# Sinaasiurvik Gathering Place Project Description

**Project Title**: Sinaasiurvik Gathering Place

**Project Contact(s)**
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Y / M / D

**Proposed Project Start**: 2023 / 05 / 23
Y / M / D

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Parks Canada would like to construct a gathering place in the Sinaasiurvik area, either at what will be referred to as the main site (figure 2), within the archaeological site 210x59, or at what will be referred to as the east site (figure 4). Both sites are within Sirmilik National Park (figure 1).

The Sinaasiurvik Gathering Place Project will have five phases:

1. Delivery of multi-use cabin to the Sinaasiurvik site.
2. Assembling of the multi-use cabin.
3. Delivery of cultural learning center, flag pole, outdoor sitting area and above ground fire pit to the Sinaasiurvik site.
4. Assembling of cultural learning center and outdoor sitting area, erection of flag pole and above ground fire pit.
5. Ongoing use and maintenance.

The Sinaasiurvik area is close to the floe edge and has been an important area to local cultures for more than a millennium. Having the gathering place within this culturally significant area and it being easy accessible will be a great service and benefit to the community. The gathering place will be accessible in multiple ways:

- Main access to the site will be by snowmobile from April to June. This access will be almost entirely by the local Inuit community of Arctic Bay with occasional access by Parks Canada staff.
- The site will have a delineated helicopter landing zone and will be subject to Parks Canada best management practices. Helicopter use will be limited to Parks Canada operations and projects (including projects involving local Inuit) and used mainly in the summer. Visitor (non-Inuit) will not be allowed to access to the site by helicopter. Site access by helicopter will likely only occur 2 to 4 times per year.
- During ice free times the site can be accessed by boat (mid-July to September). Visitor (non-Inuit; will be accompanied by a trained local guide or Parks Canada staff) access in this way will be limited to August and September. Access by boat is expected to be minimal (~1-5 trips per years)

The site will be of great service and benefit to the community of Arctic Bay in multiple ways:

- Inuit elders will be able to access the site safely and easily. This will allow the site to host gatherings where Inuit Elders can transfer knowledge to youth. The outdoor seating area and fire pit will provide a traditional environment for the sharing of knowledge and the cultural learning facility will offer an area out of the elements to share knowledge when conditions are not favorable outside. The multi-purpose cabin will allow these events to take place more easily and last for a period of several days at a time. These are events that will be organized and facilitated by Parks Canada on a semi regular basis.
- The gathering place site will give the ability for Parks Canada to facilitate in-park meetings with the Sirmilik Joint Park Management Committee (SJPMC), Inuit Knowledge Working Group (IKWG) and gatherings of local groups that would like to conduct traditional knowledge sharing. The meeting venue and outdoor seating area will create an area of comfort for these meetings to occur. Parks Canada will ensure the facility is used to increase these groups' connections with Sirmilik National Park and the park's connection with the Arctic Bay community.
- The design of the facility, being within the cultural site, will provide the ideal location for Inuit storytelling and presenting of Inuit culture to park visitors (non-Inuit). This is not an area that has had much visitation (non-Inuit) in the past, but with the gathering place infrastructure present, it will offer a unique opportunity for Parks Canada or Inuit outfitters to bring visitors to an important Inuit site and hear stories from local Inuit.
- Visitors (non-Inuit) to the site must be accompanied by a guide (Sirmilik National Park Management Plan) and a short training course will be offered to local Arctic Bay Inuit to become these guides. In this way, the site will have an economic benefit to local Inuit and create opportunities for visitors (non-Inuit) to access the site from Arctic Bay.
- The multi-use cabin, within the gathering place, will allow local Inuit, Nauttiqsuqtiit and Parks Canada staff to have a place of refuge from wildlife and poor weather conditions; this cabin will be complete with sleeping and cooking areas and will be able to accommodate multiple people and eliminate the need for camping or cooking outside when conditions are unfavorable.
- The gathering place will allow for Parks Canada and Nauttiqsuqtiit to have a base of operations to protect, monitor and interpret the cultural site and monitor activities that are taking place in the area (i.e., ship traffic, outfitters, area use).
- The gathering place can also provide a base for future research, such as Inuit knowledge studies, that can be conducted in the area.
- Inuit Guardians doing patrols in the area of Sinaasiurvik can utilize the multi-use cabin to allow them to patrol the area more safely.

**Project objective**

Outcome 1 – to get sections of the prefabricated cabin to the Sinaasiurvik site while travel is possible by snowmobile on the sea ice (mid to late May, 2023). Activities - Sections of the prefabricated cabin (approx. ten qamutik loads) will be transported from Arctic Bay, along the sea ice of Admiralty Inlet to an area (Gathering Place outline polygon, figure 2 or Gathering Place outline polygon, figure 4) deemed as suitable for a gathering place at the Sinaasiurvik site within Sirmilik National Park.

Or

Outcome 1 - to get sections of the prefabricated cabin to Sinaasiurvik by boat (mid July – mid August, 2023). Activities - Sections of the prefabricated cabin will be transported from Arctic Bay, along the waters of Admiralty Inlet to the shoreline closest to the gather place site at Sinaasiurvik (Gathering Place outline polygon, figure 2 or Gathering Place outline polygon, figure 4). The cabin sections will then be carried to the area deemed as suitable for a gathering place at the Sinaasiurvik site within Sirmilik National Park. This option was considered at one point but, following advice from Arctic Bay community members, is likely unfeasible for safety reasons and it was therefore not included in the plain language summary.
Outcome 2 – Assemble a prefabricated multi-use cabin at the Sinaasiurvik site in Sirmilik National Park in August, 2023. Activities – Parks Canada Staff along with Arctic Bay community members will travel by helicopter to the

Sinaasiurvik site. The crew will be dropped off at the site along with multiple loads of equipment. The crew will set up a temporary camp. Over a period of ten days, the work crew will assemble the prefabricated cabin at the site. After the ten-day period, the crew and equipment will be picked up from the site and returned to Arctic Bay.

Outcome 3 – to deliver the second building (cultural learning center), flagpole, outdoor sitting area and fire pit to the Sinaasiurvik site while travel is possible by snowmobile on the sea ice (mid to late May, 2024). Activities - Sections of the prefabricated cabin (approx. twelve qamutik loads) will be transported from a warehouse in Arctic Bay, along the sea ice of Admiralty Inlet to an area (Gathering Place outline polygon, figure 2 or Gathering Place outline polygon, figure 4) deemed as suitable for a gathering place at the Sinaasiurvik site within Sirmilik National Park.

Outcome 4 – assemble a second building (cultural learning center), erect a flagpole, assemble an outdoor sitting area and install a fire pit at the Sinaasiurvik site in Sirmilik National Park in August, 2024. Activities – Parks Canada Staff along with members of Nauttiqsuqtiit will travel by helicopter to the Sinaasiurvik site. The crew will be dropped off at the site along with multiple loads of equipment. The crew will set up a temporary camp. Over a period of ten days, the work crew will assemble the prefabricated cabin at the site. After the ten-day period, the crew and equipment will be picked up from the site and returned to Arctic Bay.

Outcome 5 – to have a gathering place for the local community of Arctic Bay and Parks Canada.

**Project rationale**

A gathering place with its associated infrastructure will aid Parks Canada in fulfilling objectives set out in the Management Plan in a number of ways (Table 1). This project addresses the desire of the community to have a cabin there, which will in turn facilitate safe travel, traditional activities by Inuit, and visitation by non-Inuit in the park. This gathering place can serve as refuge from inclement weather and wildlife hazards, host gatherings where Inuit Elders can transfer knowledge to youth, and support Inuit Guardians on patrol. It may also facilitate Inuit storytelling and presenting Inuit culture to park visitors. Furthermore, the cabin will provide a reliable staging area for staff who are patrolling and/or conducting cultural resource and ecological integrity monitoring programs.

Also, the gathering place will aid with reconciliation. It will offer an opportunity to bring Inuit on to the land for health, healing and to enhance connection between them and the land. It will help build a new relation with Inuit of Arctic Bay based on recognition of right, respect and partnership.

***Table 1.*** *Management Plan targets and description of how the gathering place at Sinaasiurvik will help meet them.*

| Management Plan (2016) targets | Project's role in meeting targets |
|---|---|
| ❖ **Planning Priority 4.3:** Address the Elwin Inlet-area cabin safety requirements raised by the Arctic Bay Hunters and Trappers Organization, so that hunter safety from extreme weather, sea ice conditions, and polar bears is jointly considered along with additional site opportunities. | ● This project is intended to directly resolve the long-standing issue of situating a cabin at Sinaasiurvik through collaborative work with stakeholders in the community of Arctic Bay, including the Hunters and Trappers Association. |

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| ❖ **Key Strategy 1:** Celebrate the Special Connection Between Sirmilik National Park and the Inuit of Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay<br>➢ Objective 1.1: Inuit are encouraged to use the park with their families and to connect with the land through traditional activities.<br>➢ Objective 1.2: Inuit are effectively involved in park management decisions.<br>➢ Objective 1.3: Inuit participate in and benefit from economic opportunities arising from the presence of the park.<br>➢ Objective 1.4: The stories and knowledge of Inuit are shared with all park visitors. | ● This gathering place will encourage Inuit use of the park, supporting activities and experiences that enhance connection with the land.<br>● The multi-use cabin will help to provide a place where the sharing of Inuit knowledge can take place in on-the-land gatherings between Inuit Elders and youth. Interpretive signage may be considered for this location in order to ensure that the stories and knowledge of Inuit are shared in relation this unique and important site. |
| ❖ **Key Strategy 2:** Developing Sirmilik National Park's Visitor Service Program<br>➢ Objective 2.1: Parks Canada, the tourism industry, and government partners will identify and promote visitor experience opportunities including an iconic arctic experience that will take place in the park.<br>➢ Objective 2.3: All park users are able to undertake safe and enjoyable experiences as a result of effective visitor safety planning, prevention, and response in cooperation with partners. | ● In this remote Arctic setting, infrastructure helps support visitor experience opportunities, allowing people to visit destinations within the park where they can access, experience, and receive interpretive programming about natural and cultural heritage.<br>● The multi-use cabin could be used as an emergency shelter for Inuit and park visitors alike. It may also serve as an operational base and/or staging area for guardians and Parks Canada staff during patrols, visitor engagement, and/or rescue operations. |
| ❖ **Key Strategy 3:** Increasing Knowledge and Awareness of Sirmilik National Park<br>➢ Objective 3.1: Community outreach is enhanced to improve communication about research, monitoring, and traditional knowledge.<br>➢ Objective 3.2: Knowledge of the park's ecosystems, cultural resources, and Inuit history and culture is increased by research, monitoring, and the best practice of incorporating Inuit knowledge.<br>➢ Objective 3.3: Park ecosystems, cultural resources, and Inuit culture and history outreach and education products and programs are developed, delivered, and promoted in cooperation with other organizations. | ● This site can host gatherings where Inuit knowledge and western science is collected and/or shared between user groups. There are especially significant opportunities surrounding the cultural heritage value of the nearby archaeological site and importance of the area to the community of Arctic Bay.<br>● A gathering place at Sinaasiurvik would allow long term on-site cultural resource monitoring to occur at key times of the year, thus ensuring that the heritage value of the site is maintained or improved over time.<br>● Due to the proximity of archaeological site 210x59, this gathering place will also include sharing of Inuit knowledge and culture during field monitoring. Several Arctic Bay representatives/inhabitants have and will contribute to planning and decision-making for this site. |

**Project location**

The project site is located approximately 60 km (90 km by sea) northeast from the community of Arctic Bay (figure 1) in very close to proximity to archaeological site 210x59. It is in an area that Arctic Bay Inuit use during traditional spring harvesting at the floe edge.

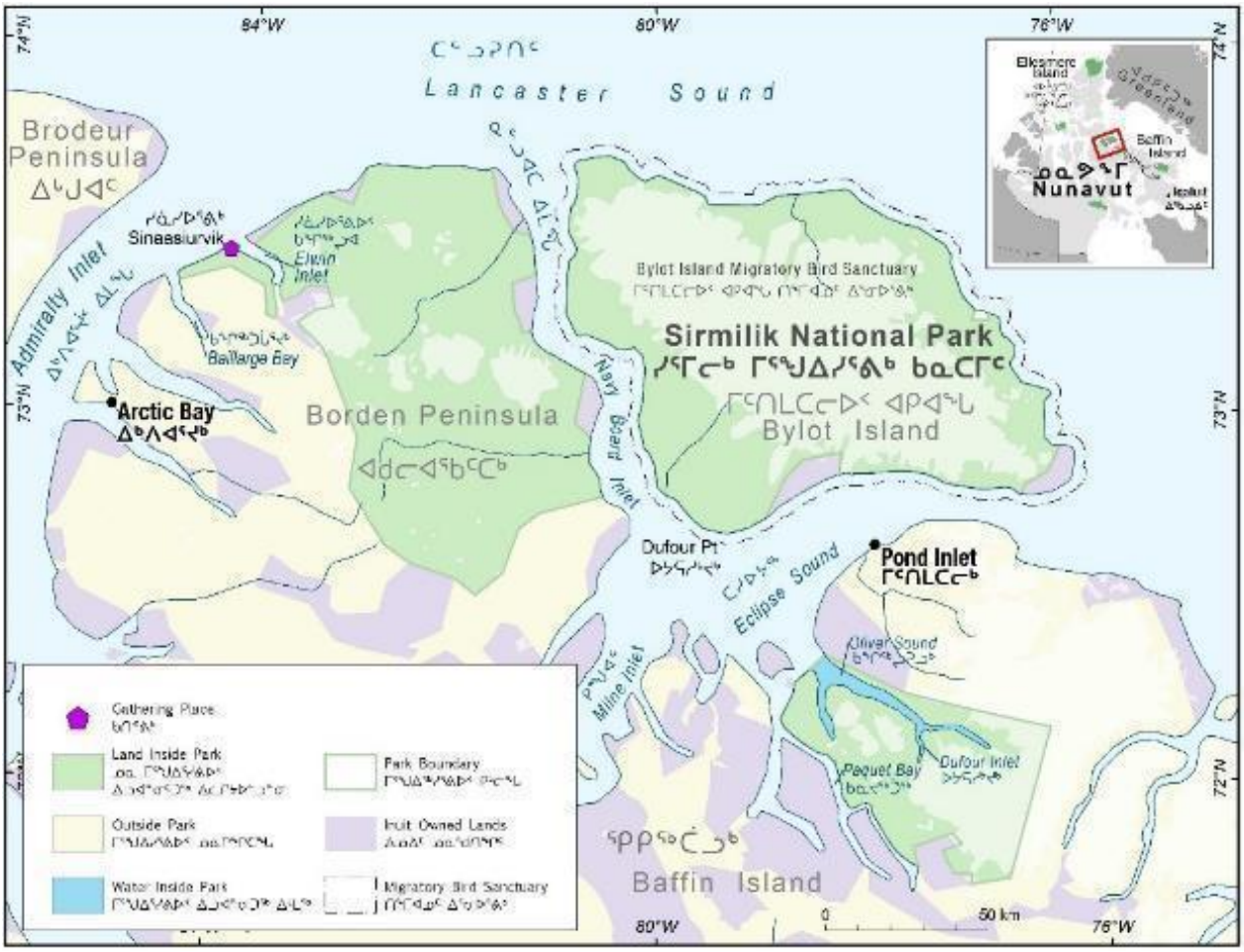


*Figure 1: Location of the Sinaasiurvik site within Sirmilik National Park*

Two possible building site locations (figure 2) have been selected for possible placement of the gathering place. There is the main site, which is located within the main archeological area (210X59) and there is an alternative site, the east site, which is located east of the main archeological area and adjacent to another archeological site. A Parks Canada archaeologist assessed both sites and recommended the locations; both sites avoid impacts on cultural resources.

The main site is the preferred location, but before a decision is made the Arctic Bay community will be asked to give their preference on which site they would like to see the gathering place. Community consultation, to ask the community their preference of sites, is planned for April 2023 (consultations were planned for February but were postponed due to a death in the community).


*Figure 2. Two possible gathering place locations.*

The main Sinaasiurvik site (figure 3 & 4) selected for a gathering place is west of a stream delta and the area was proposed due to its distance from known/observed cultural features. The L-shaped footprint (figure 3) is approximately 480 $m^2$ and represents the area that will be impacted by the gathering place.


*Figure 3: Main site: The primary location will be within the main archeological site (210x59). The gathering place outline is the area where a cabin can be built without having a negative effect on the archeological site. The yellow square within the gathering place outline is to give a reference of a cabin within the area it could possibly be built, but the actual cabin placement could be located anywhere within the gathering place outline.*

*Figure 4: Main site footprint, at center, as viewed from atop southern hillslope*

The physical characteristics of the main site location are laid out in table 1.

| ***Table 1. Main Site Physical Characteristics*** | |
|---|---|
| **Area size** | Approximately 480 $m^2$ (L-shaped polygon with longest edge at 28.8 m) |
| **Area physical description** | Low, relatively flat beach terrace adjacent to west side of stream delta with compact, dry soil and inorganic material consisting of gravels, cobbles, and a few boulders. Vegetation cover dominated by willows and other dwarf shrubs across most of the site, but mosses, sedges, and forbs dominate in moister area at base of hillslope (south margin of the site). |
| **Landform type** | Lowland flats (coastal) |
| **Topography** | Flat. Hillslope to the south is outside of footprint perimeter, but the slope is approximately 43 m long, has a 28-31° angle, and its base is 5-10 m from the southern footprint margin. |
| **Ground Moisture** | Most of the site is dry (not damp to the touch), but southern site margin at base of hillslope has moist areas (damp to the touch, but no standing water); transition between areas of differing moisture is depicted on DGPS map |
| **Vegetation cover** | Dwarf shrub (dominant cover), graminoid, forb, and moss; crustose lichens also present on several cobbles and boulders |
| **Land cover types** | Vegetated (85%), non-vegetated (15%), water cover (0%), rock (5%); i.e. rock material makes up a fraction of the non-vegetated area. Vegetation cover is least extensive on the site's northern side, closest to the beach. |
| **Surface and substrate observations** | Firm, well-consolidated surface with organic material across much of the site and some areas of inorganic material only toward the north end of the site, closer to the high tide |

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| | line. Gravel, cobbles, and small boulders are mostly rounded, and some have been moved by past site inhabitants to create by within a matrix of clay, sand, and small gravel.<br>Some slumping (soil creep) observed near hillslope base. Rocks near hillslope base were largely embedded; rockfalls do not appear to be common.<br>Moist area along footprint's southern margin, close to the hillslope base, may have ephemeral standing water during spring melt. Moss and soil were moist enough to dampen pant legs if kneeling. Moss retains footprints and foot traffic here may trample vegetation, which has more forbs and graminoids than elsewhere within the footprint. |

The Sinaasiurvik alternative site (figure 5 & 6), the east site, is located on the east side of delta and in the vicinity of archeological site 210X74.

The Arctic Bay HTO has a rudimentary cabin structure in 2022 [~8'x6'x6'] on site (figure 6). Parks Canada is working with the HTO to explore opportunities between this structure and the gathering place project. The HTO is in favour of the gathering place being constructed at Sinaasiurvik and have been asked, if the community of Arctic Bay states that they prefer the east site location, would they mind if the gathering place is in close vicinity to their cabin for the gathering place site. Parks Canada is awaiting their decision.

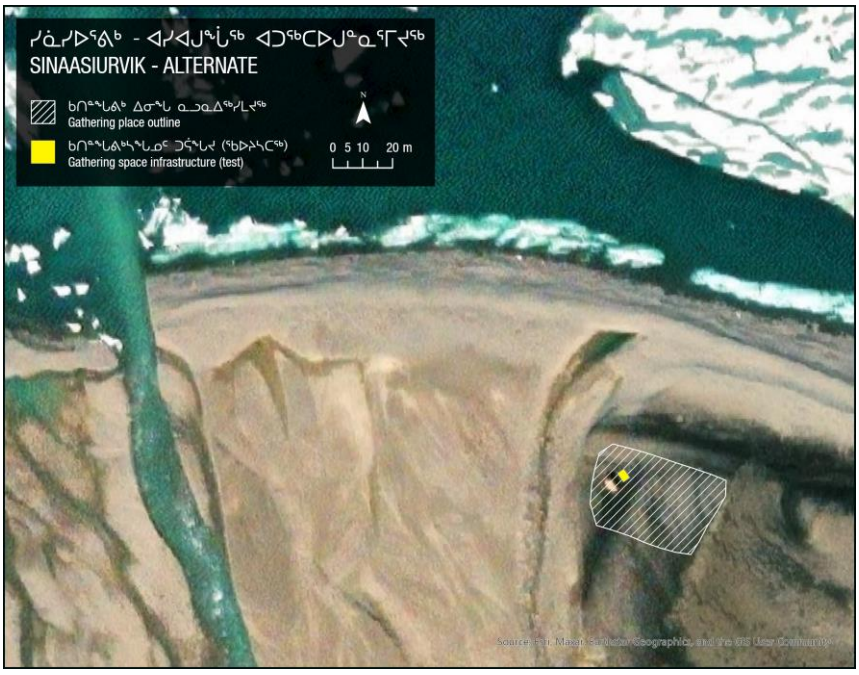


*Figure 5: The Sinaasiurivik East Site (alternative site).*

*Figure 6. East site (cabin installed by Arctic Bay HTO in 2022)*

The physical characteristics of the east site location are laid out in table 2.

| **Table 2. East Site Physical characteristics** | |
|---|---|
| **Area size** | Approximately 35 m x 35 m (1225 $m^2$) |
| **Area physical description** | Low, relatively flat beach terrace adjacent to east side of stream delta with compact, dry, primarily inorganic surface of clays, sand, and gravels; clumped partial vegetation cover dominated by willows and other dwarf shrubs. |
| **Landform type** | Lowland flats (coastal) |
| **Topography** | Flat to undulating (small ridge traverses site) |
| **Ground Moisture** | Dry – not damp to the touch |
| **Vegetation cover** | Dwarf shrub (dominant cover), graminoid, and forb |
| **Land cover types** | Vegetated (50%), non-vegetated (50%), water cover (0%), rock (35%); i.e. rock material makes up a fraction of the non-vegetated area. Vegetation cover is greatest along the western margin of the site (closest to stream delta) – cover estimates given here are an average across the whole site. |

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| **Surface and substrate observations** | Well-consolidated, packed surface with gravel, cobbles, and small boulders within a matrix of clay, sand, and small gravel. Poor organic soil development across much of site, with the exception of area near SW site edge and around occasional vegetation clumps. Patterned clayey soils and apparent soil crusting over small area in SW site corner may be most impacted by foot traffic, as footprints are easily retained; in other areas, surface is more hard-packed and durable. Terrace edge drops down about 2 m to cobbled stream bed; evidence of ephemeral pooling (during spring melt) about 10 m west from terrace edge, but active stream channel is approximately 120 m to the west. |

**Personnel**

There will be approximately eight persons involved in phase 1 and 3 (delivery of materials to the Sinaasiurvik site) of the project and they will be on site for two days (separate days, no over night) for each phase. They are as follows:

Parks Canada Staff
Inuit Steward Coordinator

Arctic Bay Community Members
Arctic Bay community member's (yet to be determined) x 7

There will be approximately eight persons involved in phase 2 and 4 (assembly and erection of infrastructure) of the project and they will be on site over a period of approximately ten days for each phase. They are as follows:

Parks Canada Staff
Carpenter
Archeologist or Cultural Resource Management team member
Community Relations and Visitor Experience Manager
Maintenance worker
Resource Management Officer

Arctic Bay Community Members
Bear guard
Nauttiqsuqtiit (Arctic Bay Inuit Guardians) x 2

During the ongoing use of the site (including maintenance) numbers of personnel on site will vary. It is expected that during Parks Canada activities the number of Parks Canada staff will not exceed 4. During Nauttiqsuqtiit work their personnel will rarely exceed 5. During group activities (i.e., meetings [JPMC etc.], community use, Parks Canada elder and youth events, Arctic Bay community users, etc.), it is expected that the number on site will vary between 1 and 10. During non-Inuit visits to the site, it is expected that the group will vary between 1 and 4.

**Project phases and activities***:*

The Sinaasiurvik Gathering Place Project has five phases:

1. Delivery of multi-use cabin to the Sinaasiurvik site.
2. Assembling of the multi-use cabin.
3. Delivery of cultural learning center, flag pole, outdoor sitting area and above ground fire pit to the Sinaasiurvik site.
4. Assembling of cultural learning center and outdoor sitting area, erection of flag pole and above ground fire pit.

5. Ongoing use and maintenance.

The activities involved in these phases is detailed below.

| **Activities (Phase 1; May, 2023 or July/August, 2023): Multiuse Cabin materials being brought to the Sinaasiurvik site** | **Y/N** | **Details** |
|---|---|---|
| Transportation of staff and Transport of materials/equipment | Y | Snowmobiles and qamutik will be used for the transport (May, 2023): Sections of the prefabricated cabin (approx. ten qamutik loads; 5 snowmobiles, 2 loads each) will be transported from Arctic Bay, along the sea ice of Admiralty Inlet to an area (Gathering Place outline polygon) (figure 3, main site, or figure 5, east site) delineated by Parks Canada terrestrial archeologist, John Higdon, as an area free from archeological artifacts/features. The snowmobiles will approach the site from the sea ice and go between artifacts/features that have been marked by GPS. Before entering the polygon, the route into and out of it will be marked with flags and the area of the polygon will also be delineated by flags (the flags will be removable and will be removed from the site when the work is completed). The snowmobiles will enter the polygon and be unloaded one by one (only one snowmobile and qamutik in the polygon at a time) to ensure that there is ample room to unload the qamutiks without having to moving outside the polygon.<br><br>Or<br>Boats will be used for the transport (July/August, 2023): Sections of the prefabricated cabin will be transported from Arctic Bay, along the waters of Admiralty Inlet to an area (Gathering Place outline polygon) (figure 3, main site, or figure 5, east site) delineated by Parks Canada terrestrial archeologist, John Higdon, as an area free from archeological artifacts/features. The boat(s) will land on the shoreline and unload the cabin sections onto the beach. Before entering the polygon, the route into and out of it will be marked with flags and the area of the polygon will also be delineated by flags (the flags will be removable and will be removed from the site when the work is completed). See comment above, option unlikely to be feasible for safety reasons. |
| Supply and storage of materials | Y | Materials will be stored from Mid to late May (or mid July) until mid August. The cabin sections will be wrapped in tarps and stored side by side in an orderly manner within the polygon outlined by the Parks Canada Archeologist. |
| Fuel storage | N | |

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| Set up of temporary facilities | N | The cabin sections will be brought in on two separate day trips. |
| Clearing/leveling | N | |
| Blasting/drilling | N | |
| Dredging | N | |
| Excavation | N | |
| Backfilling | N | |
| Drainage | N | |
| Use of machinery | N | |
| Construction | N | |
| Equipment installation | N | |
| Maintenance | N | |
| Demolition | N | |
| Removal of temporary facilities | N | |
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| **Activities (Phase 2; August, 2023): The assembling of a 12' x 16' prefabricated multiuse cabin** | **Y/N** | **Details** |
| Transportation of staff | Y | On August 16, Parks Canada Staff along with members of Nauttiqsuqtiit will travel on multiple helicopter flights to the Sinaasiurvik site. The crew will be dropped off in the helicopter landing/staging polygons (delineated by a Parks Canada archeologist). A trail will be marked by flags, to avoid GPS marked artifacts/features, from the helicopter polygons to the gathering place polygon (the borders of the polygons will also be marked with flags). On August 26, the crew will be picked up from the site and returned to Arctic Bay. This will involve multiple helicopter flights. |
| Transport of materials/equipment | Y | On August 16, a helicopter will bring multiple loads of equipment to the site. Some of the equipment will arrive by sling, other equipment will be unloaded from within the helicopter. The equipment will consist of building and camping equipment. Staff will be present at the site when the equipment arrives. The equipment will be unloaded onto sites selected for Helicopter landing/staging (polygons selected by PC archeologist). Equipment will be moved along a marked trail to the gathering place polygon (area will be marked by flags). On August 26, the equipment will be picked up from the site and returned to Arctic Bay. This will involve multiple helicopter flights. |

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| Supply and storage of materials | N | The completed cabin will remain on site. It will contain only basic items needed for survival (emergency use). |
| Fuel storage | Y | Three jerry cans of petrol (~60L) will be kept on site for generator use while the cabin is being constructed. The generator will be used to charge batteries for power tools.<br><br>White gas will be used for cooking. 10L will be kept/used on site during construction. One can of white gas (3.98L) will be left in the completed cabin for the winter. The fuel will be for emergency use; in case the cabin is used for refuge by someone in need in the area.<br><br>One 20 lb propane tank will be used for heating of the kitchen tent, if necessary, during construction.<br><br>A small portable fuel spill containment berm will be used when fueling of generators and the cooking stove are conducted to catch any fuel that may be spilt. A spill kit will kept with the fuel containment berm. |
| Set up of temporary facilities | Y | A temporary camp will be set-up within the gathering place polygon and will include: four dome tents for sleeping (various sizes), a canvas cook tent (~8' x 10') and a small tent (~5' x 5') that will act as a privy (rocks used to hold down tents will be collected from designated rock collection areas: figure 8 or 9). A bear fence will be set up around the camp area (~200 $m^2$). The temporary camp, including the bear fence, will only be set-up during the construction phase, it will be removed when the construction is complete.<br>Foot print of camp area/construction zone will be approximately the size of the gathering place polygon (~480$m^2$) of the main site. |
| Clearing/leveling | Y | Some leveling will occur to create a level surface on which to lay the cribbing that will be placed under the cabin (see figure 5). 12 cribs (~1mx1m) will be used to support the cabin. No earth will be removed to level the area, but rocks/wooden shims, taken from off site (rocks from designated collecting area: figure 8 or 9), will be used to make the ground level (adding materials as opposed to taking it away). |
| Blasting/drilling | N | |
| Dredging | N | |
| Excavation | Y | Small holes will need to be excavated for the installation of a bear fence. Holes will be required for the grounding plate, poles/posts, as well as braces for gates and corner posts. |
| Backfilling | N | |

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| Drainage | N | |
| Use of machinery | N | |
| Construction | Y | A prefabricated cabin will be assembled on site. The cabin will be assembled on top of cribbing (see clearing/leveling and structural base sections) to provide a base for the structure. The structure will also be anchored to the ground with 10-12, 18' spikes (figure 7). An Archaeologist or cultural Resource Management team member will be on site to ensure there will be no impact on the cultural resources. |
| Equipment installation | N | |
| Maintenance | N | |
| Demolition | N | |
| Removal of temporary facilities | Y | The temporary work camp erected for the build will be removed by August 26, when the construction of the cabin is due to be completed. This includes the bear fence. |
| Structural base (cribbing) | Y | The base of the structure will consist of twelve cribs (1m by 1m base, 18' high). These cribs will provide a base to construct the cabin on top of. The cribs are built from lumber and will be filled with rocks. The rocks will be collected from the beach adjacent to the Sinaasiurvik site. A marked trail (marked with flags) will extend from the gathering place polygon for ~50m to a beach area, that is regularly disturbed by ocean waves, to a zone where rocks will be collected (figure 8 & 9). The zone will be approx. 20m x 20m. Rock collection will be spread out over the collecting zone and will not be focused just on one area of it. A wheel barrel will be used to move the rocks from the beach to the building site. |
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| **Activities (Phase 3; May 2024) Delivery of cultural learning center, flag pole, wood stove, outdoor sitting area and above ground fire pit to the Sinaasiurvik site (all elements will be disassembled into transportable sections)** | **Y/N** | **Details Indicate how the activity will be accomplished, including mitigation or avoidance of potential impacts** |
| Transportation of staff and Transport of materials/equipment | Y | Snowmobiles and qamutik will be used for the transport: Sections of the cultural learning center, flag pole, outdoor sitting area and above ground fire pit (approx. twelve qamutik loads; ~ 6 snowmobiles, 2 loads per snowmobile) will be transported from Arctic Bay, along the sea ice of Admiralty Inlet to an area (Gathering Place outline polygon) (figure 3, main site, or figure 5, east site) delineated by Parks Canada terrestrial archeologist, John Higdon, as an area free from archeological artifacts/features. The snowmobiles will approach the site from the sea ice and go |

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| | | between artifacts/features that have been marked by GPS. Before entering the polygon, the route into and out of it will be marked with flags and the area of the polygon will also be delineated by flags (the flags will be removable and will be removed from the site when the work is completed). The snowmobiles will enter the polygon and be unloaded one by one (only one snowmobile and qamutik in the polygon at a time) to ensure that there is ample room to unload the qamutiks without having to moving outside the polygon. |
| Supply and storage of materials | Y | Materials will be stored from mid to late May until mid August. The cabin sections and other items will be wrapped in tarps and stored side by side in an orderly manner within the polygon outlined by the Parks Canada Archeologist. |
| Fuel storage | N | |
| Set up of temporary facilities | N | The cabin sections will be brought in on two separate day trips. |
| Clearing/leveling | N | |
| Blasting/drilling | N | |
| Dredging | N | |
| Excavation | N | |
| Backfilling | N | |
| Drainage | N | |
| Use of machinery | N | |
| Construction | N | |
| Equipment installation | N | |
| Maintenance | N | |
| Demolition | N | |
| Removal of temporary facilities | N | |
| | | |
| **Activities (Phase 4; August 2024): Assembling of cultural learning center and outdoor sitting area, erection of flag pole and above ground fire pit. Installation of a wood stove in the multi use cabin and assembly of a hard sided privy.** | **Y/N** | **Details Indicate how the activity will be accomplished, including mitigation or avoidance of potential impacts** |
| Transportation of staff | Y | In August, 2024, Parks Canada Staff along with members of the Arctic Bay community will travel on multiple helicopter flights to the Sinaasiurvik site. The crew will be dropped off in the helicopter landing/staging polygons (delineated by a Parks Canada archeologist). A trail will be marked by flags, to avoid GPS marked artifacts/features, from the helicopter polygons to the gathering place polygon (the borders of the polygons will also be marked with flags). When the work is complete, |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | the crew will be picked up from the site and returned to Arctic Bay. This will involve multiple helicopter flights. |
| Transport of materials/equipment | Y | In August, 2024, a helicopter will bring multiple loads of equipment to the site. Some of the equipment will arrive by sling, other equipment will be unloaded from within the helicopter. The equipment will consist of building and camping equipment. Staff will be present at the site when the equipment arrives. The equipment will be unloaded onto sites selected for Helicopter landing/staging (polygons selected by PC archeologist). Equipment will be moved along a marked trail to the gathering place polygon (area will be marked by flags). When the work is complete, the equipment will be picked up from the site and returned to Arctic Bay. This will involve multiple helicopter flights. |
| Supply and storage of materials | Y | The completed gathering place will remain on site. It will contain only basic items needed for survival (emergency use). Basic maintenance items (hammers, nails…) will be stored at the multi-use cabin. |
| Fuel storage | Y | Jerry cans of petrol will be kept on site for generator use while the work is being conducted. The generator will be used to charge batteries for power tools.<br><br>White gas will be used for cooking.<br><br>A small portable fuel spill containment berm will be used when fueling of generators and the cooking stove are conducted to catch any fuel that may be spilt. A spill kit will kept with the fuel containment berm. |
| Set up of temporary facilities | N | A temporary camp will be set-up within the gathering place polygon and will include: three dome tents for sleeping (various sizes), a canvas cook tent (~8' x 10') and a small tent (~5' x 5') that will act as a privy (rocks used to hold down tents will be collected from designated rock collection areas: figure 8 or 9). A bear fence will be set up around the camp area (~200 $m^2$). The temporary camp, including the bear fence, will only be set-up during the construction phase, it will be removed when the construction is complete.<br>Foot print of camp area/construction zone will be approximately the size of the gathering place polygon (~480$m^2$) of the main site. |
| Clearing/leveling | Y | Some leveling will occur to create a level surface on which to lay the base of the cultural learning centre and the outdoor sitting area. No earth will be removed to level the area, but rocks/wooden shims, taken from off site (rocks from designated collecting area: figure 8 or 9), will be used to make |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | the ground level (adding materials as opposed to taking it away). |
| Blasting/drilling | N | |
| Dredging | N | |
| Excavation | Y | A small pit will be dug to add materials to stabilize a flag pole. Small holes will need to be excavated for the installation of a bear fence. Holes will be required for the grounding plate, poles/posts, as well as braces for gates and corner posts. |
| Backfilling | N | |
| Drainage | N | |
| Use of machinery | N | |
| Construction | Y | The cultural learning center, outdoor sitting area and fire pit will need to be assembled and a flag pole will need to be erected. Prior to going to the site, all elements mentioned above will have been constructed and then disassembled and packaged for delivery to the site. The fire pit will be an above ground structure (raised above the ground so the fire does not come in contact with the ground). The flag pole will be erected close to the multi use cabin and will be attached to a device that will be buried under the ground. The cultural learning center and outdoor sitting area will be assembled on top of leveling materials to provide a base for the structure. The cultural learning center will also be anchored to the ground with 18' spikes.<br><br>A wood stove and smoke pipe will be installed in the multi use cabin.<br><br>A hard sided privy will be constructed. The privy will basically be a shell of a building, approximately 4' x 4' at the base with a door on one side. It will be built within the gathering place polygon. Inside the privy, human waste will be collected in "Wag Bags" and stored in bear proof containers. The waste will then be taken to Arctic Bay at the end of each groups visit. |
| Equipment installation | N | |
| Maintenance | N | |
| Demolition | N | |
| Removal of temporary facilities | Y | All temporary facilities will be removed when the construction is complete. |
| | | |
| **Activities (ongoing use and maintenance of the gathering place)** | **Y/N** | **Details Indicate how the activity will be accomplished, including mitigation or avoidance of potential impacts** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Transportation of staff | Y | Staff, visitors (non-Inuit) and community members (Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet) will be transported to the site, at times, by boat, helicopter or snowmobile. The helicopter will land in a designated landing site (figure 3 & 5) and a marked trail will lead people from that zone to the gathering place zone (figure 3 & 5). Snowmobiles will approach from the sea ice, travel on a marked trail from the beach to the gathering place zone and park within it (figure 3 & 5). Boats will drop people off on the shoreline in front of the site and from there people can make there way to the gathering place on the marked trail that moves from the beach to the gathering place zone. |
| Transport of materials/equipment | Y | There may be at times materials/equipment transported to the site. Equipment brought to the site will include Parks Canada ecological monitoring and cultural resource monitoring equipment (scientific equipment) and camping gear. The site will also require maintenance and this may involve replacement materials being brought into the site, as well as equipment to aid in that maintenance. Equipment will be limited to what has been listed for the build and extra materials brought to the site will be limited to what is needed to replace broken/worn out sections of the gathering place structures. |
| Supply and storage of materials | Y | Some building materials (extra lumber, nails screws, etc.) and maintenance equipment (hammers, screw drivers, etc.) will be kept on site. Large items (lumber) will be stored under the cabin and small materials (screws, nails…) and maintenance equipment will be stored inside the multi-use cabin. |
| Fuel storage | Y | A small amount (3.98 L) of white gas will be stored in the cabin for emergency purposes. It will be kept in a combustible storage locker. A spill kit will kept with the fuel at all times. |
| Set up of temporary facilities | Y | A small number of tents (never more than three), for sleeping, may be set up at times to accommodate people at the site more comfortably. They will be set up in the gathering place polygon. A number of rocks collected from the rock collection zone (figure 8 & 9) will be kept in a designated area underneath the multiuse cabin and will be utilized when rocks are required to hold down tents and such. A bear fence will be set up around the camp area (~200 $m^2$) when tents are being used. The temporary camp, including the bear fence, will only be set-up when required and will be removed when no longer needed.<br>Foot print of camp area will never exceed the size of the gathering place polygon (~480$m^2$) of the main site. |
| Clearing/leveling | N | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Blasting/drilling | N | |
| Dredging | N | |
| Excavation | Y | Small holes will be needed to be excavated for the installation of a bear fence. Holes will be required for the grounding plate, poles/posts, as well as braces for gates and corner posts. The holes that were made during the gathering place construction phase will be marked and reused when a bear fence is required for temporary facilities. |
| Backfilling | N | |
| Drainage | N | |
| Use of machinery | N | |
| Construction | N | |
| Equipment installation | N | |
| Maintenance | Y | Maintenance will be conducted on site when required. Maintenance will be limited to the repair of the infrastructure. Any new materials used will only be to replace what is worn out. Any worn out elements of the gathering place will be removed from the site and brought back to Arctic Bay. Equipment brought on site for maintenance will be limited to what was used in the construction phases. |
| Demolition | N | |
| Removal of temporary facilities | Y | Any temporary facilities will be removed immediately after use. No tents etc. will remain up between uses of the site. |
| Wood for wood stove | Y | Untreated wood will be collected in Arctic Bay (old packing crates form the annual sea lift) and brought to the site when a trip is planned to the area. It will be stored in a designated place within the multi-use cabin. |

*Figure 7. Cribbing placed under cabin and anchors attaching cabin to ground (this photo is from another site but demonstrates the same system that will be used on the cabin at Sinaasiurvik).*


*Figure 8. Rock collection zone delineated with red outline (map is of main gathering place site).*


*Figure 9. Rock collection zone delineated with red outline (map is of East gathering place site).*

**Equipment, Materials, and Waste**

*1. Equipment:*

The equipment used for phase 1 and phase 3 (building materials being brought to the Sinaasiurvik site) will be limited to Snowmobiles and Qamutiks.

The equipment used for Phase 3 and 4 (the assembling of infrastructure) is as follows:

- Helicopter
- Wheel barrow
- Shovels
- Rake
- 2' Level
- String line
- String levels
- Generator
- Extension cord
- Drivers/Drills
- Battery Charger
- #2 Robertson bits
- 2 lbs. sledge
- Stapler with 3/8 staples
- Grinder with zip wheel
- 2 X 8' extension Ladders
- 1 X 6' step ladder
- Broom / Dustpan
- Fly in/out garbage containers/bags
- Mop/bucket
- Hammer's
- Exacto knife + blades
- Dozuki saw
- 7 1/4 Skill saw + extra blade
- Drill bits set/index
- Speed square
- Tape measures
- Predrilling bits (1/8)
- 16" crow bar
- Duct tape
- Plastic inserts for plans
- Caulking gun
- Pre fab 2X4 saw horse's X 4
- 3" Case Hardened Screws
- 10" lag bolts with washers
- 1/4" cable (200')
- 50 cable ties/clamps
- 200' 1/2" rope
- 18" stakes/ground screws x 12
- "L" angle brackets x 50

- Nails (from 1/2" to 4")
- Ratchet set
- P100 air mask
- Funnel
- Spill kit
- Packs of assorted screws
- Sheet metal chisel
- Masking tape
- Portable fuel spill containment berm
- Bucket and mop
- Rags
- Safety glasses
- Work gloves
- Electrical tape
- Portable propane heater

*2. Fuel and toxic/hazardous materials:*

A small fuel spill containment unit will be used when refueling generators and cooking stoves. A spill kit will be kept with the fuel spill containment unit at all times. Fuel for generator and camp stoves will be stored in solid containers and stored on an impermeable surface.

Phase 1 and 3 (building materials being brought to the Sinaasiurvik site):

- two spare jerry cans (~40L) of gasoline will be carried on each snowmobiles qamutik. There will be maximum of six snowmobiles per day trip (two day trips will occur). This fuel will be used to refill the snowmobile when necessary. Refueling will not occur on site.
- For phase 1 alternative (boating materials to site), no fuel and toxic/hazardous materials will be brought on site. See comments above; this option is unlikely to be feasible for safety reasons.

Phase 2 and 4 (the installation of infrastructure):

- Gasoline (three jerry cans, ~60L) will be used to fuel generators for charging electric power tools and will be kept on site for generator use while the infrastructure is being installed for each phase.
- White gas will be used for cooking during the construction phases of the project. 10L will be kept/used on site during construction for each phase.
- One 20 lb. propane tank will be used for heating the kitchen tent, if necessary, during the construction phases.
- Siliconized acrylic caulk will be used to fill cracks and gaps in the multiuse cabin and the cultural learning center. A maximum of six tubes (10.1 oz. each) will be used per building.
- One bottle of Windex (~12 oz.) will kept/used on site to clean windows in the structures after the installation of the infrastructure is complete.
- Multi-purpose cleaner (~828 ml) will be kept/used on site to clean the interior of the cabins after the construction has been completed.
- Bear spray (5 cans) will be kept on site as a potential bear deterrent.

Phase 5: Ongoing use and Maintenance of the gathering place:

- One can of white gas (3.98L) will be kept in the multiuse cabin at all times. The fuel will be for use in a Coleman stove that will be kept onsite. The fuel will be for emergency use.
- A couple of cleaning products will be kept on site to help keep the place sanitary. They will be: One bottle of Windex (12 oz.) and one bottle of Multi-purpose cleaner (828 ml). They will be stored in the multiuse cabin.
- Two tubes of Siliconized acrylic caulk will be kept in the multiuse cabin for maintenance purposes.

*3. Other materials*

Listed below are the materials included in the prefabricated multi-use cabin kit. These are the materials that will be brought to the Sinaasiurvik site (phase 1) and then used to construct the multi-use cabin (phase 2). The materials for phase 3 and 4 have yet to be determined, but it is expected they will be similar to what has been listed for phase 1 and 3.

| Quantity | Description |
|---|---|
| 500 | 2½'' treated wood screws |
| 300 | 3½'' wood screws |
| 400 | Sheet metal screws |
| 3 | Solives de sous-plancher |
| 6 | Insulated floor board 4'x8 ' |
| 16 | Wall / Door Panel Exterior |
| 10 | 4x4 wood stud |
| 9 | Interior Wall / Door Panel |
| 1 | Insulating roll (under sheets of roof sheet) |
| 1 | Insulating roll (under exterior walls) |
| 1 | Roll tape for outdoor |
| 3 | 2''x6''x7' door stops |
| 3 | 2''x4''x29¼'' width without angle |
| 3 | 2''x4''x29¼'' width with angle |
| 3 | 2''x4''x8' with notch |
| 3 | Aluminum track with caster system |
| 8 | 2''x4'' plank for roof contour (with 2x2 sticks) |
| 4 | Corner bracket for roof contour |
| 12 | Small chevron |
| 4 | Large chevron |
| 12'+ 16' | Roof stick (package) |
| 2 | 8' cross under pinion |
| 5 | Reinforcement - interior walls |
| 1 | Reinforcement module - roof |
| 4 | Pinion - outer wall |
| 2 | Pinion - central wall |
| 4 | Pinion - Sidewall |
| 8 | Pinion - Stick |
| 4 | J' of sheet metal |
| 8 | Sheet metal whole |
| 8 | Sheet metal left |
| 8 | Sheet metal right |
| 4 | Sheet metal peak for corners |
| 76 | Foam sealing (linear feet) |
| 2 | Molding of departure bottom of the pinion |
| 1 | Sheet metal pack for top pinion |
| 4 | Side molding for sides pinion |
| 1 | Sheet metal cap for pinion top |
| 2 | Single bed with Clips (with bracket and leg) |
| 1 | Table |
| 1 | Counter |
| 1 | Kit of hooks for entrance |
| 1 | Handle for exterior door |
| 1 | Outdoor air intake |

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Smoke detector (with battery) |
| 1 | Gas detector (with battery) |
| 6 | Flextra tube with applicator gun |
| 2 | Square tip #2 (2½'' long) |
| 1 | Sheet metal chisel |

Phase 5: Ongoing use and Maintenance of the gathering place:

- A Coleman stove will be kept in the multiuse cabin for general cooking when the site is in use.
- Replacement materials including a variety of lumber (2X4, 2X6…), a couple of sheets of plywood, and a couple of pieces of sheet metal will be kept under the cabin. These materials will be used when unexpected repairs are needed to the infrastructure.
- A variety of small items for repairing the infrastructure, such as nails, screws, bolts, rope and wire will be kept in the multiuse cabin for repairs.
- A variety of small tools, such as hammers, levels, axe, screw drivers and hand saws will be kept in the multiuse cabin.
- Two tubes of Siliconized acrylic caulk will be kept in the multiuse cabin to fill any holes that may appear in the infrastructure.
- Firewood will be kept in the multiuse cabin. This wood will mostly be composed of old crate pieces and will have been flown in from Arctic Bay.

*4. Water consumption.*

The will be no consumption of water from on site for phases 1 and 3. The only water consumption during phase 2 and 4 will be for drinking/cooking water. The water consumption will be approximately 400 Litres per phase. The water will come from the small creek that is to the east of the main site or, if the east alternative site is used, west of that site.

Phase 5: Ongoing use and Maintenance of the gathering place:

Water consumption on the site will be almost entirely for drinking/cooking and will come from the small creek that is to the east of the main site or, if the east alternative site is used, west of that site. It is expected the size of an average group visiting will be four people and that they will stay for two days. This suggests water consumption per average trip will be approx. 30 L, if ten average groups visit per year (likely to be less than this number of groups), the annual water consumption on the site will be approx. 300 L.

*5. Waste management (including human waste and greywater if establishing camp). Specify type, amount, and disposal method of waste.*

For phase 1 and 3 (building materials being brought to the Sinaasiurvik site) staff will only briefly be on site and will dispose of no human waste or grey water on site.

Human waste

Phase 2 and 4 (assembling of infrastructure):

For phases 2 and part of 4, a privy will be set up within the gathering place polygon, it will be a simple tent with an above ground waste receptacle. Inside the privy, human waste will be collected in "Wag Bags" and stored in bear proof containers. The waste will then be flown to Arctic Bay at the end of both phase 2 and 4.

Phase 5: Ongoing use and Maintenance of the gathering place:

A simple hard shelled structure will be erected during phase 4. It will contain a human waste receptacle (basically a five-gallon bucket with a toilet seat on it). Human waste will be collected in the receptacle in "Wag Bags". These bags will be stored in bear proof containers and on a regular basis (multiple times per year) will be taken (by helicopter, boat or snowmobile) to Arctic Bay for disposal.

Grey water (for all phases)

A shallow sump for grey water will be dug outside of the archeological site and a minimum distance of 50 m from Admiralty Inlet, the stream east of the proposed main project site and from all sleeping areas. All grey water will be strained and then disposed of at this location. Biodegradable soaps will be used for the washing of people and dishes.

Waste (general – all phases)

Waste (garbage) will be stored in bear proof containers to minimize attractants within the bear fence, when erected, or the multiuse building. All waste (garbage) will be taken to Arctic Bay at the completion of each visit/trip to the gathering place.

*For infrastructure/construction projects:*

*6. Dimensions of structures to be built (if any) and size of disturbed area:*

- The infrastructure assembled on site will consist of a multi-use building (12' x 16')(figure 10), a cultural learning center (radius of 15'), an outdoor seating area (radius ~ 8'), a privy (4' x 4') and a fire pit (radius ~ 3').

- The total disturbed area caused by infrastructure and use of that infrastructure, including all gathering place infrastructure, any temporary camps set up around the gathering place and general movement around the gathering place site will not exceed 480$m^2$ (this does not include trails, rock gathering zones or helicopter landing sites – all explained below).

- There will be one helicopter landing zone selected and it will be ~20m x 20m (figure 3 shows two potential sites, figure 5 could have one in the gathering place zone). This site will have minimal disturbance but will occasionally see equipment and staff unloaded onto them.

- Two trails will be needed: 1) Trail from helicopter staging area to building site (60 m in length, up to 1 m wide). 2) Trail from building site to beach (50m in length, up to 1 m wide).The trails will be marked with rocks gathered from the rock gathering zone(s) to ensure people move along them and not just anywhere in the site. The trails will be used during phase 2 and 4 to move equipment and materials and will be used during the ongoing use of the site to concentrate the impact of human movement.

- The beach will be used as a place to gather rocks that will be placed inside cribbing that will support the cabin and a small collection of rocks will be taken from here and kept in a designated location for use as tie down points for tents used in the area. The rock gathering site will spread over a zone of

approximately ~20m x 20m and will be in an area that is regularly disturbed by the oceans waves (figure 8 & 9).

*Figure 10. Same cabin as is to be build at Sinaasiurvik. Ground disturbance around cabin at Sinaasiurvik will be similar.*

*7. Plans & drawings of structures (if applicable)*

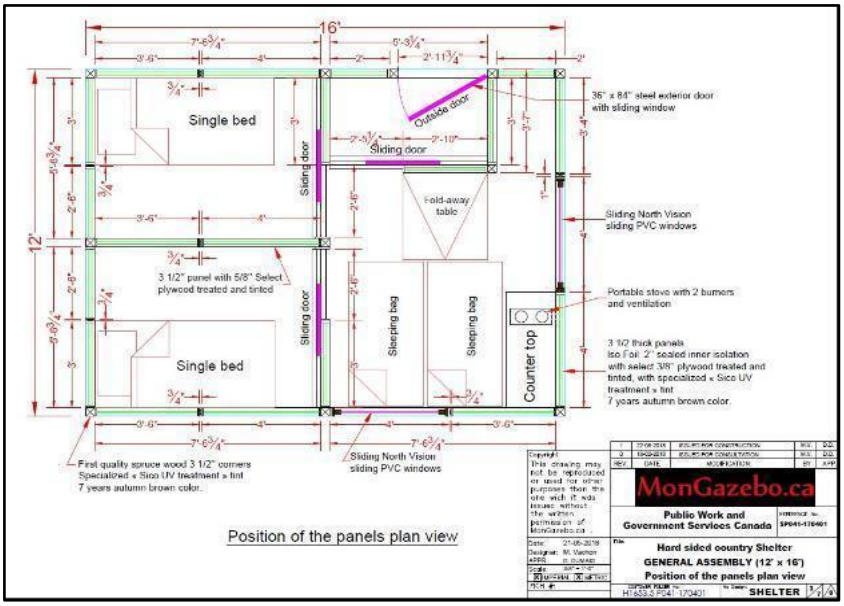


*Figure 11. 12'x16' multiuse cabin floorplan layout from manufacturer MonGazebo*.

The measurements of the completed cabin can be seen in figure 11.

**Project Environment**

*Other facilities or projects that may be affected:*

The Arctic Bay HTO added a cabin on what we refer to as the east site in the summer of 2022. The HTO have been consulted on Park Canadas intention to add the gathering place to the area (main site) and are pleased to hear that it will be happening. The HTO have also been asked, that if the Arctic Bay community prefers the east site,will they open to Parks Canada adding the gathering place in close proximity to their cabin. They are presently reviewing this matter.

*Zoning and site history (previous use, potential contamination):*

The site is a national parks site Zone 1* and can not be visited by non-Inuit unless accompanied by a trained guide or Parks Canada Staff. The site has been a cultural and hunting/camping site for over a thousand years. The site continues to this day to be a camping area for Inuit from Arctic Bay when hunting at the nearby floe edge (community members camp in the area in the spring – late season floe edge location).

. Parks Canada staff have monitored the cultural resources at the site since 2011.

**Zone 1: Special Preservation*

*Zone 1 lands deserve special protection because they contain or support unique, threatened or endangered natural or cultural heritage features, or are among the best examples of the features of the natural region represented by the park. Motorized access is not permitted (for non-Inuit), except for strictly controlled motorized access for research and park operation activities authorized by Parks Canada.*

*Use by Inuit (e.g. camps, harvesting activities):*

The site has been a cultural and hunting/camping site for over a thousand years. The site continues to this day to be a camping area for Inuit from Arctic Bay when hunting at the nearby floe edge (community members camp in the area in the spring – late season floe edge location).

*Known cultural resources (e.g. buildings, engineering works, landscapes and landscape features, historical and archaeological objects):*

Sinaasiurvik is a place of cultural significance and historic value to the Tununirusirmiut. The archaeological site (designation 210x59) is divided into four localities containing a total of 58 features, which include the remains of nine sod houses. The site provides evidence of cultural activity since at least the Thule period. Oral histories from Arctic Bay Elders who lived in the area, as recorded in Bertulli et al. (2011), indicate that site use dated back to the Dorset period. The cultural resource management of this site consists of a detailed inventory and ongoing monitoring to ensure its protection against natural and human impacts. A photo monitoring protocol was developed after a 2011 inventory, and implemented in 2014, 2017 and 2021. This program focuses on thirteen features located into two areas, which include the remains of the earliest phase of occupation of the site and exceptionally well-preserved Thule sub-subterranean houses.

*Bertulli, M., Cousins, L., d'Auteil, J., Eecheak, A. & S. Hughes (2011). Recording at the Elwin Inlet Thule site (210x59), Sinaasiurvik, Sirmilik National Park, in 2011. Nunavut Field Unit, Parks Canada. Internal report.*

*Distance to nearest water body or water crossings:*

The main site is approximately 60 m from the shoreline of Admiralty Inlet and 80 m from a stream east of the site. The east site is approximately 60 m from the shoreline of Admiralty Inlet and 10 m from a stream east of the site.

*Presence of fish & fish habitat:*

There are no known fish to be in the stream adjacent to the Sinaasiurvik area. The tidal water in close proximity to the site, is not a harvesting area used by the local community for Arctic Char, or other type of fish, nor is it known breeding area for fish.

*Presence of species at risk or critical habitat:*

N/A

*Presence of migratory birds:*

The Baillarge Bay sea cliffs, which are approximately 500-600m from the main cabin site (approximately 1000 m from the east site) are home to a large colony of Northern Fulmars. The bird nesting cliffs have the designation of Important Bird Area (IBA).

Many migratory birds pass through the area, the same species that are found in similar ecosystems throughout the park and its surrounding areas, but few are known to nest in close proximity to the Sinaasiurvik site. Known breeders near the site are the Snow Bunting, Northern Fulmar and the Glaucous Gull.

*Other species & habitat (including species and areas of importance to Inuit if known):*

Species that are common to Sirmilik National Park, and ecosystems that are similar to the Sinaasiurvik site, could possibly be seen in the area. There are no known breeders on/near the site (other than bird species already mentioned), nor is the habitat found there of special significance to the local fauna.

*Other issues or concerns:*

N/A

**Project timing**

- April, 2023 – community consultation in Arctic Bay. Parks Canada staff will travel to Arctic Bay and have an open house to give all information on the Sinaasiurvik project. All community members that attend will be asked which site they would prefer to have a gathering place (main site or east site).
- Delivery option 1: May 2023 – phase 1: delivery of multiuse cabin by snowmobile to the Sinaasiurvik site by Parks Canada staff and members of the Arctic bay community, subject to community consultations and NIRB screening being completed in time.
- Delivery option 2: Mid-July to Mid-August, 2023 – phase 1: delivery of multiuse cabin by boat to the Sinaasiurvik site by Parks Canada staff and members of the Arctic bay community, subject to community consultations and NIRB screening being completed in time. Unlikely to be feasible for safety reasons.
- August 16-26, 2023 – phase 2: assembly of multiuse cabin at the Sinaasiurvik site by Parks Canada staff and members of the Arctic bay community.
- Oct 2023 to March 2024 – the design of the cultural learning facility building, outdoor seating area and fire pit will be completed.
- April 2024 –procurement of materials for the cultural learning facility building, flagpole, outdoor sitting area and fire pit.
- May 2024 – delivery of cultural learning facility building, flagpole, outdoor sitting area and fire pit to the Sinaasiurvik site.
- August 2024 – assemble cultural learning facility building, erect flagpole, assemble outdoor sitting area and install fire pit at the Sinaasiurvik site.
- Ongoing – there will be use of the cabin and associated infrastructure: as a refuge from inclement weather and wildlife hazards, for hosting gatherings where Inuit Elders can transfer knowledge to youth, supporting Inuit Guardians on patrol, supporting Parks Canada staff during various park based activities, as a meeting place for JPMC and IKWG, to help facilitate Inuit storytelling and presenting Inuit culture to park visitors, as well as during maintenance of infrastructure.

**Community Consultation/Activities Related to Sinaasiurvik**

**2004** Site 210x59 (located at the Sinaasiurvik site) was visited as part of the Sirmilik National Park Archaeological Resources Survey, details of which were shared with the local communities (Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet). The Arctic Bay HTO moved their cabin from Inuit Owned Land to the Sinaasiurvik site, with intent to use the facility to support sport hunting as well as traditional hunting at the floe edge.
**2005** Arctic Bay HTO moved the cabin to a different site at the request of Parks Canada.
**2005 and thereafter** Expressions of concern to Parks Canada from Arctic Bay HTO and other community members about the need for a refuge cabin at Sinaasiurvik.
**2011** Initial cultural resource assessment of 210x59 (located at the Sinaasiurvik site) by Parks Canada; photo monitoring protocol established (see Bertulli et al., 2011). Results of this assessment were shared with local communities (Arctic Bay and Pond Inlet).
**2013** Parks Canada sent a letter to Arctic Bay HTO to request a proposal for a cabin plan and use strategy (at the former HTO cabin location) and to commit to working together to resolve the cabin issue. There was also a workshop with the HTO, April 15 and 16, where the cabin project was discussed.
**2014** Consultations held between a Parks Canada team and the Arctic Bay community. These consultations were concerning the development of the Sirmilk National Park management plan and included Sinaasiurvik area cabin safety requirements that were raised by the Arctic Bay Hunters and Trappers Organization.
**2015** Sinaasiurvik cabin was discussed at the June face-to-face Sirmilk Joint Park Management Committee meeting. Attendees reviewed the history of the site, and SJPMC members approved that Parks Canada work with the Arctic Bay HTO to come to an agreement about a structure at the site.
**2016** The first Sirmilik National Park Management Plan was completed. It specifically outlines a need to resolve the issue of the cabin at that site (see Parks Canada Management Plan, 2016, p. 8).
**2019** Parks Canada presented opportunities for gathering places and cabins in the park during the October face-to-face SJPMC meeting. Verbal approval given to continue investigations of multi-use cabin at Sinaasiurvik.
**2020**: Parks Canada Sinaasiurvik working group established. Cabin structure arrives, disassembled and crated, in Arctic Bay on summer sealift. Project update presented to SJPMC at December 16 teleconference.
**2021:** Parks Canada started concerted efforts to assess this site for future infrastructure development. The Sirmilik Joint Park Management Committee (SJPMC) recommended moving forward to assess the site for a future gathering place and also requested that an oral history project by undertaken to document knowledge about this important cultural site. The following occurred:

- SJPMC (regular members and project special advisor): at a March 10, 2021 meeting, resolutions were passed in support of proceeding with cabin infrastructure development and with oral history project. Motions: 2021-01-01, 2021-01-02 (both at March 10, 2021 meeting).
- Project introduction meetings: Meetings occurred: Ikajutit HTO (April 20, 2021); Nauttiqsuqtiit/QIA (May 19, 2021); Arctic Bay Adventures (September 21, 2021); Arctic Bay Inuit Knowledge Working Group (N/A – postponed to March 2022, date TBD).
- Parks Canada Agency research permit review (SJPMC): Research permit application for photo monitoring reviewed at SJPMC meeting by available members and supported by them (only two members participated). Meeting occurred: March 30-31, 2021.
- NRI research permit review (NTI, QIA) for research outside the park: Advice sought in advance of NRI permit application from QIA and NTI; QIA provided input. IHT notified about intent to pursue oral history and multi-use cabin projects, and provided input. Emails: QIA (April 30, 2021); IHT (June 1, 2021).

- Community representatives (fieldwork): Included HTO, SJPMC, and Nauttiqsuqtiit, and youth representatives. Feedback on cabin construction, future site facilities, cultural resource management, and long-term site management were given. Field work occurred on July 23, 2021.

**2022:** Early in the year, SJPMC met multiple times - Meetings at which input on the Sinaasiurvik project was received or discussed: January 11, 2022; January 26, 2022; February 10, 2022.

- On July 23 and August 1, a Parks Canada terrestrial archeologist (John Higdon) visited the Sinaasiurvik site with other Parks Canada staff and thoroughly documented/examined the area and identified 2 cabin siting alternatives and footprint areas that would be suitable for them. He also identified areas that would be suitable for helicopter landing/staging. The information collected by John Higdon was originally scheduled to be shared with the SJPMC in mid-December, 2022, unfortunately this meeting was cancelled and rescheduled for 2023.

**2023**: On January 4 and 5 the SJPMC were given a presentation by John Higdon on the information gathered during his field work in the summer of 2022.

- On February 27 and 28, Parks Canada met with the Mayor, SAO and Financial Officer of Arctic Bay, as well as Arctic Bay Adventures (a community based guiding company) and explained the gathering place project and the intent to move forward with the project. All were positive about the project and happy to hear it construction may begin this year.
- On February 28, Parks Canada Met with Kopic Attagutsiak (Arctic Bay elder – 102 years old) and her extended family. Kopic told stories of the Sinaasiurvik area and expressed joy at the thought of the gathering place project and that the site will remain a place where local people can gather.
- On March 6, Parks Canada met with the chair of the Arctic Bay HTO to discuss the proposed cabins at the site. The HTO chair was positive to hear that the gathering place will be moving forward, pending Impact Assessment completion and the HTO committee plan to discuss which site (east or main) they would prefer to see the gathering place.
- In April, an open house in Arctic Bay is planned to discuss cabin construction plans at the Sinaasiurvik site and to ask the Arctic Bay community which site (east or main) they would prefer to see the gathering place built.

**Community Involvement**

- In July, 2021, Parks Canada brought SJPMC and other community members (including elders) to the site. The details of the project, including the potential location of the gathering place, were shared with the group. All attendees were very positive about the site location and gathering place design. Traditional knowledge was also shared during this activity.
- Delivery of materials: community members will be hired for phase 1 and 3 to bring building materials to the site.
- Construction: community members will be hired to help with the construction/assembly of the gathering place. A bear guard will also be hired.
- Maintenance: community members will be hired, at times, to help complete various maintenance activities at the site.
- General use: community members will be welcome to access the gathering place infrastructure for their own purposes.
- Meetings: Parks Canada will facilitate meetings (i.e., SJPMC, AB IKWG, etc.) at the gathering place that will involve community members.
- Elder and youth activities: Parks Canada will facilitate elder and youth activities at the site. Elders and youth will be brought to the site to help enable traditional knowledge sharing.

- Story telling: Parks Canada will bring elders, community members and park visitors (non-Inuit) to the site for story telling events.
- Planning of events: community members will be hired to help with the planning of events (storytelling, elder and youth activities, etc.) to be hosted at the gathering place.

**Additional details**

*Other jurisdictions or departments involved in project development, review, and approval:*

- The Arctic Bay Ikajutit HTO are involved and recommend having the cabin at one of the suggested locations.

*Other relevant information:*

- The building of a cabin at Sinaasiurvik is following the direction of the Parks Canada Management Plan for Sirmilik National Park: Sirmilik National Park Management Plan, section 4.3 monitoring and protection of the park's ecosystems and cultural resources, states "*Address the Elwin Inlet-area cabin safety requirements raised by the Arctic Bay Hunters and Trappers Organization so that hunter safety from extreme weather, sea ice conditions, and polar bears is jointly considered along with additional site opportunities."*
- The Sinaasiurvik area is in a Parks Canada Zone 1. The current Management Plan zoning requires that when visiting a Zone 1 site, park visitors (non-Inuit) are required to have a Parks Canada staff member or trained guides accompany them.

- Cultural Resource Monitoring takes place on a regular basis at the site and will help ensure the ongoing protection of the site.