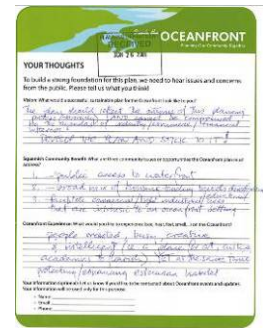


Phase 1 - Starting Off Right: Summary of Comments Received



Prepared by: **HB Lanarc**

For: **District of Squamish**

Date: **July 21, 2008**

Executive Summary

This is a summary of comments received from Squamish community members as part of the District-led Oceanfront planning process. The comments come from many sources, including interviews, flyers returned by mail, community maps and drawings, and comment forms received at the public event on June 28th. Involvement has been good, with some 300 people attending the event, with about 300 individuals accessing the website. It appears participants reflect a good cross-section of community opinion.

The planning team has summarized the main themes as we understand them in this Executive Summary. This is followed by a complete explanation of the feedback, a long list of the comments received, and a summary map compiled from various maps created by the community.

The Planning Team will use this feedback to focus our efforts in the next phase on exploring unresolved issues. For these issues, we will discuss options and their implications with a view to deciding what options are preferred. This work will lead to a statement of preferred policy directions, which will guide drafting of the new plan.

Starting Points

There was support for the principles and goals proposed for the process. As these were consistent with goals and principles discussed in the OCP, the Downtown SAP, and the Smart Growth charrettes, this is not surprising. It indicates that previous work remains a good foundation for planning for the Oceanfront.

- The vision of a sustainable community development, with strong goals, was also supported, with the caution not to be too idealistic.
- Participants highlighted a few things to follow up on, including precedents and the status of site remediation.

Community members highlighted information the team should look into further, including:

- Contamination – extent, status, risks
- Precedents of waterfront development for benchmarking and ideas

Vision: What would a successful, sustainable plan for the Oceanfront look like to you?

The comments that have emerged from public events, comment forms, stakeholder meetings and interviews with the community are diverse, reflecting a range of opinions across the community. The summary below is broken down in relation to the principles, beginning with general comments, then community mapping results, and then comments relating to specific aspects of a community (e.g. transportation).

Broad Vision and Benefits to Squamish

Community members want to make the peninsula:

- an attractive place for people
- a mixed-use neighbourhood
- a regional, destination park
- a fun place
- The Soul of Squamish: The place where residents and guests come to celebrate, year round.
- “A place that will put Squamish on the map”
- “A landscape that the public can enjoy and be proud of”
- A special place.

They also said it should:

- Be a good example of sustainable community, drawing on smart growth and examples from elsewhere.
- Incorporate amenities, events and activities that draw people to the peninsula: “it has to be useful”. Examples include arts and culture, a park, and waterfront access.
- Make sure to protect and enhance the beautiful place that is the Oceanfront.
- Recognize that the Oceanfront is for all people – old and young, rich and poor.

Finally, their questions focused on the role of landowners in the process and how to be sure that the vision is implemented and the plan followed.

Experience of the Oceanfront

Squamish community members want to experience an Oceanfront that is:

- Natural – with sights and sounds of nature all about, and opportunities to ‘feel the sand between my toes’
- A vibrant marine area – with all kinds of people around, and signs of marine activity – from recreation to industry
- Safe, happy, free, a place to be proud of.

Opportunities Mapped

Community mapping highlighted a number of features and ideas that were strongly held by citizens of Squamish, shown on the map on the next page. The highlights are

- A public space at the south beach
- Waterfront access
- A trail network throughout the peninsula
- The estuary
- A marine link/hub at the southeastern corner

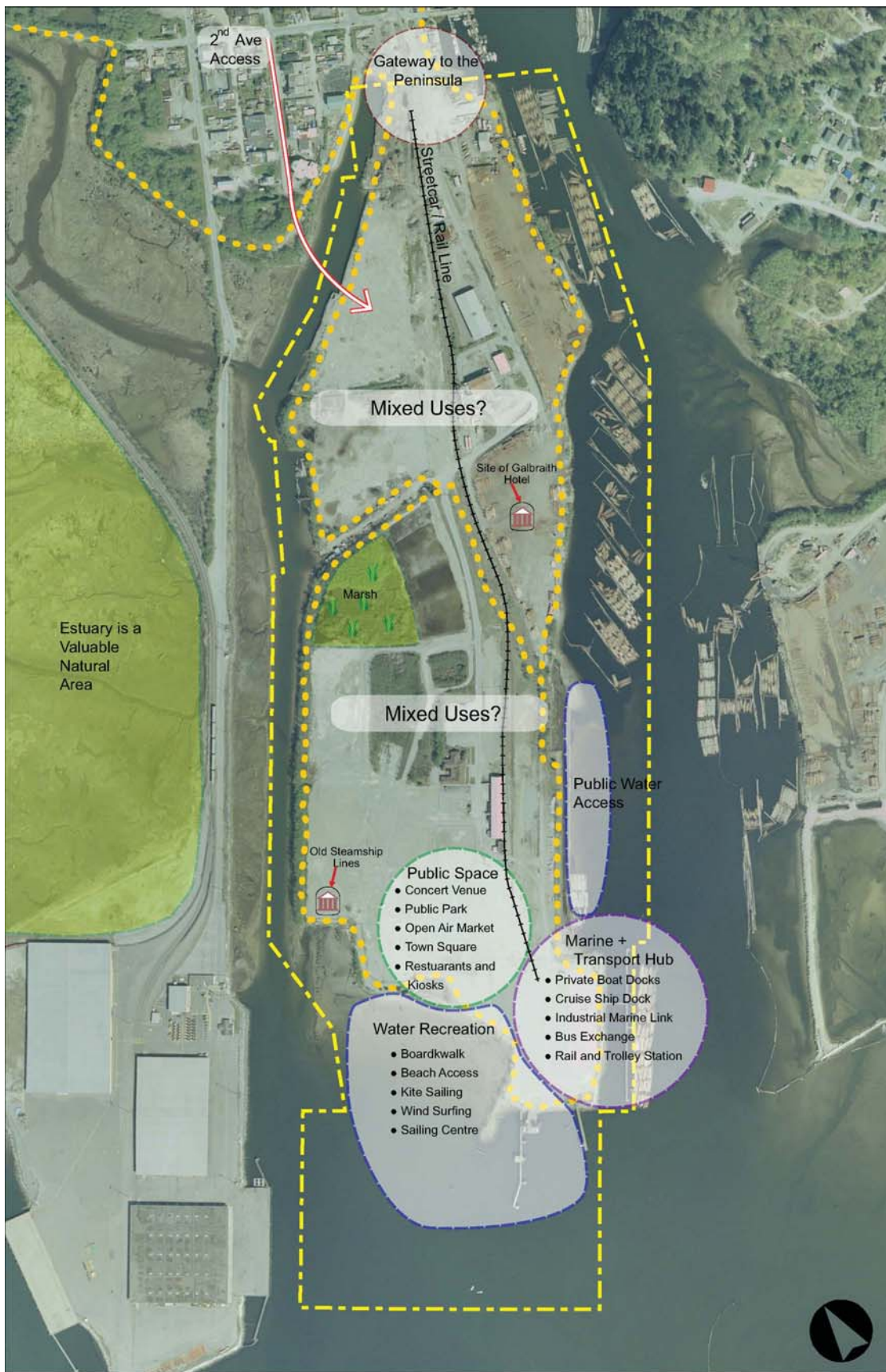


Figure 1: Summary Community Map

Business and Employment

Most participant comments were ideas for different businesses and employment opportunities, while a few would not like these uses on the Oceanfront. The following summarizes their main points made by participants:

- Diverse businesses were suggested, from restaurants and hotels, to recreational industries, to light industrial.
- Creative opportunities were highlighted, including involvement of or reference to First Nations culture.
- Many proposed businesses that can take advantage of the marine waterfront location, such as marinas, boat rentals and a deep sea port.
- Businesses are important to support the tax base and especially to provide local employment.

Housing

Most participant comments saw housing on the Oceanfront as an opportunity, especially in relation to improving the affordability of housing in Squamish, while a few did not support housing. The following summarizes the main housing-related themes:

- Housing can address the disparity between housing costs and incomes in Squamish.
- Provide housing for a mix of incomes and a diverse range of people, lifestyles and ages.
- Include affordable housing such as co-ops and subsidized housing.
- Wind, contamination, and use of homes as recreational properties are top-of-mind concerns to be addressed if housing is to be incorporated.

Transportation and Access

There was strong support for this Principle, captured in one comment: “Think Green Transport.” The community would like the Oceanfront to provide a range of transportation options, including:

- Trails as a priority, linked to downtown and beyond, up the Blind Channel and up the valley.
- Pedestrian and cycling facilities and spaces.
- A streetcar and/or transit service.
- A possible bridge across the Mamquam Blind Channel.
- Regional links, including ferries, rail, and float planes.

Concerns related to parking and bridge locations.

Buildings and Infrastructure

There was strong support for the principles of “a model of green development” and “strong identity” in relation to buildings and infrastructure. In particular:

- Many ideas relate to green buildings and renewable energy systems.
- A wide variety of ideas were presented on building styles, as well as heights
- Ideas and information about showcasing history were provided.
- Maintaining views is very important.

Environment

Community comments support a restorative approach addressing planning and stewardship issues, including:

- Cleaning boat-related pollution and remediating soil
- Foreshore buffers and habitat enhancement
- Reduction of use of pesticides, herbicides, etc.

Community Facilities and Amenities

Residents would like to see many community amenities on the peninsula for the benefit of the entire community. These include:

- Recreational – parks, sports facilities, playgrounds, skateboard areas, a pool or ice rink, docks, beaches, picnic areas, and dog off-leash areas
- Cultural – museum, totem poles, performing arts centre, public art, and an outdoor gathering/event space (SERF, car rallies)
- Educational – link to Capilano University, interpretive trails and signs, educational gardens, “discovery playground”
- Involvement of local artists and history/heritage are both important
- Inclusion of Squamish’s diversity, e.g. multilingual signs, link to First Nations history
- Large public green space “for a one-in-a-million stupendous location”

Introduction

About this Document

This is a summary of comments received from Squamish community members as part of the Oceanfront planning process. This process is led by the District, and will produce a new plan for the whole Oceanfront peninsula in the spring of 2009. The plan will be based on community principles and objectives. More information is available at www.createtheoceanfront.ca, which can also be accessed via the District's website at www.squamish.ca.

The document contains:

- this introduction to the comments and how they'll be used.
- Documentation of the feedback, addressing the "starting points" for the process, visions for the Oceanfront, and experiences people would like to have there. The feedback includes:
 - A brief analysis of the themes as the Planning Team understands them.
 - A list of comments we received, simply documenting them.
 - A map summarizing those drawn by the community.

Public Involvement and Sources of Comments

Many people involved, successful engagement of the community so far

- Around 300 people attended the public event on June 28th
- Some 300 different people have accessed the website, a number of whom added to the interactive on-line map, or commented on other people's submissions
- Some 25-30 people or so took part in meetings with the Planning Team as representatives of community groups
- We received a number of emails and phone calls inquiring about the process and/or offering opinions.

The Planning Team's sense is these people reflect a broad cross-section of the community, with a range of understanding of the process and familiarity with it. Some had been involved with the 2004 charrette for example, while others are new residents of Squamish. As a result, comments ranged widely.

The comments are compiled from these different avenues, as well as comment forms, emails sent to info@createtheoceanfront.ca and planning@squamish.ca, comments received at the public event on Saturday June 28th and phone calls received. They include all correspondence received up to July 3, 2008.

Getting in Touch

The planning team welcomes further thoughts and comments at any time during the process. There are many ways to get in touch:

- Visit www.createtheoceanfront.ca; click on add your comment
- Visit and join the Facebook Group: District of Squamish: Create the Oceanfront, post pictures, add comments to the wall or discussion board
- Send an email comment to info@createtheoceanfront.ca or planning@squamish.ca
- Call 604.688.9769 ext. 123
- Mail your comments to:
Create the Oceanfront
C/o District of Squamish Planning Department
P.O. Box 310, Squamish BC
V8B 0A3
- Drop your comments off at the District of Squamish Planning Office (37955 2nd Ave, Squamish BC)

Next Steps

The Planning Team will use this feedback to focus our efforts in the next phase on unresolved issues.

We have:

- confirmed that our information is generally complete and that the opinions of Squamish residents are similar to those expressed during previous processes,
- identified a few gaps we're now filling,
- found that most issues are resolved or largely resolved, and
- identified a few areas – where more resolution is needed – where we will work with the public to explore options and get direction as to community preferences.

Our next steps are:

- Where issues resolved, we will draft a statement of public policy to capture the directions supported by the community;
- Where issues are not resolved, we will involve the community in exploring them in the next phase of work – options and implications – before drafting policy.
- We will then check with the public that the draft policy does reflect opinions, and refine it where necessary.
- This policy will guide drafting of a new plan in the Spring.

Feedback

We asked a few main questions through our feedback forms. They were:

- What do you think of the “starting points” we have developed for this process, especially the 10 guiding principles?
- What would a sustainable Oceanfront look like? How high should we aim in terms of sustainability?
- What issues and opportunities are most important for the Oceanfront, and for Squamish as a whole?
- What would you like to experience (see, hear, feel, smell, ...) on the Oceanfront?

We organized the comments in this summary generally according to these questions. We also combined responses about what the Oceanfront would look like with those about issues and opportunities, and broke down those responses in a couple of ways:

- We grouped them by topic, roughly corresponding to the 10 principles proposed for the process.
- Within each topic, we included two things:
 - an analytical summary - our understanding of the themes – and
 - a simple documentation of the many opportunities and concerns people identified, much as we received them.

Starting Points – Vision, Principles, Supporting Information

Themes

- There was support for the principles and goals proposed for the process. As these were consistent with goals and principles discussed in the OCP, the Downtown SAP, and the Smart Growth charrettes, this is not surprising. It indicates that previous work remains a reflection of community objectives.
- The vision of a sustainable community development, with strong goals, was also supported, with the caution not to be too idealistic.
- Participants highlighted a few things to follow up on, including precedents and the status of site remediation.

Comments

- “Be practical, use best practices, don’t handcuff the process with idealism”
- Clean up land and waterfront to make it beautiful for everyone to enjoy
- Don’t copy, but reference other community examples for benchmarks and ideas
- SLRD growth study important
- Consider sediment contamination

10 Principles

Given the support for the “Create the Oceanfront: Planning our Community Together” planning process will rely on 10 principles, which are compiled from the Official Community Plan, the Downtown Waterfront Concept Plan, and the Downtown Sub-Area Plan, the process will rely on them – and we documented comments in relation to them. For reference, they are:

Principle 1: Contributes to Squamish: enhances the vitality of Downtown, Squamish as a whole, and the Sea-to-Sky corridor.

Principle 2: Strong Identity: Enhances the sense of community, history, and connection with the natural world, celebrating the uniqueness of Squamish and the Oceanfront itself.

Principle 3: Complete Community: Encourages a healthy, diverse, and vital mix of uses.

Principle 4: Economic Viability and Vitality: Ensures the plan is viable, and supports long-term economic prosperity and resilience through diverse business and employment opportunities.

Principle 5: Housing for the Whole Community: Provides a diversity of housing to match community needs.

Principle 6: Access for All: Ensures public access to the waterfront, and emphasises options to the car.

Principle 7: A Model of Green Development: Buildings and infrastructure that are greener, smarter and cheaper; support for a secure and resilient local food system.

Principle 8: Environmentally Restorative: In harmony with natural systems, protects and enhances the environment.

Principle 9: Enhanced Liveability: Designed for safe, healthy experiences, and facilitates social interaction.

Principle 10: Everyone has a Voice: Base planning decisions on an effective, transparent and inclusive public process.

Vision: What would a successful, sustainable plan for the Oceanfront look like to you?

The comments that have emerged from public events, comment forms, stakeholder meetings and interviews with the community are diverse, reflecting a range of opinions across the community. The summary below is broken down in relation to the principles,

beginning with general comments, illustrating ideas through the community mapping results, and then comments relating to specific aspects of a community (e.g. transportation).

Broad Vision & Benefits to Squamish

These are ideas and statements that encompass the entire peninsula and capture the essence of what residents feel about the oceanfront lands. They relate to four principles:

- Principle 1: Contributes to Squamish
- Principle 2: Strong Identity
- Principle 3: Complete Community
- Principle 10: Everyone has a Voice

Themes

- Make the peninsula:
 - an attractive place for people
 - a mixed-use neighbourhood
 - a regional, destination park
 - a fun place
 - the “Soul of Squamish”: the place where residents and guests come to celebrate, year round.
 - “A place that will put Squamish on the map”
 - “A landscape that the public can enjoy and be proud of”
 - A special place.
- Use the stunning natural setting to create a unique look for the peninsula.
- Be a good example of sustainable community, drawing on smart growth and examples from elsewhere.
- Incorporate amenities, events and activities that draw people to the peninsula. Examples include arts and culture, a park, and waterfront access.
- Make sure to protect and enhance the beautiful place that is the Oceanfront.
- It is important to recognize that the Oceanfront is for all people – old and young, rich and poor.
- Finally, their questions focused on the role of landowners in the process and how to be sure that the vision is implemented and the plan followed.

Opportunities

- “Nexen lands are for the people of Squamish”.
- “Our Oceanfront should be protected as a park that people want to come and enjoy”
- Limit vehicle traffic; make some areas of the peninsula traffic free.

- The plan will consider all ages and stages in the community from early childhood to seniors.
- Most people would like to see public waterfront access around the entire peninsula
- Most residents would like to have “freedom of access” to the peninsula and universal access to the beach.
- The residents of Squamish want clean water in Howe Sound that would allow clean, safe and accessible beaches for swimming. They would like the contaminated land and water cleaned up to safe levels.
- Some residents want the Oceanfront peninsula to be an economically viable area. (i.e. not funded by the tax payers)
- Many residents would like to see arts and culture as a focus of the peninsula.
- Residents feel that development should enhance the small town feel of Squamish.
- Some residents would like to see the creation of a regional attraction on the peninsula creating a destination that will attract people.
- Others warn that Squamish must “Choose your Anchors Well”
- Some suggest that other examples of sustainable development should be used to guide development of the peninsula.
- Create a new five star community on the Oceanfront peninsula.
- Use the principles of Smart Growth on the Ground
- Showcase the historical uses of the site (logging etc.).
- Approach the federal and provincial government to be an anchor tenant on the oceanfront peninsula.
- Provide low cost and no cost opportunities and activities.
- Increase visitation to downtown

Concerns and Questions

People expressed the following concerns:

- Many Squamish residents currently enjoy using the peninsula and value the existing trail. “Do not ruin what is already there” is a common concern.
- Some residents would like to see no residential/commercial/industrial development and prefer that the entire peninsula be set aside as parkland for the benefit of the Squamish community.
- Some residents believe that the Oceanfront Peninsula should be left alone for 25 years. Instead Squamish should focus on the existing downtown especially the empty lots.
- Move quickly, this is taking too long
- I don’t trust the Squamish Oceanfront Development Corporation; dissolve it and use the District Staff instead to manage the peninsula lands.
- I am concerned that the land will be sold to the highest bidder

- Most residents do not want to see large format retail downtown. Instead they want to support diverse small and local business opportunities.
- Some residents cite Granville Island in Vancouver as a model; others would prefer that Granville Island type development be avoided.
- Divide development into phases, not all at once.
- Most want to ensure that the peninsula is accessible for all ages and stages of life.
- The Oceanfront peninsula is too beautiful to develop, leave it as is
- “Not just for the rich”
- “People with money are part of the community too”
- Many people would like to see the District retain ownership of the waterfront.
- “No personal ownership of the shoreline”

People also had some specific questions:

- “Why do we need this plan now? Can’t it wait?”
- “What guarantee is there that these recommendations will be followed?”
- “What are the land owners priorities and agendas?”
- “With climate global warming, how long will the lands be there?”

Opportunities Mapped

Community mapping highlighted a number of features and ideas that were strongly held by citizens of Squamish, shown on the map on the next page. The highlights are:

- A public space at the south beach
- Waterfront access
- A trail network throughout the peninsula
- The estuary
- A marine link/hub at the southeastern corner

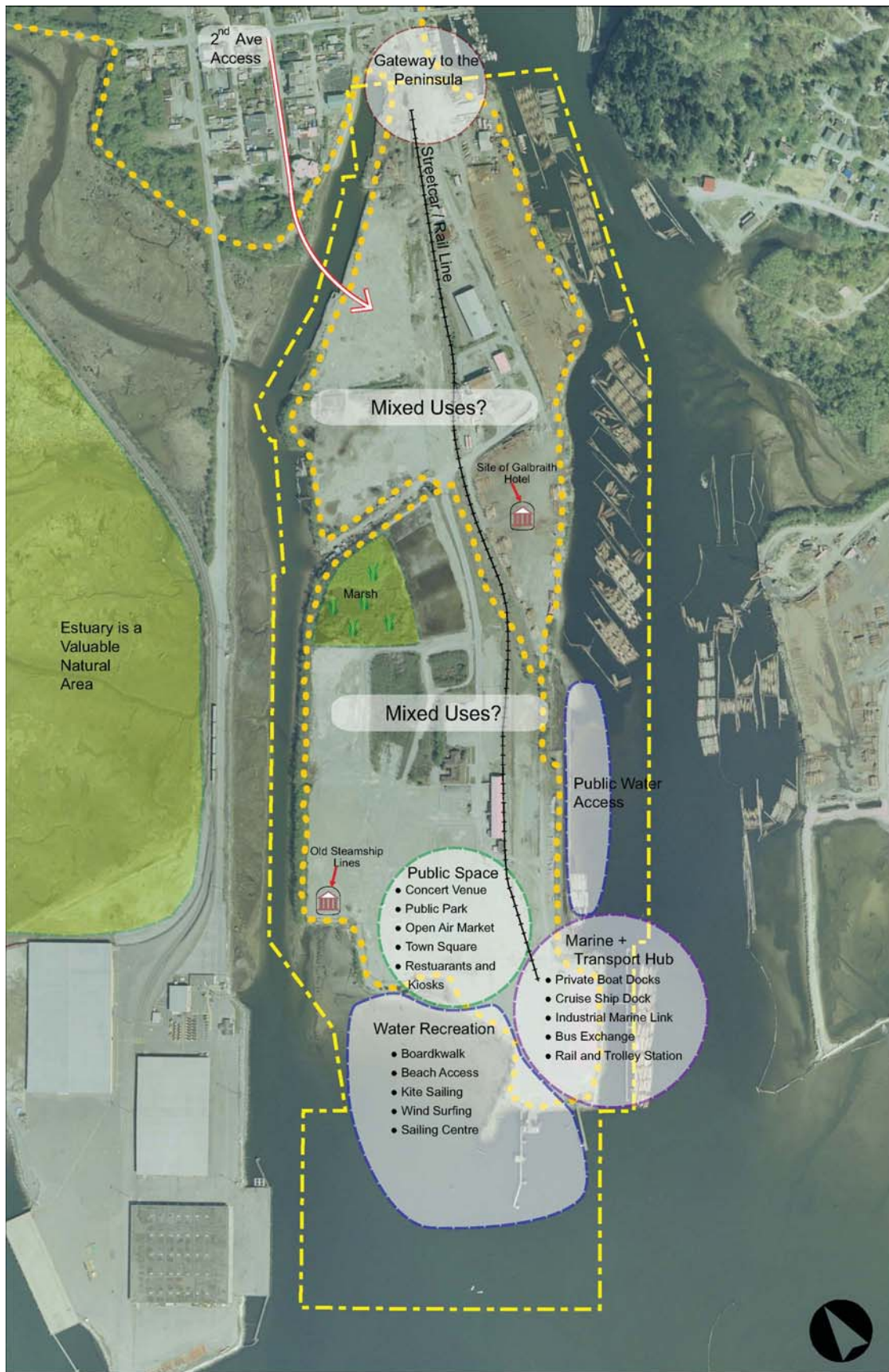


Figure 1: Summary Community Map

Business and Employment

These ideas, opportunities and concerns relate to Principle 3: Complete Community and Principle 4: Economic Viability and Vitality.

Themes

Most participant comments were ideas for different businesses and employment opportunities, while a few would not like these uses on the Oceanfront. The following summarizes their main points made by participants:

- Diverse businesses were suggested, from restaurants and hotels, to recreational industries, to light industrial.
- Creative opportunities were highlighted, including involvement of or reference to First Nations culture.
- Many proposed businesses that can take advantage of the marine waterfront location, such as marinas, boat rentals and a deep sea port.
- Businesses are important to support the tax base and especially to provide local employment.

Opportunities

- High quality employment; not just tourism jobs
- Commercial space for a diversity of businesses
- Space for recreational industries: Kayaking rentals; Windsurf rentals; water skiing
- Restaurant on site (family friendly) all day restaurant – all healthy meals with a local grown flavour – use local foods and herbs etc
- Restaurant on site (couples friendly) evening restaurant
- First nation food restaurant on site – bannock, salmon, berry ice cream, to name a few items
- Weekend entertainers on site – jugglers, singers, comics, storytellers
- Commercial/light industrial (intrinsic to Oceanfront Setting) take advantage of deep water access
- Creative Community; Arts/Cultural centre; First Nations displays; Theatre/Dance
- Cafes/Bistros with patios
- Marina with boat rentals
- Pottery Studio
- Recycling programs for businesses (like Whistler/Blackcomb)
- Support for the farmers market and existing businesses
- Boat building (with observation area); recreational boating industry
- Waterfront hotel; Hostel and tourist accommodation
- Mobile concession stands
- Light marine and industrial

- Need light industry
- Wind Power opportunities
- A federal government building
- Wellness centre
- Deep sea port to accommodate all ship sizes
- Enhance the tourist experience
- Provide for recreational and boating industry

Concerns

- Loss of tax base due to the decline in the resource industries → Rebuild the industrial tax base to make up for this
- No heavy industry; No Big Box stores; No Drive-Through; No Industrial
- No stores at all

Housing

These ideas, opportunities and concerns relate to Principle 3: Complete Community and Principle 5: Housing for the Whole Community.

Themes

Most participant comments saw housing on the Oceanfront as an opportunity, especially in relation to improving the affordability of housing in Squamish, while a few did not support housing. The following summarizes the main housing-related themes:

- Housing can address the disparity between housing costs and incomes in Squamish.
- Provide housing for a mix of incomes and a diverse range of people, lifestyles and ages.
- Include affordable housing such as co-ops and subsidized housing.
- Wind, contamination, and use of homes as recreational properties are top-of-mind concerns to be addressed if housing is to be incorporated.

Opportunities

- Develop the Westmana and BCR lands for housing and commercial
- Include affordable housing for families and seniors in and around the park area.
- Preserve and expand housing affordability.
- The Government should subsidize affordable housing.
- Mix of housing types and densities
- Include Co-op housing
- Need residential

Concerns

- “Does Squamish need more housing?”
- “Peninsula cannot support high density housing”
- I am concerned about losing artists and young families to high house prices; i.e. they will move elsewhere.
- No absentee homeowners: We need a “Need to Reside Clause” to avoid recreational properties sitting empty while local residents cannot afford to live here.
- I am concerned about the high cost of housing in Squamish”
- “The peninsula is not suitable for residential due to wind and contamination”
- Keep housing in the existing downtown, not on the oceanfront peninsula.

Transportation and Access

These ideas, opportunities and concerns relate to Principle 6: Access for All.

Themes

There was strong support for this Principle, captured in one comment: “Think Green Transport.” The community would like the Oceanfront to provide a range of transportation options, including:

- Trails as a priority, linked to downtown and beyond, up the Blind Channel and up the valley.
- Pedestrian and cycling facilities and spaces.
- A streetcar and/or transit service.
- A potential bridge across Mamquam Blind Channel.
- Regional links, including ferries, rail, and float planes.

Opportunities

- Connect the peninsula to downtown and beyond – via streetcars, ferries, and/or rail
- Ferries across the channels and commuter ferry to Downtown Vancouver, Sunshine Coast
- Provide alternatives to cars
- Trails throughout the peninsula integrated with existing trail network
- All trails and pathways are paved and safe and designed to accommodate people of all abilities
- Trails are marked with distance measures
- Trail links to the spit area
- roller blade, walking paths
- Pedestrian only areas (around retail)

- Special parking stalls for parents and people with disabilities
- Rent a bike stations
- designated bike paths; 2 way, paved; circular route connected to downtown
- Connected to downtown with a greenways network
- Docks for rentals, water taxis, kayak launch, bikes
- Bike racks throughout; will help downtown business get maximum traffic
- Provide a float plane facility on the peninsula.
- Provide transit access to the peninsula
- Link to Whistler Valley trail
- Commuter train to Vancouver
- Build the Westminster Street bridge
- Scenario 5 preferred (CTS report)
- Major bridge to create looped traffic flow off the highway

Concerns

- Limit parking
- Not a level crossing bridge by CN rail line
- Prepare for a future of constrained energy use where people may move around a lot less.

Buildings and Infrastructure

These ideas, opportunities and concerns relate to Principle 7: A model of Green Development.

Themes

There was strong support for the principles of "a model of green development" and "strong identity" in relation to buildings and infrastructure. In particular:

- Many ideas relate to green buildings and energy systems.
- A wide variety of ideas were presented on building styles, as well as heights
- Maintaining views is very important

Opportunities

- Modern west coast style
- Varied building styles
- Architectural theme (nautical/logging/outdoor recreation)
- Build LEED / green buildings
- Resource and Energy efficiency; use only renewable resources
- Use Solar and Geothermal energy systems for buildings;
- Use district energy systems to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

- Energy infrastructure: wind, solar, tidal, sea water (look for government subsidies)
- Dual flush toilets, low flow fixtures, energy saving appliances
- Solar panels and geothermal
- Skylights
- Build and allow live-work spaces
- Higher buildings in Centre;
- 2/3/4 storeys maximum height.
- High and skinny
- Keep housing and buildings back from beaches and waterfront
- Commercial at grade
- Take advantage of views; maintain views; Corridor views down streets
- Roof top parks
- Courtyards for residential buildings

Concerns

- No high-rises. No single family detached
- Loss of local character
- Loss of views to mountains and ocean
- “No condo farm! Mix Use!”
- “Not Granville Island, not mini-whistler”
- Keep existing trees
- Consider sea level rise

Environment

These ideas, opportunities and concerns relate to Principle 8: Environmentally Restorative.

Themes

Community comments support a restorative approach addressing planning and stewardship issues, including:

- Cleaning boat-related pollution and remediating soil
- Foreshore buffers and habitat enhancement
- Reduction of use of pesticides, herbicides, etc.

Opportunities

- Protect and enhance the foreshore area and estuarine habitat from anthropogenic influences
- Buffer East and West edges

- Stabilizing and native plant species along foreshore
- Support wildlife habitat; create bird habitat
- Water purification plant to offset boat pollution

Concerns

- Clean up Contamination
- Diminishing Green space
- No use of pesticides & herbicides; Non-biodegradable soaps etc.
- Trees disappear with development – be tree-friendly

Community Facilities and Amenities

These ideas, opportunities and concerns relate to Principle 9: Enhanced Liveability. The idea of liveability incorporates safety, health, and recreation, among other elements that make daily life comfortable and enjoyable. It is enhanced by the facilities & amenities that are used by residents in the community.

Themes

Residents would like to see many community amenities on the peninsula for the benefit of the entire community. These include:

- Recreational – parks, sports facilities, playgrounds, skateboard areas, a pool or ice rink, docks, beaches, picnic areas, and dog off-leash areas
- Cultural – museum, totem poles, performing arts centre, public art, and an outdoor gathering/event space (SERF, car rallies)
- Educational – link to Capilano University, interpretive trails and signs, educational gardens, “discovery playground”
- Involvement of local artists and history/heritage are both important
- Inclusion of Squamish’s diversity, e.g. multilingual signs, link to First Nations history
- Large public green space “for a one-in-a-million stupendous location”

Recreational Opportunities

- Activity areas for seniors to enjoy lawn bowling and other activities.
- A free water park for all families and children to enjoy.
- Seasonal activities – ponds that could become outdoor ice rinks in the winter
- Lawn areas and sand areas for play
- Develop an accessible playground so that all children can play there – add platforms, special surfacing, specialized swings, etc.
- Multipurpose space in housing units for community programs (day care, preschool, parent child activities, seniors, food kitchens, and more)
- Childrens’ play areas; Games area for children (hopscotch, tether ball, square ball, marbles, jacks)

- Games area for all ages (volleyball net, badminton net, ping pong)
- Skate board area for skateboarders
- Camping area for families (tents only)
- Picnic areas with BBQ pits
- Dog off leash areas; Pet friendly areas and pet friendly swimming area
- Ocean pool / Outdoor pool, heated covered with glass for year round use
- Increase beach area
- Ice arena (1500-3000 capacity) to attract people downtown.
- Park at least as big as Ambleside
- Docks
- Beach volley ball
- At least 55% park
- Grassy areas
- Funky fun area
- A Par 3 Golf course for all ages

Cultural Opportunities

- Museum on site.
- Totem Pole in the park or a variety of totems like UBC had.
- Entertainment station (stage area which could be used for music events, outdoor summer theatre, etc); performing arts centre
- Tepee for storytelling events and history lessons
- Outdoor amphitheatre to block wind; concert venue
- Public art
- Opportunities for the arts
- SERF needs beach and open space
- Outdoor Gathering Space – a place for outdoor shows

Educational Opportunities

- Discovery area playground for children to learn more about the things in nature around them – hollowed tree, science discovery hands on area, etc.
- Park name should come from our First Nations community
- A community garden used to grow local foods and used to donate to programs in the community or to the free food café on site
- Accessible garden plots built up in height so seniors and people in wheelchairs can easily access
- Nature gardens – butterfly garden

- Special trails (accessible surfacing for all abilities) for travelling on with old logs transformed into pieces of art history of community – example logs cut, shaped, and designed into various historic people and nature objects along the way with plaques describing these.
- Locate Capilano University on the peninsula
- Arts centre partnering with educational and sports groups (e.g. Multi activity Summer camps)

General Comments

- Benches and mini benches for children. Benches designed locally to highlight some of our community artists and designed with historic renderings
- Accessible washrooms with change tables for parents
- Food Café's set up in locations with free seasonal fruits and vegetables from local distributors (funded by community partners) so that all children and families can access healthy snacks.
- Water taps available so that families and children can access water to drink for free if water is ok in Squamish (not sure)
- Signage includes our key languages – English, Punjabi, First Nation, etc. NOT JUST ENGLISH SIGNS
- Heritage signs with interpretation panels
- Water ponds along trails with local habitat featured
- Seawall with viewpoints
- Wind protection
- Bear proof garbage cans
- Lots of trees and shade
- Car and motorcycle rallies
- Volunteers on site to help oversee play areas
- More than 5% green space
- Childcare facilities

Oceanfront Experience: What would you like to experience (see, hear, feel, smell,...) on the Oceanfront?

Summary

Squamish community members want to experience an Oceanfront that is:

- Natural – with sights and sounds of nature all about, and opportunities to 'feel the sand between my toes'
- A vibrant marine area – with all kinds of people around, and signs of marine activity – from recreation to industry

- Safe, happy, free, to be proud of

Hear

- nature sounds as you walk around
- no commercial noise
- Bird; seagulls
- Ocean waves and wind
- Happy sounds
- Highway noise is buffered by natural landscaping and Trees

See

- wondrous things that you would not see elsewhere to invite participation from community and from tourists
- sitting spaces
- grassland
- A clean oceanfront
- Wildlife
- Children playing
- Beach at South end for public use
- Music and cultural events
- Unique shops
- Birds
- Native flowers
- People walking and biking
- Busy working waterfront with tugs, barges, freighters (south end); pleasure boats, kayaks, canoes (in channels)
- Wind surfers
- Heavy marine influence – charters, transit, boat launch, cruise area
- Picnic and gathering areas
- Howe Sound and views to the Chief

Feel

- textures, hands on activities (garden)
- wind
- Safe, happy, proud of the beauty
- Market feel
- I want to experience nature

- The sand between my toes
- Freedom

Smell

- garden and plant scents
- salty ocean air
- food
- the raw smell of the beach
- no tobacco smoke

Do

- Fly kites
- Sit and read, relax, people watch
- Dinning by the water
- I would like to put my feet in the water and sand
- High degree of Interaction with Green space/estuary/water/scenery – this will make it special.