



Beaches

What we heard + learned

We heard

80%

visit beaches with the primary goal of relaxation.

The most visited beaches were:



45%

recommend more shaded areas as an improvement.

37%

want alcohol to be allowed on beaches and available at beach concessions (4% don't want alcohol to be allowed on beaches).

18%

want swim lessons at the beach.

24%

said they love the beaches as they are.

We learned



3.1 million

annual visitors to beaches (observed in life-guarded season), but, there is a lack of clear data collected on how many people visit the beach and why, compared to our understanding of pool usage.



Beaches provide a range of amenities, varying by beach, such as: concessions, seasonal life guards, sand volleyball courts, playing fields, swimming rafts, playgrounds, picnic areas, and tennis courts.



Vancouver's beaches offer a unique, natural, outdoor aquatic experience available in very few urban centres in the country.



People are willing to travel farther from their homes to visit beaches.

Top things we heard + learned from you

What is working

- Beaches are well-loved and very well-used.
- Vancouver is known world-wide for the quality of its urban beaches.
- Beaches offer natural aquatic experiences at lower capital and operating costs than indoor and outdoor pool facilities.

What is not working

- Changing and washroom facilities at some of the life-guarded beaches need to be improved.
- There is a lack of adequate shade.
- Concession stands and food services need to be improved.



Beaches

Recommendations

Maintain and enhance the quality and nature of our beaches.

- Upgrade or replace change rooms
- Upgrade or replace concessions and food services
- Provide additional shade



Consider activating or enhancing the range of aquatic experiences offered at beaches, i.e. temporary water play.

Continue to improve water quality at Trout Lake, per the draft John Hendry Park Master Plan (with City Engineering).

Find a better way to collect information on how many people use our beaches and how they use them.



Consider installing temporary urban beaches to increase equity of beach experience at key locations in Vancouver.



What do these recommendations mean for you?

Vancouverites will continue to have access to some of the most incredible urban beaches with improved amenities

Note that the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is undertaking a broad study to develop a strategy specifically focused on non-motorized activities on water that will take into account beach access and amenities to support these uses.





Spray Parks

The Vancouver Park Board currently operates:



15 Spray Parks



15 Wading Pools

Fill-and-draw wading pools, are gradually being converted to spray parks or decommissioned, consistent with trends across Canadian urban centres.



Top things we heard from you

(during Brewers Park and Clinton Park Renewal Consultation, 2016)

- 1** Spray parks are more dynamic and more fun than a wading pool.
- 2** Water needs to be activated for more hours of the day and for more days of the week; spray parks provide this flexibility.

What is working

- Wading pools and spray parks provide an introduction to water.
- Spray parks offer a greater range of use and accessibility, greater level of safety and are more socially-inclusive.
- Spray parks can be activated as play areas outside of summer, and do not need to be supervised, extending their use to more hours of a day.
- Spray parks can be designed as public space attractions.

What is not working

- Existing wading pools do not meet Health Act regulations, compelling significant conversion or removal.
- Current wading pools must be filled daily with potable water.
- Current wading pools do not provide universal access.

Recommendations

- Continue to phase-out all wading pools, converting to spray parks or closing them through consultation with local communities.
- Consider adding destination spray parks at destination and highly urban parks serving large populations.
- Consider adding neighbourhood spray parks based on greatest social and geographic need.
- Consider co-locating spray parks with indoor or outdoor pools.
- Where possible, design spray parks in a way that water can be recycled for park use, i.e. adjacent irrigation or water features.
- More evenly distribute spray parks.

What does this mean for you?

- VanSplash will set a direction for spray parks and wading pools, but the closure of specific wading pools, and decision to build new spray parks will come later, through future park renewals and consultation.
- Locational criteria will be finalized through Vancouver's Park and Recreation Master Plan in 2018.