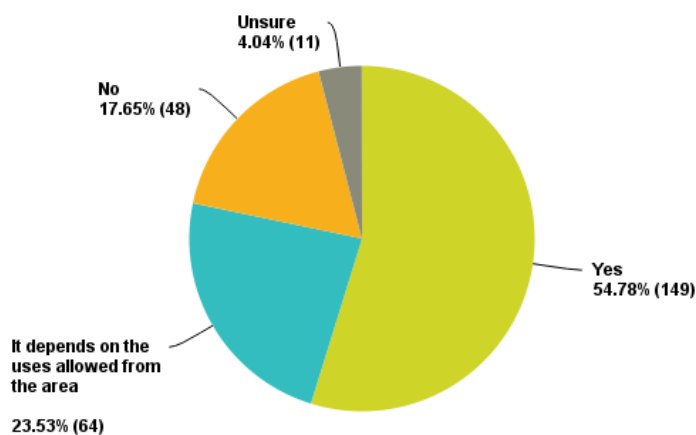
Answered: 251 Skipped: 25



It should be noted that people were not limited to one answer on this question, so obviously many people access the lake from more than one access point.

### Q4 Do you favor setting aside 10-15% of the above-described parcel to be classified as recreational land, for an improved recreation area?

Answered: 272 Skipped: 4



## Bear Lake Survey Results

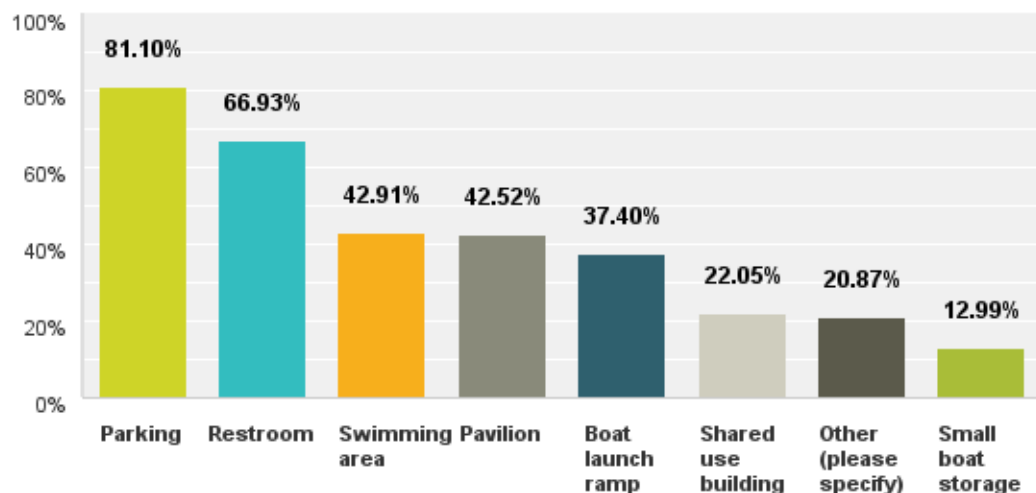
The results overwhelmingly support recreational access of some kind on the newly acquired borough lands.

Question 6. "If a recreation area is set aside, which activities would you prefer NOT to be accommodated?"

Of the 175 people that took the time to fill out this section about activities that they would NOT want accommodated from the proposed area 64% said that noise was a concern and they did not want anything motorized. The respondents concerned about noise were primarily concerned with noise stemming from motors in the area, including boats, ATVs, and snow machines. There was a varied list of other items that respondents wished excluded but no other item was listed by more than 10% of the respondents.

### Q7 If a recreation area is set aside, what improvements would you favor?

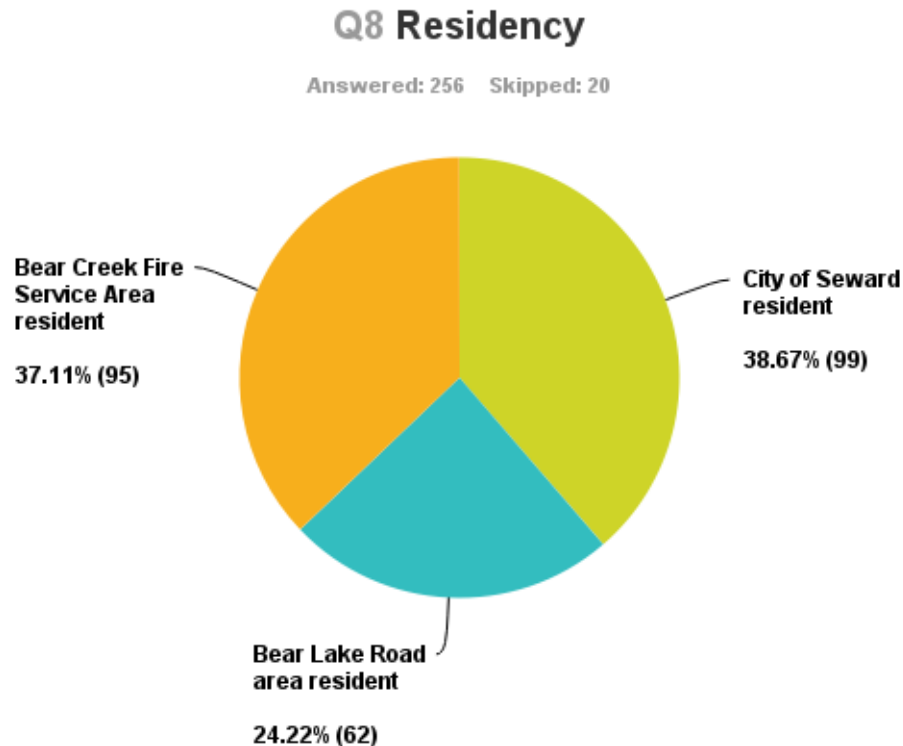
Answered: 254 Skipped: 22



A boat launch ramp is listed as one of the top five things that respondents would like to see as an improvement to a public access area; however, that is interpreted by the results of the survey to be a boat launch for non-motorized vessels such as canoes and kayaks. This analysis considers that in Question 6 regarding which activities people do not want accommodated, 64% of the people commenting said they did not want anything motorized. Also, in Question 5 regarding which activities people would like to see allowed, canoeing and kayaking rank high on the list with 80% of respondents saying they would like those activities accommodated. Currently, only 40% of the people who filled out the survey use the lake for kayaking and canoeing (Question 2). The amount of people who would like to see these non-motorized water sports allowed is double the amount of people who currently have means to safely and easily launch a kayak or canoe in this area. Therefore, if a boat launch area were to be put in, it would

## Bear Lake Survey Results

likely be only for non-motorized vessel use; thereby accommodating the overwhelming response of people who would like to be able to canoe or kayak on the lake, but who do not want any motorized vessels allowed.



62 of the 256 respondents identified themselves as Bear Lake Road area residents, which we feel is an excellent representation of the group of people that would be most affected by any changes to the area.

### General Comments Section:

In the general comment section, respondents were encouraged to add comments about any aspect of this plan that they had opinions on that they wanted to voice. This section is less representative of the survey as a whole as it was not required to be filled out and only 1/3 of the people filling out the survey took the time to write anything specific. Of the people who did write comments, 38% said that they supported the idea of a dedicated public access site on the lake; 34% said they don't want anything to change; 14% said that all 260 acres of the area recently conveyed to the Kenai Peninsula Borough should be set aside for recreation (instead of just the 10-15% as the survey proposed); 11% wanted to know who would maintain a public access area; 4% said that more residential areas in Bear Lake would be a good thing.

## Bear Lake Survey Results

### Analysis-

The survey received a great response from the community with 276 respondents. Receiving feedback from the residents in the Bear Lake area is specifically important because we wanted to be sure that the people who would be the most affected (either positively or negatively) had a chance to voice their opinion in this survey. The point of the survey was to gauge what kind of public response there would be to a proposed public access project on Bear Lake. Based on the results from the general public, it appears that the majority of people who took the time to fill out the survey are in favor of a recreational designation of the land in some form. Major concerns include additional motorized activities being allowed and in general keeping the area as peaceful and natural as possible. Additionally, many respondents would like to know who would be responsible for maintaining the area.

While the Seward Rotary Club took on the significant work of getting this survey done, the club now feels the work going forward should be done by a local citizen action group, using this data, to work through the political process that is necessary to bring a project forward. For the time being, any action or decision made on the development of a recreational access site should be done by this local group. The public input through this process is greatly appreciated and Seward Rotary thanks everyone who took the time to answer this survey.