

LAC DU BONNET

Comprehensive Survey Report



INVEST IN
LAC DU BONNET
BUILDING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER

Lakers

Development

Survey

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Executive Summary

The Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet, in partnership with the Town of Lac du Bonnet, conducted a public survey between February and March 2026 to gather community input on potential recreation, tourism, and marina-related amenities that could be considered in the future development of the Lakers Park site.

A total of **150 responses** were collected from residents, seasonal property owners, and visitors connected to the Lac du Bonnet area. The majority of respondents were residents or property owners within the **RM and Town of Lac du Bonnet**, ensuring that the results strongly reflect local community perspectives and priorities.

The survey results indicate **strong community interest in recreation services, marina infrastructure, and visitor-oriented amenities** that support tourism while enhancing local recreational opportunities.

The most frequently supported amenities included:

- **Food and beverage services** (69%)
- **Outdoor equipment rentals** (68%)
- **Marina development** (58%)
- **Boat fuel services** (56%)

Additional support was also expressed for **guided recreation experiences and local retail or specialty vendors**, suggesting interest in creating a vibrant recreation destination that combines outdoor activities, small business opportunities, and visitor services.

Overall, the survey findings demonstrate that residents support **thoughtful and balanced development** that enhances waterfront recreation, tourism infrastructure, and local economic activity while maintaining public access and preserving the character of the community.

The results of this survey provide valuable guidance for **municipal planning, potential investor discussions, and future decision-making related to the Lakers Park development opportunity**. The findings highlight opportunities to strengthen Lac du Bonnet's position as a **regional recreation and tourism destination** while ensuring that future development reflects community priorities and long-term sustainability.

Key Findings (Lakers Park Development Survey)

1. **Strong demand for visitor-friendly services and active recreation amenities.** Respondents showed the highest support for amenities that improve the day-to-day visitor experience and encourage outdoor activity, led by food and beverage services (69%) and outdoor equipment rentals (68%).
2. **Waterfront and boating infrastructure is a clear community priority.** Boating-related amenities ranked among the most supported options, including marina development (58%) and boat fuel services (56%), reinforcing the importance of waterfront recreation to Lac du Bonnet's identity and tourism economy.

Residents want practical municipal infrastructure that supports higher use. The most supported municipal capital investment was public washrooms (86%), followed by strong support for a boardwalk connection to the boat launch property (66%) and covered picnic areas/pergolas (66%)—showing that respondents prioritize comfort, access, and basic functionality.

3. **The ranking results confirm top priorities: amenities + essentials first.** When forced to rank investments, respondents placed the highest importance on food and beverage services and washrooms, followed by equipment rentals and marina development, indicating that both experience-enhancing amenities and core infrastructure are expected to lead development decisions.
4. **Equipment rentals are widely supported, especially water-based options and multi-season use.** Among rental types, kayaks/paddleboards (77%) ranked highest, followed by bikes/e-bikes (62%) and winter sports equipment (54%), suggesting strong potential for a multi-season recreation model.
5. **Lakers Park is expected to primarily benefit locals while also serving tourism.** Respondents overwhelmingly selected local residents (95%), but also strongly supported serving tourists/visitors (84%) and seasonal residents (73%), pointing to a desired balance between community use and tourism growth.
6. **High anticipated park usage once developed.** Most respondents expect to use the site regularly, with weekly use (44%) and monthly use (24%) most common, indicating strong potential return on investment through consistent community utilization.
7. **Entrepreneurial interest exists but is limited without clearer opportunities.** Most respondents indicated no interest (70%) in operating or partnering in a business at the site, though 14% said “possibly in the future,” suggesting that business uptake may depend on the final concept, investment model, and risk-sharing approach.
8. **Written comments show support for development, with clear cautions and additional ideas.** Open-ended responses revealed recurring themes: protect public access and green space, avoid overdevelopment, plan for traffic/parking impacts, and consider added amenities such as dog park, pickleball courts, splash pad, festivals/programming, and improved fishing access.
9. **Survey input is strongly local and representative of the community.** The audience profile shows the survey primarily reflects residents and seasonal property owners from the RM and Town (over 96%), strengthening confidence that the findings represent local priorities.

1.0 METHODOLOGY & RESPONSE OVERVIEW

Survey Distribution: The survey was distributed publicly to residents, property owners, and stakeholders connected to the Lac du Bonnet area. The survey link was made available through community communication channels to ensure broad awareness and encourage participation from individuals interested in the future development of the Lakers Park site and related recreation and tourism opportunities.

The objective of the survey was to gather community input regarding potential recreation amenities, services, and tourism-related development that could support economic growth while maintaining the character and priorities of the local community.

Survey Period: Responses were collected during February and early March 2026. This timeframe allowed sufficient opportunity for both permanent residents and seasonal property owners to participate and provide feedback.

Total Participation: A total of 150 responses were received. Participation levels were strong, and most respondents completed the majority of the survey questions.

- Total responses received: 150
- Questions answered per section: between 148 and 150 responses
- Skipped responses: typically 0–2 responses per question

The low number of skipped responses indicates a high level of engagement and interest from participants.

Audience Profile (Residential Status): Respondents represented a broad cross-section of the Lac du Bonnet community, with the majority coming from residents of the Rural Municipality and the Town.

- RM of Lac du Bonnet (permanent or seasonal residents): 74.50% (111 respondents)
- Town of Lac du Bonnet (permanent or seasonal residents): 22.15% (33 respondents)
- Non-residents or visitors: 3.36% (5 respondents)

This distribution demonstrates that the survey results strongly reflect the perspectives of individuals who live in, own property in, or are closely connected to the local area.

Conclusion: Overall, the survey results provide a reliable snapshot of community priorities related to recreation amenities, tourism services, and waterfront development opportunities. The high proportion of responses from RM and Town residents ensures that the findings primarily reflect local community perspectives and expectations for future development.

The feedback gathered through this survey will help inform planning discussions, potential investment opportunities, and decision-making related to the future use and development of

DETAILED REPORT

2.0 Survey Results

2.1 Preferred Recreation Amenities and Services at Lakers Park Site

The survey results demonstrate strong community support for recreation-related amenities that enhance outdoor activities, waterfront experiences, and visitor services at the Lakers Park site. A significant majority of respondents expressed interest in amenities that would support both residents and visitors while strengthening the area's recreational and tourism appeal.

The most popular options were food and beverage services and outdoor equipment rentals. Food and beverage services, such as food trucks, coffee stands, and seasonal refreshment vendors, were selected by 69.13% of respondents (103 responses). Similarly, outdoor equipment rentals, including bike or e-bike rentals, kayak and paddleboard rentals, fishing gear, and winter recreation equipment, were supported by 68.46% of respondents (102 responses). These responses suggest strong interest in amenities that provide convenient services for visitors while encouraging active outdoor recreation.

Water-related infrastructure also received substantial support. Marina development was supported by 57.72% of respondents (86 responses), while boat fuel services were supported by 56.38% of respondents (84 responses). These findings highlight the importance of boating and waterfront recreation within the Lac du Bonnet community and suggest that enhanced marina services could play a key role in future recreational and tourism development.

Moderate interest was also expressed in additional visitor-oriented amenities. Guided recreation and experience-based activities, such as nature tours, outdoor fitness classes, and adventure excursions, were selected by 44.97% of respondents (67 responses). In addition, retail and specialty vendors, including outdoor gear shops, artisan or makers' markets, souvenirs, and local product vendors, were supported by 43.62% of respondents (65 responses). These amenities could contribute to creating a more vibrant recreational destination while also supporting local businesses and tourism activity. Only 8.05% of respondents (12 responses) indicated that they would prefer no additional amenities. This low percentage suggests that the majority of participants are open to thoughtful development that enhances recreational opportunities and visitor services while maintaining community accessibility and character.

Overall Insight: The survey results suggest strong community support for developing recreation and tourism-oriented amenities at the Lakers Park site, particularly those that enhance outdoor recreation, waterfront activities, and visitor services while creating opportunities for local businesses and seasonal vendors

2.2 Preferred Outdoor Equipment Rentals at the Lakers Park Site

The survey also explored community preferences regarding the types of outdoor equipment that could be offered through potential rental services at the Lakers Park site. A total of 149 respondents answered this question, indicating strong interest in equipment that supports both water-based and land-based recreational activities.

The most popular option was kayak and paddleboard rentals, selected by 76.51% of respondents (114 responses). This strong level of support reflects the importance of waterfront recreation in Lac du Bonnet and suggests significant interest in activities that allow residents and visitors to experience the lake and surrounding waterways.

Bike and e-bike rentals were also highly supported, with 61.74% of respondents (92 responses) expressing interest. This indicates that cycling infrastructure and recreational trails could play an important role in supporting active transportation and outdoor recreation within the community.

More than half of respondents (53.69% – 80 responses) also indicated interest in winter sports equipment rentals, such as snowshoes, cross-country skis, or other seasonal outdoor gear. This suggests opportunities to support year-round recreation, extending activity at the site beyond the summer months.

A smaller but still notable share of respondents (31.54% – 47 responses) expressed interest in fishing gear rentals, which could support both visitors and casual anglers who may not bring their own equipment.

Only 14.09% of respondents (21 responses) indicated that they would prefer no outdoor equipment rentals. Overall, the results demonstrate strong support for offering equipment rentals that enable visitors and residents to actively enjoy the area's natural environment and recreational assets.

These findings highlight opportunities to develop outdoor recreation services that support waterfront activities, cycling, fishing, and winter recreation, contributing to a dynamic, multi-season recreational destination at the Lakers Park site.

Overall Insight: The findings demonstrate strong community support for outdoor equipment rentals that enable residents and visitors to actively enjoy Lac du Bonnet's natural environment throughout multiple seasons. Only 14.09% of respondents (21 responses) indicated that they would prefer no equipment rental services at the site.

2.3 Community Priorities for Municipal Capital Investments at the Lakers Park Site

The survey also asked respondents to identify the types of municipal capital investments they would like to see developed at the Lakers Park site. A total of 148 respondents answered this question, indicating strong support for infrastructure improvements that enhance accessibility, visitor comfort, and recreational opportunities.

The most strongly supported investment was public washroom facilities, selected by 85.81% of respondents (127 responses). This result highlights the importance of essential public amenities in supporting increased recreational use and accommodating both residents and visitors. Several other infrastructure investments also received strong support. Covered picnic areas or pergolas and a boardwalk connecting the site to the boat launch property were each supported by 65.54% of respondents (97 responses). These features would enhance the usability of the waterfront while creating comfortable spaces for gatherings and leisure activities.

A parking lot was supported by 59.46% of respondents (88 responses), indicating that improved access and vehicle accommodation will be important as the site attracts more visitors. Similarly, a stage for live music or performances received support from 52.70% of respondents (78 responses), suggesting community interest in events, festivals, and cultural activities that could activate the space.

Support was also expressed for designated walking paths, selected by 50.68% of respondents (75 responses). Such infrastructure could encourage outdoor activity and provide safe and accessible routes for residents and visitors to enjoy the area. Moderate support was shown for additional family-oriented amenities. Playground equipment was supported by 41.22% of respondents (61 responses), while a public beach received 39.19% support (58 responses). These features could further enhance the site as a community recreation destination.

Lower levels of support were recorded for exercise equipment (14.86% – 22 responses) and a conference or meeting venue (15.54% – 23 responses), suggesting that respondents placed greater priority on outdoor recreation infrastructure and waterfront amenities.

Overall Insight: The results indicate that the community prioritizes practical infrastructure and outdoor recreational features, particularly those that improve waterfront access, visitor comfort, and opportunities for community gatherings. Only 7.43% of respondents (11 responses) indicated that they would prefer no additional municipal investments at the site, suggesting strong overall support for thoughtful infrastructure development at Lakers Park.

2.4 Ranking of Priority Recreation Amenities and Capital Investments at the Lakers Park Site

Respondents were asked to rank potential recreation amenities and municipal capital investments at the Lakers Park site from most important to least important. A total of 150 respondents completed this question, providing insight into which investments the community considers the highest priorities.

The ranking results show that respondents placed the greatest importance on essential visitor services and recreation-supporting amenities. Food and beverage services received the highest overall priority score (13.97), indicating strong support for amenities such as food trucks, coffee stands, and seasonal refreshment vendors that enhance the visitor experience. Public washroom facilities were also ranked very highly (score 13.54), reinforcing the importance of basic infrastructure needed to support increased recreational activity and tourism.

Other high-ranking amenities included outdoor equipment rentals (score 12.71) and marina development (score 11.87). These findings highlight the community's interest in amenities that encourage active outdoor recreation and support Lac du Bonnet's strong connection to boating and waterfront activities.

Moderately ranked priorities included fuel services for boats (score 11.16), retail and specialty vendors (score 11.15), and guided recreation experiences (score 10.91). These amenities suggest opportunities to enhance the visitor experience through recreation services, tourism activities, and small business opportunities.

Several municipal infrastructure investments also received moderate rankings. These included parking improvements (score 10.59) and a boardwalk connecting to the boat launch property (score 10.06). While still considered important, these items were generally viewed as supporting infrastructure rather than primary attractions.

Lower-ranked amenities included covered picnic areas or pergolas (score 9.21), public beach development (score 8.51), and a stage for live music or performances (score 7.88). While these features may enhance community events and leisure activities, they were not identified as the highest priorities relative to other infrastructure and recreation services.

Amenities such as designated walking paths (score 6.74) and playground equipment (score 5.99) received lower overall rankings, suggesting they are valued but not viewed as primary investments compared to waterfront recreation and visitor amenities.

The lowest priorities identified by respondents were exercise equipment (score 3.92) and a conference or meeting venue (score 3.22). These results suggest that the community prefers investments that support outdoor recreation and waterfront activities rather than indoor facilities or fitness infrastructure.

Very few respondents indicated that they would prefer no development at the site, with the "none" option receiving the lowest overall score (1.57). This result further reinforces the strong community interest in seeing thoughtful improvements and recreational development at the Lakers Park site.

Overall Insight: The ranking results confirm that residents place the highest priority on visitor services, recreation-supporting amenities, and infrastructure that enhances waterfront access and outdoor experiences, helping to position Lakers Park as a vibrant recreational destination for both residents and visitors.

2.5 Interest in Operating or Partnering in a Business at the Lakers Park Site

The survey also explored whether respondents would be interested in operating or partnering in a business at the Lakers Park site. This question was intended to assess potential local entrepreneurial interest in future commercial or recreation-related opportunities.

The results indicate that the majority of respondents are not currently interested in operating a business at the site. A total of 70.47% of respondents (105 responses) indicated that they would not be interested in operating or partnering in a business at Lakers Park. In addition, 11.41% of respondents (17 responses) preferred not to answer the question.

However, the results also suggest that there is some potential interest in future business opportunities. 14.09% of respondents (21 responses) indicated that they might be interested in operating or partnering in a business in the future. This group may represent individuals who could consider entrepreneurial opportunities if appropriate development or investment opportunities emerge.

A small number of respondents indicated existing entrepreneurial involvement. 2.01% (3 respondents) reported that they currently own a business, while another 2.01% (3 respondents) identified themselves as entrepreneurs or startups who may be interested in business opportunities at the site.

Overall Insight: While direct interest in operating a business at the Lakers Park site is relatively limited among survey participants, the results indicate that a modest level of entrepreneurial interest exists, particularly among individuals who may consider business opportunities as the site develops. These findings suggest that future development initiatives may benefit from targeted outreach to local businesses, entrepreneurs, and tourism operators who could potentially establish recreation or visitor-related services at the site.

2.6 Community Perspectives on Who Lakers Park Should Primarily Serve

The survey also asked respondents to identify who they believe the Lakers Park site should primarily serve. A total of 148 respondents answered this question, providing insight into the groups that the community believes should benefit most from future development and amenities at the site.

The results show that respondents overwhelmingly believe the site should serve local residents, with 94.59% of respondents (140 responses) selecting this option. This indicates that the community strongly values ensuring that Lakers Park remains an accessible and beneficial recreational space for people living in the Lac du Bonnet area.

At the same time, there was also strong support for the site serving tourists and visitors, selected by 84.46% of respondents (125 responses). This suggests that many respondents recognize the importance of Lakers Park as a destination that can attract visitors and contribute to local tourism and economic activity.

A large proportion of respondents also indicated that the park should serve seasonal residents, with 72.97% (108 responses) selecting this group. Given the significant number of seasonal property owners in the region, this result highlights the importance of ensuring that the site meets the recreational needs of both permanent and seasonal community members.

Many respondents also identified families as an important user group, with 64.19% (95 responses) selecting this option. Additionally, 56.08% of respondents (83 responses) indicated that the park should serve outdoor recreation enthusiasts, reflecting the community's strong connection to outdoor activities such as boating, cycling, fishing, and other recreational pursuits.

Moderate support was expressed for the park serving youth (47.30% – 70 responses) and seniors (47.97% – 71 responses), suggesting that respondents see the site as a place that should provide inclusive recreational opportunities for residents across different age groups.

Finally, 37.84% of respondents (56 responses) indicated that Lakers Park should also serve local businesses and entrepreneurs, highlighting the potential for the site to support small business activity and recreation-related economic opportunities.

Overall Insight: The results indicate that respondents envision Lakers Park as a multi-purpose community and tourism destination, primarily serving local residents while also welcoming visitors, families, seasonal residents, and outdoor recreation users. These findings suggest strong support for development that balances community recreation, tourism, and economic opportunities.

2.7 Expected Frequency of Use of Lakers Park Once Fully Developed

Respondents were also asked how often they would expect to use Lakers Park once the site is fully developed. A total of 148 respondents answered this question, providing insight into the anticipated level of community engagement with the park following future improvements and development.

The results suggest that the majority of respondents expect to use the park regularly. The largest group indicated that they would visit the park weekly, with 43.92% of respondents (65 responses) selecting this option. This finding highlights the potential for Lakers Park to become an important and frequently used recreational space within the community.

A further 23.65% of respondents (35 responses) indicated that they would expect to use the park monthly, while 18.24% (27 responses) reported that they would visit seasonally. These responses suggest that many residents and visitors see the park as a recreational destination they would use periodically throughout the year, particularly during peak recreation seasons.

A smaller proportion of respondents indicated very frequent use. 7.43% (11 responses) reported that they would expect to visit the park daily, reflecting strong interest among some community members who may live nearby or use the park for routine recreation.

Only 6.76% of respondents (10 responses) indicated that they would rarely or never use the park once it is developed. This low percentage suggests that the vast majority of respondents anticipate visiting the site at least occasionally.

Overall Insight: The results indicate strong potential for regular community use of Lakers Park, particularly on a weekly or monthly basis. These findings suggest that future development of the site could create a well-utilized recreational destination that attracts both frequent local users and seasonal visitors

2.7 Residential Status of Survey Respondents

Respondents were asked to identify their residential status in order to better understand the perspectives represented in the survey results. A total of 149 respondents answered this question.

The majority of respondents identified as residents of the Rural Municipality of Lac du Bonnet, including both permanent and seasonal residents. This group represented 74.50% of respondents (111 responses), indicating that the survey results strongly reflect the views of individuals living within the RM.

An additional 22.15% of respondents (33 responses) identified as residents of the Town of Lac du Bonnet, including both permanent and seasonal residents. This further demonstrates strong participation from the local community surrounding the Lakers Park site.

A small portion of respondents, 3.36% (5 responses), identified as non-residents or visitors. While limited in number, these responses provide some insight into the perspectives of individuals who may visit the area for recreation or tourism.

Overall Insight: The results indicate that the survey responses are highly representative of the local Lac du Bonnet community, with the vast majority of participants being residents or seasonal property owners in the RM or Town. This strong local participation provides valuable insight into community priorities and expectations regarding the future development and use of the Lakers Park site.

2.8 Analysis of Written Comments from Survey Respondents

In addition to selecting predefined survey options, respondents were provided the opportunity to submit written comments regarding their perspectives on the future development of the Lakers Park site. These comments offer valuable qualitative insights that complement the quantitative survey results and help illustrate community priorities, expectations, and concerns. Overall, the written responses demonstrate a balanced perspective from residents. Many respondents expressed support for thoughtful development that enhances recreation opportunities and strengthens the area's tourism potential. At the same time, several comments emphasized the importance of maintaining the natural character of the site and ensuring that development continues to serve the local community.

A recurring theme in the comments was the desire to preserve public access to waterfront and green space. Some respondents indicated that the site should remain a welcoming recreational area for residents and visitors, with an emphasis on maintaining open space, scenic views, and access to the Winnipeg River. These comments highlight the importance residents place on protecting the area's natural setting while considering future improvements.

Several respondents also suggested additional recreational amenities that could enhance the park's appeal. Suggestions included facilities such as a dog park, pickleball or tennis courts, splash pads for children, or other family-oriented recreation opportunities. These comments indicate that residents see the potential for Lakers Park to become a multi-purpose recreational destination serving a variety of community interests.

Consistent with the survey results, some comments supported the development of boating-related infrastructure, including marina services and boat fueling facilities. Respondents noted that boating and water recreation are central to the lifestyle and tourism activity in the Lac du Bonnet area, and additional infrastructure could support both residents and visitors who use the waterway.

At the same time, a number of respondents expressed concerns about the scale or type of development that may occur at the site. Some suggested that development should be carefully managed to avoid excessive commercialization or unnecessary municipal spending. A few respondents also mentioned the importance of considering existing local businesses and ensuring that new activities complement rather than compete with them. Parking and neighborhood impacts were also noted in several comments.

Some residents raised concerns about increased traffic or parking pressures if the site becomes more heavily used. These responses highlight the importance of including adequate infrastructure planning, such as designated parking areas and visitor management strategies, as part of any future development.

Overall Insight: The written comments reinforce the broader survey findings. Respondents generally support improvements that enhance recreation, tourism, and waterfront use while emphasizing the need for development that remains community-focused, balanced, and respectful of the area's natural character. The feedback suggests that residents see strong potential for Lakers Park to evolve into a well-used recreational destination that benefits both the local community and visitors to the Lac du Bonnet region.

