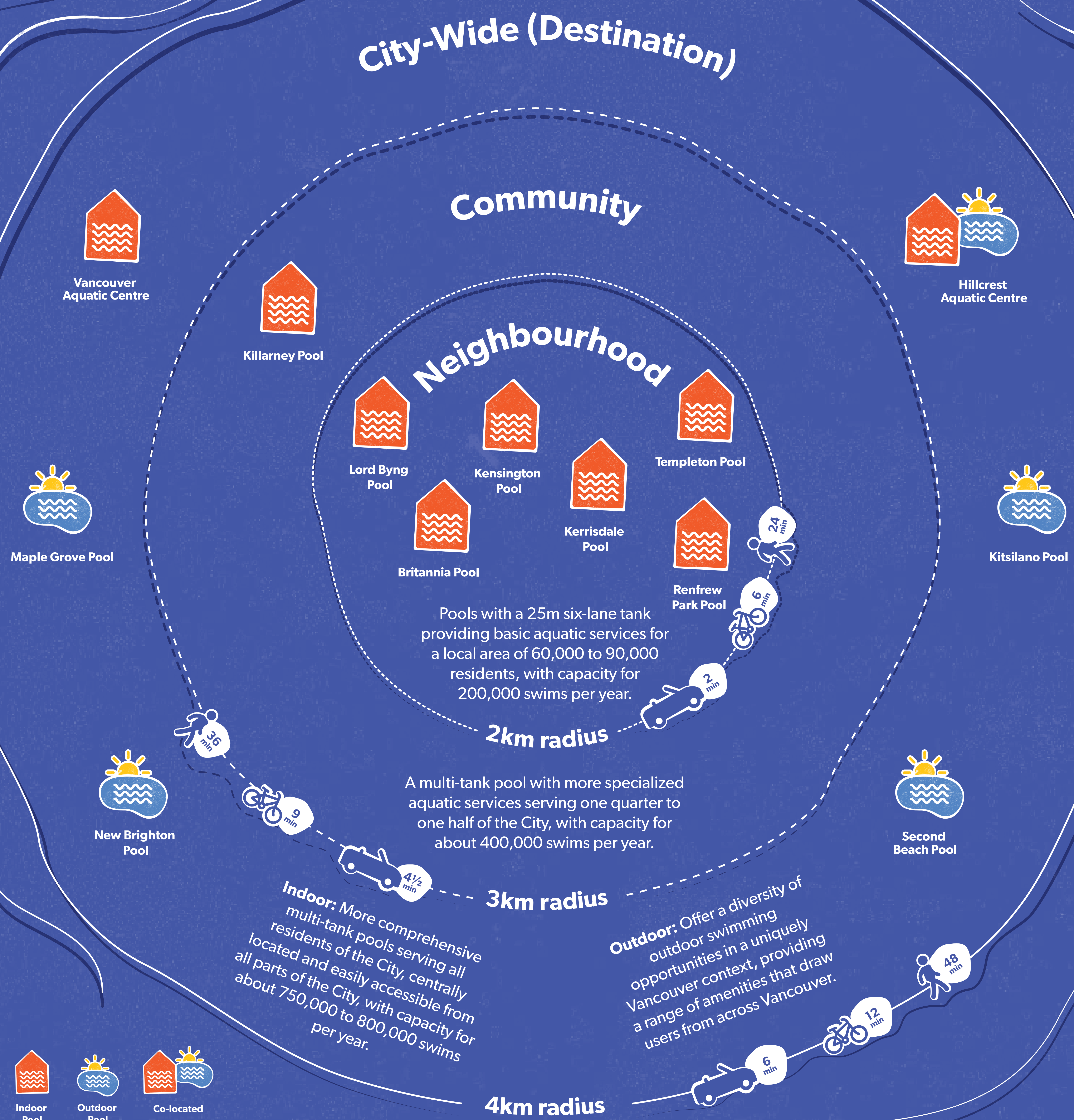


What kind of pools do we currently have?

The strategy works to ensure more equitable access to a range of experiences across Vancouver — accessible via public transport, car, bike, or walking.



Legend

Traditional Aquatics



Indoor Pool



Outdoor Pool



Co-located

Take the survey at
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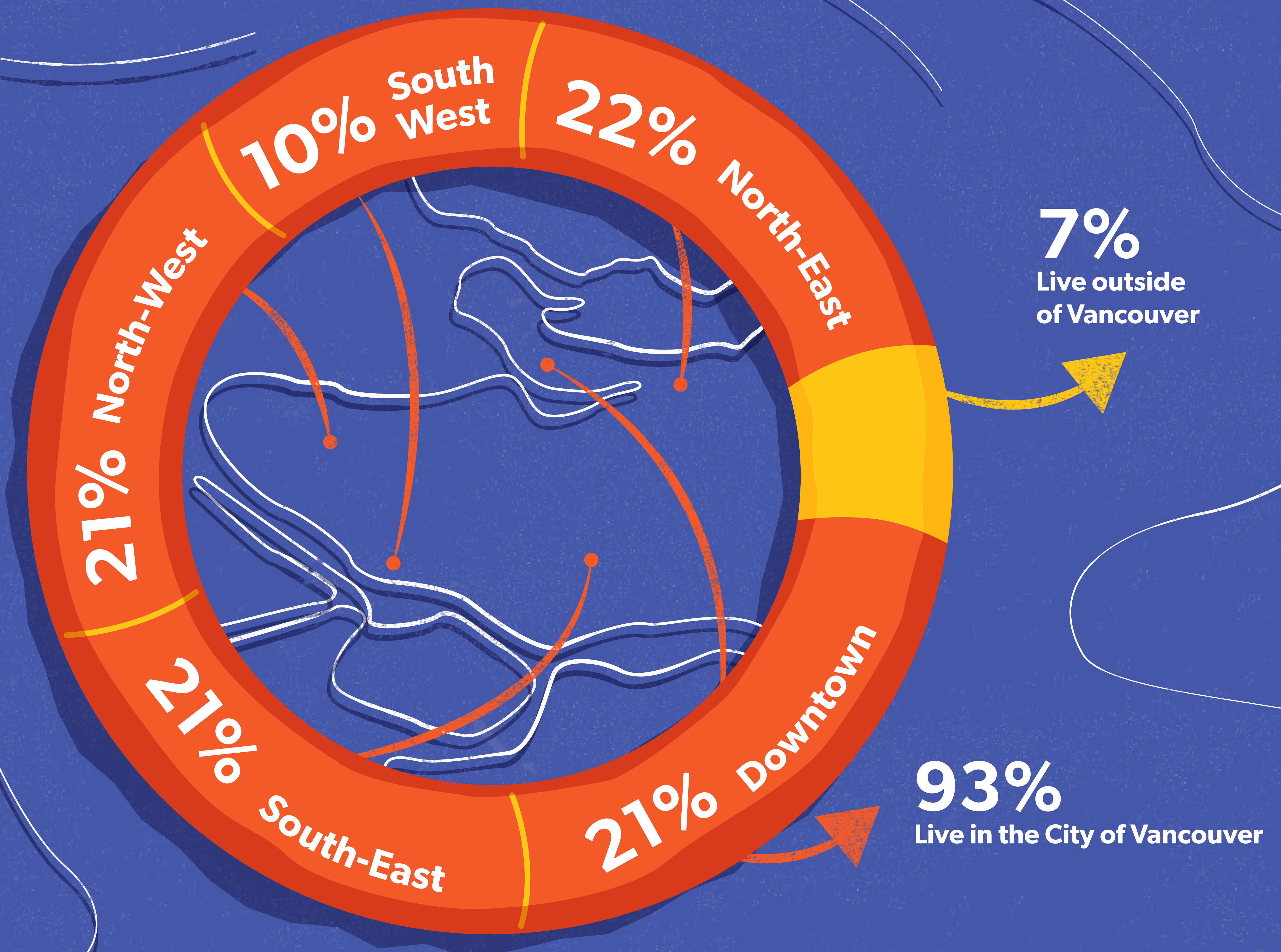
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Public Engagement

We heard from over 4500 people throughout the phase 1 public consultation.

This is where they live:



More than half of respondents indicated that recreation, fun and relaxation were their main motivations to visit pools and beaches.

We reached you by



Online survey



Two public outreach events



Social media



Email comments



6 stakeholder workshops

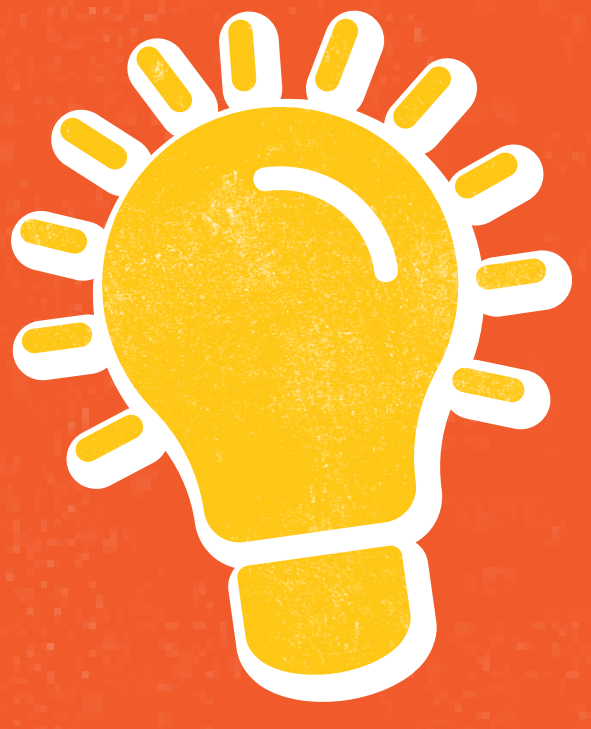
(48 individuals representing community associations, community centres, swim clubs, swim teams, aquatic sports clubs, seniors and other community groups)

Take the survey at
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Innovation

We heard you want more “non-traditional” aquatic amenities that add opportunities for recreation, fun and relaxation.



55%

Selected a swimming pool in the ocean as their top innovation.



67%

Identified a natural outdoor swimming pool as an innovative feature they wanted to see as a part of Vancouver aquatics.

Top things we heard from you



37%

Feel that swimming for fun and socializing is an activity that needs to be improved in Vancouver.



10%

In an open call for comments said they want more fun activities as a part of Vancouver aquatics.



32%

Want more spa-like experiences at pools.

What we learned



Waterfront cities around the world are focussing on bringing swimming back. Vancouver could benefit from innovative, non-traditional aquatic services.



Beaches are the most visited aquatic experience in the system. Interestingly, the majority of visitors do not actually swim in the water, but spend time on the sand or grass.



There are currently no outdoor public hot tubs available in Vancouver.



Spray parks offer an opportunity for all ages, from very young children to adults, to play, socialize, and seek respite from summer heat together.



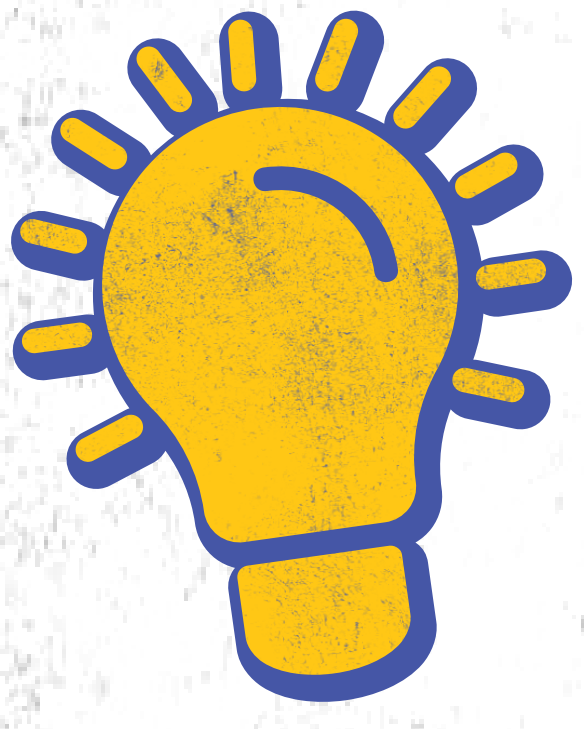
Internationally, a trend is emerging toward natural, environmental and thermal spa experiences that have been popular in areas such as Scandinavia and Iceland as a cultural bathing experience.

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Innovation

Recommendations



A combination of temporary and permanent recommendations.



Build destination spray parks for fun and cooling aquatic experiences in urban areas.



Provide wellness amenities, connected with existing and future pools.



Create urban beaches for relaxation and play.



Build a harbour deck for improved access to our inlet.



Add outdoor hot tubs to outdoor pools that aren't co-located with an indoor pool or hot tub.



Build a naturally-filtered outdoor pool for better connection to nature.

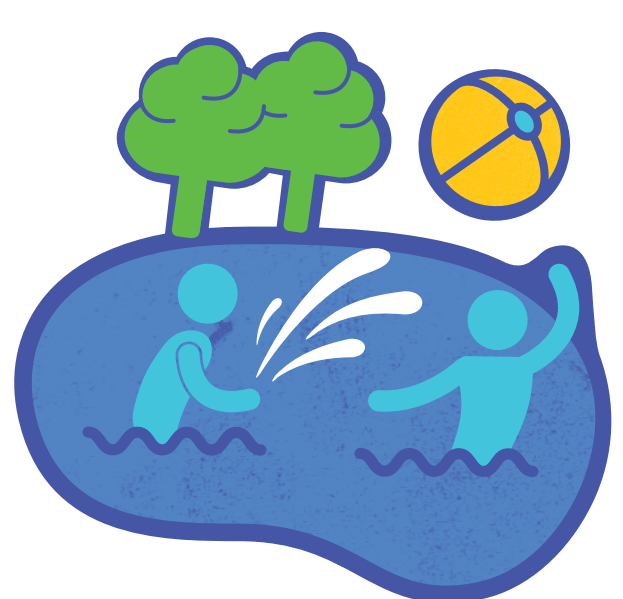


Provide play structures in the ocean at existing beaches.

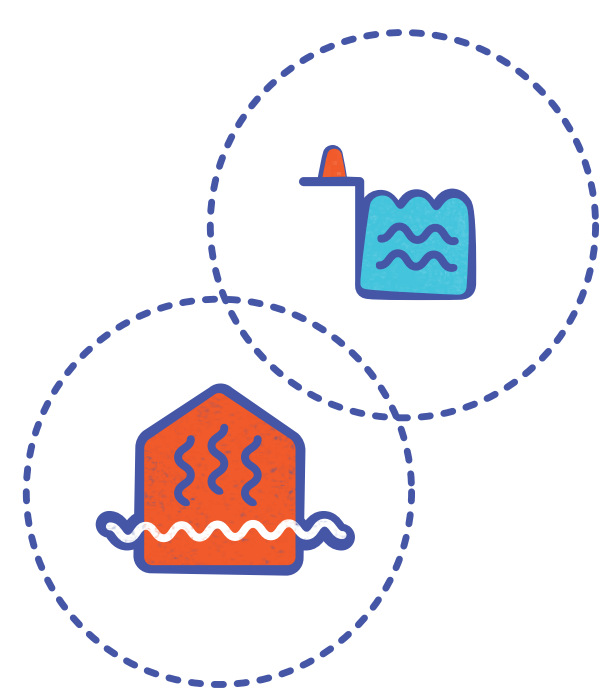


Assess feasibility of a floating pool in False Creek.

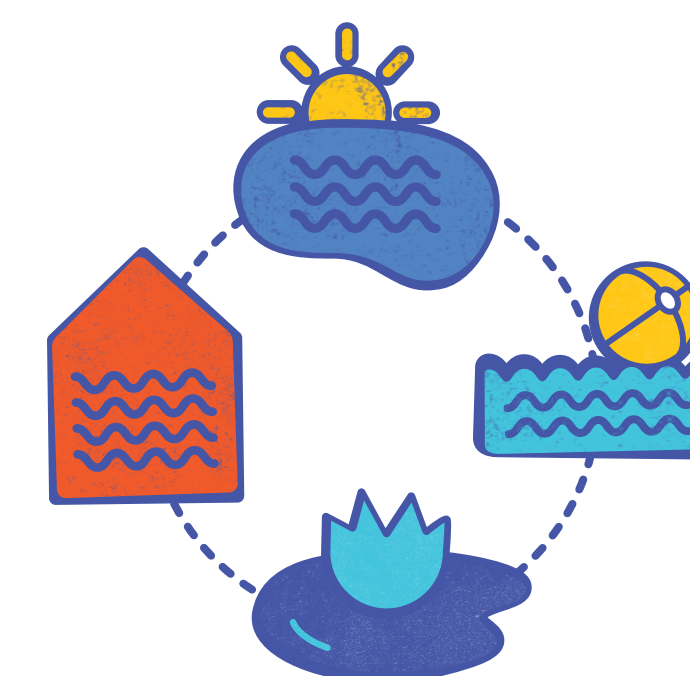
What do these recommendations mean for you?



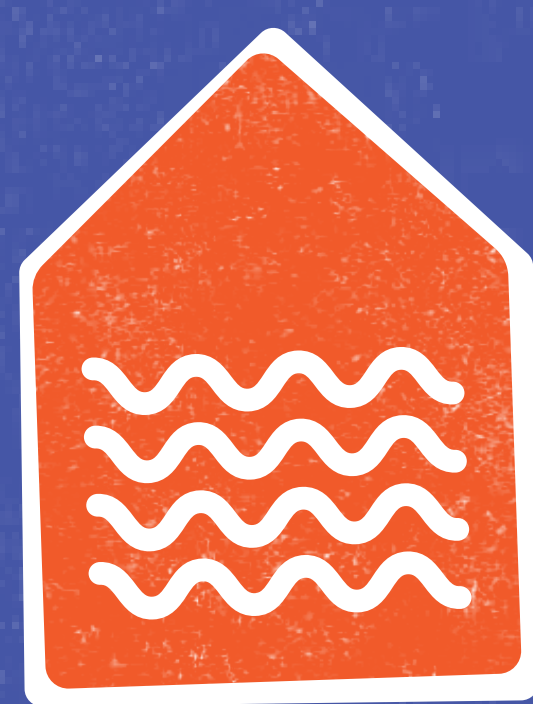
A greater variety of aquatic activities.



More innovative experiences to enhance traditional aquatics.



More equal access to aquatic facilities and activities across Vancouver.



Indoor Pools

What we heard + learned

15%

go to other facilities in Vancouver, such as facilities in their condos, YMCA, YWCA, and the Jewish Community Centre.

40%

over the age of 60 use indoor facilities at least once a week.

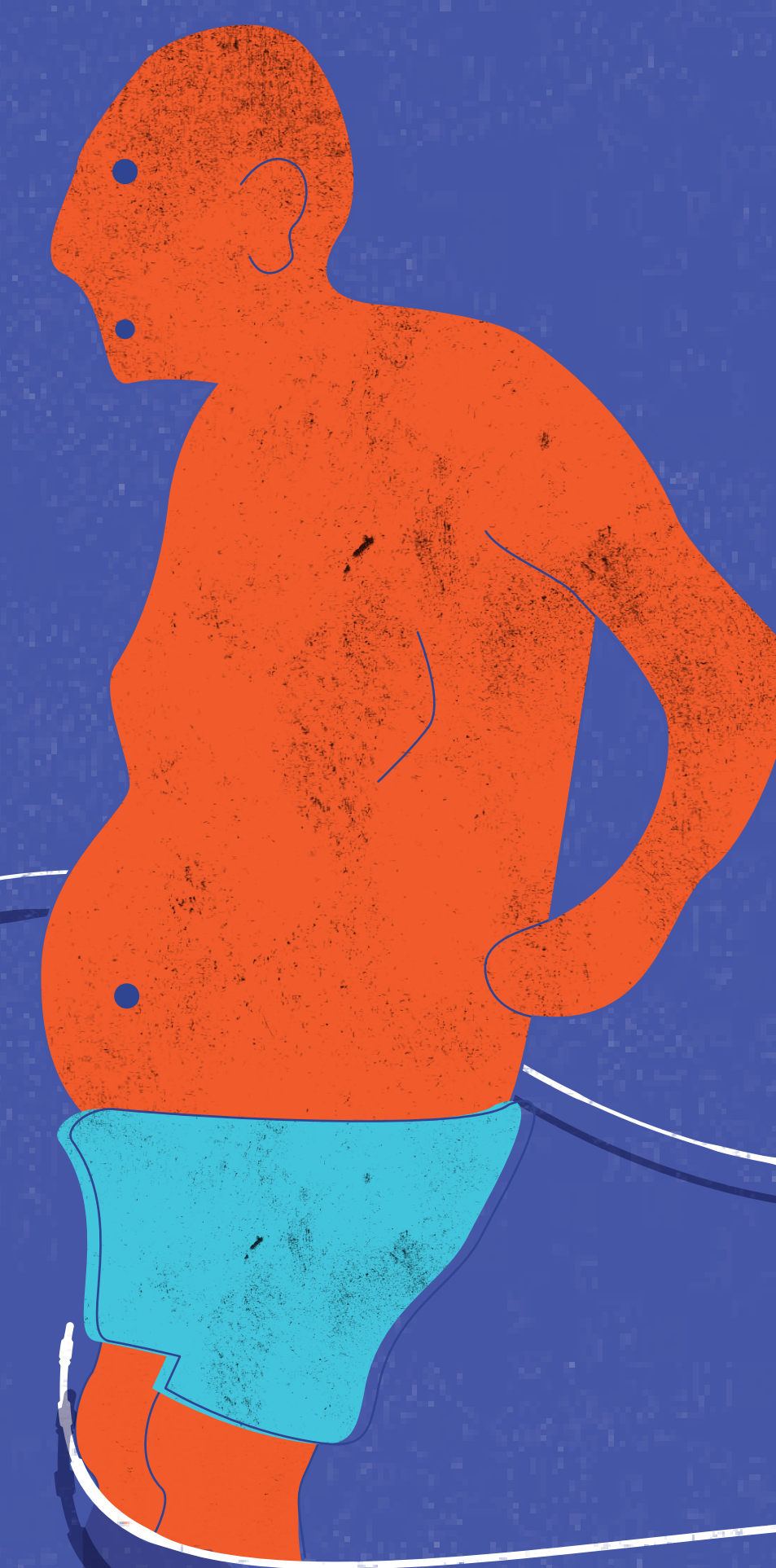
59%

visit indoor pools at least once a month, with 29% visiting at least once a week.

Top things we heard from you

14%

said facilities need updating and accessibility at indoor swimming pools need to be improved (open ended question).



What is working

- Vancouver's newest or renovated pools (Renfrew, Killarney, Hillcrest) are the best utilized and most financially efficient. Indoor pool use has increased since these improvements, from 2.4 to 3.4 annual swims/capita.
- We learned that Hillcrest attracts visitors from across the city and often operates close to its designed capacity.

What is not working

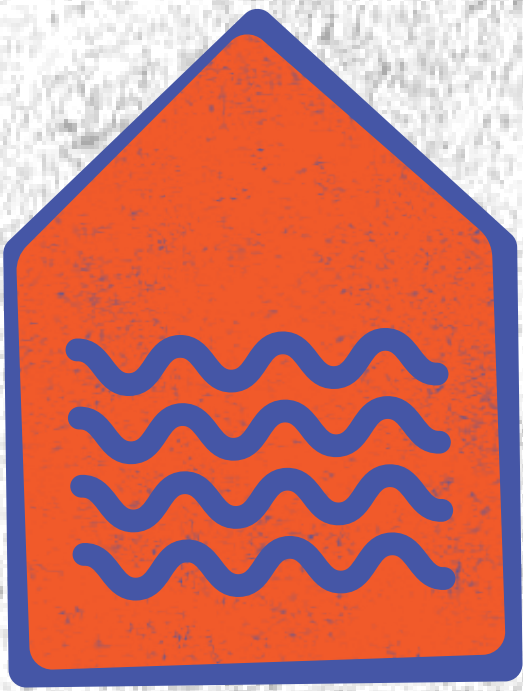
- Indoor pools nearing the end of their lifespan are the least used, least efficient and require the most investment to operate (Vancouver Aquatic Centre, Kerrisdale, Britannia, Lord Byng, Templeton). These pools make up only 34% of all visits to indoor pools.
- It is difficult to access swim lessons at our newer, more popular pools.
- All areas of Vancouver are well served by indoor pools (10 minute drive), with the exception of a small area in South Vancouver.

Take the survey at
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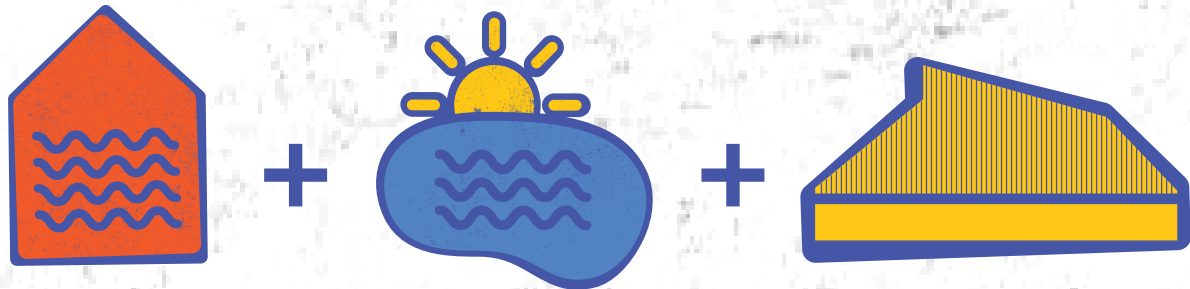


Indoor Pools

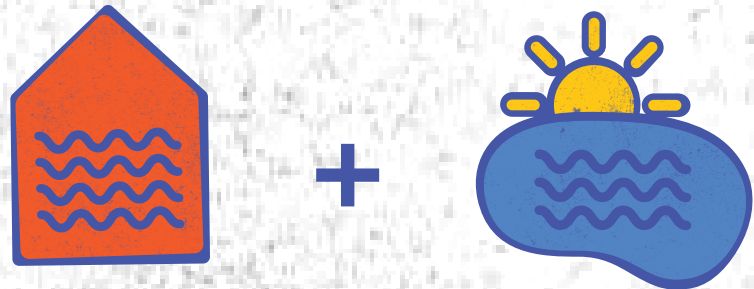
Recommendations



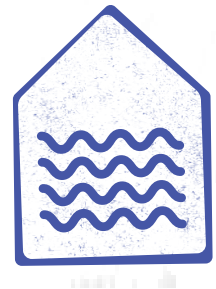
1 Move away from neighbourhood scale pools and deliver a greater diversity of swimming experiences at larger, destination aquatic centres like Hillcrest.



2 Co-locate facilities with arenas and community centres, similar to Killarney, to take advantage of diversity of services offered at one destination.



3 Co-locate outdoor pools with indoor pools to offer a greater range of aquatic experiences at each facility.



4 Existing stand-alone whirlpools in community centres should be decommissioned.

Plan to decommission or replace older pools, which are operationally less efficient, require higher subsidies and are less popular with users:

5 Replace Templeton and Britannia with one community pool on the Britannia site.

Renovate Kensington to enhance accessibility and increase opportunities for adaptive swimming.

Replace Kerrisdale with a new community pool as part of future arena and/or community centre renewal.

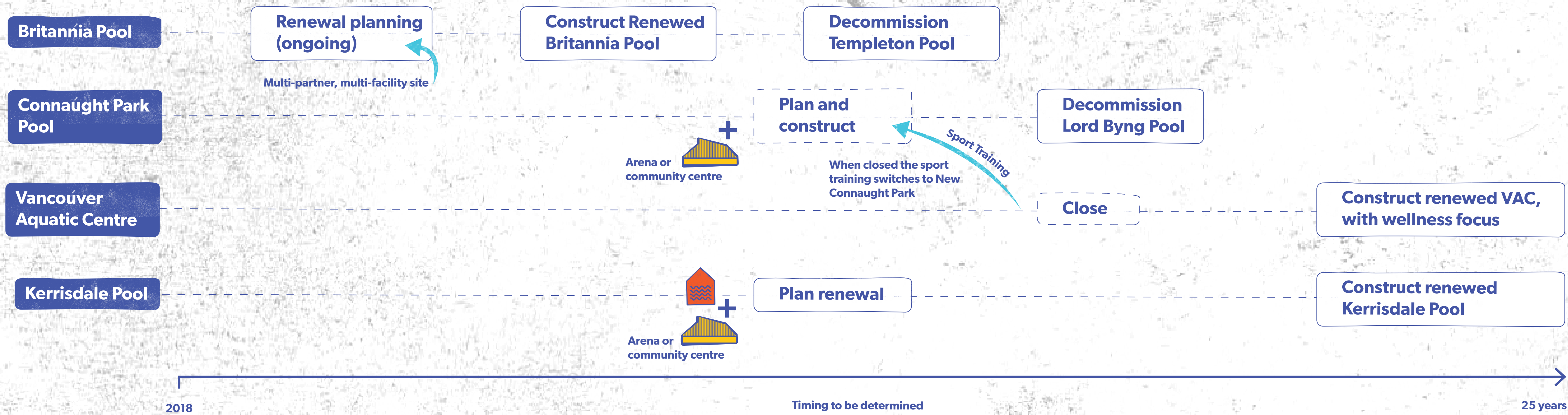
Replace Vancouver Aquatic Centre with a new wellness-oriented city-wide (destination) pool on the same site.

Replace Lord Byng with a new city-wide (destination) pool with a sport-training focus, potentially at Connaught Park.

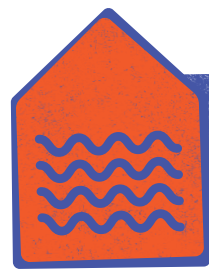
Continue to pursue a partnership with the YMCA for an aquatic facility in South Vancouver.

Sequencing:

Indoor Pool Recommendations



What do these recommendations mean for you?



4 future (new or replaced) facilities

2 x city-wide (destination)

A wellness oriented facility and a sport-training focused facility

2 x community facilities

- Broad access to a variety of aquatic experiences.
- Increased indoor swimming capacity across the City resulting in less-crowded facilities.
- More evenly distributed aquatic services across Vancouver in both quantity and type of facility.



Outdoor Pools

What we heard + learned

80%

use outdoor pools for recreation, fun and socializing.



15%

noted more child-friendly features as a priority for improvement.

19%

indicated that they think Vancouver needs more outdoor pools.

Top things we heard from you

49%

use outdoor pools for fitness, lengths and aerobics.

38%

noted improvements to existing outdoor pools (e.g. newer changing rooms, renovated pool) would encourage them to visit more often.

75%

under the age of 30 visit Kitsilano pool in the summer.

67%

identified a natural outdoor swimming pool as an innovative feature they wanted to see.

55%

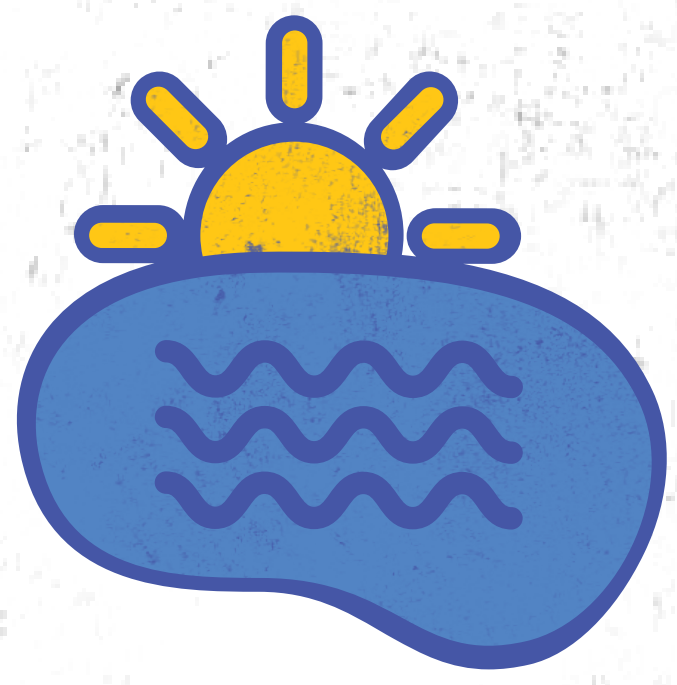
visited outdoor pools at least once a month in the summer.

What is working

- Vancouver has a series of city-wide (destination) outdoor pools that are well-loved 'jewels' within the aquatic system, including several ocean front pools that are unique within Canada.
- Outdoor pools support multiple activities from lap swimming to leisure and play.

What is not working

- The outdoor pools are not currently providing adequate changing facilities.
- Many of the outdoor pools are aging and require mechanical or pool upgrades.
- Concession stands and food services at all outdoor pools could be improved.



Outdoor Pools

Recommendations



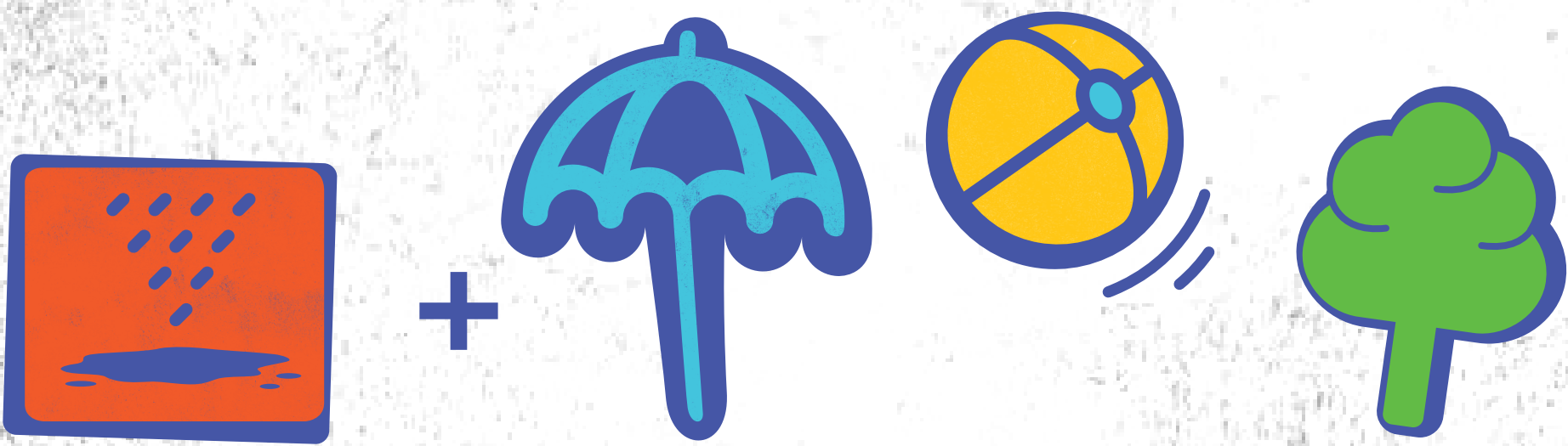
Continue to invest in the existing outdoor pools to keep them as unique city-wide (destination) facilities within Vancouver.

- Upgrade or replace change rooms
- Upgrade or replace concessions and food services
- Upgrade mechanical equipment and pool basins where required



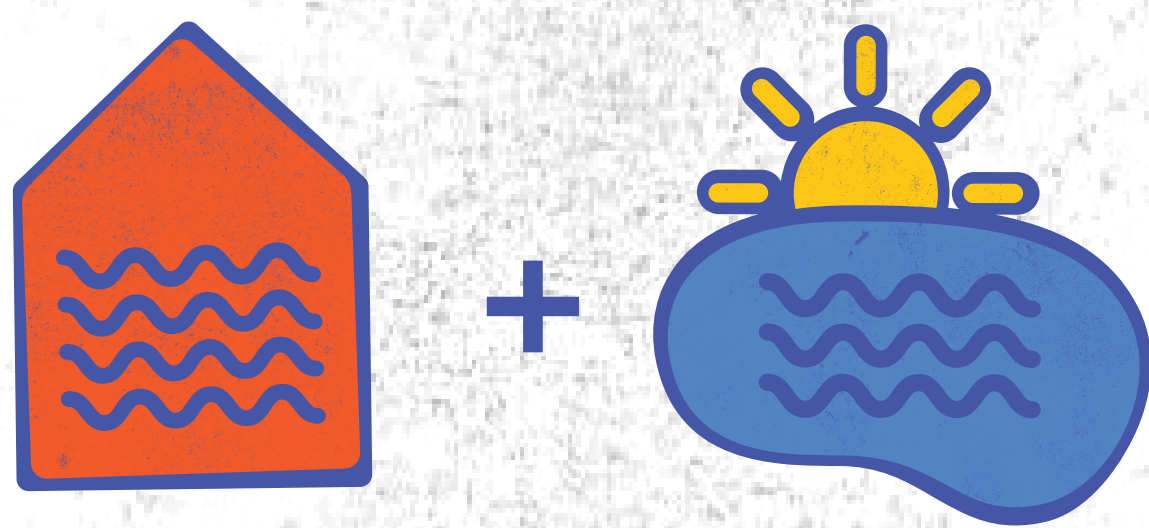
Prioritize locating new outdoor pools to fill current service area gaps in south-central and south-east Vancouver.

- Build one new natural outdoor pool located in a future park beside the Fraser River



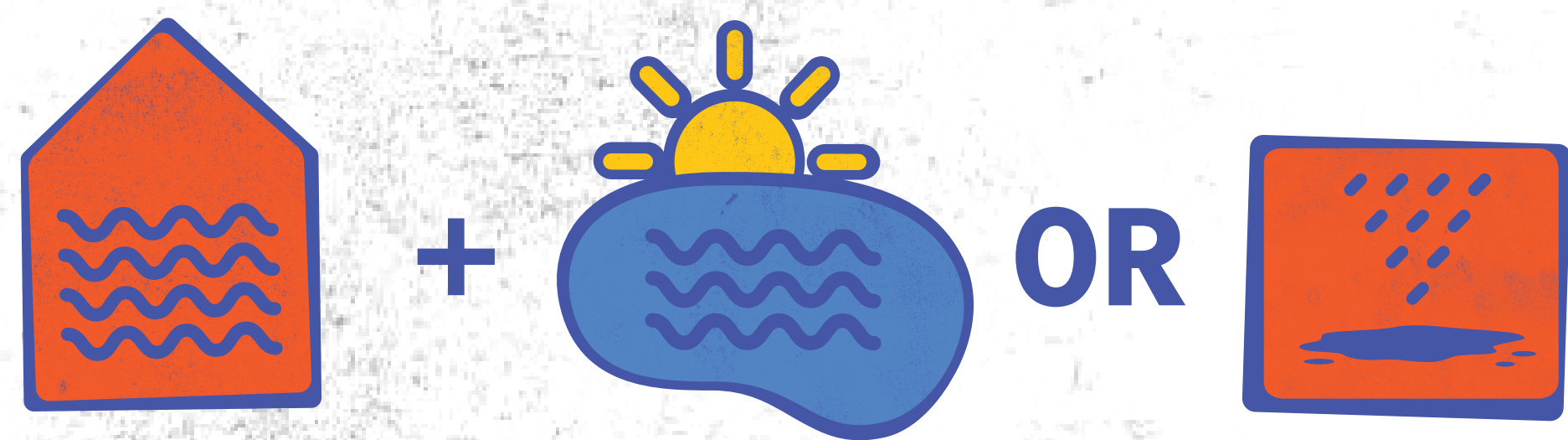
Provide a balance of recreation, fun, socializing and fitness, through a range of outdoor pool facilities and experiences.

- Add spray features for toddlers and children of all ages at outdoor pools
- Provide shade through umbrellas, planting, or shade screens
- Add/expand green space surrounding pool decks
- Add outdoor hot tubs to outdoor pools that aren't co-located with an indoor pool or hot tub
- Build a harbour deck for improved access to our inlet
- Assess feasibility of a floating pool in False Creek



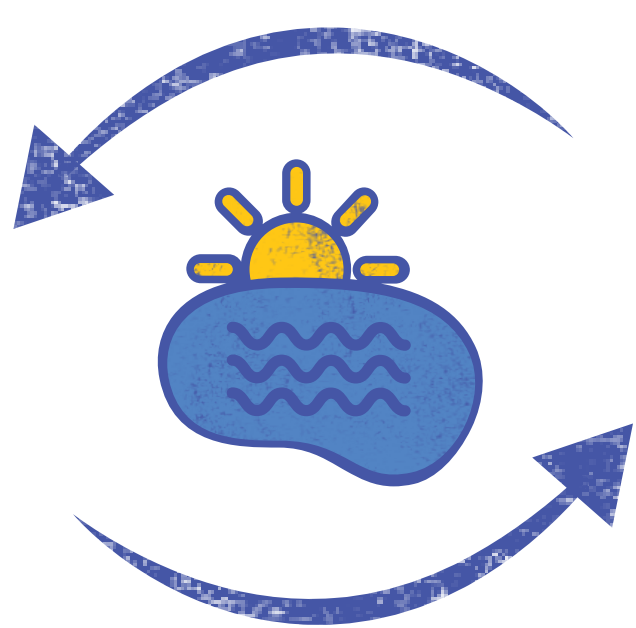
Co-locate outdoor pools with indoor pools to offer a greater range of aquatic experiences at each facility.

- Build a new outdoor pool in South Vancouver co-located with Killarney indoor pool.

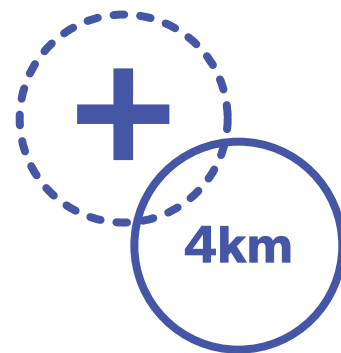


Consider an outdoor pool or spray feature with every new indoor pool facility.

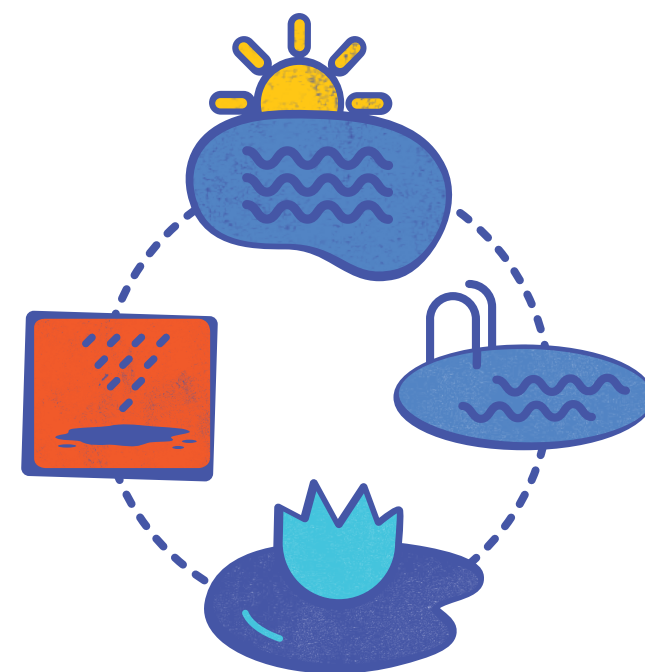
What do these recommendations mean for you?



Renewal of the existing outdoor pools we know and love.



Addition of a new stand alone city-wide (destination) outdoor pool and new co-located outdoor pool.



A range of outdoor aquatic pool types, distributed throughout Vancouver.