

East Park* *A new park is coming*

Engagement Summary Round 1

December 2022



* The project area is currently called East Park, however an official park name will be identified through a separate process.



centering host Nations

A new park is coming to False Creek, a unique place where city and water meet, on the ancestral and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil Waututh) Nations.

Once a place with a diverse ecosystem where host Nations stewarded healthy relationships with the land and water, the shoreline of False Creek was dramatically altered in the 1900s to support industry. The streams that once flowed into False Creek were filled-in as the city grew, burying thriving ecosystems and depleting the health of the land and water.

Together, we have an exciting opportunity to shape the future of this place. How can East Park be a new kind of park? A park that reinstates xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał values with a diverse ecosystem resilient to climate change. A park where everyone feels welcome.

The planning and design of East Park will center host Nation cultures and values to nurture a place of belonging and connection to nature. Reviews and consultation with the host Nations will be ongoing throughout the planning and design of East Park as part of parallel intergovernmental processes (these Government-to-Government processes are distinct from public engagement and as such are not summarized here).

The site is also an amenity for many urban Indigenous people living away from their home lands. The term urban Indigenous peoples refers primarily to First Nations, Métis and Inuit from across Canada currently residing in urban areas. In 2016, Vancouver had the third largest Indigenous population of any city in Canada¹.

We value the opportunity to learn the true history of Vancouver; to acknowledge the unjust treatment of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm, Skwxwú7mesh, and səliłwətał peoples whose lands we occupy, and of urban Indigenous residents who share this place; and we commit to the ongoing journey of reconciliation and decolonization to move forward in new ways together. We also encourage others in their work on this path, and offer the following resources in support:

- [xʷməθkʷəy̓əm \(Musqueam\) Nation Website](#)
- [Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw \(Squamish\) Nation Website](#)
- [səliłwətał \(Tsleil-Waututh\) Nation Website](#)

- [Vancouver Park Board: Why Reconciliation?](#)
- [Vancouver Park Board Truth-Telling report](#)
- [City of Vancouver: City of Reconciliation](#)
- [City of Vancouver UNDRIP Strategy](#)
- [City of Vancouver: Acknowledging unceded territories](#)
- [First People - A guide for newcomers](#)

Image: False Creek shoreline, circa 1904 (Vancouver Photo Archives).

1. <https://vancouver.ca/people-programs/indigenous-communities.aspx>

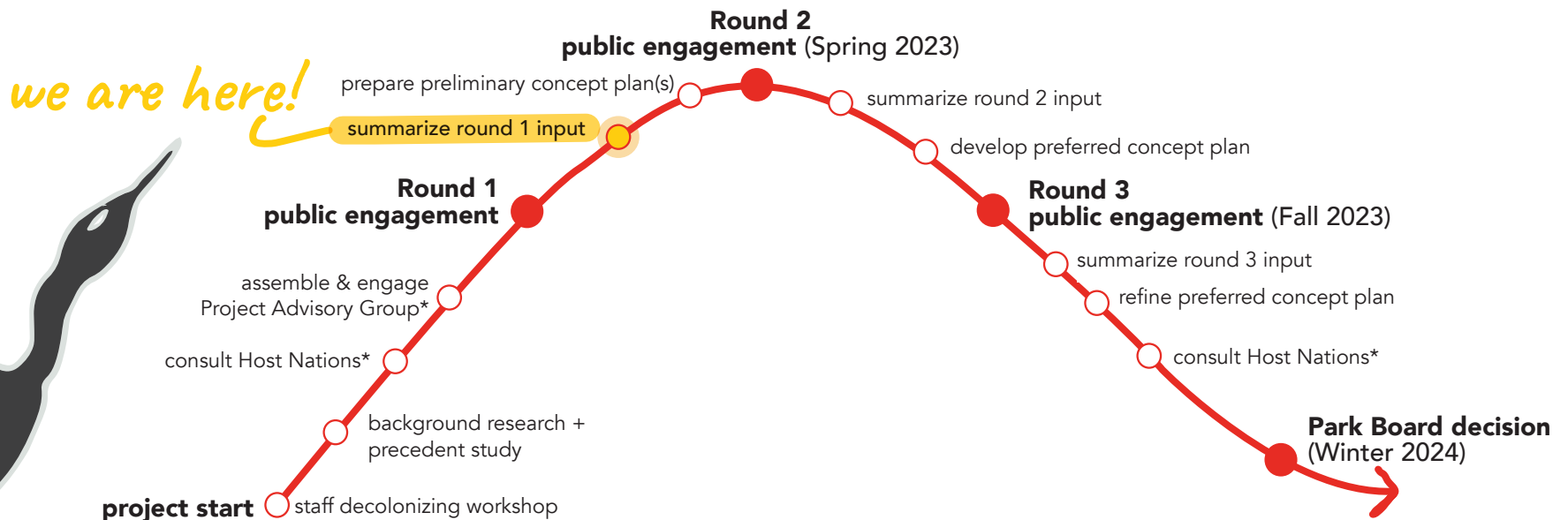
process

This report is a **snapshot of what we heard and learned from the public during Round 1** engagement for the concept plan development process for East Park.

The objectives of this first round of engagement were: to **learn** how people currently use the space and the area, and to **hear people's stories and hopes for this place** - for the next 10 years and for the next 100 years.

The learnings gathered in this round of engagement will help to **deepen our collective understanding of this place and its potentials**. This input, together with input, feedback and learnings from the [Northeast False Creek park design](#) process, and other supporting processes (see the Appendix for more details), will help us to develop a preliminary design concept(s).

The diagram below shows where we are in this process.



* ongoing reviews + consultation during concept plan development

what we did

(engagement highlights)

9,250+ visitors
engaged via the project webpage
shapeyourcity/east-park



on-site signage

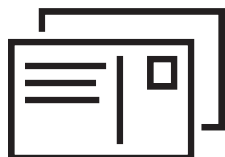
including QR code, and call-in
storyline for expanded accessibility



1,280+ surveys
received and reviewed



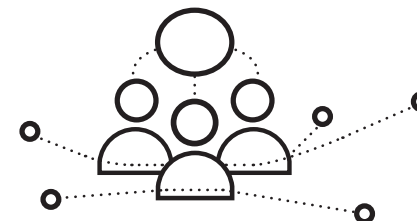
6,850+ subscribers
Greenest City newsletter
+ the East Park project ([subscribe here!](#))



10,350+ postcards
delivered within a 15 minute
walking radius



3 videos
providing key project details
([watch them here!](#))



2 meetings of the
Project Advisory Group
representing diverse communities and
perspectives, members selected from
90+ applicants



131,200+ reached
through social media



160 people
connected with project staff
at the on-site event



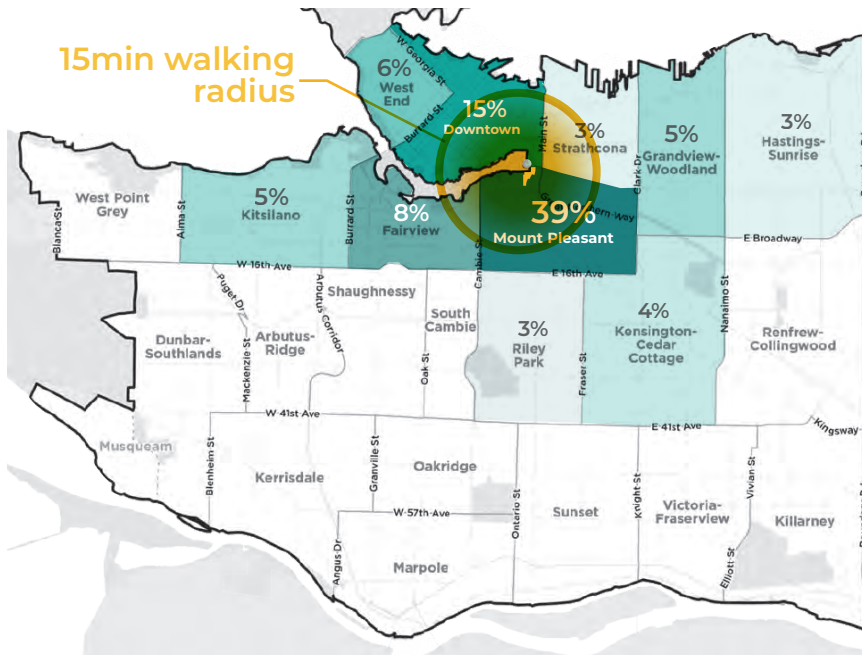
Image above: Pop Up event held beside Creekside Community Centre (November 26, 2022).
 Images left & below: on-site signage including site map, background information and invitations to engage.



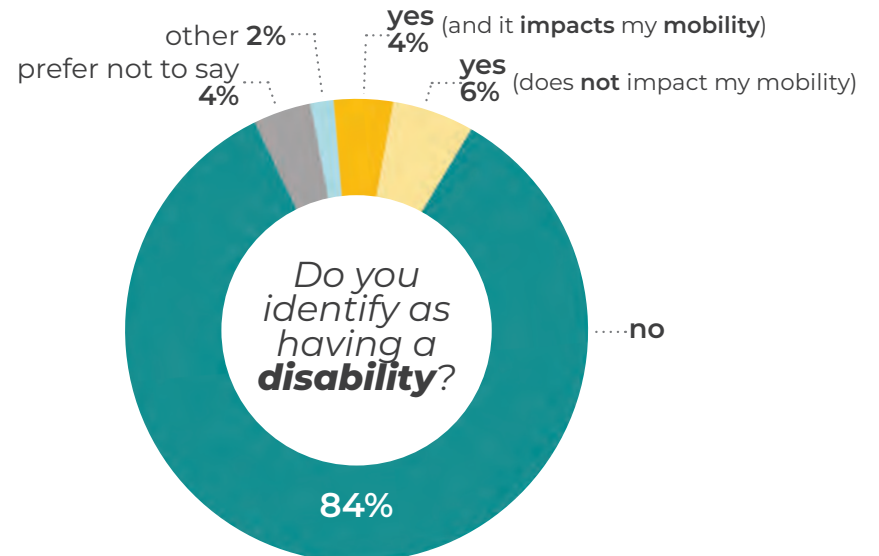
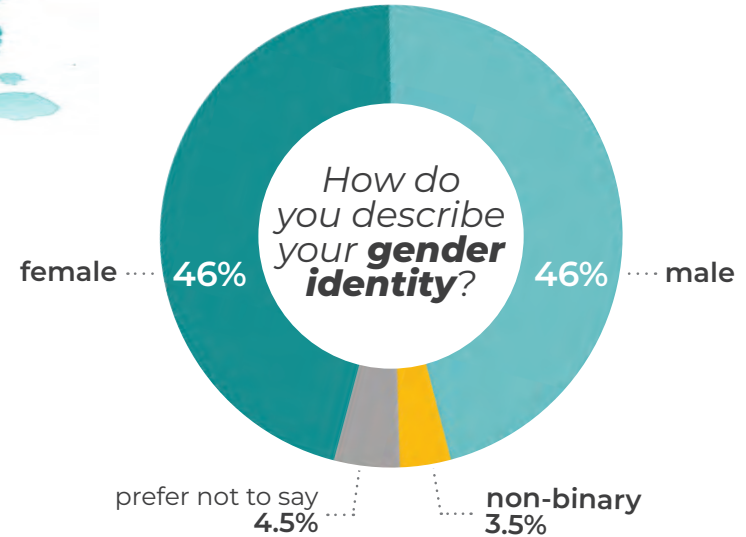
who we heard from

Over 1,280 participants responded to the public survey between November 16th and December 8th, 2022. The majority of the responses were submitted on-line through Vancouver's *Shape Your City* engagement platform. Hard copy surveys were also available and submitted at Creekside Community Centre. The following images (or "infographics") describe who we heard from (in response to questions asked in the survey).

Which **neighbourhood** do you live in?

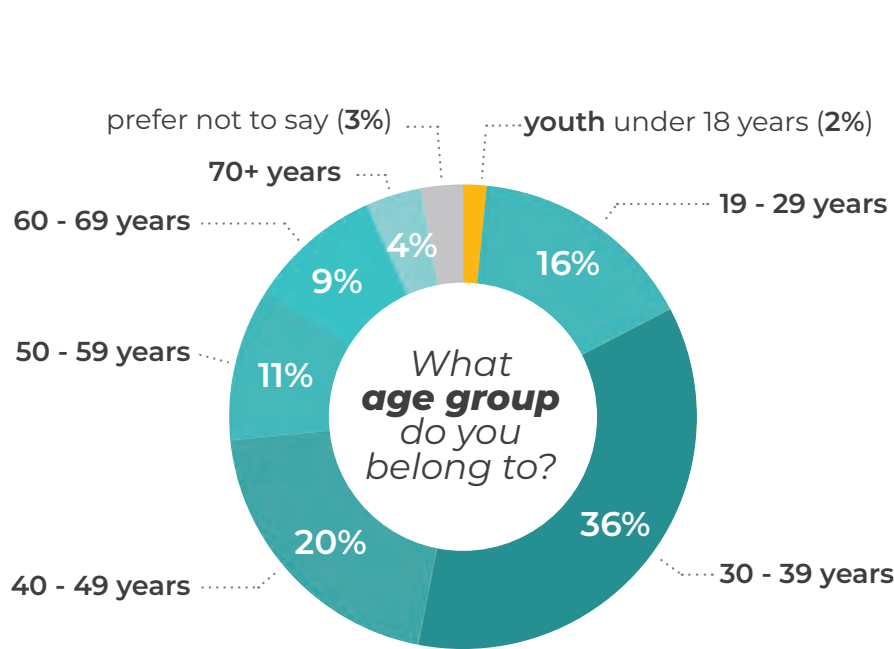


We mainly heard from people who live in Mount Pleasant or neighbourhoods connected to the project area by the seawall.

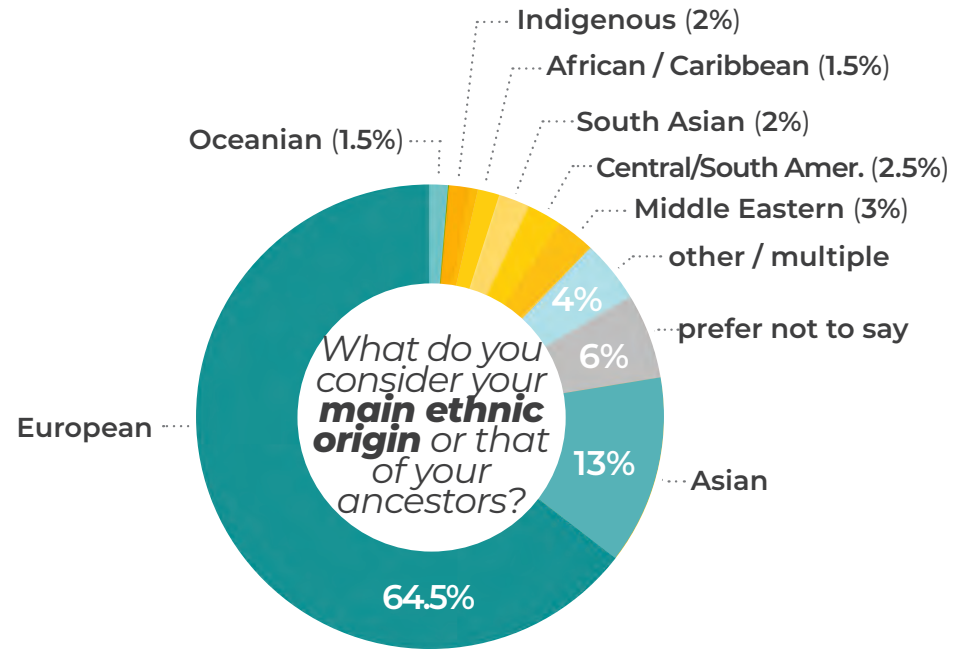


The majority of respondents self identified as female or male (in fairly equal numbers) and did not identify as having a disability.

who we heard from



The majority of respondents (56%) were between 30 and 49 years old. Almost a quarter of respondents (24%) were 50 years old or older. Less than a quarter (18%) were under 30 years old, with Youth under 18 years old making up only 2%.



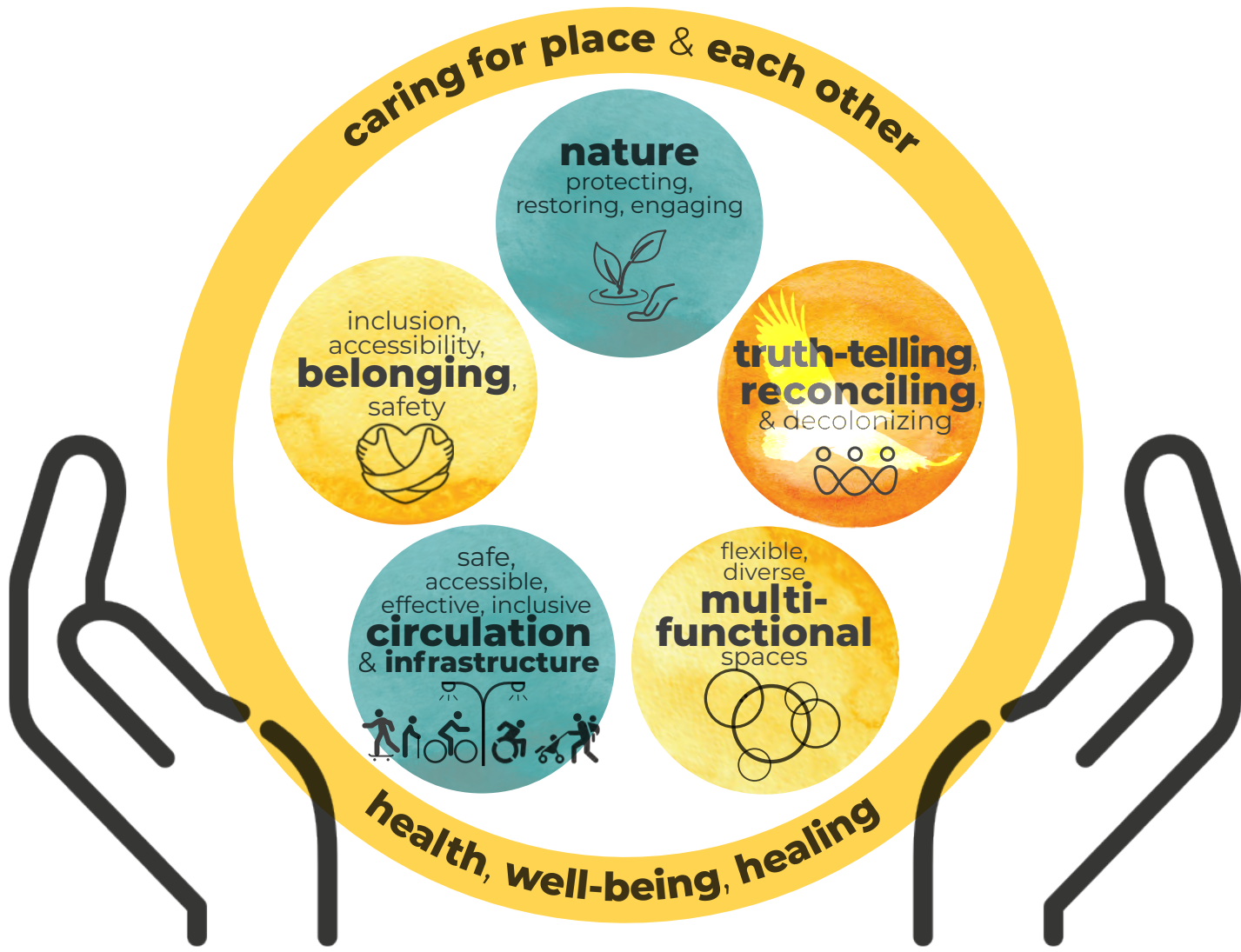
Recognizing that many people in our city face systemic barriers to participation (due to race, class, gender, ability, age, etc.), and that these inequities multiply with each identity a person holds, the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation centers equity-based processes (see [VanPlay](#) for more details).

Learnings for East Park were further deepened through the East Park project Advisory Group and a workshop with students from ʂxʷwəqʷəθət Crosstown Elementary.

what we heard

(overview)

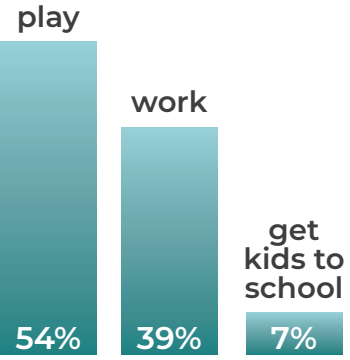
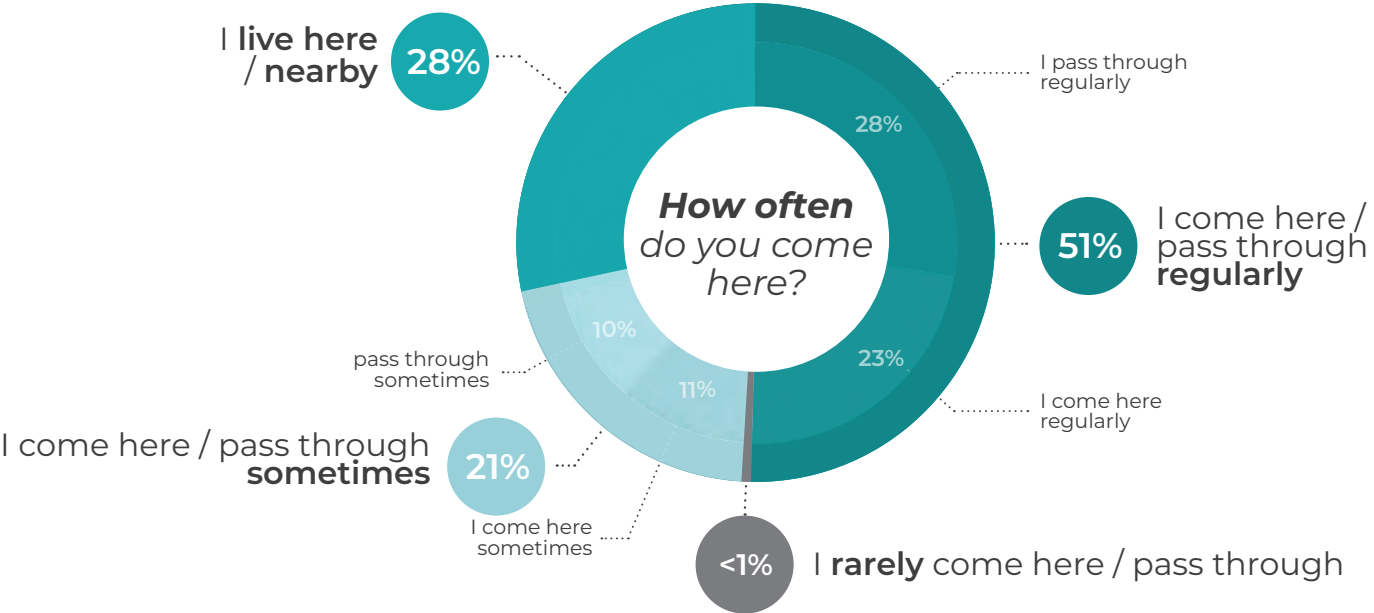
Key themes and core values were generally consistent and were shared across survey responses. The image below provides a summary of the key themes and core values we heard. The following pages provide more detail on what we heard in response to the specific questions asked.



The heart icon for "belonging" is "hug:Flaticon.com" by Victoruler . The people seated equally in "the truth-telling, reconciling, decolonizing icon" is adapted from the "unity" series by Nanda Wahyu. Both are shared with permission.

what we heard

What is your **connection** to this place?



Why do you come here?

Some of the main reasons people come to / through this place are: to play, to (go to) work, and / or to get kids to school. (See page 11 for more details regarding the various activities people do here).

What do you **feel** about this place?

"This has always been a place where travel moves to and through."

"I love the pollinator meadow!"

"I like to be close to the water. It brings me peace and gratitude."

"It is a good walking / running / cycling path but sometimes has conflict with pedestrians."

"I've been paddling here for many years."

"Growing up, my great grandparents told me stories about the [plants, animals and other species] they'd see nearby. It breaks my heart that they've been displaced by industry, especially as the biodiversity crisis rages on."

"It is a rare place in Vancouver because many different cultures / classes of people hang out here."

"It seems like a place with no identity, or discerning characteristics."

"...needs to shift from concrete jungle to coastal parkland."

"Sea level rise is a concern."

What brings you to the area? What **activities** do you do here?

The most common activities bringing respondents to the area are: to **be near / connected to the water**, to **be outside**, to **enjoy the view**, and to **walk / jog / cycle / roll on the paths**. The graph below shows the longer list of responses (the longer the colored bars, the more respondents noted that activity). We have grouped the activities into key themes heard across responses to help us understand patterns.



be near / connected to the water

be outside

enjoy the view

watch birds / wildlife / sea life

enjoy nature

buy local fruit / veg from seasonal market vendors

see the pollinator meadow

attend to community gardens

walk / jog on the paths*

cycle / roll on the paths*

get to downtown / work / school

get to public transit / take a False Creek ferry*

get to shops / services in Olympic Village

attend to errands

get to other parks

launch non-motorized watercraft*

socialize with friends /family*

sit on the benches*

participate in community centre programs or special events*

be alone*

people watch*

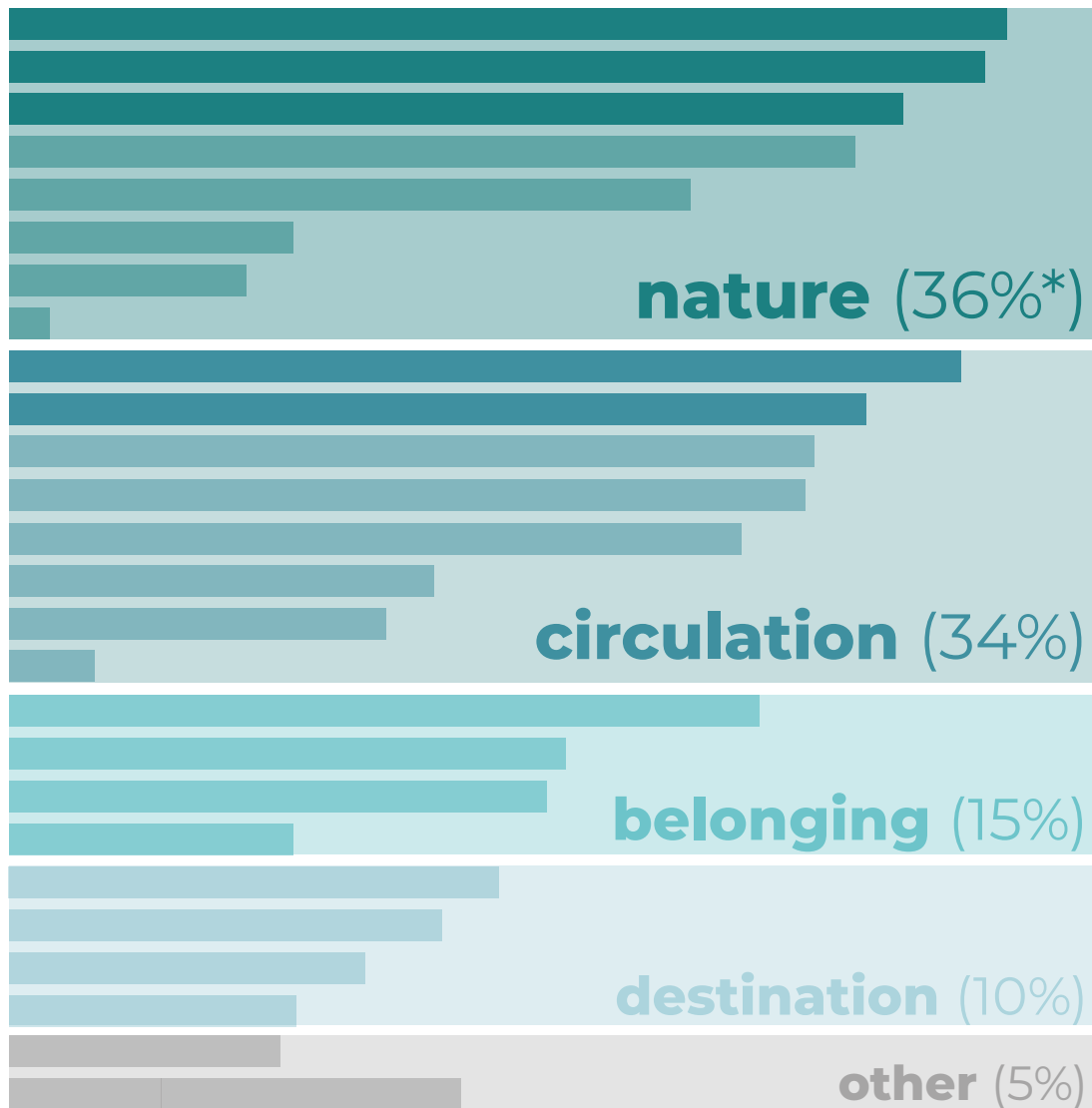
take photos*

go to Science World

watch special events*

walk my dog

other

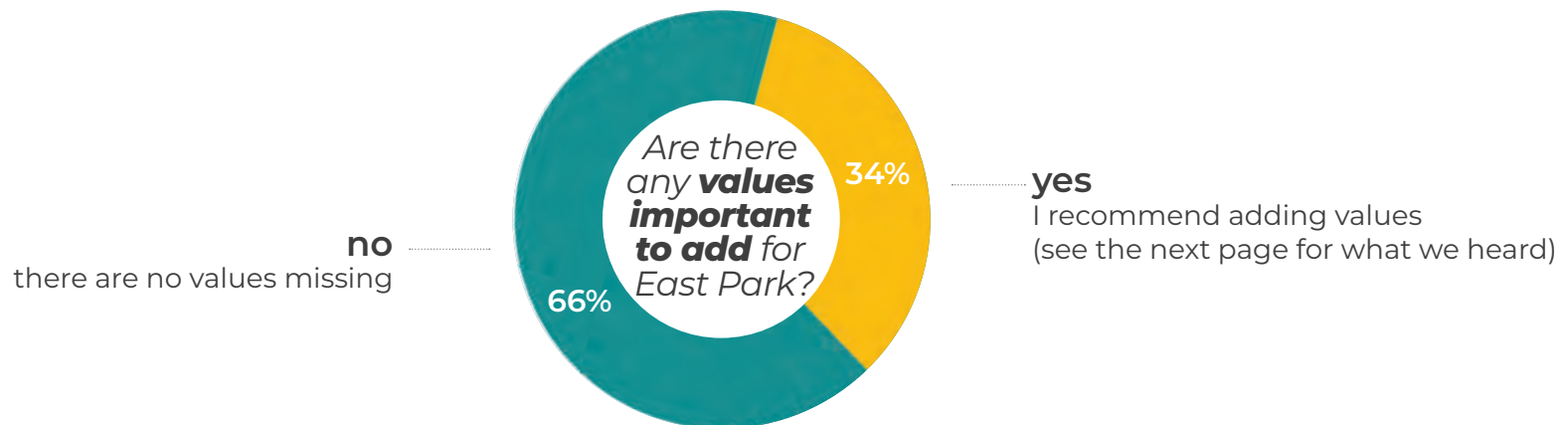


Activities noted with an * could belong to more than one of the five themes noted (nature, circulation, belonging, destination or other). Also, many activities are likely influenced by being near water / nature (e.g. launching a watercraft, walking on the paths), so "nature", as a theme, likely represents even more than the 36% noted above.

Guiding principles for the design of parks in Northeast False Creek (NEFC) were developed through extensive engagement with the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh Nations, Urban Indigenous peoples, key stakeholder communities, and the broader public. Four common themes emerged - Identity, Community, Nature and Destination - around which **10 guiding principles** (below) were organized. These themes and principles **will also guide the design of East Park**.



The role of the guiding principles is to consolidate values and guide the design of East Park.



The majority of respondents (66%) felt that there were no additional values that needed to be added for East Park.

What **values** are **important to add** for East Park?

Many of the values recommended as important to add for East Park (shown in the image on the right) reinforced values already included within the guiding principles (shown on page 12). The **new values** we heard as **important to add for East Park** were:

- an emphasis on **natural features** that people can experience
- **addressing inequities** (beyond merely “acknowledging” them), and ensuring spaces are inclusive for all people and generations - adding specifically: inclusion of children (and grandchildren), low-income families and unhoused neighbours
- supporting **health** and **healing** (of people, communities and nature)
- inclusion of **food** (local, seasonal markets; edible landscapes)
- **learning** from the site and each other
- **sustainability** and **climate action**
- **safe, effective** and **accessible circulation**



“...needs to be safe, and accessible for children and families.”

“cross-cultural”, “inter-generational”, “activated through music, dance, and public art”

“...opportunities to learn about community and the environment...[and] for people, especially children, to overcome and prevent nature deficit disorder.”

“Simply acknowledging inequity isn’t enough.”

The “Park Board should not only be responding to climate change (one of, if not the greatest of threats to our parks and lives) by working to mitigate damage but...also...to mitigate climate change itself. One of the most important ways to do this is to lower transportation emissions... and one of the best ways to do this is to encourage...active transportation.”

“A green transportation hub.”

The circle image above shows the values respondents recommended adding for East Park - the larger the word the more we heard it (this type of graphic is also known as a “word cloud”).

What makes you feel **welcome** and **comfortable** in parks?

"Strong connections with nature and place."

"Good lighting and good visibility."

"The views, the smell of the water, the feel of fresh air by the water, the sounds of music."

"The more people there the safer I feel."

"When I see my culture and the culture of others reflected in the park design."

"Knowing it is safe and inclusive for all community members, including unhoused neighbours."

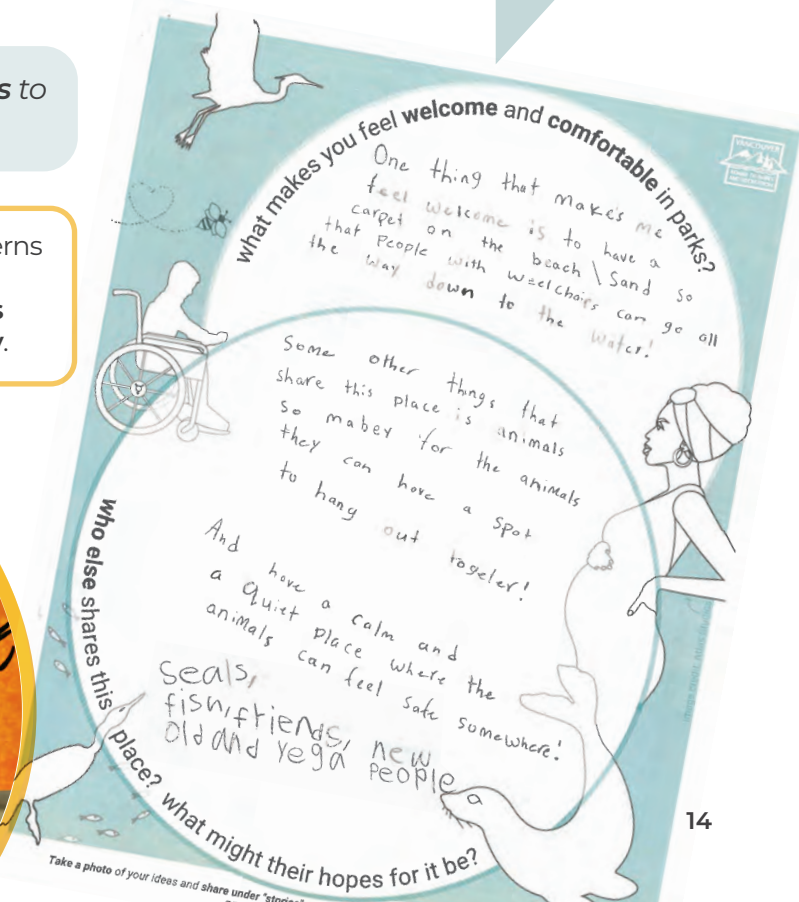
"Accessibility for wheelchairs, walkers, wagons and strollers. Places to shelter and play. An abundance of life and natural features."

"Respectful relationships to land and ancestors."



Many respondents expressed concerns about **needles, homeless(ness)** and how to address these crises inclusively and compassionately.

A number of respondents had strong feelings about **dogs**. Many expressed feeling welcome when their dogs felt welcome; many others felt dogs needed to be on-leash and / or in separate, clearly-marked areas to feel safe.



The image above is a "wordcloud" showing how people responded to this question (the larger the words the more we heard them). The images to the right are from a workshop with grade 4 and 5 students from Crosstown Elementary.

What are your **hopes** for this place?
...for the next 10 years? for the next 100 years?

"I would love for this space to be **more accessible for all people of socioeconomic backgrounds** and to be as **respectful and inclusive of First Nations** culture and input. Being inspired by nature and utilizing that to create **multipurpose gathering spaces.**"

"The park becomes and remains an area that exudes a **sense of community** which allows everyone to enjoy the land."

"**More native plants and trees** with **signage** and veggie and berry garden that Indigenous youth can **learn to grow and harvest** traditional foods."

"For the park to be a place where **Indigenous people can celebrate their identity and feel welcome.** I would hope that in the future, the park managers consult Indigenous people in how to care and upkeep the park, as well as design it, employing Indigenous people."

"**Swimmable water!**"

"For people that are cold to **be warm**" "and dry."

"In 10 years: **water access**, protected urban marine park status, clean water for swimming, **an abundance of plants and animals**, lots of **public art.** In 20 years: that my students will bring their own **children** here to share how they shaped the park."

"**Thriving space for people, community and nature.**"

"A gathering place to **recharge and co-exist.**"

"**Thriving (food) forest.**"

"**More live (local) music!**"

"A **spiritually nourishing** place."

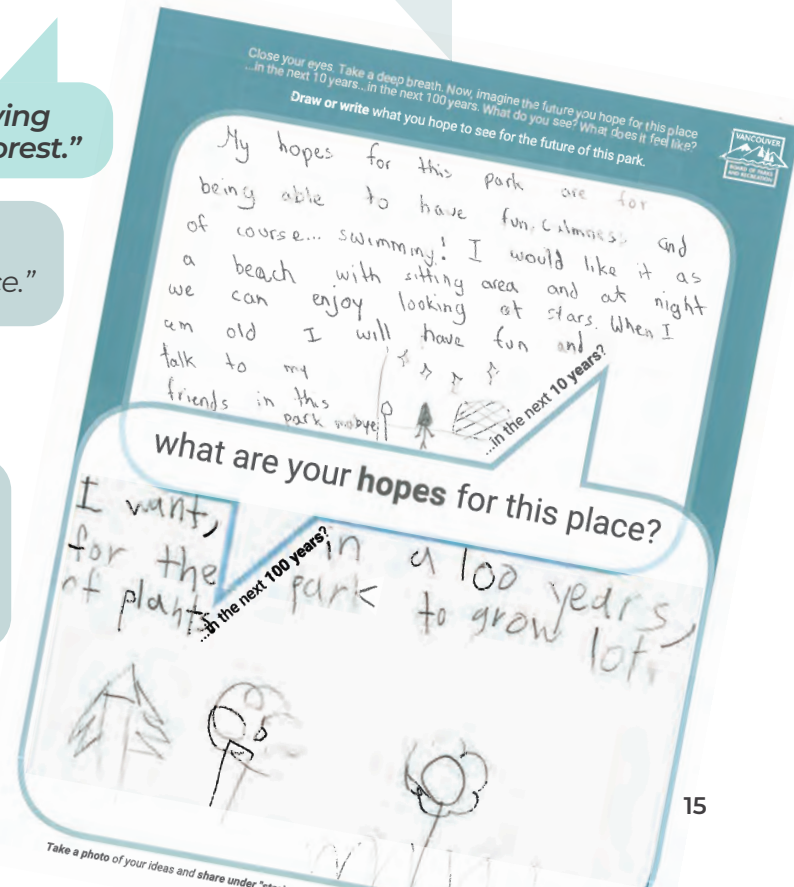
"Space for **arts [culture] sharing** with proper facilities for using the space. MST [and] Black artists' presence..."

"**Salmon spawning!**"

"To see a glimpse of what it once was, to see it ebb and flow with changing climate."

"That it will be **cared for and continue to grow and change** as the community does."

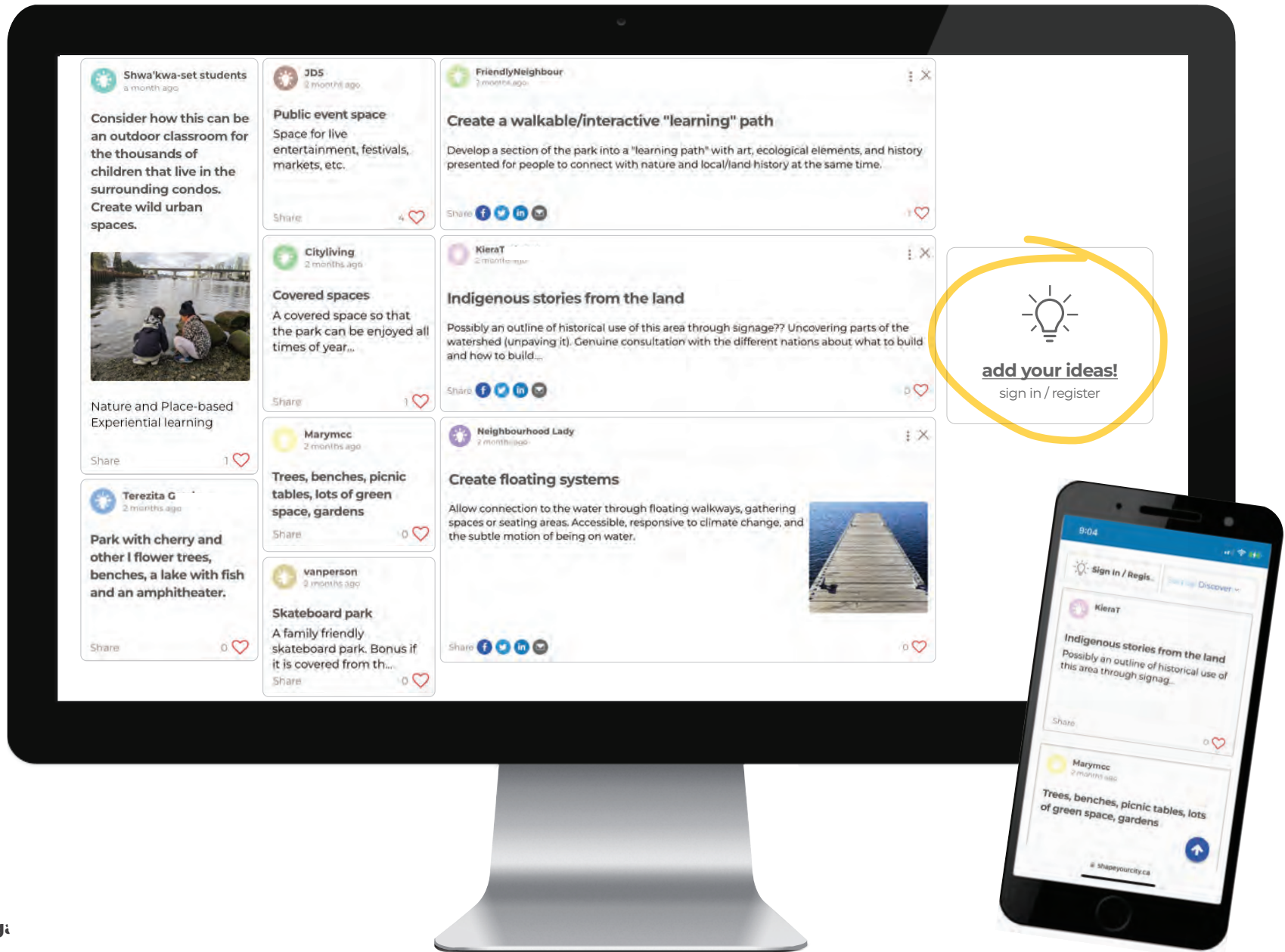
"**To not be underwater!**"



The image to the right is from a workshop with grade 4 and 5 students from šxʷwəḍʷəθə Crosstown Elementary

other **ideas** shared

In addition to the surveys we also heard from people who **posted ideas to the City's *Shape Your City* engagement platform** (a great way to share your own ideas, get inspired by others' ideas, "like", and even share through your social media channels).



what's next



The project team will review all responses, prepare a preliminary concept plan(s), and invite community feedback as part of the **second round of engagement - anticipated for spring 2023.**

A **third round of public engagement** will help to refine the final proposed concept plan, **towards the goal of a final approved plan by winter 2024.**



add your ideas!

Stay connected to the project!

- **visit** the project webpage: shapeyourcity.ca/east-park (via the link or scan the QR code here on signage around the project area) to **learn** about the project, the place and / or to **share** your ideas
- **subscribe** for updates (scroll to the blue "subscribe" button)
- **follow** us on our socials - [@vanparkboard](https://twitter.com/vanparkboard)  [@parkboard](https://twitter.com/parkboard) 
- **look** out for updates at **Creekside Community Centre**
- **email us** with any questions at east-park@vancouver.ca



Appendix

supporting processes



Connecting Northeast and Southeast False Creek, this area of the city has been the focus of much study and discussion, informing the [Southeast False Creek Official Development Plan \(ODP, 2007\)](#). The planning and design process for East Park will draw from community input and learnings gained through these and other current and ongoing Park Board and City initiatives including: the [Northeast False Creek park design process](#), and [VanPlay](#) - the Vancouver parks and recreation master plan.

Listening to input from the community and supported by the [Northeast False Creek \(NEFC\) park design guiding principles](#) and [belonging statement](#), the planning and design of East Park will center Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh cultures and values to nurture a place of belonging and connection to nature.

The planning and design process for East Park will also build on other relevant learnings and initiatives , including:

- **climate action** through the [Climate Emergency Action Plan](#)
- **sea level rise, adaptation** and **resilience** through the [False Creek Coastal Adaptation Plan](#) and [Sea2City design challenge](#); and
- ongoing efforts related to **equity, inclusion, anti-racism** and **accessibility**, through: [VanPlay](#) the [City of Vancouver Equity Framework](#), the [Vancouver Plan Focus on Equity-Denied Groups Engagement Report](#), and other related policies and initiatives (see the next page for a more detailed list).

supporting processes

Recognizing the importance of ongoing learning, the East Park process draws on a range of **related policies** and **public engagement processes**, including.

- City of Vancouver [Healthy Waters Plan](#) (ongoing)
- [Sea2City Design Challenge](#) (ongoing)
- [Northeast False Creek Parks design](#) (ongoing)
- City of Vancouver [Healthy City Strategy](#) (2014 - ongoing)
- City of Vancouver [City of Reconciliation Framework](#) (2014 - ongoing)
- City of Vancouver [Accessibility Strategy](#) (2022)
- City of Vancouver [UNDRIP Strategy](#) (2022)
- City of Vancouver [Better Together: Neighbourhood Collective Action Pilot](#) (2022)
- [Vancouver Plan - Focus on Equity-Denied Groups](#) (2021), [Vancouver Plan Engagement Summary](#) (2022)
- [False Creek Coastal Adaptation Plan Final Report](#) (2021)
- City of Vancouver [Equity Framework](#) (2021)
- City of Vancouver [Women's Equity Strategy, Progress Update](#) (2021)
- City of Vancouver [Anti-Racism Plan and Cultural Redress Motions](#) (2021 - ongoing)
- [VanPlay: Vancouver Parks and Recreation Services Master Plan](#) (2020)
- [Culture|Shift: Blanketing the City in Arts and Culture, Vancouver Culture Plan 2020- 2029](#)
- City of Vancouver [Bird Strategy](#) (2020 update)
- Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation [Parks Washroom Strategy](#) (2020)
- [Resilient Vancouver Strategy](#) (2019)
- [Rain City Strategy](#) (2019) and green rainwater infrastructure planning processes
- City of Vancouver [Urban Forest Strategy](#) (2018 update)
- [One Water: City of Vancouver water-related decision-making](#)
- [On Water: Vancouver's Non-motorized Watercraft Strategy](#) (2019)
- Vancouver Park Board [Truth-Telling: Indigenous Perspectives on Working with Municipal Governments](#) (2017)
- [City of Vancouver Biodiversity Strategy](#) (2016)
- [Southeast False Creek Official Development Plan](#) (2007)
- [Southeast False Creek Public Realm Plan](#) (2006)

what we heard: overview in more detail

The following pages provide a **more detailed summary of “what we heard”** (expanding on the overview on page 9).

protecting / restoring / engaging nature and ecological health



- improving, expanding and engaging with green spaces, natural features and native habitat areas; supporting biodiversity
- improving water quality and the health of water ecosystems; shared hopes for healthy, swimmable water!
- resilience - including adaptation to sea level rise as well as to droughts and other climate impacts
- climate action (i.e. not just adaptation but also mitigation) e.g. supporting active transportation and nature-based greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction

belonging, inclusion, accessibility and safety



- spaces that are inclusive, accessible and safe* for all peoples: all cultures, all abilities, all ages (i.e. intergenerational) - with a noted emphasis on children / grandchildren, lower income families, and unhoused neighbours
- * “safety”, and what it means to feel welcome and comfortable, were described in many ways: being safe for all (i.e. racially-safe, safe for all genders, ages, classes, etc.); being surrounded by other people; having good lighting and good visibility; no needles, no garbage; dogs on leash
- also, safe connections for strolling (walking, jogging, running) / rolling (biking, skating, wheelchairs, etc.) and / or paddling to access the water / seawall / public transit / local shops / Science World / commutes to work, school and/or other destinations
- inclusive, accessible spaces to sit and be (alone) to connect with water / nature / place; peaceful; sheltered from noise (of traffic, etc.)
- spaces to meet, gather, and connect with family, friends, diverse cultures, experience-based learning, live events (e.g. paddling, music, buskers)

* The heart icon for “belonging” is “[hug:Flaticon.com](https://www.flaticon.com/free-vector/1000000/hug)” by [Victoruler](https://www.flaticon.com/free-vector/1000000/hug); shared with permission.

what we heard: overview in more detail (continued)



truth, reconciliation and decolonization

- respect for and visibility of Indigenous history, values, cultural practices, languages and rights lived on the land
- some made specific mention of support for co-management and / or landback



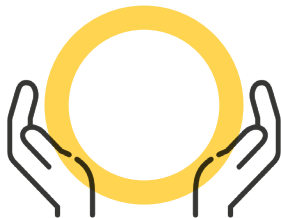
flexible, multi-functional spaces

- more seating and more protection from sun / rain
- a diversity of spaces to allow diverse range of (separated) uses, that are overall more natural, less scripted, more fun (even messy!)



improved / expanded infrastructures and circulation

- good lighting, good visibility and clear signage and way-finding (especially regarding circulation and dogs)
- infrastructures (to address garbage, recycling, compost, needles)
- clean, accessible, gender-neutral washrooms; also some hoping for shower access¹
- access to (healthy) local food (e.g.: seasonal farmers market / vendors, community gardens, edible landscaping / traditional harvesting)



and weaving together all of these topics, the importance of **health, wellbeing, healing** and of **taking care of lands, waters, this place and each other.**

1. See the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation [Parks Washroom Strategy](#) for more information on current and future proposed park washroom facilities.

* The people seated equally in “the truth-telling, reconciling, decolonizing icon” is adapted, with permission, from the “unity” series by Nanda Wahyu.



Image: Seal playing in False Creek, 2022.

Many survey respondents shared concerns and hopes for the interconnected health of this place, its ecosystems and the communities who share them - the lands, waters, peoples and other-than-human beings (seals, fish, birds, bees, etc.). We look forward to expanding and deepening our ways of listening, learning, and caring for each other, and to creating a new kind of park - one where everyone feels welcome.