

Nakusp Waterfront Master Plan

What We Heard Report

Version 1.2

June 24, 2025



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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nakusp Waterfront Master Plan aims to enhance and revitalize the waterfront area of Nakusp, a scenic village on Upper Arrow Lake known for its natural beauty and strong community connection to the waterfront. The project focuses on improving the waterfront's infrastructure, accessibility, and overall appeal to both residents and visitors.

The Master Plan process is currently in the beginning phases of public engagement, with the first public open house taking place on May 22, 2025, where community members shared their ideas and priorities. Key themes that emerged from the feedback include:

- The need for event and gathering spaces.
- Improved maintenance and landscaping.
- Better accessibility, trails, and signage.
- Enhanced marina and waterfront facilities.

Specific suggestions from the community include the addition of an amphitheatre, splash park, improved beach access, and designated dog areas. There is also strong support for preserving the natural beauty of the area, including the Japanese Garden and other green spaces, while making targeted improvements to infrastructure and amenities.

The vision for the waterfront over the next ten years is to create a serene, accessible, and well-maintained space that honours Nakusp's heritage and natural surroundings. The goal is to provide a welcoming environment for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy, while balancing the need for development with the preservation of the area's unique charm and tranquility.

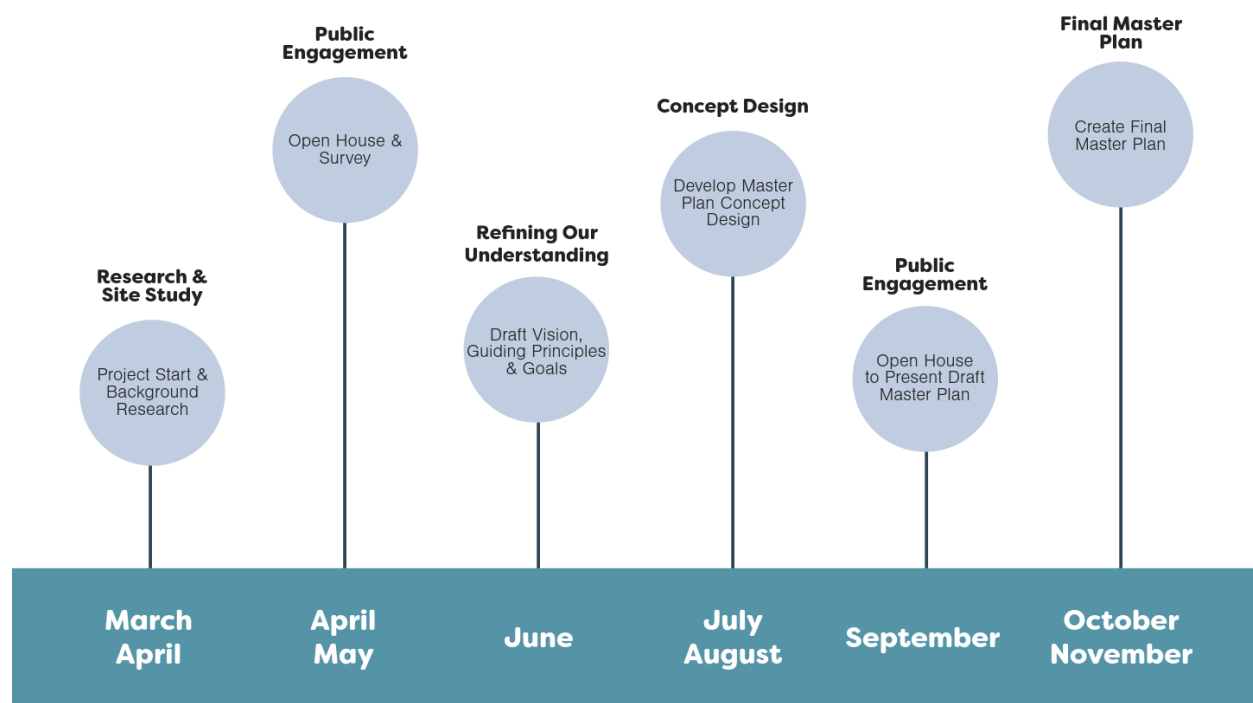
2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Nakusp, a scenic village on Upper Arrow Lake, is known for its stunning natural surroundings and strong connection to its waterfront. The waterfront area in the Village is a meaningful place for residents and a key attraction. The Waterfront Master Plan, will help the Village focus on enhancing and revitalizing this beloved community space which sees more people visiting the area each year.

The Master Plan will recognize the waterfront's context to ensure it better connects with surrounding areas. Through public engagement, the project team and Village staff will refine our understanding of the community's vision, goals, and objectives for the area. As the Master Plan is developed, the design will be confirmed with the community through further public engagement opportunities.

The aim of the project is to create a comprehensive plan that allows the Village to quickly respond to funding and grant opportunities as they arise. Securing grants and other funding with this plan will support the long-term improvement of the waterfront, through enhancing the area, and replacing aging infrastructure. Over subsequent years, the goal is to create community spaces that improve the waterfront's ability to provide enjoyment to residents and visitors alike.

3. PROJECT TIMELINE



4. SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Several themes arose from community feedback, with stronger support for some ideas, and opposition to others. Below is a summary of which ideas were heard most frequently vs. ideas which are less supported.

The main themes heard throughout public engagement include:

- the need for event and gathering spaces,
- better accessibility, trails, and signage,
- improved maintenance and landscaping, and
- enhanced marina and waterfront facilities.

4.1 Areas of Support

Event & Gathering Spaces

- This includes ideas such as an amphitheatre or stage, gazebo, firepits, and a splash park.

Better Accessibility to the Waterfront

- Better accessibility for wheelchairs, strollers, and mobility aids.
- More access points along the waterfront and beach.
- Signage that highlights stairways, access points, and available amenities

Improved Marina Amenities

- This includes ideas such as the addition of a gas dock, additional mooring, a wash station, paddlesport access and storage, and floating docks.

Improved Maintenance and Landscaping

- More general upkeep / updating and tree care.

4.2 Areas for Reconsideration

Community members expressed opposition to some of the ideas presented. This included:

- The addition of a platform swing received mixed support
- There was a strong sentiment against private developers or commercialization
- Mixed support for food services – some welcome the idea while others expressed concern over the potential impact on existing businesses
- Concerns were expressed about overdevelopment

- Saunas were perceived as unnecessary
- Playgrounds were perceived by some as unnecessary, with some support for naturalized play structures
- People prefer comfortable seating, with aversion towards log benches

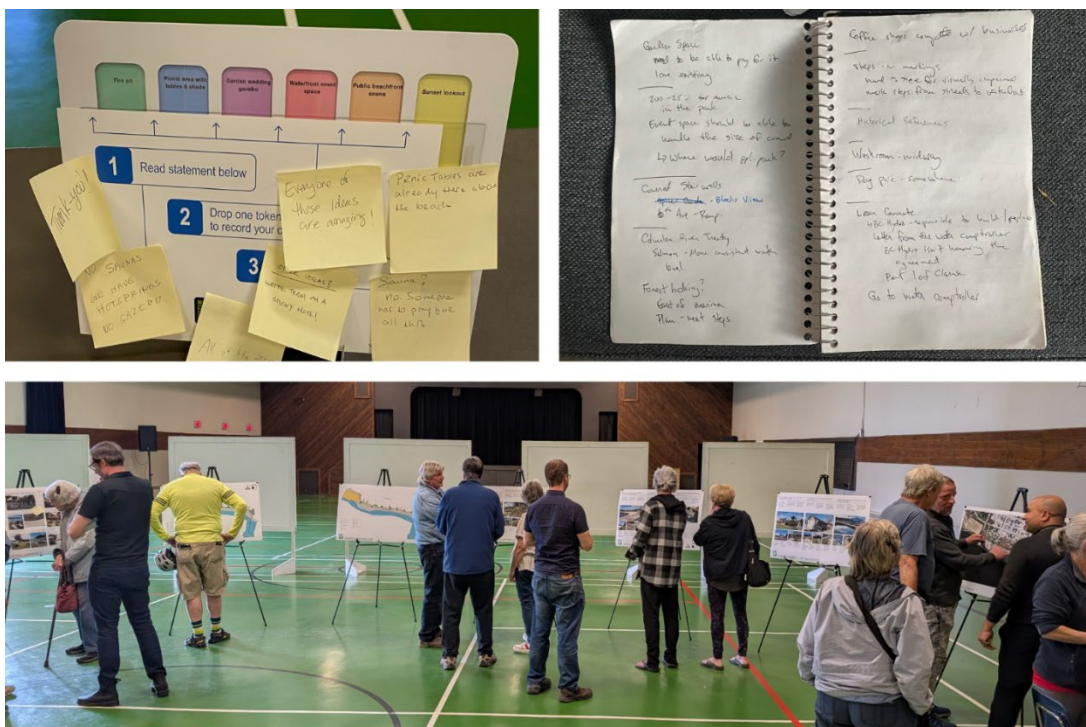
5. OPEN HOUSE

5.1 Overview

On May 22, 2025, the Village of Nakusp hosted a public open house from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Nakusp and District Community Complex. This event was an opportunity for community members to learn more about the Waterfront Master Plan process, review early observations from the project team, and share their own ideas and priorities for the future of the waterfront.

Interactive poster boards were set up around the room for participants to learn more and give feedback. Feedback Frames were also used to ask direct questions or share precedent imagery, allowing those in attendance to give specific feedback on areas of interest. Participants were invited to highlight areas that could be improved or better connected, providing valuable local insight to help shape the Master Plan. The community survey was also available at the event for those who wanted to give further feedback.

A prize draw was also available. To enter the draw, participants were asked to write down their “best idea for the waterfront.” Those ideas are summarized in the results below.



5.2 General Feedback

Several key themes came up arose through conversations, notes collected on the open house questions and draw entries. The following is a list of feedback heard, categorized by theme.

Event & Gathering Spaces (16 mentions)

- Amphitheatre / Stage – 3 mentions: For performances and public gatherings.
- Event Space (General) – 4 mentions: Capacity for 200–250 for events like 'Music in the Park.' Question raised about parking.
- Events Stage with Sound System – 2 mentions: Dedicated space with infrastructure for live events.
- Wedding Gazebo – 2 mentions: Aesthetic and functional venue for ceremonies.
- Firepits – 5 mentions: Requested in varying sizes for groups; one suggestion for winter toboggan use with firepit shelter.
- Platform Swing (Giant Porch Swing) – 2 mentions: Seen as whimsical and inviting by some; disliked by others.
- Splash Park – 3 mentions: Popular among families; comparisons made to Kitsilano and Trail splash parks.

Marina & Waterfront (16 mentions)

- Keep Marina Public – 3 mentions: Strong sentiment against private developers or commercialization.
- Gas Dock – 2 mentions
- Marina as Public Space – 1 mention
- Marina Wash Station – 1 mention: To prevent aquatic invasive species.
- Kayak / Paddleboard Access & Storage – 4 mentions: Includes year-round use and storage facilities.
- Extend Walkway to Island (East) – 1 mention
- Floating Docks – 1 mention
- Pier / Wharf with Lookout – 2 mentions: Public access and scenic views.
- Move Walkway to Marina – 1 mention: More direct alignment.
- Parking at Marina – 2 mentions: Some support moving washrooms to increase parking.

Nature & Landscaping (11 mentions)

- Improved Maintenance – 3 mentions: Includes general upkeep and tree care. An arborist was requested.
- Landscaping with Wildflowers – 1 mention: Below the railing for natural appeal.

- Manage Invasive Species – 2 mentions: Specific note: Marina wash station to clean boats.
- More Shade / Trees – 2 mentions: Suggestions to transplant large trees from Crown land due to wind vulnerability.
- Naturalized Play Area – 1 mention

Accessibility & Trails (10 mentions)

- Accessibility Improvements – 3 mentions: Including overall access and markings on stairs.
- Beach Access Mat / Ramp – 3 mentions: For water access by people with mobility issues.
- Widen Pathways / Grade Considerations – 2 mentions: Especially from Broadway.
- Connect to Trails West of Beach – 1 mention
- Visual Accessibility (Mirror) – 1 mention: Suggested mirror at 6th Ave/lakewalk junction for cyclist-pedestrian visibility.

Lighting & Signage (10 mentions)

- Boardwalk / Rail Lighting – 2 mentions: Include LED options (Rotary 2018).
- Lighting – 3 mentions: Support for existing lighting – ensure if improvements are made, lighting is directed downwards and does not flood the surrounding area.
- Wayfinding Maps / Signs – 3 mentions: For directing visitors from main streets.
- Event Board / Signage – 1 mention: To display seasonal activities.
- Better Signage from Broadway – 1 mention

Food & Vendors (8 mentions)

- Food Service (Summer/Night) – 3 mentions: Mixed feedback; some support, others worry about impact on downtown businesses.
- Pop-Up Shops / Vendor Spaces – 2 mentions: Rotating vendor space and artists' booths.
- No Food Services – 1 mention
- No Commercial Entities – 2 mentions: Strong opposition to commercialization of the waterfront.

Dogs (7 mentions)

- Dog Beach / Dog Park – 5 mentions: Specific desire for a designated off-leash area.
- Dog Walking – 1 mention
- Dog-related Signage / Amenities – 1 mention

'No Change' / Opposition Sentiment (7 mentions)

- No New Infrastructure – 2 mentions: Concern about overdevelopment.
- No Saunas / No Playground – 3 mentions: Perceived as unnecessary.
- No to Swings, Log Benches – 2 mentions: Specific aversions voiced.

Washrooms (6 mentions)

- More Washrooms (Midway) – 2 mentions: Suggested around 6th Ave.
- Longer Open Hours – 1 mention: To match late sunsets.
- Move Existing Washroom – 1 mention: To make room for parking.
- General Washroom Needs – 2 mentions

Furniture & Seating (6 mentions)

- Picnic Tables – 3 mentions: Mixed feedback: liked by some, seen as unnecessary by others.
- Benches – 3 mentions: Suggestions include cement benches, side tables, and avoiding anti-homeless designs.

Infrastructure & Safety (6 mentions)

- Grading / Water Level Safety – 2 mentions: Concerns about beach profile and swimming safety.
- Water Temperature Monitor – 1 mention: With web access.
- Street Drainage Repair (5th Ave) – 1 mention
- Columbia River Treaty / Reservoir Water Management – 2 mentions: Concerns about water levels and terminology.

Educational / Cultural Additions (5 mentions)

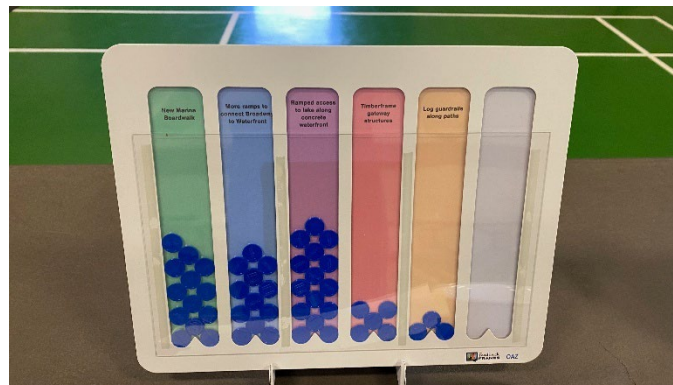
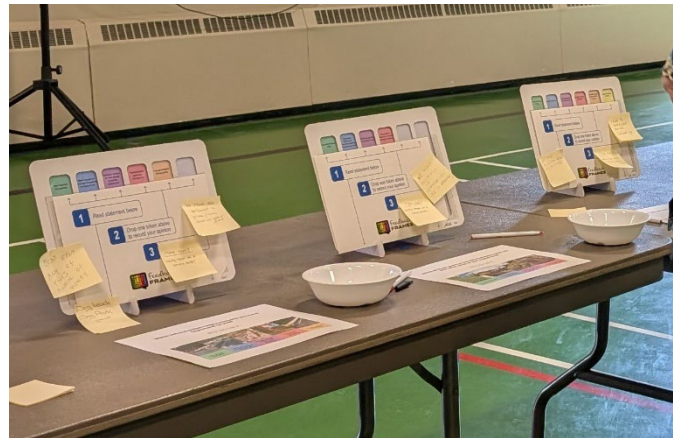
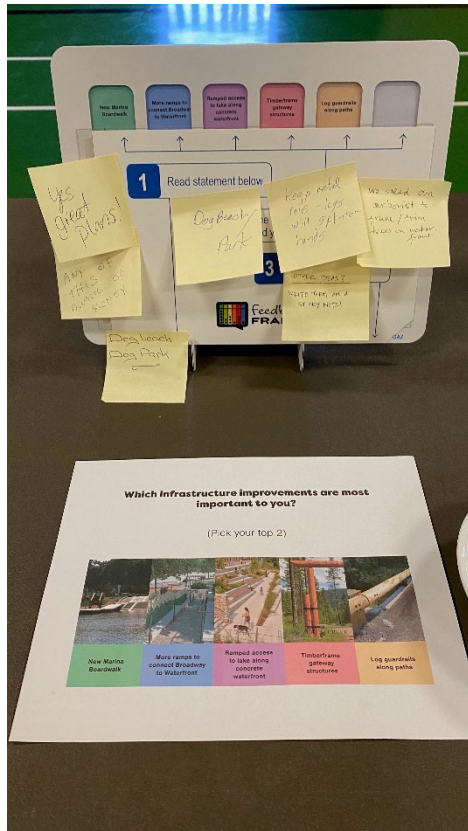
- Interpretive Signage (History) – 1 mention: With text and images.
- Hiroshima Peace Tree / Ginkgo Tree – 2 mentions: Symbolic contribution to the Japanese Garden.
- Art Installations (e.g. In-Ground Art) – 1 mention
- Historical References – 1 mention: Add to steps or signage.

Winter Use & Multi-Season Design (3 mentions)

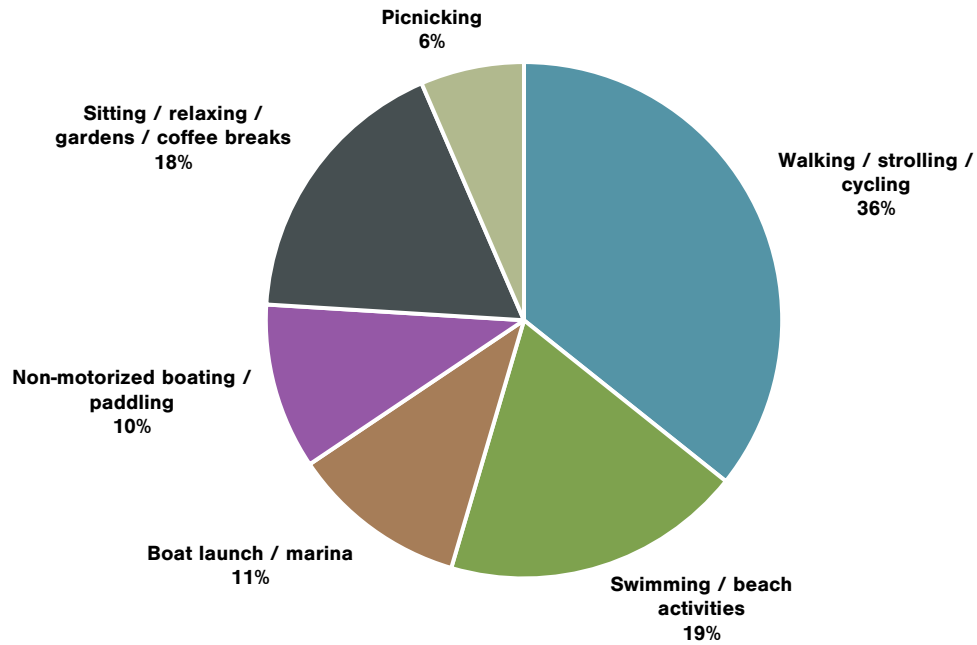
- Toboggan Area + Fire Pit – 1 mention
- Nordic Skiing Access – 1 mention
- Covered Firepit / Winter Use – 1 mention

5.3 Feedback Frames

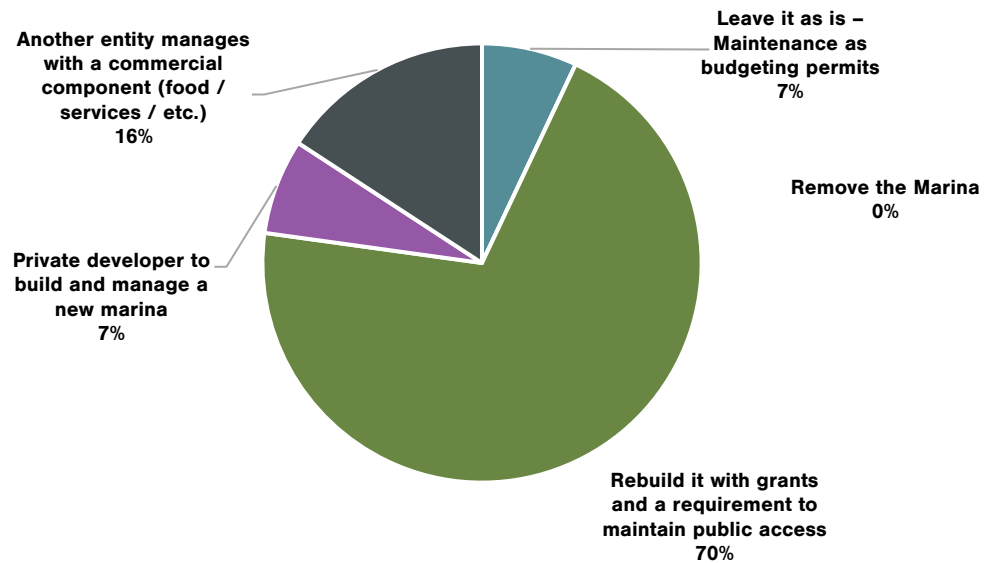
Feedback Frames are a simple and interactive way to learn more about community preferences or to gauge how the community feels about certain issues. They use anonymous voting and simple questions and were used during the open house to better understand community priorities and values for the waterfront area. Responses are included below.



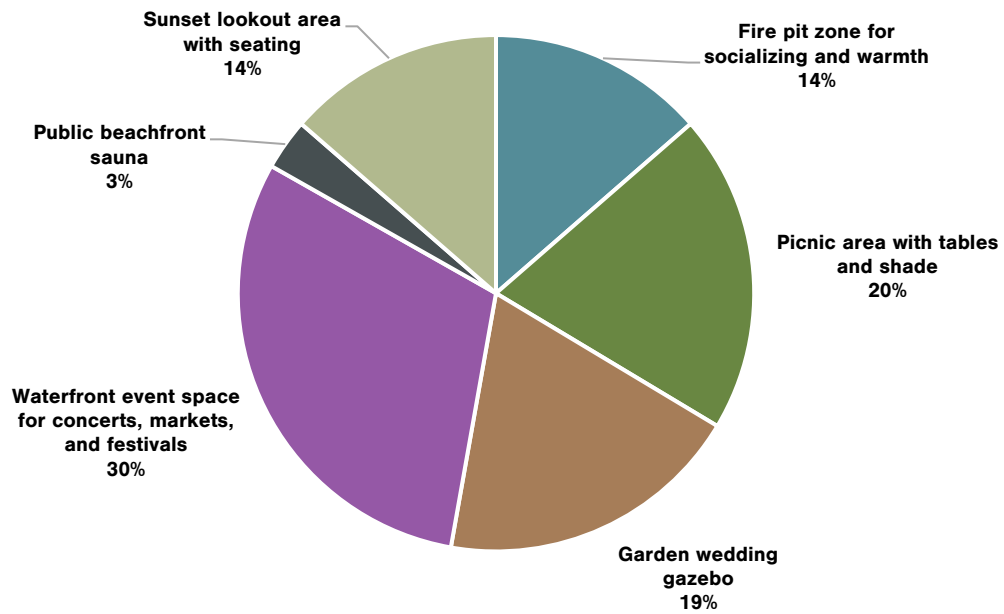
How Do You Currently Use the Waterfront Area in Nakusp?



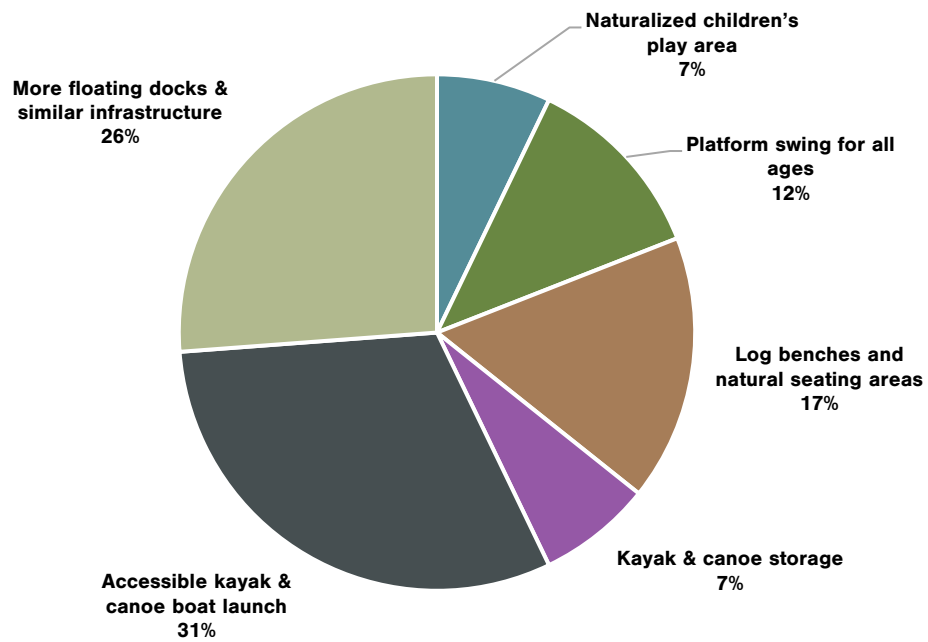
What's Your Vision for the Future of the Marina?



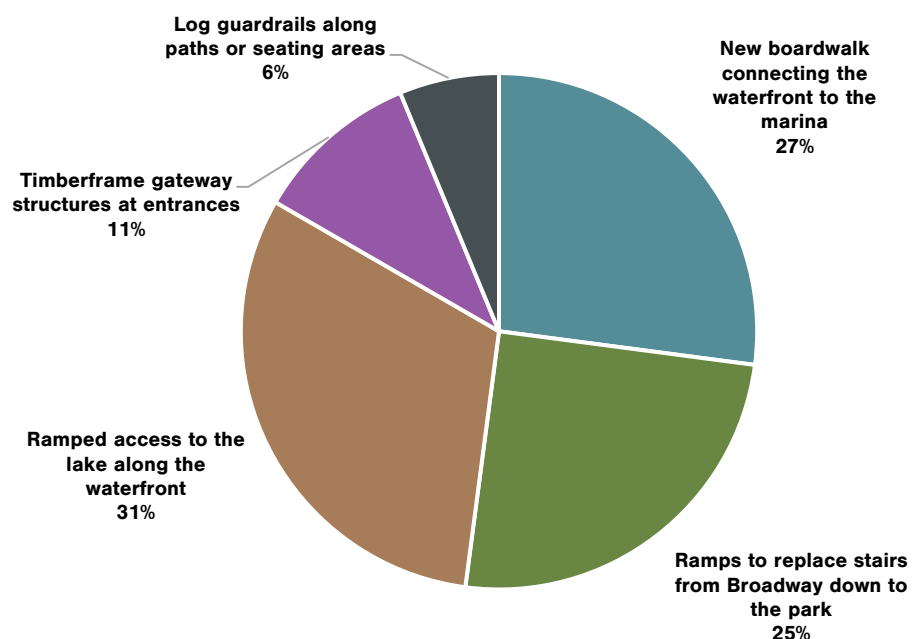
Which of the following gathering features would you most like to see added to the park?



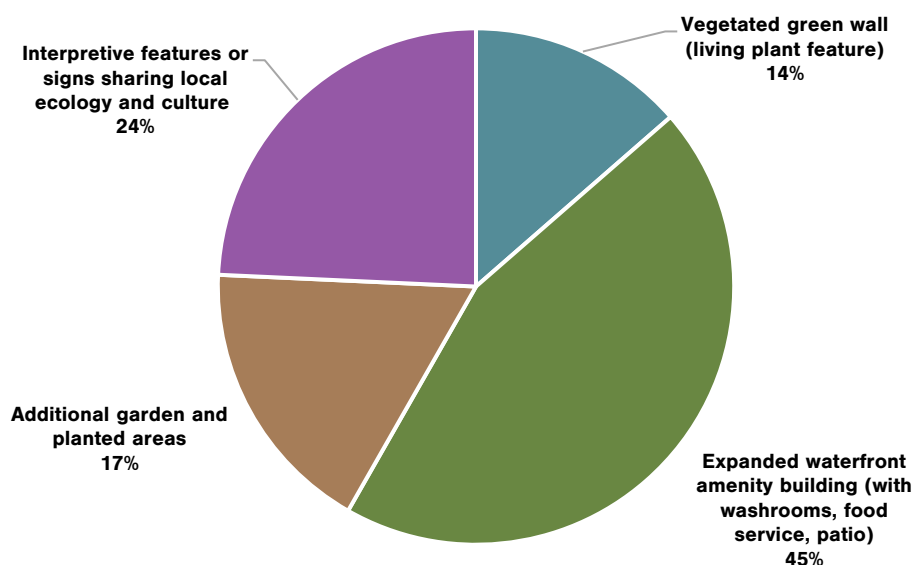
Which play or recreation elements interest you most?



Which infrastructure improvements are most important to you?

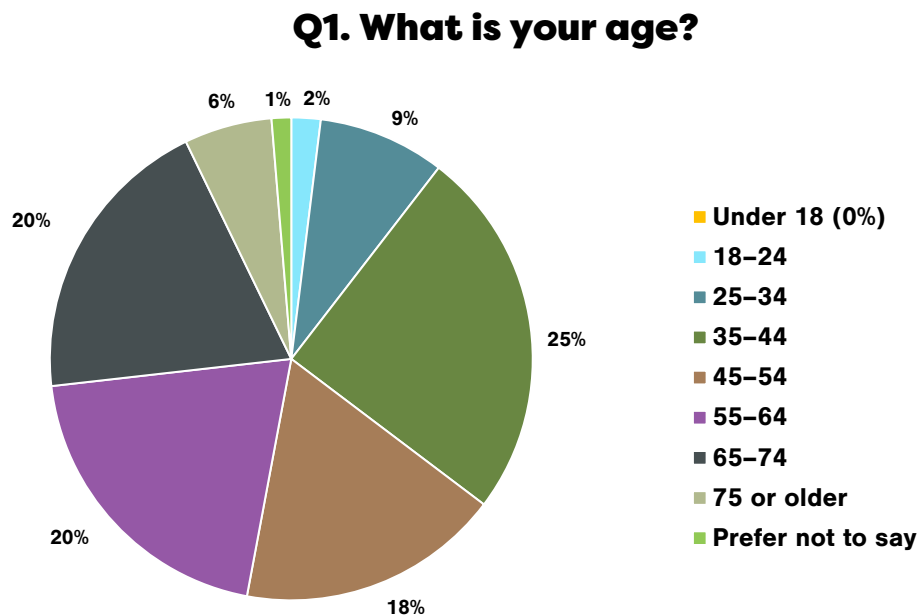


Which of these green or amenity features would add the most value to your experience?



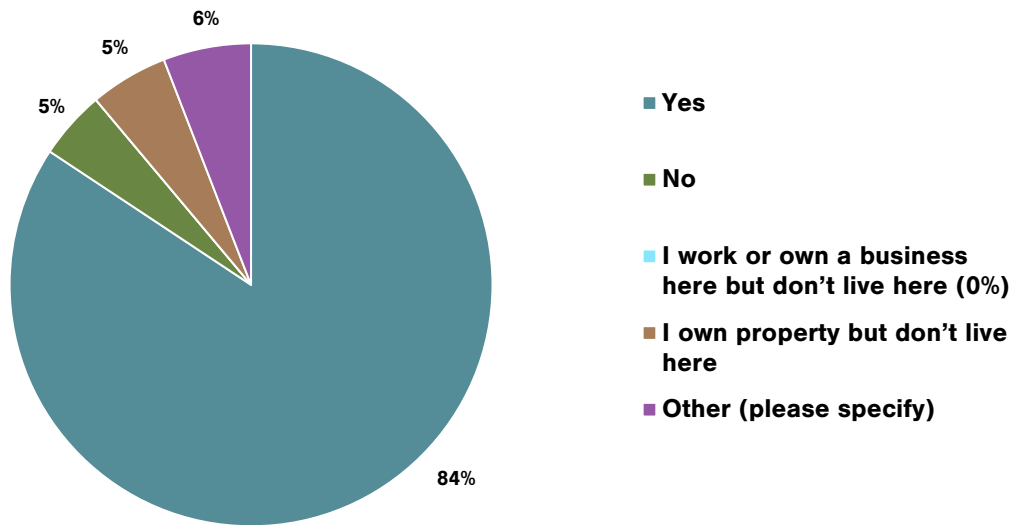
6. SURVEY RESULTS

The survey was available between May 22 – June 5, 2025 online as well as paper copies at the Village office and the senior's centre. A total of 153 surveys were completed, which represents approximately 10% of Nakusp's population. The survey was launched the same day as the first in-person open house event, with advertisements going out via email on May 12, 21, and 28 alongside other promotions.



Total respondents = 153

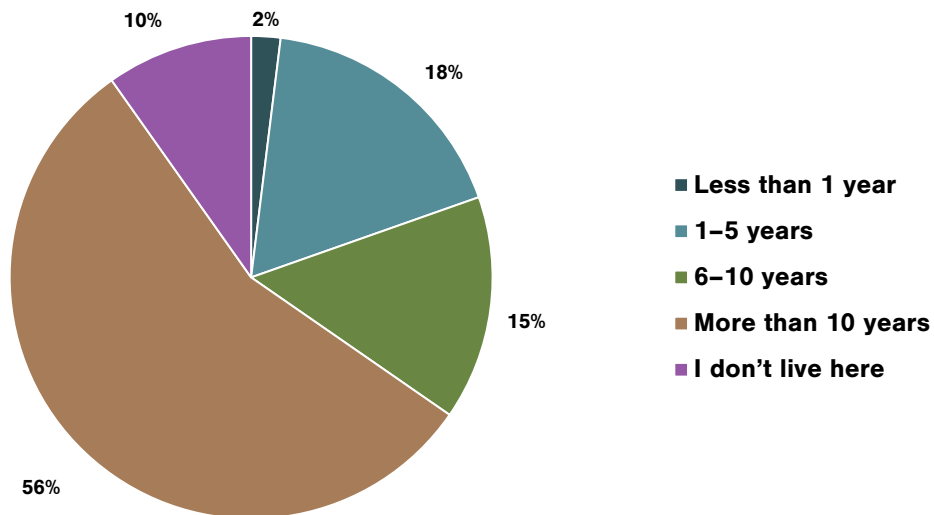
Q2. Do you live in the community?



Respondents = 153

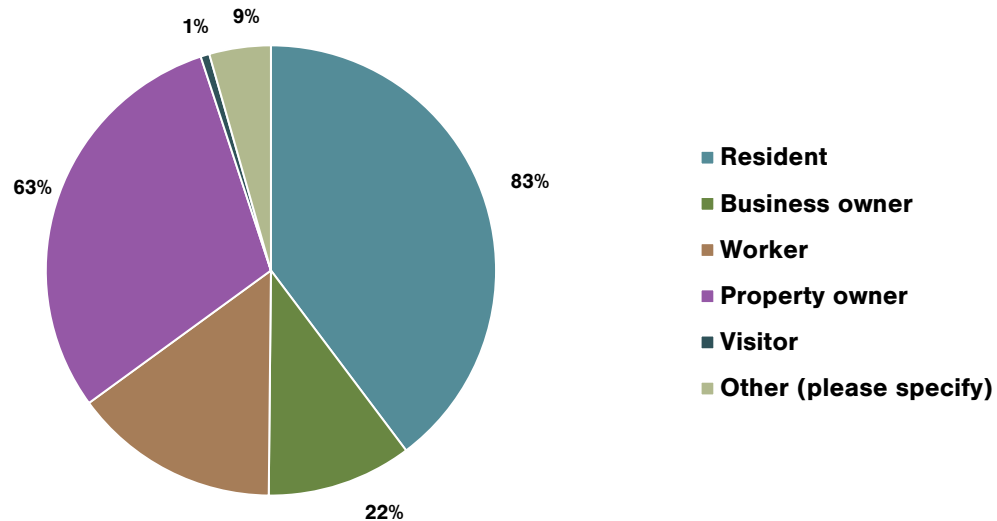
Other responses include: Becoming a resident in August; Live part time in Nakusp; Own property and live here 6 months a year; Arrow park; Purchasing a home there now; Hometown; Building and moving to town in a few months; Resident of neighbouring community; Lived there for over 33 years but moved last year.

Q3. How long have you lived in Nakusp?



Respondents = 153

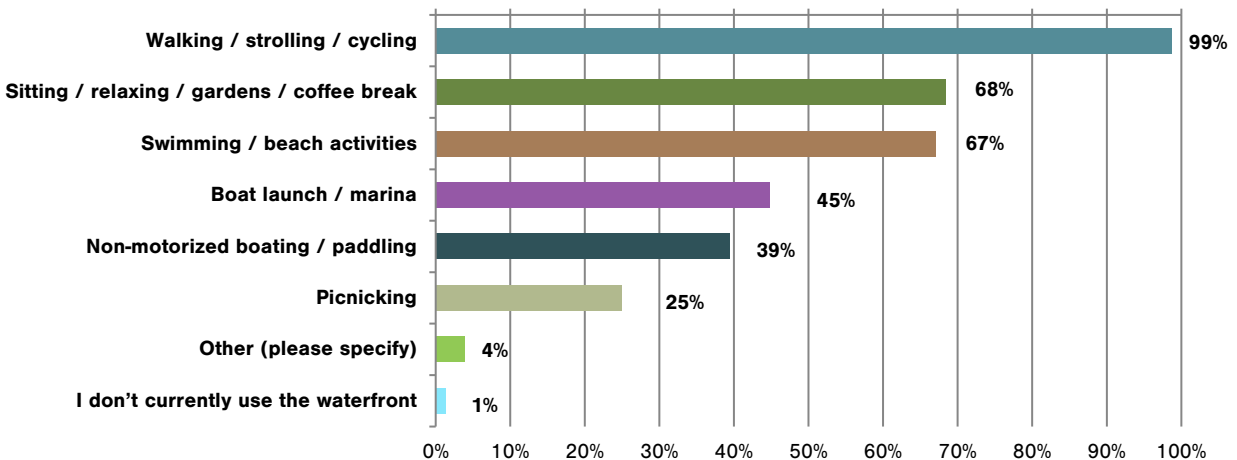
Q4. What is your relationship to the area? (Check all that apply)



Respondents = 152

Other responses: Former business owner and health care worker; Looking at purchasing property; Long time former resident and current property owner, future resident; Family lives there; Becoming a resident; Retired business owner; Seasonal resident; Soon to be owner; Born and raised; Born there; Both parents own property, and one is a business owner; Grew up here; Retired; Previous resident.

Q5. How do you currently use the waterfront area in Nakusp? (Check all that apply)



Respondents = 152

Other responses: Tourist destination; Enjoying events; I take my dog to the lake to swim; Painting, sketching; I take my dog down weekly; A designated, contained off leash dog area in Nakusp would be so amazing; I live on the waterfront.

Q6. What do you enjoy most about the waterfront park?

Respondents = 130

Views and Scenery

- The beautiful lake and mountain views
- The overall beauty and tranquility of the area
- The serene and peaceful atmosphere

Gardens and Greenery

- The well-maintained flower gardens
- Specific mentions of Spicer's Garden and the Japanese Garden
- Trees, landscaping, and natural beauty

Walkability and Accessibility

- The long, paved walkway and its accessibility
- Multiple access points from town
- The ability to walk, stroll, and exercise
- Flat surfaces making it easy for all ages and abilities

Beach and Water Access

- The beach area and swimming spots
- Boating and kayaking access

Atmosphere and Social Connection

- The quiet, calm, and serene environment
- The feeling of a shared public space and community gathering area
- Opportunities to connect with friends, family, and other visitors

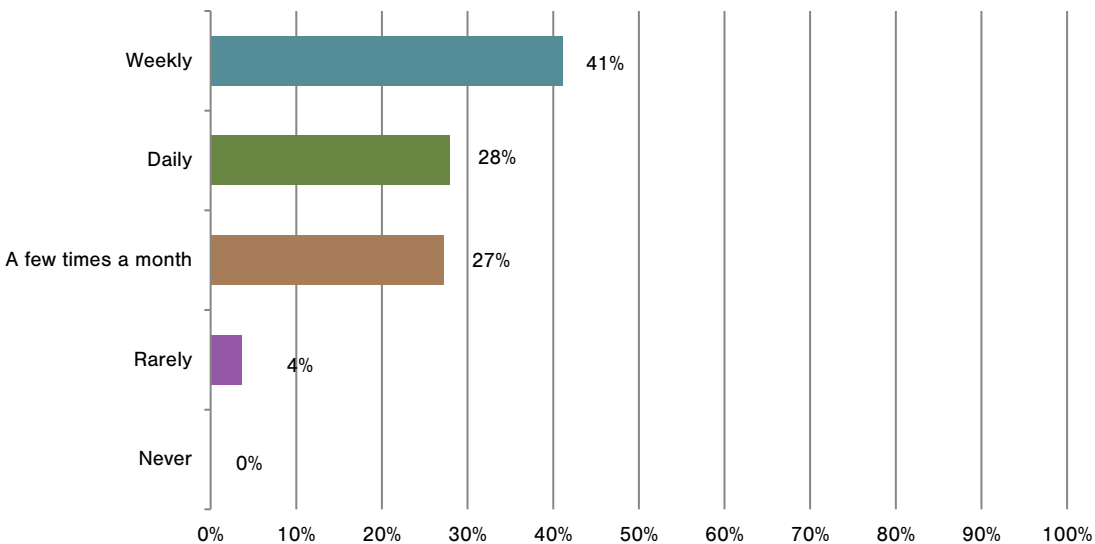
Amenities and Features

- Benches, picnic areas, and lighting
- Washrooms and waste bag stations for dog owners
- The gazebo and spaces for music or events

General Remarks

- The beauty and uniqueness of the area — a “wow factor” for guests
- Its role as a central, accessible space for both daily use and special moments
- Appreciation for its maintenance and availability to the public

Q7. How often do you visit the waterfront park?



Respondents = 136

Q8. What words best describe how you feel when you're at the waterfront?

Respondents = 124

Peacefulness and Calm

- Peaceful, serene, tranquil, calm, relaxed, still
- At peace, grounded, and refreshed
- A sense of quiet and relaxation

Happiness and Joy

- Happy, content, carefree, grateful
- Enjoyment and fun times
- Feeling blessed, inspired, and lucky

Connection and Belonging

- At home and connected to the community
- A sense of belonging and pride
- Feeling safe and welcomed

Appreciation of Beauty and Nature

- Amazed and in awe of the natural beauty
- Feeling grateful for the lake, mountains, and gardens
- Feeling inspired and connected to nature

Mixed Feelings and Concerns

- Frustration about dog waste and maintenance issues
- Feeling hopeful for improvements and additional amenities

Q9. What would make the connection between downtown and the waterfront stronger or more welcoming?

Respondents = 101

Improved Access and Infrastructure (31 mentions)

- More ramps and accessible pathways for people with strollers, wheelchairs, or mobility aids
- New or upgraded stairways that are more inviting and prominent
- More connections between side streets and the waterfront
- Improved marina connections and access points

Signage and Wayfinding (28 mentions)

- Clear, attractive, and visible signage from downtown to the waterfront
- Signage that highlights stairways, access points, and available amenities
- Color-coded or themed entry points/gateways
- Information about nearby businesses and services

Enhancing the Experience (24 mentions)

- Adding lighting for safety and ambiance, especially along stairways and pathways
- Creating places to sit, rest, and socialize (benches, picnic tables)
- Maintaining and upgrading pathways, railings, and landscaping
- Incorporating local art, murals, and heritage displays to highlight the area's character
- Developing more restaurants, cafés, and spaces for public gathering along access points
- Adding spaces for events, markets, or programming that draw people towards the waterfront

Maintaining Balance (19 mentions)

- Recognizing that some value the separation between downtown and the waterfront for its tranquility
- Respecting the natural feel of the space and avoiding overdevelopment or “crowding” the area
- Seeking ways to balance access and vibrancy with serenity and natural beauty

Q10. What features or improvements would help make the park more inclusive for people of all ages and abilities?

Respondents = 101

Better Access to the Waterfront (15 mentions)

- Ramps and gradual sloped entry points for wheelchairs, strollers, and people with mobility aids
- More access points along the waterfront and beach
- Upgraded stairways with rails or replaced with ramps
- Paths extending closer to the water for swimming or play
- Improved access from concrete walls or steep areas
- Gradual, hard-surfaced beach entry extending into the water

Additional Amenities and Features (14 mentions)

- More benches, picnic tables, and gazebos with shaded or sheltered spaces
- Flat, accessible picnic areas
- Family-friendly spaces (play equipment, inclusive swings, soft surfaces)
- Exercise equipment and spaces for all ages and abilities
- Designated spaces for activities like bocce, lawn bowling, or badminton
- Off-leash or fenced dog area
- Shelters and covered spaces for resting and protection from the elements
- Year-round lighting along paths for accessibility and safety

Improved Pathways and Surfaces (12 mentions)

- Widened pathways to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, and mixed traffic (walkers, bikers, scooters)
- New paved or surfaced connections across grassy areas to benches and other amenities
- Updating existing paths to fix cracks, frost heaves, and trip hazards
- Maintaining natural beauty and space while making access more inviting

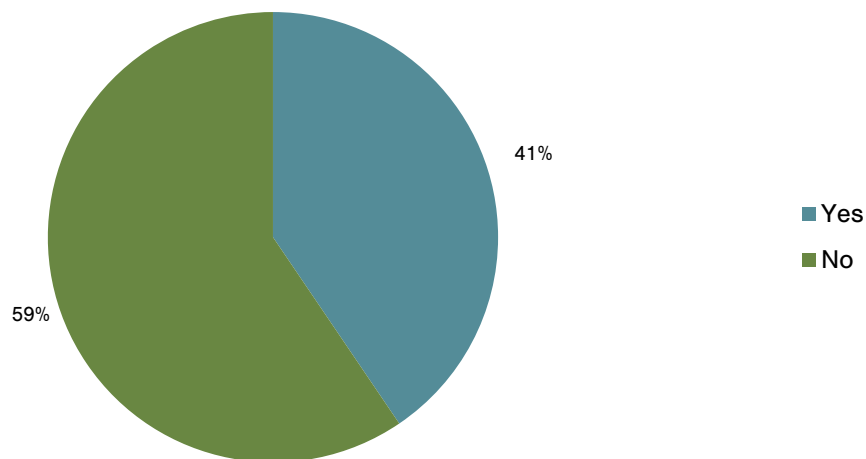
More Washroom Facilities (6 mentions)

- Upgraded and more accessible washrooms (larger stalls, family spaces, longer open hours)
- New washrooms closer to popular areas

Better Signage and Visibility (5 mentions)

- Clear signage for access points, including ramps and stairs
- Indicators for inclusive access points and connections between spaces

Q11. Are there areas of the park that feel unsafe or poorly maintained?



Respondents = 116

Q12. If you chose yes in Q11, please specify where:

Respondents = 47

Stairs and Access to the Water

- Crumbling steps
- Steep slopes or awkward designs
- Erosion and puddling at the bottom
- Lack of handrails or barriers
- Winter conditions make them particularly dangerous, with some requesting covers or seasonal maintenance like at the Hot Springs

Washrooms

- Dirty or outdated
- Unwelcoming or unsafe (especially for women / at night)
- In need of better maintenance and design upgrades
- It was mentioned that nearby communities have more welcoming bathrooms including Kaslo, Castlegar, and New Denver

Pathways and Surfaces

- Cracks and tripping hazards along the walkway
- Root damage and frost heaves
- Narrow or degraded paths, especially near the marina and at the west end of 4th Street
- Suggestions included repaving paths and trimming invasive plants and downed trees

Japanese Garden & Vegetation

- The Japanese garden feels too secluded or overgrown
- The pond, gazebo, and bridge are in poor condition
- Vegetation between the garden and waterfront is overgrown, unmanaged, or invasive
- This is a hangout spot (as well as the bathrooms / picnic tables) where there is drug and alcohol use

Lighting & Visibility

- Along walkways
- Near stairs and entrances
- Around the gazebo and Japanese garden
- Suggestions included solar lighting, tree-mounted lights, or standard light posts

Railings & Walls

- The guardrail along the waterfront was seen as unattractive and too easy for kids to slip under
- The concrete flood wall and shoreline riprap were mentioned as unsightly and difficult to navigate

Q13. What improvements would help you feel safer and more comfortable in the park?

Respondents = 77

Lighting and Visibility

- More lighting at night, including lower-level path lighting and lighting for stairs.
- Ambient or low-impact lighting (twinkle lights, motion-activated lights) that doesn't affect wildlife, stargazing, or nearby residents.

Path and Access Improvements

- Better access points for those with mobility needs (wheelchair ramps, improved entryways, ramp across the riprap).
- Better-maintained stairs with added railings, covers for winter, and wider treads.
- Repaved pathways with improved drainage to reduce pooling and ice.

Dog Management

- Designated dog areas separate from the main walk.
- Improved enforcement of leashing and cleaning up after dogs.

Safety Features and Policing

- More surveillance (cameras, patrols) in areas like the marina and gazebo.
- A muster point or emergency phone for added security.
- Stronger enforcement of speed limits and behavior (no drug use, no smoking).

Seating and Amenities

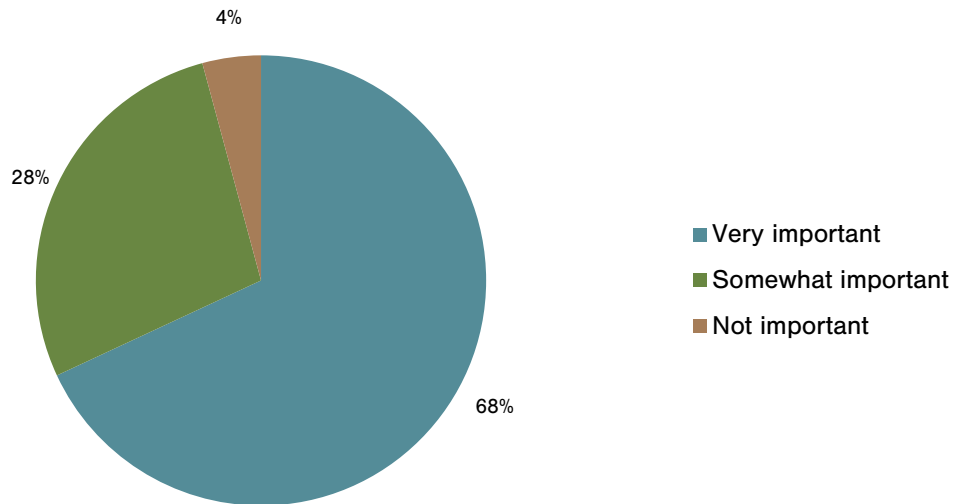
- Respondents like the existing memory benches but hoped for more, arranged intentionally.
- Softer seating options.
- Additional amenities like water fountains.

Sense of General Safety

Several people stated:

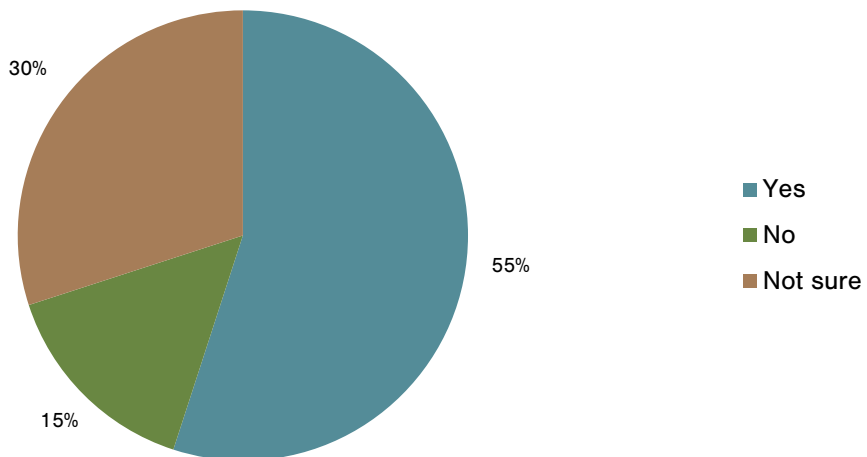
- They already feel safe and comfortable.
- They trust the village to maintain the area well.

Q14. How important is it to you that the public has more opportunities to access the lake?



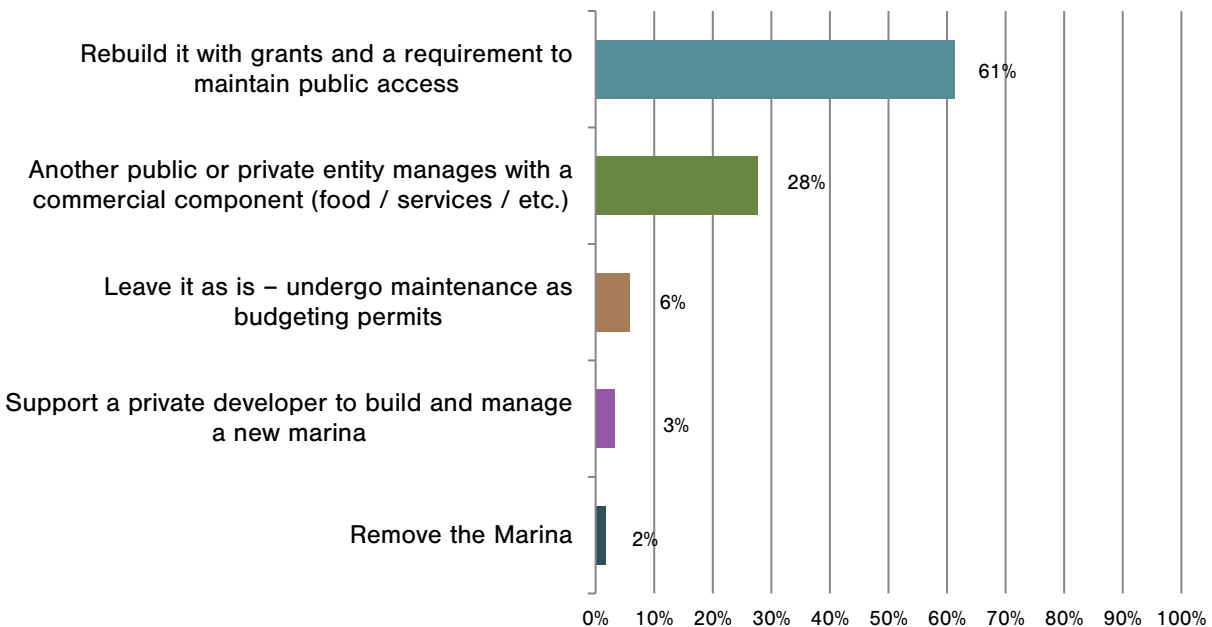
Respondents = 119

Q15. Would you like to see greater public access to the marina area?



Respondents = 120

Q16. The Marina is past it's lifespan. What is your preferred option for the future of the marina?



Respondents = 119

Q17. What natural features or improvements would you like to see added or protected?

Respondents = 84

Protect and Maintain Existing Green Spaces

- Strong support for preserving the Japanese Garden, Spicer Garden, and other planting areas.
- Maintain and expand the beautiful planting along the waterfront (flowers, shrubs, trees).
- Maintain the well-established shade trees and other signature plantings – many feel these are vital to the character and charm of the area.
- Keep the spaces natural and low-maintenance – “no more trees that impede the view” but maintain existing ones for shade and beauty.
- Protect areas like the bird habitat between the marina and Leland Hotel.

Better Beach and Water Access

- Create a public beach area, possibly by importing sand or reshaping the shore.

- Improve access for people with mobility limitations, such as ramps or gradual sloped entry points.
- Maintain access to the water and make it safer (enhanced stairways, gentle slopes).
- Consider extending the waterfront pathway towards Crescent Bay, the old railway area, and other areas with beautiful natural settings.

More Attractions and Interactive Features

- Add more gazebos, benches, and picnic areas throughout the park.
- Incorporate floating docks, viewing platforms, and scenic spots that draw people to the water.
- Maintain and refresh the Japanese Garden pond and bridge, possibly adding fish or restoring its water feature.
- Consider creating spaces for families, like a play area, a workout area, or interactive installations.

Preserve and Enhance the “Natural” Feel

- Support for “rewilding” and supporting biodiversity with native plants and low-maintenance areas.
- Protect the area as a green space that serves as an antidote to too much concrete and commercial activity.
- Maintain the beauty of large trees and unique landscaping that set Nakusp apart.

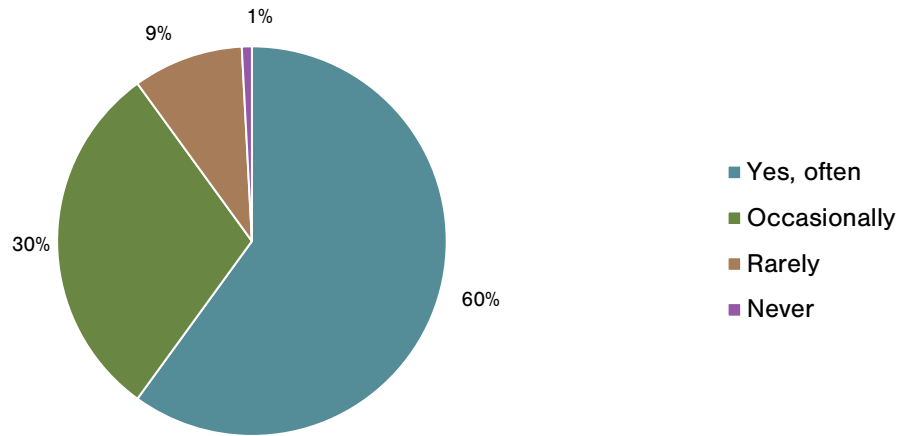
Better Infrastructure and Maintenance

- Fix and maintain aging infrastructure (concrete walls, stairs, railings).
- Maintain and upgrade washrooms.
- Address erosion and other environmental concerns (e.g., concrete slope).
- Replace fallen or aging trees, especially those lost to windstorms.

Balance Nature and Access

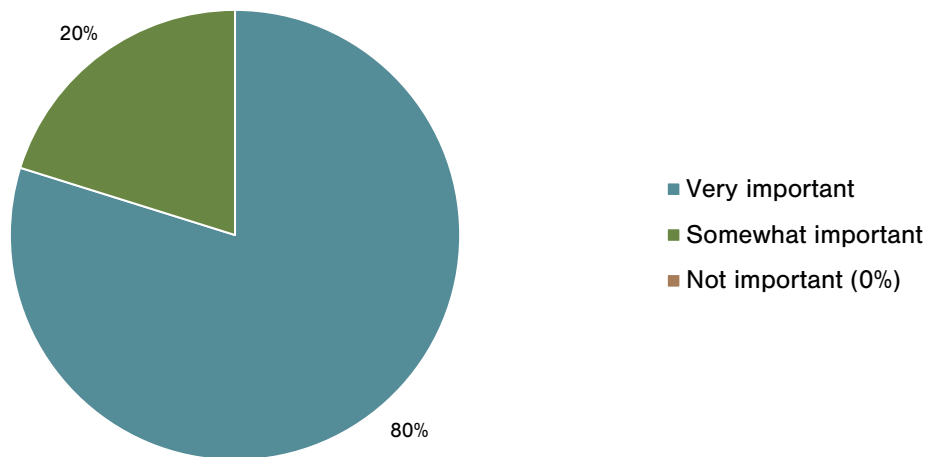
- Maintain existing spaces that balance natural beauty with accessibility.
- Avoid overdevelopment or introducing too many “urban” elements — people come for the peace and quiet and the natural character of the area.

Q18. Do you visit or spend time in any of the planted or garden spaces in the park (such as Spicer Garden)?



Respondents = 120

Q19. How important are maintained garden areas to your overall experience of the park?



Respondents = 119

Q20. What aspects of our Village's history would you like to see reflected in the park design or features?

Respondents = 81

Highlight Indigenous and Pre-Flooding History

- Support for recognizing the Sinixt and other Indigenous histories through interpretive boards, art installations, carvings, or other features that acknowledge their deep connection to the area.
- Tell the story of the flooding of the lake, its impacts, and its role in shaping Nakusp today.
- Incorporate information about salmon, sturgeon nose canoes, and traditional uses of the lake.

Remember the Sternwheelers, Logging, and Railway

- Interest in highlighting the heritage of the sternwheelers, especially the Minto, and Nakusp's long relationship with water transportation.
- Preservation or display of artifacts from the sternwheelers and old ferries.
- Acknowledgment of the area's logging and railway history, potentially making use of existing relics like the old railway bed and drydock beams.

Use Signage, Installations, and Interpretive Features

- More interpretive boards, plaques, or kiosks that tell Nakusp's story, including its founding, its builders, and its evolution.
- Make the interpretive installations visually connected to the setting, such as timber-style shelters, carvings, or scenic panoramic displays (with mountain names).
- Create a timeline-style walk, allowing people to "move through Nakusp's history" as they walk the waterfront.

Honor the Natural and Cultural Landscape

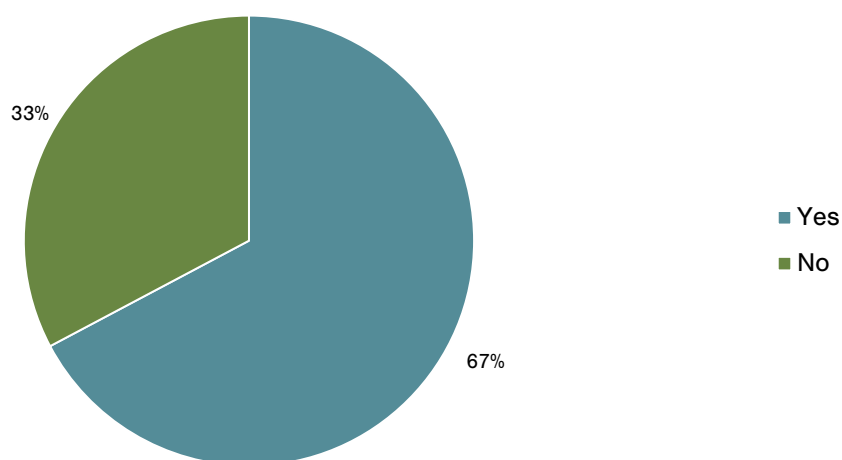
- Preserve and share stories about Nakusp's heritage (without over-commercialization).
- Include displays about the geology, flora and fauna, and the interplay between the natural landscape and human activity.
- Functional installations (e.g., a bench shaped like the Minto's bow) and relevant (using heritage for education and reflection).

Modernize Without Overshadowing History

- Use for a forward-looking approach that emphasizes the present and future of Nakusp.

- Maintain or slightly refresh existing interpretive displays (like the one near the Leland), making sure the presentation feels relevant and well-maintained.
- Merge heritage elements with modern design sensibilities (using wood, natural materials, and respectful installations).

Q21. Are there enough places to sit, gather, or relax comfortably?



Respondents = 116

Q22. What features would improve your comfort and enjoyment of the park?

Respondents = 84

More Places to Sit, Eat, and Gather

- More picnic tables and group seating areas for picnics, lunches, or small events.
- Tables along the waterfront pathway for easier dining than benches allow.
- Larger gathering spaces like an amphitheatre or courtyard for events, weddings, or community functions.
- Covered seating or gazebos to provide shelter from rain and sun.

Better Access to the Water

- Easier access points to the water beyond the main beach.

- Improved stairs or ramps to navigate slopes and reach the shoreline safely.
- Benches closer to the median water level.
- A foot wash station at the beach to remove sand before putting footwear back on.
- Removal of loose rocks on the beach for better walking surfaces.

Additional Attractions and Features

- A splash park for kids to rinse off after swimming.
- A pier extending into the water.
- A fenced lakeside dog area.
- Disc golf in the wooded area behind the sports fields.
- Outdoor games like giant chess or a bouldering wall.
- A performance or event space similar to Spirit Square in Golden, BC.
- Occasional food or coffee vendors at the marina or near the Japanese garden.

More Shade, Shelter, and Comfort

- Additional gazebos, shelters, and covered seating areas.
- Water fountains, including bottle refill and doggy water stations.
- Lighting for evening use—preferably soft, natural lighting to minimize light pollution.
- Natural gathering areas with shade and views of the lake.

Better Accessibility and Safety

- Ramps at entrances and improved access to the beach and water.
- Enhanced lighting along walkways and gathering areas.
- Improved pathways for wheelchairs, strollers, or mobility support.
- Better access for emergency services.
- More garbage and recycling bins to keep areas clean.

Preserve the Natural Feel

- Maintain the peaceful, small-town charm without overdeveloping or commercializing the park.
- Avoid introducing permanent vendors or pop-ups that could detract from the natural setting.

Q23. What parts of the waterfront should stay the same?

Respondents = 88

Gardens, Trees, and Green Spaces

- The gardens — especially Spicer Garden, the Japanese Garden, and the general landscaping — are a highlight and should remain.
- Maintain the abundance of flowers, huge trees, shade areas, and the beautiful mix of plantings.
- Keep the willow tree, oak trees, and other mature trees that make the space special.
- Maintain the open green spaces and the serene, natural feel.
- The gardens are a signature feature for both residents and visitors and should be protected.

Walkways, Paths, and Boardwalk

- The promenade, the paved walkways, and the connections between different areas of the waterfront should stay as is — perhaps widened slightly for bikes or multi-use.
- Maintain the access points and connections to the marina, beach, and other areas.
- The dirt and gravel trail, the basic layout, and the accessible connections to town are working well and should remain.

Beach and Water Access

- The sandy beach, swimming areas, and boat launch are cherished spaces that should be kept as is.
- Maintain steps and access points down to the water.
- Keep the serene character and easy accessibility of the waterfront.

Seating Areas, Memorial Features, and Attractions

- Maintain the existing seating areas, benches, and shaded spots along the path.
- Keep the public spaces for families and quiet moments.
- Maintain the memorial plaques and any areas that honor local heritage.

Overall Atmosphere and Aesthetic

- The character of the waterfront is highly valued — its quiet beauty, openness, and balance between manicured spaces and natural areas.
- The existing layout works well and doesn't require a major overhaul.
- Maintain the tranquil, welcoming feel that connects people with the lake and nature.
- No commercialization or resort-style changes that would disrupt the charm of the area.

Additional Considerations

- Avoid new gardens that will add maintenance costs unless an area clearly benefits from them.
- Assess and maintain the concrete slope down to the water with engineering expertise for long-term durability.
- Maintain the railing lighting and other existing touches that add charm.
- Maintain accessibility (including making the beach area more accessible for people with mobility challenges).

Q24. What would you most like to see changed or added?

Respondents = 81

Landscaping, Green Spaces, and Beach Areas

- Terraced green spaces and switchback walkways leading down to a new public swimming beach.
- More shade trees to replace those lost over time.
- Incorporation of more native plants and natural areas, including a garden area exclusively for native species.
- Reduce or remove sections of the concrete slope, replacing them with sand or a more natural shoreline.
- Maintain and expand the trails, especially towards the west end and to the east (toward 3rd Avenue SE), making connections seamless.

Dog-Friendly Spaces

- A dedicated, safe dog park with lake access.
- Clear signs indicating areas for dogs and stronger enforcement of rules.

Access to Water and Marina Improvements

- Improved access down to the lake, making it safer and more user-friendly.
- Marina upgrades, including better lighting, fuel access, fresh water and waste disposal, more docking space, and updated facilities.
- Clear signage about marina use, available berths, and pricing.
- Updated washrooms and improved accessibility for wheelchairs and strollers.
- A well-maintained swimming area with better access and protection from sharp rocks.

Walkways, Paths, and Connectivity

- New and improved walkways, including a wider promenade with a separation between walkers, bikers, and scooters.
- Longer, winding pathways that connect more of the town and trails, making the waterfront feel like a seamless extension of the downtown area.
- Add connections to the rail trail and improve access points from the campground area.

Aesthetic and Functional Enhancements

- Replace or refresh aging railings, making them more visually attractive while keeping lighting features.
- Add more seating areas, including picnic tables, gazebos, and covered spaces for groups or events.
- Maintain and restore the Japanese garden and other signature garden spaces.
- Maintain existing areas while making targeted improvements (avoiding overdevelopment).
- Incorporate more interpretive and historical signage highlighting Nakusp's heritage, including the flooding of the area, Indigenous history, paddlewheelers, and old ferry landings.

Recreation and Gathering Spaces

- Add an amphitheatre or smaller gathering area for music, events, and community connections.
- Create spaces for group activities (weddings, picnics, festivals), like a courtyard or wedding gazebo.
- Incorporate interactive elements such as exercise stations, more sculpture and artwork, or a water park.

Services and Attractions

- Introduce space for pop-ups, vendors, or mobile cafés and restaurants (such as a “farmer’s market” area).
- Maintain and expand public amenities such as bathrooms, drinking fountains, and washing stations for feet and pets.

Additional Suggestions

- Limit memorial benches and focus on other ways to honor heritage.
- Maintain what’s already working well and focus on long-term care and accessibility over expansive new builds.

- Avoid over-development – many emphasized preserving the natural beauty, tranquility, and character of the area.

Q25. What’s your vision for the waterfront 10 years from now?

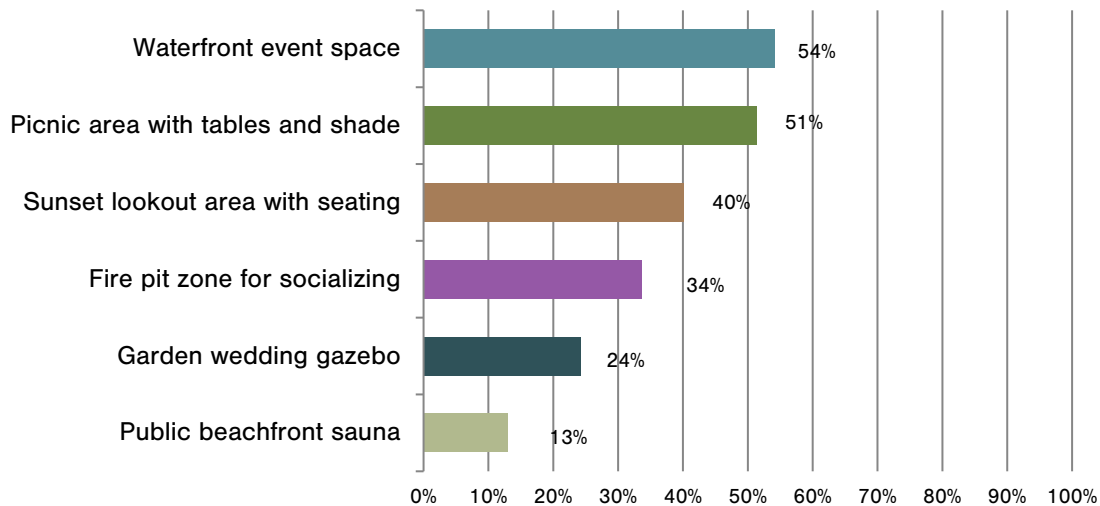
Respondents = 84

In 10 years, Nakusp’s waterfront remains a serene, accessible, and beautifully maintained space – where gardens thrive, history is honoured, and people of all ages and abilities gather to walk, connect, celebrate, and reflect. It continues to be a source of pride for residents and a destination for visitors, with thoughtful improvements that enhance its natural beauty, strengthen its ties to the community, and preserve the quiet charm that makes it truly special.

We heard many different visions, including:

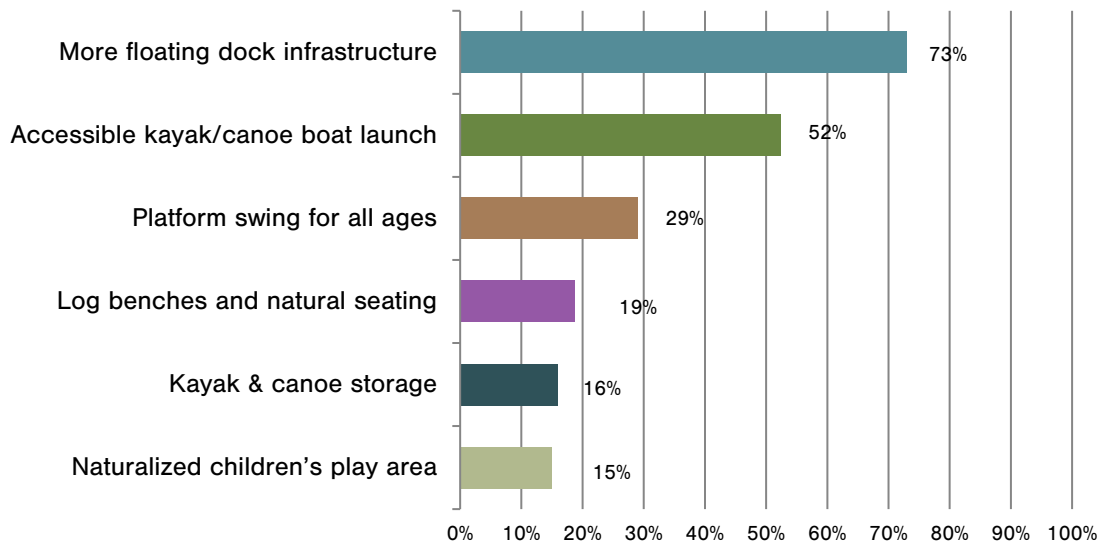
- A beautiful, serene, and accessible space that retains its small-town charm and tranquility while allowing for thoughtful improvements.
- A space that is well-maintained and updated, with enhanced accessibility (including wider walkways), more seating areas, and safe access to the lake.
- A place where natural beauty shines – lots of green spaces, trees, gardens, and shaded spots – making it a welcoming space for locals and visitors alike.
- A focal point for the community, featuring spaces for gatherings, festivals, music, public events, and opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to come together.
- An active, bustling marina with improved facilities (fuel, washrooms, long-term slips, visitor amenities), making it a draw for boaters and visitors.
- A space that celebrates Nakusp’s heritage – highlighting its Indigenous and settler histories, flood stories, paddlewheelers, and railway connections.
- A waterfront that encourages people to linger, explore, and spend more time in town – with spaces for picnics, quiet reflection, and playful connections like games, interactive art, or a community garden.
- A destination that prioritizes nature, accessibility, and a sense of belonging, allowing for moments of quiet reflection as well as connections between people and place.
- A space that embraces its role as a tourist draw while serving the needs of the local community, without becoming overly commercialized.
- A well-used area that promotes a deeper understanding of Nakusp’s heritage and natural surroundings, making it a point of pride for both residents and visitors.

Q26. Which of the following gathering features would you most like to see added to the park? (Pick your top 2)



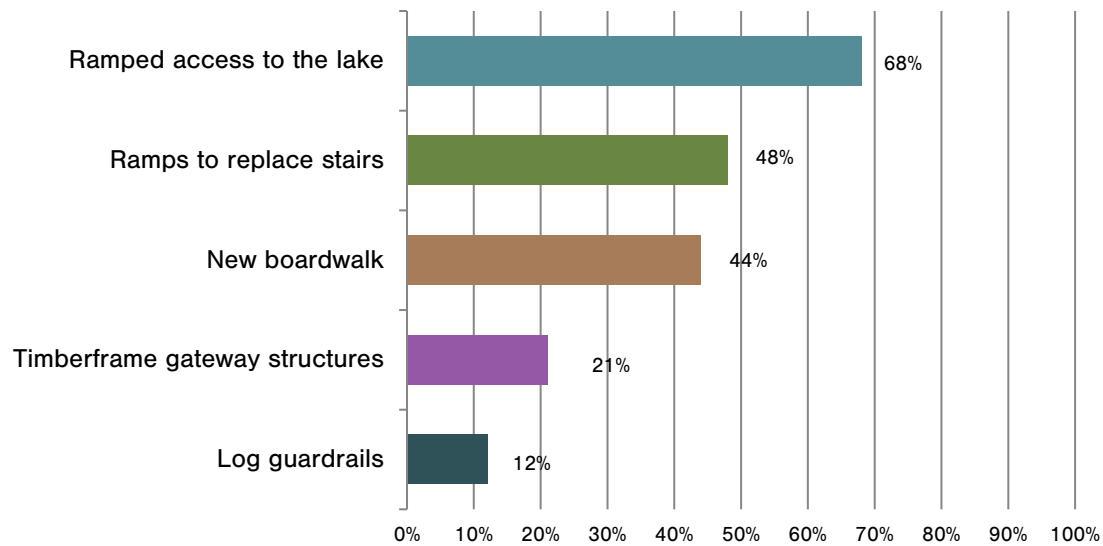
Respondents = 107

Q27. Which play or recreation elements interest you most? (Pick your top 2)



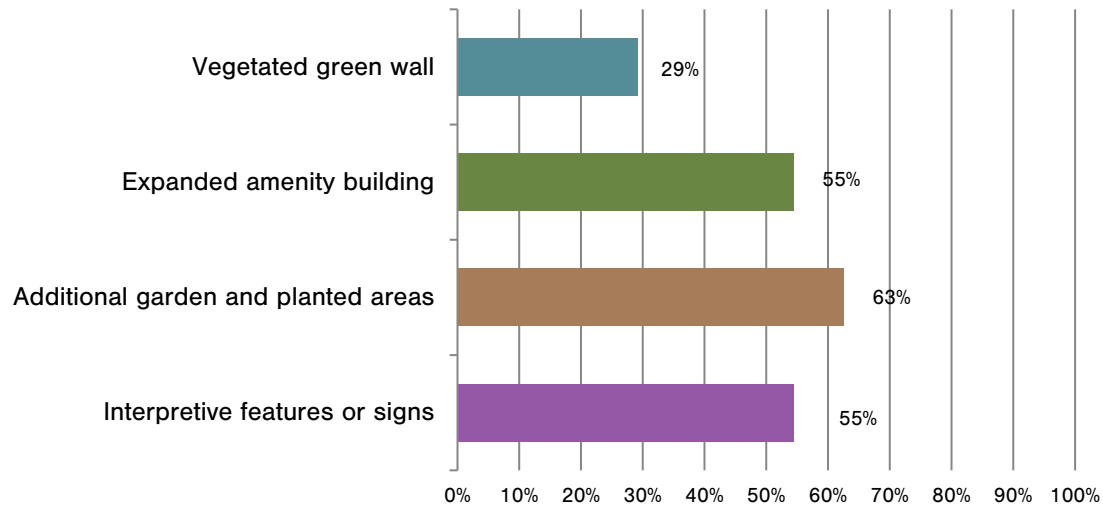
Respondents = 107

Q28. Which infrastructure improvements are most important to you? (Pick your top 2)



Respondents = 100

Q29. Which of these green or amenity features would add the most value to your experience? (Pick your top 2)



Respondents = 99

Q30. Are there any other features you'd like to suggest that are not on this list?

Respondents = 39

- Terraced green family zones — grassy terraces and ramps down to the lake for an architecturally striking space.
- Winter activity areas, like groomed paths for skiing or sledding.
- Better beach volleyball courts and more active recreation spaces.
- Regulation-sized horseshoe pits or a frisbee golf course to support local leagues and attract visitors.
- Outdoor concrete ping pong tables.
- 24/7/365 AED stations for safety.
- Pop-up vendor spaces, possibly with a coffee shop or ice cream stand.
- Dog park and a splash park for families.
- An iconic pier with a gazebo at the end.
- Simple approach — keep the space green, open, and uncluttered.
- Interpretive signs focusing on Nakusp's history and heritage.
- Avoid gas-related infrastructure along the lake to reduce pollution risk.
- Maintain distinct zones: keep the waterfront serene and restorative, while focusing more active or playful spaces (playgrounds, fire pits, kayaking equipment) elsewhere.
- Maintain and improve long walking and cycling connections.
- Gas dock and welcome/info signage for boaters.
- Longer trails for strolling and cycling.
- Washing stations and bottle refill stations.
- Ice cream or snack stands.
- An outdoor gym.
- Scooter rentals or other micro-mobility options for easy waterfront access.
- Small retail spaces or cafés, if kept attractive and low-key.
- Clear signage from Broadway to direct people to the waterfront.
- A bridge to the southern breakwater for fishing and viewing.
- Maintain affordability and focus on what the community can maintain long-term.
- A shaded gazebo or structure at the beach for swimming lessons and other activities.

Q31. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Respondents = 61

- We love our waterfront and want to sustain its natural beauty and peaceful charm.
- Concerns about dog waste on walking paths: everyone should enjoy a clean, scenic space.
- Climate change and Treaty negotiations make lake level control a critical issue for planning and recreation.
- Some feel the survey was leading or duplicative; suggestions to improve future community engagement and clarity.
- Caution against overdevelopment or commercialization that could spoil the waterfront's quiet, natural character.
- Appreciation for maintaining distinct zones—active spaces separate from serene gardens and waterfront areas.
- Suggestions for practical amenities like donation boxes for maintenance, more benches (especially for seniors), and improved access for all abilities.
- Desire for gathering spaces, events, and gentle activation that complements the natural setting without overwhelming it.
- Support for improved marina management with public involvement, not privatization.
- Concerns about funding and ensuring that upgrades don't lead to tax increases or wasteful spending.
- Emphasis on better signage and connections between the waterfront and downtown to improve navigation and integration.
- Requests to maintain the waterfront year-round, including winter use considerations (e.g., stairs vs. ramps).
- Mixed views on adding businesses or food vendors: some want to keep the waterfront peaceful, others see potential for light commercial activity.
- Preserve and promote the waterfront as a key tourism asset and community hub.
- Appreciation for village council and administration efforts; encouragement to follow through on plans rather than shelve them.
- Concerns about garbage and maintenance related to fire pits or barbecue facilities—prefer keeping the area clean and family-friendly.
- Desire to enhance natural features (like Powell Creek outflow) and to respect the history and unique character of Nakusp.
- Caution against influence from special interest groups; the project should reflect the broad community's wishes.
- Some feel the waterfront is already beautiful and functional; prioritize maintenance over large-scale changes.

7. LESSONS LEARNED & NEXT STEPS

The first round of public engagement has provided valuable insights into what the community envisions for the waterfront, including areas for improvement and what is already working well. A key take-away from the community includes the importance of preserving the natural beauty of the waterfront while making targeted improvements to infrastructure and amenities. Community feedback highlighted the need for some amenities and investment including event and gathering spaces, improved maintenance and landscaping, better accessibility and trails, and enhanced marina and waterfront facilities. The community's strong connection to the waterfront and their desire to maintain its serene and welcoming atmosphere were clear throughout the engagement process.

Next steps include the project team working throughout July to refine their understanding of the waterfront and the needs of the community, which will become the foundation for a draft vision, guiding principles, and goals. In July and August, this will feed into a Master Plan Concept Design, which the team will bring back to the community for further engagement in September at a second open house event. This process ensures that the community has an opportunity to review the draft Plan and will continue to shape the development of the waterfront.