

Dive into the future of Vancouver's pools and beaches

Your involvement helped shape the vision for VanSplash, Vancouver Park Board's Aquatic Strategy.

We are now in the final phase of our consultation and we need your input! Let us know if you believe the recommendations are right for you and for Vancouver.

Frequently Asked Questions

The recommendations are based on a review of Vancouver Park Board aquatic facilities expected demographic shifts, and inspired by innovative aquatics trends around the world.

I like these new pool ideas, but don't want Templeton or Lord Byng to close.

Many of the Park Board's indoor pools are nearing the end of their lives and need to be either renewed or replaced. The proposed locations provide better coverage across the City and will support serving more residents through larger facilities with more diverse amenities. Users of Templeton will be most closely served by a new, larger pool at Britannia, and users of Lord Byng pool will be most closely served by a new pool at Connaught Park, or the UBC pool, which opened in early 2017.

Why are there fewer neighbourhood pools in the long term vision? I like them because they feel more intimate.

The City's population is growing and larger pools will help to accommodate current and new residents.

In Phase 1 of consultation, we overwhelmingly heard that people would like more diverse aquatic experiences, including increased focus on health and wellness, and leisure swimming (opportunities for play) for all ages. These are best accommodated through larger, more economical facilities with more varied amenities, under one roof.

The system will continue to include a smaller number of neighbourhood and community scaled pools.

Why is an outdoor pool at Mount Pleasant Park not being proposed?

VanSplash's proposed outdoor pool locations prioritize geographic gaps in the outdoor pool system, and areas of expected population growth. VanSplash carries forward the 2001 Strategy's recommendation from the 2001 Aquatic Strategy to co-locate outdoor pools with indoor pools and other recreation facilities for better energy use, efficiency, cost, and to provide more varied activities for families at a single location.

A 2015 study considering the placement of an outdoor pool at Mount Pleasant Park determined that it was not recommended: Mount Pleasant is close to other pools, would require high operating subsidies, and is not well served by transit or other services. The park is well used year round, and the neighbourhood is deficient in park land, with limited green space opportunities.

Why doesn't VanSplash include any therapy pools?

The needs of a therapy pool and a public pool are very different. Most therapy pool programming is highly specialized and typically provided by specialized health providers, not by municipal aquatic systems.

The Park Board continues to offer adaptive swimming lessons and improved access, and VanSplash recommends modifications to Kensington Pool to expand our adaptive swimming programs. Future pool designs will continue to consider best practices for universal accessibility and inclusivity.

Wellness amenities, such as hot tubs and steam rooms, and accessibility features such as beach entry and warmer water are being considered at new pools.

The Phase 1 engagement included significant feedback regarding liquor and licensing issues at beaches. Why are these not addressed here?

The feedback received will be considered by the Park Board's commercial operations team as part of ongoing work on concessions.

In Phase 1, 26% of respondents indicated that less expensive admissions would encourage them to visit indoor pools more often. Why are lower fees not being considered?

Municipal aquatic systems are highly subsidized as the benefits of public pools are considered to outweigh the cost. Vancouver's admission, program and rental rates are lower than most neighbouring municipalities. The Park Board's Leisure Access Program Card provides low-income Vancouver residents with free admission and 50% subsidy on swimming lessons.

Beaches, wading pools, and spray parks provide other non-user pay free-of-charge aquatic opportunities.

This is your chance to tell us if we got it right.
Please complete the survey at vancouver.ca/vansplash

Take the survey at
vancouver.ca/vansplash

#VanSplash /ParkBoard

@ParkBoard @VanParkBoard

