



Lake Safety Public Engagement Summary

As part of the first phase of the Lake Management Plan, the City of Chestermere asked for your feedback about Lake Safety. This report summarizes the results from the open houses, online engagement tools and user experience interviews held in December 2018 and January 2019.

Summary of Findings: Through this engagement process the City's Parks and Recreation team has been able to define the areas of greatest safety concern on the Lake to the following: traffic, speed, conflicting Lake activities, and lack of boating etiquette. Many participants suggested possible solutions including increasing enforcement, zoning areas of the Lake for certain activities, and public education.

The data collected through this engagement process is the first step in understanding the issues which will then lead the City into the next phase of the process; solution generation.

Below is a more detailed breakdown of the public engagement activities and results.

Detailed description of Public Engagement Activities:

The Events:

The in-person open houses were hosted at Camp Chestermere on Dec. 10th, and the Chestermere Recreation Centre on Dec. 12th. Participants were presented with 9 questions to provide feedback on, including a mapping exercise. Online, participants were presented the same questions as the open house, and also asked to participate in an online survey. A Q&A section was also available. Finally, user experience interviews were conducted to learn more about specific types of activities that happen on the Lake.

Who Participated?

Open-Houses

Participant Type	Open House #1 – Camp Chestermere	Open House #2 – Online Forum	Open House # 3 – Chestermere Recreation Centre
Chestermere Non-Lakefront Residents	8	unknown	8
Lakefront Home Owners	26	unknown	7
Open House Totals:	34	25	15
		Total Open Participants:	74

User Experience Interviews

Participant Type	# of participants
Motorized- Towing Activity Lake User	1
Swimmer	1
Non-motorized Lake User	1
Calgary Yacht Club	1
Camp Chestermere	1
Chestermere Landing	1
Total:	6

What Participants Said:

- **Traffic was an issue during specific time periods:**
 - o Summer weekends were discussed as being the busiest, specifically between 11:00 am – 9:00 pm when the weather was hot.
 - o Summer evenings from 4:00 pm – 9:00 pm were described as busy
 - o Winter weekdays were most often described as quiet
 - o Winter weekends were described as being generally quiet with the occasional mild day that may be busy
- **Speed was indicated as a problem in the following ways:**
 - o Jet skis were noted most often as being the vehicles observed to be speeding
 - o Skidoos were noted for incidents of excessive speed
 - o Over all participants stated the need for speed limits on the Lake all year round
- **Participants said enforcement is needed on the Lake to:**
 - o Monitor special events
 - o Address reckless driving
 - o Address impaired boating
 - o Enforce speed limits
 - o Provide public education about safe boating
 - o Deal with noise issues
 - o Increase presence on busy days
- **Participants said that conflicts on the Lake are occurring such as:**
 - o Rental jet ski use and the negative impact reckless boating has on other lake activities
 - o Non-motorized lake uses conflicting with motorized boating and vice versa
 - o The impact that towing activities have on other lake activities – ex. wakes, patterns of use, space needed to safely tow
 - o The area directly South of the bridge is a location where many uses converge and is a noted point of conflict by participants ex. Fishing, swimming, motorized boating, non-motorized boating and jet ski rental use



- **Participants suggested that zoning of activity on the Lake is needed. Ideas included:**
 - o Areas designated for non-motorized activity
 - o Areas designated for motorize activities such as towing
 - o Designated times or days of the week when certain activities would be encouraged or discouraged to improve safety and decrease noise disturbances
 - o No wake zones e.g. South of the bridge

- **Participants said that public education about lake safety and boating etiquette is needed in the following areas:**
 - o Travelling too close to towing activities
 - o More invasive species education
 - o Requiring rental operations to ensure users have a proper boating license and are informed of boating etiquette
 - o Boats and winterized vehicles using lights in the evening
 - o Signage to communicate boating etiquette and federal regulations

- **Special events were generally supported with the following exceptions:**
 - o The need for more enforcement presence on the Lake during special events
 - o Multi-day events can monopolize the Lake
 - o Better communication about when and where events are taking place is needed
 - o Where boaters are allowed to boat during these events

Survey Results Summary

The survey was developed to collect primarily quantitative data to better understand user behaviour on the Lake including, peak days of use, types of boating activity and perceptions of safety on the Lake.

Who Participated?

Participant Type	# of participants
Chestermere Residents	44 Lakefront Homeowners
Lakefront Home Owners(who do not directly live on the Lake)	38 Chestermere Residents
Total:	82 participants

Survey Result Analysis

The survey showed the high frequency of use in the summer and the general decline in winter. Participants indicated they are most often boating on the Lake with the next most frequent use being non-motorized activities such as kayaking and paddle boarding. Towing and pleasure cruising were cited as the most popular activities. Finally, the survey touched on perceptions of Lake Safety, with varying results, including a majority citing they felt safe on the Lake and a close number of individuals who felt unsafe or neutral on the subject of Lake Safety. These varying opinions were reflected in a similar manner in the open-houses as well.