



PEACH ON THE STREET

• AccessAlderney •

Survey Results Report August 2022



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Introduction

The purpose of the Access Alderney survey was to gauge community interests in, and perspectives on, how to make public spaces more **accessible and inclusive for all Haligonians (and visitors)**. Accessibility is a loaded term, but here we generally asked about how to make Alderney Plaza area usable, inviting, and enjoyable to visit and spend time for everyone. By everyone, we mean not only able-bodied adults, but persons of all ages and abilities.

PEACH Research Unit had great success with our survey at Open Street Sunday to ask Haligonians about how to make Alderney Landing and other public spaces accessible (September 19, 2021). Between noon and 4pm on the event, we set up survey tables on Alderney Plaza to ask participants of Open Street Sunday to tell us about their ideas on accessible and inclusive designs in public spaces.

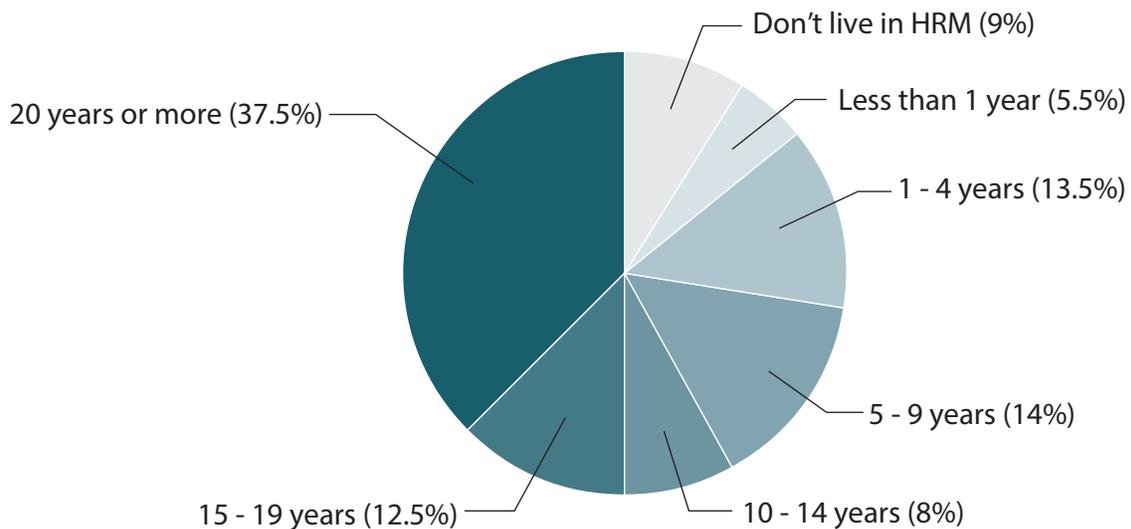


The PEACH team ready to conduct surveys during the Open Street Sunday event on September 19, 2021.

Survey Participants

Respondent residency in HRM

Combining in-person (80) and online (33) surveys, we received a total of 113 responses. About a half of the respondents said they have lived in Halifax for over 15 years, with an additional 22% being long-time residents of over 5 years. 9% were from outside of HRM.



Voices from participants with disability experience

It was important for us to be able to hear the perspectives of persons with any disability experience. The survey included a question that asked if the respondents identified themselves as having mobility challenges, auditory or visual impairments, challenges in processing sensory information, or other experiences. We also asked if the respondents have experience in supporting persons with these disability experiences. Many respondents identified with multiple categories.

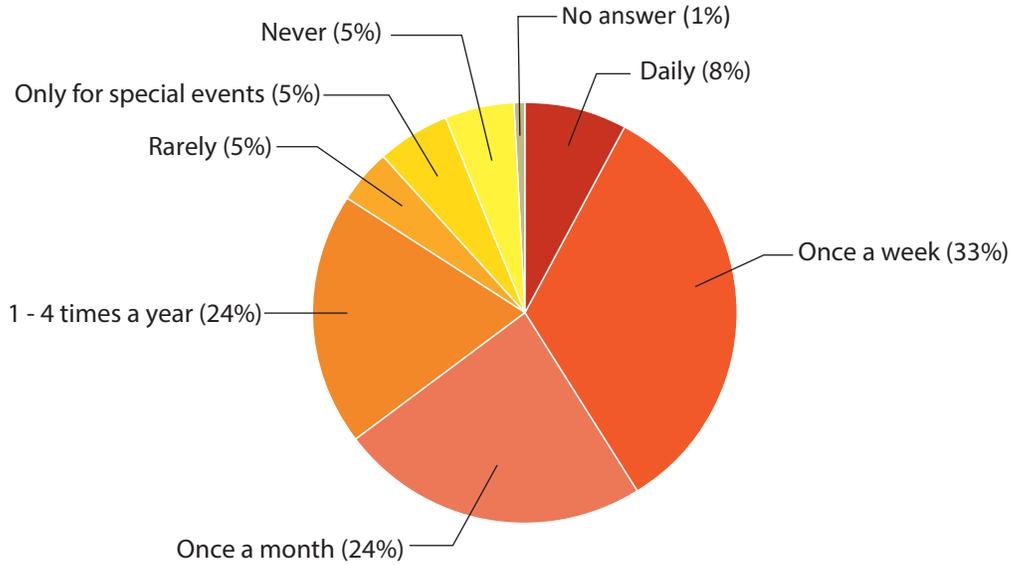
A total of **29** respondents (about 25%) said that they had at least one type of disability experiences listed in the survey.

Mobility challenge due to a physical condition	12
Navigating challenge due to auditory/visual impairment	3
Difficulty processing sensory information	10
Accessibility barriers not related to any of the above	6
Supporting (caregiver) experience	9
I prefer not to say	3
None of the above	80
No answer	5

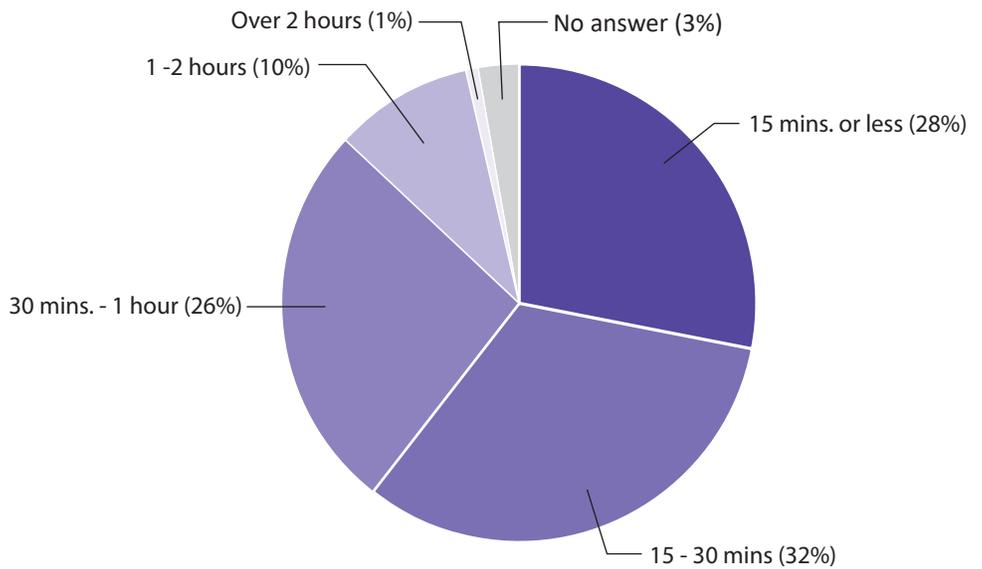
* Includes participants with multiple disability experiences

Visiting Alderney

About 40% of the respondents are frequent visitors of Alderney area, who use the space for some purpose at least once a week. About a half of the respondents, however, only spend half an hour or less whenever they visit Alderney. Very few respondents spend leisurely hours in Alderney.



Frequency of visits to Alderney Plaza



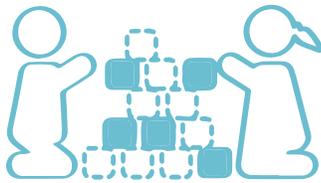
Duration of visits to Alderney Plaza

What We Learned

We asked questions related to the following themes:



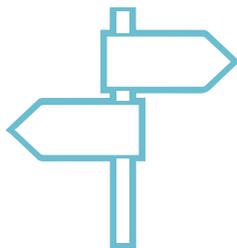
Seating Options



Space for Play



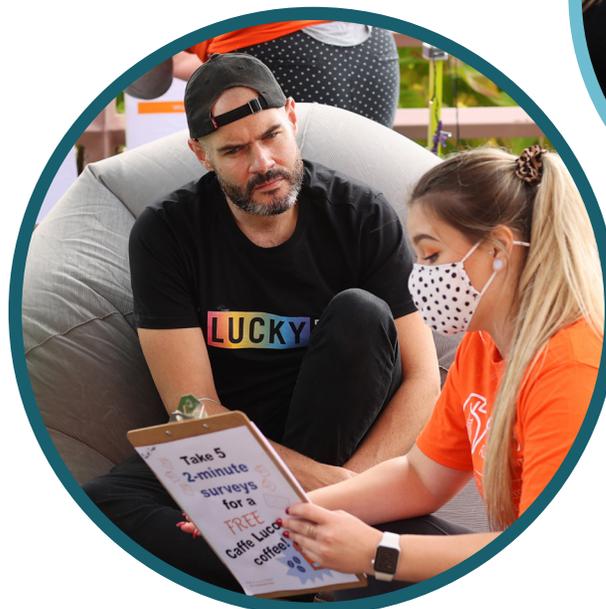
Quiet Space



Signage



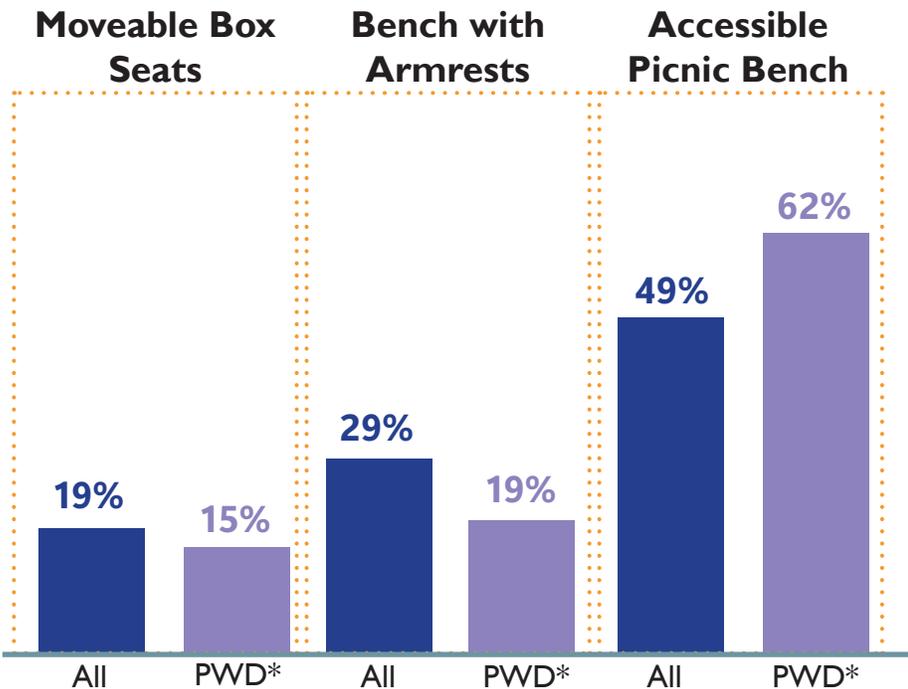
Washrooms



Seating Options



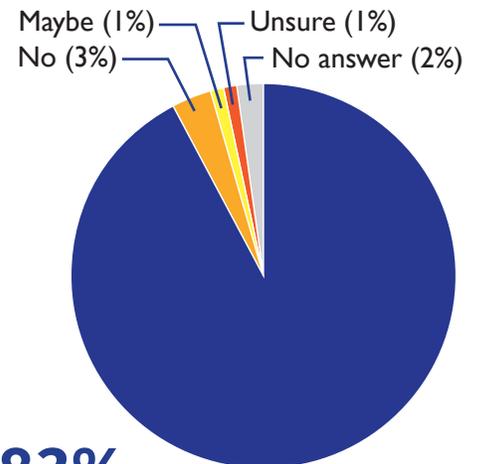
We asked participants about their preferences on the following seating options:



* PWD = People With Disabilities

The Accessible Picnic Bench was the most popular choice, followed by the Bench with Armrests.

We also asked participants their opinions on whether accessible seating options should be included in the municipal budget.



83% of participants agreed that more accessible seating options should be included in the municipal budget

Space for Play



Participants ranked their preferences for design features from the following four:



Multisensory Toys & Activities



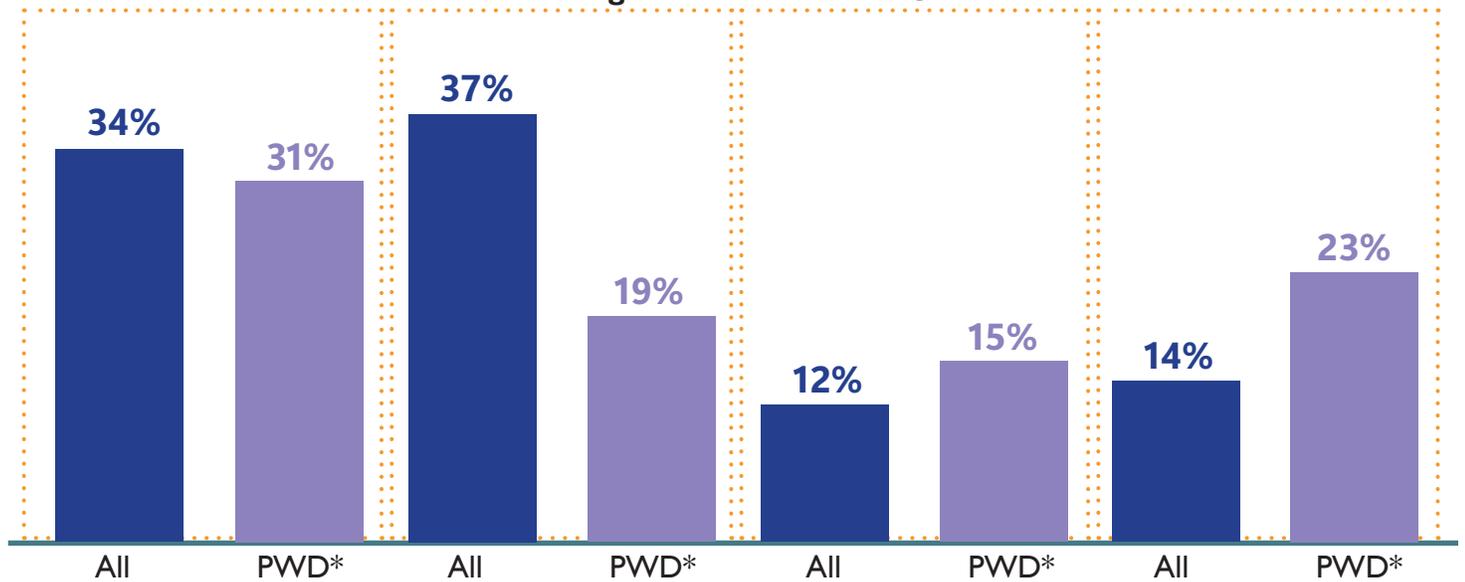
Nearby Vendor & Seating



Outdoor Libraries & Programs



Soft Ground Surfacing



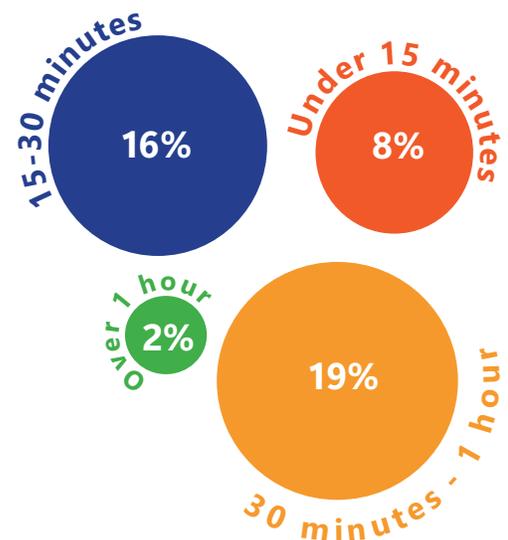
* PWD = People With Disabilities

Among all participants, multisensory toys and activities were the most preferred options overall. **37%** of participants said nearby food vendors and seating were most important; only **19%** of persons with disabilities agreed.

Some other suggestions that people had for the play space included:

- Shade
- More plants and greenery
- Music
- Diversity in toy types and activities
- A permanent play structure

Time spent in the play space by participants



Quiet Space



Participants ranked the three following elements based on whether they are helpful to relax in a tent created as a quiet space:



**Privacy Screens/
Visual Dividers**



**Greenery &
Plantings**



**Soft & Adjustable
Lighting**



The Quiet Tent set up at the Alderney Open Street event

46% of participants said that the quiet tent was an important feature for them. 17% responded with 'No' and 26% responded with 'Unsure'.

Participants had some suggestions for what they would like to see included in a quiet space:

- Soft music
- Placing the tent in a more remote location away from crowd
- More privacy/enclosure
- Shade
- More greenery
- More supportive seating options
- Sound dampening
- Interactive community garden
- Multiple quiet spaces spread apart throughout the space

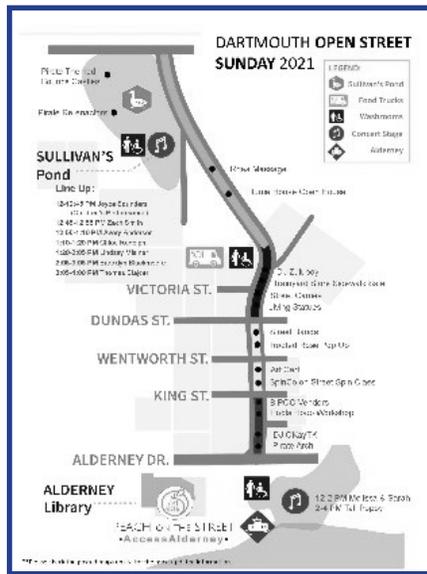


Signage

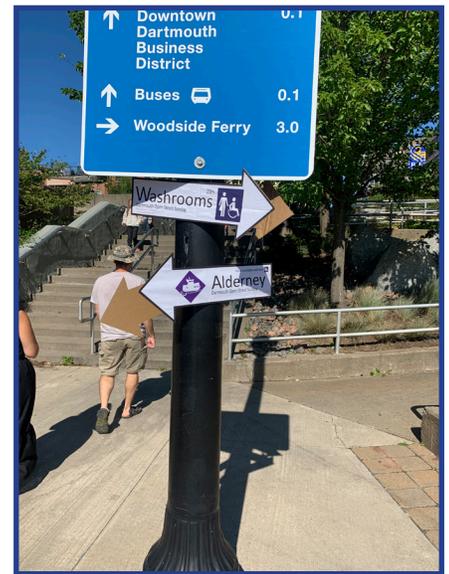
We presented three different types of signs and wayfinding options and asked the participants about how helpful they were and to rank their preferences.



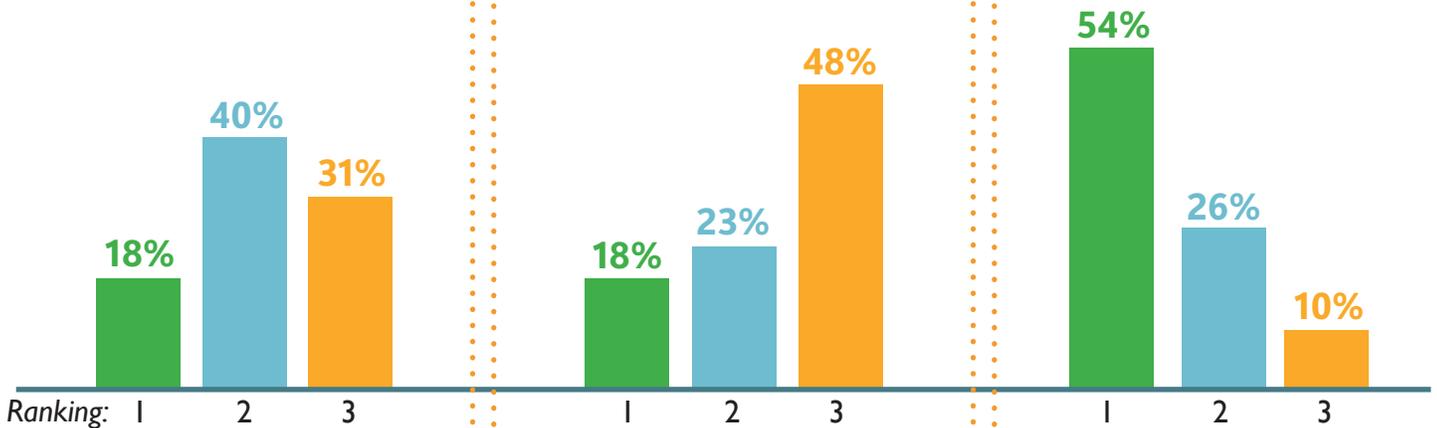
Master Map & Directory



Map Handouts



Directional Signage



Directional signage was the most popular option with **54%** of participants ranking it as their number one choice.

88% of participants indicated that **improving signage systems in public spaces** should be a **“very important”** or **“extremely important”** priority.

Washrooms



We asked the participants to choose an option of installing different types of washrooms within a fixed budget HRM has under a hypothetical scenario below:

Scenario: While public washrooms are important to have, they are also a significant investment of our tax dollars. Depending on the features included, the costs of washrooms vary widely. Please imagine that the three options for public washrooms below cost \$10,000, \$20,000, and \$30,000, respectively. If the HRM's budget for public washroom renewal is \$60,000 a year, how should HRM spend the money?



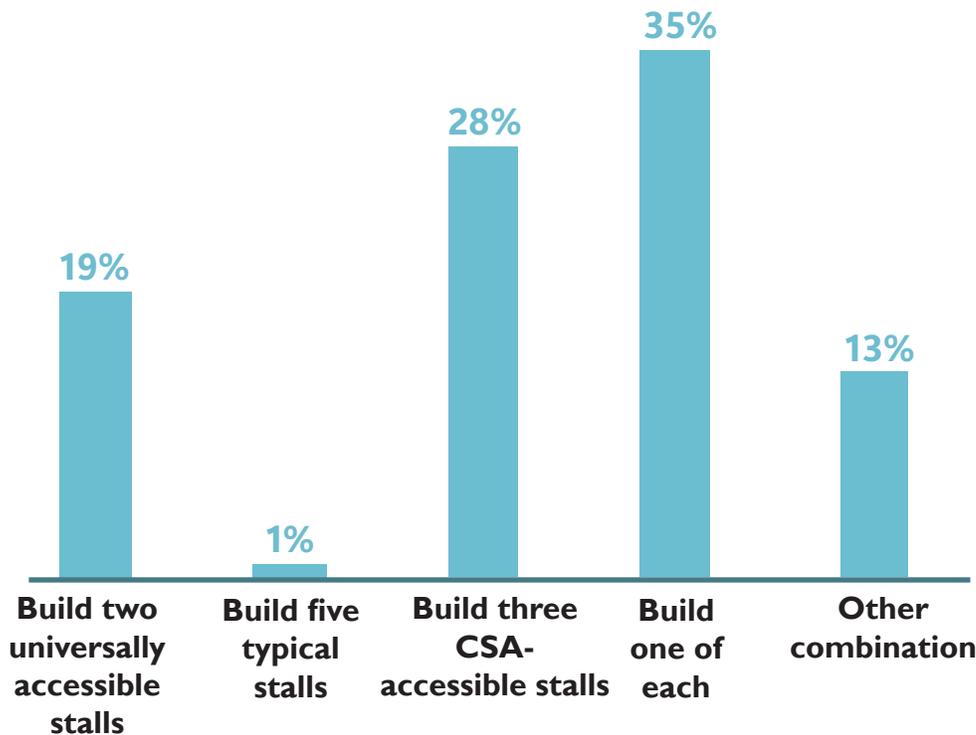
Typical Stall (\$10,000)



CSA Accessible Stall (\$20,000)



Universally Accessible Stall (\$30,000)



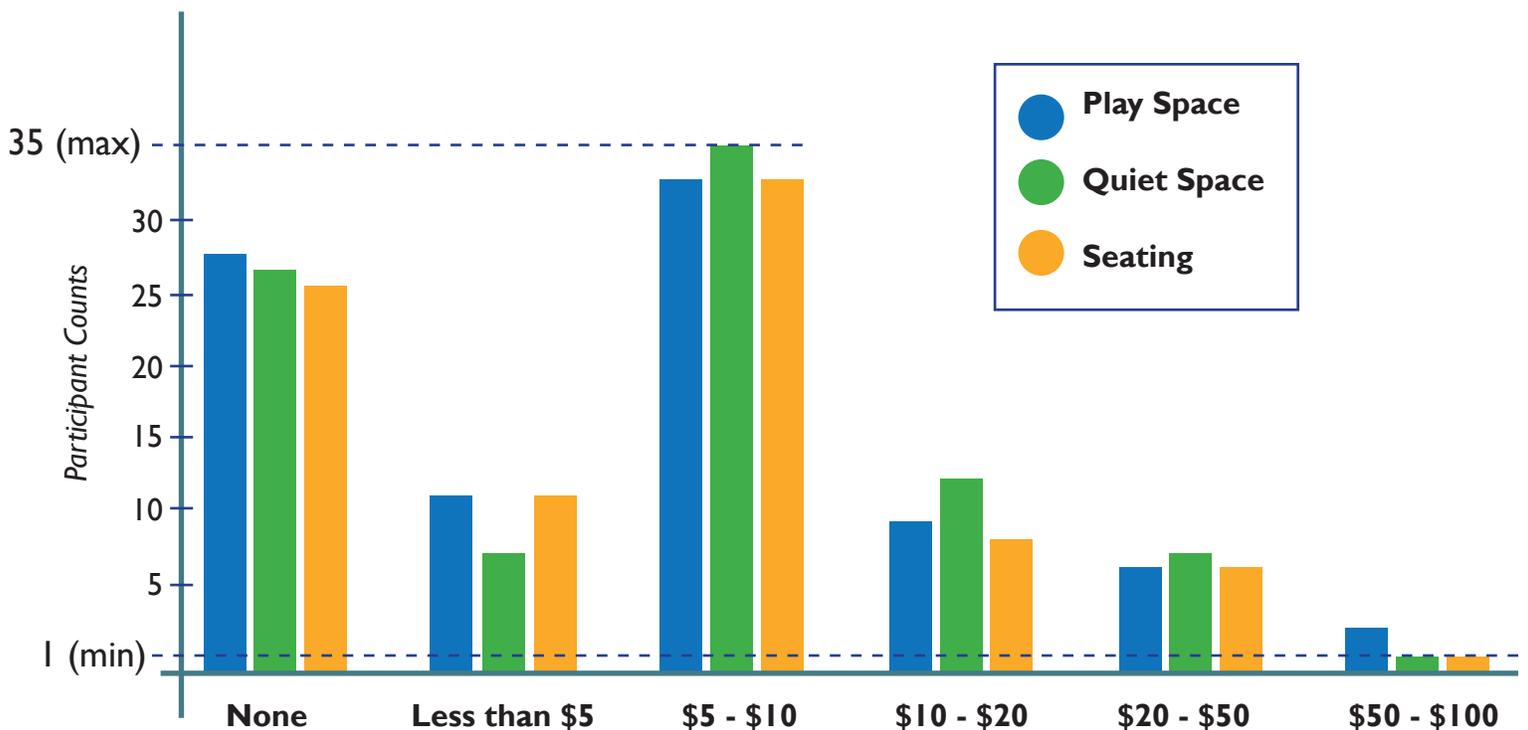
The most popular option was to build one of each type of washroom stall, and the least popular option was to build five typical stalls.



Will you spend your pocket money?

For the seating options, space for play, and quiet space (tent), we also asked the participants if they are willing to spend their pocket money to have them in public spaces for Open Street Sunday at Alderney Plaza.

Scenario: The organizers of Open Street Sunday wish to offer more accessible options during the event. How much would you be willing to donate to support this? (This question is hypothetical. You will not be asked to donate any money.)



Most respondents were willing to spend some of their pocket money for all of the spaces, although a significant number were not willing to donate any money at all. This could be an indication that many people think these kinds of spaces should be publicly funded and that they should not have to pay out of pocket to enjoy them. Very few participants were willing to donate more than \$50.

Any Questions?

Please check out our website at www.peachresearch.ca. You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram ([@peach_research_unit](https://www.instagram.com/peach_research_unit)).

If you have any questions about the survey, or are interested in PEACH's future activities, please contact us at peach@dal.ca.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank everyone who took the time to participate in this survey as well as the community groups and partners who helped us make this event possible, including the Alderney Public Library, the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission, Mark Rayner, HRM Parks and Recreation, the Planning and Design Centre (now known as OSO planning + design), Cafe Lucca, and ReachAbility. We would also like to thank the volunteers who gave their time to help us with all aspects of setting up and running the Access Alderney event.



PLANNING FOR EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY
AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

