

LOOKING AHEAD

CONSULTATIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE OLD PORT OF MONTREAL

RESULTS OF THE ONLINE CONSULTATION

SITE IN ENGLISH:

www.planoldport.com

SITE EN FRANÇAIS:

www.avenirvieuxport.com

BACKGROUND

As part of the consultation programme leading to a master plan for the revitalization of the Old Port of Montréal, interactive websites (in French and in English) were launched on January 19, 2016. These websites enable users to participate in online surveys and discussion forums, and to view and download information documents on the Old Port and the consultation process. In particular, they allow people interested in the process who were unable to attend consultation activities in person (see [link](#) for additional information) to participate in the consultation process. This report presents the results of the activities on the consultation websites from their launch on January 19 to the April 15 participation deadline.

ACTIVITY ON THE TWO WEBSITES FROM JANUARY 19 TO APRIL 15, 2016	TOTAL
Total number of visits	3,360
Maximum number of visits per day	452
Number of visitors who downloaded a document	892
Number of visitors who participated in the online survey	35
Number of visitors who participated in the discussion forum	56
Number of comments on the discussion forum	81

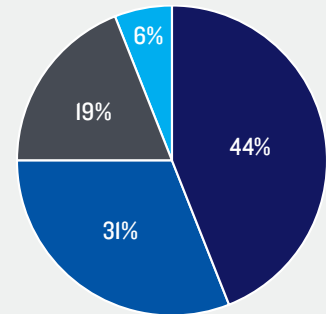
ONLINE SURVEY

Frequency of visits to the Old-Port

In general, respondents to the survey are regular users of the Old Port – 44% visit the site more than 12 times throughout the year – and more than three quarters of survey respondents visit the site during the winter.

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU VISITED THE OLD PORT SITE IN THE PAST YEAR?

- 1-2 times a year (6%)
- 3-6 times a year (31%)
- 7-12 times a year (19%)
- More than 12 times a year (44%)



Improvements to be made to the site

Ease of orientation on the site, site safety, and the number of activities and events are rated highly satisfactory by survey respondents. On the other hand, access to the river, the variety of shops and restaurants, and the quality of the layout and infrastructure are deemed unsatisfactory by more than half of the respondents.

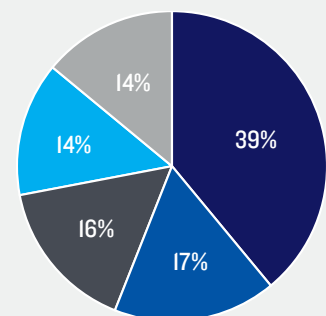
As for site improvements that would increase the duration of their visits to the Old Port, participants emphasize quality of the layout and infrastructure, access to the river and green spaces.

Site access

Opinions differed regarding site access. In response to the question “Does access to the site restrict its usage?”, responses were divided: 53% of respondents said Yes, while 47% said No. Lack of public transit emerged as the most serious impediment to site access.

WHAT IS THE MAIN CONSTRAINT WHEN ACCESSING THE SITE?

- Public transport (39%)
- Entrances to the site (17%)
- Parking (16%)
- The railway (14%)
- Other (14%)



Reduce or maintain parking offering?

The majority of participants would like to decrease or maintain the current amount of parking offered. 47% of respondents consider that the amount of parking should be decreased, while 42% consider that it should be maintained and 11% would increase it.

ONLINE DISCUSSION FORUM

This section presents a summary of the responses to the questions on the discussion forum and the open question in the survey.

Online discussion questions:

- How can the visitor experience at the Old Port be improved?
- Should onsite offerings be modified (retail, restaurants, lodgings...)?
- What types of improvements can be made to the site?

Open question in the online survey:

- Do you have ideas on how to improve the Old Port site?

Orientations and priorities

Among the elements that emerge from the comments, there is a desire for a comprehensive vision for the site in order to unify its various elements into a coherent whole.

The main ideas for improving the site can be grouped under the following themes:

Access to the waterfront

- Develop access to the river and find other ways to integrate water features on site.

A few ideas:

- (Free) beach with access to the river
- A “harbour bath” for swimming adjacent to the beach
- Interactive water fountains and/or a wading pool for children

Feature the history of the site and integrate arts and culture

- Recount the stories of industry, workers and immigrants, while highlighting the site’s maritime nature and technological achievements.
- Preserve views of the river and the city.

A few ideas:

- Guided tours of ships and silos
- Promenade unifying piers, locks and vessels
- Public art
- Music
- Circus
- Participation in the Montréal en Lumière program

“The Old Port is too charged with history to become ‘simply’ a commercial corridor and entertainment venue. It must evolve by leveraging its history, its uniqueness.”

– quote by a participant

“In developing the site, consider the residents and not just the tourists and visitors.”

– quote by a participant

Strike a balance in the site's vocation

- Respect the needs of residents and workers in the sector, while offering year-round activities for visitors of all ages.
- Expand existing green spaces, improve their maintenance, and add others.

A few ideas:

- Neighbourhood services (food, banking, pharmacy)
- Children's museum
- Quiet places for relaxation
- Cross-country ski trails
- A ferris wheel
- Go Karts
- Hotel on a pier or a ship

Review service offerings

- Change the range of services while infusing them with a Montréal flavour.

A few ideas:

- Public market
- Food trucks
- Products made in Montréal

“A more coherent overview of the different piers and a smooth flow between them.”

– quote by a participant

Improve site accessibility

- Consolidate and clarify traffic flows and respect universal accessibility standards.

A few ideas:

- Reduce the space dedicated to cars on de la Commune Street in order to share the space more effectively.
- More uniform, continuous bicycle paths and pedestrian walkways with better signage and maintenance.
- More rest and contemplation areas as well as seating areas
- Review of the interconnection with the railway
- Pedestrian or cyclist bridge connecting the Old Port to the park of the Cité du Havre and Île Ste-Hélène
- Improve waiting areas for buses and taxis and embarkation areas for cruises

Priority areas for intervention

Silo No. 5 and the eastern end of the site are the areas most often cited as requiring special attention.

In particular, Silo No. 5 evokes intense reactions on the part of residents who sometimes have conflicting visions of the site. While some participants suggest demolishing the site in order to replace it with other uses, the majority of participants would like to develop the site and offer different ideas on how to do so:

A few ideas:

- Guided tours of the silos
- Multi-media projections
- Painting/artistic graffiti
- Observation centre
- Green space in the surrounding area

CONCLUSION AND WHAT'S NEXT

The results of the online consultation activities, along with the results of the previous live consultation activities, will be taken into account in drafting the preliminary plan for the territory of the Old Port of Montréal. The next stage of consultations will take place in the fall of 2016 and will focus on the preliminary plan for the revitalization of the Old Port of Montréal territory. Please visit the consultation website for more information: www.planoldport.com.