

A SHARED VISION FOR MEALS HILL

Stakeholder & Visitor Survey Results



428 Surveys collected

352 Community stakeholders | 76 Visitors



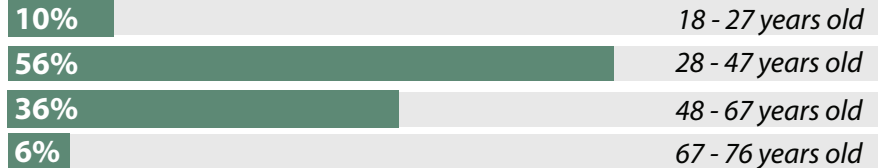
24 Interviews conducted

16 Community stakeholders | 8 Visitor agencies

About the **STAKEHOLDERS:**

88%

of respondents reside in Valdez



Age Range of Stakeholders



Significance of Meals Hill

...to stakeholders:

- 50% / Scenic views
- 35% / Close proximity to town
- 32% / Opportunities to engage in nature

...to the City of Valdez:

- 43% / Opportunities to engage in nature



Desired Park Elements

In order of importance:

- Trash cans & recycling bins
- Moderate length trails
- Kid-friendly options
- Allowing pets on trails
- Access to waterfront



Degree of Support

73%

Support additional development for non-motorized recreational opportunities

18%

Support improvement of existing facilities

9%

Do not support any development



Desired Uses of Meals Hill

Ranked in order:

- 1 Community access
- 2 Conservation
- 3 Education opportunities
- 4 Visitor access
- 5 Economic

Recreational desires:

- Hiking / 73%
- Nature viewing / 69%
- Snowshoeing / 55%
- Wildlife viewing / 53%
- Mountain Biking / 50%



Concerns Held

74%

Sustainability / Long-term planning, maintenance costs, poor signage

48%

Ecological / Degredation, over-clearing, disturbing habitats

34%

Users / Trash, dog waste, noise

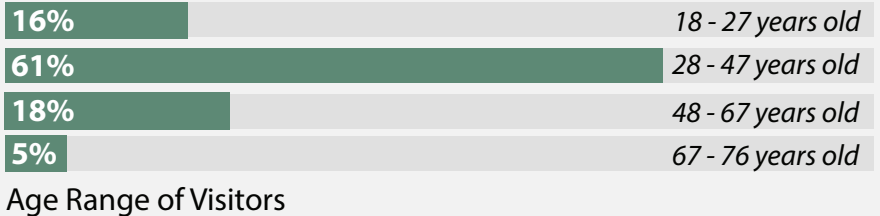
Additional Themes:

Conservation perspectives/Priority and preference by user groups/Presence of wildlife on Meals Hill/Current use of Valdez trails/Tolerance of bears and other wildlife/Acceptability of social conditions/Risk management considerations/Development preferences/Issues related to trail etiquette/Familiarity with Meals Hill/Environmental values/Preferences by frequency of use/Barriers to participation/Recreational gaps between desires and current participation

About the VISITORS:

72%  had visited Valdez *in the past*

28%  plan to visit Valdez *in the future*



Motivations to Participate in Nature-Based Recreation

Most frequent answers:

- Opportunities for scenic views
- Easy access to trails
- Chance of seeing wildlife
- Time-efficient recreation activities
- Clear signage and information



Barriers Experienced to Access Nature-Based Recreation



63% / Lack of transportation



50% / Lack of information



25% / Time restrictions



Visitor Recreational Desires

Hiking / 78%



Fishing / 44%



Paddling Sports / 22%



Wildlife Viewing / 13%



Desires of Visitor Agencies*

How can development best serve visitors?

100% Serve as attraction for diverse visitors (not cruise tourists alone)

63% Provide accessible opportunities

50% Design connectivity into town

25% Design opportunities for scenic views

13% Integrating places for visitors to rest

13% Integrating historical interpretation

Additional Themes:

Past participation in nature-based recreation/Intentions to participate/How development can better serve visitor agencies/Means of accessing Valdez/Influential elements to participation in nature-based recreation/Motivations for visiting Valdez/Mutually-beneficial elements for Meals Hill and the city of Valdez

*Some of the visitor agencies include the visitors bureau, cruise line and land tour associations, tour operators, and retail establishments, among other agencies.