



# Aquatic Service and Facility Review

## Phase 1b: What We Heard Report

September 2024





City of Greater Sudbury

# Aquatic Service and Facility Review Phase 1b: What We Heard Report

Revised - 2024





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# 1. Overview

## 1.1 About the Strategy

The City of Greater Sudbury Council has expressed interest in undertaking a comprehensive review to rationalize and modernize the City's aquatics facilities and services. The primary purpose of the Aquatic Service and Facility Review is to assess the current state of publicly-funded indoor, beaches, and splash pads and to create a strategy informed by community engagement to guide the City's aquatic system for the next 25 years.

The outcome is a series of short- and long-term recommendations intended to ensure that Greater Sudbury's aquatic facilities remain relevant, responsive to changing needs, and sustainable into the future. The study seeks to support the City's goals of creating a healthier community, modelling asset management and service excellence, and incorporating climate change considerations. This study also makes recommendations related to aquatic services and programs where these directions may influence the capacity and relevance of facilities.

Specifically, this study assesses the following facility types operated by the City of Greater Sudbury:

- **indoor pools**, plus the proposed Lionel E. Lalonde Centre Therapeutic/Leisure Pool;
- **supervised waterfront beaches**, with consideration of the Kalmo Beach 10-Year Plan and the work of the Lively Recreation Advisory Panel; and
- **splash pads**.

Community partnerships play an important role in offering a full range of aquatics services and this review also considers non-municipal facilities – such as indoor pools owned and/or operated by the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario and Laurentian University – to provide recommendations as to how they can contribute to the overall community aquatic delivery system. This review offers an opportunity to establish common principles and to enhance collaboration and planning between the City and community providers, recognizing that full implementation of the study will require the City to work with stakeholders and optimize external funding opportunities.

## 1.2 Purpose of this Report

Public and stakeholder engagement is a foundational element of the Aquatic Service and Facility Review, providing insight into local trends, needs, and priorities. This “What we Heard Report” provides a summary of the consultation undertaken to date so that it may be considered in the preparation of the study.

The consultation process was designed to engage individual users and non-users of aquatics facilities such as indoor pools, supervised beaches, and splash pads, as well as aquatics-related services. The intent was to better understand how these assets are used, identify how well they are meeting needs, and explore options for improvement. The consultation process included various types of activities through which residents could share their opinions and ideas. This multi-pronged approach aimed to enhance access to engagement and promote broad representation.

Consultation occurs in two (2) project stages:

- **Phase 1: Current State / What we Heard.** To better understand needs and priorities, the City shared and sought feedback on participation levels, the current provision of facilities, and facility gaps and needs. The views and perspectives shared by participants in this phase will help to inform the needs assessments and strategies developed in Phase 2. **This Phase 1b What We Heard Report focuses on this initial phase of community and stakeholder engagement.**
- **Phase 2: Aquatic Service and Facility Review.** Additional consultation will be undertaken to test and refine the draft Aquatic Review. The study is expected to be finalized and taken to City Council for approval in October 2024.

This report is a compilation of individual feedback summaries that provide a more detailed account of the input collected during each consultation activity.

### 1.3 Public Engagement Overview

Gathering the perspectives of the public, user groups, service providers, and stakeholders is integral to developing this study. The Phase 1 engagement tactics included four key elements:

1. Survey for the general public;
2. Pop-up engagements to create awareness of the project;
3. Call for ideas (website) and email submissions; and
4. Stakeholder consultation, including interviews and workshops.

A project-specific webpage was established on the City’s “Over to You” engagement portal website to promote the Aquatic Review. The website provided information about the project and ways to get involved, including a link to the survey and an area to post ideas. Email addresses were also made available for residents and organizations to provide further written input if desired. A variety of promotional tactics were used to promote the project and input opportunities.

Additionally, a series of interviews and workshops were held with community pool operators (i.e., YMCA of Northeastern Ontario and Laurentian University), area swim clubs, members of City Council, and key City of Greater Sudbury staff involved in aquatic service and facility delivery.

The information collected through these forums is summarized herein and will be used to inform the key observations and development of the Aquatic Review.



## 2. Community Survey

### 2.1 Overview

To support the development of this study, the City of Greater Sudbury hosted an online survey that was available for the general public (including users and non-users of aquatic services) over a period of nearly 4 weeks in August and September 2023.

The purpose of the survey was to elicit information on the indoor pool, supervised beach, and splash pad preferences of Greater Sudbury residents. Specifically, the survey gathered information regarding: participation rates in a variety of aquatics activities and locations; barriers to activity; facility usage and satisfaction levels; program suggestions; priorities for facility investment; and opinions on various statements.

The survey was available in both English and French. It was promoted through a variety of means (e.g., media release, social media, traditional media, etc.) and was available through the project website. Upon request, the City's 311 representatives were also able to assist residents with completing the survey over the telephone.

A total of **903 unique responses** (representing approximately 2,840 residents) were received. Being a voluntary, self-directed survey, response rates varied by question.

The key findings from the survey are summarized below. Full survey results have been provided in **Appendix A**.

### 2.2 Profile of Respondents

The survey collected high-level information on the socio-demographic composition of respondents to ensure representativeness and enable deeper analysis. The survey findings support the notion that geographic proximity and convenience have a significant influence on participation as survey respondents were more likely to visit those facilities and locations nearest to them.

**Greater Sudbury**

# Have Your Say and Make a Splash

À vous la parole et faites des vagues!

An Aquatic Service and Facility Review is underway to guide and manage the City's short- and long-term investment in aquatic services. Have your say and tell us what you think about the City's indoor pools, beaches and splash pads in Greater Sudbury.

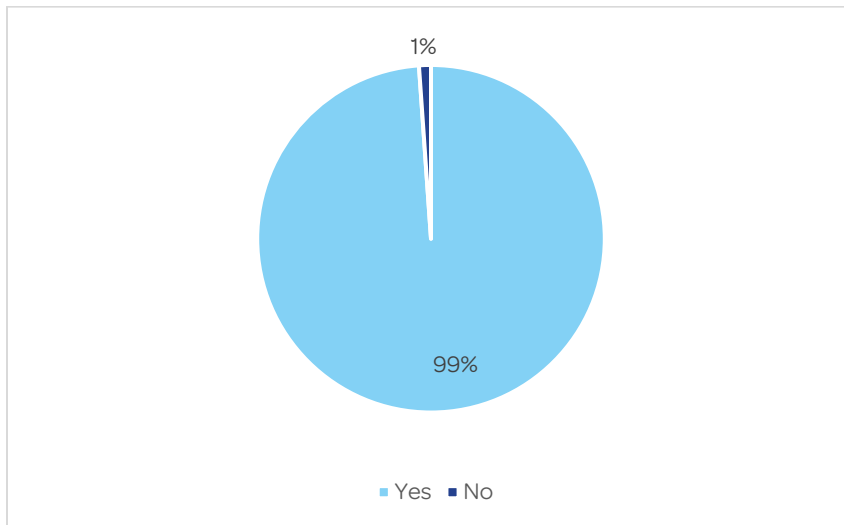
Un examen des services et installations nautiques est en cours pour guider et gérer les investissements à court et à long terme de la municipalité dans les services nautiques. Dites-nous ce que vous pensez des piscines intérieures, des plages et des aires de jets d'eau du Grand Sudbury.

Scan the QR code below to learn more about the project, share ideas, and complete a survey. Scannez le code QR ci-dessous pour obtenir plus de renseignements sur le projet, échanger des idées et répondre à un sondage.

Français

English

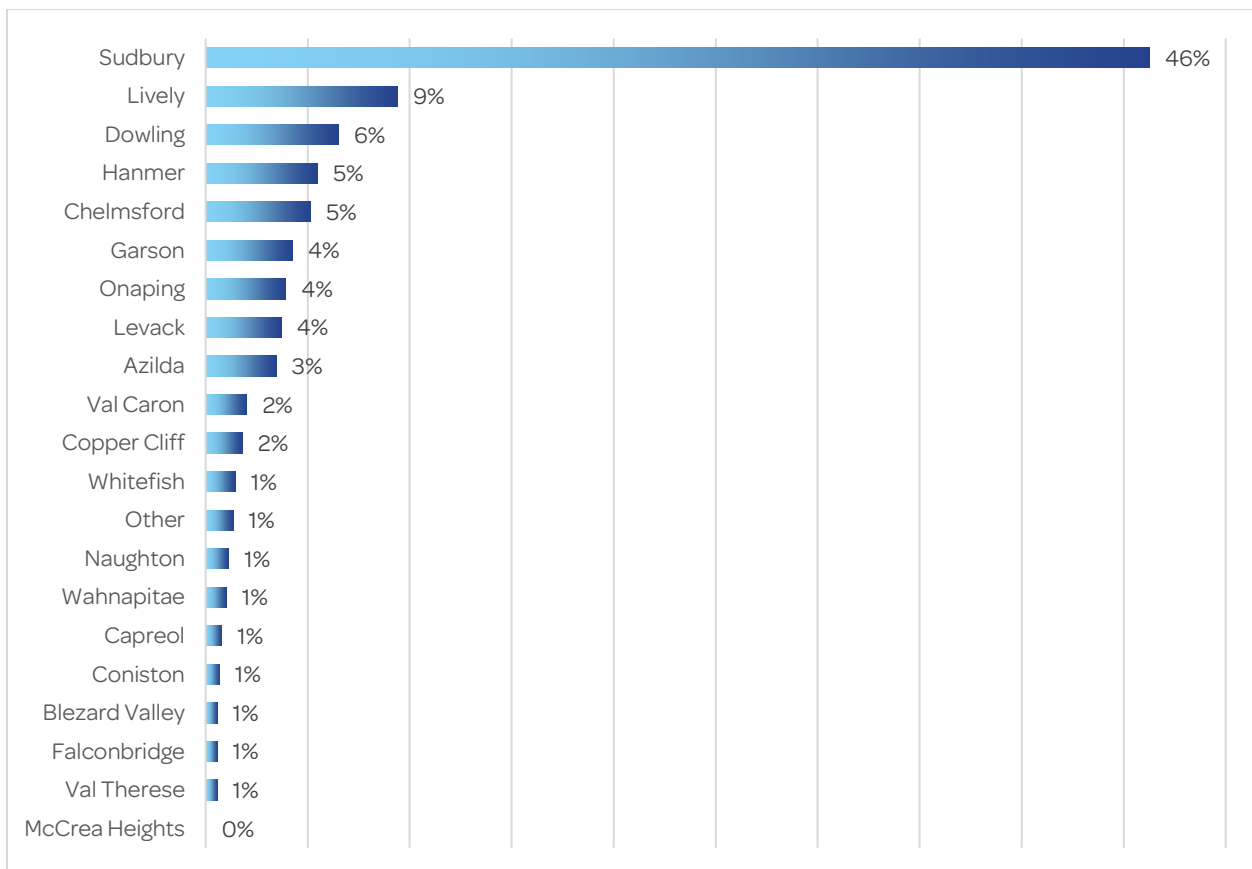
Figure 1: Are you a resident of Greater Sudbury? (n=903)



**99%** of respondents reported living in **Greater Sudbury** (Figure 1)

The survey was completed by 903 users from August 21<sup>st</sup> to September 17<sup>th</sup>, with 893 stating that they lived within Greater Sudbury. 10 users responded stating that they did not live within Greater Sudbury (e.g., Cartier, Windy Lake, etc.), making up only 1% of responses.

Figure 2: To which community do you live closest? (n=893)

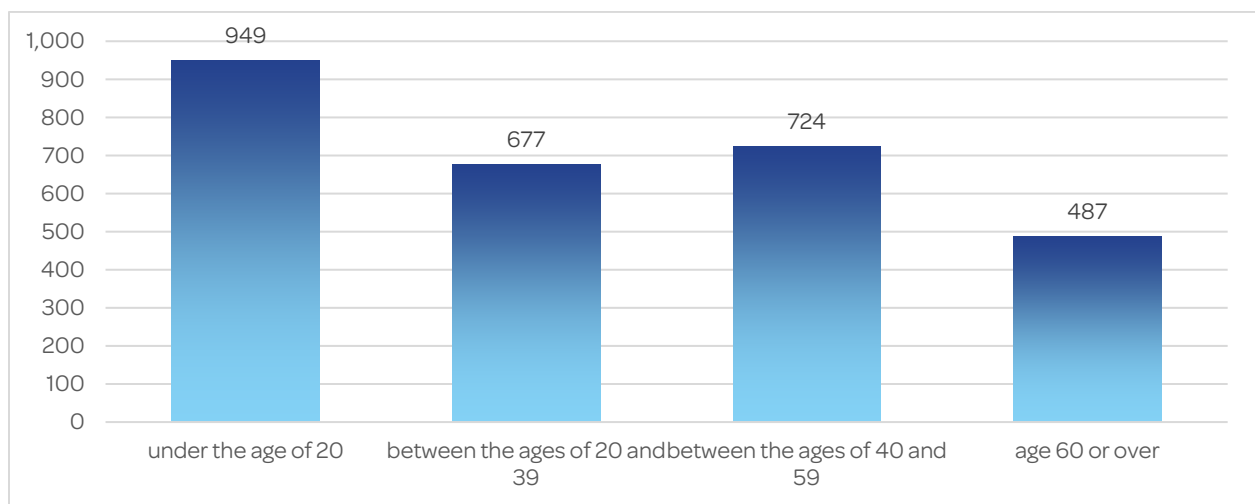


Almost half (46%) of residents reported living closest to **Sudbury**, the City's largest population centre

(Figure 2)

The survey captured residents from all Greater Sudbury communities and generally reflects overall population distribution. The closest community for almost half (46%) of respondents was Sudbury, with communities such as Lively, Dowling, and Hanmer following well behind. Likely due to the presence of the Onaping Pool, some oversampling was evident from the Dowling and Lively communities.

Figure 3: How many people live in your household, including yourself? What are their ages? (n=899)



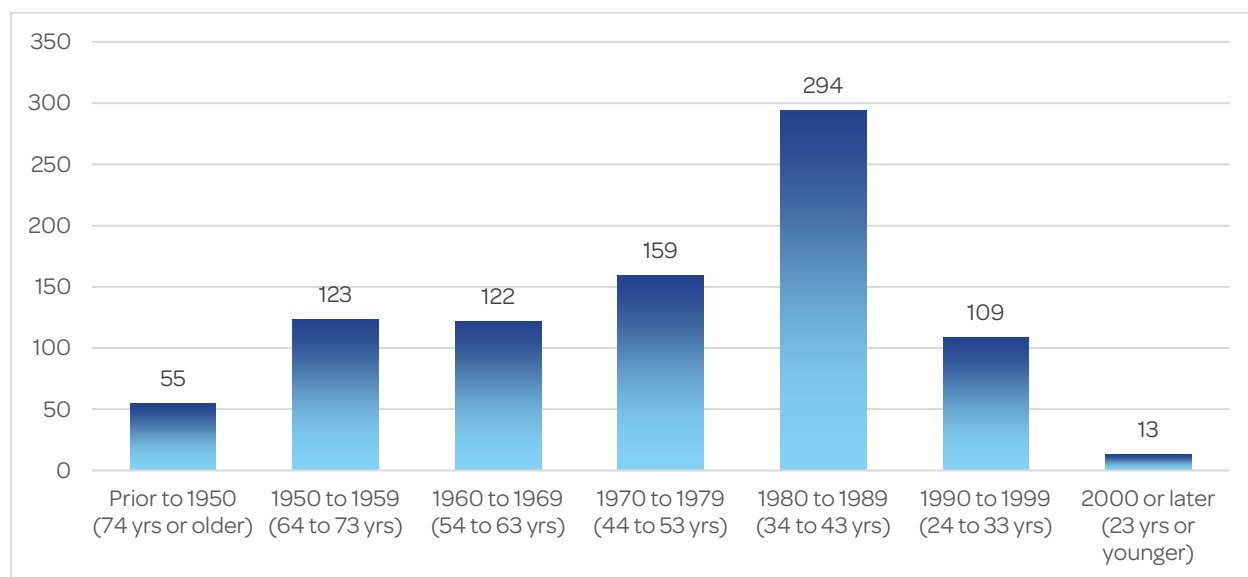
Approximately **2,840** residents are represented through survey results, providing a strong basis for analysis

(Figure 3)

Approximately 2,840 individuals were captured through the responses of these socio-demographic questions, representing 1.7% of the City's population. Based on this representative data, there are 3.2 persons per household. The largest age group to be represented are those under the age of 20 (949 residents), which is a slight over-representation compared to 2021 Census data. Those aged 60 and over (487 residents) were slightly under-represented compared to 2021 Census data. These findings were expected given the nature of the topic and higher aquatic participation profiles from families with children.



Figure 4: In what year were you born? (n=875)



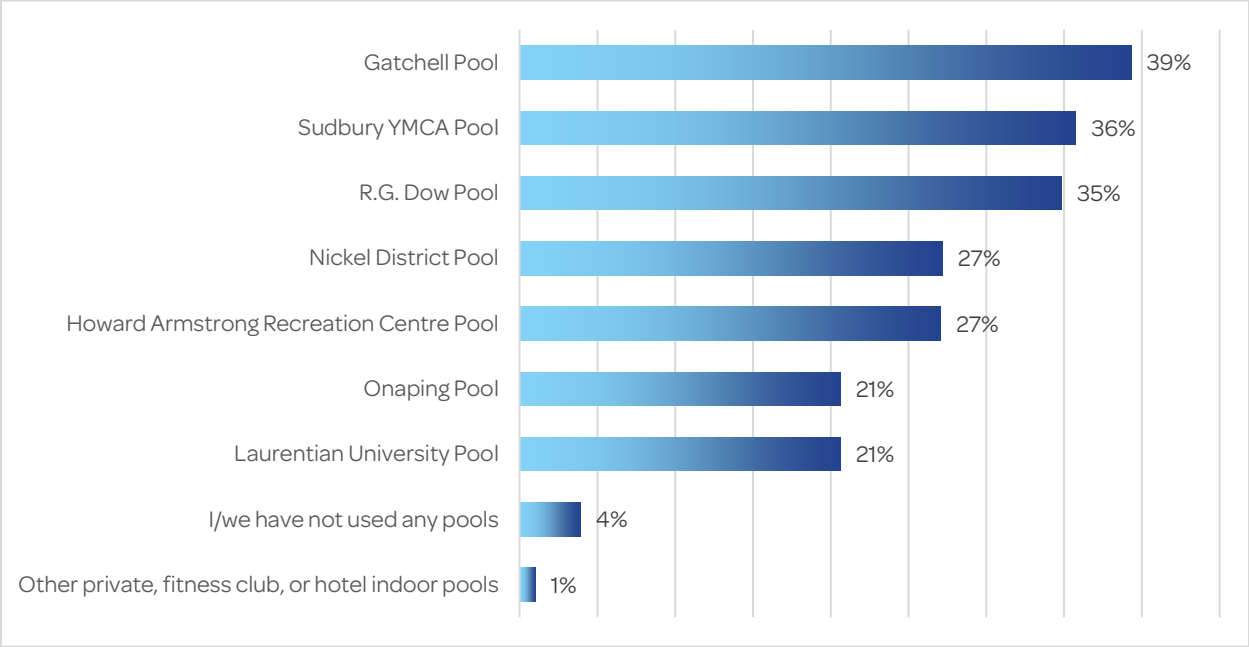
The average age of all respondents was 48 years old (born in 1875).

## 2.3 Indoor Pools

Respondents were asked which indoor pools in Greater Sudbury they or members of their household have used within the past four years, with Gatchell Pool (39%), Sudbury YMCA Pool (36%), and R.G. Dow Pool (35%) being the most popular responses. The Sudbury YMCA Pool and Laurentian University Pool were included in this question as they are available to the public, although they are not City-owned. Only a small portion of participants (5%) indicated that they or their household have not used any of the following pools or use alternative providers.

**Most respondents (95%) use one or more publicly operated indoor pools**  
(Figure 5)

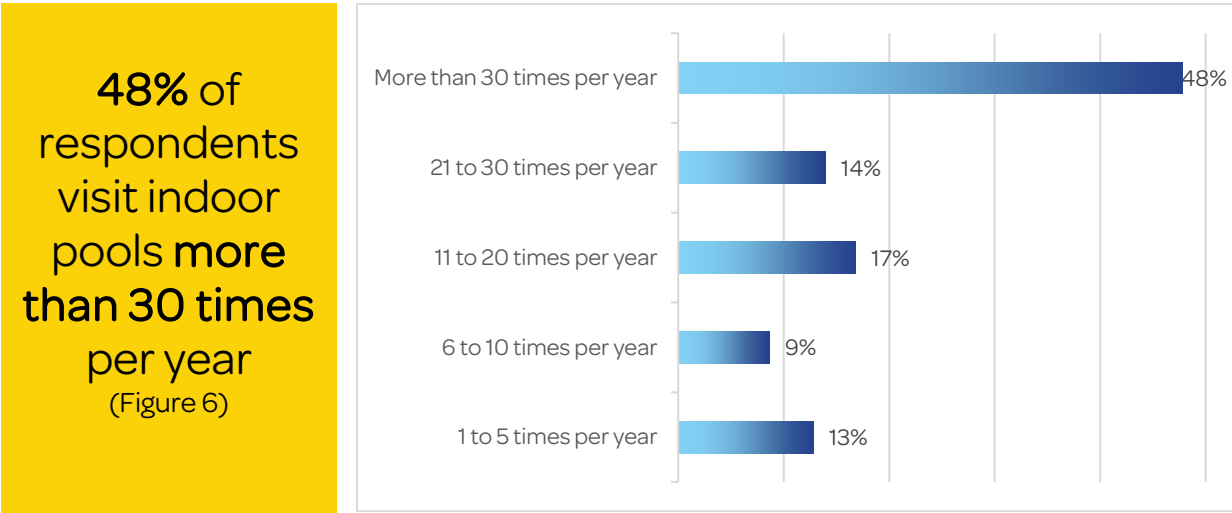
Figure 5: Please identify the publicly operated indoor pools in Greater Sudbury you and/or members of your household used within the past four years (n=898)



Note: The Laurentian University Pool has been closed since March 2020, which may have suppressed these figures

Almost half (48%) of participants visit these indoor pools more than 30 times per year. These results indicate that the majority of respondents use and visit indoor pools multiple times throughout the year.

Figure 6: In a typical year, how frequently do you and members of your household visit these indoor pools? (n=868)



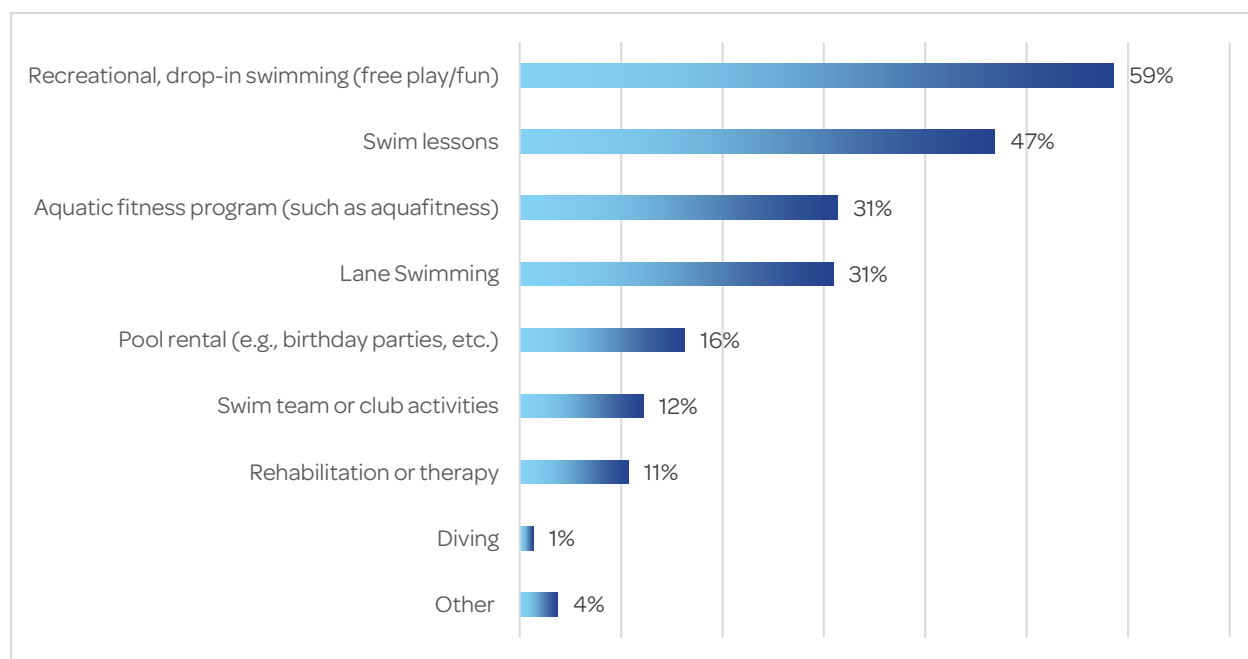
**48%** of respondents visit indoor pools more than 30 times per year (Figure 6)

Note: excludes non-users

Participants use indoor pools for various activities, although the most popular use is for recreational and unstructured swimming (59%) such as drop-ins for free play and fun. Following unstructured uses are the more structured programming activities such as swim lessons (47%) and aquafitness (31%). Most notably, households with younger profiles were more likely to use indoor pools, particularly for recreational swimming, swim lessons, and pool rentals. Conversely, households with older profiles were more likely to use indoor pools for activities such as aquafitness, lane swimming, and rehabilitation and therapy.

**Indoor pools are popularly used for recreational and drop-in swimming activities**  
(Figure 7)

Figure 7: Tell us why you and/or members of your household use these indoor pools? (n=886)

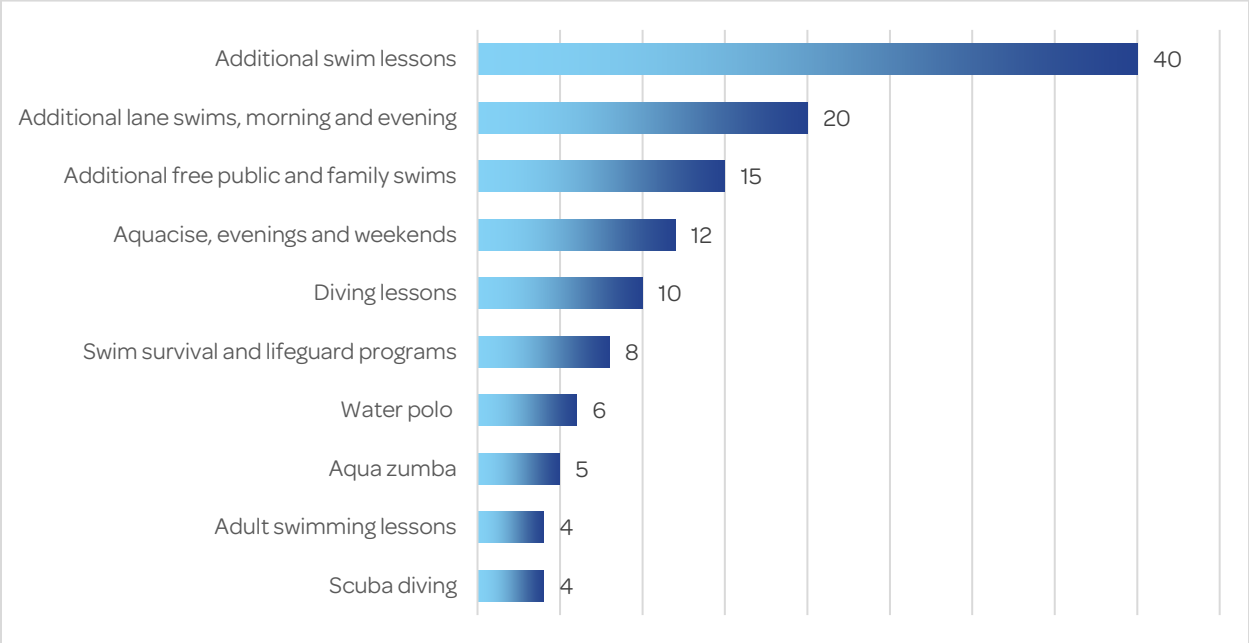


The survey sought input on additional programs that residents would like to see offered at the indoor pools through open-ended responses. The most common themes were focused on increasing existing programming in terms of both quantity and times offered. The largest demand was for more swim lessons to meet the needs of the many families and young children learning the essential skills of swimming. Other common responses also requested more lane swims for both morning and night, more public and family swims, and more aquacise programming at different times such as evenings and weekends.

**Respondents want more swim lessons**  
(Figure 8)

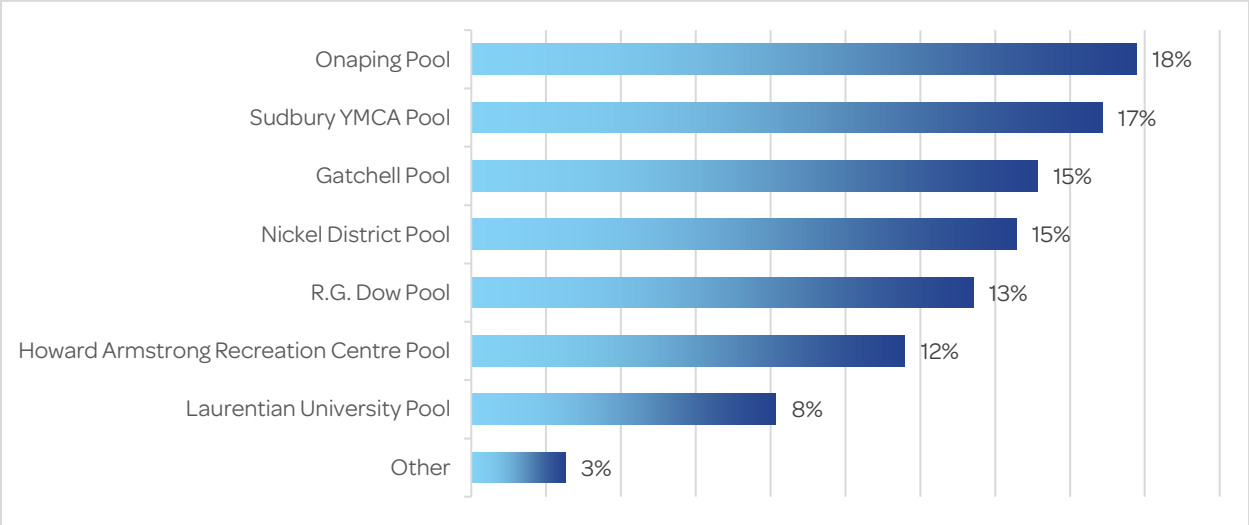
Requests were also received for programs that may not be currently offered or as widespread throughout Greater Sudbury. These requests include diving lessons, more lifeguard and swim survival programs for different age groups, water polo, aqua Zumba, adult swim lessons, and scuba diving. These results indicate trends in interests that are arising within the community.

Figure 8: Are there any additional programs you would like to see offered at the City's indoor pools? (n=243, top open-ended responses)



Participants were asked to identify one indoor pool from the list that they have used the most since 2019. The most popular response was the Onaping Pool (18%), followed by the Sudbury YMCA Pool (17%), and Gatchell Pool (15%). Respondents from the Onaping area were over-represented in the survey. All pools are used by respondents within the 12-18% range except for Laurentian University Pool, which evidently has a lower usage rate due to its closure in March 2020.

Figure 9: Which of the following indoor pools have you and/or a member of your household used the most since 2019, prior to the onset of the pandemic? (n=872)

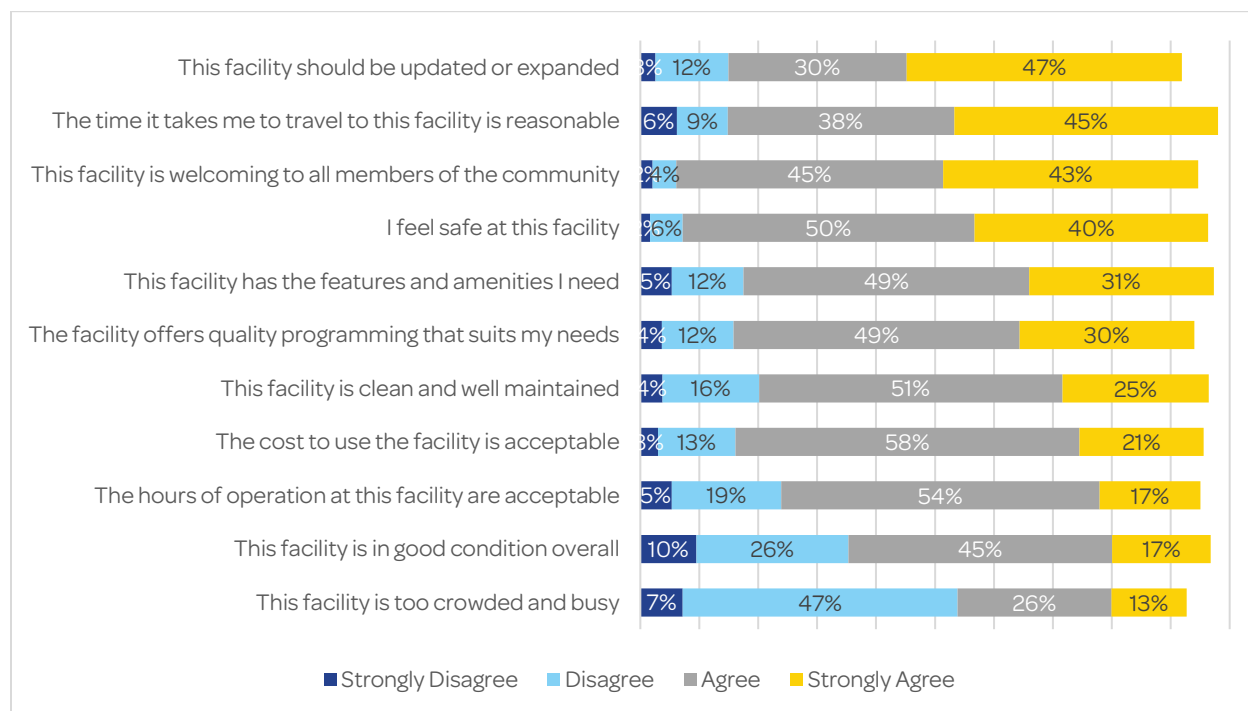


Note: The Laurentian University Pool has been closed since March 2020, which may have suppressed these figures



For the indoor pool that they use the most often, they survey asked respondents to identify their level of agreement with a series of statements. The statement most agreed with (agree and strongly agree) is that the facility should be updated or expanded (77%). The statement most disagreed with (disagree and strongly disagree) is that the facility is too crowded and busy (54%). These level of agreement with these statements alludes to the aging infrastructure of all current pools and the need for updates and maintenance.

Figure 10: Thinking about the indoor pools in Greater Sudbury that you use most often, select your level of agreement with the following statements. (n=903)



“Don’t know/not applicable” responses not shown

**83% of respondents agree that travel times to facilities are reasonable**  
(Figure 10)

**77% of respondents agree that facilities should be updated or expanded**  
(Figure 10)

Through deeper analysis, more specific results can be drawn.

- Overall satisfaction was highest with the Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre Pool, Onaping Pool, and the Sudbury YMCA Pool.
- Overall satisfaction was lowest with Gatchell Pool and Nickel District Pool.
- Generally, respondents from smaller communities outside of Sudbury were more likely to indicate that existing indoor pools are in good condition and have programming that suits their needs.

- Households with children were more likely to indicate that pools are too busy, that they are in poor condition, and that their households have barriers in accessing indoor pools as often as they would like (e.g., programs are hard to get into).

The following table and figure provide further insight as to how the statements aligned with specific indoor pool facilities.

Table 1: Facility-specific observations from community survey

Facility Name	Above Average Agreement	Below Average Agreement
Gatchell Pool	- none	- This facility has the features and amenities I need - This facility is clean and well maintained - This facility is in good condition overall
Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre Pool	- This facility has the features and amenities I need - This facility is in good condition overall	- This facility should be updated or expanded
Laurentian University Pool	- none	- none
Nickel District Pool	- This facility should be updated or expanded - This facility is too crowded and busy	- none
Onaping Pool	- The facility offers quality programming that suits my needs - The cost to use the facility is acceptable	- This facility is too crowded and busy
R.G. Dow Pool	- none	- This facility is in good condition overall
Sudbury YMCA Pool	- This facility is in good condition overall - The hours of operation at this facility are acceptable	- This facility should be updated or expanded

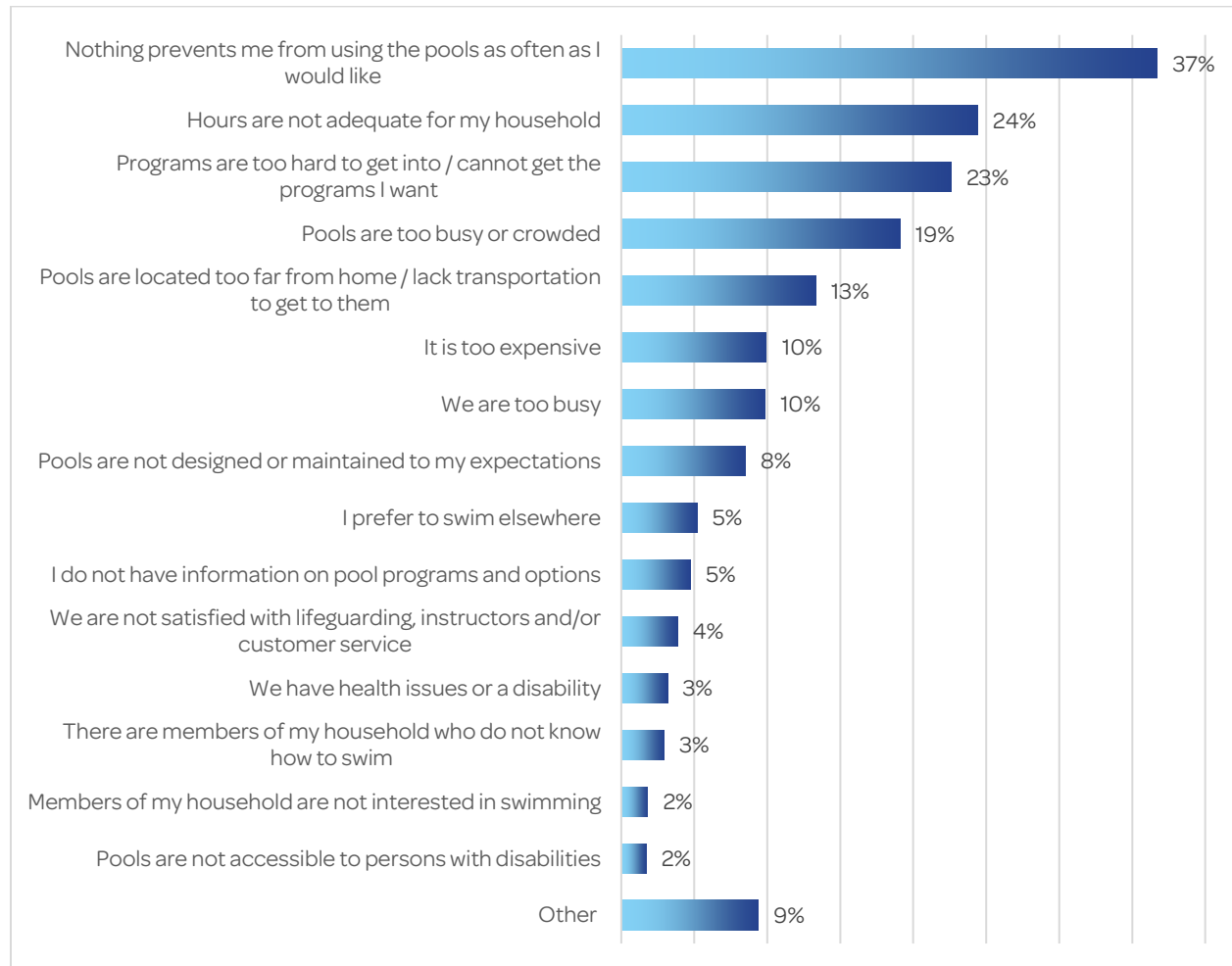
Figure 11: Thinking about the indoor pools in Greater Sudbury that you use most often, select your level of agreement with the following statements. (n=903)

Strongly Agree / Agree	HARC	Gatchell	Nickel District	Onaping	R.G. Dow	Laurentian University	Sudbury YMCA	All Pools*
The time it takes me to travel to this facility is reasonable	76%	83%	89%	92%	84%	85%	84%	85%
This facility has the features and amenities I need	96%	70%	80%	89%	76%	72%	88%	82%
The facility offers quality programming that suits my needs	79%	77%	72%	91%	80%	72%	85%	80%
This facility is in good condition overall	78%	37%	56%	74%	51%	52%	85%	63%
This facility should be updated or expanded	64%	87%	91%	85%	81%	87%	61%	79%
This facility is clean and well maintained	86%	55%	76%	88%	79%	72%	86%	78%
I feel safe at this facility	97%	87%	91%	97%	97%	89%	84%	91%
This facility is welcoming to all members of the community	90%	92%	89%	93%	89%	85%	95%	91%
This facility is too crowded and busy	47%	50%	51%	25%	39%	32%	37%	40%
The hours of operation at this facility are acceptable	77%	76%	68%	64%	74%	62%	84%	73%
The cost to use the facility is acceptable	73%	77%	76%	94%	83%	85%	84%	82%
Responses	101	132	127	155	117	71	147	850

\*Excludes "other" pools

When asked what prevents indoor pool users from accessing pools, 37% indicated that there were no barriers. Following this most common response were barriers such as inadequate hours (24%), can't get into programs (23%), and busy/crowded pools (19%).

Figure 12: What typically prevents you from using indoor pools in Greater Sudbury as often as you would like? (n=885)



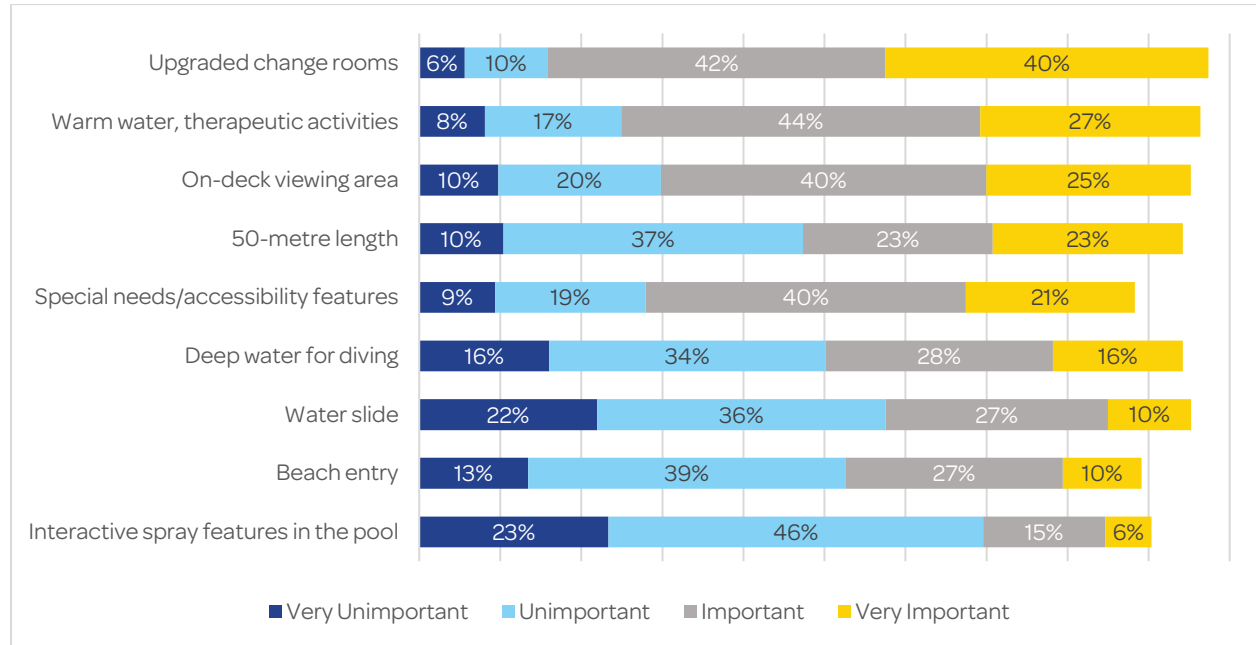
The survey asked respondents how important a series of activities and features were in terms of improving Greater Sudbury's indoor pools. The most important improvement is noted as upgrading the change rooms (82% important), followed by warm-water/therapy (71% important). The most unimportant improvement is noted as interactive spray features in the pool (69% unimportant). Other notable findings are mentioned below:

- Residents in more rural communities were more likely to indicate that warm water, therapeutic activities and special needs/accessibility features are important to their households.

**82% of respondents believe that upgrading change rooms are important**  
(Figure 13)

- Those living in urban Sudbury were more likely to indicate that 50-metre pools are important to their households and that lane swimming was a preferred indoor pool activity.
- Younger households are more likely to be seeking indoor pools with on-deck viewing areas, deep water for diving, water slides, beach entry, and interactive spray features.

Figure 13: If the City of Greater Sudbury was to improve its indoor pools, how important would the following activities and features be to you and/or your household? (n=855 to 887)



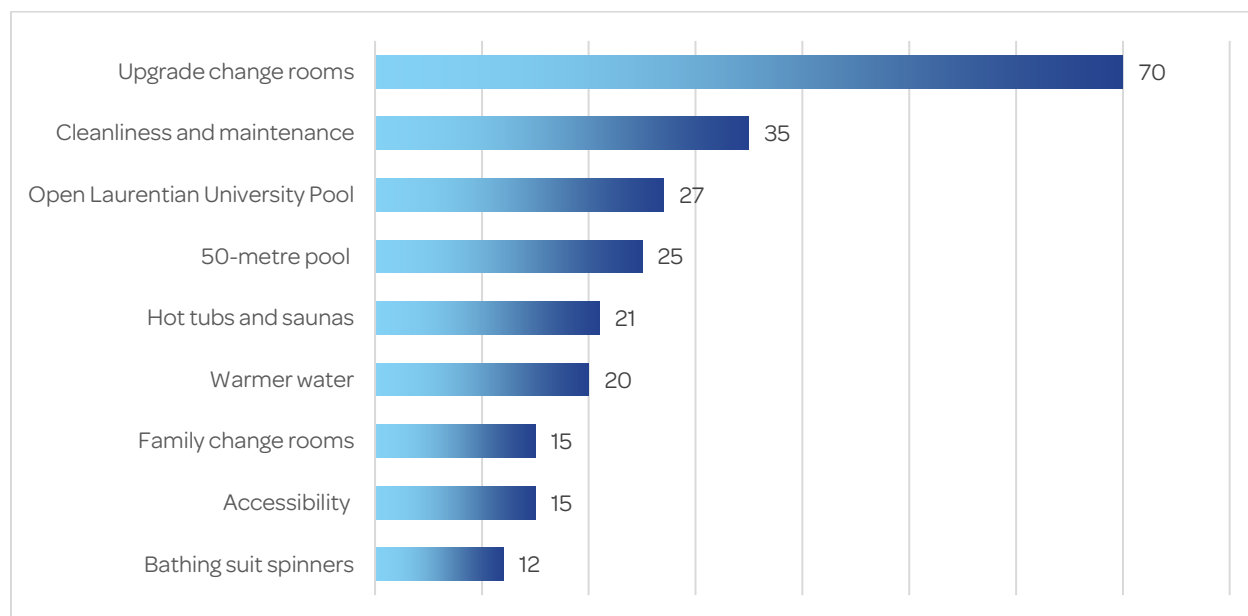
“Don’t know/not applicable” responses not shown

An open-ended question was posed asking respondents what additional activities or features they would want to see to improve indoor pools. There was some cross-over with the previous question. Common responses were upgrading lockers and showers, increased cleaning and maintenance, and updating change rooms. There was much discussion about re-opening the Laurentian University Pool and the need for a 50-metre pool as well if the original pool cannot be retained.

**“Shower facilities need upgrading, especially regulating water temperatures”**  
- open-ended response



Figure 14: Are there any other activities or features you feel would be important if the City was to improve its indoor pools? (n=392, top open-ended responses)



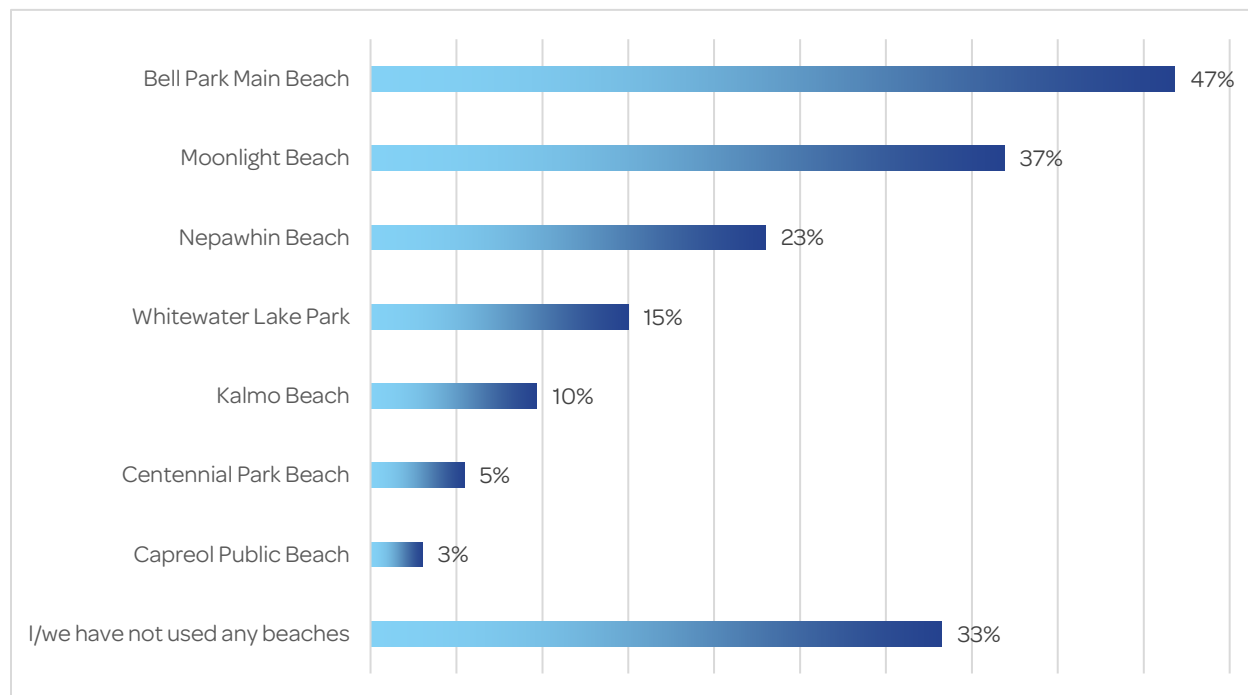
## 2.4 Supervised Beaches

Participants were asked to identify which supervised beaches they have used in the past four years, with Bell Park Main Beach being the most popular, closely followed by Moonlight Beach. Approximately two-thirds of respondents stated that they have used the supervised beaches. Those that do use supervised beaches are more likely to live in urban Sudbury. Those who do not use City beaches were more likely to indicate that City beaches are located too far from their home or that they lack transportation.

**Two-thirds of respondents use the supervised beaches**

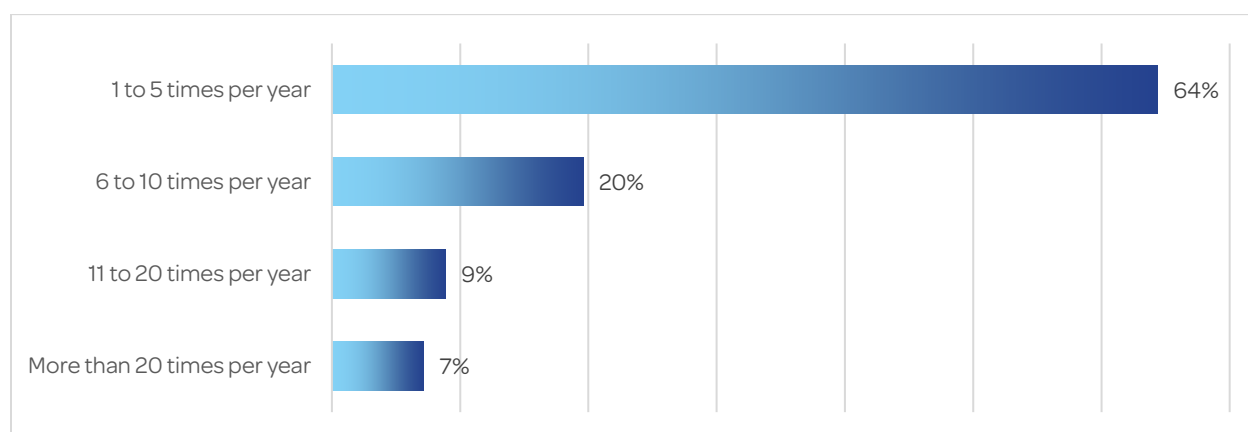
(Figure 15)

Figure 15: Please identify the publicly supervised beaches in Greater Sudbury you and/or members of your household have used within the past four years. (n=827)



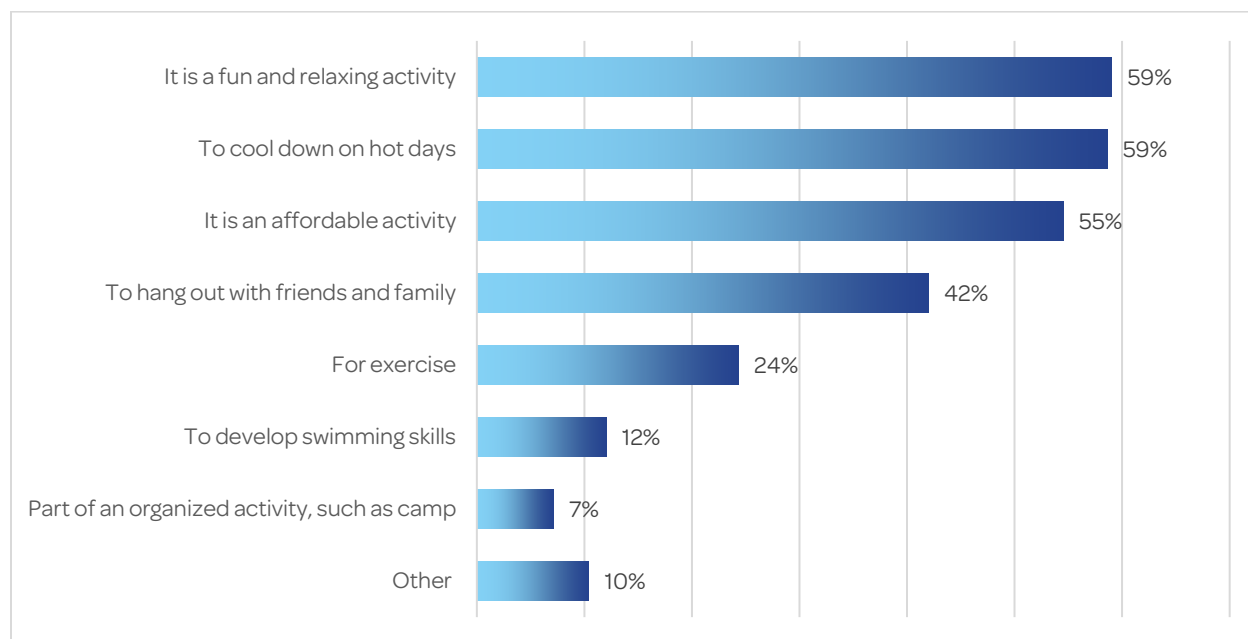
The survey found that most supervised beach users only visit 1 to 5 times per year (64%), followed by 6 to 10 visits per year (20%), and a slightly smaller proportion visiting 11+ times a year (16%). Most beach users thus do not frequently visit these supervised beach areas. This survey did not capture any data on unsupervised beaches, water bodies, or lakefront properties in Greater Sudbury which individuals may be using as alternatives.

Figure 16: In a typical year, how frequently do you and members of your household visit these supervised beaches? (n=699)



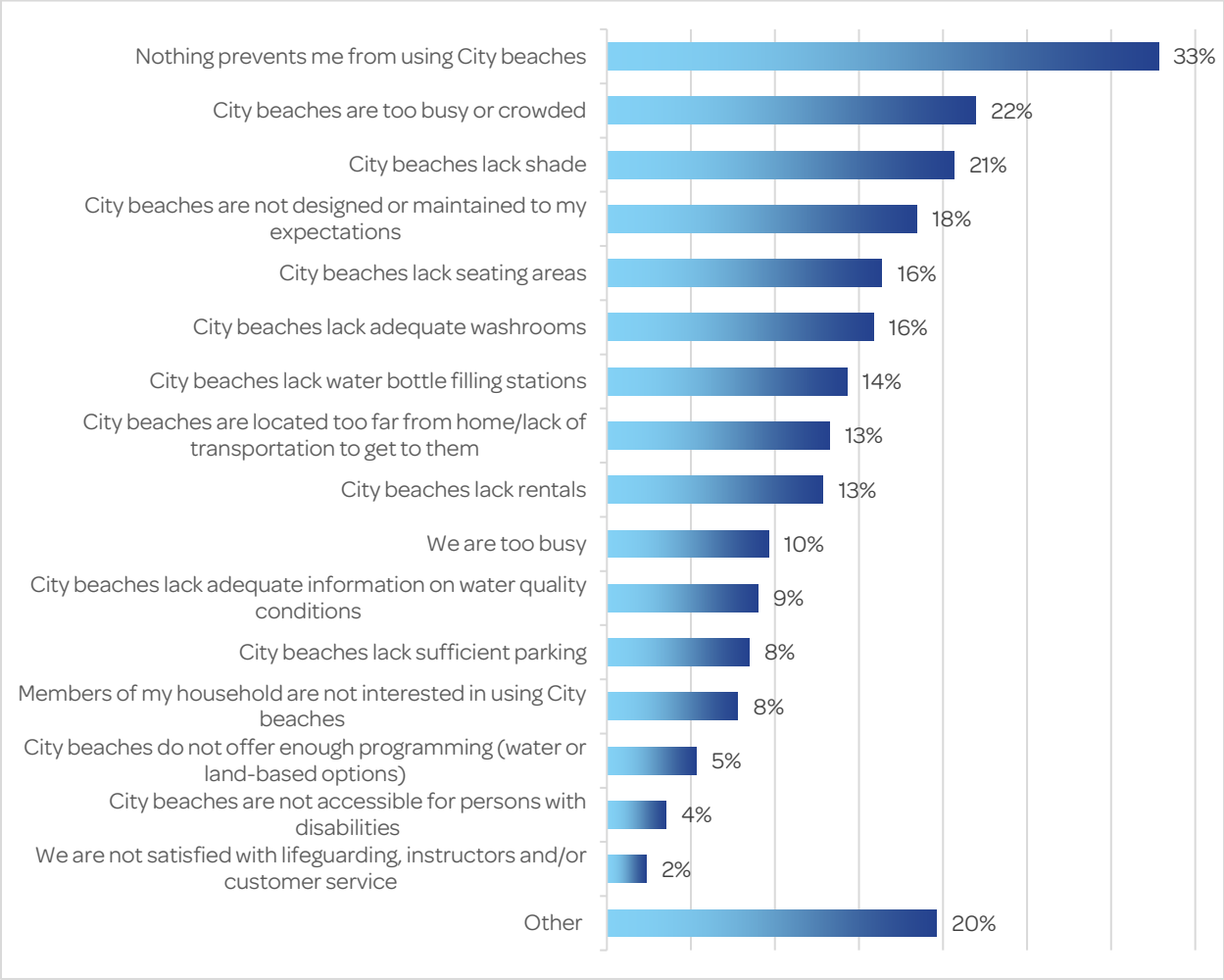
Participants were asked why they and their households use supervised beaches, with the top responses being: it is a fun and relaxing activity (59%), too cool down on hot days (59%), and it is an affordable activity (55%). This indicates that the beach is mainly used for recreational unstructured activities rather than skill development or structured programming.

Figure 17: Tell us why you and/or members of your household use City of Greater Sudbury supervised beaches. (n=691)



The survey asked respondents to identify what prevents them from using the City’s supervised beaches as often as they would like. 33% of respondents indicated that nothing prevents their ability to use City beaches. Households with younger profiles were more likely to use supervised beaches and to indicate that they are unable to use them as often as they would like. Fewer older residents use public beaches, and those that do are more likely to use them for exercise compared to younger households. Common barriers to accessing City beaches include: being too busy or crowded (22%) and lacking shade (21%).

Figure 18: Aside from inclement weather, please indicate what would typically prevent you from using the City's beaches as often as you would like. (n= 770)



## 2.5 Splash Pads

The following graph illustrates the City of Greater Sudbury splash pads that respondents have used within the past four years. While many participants (40%) noted not using any splash pads, those that do commonly use larger destination facilities such as the DJ Hancock Memorial Park splash pad (18%), the Onaping Community Centre splash pad (14%), and the Morel Family Foundation Park splash pad (12%). Respondents living in communities outside of urban Sudbury were more likely to indicate that they have used splash pads in Greater Sudbury within the past four years (particularly the Onaping splash pad), that splash pads are important to their quality of life, and that upgrades to splash pads should be a high priority for Council.

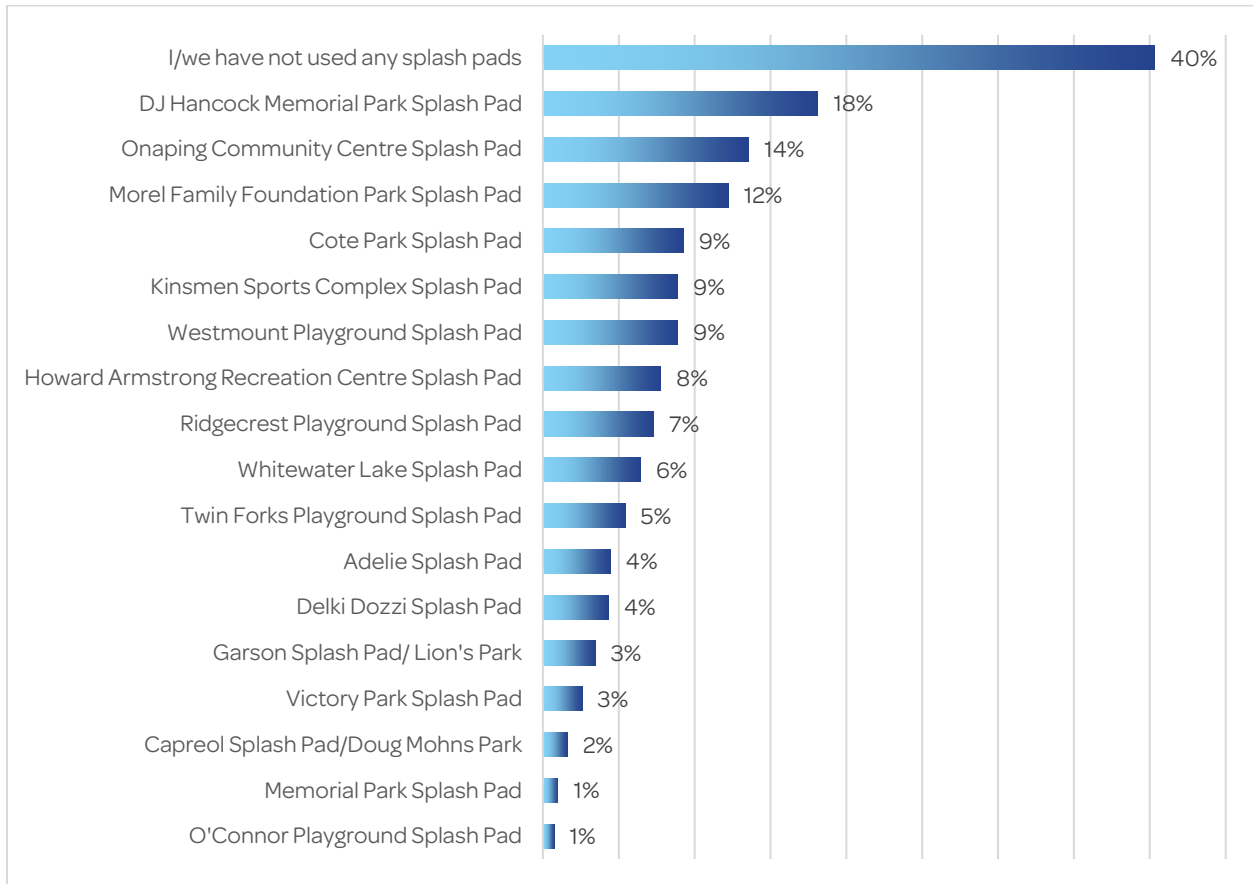
**60% of respondents use splash pads**  
(Figure 19)

Households with younger profiles were substantially more likely to use splash pads and also to indicate that they are unable to use them as often as they would like. Households with children were



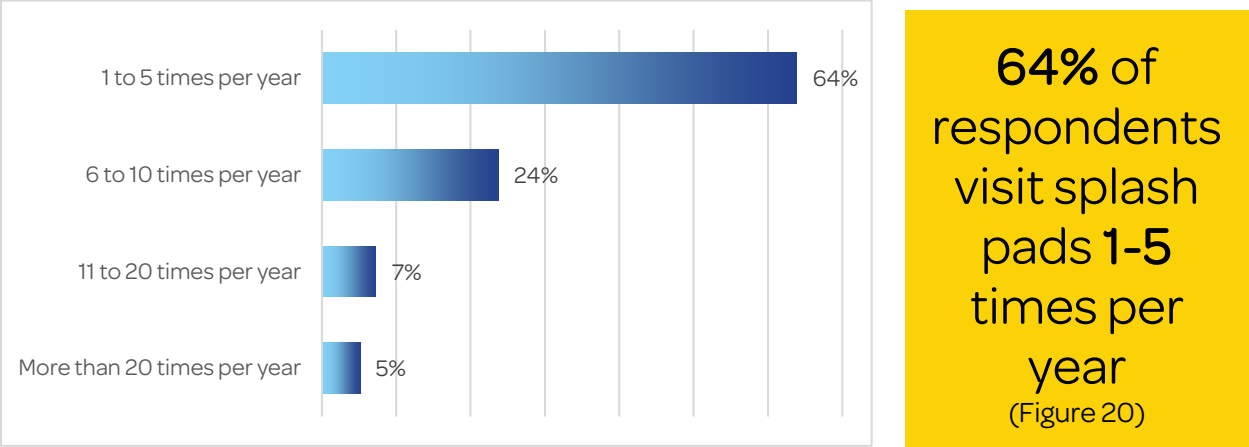
also more likely to indicate that splash pads are important to their quality of life and that upgrades to splash pads should be a high priority for Council.

Figure 19: Please identify the publicly operated splash pads in Greater Sudbury you and/or members of your household have used within the past four years. (n=811)



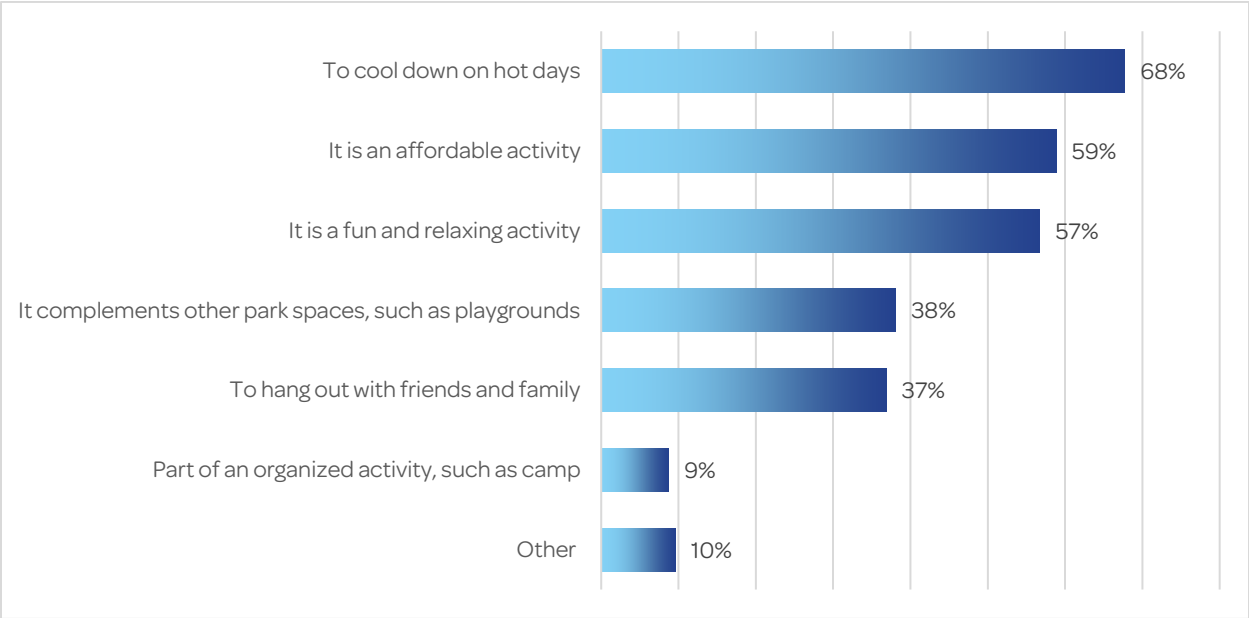
64% of participants indicate that they visit splash pads in Greater Sudbury 1 to 5 times per year. Those that use the splash pads are more likely to be households with younger profiles. Only 12% of respondents stated that they used the splash pads more than 10 times a year.

Figure 20: In a typical year, how frequently do you and members of your household visit these splash pads? (n=565)



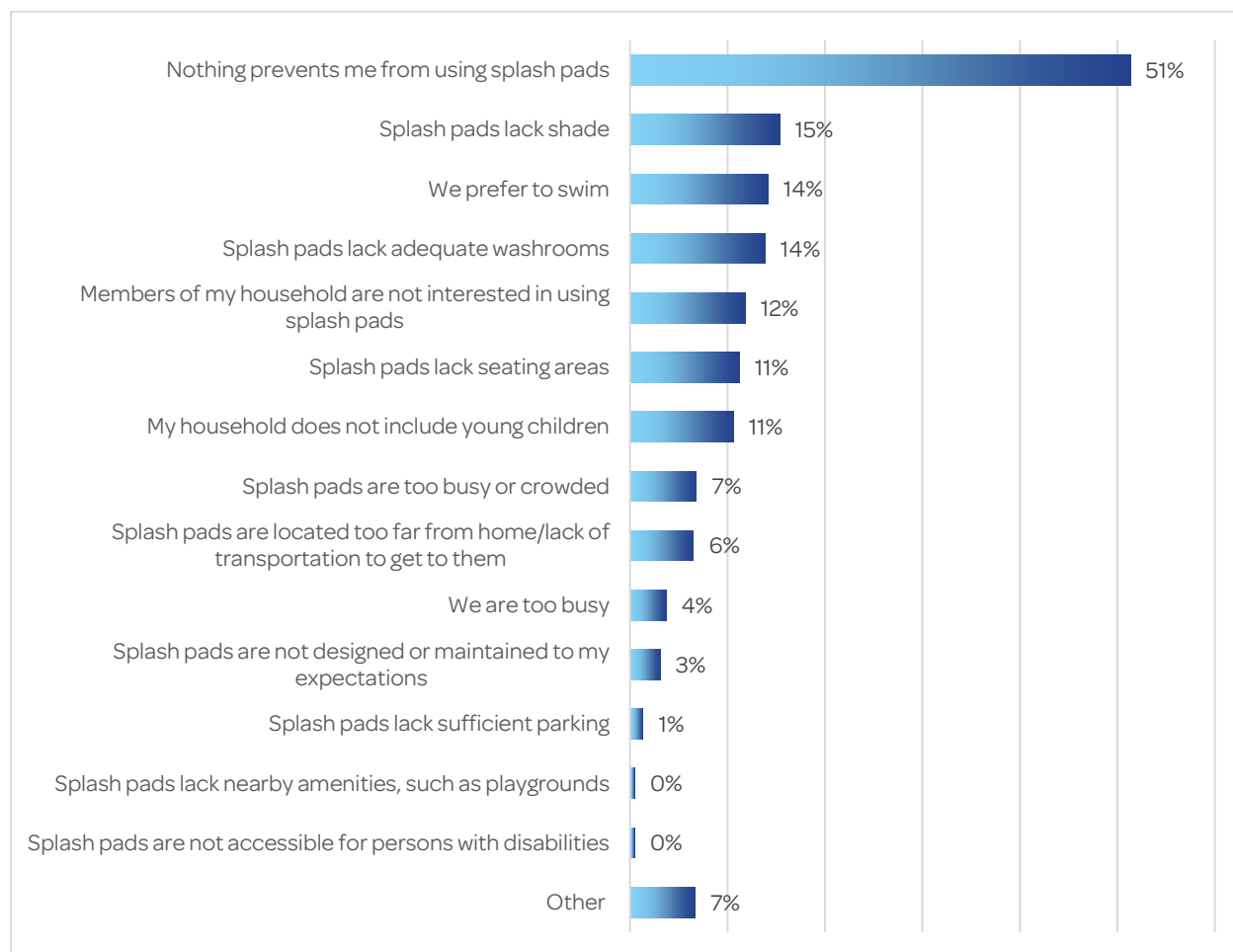
When asked why their households use splash pads, participants commonly responded saying to cool down on hot days (68%), it is affordable (59%), and it is a fun and relaxing activity (57%). With 9% of participants saying they use splash pads for organized activities such as camps, it is evident that the main use of splash pads continues to be for unstructured drop-in purposes.

Figure 21: Why do you and/or members of your household use splash pads? (n=564)



One half (51%) indicated that nothing prevents them from using splash pads as often as they would like. The most common response as to what prevents respondents from using the City’s splash pads as often as they would like is a lack of shade (15%), prefer to go swimming instead (14%), and inadequate washrooms (14%). This highlights the type of amenities that residents would like to see accompanied by splash pads, such as more shade and washrooms.

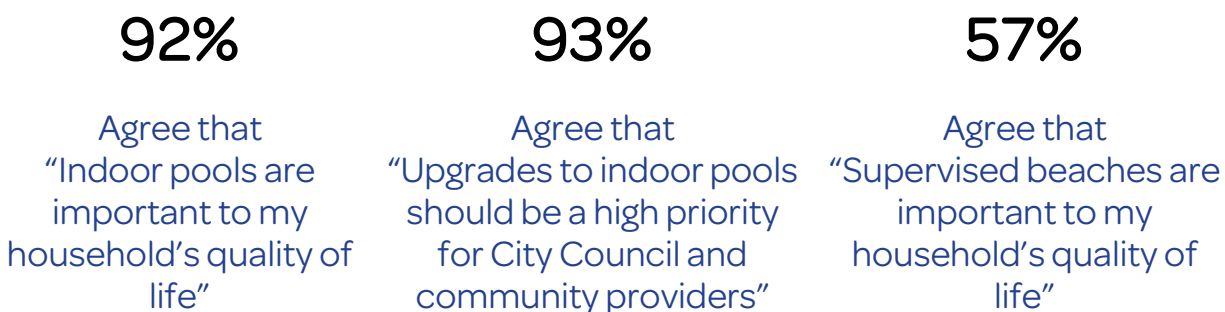
Figure 22: What would typically prevent you from using the City's splash pads as often as you would like? (n=678)



## 2.6 General Statements

Level of agreement was sought on a series of statements to better understand levels of satisfaction and priorities.

Figure 23: Level of agreement with Quality of Life Statements and Facility Upgrade Priorities



56%

Agree that  
"Upgrades to supervised beaches should be a high priority for City Council"

45%

Agree that  
"Splash pads are important to my household's quality of life"

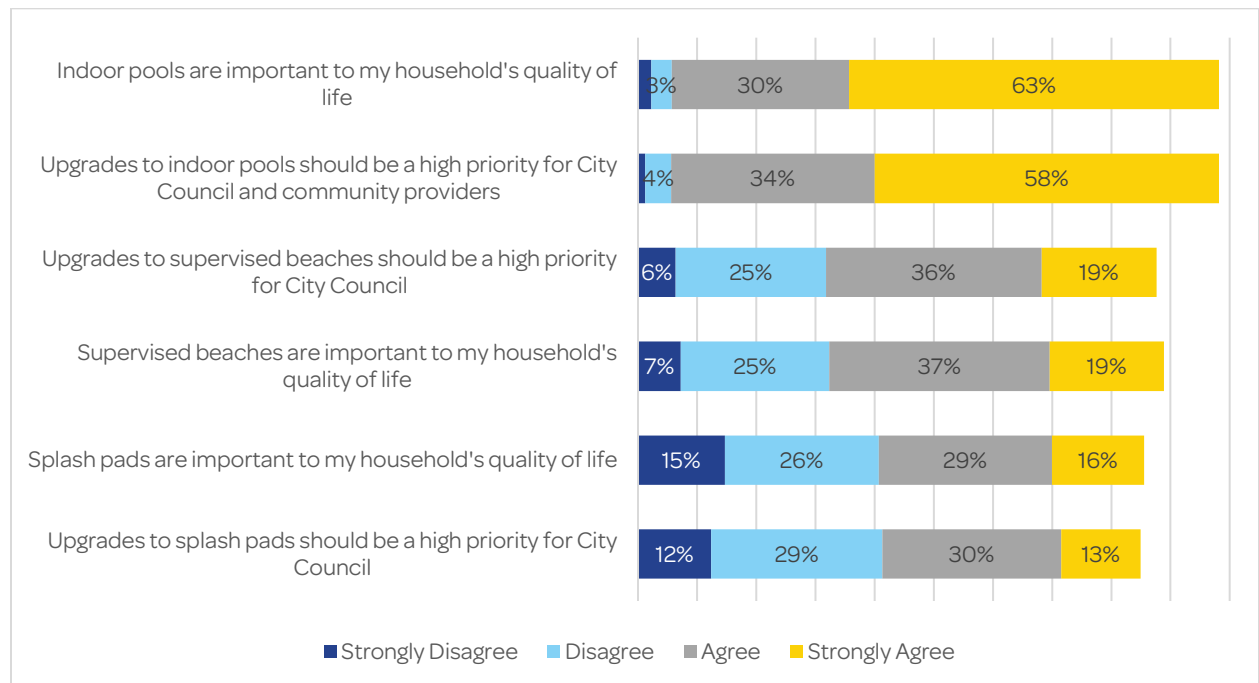
44%

Agree that  
"Upgrades to splash pads should be a high priority for City Council"

The majority of participants highlighted the importance of indoor pools and their need to be a high priority for City Council and community providers (92% and 93% respectively). Just over half also believed that beaches are important and should be a high priority for City Council (57% and 56% respectively). Less than half of participants believed that splash pads were important and should be a high priority for City Council (45% and 44% respectively). This indicates a list of prioritization provided by survey respondents, with indoor pools being the most important to act upon. The figure below provides a breakdown of the agreement levels for each of the statements.

**Most respondents want to prioritize indoor pool facility upgrades**  
(Figure 24)

Figure 24: How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (n=864 to 889)



"Don't know/not applicable" responses not shown

The survey contained an open-ended question allowing respondents to provide any additional information that they felt was pertinent to the Aquatic Review. Key quotes that exemplify the major themes include:

Figure 25: Selected Quotes

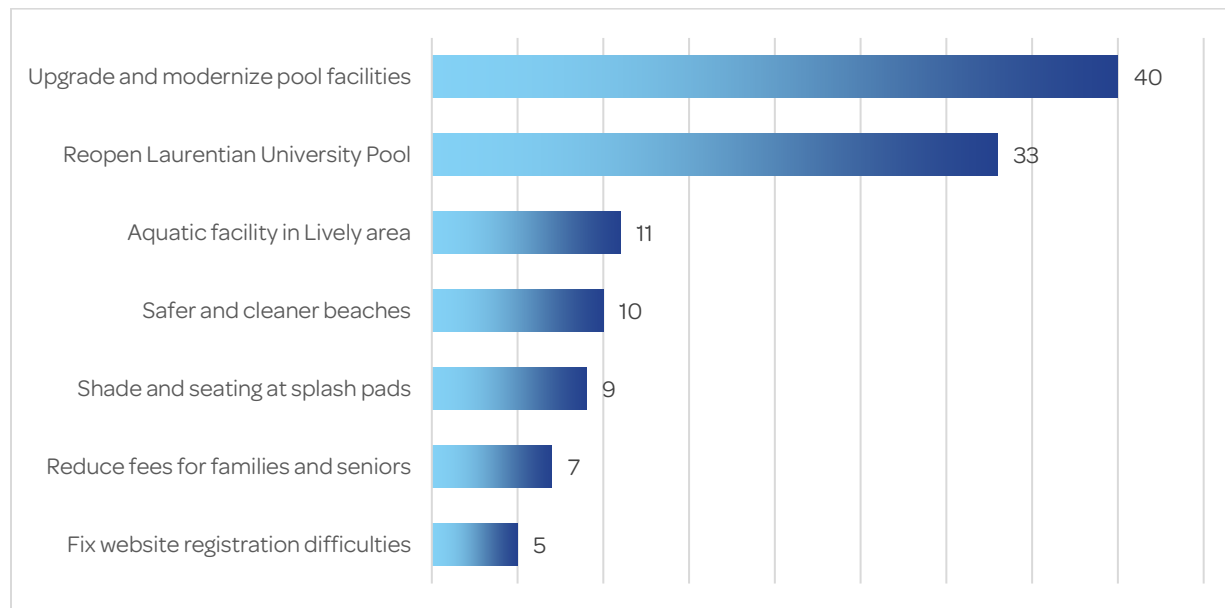
“Pools are so important to our community.”

“Support the reopening of the **Jeno Tihanyi Olympic Gold Pool** at Laurentian University.”

“Existing facilities need proper care and **maintenance.**”

“Swimming is great **physical and mental therapy.**”

Figure 26: Share any additional comments regarding aquatic facilities and services in Greater Sudbury (n=312, top open-ended responses)



Most common responses for additional survey comments were focused on upgrading and modernizing the indoor pool facilities, re-opening Laurentian University Pool, and creating an aquatic facility in Lively. This alludes to the main actions that residents of the City of Greater Sudbury would like to see based on their personal aquatic priorities.

# 3. Pop-Up Engagements

## 3.1 Overview

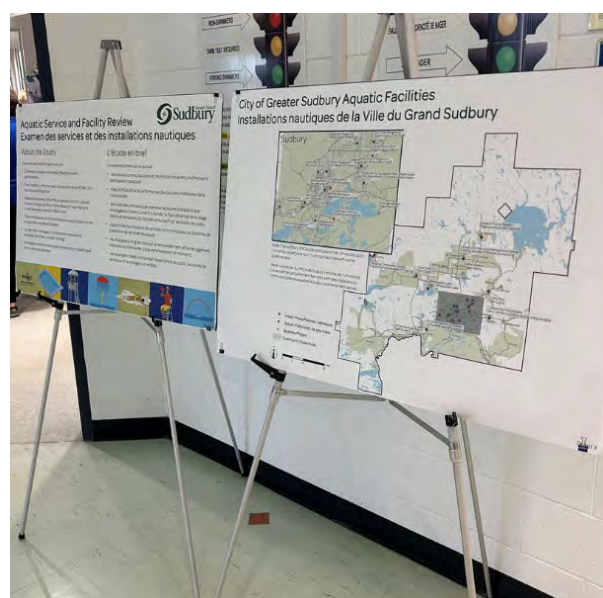
Eight (8) pop-up engagements were held to introduce the Aquatic Service and Facility Review to Greater Sudbury communities and seek input into its development. The primary purpose of these sessions was to gather preliminary feedback pertaining to aquatic services and facilities, as well as to promote opportunities to complete the community survey through the City's "Over to You" engagement portal.

In total, over **150 participants** attended the pop-ups to discuss their ideas with the Consulting Team and City staff. Additionally, several hundred flyers were handed out promoting the community survey. Sessions included:

1. Anderson Farm Museum, August 23, 2023 (evening)
2. Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre, August 24, 2023 (morning)
3. Nickel District Pool, August 24, 2023 (morning)
4. Garson Splash Pad, August 24, 2023 (afternoon)
5. Moonlight Beach, August 24, 2023 (evening)
6. Onaping Splash Pad, August 25, 2023 (morning)
7. Whitewater Lake Park, August 25, 2023 (afternoon)
8. Bell Park Main Beach, August 25, 2023 (afternoon)

**150+**  
individuals  
participated  
in the pop-up  
engagements  
, providing  
over  
200  
comments.

The sessions were promoted through the City's website, media releases, social media accounts, and traditional media. These in-person events consisted of information boards detailing the scope and purpose of the review, comment sheets, as well as an interactive voting station to identify satisfaction levels for various facility types. Additionally, display boards with sticky notes were provided for respondents to post suggestions for improving aquatic services and facilities.





## 3.2 Key Themes

Common themes that emerged from the pop-up engagement discussions are summarized below.

*Table 2: Pop-up Engagements: How can we improve the following aquatic facilities?*

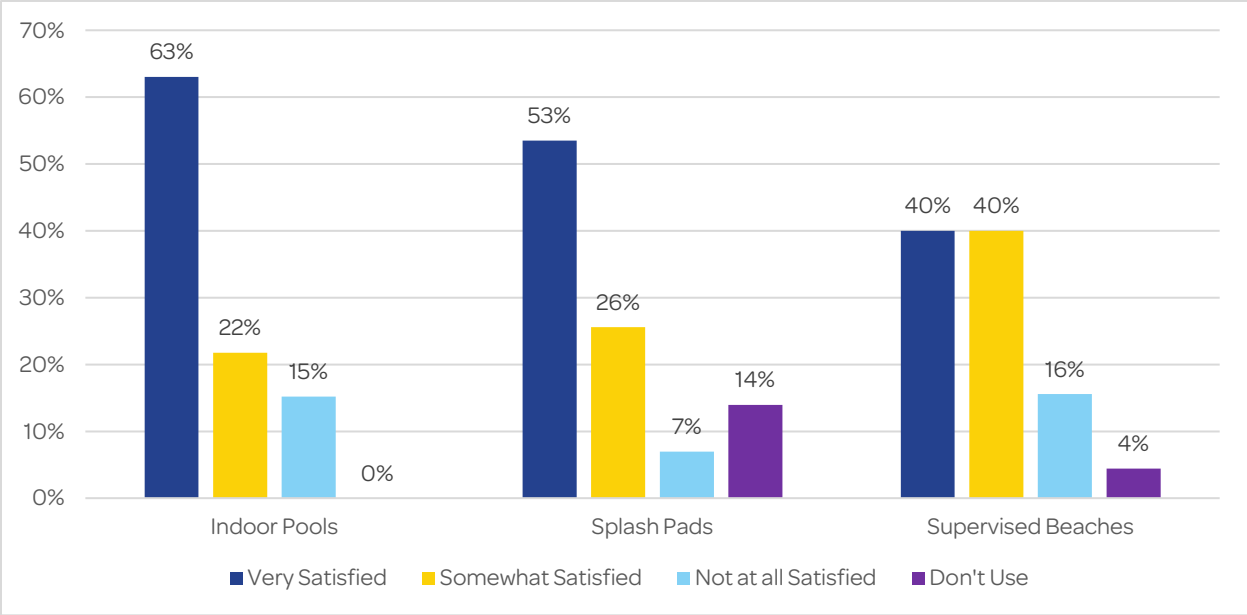
Indoor Pools	Supervised Beaches	Splash Pads
<b>Requested Improvements</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change rooms in need of upgrades</li> <li>• Specific programming requests (hours, seniors, etc.)</li> <li>• Keep existing pools open, but modernize</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address impacts from algae and geese</li> <li>• Improve accessibility and shade</li> <li>• Consider larger beach areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Larger, more creative splash pad designs</li> <li>• Provide more in gap areas (within walking distance of homes)</li> <li>• Continue to ensure safe spaces for children</li> </ul>
<b>Sample Comments</b>		
<p>“Nickel District parking lot has a lot of potholes that need to be fixed”</p> <p>“Change rooms need to be verified that they are cleaned”</p> <p>“Salt water lasts longer and is better on skin and clothing”</p>	<p>“Algae skimmer for mud at Simon and McCharles Lakes”</p> <p>“Get rid of the goose poop and the geese at Bell Park”</p> <p>“More awareness on how to reduce impact on water quality”</p>	<p>“We need more than the cookie cutter splash pad with 3 sprayers”</p> <p>“There should be more splash pads in general, they are too far from home”</p>

Respondents were asked how aquatic services make a difference in their life. Key themes included:

- “Keeps me fit at an affordable cost”
- “Social environment for children and adults”
- “Swimming lessons save lives”
- “Better quality of life for all”

Furthermore, through the interactive voting stations, respondents were asked to identify their satisfaction levels with indoor pools, supervised beaches, and splash pads. Overall, most people were very satisfied with the current facilities and services (63% indoor pools, 53% splash pads, 40% supervised beaches).

Figure 27: Pop-Up Engagements: How satisfied are you with the following aquatic facilities?



The table below illustrates how these satisfaction levels differed across the eight pop-up engagement locations. The available responses range from ‘very satisfied’, ‘somewhat satisfied’, and ‘not at all satisfied’. Two locations where respondents did not engage in this activity were Garson Splash Pad and Whitewater Lake Park. Two locations where respondents engaged the most with this activity included the Anderson Farm Museum and Nickel District Pool.

Table 3: Pop-Up Engagements: How satisfied are you with the following aquatic facilities?

Pop-up Location	Indoor Pools			Splash Pads			Supervised Beaches		
	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not at all Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not at all Satisfied	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Not at all Satisfied
Anderson Farm Museum	53%	27%	20%	46%	36%	18%	47%	40%	13%
HARC Pool	100%	0%	0%	67%	33%	0%	86%	14%	0%
Nickel District Pool	46%	18%	36%	45%	45%	11%	0%	73%	27%
Moonlight Beach	0%	100%	0%	--	--	--	0%	100%	0%
Onaping Splash Pad	70%	30%	0%	100%	0%	0%	71%	0%	29%
Bell Park Main Beach	100%	0%	0%	--	--	--	0%	100%	0%

Note: Results from Garson Splash Pad and Whitewater Lake Park not shown due to a lack of participants\*

Please see **Appendix B** for the full list of comments received at these sessions.

## 4. Written Input from General Public

Residents of Greater Sudbury were able to provide additional comments through an Ideas section on the City's Over to You website, as well as through email.

### 4.1 Over to You: Ideas

Six (6) comments were collected during the feedback period through the Over to You: Ideas section. Common themes that arose were building new facilities such as an indoor pool, a splash pad, and a new playground. Others provided ideas for more aquacise programming and a supervised lake distance swim. One comment discussed transportation barriers to gain access to aquatic facilities in the Sudbury area.

Please see **Appendix C** for a full list of comments.

### 4.2 Emails

To date, two (2) emails have been received on this project during the feedback period. These emails indicated the importance of aquatic facilities for their improvement to mental health and physical therapy, and their use in providing places to cool off as the effects of climate change increase. Accessibility was noted as a concern, being one of the main reasons a user may choose to use one pool over another. Requests for warm water, better accessibility and more lane swimming times were suggested to increase the use and experience for all aquatic facility users. The importance of supporting the Laurentian University Pool was another key topic brought through this discussion.

Please see **Appendix C** for the full email responses.

# 5 Stakeholder Input

## 5.1 Overview

A series of interviews/workshops were held to engage key stakeholders and solicit their input on issues, opportunities, and priorities related to local aquatic services and facilities, including indoor pools, supervised waterfronts, and splash pads.

Sessions included:

- YMCA of Northeastern Ontario
- Laurentian University
- Swim Clubs
- Area School Boards
- City of Greater Sudbury Council Members
- City of Greater Sudbury Staff

A summary of the input is provided below. It is noted that the comments are those presented by stakeholders and may not represent consensus nor should they be construed as recommendations within this report.

## 5.2 YMCA of Northeastern Ontario

The YMCA of Northeastern Ontario provides a variety of services to the public, including health and wellness, day camps, youth leadership, childcare, and early learning out of their facility in downtown Sudbury. Their membership model is currently two-tiered, the first tier (Y Fit Card) grants access to the fitness centre or gym, and the second tier (YMCA Experience) includes access to the pool and all other amenities in the facility. Non-members may also access the centre/pool via day passes. As of September 2023, the YMCA indicates that they have approximately 4,300 members at the Sudbury location and is on track to reach peak pre-pandemic figures in the near term. Approximately 35 to 40% of members are currently receiving financial assistance. The Centre is well used by families, youth, and older adults, including for swimming lessons (approximately 1,000 spaces are available each session), aquafit classes, and recreational swimming. The pool is not used by swim clubs due to its non-regulation length.

The YMCA of Northeastern Ontario has experienced rising trends such as an increasing demand for both adult swim lessons and private swim lessons at its Sudbury location. These trends are due to an influx of newcomers interested in learning to swim, as well as more children with developmental challenges finding one-on-one time in the pool more valuable. The aquacise classes have also been diversifying in terms of both ages and genders. Concerning program challenges, the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario struggles with finding enough lifeguards and instructors to run their programming at all available hours of the day. They have attempted to combat this by providing free programs to train youth into these roles, as well as encouraging volunteers from the older adult demographics.

Due to rising financial losses and a growing need for capital reinvestment (including in the pool), the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario is currently seeking to renegotiate its partnership agreement with the City to improve the financial viability of the Sudbury YMCA. In September 2023, City Council resolved to consider direct financial support for the YMCA, operational changes, and/or changes in the

distribution of condominium unit shares in order to address these financial challenges. These costs and considerations will more fully assessed as part of a process separate from this Aquatic Service and Facility Review. At this time, this Review assumes that aquatic services will continue to be provided at the Downtown YMCA under the same or similar circumstances going forward.

When discussing facility needs, the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario indicated a desire to enhance accessibility by providing a certified chair lift into the pool. The organization is also considering trends such as inclusive change rooms and private change stalls. Reinvestments were completed in 2020 such as replacing the pool liner and change room refurbishments.

The YMCA of Northeastern Ontario is interested in forming and expanding partnerships with services sharing the same building. For example, there may be opportunities to work more closely with the existing cardiac clinic and older adults centre.

### 5.3 Laurentian University

Laurentian University's athletic facilities include an Olympic sized pool (8-lanes, 50 metres) which has historically been used for Regional and Provincial competitions, as well as providing the local community with a long-course aquatic facility. The Jenő Tihanyi Pool was closed in 2020 due to COVID-19, and in 2022 there were significant repairs discovered which need to be addressed. The University has been undertaking a series of due diligence engineering investigations to determine the scope of the needed repairs and potential path forward toward re-opening the pool, which remains closed at this time. Outside funding and partnerships may be required to re-open the pool and upgrade related public amenities, such as change rooms.

When the Jenő Tihanyi pool was open, its main users were community groups who rented the space through subsidized fees. Historically, this pool has also been used for a wide range of activities, from swimming lessons and community use (typically through fitness memberships), to area swim clubs (e.g., Laurentian Masters Swim Club, Sudbury Laurentian Swimming Club, and Sudbury Artistic Swim Club) and provincial meets (it is the only pool in the region able to host OFSSA and OUA-level bids), to supporting student athletics and related courses. Swim time is based on historical usage of each group and priorities. Many of these programs, users, and meets have been absorbed into the City's pools at this time.

Financial sustainability is a concern for Laurentian University and the school is mindful of the rising cost to support the Jenő Tihanyi pool and the degree to which it is also used by the community. Traditionally, the rental rates for community use of this pool were below rates for City pools and the University may be reviewing these going forward.

Beyond the capital required to re-open the pool, renovating the change rooms and improving accessibility to the pool are priorities, but are currently unfunded. It was also noted that the paid parking lots at Laurentian University may have discouraged certain user groups from using the pool to its fullest.

## 5.4 User Groups (Swim Clubs and School Boards)

Fourteen (14) swim clubs, user groups, and school boards were contacted to provide input through the workshop, with 10 groups directly providing input. Those who were unable to attend included Special Olympics Ontario, S.W.A.M. Sudbury, Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, and Sudbury Catholic District School Board.

**There are approximately  
520 swimmers  
registered with area swim  
clubs and school swim teams**

*Table 4: Swim Clubs and User Groups Participating in Stakeholder Workshops (2023)*

Organization	Reported Membership	Programs and Activities
Valley East Waves	51	Masters, Junior Waves, Competitive, Non-competitive, Fitness
Sudbury Master's Swimming	45	Masters
Sudbury Laurentian Swim Club	75	Competitive
Nickel City Aquatics	136	Masters, Competitive
ICAN	n/a	Aquatherapy
Sudbury Artistic Swim Club	30	Competitive, Masters, Aqua GO artistic swimming introduction, Non-competitive
Sudbury Developmental Services	400	Aquatherapy
Rainbow District School Board, CSC Nouvelon, Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario	180 (competitive), 700 (swim to survive)	Swim to survive, Competitive program

### Valley East Waves

The Valley East Waves Swim Club operates out of the Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre, providing both competitive and non-competitive programs for a range of age groups including the Junior Waves and Masters. The club has about 51 registrants in their club in 2023, with the number of junior members growing while the older youth participants have been decreasing. There has been a slight increase in the number of their Masters swimmers as well. Overall registration in recent years has remained generally the same despite these demographic shifts.

The Valley East Waves only use the HARC pool for all their programming. The group expressed concern about the state of infrastructure as 2 out of the 5 starting blocks are not currently functional and the facility has broken spectator seating which limits viewing capacity at this facility. Otherwise, the club believes that the HARC pool is suitable for their needs. Like several other groups, the club



also expressed a desire for the City to re-evaluate the fee structure, especially for morning swim times as these are not as well attended as afternoon/evening times.

Concerning beaches, with prolonged warmer weather, there was a suggestion that supervision at beaches be extended to the long weekend in September.

### Sudbury Master's Swimming

Sudbury Master's swimming is a swim program for adults (18+) that currently operates out of R.G. Dow Pool, providing programming to 45 members through two evening classes and 4 morning practices. The club used to use Laurentian University Pool for their program and to host Provincials. The club's registration levels have returned to normal, with the closing of Laurentian University Pool having initially reduced their membership the past couple years.

The R.G. Dow Pool has created limitations for the group as it is smaller than the University pool. Hours must be distributed differently to ensure that all swimmers have time to practice. Additionally, the club used to train both long and short course in their season depending on upcoming meets. With no opportunity to practice and experience long course training, this has limited the number of swimmers who attend long course meets. The club would like to see Greater Sudbury hold Provincial level swim meets again in the future, although it would be necessary for the Jenö Tihanyi Pool to reopen to do so.

### Sudbury Laurentian Swim Club

The Sudbury Laurentian Swim Club historically provided programming at the Laurentian University Pool, but are currently using R.G. Dow Pool, Nickel District Pool, and the Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre Pool. Training is provided 5 mornings and 3 afternoons each week. The club has about 75 swimmers currently, with their original registration being closer to 100 members a few years ago. This decline can be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closing of the University Pool which has contributed to a lack of space for all their members. The swim club used to rent 27 hours each week at the University Pool, which has changed to renting 33 hours a week across three separate smaller pools due to their smaller capacity.

In the past, the Laurentian University Pool used to host four club-sponsored regional championships a year. City pools do not meet the requirements to train officials and on-deck personnel, so these opportunities are much more limited. Additionally, starting blocks are not adequate for anything higher than novice level which is impacting the ability to attract new members.

The Sudbury Laurentian Swim Club noted the struggle of balancing younger swimmers with the older swimmers in afternoon times, as young children cannot make it to the early morning practices. This makes it difficult to allow all swimmers to practice and share a limited number of lanes. Another setback is that the City's pools are more expensive to rent than the Laurentian University pool was. Specifically, the club felt that fees for morning hours should be less as they are in lower demand.

A trend noted by the club is increased competition fees for its members, many of which travel to the Greater Toronto Area to attend swim competitions. With the team being spread out over three pools for practice, this also reduces the ability for members of all ages to bond and truly feel like a team by learning from and motivating each other during practice.

The club stated that an 8-lane competition pool is required to accommodate all user groups within their swim club. Given their age, the club felt that all municipal pools are outdated, and it is only a matter of time before they lose their functionality. It was suggested that the City consider a new properly-sized aquatic facility and remove older ones to improve financial sustainability.

## Nickel City Aquatics

Nickel City Aquatics is a competitive swim club with about 136 athletes ranging from 6 to 55 years old. They use approximately 26 hours of pool time at Gatchell Pool and 1 hour at R.G. Dow Pool weekly. Gatchell Pool hosts regional camps and 3 swim meets annually, bringing in around 130 visitors. Their swim club has a waiting list for youth 12 and below, showing a growing demand for younger children in competitive swimming.

With the high demand for use at Gatchell Pool, the equipment and infrastructure are degrading faster. Concerning swim times, morning slots are less used but it is not feasible to have young swimmers in during the day. This makes evening swims very busy and crowded. The club feels that its registration would be higher if they could spread out the timing of their swim slots to reduce the traffic in the pool. Finding consistent programming time can be a challenge from session to session. The club believes that Greater Sudbury would be able to host regional and Provincial competitions if the 50-metre University pool was reopened.

## Sudbury Artistic Swim Club

The Sudbury Artistic Swim Club has about 30 members at this time. They offer programs for those 4 and up including Masters swimming, Aqua GO artistic swimming introduction, recreational and competitive levels. Previous registration levels had been as high as 80 participants, but interest has been reduced due to both the pandemic and the closing of the Laurentian University Pool. The impact has been notable across most programs, especially their competitive stream.

The club used to use the University Pool but is now accessing R.G. Dow Pool for about 15 hours a week. Unfortunately, this pool does not provide any space for dryland training and the club has had to rent space off-site for their needs. The aging of infrastructure and equipment at R.G. Dow Pool has also created a challenge, as closures occur for maintenance which can interrupt their programming. The cost of morning swim times was also mentioned by this user group as being too expensive.

In terms of amenities, they would like to see, the Laurentian University sauna was noted as a value-added benefit that complements their programming. Additionally, the viewing area at HARC and the brightness of the facility was noted as a suggestion for other facilities.

## Independence Centre and Network (ICAN)

The Independence Centre and Network provides services such as aquatherapy programs for their clients with physical disabilities. The group uses Gatchell Pool on Tuesdays and Thursdays with approximately 8 clients per session and 2 support workers. This program has been running for over 10 years and had used the Sudbury YMCA pool in the past.

The ICAN representative noted that barriers to using certain aquatic facilities include accessibility issues within both buildings and pools. Additionally, their clients run on a set schedule requiring them to book transportation, swim times, and their personal support workers in advance. Travelling to a pool outside of the urban area of Sudbury (e.g., HARC) is difficult for the group.

When building new facilities, upgrading existing, or changing programming, the organization felt it was important to always keep in mind those with physical disabilities to ensure that they can be included and accommodated. There are not an equal number of opportunities available to them.

## Sudbury Developmental Services

Sudbury Developmental Services assists persons with developmental disabilities. The organization currently offer their services to approximately 400 adults, with one of those services being pool therapy. The times and pools used are dependent on the client. The agency used to use the therapy pool at Health Sciences North, but this is no longer available to outside users.

The organization indicated that access into aquatic facilities needs to be improved for accessibility. Gatchell Pool is the most accessible although it is still limited as it lacks private change rooms and adult changing tables. Consideration should also be given to installing rubber mats and addressing harsh lighting; there is also concern that breakable mirrors can create safety hazards.

The representative suggested that the City consider a new fully accessible facility supported by staff who are fully trained for people with developmental disabilities to ensure a completely inclusive environment for all. Such a facility would allow for more visitors and opportunities through Special Olympics Ontario as well. It was suggested that those with developmental disabilities should be directly involved in discussions around improvements to pools or the design of new pools – they have personal experiences that would be valuable to creating a more accessible and inclusive environment.

The group has clients that could benefit from splash pads, but was concerned about their ability to do so as there are signs indicating that they are not for use by people over the age of 12 years. For beaches, the group felt that the Bell Park change rooms are in need of updates and a more accessible route to the beach could be provided for those that cannot use the stairs.

## Area School Boards

There are four school boards within the Greater Sudbury area: Rainbow District School Board, Sudbury Catholic District School Board (did not participate), Conseil scolaire public du Grand Nord de l'Ontario, and CSC Nouvelon. Many area school boards access municipal pools for their Swim to Survive programs (approximately 700 Grade 3 students from 20 schools in 2022/23), which is funded through an annual grant. The Rainbow District School Board provides competitive swimming for their secondary school students (approximately 180 swimmers in 2022/23), hosting 3 championship meets annually, and practicing 3 days a week. These schools use City pools, which are accessed via the joint use arrangement. With 6 lanes, the Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre pool was used for swim meets, largely meeting needs; it would not be large enough however to host a provincial level meet such as OFSSA.

Swimming pools were identified as crucial assets for students, especially those requiring physical development and therapy. With the evolving needs of schools and the community, providing more accessibility features would enable teachers (including those at Jean Hanson Public School, which is attached to Gatchell Pool and provides programming for students who have developmental disabilities) to better support their students in the pool, change rooms, and in the facility overall. Parking was noted as a common constraint, although the Rainbow District School Board has plans to add more parking spaces at Jean Hanson/Gatchell Pool in 2024. Concerning services and programming, more fitness components were requested as well as expanding the swim to survive program to a broader age range.

The City and schools have worked together on various initiatives over the years and there is an openness to future collaboration. Some possibilities might include enhancing access for low-income children to participate in learn to swim programs, helping students to obtain their aquatic certifications to support employment with the City, of securing funding for shared initiatives.

## 5.5 City Council Members

Engagement with the City of Greater Sudbury Mayor and Council included individual and small group interviews. All 12 Council members and the Mayor were contacted to provide input through the interviews with the majority participating.

Common themes emerging from these discussions included:

- Learning to swim and having access to pools and beaches is critical for a city with 330 lakes;
- Partnerships with others are essential for supporting reinvestment or new facilities;
- Indoor pools cannot be provided in every community, so their locations must be strategic and recognize that residents will travel further for quality programs and spaces; and
- The proposed therapeutic pool should be large enough to be multi-purpose and include all demographics.

While individuals remain anonymous, below is an integrated summary of the key points that emerged from these consultations with City Council. Comments identified below may not be shared by all members of Council. This input will be used to support the Aquatic Service and Facility Review's strategic framework and needs assessments.

### Strengths and Accomplishments

- The **Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre** is a good example of a multi-use facility with many amenities such as the pool, track, squash, and fitness centre.
- Greater Sudbury has a **great number of lakes** to enjoy. We must ensure that we have aquatic facilities and programs to support those learning to swim so everyone can enjoy our lakes safely.
- **City staff** are **professional and friendly** when serving residents.
- **Splash pads** are valued amenities and are **well used** by the community.
- The **dispersal of aquatic services** in Greater Sudbury has been done well geographically – most residents have access to facilities within approximately a 20-minute drive.

### Trends, Challenges and Barriers

- **Affordability** is important as some residents face financial barriers when participating in aquatic activities.
- **Transportation** is a barrier for many, especially for services that cannot be offered in every community. Distance is not always the highest priority for residents – some residents will travel past a closer facility to access a different one, or will take longer routes if it provides for a safer drive.
- The population of Greater Sudbury is **aging**. This has led to greater demand for **senior-centric services**, including possibly a therapy pool.
- The City must consider the needs of **newcomers** who may not know how to swim safely in our lakes.
- The **available funding** for improvements or new infrastructure has been a constraint.
- **Swimming lessons** appear to be in high demand and quickly reach capacity.
- **Unsupervised beaches** are well used by residents. Many learn to swim in the lakes on their own if they do not have access to pools.

## Improvements to Aquatic Facilities and Services

- Enhancing **service and experience** for residents and visitors should be a main priority for the City of Greater Sudbury.
- Facilities should be **inclusive, accessible, and sustainable**. A focus on modernization of existing facilities is both a trend and **financial challenge**.
- **Aging infrastructure** of pools is becoming a concern. There needs to be a focus on investing or removing facilities based on physical assessments and available capital.
- There is interest and demand for a **therapy pool**, but it has to be larger and more comprehensive than the current proposed design in order to serve all age groups and a wider range of activities. Combining the therapy pool with a traditional swimming pool within one facility may provide better utilization.
- Every ward should have a **splash pad** if there is sufficient demand from residents. There have been requests for splash pads in the Four Corners area, Falconbridge, etc.
- To alleviate pressure on indoor pools, the option of providing **swimming lessons outdoors** in the lakes could be examined.
- The **value of supervising selected beaches** is not well understood and should be promoted.
- Permanent shelters at **supervised beaches** need to be upgraded for the lifeguards, staff, and public.
- **Kalmo Beach** would benefit greatly from the suggestions provided in the master plan, but external funds may be required to implement the plan.

## Funding and Partnering

- The **Laurentian University Pool** is a large economic driver for Greater Sudbury. To be identified as a hub for competitive swimming, investment into this pool is required, which may require the City to rationalize their overall provision of pools.
- The **Sudbury YMCA** is the newest pool in the City and is **centrally located** for residents. It is important that it remain available for residents.
- Splash pads can be expensive to construct, but a number have been supported by **grants or private investors**. Outside funding has been one way of enhancing service levels across the City.

## 5.6 City Staff

The consulting team facilitated two sessions with City of Greater Sudbury staff, capturing input from approximately 23 staff members. Below is an integrated summary of the input received from these sessions. This input will be used to support the Aquatic Service and Facility Review's strategic framework and needs assessments.

### Trends and Benefits

- Aquatics facilities are essential to **promote active living and vibrancy** in the community. Health and safety programming is necessary to ensure that **newcomers** can learn how to swim and know where it is safe to do so.
- **Families** are drawn most to the City's beaches and splash pads. Bell Park is one of the main summer tourist attractions for visitors.
- Free swimming times and reasonably priced lessons provide **equitable and affordable access** to aquatic opportunities. The school-based swim to survive program has also been effective.

- Registering **online** for aquatic services has been successful and can be a gateway for people to access other City services and programs.
- **Demand** is growing for aquacise programs, pre- and post-rehab activities, programs for persons with disabilities, private swim lessons, and adult lessons, especially post-COVID. Participation in recreational swimming times has stagnated and may be partially affected by the lack of age-specific swim times (e.g., families and seniors are sometimes hesitant to use the pool at the same time as youth).
- There are requests for **new programming (e.g., aqua yoga, ninja courses, etc.)**, but it is challenging to find the time and resources to offer these. The size and design of existing pools also limits the ability to accommodate new program types.
- **Pools are well used.** Many of the City pools have had to expand operating hours on Sundays to accommodate programming needs. Core hours have been restricted for programming throughout the week, as time is also required for swim clubs who originally were using Laurentian University pool for their needs.
- There is demand from French school boards and French-speaking families to provide **swim programming in French**.
- Communities in outlying areas of Greater Sudbury still discuss **amalgamation** and its impacts, especially where localized service level changes are being considered.

### Indoor Pools

- All pools would benefit from **upgrades to change rooms** such as lockers and showers, new diving boards or starting blocks, and **accessibility upgrades**.
- Most pools **lack activity space** for birthday parties, meetings, dryland training, etc.,
- Several pools are experiencing increased **repair and renewal requirements** related to items such as roofs, mechanical systems, etc.
- The City should continue **working collaboratively with partners** to look at the entire aquatics system and find ways to maximize benefit to the community.
- A **multi-tank and multi-use facility** could provide residents with all of their programming and recreational needs in one location. Multiple tanks provide for different water temperatures and a wider variety of programming.
- Many capital construction or renewal projects require **funding from other sources**, such as senior levels of government. A new pool facility will **compete for capital funding** with other projects such as affordable housing and other municipal priorities. The City is implementing a multi-year capital budget for the first time in 2024.
- The review should consider where **population growth** is expected to occur and prioritize investments in geographic areas that are accessible to residents.

### Beaches and Splash Pads

- Splash pads are part of the hot weather response plan for Greater Sudbury. As the City experiences high temperatures for longer seasons, consideration may be given to **extending the splash pad season**, although staff capacity needs to be taken into account.
- Given the City's CEEP goals, it may be prudent to review the opportunity for **grey water usage of splash pads**. The upfront capital may be higher but it will save on expenses in the longer term.
- The provision and maintenance of **park washrooms** is critical to supporting both beaches and splash pads. The lack of an adequate washroom can be a barrier for those who want to use these venues.



- There may be opportunities to provide **rental equipment** and **programming (e.g., swim lessons) at supervised beaches**. Those unable to access pools and their programming (lack of finances or transportation) may find value in similar programs provided at waterfronts.
- **Upgraded lifeguard towers/chairs and buildings** require upgrades to keep staff safe and comfortable when providing their services. Ventilation and cooling are required especially with the increasing effects of climate change such as forest fires and heat emergencies.

## 6. What We Heard – Preliminary Findings

Key findings from this What We Heard Report are summarized below. Identifying these themes will allow for further consideration through the Aquatic Review process.

- 1. Learning how to swim is an essential skill for all residents of Greater Sudbury.** There are 330 lakes in Greater Sudbury, which provide both a unique opportunity and risk for residents and visitors who enjoy them. With a growing population of newcomers, their swimming skills and knowledge of local lakes may not be comparable to long-time residents. Learning how to swim is crucial for all to enjoy the lakes and pools in a safe manner.
- 2. Updates to indoor pools are recognized as a high priority due to aging infrastructure.** With all municipal pool facilities being at or near the end of their lifespan, residents and user groups are highly aware of what is not working and what barriers are present. Satisfaction levels are lowest for the City's oldest pools. 92% of survey respondents agreed that upgrades to indoor pools should be a high priority for City Council and community providers, with 82% specifically indicating that upgraded change rooms (e.g., lockers, benches, showers) are a key area for improvement. The ability to offer warm-water activities and barrier-free spaces were also identified as priorities.
- 3. Travel time and distance to indoor aquatic facilities is reasonable for the majority of residents.** While Greater Sudbury covers a large geographical area, but 83% of residents agreed that travel time to facilities was reasonable. Many families who participate in sports understand and are aware of the need to travel across the city to participate in activities.
- 4. Residents want more program availability, especially swimming lessons.** Additional swimming lessons was the top open-ended response when asked about offerings at indoor pools. Residents explained their concerns about not getting their kids into swimming lessons as registration becomes full soon after it opens. Other requests include more sessions for lane swims, family swims, and aquacise classes.
- 5. There is interest in warm water tanks for recreational and therapeutic uses for people of all ages and abilities.** With an aging population and increasing interest in aquatic fitness, the demand for warm water activities and facilities has followed. Younger children, families, and persons with disabilities also find warm water tanks useful for recreational play over the colder traditional tanks generally suited for sports and training. 71% of survey respondents said that warm water and therapeutic activities were important to them. The City's proposed therapeutic pool has an opportunity to provide these warm water needs for the community, but many believe that the vision should be bigger and broader than what is currently planned.
- 6. Having barrier-free spaces and quality support amenities are essential to the experience at splash pads and supervised beaches.** Shade structures, benches, change rooms, water bottle filling stations, and washrooms are all amenities that complement outdoor uses such as splash pads and supervised beaches. Through the survey, residents mentioned that not having these supporting amenities were barriers to accessing these aquatic facilities as often as they would like. Without them, residents are unable to enjoy these spaces for long periods of time, especially for seniors and young children who often require access to washrooms more frequently.

- 7. Community providers want to collaborate with the City to provide indoor aquatic services.** Laurentian University has historically provided aquatic services through its Olympic sized pool to both residents and visitors of Greater Sudbury, but the facility closed in 2020 due to the pandemic and crucial repairs are needed for it to re-open. The community and user groups have indicated that re-opening this pool is a top priority, not only to provide more capacity, but also to accommodate athletic training opportunities and host regional and provincial-level competitions.

Additionally, the YMCA of Northeastern Ontario provides aquatic services within the urban core of Greater Sudbury. This is the newest pool in the City, although it is not regulation length for competitive swimming purposes. The YMCA operators out of the Centre for Life, which is based shared with the City and the YMCA has indicated that their operation is financially unsustainable under the current model.

# Appendix A: Community Survey Results

The full community survey results are provided on the following pages.

**Area of Residence and Key Demographics**

1) Are you a resident of Greater Sudbury?

	#	%
Yes	893	99%
No	10	1%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>100%</b>

2) To which community do you live closest?

	#	%
Azilda	31	3%
Bleazard Valley	5	1%
Capreol	7	1%
Chelmsford	46	5%
Coniston	6	1%
Copper Cliff	16	2%
Dowling	58	6%
Falconbridge	5	1%
Garson	38	4%
Hanmer	49	5%
Levack	33	4%
Lively	84	9%
McCrea Heights	0	0%
Naughton	10	1%
Onaping	35	4%
Sudbury	413	46%
Val Caron	18	2%
Val Therese	5	1%
Wahnapiatae	9	1%
Whitefish	13	1%
Other	12	1%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>893</b>	<b>100%</b>
skipped question	10	

3) If you do not live in Greater Sudbury, where do you live?  
(open-ended)

	#
Cartier	3
Elliot Lake	1
Espanola	1
Kirkland Lake	1
Sault Ste Marie	1
West Nipissing	1
Windy Lake	2
<b>answered question</b>	<b>10</b>
skipped question	893

4) How many people live in your household, including yourself? What are their ages?

	# of House-holds	% of House-holds	# of People	% of People	2021 Census (Pop)
under the age of 20	512	57%	949	33%	21%
between the ages of 20 and 39	421	47%	677	24%	25%
between the ages of 40 and 59	438	49%	724	26%	26%
age 60 or over	291	32%	487	17%	28%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>899</b>		<b>2,837</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>
persons per household	3.2				
skipped question	4				

5) In what year were you born?

	#	%
Prior to 1950 (74 yrs or older)	55	6%
1950 to 1959 (64 to 73 yrs)	123	14%
1960 to 1969 (54 to 63 yrs)	122	14%
1970 to 1979 (44 to 53 yrs)	159	18%
1980 to 1989 (34 to 43 yrs)	294	34%
1990 to 1999 (24 to 33 yrs)	109	12%
2000 or later (23 yrs or younger)	13	1%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>100%</b>
skipped question	28	
Average Year	1975	
Average Age	48	

**Indoor Pools**

6) Please identify the publicly operated indoor pools in Greater Sudbury you and/or members of your household used within the past four years. (Select all that apply)

	#	%
I/we have not used any pools	35	4%
Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre Pool	243	27%
Gatchell Pool	353	39%
Nickel District Pool	244	27%
Onaping Pool	185	21%
R.G. Dow Pool	313	35%
Laurentian University Pool	185	21%
Sudbury YMCA Pool	321	36%
Other private, fitness club, or hotel indoor pools	9	1%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>898</b>	
skipped question	5	

7) In a typical year, how frequently do you and members of your household visit these indoor pools? (Select one only)

	#	%
1 to 5 times per year	111	13%
6 to 10 times per year	75	9%
11 to 20 times per year	146	17%
21 to 30 times per year	121	14%
More than 30 times per year	415	48%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>868</b>	<b>100%</b>
skipped question	35	



8) Tell us why you and/or members of your household use these indoor pools? (Select all that apply)

	#	%
Recreational, drop-in swimming (free play/fun)	519	59%
Swim lessons	415	47%
Aquatic fitness program (such as aquafitness)	278	31%
Lane Swimming	274	31%
Swim team or club activities	108	12%
Rehabilitation or therapy	95	11%
Diving	12	1%
Pool rental (e.g., birthday parties, etc.)	144	16%
Other	33	4%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>886</b>	
skipped question	17	

9) Are there any additional programs you would like to see offered at the City's indoor pools? (open-ended)

Top responses	#
Additional swim lessons	40
Additional lane swims, morning and evening	20
Additional free public and family swims	15
Aquacise, evenings and weekends	12
Diving lessons	10
Swim survival and lifeguard programs	8
Water polo	6
Aqua zumba	5
Adult swimming lessons	4
Scuba diving	4
<b>answered question</b>	<b>243</b>
skipped question	660

10) Which of the following indoor pools have you and/or a member of your household used the most since 2019, prior to the onset of the pandemic? (Select only one)

	#	%
Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre Pool	101	12%
Gatchell Pool	132	15%
Nickel District Pool	127	15%
Onaping Pool	155	18%
R.G. Dow Pool	117	13%
Laurentian University Pool	71	8%
Sudbury YMCA Pool	147	17%
Other	22	3%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>872</b>	<b>100%</b>
skipped question	31	

11) Thinking about the indoor pools in Greater Sudbury that you use most often, select your level of agreement with the following statements.

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree		Don't Know/ Not Applicable		Answered		Skipped
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
The time it takes me to travel to this facility is reasonable	56	6%	78	9%	347	38%	404	45%	18	2%	903	100%	0
This facility has the features and amenities I need	48	5%	110	12%	438	49%	283	31%	24	3%	903	100%	0
The facility offers quality programming that suits my needs	33	4%	110	12%	438	49%	268	30%	54	6%	903	100%	0
This facility is in good condition overall	86	10%	233	26%	404	45%	151	17%	29	3%	903	100%	0
This facility should be updated or expanded	23	3%	112	12%	273	30%	422	47%	73	8%	903	100%	0
This facility is clean and well maintained	34	4%	148	16%	465	51%	224	25%	32	4%	903	100%	0
I feel safe at this facility	15	2%	50	6%	447	50%	358	40%	33	4%	903	100%	0
This facility is welcoming to all members of the community	19	2%	36	4%	409	45%	391	43%	48	5%	903	100%	0
This facility is too crowded and busy	65	7%	421	47%	236	26%	115	13%	66	7%	903	100%	0
The hours of operation at this facility are acceptable	48	5%	168	19%	488	54%	154	17%	45	5%	903	100%	0
The cost to use the facility is acceptable	27	3%	119	13%	527	58%	190	21%	40	4%	903	100%	0

12) What typically prevents you from using indoor pools in Greater Sudbury as often as you would like? (Select all that apply)

	#	%
Nothing prevents me from using the pools as often as I would like	325	37%
Members of my household are not interested in swimming	16	2%
There are members of my household who do not know how to swim	26	3%
We are too busy	87	10%
We have health issues or a disability	28	3%
It is too expensive	88	10%
Pools are located too far from home / lack transportation to get to them	118	13%
Programs are too hard to get into / cannot get the programs I want	200	23%
Pools are not designed or maintained to my expectations	75	8%
Hours are not adequate for my household	216	24%
We are not satisfied with lifeguarding, instructors and/or customer service	34	4%
Pools are too busy or crowded	169	19%
Pools are not accessible to persons with disabilities	15	2%
I do not have information on pool programs and options	42	5%
I prefer to swim elsewhere (beach, backyard pools, fitness clubs, in other cities, etc.)	46	5%
Other	83	9%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>885</b>	
skipped question	18	

13) If the City of Greater Sudbury was to improve its indoor pools, how important would the following activities and features be to you and /or your household?

	Very Unimportant		Unimportant		Important		Very Important		Don't Know/ Not Applicable		Answered		Skipped
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Deep water for diving	139	16%	296	34%	243	28%	139	16%	50	6%	<b>867</b>	<b>100%</b>	36
Warm water, therapeutic activities	72	8%	149	17%	393	44%	241	27%	32	4%	<b>887</b>	<b>100%</b>	16
Special needs/accessibility features	81	9%	160	19%	341	40%	180	21%	101	12%	<b>863</b>	<b>100%</b>	40
Water slide	189	22%	306	36%	236	27%	88	10%	41	5%	<b>860</b>	<b>100%</b>	43
50-metre length	90	10%	320	37%	203	23%	203	23%	50	6%	<b>866</b>	<b>100%</b>	37
Beach entry	115	13%	335	39%	229	27%	83	10%	93	11%	<b>855</b>	<b>100%</b>	48
Interactive spray features in the pool	201	23%	398	46%	130	15%	49	6%	83	10%	<b>861</b>	<b>100%</b>	42
On-deck viewing area	84	10%	172	20%	345	40%	217	25%	41	5%	<b>859</b>	<b>100%</b>	44
Upgraded change rooms	49	6%	90	10%	364	42%	349	40%	23	3%	<b>875</b>	<b>100%</b>	28

14) Are there any other activities or features you feel would be important if the City was to improve its indoor pools? (open-ended)

Top Responses	#
Upgrade lockers and showers	35
Cleanliness and maintenance	35
Update change rooms	35
Open Laurentian Pool	27
50-metre pool	25
Hot tubs and saunas	21
Warmer water	20
Family change rooms	15
Accessibility	15
Bathing suit spinners	12
<b>answered question</b>	<b>392</b>
skipped question	511

**Beaches and Supervised Waterfronts**

15) Please identify the publicly supervised beaches in Greater Sudbury you and/or members of your household have used within the past four years. (Select all that apply)

	#	%
I/we have not used any beaches	275	33%
Bell Park Main Beach	387	47%
Capreol Public Beach	25	3%
Centennial Park Beach	45	5%
Kalmo Beach	80	10%
Moonlight Beach	305	37%
Nepawhin Beach	190	23%
Whitewater Lake Park	124	15%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>827</b>	
skipped question	76	

**16) In a typical year, how frequently do you and members of your household visit these supervised beaches? (Select only one)**

	#	%
1 to 5 times per year	450	64%
6 to 10 times per year	137	20%
11 to 20 times per year	62	9%
More than 20 times per year	50	7%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>100%</b>
skipped question	204	

**17) Tell us why you and/or members of your household use City of Greater Sudbury supervised beaches. (Select all that apply)**

	#	%
It is a fun and relaxing activity	408	59%
To cool down on hot days	405	59%
It is an affordable activity	377	55%
To hang out with friends and family	290	42%
Part of an organized activity, such as camp	49	7%
To develop swimming skills	83	12%
For exercise	168	24%
Other	72	10%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>691</b>	
skipped question	212	

**18) Aside from inclement weather, please indicate what would typically prevent you from using the City's beaches as often as you would like. (Select all that apply)**

	#	%
Nothing prevents me from using City beaches	253	33%
Members of my household are not interested in using City beaches	60	8%
We are too busy	74	10%
City beaches are located too far from home/lack of transportation to get to them	102	13%
City beaches are too busy or crowded	169	22%
City beaches are not designed or maintained to my expectations	142	18%
City beaches lack sufficient parking	65	8%
City beaches lack adequate washrooms	122	16%
City beaches lack shade	159	21%
City beaches lack seating areas	126	16%
City beaches are not accessible for persons with disabilities	27	4%
City beaches lack water bottle filling stations	110	14%
City beaches lack rentals (e.g., water toys, paddleboards, umbrellas, etc.)	99	13%
We are not satisfied with lifeguarding, instructors and/or customer service	18	2%
City beaches do not offer enough programming (water or land-based options)	41	5%
City beaches lack adequate information on water quality conditions	69	9%
Other	151	20%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>770</b>	
skipped question	133	

**Splash Pads**

19) Please identify the publicly operated splash pads in Greater Sudbury you and/or members of your household have used within the past four years. (Select all that apply)

	#	%
I/we have not used any splash pads	327	40%
Adelie Splash Pad	36	4%
Capreol Splash Pad/Doug Mohns Park	13	2%
Cote Park Splash Pad	75	9%
DJ Hancock Memorial Park Splash Pad	147	18%
Delki Dozzi Splash Pad	35	4%
Garson Splash Pad/ Lion's Park	28	3%
Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre Splash Pad	63	8%
Kinsmen Sports Complex Splash Pad	72	9%
Memorial Park Splash Pad	8	1%
Morel Family Foundation Park Splash Pad	99	12%
O'Connor Playground Splash Pad	6	1%
Onaping Community Centre Splash Pad	110	14%
Ridgecrest Playground Splash Pad	59	7%
Twin Forks Playground Splash Pad	44	5%
Victory Park Splash Pad	21	3%
Westmount Playground Splash Pad	72	9%
Whitewater Lake Splash Pad	52	6%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>811</b>	
skipped question	92	

20) In a typical year, how frequently do you and members of your household visit these splash pads? (Select only one)

	#	%
1 to 5 times per year	361	64%
6 to 10 times per year	134	24%
11 to 20 times per year	41	7%
More than 20 times per year	29	5%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>100%</b>
skipped question	338	

21) Why do you and/or members of your household use splash pads? (Select all that apply)

	#	%
It is a fun and relaxing activity	320	57%
To cool down on hot days	382	68%
It is an affordable activity	332	59%
To hang out with friends and family	208	37%
Part of an organized activity, such as camp	49	9%
It complements other park spaces, such as playgrounds	215	38%
Other	54	10%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>564</b>	
skipped question	339	

22) What would typically prevent you from using the City's splash pads as often as you would like. (Select all that apply)

	#	%
Nothing prevents me from using splash pads	348	51%
Members of my household are not interested in using splash pads	80	12%
My household does not include young children	72	11%
Splash pads are located too far from home/lack of transportation to get to them	44	6%
We prefer to swim	96	14%
We are too busy	25	4%
Splash pads are not designed or maintained to my expectations	21	3%
Splash pads are too busy or crowded	46	7%
Splash pads lack sufficient parking	9	1%
Splash pads lack adequate washrooms	94	14%
Splash pads lack shade	104	15%
Splash pads lack seating areas	76	11%
Splash pads lack nearby amenities, such as playgrounds	3	0%
Splash pads are not accessible for persons with disabilities	3	0%
Other	45	7%
<b>answered question</b>	<b>678</b>	
skipped question	225	

**Additional Comments**

23) How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly Disagree		Disagree		Agree		Strongly Agree		Don't Know/ Not Applicable		Answered		Skipped
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Indoor pools are important to my household's quality of life	20	2%	31	3%	266	30%	556	63%	16	2%	<b>889</b>	<b>100%</b>	14
Upgrades to indoor pools should be a high priority for City Council and community providers	11	1%	39	4%	305	34%	517	58%	16	2%	<b>888</b>	<b>100%</b>	15
Supervised beaches are important to my household's quality of life	63	7%	219	25%	325	37%	168	19%	97	11%	<b>872</b>	<b>100%</b>	31
Upgrades to supervised beaches should be a high priority for City Council	55	6%	220	25%	315	36%	168	19%	107	12%	<b>865</b>	<b>100%</b>	38
Splash pads are important to my household's quality of life	127	15%	225	26%	253	29%	135	16%	125	14%	<b>865</b>	<b>100%</b>	38
Upgrades to splash pads should be a high priority for City Council	107	12%	250	29%	261	30%	116	13%	130	15%	<b>864</b>	<b>100%</b>	39

24) Share any additional comments regarding aquatic facilities and services in Greater Sudbury. (Open-ended)

<b>Top Responses</b>	<b>#</b>
Upgrade and modernize pool facilities	40+
Reopen Laurentian Pool	33
Aquatic facility in Azilda/Lively area	20
Safer and cleaner beaches	10
Shade and seating at splash pads	9
Reduce fees for families and seniors	7
Fix website registration difficulties	5
<b>answered question</b>	<b>312</b>
skipped question	591



# Appendix B: Record of Input from Pop-Up Engagements

Detailed below are the comments received through the eight pop-up engagement sessions held in August 2023 to solicit input to improvements to indoor pools, supervised beaches, and splash pad facilities in Greater Sudbury.

## Indoor Pools

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All pools should be salt water, cheaper, lasts longer and is better for clothing and skin (x2)

Another indoor pool

Aquacise and aquatherapy classes are too large, think 15 would be better

Aquacise on weekends

Bring back boot camp and evening sessions to suit working people's needs

Change rooms could be bigger (Nickel District)

Do daily verified cleaning of all washrooms in community centre, sheet is marked done but still left dirty for days

Drive to Espanola pool from Lively rather than Copper Cliff or Gatchell, pool is nicer/better quality less busy and more toddler friendly with the beach access style pool

Free swims

Good services at YMCA but much more affordable at City pools

If numbers of participants allows for more programming, then more hours should be allotted

Improvements to Nickel District pool, parking lot potholes (x3)

Maintain and adequately clean building, currently not done (Onaping)

Marketing team needs to have dedicated Facebook pages for each site with scheduled time posts (x2)

More class options and open swims

More comfortable bleachers at Gatchell

More hours at the Onaping pool and family swims (x2)

Need a bigger pool in Nickel District area

New full facility would be best

Nickel District is outdated, change rooms need work and twice the amount of programming

Nickel District lockers need to be upgraded

Not enough room in viewing area (Nickel District)

Please upgrade plumbing and change rooms at Gatchell pool, more suitable footwear storage options would also be welcomed as currently the entrance is crowded and a tripping hazard (x2)

---

Student discounts for classes both for adults and teens

Swim times not inclusive for families, change rooms need wider benches for people to use, clean the change rooms

The Onaping CC is not in a condition that looks like the City is interested in keeping this facility, pool staff are amazing, but not the maintenance

The Onaping pool should have better signage so more people are aware of it, more family swims

Water slide park

Website hard to see pool program times (x2)

Wider lockers in change rooms

## Supervised Beaches

---

Accessible ramp and chairs

Algae skimmer for mud – Simon and McCharles Lakes

Awareness of how to reduce impact on water quality/blue-green algae

Azilda is terrible for a swim area, very small

Clean up beaches

Cleaning of the algae in the water at Simon Lake (x2)

Get rid of goose poop

Maintain algae levels

No more day-pass of the water treatment plants in Naughton and Sudbury

Not enough City beaches, have to pay for provincial park pass

Publicize hours open to the public

Security to make it safer

Updated park at Whitewater Lake beach area

## Splash Pads

---

6<sup>th</sup> Avenue needs a splash pad

A splash pad our kids can walk to, more local (Lively)

Features at splash pads are always evolving, some southern Ontario pads are very creative, ours seem simple and could be updated as years go on

There should be more splash pads in general, too far from our home

We need more than the cookie cutter splash pad with 3 sprayers

Whitefish/Beaver Lake needs a splash pad

## How do Aquatic Services make a difference in your life?

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Better quality of life for all

Good exercise for all ages, great community activity

Helps families cool off in the heat

Helps me be less afraid of water

Keeps me fit at an affordable cost

Learning to swim makes me water safe, this helps me make wise decisions about water

Need skills to swim, we are close to Windy Lake

Pool is very important to the community, young and old, now and in the future

Pools and lifeguards save lives

Pools are my physio, mind and body, my back needs a pool

Provides a place to learn to swim

Social environment for children and adults

Swimming lessons save lives, Onaping surrounded by water, lifeguards make sure all patrons know how to stay safe around all water

## Other Comments

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Aquatic services funding should be prioritized for pools, splash pads and beaches are wonderful amenities but neither are accessible year-round, and neither offer swim lessons throughout the year, swim lessons are a crucial life-saving skill that protect the most vulnerable people from accidental tragedy in our many abundant surrounding natural bodies of water

It is the job of our society to protect the most vulnerable, even if it means incurring an additional expense, the Onaping pool keeps generations of vulnerable children safe, if the pool were only a therapy pool, or if it were closed, our children would have to travel 40 minutes, this is an unacceptable reality, no matter the cost this opportunity must be available to future generations

Onaping pool hours have changed over the last 10 years, this has meant less access to family swims, the hours also limit the opportunity for families to engage in lessons because the window of opportunity for hours is very small, if given a choice between no pool, I would certainly choose a pool with limited hours

Please choose a time when more people can attend these lessons

Re-loadable gift cards (leisure)

Website needs work

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Detailed notes were also taken at each pop-up engagement session during conversations with the public. These comments are provided below.

## Anderson Farm Museum

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Adult size splash pad or water park

Beaches in Lively and Walden needed

Closed pool used to have a good facility for seniors

Copper Cliff no hours work for kids after work hours

Gatchell pool needs to stay open for special Olympics, make sure athletes can access public transit for any special Olympic events

Lambton park in Barrie and Hillcrest splash pad reference

Lively needs aquatics for kids

Pool in Lively (x2)

Senior programming for pool

Swim teams would encourage teen events

Transit could be an issue for people looking to get to facilities

Troubles with children passing swimming lessons, did 3 times and fails sections previously passed, moved to YMCA now

Used to use YMCA but don't like going downtown

Very friendly staff

Whitefish/Beau lake for splash pad

## Howard Armstrong Recreation Centre

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6am or 7am lane swims wanted

A lot of new seniors coming to the area so demand for programs will rise

A pool in Azilda would be nice

Aquafit 10am too many registrants

Beaches are inaccessible

Bigger family washroom

Cold water pools

Could use more handicap spots at HARC

Could use some clean up around splash pad on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue

Deep-end aquafit more needed

Instructors and front desk staff are excellent

Like the learn to swim programs, better organized and supervised

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Love the splash pads and beaches  
May need to increase shallow end classes  
More hours in the morning for seniors, do not like afternoon  
More lane swims and aquacise  
No urinal in the mens change room  
Not enough hours, there are waitlists for programs  
Not enough space in change rooms, can't change in washrooms as the stalls are too small  
People are showing up late and leaving class early to sign up for aquacise next week, issue with registration and too many people trying to join  
Privacy in change rooms needed, better showers, slippery on tiles, more bathrooms for women  
Small mens change room  
Staff work together and listen to the users well  
Suggestion to make aquacise classes smaller than 25  
Swimming helps improve health  
With other pool closures for maintenance, pressure is being put on this pool  
Would like a sauna in the change room

## Nickel District Pool

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Aquatherapy dropped from 3 to 2 days, would like 3 times a week back  
At end of school day there is an issue with traffic and exiting as buses block pool exit  
Early 30-minute lane swim needed  
Expand programming, need courses beyond lifeguarding for those who want to continue without getting a part-time job  
Fill holes in parking lot (x2)  
Keep the city beaches but not all need to be supervised just have clear signage  
Keep up with general maintenance in change rooms, some showers are unusable  
Lack of privacy in change rooms (x2)  
Like aquacise more in the afternoon 1-2pm timeframe  
Men's change room door bangs and is heavy  
Regulate water temperature of showers  
Should have a larger discount for senior fees  
Small parking lot  
Smaller class size for aquatherapy and aquacise, closer to 15 people  
Staff are excellent and happy  
Swimming should be mandatory in school curriculum

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This place is great, good accessibility, scheduling, would like to see automatic doors to improve accessibility and meet standards

Well used pool

Would like a consistent schedule

Would like more aquacise

YMCA has better change rooms, refer to their model

## **Garson Splash Pad**

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Barrier needed between splash pad and road for safety, cars speed here and kids might wander onto the road

Drainage is an issue in the park

Need shade

Really well used splash pad by schools and daycares in the area

Slow traffic around splash pad

## **Moonlight Beach**

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Bathrooms at the beach are okay

Bell Park and Kalmo beaches are too small, prefer Moonlight

Clean up the goose poop

Declining health due to closure of Laurentian

Do we need to provide all services at all pools or should they specialize? Have more hubs

Hours are not optimal at R.G. Dow, masters have to swim late at 9pm, would rather get up early

Like the water here because it is not too deep and it is clean

Masters swim out of Dow and Gatchell pool

More splash pads

Olympic style pool

Shade needed at the beach (x2)

Should offer swimming lessons in the lakes again

Swimming lessons hard to get into

Subsidies for low income families for aquatic facilities and for splash and go waterpark

Try to keep Laurentian open

Try to control the geese at the beach

Would rather see a few great pools than a lot of old pools

## Onaping Splash Pad

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Advertise pool more, not just online sources

Aquacise courses need more

Bathroom needed besides a port-a-potty or have community centre open to use their bathroom

Boot camp in the pool used to be a program, would like that back

Cannot close pool, would be too long of a drive elsewhere

Demographic profile of the area is changing, lots of children and families are coming to the area as they can't afford to live in Sudbury

Earlier and extended hours

Excellent staff here at Onaping pool

Good family outing to the pool, good for all ages

Great for health

Hallway between the library and pool should be open so you don't have to walk around outside to access

Have the provincial park for a beach

Hours have decreased so less recreational swims

Keep the pool for kids to use

Kids swimming lessons fill up fast (x2)

Make the pool wheel chair accessible

More hair dryers or outlets in change rooms

Not enough hours

Not great to be open all summer as it gets too hot for staff in pool area and not good ventilation

People love the splash pad, come here for a picnic

Pool is a staple of this community

Pool should be open in May, year-round, open in the summer

Public transit is not an option to go elsewhere

Simplify website to easily narrow search to specific pools

Splash pad is well used

Standardized schedule

Swimming lessons in the lake wanted

Windy lake need a pass to use the beach, should be free or at least have a free beach in this area to use



## Whitewater Lake Park

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Algae problem at the waterfront

Aquacise on the weekends

Community hub for all facility needs

Copper Cliff pool is too expensive, making people change pools, would like more standardized pricing

Don't have a pool here so there is no swimming culture

Enjoy going swimming, like the staff

Feel left behind, spend more on parks such as Bell Park than here

Huge benefit for health

More shade needed at this beach

Repair the dock

Slope down to the beach, grading issue

Splash pad here is simple

Thunder Bay splash pad reference, would like to see something similar here

## Bell Park Main Beach

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A lot of people use the beach

Beach used to be lively with people, now geese taken over

City is too cautious about algae, not that harmful

Consult with Nickel District Conservation Authority

Geese and poop everywhere

Gatchell needs some aesthetic maintenance updates to be more inviting and welcoming

Hours at Gatchell are fine

More picnic tables to sit as ground is too dirty

Need to control the geese

Used to have a dog patrol here to scare geese but may have stopped

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# Appendix C: Record of Input from Online Resources

## 'Over To You' Engagement Portal

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- Elderly people have a tough time getting into Sudbury. Plus it adds pollution by driving all the way there. Let us keep what we have, we should be on our own, give us back our town.
- Supervised distance swim in Ramsey: A City led and supervised lake distance swim across the lake or from the old Canoe Club to the furthest non supervised beach. Could be for recreation or make it a charity event.
- Expanding population, climate change, and tourism are all aligning for the City of build a landmark splash pad, think Scarborough's Kidstown. We need to build a free, truly epic splash pad
- Build a kids playground at the Lionel E. Lalonde Centre in the field near the soccer fields/track.
- Sudbury needs a new indoor pool facility that has a small kiddie pool with a beach type access, this pool would be a warmer temperature. See ideas like the John Rhodes centre in Sault Ste. Marie. This should be incorporated in a community centre that hosts multiple activities for families (pool, area, gym, and restaurant all in one location) and preferable where this is parking access and it is safe (not downtown)
- Limited daily aquacise classes should be offered at Nickel District pool. Getting out of lot after a 1pm class is a nightmare and not enough parking. Not meeting needs of people using pool