



Toronto Island Public Life Study

March 2021

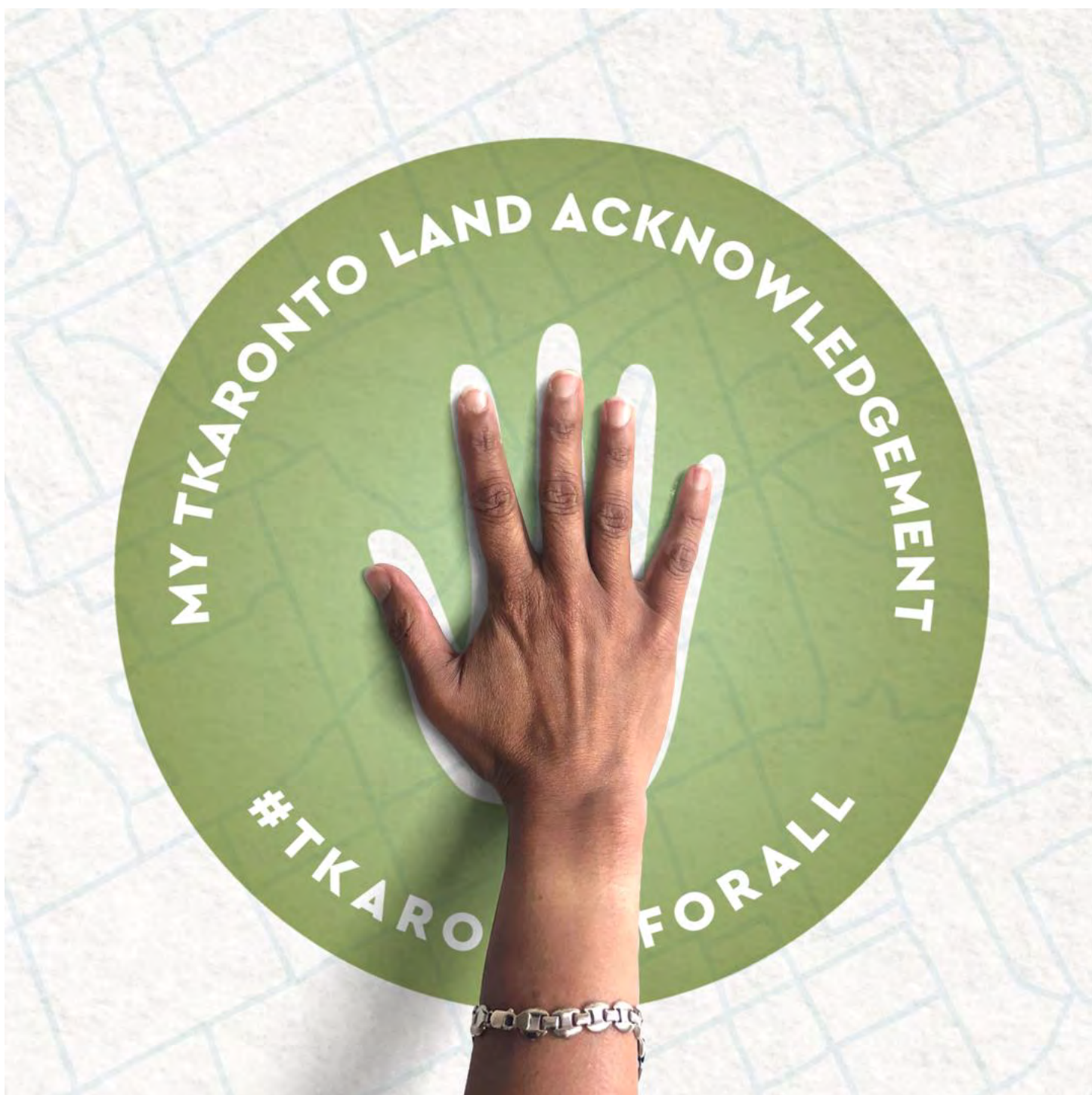




ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This study was led by Park People, a national charity that helps people activate the power of parks.

Thank you to the dedicated team of volunteer surveyors who contributed their time, expertise and insights to make this study possible.



The City of Toronto gratefully acknowledges that the area covered by the Toronto Island Master Plan is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of New Credit, the Anishinaabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat people and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The City of Toronto also acknowledges that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of New Credit, and the Williams Treaty signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Toronto Island Park Public Space Public Life Study was undertaken to better understand how the Island is used by providing a snapshot of public life to inform the creation of the Toronto Island Master Plan.

Public life is the collective energy and activity of people spending time in our city's public spaces. Measuring public life—how many people walk by, who stops to sit down, what they do there—is critical in understanding the successes and challenges of a public space.

The study used behavioural observation methods to capture data on a weekend (Saturday August 22, 2020) and weekday (August 26 and September 1, 2020). The study focused on eight zones across Toronto Island Park, including each of the dock areas (Jack Layton Ferry Terminal, Ward's, Centre, and Hanlan's) and beach areas (Ward's, Centre, Gibraltar, and Hanlan's). In addition, an online survey focused on people's perceptions and motivations for visiting the Island was conducted between August 17th and September 20th, 2020.

The study took place during the COVID-19 pandemic, with appropriate safety precautions. Although daily case counts were low and the Island was well used during the study dates, physical distancing requirements and ferry capacity limits likely influenced some results.

Key findings of the study included:

1. The Island is a social place.
2. Seniors were underrepresented overall, while use by children grew during the week.
3. Gender is balanced on the weekend, but tilts during the week
4. Beaches are the main attraction, but use is not evenly distributed.
5. Centre Island takes centre stage for pedestrians.
6. Bikes and beaches go together.
7. Some ferry docks attract people to stay, while others are for passing through.
8. What people bring to the Island with them suggests demand for rentals and improvements.

INTRODUCTION



Why study Toronto Islands?

At 325 hectares, Toronto Island Park is one of the largest green spaces in the city, located a short ferry ride off the mainland and visited by people from all over the city, region, and world as a top destination in Toronto. The park is actually an archipelago of 14 different islands and contains six designated Environmentally Significant Areas by the city.

Public ferries accessed from the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal at Bay Street and Queen's Quay—as well as private water taxis—serve the Island's three main spaces: Ward's Island, Centre Island, and Hanlan's Point. The Island contains large natural spaces, beaches, bike rentals, disc golf, concessions, restaurants, and a number of children's focused activities such as Centreville Amusement Park, Franklin Children's Garden, and Far Enough Farm.

For more descriptions of specific beaches and dock areas on the Island that are a part of this study, see the zone profiles.

The Toronto Island Park Public Space Public Life Study was undertaken to better understand how the Island is used by providing a snapshot of public life that can be used to inform the creation of the Toronto Island Master Plan.

The Toronto Island Park Master Plan will ensure that future park improvements move it towards, and contribute to, a vision for the entire park that is comprehensive and complete. A vision for the park that will better serve the public, improve equitable access and user experience, celebrate the charm, natural, and cultural history of this cherished park, and ensure its sustainability and viability for future generations.

What is a public life study and how are they used?

Public life is the collective energy and activity of people spending time in our city's public spaces. Measuring public life—how many people walk by, who stops to sit down, what they do there—is critical in understanding the successes and challenges of a public space.

A public life study uses specific methodology that can combine behavioural observation and surveys to collect both quantitative and qualitative data about how a space is used on particular days during particular times.

Public life is ever-changing, but capturing a snapshot through the methodology of a public life study can help uncover trends, measure the impact of design interventions, evaluate amenities and programming, indicate who is present and who is missing, and uncover future areas for research and public consultation.

STUDY DESIGN

Research Questions

The public life study was guided by the following research questions:

- How are ferry terminals and beaches on the Island being used, and by whom?
- How does use differ between ferry docks and beaches?
- What are people's perceptions and motivations for visiting the Island?
- How might public spaces on the Island be improved?

Toronto Island Master Plan Framework

This public life study is part of a broader set of initiatives led by the City of Toronto's Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division aiming to learn more about public sentiment and use of the Island.

To guide this work, the City has developed a framework for the Toronto Island Park Master Plan, which covers broad theme areas and guiding questions, including but not limited to the following:

Identity & Equity Do people have equitable access to and use of Island spaces and/or amenities?

Access How do people access the Island?

Usage When do people go to the Island? How often and for how long?

Reasons for use What do people do on the Island?

Community significance Does the Island have special meaning for specific communities? For whom and how?

Community value What (if any) benefits do people receive from the Island?

Environmental value What (if any) environmental benefits does the Island provide?

Visions for future What are peoples' visions for the Island?

Ideas for improvement What could be improved on the Island?

Key findings in this report are labeled according to the theme area they most closely relate to, however, the public life study is not intended to address each of these questions. This study should be understood as one component of multiple planned research and consultation initiatives that, taken together, will address these questions and others more comprehensively.

STUDY ZONES

The study included seven zones across Toronto Island Park and one zone at the Jack Layton Ferry Terminal on the mainland. Study days included two time periods to capture a range of activity throughout the mid-morning, afternoon, and early evening: 10am until 2pm and 4pm until 8pm. While Toronto Island Park is vast with many different areas, the study focused on docks and beaches, which included:

FERRY DOCK + BEACH ZONE MAP:



1. Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

JLFT is the ferry terminal and waterfront park connecting the mainland with Toronto Island Park with ferries to Hanlan's Point, Centre Island, and Ward's Island.

2. Ward's Island Ferry Dock

Acting as the main dock connecting mainland Toronto with the residential community on Toronto Island, Ward's Island Dock is located near several Island restaurants and cafes.

3. Centre Island Ferry Dock

Centre Island Dock provides access to Centre Island's amenities such as the beach, bike rentals, children's play area, Centreville amusement park, and more. It also includes a larger concession area.

4. Hanlan's Point Ferry Dock

Connected to the mainland by public ferry, Hanlan's Dock includes a small concession area and provides access to Hanlan's Beach. It is also a popular pick-up/drop-off location for water taxis.

5. Ward's Island Beach

Located near the small residential community on Toronto Island, Ward's Beach provides a large sandy beach and is located along the boardwalk connecting to the rest of the Island along its southern edge.

6. Centre Island Beach

The main beach on Toronto Island, Centre Island Beach is located a short walk from Centre Island Dock. It includes a popular pier and concession area as well picnic tables and bike rentals.

7. Gibraltar Point Beach

Located between Centre Island Beach and Hanlan's Point Beach, Gibraltar Beach is accessed off the main bike/walk path. It is located near the ArtScape Gibraltar Point artists residences/studios.

8. Hanlan's Point Beach

The main beach on Hanlan's Point, Hanlan's Beach includes a large clothing-optional area and is also a popular spot for the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

METHODS

To paint a holistic picture of the public life of Island public spaces, the study employed the following methods:

Pedestrian Movement Counts

Surveyors count the total number of people that pass a designated point on a sidewalk/pathway—think an invisible “finish line”—over a 10-minute period at the top of each hour. Includes people using mobility aids (e.g. wheelchairs) and babies in strollers. The 10-minute count is multiplied by 6 to estimate pedestrians per hour.

Cyclist Movement Counts

While counting pedestrians, surveyors also count the total number of cyclists passing a designated point over a 10-minute period at the top of each hour. Cyclist counts are conducted at the same locations as pedestrian counts. The 10-minute count is multiplied by 6 to estimate cyclists per hour.

Mapping of Stationary Activities & Postures

Each hour, surveyors map the location of people observed staying in the zone and record activities they are engaged in. Activities recorded for this study were: eating/drinking, socializing, active recreation (physical activity), passive recreation (non-physical recreation, such as reading, photography, etc.), and vending (engaged in a commercial transaction).

In ferry dock zones only, surveyors also recorded postures of people staying in the space. Postures recorded were: standing, formal sitting (sitting on something designed as seating, like a bench), informal sitting (sitting, leaning or perching on something not designed as seating, like a curb), and lying down.

The total people counted during this exercise yields Total Stationary Counts.

Observed Age & Gender Presentation Counts

Each hour, surveyors estimate the perceived (i.e. visually-approximated) age and gender of people staying in the space. If a person was perceived as non-binary or the surveyor was uncomfortable categorizing, they recorded the person as 'Non-Binary/Unidentified'. Gender presentation was not recorded for babies and toddlers. Collecting this data can provide insights around the sense of safety and comfort in a space, although we acknowledge the limitations of measuring age and gender through observational methods, including the potential for age- and gender-misclassification given that people could not self-identify.

Stationary Item and Dog Counts

In beach zones only, surveyors recorded the number of umbrellas, chairs, bikes, and boats, to help identify potential demand for rentals or amenities. The counts capture items accompanying people staying in the spaces, not passing through. Bike counts include bikes lying on beaches (not at bike racks). Across all zones, surveyors counted the number of dogs present during stationary counts, to identify areas where there may be demand for dog amenities.

Seating Inventory

On the study dates, supervisors counted the capacity of available seating in each of the dock zones in order to calculate seating occupancy rates and determine where improvements may be needed. Picnic tables were counted as accommodating 4 people, benches as 2–3 people (depending on whether or not they had a middle bar), and chairs as 1 person.

Online Survey

To complement the behavioural observation data, an online Toronto Island Park Public Life Survey was created to learn more about people's experiences and perceptions of the Island, and motivations for visiting. The survey was designed to be completed by Island park users during their visit to the Island or shortly afterward. Decals that included a QR code link to the survey were installed around the Island and particularly at study zone areas. The survey was open from August 17th to September 20th, 2020.

Volunteer Surveyors

Over 20 volunteer surveyors were recruited through the University of Toronto and Ryerson University and assigned shifts for both a weekend study day (Saturday, August 22) and a weekday study day (Wednesday, August 26 for the 10am-2pm shift, and Tuesday September 1 for the 4-8pm rain date shift). Volunteers were provided with an honorarium.

Surveyors attended a virtual training the week before the study, which included precautions related to COVID-19. All survey materials were sanitized before and after use and surveyors were encouraged to wear masks during their shifts and to stay physically distant from park users. The information the surveyors were recording did not require them to come into contact or interact with any park users. Park People supervisors were on the Island to monitor the study and ensure data quality and surveyor safety and comfort.



STUDY LIMITATIONS & COVID-19

Public life studies provide important data about how a public space is used, but there are several limitations that must be noted when interpreting the data associated with this study.

COVID-19 precautions

The study was conducted in August and early September 2020 when COVID-19 daily case counts were low. While the study days showed the Island was still very busy during this time, it's important to note that the pandemic likely deterred some people—especially older adults and those with greater health risks—from accessing the Island.

Reduced ferry capacity

Ferries were running at a reduced frequency, with capacity limited to 50% and ticket sales capped at 5,000 per day. This cap does not include people accessing the Island by water taxi or private boats. While we don't believe this affected major patterns of use recorded during the study at each zone, it likely affects daily totals of people.

Adjustment of scope

Prior to COVID-19, a four-seasons study was planned that would have compared warmer weather and colder weather use. The study scope was reduced to a summer study focused on beach and ferry dock zones only, due to pandemic-related uncertainty and effects on public life.

Ferry schedule

Counts took place at the same time across zones to allow for comparability, but it should be noted that each of the ferry docks has a unique ferry schedule that results in ebbs and flows of pedestrians, cyclists, and people staying in the area, possibly influencing counts. Additionally, supervisors observed on the study dates that ferries were running irregularly compared to the schedule, likely due to the need to adapt service flexibly in light of COVID-19 capacity restrictions.

Estimations at beaches

Many of the beach areas were extremely busy on the Saturday August 22 study day and surveyors were told to estimate the number of people during their stationary mapping activities. This was done both for efficiency reasons and for personal safety reasons (i.e. physical distancing) for the surveyor.

Reduced seating

Due to COVID-19, approximately 20% of available seating across the Island was removed at the time of study, including limited placement of picnic tables, potentially impacting use patterns. Additionally, the seating inventory taken at each dock area and used to calculate seating capacity did not take into account COVID-19 physical distancing requirements. During COVID-19, actual seating capacity may be lower as people seek to physically distance themselves from people outside their household.

Weather and rain date

The evening shift (4 – 8pm) of the Wednesday August 26 study day rained out and was rescheduled for Tuesday, September 1. We have stitched together these two days of data in our weekday analysis. The weekend study date was hot and sunny reaching 30°C, while the weekday conditions were slightly cooler and more overcast at 22°C on August 26th and 28°C on September 1st. This may have resulted in a greater drop in use between weekend and weekday, especially at beaches.

Online survey

Originally, an intercept survey had been contemplated, which would have involved surveyors approaching people on Toronto Island to complete a survey of their use of the Island. However, due to COVID-19 safety precautions, this survey was moved online with QR code decals and signage used to direct people to fill it out while on the Island.

Due to self-selection bias, this approach resulted in a less representative sample of survey respondents. Of the 390 respondents, almost three-quarters identified as male, three-quarters as White (European descent), half as being members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community and over half as being Hanlan's Point users. Because of this limitation, we have incorporated survey data into the report only where it complements findings from the observational methods, and included any standalone survey findings in a separate section.

KEY FINDINGS

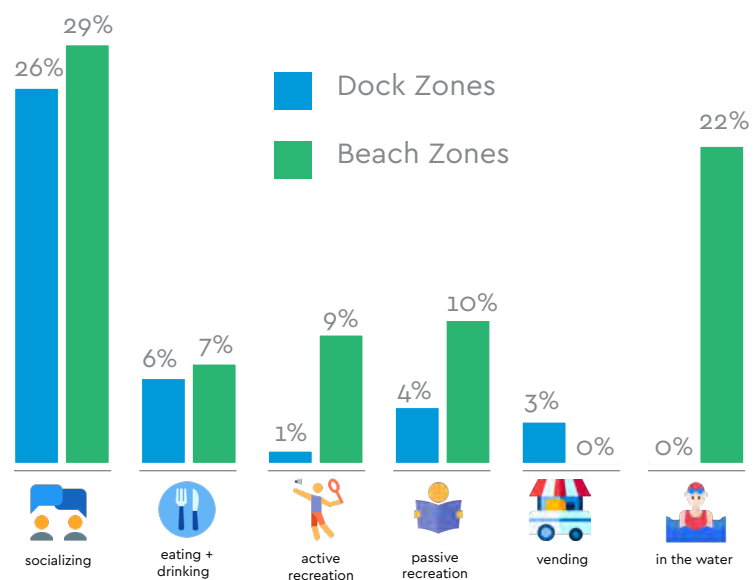


1. THE ISLAND IS A SOCIAL PLACE

Methods: Mapping of Stationary Activities, Online Survey
Theme: Reasons for use, Community value, Ideas for Improvement

Over $\frac{1}{4}$ of people observed hanging out on the Island were engaged in conversation

OBSERVED ACTIVITIES*



*Average percentages using daily activity ratios across weekend and weekday study dates for all zones on the Island (excludes Jack Layton Ferry Terminal).

THE ISLAND ATTRACTS DIVERSE ACTIVITIES

Socializing was the top activity observed Island-wide, while recreational activities, both active (e.g. yoga) and passive (e.g. reading), were more popular on beaches than at ferry docks. Island-wide, few people were engaged in eating or drinking, potentially pointing to opportunities to expand food vendors on the Island.

VISITING THE ISLAND IS A SOCIAL OUTING FOR MANY

- On average, over a quarter of people observed staying on the Island were engaged in conversation.
- In the online survey, **86% of respondents said they were meeting up with at least one other person during their Island visit.** However, 44% cited spending time alone as a reason for visiting the Island, suggesting people value a mix of social and individual experiences.

BEACHES SEE MORE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- On average, about **1 in 5 beach users was engaged in a recreational activity**, compared to 1 in 20 at the Island dock zones.
- People enjoy swimming at beaches, with about 1 in 4 people in the water on the weekend. This average dipped to 1 in 6 people during the weekday count, but this day was also not as hot and sunny as the weekend.

FEW PEOPLE WERE EATING/DRINKING, SUGGESTING A POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND PLACES TO BUY, COOK OR EAT FOOD.

- On average, **only 6% of Island visitors were counted as eating or drinking.** However, while food vendors were open during the study, COVID-19 precautions may have limited capacity resulting in fewer people observed eating.
- With the largest availability of concession offerings, Centre Island Dock was the most popular spot for eating/drinking, with 13% of people engaged in this activity on the weekend and 5% on the weekday. Despite also having a concession, Hanlan's Docks saw only 3% of users eating/drinking on the weekend, and less than 1% on the weekday.
- In the online survey,¹ 69% said having more food and drink options would improve their experience on the Island.

1. See survey disclaimer on page 32

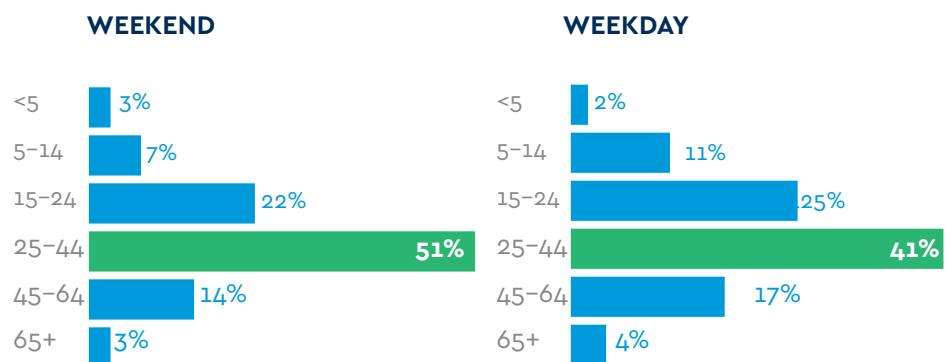


2. SENIORS WERE UNDERREPRESENTED OVERALL, WHILE USE BY CHILDREN GREW DURING THE WEEK.

Methods: Observed Age Presentation
Theme: Equity & Identity

4% of people counted hanging out on the Island were seniors, but make up 16%¹ of the total city population

ISLAND-WIDE AGE AVERAGES*



*Averages across all Island zones (excludes Jack Layton Ferry Terminal)

The underrepresentation of seniors suggests that they may experience barriers accessing the Island altogether, or hanging out in spaces on the Island for any length of time. It may also be a reflection of health concerns regarding COVID-19 reducing the amount of seniors that chose to visit the Island. Island-wide, the percentage of children aged 5-14 increased significantly from weekend to weekday, suggesting that kids use the Island more consistently throughout the week, potentially due to day camps, whereas older age groups may be focused on weekend use.

1. Source: [2016 Census](#)

PROPORTION OF KIDS INCREASED ON THE WEEKDAY

- Across all Island zones, children aged 5–14 accounted for approximately 7% of people on the weekend, and 11% on the weekday. The higher weekday use likely reflects the study taking place over the summer break when school was not in session.

SENIORS WERE A SMALL FRACTION OF ISLAND USERS, ALTHOUGH BETTER REPRESENTED IN THE MORNINGS

- People aged over 65 made up 3% of Island users on the weekend, and 4% on the weekday. On both study dates, use by seniors was significantly higher in the mornings, **peaking at 10am where they made up 11% of Island visitors** on average, potentially due to a desire to avoid crowds especially given the health risks of COVID-19.

WARD'S DOCKS AND HANLAN'S BEACH ARE THE MOST POPULAR SPOTS FOR OLDER ADULTS AND SENIORS

- Of all the ferry docks, **Ward's had the highest overall use by seniors, accounting for 5% of users on the weekend and 9% on the weekday.** By comparison, Centre Island Docks had the lowest proportion of seniors, making up 3% and 0% of weekend and weekday users, respectively.
- Of all the beaches, **Hanlan's Beach had the highest use by seniors, representing 8% of all beach users counted on the weekday.** Hanlan's also had the highest percentage of beach users between 45 and 64 years of age at 19% and 23% on the weekday and weekend, respectively. This is well above the average of 8% across all other beach zones on both study dates.

CENTRE ISLAND BEACH WAS THE MOST POPULAR SPOT FOR CHILDREN

- Centre Island Beach saw the highest use by children under 15, with over a third of beach users counted on the weekday in this age category. However, Ward's Island was also popular for children on the weekday, accounting for 18% of beach users.

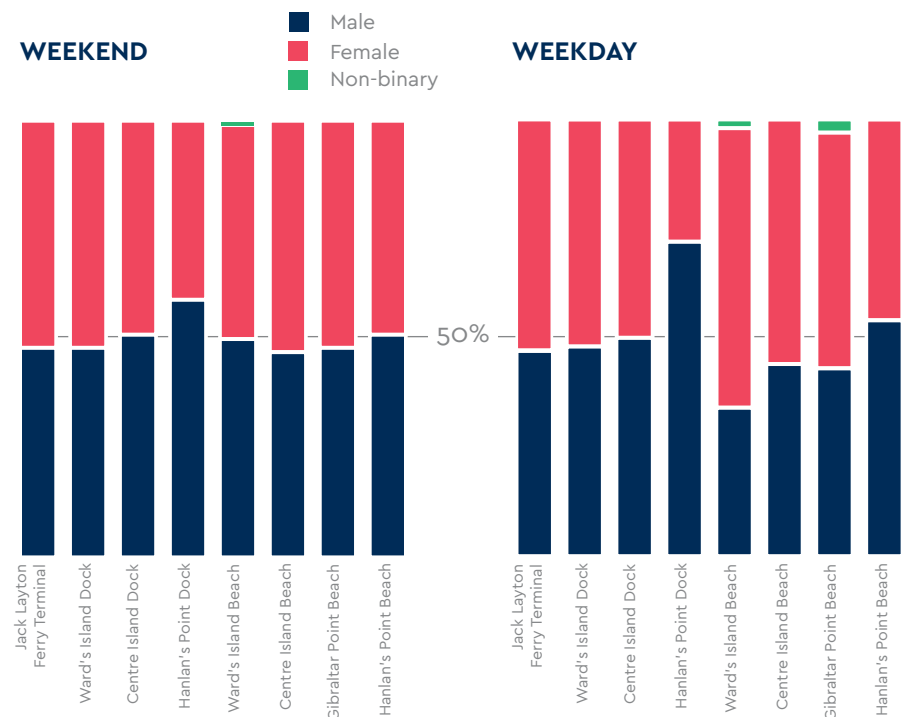


3. GENDER IS BALANCED ON THE WEEKEND, BUT TILTS DURING THE WEEK

Methods: Observed Gender Presentation, Observed Age Presentation
Theme: Equity & Identity, Usage, Reasons for Use

OBSERVED GENDER PRESENTATION

58% of weekday beach users on average at Ward's, Centre and Gibraltar were observed as female-presenting, while 63% of weekday Hanlan's Point users¹ were observed as male-presenting.



Interestingly, Hanlan's Point zones skewed male-presenting on both study dates, while beaches (excluding Hanlan's) skewed female-presenting on weekdays.

1. Average of Hanlan's Dock and Hanlan's Beach zones.

HANLAN'S POINT ZONES SKEWED MALE-PRESENTING ON BOTH STUDY DATES, BUT THE GAP WIDENED ON THE WEEKDAY

- In the Hanlan's Point dock and beach zones, the majority of users were observed as male-presenting on both study dates. However, this imbalance increased on the weekday, with male-presenting beach users up from 51% to 54%, and male-presenting dock users up from 59% to 72%.

ALL BEACHES EXCEPT HANLAN'S SAW AN INCREASE IN FEMALE-PRESENTING PEOPLE ON THE WEEKDAY

- Ward's, Centre, and Gibraltar each saw an increase in female-presenting beach users on the weekday, making up 58% of weekday users compared to 51% on the weekend on average for the three beaches. This was especially influenced by Ward's Beach, where nearly two-thirds of weekday users were female-presenting.

BEACHES THAT SAW HIGHER RATES OF CHILDREN ALSO SKEWED FEMALE-PRESENTING

- The most popular beaches for children aged 5–14, Centre Island on both study dates and Ward's on the weekday, also saw higher percentages of female-presenting users.





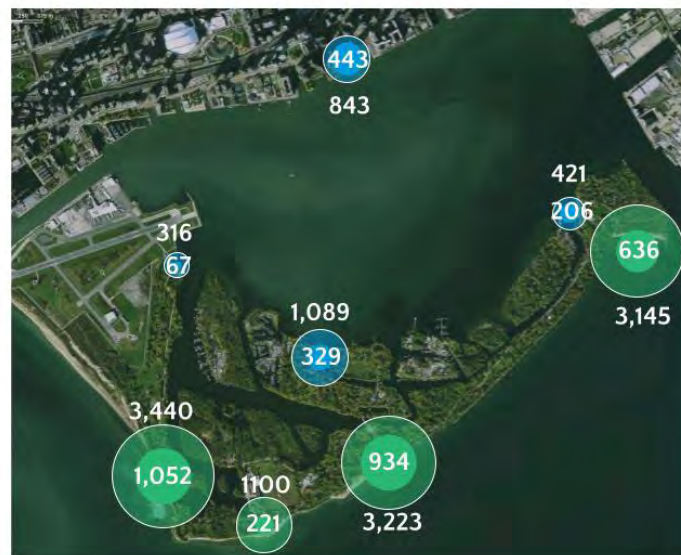
4. BEACHES ARE THE MAIN ATTRACTION, BUT USE IS NOT EVENLY DISTRIBUTED

Methods: Total Stationary Counts, Stationary Item Counts, Observed Age and Gender Presentation, Online Survey

Themes: Usage, Reasons for use

TOTAL STATIONARY COUNTS PER ZONE*

4X higher average counts people hanging out in beach zones than in dock zones on the Island



*Sum of hourly totals for the full day.

BEACHES ARE HOTSPOTS FOR HANGING OUT

This is especially the case on weekends, where the number of people counted hanging out on the Island nearly quadrupled compared to the weekday. However, some beaches are more popular than others, and are frequented by different users, with Hanlan's Beach the most used and Gibraltar Beach the least.

ISLAND BEACHES ARE A DESTINATION, ESPECIALLY ON THE WEEKEND

- There was a **385% increase** in people hanging out on beaches from the weekday to the weekend (**2,833 weekday to 10,908 weekend**).¹
- **73%** of online survey respondents² said they went to the Island to visit the beaches, making it the top reason for visiting.
- **89%** of survey respondents said their experience on Island beaches was positive.

HANLAN'S BEACH WAS MOST POPULAR AND USED MOST CONSISTENTLY

while Gibraltar Point was the least popular and saw the highest gap between weekend and weekday use.

- On average, **1 in 3 people using an Island beach were at Hanlan's**, compared to 1 in 10 at Gibraltar.
- Hanlan's Beach saw the lowest drop between weekend and weekday users, and the highest use later into the evening, suggesting more consistent usage throughout the week and day than other beaches. Hanlan's also saw a high presence of boats moored nearby, with one for every 8 people on average, highlighting the unique draw of this beach for people.
- Gibraltar Beach saw the highest increase in users from weekday to weekend, with **weekend use more than five times higher than weekday**, suggesting that it may serve as a 'spillover' beach when nearby beaches are busy on weekends.

BEACHES WERE FREQUENTED BY DIFFERENT USER GROUPS, with Hanlan's most popular for people observed as male-presenting and older, and Centre Island being popular for children.

- **Hanlan's Beach is the only beach that averaged more male-presenting** than female-presenting users, and also saw the highest usage by adults over 65, representing 8% of weekday beachgoers.
- Centre Island Beach saw the highest use by children under 15, accounting for over **a third of weekday users**, highlighting the family-friendly nature of the beach and surrounding area.

1. Calculated using daily sum of hourly stationary counts across all beaches. Interestingly, ferry tickets were capped at 5,000 per day, suggesting that the same people were staying on the beaches for multiple hours (and thus counted more than once in hourly stationary counts), or using water taxis or private boats to access the Island.

2. See survey disclaimer on page 32



5. CENTRE ISLAND TAKES CENTRE STAGE FOR PEDESTRIANS

Methods: Pedestrian Movement Counts, Total Stationary Counts
Theme: Access, Usage

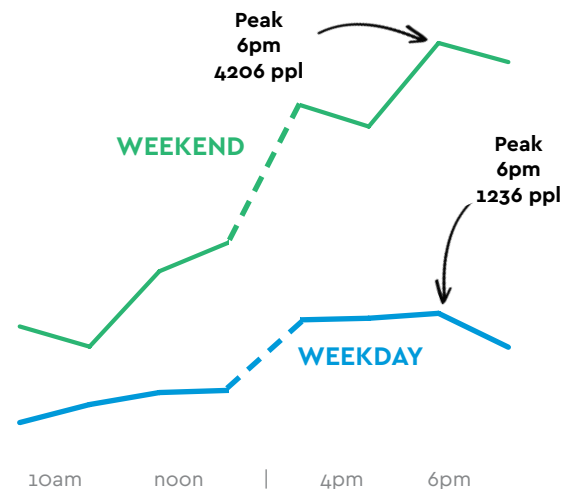
55% higher pedestrian traffic on Centre Island than Ward's and Hanlan's combined¹

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC BY ZONE*



*Sum of all hourly pedestrian counts for both study dates.

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC BY TIME*



*Sum of hourly pedestrian totals across all Island zones (excludes Jack Layton Ferry Terminal).

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IS HEAVIEST IN EVENINGS AND AT FERRY DOCKS

Dock zones on the Island saw 65% higher average pedestrian traffic than beach zones. Pedestrian activity peaked in the late afternoon and early evening, aligning with **peak ferry hours** for return trips back to the city.

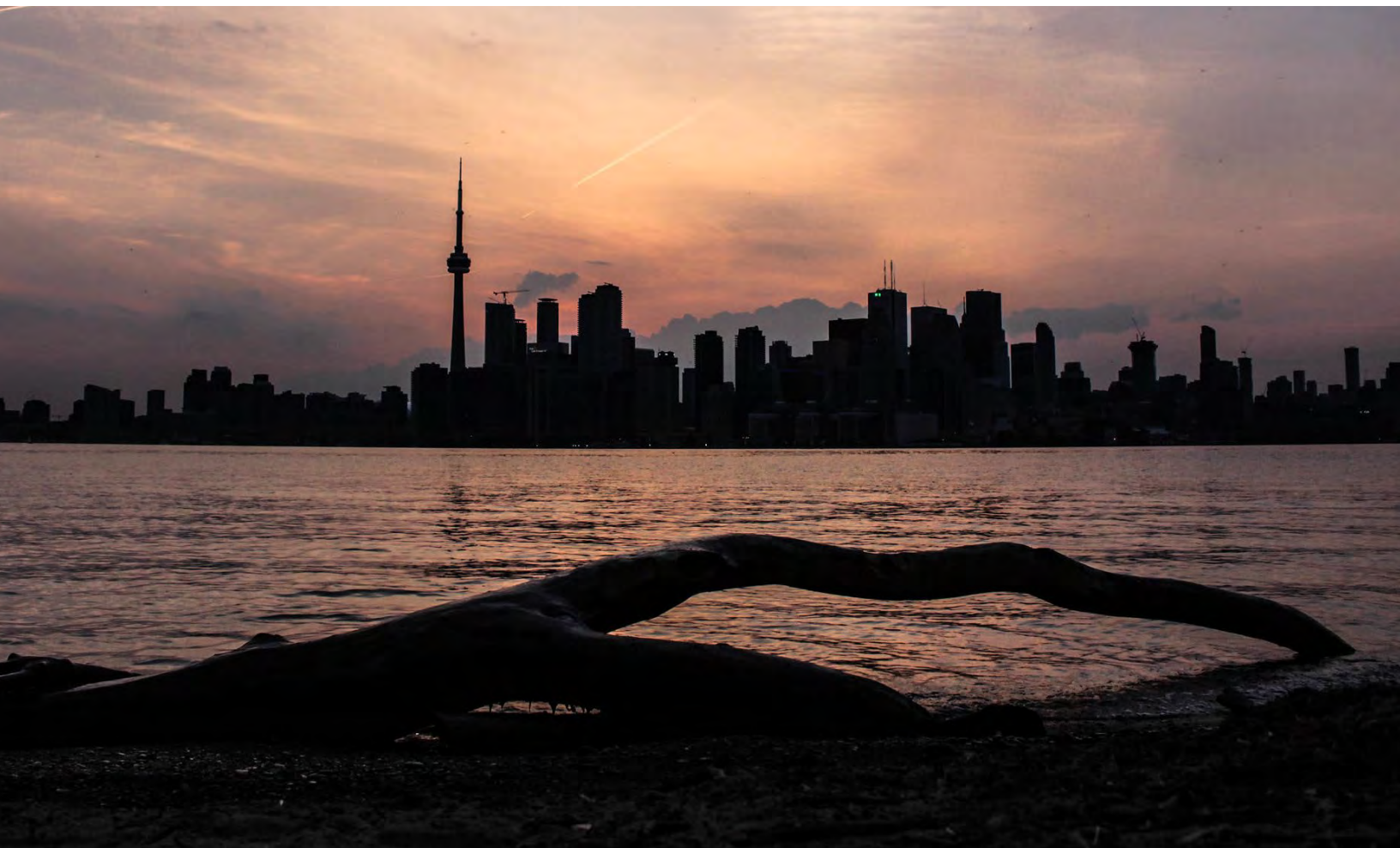
1. Comparison reflects sum of total pedestrian counts for the dock zone and beach zone on each of the Island areas (i.e. Ward's, Centre and Hanlan's), across both study dates.

OVERALL, PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC WAS HIGHEST AT JACK LAYTON FERRY TERMINAL REPRESENTING ITS POSITION AS A GATEWAY TO THE ISLAND

However, on the Island itself, Centre Island saw the most pedestrian traffic, aligning with the total stationary counts that also found Centre Island was the most popular place for hanging out.

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC PEAKED SLIGHTLY EARLIER ON THE WEEKDAY THAN WEEKEND, SUGGESTING PEOPLE STAY LATER ON THE ISLAND ON WEEKENDS

- Weekend peak period was from 6–7pm
- Weekday peak period was from 4–6pm



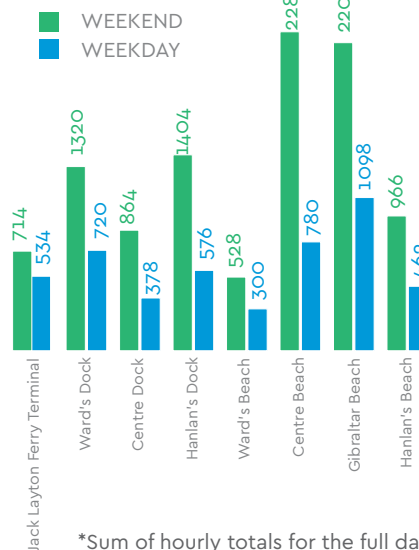


6. BIKES & BEACHES GO TOGETHER

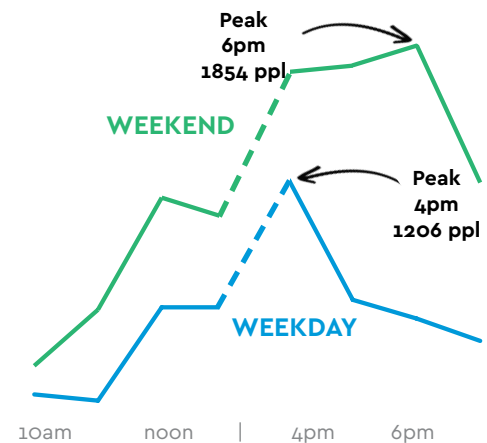
Methods: Cyclist Counts, Stationary Item Counts
Theme: Access, Usage, Reasons for use

23% higher average cyclist volumes near beaches than ferry docks on the Island—the reverse trend from pedestrian traffic

CYCLIST TRAFFIC BY ZONE*



BIKE TRAFFIC BY TIME*



*Sum of cyclist counts across all Island zones (excludes Jack Layton Ferry Terminal) for each hour.

CYCLIST TRAFFIC IS HEAVIEST IN THE LATE AFTERNOON TO EARLY EVENING AND NEAR BEACHES

This suggests that people rely more heavily on cycling to navigate the interior areas of the Island, potentially due to the Island's size. It likely also reflects the location of Centre Beach as a midpoint that cyclists traveling across the Island pass through, as well as the location of bike rentals in this area resulting in concentrated cyclist activity.

BOTH STUDY DAYS SAW A SIMILAR PEAK CYCLING TIME, WITH THE WEEKEND SLIGHTLY LATER

- Weekday peak at 4pm
- Weekend peak from 4–6pm

CYCLING HOTSPOTS SHIFTED FROM WEEKEND TO WEEKDAY

- On the weekday, **Ward's** saw the highest cyclist volumes of all the dock zones, and Gibraltar the highest of all the beach zones.
- On the weekend, **Hanlan's Docks and Centre Beach** had the highest cyclist counts for dock and beach zones, respectively, slightly surpassing Ward's Docks and Gibraltar Beach.

PEOPLE ARE BRINGING BIKES TO BEACHES, NOT JUST PAST THEM

- The number of bikes counted on beaches shows that people are biking to beaches and bringing their bikes with them onto the sand. For example, on the weekend at Gibraltar Beach there was one bike for every 9 people counted on the beach.



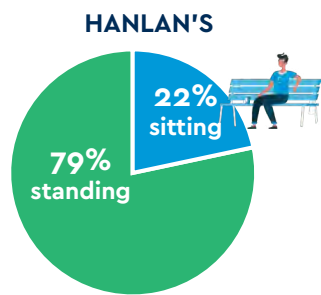
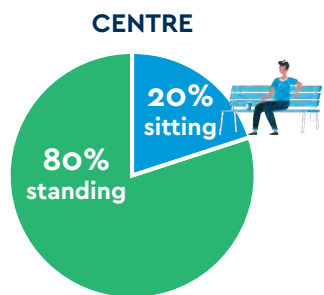
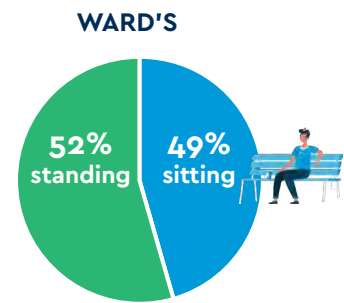
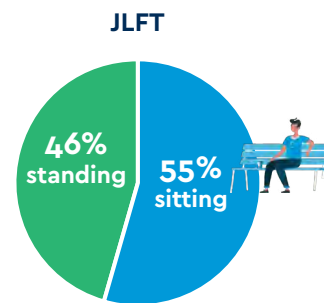


7. SOME FERRY DOCKS ATTRACT PEOPLE TO STAY, WHILE OTHERS ARE FOR PASSING THROUGH

Methods: Mapping of Stationary Postures, Mapping of Stationary Activities, Seating Inventory Analysis, Online Survey
Theme: Access, Ideas for improvement

SITTING VS. STANDING AT FERRY DOCKS

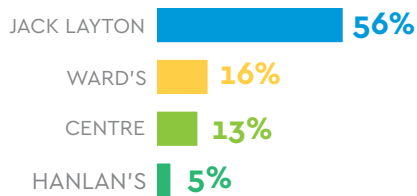
People were **4X** more likely to take a seat at the ferry docks at Jack Layton Ferry Terminal than at Centre Island or Hanlan's Point



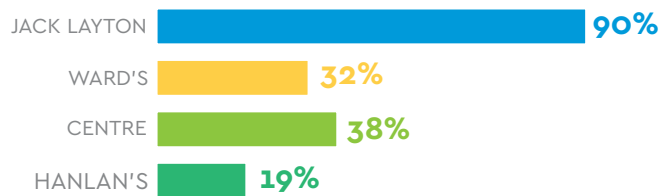
The percentage of people sitting compared to standing tells us about the desire to sit, and can be an indicator of how comfortable and inviting a place is to spend time. This includes both people using designated seating and sitting informally (e.g., perching on ledges or rocks).

SEATING AT ISLAND DOCKS

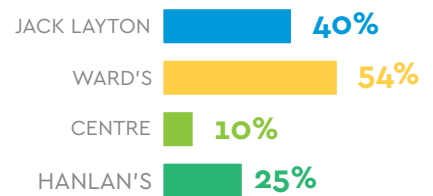
AVERAGE OCCUPANCY RATE



PEAK OCCUPANCY



INFORMAL SEATING



Average occupancy rate is an indicator of how well-used designated available seating is. It is calculated by taking the average number of people using designated seating (i.e. sitting formally), divided by the total number of people the seating can accommodate.

Peak occupancy tells us how sufficient available seating is when demand is at its highest.

Informal sitting captures people who are leaning, perching or sitting on items not designed as seating, as a percentage of overall people sitting. If a high proportion of people are sitting informally, it can suggest that available seating may not be meeting needs in terms of amount, type, and/or location.

FERRY DOCK AREAS COULD BE MORE COMFORTABLE AND INVITING PLACES TO SPEND TIME

While it's important to note that some benches had been removed from the ferry docks at the time of study due to COVID-19,¹ analysis of seating capacity and use at Jack Layton Ferry Terminal and Ward's Island Docks point to a need for additional seating. At Centre Island Docks and Hanlan's Docks, however, fewer people were counted using formal seating, suggesting these areas could be improved to support opportunities to sit and stay.

1. Due to COVID-19 related seating removal, seating capacity across the Island was reduced by approximately 20% at the time of study.

AT JACK LAYTON FERRY TERMINAL AND WARD'S DOCKS, THERE IS A NEED FOR MORE OR IMPROVED SEATING

Jack Layton Ferry Terminal is the only dock area where the majority of people sit rather than stand. This is a testament to how this area functions as a place to hang out as well as a pass-through ferry dock. **Designated seating was 56% occupied on average, peaking at 90% occupied on the weekday at 4pm.**

The high average occupancy rate indicates that the seating is desirable, and stationary mapping revealed water's edge seating is especially well-used. However, high peak occupancy suggests an opportunity for increased seating, especially considering seating inventory did not take into account physical distancing requirements (e.g. a standard bench was counted as seating three people, even if it might only accommodate one person with physical distancing).

Ward's Dock is the second most popular dock for sitting, with about half of people sitting and half standing on average. However, **the majority of people seated were doing so informally (54%)** by perching or leaning, and formal seating options were only 16% occupied on average.

This suggests that available seating, which mainly includes a few benches lining the ferry waiting area and picnic tables in the adjacent green space, is not meeting needs, requiring people to rest on items such as the boulders lining the ferry waiting area. While this type of seating may be suitable for some, more accessible options may be needed especially given that, of all the ferry docks, Ward's Docks saw the highest share of seniors, representing 9% of weekday and 5% of weekend users.



AT HANLAN'S DOCKS AND CENTRE DOCKS, MOST PEOPLE STAND DESPITE AVAILABLE SEATING

This points to opportunities to improve seating options and location, and/or sense of place to encourage lingering. Centre and Hanlan's Docks are places where the majority of people stand. Both had an average of **only 3 people sitting for every 10 people standing**—despite plentiful seating options, resulting in an average occupancy rate of only 13% and 5%, respectively. Even at peak use, the seating at Centre Docks only reached 38% capacity, and 19% at Hanlan's Docks.

When people did want to sit at Centre Docks, however, they were able to do so, with **9 in 10 people sitting using designated seating**, rather than sitting informally. Much of this seating occurred within the concession area. However, stationary mapping revealed a lack of seating options available once people enter the ferry line-up—an area that is roped off from the rest of the dock area and must be stayed in to secure a place in line. This design likely impacts the high number of people counted standing at Centre Docks compared to other dock areas.

At Hanlan's Docks, on average **1 in 4 people were sitting informally** rather than using designated seating, suggesting that the seating options available may not be desirable for some users (e.g. in terms of type or position), or people may view the space as a transitory one rather than one to hang out in. This aligns with the online survey,¹ where the majority of respondents were Hanlan's Point users and **20% said more seating would improve their experience on the Island**, while 31% desired ferry and/or ferry dock improvements.

SEATING DEMAND ALIGNED WITH SOCIALIZATION PATTERNS

On average, more than a quarter of people at Jack Layton Ferry Terminal and almost half at Ward's Docks were engaged in conversation, compared to 19% at Centre Island Docks and 10% at Hanlan's Docks, reinforcing that Jack Layton Ferry Terminal and Ward's Docks are desirable places to linger and spend time with others.

1. See survey disclaimer on page 32.





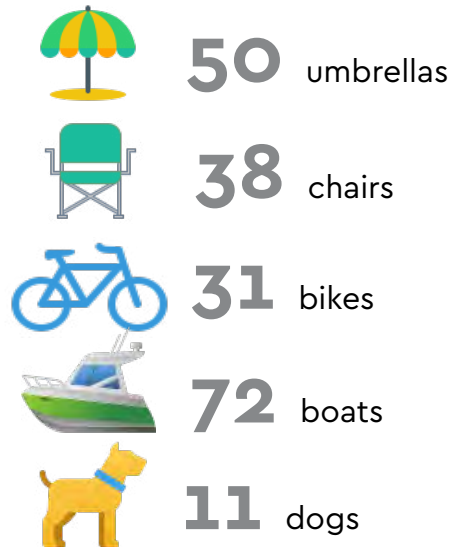
8. WHAT PEOPLE BRING TO THE ISLAND WITH THEM SUGGESTS DEMAND FOR RENTALS & IMPROVEMENTS

Method: Stationary Item Counts
Theme: Ideas for improvement

WHAT PEOPLE BROUGHT

For every 1000 people visiting Island Beaches we observed:

599 umbrellas,
424 chairs, **292**
bikes, and **842**
boats were
counted on the
Island beaches
on the weekend
study date.



RENTAL DEMAND

In the online survey, the top five most desired rentals were:



MANY PEOPLE BRING ITEMS TO THE ISLAND, SUGGESTING A DEMAND FOR RENTALS AND SUPPORTING AMENITIES

Umbrellas and chairs were popular beach items, while the presence of bikes and dogs on some beaches highlights opportunities to improve amenities for cyclists and dog-owners.

UMBRELLAS AND CHAIRS WERE MOST POPULAR AT HANLAN'S AND WARD'S BEACHES

- Hanlan's was the beach where most people brought their own chairs or umbrellas. On Saturday there was approximately **one umbrella for every nine people**.

OF ALL THE BEACHES, THE GREATEST DEMAND FOR DOG AMENITIES WAS AT WARD'S

- In total, **Ward's Beach had more than double the amount of dogs** counted than on other beaches. This may reflect the proximity of residential areas on Ward's and Algonquin Islands.

BIKE PARKING MAY BE NEEDED AT SOME BEACHES TO ENABLE PEOPLE TO LOCK UP SAFELY RATHER THAN BRINGING THEIR BIKE ONTO THE SAND

- Gibraltar Beach had few bike parking options nearby and also saw the most bikes relative to people on the beach, with one bike for every 9 people on the weekend and one bike for every 11 people on the weekday.
- Interestingly, despite a high number of cyclists passing by, Hanlan's Beach had a very low proportion of bikes on the beach relative to people, likely due to the availability of multiple bike racks at beach entrances.



KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

DISCLAIMER:

Survey respondents are not representative of citywide demographics,¹ with almost three-quarters identifying as male, three-quarters identifying as White (European descent), and half as being members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

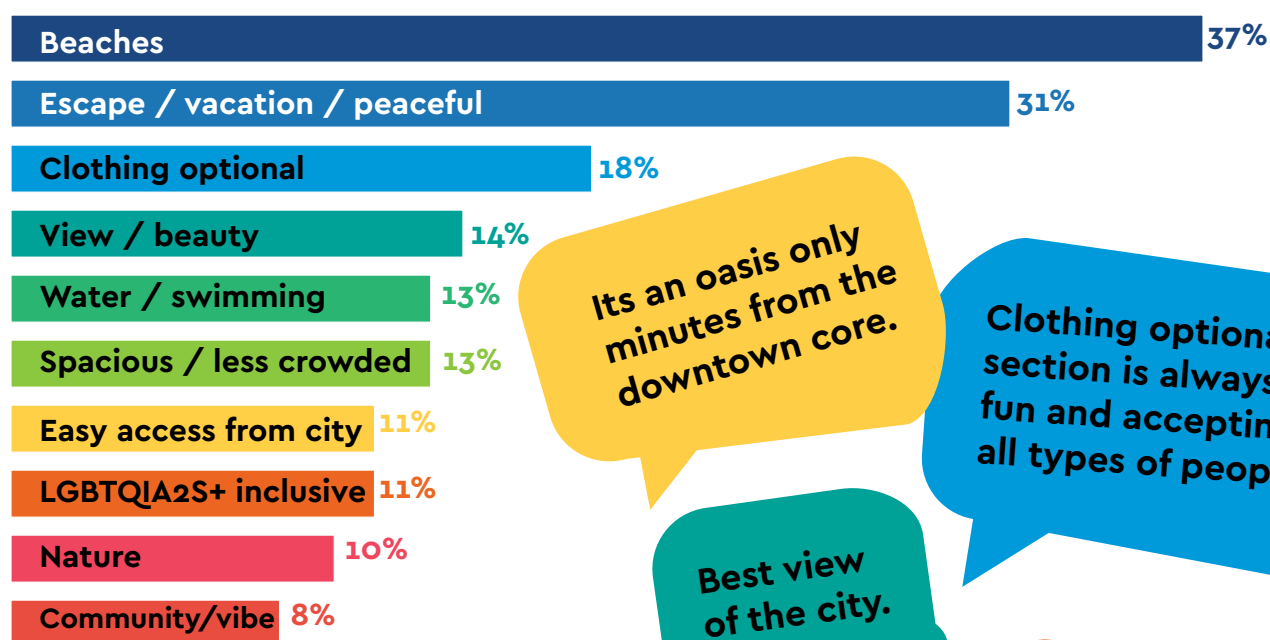
Additionally, **over half of respondents were Hanlan's Point users.** The sample bias is likely due to the survey being moved from in-person to online, as part of COVID-19 methodology adaptations.² See appendix for full survey results.

1. Citywide demographic Census data available [here](#).

2. See full explanation of methodological adjustments in Study Limitations and COVID-19 section.

What we heard through an online survey of nearly 400 people about what they value and ideas for improvement on the Island.

WHAT PEOPLE VALUE



Its an oasis only minutes from the downtown core.

Clothing optional section is always so fun and accepting of all types of people.

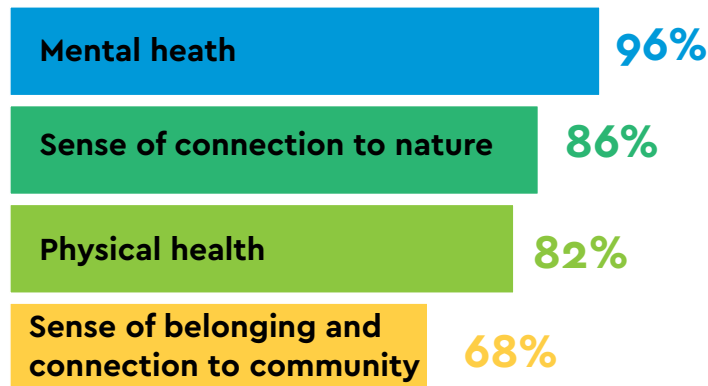
Best view of the city.

It is magical. It is a gift to have this place, on the water, in our city. Whether we are swimming for hours and hours at Wards, biking through Algonquin Islands little paths, fishing into the night, or running through the maze and Franklin Garden, it always feels exciting and special.

Hanlan's Point is a great place to connect with the LGBTQ+ community, it's a safe place for us.

*Some quotes edited for spelling, grammar, and clarity.

VISITING THE ISLAND HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY...



We love the sailing community, and how many different things there are to do.

The Island is a jewel of Toronto and it feels like our own private escape.

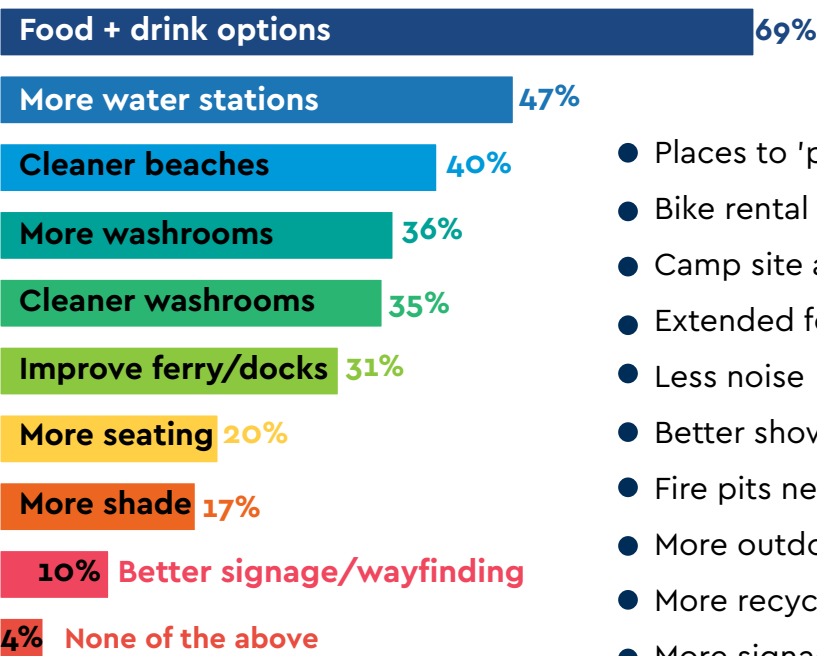
We see more wildlife there than on some trips hiking and camping.

It feels like a short vacation away from the city for me, which I need for my mental health as a city dweller.

IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

FOOD AND DRINK OPTIONS ARE THE MOST IN-DEMAND IMPROVEMENT

However, people had a variety of suggestions for future improvements that could be explored through further consultation.



OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

- Places to 'park'/lock kayaks to walk or visit a cafe
- Bike rental as soon as you get off the ferry
- Camp site available to rent
- Extended ferry schedule
- Less noise
- Better showers at Hanlan's for boaters
- Fire pits next to boat docking
- More outdoor art courses at Gibraltar Art school
- More recycling bins on beaches
- More signage to describe the names of the flora
- Later ferrys so you can watch the sunset at Hanlan's
- Erosion of Hanlan's Point beach is a concern

ZONE PROFILES

DOCK ZONE 1

Area:
16,200 m²



JACK LAYTON FERRY TERMINAL

JLFT is the ferry terminal and waterfront park connecting the mainland with Toronto Island Park with ferries to Hanlan's Point, Centre Island, and Ward's Island.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Jack Layton Ferry Terminal is both a point of passage for people visiting the Island, but also a well-used waterfront park in itself. Stationary mapping found that the water's edge was a reliable attraction with the seating along the boardwalk well used and the middle grassy area used by people with dogs during the week.
- Vendors at the north end of the zone by Queen's Quay attracted people consistently throughout the day, collecting clusters of people standing.
- The ferry terminal sees a boost of young and mid-adult use on the weekend. Half of people counted during the day on the weekend were 25 – 44, whereas the weekday counts showed a more even distribution across age groups.

TOP ACTIVITIES



socializing



active recreation



vending



passive recreation



eating + drinking

WEEKEND

19%



6%



4%



2%



2%



WEEKDAY

35%



4%



1%



5%

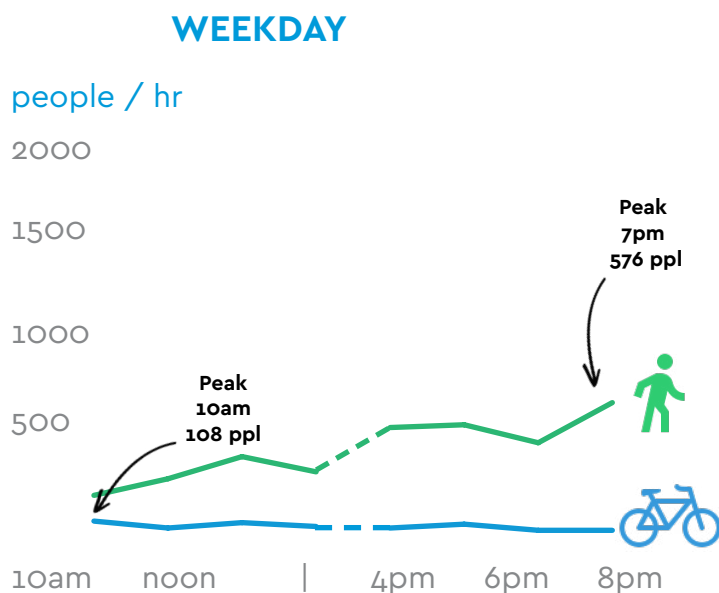
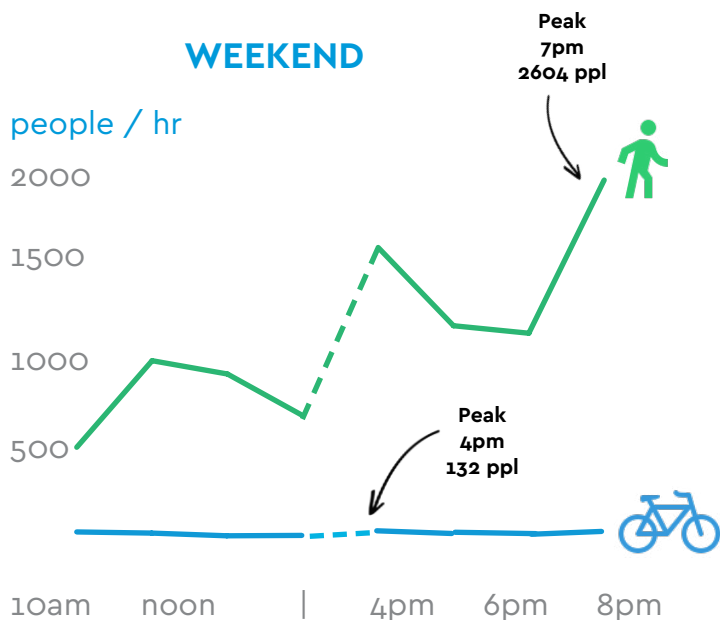


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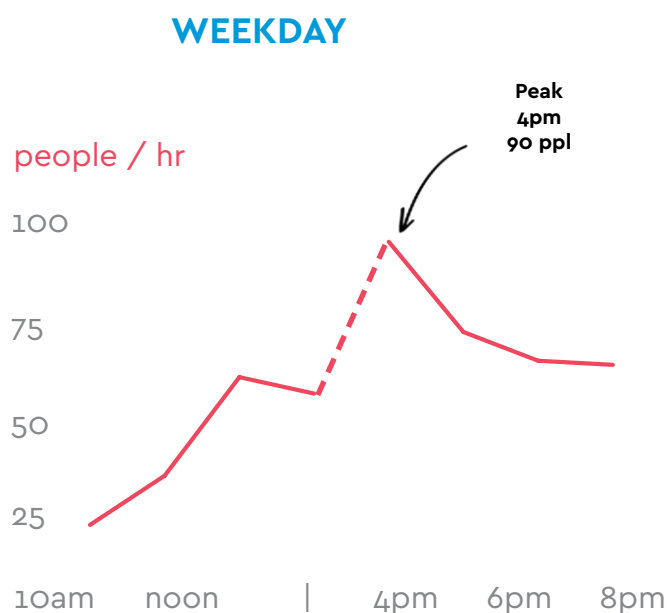
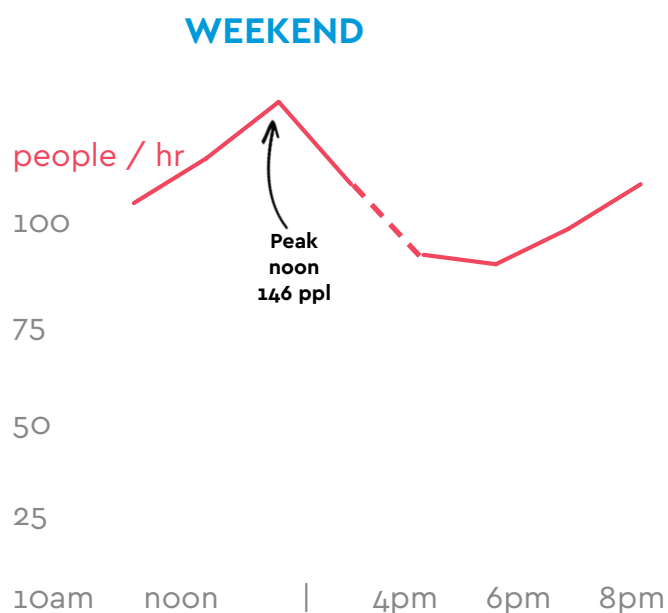


Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

MOVING



STAYING



SEATING

WEEKEND

For every **10 people standing**,
there were...



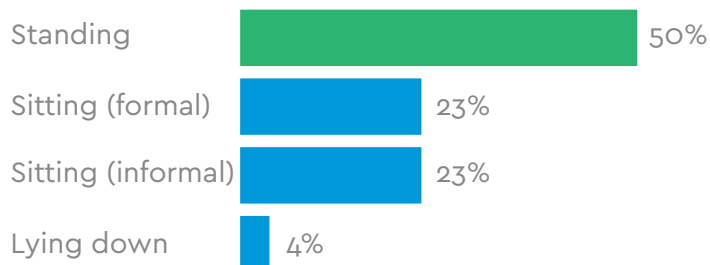
WEEKDAY

For every **10 people standing**,
there were...

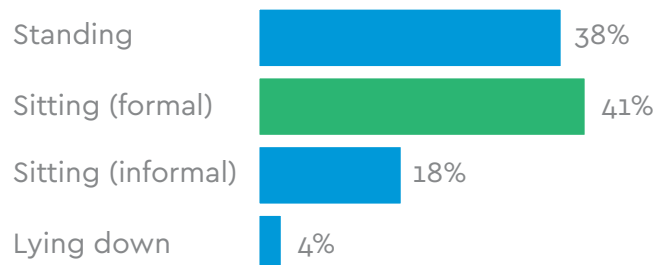


POSITIONS

WEEKEND

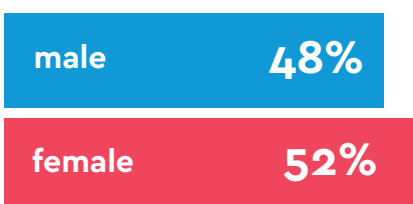


WEEKDAY

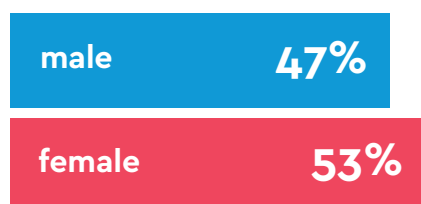


OBSERVED GENDER PRESENTATION

WEEKEND

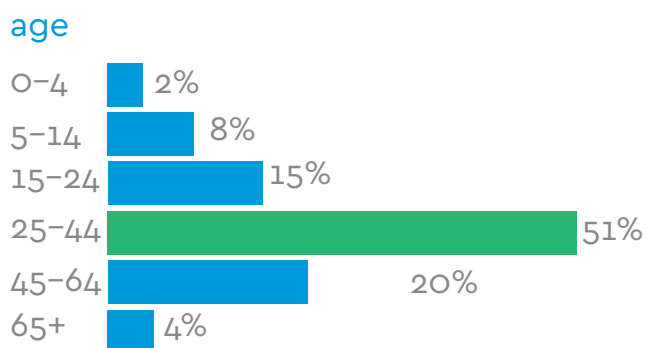


WEEKDAY

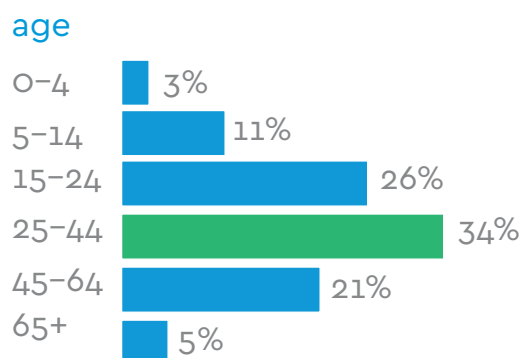


OBSERVED AGE PRESENTATION

WEEKEND



WEEKDAY



DOCK ZONE 2

Area:
12,800 m²



WARD'S ISLAND FERRY DOCK

Acting as the main dock connecting mainland Toronto with the residential community on Toronto Island, Ward's Island Dock is located near several Island restaurants and cafes.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Ward's Island Docks saw the highest proportion of older adults over 65 (5% on weekend, 9% on weekday), but this did not translate to the same proportion of older adults counted at Ward's Beach, suggesting older adults are visiting Ward's for other activities or are Island residents.
- The water's edge attracts clusters of people standing or sitting on logs throughout the day, especially as the dock itself got busier with people waiting for the ferry.
- Both seating capacity counts and mapping observations note that many people wait for the ferry by standing in clusters on the dock and when things get busy line themselves up mostly along the western edge of the pathway.

TOP ACTIVITIES



socializing



active recreation



vending



passive recreation



eating + drinking

WEEKEND

36%

1%

0%

8%

8%

WEEKDAY

61%

3%

0%

2%

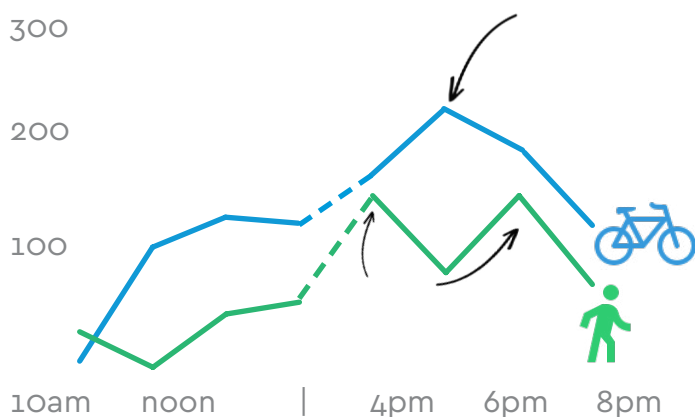
6%

Ward's Island Ferry Dock

MOVING

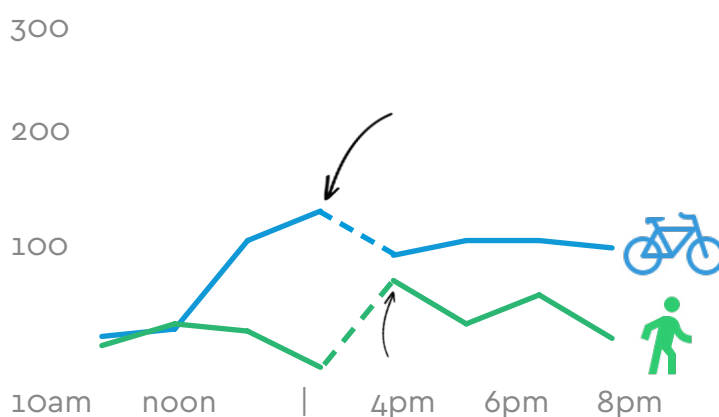
WEEKEND

people / hr



WEEKDAY

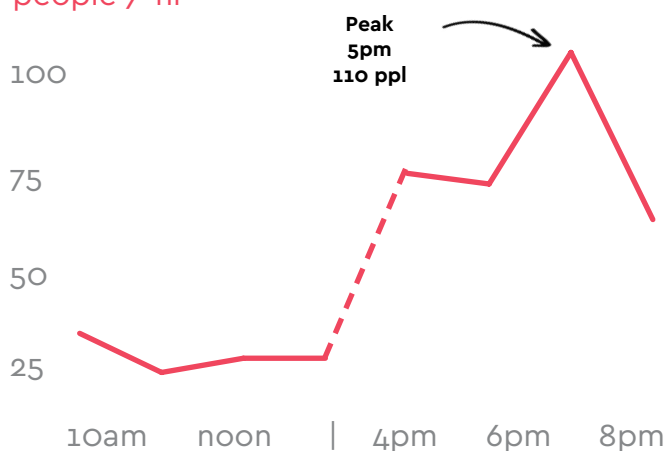
people / hr



STAYING

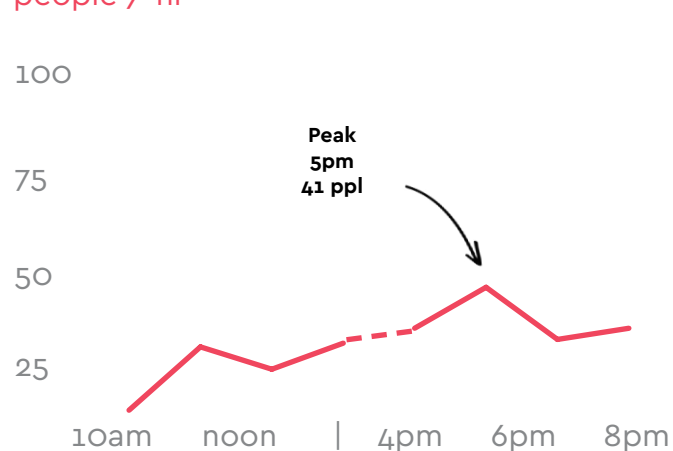
WEEKEND

people / hr



WEEKDAY

people / hr



SEATING

WEEKEND

For every **10 people standing**,
there were...



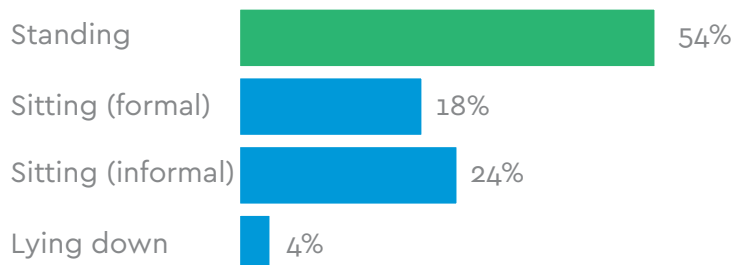
WEEKDAY

For every **10 people standing**,
there were...

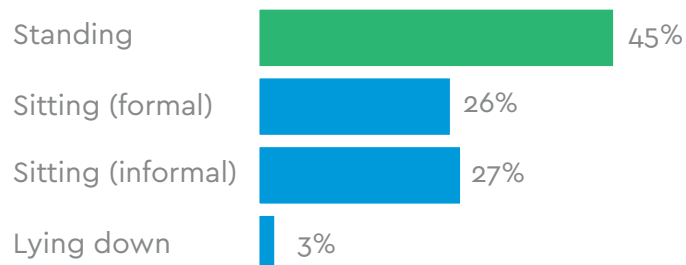


POSITIONS

WEEKEND

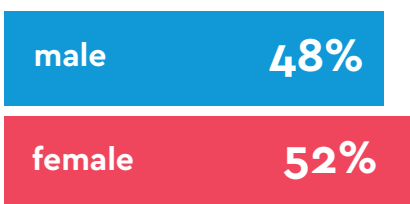


WEEKDAY

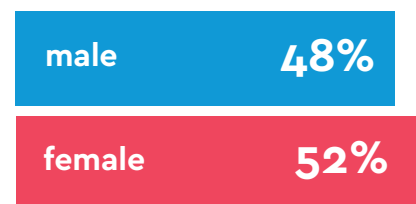


OBSERVED GENDER PRESENTATION

WEEKEND

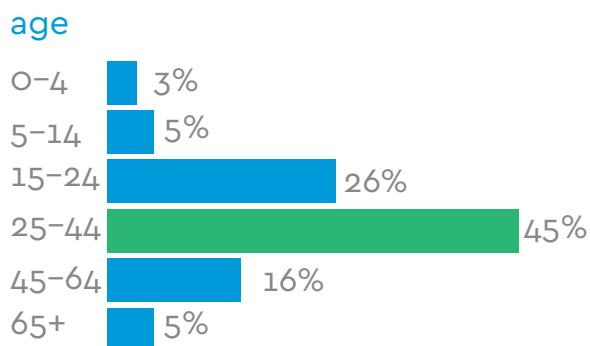


WEEKDAY

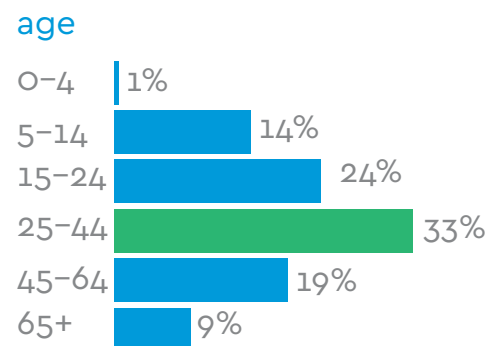


OBSERVED AGE PRESENTATION

WEEKEND



WEEKDAY



DOCK ZONE 3

Area:
10,600 m²



CENTRE ISLAND FERRY DOCK

Centre Island Dock provides access to Centre Island's amenities such as the beach, bike rentals, children's play area, Centreville amusement park, and more. It also includes a larger concession area.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Centre Island is a busy weekend destination representing the busiest location of all the docks for people staying. This likely reflects its central location on the Island and longer wait times between ferries.
- The water's edge consistently attracts small groups of people standing throughout the day. Surveyors specifically noted the use of the area for people taking selfies with the city in the background.
- Centre Island saw the highest proportion of people under the age of five on the weekend of all dock areas, reflecting the family-oriented nature of the Island and destinations such as playgrounds and other children's activities nearby.

TOP ACTIVITIES



socializing



active recreation



vending



passive recreation



eating + drinking

WEEKEND

16%

0%

8%

2%

13%

WEEKDAY

22%

0%

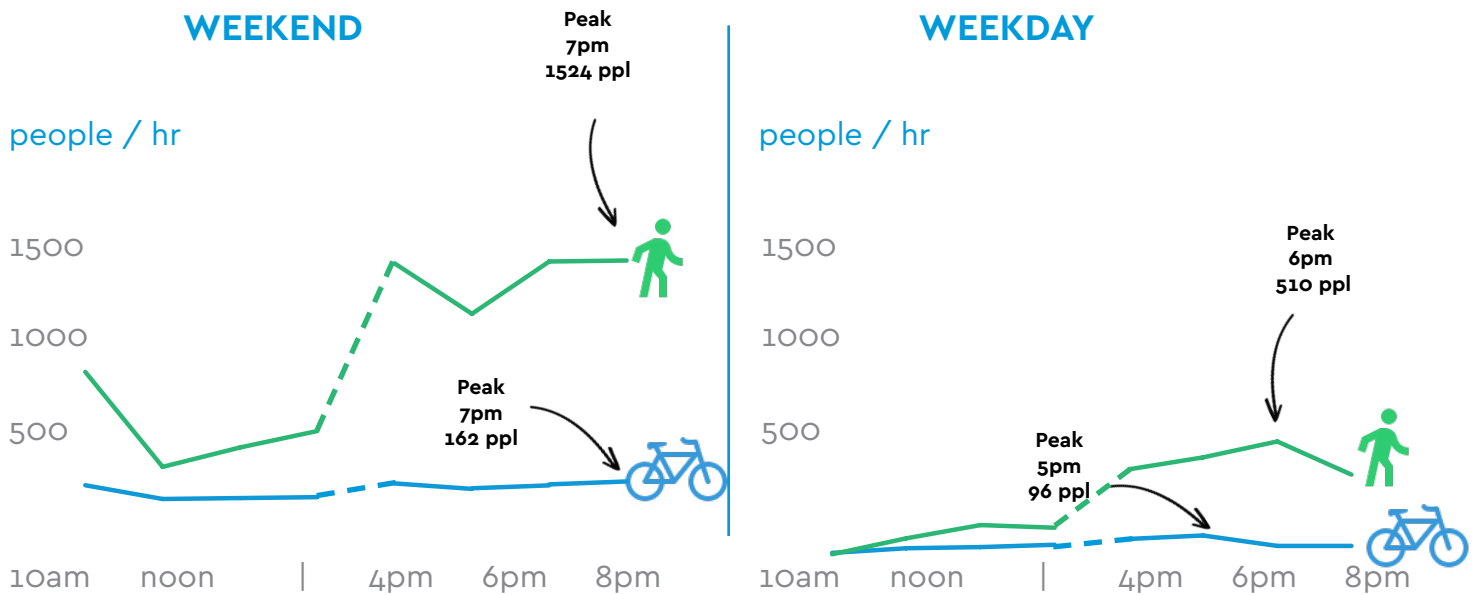
8%

0%

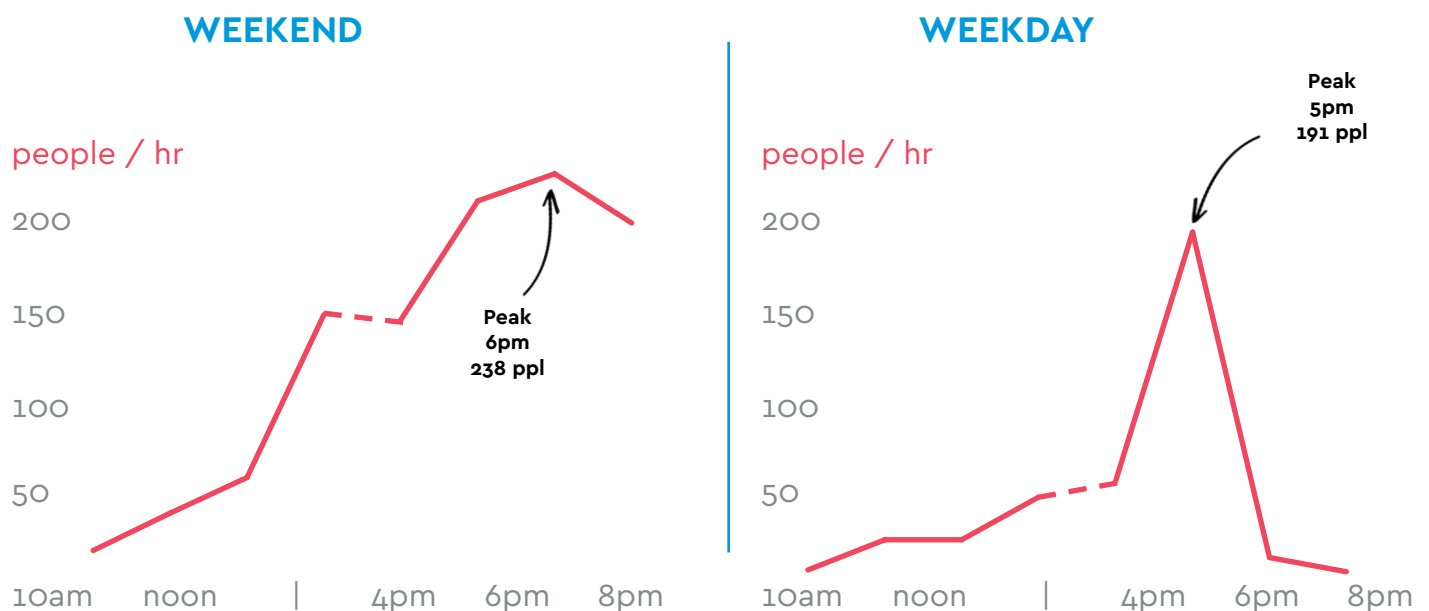
6%

Centre Island Ferry Dock

MOVING



STAYING



SEATING

WEEKEND

For every **10 people standing**,
there were...



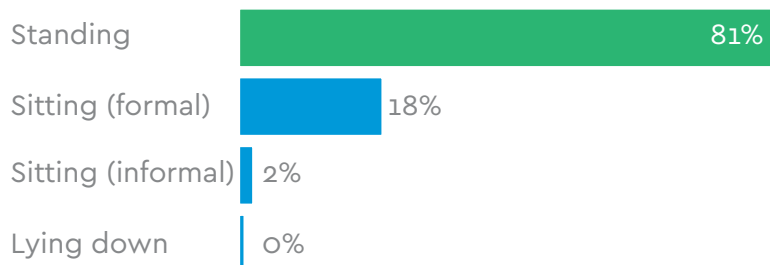
WEEKDAY

For every **10 people standing**,
there were...

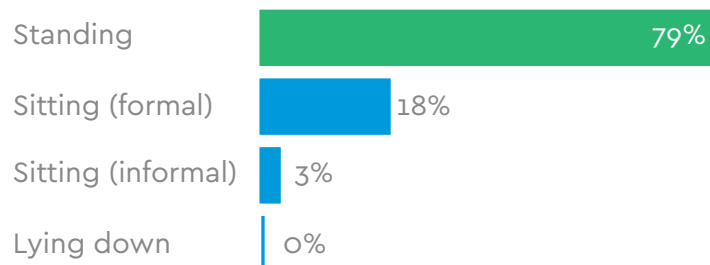


POSITIONS

WEEKEND

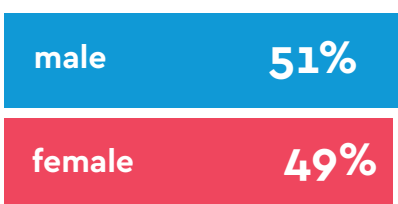


WEEKDAY

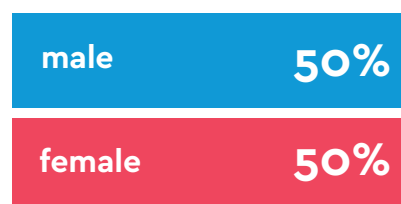


OBSERVED GENDER PRESENTATION

WEEKEND

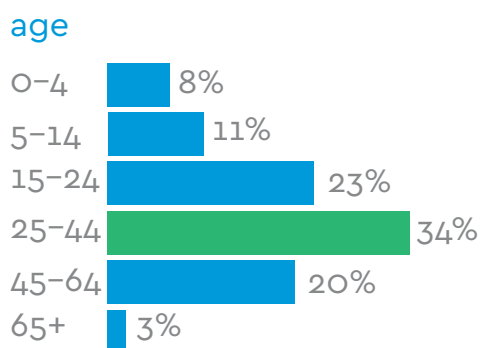


WEEKDAY

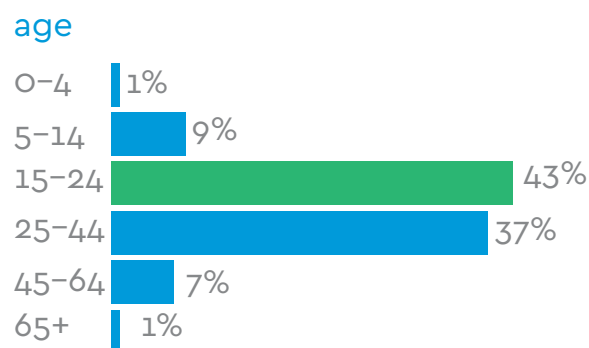


OBSERVED AGE PRESENTATION

WEEKEND



WEEKDAY



DOCK ZONE 4

Area:
7,000 m²



HANLAN'S POINT FERRY DOCK

Connected to the mainland by public ferry, Hanlan's Dock includes a small concession area and provides access to Hanlan's Beach. It is also a popular pick-up/drop-off location for water taxis.



HIGHLIGHTS

- On the weekday, Hanlan's Dock draws an older crowd. Just under 25% of dock users were aged 45 – 64 on the weekend, while on the weekday this increased to nearly 40%.

As the day moves along, people shift to hang out more in the grassy area by the boat as they wait for water taxis than in the concession area by the ferry entrance. Despite Hanlan's offering

- limited evening ferry service, people were still using the area to board taxis, suggesting that demand for extended ferry hours may be worth investigating further.
- Hanlan's Docks appears to be more of a transitory space than one to hang out in. Despite the availability of a concession area and ample seating, three-quarters of people chose to stand, and less than 2% of people were observed eating/drinking on average, suggesting people may need more of a reason to settle into the space.

TOP ACTIVITIES



socializing



active recreation



vending



passive recreation



eating + drinking

WEEKEND

6%



2%



5%



4%



3%



WEEKDAY

13%



0%



0%



6%

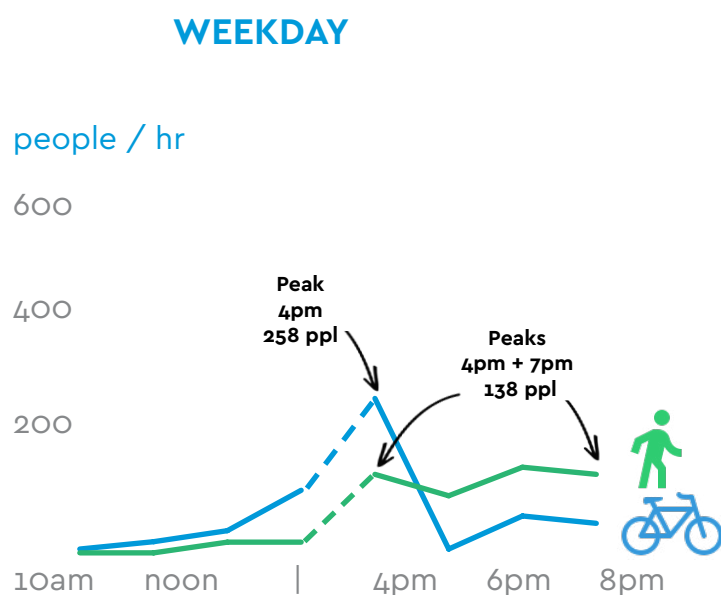
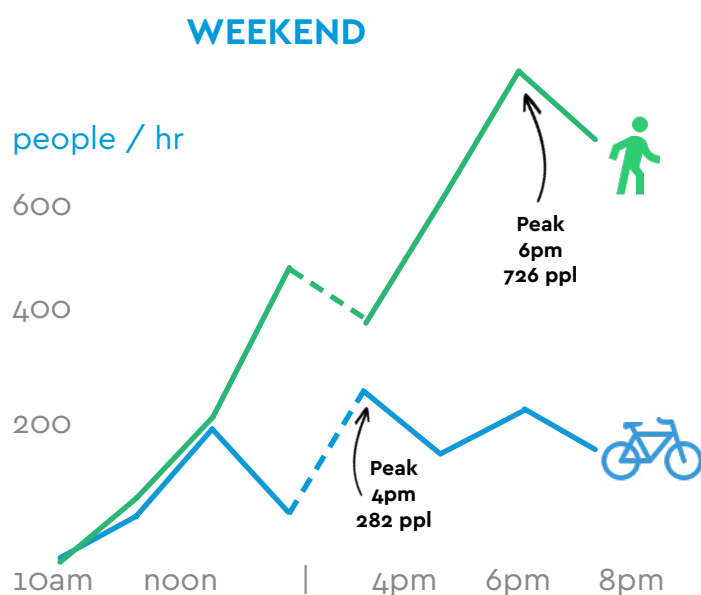


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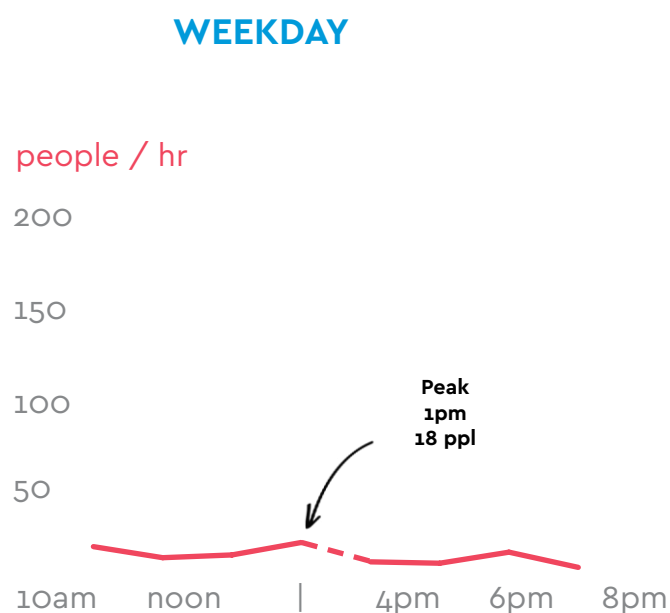
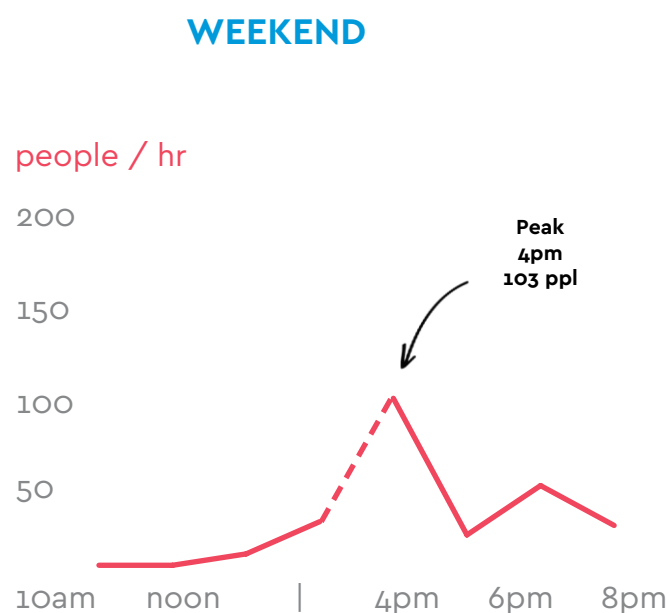


Hanlan's Point Ferry Dock

MOVING



STAYING



SEATING

WEEKEND

For every **10 people standing**,
there were...

2



people sitting

WEEKDAY

For every **10 people standing**,
there were...

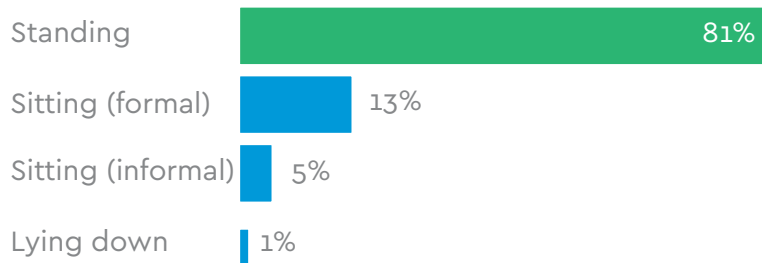
3



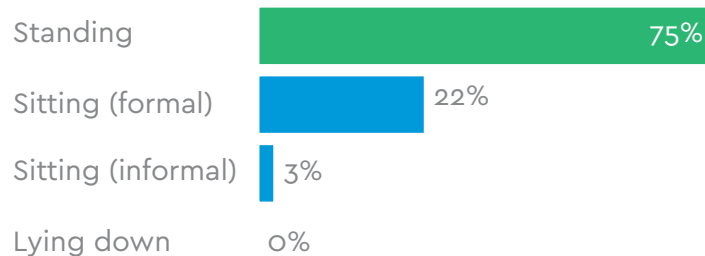
people sitting

POSITIONS

WEEKEND

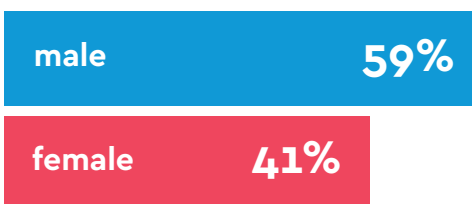


WEEKDAY

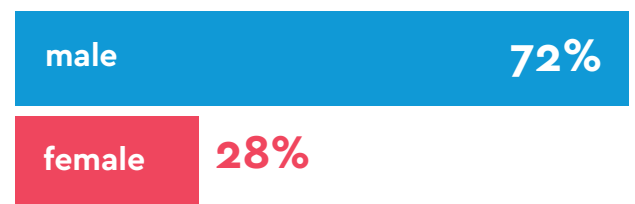


OBSERVED GENDER PRESENTATION

WEEKEND

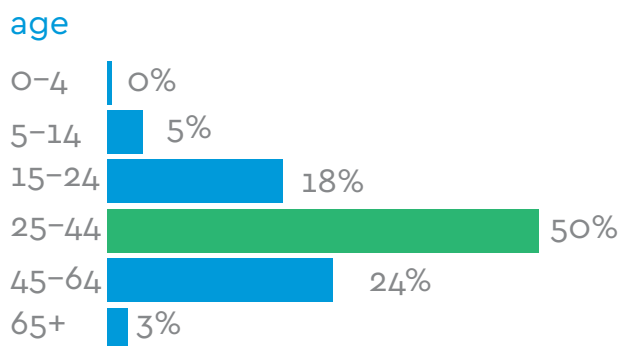


WEEKDAY

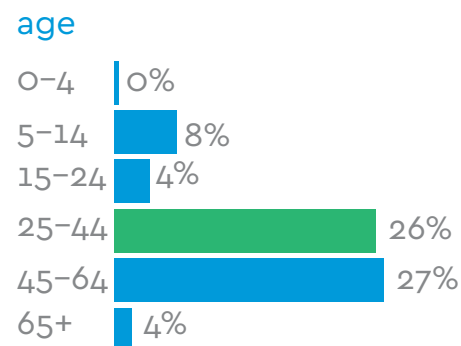


OBSERVED AGE PRESENTATION

WEEKEND



WEEKDAY



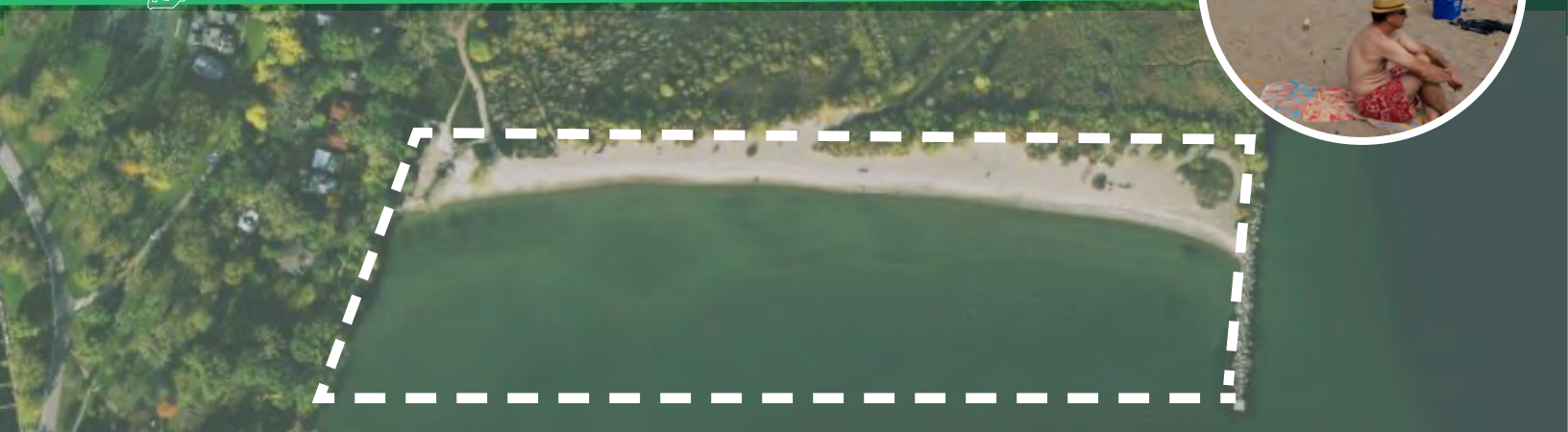
BEACH ZONE 5

Area:
7,600 m² (land
only)



WARD'S ISLAND BEACH

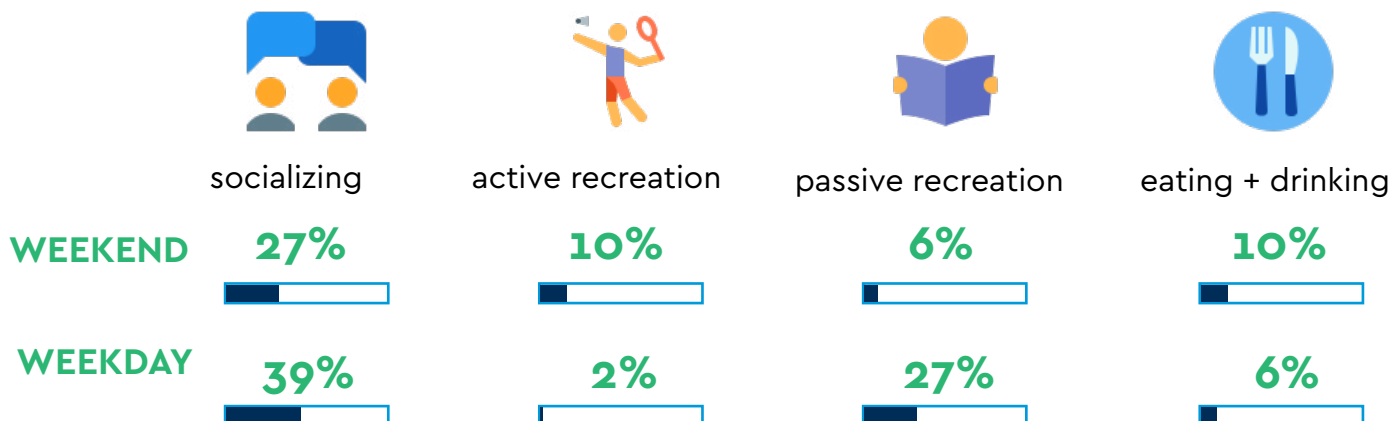
Located near the small residential community on Toronto Island, Ward's Beach provides a large sandy beach and is located along the boardwalk connecting to the rest of the Island along its southern edge.



HIGHLIGHTS

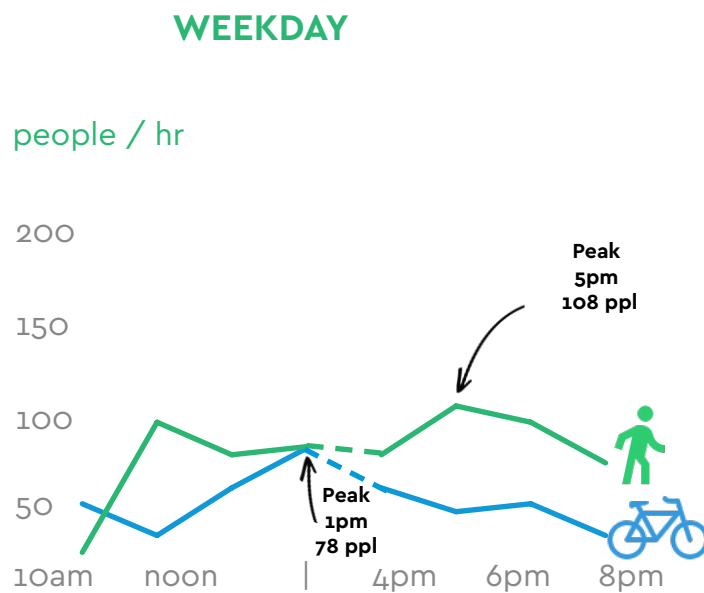
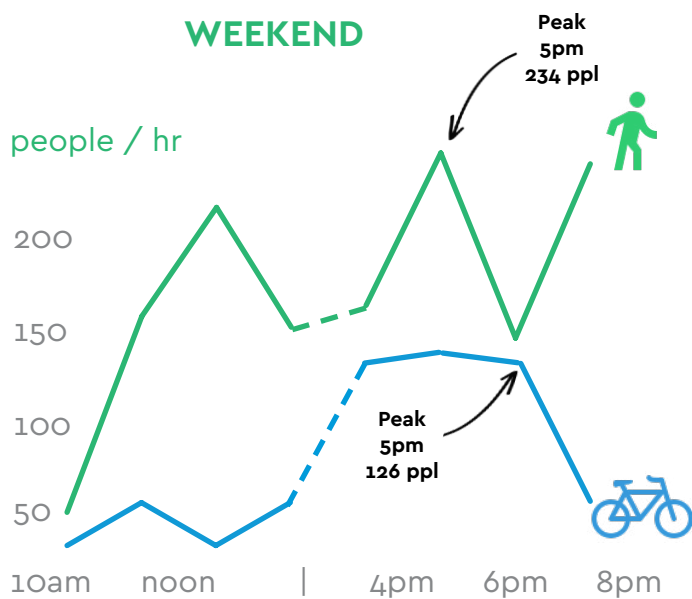
- People gravitate to the end zones first. While Ward's Beach saw even use across its space when it was busy, mapping showed that the eastern and western ends tended to fill up first, with the eastern end accommodating larger groups of people.
- Demographics shift from weekend to weekday. On the weekend people aged 15 – 44 made up 86% of beach users, while on the weekday the beach saw twice as many users aged 5 – 14 and three times as many users aged 45 – 64 than on the weekend.
- Activities change from weekend to weekday, becoming quieter. On the weekday, counts of people engaging in passive recreation were much higher than on the weekend.

TOP ACTIVITIES

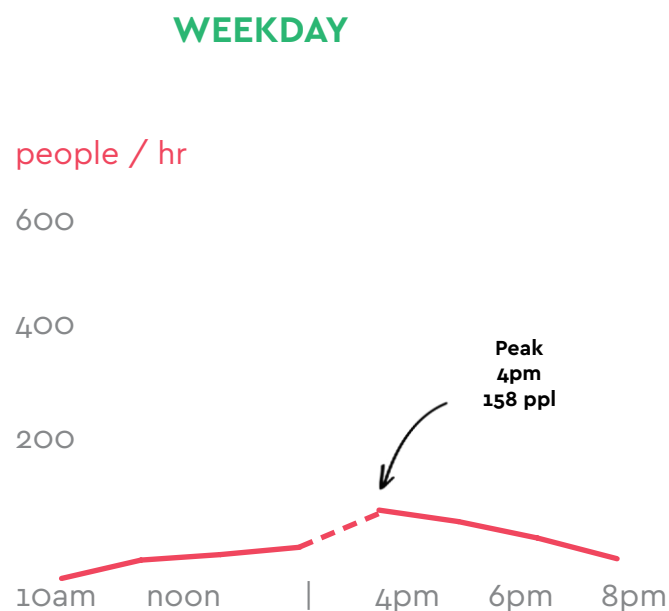
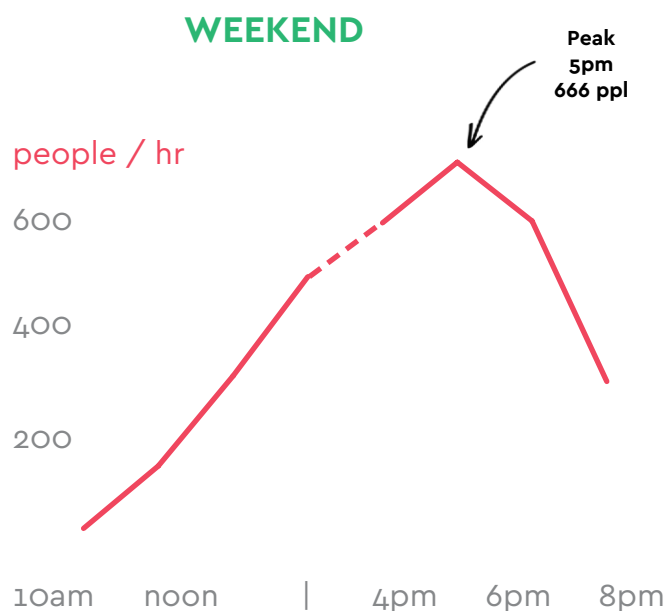


Ward's Island Beach

MOVING



STAYING



STAYING POWER

WEEKEND



WEEKDAY



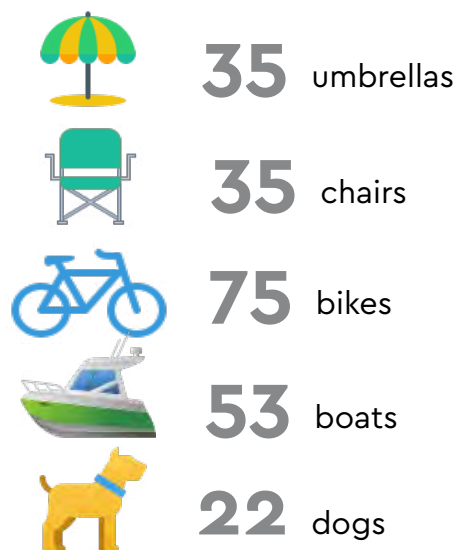
WHAT PEOPLE BROUGHT

For every 1000 people visiting Ward's Island Beach Island we observed:

WEEKEND

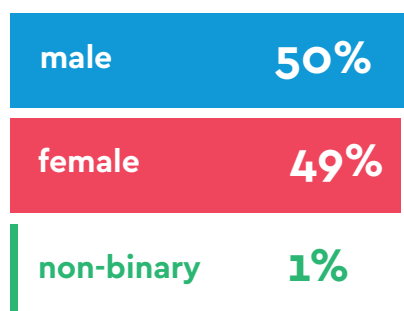


WEEKDAY

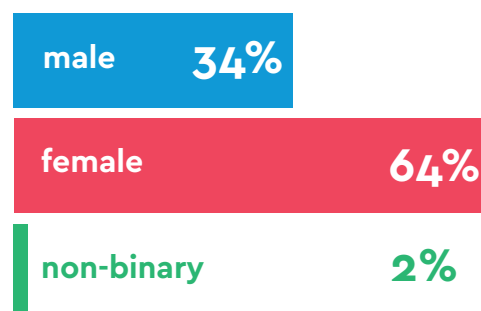


OBSERVED GENDER PRESENTATION

WEEKEND

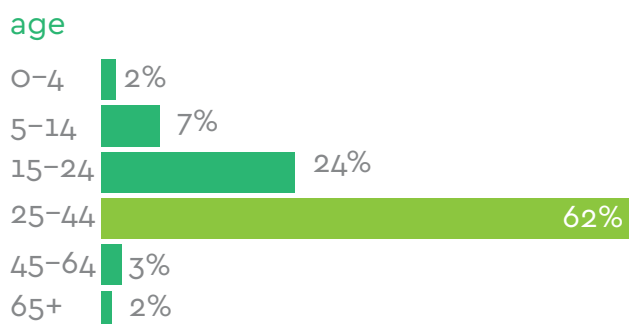


WEEKDAY

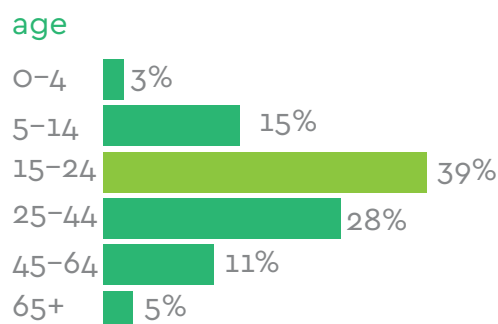


OBSERVED AGE PRESENTATION

WEEKEND



WEEKDAY



BEACH ZONE 6

Area:
15,800 m²
(land only)



CENTRE ISLAND BEACH

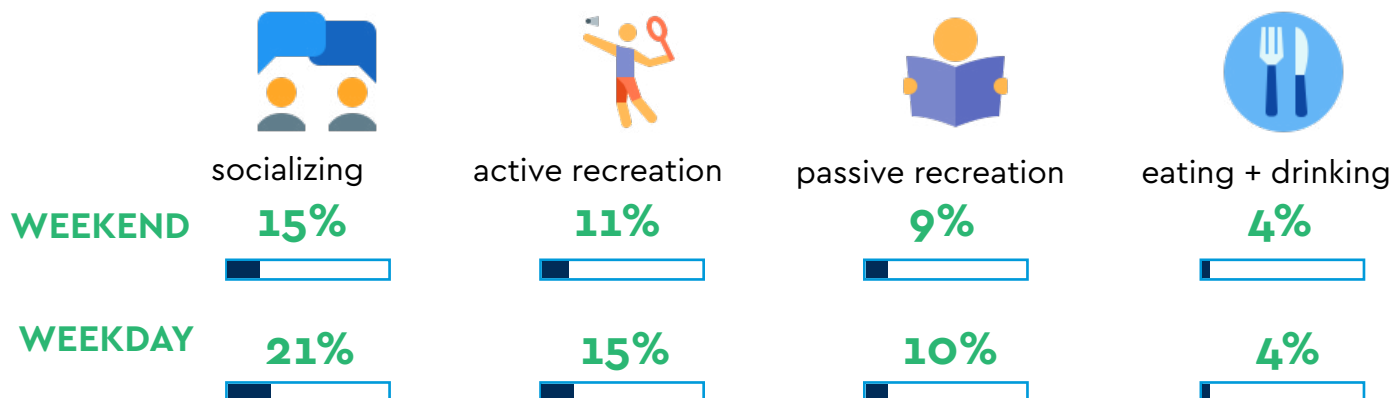
The main beach on Toronto Island, Centre Island Beach is located a short walk from Centre Island Dock. It includes a popular pier and concession area as well picnic tables and bike rentals.



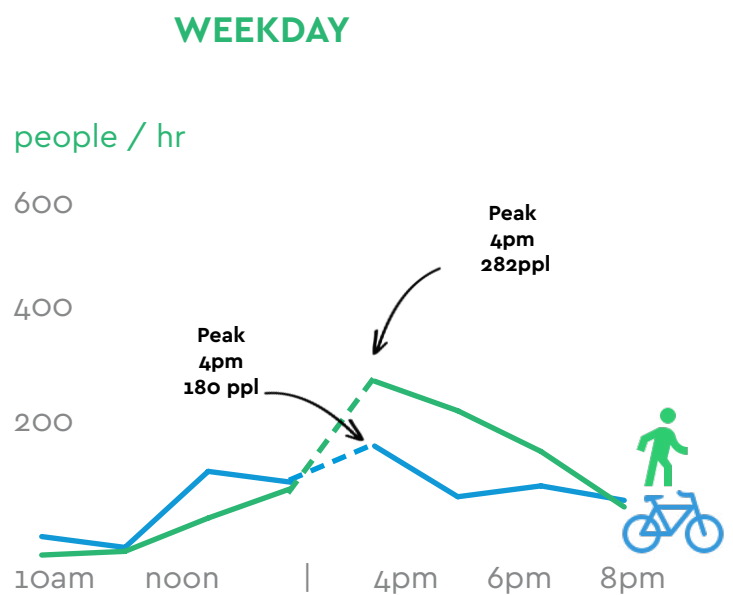
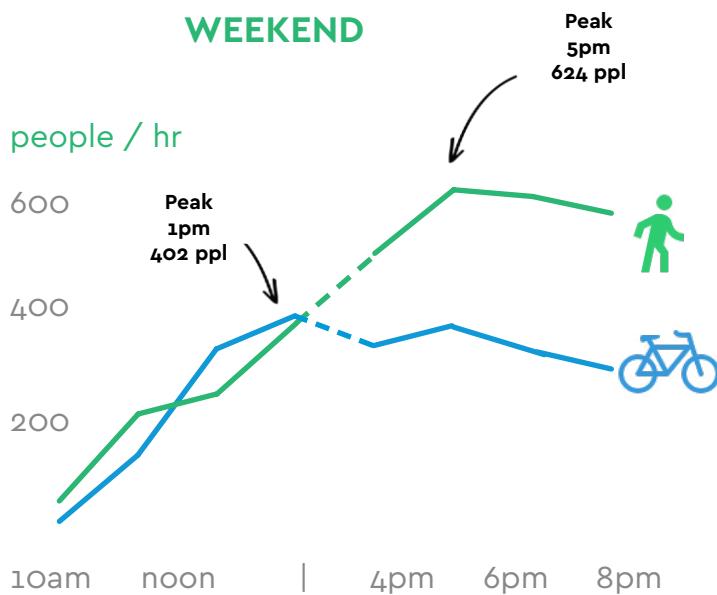
HIGHLIGHTS

- A busy place to stay, but also pass through. Of all the beaches, Centre Island was the busiest location for both cyclists and pedestrians on the weekend, likely reflecting its location as a midpoint on the Island capturing people travelling between beaches and green spaces.
- A young person's beach—and even more so during the week. On Saturday nearly 20% of beach users were under the age of 14, a percentage that jumps to just over a third on the weekday.
- A gathering place off the sand, too. People gather along the edge where the beach meets the pathway to sit on picnic tables to eat and socialize with others.

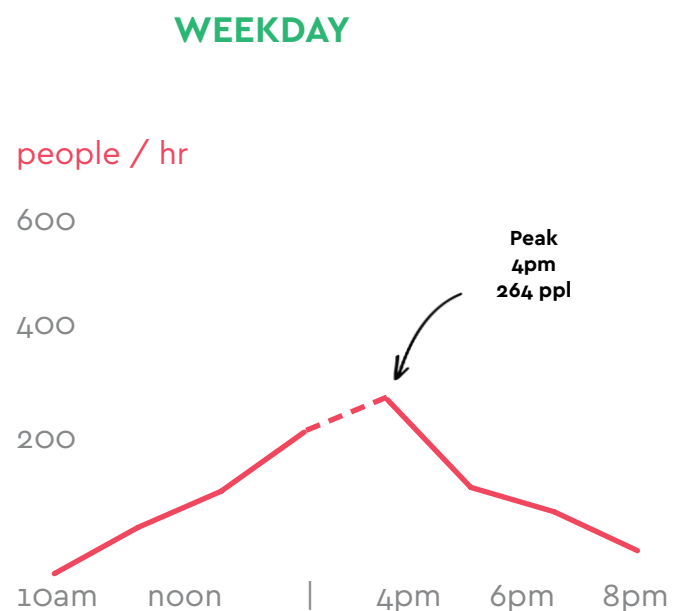
TOP ACTIVITIES



MOVING



STAYING



STAYING POWER

WEEKEND



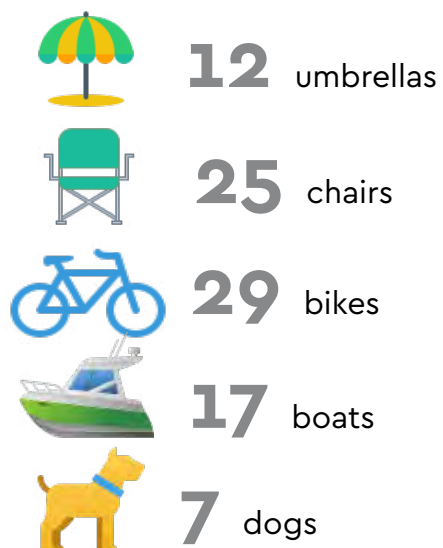
WEEKDAY



WHAT PEOPLE BROUGHT

For every 1000 people visiting Centre Island Beach Island we observed:

WEEKEND

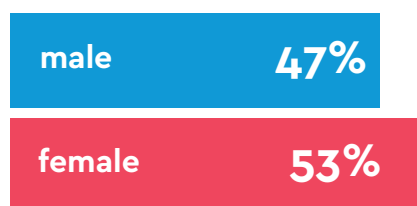


WEEKDAY

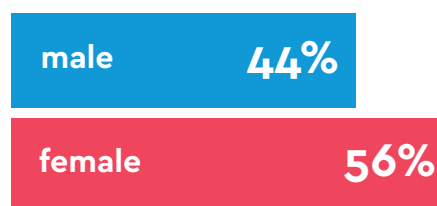


OBSERVED GENDER PRESENTATION

WEEKEND

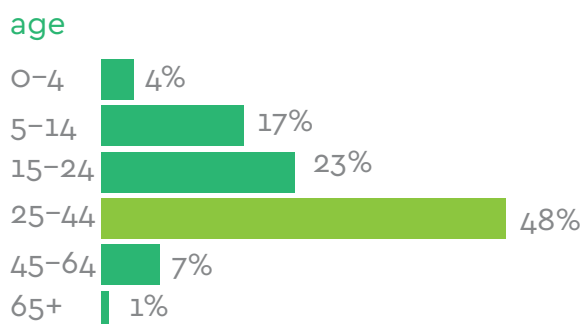


WEEKDAY

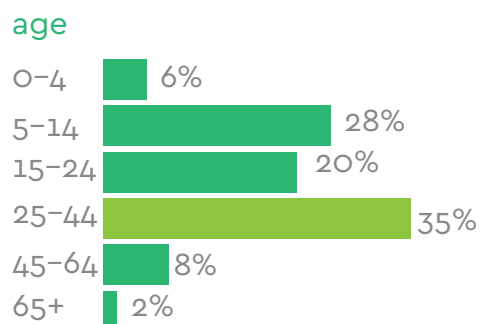


OBSERVED AGE PRESENTATION

WEEKEND



WEEKDAY



BEACH ZONE 7

Area:
2,900 m²
(land only)



GIBRALTAR POINT BEACH

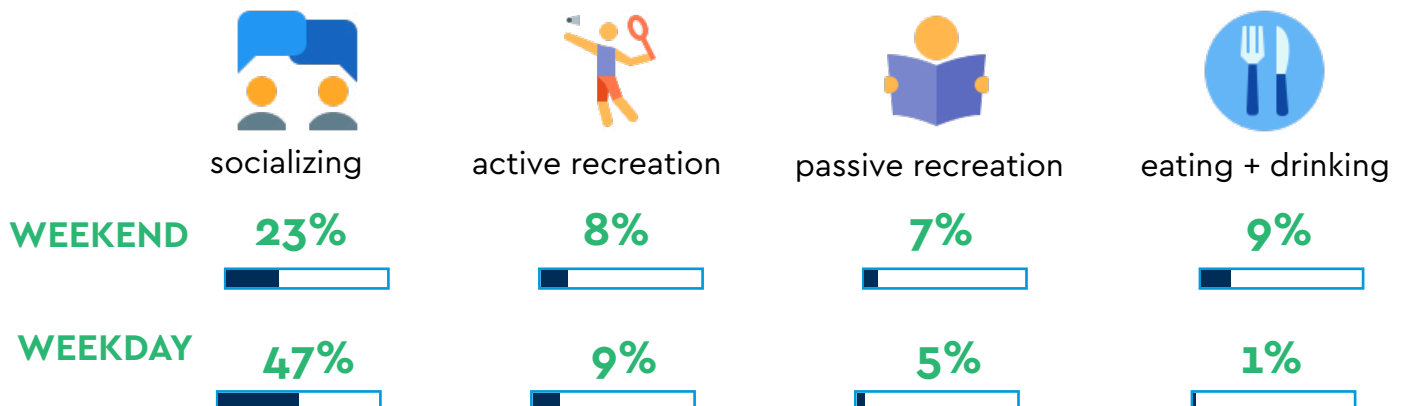
Located between Centre Island Beach and Hanlan's Point Beach, Gibraltar Beach is accessed off the main bike/walk path. It is located near the ArtScape Gibraltar Point artists residences and studios.



HIGHLIGHTS

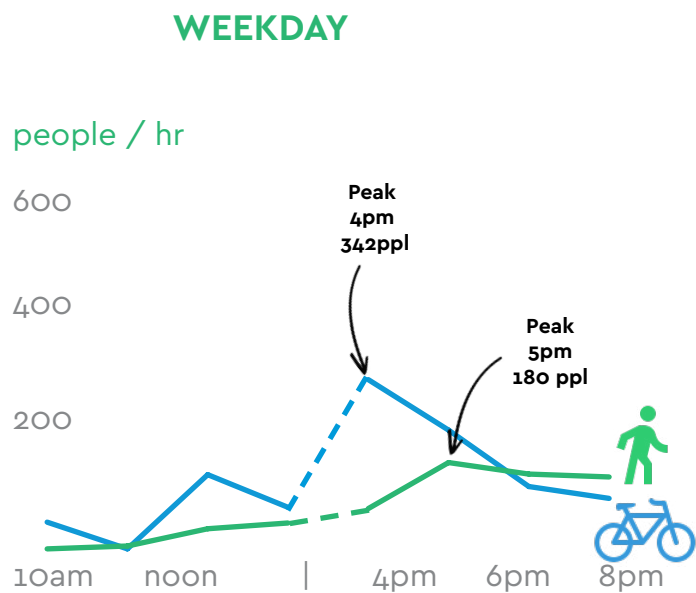
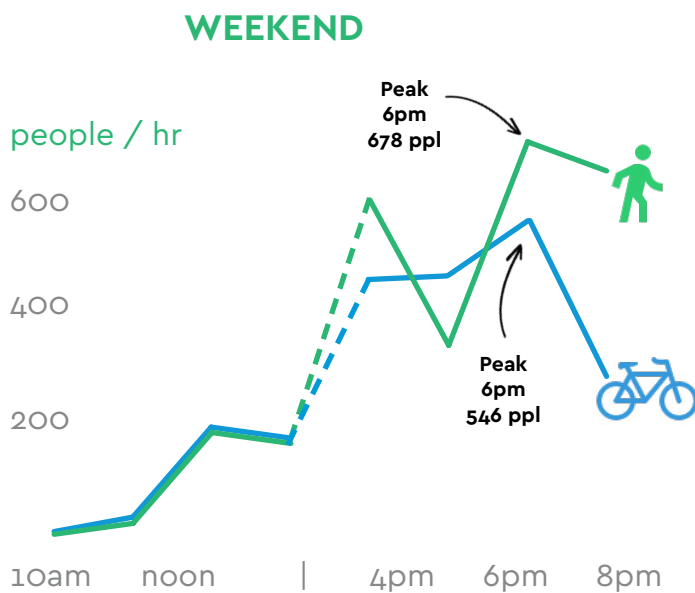
- On Saturday there was approximately one bike counted for every nine persons using the beach, pointing to the popularity of reaching this beach by cycling but also the need for bike parking nearby.
- People like to swim at Gibraltar. One third of people at the beach were swimming on Saturday, higher than the average of one quarter at the other beaches.
- Gibraltar Beach is a busy point for people moving to and from other places on the Island, but not as much a destination as other beaches when you take into account how many people move past it.

TOP ACTIVITIES

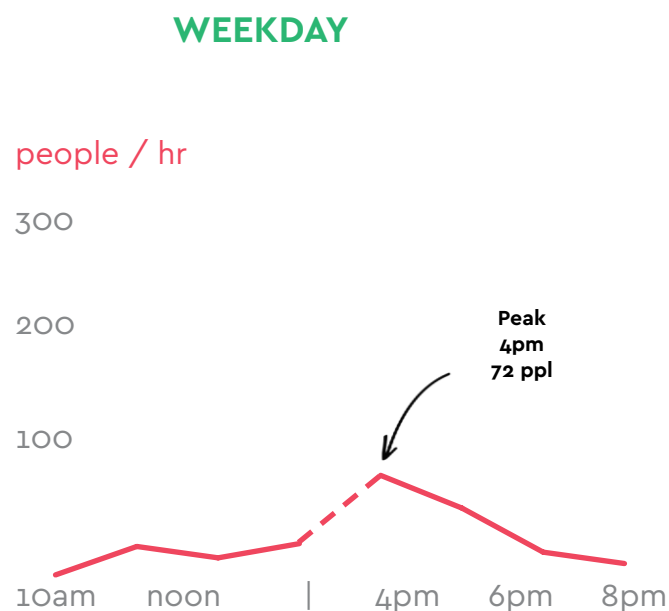
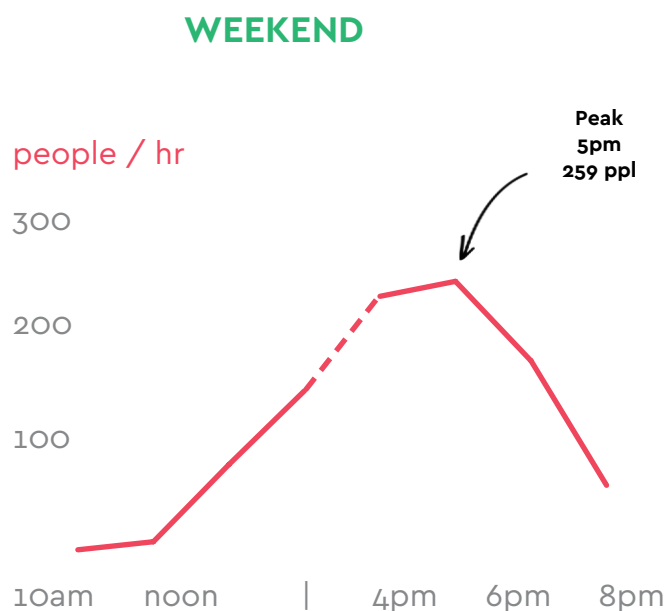


Gibraltar Point Beach

MOVING



STAYING



STAYING POWER

WEEKEND



WEEKDAY



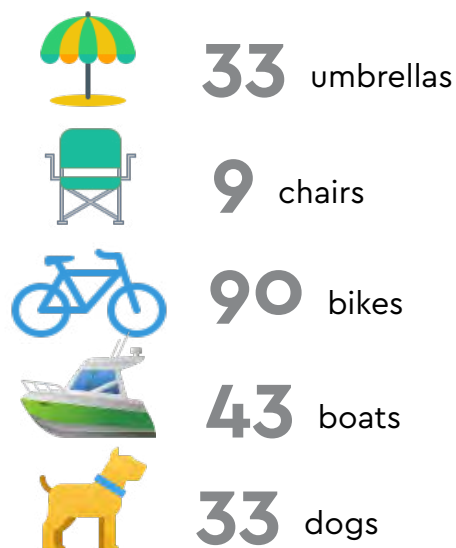
WHAT PEOPLE BROUGHT

For every 1000 people visiting Centre Island Beach Island we observed:

WEEKEND

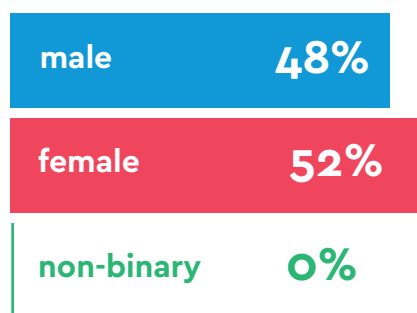


WEEKDAY

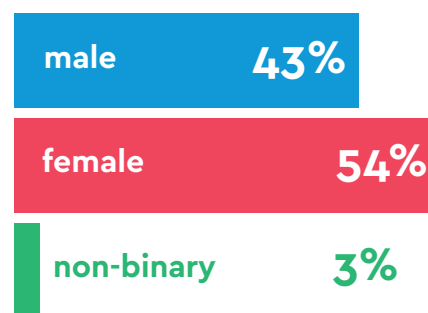


OBSERVED GENDER PRESENTATION

WEEKEND

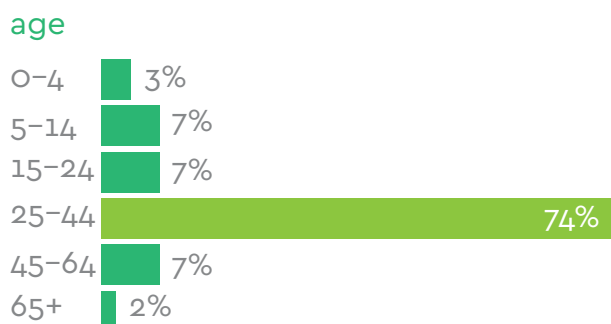


WEEKDAY

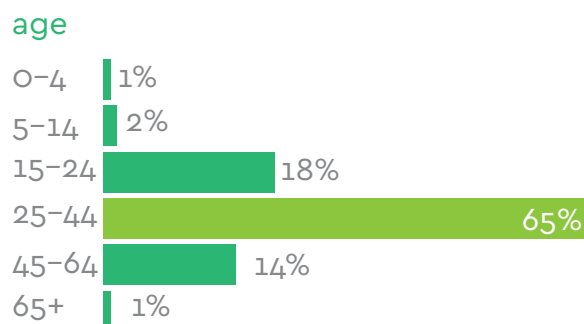


OBSERVED AGE PRESENTATION

WEEKEND



WEEKDAY



BEACH ZONE 8

Area:
9,500 m²
(land only)



HANLAN'S POINT BEACH

The main beach on Hanlan's Point, Hanlan's Beach includes a large clothing-optional area and is also a popular spot for the LGBTQIA2S+ community.



HIGHLIGHTS

- While younger adults were the largest age category using the beach (43% of beach goers on Saturday were 25 – 44), Hanlan's also saw the largest use by seniors, including 4% of beach users on the weekend and 8% on the weekday.
- Hanlan's is a late night beach. While other beach areas saw their stationary counts drop during the last count hour between 7 and 8pm, Hanlan's saw an increase on Saturday—even without ferry service running from this part of the Island.
- People drop their anchor at Hanlan's. Hanlan's saw the highest usage by boats moored off the beach with approximately one boat for every 7 people on the weekend and one boat for every 13 people on the weekday. This highlights the unique beach culture of Hanlan's as a gathering place both for folks on the beach and those just off the beach in the water.
- Not just a weekend destination. Hanlan's Beach saw the least drop in beach users between weekend and weekday from all beach areas, reflecting its position as a destination during the week.

TOP ACTIVITIES



socializing



active recreation



passive recreation



eating + drinking

WEEKEND

27%



14%



7%



11%



WEEKDAY

33%



6%



10%

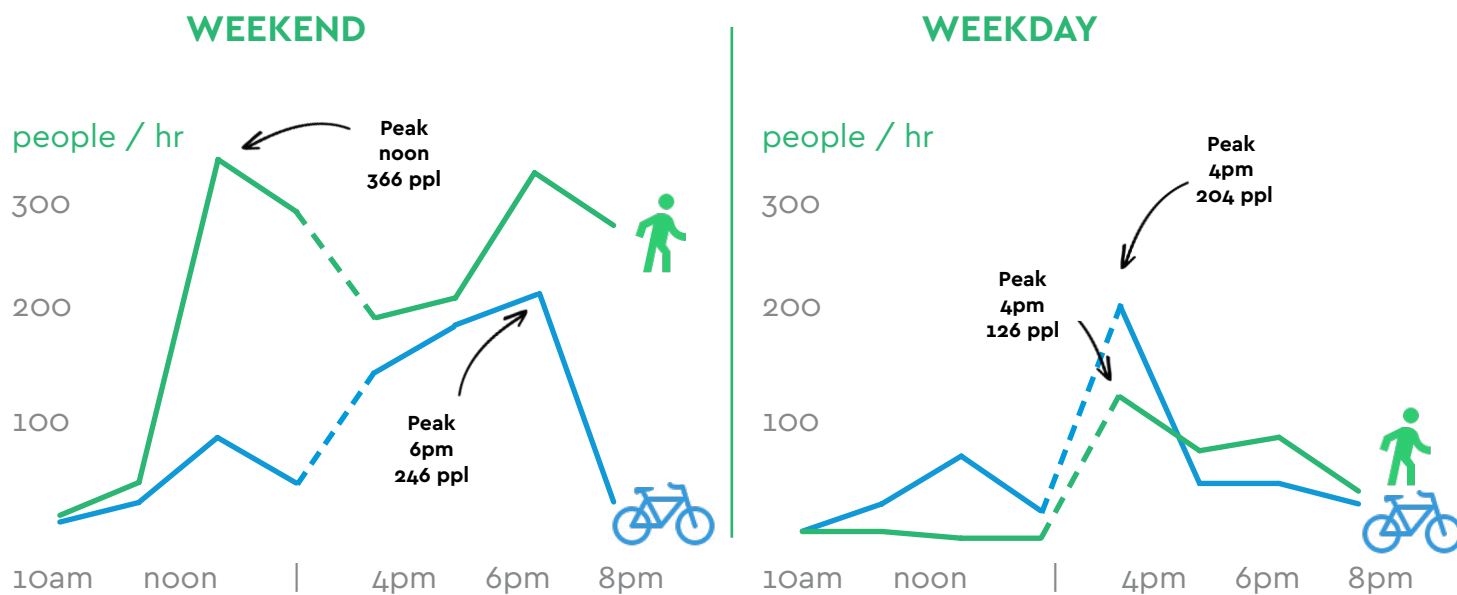


7%

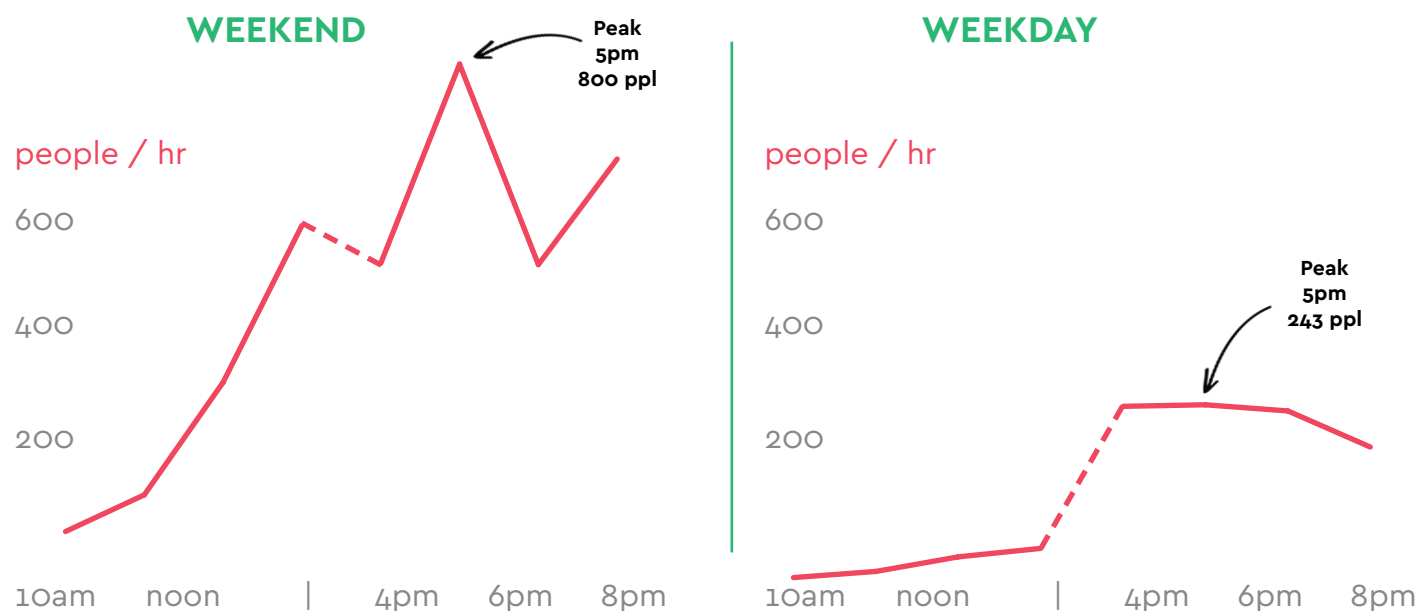


Hanlan's Point Beach

MOVING



STAYING



STAYING POWER

WEEKEND



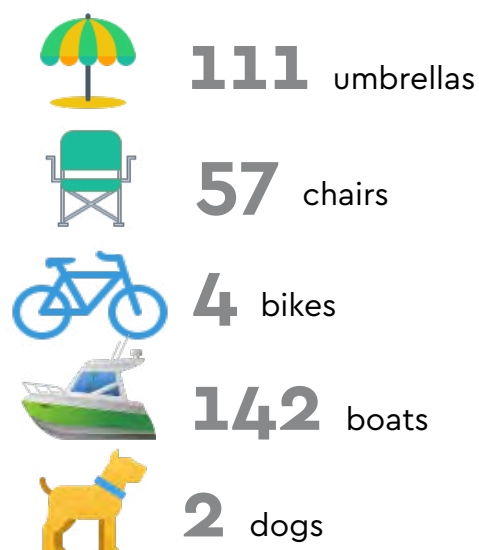
WEEKDAY



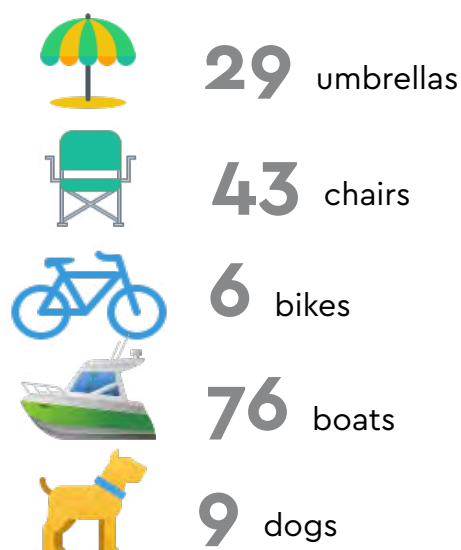
WHAT PEOPLE BROUGHT

For every 1000 people visiting Centre Island Beach Island we observed:

WEEKEND

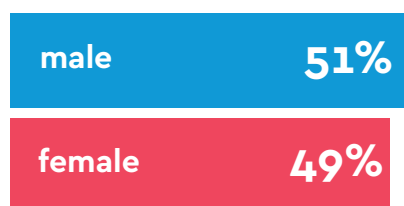


WEEKDAY

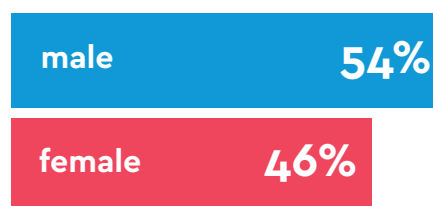


OBSERVED GENDER PRESENTATION

WEEKEND

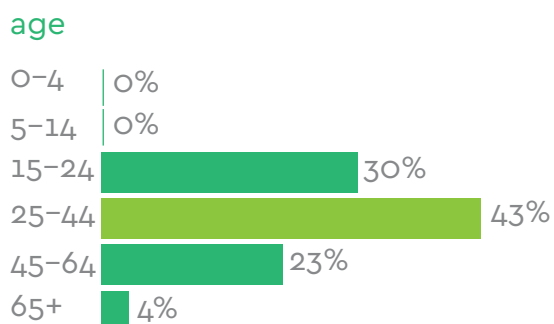


WEEKDAY

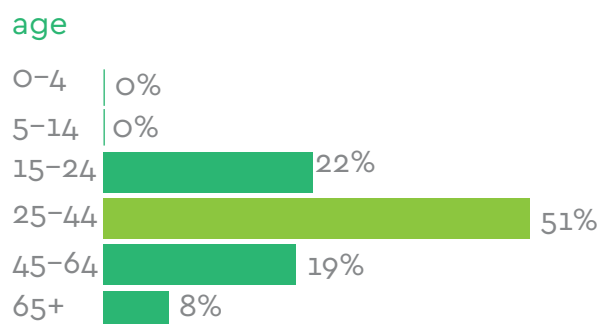


OBSERVED AGE PRESENTATION

WEEKEND



WEEKDAY



NEXT STEPS

As one of the first initiatives in the Toronto Island Master Plan development process, we present the findings of the public life study as a starting point. Future consultation, research, and design initiatives can dig deeper into the emergent insights identified through this study.

Topics recommended for further investigation include:

- **The specific sense of place and meaning attached to different Island areas by park users** and how that may influence potential improvements and amenities. The input provided through the online survey suggests that certain places on the Island hold special significance for some communities—such as the LGBTQIA2S+ community at Hanlan's Point.
- **The possibility of creating places more supportive of lingering at ferry docks** and whether that would be desirable from the public, as the public life study showed some docks appear to be places most people pass through rather than spend time in (e.g., Hanlan's).
- **Island use patterns that build on the trends shown in the public life study**, especially probing late night use (including age, gender, and activity patterns), visitor group size and composition (e.g., the correlation in use by female-presenting people and children on certain beaches), and food/beverage behaviours (e.g., amount of people who bring their own food or purchase on the Island).
- **Issues of access and comfort specifically with older adults**, recognizing that they were underrepresented in the stationary activity counts of the public life study.
- **Experiences of Island users who may have been underrepresented due to COVID-19**, such as international tourists and people with greater health risks, as well as use patterns that may have been less common due to pandemic-related gathering restrictions (e.g. outings with extended family or larger groups). Cold weather use of the Island and how that may influence behavioural patterns and demand for activities or amenities.

- **Bike use patterns and demand for rental options.** While the public life study measured the number of people cycling past each zone and bikes brought onto beaches, further analysis could explore the amount of personal bike use compared to rental bikes, volume of bikes transported on ferries between different docks, and the potential for expanded types or locations of bike rentals on the Island (e.g., rental locations at ferry docks, extending BikeShare to the Island, etc.).
- **Details about dog use on the Island.** As the public life study showed some beaches see higher amounts of dogs than others, future initiatives could explore whether dog owners are from nearby residential areas or travelling from further away, and how that may affect desire for supporting amenities.
- **Themes of the Toronto Island Master Plan framework that are less captured in a public life study,** such as environmental value, community meaning, and additional dimensions of equity and access.

Methods for further exploring these areas may include workshops, temporary public space installations or pilots (and evaluation of these interventions), future public life studies in cold weather, in-person intercept surveys, focus groups, and more.

APPENDIX A

STATIONARY MAPPING OBSERVATIONS AND PATTERNS

Toronto Islands Park

Stationary Mapping Observations and Patterns

Study Day: August 22, 2020

Prepared by Park People
November 2020

Toronto Island Dock Areas

Saturday, August 22, 2020

Jack Layton Ferry Terminal Saturday Aug 22, 10am

Map Notes:

- Water's edge is a reliable attraction and seating is well-used
- People feel free to sit or lie on the grass, particularly near the water
- The vendors at the north end of the zone by Queen's Quay attract people consistently throughout the day
- Surveyors noted people bring their dogs to the middle grassy area, more so during the weekday

Movement

- Pedestrians: 678
- Cyclists: 114

Stationary - Gender

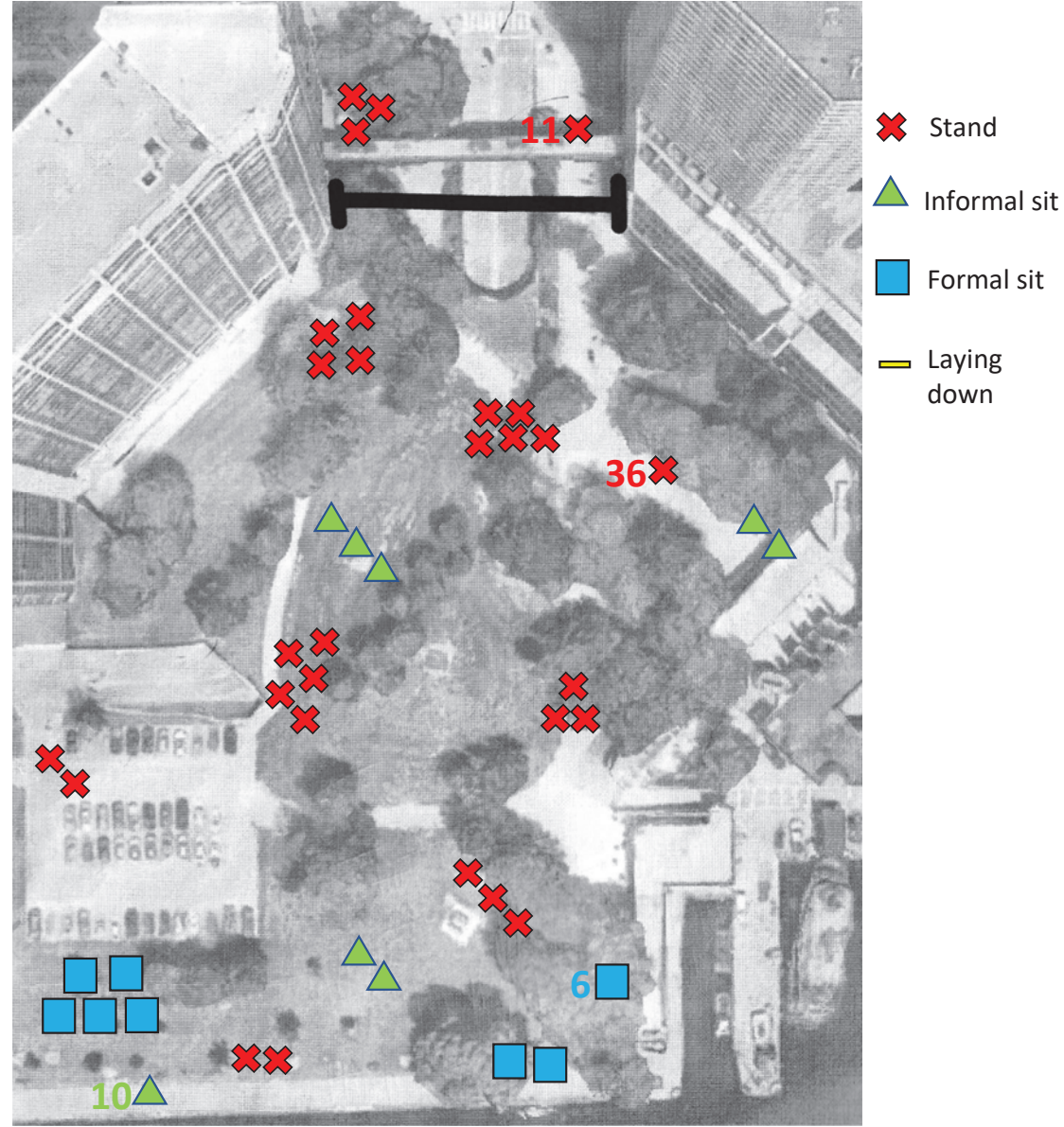
- M: 45%
- F: 55%

Stationary

- Total people: 103

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 4%
- 5 – 14: 12%
- 15 – 24: 10%
- 25 – 44: 63%
- 45 – 65: 12%
- 65+: 0%



Jack Layton Ferry Terminal Saturday Aug 22, 11am

Movement

- Pedestrians: 1302
- Cyclists: 96

Stationary

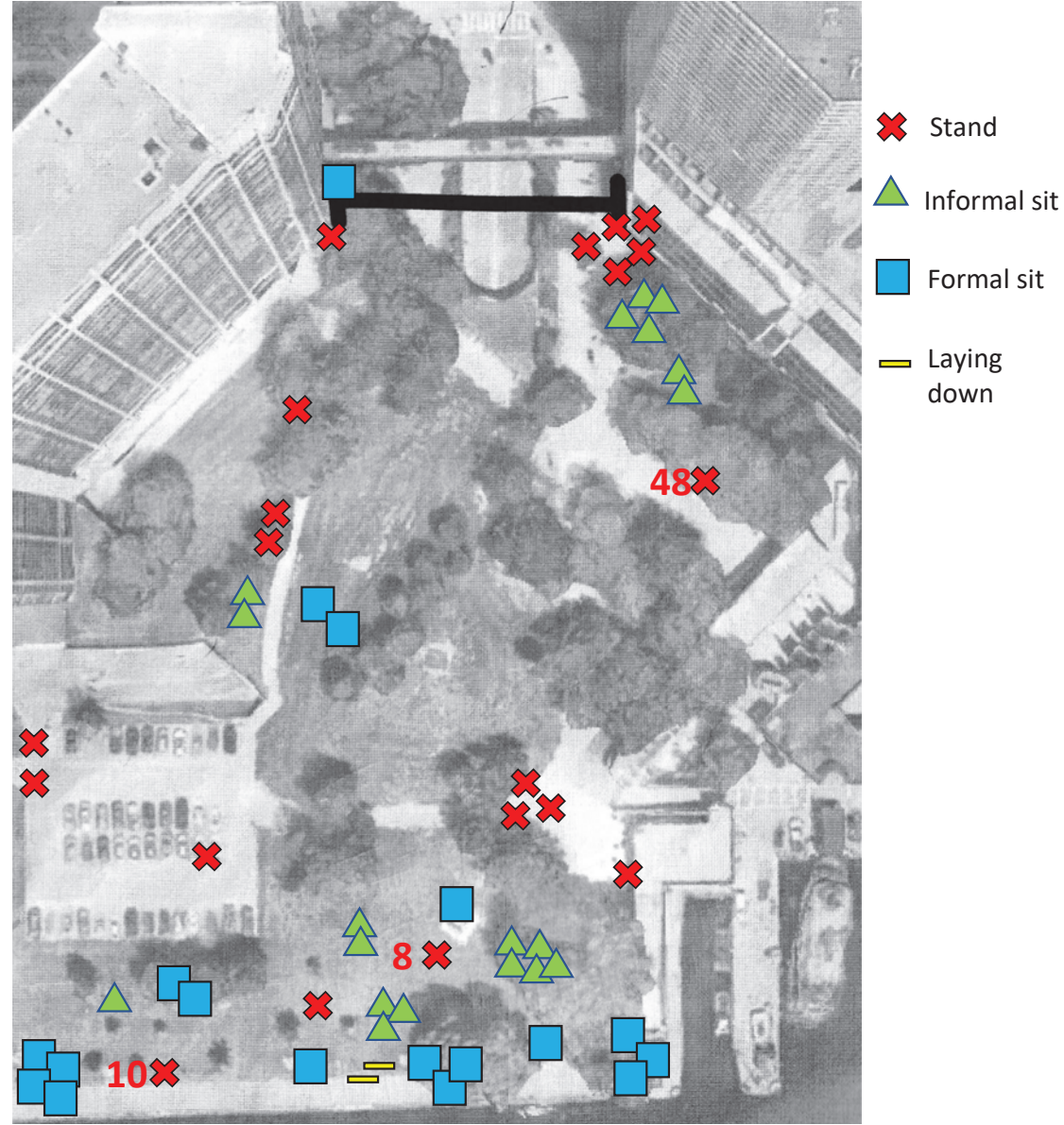
- Total people: 122

Stationary - Gender

- M: 43%
- F: 57%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 4%
- 5 – 14: 3%
- 15 – 24: 14%
- 25 – 44: 77%
- 45 – 65: 3%
- 65+: 0%



Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Saturday Aug 22, 12pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 1206
- Cyclists: 54

Stationary

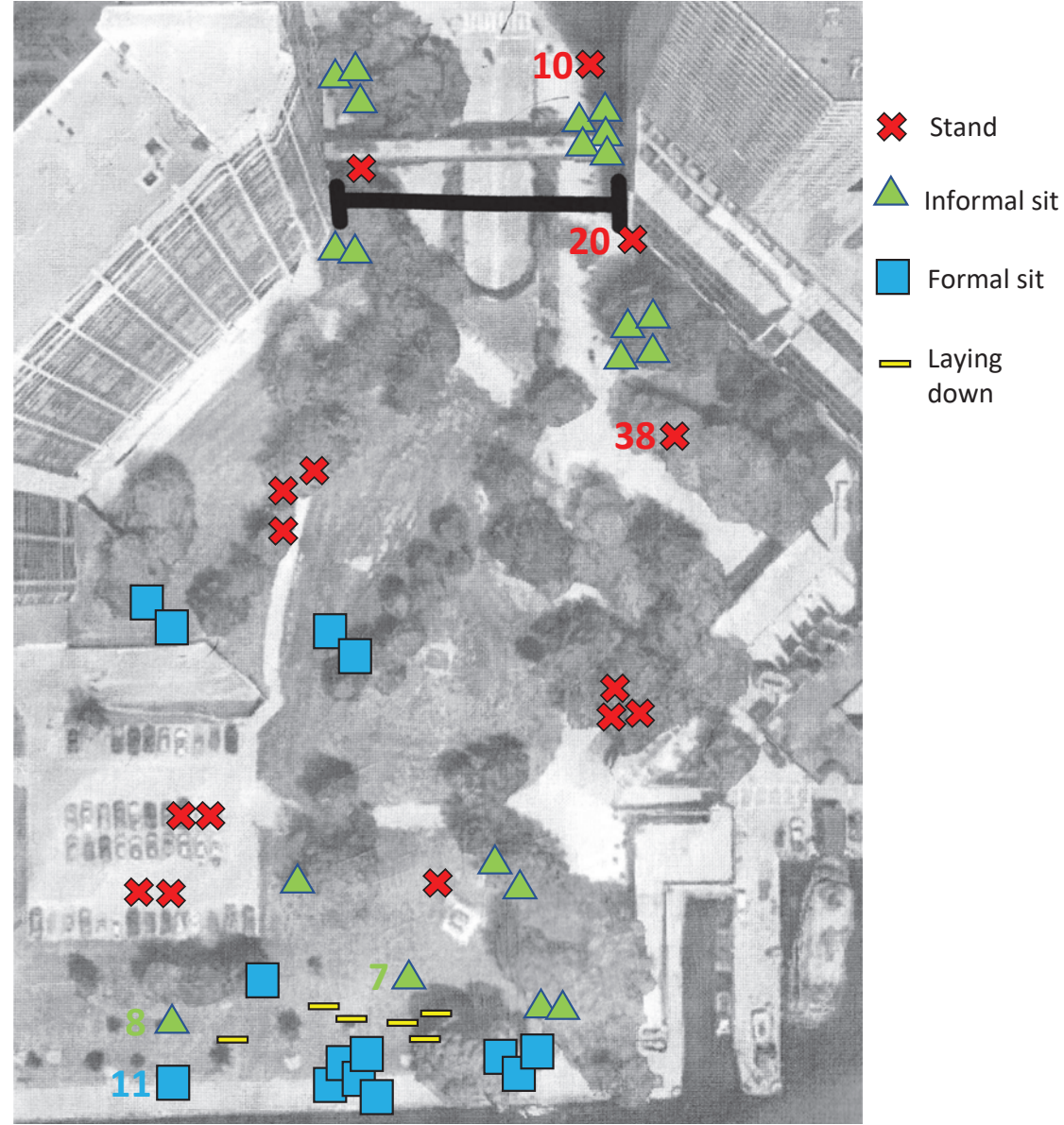
- Total people: 146

Stationary - Gender

- M: 41%
- F: 59%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 3%
- 5 – 14: 19%
- 15 – 24: 24%
- 25 – 44: 45%
- 45 – 65: 7%
- 65+: 2%



Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Saturday Aug 22, 1pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 906
- Cyclists: 60

Stationary

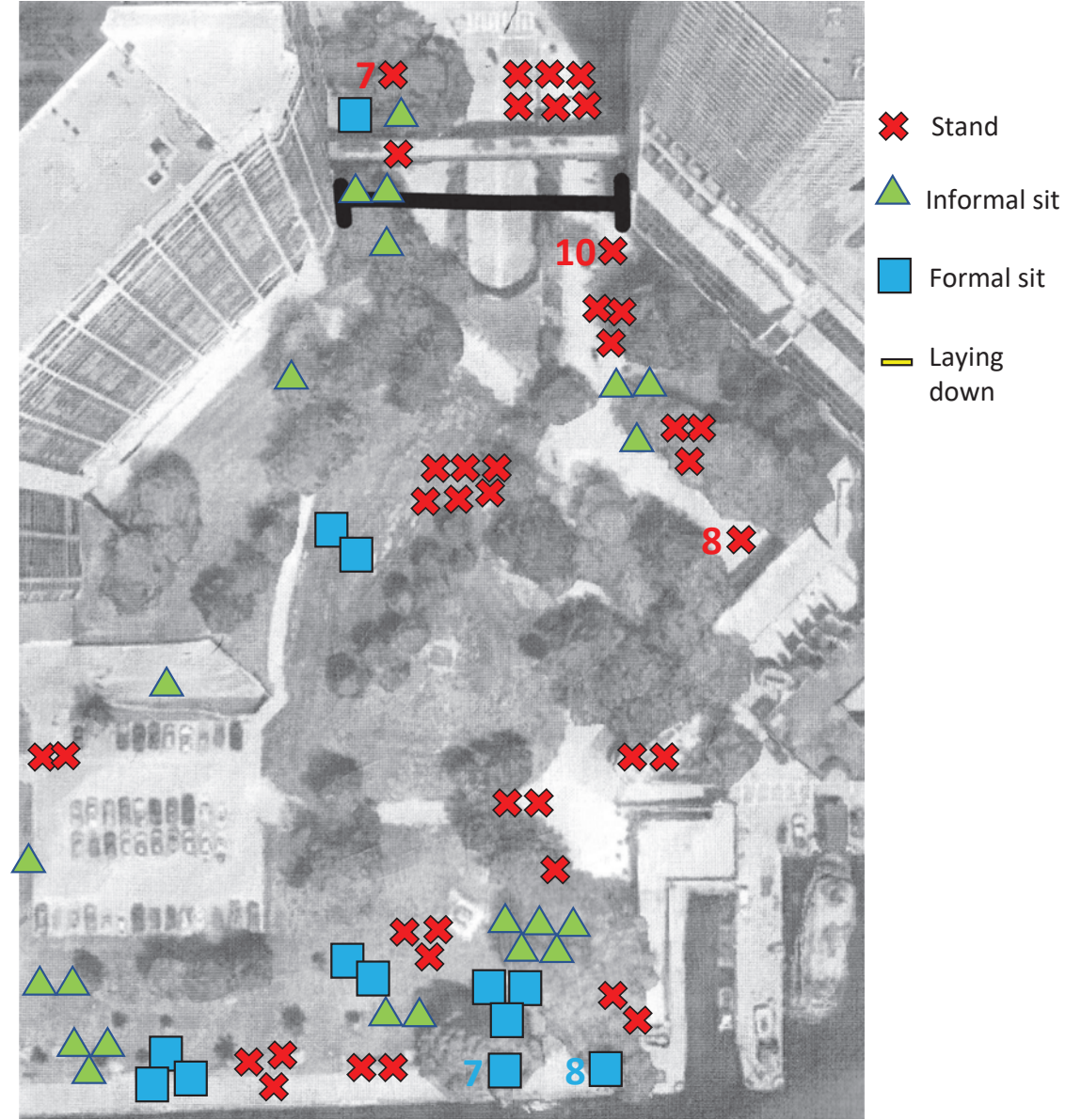
- Total people: 111

Stationary - Gender

- M: 49%
- F: 51%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 1%
- 5 – 14: 8%
- 15 – 24: 33%
- 25 – 44: 29%
- 45 – 65: 19%
- 65+: 11%



Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Saturday Aug 22, 4pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 2118
- Cyclists: 132

Stationary

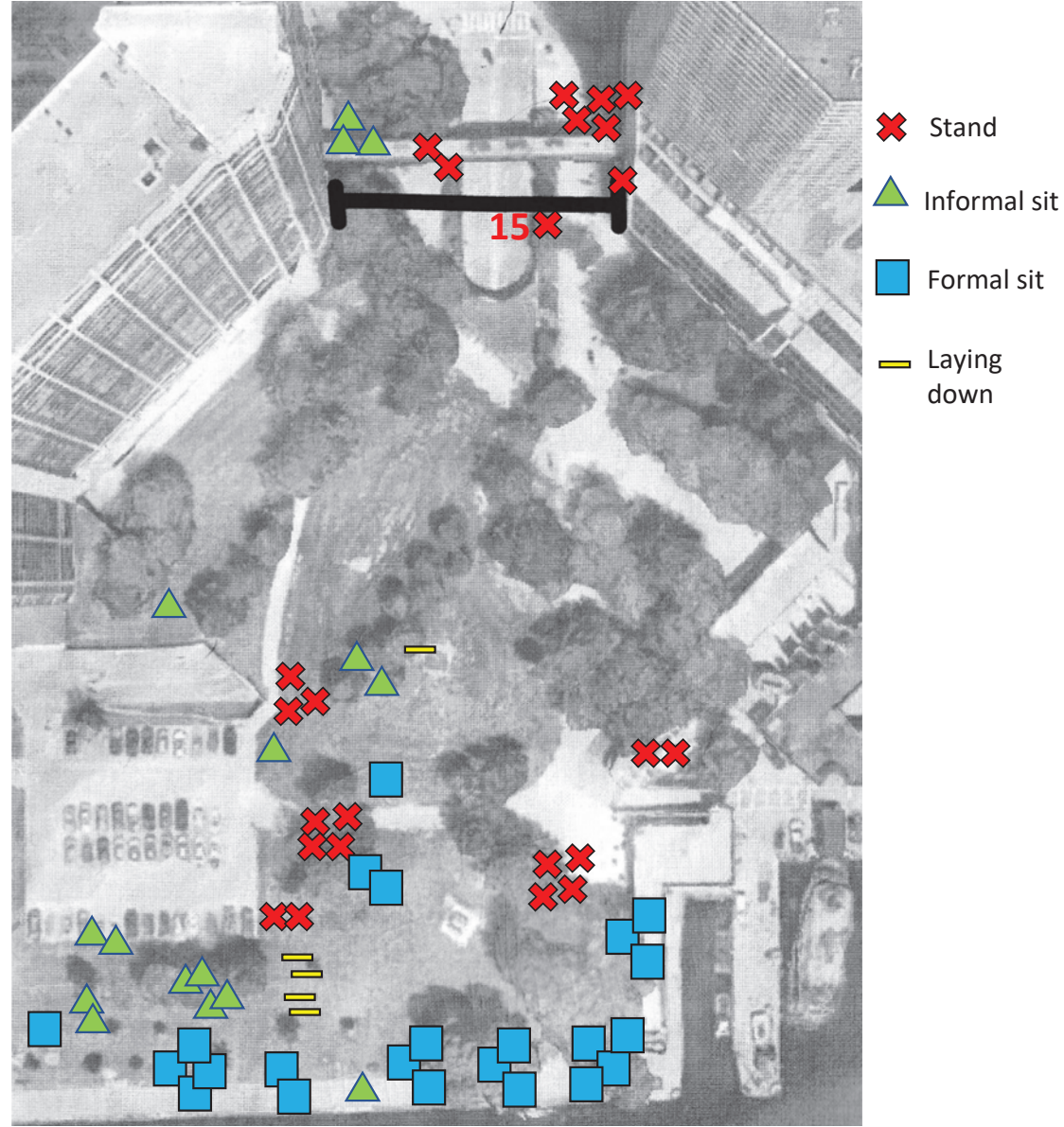
- Total people: 81

Stationary - Gender

- M: 55%
- F: 45%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 1%
- 5 – 14: 0%
- 15 – 24: 1%
- 25 – 44: 70%
- 45 – 65: 24%
- 65+: 3%



Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Saturday Aug 22, 5pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 1554
- Cyclists: 90

Stationary

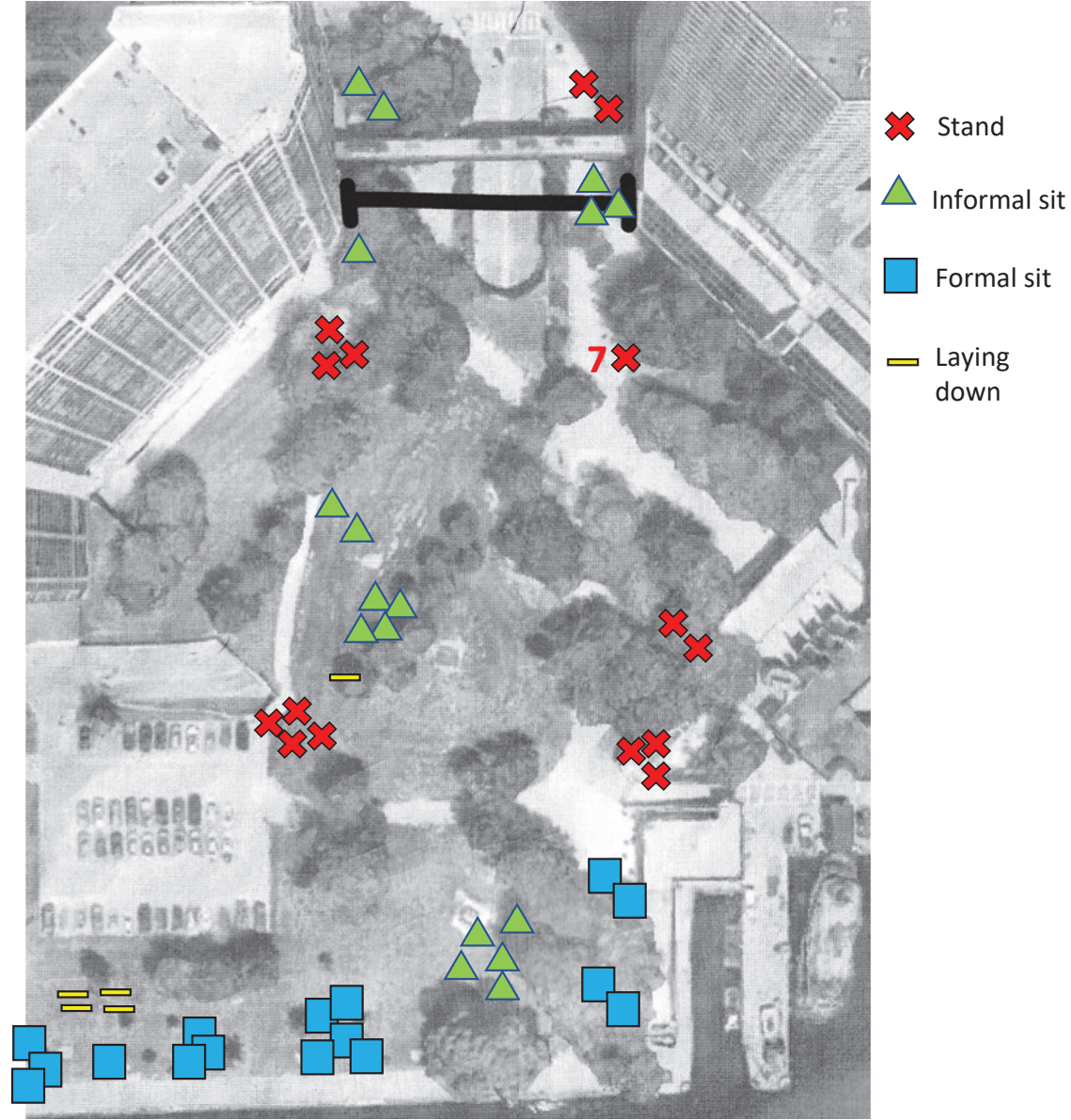
- Total people: 77

Stationary - Gender

- M: 62%
- F: 38%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 2%
- 5 – 14: 10%
- 15 – 24: 85
- 25 – 44: 27%
- 45 – 65: 47%
- 65+: 6%



Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Saturday Aug 22, 6pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 1500
- Cyclists: 66

Stationary

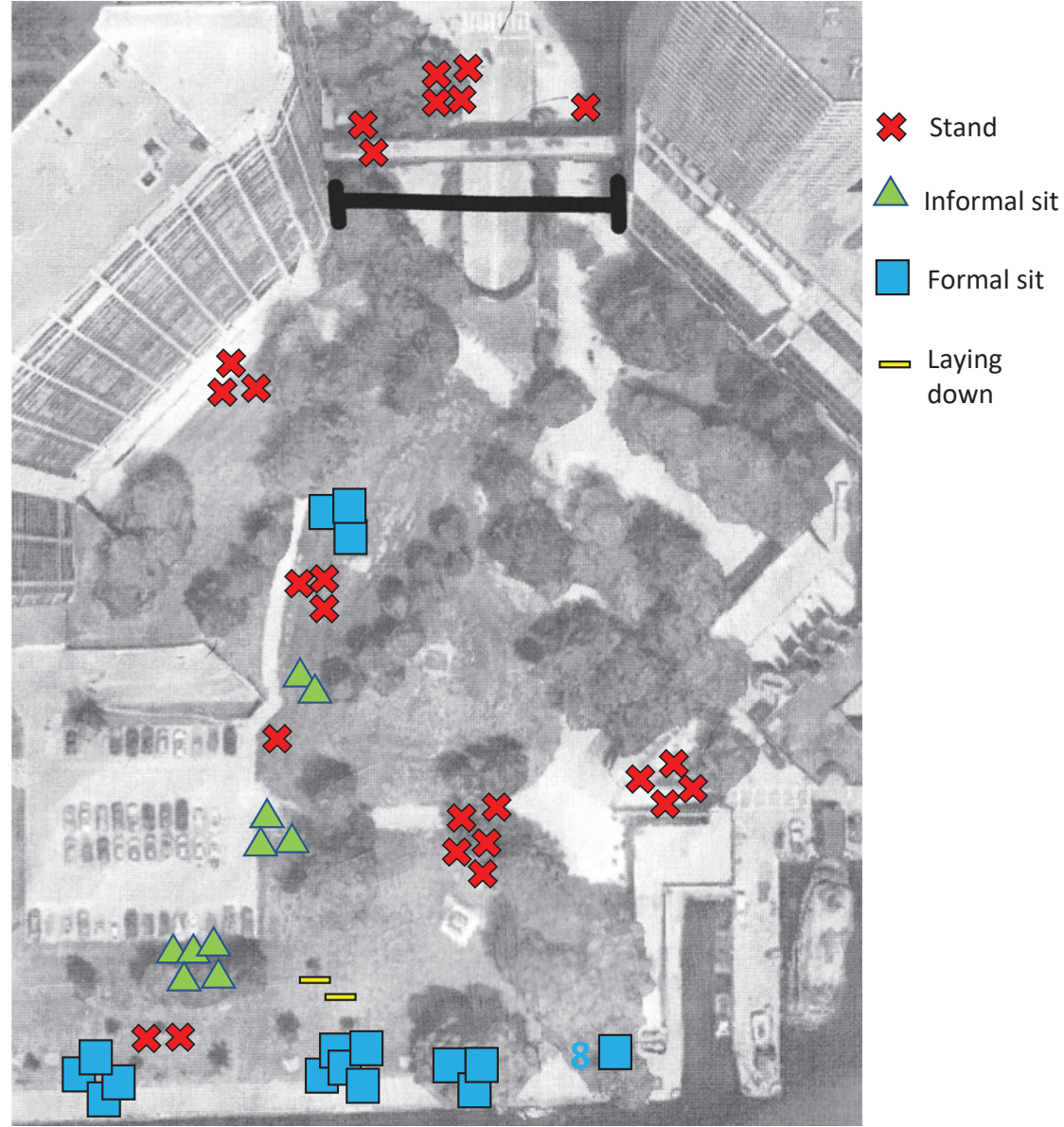
- Total people: 92

Stationary - Gender

- M: 49%
- F: 51%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 3%
- 5 – 14: 5%
- 15 – 24: 6%
- 25 – 44: 55%
- 45 – 65: 28%
- 65+: 3%



Jack Layton Ferry Terminal

Saturday Aug 22, 7pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 2604
- Cyclists: 102

Stationary

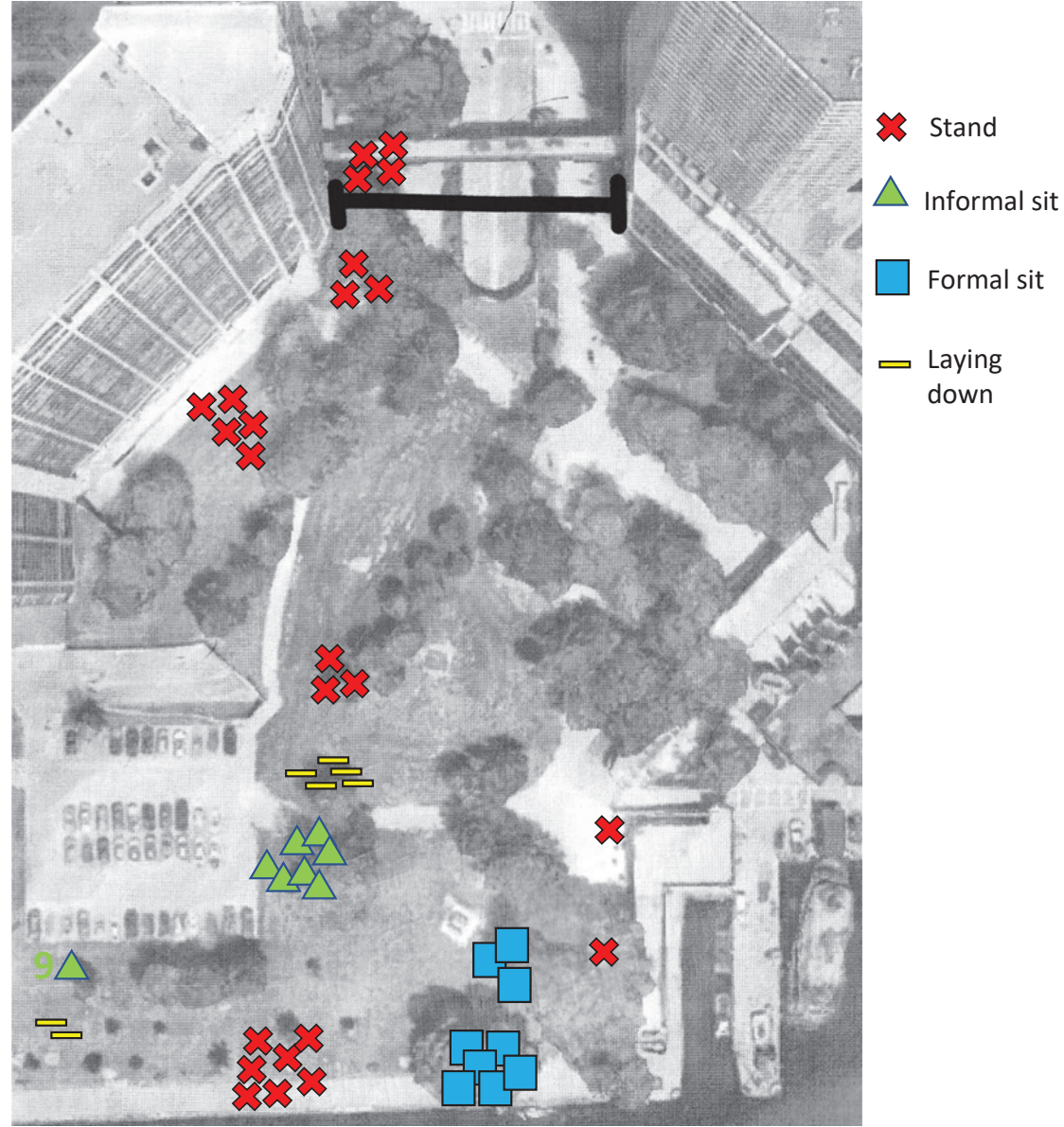
- Total people: 111

Stationary - Gender

- M: 45%
- F: 55%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 1%
- 5 – 14: 6%
- 15 – 24: 6%
- 25 – 44: 54%
- 45 – 65: 29%
- 65+: 4%



Ward's Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 10am

Map Notes:

- Lots of clustering of standing near the ferry entrance, including one surveyor noting an older woman who wanted to sit down, but didn't want to lose her place in line
- Water's edge is an attraction while people wait, with people standing and sitting on logs
- People tend to line up along the western side when it gets busy
- The open grass area starts to attract people sitting and standing around in the evening when the dock area itself gets busier
- Weekday surveyor noted that pedestrians largely travelled along the centre pathway after exiting the ferry

Movement

- Pedestrians: 48
- Cyclists: 18

Stationary - Gender

- M: 45%
- F: 55%

Stationary

- Total people: 31

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 0%
- 5 – 14: 10%
- 15 – 24: 0%
- 25 – 44: 58%
- 45 – 65: 13%
- 65+: 19%



✗ Stand

▲ Informal sit

■ Formal sit

— Laying down

Ward's Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 11am

Movement

- Pedestrians: 12
- Cyclists: 132

Stationary

- Total people: 20

Stationary - Gender

- M: 45%
- F: 55%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 0%
- 5 – 14: 5%
- 15 – 24: 45%
- 25 – 44: 10%
- 45 – 65: 40%
- 65+: 0%



✕ Stand

▲ Informal sit

■ Formal sit

— Laying down

Ward's Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 12pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 66
- Cyclists: 162

Stationary

- Total people: 24

Stationary - Gender

- M: 43%
- F: 57%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 4%
- 5 – 14: 4%
- 15 – 24: 21%
- 25 – 44: 42%
- 45 – 65: 29%
- 65+: 0%



✕ Stand

▲ Informal sit

■ Formal sit

— Laying down

Ward's Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 1pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 78
- Cyclists: 156

Stationary

- Total people: 24

Stationary - Gender

- M: 50%
- F: 50%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 16%
- 5 – 14: 21%
- 15 – 24: 21%
- 25 – 44: 21%
- 45 – 65: 21%
- 65+: 0%



✕ Stand

▲ Informal sit

■ Formal sit

— Laying down

Ward's Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 4pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 186
- Cyclists: 204

Stationary

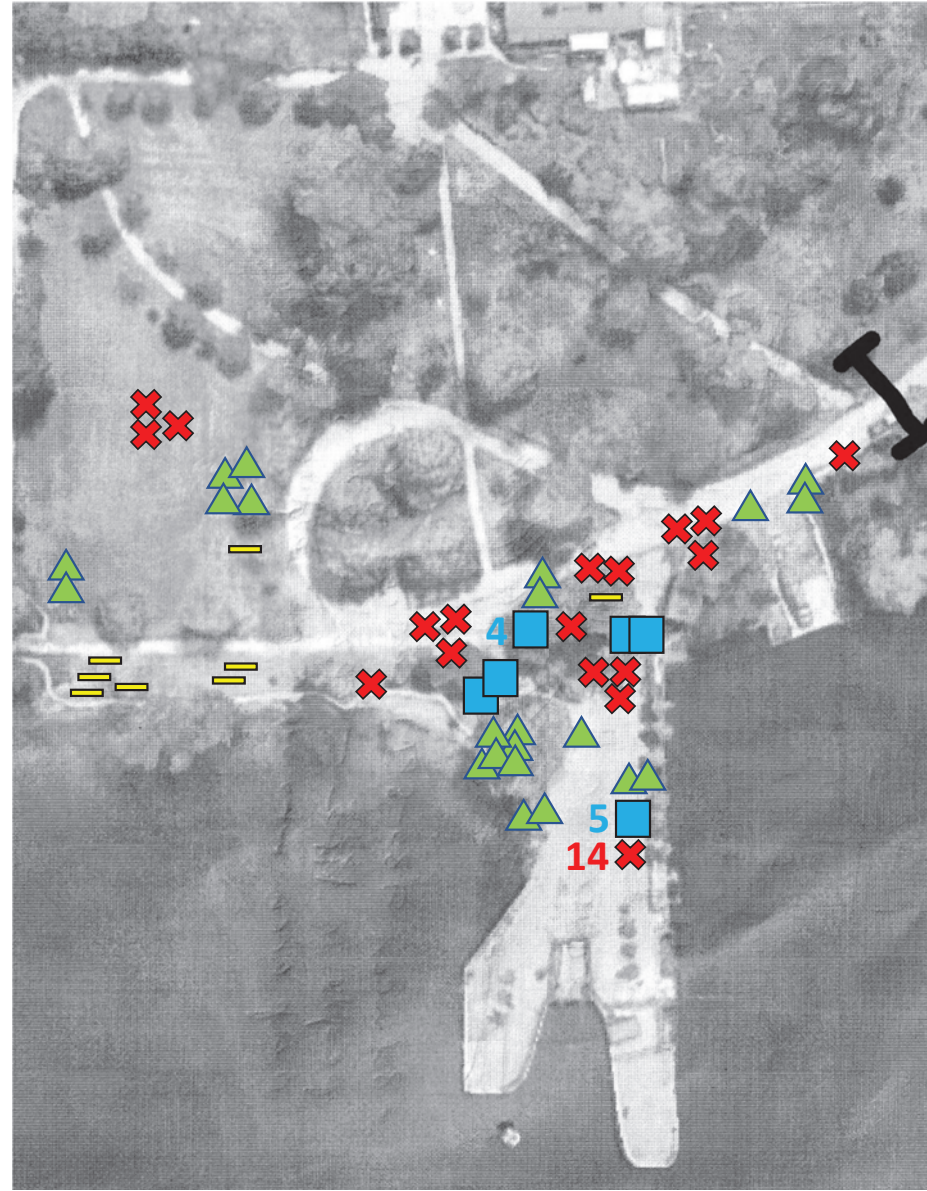
- Total people: 76

Stationary - Gender

- M: 45%
- F: 55%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 4%
- 5 – 14: 0%
- 15 – 24: 25%
- 25 – 44: 50%
- 45 – 65: 20%
- 65+: 2%



✕ Stand

▲ Informal sit

■ Formal sit

— Laying down

Ward's Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 5pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 108
- Cyclists: 270

Stationary

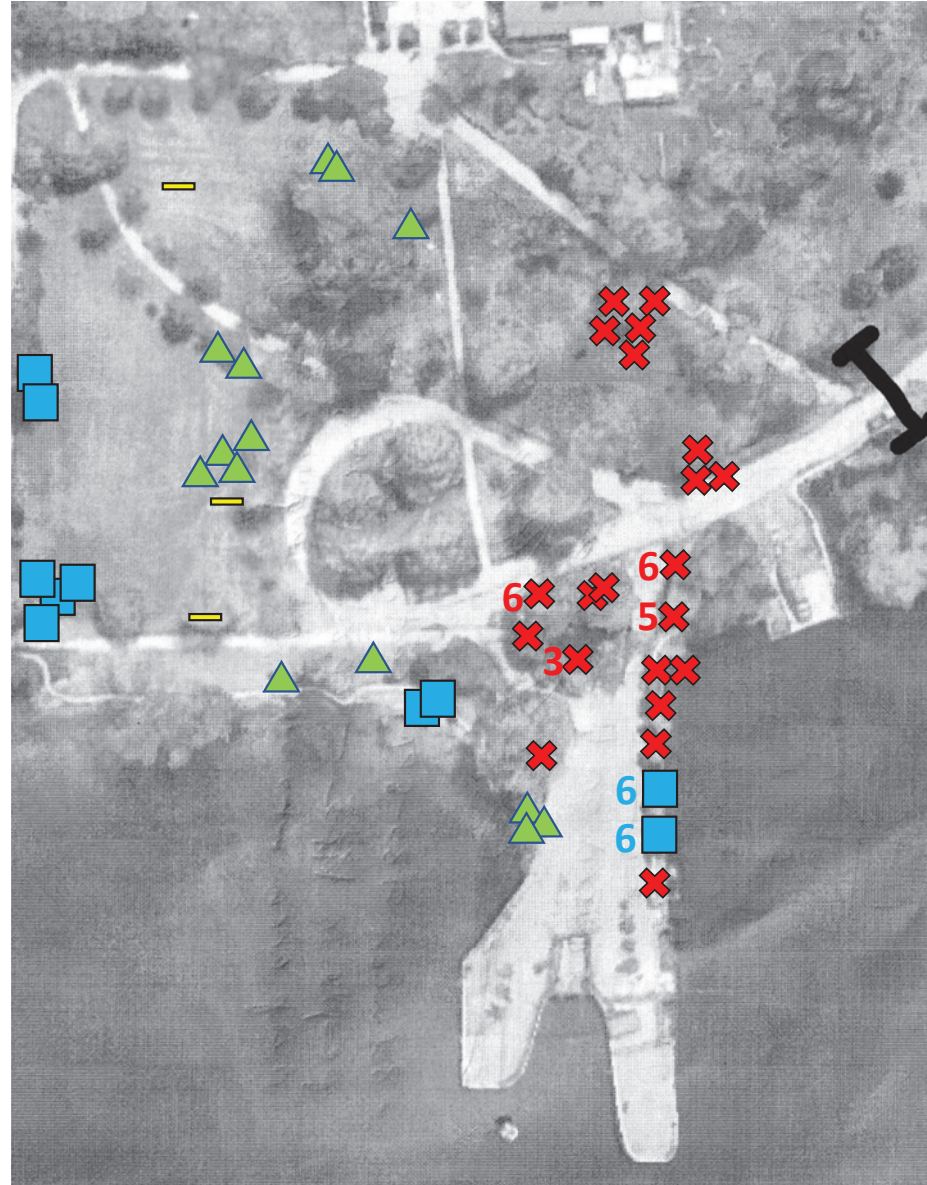
- Total people: 73

Stationary - Gender

- M: 54%
- F: 46%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 2%
- 5 – 14: 6%
- 15 – 24: 27%
- 25 – 44: 58%
- 45 – 65: 6%
- 65+: 2%



✕ Stand

▲ Informal sit

■ Formal sit

— Laying down

Ward's Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 6pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 186
- Cyclists: 228

Stationary

- Total people: 110

Stationary - Gender

- M: 51%
- F: 49%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 5%
- 5 – 14: 7%
- 15 – 24: 28%
- 25 – 44: 42%
- 45 – 65: 16%
- 65+: 2%



✕ Stand

▲ Informal sit

■ Formal sit

— Laying down

Ward's Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 7pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 96
- Cyclists: 150

Stationary

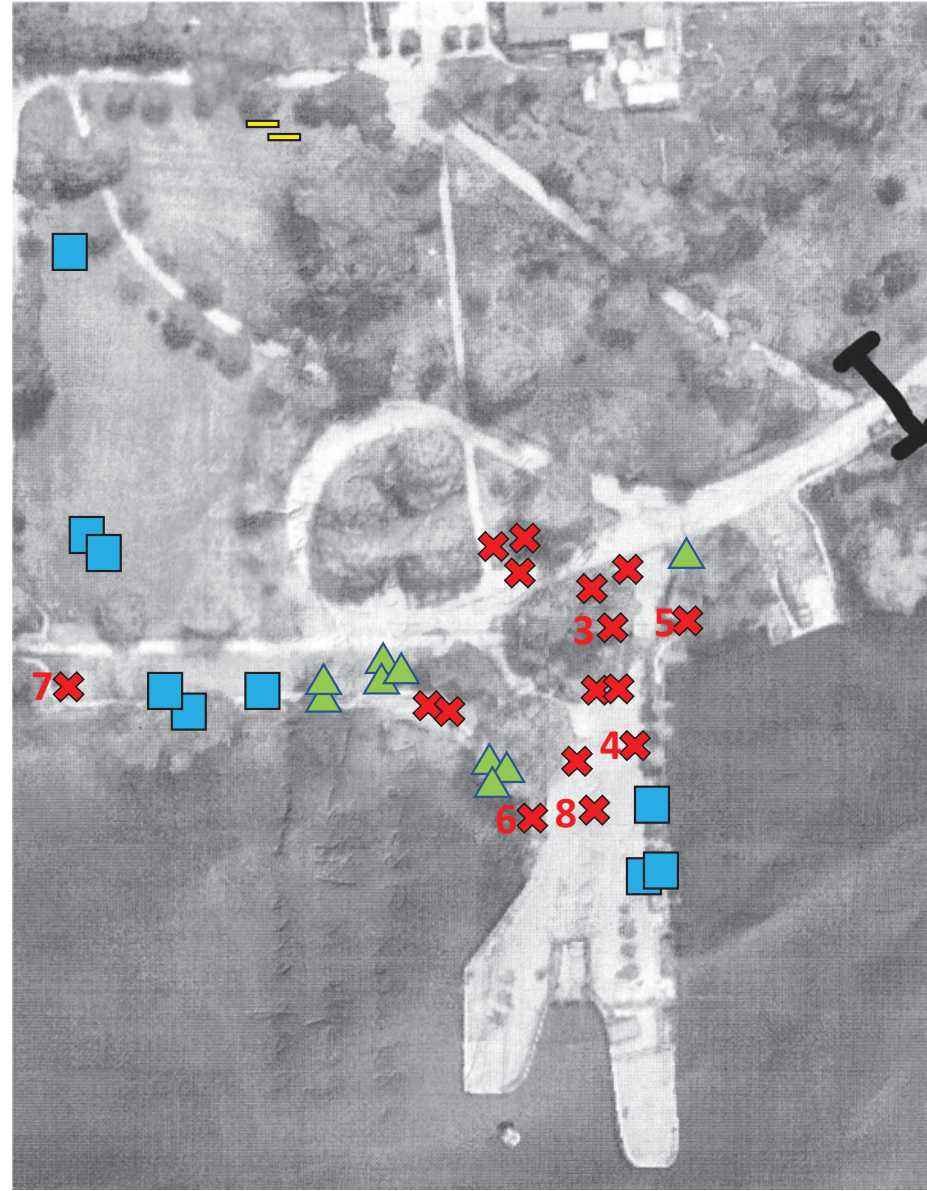
- Total people: 63

Stationary - Gender

- M: 44%
- F: 56%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 0%
- 5 – 14: 0%
- 15 – 24: 33%
- 25 – 44: 43%
- 45 – 65: 10%
- 65+: 14%



✕ Stand

▲ Informal sit

■ Formal sit

— Laying down

Centre Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 10am

Map Notes:

- Concession area and vendors in plaza are a reliable attraction throughout the day, but especially in the late afternoon/early evening hours.
- The water's edge attracts people for selfies and photos
- The shaded seating is well used
- One surveyor noted that a challenge is that once you're in line there is no place to sit while waiting without losing your place in line
- Few informal sitting counts shows plethora of seating in this dock area is well used
- Weekday surveyor noted the map of the Islands almost always had someone looking at it.

Movement

- Pedestrians: 834
- Cyclists: 138

Stationary

- Total people: 16

Stationary - Gender

- M: 60%
- F: 40%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 17%
- 5 – 14: 11%
- 15 – 24: 0%
- 25 – 44: 39%
- 45 – 65: 22%
- 65+: 11%



Centre Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 11am

Movement

- Pedestrians: 246
- Cyclists: 48

Stationary

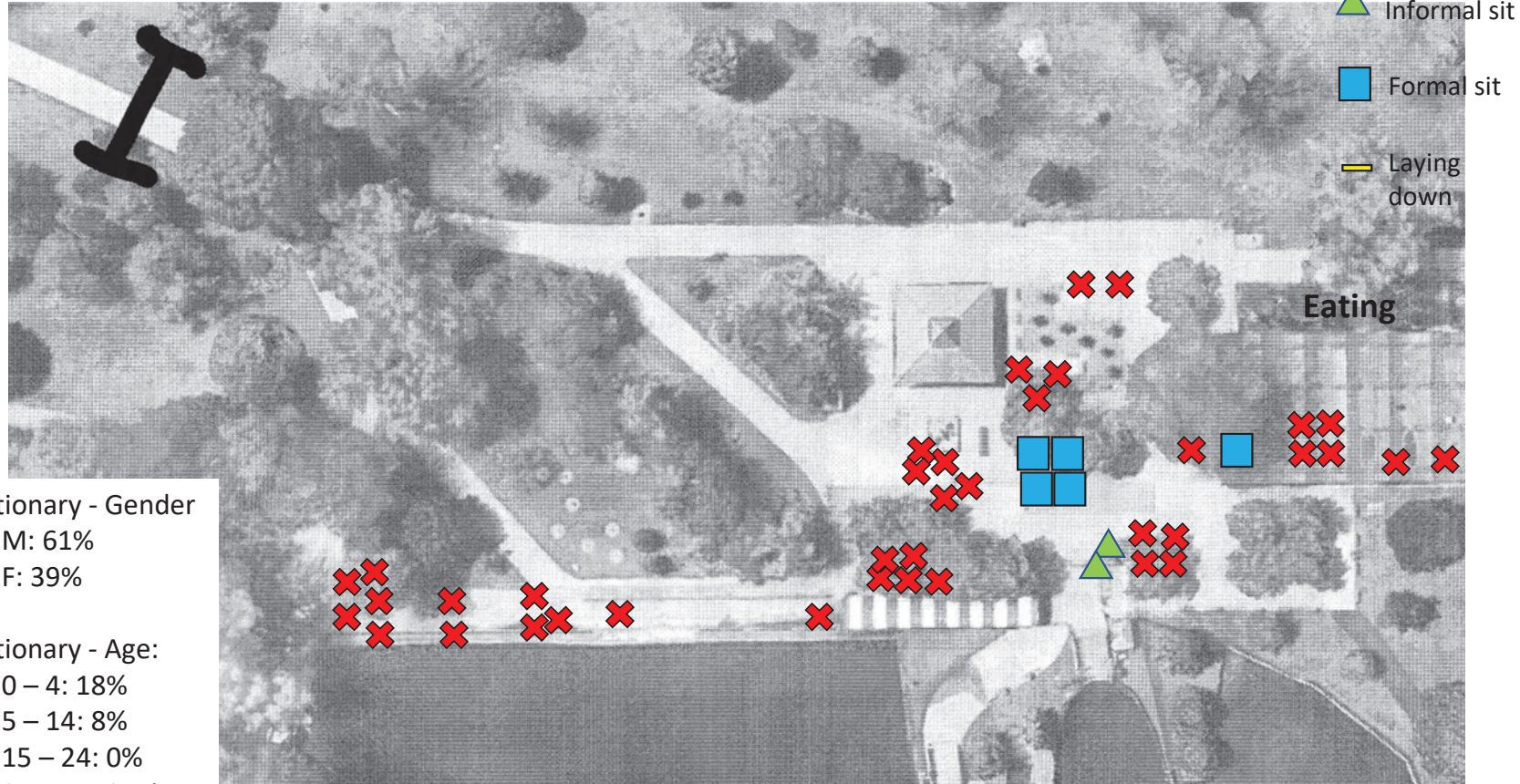
- Total people: 38

Stationary - Gender

- M: 61%
- F: 39%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 18%
- 5 – 14: 8%
- 15 – 24: 0%
- 25 – 44: 34%
- 45 – 65: 29%
- 65+: 11%



Centre Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 12pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 366
- Cyclists: 54

Stationary

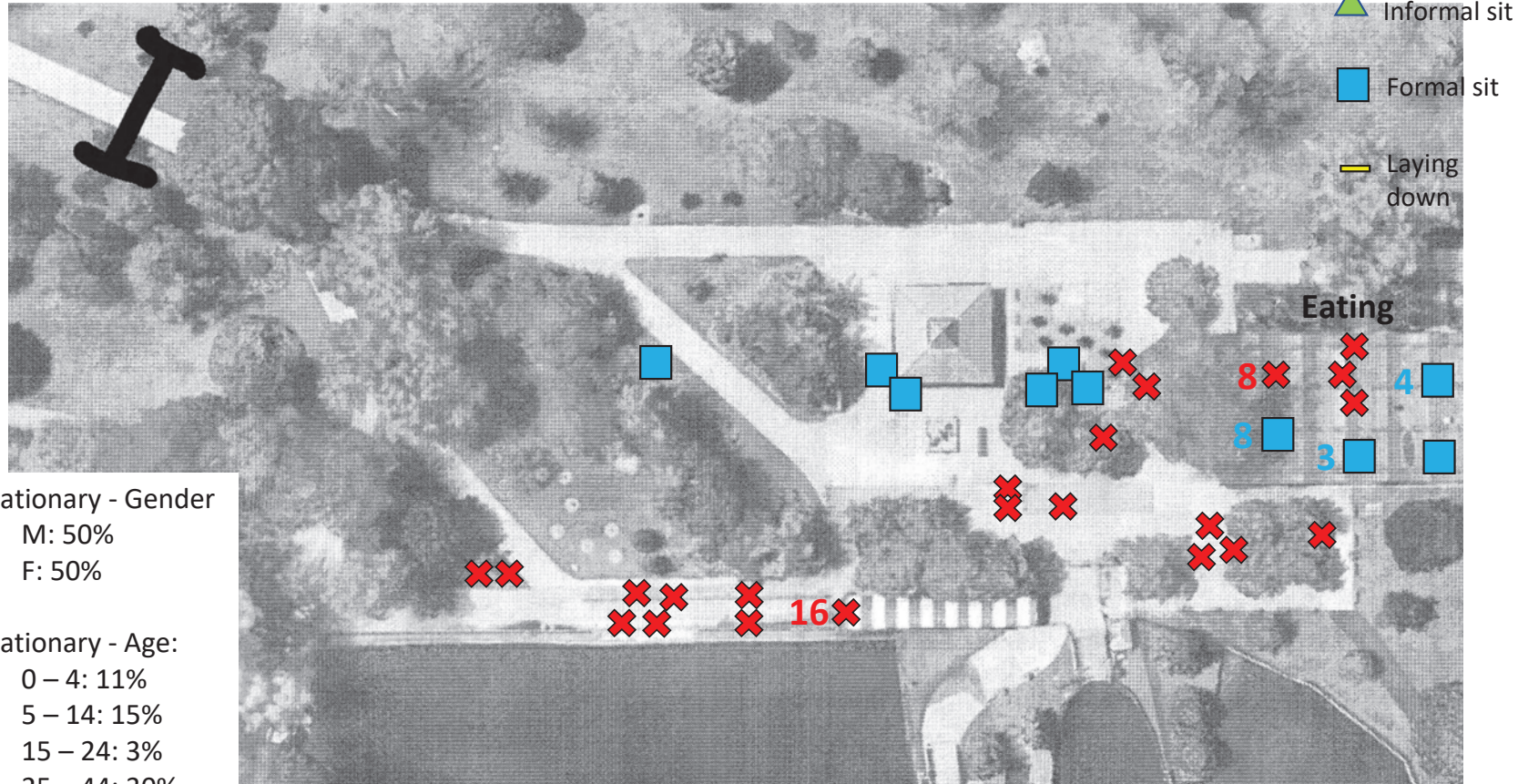
- Total people: 59

Stationary - Gender

- M: 50%
- F: 50%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 11%
- 5 – 14: 15%
- 15 – 24: 3%
- 25 – 44: 30%
- 45 – 65: 36%
- 65+: 5%



Centre Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 1pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 468
- Cyclists: 60

Stationary

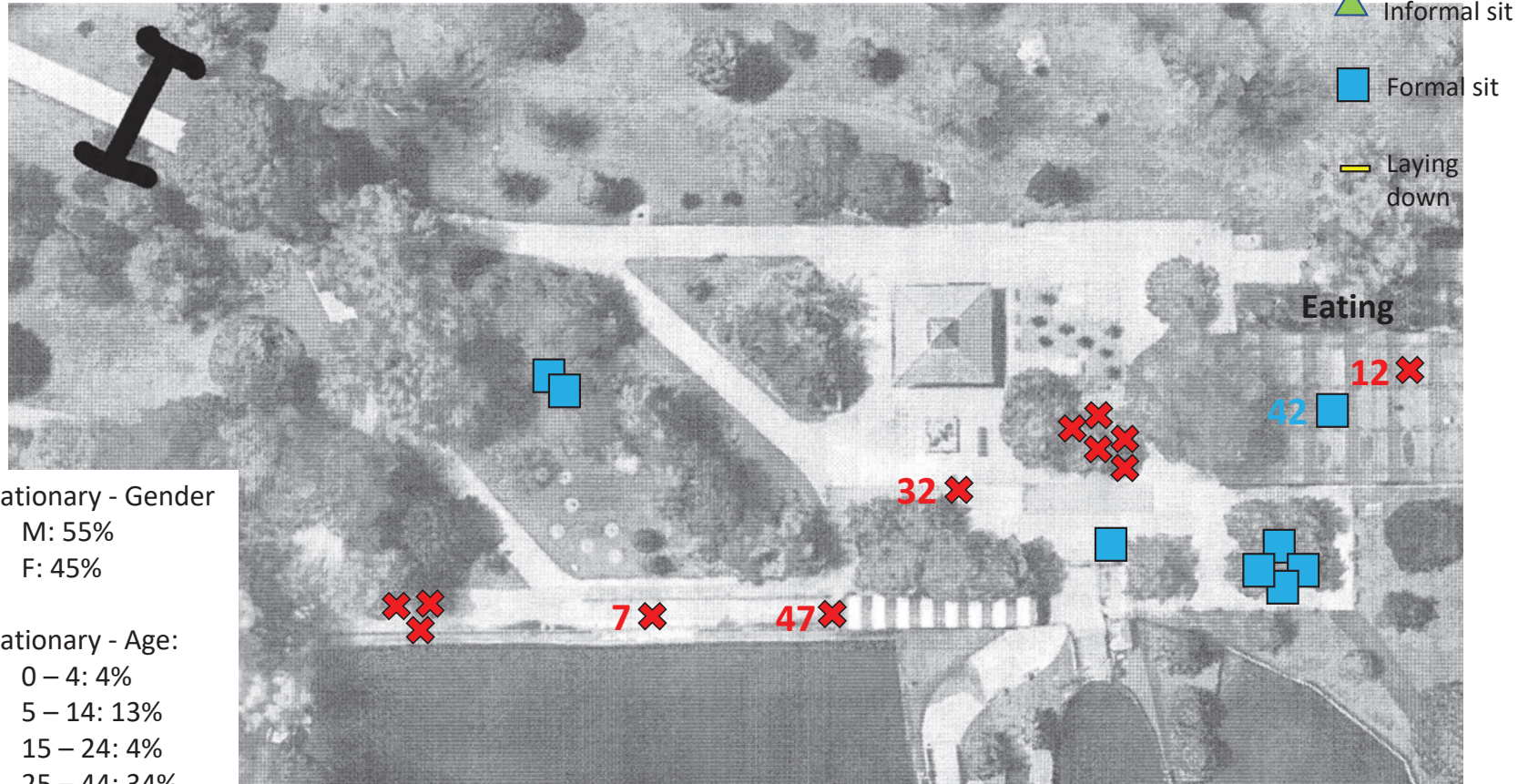
- Total people: 155

Stationary - Gender

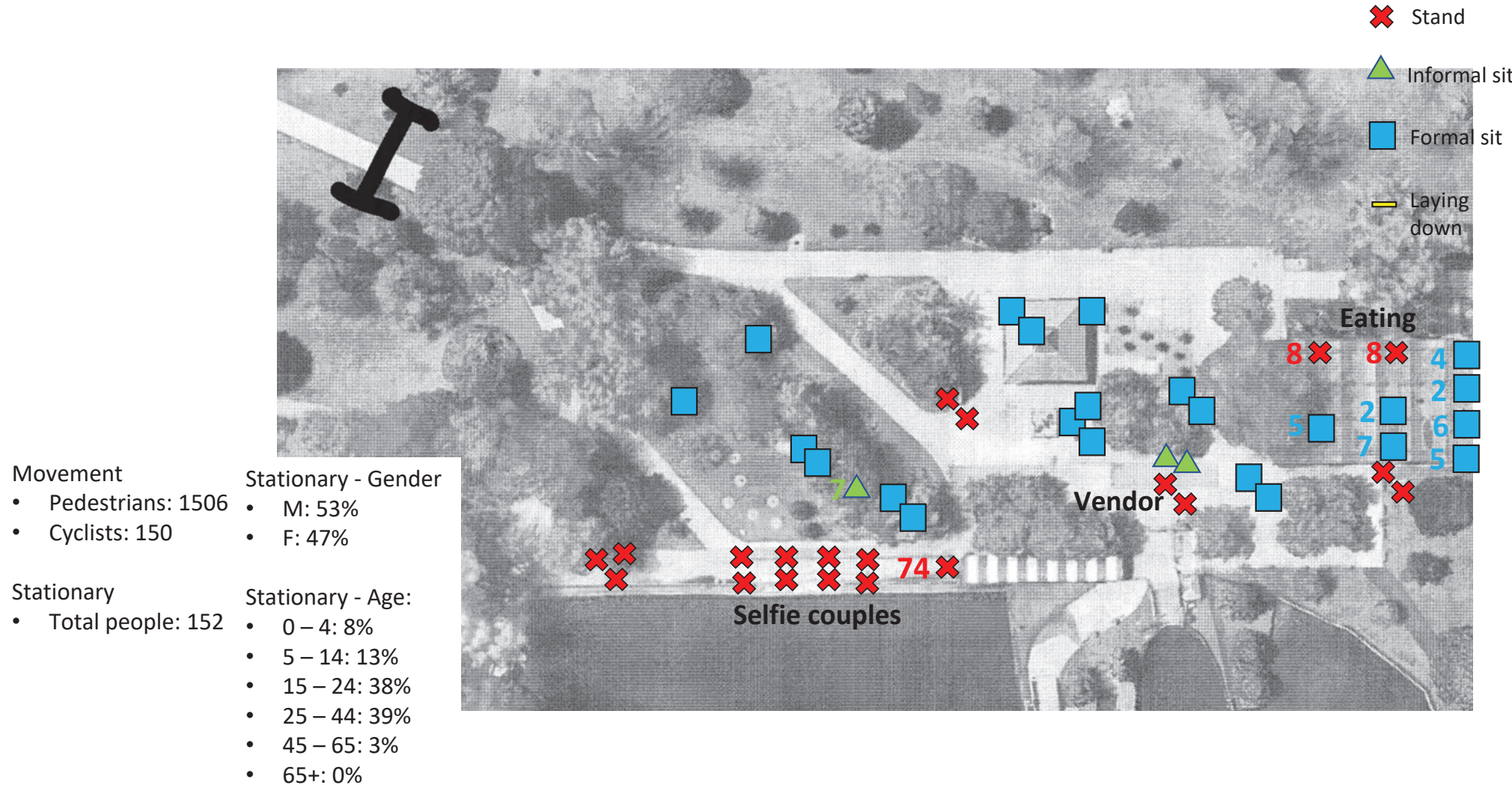
- M: 55%
- F: 45%

Stationary - Age:

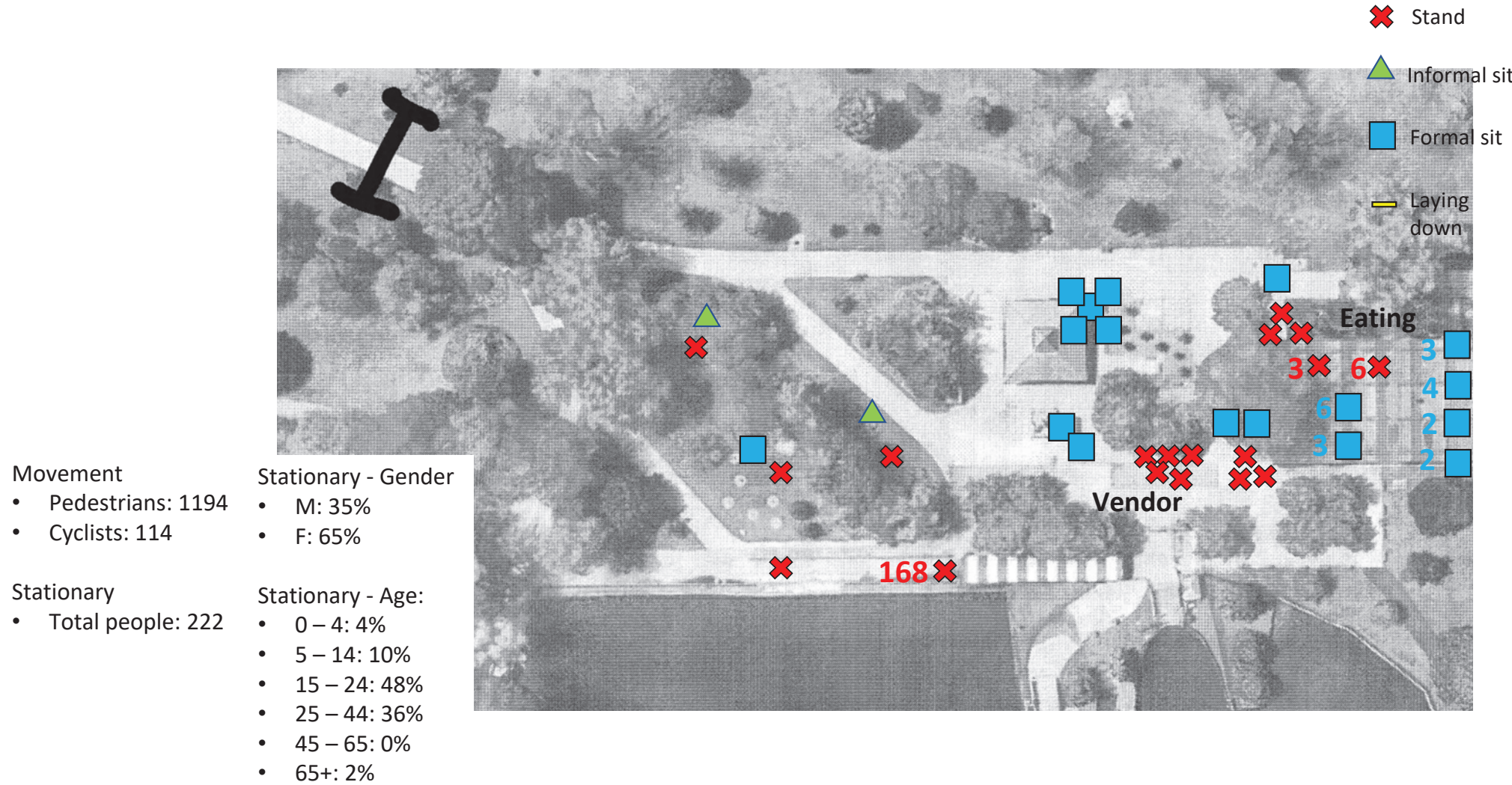
- 0 – 4: 4%
- 5 – 14: 13%
- 15 – 24: 4%
- 25 – 44: 34%
- 45 – 65: 43%
- 65+: 1%



Centre Island Ferry Docks
Saturday Aug 22, 4pm



Centre Island Ferry Docks
Saturday Aug 22, 5pm



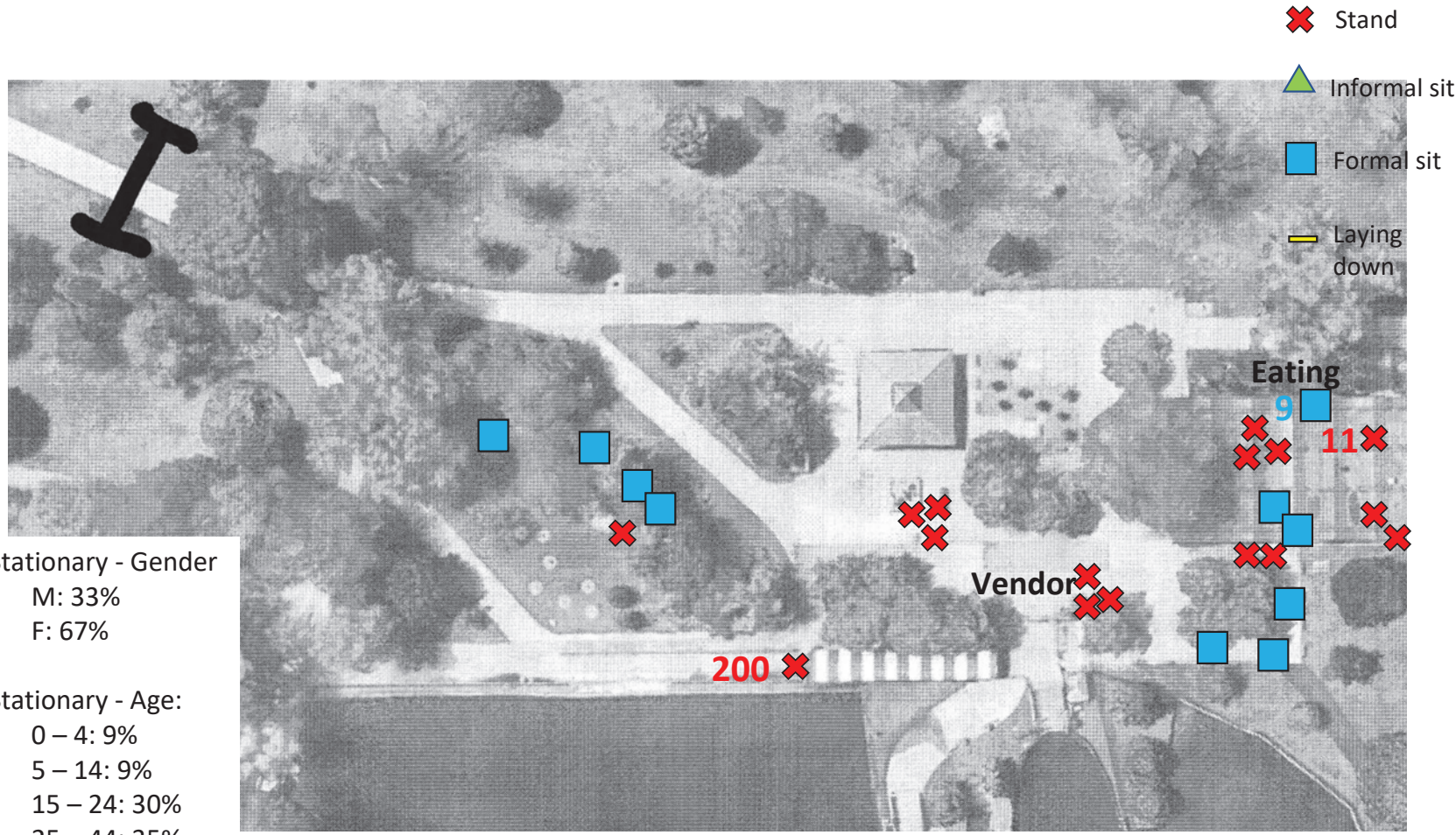
Centre Island Ferry Docks
Saturday Aug 22, 6pm

- Movement
- Pedestrians: 1518
 - Cyclists: 138

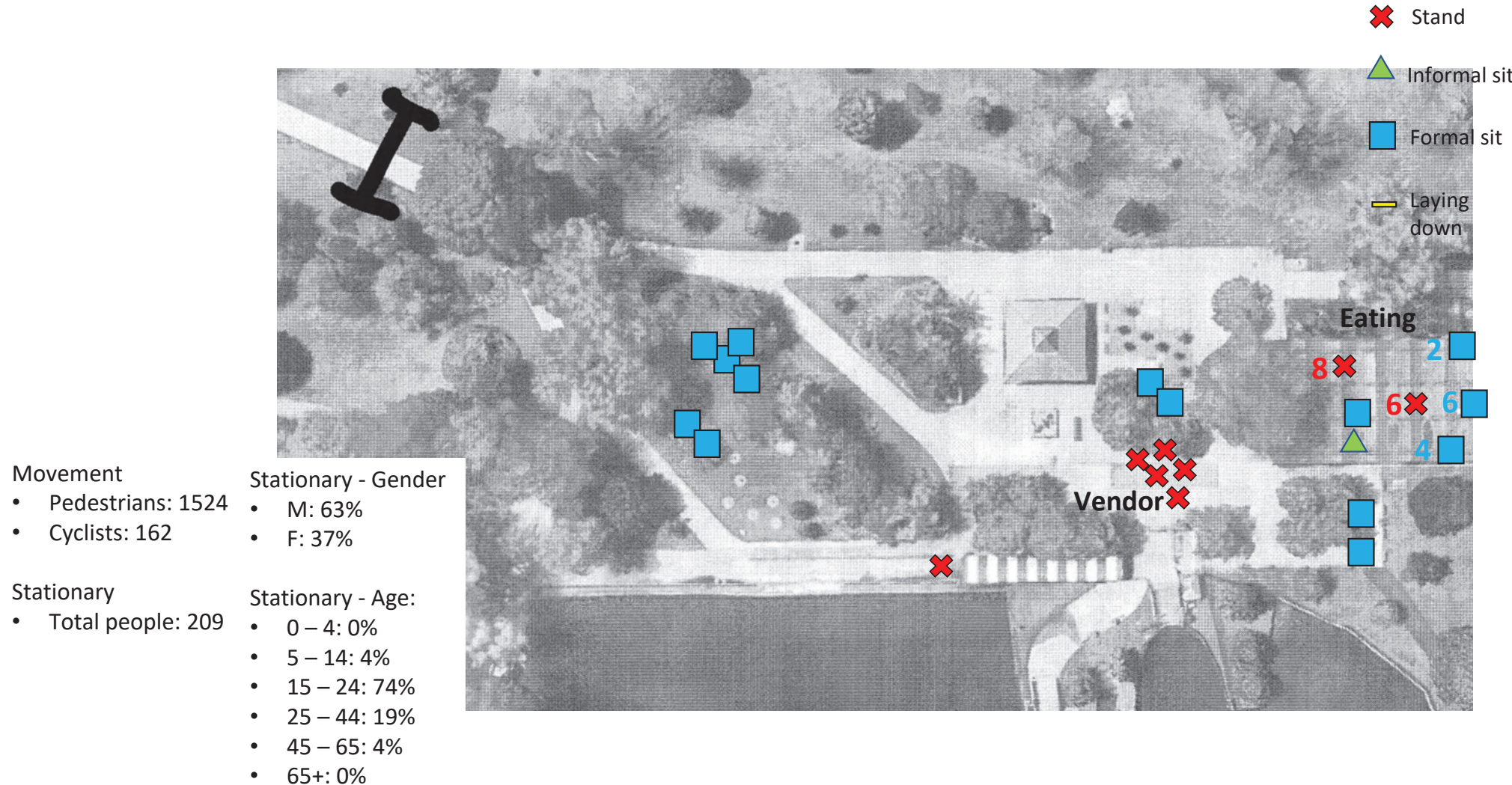
- Stationary
- Total people: 238

- Stationary - Gender
- M: 33%
 - F: 67%

- Stationary - Age:
- 0 – 4: 9%
 - 5 – 14: 9%
 - 15 – 24: 30%
 - 25 – 44: 35%
 - 45 – 65: 17%
 - 65+: 0%



Centre Island Ferry Docks
Saturday Aug 22, 7pm



Hanlan's Island Ferry Docks

Saturday Aug 22, 10am

Map Notes:

- As the day moves along, people shift to hang out more in the grassy area by the boat as they wait for water taxis
- The concession area provides a lot of seating that people use throughout the day even when it's not open
- Two surveyors noted that people were attracted to the crab apple tree along the pathway (not pictured on map).
- Surveyors also noted that people tend to cut across the grass towards the Hanlan's Beach area as well as use the formal pathway leading away from the dock area.
- Weekday surveyor recorded very few people at dock area after 4pm on weekday except for water taxis waiting for people

Movement

- Pedestrians: 36
- Cyclists: 42

Stationary - Gender

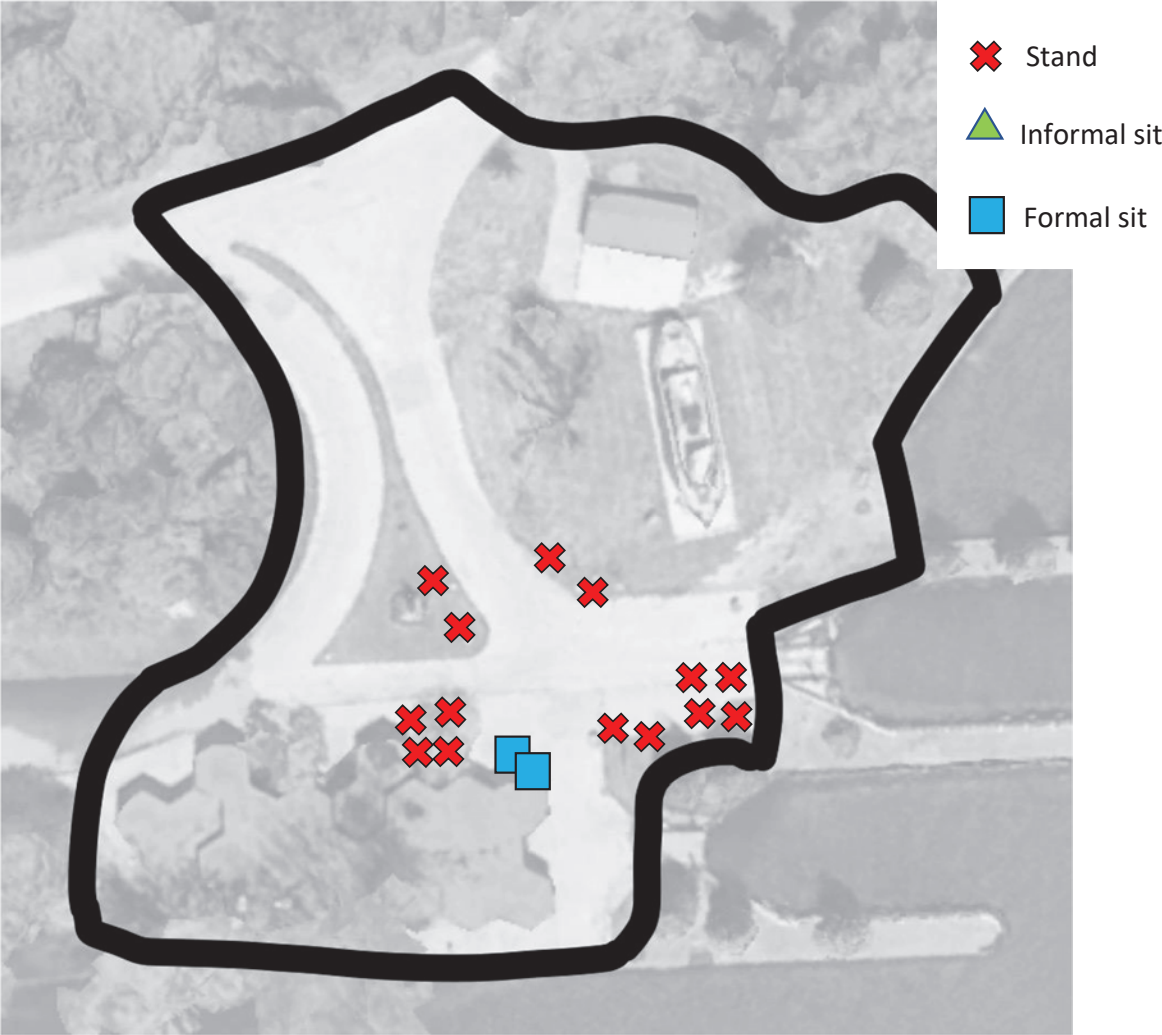
- M: 78%
- F: 22%

Stationary

- Total people: 15

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 0%
- 5 – 14: 0%
- 15 – 24: 17%
- 25 – 44: 33%
- 45 – 65: 50%
- 65+: 0%



Hanlan’s Island Ferry Docks
Saturday Aug 22, 12pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 126
- Cyclists: 102

Stationary

- Total people: 15

Stationary - Gender

- M: 73%
- F: 27%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 0%
- 5 – 14: 7%
- 15 – 24: 0%
- 25 – 44: 53%
- 45 – 65: 27%
- 65+: 13%



Hanlan’s Island Ferry Docks
Saturday Aug 22, 11am

Movement

- Pedestrians: 240
- Cyclists: 228

Stationary

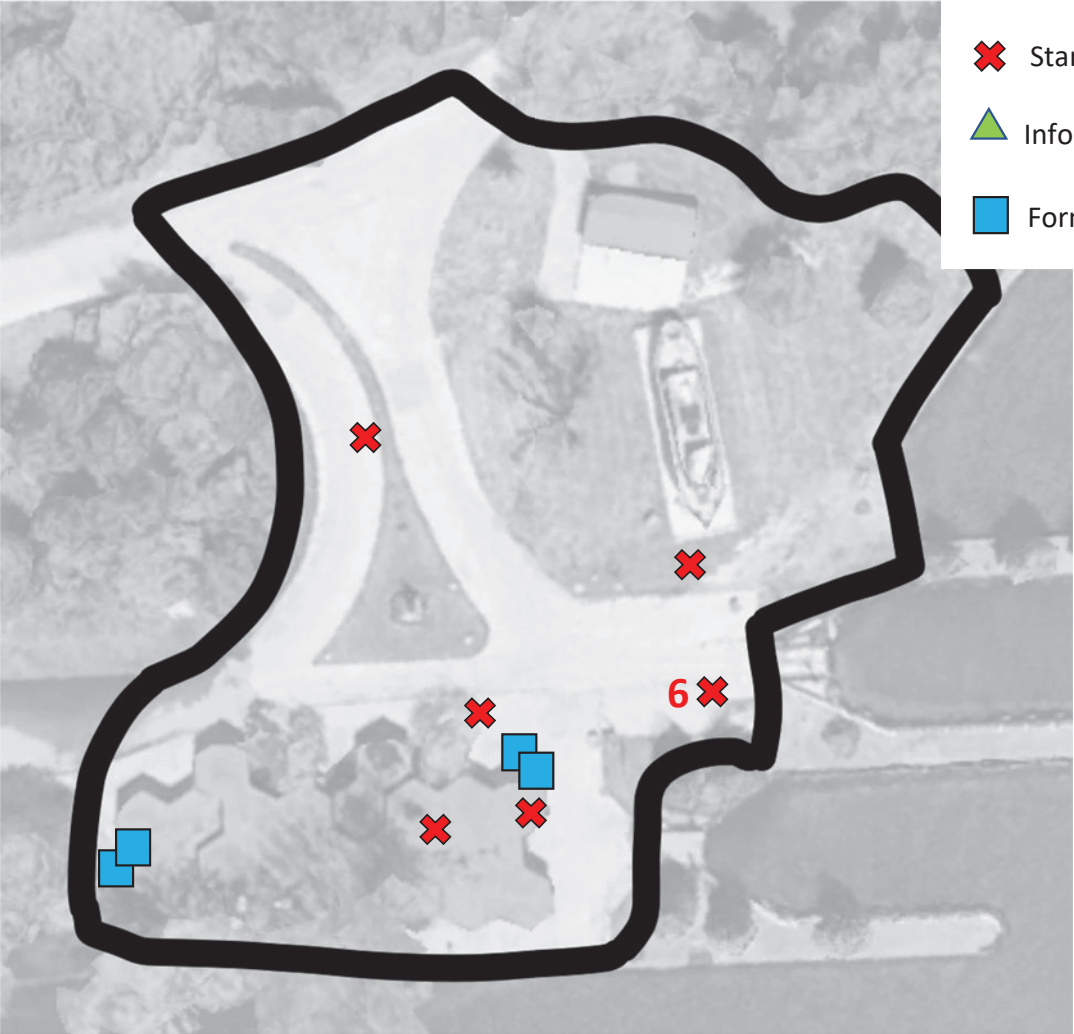
- Total people: 21

Stationary - Gender

- M: 67%
- F: 33%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 0%
- 5 – 14: 0%
- 15 – 24: 0%
- 25 – 44: 79%
- 45 – 65: 17%
- 65+: 4%



Hanlan's Island Ferry Docks Saturday Aug 22, 1pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 450
- Cyclists: 108

Stationary

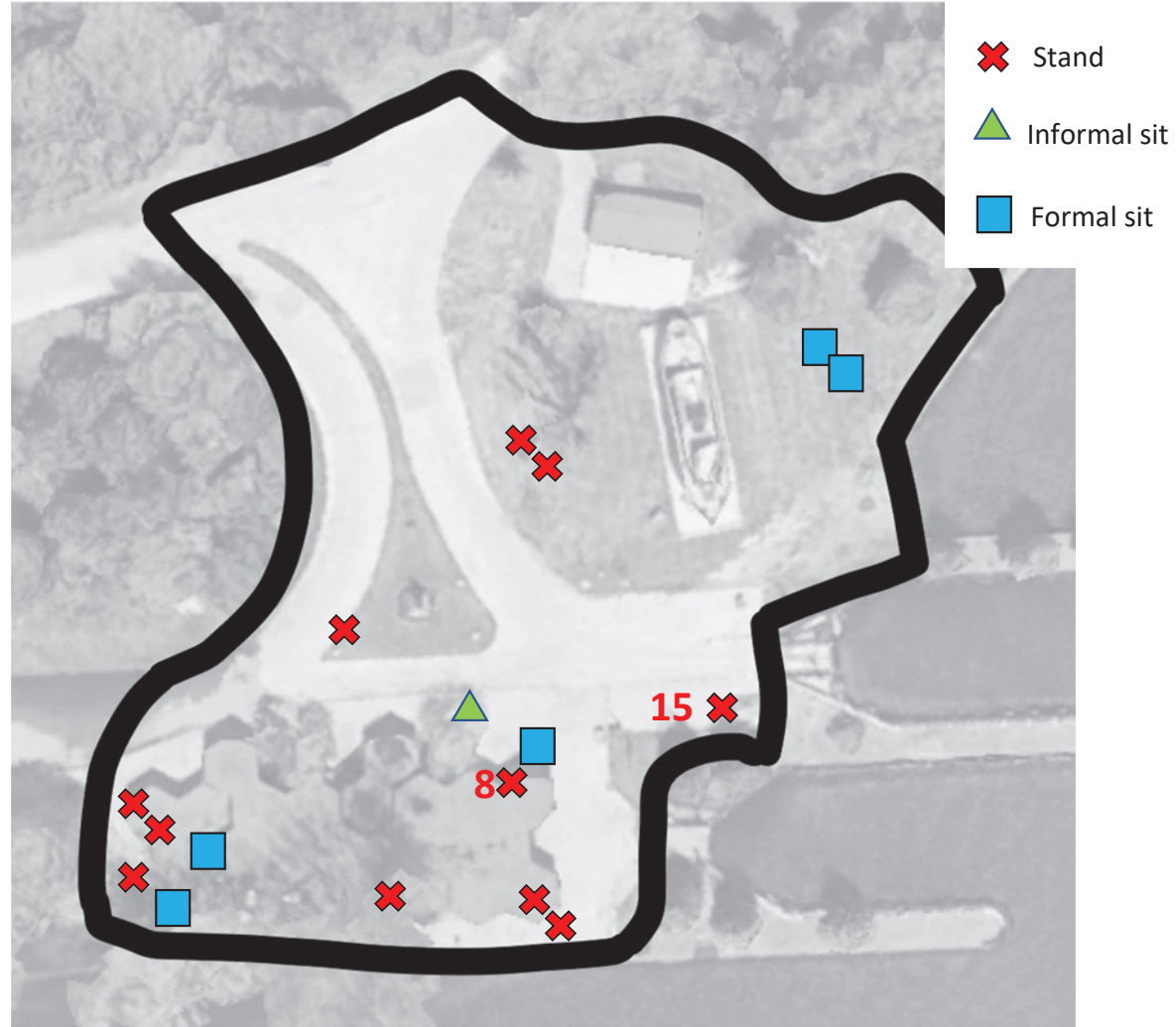
- Total people: 38

Stationary - Gender

- M: 70%
- F: 30%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 0%
- 5 – 14: 0%
- 15 – 24: 0%
- 25 – 44: 80%
- 45 – 65: 17%
- 65+: 3%



Hanlan’s Island Ferry Docks
Saturday Aug 22, 4pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 372
- Cyclists: 282

Stationary

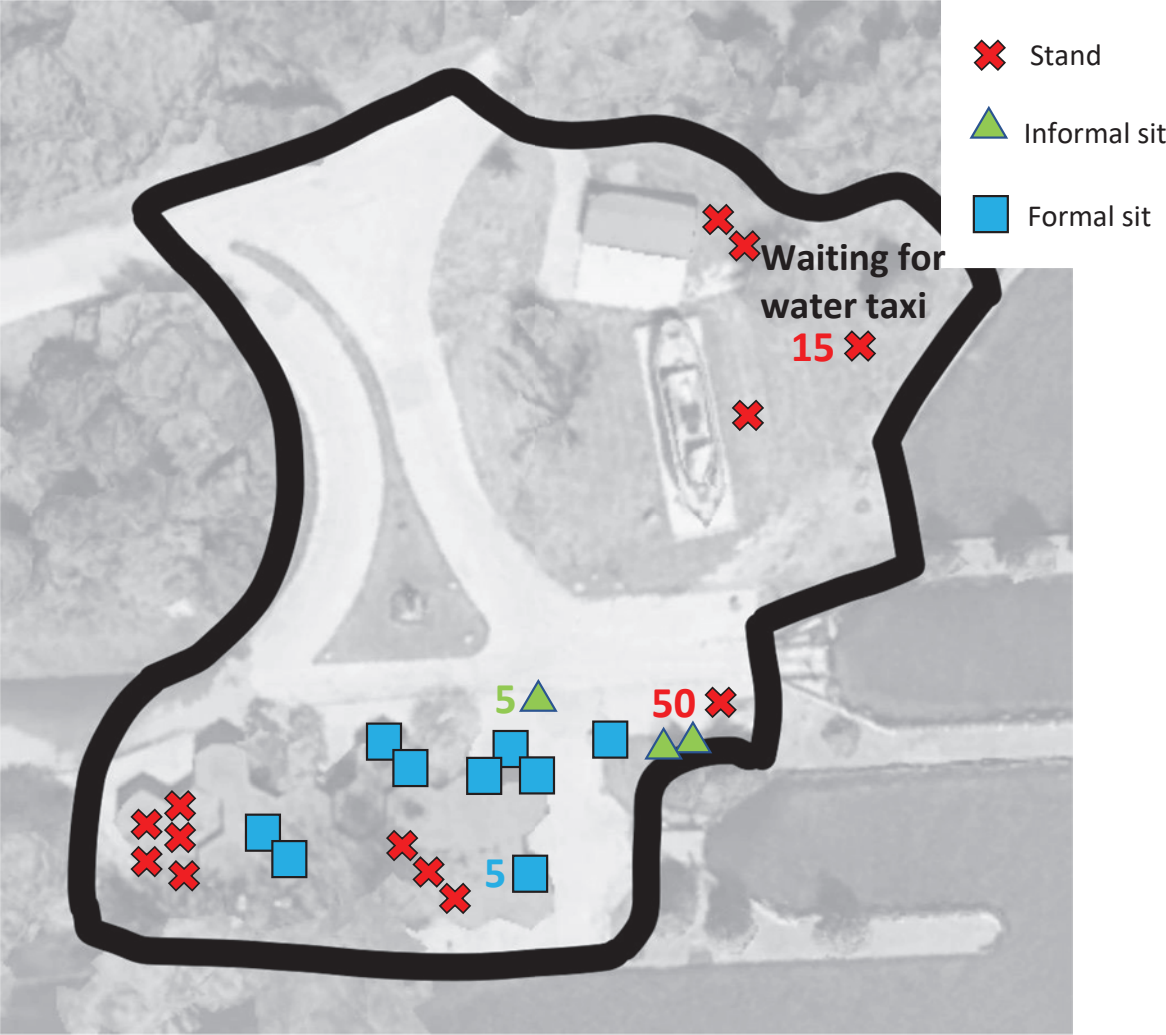
- Total people: 103

Stationary - Gender

- M: 44%
- F: 56%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 0%
- 5 – 14: 3%
- 15 – 24: 50%
- 25 – 44: 26%
- 45 – 65: 21%
- 65+: 0%



Hanlan's Island Ferry Docks
Saturday Aug 22, 5pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 546
- Cyclists: 192

Stationary

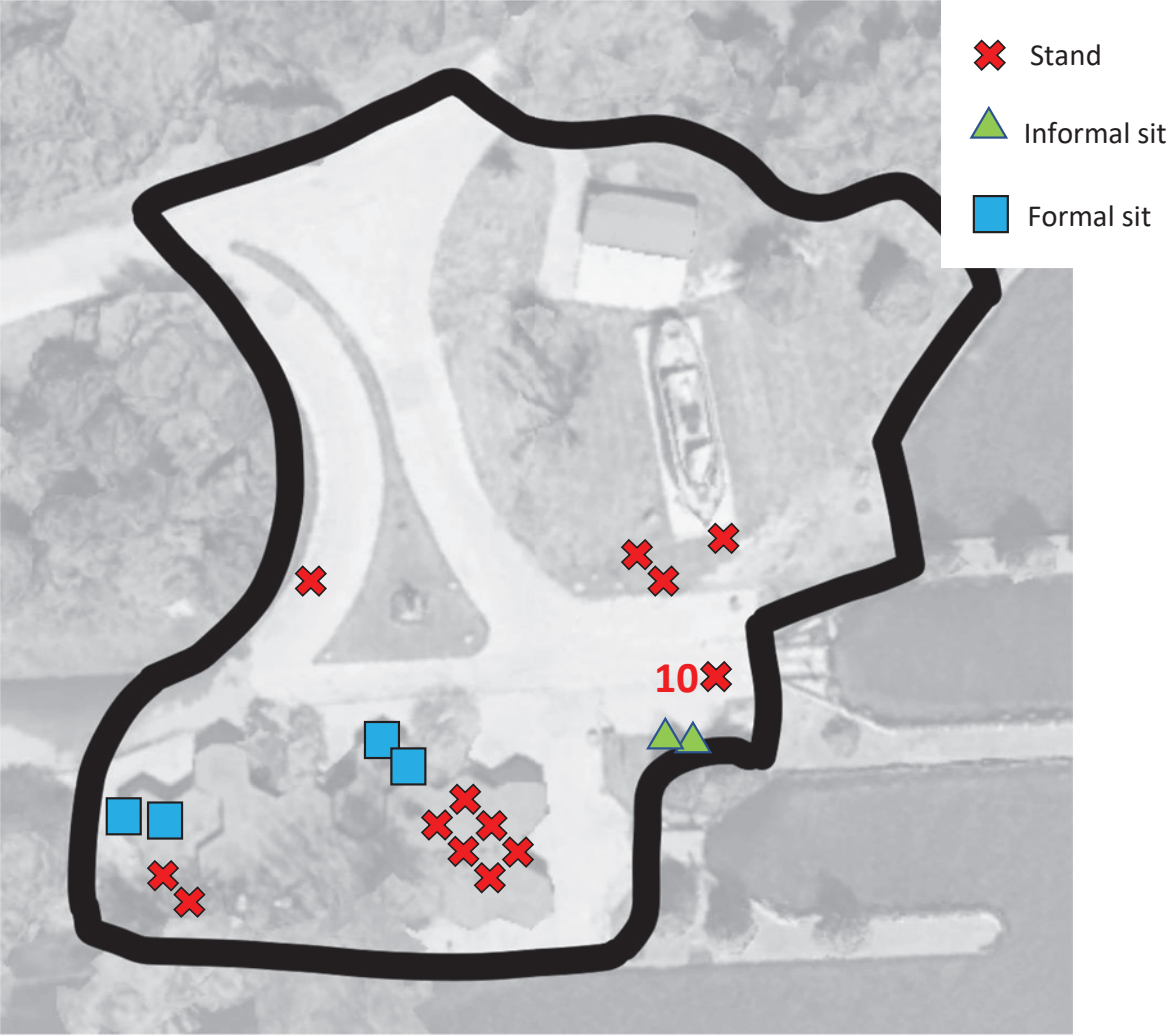
- Total people: 31

Stationary - Gender

- M: 51%
- F: 49%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 0%
- 5 – 14: 2%
- 15 – 24: 33%
- 25 – 44: 44%
- 45 – 65: 20%
- 65+: 4%



Hanlan's Island Ferry Docks
Saturday Aug 22, 6pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 726
- Cyclists: 258

Stationary

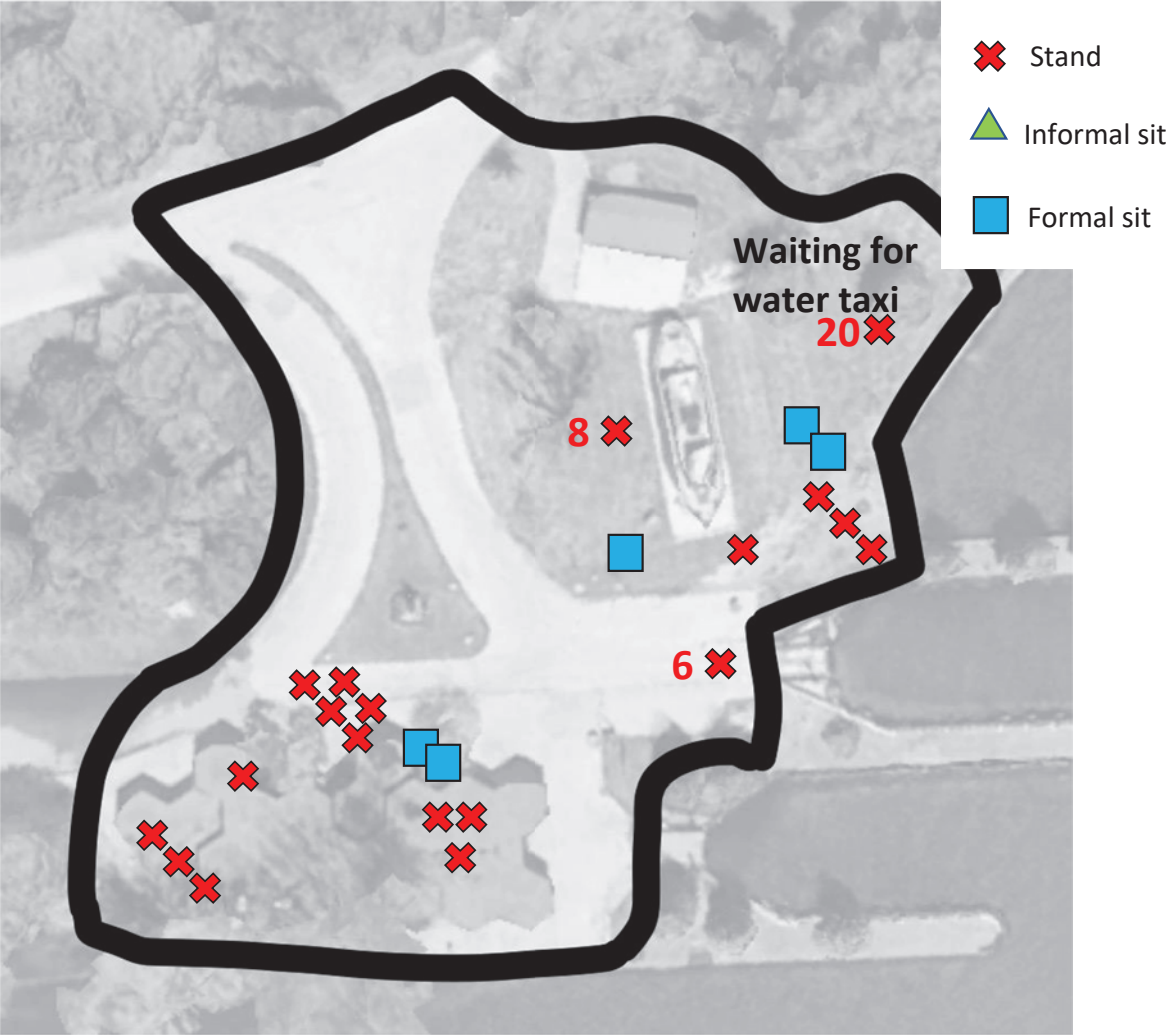
- Total people: 57

Stationary - Gender

- M: 56%
- F: 44%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 0%
- 5 – 14: 32%
- 15 – 24: 0%
- 25 – 44: 44%
- 45 – 65: 20%
- 65+: 4%



Hanlan’s Island Ferry Docks
Saturday Aug 22, 7pm

Movement

- Pedestrians: 630
- Cyclists: 192

Stationary

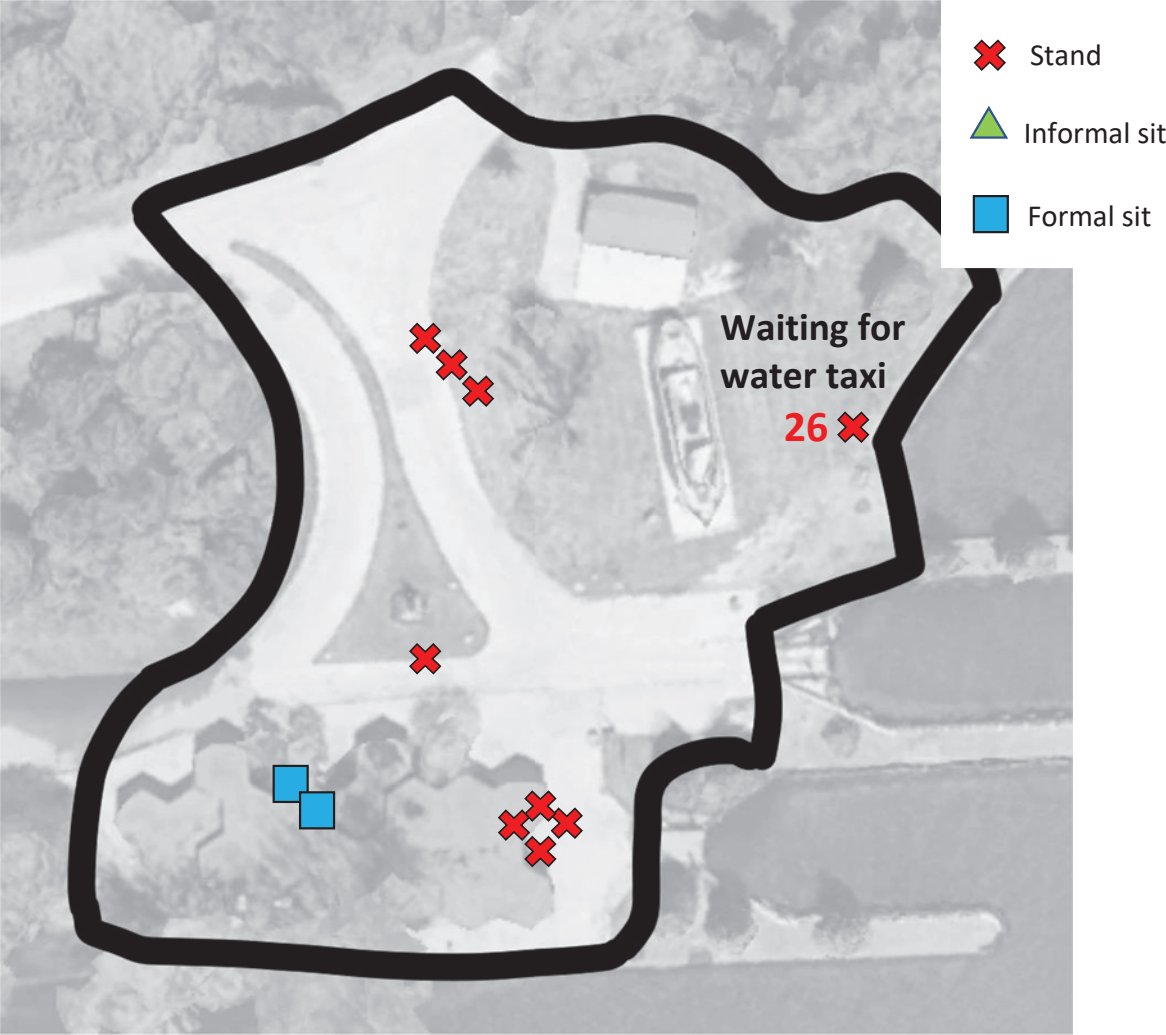
- Total people: 36

Stationary - Gender

- M: 53%
- F: 47%

Stationary - Age:

- 0 – 4: 0%
- 5 – 14: 0%
- 15 – 24: 13%
- 25 – 44: 60%
- 45 – 65: 27%
- 65+: 0%



Toronto Island Beach Areas

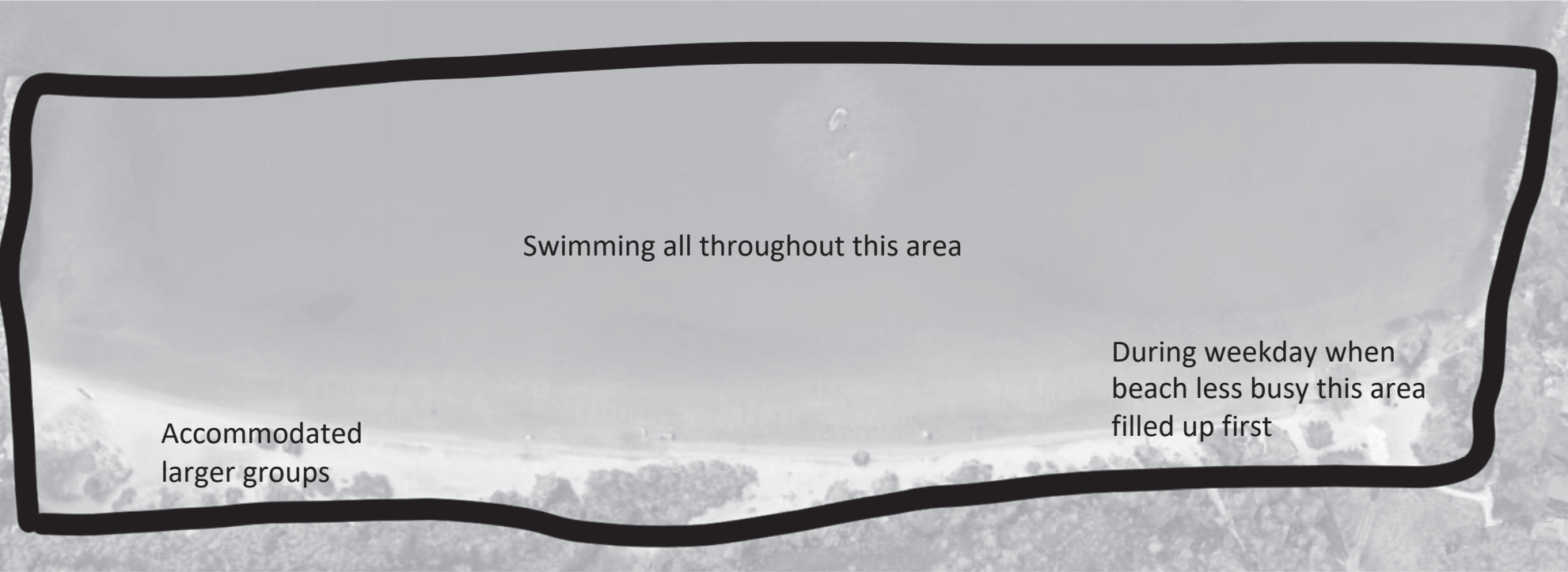
Combined observations from Sat Aug 22, Tue Aug 26 and Wed Sept 1, 2020

Ward's Island Beach

Saturday Aug 22

Map Observations

- Pretty even beach usage throughout the day; however, larger groups of people were counted at either ends of the beach and particularly the eastern edge.
- Swimming occurs evenly throughout the zone



Swimming all throughout this area

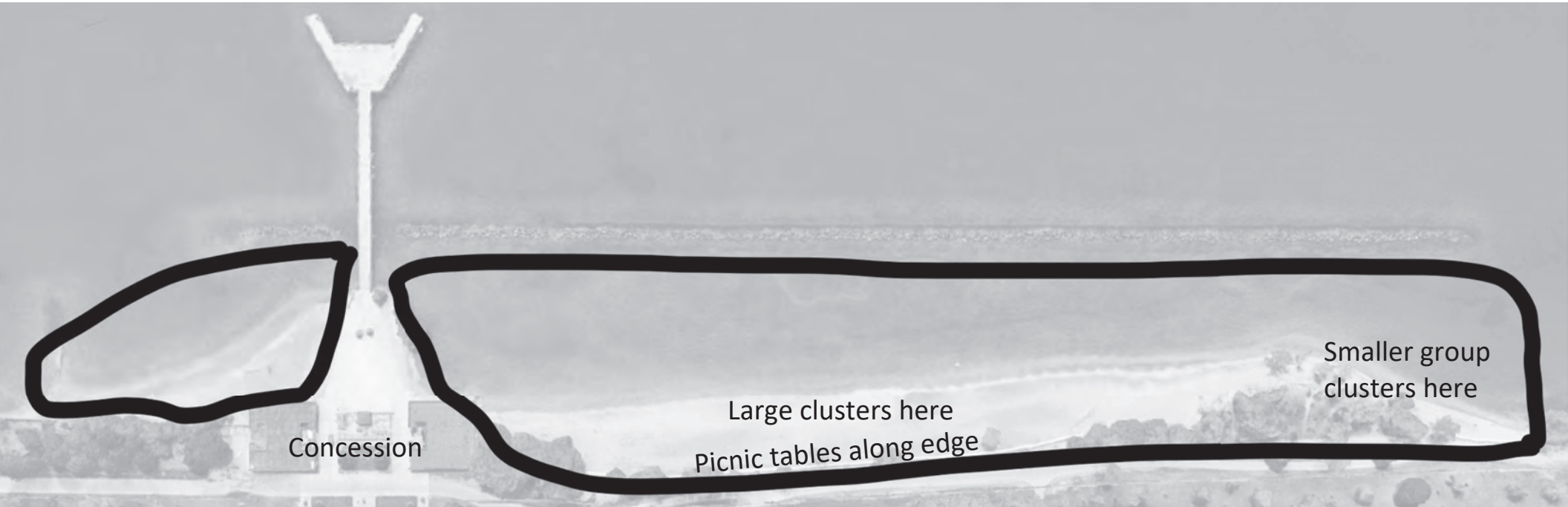
Accommodated
larger groups

During weekday when
beach less busy this area
filled up first

Centre Island Beach Saturday Aug 22

Map Observations

- People spread evenly throughout this larger beach, with large clusters in the middle section.
- People gather along the edge where the beach meets the pathway to sit on picnic tables and eat/socialize.
- The smaller beach still attracted people throughout the day.
- While not mapped, the concession area counts indicate it was well-used starting from 11am with a peak at 4pm of 195 people.



Gibraltar Beach Saturday Aug 22

Map Observations

- People tended to cluster at either end of Gibraltar beach when it was less busy

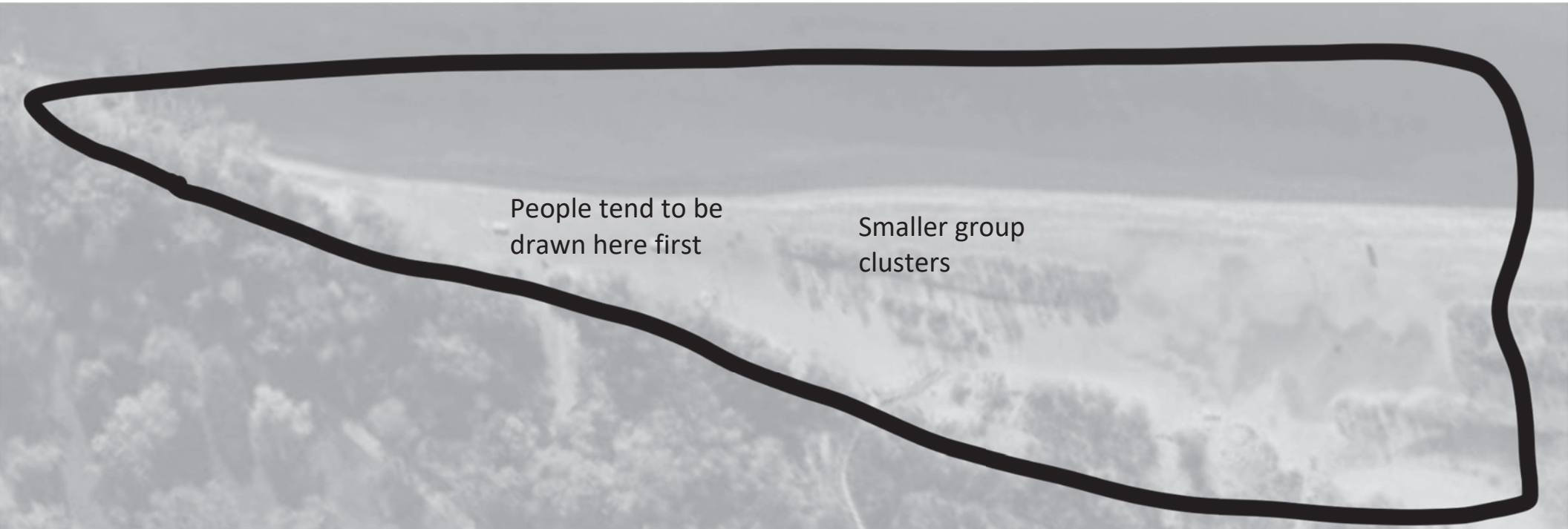


Hanlan's Island Beach

Saturday Aug 22

Map Observations

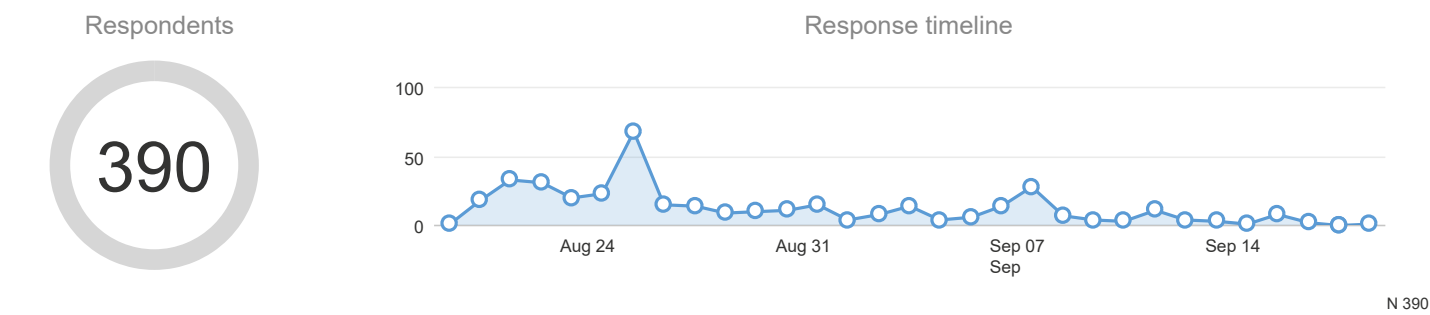
- Certain areas of the beach tend to fill up faster (indicated below), but when the beach is busy every area is full of people
- The treed area in the centre attracts smaller groups of people.



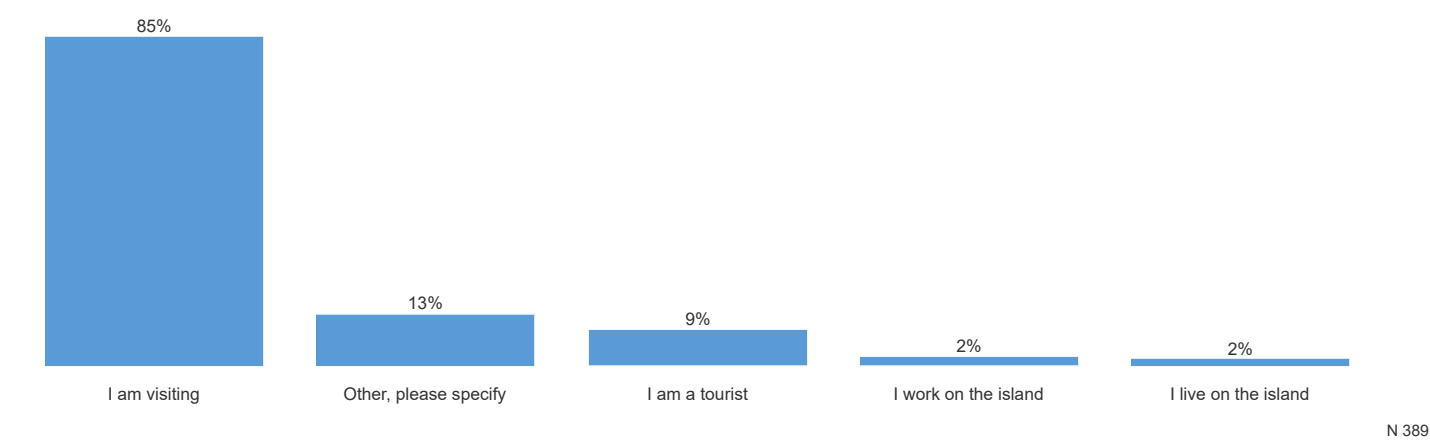
APPENDIX B

FULL SURVEY RESULTS

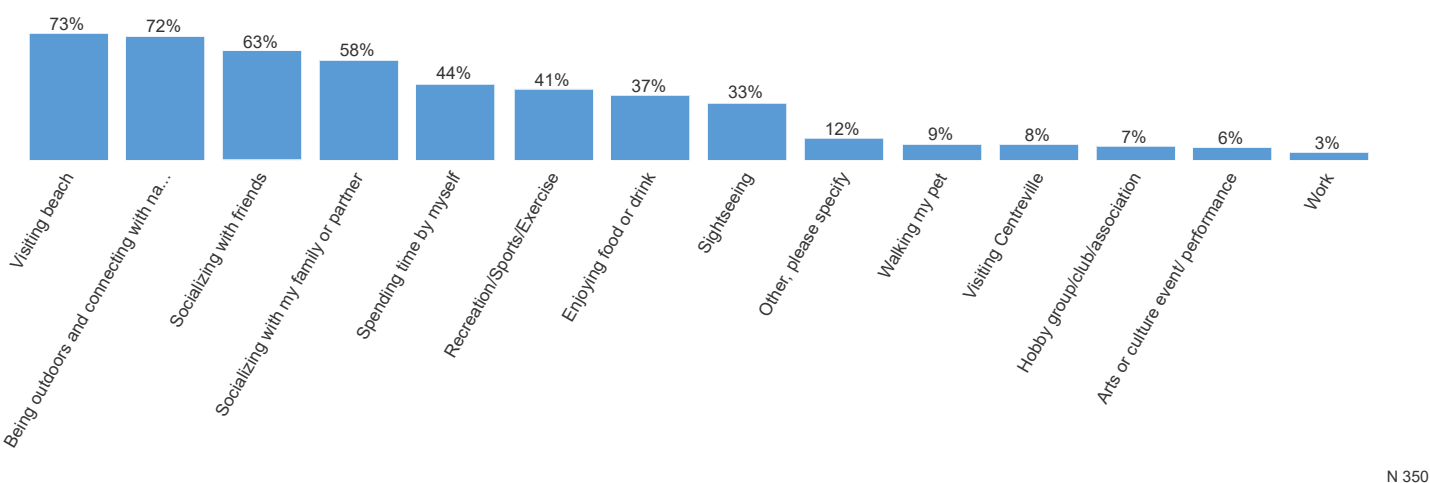
Toronto Island Park Summer Public Life Survey Report_v2



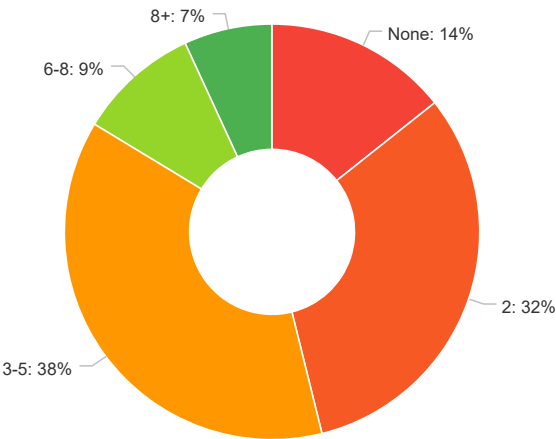
What is your relationship to the Island? (Check all that apply)



What brings you to the Island? (Check all that apply)

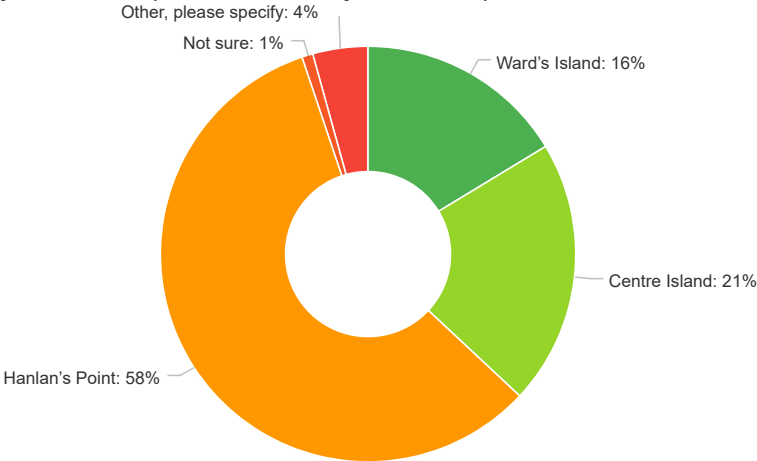


On this visit to the Island, how many people are you travelling or meeting up with?



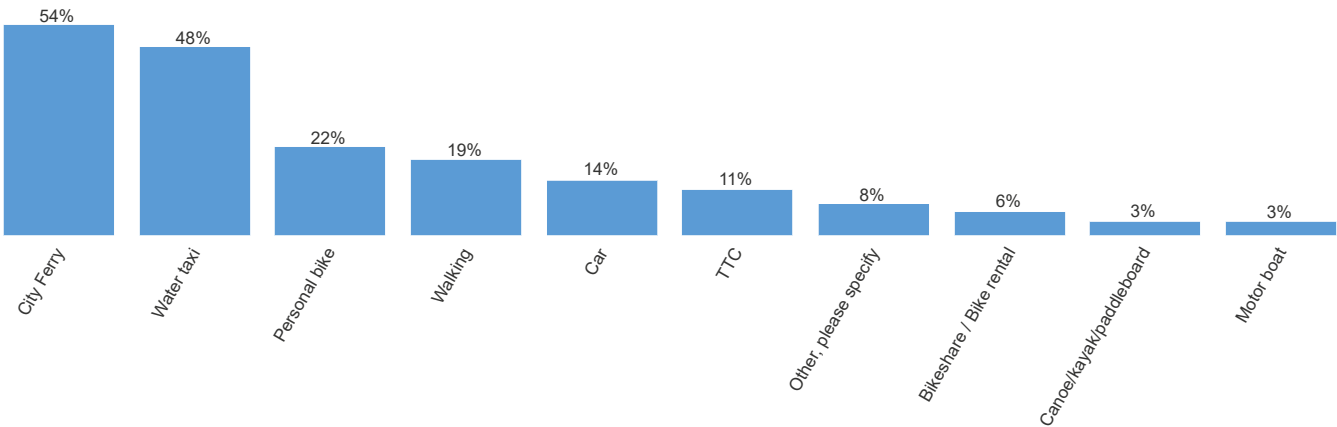
N 349

On this visit, where did you arrive (or where will you arrive) on the Island?



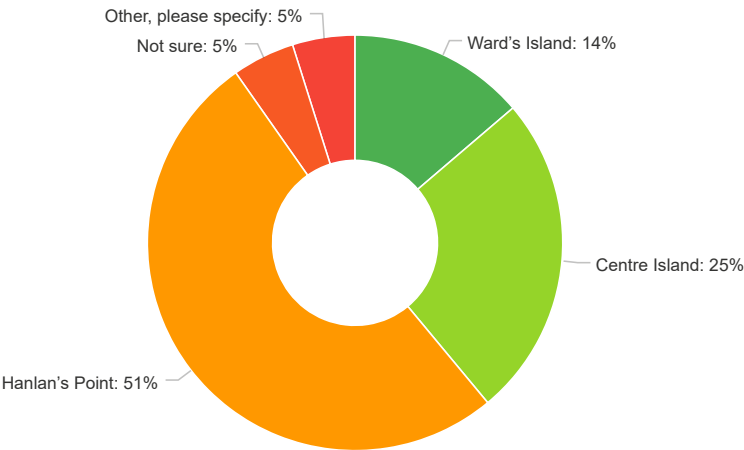
N 349

On this visit, what modes of transportation did you use (or will you use) to get to the Island? (check all that apply)



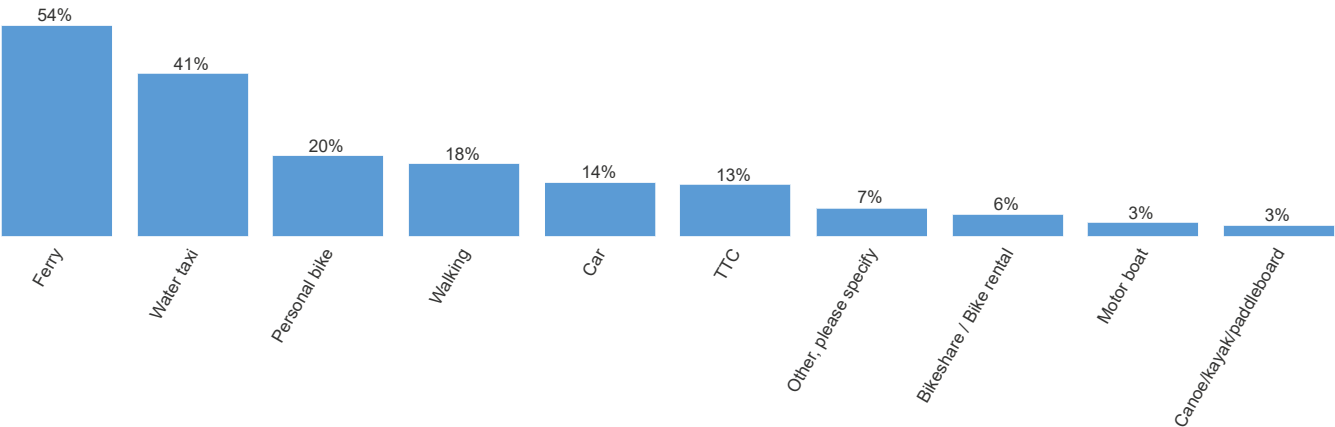
N 350

On this visit where do you plan to depart from?



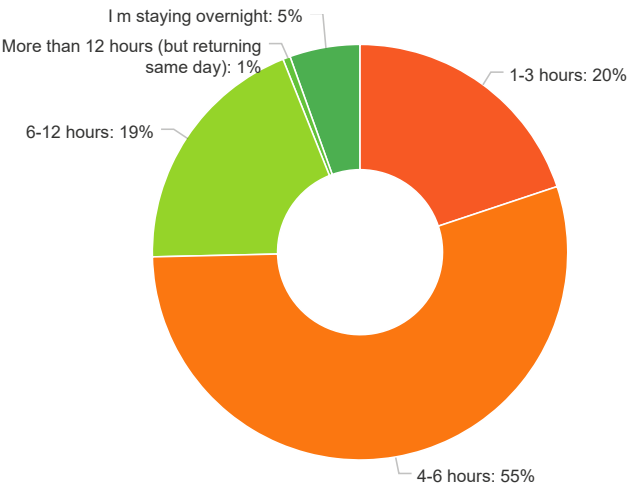
N 349

On this visit, what modes of transportation will you use (or did you use) to return home from the Island? (check all that apply)



N 345

How much time did you (or do you plan to) spend on the Island during this visit?

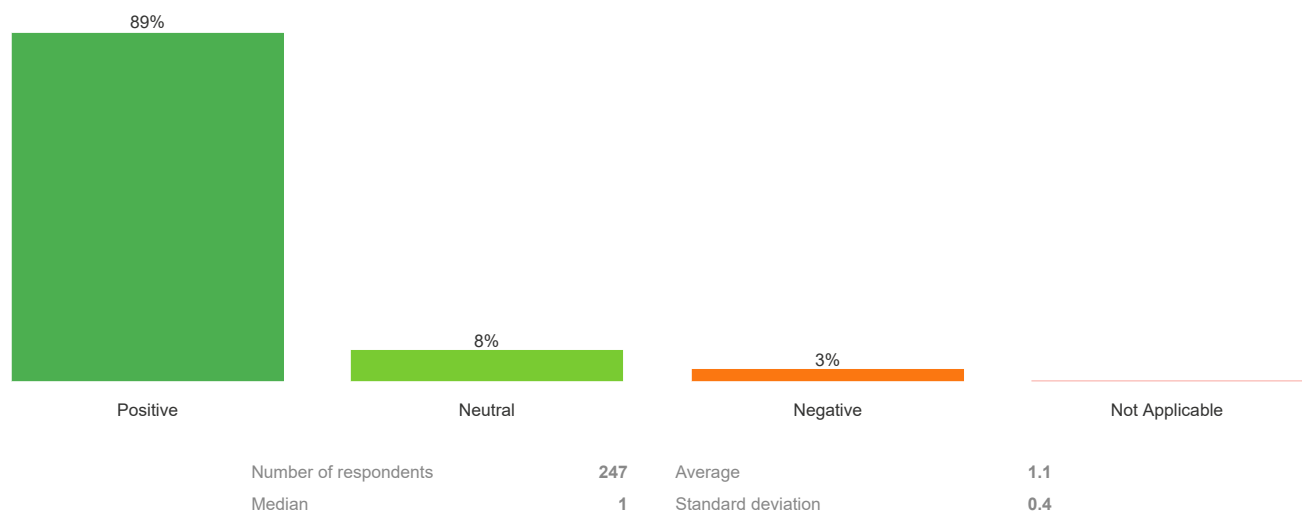


N 347

Have you been to the Island before this trip?



How would you describe your experience at island beaches?

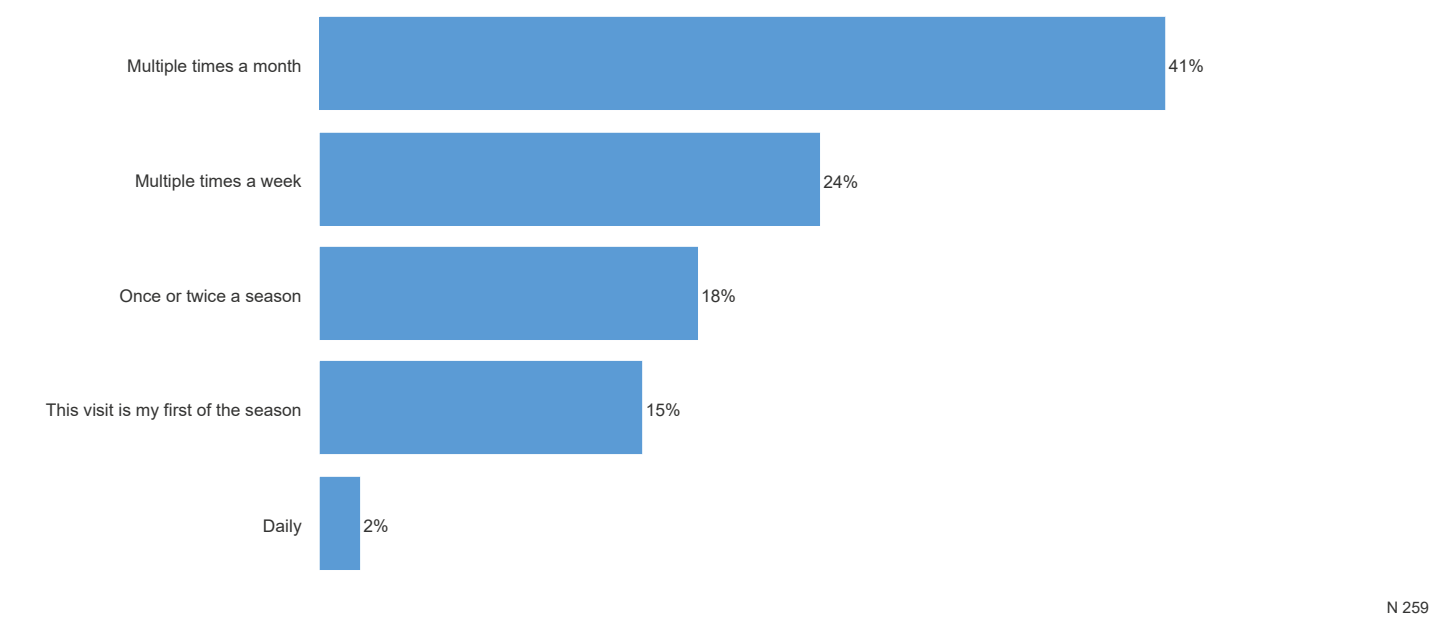


What cultural event or performance are you visiting?

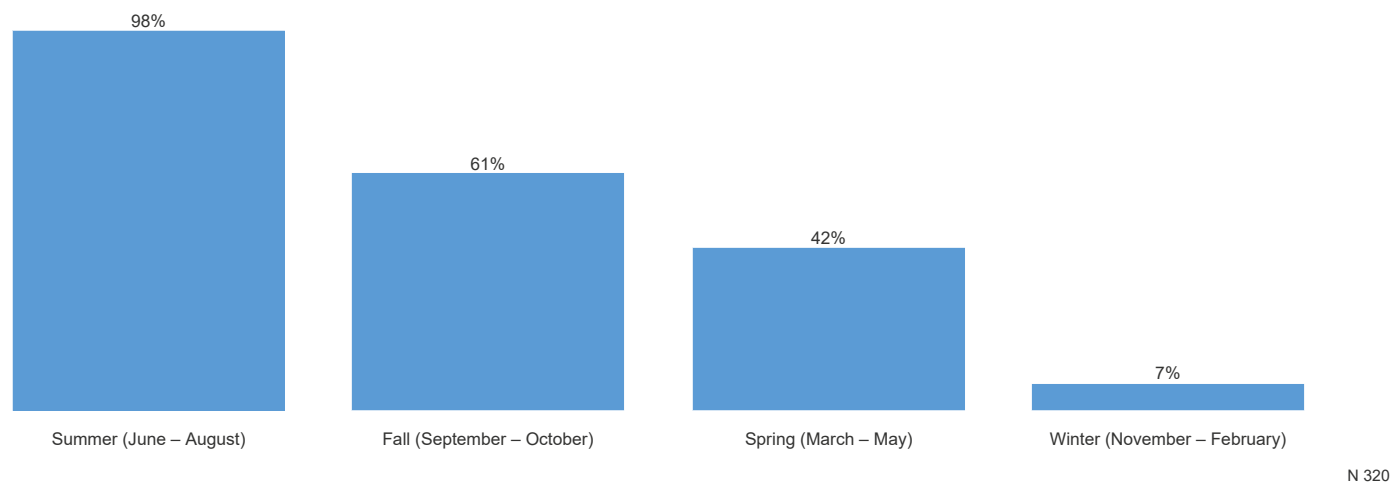
Hanlans Point	10 days ago
None this year	15 days ago
Music festivals	15 days ago
None	15 days ago
Burning man	16 days ago
Music festivals in the past	a month ago
Clothing optional	a month ago
Pride	a month ago
Electric Island	a month ago
None	a month ago
Concert	a month ago

N 11

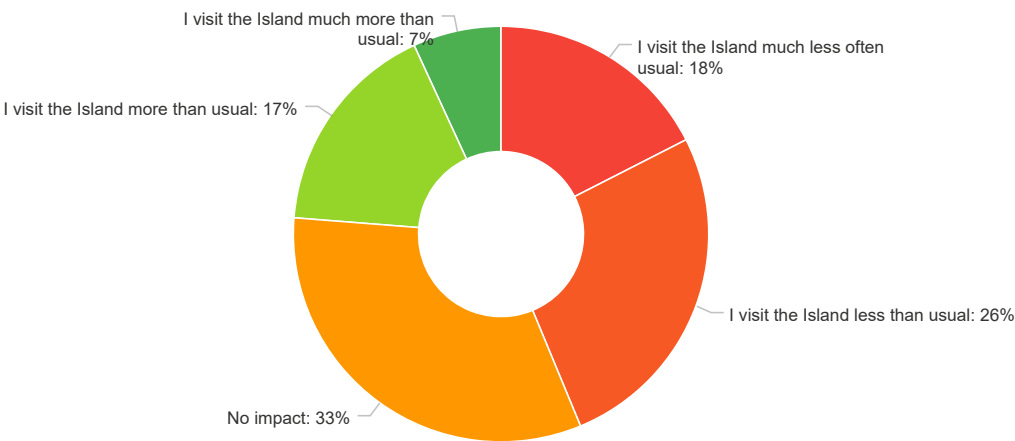
In general, how often have you visited the Island this summer?



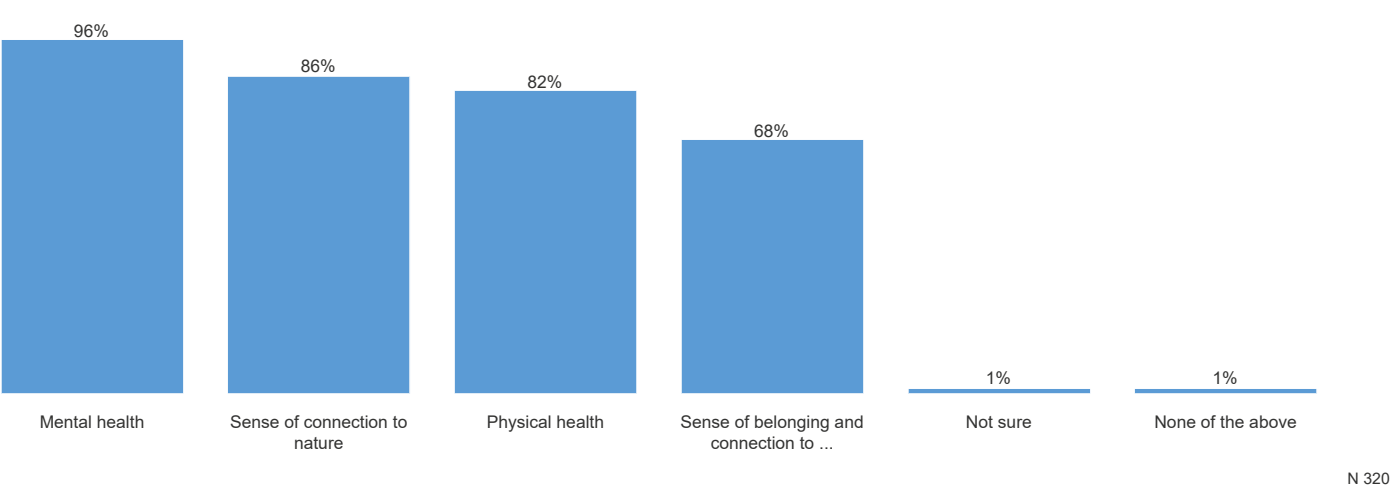
In which season(s) do you go to the Island? (check all that apply)



In general, how has COVID-19 impacted how often you visit the Island?



Visiting the Island has a positive impact on my... (check all that apply)



Why do you choose to come to the Island over another park in the city?

Water is relaxing, views of the city are spectacular!

6 days ago

access to water / beaches/ no cars / quiet rural feel like a getaway

7 days ago

More disconnected and more to explore

7 days ago

There are no cars. For access to water, observation of wildlife and vegetation, for swimming, for paddling our canoe and kayaks and cruising on our boat. We love to bring our grandchildren to Centreville and to the beach. It's walking distance from our condo. There is plenty of availability for walking and cycling

7 days ago

Personal bike

7 days ago

Nude beach but it also feels just outside the city

7 days ago

I like the island

7 days ago

The pier and feels like Europe

7 days ago

True sense of being out of the city plus clothing optional beach.

9 days ago

This time of year it is less busy, and feels like a mini escape from the city.

9 days ago

Family

10 days ago

it's so beautiful here, and the water is wonderful. PLUS BEING NUDE IS GREAT

10 days ago

Best unobstructed view of Lake Ontario and the inner harbour. Lack of vehicles or noise pollution and accessible walking paths.

11 days ago

No cars on the island, it's quiet and peaceful

11 days ago

To see the sunset

11 days ago

Clothing optional beach, safe space as a member of the lgbtq community, a nice escape from the city

11 days ago

Doing something different

11 days ago

No cars

11 days ago

Proximity to where I live. There is enough space to have your own area to picnic. It is generally less crowded than other parks	11 days ago
Local	11 days ago
It's prettier and it feels like more of an adventure. Also it has fun attractions.	12 days ago
More space, cleaner, fewer drugs/homeless, more nature	13 days ago
The island is a place where I feel I'm not in the city, but also being able to view the city. The people who go to the island are also more relaxed, and out going, also more connected with nature. It's a great place to meet like minded people. Hanlans point is also a great place to connect with the LGBTQ+ Community, it's a safe place for us. It's also a great environment where we can enjoy each others company till late at night.	13 days ago
There's no other park like it	13 days ago
Clothing optional beach	14 days ago
It's a great escape from the city and is a safe LGBTQ+ space.	14 days ago
It's a large open and free space close to the city, but doesn't feel like you're in the city. Lots to see and do!	14 days ago
Like the beach	14 days ago
LGBTQ2 save space at Hanlans	14 days ago
To visit the only clothing optional beach in the city	15 days ago
Because I can get there on my sailboat and essentially have my home with me!!!	15 days ago
Great place to visit and the water front.	15 days ago
Because I can sail here	15 days ago
Because I can tie my sailboat up to the wall, or anchor off some well protected beaches depending on the direction of the wind.	15 days ago
I can sail ther and stay on my boat.	15 days ago
Its more because of my boat	15 days ago
We can sail there and stay there on our boat. We love how big the island is, the sailing community, and how many different things there are to do (restaurants, bars, music, beaches, bike riding, walking, picnics, disc golf)	15 days ago

The beach

15 days ago

No cars, feels like a campground

15 days ago

Uniqueness of the setting, and the wonderful beaches

15 days ago

Oasis only minutes from the downtown core. Great escape in nature.

15 days ago

The closeness to the water. Feeling an escape from the city.

15 days ago

Greater disconnect from the city. Beautiful sunsets

15 days ago

It's beautiful and has a clothing optional beach

15 days ago

Clothing optional beach

15 days ago

The beaches are a place to relax and disconnect. They're surprisingly calm and serene.

15 days ago

I'm a nudist and the Hanlan's Point beach is the only official outdoor place in Toronto where I can stay nude

15 days ago

Get away from the city. The beach. Swimming.

15 days ago

For me there are two main factors: 1. The clothing optional beach provides an experience unlike any other in the city. 2. The island and its beaches are a safe space for people within the queer community.

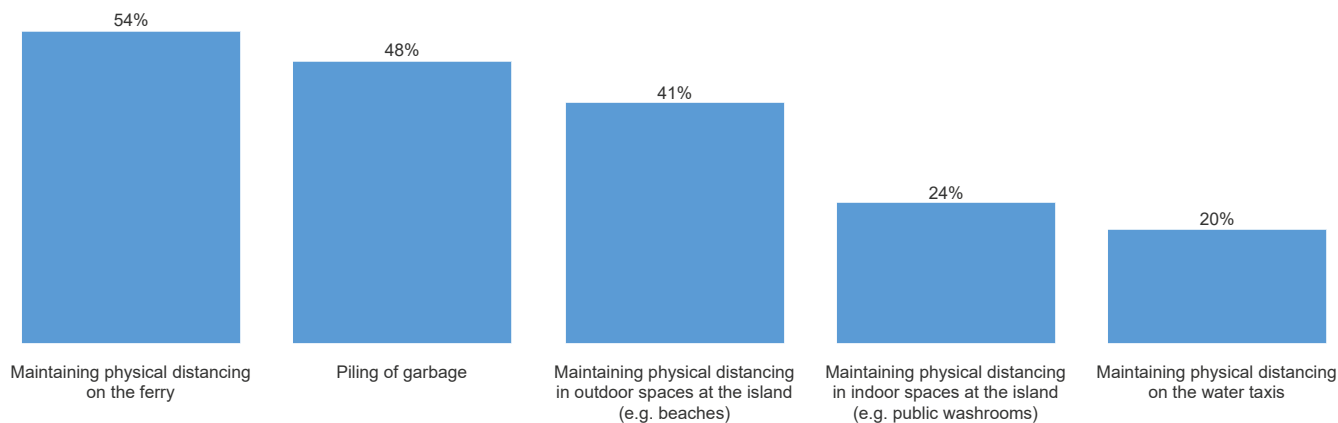
15 days ago

Its a nice break from the city

15 days ago

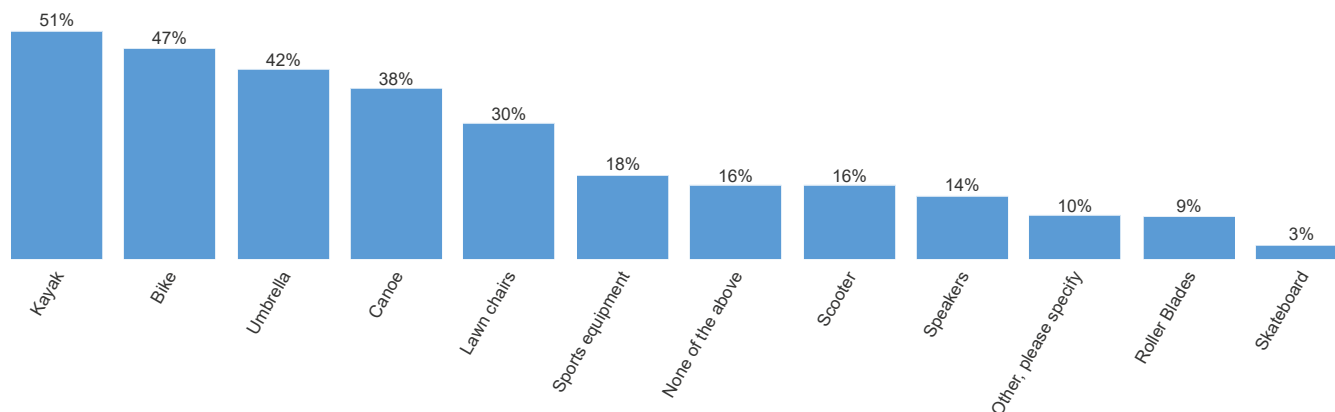
Part 1 of 5

What are your concerns about using the Island during COVID-19?



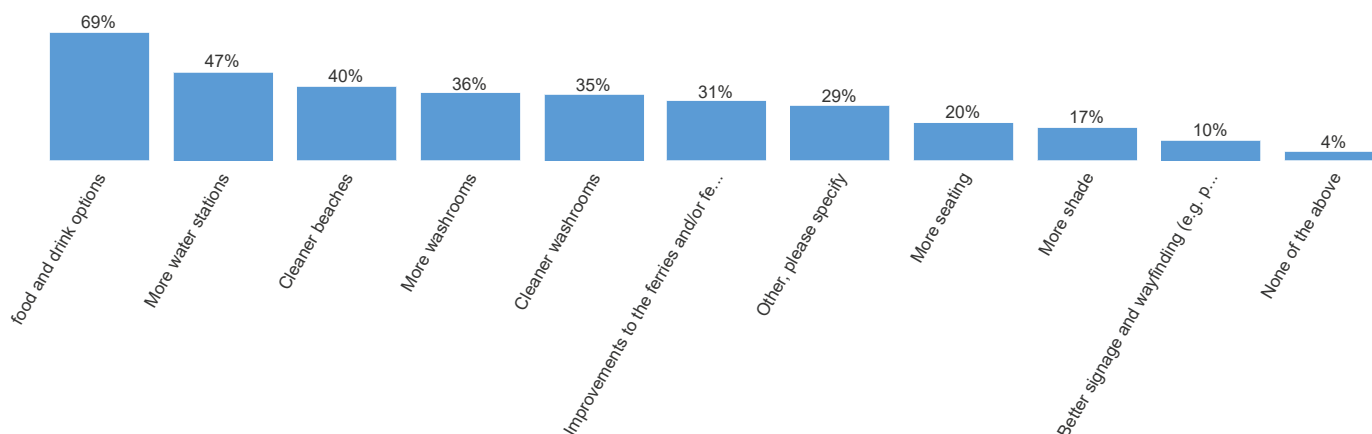
N 266

What items or equipment would you be interested in renting on the Island? (Check all that apply)



N 303

What would improve your experience on the Island?



N 308

Anything else you'd like us to know about your use of the Island? (e.g. favourite places, how your use of the Island has been impacted by COVID-19, etc.)

Even though we are RCYC members, we spend lots of time outside of the club on the island. We love riding our bikes or walking our dog through the island. It really is a Nature treasure. Centerville so does tend to be very loud. We also love watching the planes from Porter and Air Canada come and go from Billy Bishop Airport.

6 days ago

very fine the way it is overall / COVID u could have offered times tickets like at art shiws to avoid loooooong waits to get on ferry / return trickier...

7 days ago

Love the boardwalk and wood bridge onto the beaches on Hanlans Point

7 days ago

We love to explore special peaceful backwaters in our canoe and kayaks. We often say how the island is a jewel of Toronto and it feels like our own private escape.

7 days ago

Topless women (attractive ones)

7 days ago

I'm happy that we can still use Hanlans Point Beach, we need it as a city!

10 days ago

The pier at the end of Avenue of the Islands is a nice view though worry the wood may be getting old. Before replacing maybe have the fixture set up in an art gallery as a tribute to the pier itself.

11 days ago

Love the view

11 days ago

The maze, Franklin gardens, the pier, the boardwalk, centre-ville are my favourite places.

12 days ago

Love hanlons, sad to see the beach not being maintained or repaired from previous years of erosion..it impacts the amount of usable space

13 days ago

Hanlans beach is great, but hard to socially distance, there should be more sand, it's gotten smaller every year

14 days ago

The island is my favorite park in the city

14 days ago

I don't like how the canoe and kayaks and bike rentals weren't available during covid.

14 days ago

Importance of Hanlans to queer communities

14 days ago

The erosion of Hanlan's Point beach is a huge concern, especially over the last few years

15 days ago

We love visiting the island with our boat and frequently use our dinghy to visit all of the inner waterways. Love to see the place be kept up. Would appreciate an investment at Hanlan's wall and services for boaters (e.g. hydro pedestals). Thank you.

15 days ago

Fix the wall for boats

15 days ago

We love Hanlan's mooring wall, Toronto Island Marina and the Upper Deck, and the Island Cafe. Please protect the long established island community (residents, and Hanlan's beach users); one of the best things about Toronto Island is that it is much more than just a city park visited by day-trippers. Please continue to limit vehicle access to the island.

15 days ago

Clothing optional section is always so fun and excepting of all types of people. Great vibe.

15 days ago

Hanlan's beach has eroded significantly in the past few years. I would love the city to invest in rebuilding that beach.

15 days ago

I love the island so much. Its my favourite thing about living in Toronto. Improves my quality of life greatly.

15 days ago

Hanlan's needs to be rebuilt

15 days ago

The boats parked off of Hanlan's negatively affect the beach experience by blasting music and obnoxious behaviour of the people on boats. During covid, they've been congregating in larger numbers than is legal. They also drive into the restricted areas with boats and jetskis, making it feel unsafe.

15 days ago

Concerned about flooding and beach erosion

15 days ago

One aspect that has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic has been the ability to spread out in the clothing optional section of Hanlan's point. If the clothing optional zone were expanded, perhaps spaces wouldn't suffer from crowding as they are now.

15 days ago

The nude beach is the best and I wish there were more nude options!

15 days ago

The erosion issue on hanlan's has to be addressed and fixed

16 days ago

Love island cafe take away food options

16 days ago

The island is a getaway from home at home. We need it.

16 days ago

Don't overdevelop the island, it is beautiful as a natural refuge. Please put up more signage to describe the names of the flora. Keep up the good work!

19 days ago

To extend the clothing optional beach on Hanlan's toward the North part of the beach close to the airport. Part always empty where every body is pack on the actual clothing optional beach. Not enough space for those enjoying full naturism

20 days ago

Its a safe place to ho wearing a mask when surrounded by people

21 days ago

As an apartment dweller in a somewhat noisy neighbourhood in the city's Southwest and, I appreciate the ability to come to the island and enjoy the peaceful tranquillity and nature at Hanlan's and wards. Would like to see more frequent ferry service, so that one can just wander freely and get on a ferry at when one arrives at the docks of either end, rather than having to wait an hour

22 days ago

I would like that Hanlan's beach become nudist or has more clothing optional areas

22 days ago

get the Wards Island Association to let the Island Cafe olerate again.

22 days ago

I love Hanlan's

23 days ago

Would be nice to introduce bike share.

23 days ago

More bikes to rent

24 days ago

Why aren't bike rentals at the ferry docks?

24 days ago

I like the restaurants but nature is the most beautiful

24 days ago

Ferry restrictions means water taxis are the only reliable and accessible means of transport

a month ago

Might be good to have more patrolling of creeps near nude beach area. Gets a little dicey sometimes

a month ago

Hanlans beach is the main reason I go. I wish the ferry ran for longer than it does at the moment.

a month ago

I swimming , beach life and landscape photography on the island.

a month ago

Wish there were lower numbers during Covid. Crowd was not organized at all going there. Workers were good at keeping people distances and masked on the way back from Ward's.

a month ago

I used to go to the island every week, all summer. I have only been twice this year as a result of self-protection and social distancing. Once mask rules became established and I had examples of friends who had been, I felt more comfortable and am glad to have finally taken advantage of a quick taxi ride, and my own space on a beach and in the water. It really is a gift to any city dweller if their budget allows.

a month ago

The beach at Hanlan's Point is a safe space for the LGBTQ community, and it gives me a sense of belonging. Hanlan's Point is a very important attraction for both locals and tourists. Hanlan's Point brings together an international community of LBGT people. I believe better transportation to and on the island is needed. The city would benefit from a subway stop on the island, and bike share stations available on the island.

a month ago

Hanlans point is a queer and nudist space that should be respected and saved

a month ago

Please protect the erosion of the beach and extend the shoreline back out of possible to help save the queer and nude beach that the city cherishes so much. It will also help prevent crowding the more space there is.

a month ago

Please take care of the erosion on the beaches

a month ago

Part 1 of 3

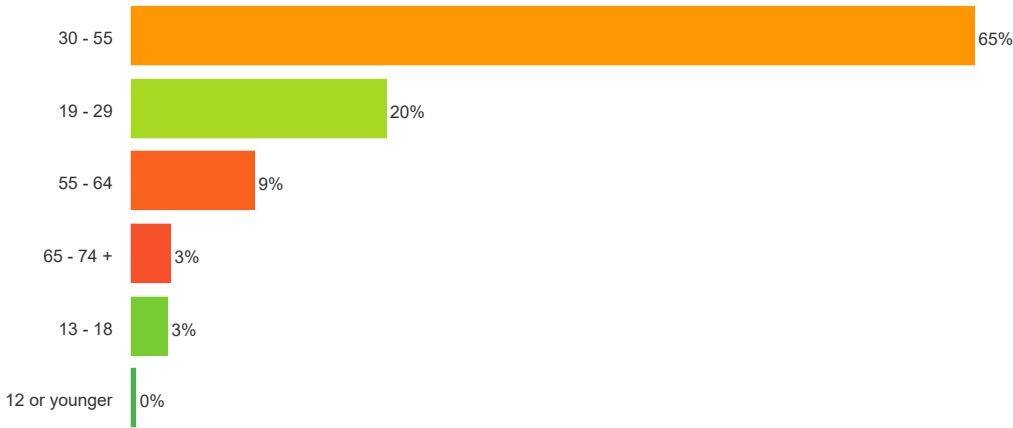
What are the first three digits of your postal code? We are collecting this information in order to understand where people have travelled from today

M4W	6 days ago
M5T	7 days ago
M5S	7 days ago
M5j	7 days ago
M5v	7 days ago
M6N	7 days ago
M6H	7 days ago
M1M	8 days ago
M6J	9 days ago
T8N	9 days ago
M6H	10 days ago
N1h	10 days ago
M4L	10 days ago
M5T	10 days ago
M6G	11 days ago
M6R	11 days ago
M5V	11 days ago
M5A	11 days ago
m5j	11 days ago
M9B	

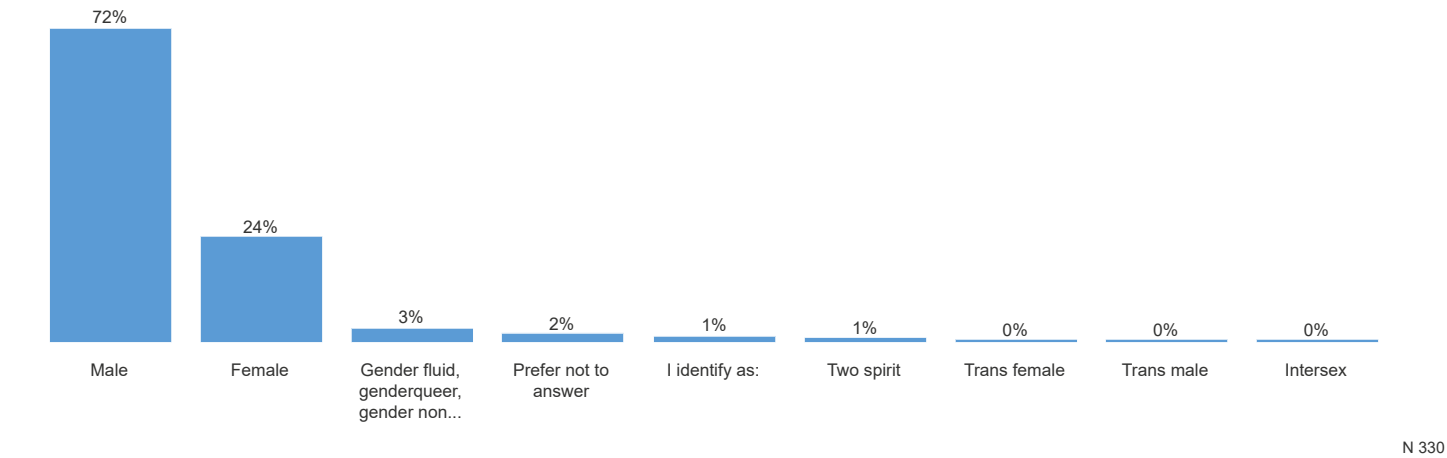
	11 days ago
M6p	11 days ago
M5J	11 days ago
M3M	11 days ago
M5J	12 days ago
M8w	12 days ago
K8v	13 days ago
M4C	13 days ago
M9c	13 days ago
M4m	14 days ago
M4L	14 days ago
M4X	14 days ago
M5v	14 days ago
M5B	14 days ago
M6J	14 days ago
M5A	15 days ago
M4C	15 days ago
N4S	15 days ago
M6S	15 days ago
M4y	15 days ago
M4M	

	15 days ago
M4M	
	15 days ago
N4S	
	15 days ago
M8V	
	15 days ago
M6R	
	15 days ago
M6J	
	15 days ago
L4h	
	15 days ago
M4Y	
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M5T	
	15 days ago
M5V	
	15 days ago
M5A	
	15 days ago

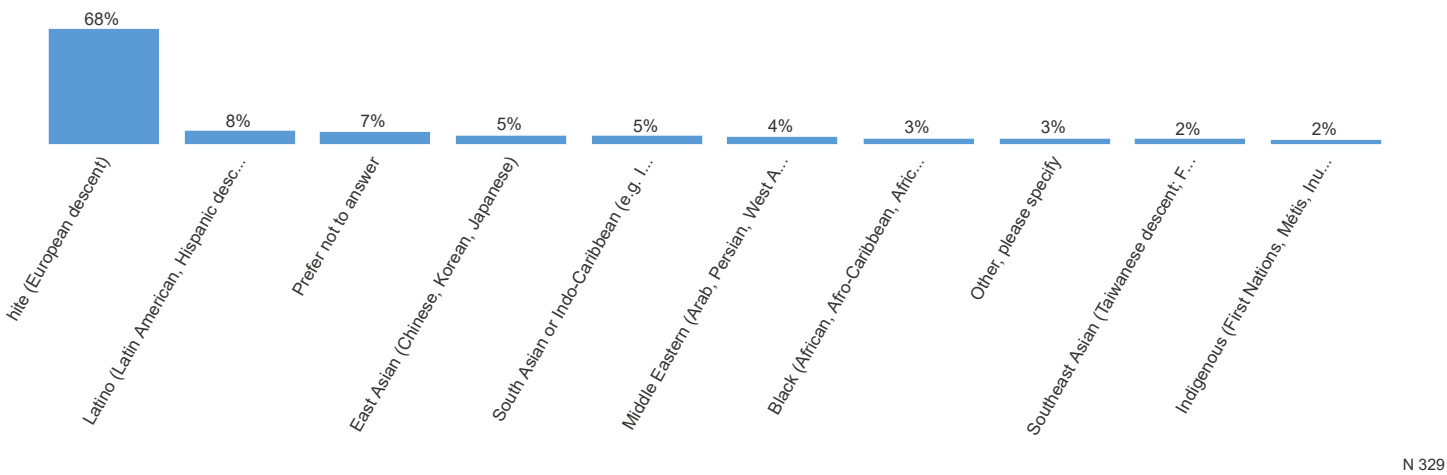
What is your age?



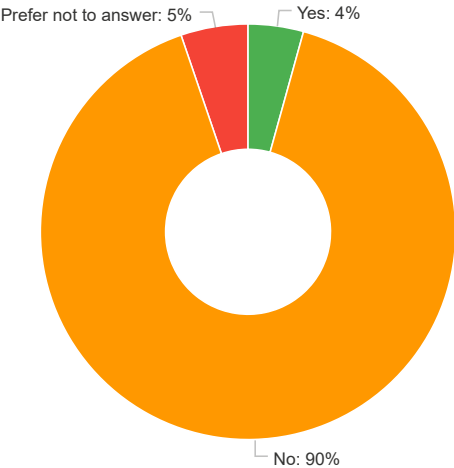
What is your gender identity*? *Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. Gender identity is linked to a sense of self, the sense of being a woman, man, both, neither or anywhere along the gender spectrum (non-binary).



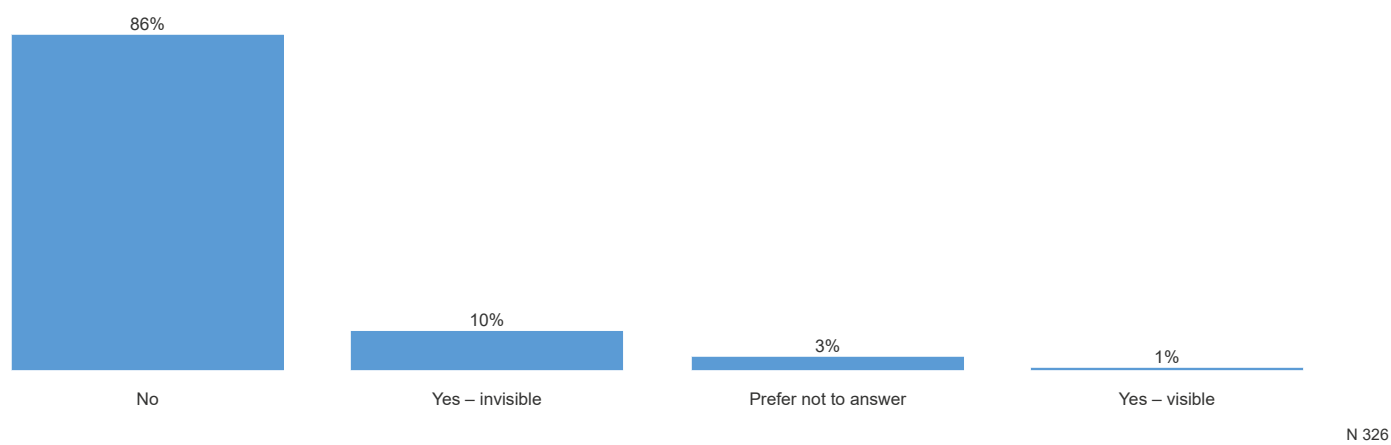
What racial background do you identify with? Select all that apply.



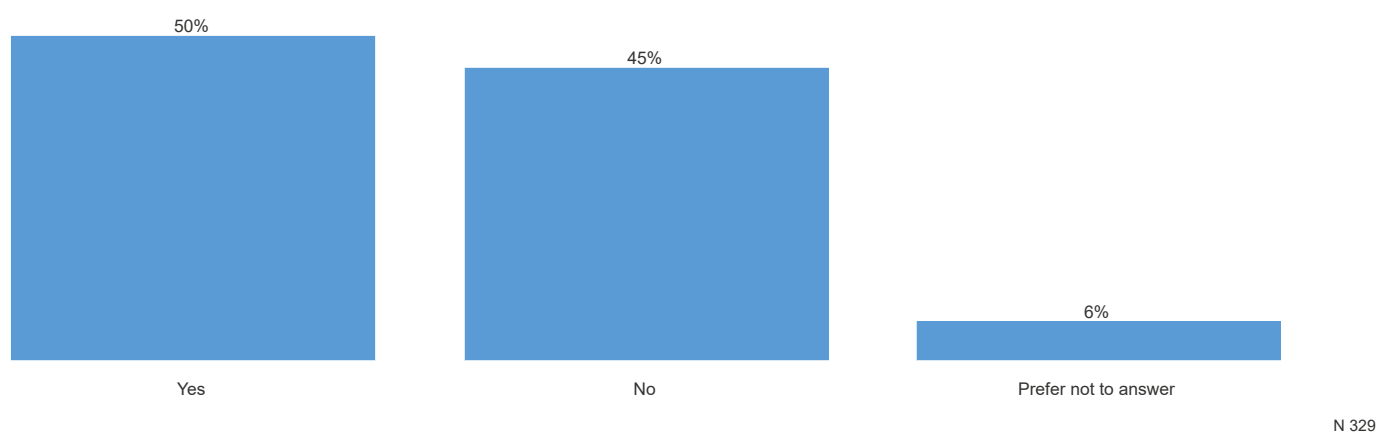
Do you identify as Indigenous to Canada? Indigenous people residing in Canada are those who self-identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian.



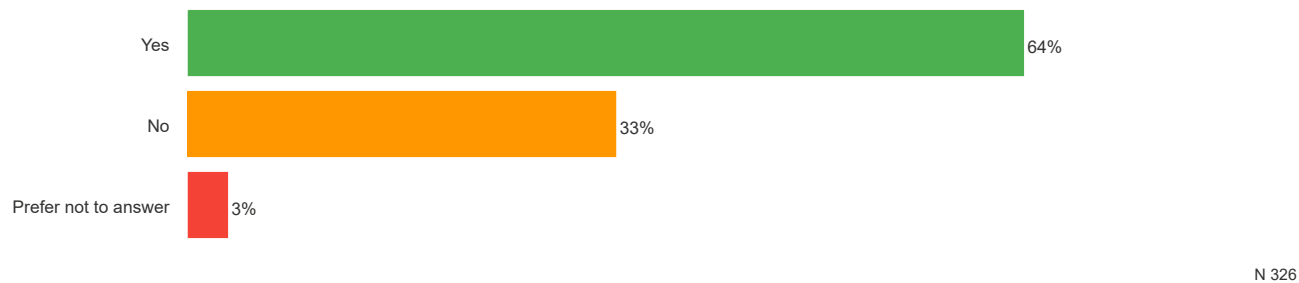
Do you identify as a person with a disability? Disabilities, both visible and invisible, include physical, hearing, seeing, developmental, learning or mental health conditions, chronic illness and addictions. Disabilities may be from birth, caused by injury or accident, developed over time, or result from the combination of a person's condition and barriers in society.



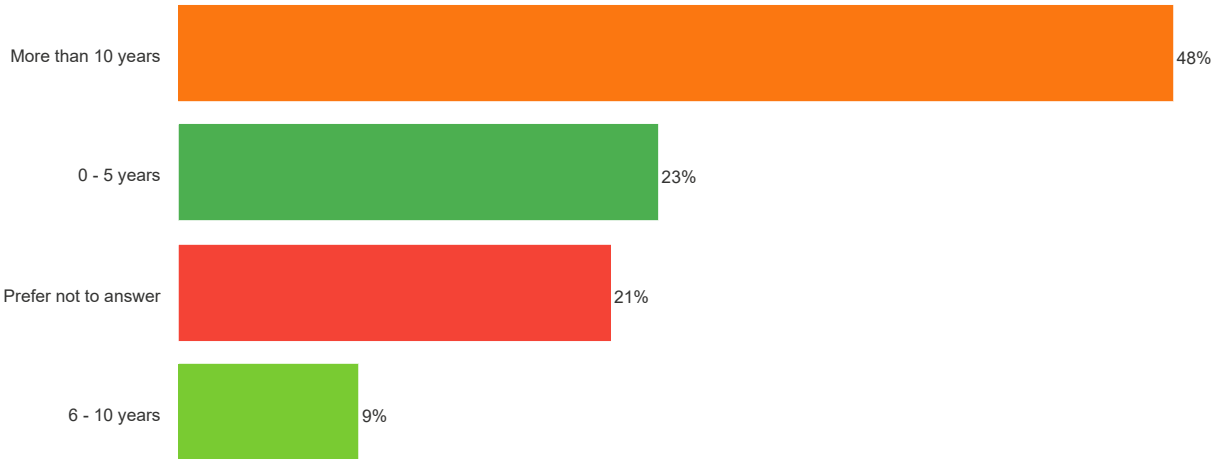
Do you identify as a member of the LBGTQ2S+ community?



Were you born in Canada?



If born outside of Canada, how long have you lived here?



N 174

APPENDIX C

FERRY USAGE DATA

TO Island Master Plan

Ferry usage data (since COVID re-opening) to inform
Public Life Study sampling plans

July 30th, 2020

BI Team: Marius Foca, Sarah Rhodes, Jia Lu



Primary variable of interest:

Ticket Redemption Quantity: # of passengers that redeemed their ticket (i.e. boarded the ferry)

Note: For this analysis, we excluded passengers in vehicles, as the vehicles using the ferry are often service vehicles and these passengers are required to stay in their vehicles throughout the entirety of the trip.

Time period investigated:

June 27th (date of ferry service resumption) to July 29th 2020



This presentation summarizes the following ferry data:

1. Peak Use (Hourly) – Week Days
2. Peak Use (Hourly) – Weekends
3. Peak Use – Day of Week



How to read the data graphics in this deck

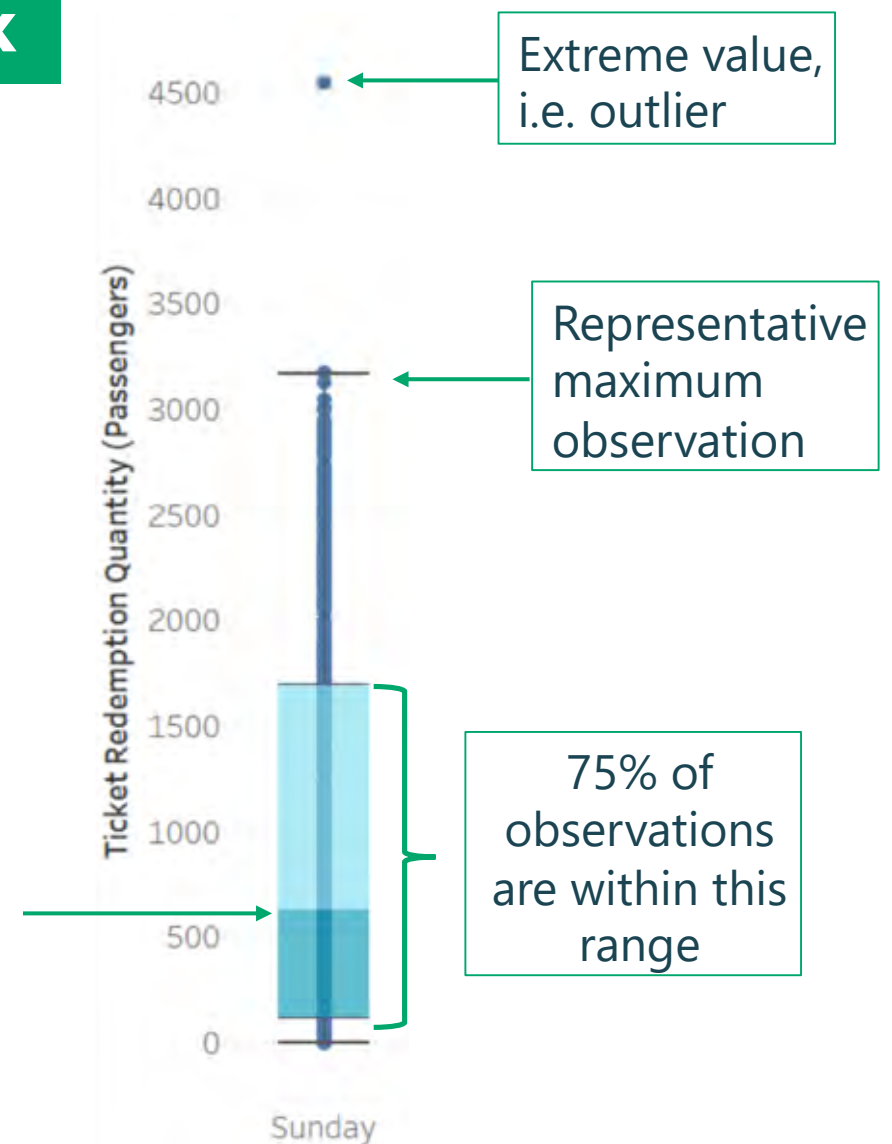
We have made graphics called “**box plots**” to summarize the ferry peak use data.

Please see diagram (right) for how to interpret the box plots & contact S. Rhodes with questions.

This line (where color changes) represents the **median** # passengers/hr.

You can think of the **median** as the midpoint, where 1/2 of observations are above this line, and 1/2 below.

In this case, the median is ~600 passengers/hr.



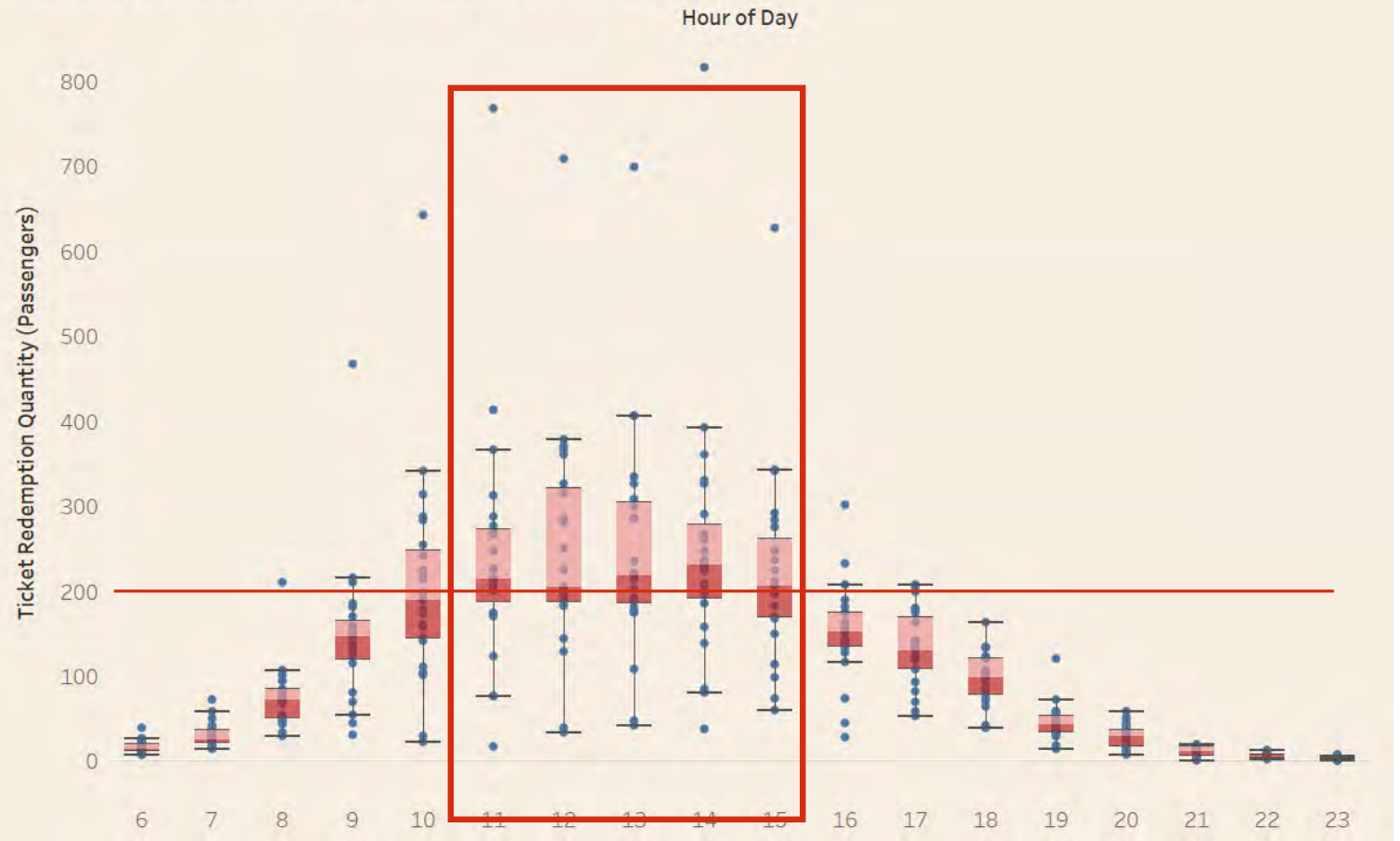
Peak Use (Hourly) – Week Days

On weekdays, the busiest hours are between:

11a.m. – 3 p.m.

(based on median of
>200 passengers)

Passenger traffic since Jun 27 2020 - weekdays

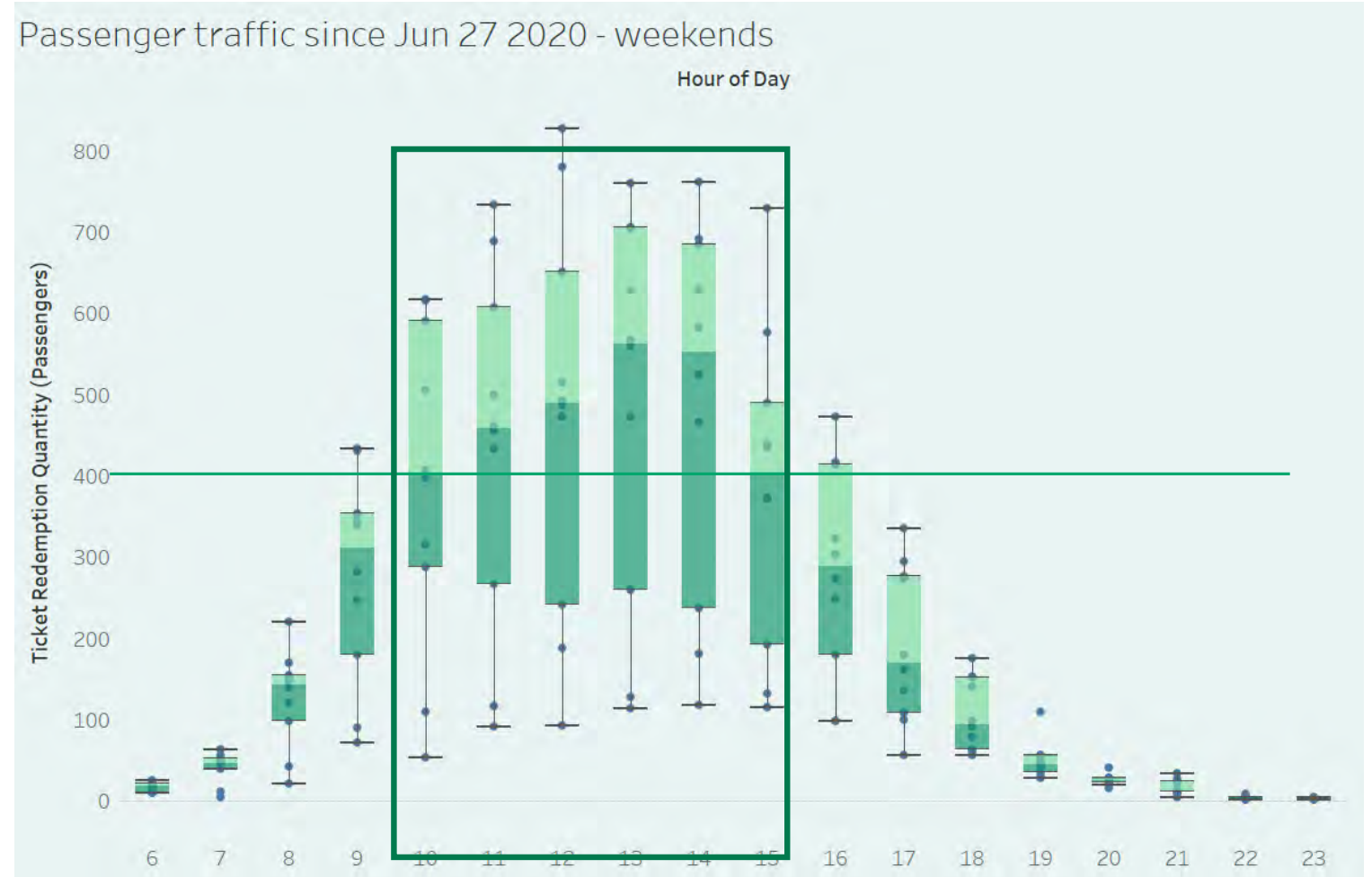


Peak Use (Hourly) – Weekends

On weekends, the busiest hours are between:

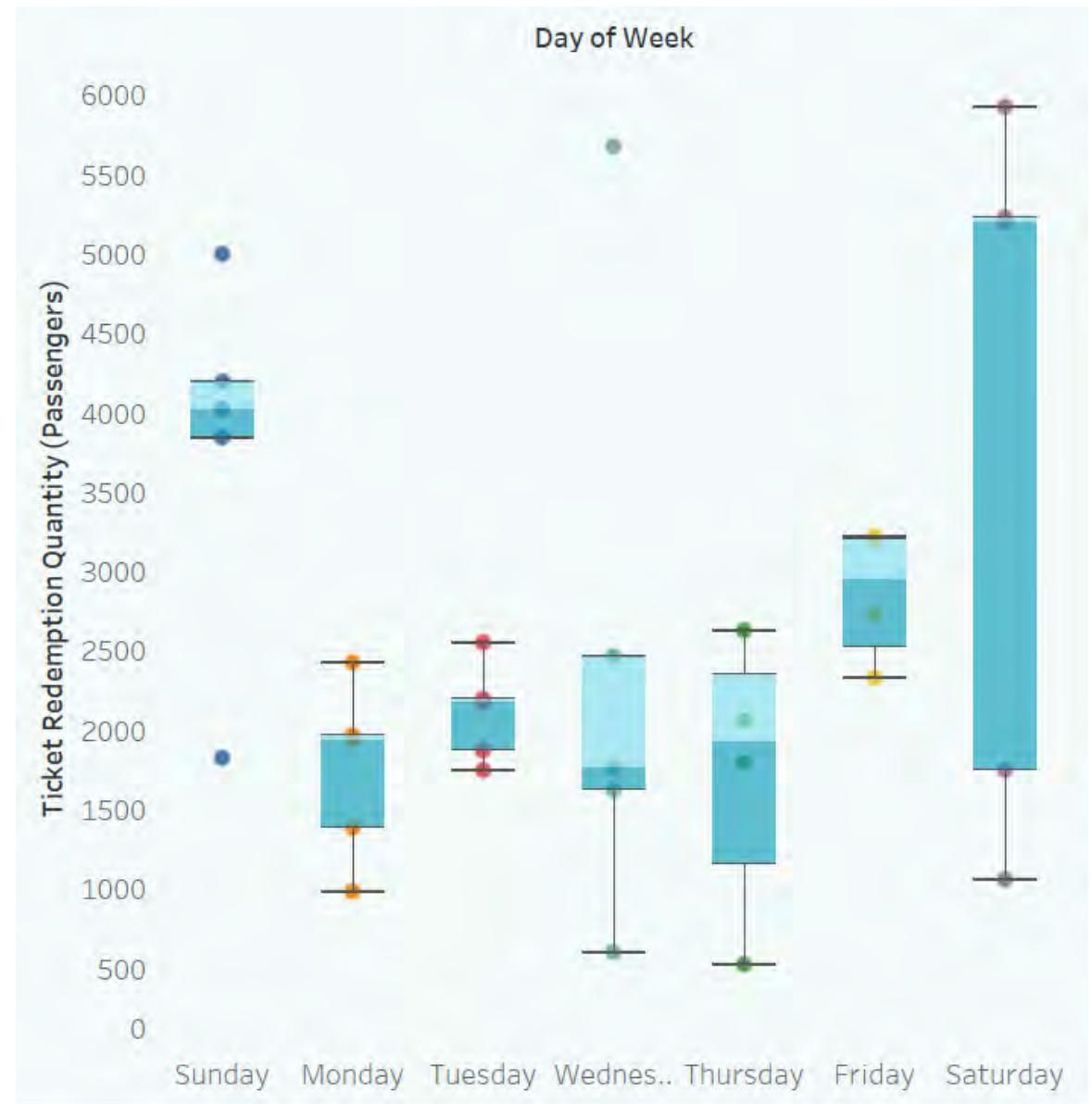
10a.m. – 3p.m.

(based on median of **>400** passengers)



Peak Use – Day of Week

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays are the busiest days.



Summary of Findings – COVID Summer Context

For sampling purposes, the island's heavy use times are:

Week days: 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. (median ~200 passengers/day)

Weekends: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (median ~400 passengers/day)

*In general, weekends should be considered a peak use period.

***Important note:** We will also want to learn about people who visit outside of peak times, as we are interested in the wide variety of ways/times that people use the island.



APPENDIX D

SUMMARY PRESENTATION



2020 Public Life Study Findings



Conducted by:



The Study

The Toronto Island Park Public Space Public Life Study was undertaken to better understand how the Island is used by providing a snapshot of public life that can be used to inform the creation of the Toronto Island Master Plan.



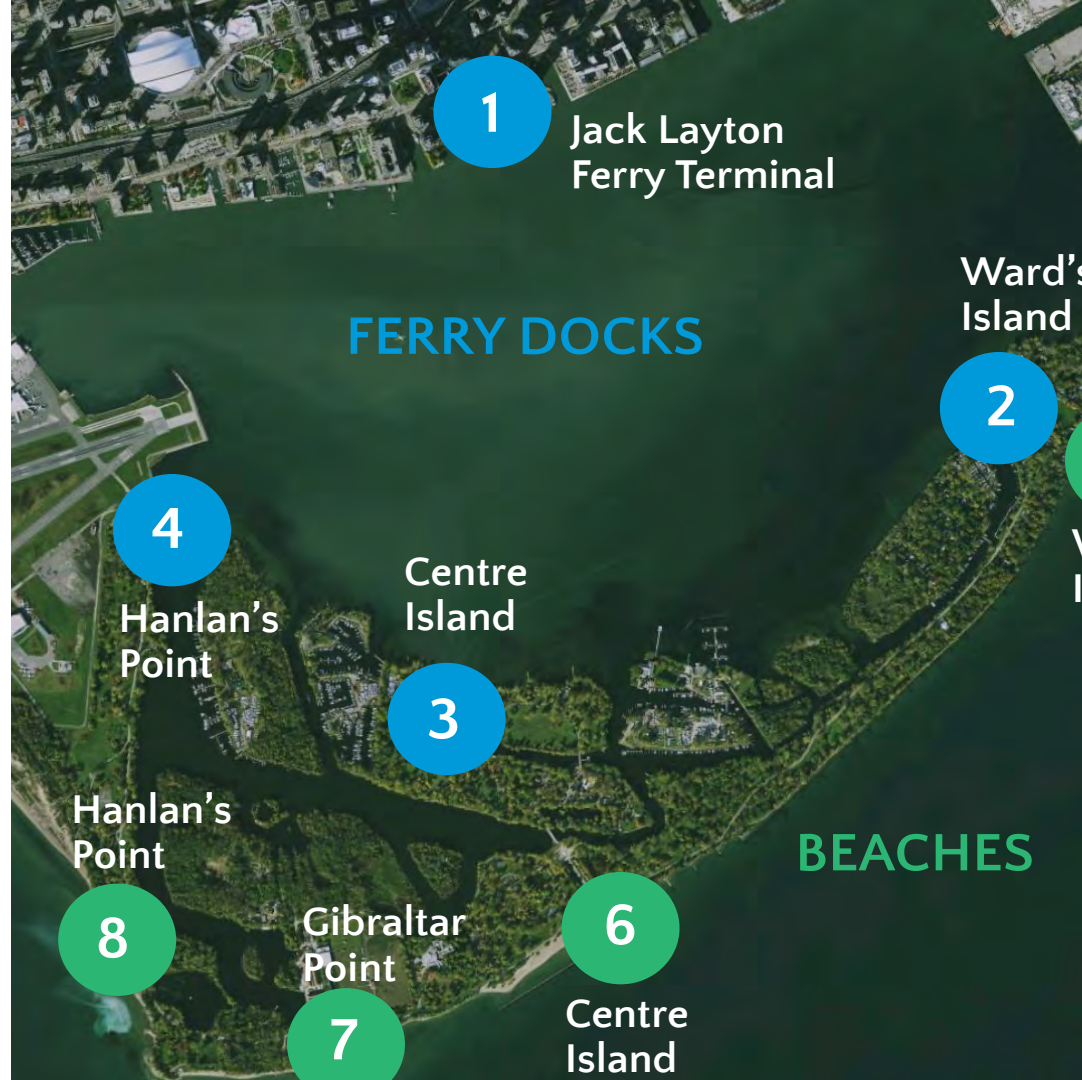
Study Team

The study was led by Park People, a national charity that helps people activate the power of parks.



Study Zones

- 8 zones surveyed
- 1 weekend + 1 weekday study date in late August/early September 2020
- Study hours captured a morning shift (10am-2pm) and evening shift (4-8pm)



Methods

- Pedestrian movement counts
- Cyclist movement counts
- Mapping of stationary activities and postures
- Age & gender presentation counts
- Stationary item and dog counts
- Seating inventory
- Online survey

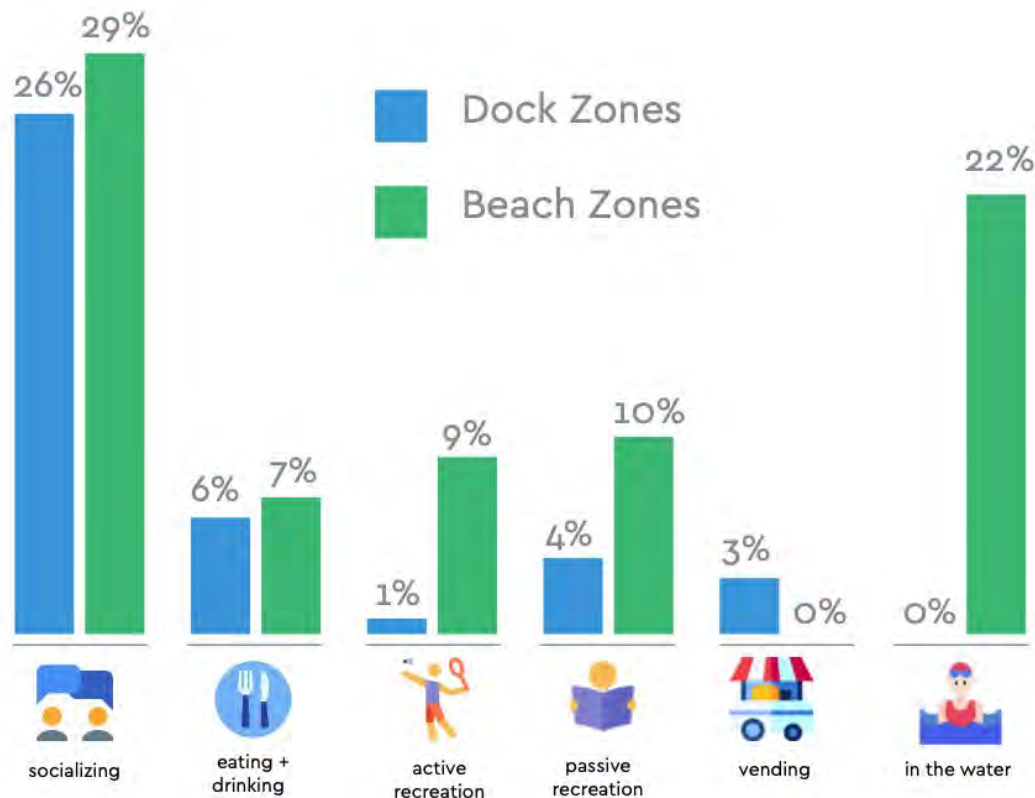


Key Findings



The Island is a social place

Over **1/4** of people observed hanging out on the Island were engaged in conversation

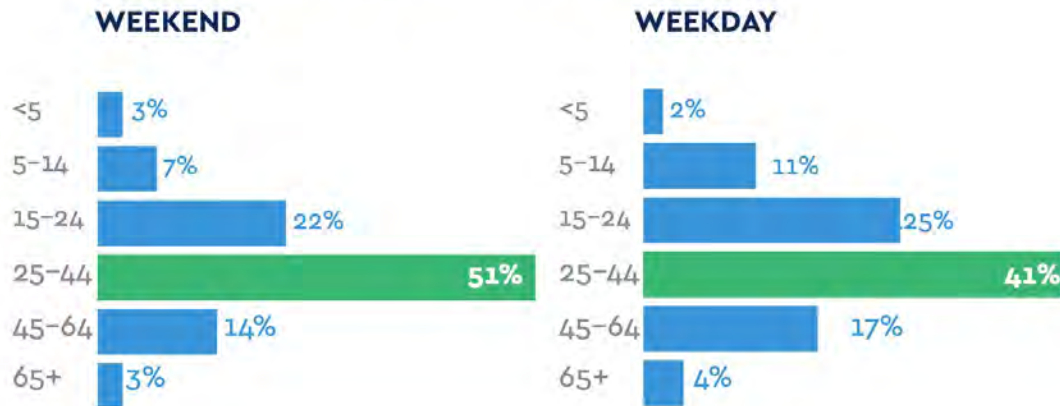


Seniors were underrepresented

4% of people counted hanging out on the Island were seniors, compared to 16% city-wide



ISLAND-WIDE AGE AVERAGES*

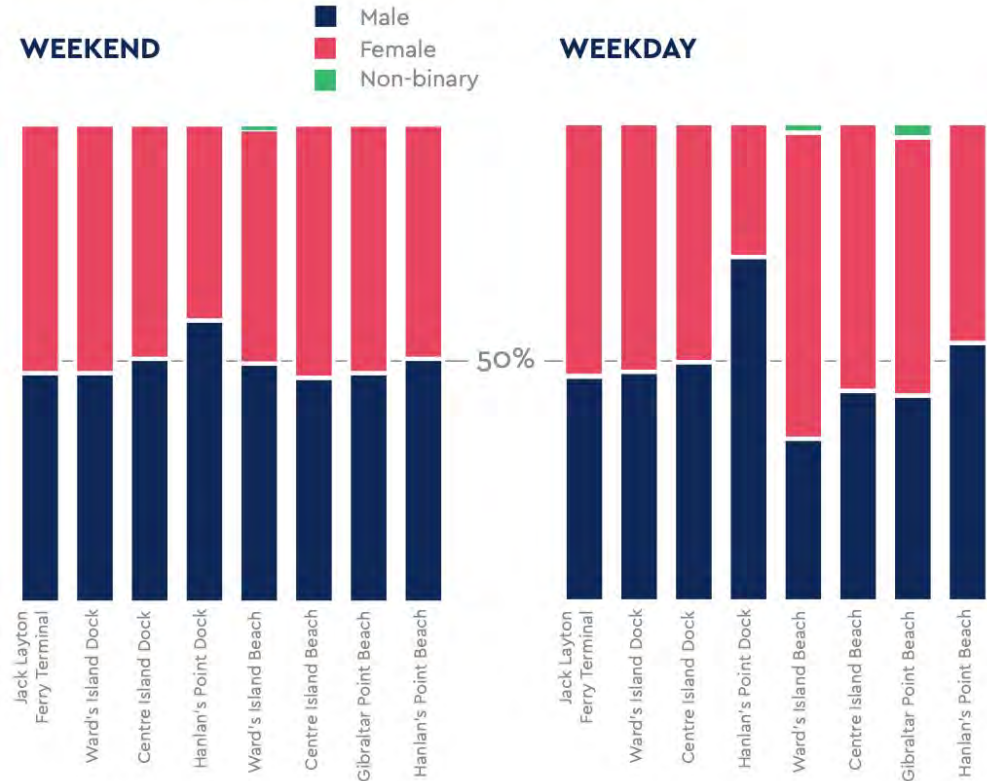


Gender balance

58% of weekday beach users on average at Ward's, Centre & Gibraltar were observed as female-presenting, while 63% of weekday Hanlan's Point users were observed as male-presenting.

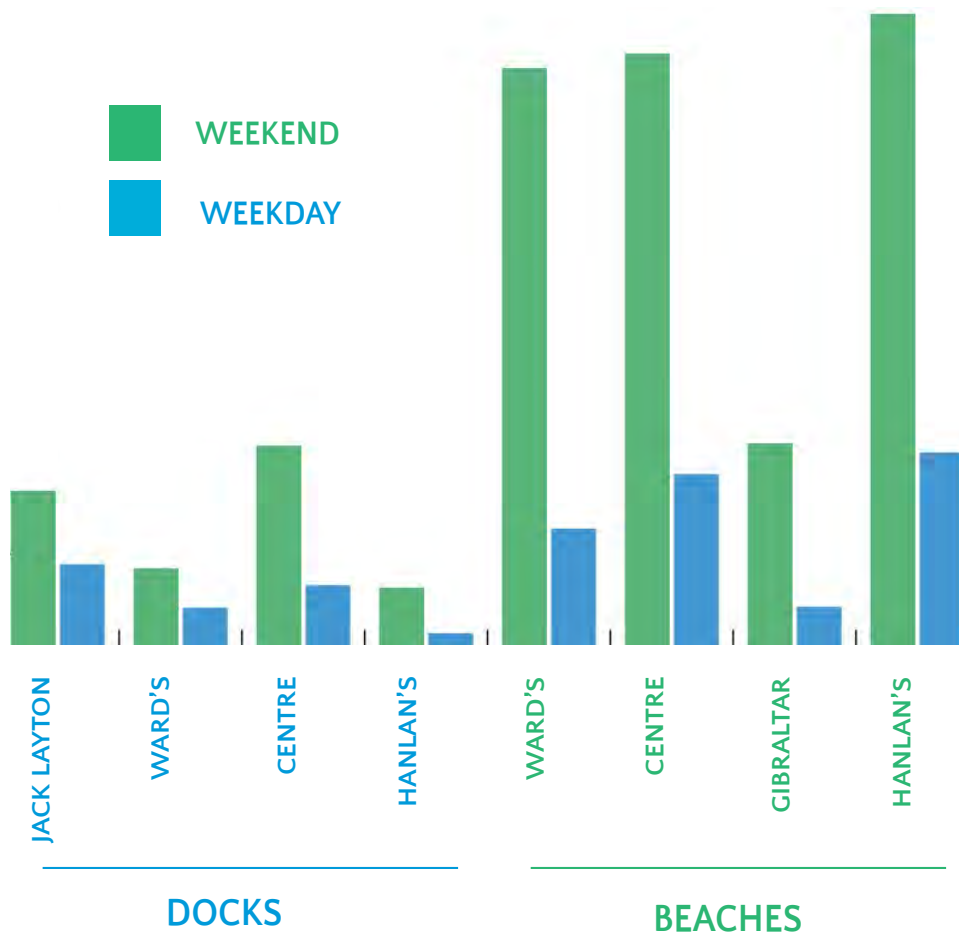


OBSERVED GENDER PRESENTATION



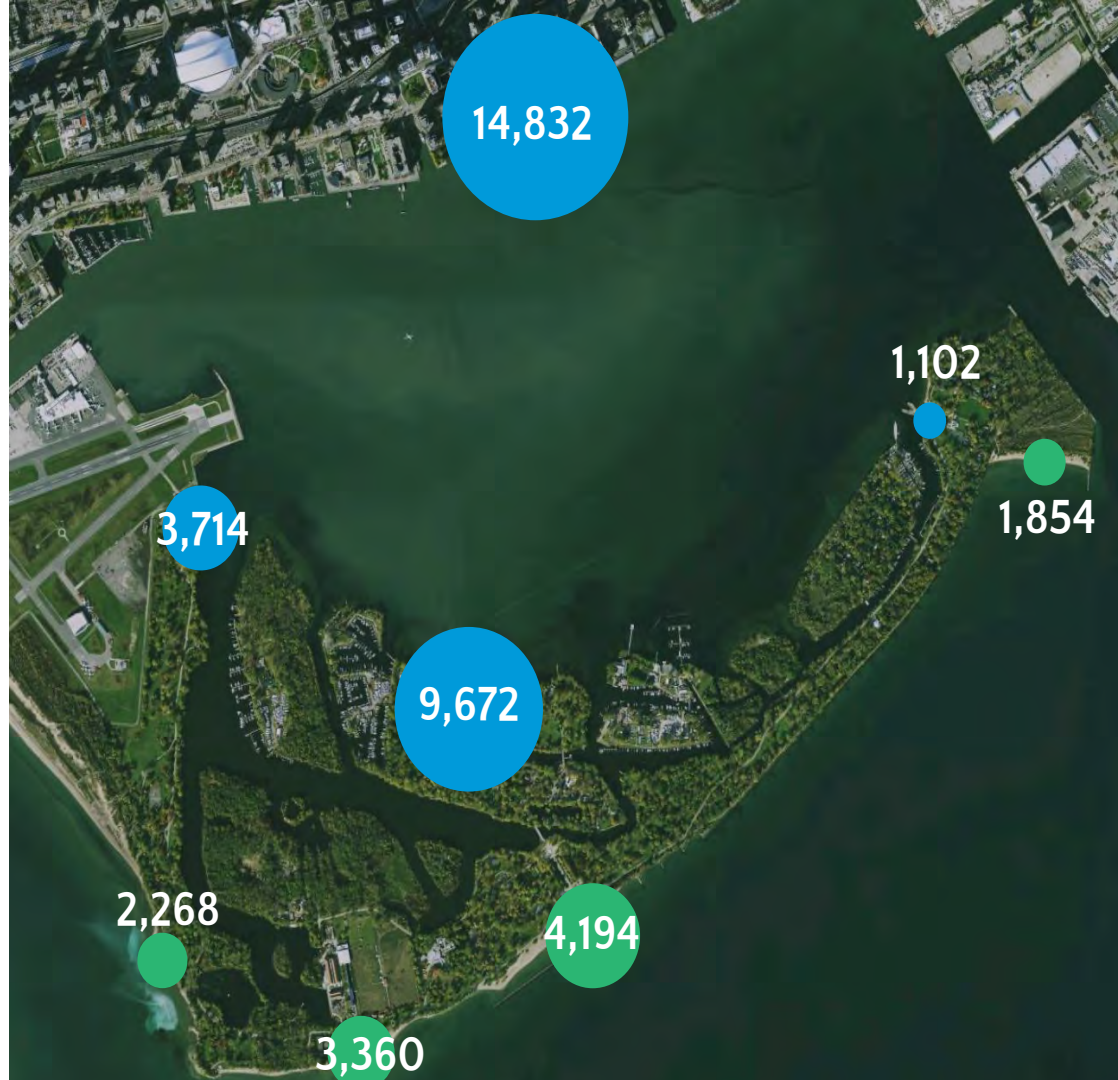
Distribution of beach use

4x higher average counts of people hanging out in beach zones than in dock zones on the Island



Centre Island = centre stage

55% higher pedestrian
traffic on Centre Island
than Ward's and Hanlan's
combined



Bikes & beaches go together

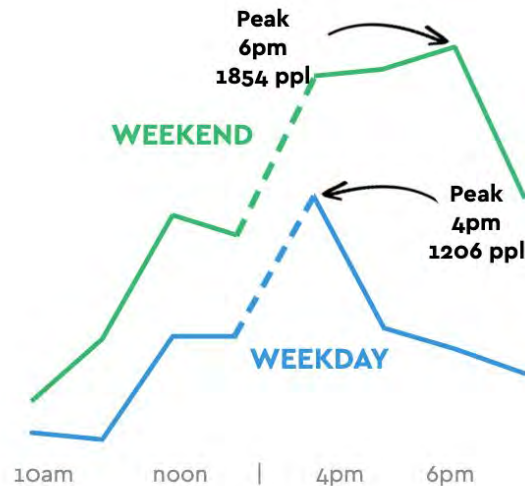
23% higher cyclist volumes near beaches than ferry docks



CYCLIST TRAFFIC BY ZONE*



BIKE TRAFFIC BY TIME*



Staying power ferry docks

People were **4x**
more likely to take a seat
at Jack Layton Ferry
Terminal than Centre
Island or Hanlan's Point

JLFT



WARD'S



CENTRE



HANLAN'S



Ferry docks could
be more inviting
places to spend time



SEATING AT ISLAND DOCKS



Average occupancy rate is an indicator of how well-used designated available seating is. It is calculated by taking the average number of people using designated seating (i.e. sitting formally), divided by the total number of people the seating can accommodate.

Peak occupancy tells us how sufficient available seating is when demand is at its highest.

Informal sitting captures people who are leaning, perching or sitting on items not designed as seating, as a percentage of overall people sitting. If a high proportion of people are sitting informally, it can suggest that available seating may not be meeting needs in terms of amount, type, and/or location.

What people brought

Observations suggest demand for rentals and improvements



For every 1000 people visiting Island Beaches we observed:



50 umbrellas



38 chairs



31 bikes



72 boats



11 dogs

Survey key findings



WHAT PEOPLE VALUE



It's an oasis only minutes from the downtown core.

Clothing optional section is always so fun and accepting of all types of people.

Best view of the city.

It is magical. It is a gift to have this place, on the water, in our city. Whether we are swimming for hours and hours at Wards, biking through Algonquin Islands little paths, fishing into the night, or running through the maze and Franklin Garden, it always feels exciting and special.

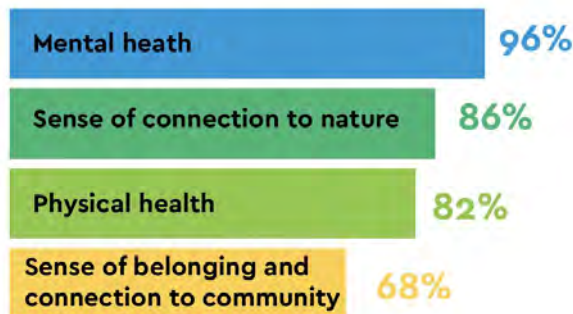
Hanlan's Point is a great place to connect with the LGBTQ+ community, it's a safe place for us.

*Some quotes edited for spelling, grammar, and clarity.

Survey key findings



VISITING THE ISLAND HAS HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON MY...



We love the sailing community, and how many different things there are to do.

The Island is a jewel of Toronto and it feels like our own private escape.

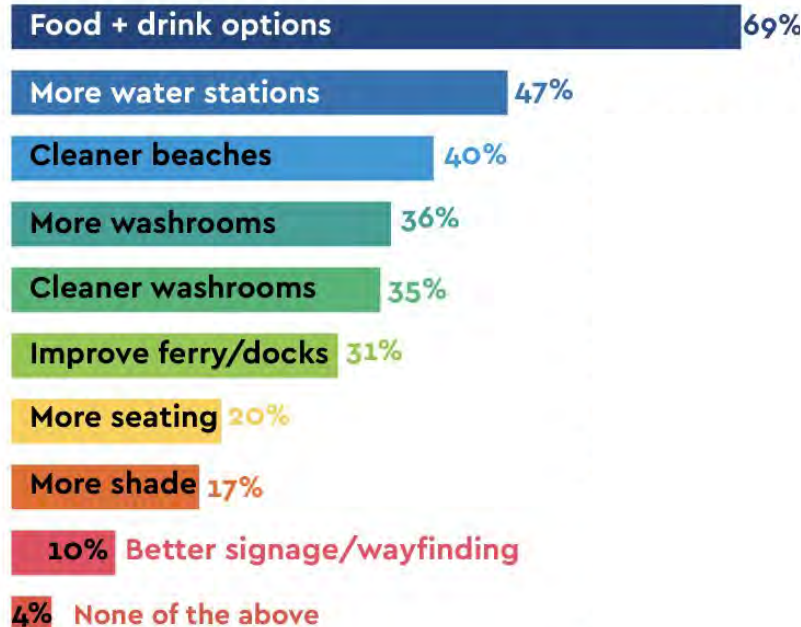
We see more wildlife there than on some trips hiking and camping.

It feels like a short vacation away from the city for me, which I need for my mental health as a city dweller.

Survey key findings



IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT



Survey key findings



OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

- Places to 'park'/lock kayaks to walk or visit a cafe
- Bike rental as soon as you get off the ferry
- Camp site available to rent
- Extended ferry schedule
- Less noise
- Better showers at Hanlan's for boaters
- Fire pits next to boat docking
- More outdoor art courses at Gibraltar Art school
- More recycling bins on beaches
- More signage to describe the names of the flora
- Later ferrys so you can watch the sunset at Hanlan's
- Erosion of Hanlan's Point beach is a concern