



Waterfront Land Use Planning Survey



Waterfront Trail

A signature project of the Waterfront Regeneration Trust

Celebrating 20 years of Partnership



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Waterfront Land Use Planning Survey

- 46 respondents
- 74% Lake Ontario / 26% St Lawrence River
- 4 Case Studies:
Grimsby, Prescott,
Mississauga & Oshawa



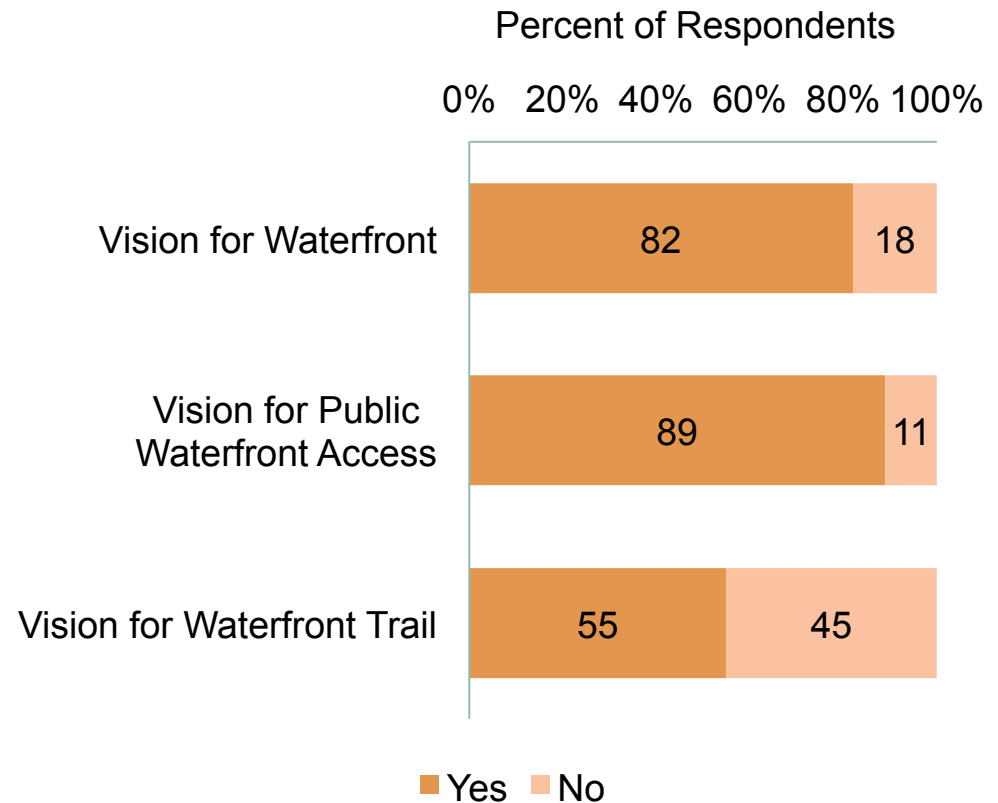
Key Lessons

- High level endorsement through **Official Plans and Strategic Plans** is important and leads to studies, funding and support for waterfront initiatives
- **Rural communities** less commonly have a vision in place for the waterfront or Trail and are undertaking fewer specific actions on Trail enhancement than larger communities
- **Master Plans** are key to balancing a desire for public space and investment to create waterfront vitality
- **Development controls** play a very important role in regulating and leveraging development to support waterfront and Trail goals
- Nurturing **partnerships** with shared goals can lead to stronger political support, funding and alternatives to land acquisition



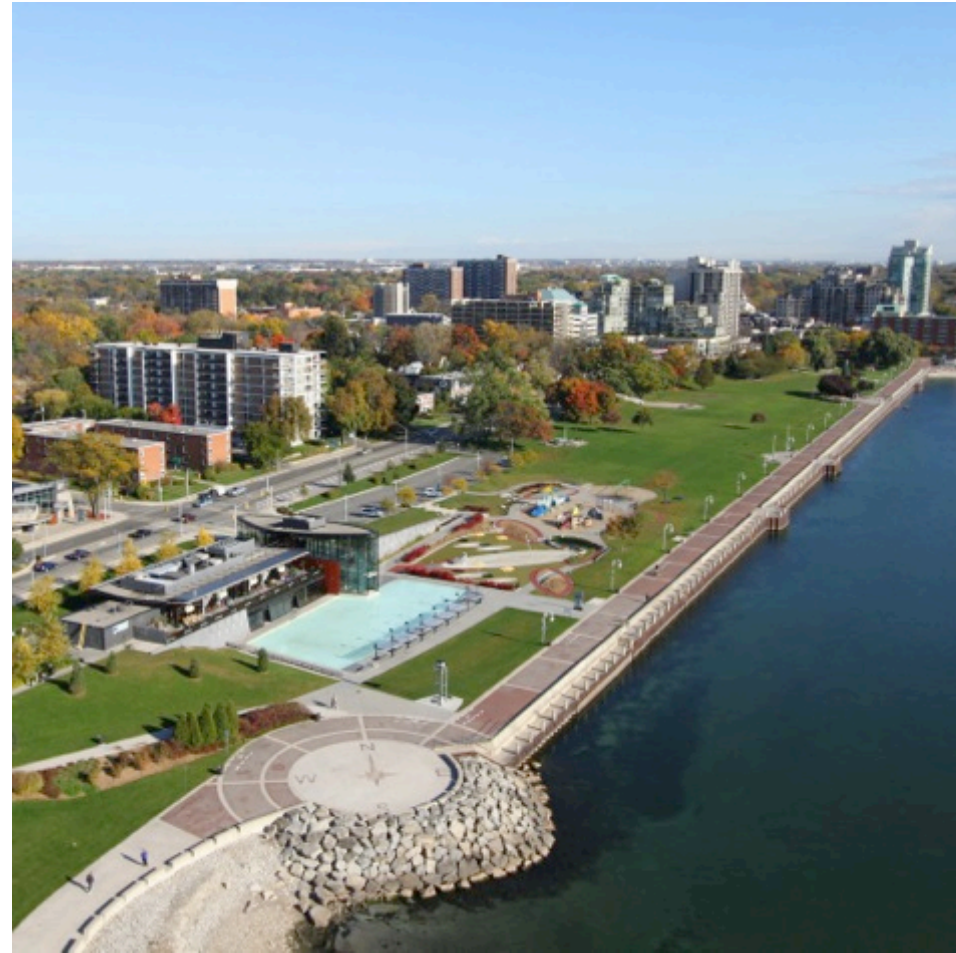
Waterfront Visions

- Visions emphasize public access
- Most communities have a vision for the Waterfront and public waterfront access, but fewer have a vision for the Trail
- Rural communities less commonly have a vision for the waterfront or Trail than larger communities



Partnerships

- Almost all respondents mentioned the importance of partnerships in planning or securing/sharing funding
- Challenges can arise when partners with land holdings have a different mandate or land use objectives



Partnerships

Most common partnerships cited by respondents include:

- Conservation Authorities
- St Lawrence Parks Commission
- Community groups
- Provincial/Federal governments & agencies



Most Commonly Used Planning Tools

Tools for:	Tool	% of Respondents Using Tool
Waterfront Enhancement	1. Official Plan	91%
	2. Strategic Plan	60%
	3. Zoning	60%
Waterfront Trail Enhancement	1. Official Plan	96%
	2. Strategic Plan	76%
	3. Master Plan	54%

These tools were also cited by respondents as most effective



Tools and Processes

Master Plans help to balance competing interests for waterfront land to protect public access and create waterfront vitality



Tools and Processes

Development controls are key to regulating and leveraging private development towards waterfront goals.

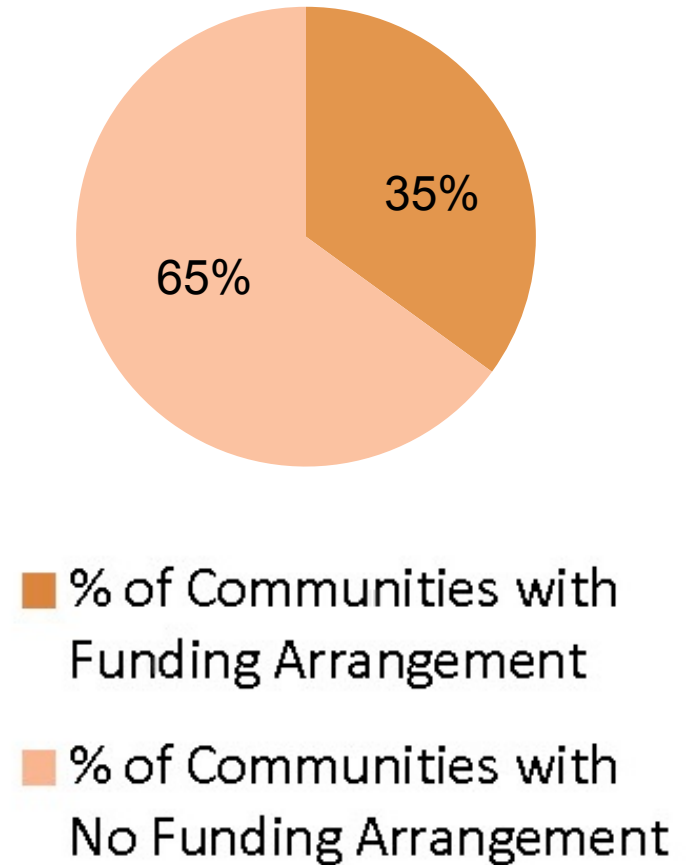
These include:

- Zoning
- Setback Requirements
- Access agreements/ easements
- Parkland dedication requirements
- Design guidelines



Funding

The majority of communities do not have funding for land acquisition or waterfront initiatives in place



Funding

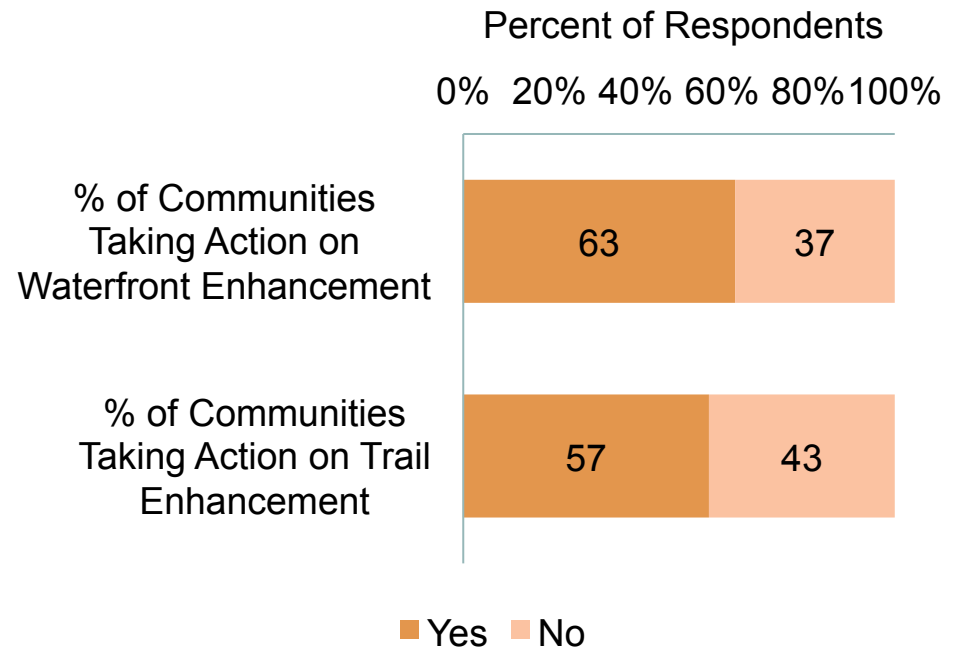
Funding/Acquisition Tools include:

- Development Charges
- Parkland dedication or public access requirements for private development
- Land trusts
- Lease agreements for public use/access
- Land transfers
- Long-term allocation of municipal budget
- Community Improvement Plans
- Link waterfront enhancement with other community development goals to share funding



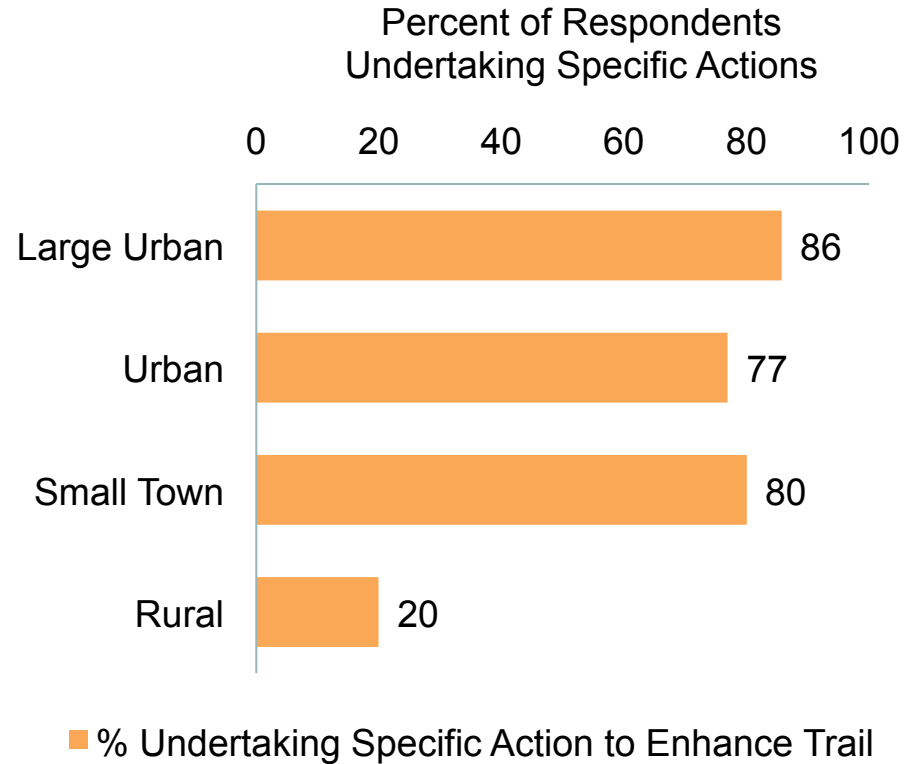
Taking Action

- Most communities are undertaking specific actions to enhance their waterfronts and Trails
- Lack of staff time and financial resources are the two key obstacles to taking action



Taking Action

Rural communities appear to be undertaking less action on Trail enhancement



Key Lessons

- High level endorsement through **Official Plans and Strategic Plans**
- **Rural communities** less commonly have a vision in place and are taking fewer specific actions on enhancement
- **Master Plans** are key to balancing competing interests
- **Development controls** play a very important role
- Nurturing **partnerships** can lead to stronger political support, funding and alternatives to land acquisition



Afternoon Discussion Question

What are the best ways to create and protect a continuous, connected and water's edge Waterfront Trail through planning tools and policies?



