Attachment 4

CITY OF KIRKLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Updating the Shoreline Master Program
COMMUNITY SURVEY

SUMMARY OF KEY THEMES, ISSUES AND CITIZENS' SUGGESTIONS

July 2008

INTRODUCTION

The City of Kirkland completed this survey to assess citizens' thoughts and opinions about the quality of and vision and priorities for Kirkland's shorelines. Specifically, the following subjects were addressed:

- Respondents' general sense of Kirkland's shorelines, including the best and least desirable aspects.
- The importance of protection of shoreline ecological functions, public access, and priorities for the future.
- Respondents' priorities for different regulatory and incentive approaches to addressing future development along the shoreline.
- Respondents' reaction to different activities to facilitate restoration along the shoreline.

This report begins with an overview of key findings. These are followed by a summary of the questionnaire and the results in charts.

METHODS

PARTICIPATION: 59 respondents. Many of the respondents did not answer every question. Three out of the 59 surveys were left completely blank except for the comments section and contact information. Those 3 surveys are not included in the tallies, so each table/chart reflects the answers from the 56 completed surveys.

RESPONDENT PROFILE: 13 of the 59 respondents identified themselves as owning property along Kirkland's waterfront. In order to draw comparisons between shoreline property-owners and non-shoreline property owners, the answers from the waterfront property owners are sometimes shown beneath the totals.

TECHNIQUE: Web-survey and survey distributed to participants in June 9, 2008 Open House

DATES**:** June 9 – July 11, 2008

OPEN-ENDED ITEMS A number of the questions were open-ended, allowing the respondent to express answers in his/her own words. Responses to open-ended questions were summarized, then categorized and coded for analysis.

NOTE: Participation in this survey was voluntary. The survey is not intended to represent a scientifically accurate sampling of the citizens of Kirkland. These results can be interpreted only as representing the answers given by these respondents to these questions.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Differences in perceptions were identified between property owners and other respondents.
    - In general, property owners were, as a group:
        1. Less concerned about protection of ecological functions.
        2. Expressed a desire for site planning regulations, such as setbacks or lot coverage, to stay the same or become more flexible.
        3. Unsupportive of new standards for pier size, shoreline vegetation and maintenance, and bulkheads.
        4. More willing to consider flexible standards for owners who accommodate enhancement.
2. Public access was rated as a top desirable aspect of Kirkland's waterfront.
    - 85% identified public access (36%), Public Parks (26%) or walk ability (22%) as what they like best about Kirkland's waterfront
3. Respondent's concerns are mainly about growth and overdevelopment along Kirkland's shorelines.
    - 31% identified overdevelopment as a concern along Kirkland's shoreline
4. Over half of all respondents identify protection of shoreline ecological functions (57%) and providing public access (64%) as very important goals.
5. Respondent's rated the protection of functioning habitats as the top priority for Kirkland to focus its attention on for its waterfront, followed by preventing stormwater runoff and restoring degraded habitats.
6. There was strong lack of support (64%) expressed for establishing any water-based aircraft facilities within Kirkland's waterfront commercial business districts.
7. Over half of respondents indicated that standards should become more restrictive on structure placement along the shoreline (e.g. setback further from the water's edge and designed to cover less area on a lot).
8. Over 67% of respondents indicated that the City should provide standards for new or renovated piers that would minimize impacts to aquatic habitat. Asked to respond to different approaches, there was generally strong support expressed for the options presented, which included:
    - Requiring new piers or additions to incorporate design features that accommodate salmon and other aquatic species (79% of respondents indicated standards are needed).
    - Requiring replacement piers to incorporate design features that accommodate salmon and other aquatic species (74% of respondents indicated standards are needed).
    - Encouraging the construction of fewer piers (66% of respondents indicated

standards are needed).

9. Over 76% of respondents indicated that the City should provide standards for shoreline vegetation and maintenance. Asked to respond to different approaches, there was generally strong support for the options presented, which included:
    - Restrict the use of herbicides and other maintenance practices that may be harmful to the environment (84% of respondents indicated standards are needed).
    - Encouraging the use of native plantings and limitations on herbicide use through the use of incentives, technical assistance and resource and education materials (74% of respondents indicated standards are needed).
    - Require native plantings along the shoreline edge and limit extensive areas of lawn in the area adjacent to the lake (58% of respondents who indicated standards are needed)
10. Over 65% of respondents indicated that the City should provide standards for bulkheads and other hard armoring. Asked to respond to different approaches, there was strong support for the following two options presented:
    - Prohibit the establishment of new bulkheads of other hard armoring, unless necessity is demonstrated and alternative methods are demonstrated to not be feasible or sufficient (76% of respondents indicated standards are needed).
    - Require new development of substantial remodel of existing development to remove existing bulkheads and replace these structures with a suitable shoreline stabilization solution involving native vegetation, logs, and beach reestablishment (62% of respondents indicated standards are needed).

    There was less support expressed for allowing existing bulkheads to remain with new constructionand more support to require enhancement of the shoreline with vegetation or other measures (46% of respondents indicated standards are needed).
11. In evaluating different activities that the City could pursue to facilitate habitat restoration activities, there was greatest support for the following:
    - Restoration activities in parks (80%)
    - Technical assistance for owners who accommodate enhancement (64%)
    - Grants for large restoration projects (57%)
    - Incentives for owners who initiate enhancement (52%)
    - Reduction/waiver of fees for owners who initiate restoration or preservation (52%)

    The respondents were fairly split between those that supported (38%) and those that opposed (30%) the use of flexible standards for owners who accommodate enhancement.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

1. **What do you like best about Kirkland's waterfront?**

53 respondents provided 30 unique responses to this question.

The top 10 responses were:

- Public access – 19 respondents
- Parks – 14
- Walkability – 12
- Open space – 8
- Views – 7
- Beaches – 4
- Wildlife – 3
- Marina – 3
- Beauty/Aesthetics – 3
- Limited/Low Development – 3

The other responses were:

- Shoreline – 2 respondents
- Charm/quaintness – 2
- Grass – 2
- Natural areas – 2
- Quiet/peacefulness – 2
- Water – 2
- Swimming - 1
- Property-owner rights - 1
- Safety - 1
- Livability - 1
- Juanita Bay - 1
- Juanita Beach - 1
- Recreation opportunities - 1
- Canoeing - 1
- Restrooms - 1
- Kid-friendliness - 1
- Downtown - 1
- Restoration efforts - 1
- Acquisition of public land - 1
- Handicapped Accessibility - 1

2. **When you think about Kirkland's shorelines, what concerns you the most?**

49 respondents provided 33 unique responses to this question. The top 10 responses were:

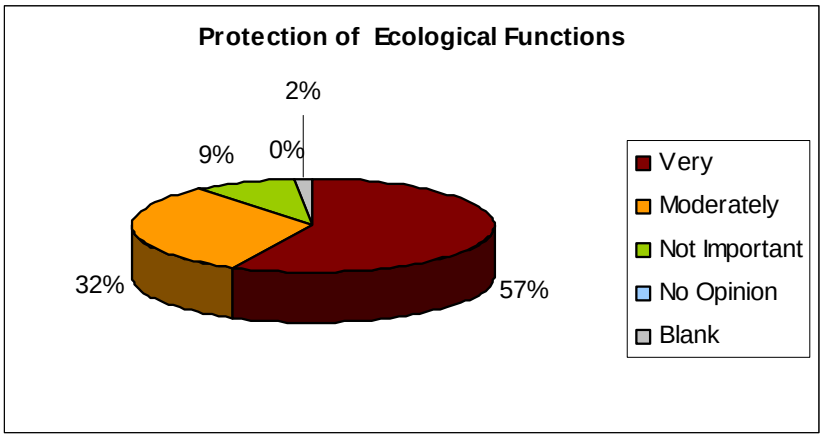
- Overdevelopment – 15 respondents
- Pollution/runoff – 7
- Artificial shoreline/bulkheads – 7
- Loss of public access- 7
- Water quality – 4
- Shoreline degradation/erosion – 4
- Noise – 4
- Animal waste – 3
- Business/commercial interests – 3
- Parking – 3

The other responses were *)*:

- Health – 2
- Congestion/overcrowding – 2
- Loss of walkability – 2
- Traffic – 2
- Restoration - 1
- No wake zone - 1
- Quality of public areas - 1
- Fertilizers - 1
- Environmental quality - 1
- Juanita Beach - 1
- Juanita Bay - 1
- Dock conditions - 1
- Dogs - 1
- Misuse of private space - 1
- Preserving open space - 1
- Homeowner rights - 1
- Battle between waterfront-owners and non-waterfront owners - 1
- Loss of natural habitat - 1
- Dangerous pedestrian crossings - 1
- Invasive species - 1
- Wildlife population - 1
- Human impact - 1
- Wetlands - 1

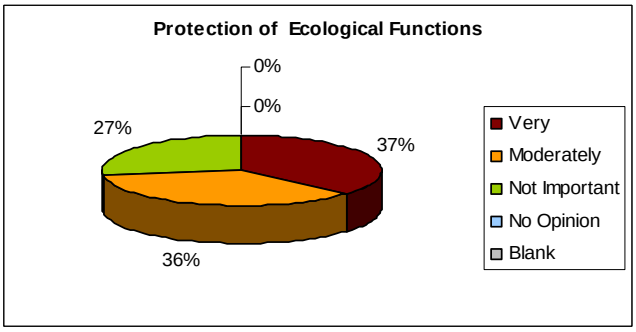
3. **Protection of shoreline ecological functions (i.e. habitat for fish and wildlife, attenuation of wave energy, filtering excessive nutrients or sediments and bank stabilization) is a goal of the Shoreline Management Act. How important is this to you?**

Very	Moderately	Not Important	No Opinion	Blank
32	18	5	0	1



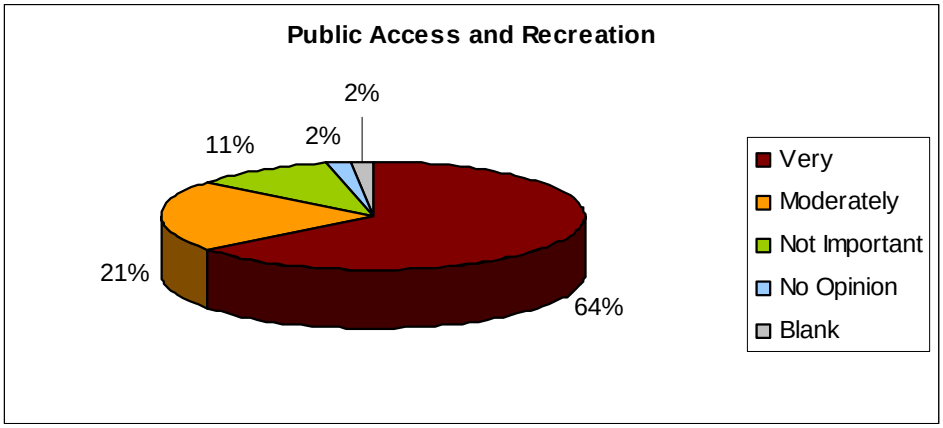
Waterfront Property Owners' responses:

Very	Moderately	Not Important	No Opinion	Blank
4	4	3	0	0



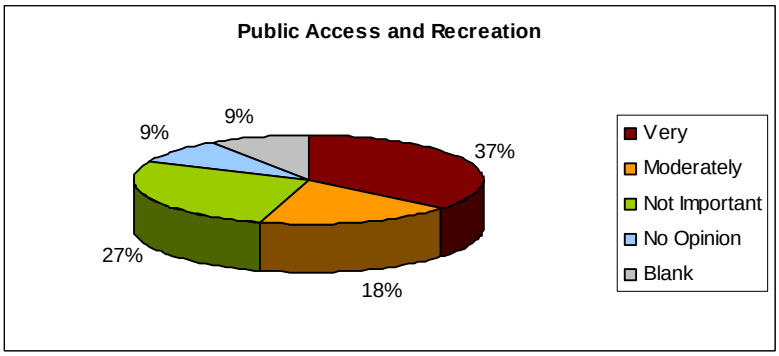
4. **Providing public access to the water and enhancing recreation is a goal of the Shoreline Management Act. How important is this to you?**

Very	Moderately	Not Important	No Opinion	Blank
36	12	6	1	1



Waterfront Property Owners' responses:

Very	Moderately	Not Important	No Opinion	Blank
4	2	3	1	1



5. **Please tell us what areas Kirkland should focus its attention on for its waterfront. Rate the following choices as your highest priority (1) to lowest priority (6).**

Score	1s	2s	3s	4s	5s	6s	Blank	Average
Public Access	14	6	5	6	17	6	2	3.4
Waterfront-dependent uses	5	8	1	8	12	21	1	4.4
Protect Functioning Habitats	25	13	6	8	0	2	2	2.1
Restore Degraded Habitats	5	14	18	6	5	6	2	3.2
Prevent Stormwater Runoff	8	15	15	10	4	3	1	2.9
Education and Incentives	3	2	7	13	10	20	1	4.5

Overall Rankings:

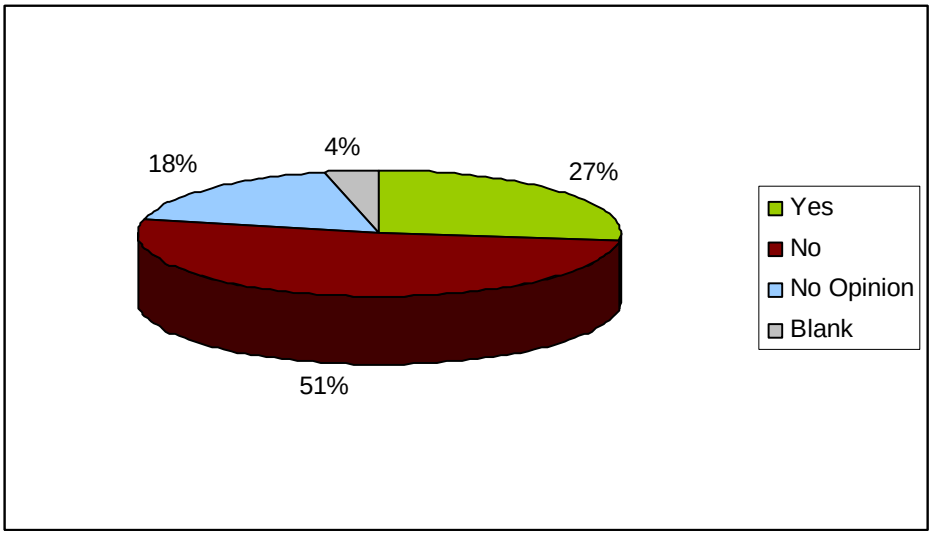
	Rank	Average
Protect Functioning Habitats	1	2.1
Prevent Stormwater Runoff	2	2.9
Restore Degraded Habitats	3	3.2
Public Access	4	3.4
Waterfront-dependent uses	5	4.4
Education and Incentives	6	4.5

Waterfront Property Owners Rankings:

	Rank	Average
Prevent Stormwater Runoff	1	2.3
Protect Functioning Habitats	2	2.4
Waterfront-dependent uses	3	3.1
Restore Degraded Habitats	4	3.2
Education and Incentives	5	4
Public Access	6	4.2

6. **Are there types of businesses or services that you would like to see, which do not currently occur along the City's waterfront?**

Yes	No	No Opinion	Blank
15	29	10	2



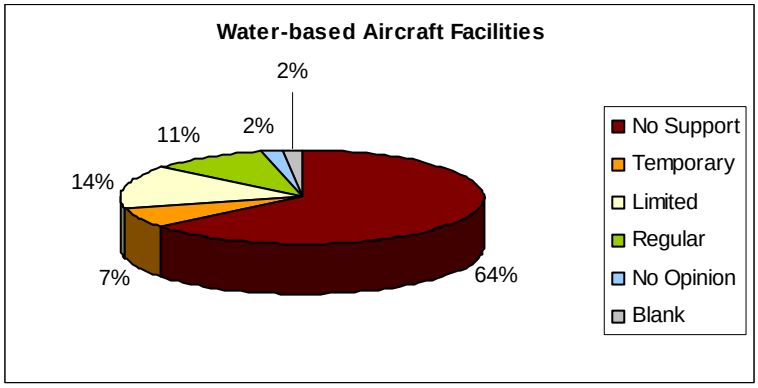
7. **If YES, what uses and why are those needed?**

The 15 affirmative responses provided a total of 10 unique answers:

- Boat rental – 4 respondents
- Food/restaurants – 4
- Marina services – 3
- Recreational services – 2
- Float planes
- Bookstore
- Movie theatre
- Dog park
- Water taxi
- Nature center

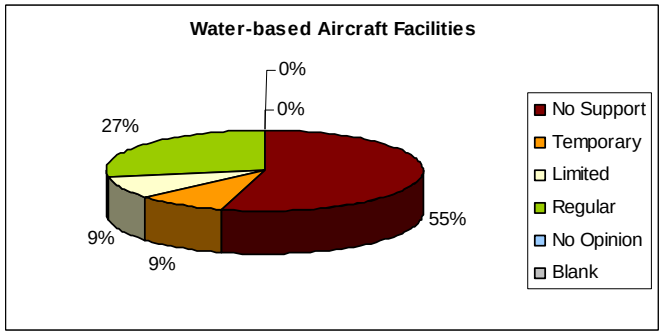
8. **Kirkland's waterfront business districts, such as Downtown or Carillon Point, are active community areas. As a result, the City anticipates that there may be future interest in establishing water-based aircraft facilities (e.g. floatplane operations) within these waterfront commercial districts. Which of the following best represents your opinion?**

No Support	Support temporary moorage for personal use	Support limited facilities for air charter operations	Support regularly scheduled commercial flights	No Opinion	Blank
36	4	8	6	1	1



Waterfront Property Owners' responses:

No Support	Support temporary moorage for personal use	Support limited facilities for air charter operations	Support regularly scheduled commercial flights	No Opinion	Blank
6	1	1	3	0	0



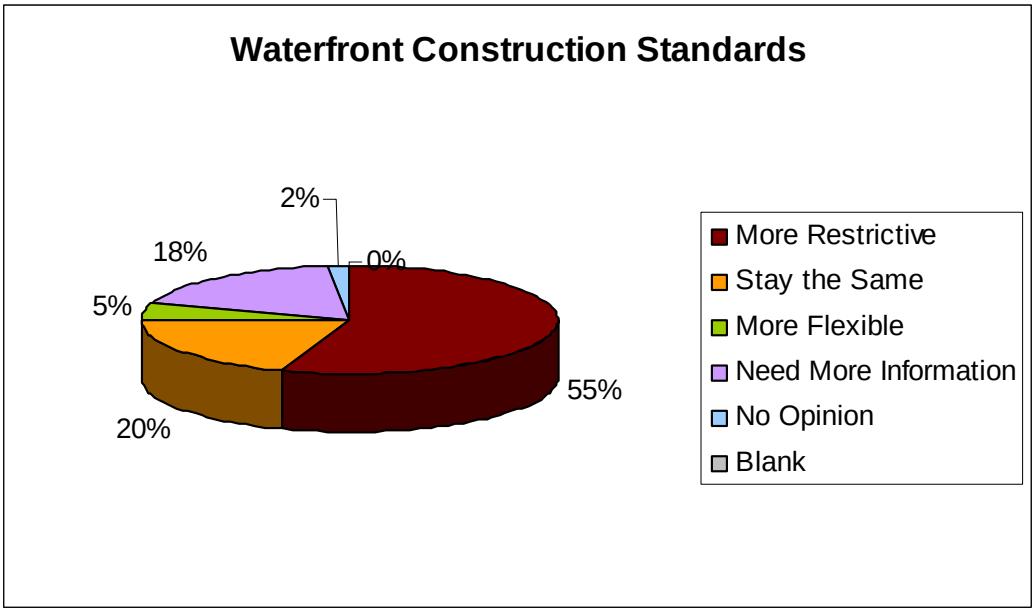
9. **What natural features (such as streams, wetlands, forests) of Kirkland's shorelines should be protected and/or restored?**

42 respondents to this question provided 17 unique answers to this question:

- All/as many as possible – 18 respondents
- Streams – 9
- Wetlands – 7
- Forests – 5
- Juanita Bay – 4
- Wildlife habitats – 3
- Shoreline – 2
- Brush
- Aquatic life
- Watersheds
- Parks
- Juanita Creek
- Juanita Beach
- Native plants
- Trees
- Beaches

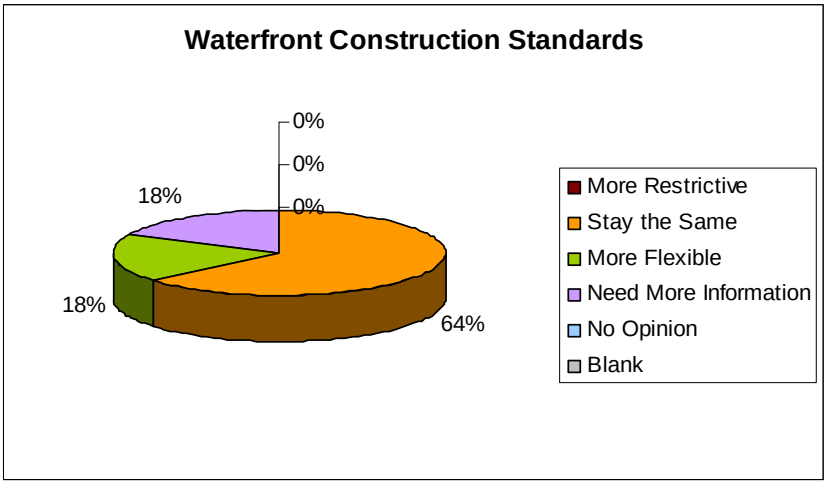
10. **Along the shoreline area, Shoreline Master Program regulations address issues such as how close structures can be to the water's edge, lot coverage, open space and the separation between structures. In your opinion, should the rules governing construction along the waterfront be changed? (Please choose one response).**

Standards should be more restrictive (e.g. set back farther from the water's edge and other structures on adjacent lots, and designed to cover less area on a lot)	Stay the Same	Allow for more Flexibility (e.g. locate closer to the water's edge and other structures on adjacent lots, and increase the area allowed to be covered on a lot)	Need More Information	No Opinion	Blank
31	11	3	10	1	0



Waterfront Property Owners' responses:

Standards should be more restrictive (e.g. set back farther from the water's edge and other structures on adjacent lots, and designed to cover less area on a lot)	Stay the Same	Allow for more Flexibility (e.g. locate closer to the water's edge and other structures on adjacent lots, and increase the area allowed to be covered on a lot)	Need More Information	No Opinion	Blank
0	7	2	2	0	0



11. **Large piers have the potential to impact the nearshore aquatic habitat, by blocking sunlight and creating large areas of overhead cover which shade the lake bottom and inhibit the growth of aquatic vegetation. These changes in the nearshore habitat have been identified as posing potential adverse impacts to juvenile salmon that rear in and migrate through Lake Washington.**

    Do you think the City should provide standards for new or renovated piers in response to this issue, consistent with state and federal guidance?

Yes	No	Need More Information	No Opinion	Blank
38	10	7	1	0

Waterfront Property Owners' responses:

Yes	No	Need More Information	No Opinion	Blank
2	8	1	0	0

12. **If you answered "Yes" above, which of the following standards would you recommend (Check any that apply):**

Provide Standards on Pier Size and Cover	
• Standards should encourage the construction of fewer piers (i.e. shared use of piers).	25
• Standards should require new piers or additions to piers to incorporate design features that accommodate salmon and other aquatic species (i.e. minimizing the size and widths of piers and floats, increasing light transmission through over-water structures)	30
• Standards should require replacement piers to incorporate design features that accommodate salmon and other aquatic species (i.e. minimizing the size and widths of piers and floats, increasing light transmission through any over-water structures)	28

13. **Native or other appropriate vegetation on the shoreline has a number of benefits to lakes and lake associated wildlife, including water quality (sediment and pollution removal), bank stabilization, shade and temperature moderation, fish and wildlife habitat, and productivity (food sources such as insects and smaller organic debris). Do you think the City should provide standards for shoreline vegetation and maintenance?**

Yes	No	Need More Information	No Opinion	Blank
43	7	5	0	1

Waterfront Property Owners' responses:

Yes	No	Need More Information	No Opinion	Blank
3	6	1	0	1

14. **If you answered "Yes" above, which of the following standards would you recommend (Check any that apply):**

Provide Standards on Shoreline Vegetation and Maintenance	
Standards should require native or other appropriate plantings along the shoreline edge and limit extensive areas of lawn in the area adjacent to the lake with new development or substantial remodel of existing development.	25
Standards should restrict the use of herbicides and other maintenance practices that may be harmful to the shoreline environment.	36
Standards should encourage the use of native plantings and limitations on herbicide use through the use of incentives, technical assistance and resource and education materials.	32

15. **Bulkheads and other hard armoring of the shoreline have been shown to have a variety of negative impacts on natural processes including increased erosion of other properties, reduced vegetation and aquatic habitat function, and introduction of habitat for non-native predator species. Do you think the City should provide standards for bulkheads and hard armoring in response to this issue?**

Yes	No	Need More Information	No Opinion	Blank
37	7	11	0	1

Waterfront Property Owners' responses:

Yes	No	Need More Information	No Opinion	Blank
2	5	3	0	1

16. **If you answered "Yes" above, which of the following standards would you recommend (Check any that apply):**

Provide Standards on Bulkheads and Hard Armoring	
Standards should prohibit the establishment of new bulkheads or other hard armoring, unless necessity is demonstrated and alternative methods are demonstrated to be not feasible or not sufficient	28
Standards should require new development or substantial remodel of existing development to remove existing bulkheads and replace these structures with a suitable shoreline stabilization solution involving native vegetation, logs and beach re-establishment	23
Standards should allow existing bulkheads to remain with new construction, but require enhancement of the shoreline with vegetation or other measures.	17

Comparison between proposed standards:

	Yes	No	Need More Information	No Opinion	Blank
Provide Standards on Pier Size and Cover	38	10	7	1	0
Provide Standards on Shoreline Vegetation and Maintenance	43	7	5	0	1
Provide Standards on Bulkheads and Hard Armoring	37	7	11	0	1

Waterfront Property Owners' responses:

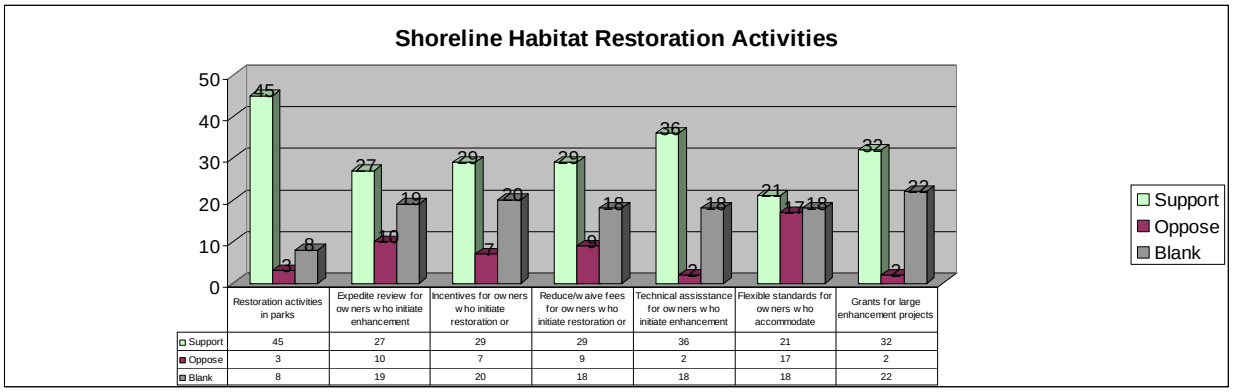
	Yes	No	Need More Information	No Opinion	Blank
Provide Standards on Pier Size and Cover	2	8	1	0	0
Provide Standards on Shoreline Vegetation and Maintenance	3	6	1	0	1
Provide Standards on Bulkheads and Hard Armoring	2	5	3	0	1

17. **To facilitate shoreline habitat restoration activities, which of the following would you SUPPORT/OPPOSE the City to explore?**

Activity	Support	Oppose	Blank
Undertake restoration activities in existing parks (i.e. reduce bank hardening, install overhanging riparian vegetation, replace bulkheads with sand beaches and gentle slopes, and minimize overwater coverage)	45	3	8
Provide a reduced review time/expedited review for shoreline property owners who initiate enhancement projects on their property	27	10	19
Provide financial incentives (e.g. participation in a Public Benefit Rating System that could reduce land assessments) for shoreline property owners who initiate restoration projects or preserve a natural shoreline on their property.	29	7	20
Reduce or waive fees for shoreline property owners who initiate enhancement projects on their property	29	9	18
Provide technical assistance for shoreline property owners who initiate enhancement projects on their property	36	2	18
Provide flexibility in some development standards for shoreline property owners who accommodate enhancement projects on their property	21	17	18
Pursue grant funding or other opportunities for larger restoration projects	32	2	22

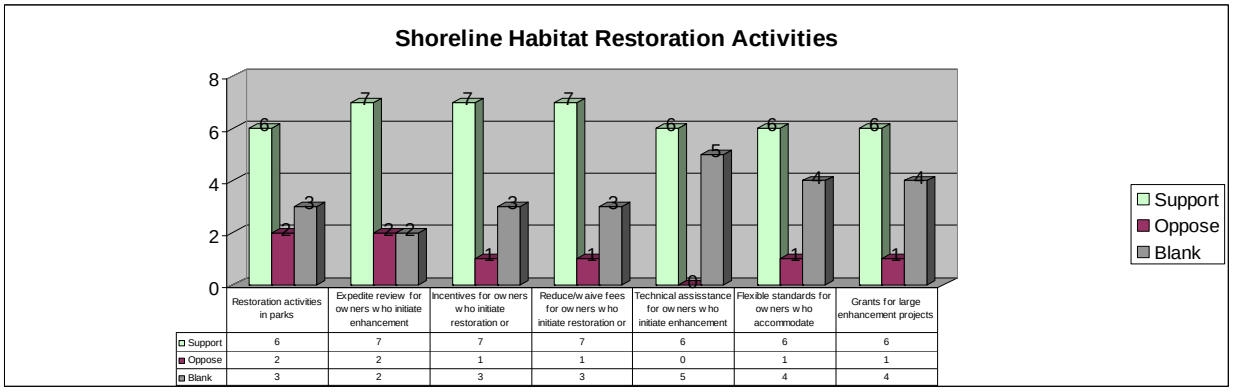
Waterfront Property Owners' responses:

Activity	Support	Oppose	Blank
Undertake restoration activities in existing parks (i.e. reduce bank hardening, install overhanging riparian vegetation, replace bulkheads with sand beaches and gentle slopes, and minimize overwater coverage)	6	2	3
Provide a reduced review time/expedited review for shoreline property owners who initiate enhancement projects on their property	7	2	2
Provide financial incentives (e.g. participation in a Public Benefit Rating System that could reduce land assessments) for shoreline property owners who initiate restoration projects or preserve a natural shoreline on their property.	7	1	3
Reduce or waive fees for shoreline property owners who initiate enhancement projects on their property	7	1	3
Provide technical assistance for shoreline property owners who initiate enhancement projects on their property	6	0	5
Provide flexibility in some development standards for shoreline property owners who accommodate enhancement projects on their property	6	1	4
Pursue grant funding or other opportunities for larger restoration projects	6	1	4



	Restoration activities in parks	Expedite review for owners who initiate enhancement	Incentives for owners who initiate restoration or	Reduce/waive fees for owners who initiate restoration or	Technical assistance for owners who initiate enhancement	Flexible standards for owners who accommodate	Grants for large enhancement projects
Support	45	27	29	29	36	21	32
Oppose	3	10	7	9	2	17	2
Blank	8	19	20	18	18	18	22

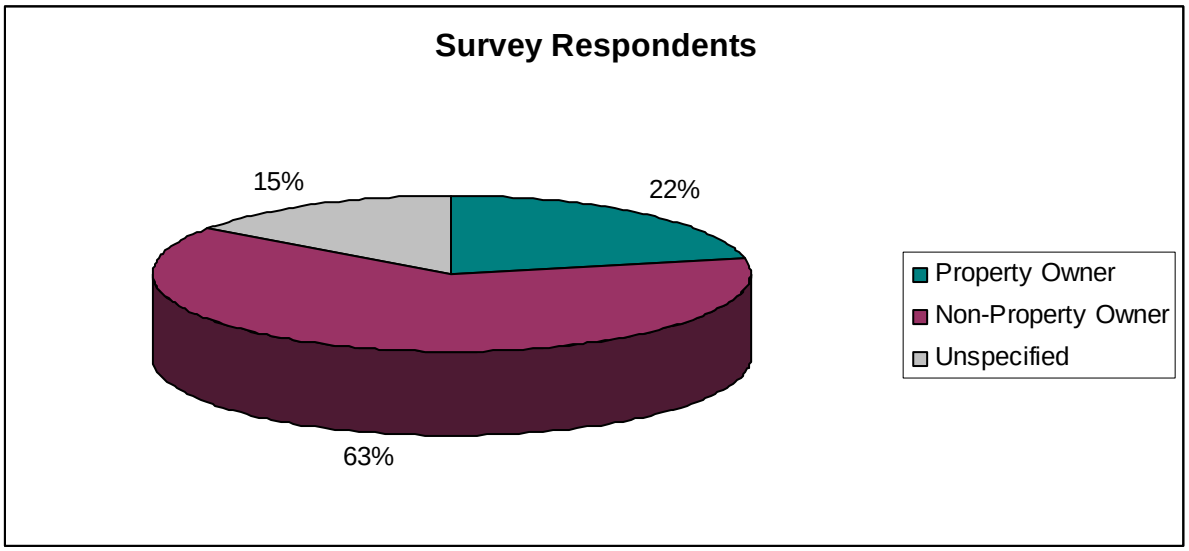
Waterfront Property Owners' response graph:



	Restoration activities in parks	Expedite review for owners who initiate enhancement	Incentives for owners who initiate restoration or	Reduce/waive fees for owners who initiate restoration or	Technical assistance for owners who initiate enhancement	Flexible standards for owners who accommodate	Grants for large enhancement projects
Support	6	7	7	7	6	6	6
Oppose	2	2	1	1	0	1	1
Blank	3	2	3	3	5	4	4

18. **Do you own property along Kirkland's waterfront?**

Waterfront Property Owner	Non-Waterfront Property Owner	Unspecified
13	37	9



19. **I am primarily interested in the Shoreline Master Program because I am (check all that apply):**

Interested in SMP because…	
Shoreline property owner	13
Interested citizen	37
Interested in environmental quality	32
Recreational boater	10
Interested in public access/parks	33
Business interest	3
Other	4

20. **The best way to keep me informed is by**

Keep me informed by…	
Mailings	5
Website	16
E-mail	31
Public meetings	5
Newspapers and other media	15
Other	1