

# Manhattan Point Park

Engagement Summary Report | August 2024



## Introduction

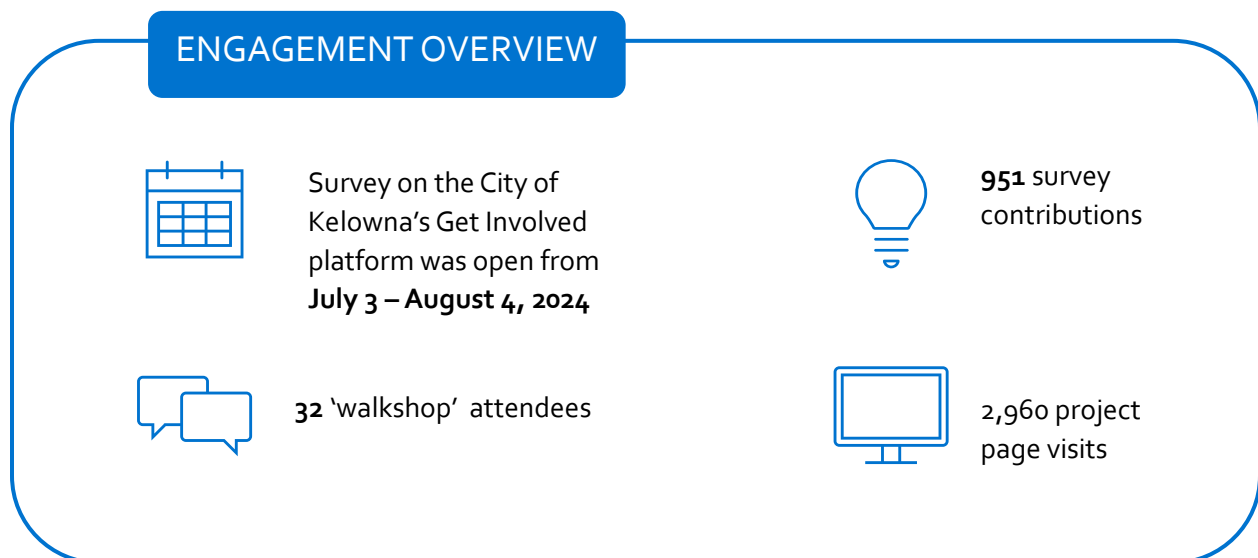
Manhattan Point Park is located at one of Kelowna's most westerly points, boasting stunning views of the lake and mountains, providing connections to key areas, and playing an important role in servicing the Paddle Trail, Manhattan Drive neighbourhood, and North End.

The City purchased the park property in 2004. Initially opened without significant improvements, it provided access to the pier, beach, and lake. However, damage from the 2017 and 2018 floods led to its closure for safety reasons.

The park will be redesigned and reopen with new public amenities and restored waterfront access. The design phase begins in 2024 and construction anticipated in 2026. Key objectives for park improvements include creating safe public access to the waterfront, making available public land for public use, improving shoreline stabilization, and delivering environmental benefits.

From July-August 2024, residents were asked to help shape the future of this unique piece of waterfront.

## Engagement approach



Community members were invited to provide feedback on park priorities in the following ways:

- An **online survey**: open from July 3 to August 4, 2024
- An in-person **"walkshop"** held on July 13, 2024

Feedback on the draft Plan and key elements of the plan was primarily received through the online survey. The findings from the survey and walkshop are detailed in this report.



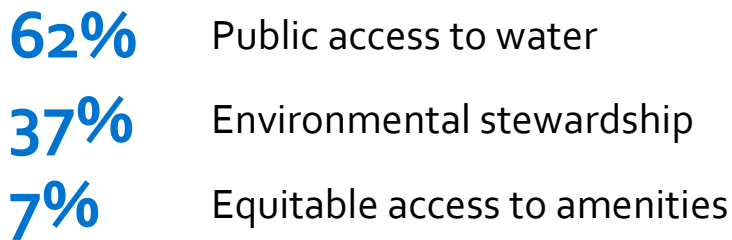
### Limitations

Owing to the opt-in nature of the feedback opportunities provided, feedback received may not be balanced or broadly representative. Additionally, promotional channels may be limited in their demographic reach with audiences comprised largely of homeowners, people who are online, and people who follow the City's channels.

## What we heard: Survey results

### Project Principles

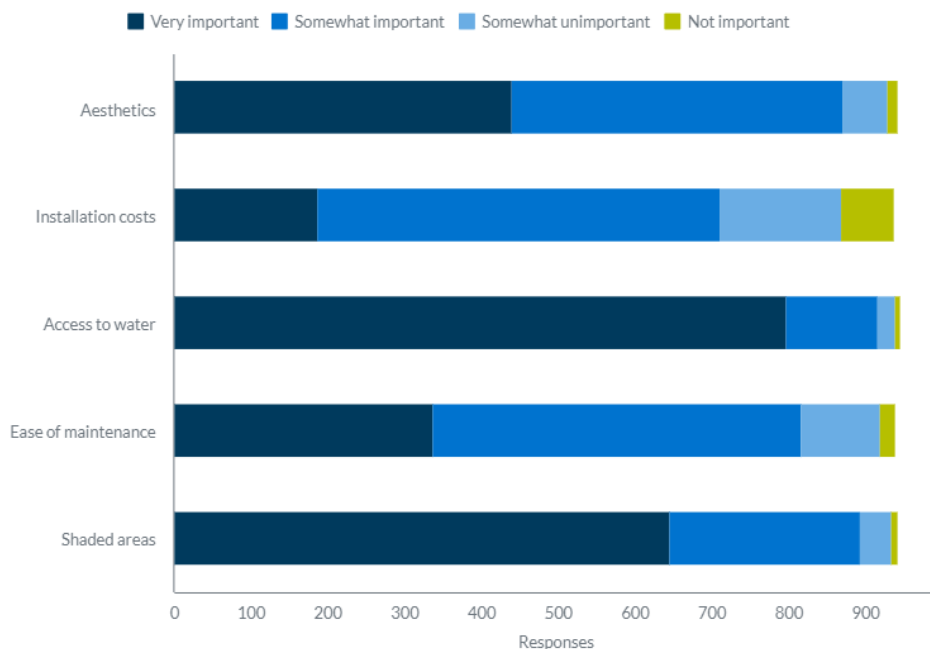
Survey respondents were asked to rank the project's three guiding principles in order of importance. Consistent with feedback received through other City engagement processes, the vast majority of respondents (62%) said "public access to water" was the most important.



### Priorities for upgrades

The project team wanted to learn what respondents valued most highly for project upgrades. About 85% (797) respondents said **access to water** and nearly 70% (646) said **shaded areas** were 'very important.'

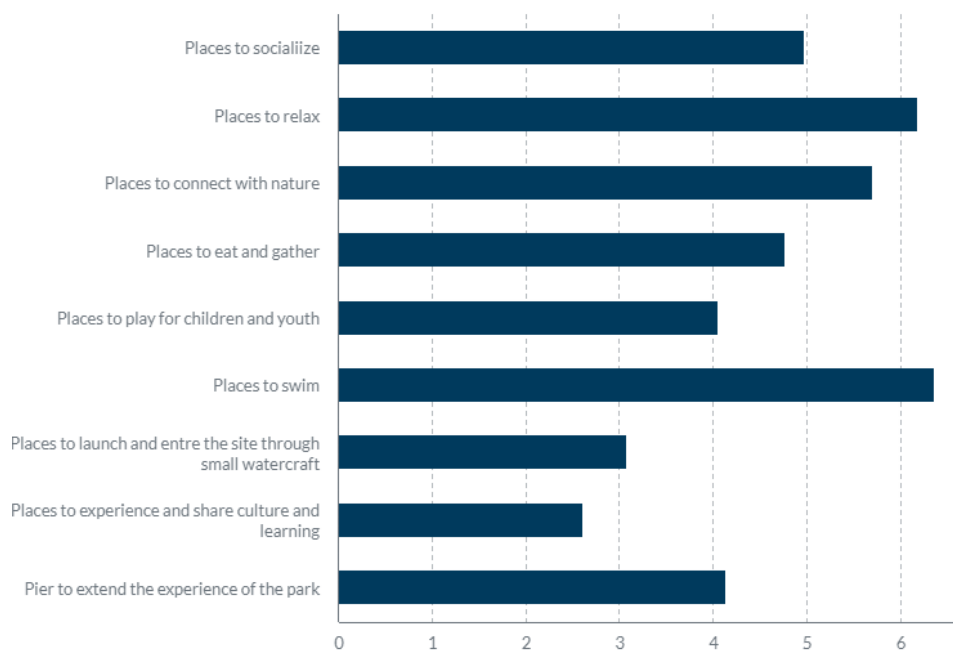
Please rank the importance of the following priorities in the upgrades.



## Spaces & amenities

Respondents were asked to share their spatial and amenity priorities for the site – **places to swim** received the strongest support with 28% choosing this option as their topmost priority. **Places to relax** received the next highest support with 15% selecting this as their topmost option. Both also received the highest and second highest number of total votes with 821 and 817 respectively.

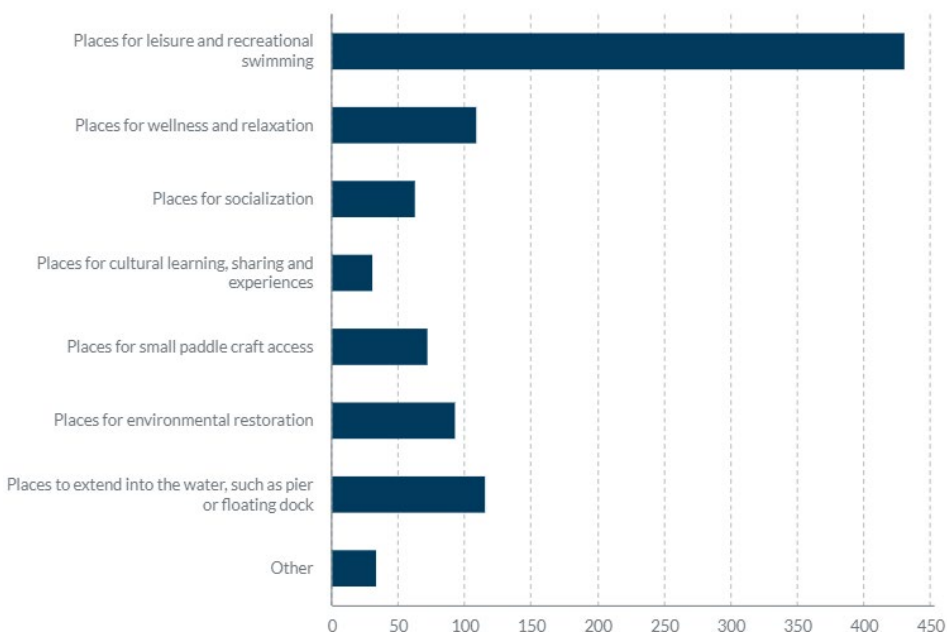
What is the most important to you about the spaces at Manhattan Pt.?



## Waterfront features

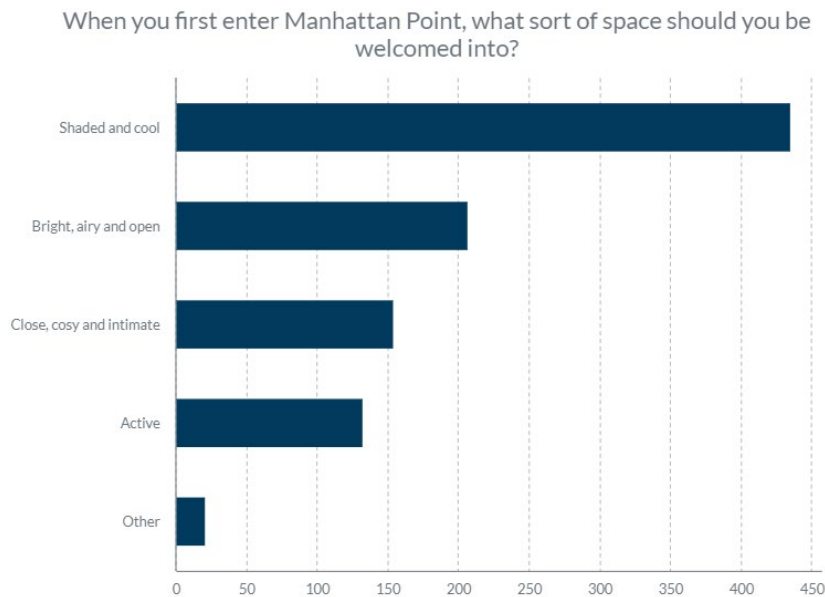
Asked specifically about the waterfront, respondents again expressed a strong desire for a swimmable waterfront with nearly 45% (431) respondents indicating **places for leisure and recreational swimming** was their topmost waterfront priority. At 12%, **places to extend into the water** was a distant second.

What's most important to you about waterfront features/amenities for the park

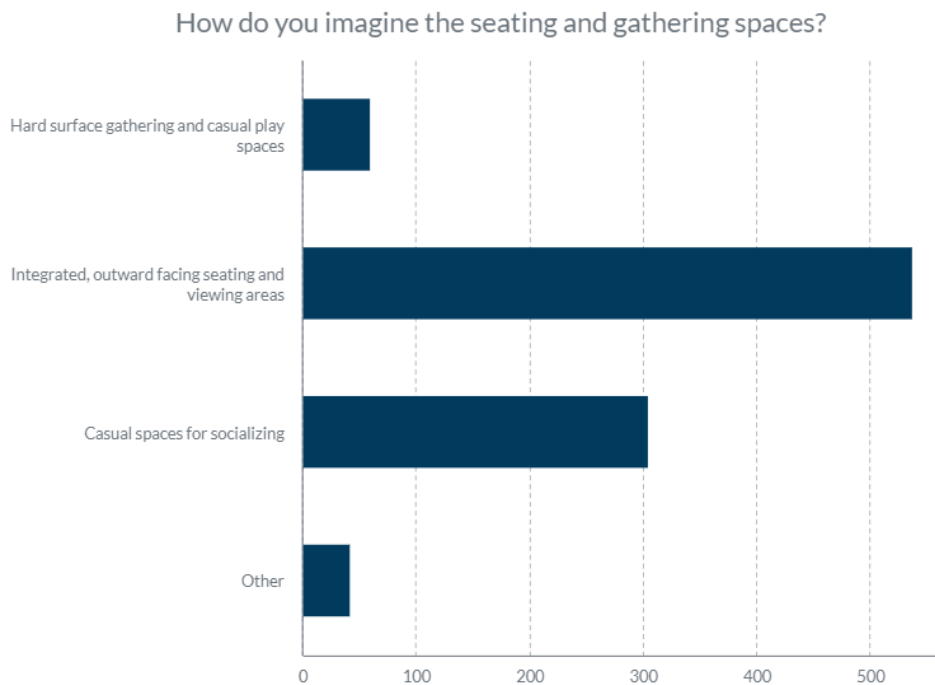


## Park feel

Asked what kind initial impression or welcome the park should provide, nearly half of all respondents (435) said they wanted the park to be **shaded and cool** with an abundance of trees, vegetation and shaded space despite the park's expansive waterfront views. This is consistent, however, with respondents' desire to see shaded areas prioritized in the park upgrades.



At the same time, when it came to seating a majority of respondents (537) wanted **integrated, outward facing seating and viewing** areas to be prioritized.



## Walkshop feedback

32 participants, primarily Manhattan Point and North End residents, were in attendance for an onsite 'walkshop' at the Manhattan Point Park. City Planning staff were accompanied by consultants from Bench Site design, who presented to the group about the site history, analysis and environmental elements. Questions were posed and answered in a group format and followed by informal conversation. Attendees were able to speak to team members one on one and have discussion specifically about their concerns, interests and vision for the site.

Participants were asked what potential activities they would like to see accommodated on site.

- **Observing nature** scored highest, with 11 attendees listing it as their top ranking selection. It also received the highest total number of votes at 15.
- **Sunbathing** received the next highest number of total votes with 12, but fewer people selected it as their top choice compared with **picnicking**.
- **Picknicking** was tied with **swimming** and **relaxation on lawns / benches** for the total number of votes, but with a higher number of people selecting it as their top choice

| Potential Activities               | Priority Ranking |   |   |   |   | Total Votes Received |
|------------------------------------|------------------|---|---|---|---|----------------------|
|                                    | 1                | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |                      |
| Nature Observation                 | 11               | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 15                   |
| Picnicking                         | 3                | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 10                   |
| Swimming                           | 1                | 4 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 10                   |
| Sunbathing Or Sitting On The Beach | 1                | 2 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 12                   |
| Launching Non-motorized Watercraft | 1                | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 8                    |
| Fishing                            | 1                | 2 |   | 1 |   | 4                    |
| Children's Play (Informal)         |                  | 3 |   | 2 |   | 5                    |
| Relaxation On Lawn or Benches      |                  | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 10                   |
| Outdoor Fitness                    |                  | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7                    |
| Non-amplified Music Or Theatre     |                  |   | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3                    |
| Casual Games for Lawn Or Beach     |                  |   | 1 | 1 |   | 2                    |
| Children's Play (On Equipment)     |                  |   |   |   |   | 0                    |

Swimming was a much higher priority for survey respondents compared to walkshop participants.

Participants were also asked to share their design priorities for the site – **shelter from the elements** was mentioned most (consistent with what survey respondents said when asked what kind of space they wanted to be welcomed into), followed by **safety and security**, and **parking**.

| Design Considerations        | Representative Comments                                                                                                                     | Times Mentioned | % Total Comments |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Shelter From Sun/Wind        | Provide shade trees/structure                                                                                                               | 12              | 20%              |
| Safety & Security            | No lakeshore walkpath in in the neighborhood; Close at night                                                                                | 9               | 15%              |
| Parking                      | Safe bike parking; Ensure adequate parking; Don't impose parking on the neighborhood                                                        | 8               | 14%              |
| Family-Friendly Space        | Kids playground; Picnic tables; Water park                                                                                                  | 6               | 10%              |
| Views                        | A pier to look out; Watch sunset & sailing; Wharf to experience the weather and views; Nature observation                                   | 5               | 8%               |
| Restoration & Naturalization | No concrete; Erosion control and preserve shoreline; Remove weeds and have native plants                                                    | 5               | 8%               |
| Infrastructure & Amenities   | Motion sensor lights; Toilet; Rebuild boardwalk                                                                                             | 3               | 5%               |
| Access                       | Remove gate; Promote bike access                                                                                                            | 3               | 5%               |
| Non-Motorized Watercraft     | Boat house for non-motorized watercraft; Launching from the site would be unlikely because of the lack of parking; Paddle path for athletes | 3               | 5%               |
| Activities                   | Swimming in a no-boat area; Yoga on the wharf                                                                                               | 2               | 3%               |
| Maintenance                  | Park cleanliness; Mill water quality                                                                                                        | 2               | 3%               |
| Local Knowledge              | Reach out to locals for context information                                                                                                 | 1               | 2%               |
| TOTAL COMMENTS               |                                                                                                                                             | 59              | 100%             |



## Conclusion and next steps

In summary, the engagement findings offer important insights into the community's design preferences and priorities. There is a clear enthusiasm for swimming facilities among survey participants, while those attending the walkshop emphasize elements such as weather protection, safety, and parking. Both groups shared a desire to connect with nature and wanted the park to be cool and relaxing, with views of the water. These results underscore the diverse needs and interests across the community, and these insights will be crucial in directing the next phases of our project -- ensuring that the final design supports a broad range of uses and is inclusive and attentive to the community's wide-ranging expectations.

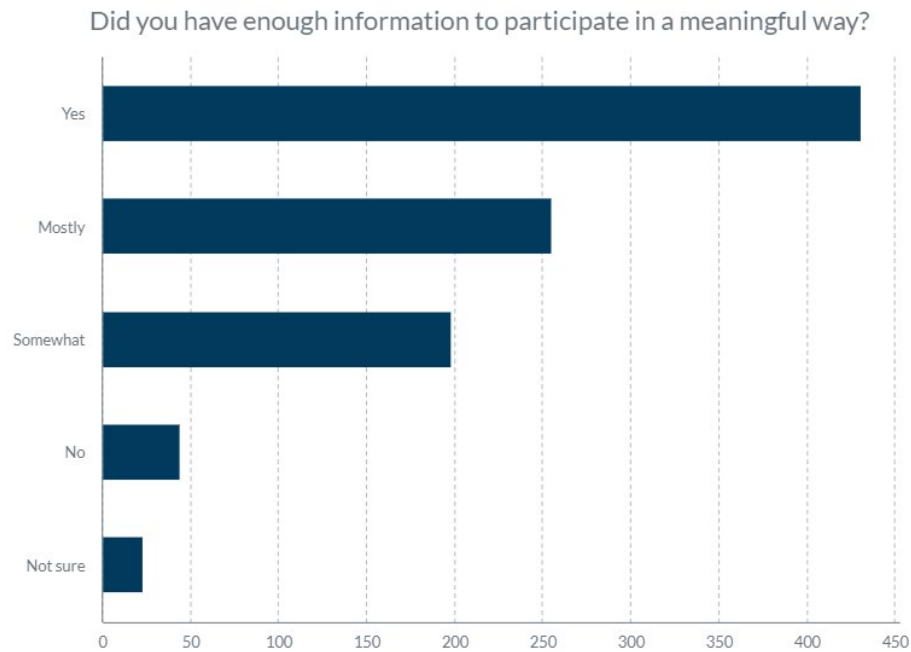
## Public outreach

| Channel                    | Result                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Social media ads           | 39,989 reach; 139,571 impressions;<br>1,463 link clicks                                                                                          |
| Daily Courier ad           | ~6200 subscribers                                                                                                                                |
| News Release               | <b>July 3:</b><br>5,115 delivered; 63% open rate;<br>144 link clicks<br><br><b>July 30:</b><br>5,391 delivered; 75% open rate;<br>99 link clicks |
| Get Involved e-newsletter  | 1011 recipients; 71% open rate;<br>180 link clicks                                                                                               |
| Direct invites to walkshop | 10                                                                                                                                               |

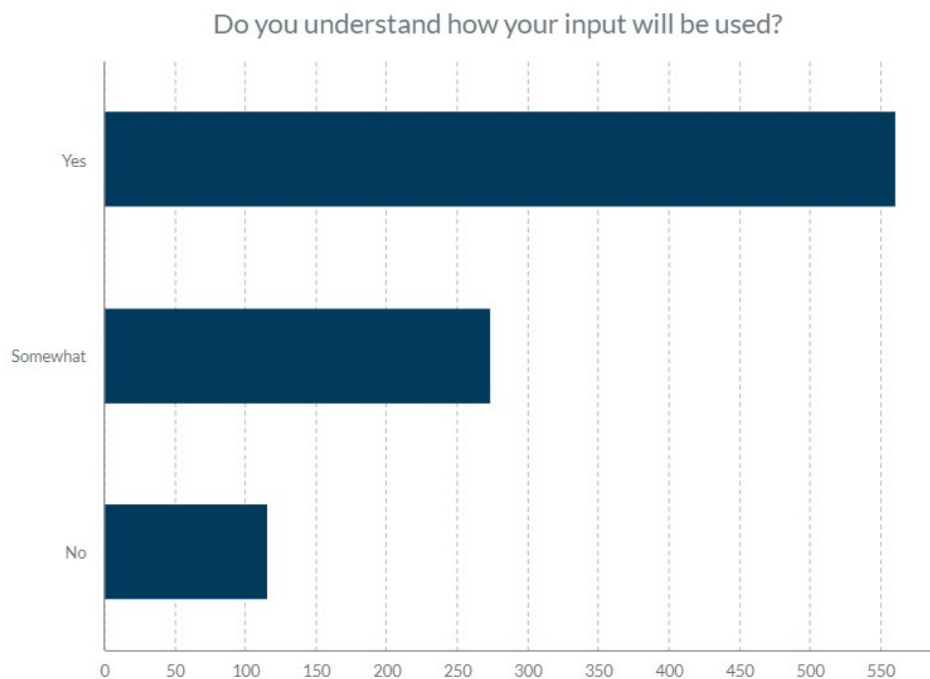


## Engagement feedback

About 72% of respondents said they had enough information to participate - 45% (431) of respondents said 'yes' while another 27% (255) said 'mostly.'



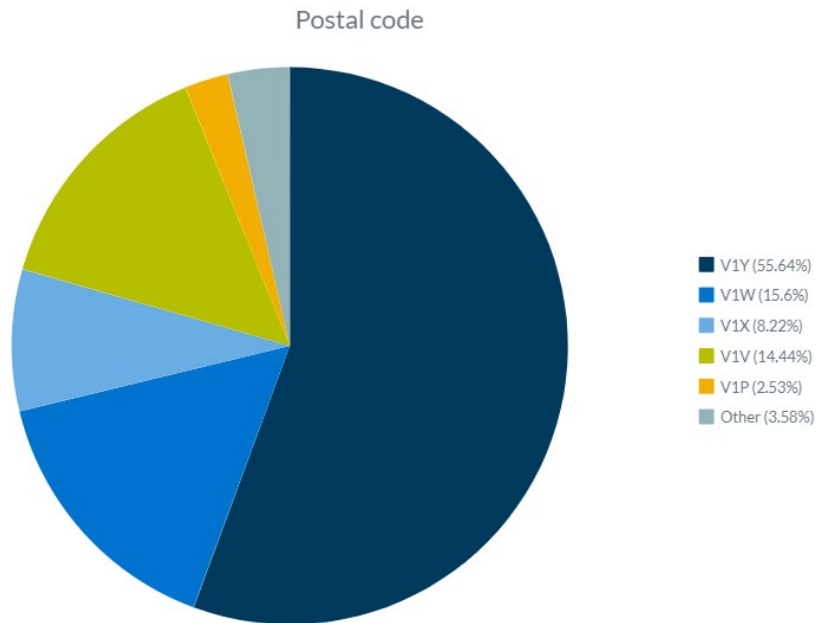
Nearly 60% of respondents (561) said they understood how their input will be used.



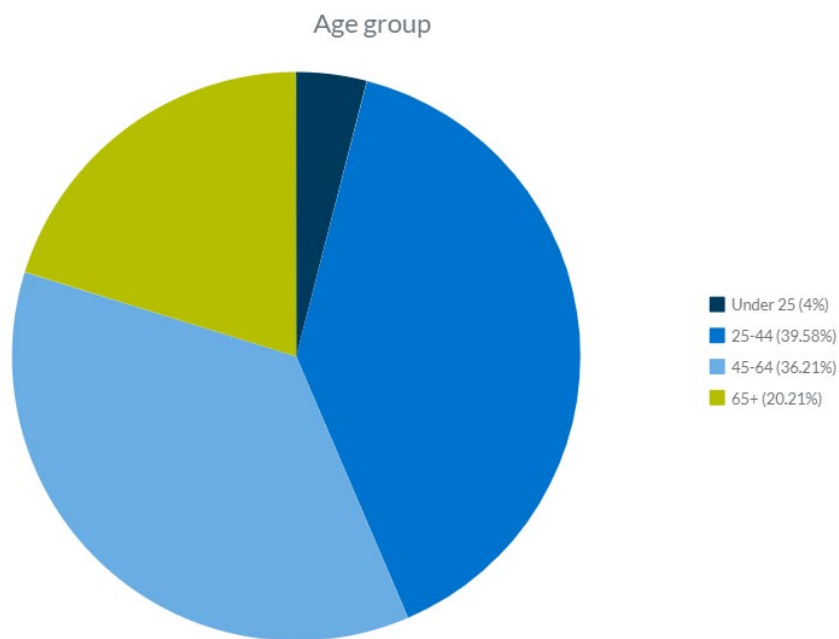
## About our participants

### Survey

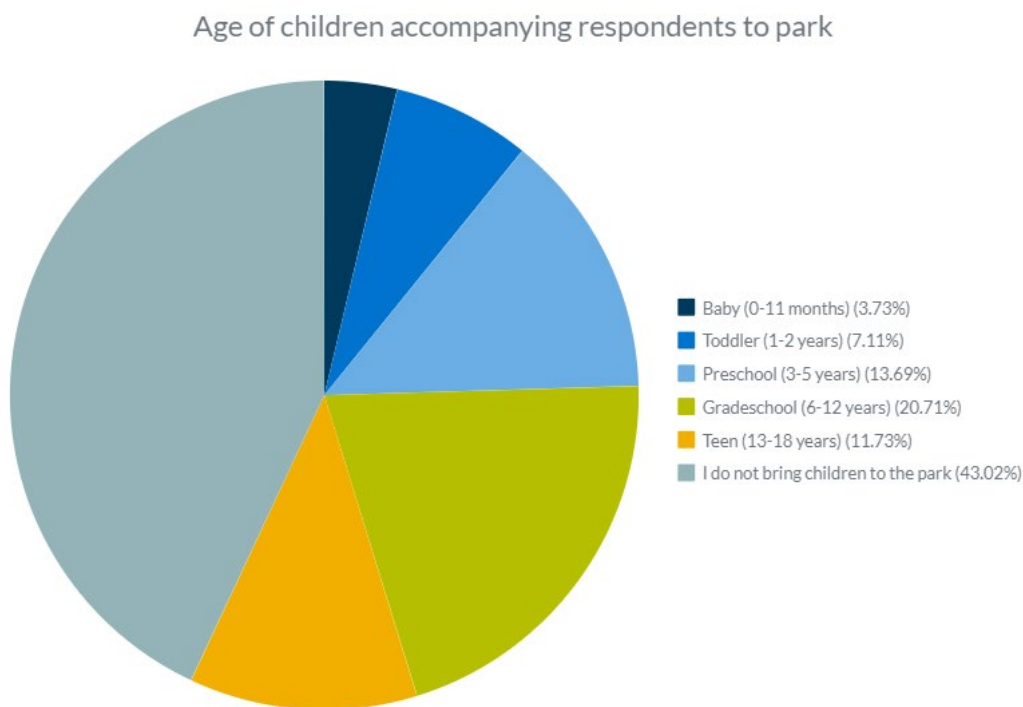
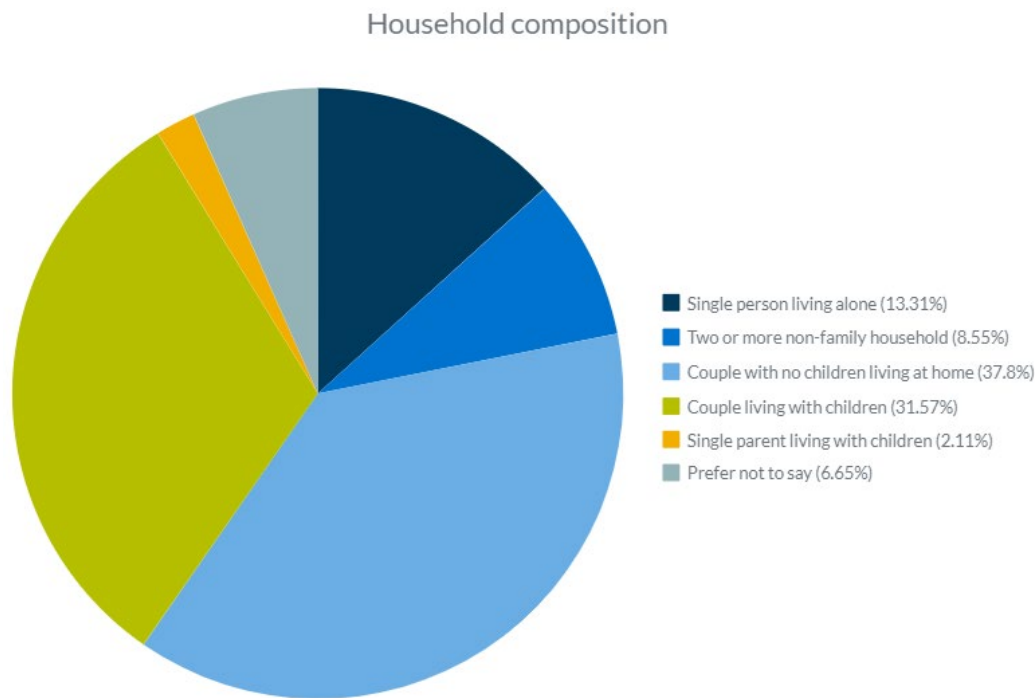
The majority of respondents indicated they reside within the V1Y postal code, which is consistent with the project area.



Respondents' ages were split with approximately half saying they were under age 45 and half saying there were over 45.



Single and two-person households without children were most commonly represented among respondents, consistent with city demographics. This closely reflected the number of respondents who said they do not bring children to the park.



## Walkshop

Most of the 32 attendees were Manhattan Point or North End residents. At least two participants were from another part of the City. Attendees were primarily homeowners, with few renters represented. The demographics were primarily between 40 and 80 years, though some families with children attended. The primary gap among participants was the public at large, outside of the North End. However, the other outreach efforts are drawing engagement from other parts of the City through the survey. Representatives of organized groups in attendance included those from the Kelowna Downtown Knox Mountain Neighbourhood Association, Friends of Knox Mountain, and KLONA Neighbourhood Association.

