

KITS POOL REPLACEMENT ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION

After serving the community for decades and having sustained storm damage to its structure, Kits Pool is at the end of its service life. The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation are conducting a feasibility study as a first step in planning for a future replacement of Kits Pool that is more resilient to climate change and storm impacts. This report summarizes community feedback, which helped identify the community's aquatic and recreation needs. The replacement of Kits Pool will be considered as part of the City's 2027-2030 Capital Plan.

ENGAGEMENT METHOD

As part of the feasibility study, the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation connected with community members in summer 2025. An online survey was available from June 24 to July 14, 2025.

The survey was widely promoted through:

- Posters in the surrounding neighbourhood and city-wide at pools and community centres.
- Social media campaigns shared on the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation's channels.
- Emails to groups and businesses associated with activities in Kits Beach Park.

To ensure inclusivity, the survey was translated into Traditional and Simplified Chinese and Punjabi, following the City's Language Access Policy.



A resident reads display boards at an engagement pop-up at Kits Beach Park.

Community members were able to connect directly with staff at three advertised pop-up events in Kits Beach Park:

- Saturday, June 28, 2-5 p.m. (Cantonese and Mandarin interpretation available)
- Friday, July 4, 4-7 p.m.
- Sunday, July 6, noon-3 p.m. (Punjabi interpretation available)

In addition, staff were on-site at Kits Beach Park six times throughout the survey period to provide outreach to community members about engagement opportunities.



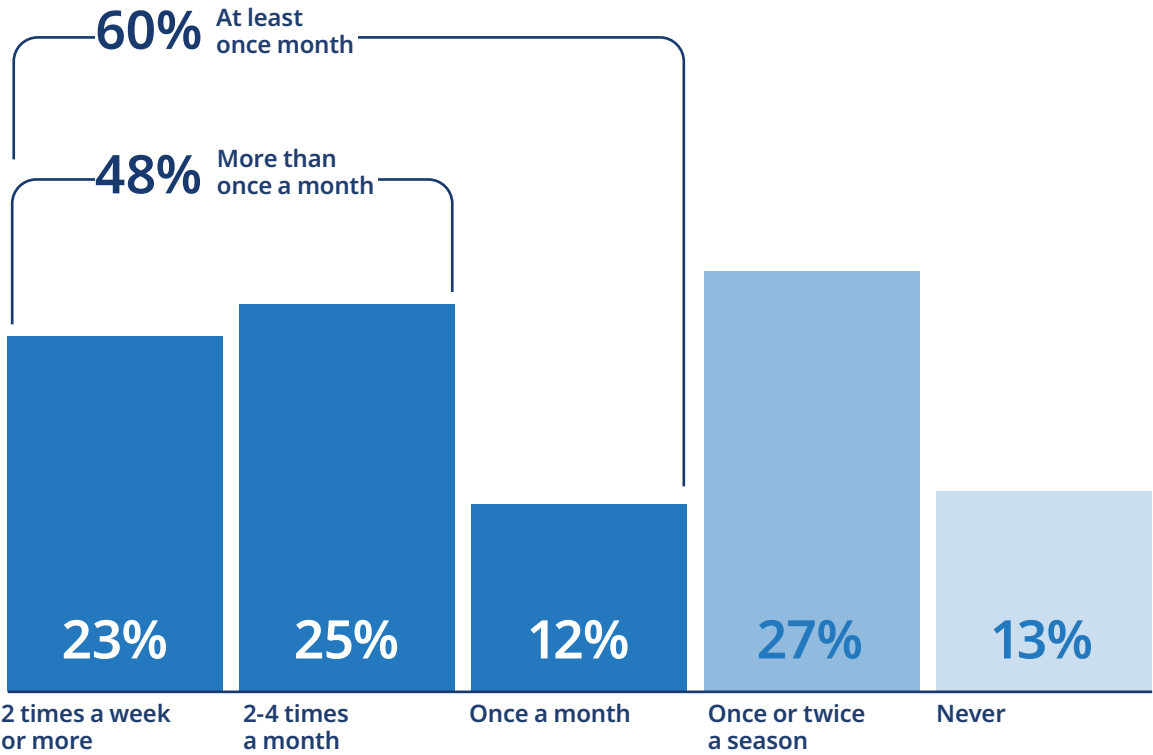
In total,
10,258
community members
participated in
the survey.

Key Findings: Pool



KITS POOL VISITS

Survey participants were asked how frequently they visit Kits Pool during the regular summer season (May long weekend to September long weekend).

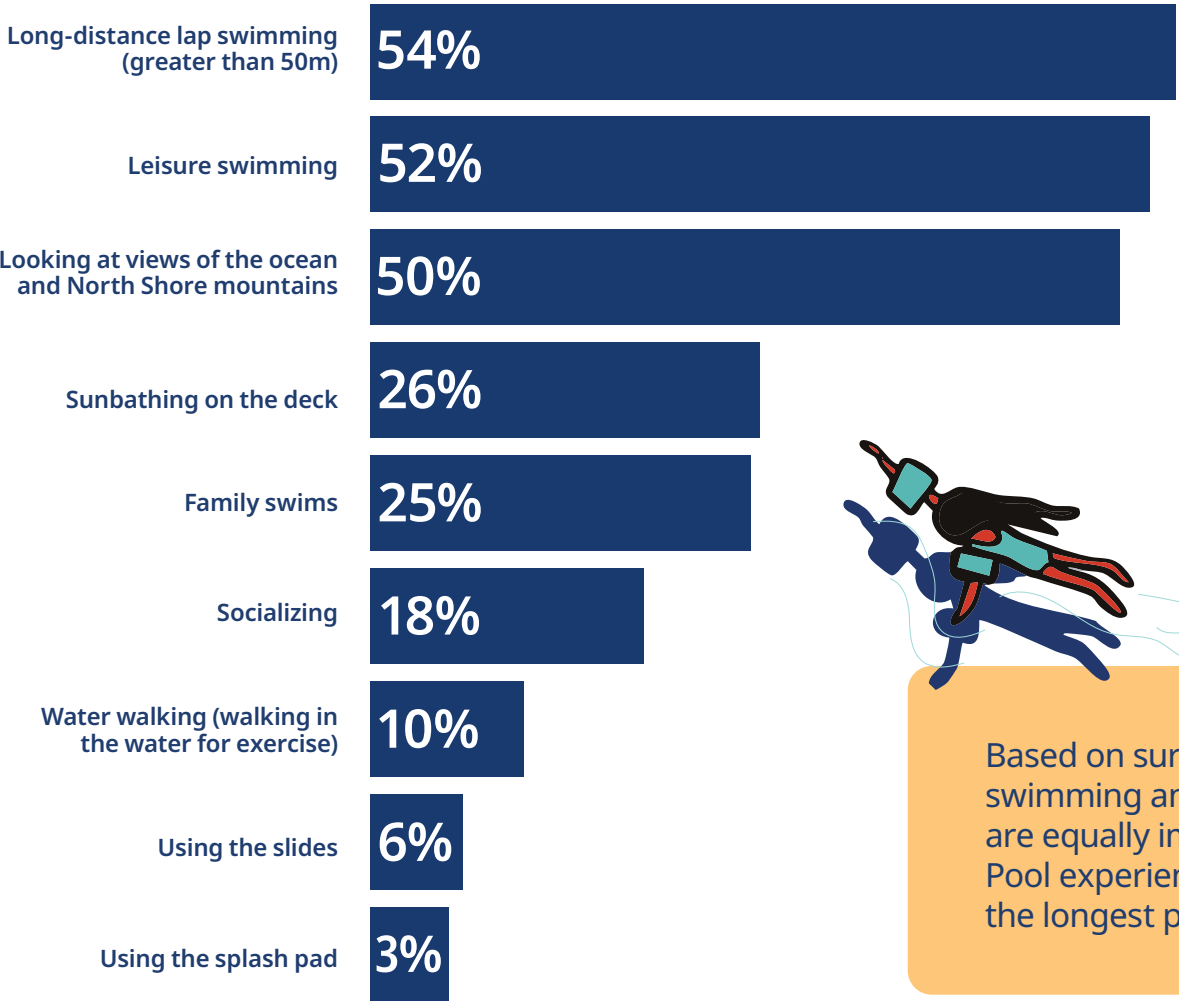


In total, nearly half (48%) of survey participants say they visit Kits Pool more than once a month during the summer season, including 23% saying '2 times a week or more' and 25% saying '2-4 times a month'.

Survey participants visiting the pool more than once a month are more likely to be under 70 years of age or taking children to the pool.

WHAT USERS ENJOY AT KITS POOL TODAY

Survey participants were asked what their current favorite activities are at Kits Pool and were allowed to select up to five responses. Note, responses may reflect the current state of the pool infrastructure, which is near the end of its service life. For example, the existing splash pad and slide features are underutilized and offer limited play value in their current form.



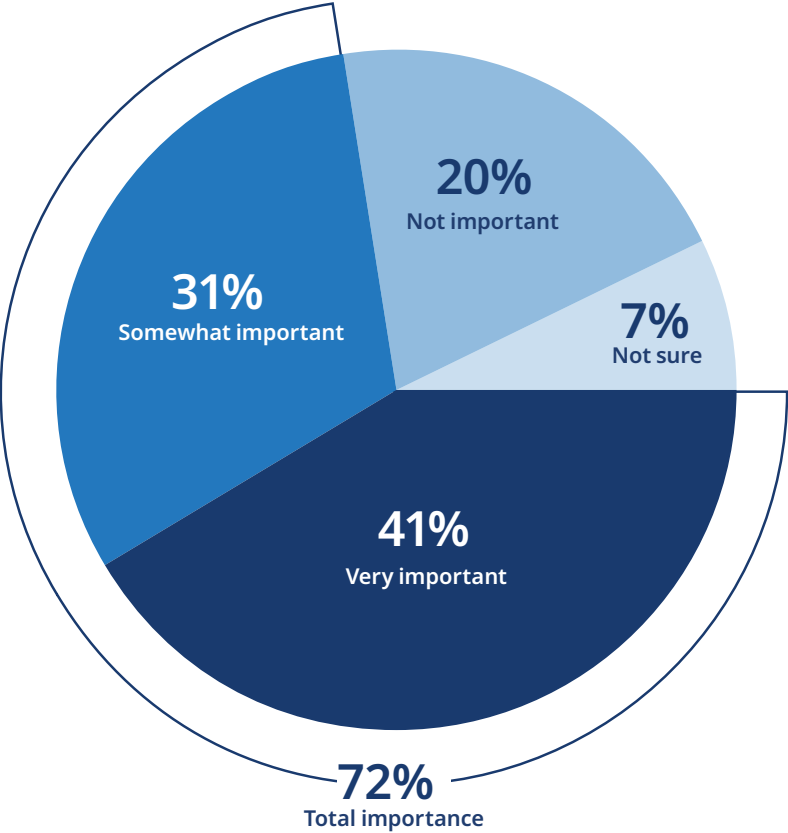
Based on survey responses, leisure swimming and long-distance lap swimming are equally important to the current Kits Pool experience, which at 137.5 metres is the longest public pool in North America.

Key Findings: Pool



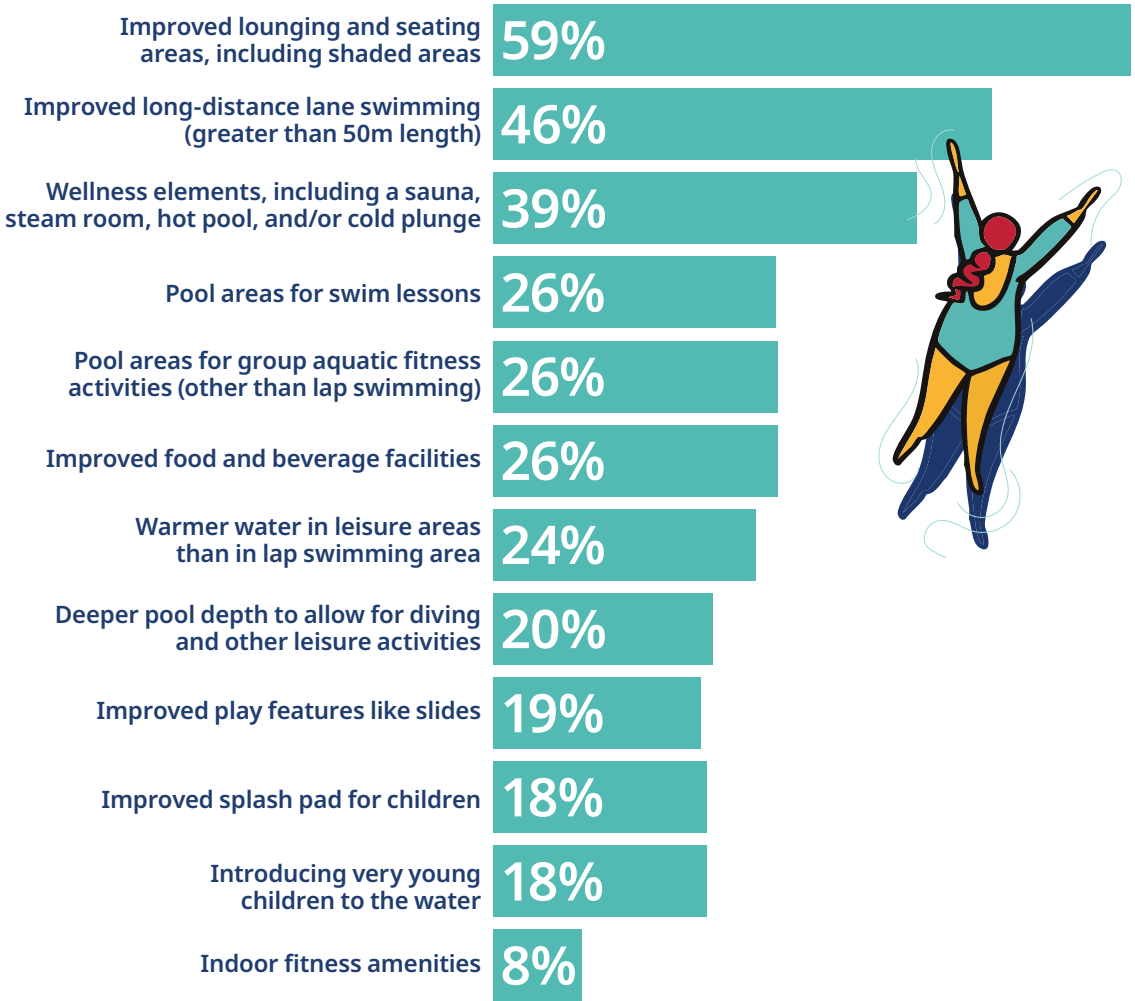
SALTWATER EXPERIENCE

The current Kits Pool water is filled, heated and treated from the ocean at the beginning of the season and then topped up with a mix of treated salt and potable water throughout the summer. Survey participants were asked about the importance of using saltwater in the future Kits Pool. Based on results, the saltwater experience is important to over 70% of users who took the survey.



PRIORITIES FOR POTENTIAL FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

Subject to funding, the future Kits Pool replacement will be designed for climate resiliency, meet regulatory requirements for accessibility and provide improved washroom and changeroom facilities. The City of Vancouver and Vancouver Park Board may also have an opportunity to update the pool to meet a variety of aquatic and recreation needs. Survey participants were asked to prioritize potential improvements, selecting up to five total responses.



Key Findings: Pool



Survey participants were asked what else the City and Park Board need to consider when planning for the future Kits Pool. The following are a sample of responses, based on the three most common themes we received comment on:

“Please keep the long length of the pool. It is so unique and such a drawing point for this pool.”

“Kits pool is a real gem. I love swimming 100m + laps!”

“Keep the green space feeling. It’s great to be able to get outside, enjoy the scenery, while being active/improving wellness - all while still feeling like you’re in nature.”

“It would be great if it turns into an aquatic/fitness/wellness centre open year-round”

Analysis of open-ended responses concerning potential considerations when planning for the Kits Pool replacement includes these top themes:



Length of pool/long distance lap swimming

36%

Ocean pool/close to the ocean

12%

Extend season/all year round

11%

Don't over do it/no elaborate updates/keep focus on swimming

10%



A photo of Kits Pool facing the ocean. In the background are Stanley Park, the downtown skyline and North Shore mountains.

Key Findings: Community Stage



COMMUNITY STAGE USAGE PATTERNS

The Kitsilano community stage, also known as the “Showboat” is located next to Kits Pool and is operated by a non-profit organization. The Kitsilano Showboat hosts free performances showcasing amateur talent. Survey participants were asked how often they visit the community stage.

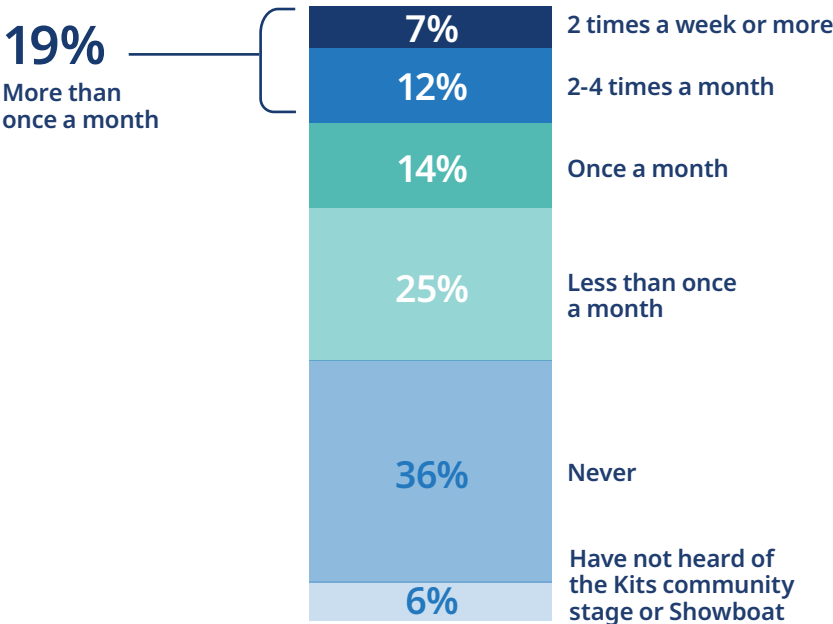
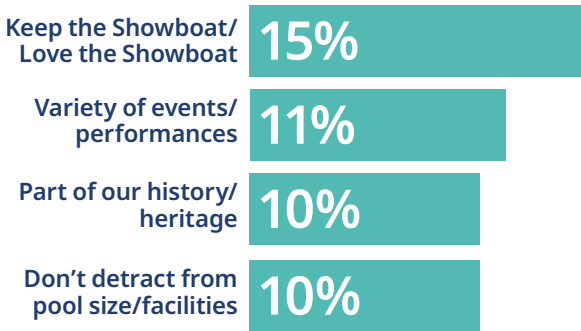


Photo of the Kitsilano Community Stage (also known as the ‘Showboat’) with Kits Pool and English Bay in the background.

Of all survey participants, 36% say they have never visited the community stage and 6% are unaware of its existence.

A total of 19% say they visit the Kitsilano community stage more than once a month during the summer season.

Analysis of open-ended responses concerning potential updates to the Kitsilano community stage identifies a variety of suggested considerations. Top themes include:



Survey participants who frequent the community stage speak passionately about the Showboat:

“Yes, this space is well loved. It’s great walking by and seeing people dancing or hearing live music. There is also a lack of affordable performance spaces in the city so I think it’s really important to continue to have this venue and to improve on it as much as it is possible.”

There are differences in the perception of programming from survey participants. Some state:

“Keep the history and character of the stage, retain historical elements as it is an important part of the Kitsilano community.”

Other responses would like to see more diversity:

“Make the events more known and diverse to different groups.”

Survey participants also suggested:

“More seating/space around the pool deck instead of the stage.”

“When it is in use it seems to bring people together... as someone who passes daily it seems under-utilized.”

In addition, community members who currently use the stage have emailed the City to share that the stage is used by dancers as an accessible practice space, which has helped create social connections.

Key Findings: Park

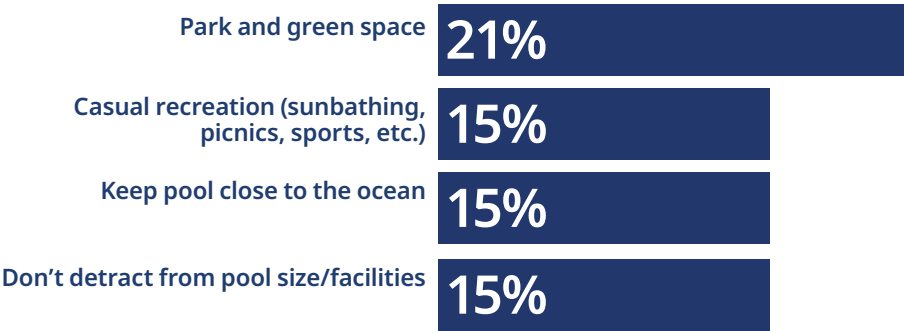


AREAS SURROUNDING THE POOL IN KITS BEACH PARK

If Kits Pool needs to move within the park to protect it from climate change impacts, there will be no loss of overall park space. The existing beach will be preserved, and amenities such as the tennis courts, parking lots and Seaside Greenway will be maintained. Survey participants were asked what the City and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation should think about when planning for these areas in Kits Beach Park.

- “These areas are extremely well used in the summer – the grass is full of people, the tennis courts always in use.”
- “More bike racks...well secured, well lit and security cameras in place to discourage theft.”
- “Continue to have relaxing walking and biking paths. Ensure a few meeting places for informal and planned gatherings. Keep pool and stage as close to current location as you can.”
- “Maintaining both the view from the park and from the pool. Safe and accessible waiting/queuing areas while waiting, for a session to begin. Maintaining areas for bike parking, strollers, and active transit.”

Survey respondents were asked to share any additional feedback on the surrounding areas of Kits Beach Park. This was another open-ended, with the most common themes being:



Residents lounging on the grass at Kits Beach Park, adjacent to Kits Pool.

Demographics



WHO DID WE HEAR FROM?

Over 10,000 individuals responded to the survey, representing a broad cross-section of Vancouver’s population.



Age:
Most survey participants were between 30–69 years old, with 25% aged 30–39.



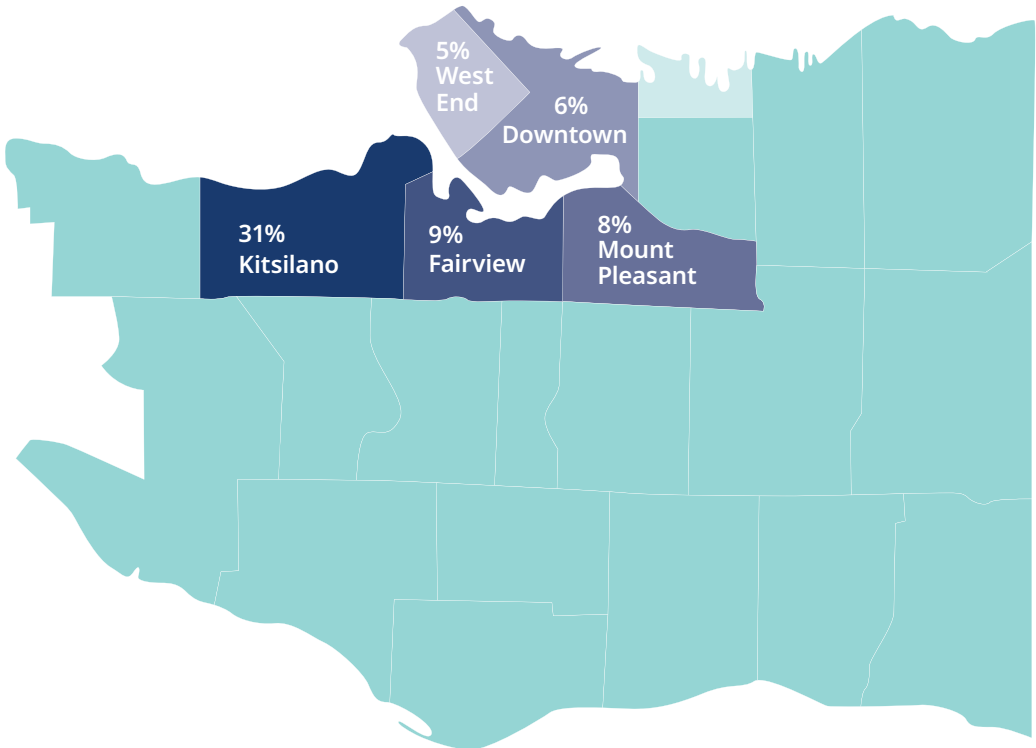
Gender:
61% identified as women, 33% as men, and 2% as non-binary or gender diverse.



Families:
36% reported bringing children under 18 to the pool.



Disability:
14% identified as having a disability or access challenge.



Neighbourhoods:
Residents from neighbourhoods across Vancouver and outside the city participated in the survey. 59% of residents were from neighbourhoods adjacent to Kits Pool, with the majority of respondents living in Kitsilano (31%). 35% of residents came from the remaining areas of Vancouver and 6% of respondents live outside the city.

INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY

Survey participants that identified as gender-diverse or having a disability offered specific design suggestions for the future Kits Pool; key needs included:

Wheelchair **ramps**, maintaining some amount of **zero-depth entry**, **accessible change rooms**, and **quiet areas** for sensory comfort.

Gender-neutral change rooms and private **showering spaces** were top priorities.



WHAT WE HEARD

The Kits Pool replacement will be considered as part of the City’s 2027-2030 Capital Plan. Future funding decisions will be made in the context of city-wide priorities, climate resilience requirements and commitments to honour the significance of this site to the local Nations.

Feedback received from the community will help staff shape options for a future Kits Pool replacement.

The following top community priorities were identified through survey feedback:

- 1
- Preserve the pool’s iconic features**
 - Subject to health authority regulations, explore a saltwater experience
 - Maintain an opportunity for long-distance lap swimming (greater than 100m)
 - Maintain ocean and mountain views and connection to the surrounding park

- 2
- Enhance comfort and usability**
 - Add shaded lounging areas and improved seating to the pool deck areas
 - If budget allows, introduce wellness amenities like hot pools, cold plunges, and saunas

- 3
- Support inclusive access**
 - gender-neutral and private changing facilities are essential to making the pool inclusive
 - Enhance accessibility for people with disabilities

- 4
- Plan for climate resilience and extended use**
 - Consider opportunities to extend the pool’s season
 - Explore designs that adapt the shoreline and make the pool more resilient to climate change
 - Protect green space and support casual recreation

NEXT STEPS

The replacement of Kits Pool will be considered as part of the City’s 2027-2030 Capital Plan. Future funding decisions will be made in the context of city-wide priorities, climate resilience requirements and commitments to honour the significance of this site to local Nations.

