

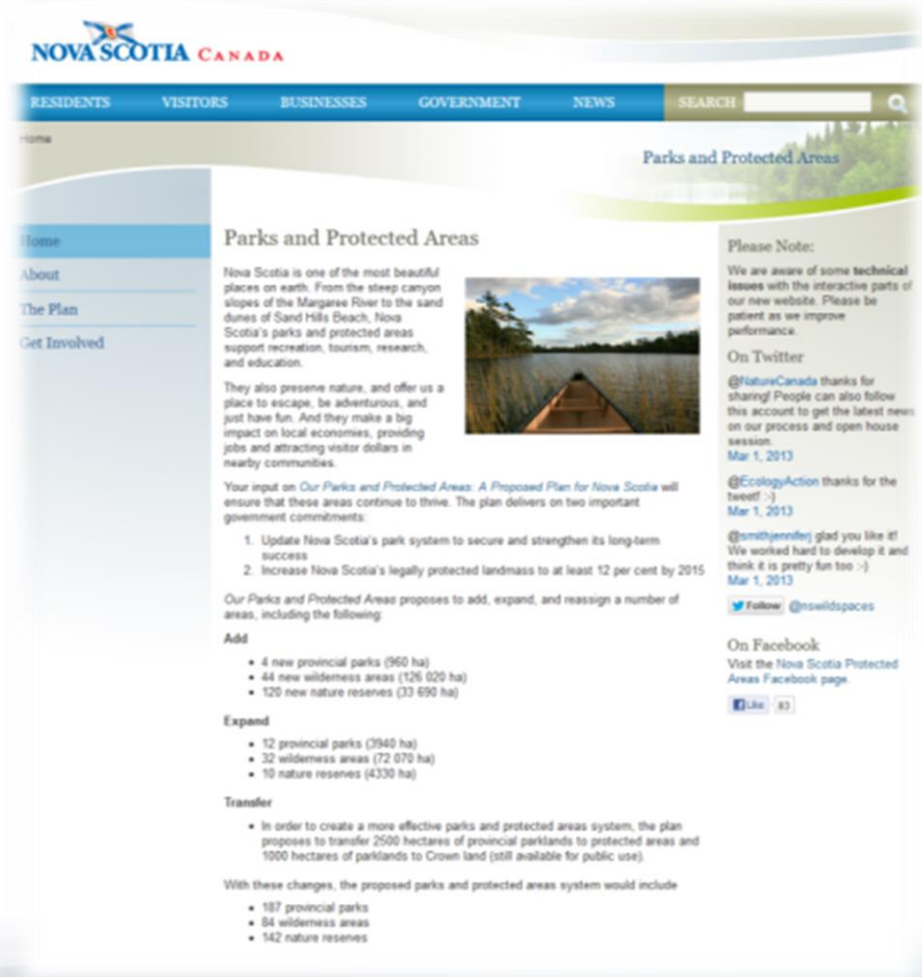


Pending Carter's Beach Nature Reserve

**Public Information Session
August 2014**

Parks and Protected Areas Plan - Consultation Approach

- 16 public open houses
- Write and stakeholder meetings
- Interactive web site



Consultation responses

- Over 13,000 viewed the interactive map
- Received over 2,000 public comments
- Majority online
- Almost 1,600 comments were site specific
- Almost 500 comments were general in nature
- Generally positive
- Diverse values

Next steps – Parks and Protected Areas Plan

- Currently joint management with DNR
- Address outstanding considerations for individual sites - as outlined in the P&PA plan
- Finalize boundary surveys and legal documentation to advance lands for designation under the appropriate legislation

Carters Beach – Pending Nature Reserve

- Identified as a pending Nature Reserve in the 2013 Parks and Protected Areas Plan
- Sensitive ecosystem
- Valued for recreational use
- Needs careful management
- Nature reserves:
Offer the highest level of protection for unique or rare species or features; they are used mainly for education and research.



Carters Beach - History

- Acquired by Chaplin family in the 1940's
- Formally recognized in the early 1970 through the UNESCO International Biological Program
- Portion designated as protected beach under Beaches Act in 1984
- Sold to the province in 2008 and held as a "park reserve"
- Committed to be designated as Nature Reserve in the 2013 Parks and Protected Areas Plan



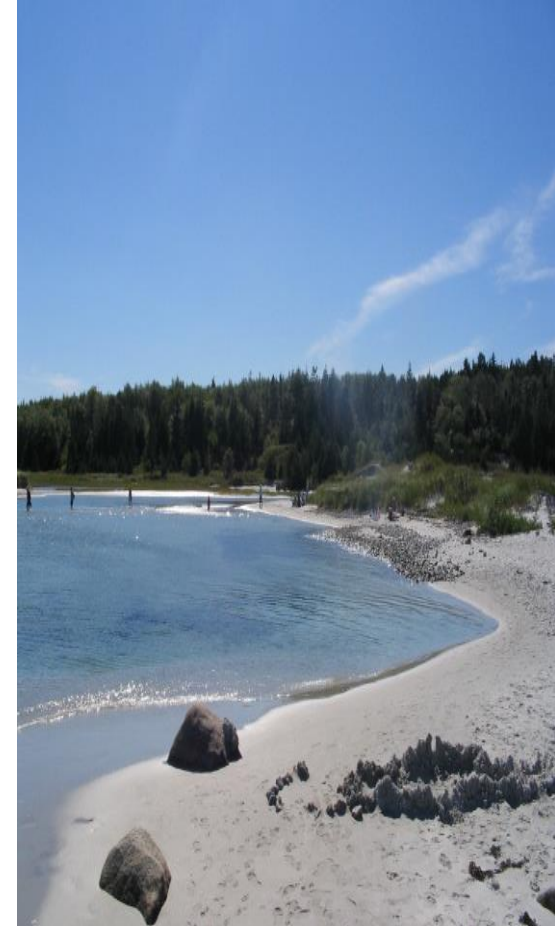
Carters Beach - Ecology

- Excellent example of full sequence of sand dune ecology
- Until recently nesting site for the endangered piping plover
- Rare lichens, mosses and orchids
- Highest dunes on the Atlantic Coast



Carters Beach – Planning for designation

- Staff attended a community hosted meeting about the area (Spring 2013)
- Committed to be designated as Nature Reserve - Protected Areas Plan (Summer 2013)
- Beach user survey (July 2014)
- NSE hosted community meeting (Tonight)
- Expected designation by end of 2015



Beach User Survey Results - Summary

- Carried out in July 2014
- Everyone approached answered the survey
- Lots of good discussion
- Total of 42 responses representing over 145 people












Beach User Survey Results - Summary

- 49% of groups had someone under the age of 18 with them.
- 69% of groups contained 3 or more people
- 74% of respondents had visited the beach before
- 69% of respondents have visited the beach for the first time in the last 3 years
 - 30% visited for the first time in 2014



Beach User Survey Results - Summary

10. How do you use the beach area? Check all that apply.

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Swimming		71%	30
Walking on beach		95%	40
Nature observation		93%	39
Sun bathing		79%	33
Relaxing with others		93%	39
Picnic/lunch spot		86%	36
Exploring dunes		26%	11
Other		24%	10
Other		5%	2
Total Responses			42

Beach User Survey Results – Most Favourite Things

- Sand (11)
- Water (10)
- Scenic/view/beauty (8)
- Wildlife/Habitat (2)
- Clean (1)
- No OHV's permitted (1)
- Everything (1)



Beach User Survey Results – Least Favourite Things

- Parking (6)
- Lack of bathroom (6)
- Trail to beach/Access (6)
- Nothing (6)
- Horseflies (4)
- Dogs (3)
- Crowds (3)

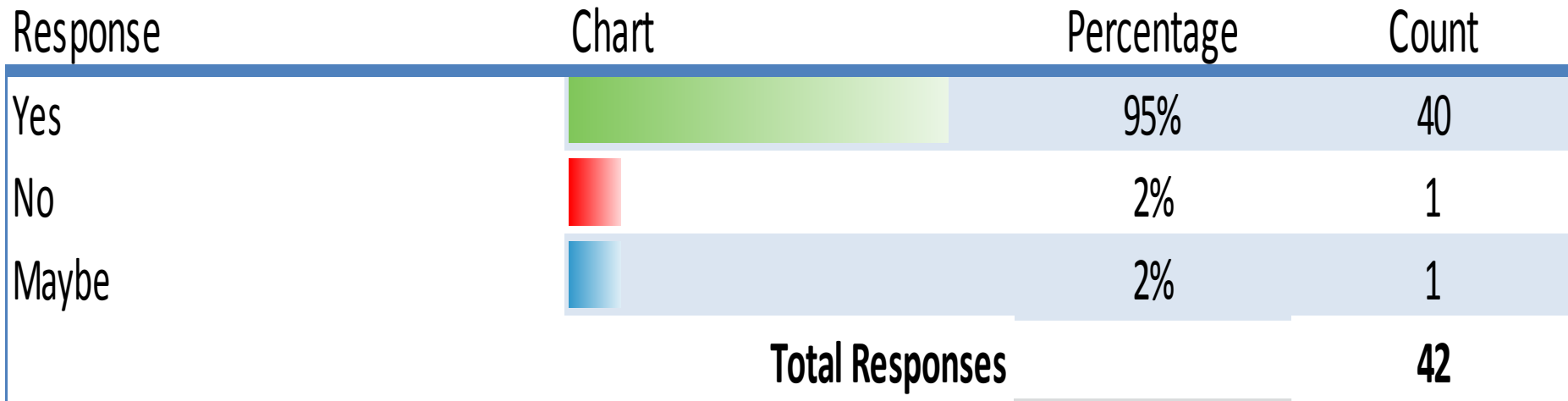


Most common user suggestions to protect sensitive areas

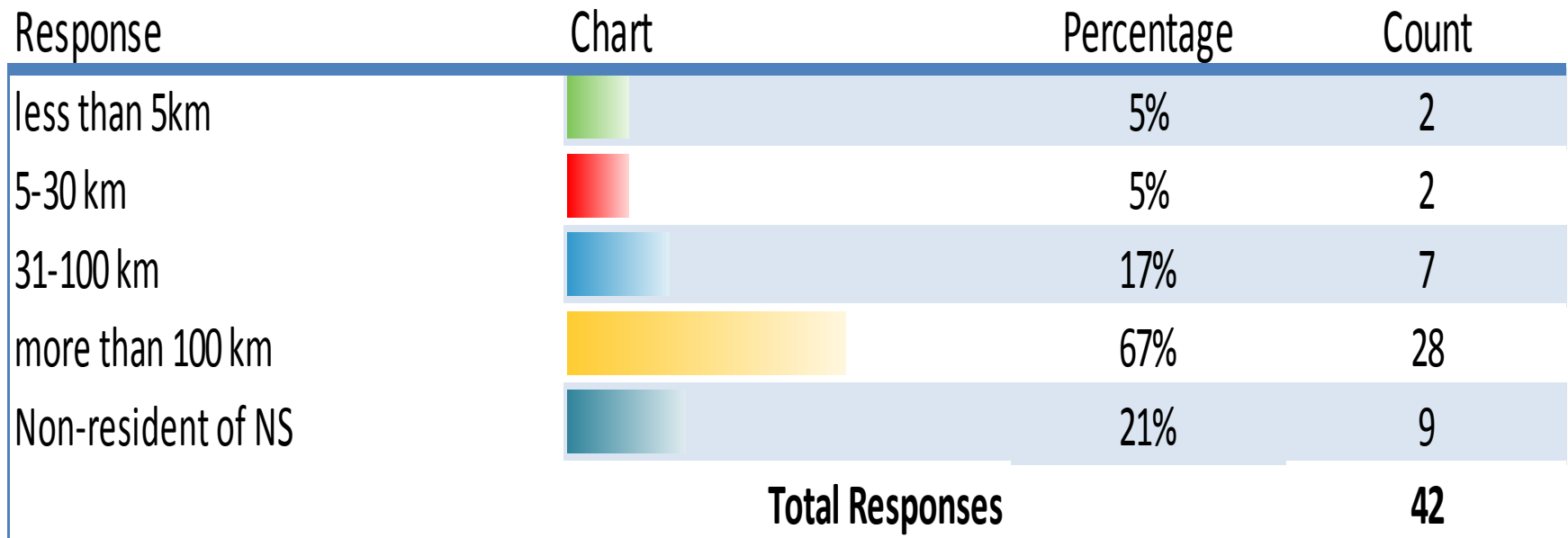
- Signs/Education
- Low profile fencing
- Trail improvement
- Access to washrooms
- No dogs
- No OHV's



Leave No Trace Principles – Pack in and Pack Out



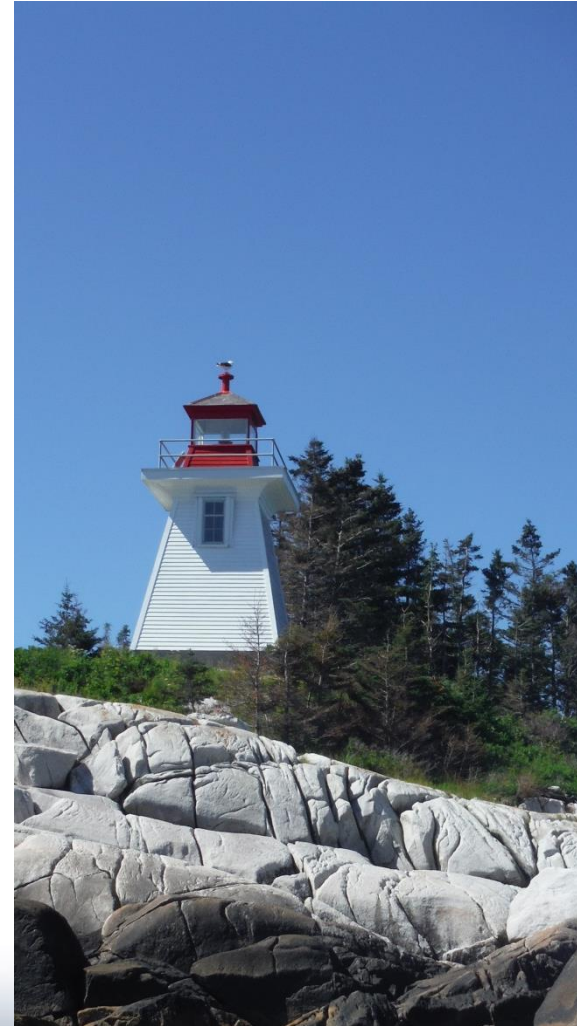
Beach User Survey Results – How far is the beach from your home?



- Ireland, Moncton, Alberta, BC, Boston, North Carolina, Ontario

Management Goals

- Protect and restore ecological and heritage values
- Continued opportunity for responsible public enjoyment
- Fostering community stewardship
- Provide local social and economic benefits



Key Management Issues

- Carrying capacity of the beach and islands
- Human impacts
 - Disturbing habitat and species
 - Garbage
 - Human waste
 - Trail use/multiple access points
 - Dogs
- Parking and beach access



Conceptual Plan

- Carter's Beach is intended to be designated as a Nature Reserve by the end of 2015

Conceptual plan includes:

- Walkway to beach
- Interpretive signage
- Trash management
- Floating dock and trail to light house
- Human waste management

Other considerations

- Work with TIR on parking options
- Dogs? Currently prohibited off-leash und the Beaches Act



Moving forward

- Is there something missing in our management goals?
- Have we identified the right key issues?
- Do the actions in the conceptual plan help address these issues and reach management goals?
- Any other suggestions?
- Intent to continue dialogue with community

Questions?

Want to know more?

www.novascotia.ca/parksandprotectedareas

