

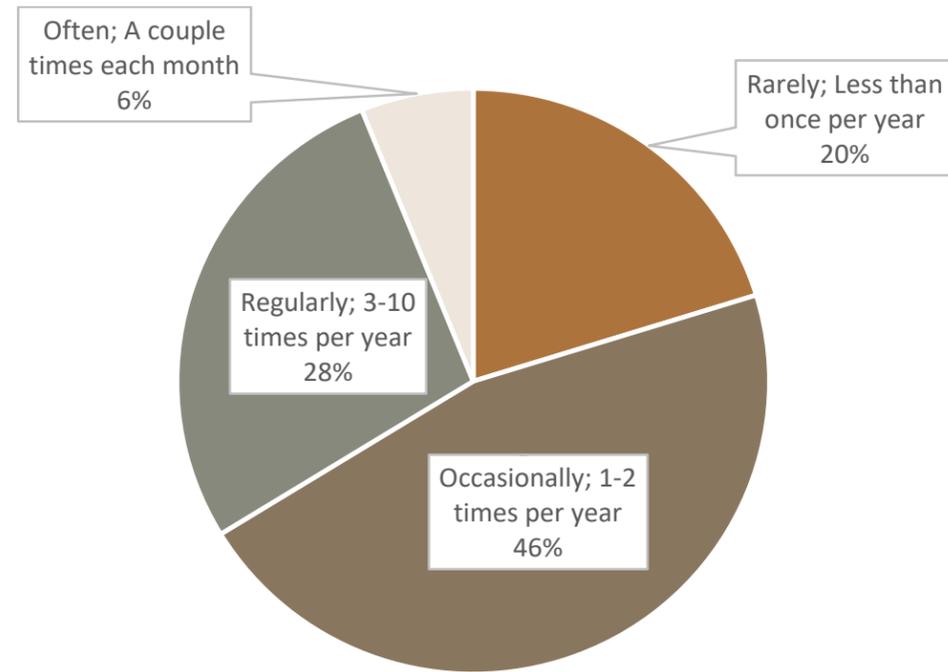
APPENDIX B STAKEHOLDER & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT DATA



SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

VISITING FORT SISSETON

HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT FORT SISSETON?

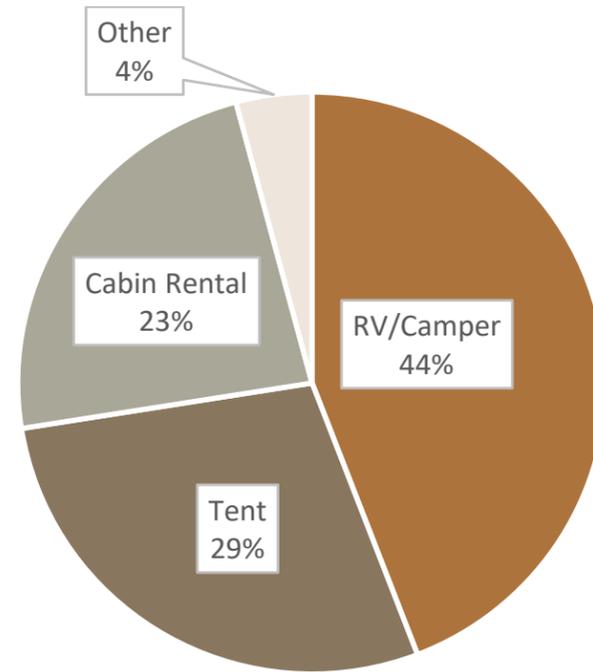


98% of survey respondents have visited Fort Sisseton.

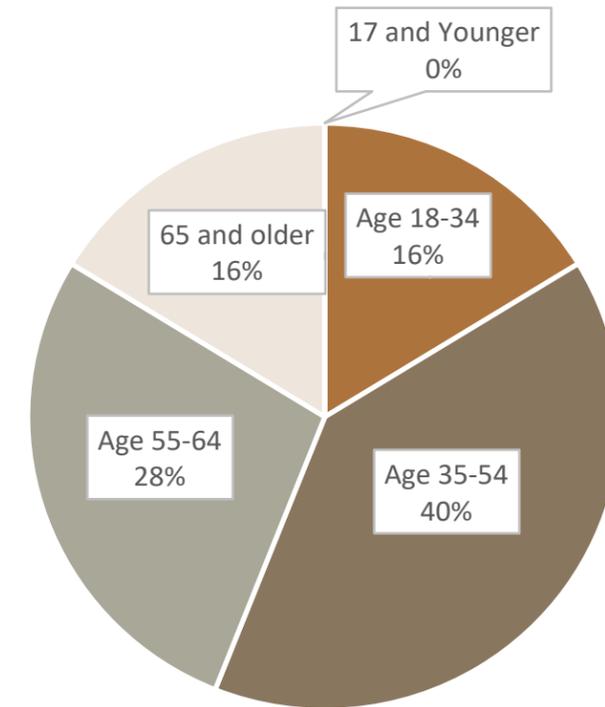
SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

SURVEY RESPONDENTS DEMOGRAPHICS

IN WHICH ACCOMMODATIONS HAVE YOU STAYED AT FORT SISSETON?



54% of survey respondents have stayed overnight at Fort Sisseton.



IN STATE:

- Aberdeen
- Amherst
- Andover
- Box Elder
- Bristol
- Britton
- Brookings
- Canton
- Claremont
- Clark
- Columbia
- Corona
- Corsica
- De Smet
- Eden
- Elkton
- Estelline

- Frederick
- Grenville
- Groton
- Hartford
- Hot Springs
- Humboldt
- Huron
- Lake City
- Langford
- Lemmon
- Mellette
- Milbank
- Mitchell
- New Effington
- Ortle
- Peever
- Pierre

- Rapid City
- Redfield
- Renner
- Rosholt
- Roslyn
- Sioux Falls
- Sisseton
- Stockholm
- Tulare
- Warner
- Watertown
- Webster
- White
- Wilmot

OUT OF STATE:

- Florida
- Sidney, IA
- Beardsley, MN
- Crystal, MN
- Hawley, MN
- Tracy, MN
- Creve Coeur, MO
- Great Bend, ND
- Hankinson, ND
- Havana, ND
- Lidgerwood, ND
- Mandan, ND
- Mantador, ND
- Verona, ND
- Omaha, NE
- Salt Lake City, UT
- Kimberly, WI

SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

WHERE ARE YOUR 3 FAVORITE PLACES AT FORT SISSETON?

- All of the Fort (54 responses)
 - The Barracks (66 responses)
 - Visitors Center / Museum (44 responses)
 - Officer's Quarters (42 responses)
 - The Barn (40 responses)
-
- Cabins / Campground / Picnic (27 responses)
 - Blockhouse (21 responses)
 - Trails / The Grounds / The Lake (21 responses)
 - Doctor's Residence / Hospital (19 responses)
 - Parade Grounds (17 responses)
 - Jailhouse / Armory (11 responses)
 - Boardwalk (9 responses)
 - Blacksmith (7 responses)
 - Cemetery (6 responses)
 - Shooting Range (5 responses)
 - The Berm (4 responses)
 - Schoolhouse (3 responses)
 - Festival Locations (3 responses)



SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

WHAT ARE THE 3 BEST THINGS ABOUT FORT SISSETON?

- History / Authenticity / Education (100 responses)
 - Beautiful Location / Quiet Scenery (89 responses)
 - Historic Buildings / Preservation (88 responses)
 - Events / Festivals / Activities / Reenactments (84 responses)*
-
- The Staff (39 responses)
 - Camping / Accommodations (20 responses)
 - Cleanliness / Maintained Site (11 responses)
 - Visitors Center / Museum (7 responses)
 - The Lake / Water Access (5 responses)
 - Close to Home (5 responses)
 - Tours (3 responses)

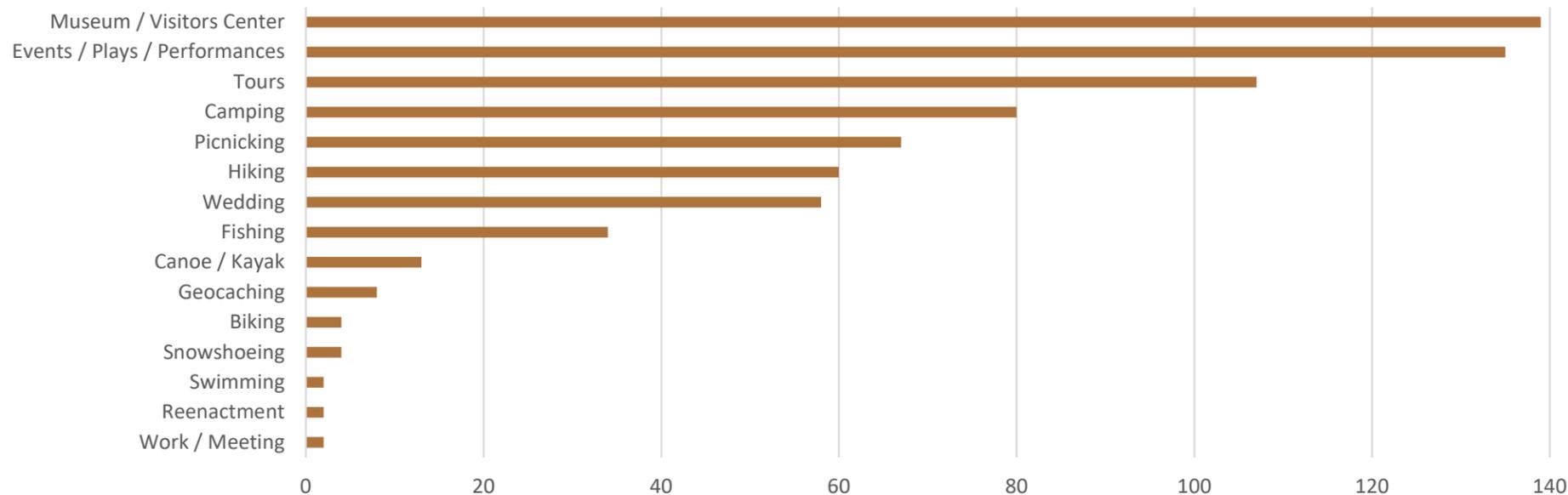
- * • 86% of survey respondents have attended the Historic Festival.
- 78% of survey respondents have attended other events at Fort Sisseton.

WHAT SHOULD NOT CHANGE AT FORT SISSETON?

- Don't change the historic buildings, cemetery, etc. (57 responses)
 - Don't change the events and variety of events (23 responses)
 - Don't change anything (16 responses)
-
- Don't change access to the history; Tours (9 responses)
 - Don't add more campsites (6 responses)
 - Don't commercialize the fort (6 responses)
 - Don't change the friendly staff (5 responses)
 - Don't change rental and festival rates (2 responses)
 - Don't change fishing access (1 response)

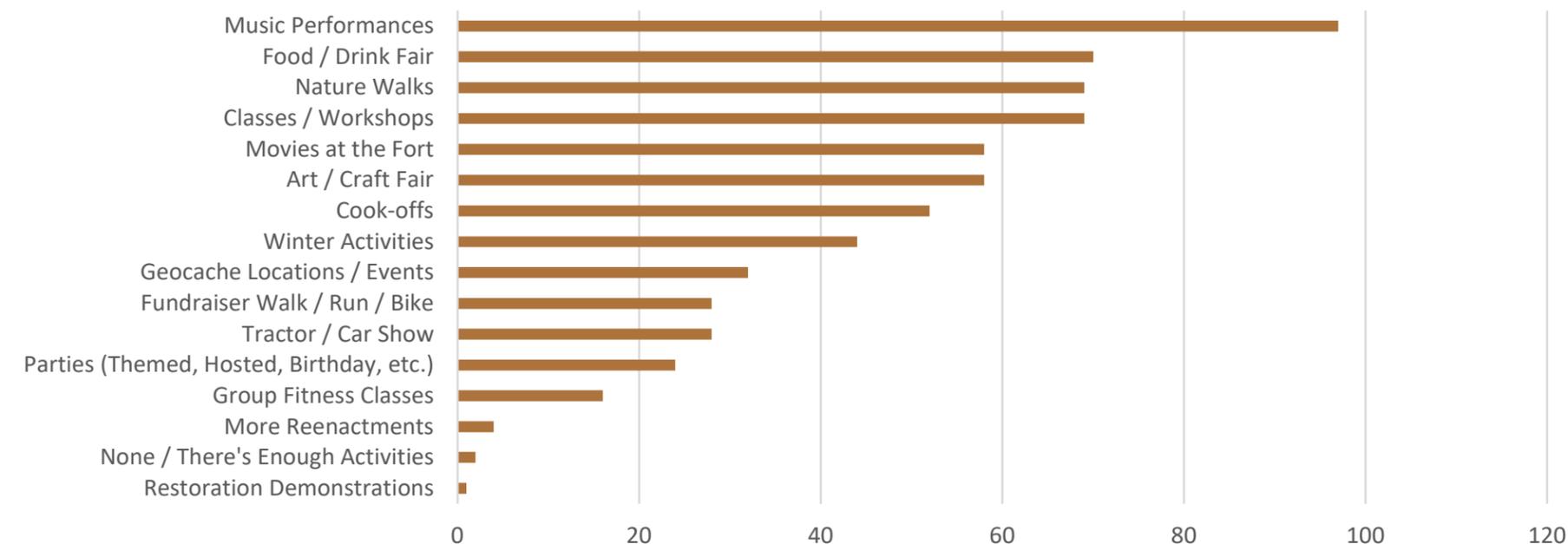
SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

WHICH ACTIVITIES HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN AT FORT SISSETON?



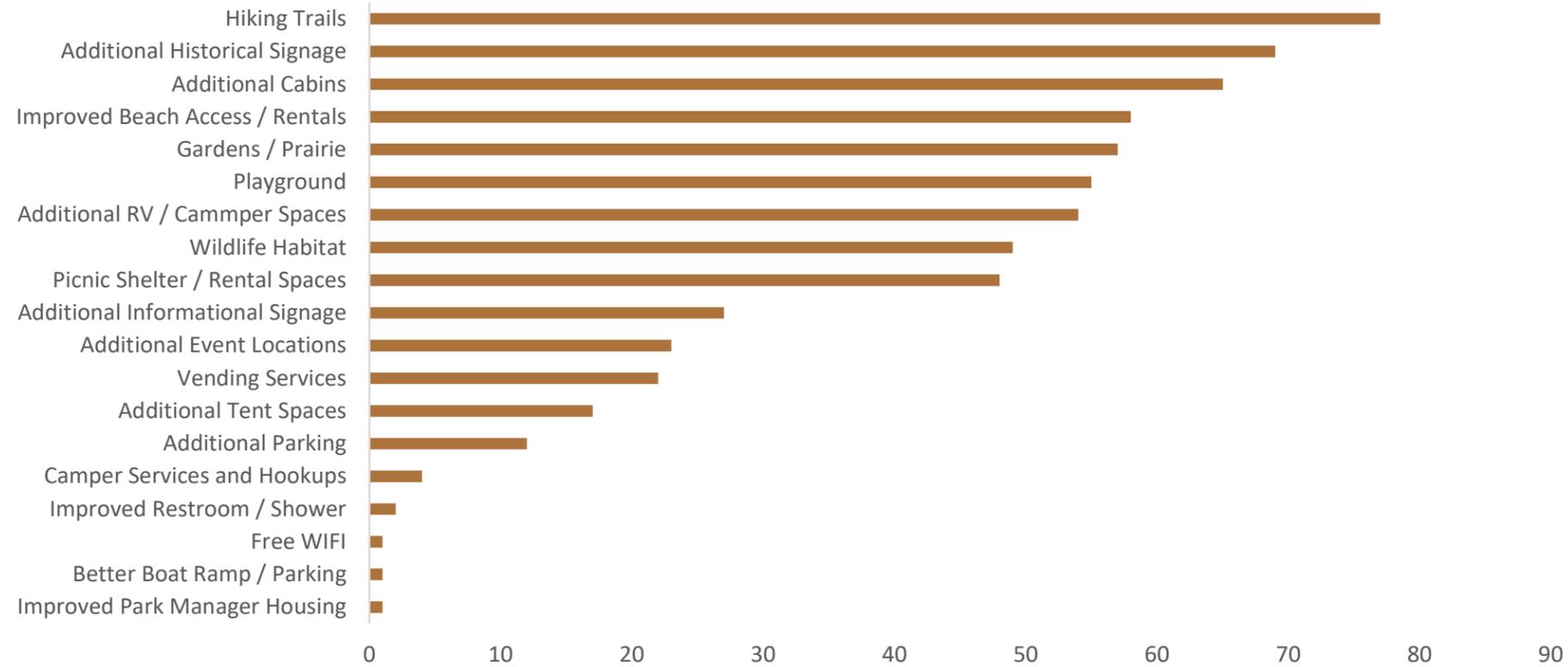
SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

WHICH ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU WANT TO DO AT FORT SISSETON?



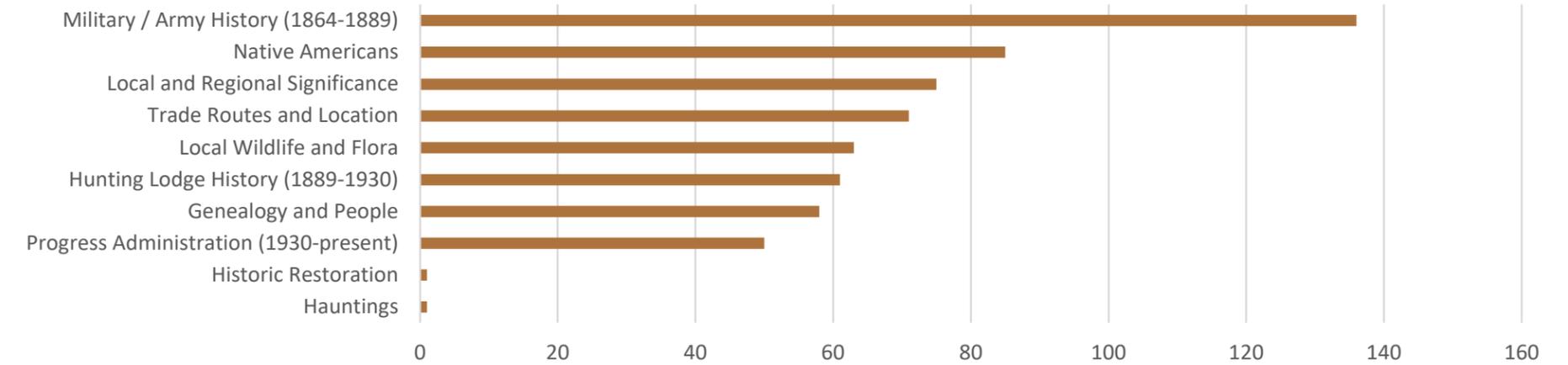
SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

WHAT NEW AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE AT FORT SISSETON?



SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

WHICH HISTORICAL NARRATIVES ARE YOU MOST INTERESTED IN AT FORT SISSETON?



SURVEY QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

WHAT ELSE COULD BE IMPROVED OR ADDED AT FORT SISSETON?

- **More campsites, cabins, and camper sites.** Full hookups and dump station. (15 similar comments)
- **A larger visitors center** with expanded gift shop, displays, and exhibits, and classroom. Park offices and conference room. (12 similar comments)
- **Continue building preservation/restorations.** Open more buildings for tours. (8 similar comments)
- **More family activities.** More activities for kids/teens. (8 similar comments)
- **More hiking trails.** Longer hiking trails. **Prairie restoration and interpretive signage.** (8 similar comments)
- **Swim beach, water activities. Improved boat launch.** Fishing spots. Fish cleaning station. (8 similar comments)
- More and **updated modern bathrooms and shower facilities.** (8 similar comments)
- **Playground.** Fort themed playground. Playground like Medora, ND. (7 similar comments)
- **Better advertising for the park.** Advertising for events, not just on social media. (6 similar comments)
- Festival: More food vendors, more craft vendors, more picnic tables. Better south side campsite access. (6 similar comments)
- **More events. More reenactments.** Rodeo/fun day type events. (5 similar comments)
- **Accessibility.** Boardwalks and **easier walking paths/sidewalks.** ASL interpreters and **accessibility for deaf/hard of hearing.** (4 similar comments)
- **Audio stations and interpretive signage.** More exhibits. More historical interpretation. (4 similar comments)
- **More picnic tables with shading.** Larger picnic area. (4 similar comments)
- **More outdoor recreation.** Disc-golf, playground, etc. (3 similar comments)
- **Food/drink vending not during the festival.** (3 similar comments)
- **Learning center** and educational opportunities/partnerships. Elementary through College.
- Don't turn it into a resort.
- Wifi for park visitors.

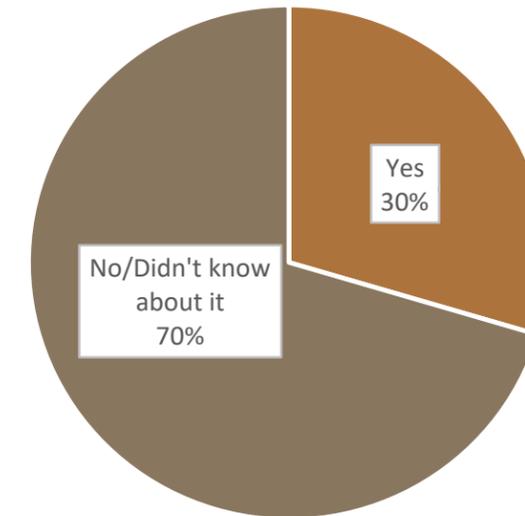
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“I believe Ft. Sisseton State Park as a whole could serve as a **learning center or remote campus** for SDSU, Northern State or Lake Area Vo. Tech. with **accommodations and food service facilities available** for educational groups from elementary school age to college level and professional groups. The site itself provides a learning atmosphere conducive **not only for historical studies but environmental, geological and cultural work** as well. Potentially this could also help the park bridge the need for staffing Living History programs, Visitor Services, research and maintenance of the fort. **The challenge facing the Fort has always been, keeping it alive and important to South Dakotans, when it is located so far from a population center.** While the remote campus idea may seem like a competing function to the Fort's primary mission, it very well may be the underlining driver to its sustainability into the future.”

-Rick Collignon

APP QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

HAVE YOU USED THE FORT SISSETON APP?



53% of survey respondents answered this question.

APP COMMENTS:

- I like how accessible it is and the relative ease in which it can be used.
- I love that it gives me all the **up to date information** on upcoming events and the ease of buying tickets for events.
- It is very easy to navigate and find what you are looking for. I like it. **It is simple to use.**
- Really enjoy the information they have and the **fun fact Fridays!**
- **The virtual buildings are cool.**
- Used it, enjoyed it while there. **Wish it was slightly more challenging or engaging.**
- **A little difficult to navigate at first** but the more you use it the easier it becomes.
- It could be labeled better, but generally easy to navigate.
- **Should emphasize more available activities for using the site for more events.**
- **The interface does seem a little dated** and could benefit from updates, but **the information included is very interesting and beneficial to the overall experience of Fort Sisseton.**
- The tours are great.
- Very user friendly. We need to have free wifi at the fort. Make guest login with their email address in order to receive free wifi.
- The app has a very crude DOS kind of look. It's just some text with some hyperlink text on the bottom.

MAPPING ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

MAPPING ACTIVITY | 171 TOTAL MAP COMMENTS

- The mapping activity gathered feedback following the 2022 Fort Sisseton Historical Festival and results were compiled on July 16.
- The mapping activity included these six icon categories to choose from and comment with.



More of This



Trail Idea



Needs Work



Favorite Place



Redevelop This Area



Idea



Short Survey + Mapping Activity

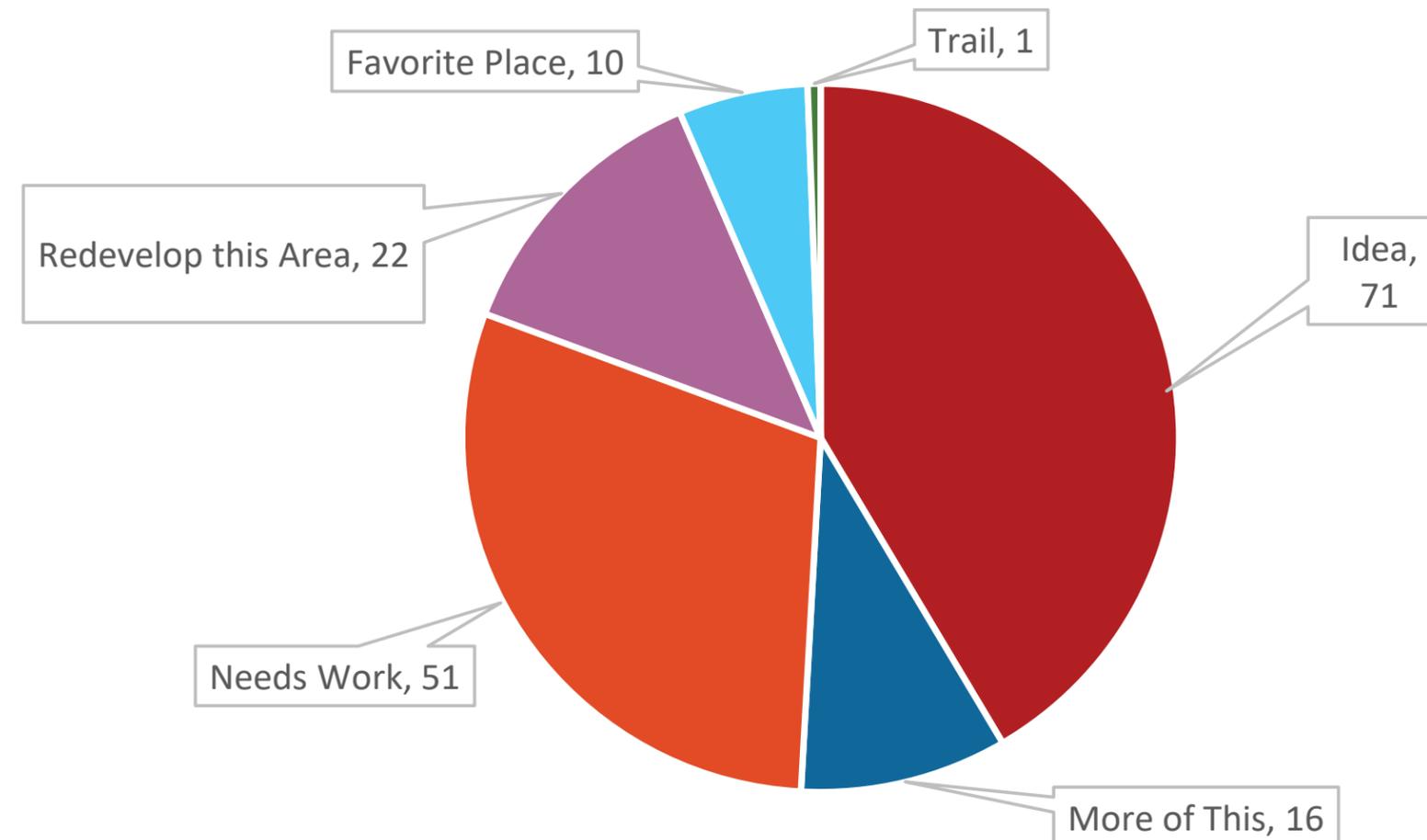
Complete a short survey and then add your opinions to a map of Fort Sisseton!

START 3 Jun 2022

END 16 Jul 2022

[Click Here to Start!](#)

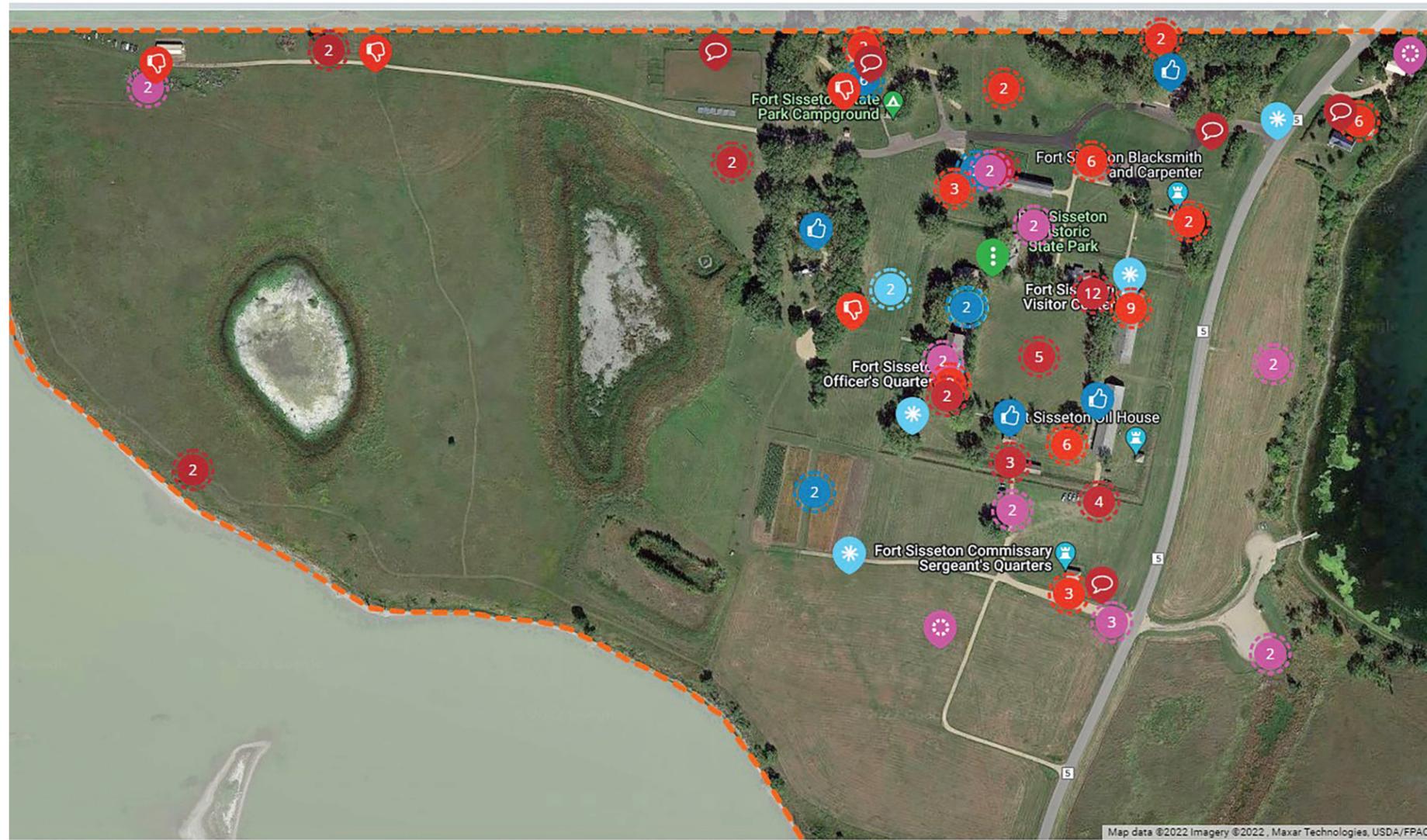
MAPPING ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY





MAPPING WEBSITE: ALL RESPONSES

- Drag to comment >
- More of This
- Trail or Sidewalk Route Idea
- Needs Work
- Favorite Place
- Redevelop This Area
- Idea
- Info Markers





MAPPING: IDEA

IDEA



Map data ©2022 Imagery ©2022, Maxar Technologies, USDA/FPAC



MAPPING: IDEA RESPONSES

COMMENTS:

- More camp sites would be wonderful but **do not lose the "small park" feel**. Keep sites spread out so there is plenty of room.
- A **playground would be a great addition**, especially if near a picnic shelter and close to the camping area. Better Classroom with running water and bathroom.
- Maybe place a **restroom closer to each of the entrance points** for people coming in from the drive. The north entrance has one, but I don't believe the south one does. More bathrooms are never a bad thing!
- **Signage and maps about the (historic) trails** that people used to get to the fort would be a nice add.
- **Signage somewhere along the path** to indicate it is here would be nice. **I didn't know they (the trails) were there in the first place**.
- Updated interpretive displays would be a nice way to refresh the visitors center. New videos and **better entrance to gift shop**.
- There should be signs on all the buildings that are only open via guided tour to indicate such.
- **A small theatre for the movie** that's currently shown by the flag.
- Professional signage near a clock/front desk indicating the tour times would be beneficial.
- **Maintain the historical value of this site! Keep and restore it to the fullest authenticity.**
- Could the (rodeo) arena be used for more events than just during festival? seems like a lot of expense for one or two events a year.
- A museum curator position should be created to focus on the buildings, restoration, and displays among other things, position should be based here, 80% dedicated to fort Sisseton, 20% to assist other state parks with historical buildings.
- **Build a new visitor's center with storage space for artifacts.**
- **An adequate tornado shelter** would be a nice addition for improved safety of campers and visitors to Fort Sisseton.
- Possibly rent out the stalls in the barn for horseback riders.
- I like the idea of making this (south berm entrance) the main entrance with a new updated visitor center.
- Create a more symbiotic relationship with boat launch. Improve parking lot, build visitor center that includes space for safe and secure storage of artifacts.
- **It's currently difficult for people with mobility concerns to attend events in the South Barracks (or anywhere at the Fort, but that's usually where the larger events are held). It would be nice if they could drive up close and have easy access if in wheelchairs or difficulty walking.**
- **Recreate this blockhouse (SE corner)**
- Updated interpretation would be a good thing on this trail. Maybe a **better pollinator plot area** as well.
- **The trail is nice**, but needs something not sure what it is. **Lacks interpretation it seems, does not seem to be used much.**
- If there were a **swimming access** here, along with existing fishing, is there also room for camper hookups/cabins, tent space? If not, how about a picnic shelter that could be rented.
- **A small picnic shelter and maybe a sand volleyball court and playground.**



MAPPING: MORE OF THIS

MORE OF THIS



MAPPING: MORE OF THIS RESPONSES

COMMENTS:

- The restored buildings look fantastic.
- I like how much room there is between camp sites. Makes the experience of camping much more pleasant.
- Very happy to see restoration going on in this building. Keep up the good work.
- Site needs more electrical sites for RV's. Also, an RV waste dumping station is needed.
- Add more space for fall festival, sell fall produce at festival.
- Replace aged trees for shade
- Upgrade bath house to expand the season, Great job utilizing the interior of the existing space for modern use. Upgrade windows and ventilation. (Staff does a great job maintaining this area for the installation).
- This is HANDS DOWN the cleanest bathhouse and bathroom I have ever seen at a state park!
- This (existing) picnic shelter is unknown and under appreciated. We used it for car club events in the past and it is perfect. Most people don't even know about it.
- I love this campground. Very pleasant place to stay.
- This facility is great. Air conditioning was a super improvement back when it was installed. The stage setup feels correct for that historical significance experience.
- Would love more cabins! More campsites.
- Love the garden and how it is used for both Historical and Harvest Festival. What about a three sister garden? Pollinator aspect too?
- Great campground that is small and personal which is nice, but needs updates.



MAPPING: NEEDS WORK

NEEDS WORK



MAPPING: NEEDS WORK RESPONSES

COMMENTS:

- This area (north by campsites) always floods and takes away from event space. This area floods during the spring, could use a drainage system.
- This outhouse (near picnic shelter) is always dirty and muddy. looks like it floods a lot. I'd move it up closer to the picnic shelter or add actual flush toilets at the picnic shelter.
- More parking is needed for events. Maybe change entrance to the South? It's a large parking lot that is used during weddings and Festival already.
- Better Park Manager housing. It seems old and like it needs a lot of work. Build a house that fits in to the style of the fort. From what I can see, this shop seems small. Do they have what they need and enough space? Offer proper intern housing.
- Toilets and flooring are not adequate for commercial use, these are residential quality being used for 100s of people at a time, of which they are not made for. Flooring and sinks in bathrooms need updating or replacement.
- A rv dump station would be great to see.
- Plant more bushes between sites making them more private
- Cabins are showing their age, time to upgrade and add more. These seem very popular. I always see them being used.
- Needs better signage that the main entrance is on the north side.
- Signage when entering park says to keep right, but no signage here indicating to go left to circle back to get to visitors center. Rather confusing entrance for first timers. (Existing Loop)
- The boardwalk is old and starting to show its age. It should probably be replaced soon to continue to be ADA compliant. The wood becomes slippery when it rains.
- Entrance Kiosk with a map of the park on this end (south), similar to what is on the North Side.
- Trails need better signage to show where they are and where they go.
- It would be a lot of fun and very interesting if there were more classes on the old way of working with hand tools. Some of the tools on display are not period accurate either.
- Even though the hiking trail has been rerouted around this storage area, it is still visible and kind of takes away from the beauty of the park. I understand the need for storage areas like this and agree there must be one somewhere, but maybe not here by the hiking trail. It also seems like that storage shed is a bit small. Maybe a larger shed could house and protect some of the wagons and trailers that are sitting around deteriorating.
- I love the barn. But the first few stalls when you walk in are being used for storage space for chalk boards and odds and ends it looks like. I would like to see this cleaned up and that stuff moved. If the horse stalls are really the best place to put that stuff when it isn't in use, then maybe the park needs to build more storage someplace.
- I miss the "classroom"/ "theater" space that was in here before. Seems like with the historical flag there it took away valuable space.



MAPPING: REDEVELOP THIS AREA

REDEVELOP THIS AREA



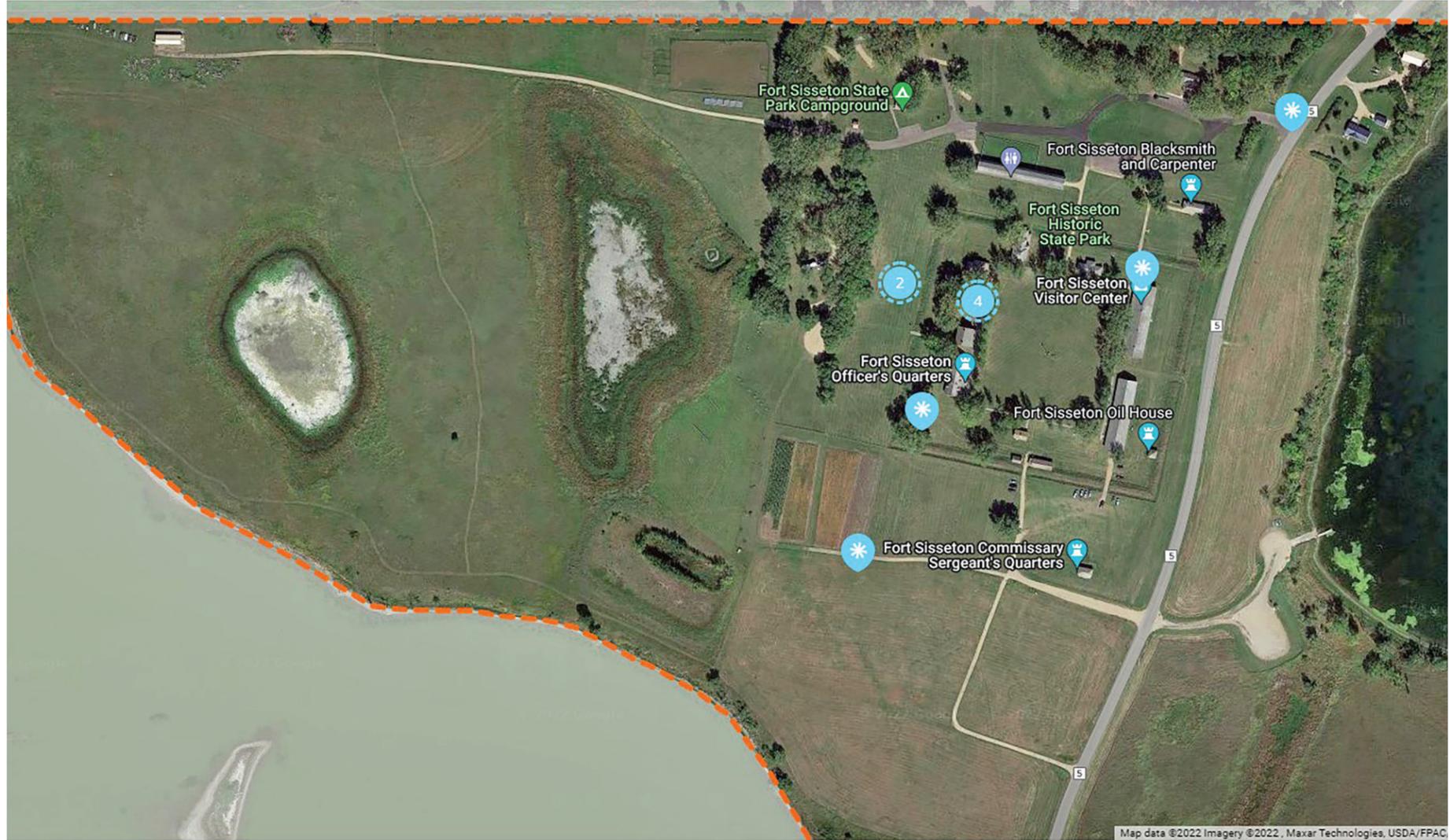
MAPPING: REDEVELOP THIS AREA RESPONSES

COMMENTS:

- A new visitor's center (on south entrance) that could include a research area, archives, better museum spaces, more bathrooms, and meeting spaces. Have all day traffic come in one location would be better. The south seems most appropriate as it was the main entrance to the fort back in the 1800s.
- Configuration for a new entrance maybe? (south end) More parking space and this area seems to be used more and more for events versus the north entrance. More handicap parking available down here.
- A larger shop with heated space for a carpenter shop for working on and restoring the furniture would be a great addition.
- More hiking trails would be nice.
- A campground over here (south of fort south lake) would be nice. Keep it spaced apart like the other campground in the park. All the room for each site is nice. But this would be a nice spot so campers will not disturb or take away from the historical feel of the fort.
- Excavating root cellars and having interpretive displays with them would be a neat idea
- Can we have a few horses boarded here so it looks like living history?
- A larger parking lot for boats would be nice as this area can get very congested during the spring and summer.
- This would be a very good spot to add a fish cleaning station. Most of the cleaned out fish end up in the garbage can and smell bad.
- Modern cabins with scenic over-look would do amazing here, (overlooking lake) or put in some full-service camper sites.
- Operate a "trading post" over here? (east side of road) Maybe it could have gas, ice, food, etc?
- Create a swimming access point.
- (Move park manager housing out west near maintenance shed) Park Manager House instead? Area seems kind of odd and out of place when you're walking along the trail and there it is. They did reroute the trail so it goes around it instead of through it.

*** MAPPING: FAVORITE PLACE**

FAVORITE PLACE



*** MAPPING: FAVORITE PLACE RESPONSES**

COMMENTS:

- The wedding area is beautiful. And it is so wonderful that the park supplies those nice benches.
- The whole park is quiet, relaxing and peaceful. Do Not lose that!
- Rendezvous during festival is AWESOME!
- LOVE camping during festival! love that you can make a circle/square with campers.
- I love the visitor center. My family has spent a lot of time here through the years.
- Beautifully done (restoration)
- Love the place
- Ft. Sisseton Festival - Milita encampment! :) Really like the new location! I would like to see it more leveled out though...hard to walk through.
- They have done an amazing job with restoration.



MAPPING: TRAIL

TRAIL IDEA



KEY TAKEAWAYS

MAPPING ACTIVITIES SUMMARY



KEY MAPPING ACTIVITY TAKEAWAYS

- **New visitor's center.** Added restrooms, classrooms, meeting rooms, exhibits, etc.
- Make south berm entrance the main entrance and new visitors center.
- **More campsites and cabins and better camping amenities.** Modern updates to existing amenities.
- **Improve signage all over the park.** Better marked trails, interpretive signage, directional signage, etc.
- **More parking,** especially for events, and better site circulation.
- **Better water access,** swim area, boat parking, etc.
- **Playground and other recreational activities. More hiking trails.**
- **Improve sidewalks/boardwalks** and building access for ADA and **handicap accessibility.**
- Better staff housing and park storage areas, hidden from patron's view.