

**St James Township
Recreation Survey
November 2011**

Draft Report on Results

Background

- Survey is one tool for developing St James Township's recreation plan
- Used to collect information about what Islanders do for recreation and the importance they place on possible recreation planning items
- Survey publicized online, in newspapers, at meetings. Open to all Island residents (year round/seasonal) and visitors, since most recreate to some extent in St James Township
- Not a statistical survey that predicts what all Islanders would answer
- Survey open throughout November; 92% of responses made online
- Most BI mid/high school students responded
- Some respondents did not answer all questions

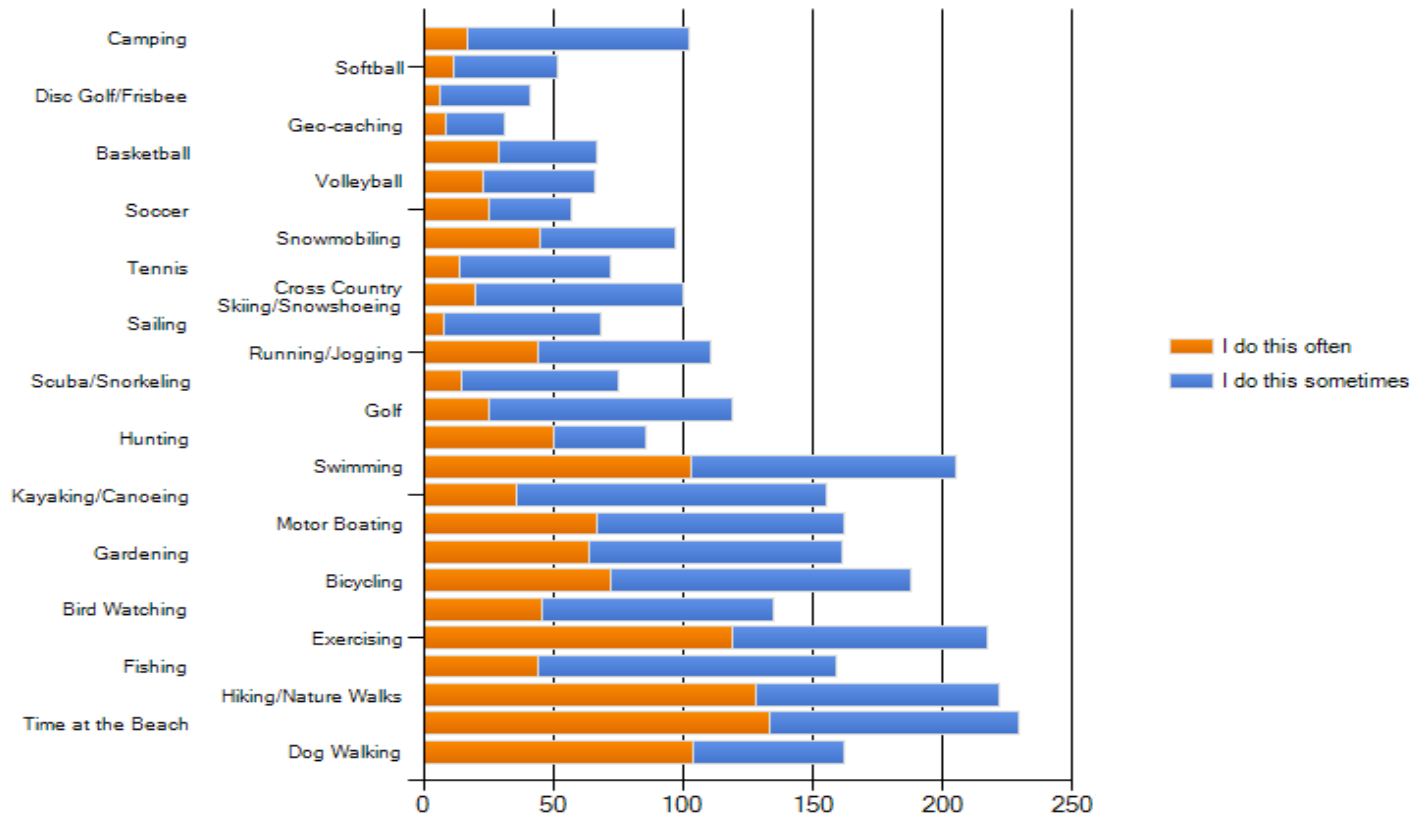
Total of 262 Respondents

Location	Total	Yr Round Residents	Seasonal Residents
St James Township	130	86	44
Peaine Township	97	59	38
Visitor	35		
Age	18 or Younger	19-59	60 or Older
	46	127	89
Gender	Male	Female	
	130	132	
# who, when on Island, stay at home owned by them, family or friend		221	

MOST ENGAGED IN RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Time at the Beach
- Hiking/Nature Walks
- Exercising
- Swimming
- Dog Walking

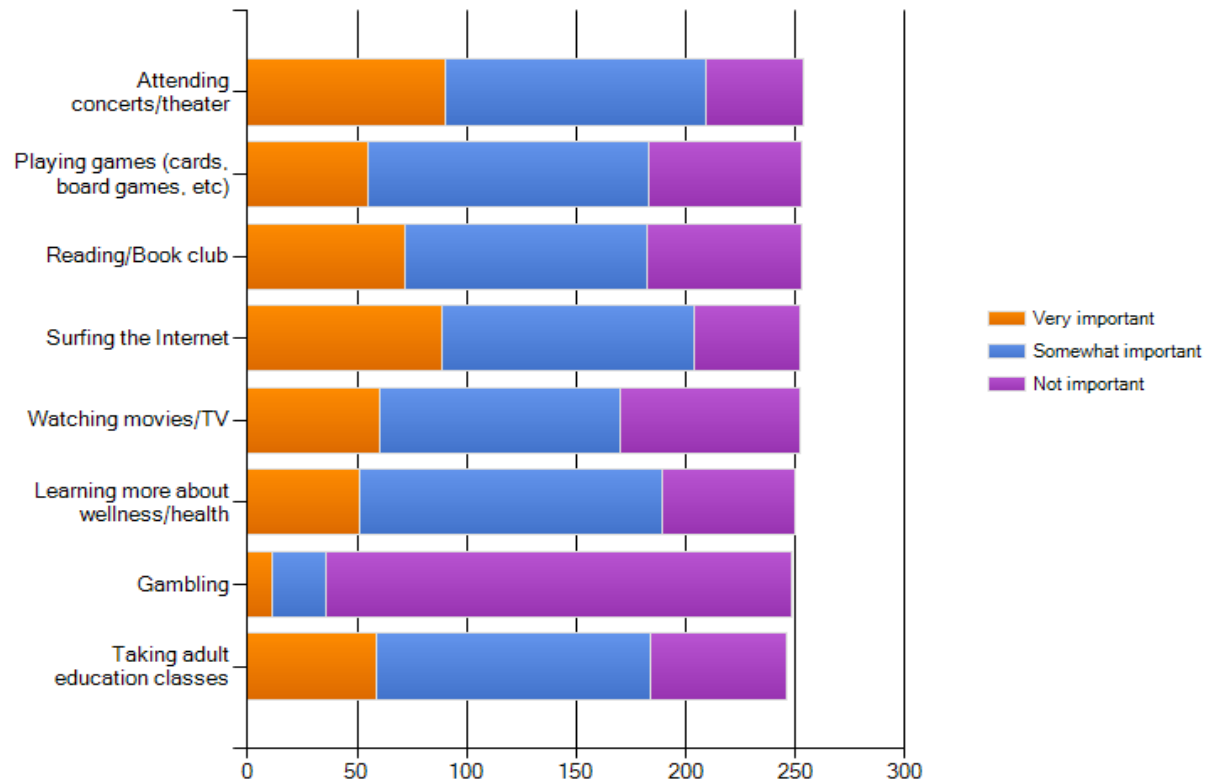
Please indicate how much you engage in each of these recreation activities when you're on Beaver Island:



MOST IMPORTANT LESS PHYSICAL RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Attending concerts/theater
- Surfing the Internet
- Reading/Book Club

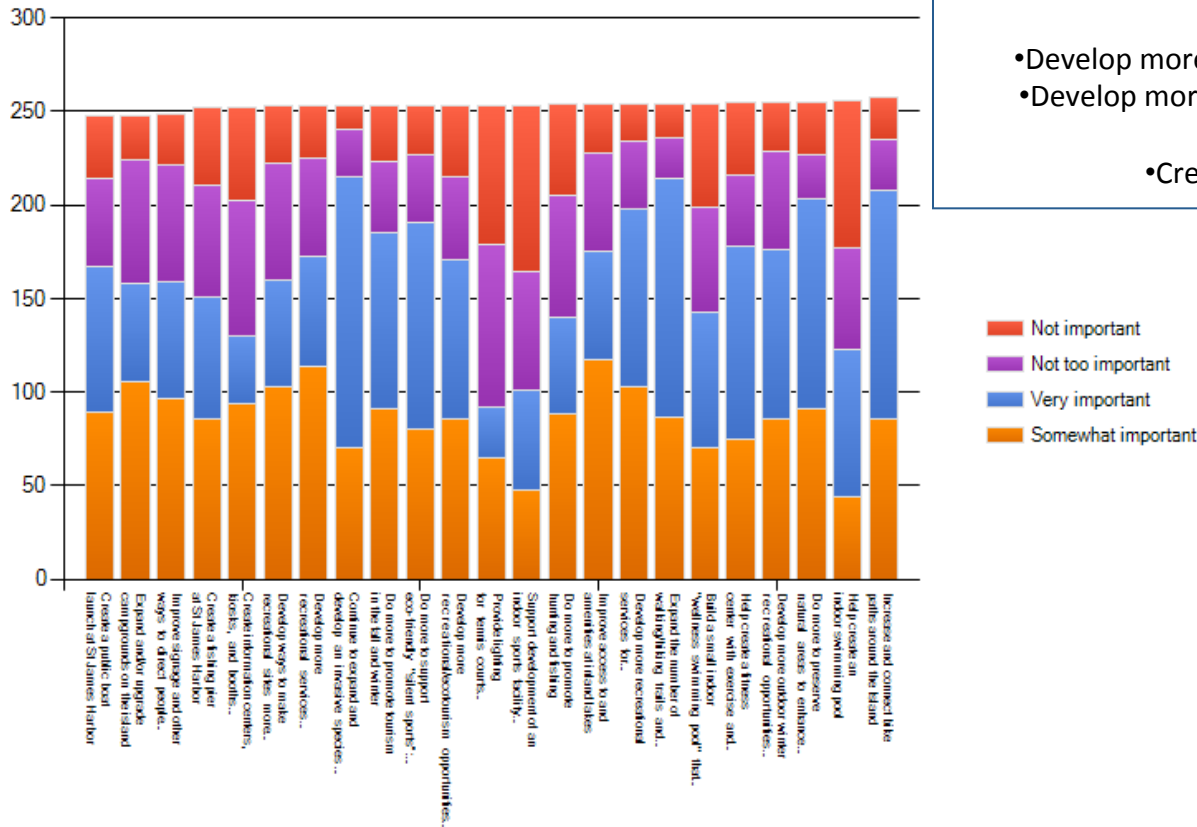
Which of the following recreational activities that are less physical do you feel are important for your quality of life?



TOP RANKED ITEMS FOR PLANNING

- Continue to expand and develop an invasive species program
 - Expand the # of walking/hiking trails and connect them
 - Increase and connect bike paths around the Island
 - Do more to preserve natural areas to enhance ecotourism opportunities
- Develop more recreational services for teens and children
 - Do more to support eco-friendly “silent sports”
 - Do more to promote tourism in the fall and winter
 - Help create a fitness center with exercise and strength equipment and room for classes
- Develop more outdoor winter recreational opportunities
- Develop more recreational/ecotourism opportunities on the other islands of the Beaver Archipelago
 - Create a public boat launch at St James Harbor

Please rate the importance to you of each of these items for St James Township's planning. (They are in random order.)



103 Respondents Identified Their Top 2 Recreational Changes

Top Items Identified	# of Mentions
Bike paths	24
Indoor swimming pool	22
Fitness center	18
Walking/hiking trails	16
Boat launch	13

Respondent Age Made Difference in Importance of Planning Items

- The 89 respondents **60 years and older**
 - Gave higher importance to “Improve signage and other ways to direct people to recreational sites and describe natural features”
- The 46 respondents **18 years and under**
 - Gave higher importance to:
 - Help create an indoor swimming pool
 - Help create a fitness center
 - Develop more outdoor winter recreational opportunities
 - Support development of an indoor sports facility

The 130 residents of St James Township (year round/seasonal)

- Engaged more in bicycling and motor boating
- Gave more importance to “Create a public boat launch in St James harbor”

Initial Conclusions