

## SUMMARY

### **Survey 3 – Final Comment Period – Bear Lake Regional Park Shoreline Repair + Phase 1 Master Plan January 14-25, 2022**

What: 30% Conceptual Design and Draft Phase 1 Master Plan - Online Survey.

How Advertised:

- 1/14/22 Individual notification (e-mail list of interested citizens, pop-up event participants and stakeholders)
- 1/14/22 Spokane County Parks Project Webpage
- 1/14/22 Facebook & Instagram

Objectives for this survey were to introduce the draft Phase 1 Master Plan and gain input on one Draft East Shore Conceptual Design and one West Shore Conceptual Design. This input helps the design team understand what adjustments may be needed as the designs are further refined.

The preferred concept alternative for the East Shore is based on the public input received on Eastside Concepts A & B during Survey 2.

The preferred concept alternative for the West Shore is based on the public input received on Westside Concepts C & D during Survey 2.

**The following “Introduction and Overview of the Draft Phase I Master Plan” was included as part of this survey:**

*This first phase of the Bear Lake Regional Park Master Plan was initiated to help inform the design work needed to repair eroding sections of shoreline and improve public access. The design team is still in the process of assembling the draft document and expect it will be ready to be posted on the project webpage in the next several weeks. Phase I will establish a framework for future master planning, and it will function as a working document as additional funding becomes available to complete plans for other areas in the park. The plan is organized into three chapters plus appendices as described below:*

#### *Chapter 1 – Background*

*This chapter includes preliminary information about the background and history of the park, information about the surrounding context, and the park’s place in the region. During future planning phases, this chapter will be further developed and updated as appropriate.*



### *Chapter 2 – Site Assessment*

*This chapter identifies areas for current and future phases of planning, an inventory of existing park features, and a site analysis for each of the two shoreline focus areas. During future planning phases, this chapter will be updated as appropriate and additional site analysis information will be included.*

### *Chapter 3 – Plan Development*

*This chapter includes an overview of the public outreach process, Phase 1 Concept Drawings for high-use shoreline areas, opinions of probable cost, and lists of recommendations and pathways for implementing the plan. As additional funding becomes available for future planning and design, the public will again be invited to participate and this chapter will continue to be updated.*

### *Appendices*

*The appendices contain historical documents, records of public participation, and additional master plan documentation.*

### *DRAFT KEY MAP – PLANNING PHASES*

*For planning purposes, the park has been divided into three major sectors: East Park, West Park, and South Park. These three planning areas were defined based on a variety of factors including landscape character, current uses, and potential future uses. Within East Park and West Park are the two Phase 1 shoreline focus areas called East Shore and West Shore respectively. These two shoreline subareas are being addressed first because they are heavily used, and the park features within these areas have reached their end of life.*

*The design for Phase 1 East Shore + West Shore seeks to maximize opportunities for park visitors to enjoy a variety of compatible uses. Although not everyone's wishes were addressed in Phase 1, other uses and facilities may be considered elsewhere in the park during future planning phases.*

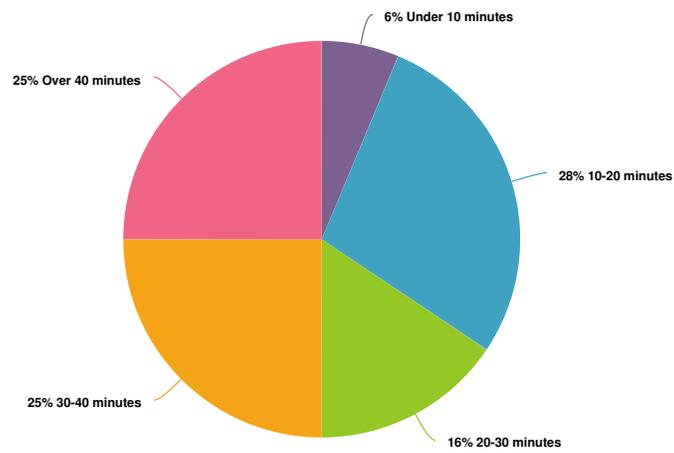
# Report for Final Comment Period - Bear Lake Regional Park 30% Shoreline Repair + Phase I Master Plan.

## Response Counts



Totals: 39

1. How long is your travel time to visit Bear Lake Regional Park?

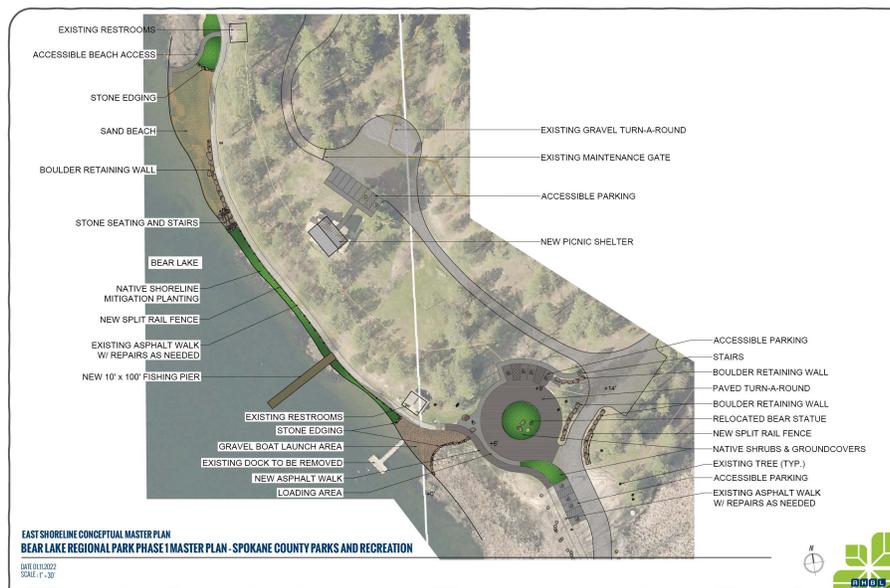


| Value            | Percent | Responses |
|------------------|---------|-----------|
| Under 10 minutes | 6.3%    | 2         |
| 10-20 minutes    | 28.1%   | 9         |
| 20-30 minutes    | 15.6%   | 5         |
| 30-40 minutes    | 25.0%   | 8         |
| Over 40 minutes  | 25.0%   | 8         |

Totals: 32

2. Please tell us what you think about this design. Is there anything our design team needs to be aware of as they continue developing this plan? Are there any adjustments you'd suggest that would help us make it great?

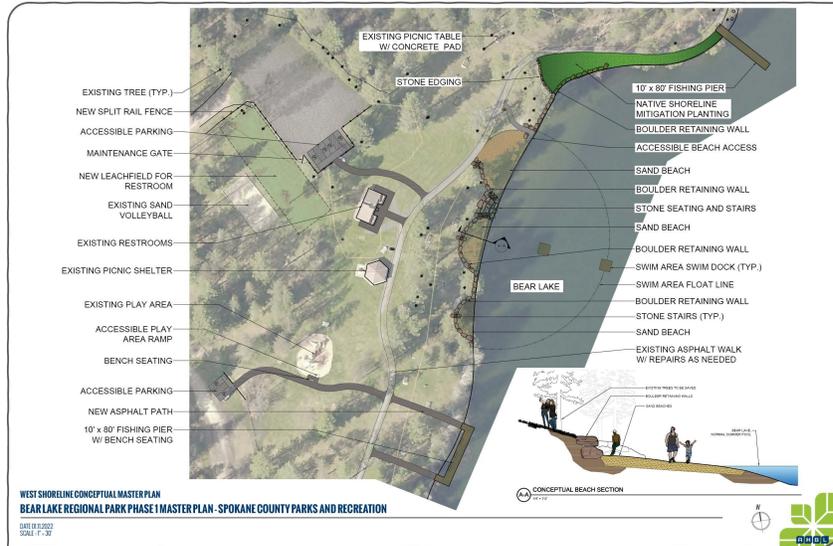
wheelchairs foot boat dock  
 walls increase  
 fishing park litter  
 time paved lake gravel  
 launch parking  
 great area access  
 east or dog adaptive beach areas



**ResponseID Response**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 20 | looks great. One comment - could the deep water fishing pier be constructed as a T dock similar to the dock that is being replaced? A straight line dock only affords one person or group to fish from the end of the dock over the deepest portion. Could limit opportunity and lead to some conflict for fishing space  |
| 25 | Please eliminate the additional road and parking which will only serve to promote vandalism, underage/irresponsible drinking and drug use, easier access/opportunities for poaching fish/wildlife, and additional opportunities to litter. Increased vehicle access to the park make it much more difficult for law/game enforcement officers as well as increased risk of fire to the park and surrounding areas. Data are clear regarding increased vehicle access and increased incidences for human caused fires. Data are also quite clear which shows the future as being dryer, hotter, and more crowded. All of these facts would seem to eliminate this proposal's plan to increase parking/access opportunities. Additionally, there is no designated dog beach. It's time for our county parks to include this user group in updating parks' access and multiple uses.   |
| 28 | I believe the east should be fishing and west should be families and swimming but without those steps going down the 4 foot walls. It needs a beach.  |
| 33 | -Unloading Area, Is the paved turn-a-round circle wide enough to allow motor vehicle passage when the unloading area is in use? Two lane width? -Traffic restriction boulders at the head of the pathway should be spaced at least six feet apart to allow passage of adaptive kayak equipment. -Increase the width of the entrance into the traffic circle to allow a left hand turn coming out of the circle. As depicted, a full sized pickup truck with a 16 foot cargo trailer may not be able to turn left in order to drive directly to the existing gravel turn-a-round to park in an out-of-the-way area. Recommend redesigning one or both of the boulder retaining walls east of the circle to facilitate a bi-directional exit option. Otherwise vehicles with trailers would have to drive almost to the Highway 2 park entrance to turn around adding to traffic congestion. Gravel Boat Launch -Add wheelchair access to the waterline. Active adults using wheelchairs require direct access to the lake at the |
| 35 | The new expanded facilities will increase usage. Already there is a litter problem and dog poop problem. What is being done to mitigate these issues? Also, vandalism is an issue with temporary bathrooms being tipped over and picnic tables thrown in the lake. Unfortunately, simply eliminating portable toilets and moveable picnic tables won't eliminate the problem. Will the park hours be limited with a gate closure? Realize this is as much an administrative problem as a planning problem but this is the time for consideration of all aspects of the lake usage.  |
| 44 | Worried about the split rail fence. How long is it rated to last. Split rail fences are usually decorative and do not stand up well to abuse (kids climbing, deer running into them).   |
| 48 | The new and upgraded facilities will naturally increase usage. Current usage results in litter, dog poop, overnight parking and vandalism. Whereas, the new facilities can make for a better experience at Bear Lake, if the current maintenance problems are not addressed with infrastructure to mitigate them, they can only get worse. Litter bins on fishing piers, doggie poop bag stations and gating the park after hours are a few of the possibilities. Recognizing this is an administrative issue as well as planning consideration perhaps funding needs to include increased ongoing maintenance and security.  |
| 49 | Thank you for allowing public comment. I loved seeing the transformation from the initial designs to these. Great effort by all. This County Park is well used by the adaptive community and their family/friends. The VA and St Lukes both refer their clients with disabilities to this area for outdoor experiences. The proposed changes will greatly enhance safety and experience for these folk, and simplify the challenges of those program delivery systems who facilitate the experiences. Indeed, I am so grateful that there should be no more collapsed walls nor wheelchairs submerged in the lake! following are my comments... PAVED TURN-AROUND UNLOADING AREA - can the entry into the turn around be widened to allow trucks with gear trailers to enter and exit both directions? Removal of 1-2 of those boulders on the north side would allow for easy angle to enter/exit and turn from or to either direction on that road. -width of turn-around. Often at existing unloading areas (e.g.IRiverside  |
| 51 | Looks great!  |
| 53 | Great planning on the fishing pier. Needs a dock that better accesses better fishing spots of the lake.   |
| 55 | Have adequate space for large vehicles with trailers and equipment to load/unload. Adaptive equipment at times takes up more space than traditional equipment. Add wheelchair access to the waterline. At least 8 feet wide path with a wheelchair accessible surface or tight compact gravel. Shelter and shade is vital for safety. Have spaces that are accessible where canopies can be utilized if a more stable permanent structure is not an option. Have adequate seating for guests and family members to increase inclusion activities. Increase the width of the fishing dock for greater access of multiple wheelchairs.  |
| 56 | Is the paved turn about area : 1.Large enough to allow 4-6 vehicles to unload at a time? Our average trip participants are 2-10 members 1-10 vehicles. Being a warmer warm of body in the region with shallower shores makes it suitable for self rescue and assisted rescue practice. Such practice and be done along any shallow shore. The two sand beaches are nice areas to launch personal watercraft. 2.Wide enough for an incoming vehicle to move past someone loading/unloading to access the area in front of them? 3. If the new fishing pier had a "T" shape at the end, it would allow more access to the deeper part of the lake.  |
| 57 | Consider filling in the boulder/stone walls with concrete to prevent weed growth and keep aesthetically pleasing.   |
| 58 | Looks like there is an overabundance of accessible parking compared to standard parking. I'm not sure what the ratio of accessible vs. regular must be at a park but it looks like there are more accessible type than regular. If most spaces are empty the whole time while others have no where to park, that will be problematic. Not against them; the ratio just doesn't seem right. Perhaps there are more that are not shown on here. Suggest two smaller picnic shelters side-by-side so two separate groups can enjoy the shelter at the same time. The gravel boat launch entry point seems too small. Also, I think paving that area might be better for the lake than all the gravel that will be entering the lake there and have to be replaced. A lot of people are not skilled at pulling even small craft out of water. Consider a low retaining wall at the water for the sand beach with a smaller opening for entering the lake. Reduce loss of sand but still provide access. Like the new, longer fis    |

3. Please tell us what you think about this design. Is there anything our design team needs to be aware of as they continue developing this plan? Are there any adjustments you'd suggest that would help us make it great? Please note that some adjustments and fine tuning will occur as more information is gathered and the design is further developed.



**ResponseID Response**

- 20 Same comment about making a T-dock on the northern fishing pier in this design.
- 23 I would connect the two larger beaches rather than having stone chairs and stairs in between them. Would allow much more area for what will most likely be the highest use area. People come for the beach not for pretty designs that aren't functional.
- 25 There is absolutely no need for the additional fishing access which would basically surround this side of the park with litter including fishing lines, lures, and hooks discarded in the water and on land causing injuries to children, adults, and wildlife. This would be the best alternative for a dog swimming beach and another safe access for park users who don't want to contend with trash, fishing line/lures/hooks, cigarette butts, baby diapers, needles, broken glass, and other types of behaviors which detract from modern concepts regarding user access and safety. The Department of Fish and Wildlife is already unable to patrol existing fishing areas at Bear Lake let alone adding additional access. This particular access is rife for easy access to the lake and the likelihood of bad actors causing unneeded additional negative variables which are detrimental to both humans and wildlife. Please make consideration for safe wildlife access for the park. We have eliminated too many alter
- 28 I'm having trouble reading map but I see beaches so its good
- 33 The accessible beach access feature is thoughtful. Consider incorporating a couple of flat seating rocks in the south end of the boulder retaining wall/north side of the beach or near the bottom of the access to accommodate family integrity. Consider adding a "T" or "L" on the deep water end of the 10 x 80 fishing pier to alleviate congestion.
- 35 A very attractive facility is being planned for Bear Lake. Obviously, one of the next steps in the process will be figuring out costs. Should costs become prohibitive, it would be important to get further input from those who use Bear Lake as to which facilities are the most essential. Thank you for the diligence you have shown already in incorporating our input. It has been a privilege to be a part of it.
- 44 Would be a nice expansion.
- 48 With the understanding that costs and funding are the dictating factors on what can and cannot be incorporated in this plan, it would be important that those who make use of the facilities be consulted should decisions need to be made as to which facilities are more vital. Obviously, there are many other factors to be considered but should decisions come down to actual usage another survey would be appropriate.
- 49 i included my thoughts in the previous box for the east side. But just in case.... can you add a sitting boulder near the wheelchair beach access ramp to allow families to share their outdoor experience together. the sitting rocks are currently located on the other side of the beach. as well, please provide room along that length for 2 wheelchairs to pass. it doesn't have to be wider the whole distance, but maybe a breakout/rest wider area that allows passage of another. as well, we need the base along the lake to be easy to manipulate a chair and turn it around 360 degrees.
- 51 Nicely done!
- 55 Wheelchair accessibility to access the beach area. Great idea for increased fishing piers!
- 56 Another 2 fishing pier excellent! One parallel to the shore great idea. I might represent Spokane Canoe and Kayak club as their Access chart, but i'm also an avid fly fisher. Three separate beach designs with boulder retaining wall has quite a few advantages.
- 58 Some of the same thoughts about the beach areas as mentioned on the east side. Am concerned about the wear down of those beaches which will have to be replenished periodically and that sand not being great for the lake. The picnic shelter needs a makeover as do the bathrooms. Can't remember about the playground equipment but it likely needs updating too - or just have a more natural climbing area and natural items for kids to balance on and jump from. Keep existing spigots. Would be nice if they were shown on this plan. Love the new fishing pier with seating!

4. Is there anything else you'd like to share at this time?



**ResponseID    Response**

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 20 | Appreciate the County looking to enhance this park. It is a great resource for the public   |
| 25 | There is still the need and opportunity to add a designated dog swimming area. Increasing vehicle access to additional areas of the park will create safety issues, increase litter, promote vandalism, and increase the likelihood for fires within the park and surrounding areas. Also, it would seem there have not been significant considerations for those of us who use the park and often act as stewards during to off season. We are the park users who pick up litter, report vandalism, and report trespassing at the park from surrounding land owner properties. While proposed improvements for the park are readily acknowledged, most if not all of the improvements seem to promote higher usage rates which correlates to increased access and resultant safety issues. The present oversight of the park by county workers/officials and law enforcement personnel is currently inadequate. Present improvement plans do not include this fact and resultant safety issues for both humans and wildlife. |
| 28 | no  |
| 30 | I like that it is used for cross country meets -- it would be great if that or other running and / or walking trails were expanded as well (granted that may not be in this portion of the park).   |
| 33 | I greatly appreciate Spokane County Parks reaching out for comment on this project. Truly functional accommodation for the active outdoor adaptive community and their family members is at a premium in the Spokane area. This project will go a long way in fulfilling those needs. Stan Mrzygod, Team River Runner Spokane Chapter Coordinator. "Veterans On the River to Recovery".   |
| 44 | No  |
| 48 | The careful crafting and consideration by Julie and her team of the shoreline plan is so appreciated. Safety, accessibility and enjoyment as well as preservation have been exceedingly well incorporated. Thank you for seeking and applying the thoughts of those of us who use and enjoy Bear Lake.  |
| 49 | wow! thank you for your efforts and attention on Bear Lake. this has needed to be addressed for years. Can't wait to see how you create connectivity between the east/west side to allow adaptive cyclists to circumnavigate the whole lake.  |
| 50 | my concern is costs and increased use. this is great but will certainly bring a much greater number of people to Bear lake which means it will need to be better patrolled and better protected than it currently is. Gated after dark ? what happened to the less expensive plans ?  |
| 51 | None, keep up the good work!  |
| 53 | This is exciting! Better access to fishing!   |
| 55 | Thank you for the opportunity to provide input!   |
| 56 | Thank you for the opportunity for public comments. This is exciting development for a special lake of our region. Brian Durheim Spokane Canoe and Kayak Club Access chair mobile number (509)590-7544   |
| 57 | Please consider wildlife friendly/proof garbage cans  |
| 58 | Bear Lake is known to cause "swimmer's itch". Encouraging swimming may be a concern if the water quality itself isn't addressed.  |