



Non-Motorized Boaters Feedback – Summary of Responses

March 6, 2015

Below is a summary of the responses made by the non-motorized boating community during the 13 public meetings and the on-line survey. A corresponding excel spreadsheet includes all of the raw responses, excluding emails. Each topic below corresponds with the tab in the excel spreadsheet. The topics have been categorized for easier reading and understanding boater's comments.

Access:

How Accessing: (136 responses + 32 miscellaneous comments and 9 questions asked)

- 33 stated they usually use undeveloped sites (i.e. bridges, embankments, trail, shorelines, etc.)
- 44 use structured facilities (i.e. launch ramps, docks or beached area next to launch ramps, etc.)
- 58 boaters access the water by using a combination of undeveloped or developed sites depending on what type of boating they are going to do that day.

Desires Access: (298 responses)

- 116 stated they would like some sort of access; it could be as easy as a trail with stairs down a steep embankment, access on private property, more access points for trip diversity, access around bridge abutments, and easy access (gentle slopes) for the older paddlers, etc.
- 51 stated they would like safer/more parking areas (i.e. right-of-way, areas around bridges, safety for cars left overnight (to reduce break-ins), more parking for single cars, etc.)
- 44 stated improving current launch areas, not with concrete, but with sand, gravel or grass for easy launching/access; some would like to have new launch areas created (keep it simple, not large or elaborate), etc.
- 35 stated they would like to see more restrooms (pit, port-a-johns, dump stations, vault) added at put-in and take-out locations. Some also mentioned sanitation facilities (i.e. trash receptacles)
- 26 stated creating separate launch/access areas away from motorized launches to reduce conflict.
- 18 would like to see low rise docks for paddlers
- 16 are happy the way it is currently and don't want any additional facilities, access, etc.
- 9 would like to see areas widened for unloading and loading gear/drop-off areas
- 8 are interested in whitewater parks or aquatic centers

Safety:

Safety – What: (125 responses + 8 questions asked)

- 66 responded that education and access are important topics with regards to safety (i.e. proper training/lack of equipment, motorized/non-motorized conflicts, road traffic, rules of the road, etc.)
- 40 responded that environmental and hazards are a concern



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- 29 are concerned with hazards in the water (i.e. down trees, debris, man-made, etc.)
- 11 are concerned with contamination and weather related issues
- 19 stated the importance of search and rescue and to have more enforcement on the water.

Safety: (152 responses + 32 miscellaneous comments)

- 69 stated interactions with motorized boats and wakes are a safety issue on the water
- 44 stated the need for safety at launch and parking areas (i.e. break-ins, difficulties' launching, dangerous put-in and take-outs, etc.)
- 26 stated the lack of life jackets wear on the water is an issue
- 13 stated there are safety concerns with the casual tuber/floater on the rivers. Boaters drinking alcohol on the water are another safety concern.

Education:

Ed – What: (97 responses + 53 miscellaneous comments/questions asked)

- 34 suggested they wanted some type of education but did not state if they wanted it mandatory or voluntary.
- 29 suggested mandatory education for non-motorized boaters.
- 6 suggested some type of hands-on education, but did not specify if it should be mandatory.
- 28 suggested education needs to include life jackets, navigation rules, boating regulations, hazards, etc.

Ed – How: (318 responses)

- The following are suggestions of what are the best tools and delivery mechanisms for educating the general public and user groups:
 - 72 suggested using social media, the internet and creating an app for smart phones.
 - 67 suggested signage at launch ramps/access points or have kiosks.
 - 55 suggested partnering with clubs, boating organizations to help get the word out.
 - 32 suggested information at point-of-sell shops, outfitters, liveries and others.
 - 25 suggested handout materials in the form of rack cards, fliers, access maps, etc.
 - 14 suggested TV/radio, local newspapers and/or magazines.
 - 13 suggested Marine Patrol officers educate boaters in the field and/or volunteers at the launch ramps.
 - 40 have many ideas or comments that did not fit specifically into the categories above, but great ideas/suggestions.

User-Pay/User-Benefit Program:

Suggestions for Fee: (184 responses)

- 70 didn't respond for or against a fee, but gave suggestions regarding a fee
- 53 need to see a benefit before they decide to agree with a fee



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- 25 would pay a fee lower than \$15 per year
- 20 would pay a fee at or higher than \$15 per year
- 8 agreed with the Non-Motorized Advisory Committee proposal
- 8 suggested a one-time fee, lifetime permit

Fees: (92 responses)

- The following are suggested options for how the fee should be implemented and where, what and how the money should be spent:
 - 11 gave ideas on different options (i.e. one day, one year, etc.)
 - 13 suggested an incentive to lower the cost
 - 11 suggested exemptions or discounts
 - 6 do not want to pay a non-motorized permit fee, however they are willing to pay like a parking fee or such
 - 10 suggested having the permit like a SNO Park Pass or something similar
 - 8 want the permit transferable
 - 7 suggested the fee include all boats
 - 25 suggested what and where the funds should be spent

Disagrees with Fees: (56 responses + 38 miscellaneous comments and 19 questions)

- 56 boaters stated they do not want a fee of any kind.

Local: (98 responses)

- This tab includes all of the local areas identified by boaters that they would like to see improvements or better access.