

Ditidaht Economic Development Corporation (DEDC)

Caycuse Recreation Site Nitinaht Lake
220 (on reserve)
800 total



Caycuse Recreation Site is a remote campground area located on Ditidaht territory and adjacent to Nitinaht Lake – a 23 km saltwater fjord that serves as the third access point to the West Coast Trail and is a world renowned wind and kite-surfing destination.

2 Recreation site project

The idea to expand the campground, provide beach access and build a 5.1km trail and restrooms is part of the larger “Unleash the Nitinaht” community-led initiative developed by the DEDC in 2000.

3 ICET Partnership

The DEDC received ICET support to expand the entire recreation site adding 52 more camp sites, a parking lot, a washroom and shower facilities, sewer treatment, water, electricity and waste facilities, signage and a 5.1 km multi-use trail that links to the Looper Creek Canyon.

5 Community Impact

Approximately five local jobs and 14 construction jobs are anticipated, and total spending to the area is expected to rise to \$62 per day, per visitor. New entrepreneurial activities within the community have already begun, including selling artisanal wares at the beach, providing guided tours and consigning First Nation branded t-shirts at the local store.

1 Context

The 65-site campground was operating at capacity during the high season, limiting tourism ventures and the development of new businesses that could expand (what was) a severely limited visitor market.

4 Process

The campsite expansion took place in the summer of 2019. The restroom, trail and other works remain in progress, though slowed due to COVID.

6 Regional impact

Improved and expanded amenities at Caycuse will expand the visitor market to include families and day-users, anticipated to be upwards of 5000 people per year. These visitors must pass through Duncan and Lake Cowichan, which will increase regional economic impact and growth potential.

7 Spin-off benefits

As Caycuse Recreation Site continues to expand, more opportunities for exploring housing and accommodation will arise. The community would like to bring more of their people home, provide staff housing and redesign the local hotel to provide additional visitor incentives.



“ Last summer, after the additional campsites, we doubled our revenue between July 1st and September 30th. People were lining up to get in like it was a sale! ” Bryan Cofsky, Executive Director, Ditidaht Economic Development Corporation