

Welcome to the

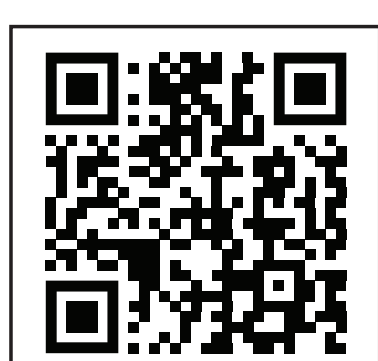
HARBOUR SWIMMING DECK

community engagement

The City of North Vancouver invites you to learn about the project and to share your thoughts.

How to participate today!

- Check out our engagement boards that share information about the project.
- Staff are here to answer any questions you might have.
- Don't forget to take our online survey!



Scan or visit:

letstalk.cnv.org/HarbourDeck

The Harbour Swimming Deck is a new outdoor ocean swimming space in the heart of our city at Waterfront Park. It will provide safe, accessible and free public access to Burrard Inlet.

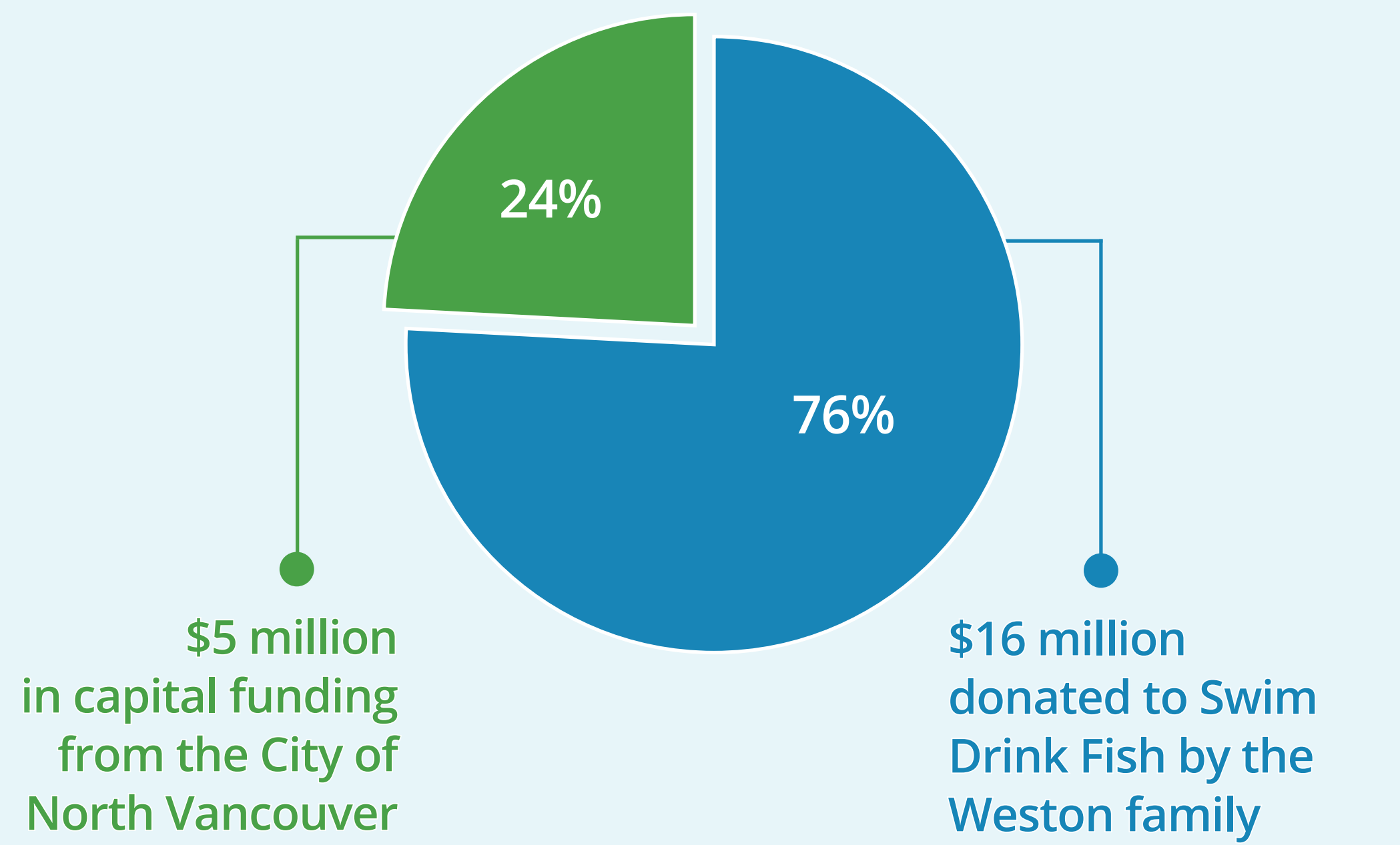


Inspired by similar projects worldwide in cities like Ottawa, Copenhagen, Paris and Quebec City, the City of North Vancouver is creating a new outdoor ocean swimming deck at Waterfront Park. This new public space will provide free ocean swimming access to Burrard Inlet, offering recreation and leisure opportunities to help create a healthier, happier, and more connected community.



How is this project being funded?

The Harbour Swimming Deck is being made possible through a \$16 million donation to Swim Drink Fish from the Weston family, and additional \$5 million in capital funding (source: Developer Cost Charges) from the City of North Vancouver. The City will be responsible for the design, build and operations of the deck, including lifeguarding, security, and ongoing maintenance.



Who is Swim Drink Fish?

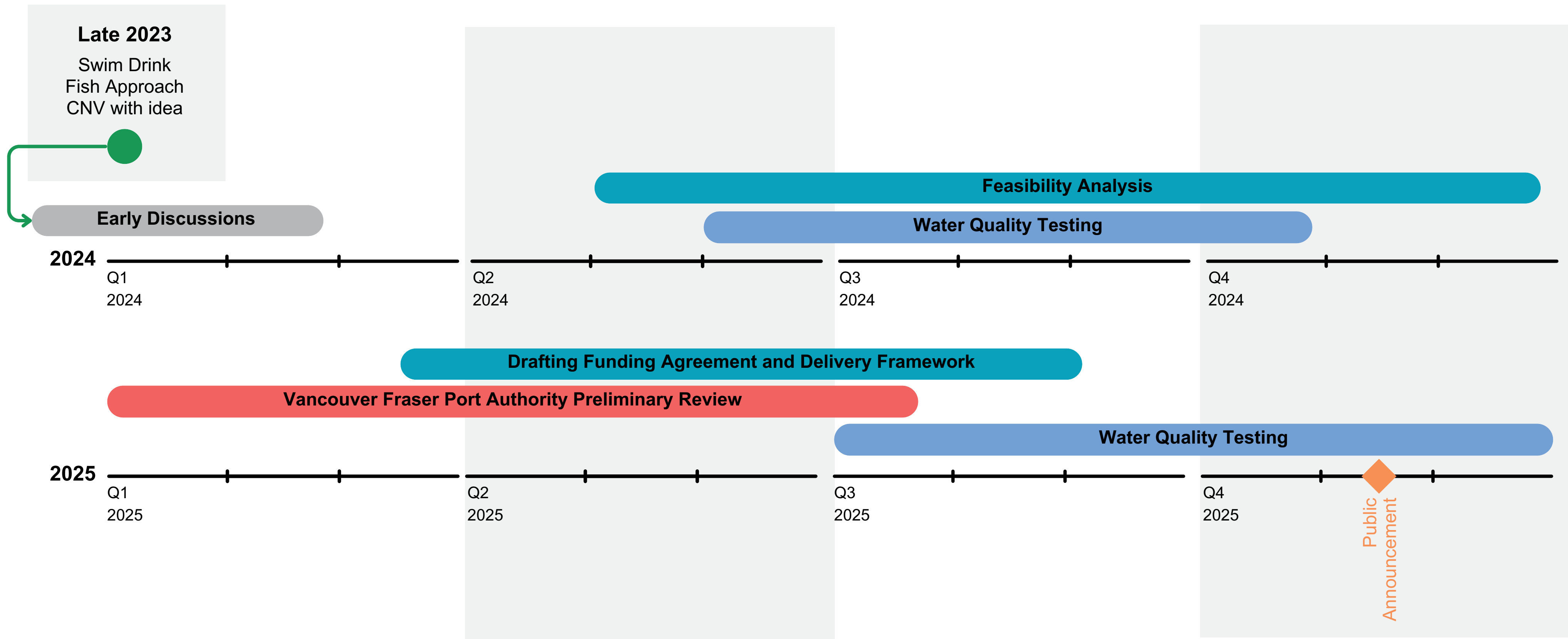
Swim Drink Fish is a national environmental non-profit working for a swimmable, drinkable, fishable future since its launch in 2001. By blending science, law, education, and storytelling with technology, Swim Drink Fish empowers millions of people to know and safeguard their waters.

Background



In 2023, the City of North Vancouver partnered with the national environmental non-profit, Swim Drink Fish, to undertake a feasibility study including a preliminary concept design for a harbour swim deck. The purpose of the study was to consider the opportunities, challenges and key considerations including technical and financial feasibility. The study 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. This south facing location also has appropriate water depths, and summer water temperatures suitable for swimming. In 2024, Swim Drink Fish then began water quality testing.



Regulatory Stakeholders

The Harbour Swimming Deck project is working with three key regional and federal organizations to ensure the site is built responsibly, monitored accurately, and suitable for swimming.



Vancouver Fraser Port Authority

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority (VFPA) is the federal agency responsible for managing the lands and waters of the Port of Vancouver.

ROLE: VFPA are the regulatory body governing CNV's project footprint including the leased water lot where the Harbour Swimming Deck is located.

CNV must work directly with the VFPA to obtain a construction permit through the mandatory Project and Environmental Review (PER) process.



Scan to learn more about Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's PER process



VCH is the regional public health authority responsible for community safety and health enforcement.

ROLE: VCH acts as the regulatory oversight body for recreational water safety.

Through VCH's Summer Beach Water Quality Program (May – September), VCH health officers interpret bacterial data, perform health risk assessments, and hold the sole legal authority to issue public swimming advisories.



Scan to learn more about VCH's Summer Beach Water Quality Program



metrovancouver
SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS FOR A LIVABLE REGION

Metro Vancouver plans for and delivers regional utility services, including water, sewers and wastewater treatment, and solid waste management.

ROLE: MV acts as the primary technical service provider for environmental monitoring.

The Metro Vancouver Beaches Water Quality Team physically collects weekly water samples, analyzes E.coli levels and audits nearby sewer infrastructure to ensure the water is free from contamination.

MV provides test results to VCH who then evaluates the safety risks and issues public swimming advisories when bacteria levels are unsafe.



Scan to learn more about Metro Vancouver's Water Quality Monitoring

WHY A HARBOUR SWIMMING DECK?



**Council
Strategic
Plan
2022-2026**

The future outdoor ocean swimming deck will have features that prioritize livability and accessibility and will support the City's vision of becoming the healthiest small City in the world.



Connection with water

Very few opportunities for outdoor swimming exist on the North Shore, with the nearest being Ambleside Beach in West Vancouver or Whey-ah-Wichen/Cates Park in Deep Cove.



Social connection

Approximately 20,000 people live within a 10-minute walk of Waterfront Park. As a dense urban city, there is high demand for free, public spaces to meet friends and family.



Health & wellness

Swimming has been shown to have positive effects on both physical and mental health. Swimming spaces represent important resources for our bodies and minds.



Low-barrier services

There is a very high demand for swimming lessons and lane swimming in our community. Harbour Swimming Deck would provide free access for both.



Value for money

An ocean swimming facility leverages the waters of Burrard Inlet for recreation space and swimming for fun and fitness, essentially creating new public space by extending Waterfront Park – on, and in, the water.



Economic Benefits

Free access to the Harbour Swimming Deck will boost our local economy by bringing more customers to nearby businesses.

ON-LAND FEATURES



Washroom Renewal

- Refresh of existing washroom
- Accessibility upgrades



Outdoor Showers and Change Rooms

- Change rooms
- Outdoor showers



Lounging Deck

- Seating
- Shade
- Gathering
- Socializing



Pop-up Food and Beverage

- Food carts



Pop-up Saunas

- Portable saunas
- Location to be confirmed



Pop-up Sandy Beach

- Location to be confirmed



Proposed Concept*

(*subject to change based on design development and refinement)

HARBOUR
SWIMMING
DECK

Birds Eye view of the Harbour
Swimming Deck looking northeast

SECONDARY
LOWERED PLATFORM

3M AND
5M JUMPING

SOCIAL SEATING

DIRECT GANGWAY RAMP

EQUIPMENT
STORAGE
UNDER JUMPING
PLATFORM

SWIMMING AREA

SWIM LANES - 50M

SHALLOW WATER
WITH ZERO-ENTRY

ACCESSIBLE GANGWAY RAMP

BUOY LINE

Proposed Concept*

(*subject to change based on design development and refinement)

city
of north
vancouver

Perspective view
looking east

HARBOUR
SWIMMING
DECK

Perspective view
looking west

Accessible ramp from seawall
to swimming deck

Waterfront
Park

Jumping
platform

Lounging and
seating areas

Shallow
pool

50-metre
swim lanes

WATER QUALITY IN WATERFRONT PARK



Water quality at Waterfront Park has been tested since 2024.

Swim Drink Fish has been measuring water quality from June to October 2024 and July 2025 to present. This water quality monitoring follows the same testing guidelines that Metro Vancouver uses at local beaches throughout the summer swimming season to ensure that the water is suitable for swimming.

What is Swim Drink Fish measuring?

Swim Drink Fish is testing for E. coli, a bacteria used to indicate the presence of fecal contamination in the water. Testing primarily focuses on E.coli because, unlike other contaminants, it is more directly associated with acute illness risks to swimmers.

Why do bacteria levels change?

Environmental conditions like rain, wind, and temperature can all influence levels of bacteria. Rainfall and stormwater runoff can carry bacteria from urban parks and other land surfaces into the water. This is the reason Vancouver Coastal Health recommends avoiding swimming in any open waters for 48 hours after heavy rains.

What about other contaminants?

Burrard Inlet is a vibrant and diverse waterfront that supports a range of uses, including marine transportation, recreation, and industrial activity. Ongoing biological water quality monitoring conducted in partnership with Swim Drink Fish indicates that the site meets established recreational water quality guidelines for bacterial indicators and is suitable for swimming from a microbiological perspective.

To support a comprehensive understanding of site conditions, CNV is also working with Vancouver Coastal Health, Swim Drink Fish, and other experts to conduct water quality testing and analysis from a chemical perspective to further demonstrate the site's suitability for swimming.

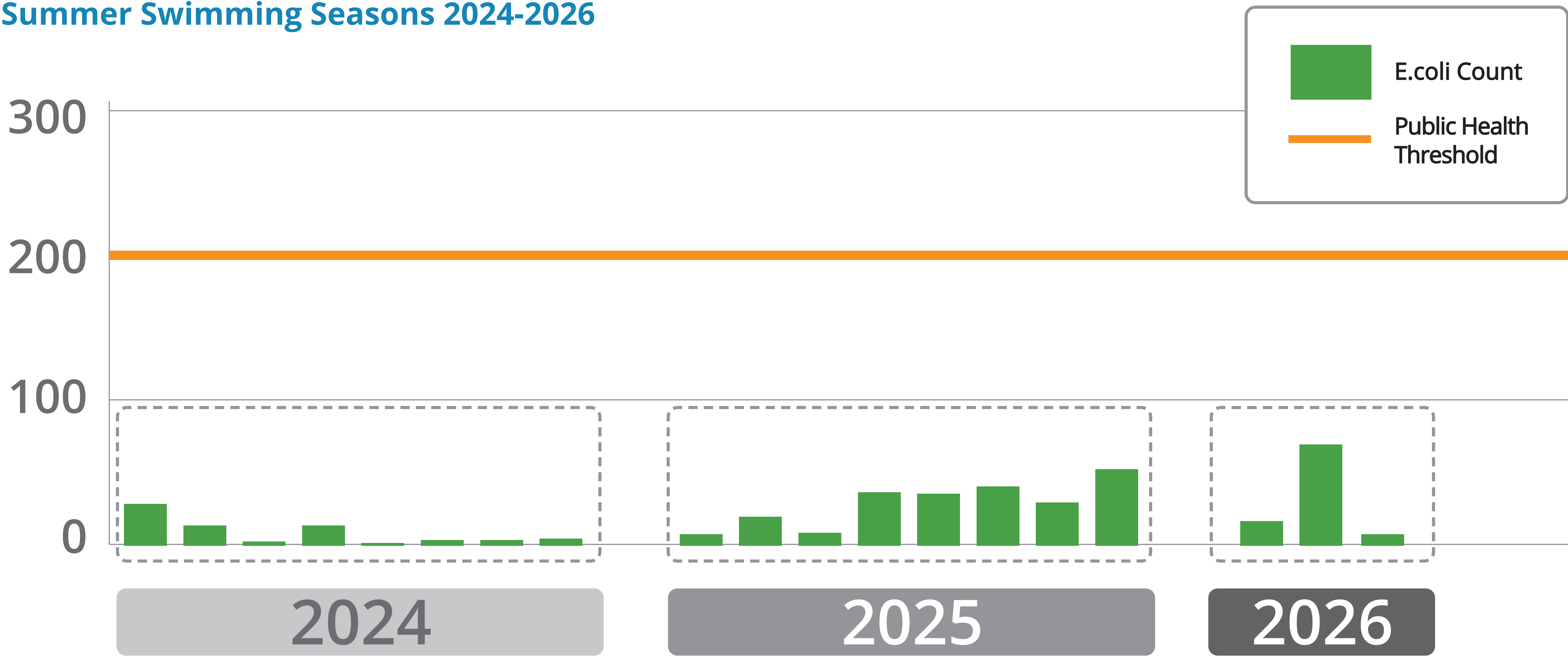
WATER TESTING RESULTS

The water at Waterfront Park has been consistently suitable for swimming.

More than two years of water quality testing by Swim Drink Fish has shown it consistently meets or exceeds health standards. This is because E.coli bacteria levels in the water are below levels set by local authorities.

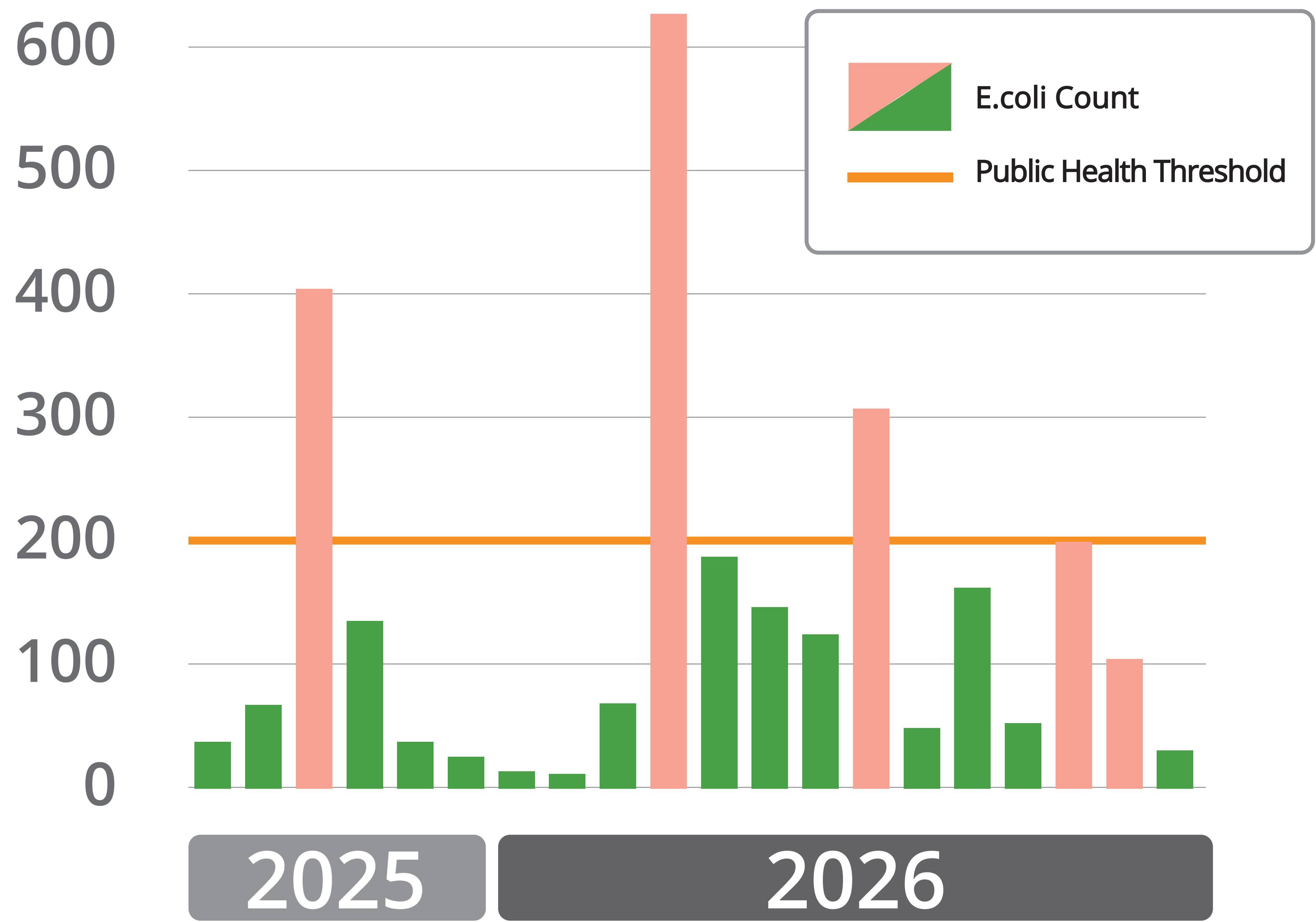
Waterfront Park E.coli Summary

Summer Swimming Seasons 2024-2026



Waterfront Park E.coli Summary

Fall / Winter 2024-2026



Peach-coloured bars indicate when the geometric mean (a type of average of samples that day) is greater than 200 E.coli/100 mL or that one individual sample exceeds 400 E.coli/100 mL.

When E.coli levels exceed the guideline values, local authorities will investigate further and take appropriate action.

To download the complete water testing report, scan the QR code:



Water quality monitoring will continue.

Swim Drink Fish will continue to monitor E.coli levels. Moving forward, Metro Vancouver, in partnership with VCH, will test Waterfront Park as part of its recreational water quality monitoring program. When the Harbour Swimming Deck opens to the public, water quality results will be available on Metro Vancouver's website.





Swimming at our local parks and beaches

The Vancouver region is home to a great selection of recreational beach venues which provide opportunities for aquatic recreation. Water quality at recreational beaches throughout the Metro Vancouver region is generally very good, but there is always some level of risk when swimming in natural bodies of water.

Most of the time, there is a low chance of getting sick from swimming at local beaches, but any time there is an elevated risk, Public Health will recommend that people stay out of the water until the chance of illness diminishes.

Swimming at Waterfront Park

The Harbour Swimming Deck is an innovative, natural water swimming structure. It will provide the public with direct access to the marine waters off Waterfront Park, similar to the open water swimming that you might experience at Ambleside, Whey-ah-Wichen/Cates Park, or Kits Beach.

The waters here are well-circulated and flushed regularly by the tides and currents between the Narrows.

Recreational swimming already occurs throughout Burrard Inlet and English Bay, where public beaches and swimming areas coexist with marine transportation, marinas, and commercial vessel activity. The Harbour Deck would be monitored and managed using the same public health and water quality standards applied at other designated swimming locations across the region.



HOW WILL PEOPLE GET HERE?

There are many ways to get here, whether you walk, bike, roll or take transit! To better support your journey, we are exploring site improvements like new bike racks, clearer signage, and upgraded pathways. Off-street parking is also available at several parkades within a 5-10 minute walk.





What's next?

One of our key next steps is to develop an operating plan to determine operating hours, programming and manage daily access. This work will be undertaken under a separate process in parallel with the detailed design phase of the project.

Timelines are subject to change pending external factors, such as permits from external authorities, supply chain and material lead times.



Feasibility study

2024 - 2025

Conduct technical feasibility study, including water quality testing and monitoring, and development of a concept.



Council endorsement

Fall 2025

Have project endorsed by City Council.



Community engagement: Phase 1

Summer 2026

Community members invited to shape how the Swimming Deck recreational area is built and run.



Refine the design for the Harbour Deck project

Summer - Fall 2026

Using Phase 1 engagement, develop a refined design to support a permit application to the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority.



Community engagement: Phase 2

Anticipated Fall 2026

Share refined concept.



Detailed Design

Fall 2026 - Winter 2026

Develop technical drawings for the swimming deck and any on-land amenities to prepare for tender and construction.



Construction

Anticipated early to mid-2027



Opening

Anticipated 2027