

City Beach RV Park and Parking Lot Design Concepts

Summary of Public Survey Responses

The City received public feedback through an online survey regarding two concept-level design alternatives for the City Beach RV Park and parking lot improvement project. The survey asked respondents to rank Concept A and Concept B, provide narrative feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of the concepts, identify desired improvements to access and pedestrian safety, and respond to questions regarding residency and support for using paid hourly parking to help fund improvements.

Overall Concept Preference

Respondents expressed a clear overall preference for **Concept B**.

Concept B received **91 first-place votes** and **24 second-place votes**. **Concept A** received **57 first-place votes** and **39 second-place votes**. Based on first-place votes, Concept B received approximately **62%** of first-choice preferences, compared with approximately **38%** for Concept A.

The preference for Concept B appears to be driven primarily by support for additional standard parking, improved overall vehicle and RV circulation, and the location of the drop-off area closer to the hotel and entry side of the site. However, comments also show that some respondents preferred specific elements of Concept A, particularly the drop-off location closer to the snack shack, the pedestrian circulation, and the perceived ease of RV and boat trailer maneuvering.

Narrative Question 1: What Works About These Concepts?

The strongest positive theme was **increased parking capacity**. Many respondents stated that City Beach needs more parking during summer peak periods, weekends, events, and busy beach days. Several comments specifically identified Concept B's greater number of standard parking spaces as a reason for preferring that alternative.

A second major theme was **improved circulation and separation of uses**.

Respondents supported the effort to better separate standard vehicle parking from boat launch and trailer movements, improve RV circulation, create clearer entrances and exits, and reduce conflicts between vehicles, boat trailers, RVs, pedestrians, and beach users.

Respondents also identified **RV Park improvements** as a positive feature. Comments supported upgraded RV Park amenities, restrooms and showers, improved internal circulation, and a second RV entrance/exit. Several respondents described the RV Park as a community asset and appreciated that the concepts improve the existing facility rather than remove it.

Another recurring positive theme was **green space, trees, shade, and beautification**. Respondents liked that the concepts introduce more trees, break up large paved areas, improve the appearance of the RV Park and parking lot, and provide additional landscaped areas. Some respondents specifically indicated that preservation or expansion of green space influenced their concept preference.

Respondents also supported the inclusion of **drop-off areas, bus or shuttle access, and pedestrian improvements**. Some preferred the drop-off closer to the hotel and entrance because it could reduce vehicle travel deeper into the park. Others preferred the drop-off closer to the snack shack because it provides more direct access to the beach and park amenities.

Narrative Question 2: What Does Not Work, or What Are We Missing?

A major concern was **boat trailer and RV maneuverability**. Respondents questioned whether RVs and boat trailers can safely and comfortably navigate the proposed roundabouts, turnarounds, and parking geometry. Several comments specifically raised concerns about back-in angled boat trailer stalls and suggested that pull-through trailer parking would be easier and safer.

Respondents also identified concerns about **loss of green space and additional asphalt**. Some comments opposed adding pavement or reducing open space, while others supported more parking but wanted green space, tree canopy, and stormwater treatment maintained or expanded.

Several respondents stated that the City is missing **additional amenities**, including dog-friendly areas, improved restrooms and changing areas, upgraded playground features, shade near the beach, shower or rinse-off stations, improved snack shack facilities, food truck or event infrastructure, paddleboard/kayak access, and more bicycle parking.

Another recurring theme was **public process**. Some respondents stated that the survey should not be the only form of public input and requested additional in-person opportunities to comment before final design decisions are made.

Narrative Question 3: What Would Improve Access to City Beach Compared to the Current Parking Situation?

Responses to this question were mixed, but several clear themes emerged.

Many respondents stated that **more parking** would improve access, particularly during peak summer periods when the lot fills early. Several respondents also supported **separating boat launch traffic from standard vehicle traffic**, improving ingress and egress, and creating clearer circulation patterns through the site.

A second common theme was **better transit, shuttle, and remote parking options**. Respondents suggested a shuttle from downtown or other parking areas, expanded SPOT bus service, and remote parking options to reduce congestion at City Beach itself.

Several respondents recommended **local access protections**, including free parking for Bonner County residents, free or discounted access for 7B plates, charging only out-of-county or out-of-state visitors, or maintaining free parking for locals while charging tourists.

Other access-related suggestions included improved signage, better traffic control at First Avenue and Bridge Street, better bicycle access, improved bike parking, restoration or enhancement of pedestrian/bicycle connections from the Long Bridge, and better boat launch organization.

A smaller group of respondents stated that the best way to improve access would be to remove or relocate the RV Park or boat launch, while others stated that the current condition works adequately and should not be overbuilt.

Narrative Question 4: What Would Improve Pedestrian Safety at the City Beach Parking Lot Compared to the Current Situation?

The most common pedestrian safety suggestions were **clearly marked walkways and crosswalks**, including continuous sidewalks around or through the parking lot, marked pedestrian lanes, crossings that connect through parking aisles, and improved striping.

Respondents also supported **traffic calming**, including lower speed limits, speed bumps, raised crossings, flashing crosswalk signs, better enforcement, and design features that naturally slow vehicles.

Several comments emphasized the need to separate pedestrians from vehicle, RV, and boat trailer movements. Respondents were particularly concerned about children moving between parked cars, families unloading beach gear, and conflicts with backing boat trailers.

Other suggestions included improved lighting or signage, designated drop-off/pick-up areas for families, accessible ADA routes, wider sidewalks for strollers and wagons, better bicycle circulation, and more trash cans and support amenities along pedestrian routes.

A notable subset of respondents stated that they do not currently perceive pedestrian safety as a major problem, or that they were not aware of significant pedestrian safety issues at City Beach. These respondents generally favored modest, practical improvements rather than major redesign.

Narrative Question 5: What Improvements Would You Most Like to See to the RV Park and Parking Lot at City Beach?

The most commonly requested improvements were **restrooms, showers, and upgraded RV Park amenities**. Respondents supported adding or improving restroom and shower facilities, providing better RV Park support facilities, and improving the overall condition and appearance of the RV Park.

Many respondents requested **better boat launch and trailer parking design**, including more boat trailer spaces, pull-through trailer parking, clearer separation between trailer and standard vehicle parking, and improved maneuvering areas for trucks with trailers.

Respondents also requested **more standard vehicle parking**, repaving or resurfacing, wider parking spaces, improved striping, and a cleaner, more organized parking layout.

Another recurring theme was **green space and aesthetics**. Respondents supported adding trees, landscaping, shade, stormwater treatment, and visual improvements to make the parking lot and RV Park feel less like a large paved area.

Some respondents requested broader park improvements, including upgraded playgrounds, paddleboard or kayak launch areas, bike lanes and bike parking, pickleball court improvements, better beach access, and improvements to the snack shack and public restroom facilities.

A smaller but vocal group preferred removing or reducing the RV Park and using the space for additional public parking or other public park uses. Other respondents supported retaining the RV Park because it generates revenue and provides a unique public lodging option within walking distance of downtown and the lake.

Narrative Question 6: What Concerns You About These Concepts or the City's Plan to Improve the RV Park and City Beach Parking Lot Over the Next Two to Three Years?

The most frequent concern was **paid parking**, particularly the cost to locals and the perception that residents are being asked to pay for access to a public park. Respondents expressed concern that paid parking could make City Beach less accessible for families, local residents, and frequent users.

A second major concern was **construction timing and access during construction**. Respondents wanted work scheduled during the off-season, with City Beach kept accessible as much as possible during peak summer months. Several comments asked how construction would affect summer access, parking availability, and use of nearby facilities.

Respondents also raised concerns about **coordination with hotel construction**, particularly the possibility that simultaneous construction at the hotel and City Beach could worsen congestion, reduce access, or create confusion near the entrance to the park.

Another recurring concern was **traffic congestion and bottlenecks**, especially near the Edgewater/hotel area, Bridge Street, the boat launch, and the proposed roundabout areas. Several respondents worried that the concepts may not fully resolve existing congestion and could create new conflicts if circulation is not carefully refined.

Several comments expressed concern that the City may be moving forward without enough public input, or that public feedback may not be meaningfully incorporated. Other comments raised concerns about cost, whether the improvements are the right priority compared with streets, sewer, and other infrastructure, and whether the project is too focused on tourists rather than local residents.

There were also concerns about loss of open space, increased pavement, and whether the project could make City Beach feel less like a park and more like a developed tourist facility.

Multiple Choice Question: Which Best Describes You?

Survey respondents were predominantly local or closely connected to Sandpoint.

Response	Count	Approx. Share
<i>Live inside Sandpoint city limits</i>	48	56%
<i>Live outside city limits but in the Sandpoint area</i>	23	27%
<i>Own property in Sandpoint but live somewhere else full time</i>	4	5%
<i>Work in Sandpoint</i>	4	5%
<i>Visit/shop in Sandpoint regularly</i>	7	8%

This indicates that approximately **83%** of respondents either live inside Sandpoint city limits or live outside city limits but in the Sandpoint area.

Multiple Choice Question: Do You Support the City's Plan to Get Visitors and Tourists to Help Pay for Improvements to the City Beach Parking Lot Through Paid Hourly Parking?

Responses were mixed but leaned slightly supportive.

<i>Response</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Approx. Share</i>
Yes	40	47%
No	32	37%
Not sure	14	16%

The results show that more respondents supported the use of visitor/tourist paid hourly parking than opposed it, but the level of opposition was substantial. The narrative comments suggest that the strongest concerns relate to whether local residents, Bonner County residents, or frequent local users will be burdened by the paid parking system.

Multiple Choice Question: Have You Applied for Your Own Local Resident Parking Permit Yet?

Most respondents had not yet applied for a local resident parking permit at the time of the survey.

<i>Response</i>	<i>Count</i>	<i>Approx. Share</i>
Yes	12	14%
No	52	60%
<i>Do not plan to get a resident parking permit</i>	17	20%
<i>Not eligible because respondent lives outside Bonner County</i>	5	6%

These responses suggest that continued public communication is needed regarding the purpose of the resident permit program, who is eligible, what benefits the permit provides, and how the kiosk check-in process works.

Overall Takeaways for Council

The survey results provide Council with a clear indication that **Concept B is the preferred concept overall**, receiving 91 first-place votes compared with 57 for Concept A. The strongest reasons for support appear to be additional parking, improved circulation, better organization of uses, and improvements to the RV Park.

At the same time, the narrative responses show that respondents do not view either concept as final. Several issues should be carried forward into the next phase of design, including RV and boat trailer turning movements, pull-through versus back-in trailer parking, pedestrian crossings and walkways, green space and shade, local parking access, construction phasing, and continued public engagement.

For Council direction, the survey supports advancing **Concept B as the basis of design**, while directing the design team to refine the concept in response to public comments, especially around boat trailer function, pedestrian safety, local access, and preservation of the park character of City Beach.