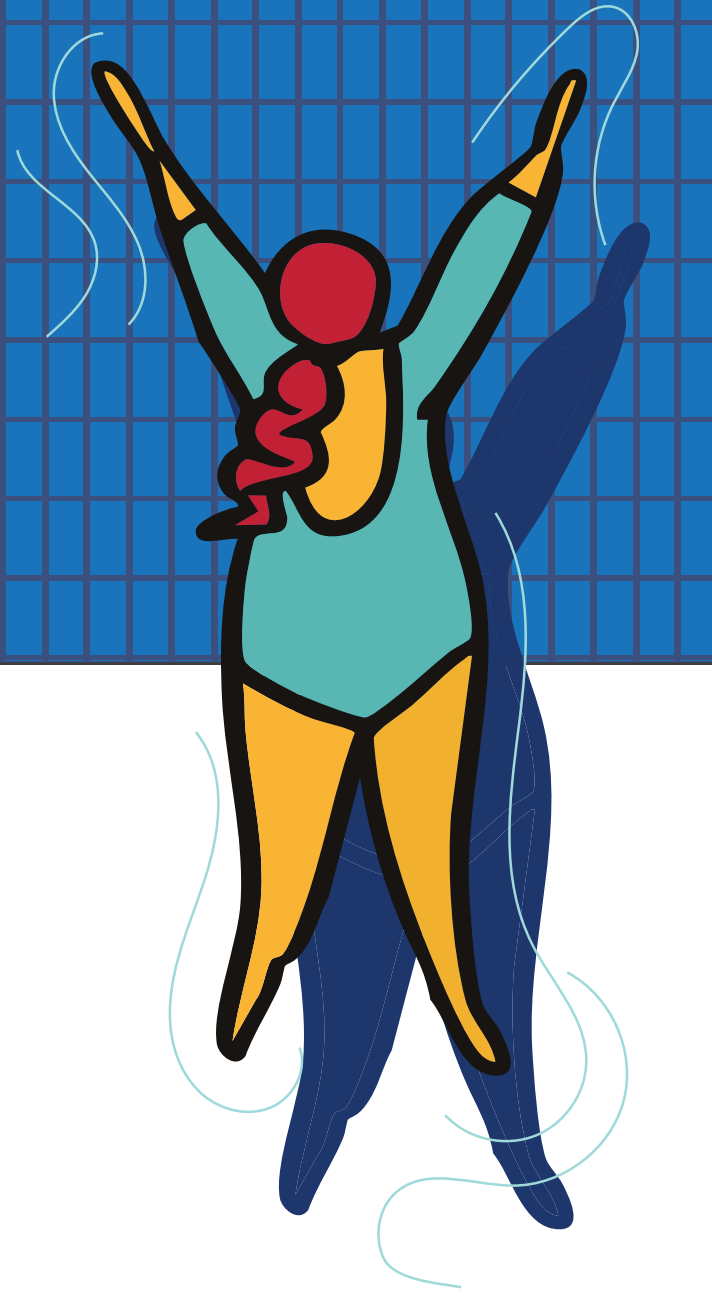
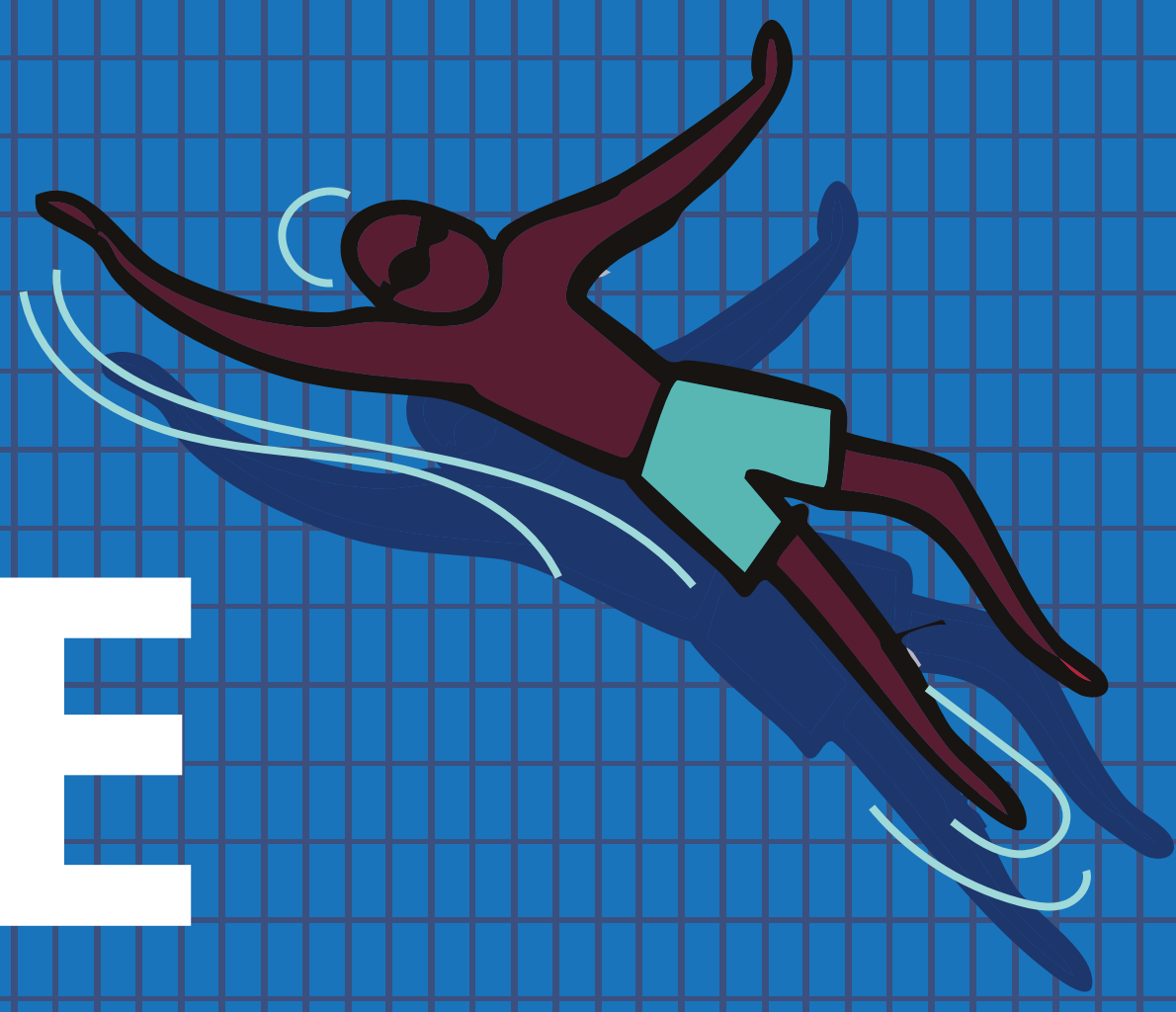


# WELCOME



## WHY ARE WE HERE?

The Kitsilano Outdoor Pool (Kits Pool), one of Vancouver's most unique and beloved pools, has reached 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 the pool.

Replacing Kits Pool provides an exciting opportunity to better meet a variety of residents' aquatics and recreation needs.

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 the local Nations.

The Kits Pool replacement will include considerations for the nearby community stage, concession and public washroom building, and the areas of Kitsilano Beach Park that surround the pool.

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Help us reimagine the future of Kits Pool by taking a survey at:

[ShapeYourCity.ca/Kits-Pool-Replacement](https://ShapeYourCity.ca/Kits-Pool-Replacement)



Your feedback will help identify the community aquatics and recreation needs to be considered. Pending funding, there will be more opportunities for you to provide feedback on the future design.





# HISTORY



## SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL

Kitsilano Beach Park and the waters of English Bay hold special significance for xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial.



## 1931

The first Kits Pool opened in August 1931. It had a sandy bottom and was filled with water from English Bay during high tide. In the 1960s, the sandy bottom was replaced with a concrete base.



## 1979

The current pool was rebuilt over top of the original with a second concrete pool basin and new systems were installed to mechanically pump, heat and treat the water from English Bay.

*Photo: Ken Oakes, Vancouver Sun*



## 2022

Winter storms and sea-level rise are causing damage to Kits Pool. The City has carried out maintenance and repairs to keep it operational.

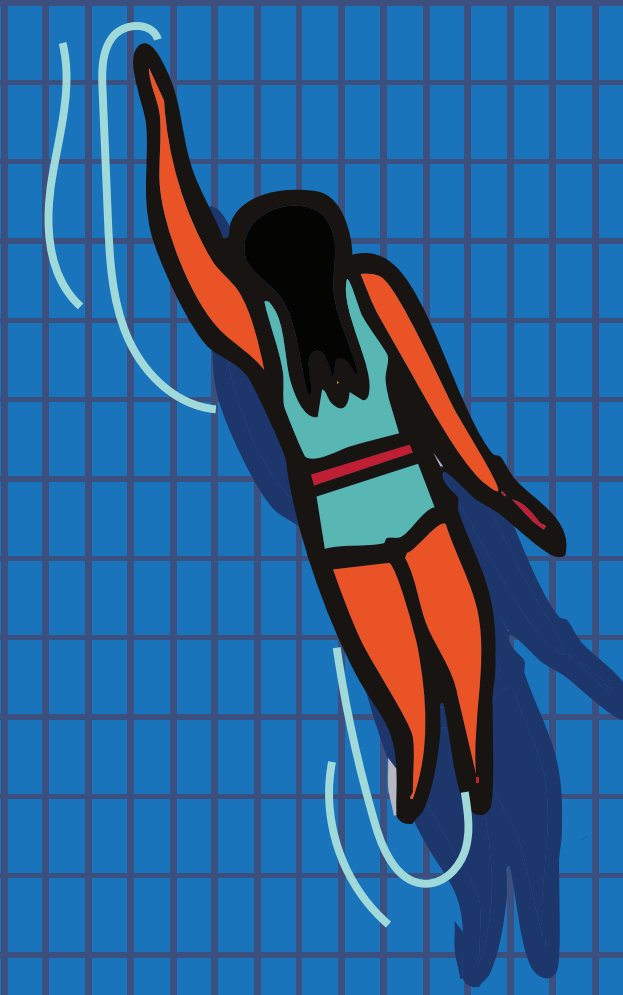


## TODAY

At 137.5 metres long, Kits Pool is still the longest public outdoor swimming pool in North America. After serving the Vancouver community well for almost a century, the pool has reached the end of its service life.



# WHY DO WE NEED TO REPLACE THE POOL?

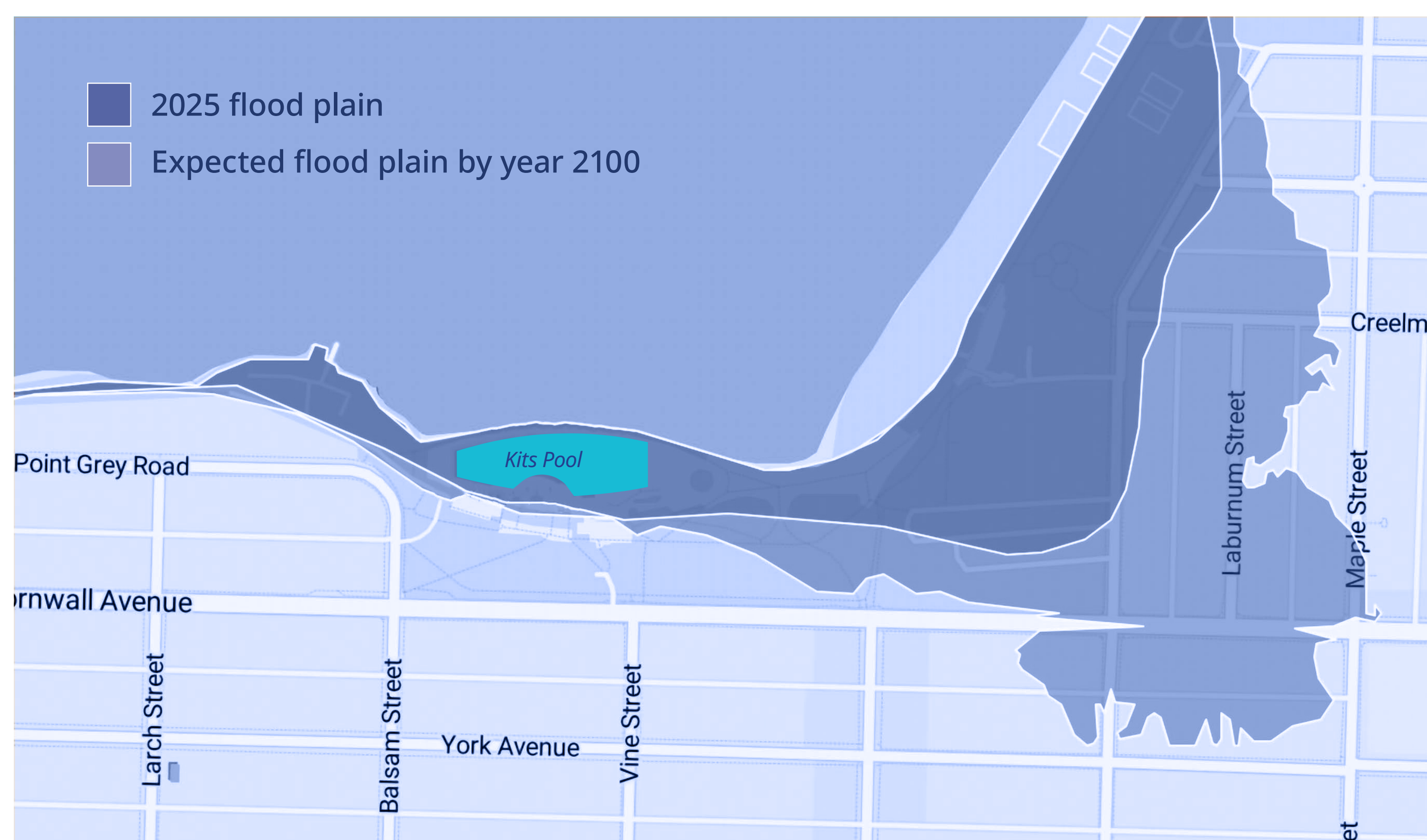


## SEA-LEVEL RISE IN VANCOUVER

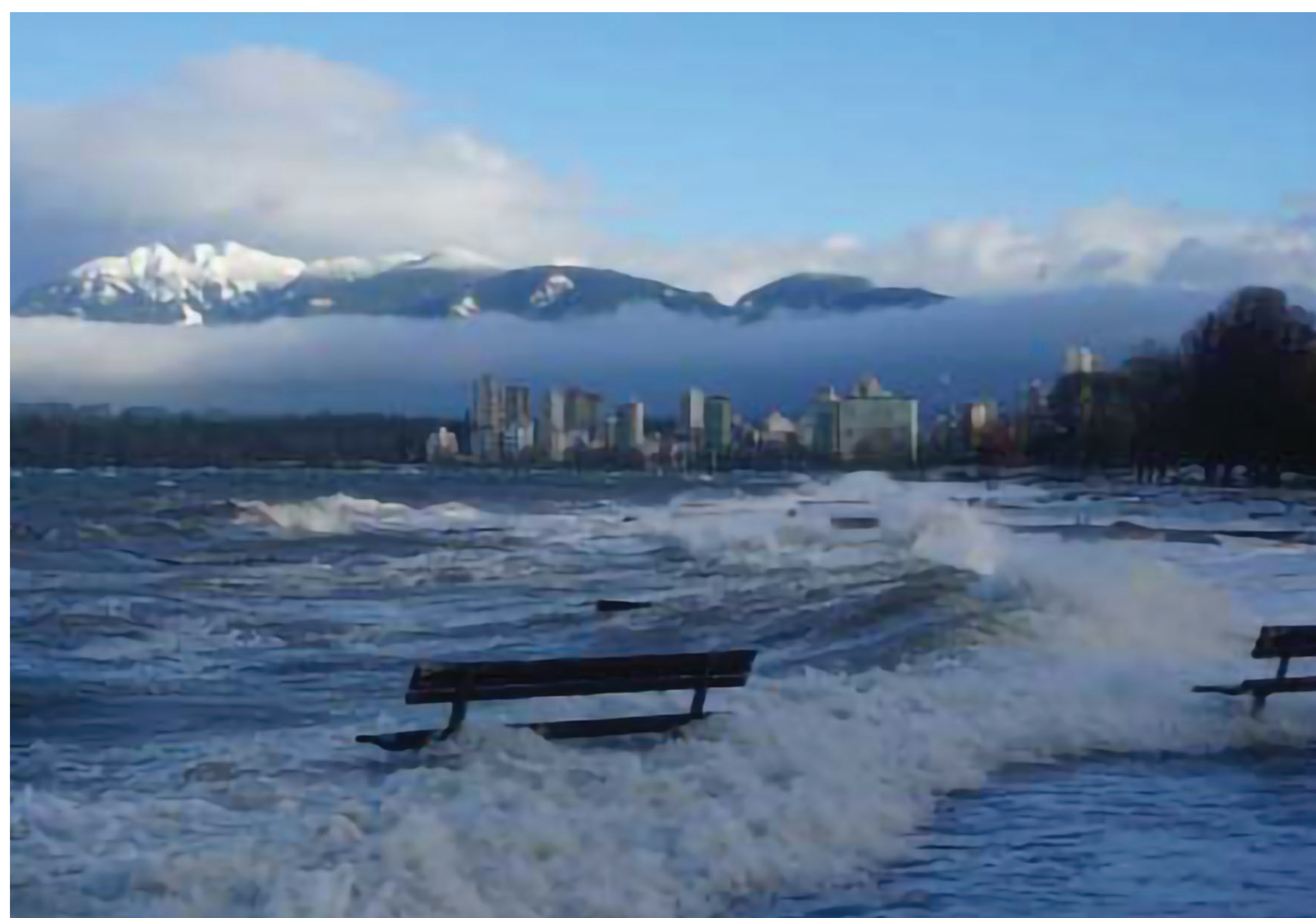
As with most coastal cities, the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation need to reimagine shoreline facilities in the context of climate change and sea level rise.

According to provincial estimates, Vancouver can expect 0.5m sea level rise by 2050. Vancouver's coastal areas were not built to accommodate sea level rise and increasing coastal flooding.

For more information about how the City is preparing for sea level rise, visit: [vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/sea-level-rise.aspx](https://vancouver.ca/green-vancouver/sea-level-rise.aspx)



Vancouver's current shoreline infrastructure is not designed to withstand sea level rise and future storm events. This graph shows Vancouver's current floodplain in dark blue and the predicted 2100 floodplain in light blue.



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR KITS POOL?

The pool systems have reached the end of their service life and recent winter storms have caused significant structural damage.

Sea-level rise and increasingly strong storm events have contributed to more pool maintenance and repairs. Despite ongoing maintenance, it remains challenging to open Kits Pool every summer.

Without significant changes, Kits Pool's current site will not be viable long-term. The feasibility study is exploring options to create a more resilient pool design and strengthen its relationship with the shoreline.



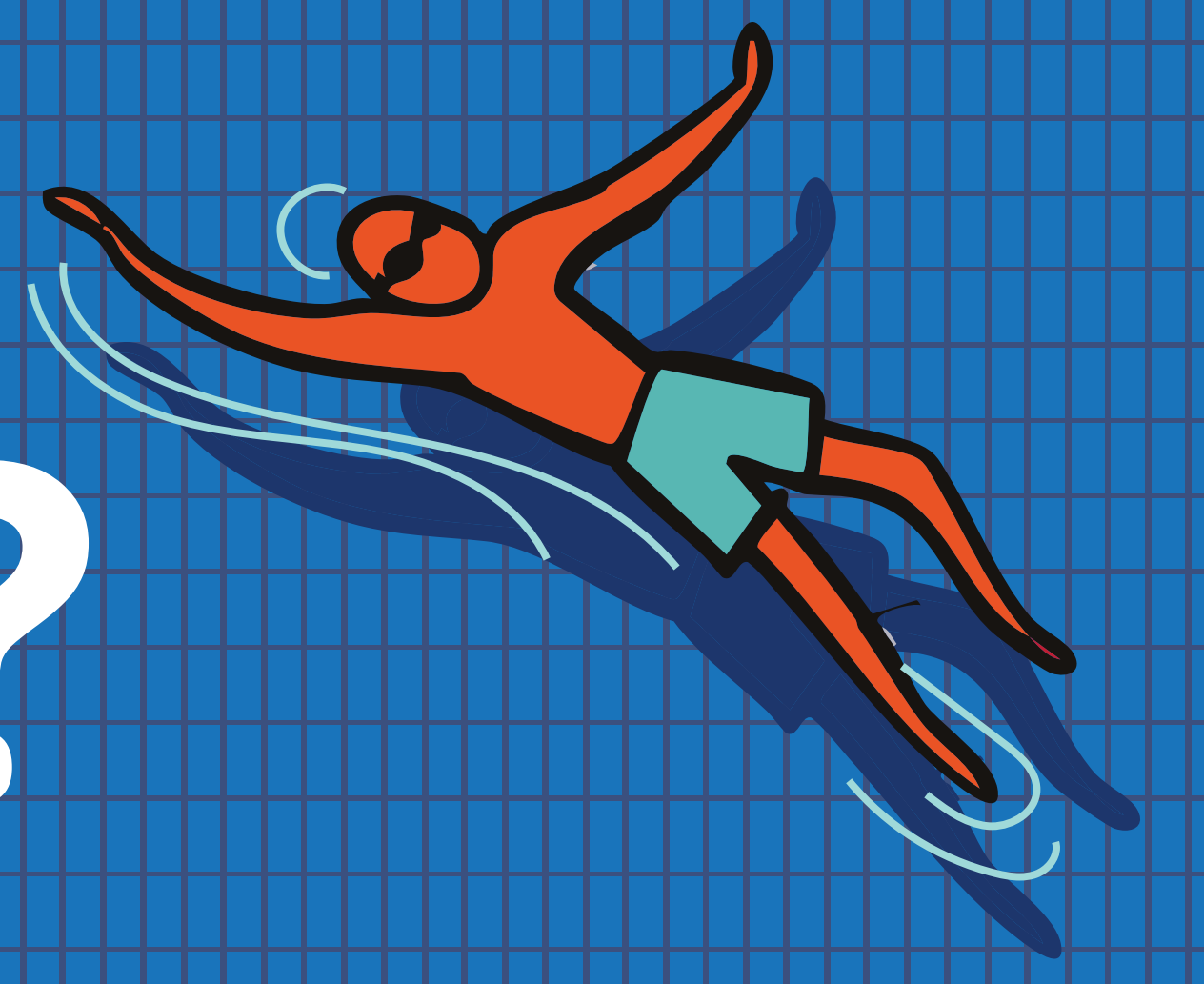
Replacing Kits Pool provides an opportunity to design a pool that is more resilient and adaptive to climate change.



The above images were taken in 2022 during a King Tide that caused substantial damage to the pool's infrastructure.

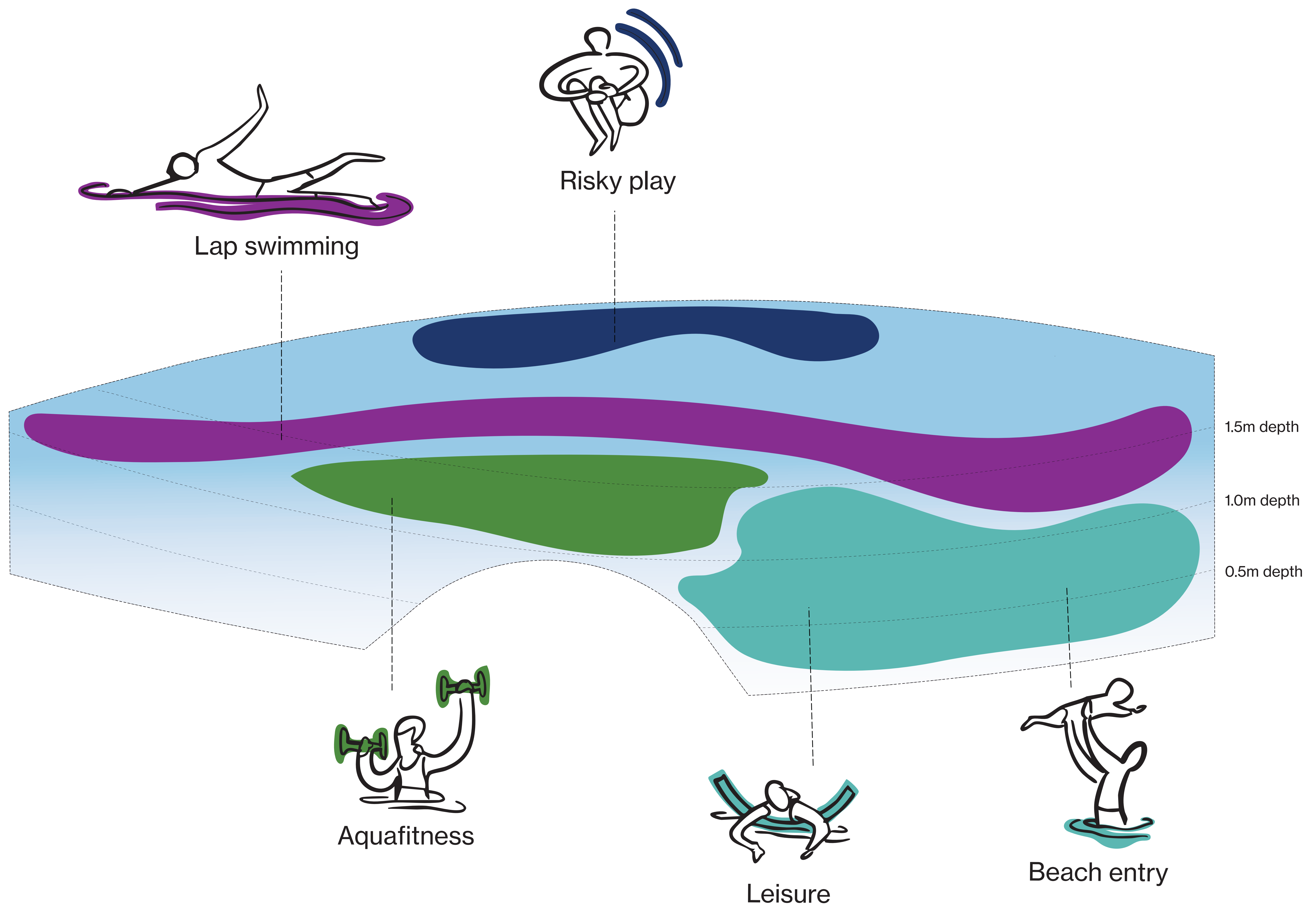


# WHY DO WE NEED TO REPLACE THE POOL?



Kits Pool was built directly into the shoreline and was not designed for today's coastal conditions or aquatic needs.

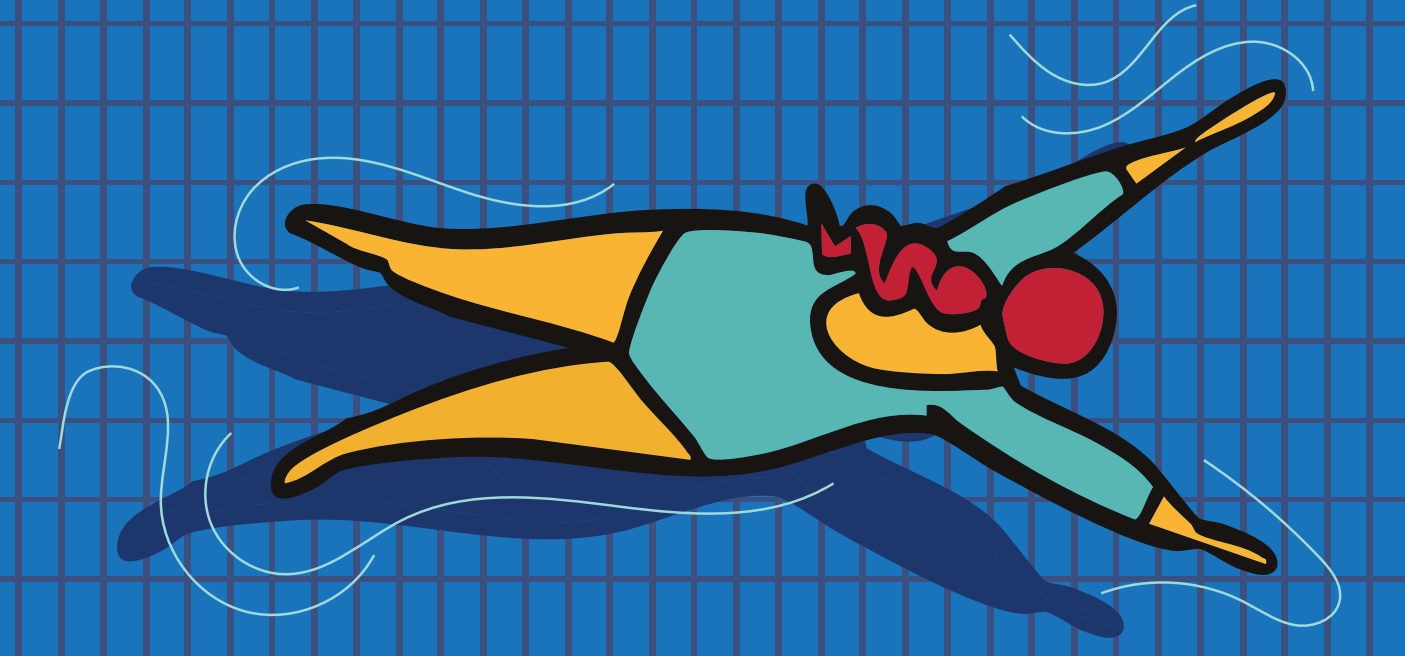
Approximately 60% of the total water space at Kits Pool is currently well used for lap swimming and leisure activities.



- A swimming lane in the middle of the pool causes conflict between lane and leisure swimmers.
- Very shallow depth at the west end of the swimming lane does not allow for swimmers to turn, causing congestion.
- Water is too warm for lap swimmers.
- Water is too cold for many leisure swimmers.
- Large beach entry area is larger than average pools with this type of entry and is underutilized.
- Optimal leisure water depth is 1-1.5m, currently approximately 20% of Kitsilano Pool is at this depth.
- The deepest pool depth is not deep enough to dive, but too deep for most people to stand.

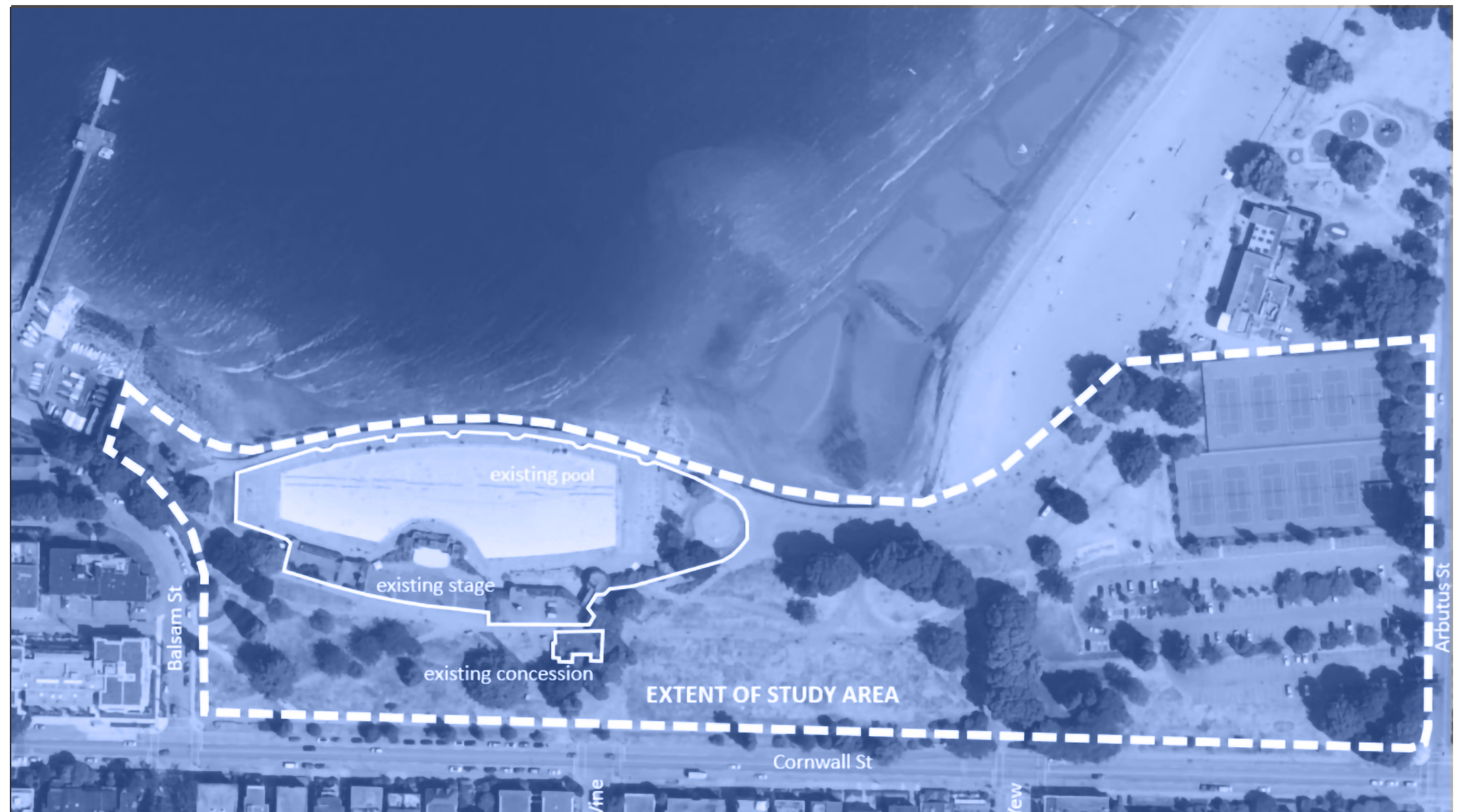


# PROJECT LOCATION



There are two important things to note about the park area under consideration:

- 1 The replacement of Kits Pool provides an opportunity to update the Kitsilano community stage, also known as the Showboat.
- 2 If Kits Pool needs to move within the park to protect it from climate change impacts, there will be no overall loss of park space. The existing beach will be preserved, and we will maintain amenities such as the tennis courts, parking lots and Seaside Greenway.



## KITSILANO COMMUNITY STAGE

The Kitsilano community stage, also known as the Showboat, is located next to Kits Pool. It has been operated by a non-profit organization, the Kitsilano Showboat Society since 1935, and showcases local amateur talent.

A replacement of Kits Pool could provide an opportunity to modernize the community stage to continue to celebrate diverse cultural performances.

## KITS BEACH PARK

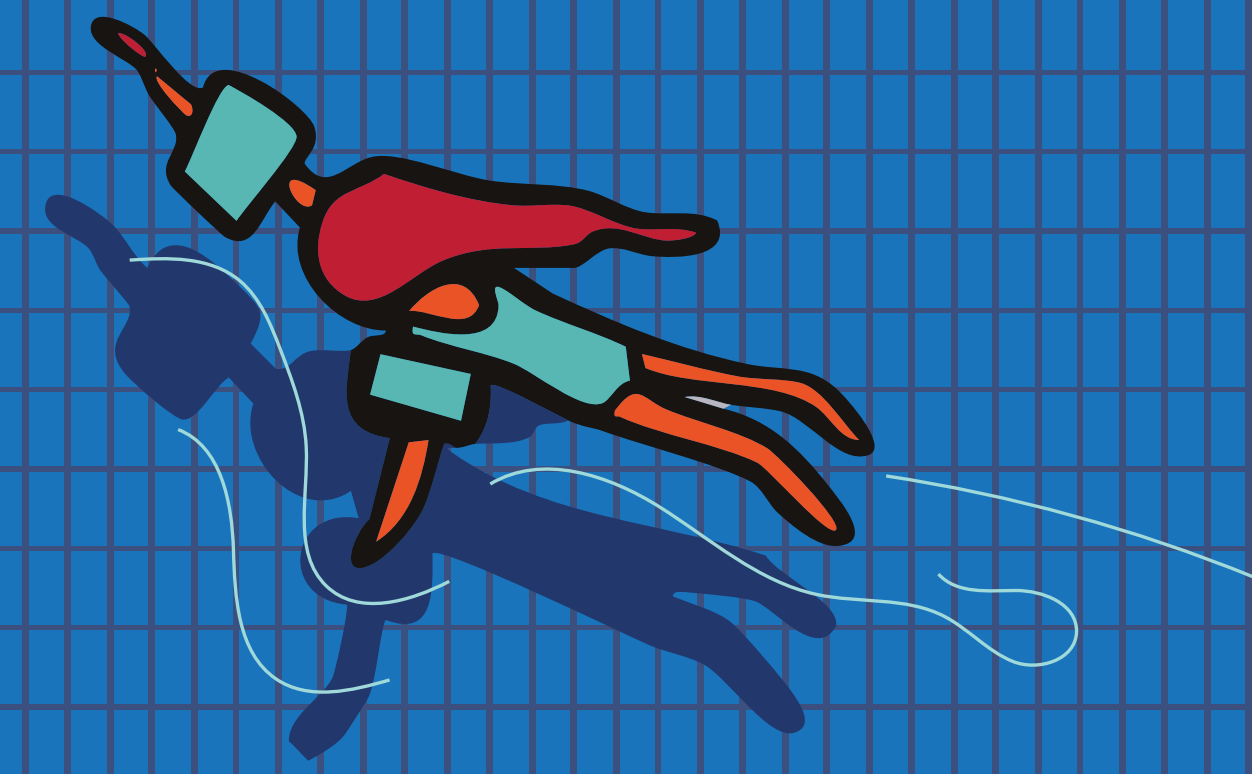
Kits Beach Park is a beloved gathering space for community to socialize and enjoy sweeping views of English Bay and the North Shore Mountains.

The feasibility study will look at enhancing pedestrian connections and access in the park areas surrounding Kits Pool.





# OPPORTUNITIES

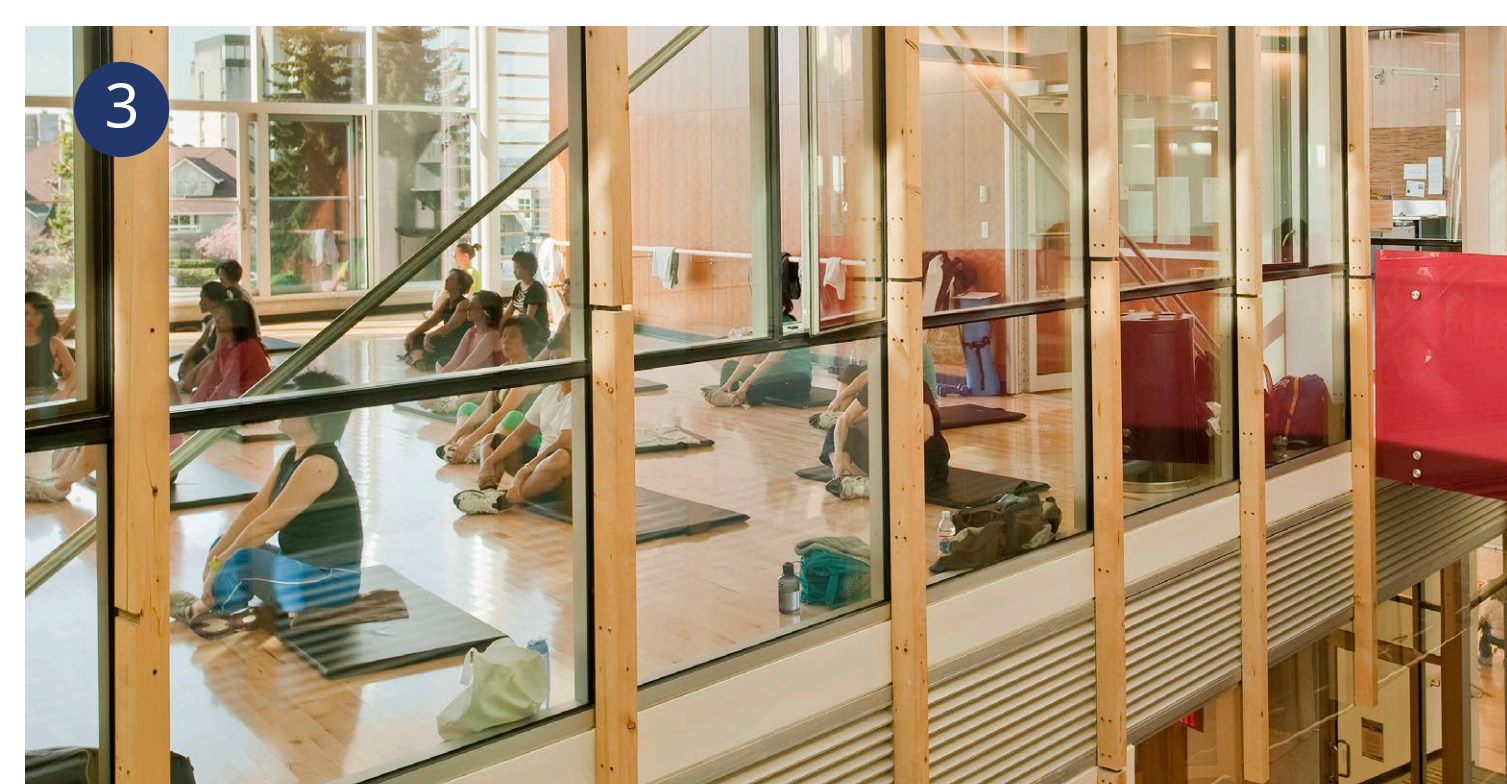
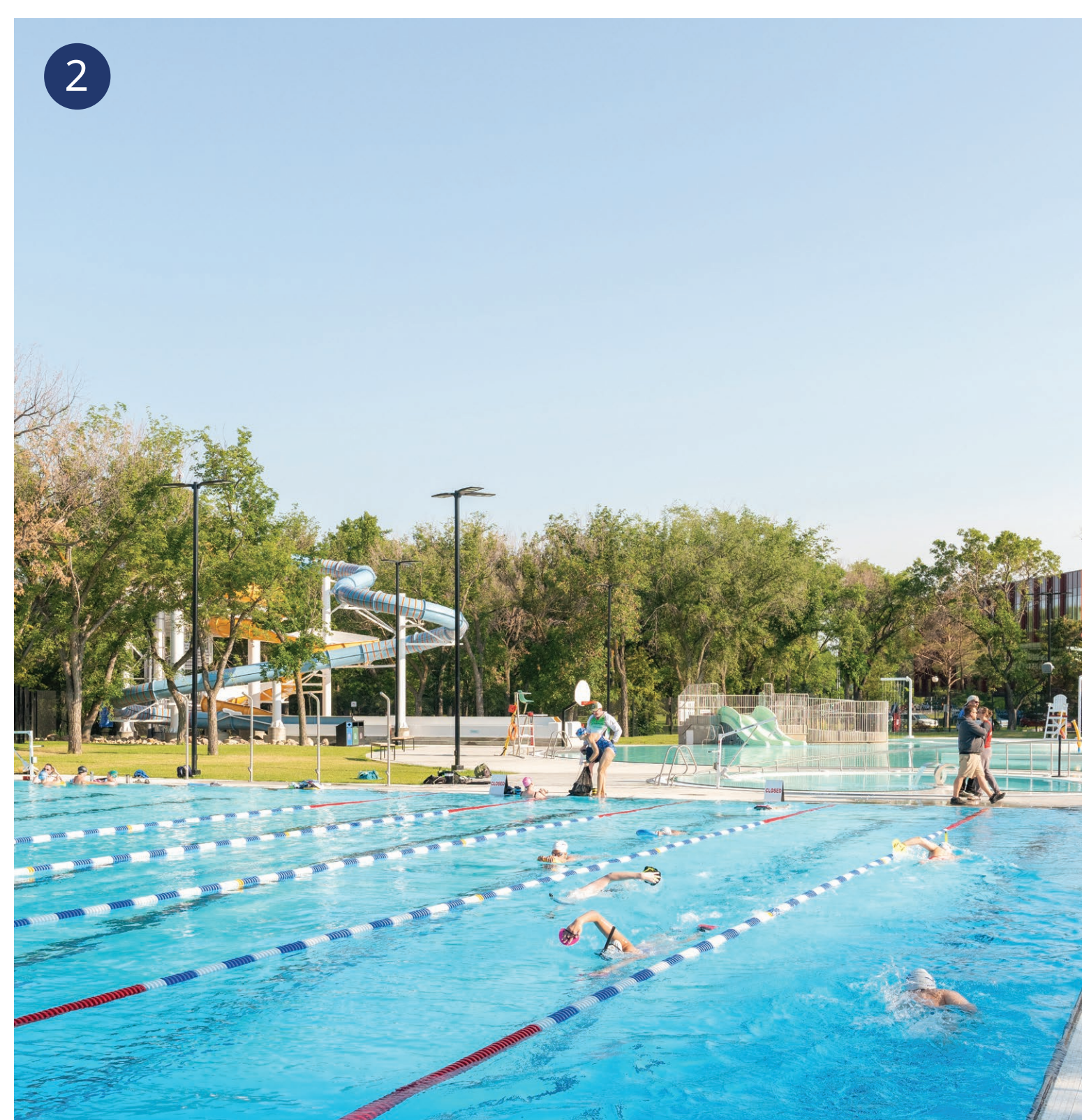


The overall goal is to ensure Vancouver has a pool in Kits Beach Park that is more resilient and adapted to climate change. A new pool would also provide improved accessibility features, washrooms and change rooms.

The renewal of Kits pool will be considered as part of the City's 2027–2030 Capital Plan and will be subject to funding.

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.

Subject to funding, we may also have an opportunity to update the pool to meet a variety of aquatic and recreation needs. Options for consideration include:



- 1 Wellness elements, like a sauna, steam room, hot pool and/or cold plunge
- 2 Improved long-distance lap swimming experience
- 3 Fitness amenities

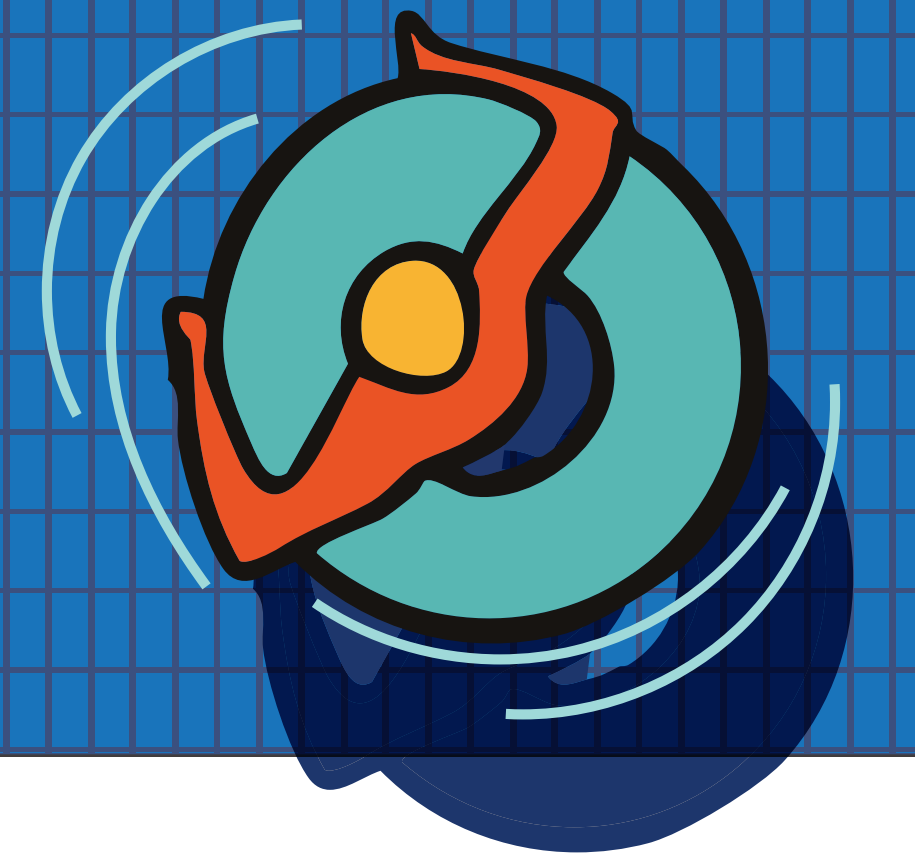
- 4 Improved waterplay features like slides
- 5 Deeper pool depth to allow for diving and other deep water leisure activities

- 6 Improved lounging and seating areas, including shaded areas
- 7 Pool areas to support programming such as swim lessons and aquafit activities

- 8 Improved splash pad for children
- 9 Improved food and beverage facilities
- 10 Warmer water in leisure areas than in lap swimming area



# TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS



2019

Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation's VanSplash makes recommendations for major upgrades to Kits Pool infrastructure

2022

Winter storm damages Kits Pool, leading to ongoing summer closures and an increase in annual maintenance costs

2024

Vancouver City Council directs staff to expedite a feasibility study to reimagine and replace Kits Pool

2025

City of Vancouver and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation staff start replacement study



**WE ARE HERE**

June–July 2025: community input

2026

Kits Pool replacement to be considered by City Council and Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation as part of Capital Plan 2027-2030

