

WHAT WE HEARD

Harbour Swimming Deck Community Engagement: Phase 1

OCTOBER 2026



Learn more at:
letstalk.cnv.org/HarbourDeck

city
of north
vancouver

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About the Harbour Swimming Deck Project

The Harbour Swimming Deck is a new outdoor ocean swimming space to be located adjacent to Waterfront Park. It will provide safe, accessible and free public access to Burrard Inlet.

The project is inspired by similar projects worldwide in cities like Ottawa, Copenhagen, Paris and Quebec City. This new public space will be unique to the area and provide ocean swimming access, offering recreation and leisure opportunities to help create a healthier, happier, and more connected community.

The Harbour Swimming Deck project is being made possible through a \$16 million donation to Swim Drink Fish from the Weston family, and an additional \$5 million in capital funding from the City of North Vancouver. Swim Drink Fish is a national environmental non-profit working for a swimmable, drinkable, fishable future since its launch in 2001. By blending science, law, education, and storytelling with technology, Swim Drink Fish empowers millions of people to know and safeguard their waters.

The vision of the Harbour Swimming Deck is to provide a family-friendly swim platform with capacity for approximately 200-300 people. The concept includes an accessible shallow pool, 50-metre swim lanes, jumping platform, protected open water swimming areas and lounging and seating areas. The nearby park area will also include updated washrooms, changerooms, and showers. All features will be free to the public. The City will be responsible for the design, build and operations of the deck, including lifeguarding, security, and ongoing maintenance.

This What We Heard Report presents the results of the first phase of community engagement conducted by the city during the summer and fall of 2026. Engagement included a variety of online and in-person activities with the intent to share project details and gather community input on which deck features matter most to them, what new features in Waterfront Park would enhance their enjoyment of the swimming deck, and what concerns they might have around the project. The community feedback received will be used to inform detailed project design, new amenities, project operations planning and help shape how the City of North Vancouver manages the recreational area, including its future operations.



Rendering of the proposed Waterfront Park with swim deck.

PROJECT CONTEXT

The City of North Vancouver Council’s 2022 – 2026 Strategic Plan calls for expanding public waterfront access in Waterfront Park. In 2023, the City was approached by the national environmental non-profit, Swim Drink Fish to consider the opportunity for a swim deck that could provide public access to the water in Waterfront Park. In 2024, the City of North Vancouver entered into a partnership with the organization to undertake feasibility studies including a preliminary concept design for a harbour swimming deck. The purpose of this work: to consider the opportunities, challenges and key technical and financial implications of a potential project. The studies identified Waterfront Park as an ideal site given the zoning of the water lot adjacent to the park which allows recreational use, the high-profile location along the seawall, proximity to the popular Shipyards and nearby access to public transit and the Spirit Trail and 20,000 people living within a 10min walk of the proposed location This south facing location also has appropriate water depths, and summer water temperatures suitable for swimming

In 2024, Swim Drink Fish began a water quality testing program, which conformed to Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Coastal Health standards, to assess if the water quality at the site was consistent in meeting health standards suitable for swimming. This testing for E. coli, and a review of existing studies to assess the presence and concentrations of contaminants that can be linked to acute human health impacts, show the water quality in the water lot at Waterfront Park has been consistently suitable for swimming. The testing showed the water at the proposed site met or exceeded the standards for swimming established by the Federal Government through Health Canada’s Guidelines for Canadian Recreational Water Quality and the Province of British Columbia’s Recreational Water Quality Guidelines.

Reports with detailed findings can be found at:
<https://www.swimdrinkfish.ca/water-quality-waterfront-park>.

Once the site is operational, Metro Vancouver will include this location in its regional weekly water quality testing of swimmable waters, and the water quality results will be available to the public, including on Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Coastal Health’s websites.



HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The Harbour Swimming Deck represents a completely new type of recreation project for the City, and in fact, for the region. There has been a mixed reaction from members of the public to the project announcement ranging from excitement to concern, much of which has been expressed online. This feedback is critical to the development of the project, to ensure it reflects the concerns and interests of the public in the development of a technical and operational plan.

As such, City staff have taken the time required to complete phase 1 engagement, including interest holder sessions with youth and business conducted this fall. Additionally, staff have carefully reviewed the results of online and in person engagement, including hiring a third-party firm to analyse thousands of results and to review staff's findings.

What We Did

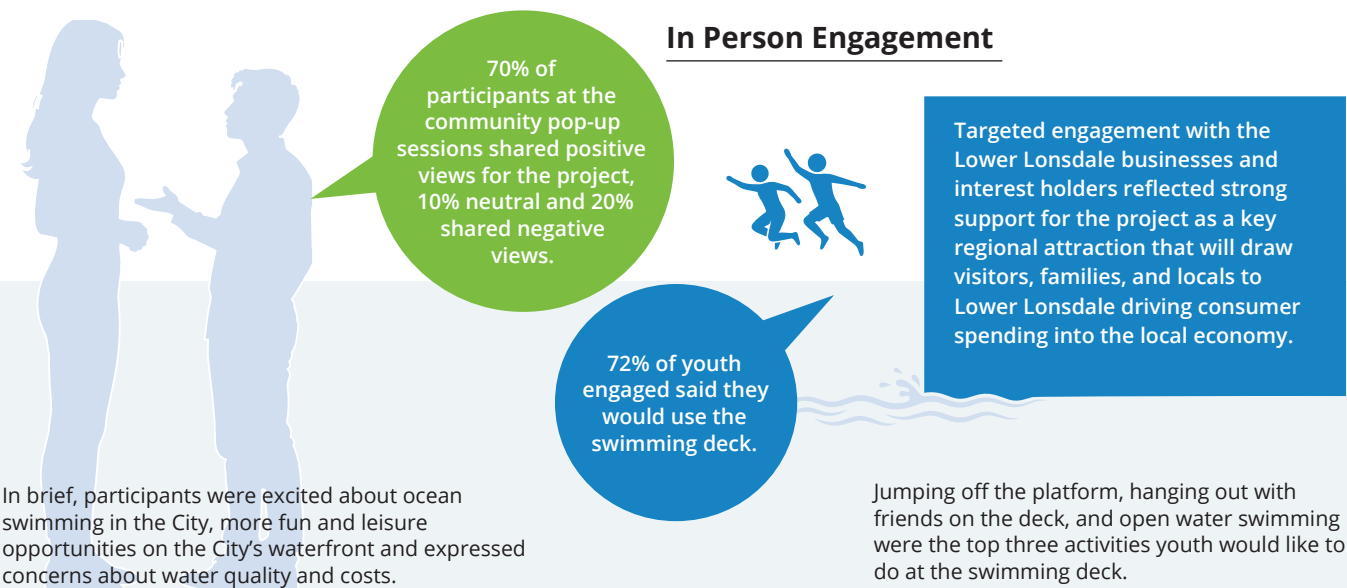
Through June to October 2026, staff undertook a multi-layered engagement process which garnered 3600+ touchpoints. It was designed to seek public input to guide the project design and operational plan, while also meeting the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's (the water lot permitting authority) detailed consultation and engagement requirements for all project proposals in its jurisdiction

The process specifically took a multi-mode approach combining an online, self-selecting survey on the Lets Talk Platform with in-person listen and learn sessions with the public, and a series of targeted engagements with youth and local businesses. The City is undertaking ongoing intergovernmental engagement on the project including with local First Nations partners.

What We Heard

Overall engagement results demonstrate positive sentiment toward the proposed project, highlighted by 70% of community pop-up participants expressing favorable views and 72% of youth indicating direct intent to use the swimming deck. Online survey respondents echoed this support, with 59% recognizing the project's recreational benefits and connection to the waterfront, slightly fewer said they would visit the swimming deck specifically, 46% said yes, 42% said no, and 11% were not sure.

Participants demonstrated enthusiasm for features like open-water swimming and leisure spaces and participants across all engagement channels raised consistent concerns regarding water quality, safety, implementation and operation costs.



Online Survey Results



59% of survey respondents felt the project would bring benefits, especially more free space for recreation and fun, followed by greater connection with the water.



Survey respondents were mixed on whether they would visit the swimming deck themselves. **46.2%** said yes, **42.7%** said no, and **11.0%** were not sure.



Respondents under 35 were most likely to say yes they would visit, (**56.5%**, compared with **36.3%** of those 65 and over).



Some respondents who do not currently use Waterfront Park said they would visit the swimming deck. Of those who said they rarely or never visit, 145 (**38.2%**) said yes they would.



Swimming (open water, lanes, and shallow pool), picnicking or sitting in the park, and sunbathing are the top three activities respondents said they would like to do at the future swimming deck.



All groups, including those excited about the project raised some concerns. Among them were the location being safe and suitable for swimming, project costs, and potential impacts on the neighbourhood.

How We Engaged

Staff undertook a multi-layered engagement approach that included an online survey, in-person pop ups at Waterfront Park and the Shipyards and focused sessions with interest holder groups, surrounding businesses and intergovernmental partners to help shape the Harbour Swimming Deck project in Waterfront Park.

An engagement survey ran from June 1 to June 30 and drew over 2,600 responses. In-person pop ups added over 400 in-person interactions. Focused engagement sessions with youth and local businesses continued through the fall seeing over 500 individual interactions.

The goals of project engagement were to:

- Share specific information on the proposed project, including the process to date, the partnership with Swim Drink Fish, the preliminary schematic concept, potential Waterfront Park improvements, the operating approach, and water quality results.
- Gather input from public and community interest holders.
- Create an inclusive and accessible engagement opportunity for all participants.
- Understand key interests to inform both the design and operations of the swim deck
- Meet all requirements of the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority Key Project and Environmental Review Process.

Engagement asked participants would they use the swim deck, which deck features matter most to them, what new features in Waterfront Park would enhance their enjoyment of the swimming deck, and what concerns they might have around the project. This input, along with technical, scientific and engineering information, will inform detailed design and operational planning for the swimming deck.



WHAT DID WE DO?

A mix of in-person and virtual engagement opportunities were offered for the community to learn about the Harbour Swimming Deck project and to provide input on project features, operations, concerns, and opportunities. Engagement activities included:

- An online survey on the City's digital engagement platform, Let's Talk.
- Site pop-up events at Waterfront Park and The Shipyards, where the public could learn about the project and informally share their input.
- Youth engagement in June through SD#44 (targeted email linking to the survey and in-person sessions) and the North Vancouver Library Teen Space including sentiment tracking on the swimming deck and proposed on-land amenities through an interactive 'dot' activity.
- Targeted in person engagement with high school students and two organizations supporting equity-deserving youth in October, as well as targeted engagement with identified Lower Lonsdale businesses.
- A project page on the City of North Vancouver's engagement platform, Let's Talk, and a second project information page on the City's Capital Projects page with detailed information and ways to participate.

Engagement Activities	Description	Participation
Survey	A survey was available online on the City's Let's Talk platform between June 1 and 30, 2026.	2,695 responses.
Pop-up events	City staff conducted three in-person pop-ups at Waterfront Park and The Shipyards on June 18, 19, and 20, 2026.	Staff interacted with approximately 413 people over three events.
Project engagement page	The project engagement web page on Let's Talk provided project information, including timelines, key dates and background information. The project survey was accessed through the Let's Talk page. A separate project website was also set up on the main City of North Vancouver webpage on the Capital Projects page.	4,928 visitors to the Let's Talk site. 163 active users at City of North Vancouver's Capital Projects page and swimming deck project sub-page.
Youth engagement	Youth engagement through SD#44 and the North Vancouver Library Teen Space (pop-up event at the Library with sentiment tracking on swimming deck features and proposed on-land amenities through an interactive 'dot' activity). In October, targeted youth engagement took place with lunch time sessions at Carson Graham and Sutherland Secondary Schools. Two sessions were held at each school. Additional engagement sessions were organized with two youth-serving non-profits, Foundry North Shore and Red Fox Healthy Living Society.	30 – 50 interactions at Library Teen Space. Project information provided to North Vancouver parents in SD#44 newsletter Approximately 500 interactions at high school engagement sessions. 24 participants at non-profit engagement sessions
Local Businesses	A focused workshop was held with Lower Lonsdale businesses and the BIA to understand their interests in the project	Business representatives including the Lower Lonsdale BIA, commercial and retail operators and two hotels.

Project outreach and communications also included the following:

- A city-wide postcard mailout, with a notification letter to homes in the community surrounding Waterfront Park
- Posters displayed at approximately 20 residential buildings within a two-block radius of the Harbour Swimming Deck site
- Posters at approximately 32 city-wide businesses and non-profits
- Traditional and social media outreach, including print advertising and media
- Email invitations to identified interest holders and community groups
- On-site signage with a QR code linking to the digital survey



▲ TOP: Youth Engagement at Carson Graham Secondary School. ▼ BOTTOM:: Pop up event at Waterfront Park

Who Participated – In Person

COMMUNITY POP-UPS

The primary purpose of the pop-up events was to bring awareness to the project, give people the opportunity to speak directly to staff, to ensure that people who currently use Waterfront Park are aware of the project and potential changes to the park, and to direct people to the survey which served as the primary data collection mechanism for the public engagement period. Events were held at both Waterfront Park and Shipyards to solicit input from people who both use the park as well as the larger waterfront.

City of North Vancouver staff fielded questions on the design, process, funding and operations of the project. Water quality questions were fielded by Swim, Drink, Fish representatives who attended the three pop-up events. Attendance was monitored using manual-click tally counters, and feedback was recorded and documented by the staff following each session.

Date	Time	Event	Total Touchpoints
June 18	5:00-8:00pm	Waterfront Park (at Goldsworthy Pier)	163
June 19	4:00-7:00pm	Shipyards (Cates Deck)	81
June 20	11:00am-2:00pm	Waterfront Park (at Goldsworthy Pier)	169
TOTAL			413



TARGETED YOUTH OUTREACH

Based on research from other jurisdictions youth are most likely to be key users of the amenity and have important input to help guide the development of the plan. They also remain underrepresented in City processes. Positive social and active spaces for youth and teens that have a low barrier for access can contribute to positive mental and physical health outcomes in this cohort.

Staff led the following targeted sessions to engage a broad range of youth in the City of North Vancouver, including equity-deserving youth who may have experienced barriers to participation. They were held in October to take advantage of school being back in session, which was a limiting factor during June outreach. **In total, 525 youth participated.**

- **Carson Graham Secondary School**
October 5th and October 8th, 1:00pm – 1:50pm
- **Sutherland Secondary School**
October 7th and 9th, 1:05pm – 1:50pm
- **Red Fox Healthy Living Society**
October 8th, 4:00pm – 5:00 pm
- **The Foundry North Shore**
October 8th, 4:00pm – 5:00pm

LOWER LONSDALE BUSINESSES

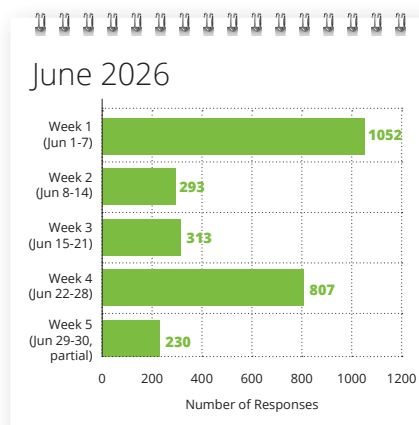
A focus group with attendees representing Lower Lonsdale hotels, commercial and retail business and the Lower Lonsdale BIA was held October 14, 2026



Who Participated – Online Survey

JUNE (WEEKLY RESPONSES)

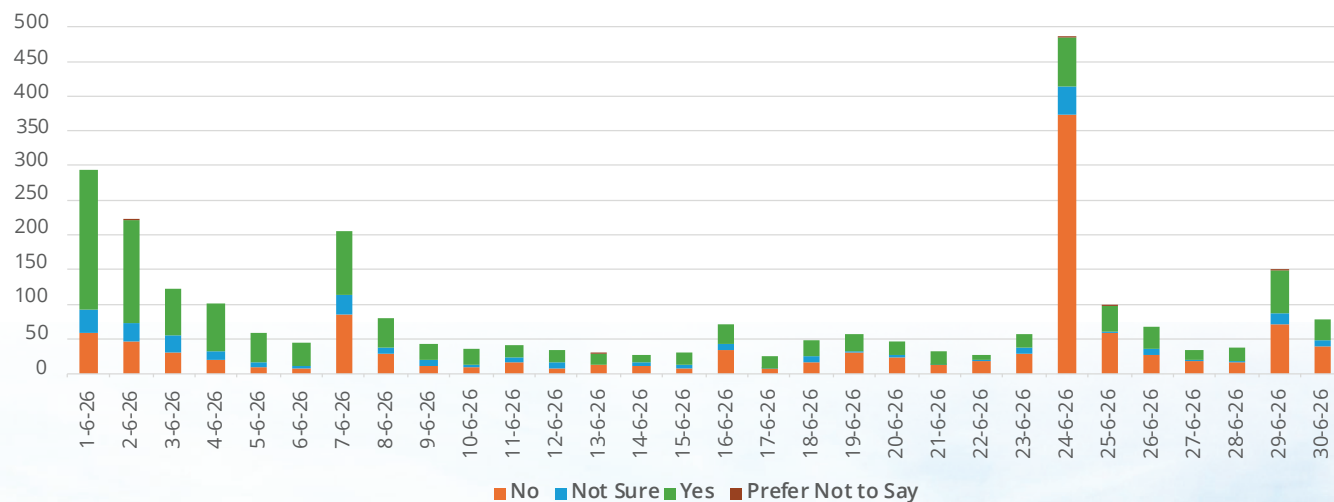
In total, the City received 2,695 responses to the survey over the month of June.



JUNE (DAILY RESPONSES)

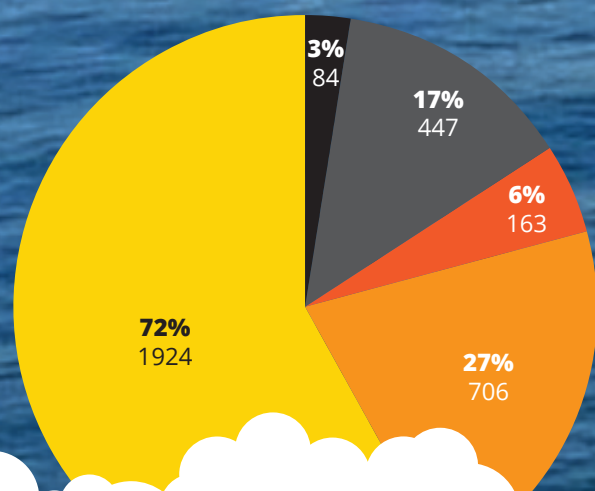
Summary of daily responses in the month of June.

Do you imagine yourself visiting the Harbour Swimming Deck recreational area?



The following tables highlight how respondents identified themselves in the survey – who participated.

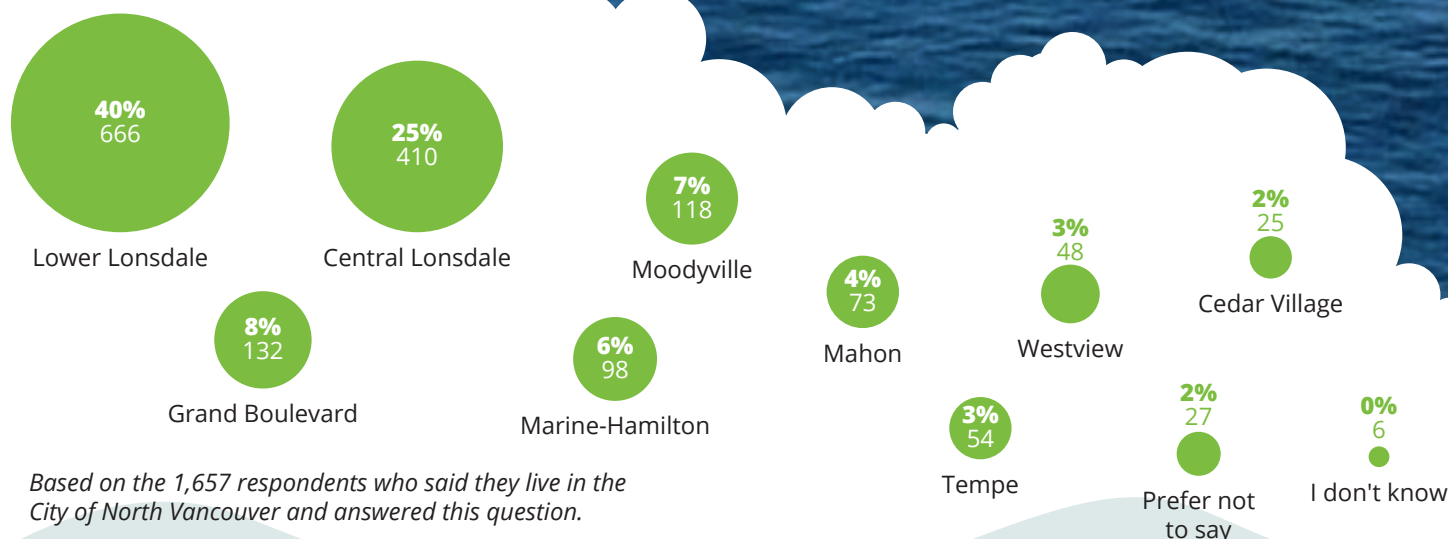
Connection to the City



- I live in the City
- I work in the City
- I have a business in the City
- No, I do not live, work or have a business in the City
- Prefer not to say

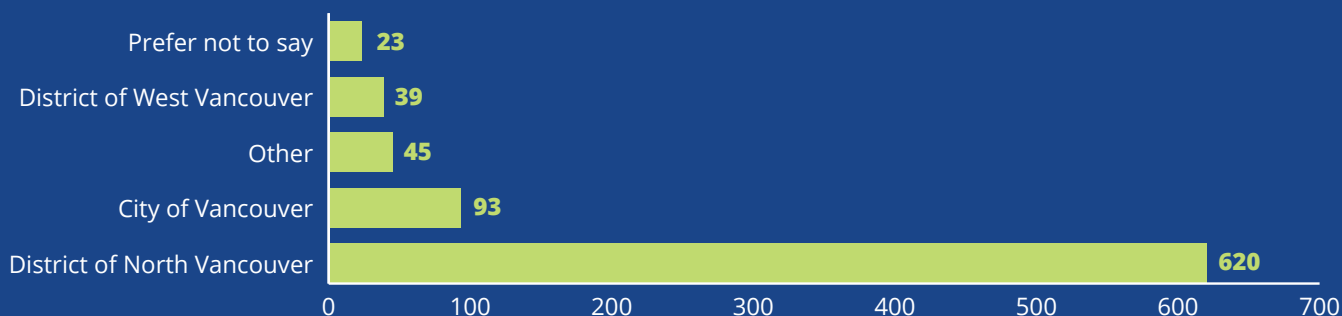
Based on the 2,669 people who answered this question. People could choose more than one answer.

Neighbourhood



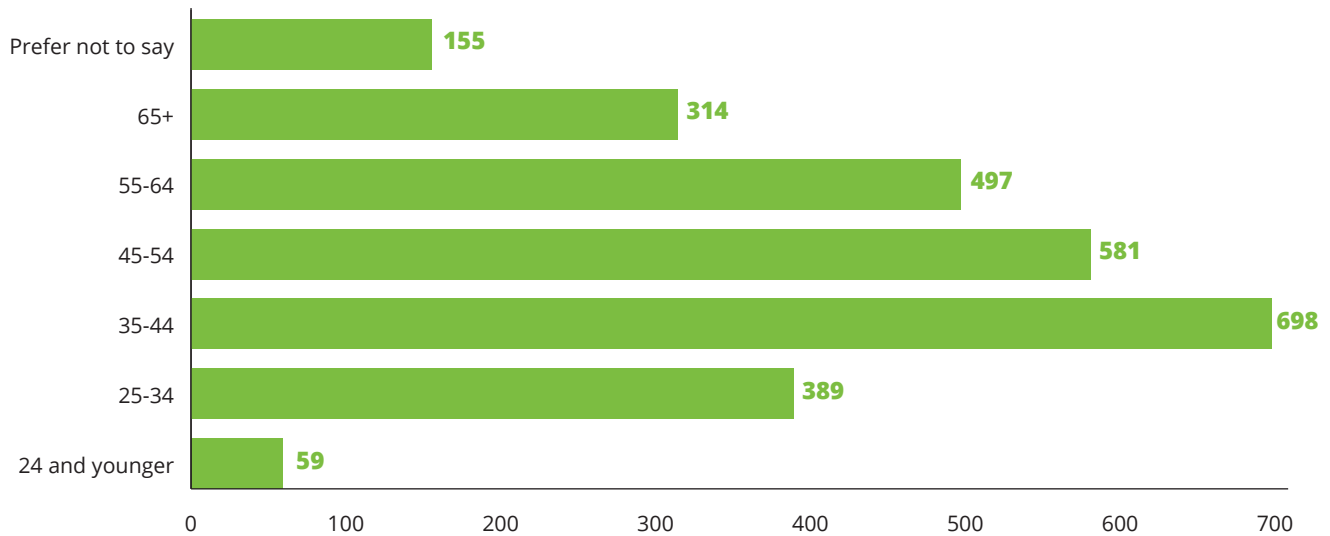
Based on the 1,657 respondents who said they live in the City of North Vancouver and answered this question.

Area of Residence



Based on the 820 people who do not live in the City of North Vancouver and answered this question.

How old are you?



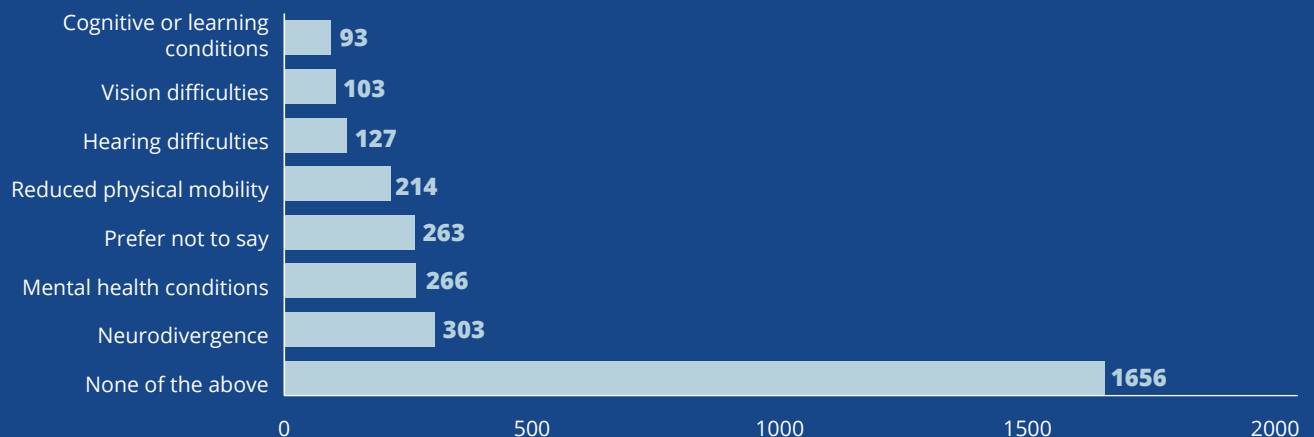
Based on the 2,669 people who answered this question.

What is your gender?



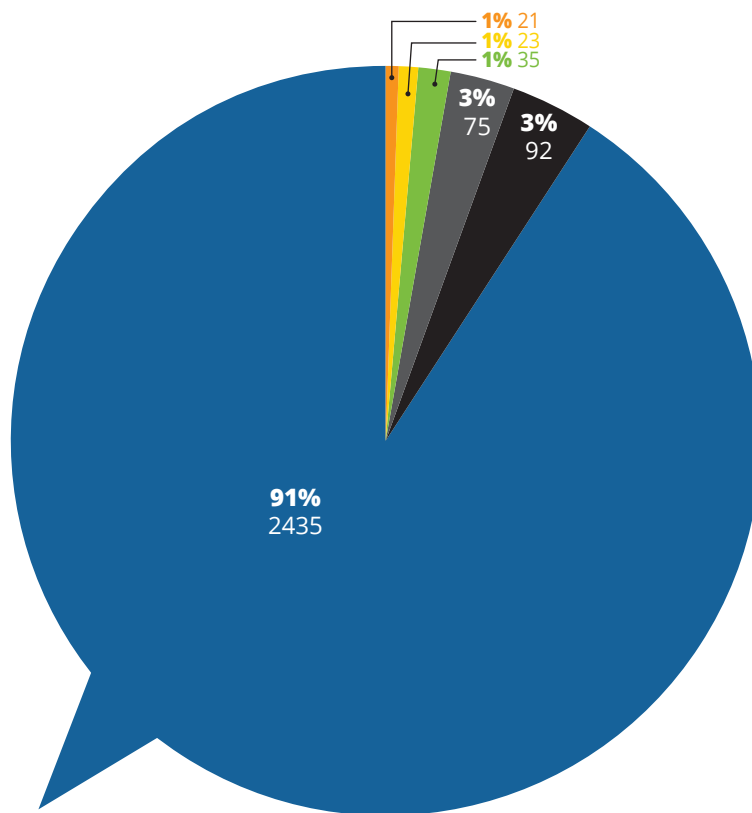
Based on the 2,683 people who answered this question.

Household Conditions



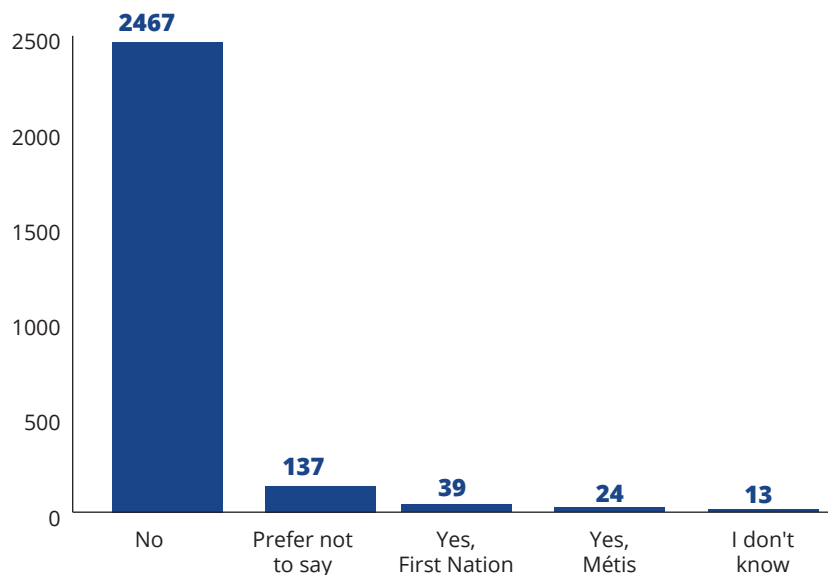
Based on the 2,582 people who answered this question. People could choose more than one answer, so the percentages add up to more than 100%.

Language at home



Based on the 2,681 people who answered this question.

Indigenous identity



Based on the 2,680 people who answered this question.



Methodology for Analyzing Input

The team used a **mixed-method iterative qualitative and quantitative engagement analysis approach**. While it is more straightforward to analyze the responses to multiple choice or likert scale questions with one answer (quantitative data), it is more challenging and time consuming to read and code thousands of open-ended comments (qualitative data).

For the survey, answers to multiple-choice questions were counted and reported as a percentage of the people who answered each question. The open-ended comments from the survey were read and tagged with themes. A single comment could be tagged with more than one theme. Rather than starting with a set list of topics, themes were built from what people wrote. Similar themes were then grouped into larger theme families. The number of comments in each theme family is reported. Smaller sub-themes are described in words to show the range of views respondents shared.

For the pop-up events, feedback emerged through conversations. Staff recorded what they heard and summarized it afterwards, so this feedback reflects staff notes and observations. All the pop-up sessions collected visitor comments creating a set of themes coded as positive, neutral or negative.

During the youth sessions, results have been reported as a share of the dots placed on answer choices (similar to a multiple choice question on a survey). Additionally, some participants added written sticky-note comments that were grouped into themes and described in words rather than counted.



What We Heard

COMMUNITY POP-UPS – SUMMARY AND KEY THEMES

The pop-up engagement events solicited qualitative feedback from community members through conversations which supported questions, answers and the opportunity for idea sharing. Over the three-day period there was a mix of positive, neutral and negative comments, as well as plenty of questions and clarifications about project details and how the deck would operate. There was also a mix of positive, neutral and negative comments from participants who lived in adjacent residences.

At the Waterfront Park sessions, staff interacted with many individuals who were utilizing the park and Spirit Trail and stopped by the pop-up event. Many of these people were unaware of the project and were interested in learning more, staff noted that many of these types of participants thought the addition of the swimming deck would have a positive impact on the park and increase the number of things to do in the park. Some participants expressed that this would be a great addition to the waterfront including that it provided a direct connection to the water where none exists currently.

Overall, staff experienced a large majority of people expressing positive sentiments towards the swimming deck and indicated that they and their children would use the space. Many participants discussed how they would use the swimming deck and envisioned specifically what improvement would enhance their experience, either for training, recreating, dipping, or sitting on the deck while their children swam. Staff gathered useful, detailed insights into the needs of these participants and how it would influence the design.

People who were opposed to the project had very strong opinions against the project and staff spent a considerable amount of time listening to these participants. Negative comments focused on water quality, water temperature, the decision-making process, misplaced priorities, operating costs and tax impact, questioning the City's funding source of Developer Cost Charges (DCC), and investment vs public benefit. A few participants had concerns about negative impacts to the marine environment.

Comments from the pop-up events are summarized below aligned with the following categories.

Categorization Guidelines

-  Positive: Expressions of support, constructive suggestions, praise, endorsement, or agreement with proposed initiatives
-  Neutral: Clarifying questions, requests for factual info, off-topic remarks, or balanced statements without clear bias
-  Negative: Direct opposition, complaints, frustration, skepticism, or criticism regarding processes or policies

POSITIVE



- Provides an opportunity to touch the water – put feet in water even if not swimming – nowhere to access the water in the area
- Excited that the project was approved by Council and that it is moving forward – great idea – excited about the saunas
- In walkable distance from apartment building – excited to show grandchild how close they will live to the swimming deck
- Excited about the project – felt that this would add a great and exciting amenity to the waterfront
- Provided detailed feedback on how certain design details could enhance users experience e.g. stairs vs ladders for gradual acclimatization to cold water
- Great opportunity to train for cold/open water swimming in a more contained environment
- Loved the idea but requested acclimatization features – would not want to jump in
- Loved the idea and wants to sit on the deck while their kids swim
- Suggested ways to manage booking to prioritize CNV residents
- Evaluate the swim lanes or deck as it related to any competitive criteria that may exist for those in training to see if there is the possibility of being certified as a training or competitive venue
- Chesterfield
 - *Adjust the drop-off /loading area from 30 mins to 5*
 - *Update signage to more clearly direct peds and bikes*
- Provide bike racks on the edge of the park
- Expandability of the swim lanes (option to add 2-4 lanes at certain times if necessary)
- Improvements to the playground to support a wider range of family focussed activities
- Leverage the use of 15 Chesterfield to support other needs like additional washrooms/ changerooms
- Several participants mentioned that they are cold water swimmers now and would use the facility
- An excellent opportunity to create a highly active and social hub building on the success of the Shipyards
- Acknowledgement that even though there was skepticism initially about the Shipyards, the City's investment has been successful and that this trust should be extended to the swimming deck project

NEUTRAL



- Questions about alcohol and how that would be managed both from a vendor perspective and from drinking allowed in the park
- Questions about water quality –had conversations with Swim Drink Fish representatives at event
- Questions about wildlife management (e.g. seals)
- Questions about parking capacity
- Questions about the decision-making process
- Questions and concerns about cost
- Concerns about noise, washroom capacity, and need for additional garbage and recycling facilities including increased maintenance – wanted to know how these would be managed

NEGATIVE



- Concerns that because of water quality or temperature no one would use the deck
- Concerns that if the project is successful, it would generate noise and result in high volumes of pedestrian and cycle traffic from Chesterfield to the swimming deck
- Concerns about life safety and lifeguarding, especially focussed on risks due to swimming in cold water
- Comments that the City should focus resources on core services like aging infrastructure or other resident needs
- Comments about how a traditional land-based outdoor pool would be a better use of money
- City debt and a concern that the capital and operating cost of the project would exacerbate this issue especially considering ongoing public cost of the North Shore Wastewater Treatment plant
- Comments about the survey and public engagement process not being transparent or genuine and therefore not an accurate capture of public sentiment
- Lack of public engagement prior to Council deciding to advance the project
- Skepticism over the motives of the funding partners
- Park Development Cost Charges (DCCs) would be better allocated to other priorities or improvements
- Very concerned that the project would destroy the peace of Waterfront Park
- Concerns about how DCC's are collected
- Lack of adequate parking to support the project
- The accessibility measures will not adequately support certain populations with a special focus on the proximity of the drop-off area
- Concerns about cost overruns and reference to the North Shore Wastewater Treatment plant delivery and cost

TARGETED YOUTH OUTREACH – SUMMARY AND KEY THEMES

In the analysis of the age cohorts of engagement activities held prior to the summer break less than 2% of responses came from people 25 years and under. Given this cohort is anticipated to be one of the key users of the swim deck, additional engagement was sought to gain insights from this age group.

To address this underrepresentation, staff arranged with School District #44 to hold in-person pop ups during lunch hours at Carson Graham and Sutherland Secondary Schools. The exercises: a four-station interactive approach was used to create engaging, informative, and fun events. The setup included an orientation station where youth could learn about the project, ask questions and chat with staff. After the orientation, students could participate at three activity stations with three questions that asked youth to use sticky dots to select their answer. Youth could provide additional comments using sticky notes.

Overall, the majority of youth participants indicated that they would use the swimming deck, and many liked that it brings a fun, lively activity to their community. Youth participants were most drawn to jumping off the platform and open water swimming, and to relaxing and socializing on the swimming deck, rather than to more structured swimming options like lane swimming and swimming lessons. Their main concerns were water quality, cost, and potential crowding and noise.

Across all three activity stations, when asked to share additional ideas, many youth participants returned to similar ideas. For the swimming deck, they suggested slides and other play features. On land, they suggested playgrounds, sports facilities, food and drink nearby, places to sit and relax, and allowing pets.

Activity Station 1

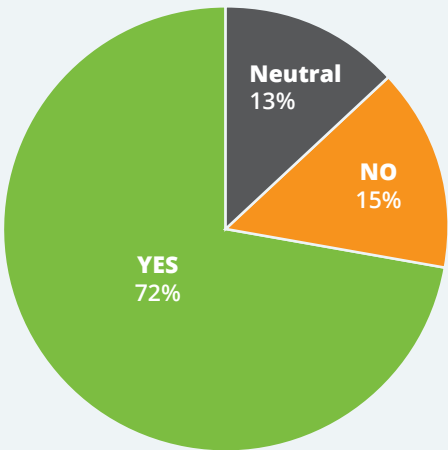
Would you use the swimming deck?

When asked if they would use the swimming deck, the majority of responses were positive, with ‘Yes’ making up roughly 72% of the total. ‘No’ accounting for about 15%, closely followed by ‘Neutral’ at approximately 13%.

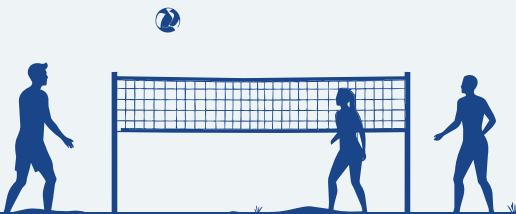
Youth participants most often said they loved the chance to jump in and swim, that they would not have to travel far to get there, and that the project would bring exciting activities to the area.

Their main concerns were water quality, the cost to build and run it, and crowding and noise.

They shared many ideas for the project. For the swimming deck, youth suggested having diving boards, a rope swing, water slides, and boating features like a fishing dock and pedal boats. On land, they suggested volleyball courts, a bike pump track, parking, and nearby snack options. Some participants asked if there would be a charge to swim at the swim deck and were surprised/pleased to learn the deck will have free entrance.

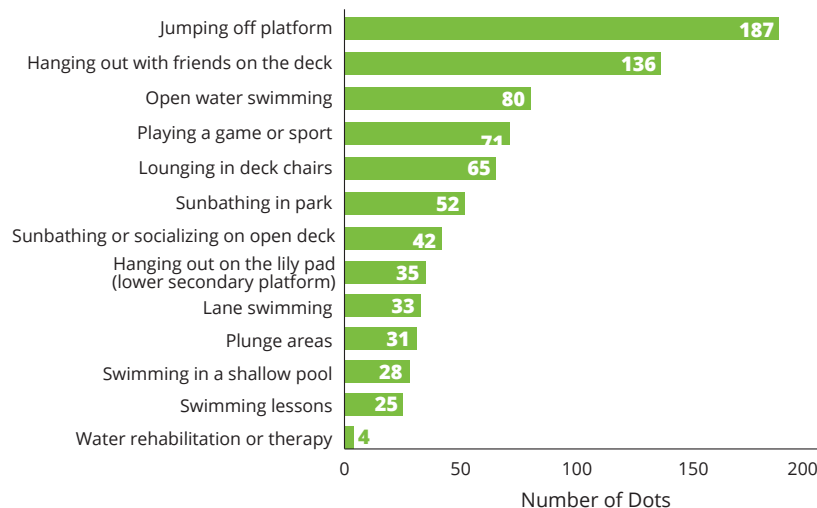


Shares are out of 412 dots placed.



Activity Station 2

What would you like to do at the future Harbour Swimming Deck recreational area?



Youth could pick their top three activities. Bars show the number of dots each activity received, and its share of all 791 dots placed.

Jumping off the platform drew the most dots (23.6%), followed by hanging out with friends on the deck (17.4%) and open water swimming (10.1%). Together, these three made up just over half of all dots placed.

The remaining swimming options — lane swimming, plunge areas, swimming in a shallow pool, swimming lessons, and water rehabilitation or therapy — drew the fewest dots of all the options, with 15.3% between them. Other relaxing and socializing options, including hanging out on the lily pad, lounging in deck chairs, sunbathing in the park, and sunbathing or socializing on the open deck drew 24.8% of dots between them. Playing a game or sport drew 9.0% of dots.

The most common additional ideas youth shared were more in-water features and equipment, such as slides, water games, and floaties, along with food on and near the deck, and space for events like parties, fitness classes, and concerts. Several asked for pets to be allowed. A few asked for quiet spaces and for the deck to be accessible.



**Jumping off the platform
drew the most dots
(23.6%)**



**Hanging out with
friends on the deck
was also popular
(17.4%)**

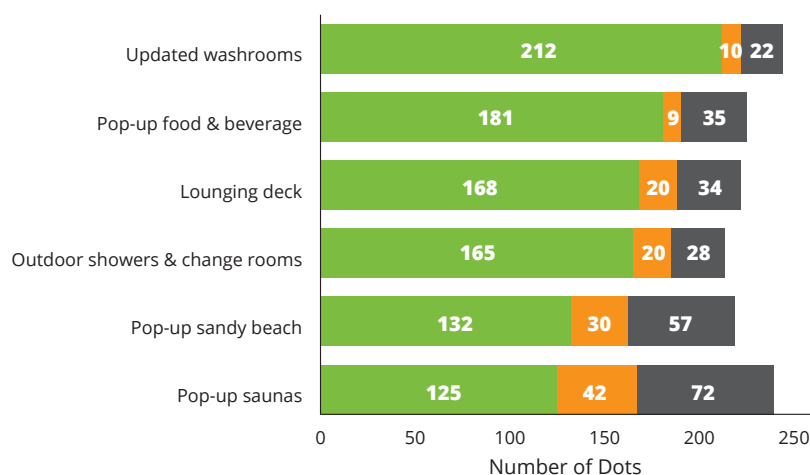


**Open water swimming
was third in voting
(10.1%)**

Activity Station 3

What additional on-land features would you like to see?

■ A feature you want ■ A feature you don't want ■ A feature you are neutral about



A total of 1,362 dots were placed across the six features. Some features drew more dots than others, so bars are not the same length. Percentages are out of the dots placed on each feature.

Overall, youth respondents wanted every listed feature more often than they didn't. Updated washrooms ranked highest (212, 86.9%), followed by pop-up food and beverage (181, 80.4%), outdoor showers and change rooms (165, 77.5%), and the lounging deck (169, 75.8%). The pop-up sandy beach (132, 60.3%) and pop-up saunas (125, 52.3%) ranked lowest, with more neutral and don't-want responses.

Other ideas included a bigger playground and improved park space, sports facilities (a skate park, pump track, soccer field), water features (slides, a water park area, a zipline), and food and snack options. A few youth participants focused on changing and storage features.



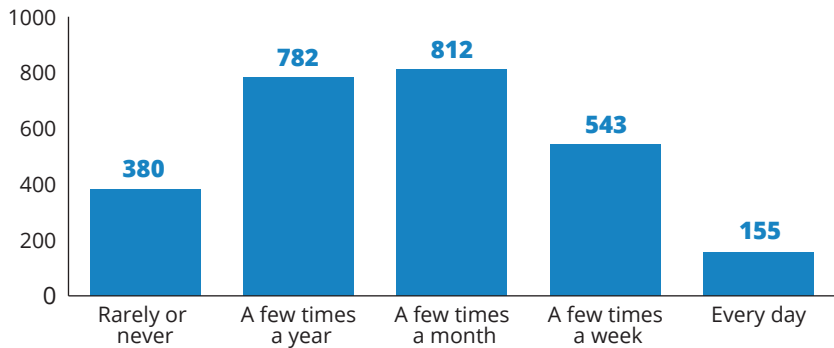
SURVEY

The following section summarizes the quantitative and qualitative findings from the online survey fielded between June 1 – June 30, 2026 that received 2,695 responses.

Who's in the area now?

Most survey respondents said they are regularly in Waterfront Park throughout the year, visiting a few times per month or more (56.2% of respondents).

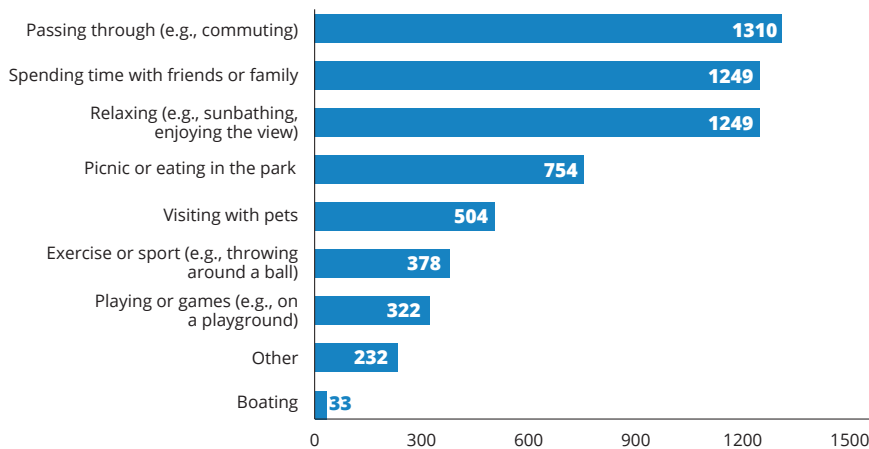
Waterfront Park use frequency



Based on all 2,688 people who answered. 'Not sure' and 'prefer not to say' are not shown. Lighter blue highlights the frequent user group.

"Passing through" was the most picked activity (57.1%). When people stop and stay, "relaxing and spending time with friends or family" were the most common activities (both 54.4%), followed by having a picnic (32.9%) and visiting with pets (22.0%). Fewer people said they use the park for active things like exercise or sport (16.5%) or playing and games (14.0%).

What do you or members of your group do when visiting Waterfront Park?



Based on all 2,295 people who answered. They could pick multiple answers. People who responded that they 'rarely or never' visit Waterfront Park skipped this question.

People under 35 were more likely to say they visit the park often (75.8%, compared with 52.5% of people 35 and over). People who have lived in Canada for 10 years or less were also more likely to visit often (68.8%, compared with 55.4% of people who have lived here longer).



Who wants to visit the Harbour Swimming Deck recreational area?

Respondents were mixed on whether they would visit the swimming deck themselves. 46.2% said yes, 42.7% said no, and 11.0% were not sure.

Respondents under 35 were most likely to say yes (56.5%, compared with 36.3% of those 65 and over).

Some respondents who do not currently use Waterfront Park said they would visit the swimming deck. Of those who said they rarely or never visit, 145 (38.2%) said yes.

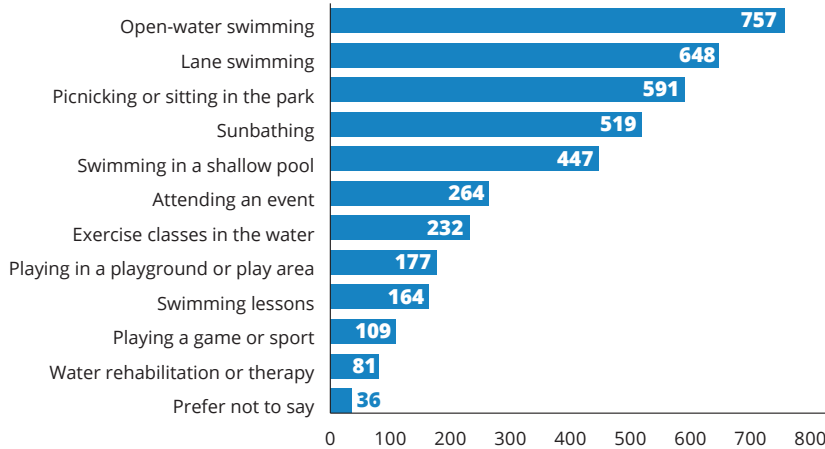
What do they want to do there?

These answers come from the 1,545 people who did not rule out visiting the Harbour Swimming Deck recreational area. That includes people who said yes, not sure, or prefer not to say.

Swimming was the most common reason people gave for visiting. About half said they would swim in open water (49.0%), and 41.9% said they would use lanes for swimming. 28.9% said swimming in a shallow pool.

Many also chose things that do not involve swimming at all, including picnicking or sitting in the park (38.3%) and sunbathing (33.6%) were both popular.

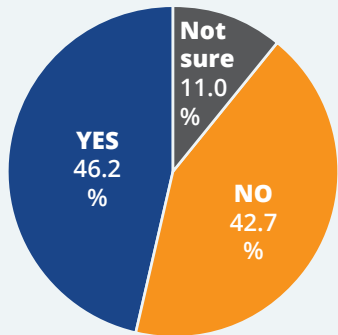
What activities would you like to do at the future Harbour Swimming Deck recreational area?



Based on 1,545 people. Respondents could pick more than one answer.

Some activity preferences differed slightly by age group. Open-water swimming and sunbathing were more common choices among people under 35. Exercise classes in the water were more common among people 65 and over.

Would you visit the Harbour Swimming Deck?



49.0%
would swim
open-water

41.9%
would use
lanes

28.9%
would swim in a
shallow pool



Swimming and sunbathing
were common for people
under 35



Exercise class in the
water was more common
for people over 65

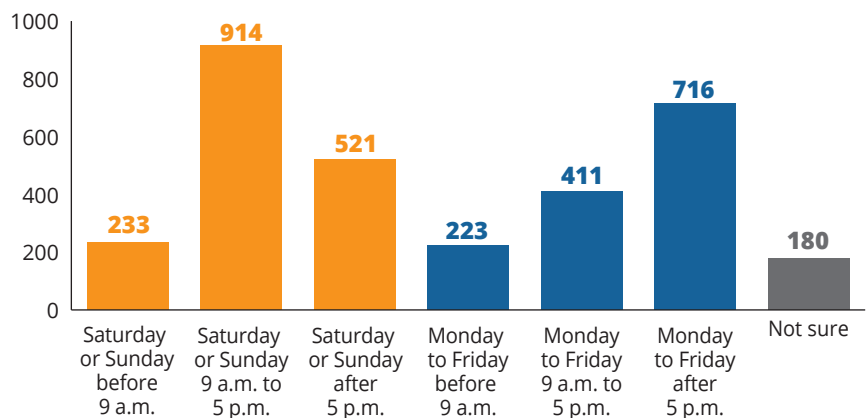
When do they want to be there?

These answers come from the 1,545 people who did not rule out visiting the Harbour Swimming Deck recreational area. That includes people who said yes and people who were not sure.

Respondents who do not rule out visiting the swimming deck expect to use it less in colder months, when about 24% said they would use it at least a few times a month.

Weekend daytime was the most popular time (59.2%), followed by weekday evenings (46.3%). Most people expect to stay for one to two hours (58.3%). Answers differed by age. People 65 and over were much more likely to say they would use the deck on weekdays between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (57.2%, compared with 18.6% of people under 35). People under 35 were more likely to choose evenings and weekends.

When respondents would be most likely to use the swimming deck



Based on the 1,545 people who did not rule out visiting. Some picked more than one answer. Orange shows weekends and blue shows weekdays.

Most respondents (58.3%) anticipate using the swimming deck for one to two hours.



How would they get there?

The question on how respondents would arrive at the Harbour Swimming Deck recreational area was corrected on the second day of the survey which permitted respondents to pick as many options as they wished, so these answers come from the 1,245 people who saw the corrected version and who did not rule out visiting the Harbour Swimming Deck recreational area (people who said yes, not sure, or prefer not to say about visiting).

Most people said they would walk (66.7%). Biking or rolling (42.7%) and driving a personal vehicle (40.6%) were next. About one in four said they would take the bus (27.4%).

People under 35 were the most likely to say they would walk (81.2%). Driving a personal vehicle was less common among both people under 35 and people 65 and over.

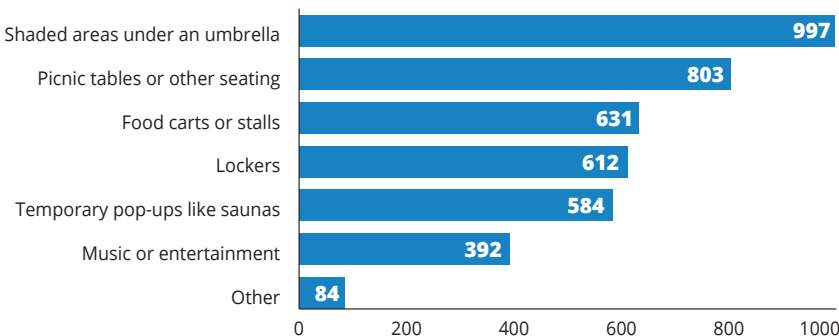
Households where someone experiences reduced physical mobility, a cognitive or learning condition, or neurodivergence were more likely to say they would arrive by bus or personal vehicle, and less likely to say they would walk.

Features and amenities respondents would like to see

These answers come from the 1,545 people who did not rule out visiting the Harbour Swimming Deck recreational area. That includes people who said yes, not sure, or prefer not to say.

Shade was the most requested feature, chosen by about two-thirds of respondents (64.5%). Places to sit were also common. Half said they would like picnic tables or other seating (52.0%). Food carts or stalls (40.8%), lockers (39.6%) and temporary pop-ups such as saunas (37.8%) were each chosen by around four in ten. One in four asked for music or entertainment (25.4%).

What additional features would you like to see?



Based on 1,545 people. Respondents could pick more than one answer.

Temporary pop-ups such as saunas were a more common choice among respondents under 35.



Most people said they would walk to the site (66.7%)



Biking or rolling were also popular responses (42.7%)



Shade was the most requested feature (64.5%)

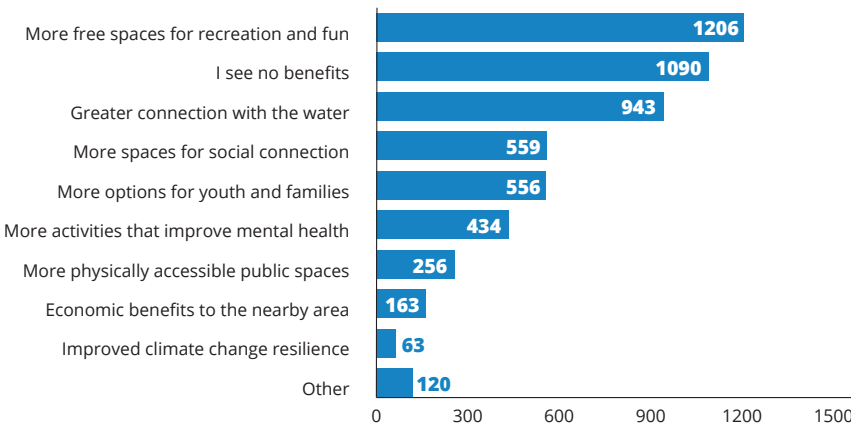


Picnic tables or other seating was also a common request (52.0%)

Reactions to the Harbour Swimming Deck recreational area

When asked what benefits the swimming deck would bring, 59.1% of respondents chose at least one. But 40.9% said they saw none. Some respondents saw benefits in the swimming deck even though they did not expect to visit.

Benefits respondents find exciting about the Harbour Swim Deck recreational area



Based on all 2,666 people who answered. They could pick multiple answers.

The most common benefit people chose was more free space for recreation and fun (45.2%), followed by greater connection with the water (35.4%). About one in five chose more spaces for social connection (21.0%) or more options for youth and families (20.9%), and 16.3% chose more activities that improve mental health. Fewer respondents chose more physically accessible public spaces (9.6%), economic benefits to the nearby area (6.1%) or improved climate change resilience (2.4%).

Business owners

Only a small number answered, so their comments are described here rather than counted

6.1% of respondents said they owned a business in the city. They were asked how the City could help the swimming deck create positive economic impacts. They suggested using the swimming deck to draw visitors to nearby businesses, making those businesses easy to reach from the site, and making the deck somewhere people want to stay a while.



PROJECT CONCERNS

Across all groups, including people who are excited about the project, respondents raised the following concerns:

Safe and suitable place to swim (1257, 61.9%)

Most concerns were about water quality, with people saying they thought the water was polluted, dirty or unhealthy. Others wrote about the busy harbour and about supervision and the risk of drowning. Some raised concerns about other site users, including substance use, and about wildlife such as seals or seagulls.

Cost and spending priorities (841, 41.4%)

Respondents wrote about whether the money would be better spent on other needs, the ongoing cost of running and maintaining the swimming deck, and its impact on affordability in the neighbourhood.

Use and demand (493, 24.3%)

Some respondents were concerned that the deck would get limited use, especially because of the climate and weather.

Getting there (341, 16.8%)

The main concerns here were that there would not be enough free parking, and that traffic would increase.

Impact on the neighbourhood (321, 15.8%)

Some respondents were concerned that the project could bring more crowds, noise and litter, changing the calm character of the area.

Design size and features (234, 11.5%)

People said the swimming deck should be bigger, and that the design needs to be safe and work for people of all abilities. They also suggested features they would want to see.

What people wanted to see in the design, size and features

These are the ideas people raised most often:

- A bigger swimming deck, with more room for lane swimming
- Safe, accessible ways to get in and out of the water
- Lifeguards with good facilities and proper open-water training
- Washrooms, change rooms and lockers
- Shade and covered areas
- Somewhere to warm up, including saunas or heated pools
- More for children and young people to do
- Places to rent gear or buy food and drinks
- Space on land for picnics, sports and pets, and parts of the park kept calm and natural

Based on 2,031 people who wrote a comment. Many wrote about more than one topic. A small number of respondents (143, 7.0%) used this question to say something positive about the project rather than raise a concern.

SOME CONCERNS



Safety
61.9%



Cost
41.4%



Use & Demand
24.3%



Getting there
16.3%



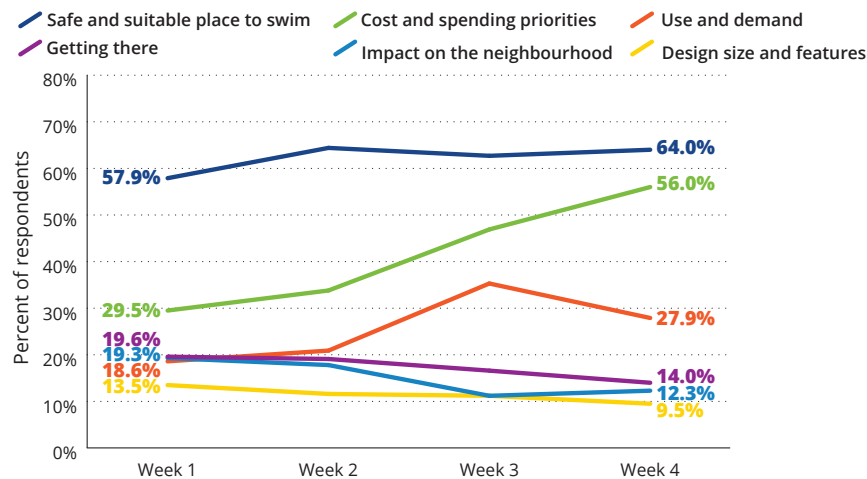
Neighbourhood impact
15.8%



Design & features
11.5%

Concerns about cost grew over the survey period, rising from 29.5% in the first week to 56.0% in the fourth week. Questions regarding the frequency of deck usage also became more common after the first two weeks. Concerns about the safety of the water and the site would be safe to swim in stayed high throughout the period, while other themes showed little change.

Top concern themes by week



Based on the 2,031 people who wrote a comment, grouped by the week they responded. One comment could be about more than one thing. Week 1 = June 1-7, Week 2 = June 8-14, Week 3 = June 15-21, Week 4 = June 22-28.



Business Engagement

Due to lower participation by businesses in the online survey, additional engagement with businesses in the surrounding areas was conducted. This included a focus group with attendees representing Lower Lonsdale hotels, commercial and retail business and the Lower Lonsdale Business Improvement Association. The following were key themes expressed during this dialogue:

- **Strong business community support:** Attendees were very positive about the project's potential to attract visitors, families, and tourism activity to Lower Lonsdale.
- **New Attraction to North Vancouver's waterfront and Lower Lonsdale** – participants were excited about the ability to market the swim deck as another attraction to bring in locals, North Shore and regional customers. No cost entry means visitor dollars could go towards spending in local economy
- **Waterfront integration:** Coordinated planning and wayfinding will be important to connect the Harbour Deck with The Shipyards, Lonsdale Quay, Waterfront Park, the Splash Park, and the Spirit Trail.
- **Business engagement:** Opportunities to involve local businesses, explore food/beverage/merchandise vendor locations, and improve visitor servicing should be considered.
- **Long Range Vision for Waterfront Park and surroundings:** The timing and relationship between the Harbour Deck and a broader waterfront park master plan, including commercial/retail opportunities, is of strong interest
- **Parking and access:** parking capacity and anticipated visitor demand was raised as an area to confirm existing off street parking is adequate.
- **Operations:** Further information was requested regarding the future operating model for the Harbour Deck.
- **Continue engagement** with Lower Lonsdale businesses and the BIA as the project develops and wayfinding plan.



How Will Feedback be Used?

Feedback will be used to inform detailed project design and the operations planning. Using Phase 1 engagement, the City of North Vancouver will develop a refined design to support a permit application to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority who are the approving authority for the water lot the swimming deck will occupy. As the project could impact adjacent community interests, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority also requires the City to undertake public engagement to solicit additional feedback from the public on this aspect of its development.

Project timeline

