



City of Regina



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Wascana Pool Renewal Online Engagement Report

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City of Regina
Wascana Pool Renewal
Online Engagement Report

Executive Summary



Photos courtesy Regina.ca

City of Regina Wascana Pool Renewal Public Engagement Highlights

The City of Regina is beginning work on a renewed Wascana Pool. To gather ideas on how a renewed pool in Wascana Park can best meet the needs of Regina residents now and in the future, the City launched an online public engagement in June 2019. Feedback will help inform design concept options for a renewed pool.

The online questionnaire was live on the Regina.ca website from June 7th to 21st, 2019. A total of 4,207 Regina residents responded. This includes 177 residents who signed up for ongoing email notifications on the project. Highlights are presented below.

Most Respondents Are Aware of Wascana Pool Renewal Plan

- Seven out of 10 (67%) respondents are aware of the City of Regina’s renewal plan for the outdoor pool at Wascana Park—including 21% who are very aware of the renewal plan.

Aquatic Priorities

- Swimming for leisure & recreation is the highest priority aquatic activity, with a third (33%) of respondents identifying this as a priority.
- Swimming for personal fitness is the second priority (18%), followed by swimming lessons and socialization (17% each).

Important Outdoor Pool Amenities

- In terms of outdoor pool amenities, 8 out of 10 (82%) respondents think expanded rest areas (including shaded areas) to encourage socialization and longer stays are important.
- 7 out of 10 think it’s important to offer more/expanded family-focused water features (73%) and onsite picnic areas (72%).

- 7 out of 10 (65%) think maintaining the current size and use of the pool for lane and recreational swimming is important.
- 5 out of 10 (46%) think access to a variety of food options at the pool site is important.

Important Amenities in Renewed Wascana Pool

- In terms of overall amenities at the renewed Wascana Pool, 7 out of 10 respondents think it’s important to continue to have access to the park’s pedestrian and bike paths (70%) and to have open green spaces within the pool area (69%).
- 6 out of 10 (56%) think it’s important the pool is connected to and complements other park attractions.
- 4 out of 10 (38%) think it’s important the new pool maintains a similar size footprint. The same percentage think it’s important there is less green space and fewer trees around the new pool to make room for family-focused water features.
- 3 out of 10 (34%) think it’s important to provide views of Wascana Lake and park.

What Features People Expect at Renewed Wascana Pool

- Five out of ten (47%) respondents identify a leisure & recreation pool as one of the three most important features they expect to see in the renewed Wascana Pool.
- A third expect to see water play/spray features (33%) and improved change room access (32%).
- More than a quarter (28%) expect a waterslide, while 20% expect to still feel like they’re in a park.
- Other frequently named features include beach entry (18%), pool deck lounging area (17%), swirl/hot pool (17%), 50-metre lane/competition pool (17%) and diving boards (15%).

Current Pool Visitation

- Most (63%) respondents visited a Regina outdoor pool within the last year. Another 17% visited within the last three years, while 15% visited more than three years ago. Only 6% have never visited an outdoor pool.
- Close to half (44%) of respondents visited Wascana Pool within the last year. Another 18% visited within the last three years and 24% more than three years ago, while 12% have never visited.

Future Pool Visitation

- The large majority (91%) of respondents are likely to visit the renewed pool site—including 73% who are “very likely” to visit.
- Four out of 10 (35%) respondents plan on visiting the renewed Wascana Pool with children compared to 20% who plan to visit alone as an individual. The largest percentage (44%) plan to visit both alone (as an individual) and with children.



Methodology

The Wascana Pool Renewal survey was available on the City of Regina website from June 7th to 21st, 2019. The questionnaire, developed in collaboration with the City of Regina, was designed to gather expectations about a renewed pool and its fit within Wascana Park. It consisted of an introduction explaining the purpose of the engagement, followed by 12 questions.

Fast Consulting reviewed and compiled feedback into this summary report. The online questionnaire was live on the Regina.ca website from June 7th to 21st, 2019. A total of 4,207 Regina residents responded to the online questionnaire. This includes 177 residents who signed up for ongoing email notifications on the project. Results are presented below.

The results also included open-end comments to two questions. Fast Consulting reviewed these open-end responses and categorized them into high level themes to encapsulate key aspects of public feedback.

The online questionnaire provides Regina residents with an opportunity to share opinions with the City; it is not a statistically valid survey conducted with a random selection of respondents. Because respondents self-selected to contribute their opinions, results technically constitute a non-probability sample and a margin of sampling error is not calculated or quoted.



City of Regina
Wascana Pool Renewal
Online Engagement Report

Engagement Results

Awareness of Wascana Pool Renewal Plan

Q. How aware are you of the renewal plan for the outdoor pool at Wascana Park?

- Seven out of 10 (67%) respondents are aware of the City of Regina’s renewal plan for the outdoor pool at Wascana Park—including 22% who are very aware of the renewal plan.

7 out of 10 Respondents Are Aware of Wascana Pool Renewal Plan

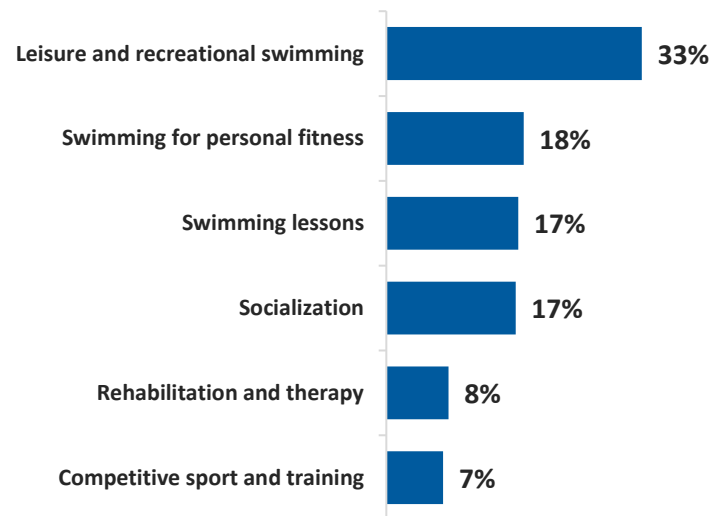


High Priority Aquatic Activities

Q. What is the relative priority of each of the following aquatic activities?

- Swimming for leisure & recreation ranks as the highest priority aquatic activity, with a third (33%) of respondents identifying this as a priority.
- Swimming for personal fitness is the second priority at 18%, followed by swimming lessons and socialization at 17% each.
- Approximately 8% of respondents rank rehabilitation and therapy as a priority aquatic activity and 7% rank competitive sport and training.

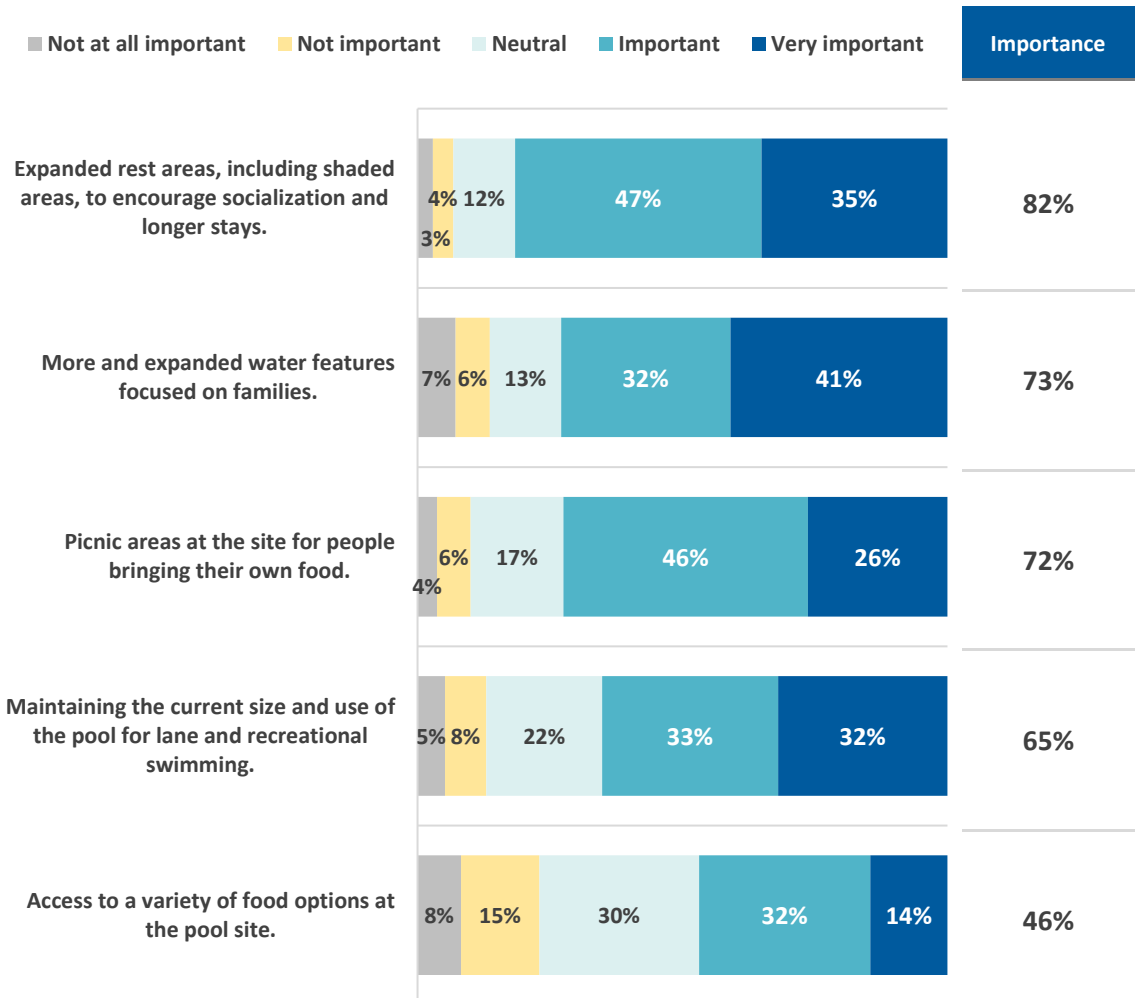
Swimming for Leisure & Recreation Is Top Priority



Important Pool Amenities

Q. Thinking about the experience of the pool in Wascana Park, how important are the following to you as a potential user and resident?

- 8 out of 10 (82%) respondents think expanded rest areas (including shaded areas) are important to encourage socialization and longer stays.
- 7 out of 10 (73%) think more and expanded water features focused on families are important.
- 7 out of 10 (72%) think onsite picnic areas for people bringing their own food are important.
- 7 out of 10 (65%) think maintaining the current size and use of the pool for lap and recreational swimming is important.
- 5 out of 10 (46%) think access to a variety of food options at the pool site is important.



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

Expectations of Renewed Wascana Pool

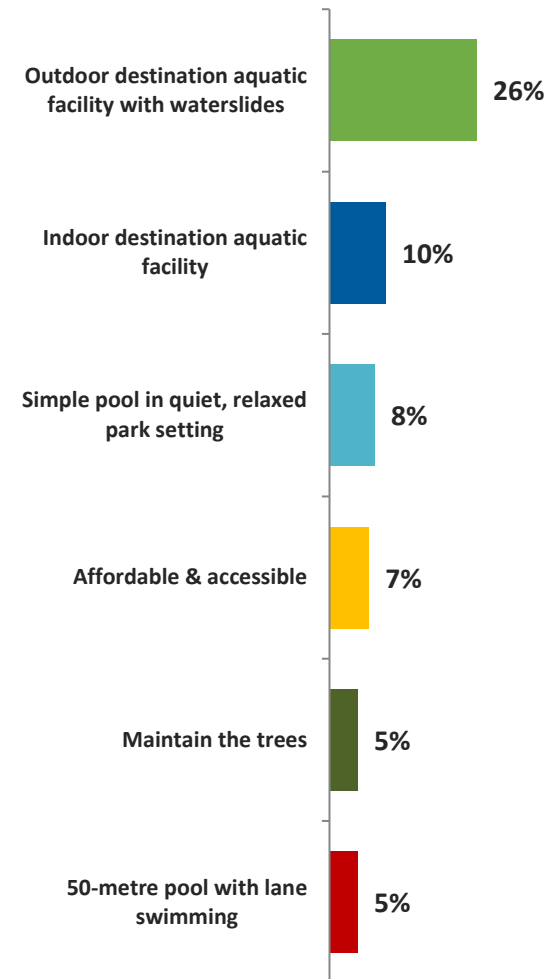
Q. What experience do you expect the renewed pool to offer?

A third (32%) of respondents shared their thoughts on the experience they expect (or hope) the renewed pool will offer. Analysis of their verbatim responses reveals several distinct themes:

- **Outdoor destination aquatic facility with waterslides** – 26% want a new, outdoor destination aquatic facility with a variety of amenities, especially waterslides but also splash pads, lazy rivers, beach access, food vendors, picnic areas and more.
- **Simple pool in quiet, relaxed park setting** – 8% want a similar experience to the existing Wascana Pool. They want an outdoor pool in a quiet, relaxed park setting. They do not want a waterpark or destination facility.
- **Maintain the trees** – 5% want any development to maintain trees in Wascana Park; they are concerned with the tree removal done during recent commercial development in the park.
- **50-metre pool with lane swimming** – 5% want the renewed pool to be a regulation 50-metre pool with lane swimming to allow for competitions and training, including for swim clubs and triathletes.

Although the questionnaire did not ask about an indoor aquatic facility or accessibility/affordability, these issues were raised:

- **Indoor destination aquatic facility** – 10% think an indoor destination aquatic facility makes more sense than an outdoor facility that will only be open 2 to 3 months a year. Parents with children say they are more likely to use such a facility, as they are often looking for family activities during colder months.
- **Affordable & accessible** – 7% want a facility that is both affordable and accessible to all residents.



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: Expectations of A Renewed Pool, Sample Verbatim Comments

OUTDOOR DESTINATION AQUATIC FACILITY WITH WATERSLIDES (26%)

- *Focus on families. Keeping it natural in the area. The area is beautiful with the pool in the middle, so not industrializing it too much. An added spray park or waterslide would also encourage people to come to the city for the day from other communities.*
- *More water features like slides, lazy river, beach entry, lawn area for picnicking, clean, hands-free bathrooms.*
- *Would love to see waterslides in a public pool in Regina; smaller cities have waterslides and wave pools*
- *Build a waterpark! I'm talking waterslides, wave pool, surf simulator, etc. That kind of experience in Wascana Park will be epic.*
- *I give you full permission to make it a wonderful attraction for the families of the city. Make it fun! Make it unique! ... Make it worthy of one of the best cities and most beautiful parks in Canada!*

SIMPLE POOL IN QUIET, RELAXED PARK SETTING (8%)

- *I would prefer that the city try to keep the same footprint and not disturb the natural surrounding of the pool.*
- *Keep it simple so as not to disturb the culture that exists around our beloved pool*
- *Nothing fancy needed. Maintain the same 'footprint' – we are losing too much of our Wascana Park already.*

MAINTAIN THE TREES (5%)

- *I love Wascana pool because it is peaceful, surrounded by mature trees, and tucked away in a beautiful part of the city. I have always wished there was more room to spread out on the grass. I hope the renewal plan is able to expand the grounds without cutting down trees so the privacy of the pool is maintained.*

50-METRE POOL WITH LANE SWIMMING (5%)

- *Make the pool a real 50-metre pool with safe depths for flips, turns and dive starts.*
- *I expect there to be a 50-metre pool with diverse function use for the fast growing user groups in the city: Triathlon, Master Swim Club and competitive swim clubs. We use this pool now and love it.*

Not asked in the questionnaire, but on people's minds:

INDOOR DESTINATION AQUATIC FACILITY (10%)

- *An indoor facility that has more play friendly structures would be a better fit. As a parent with small children, I'm more likely to take them to a spray pad than I would be to Wascana. However, I would like more indoor options for when the weather isn't ideal (too hot, windy, cold, winter, etc.).*
- *I feel that a large waterslide is needed for families in the city, but I would much rather see it located where we could use it year-round and not have parking concerns.*

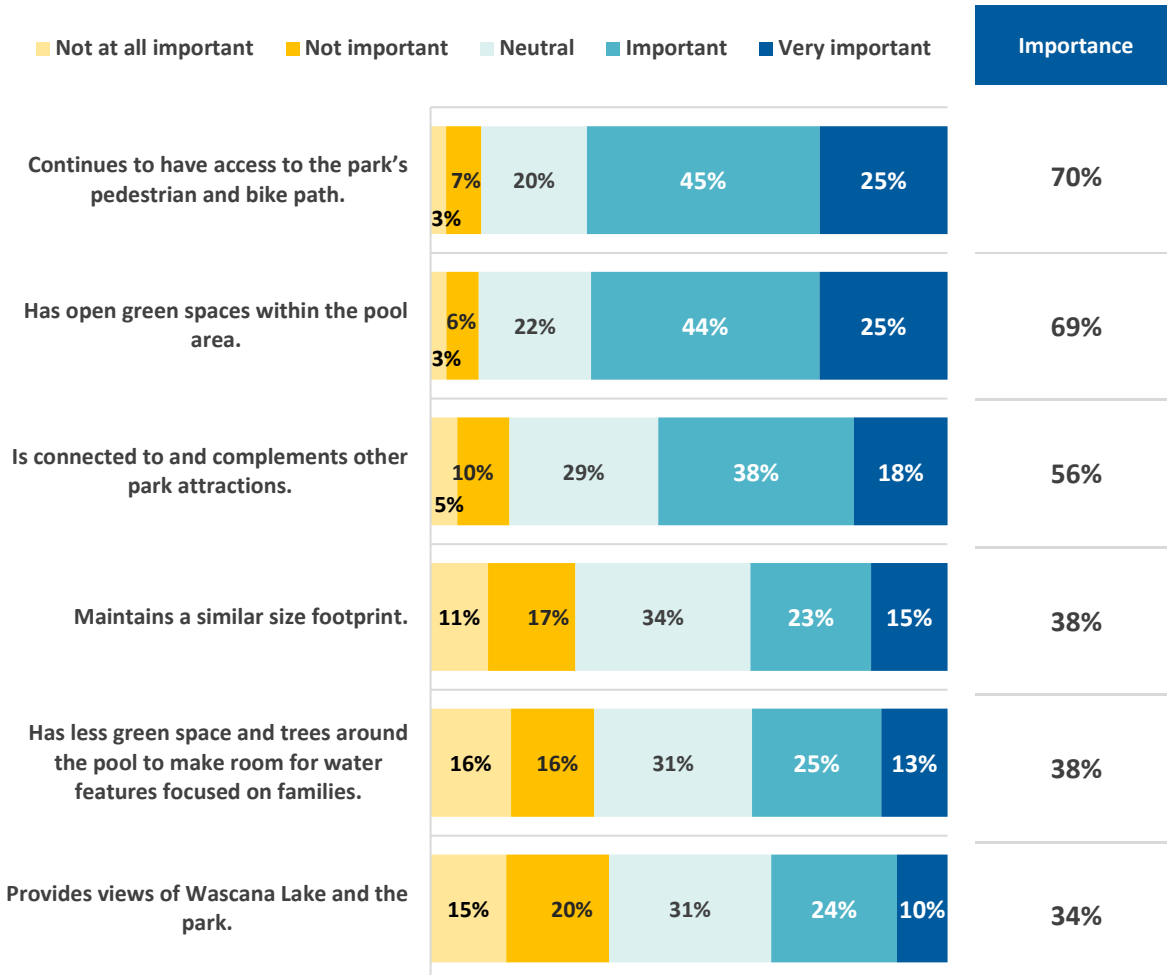
AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE (7%)

- *Please make the pool accessible for those with mobility concerns and have different pool depths to accommodate a range of ages and swimming abilities.*
- *We need to keep it affordable and accessible for everybody.*

Important Amenities in Renewed Wascana Pool

Q. There are many ways the renewed pool site can be designed to fit within the overall Wascana Park experience. How important is it to you that the new pool at Wascana ...?

- 7 out of 10 (70%) respondents think it's important that the new pool at Wascana continues to have access to the park's pedestrian and bike path.
- 7 out of 10 (69%) think it's important for the new pool to have open green spaces within the pool area.
- 6 out of 10 (56%) think it's important the pool is connected to and complements other park attractions.
- 4 out of 10 (38%) think it's important the new pool maintains a similar size footprint.
- 4 out of 10 (38%) think it's important there is less green space and fewer trees around the new pool to make room for water features focused on families.
- 3 out of 10 (34%) think it's important to provide views of Wascana Lake and park.



Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

Perception of How New Pool Will Fit within Park

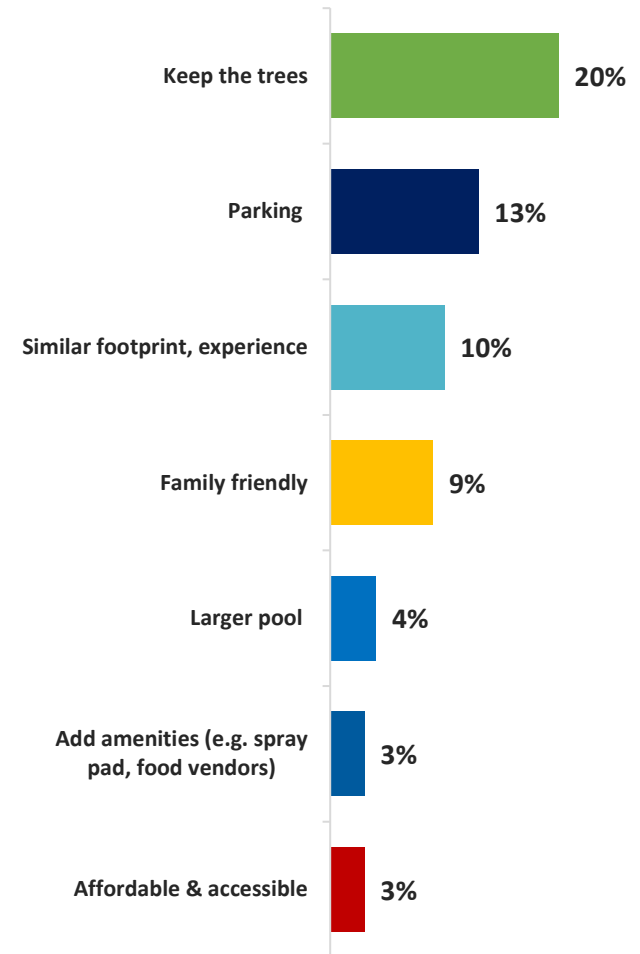
Q. Is there anything else you would like to share regarding how the renewed pool site fits within the park?

Approximately 14% of respondents shared thoughts on how they see the new pool fitting into Wascana Park. Analysis of verbatim responses reveals consistent themes:

- **Keep the trees** – 20% are concerned about the loss of more trees in Wascana Park and do not want to see any more trees removed from the park.
- **Similar footprint, experience** – 10% want the renewed pool to have a similar footprint and experience as the existing Wascana Pool, meaning an outdoor pool in a quiet, relaxed park setting. They do not want a waterpark or destination facility.
- **Family friendly** – 9% want the renewed pool to be a more family friendly facility, meaning offering more amenities and features for parents with small children, older children and teens.
- **Larger pool** – 4% would like to see a larger pool to accommodate additional features, including waterslides, more water features and a regulation 50-metre pool for lane swimming and competitions.
- **Add amenities** – 3% want the renewed pool to offer more amenities, from waterslides to splash pads, change rooms, food vendors and picnic areas.

Although the questionnaire did not ask about parking or accessibility/affordability, these issues were raised:

- **Parking** – 13% mention parking. Most of these respondents want to ensure the renewed pool offers enough parking, while some are concerned about losing green park space to new parking lots.
- **Affordable & accessible** – 3% want the pool to be affordable and accessible for all residents.



IN THEIR OWN WORDS: How the New Pool Will “Fit” Wascana Park, Sample Verbatim Comments

KEEP THE TREES (17%)

- *I understand changing the existing footprint might be necessary to accommodate some new options, however the trees are one of the things that makes our park so great*
- *I wish that any further development in the park does not require the removal of living trees.*
- *Families like green space and trees too! In fact, it's crucial to have shady areas with young kids.*

FAMILY FRIENDLY (8%)

- *I really like the idea of a pool that is more family friendly with added features.*
- *Make it an all-around fun family place with lap swimming, waterslides, food area and picnic area. Wascana Park is beautiful and it would do well!*

SIMILAR FOOTPRINT, EXPERIENCE (7%)

- *The pool has fit within the park for decades. Try for something similar.*
- *The footprint should not be extended; that would be detrimental to the nature already in the park.*

LARGER POOL (4%)

- *Expand and put in waterslides and lazy river.*
- *If a larger footprint means more water features, I would like that option.*

ADD AMENITIES (3%)

- *I would like to see the addition of water features focused on families. If this means an increase in the footprint, so be it.*
- *Additional water features would be amazing, but so would having shade so you don't have heat stroke after a day at this fabulous new park.*
- *Any more family friendly features are welcome.*

Not asked in the questionnaire, but on people's minds:

PARKING (13%)

- *It would be good to have more parking spots for during the day. Later in the evening and weekends, the lot across the street is good but the daytime parking is more limited*
- *Access to more parking to accommodate a larger pool facility*
- *No more parking lots in Wascana please. There are too many already.*

AFFORDABLE & ACCESSIBLE (3%)

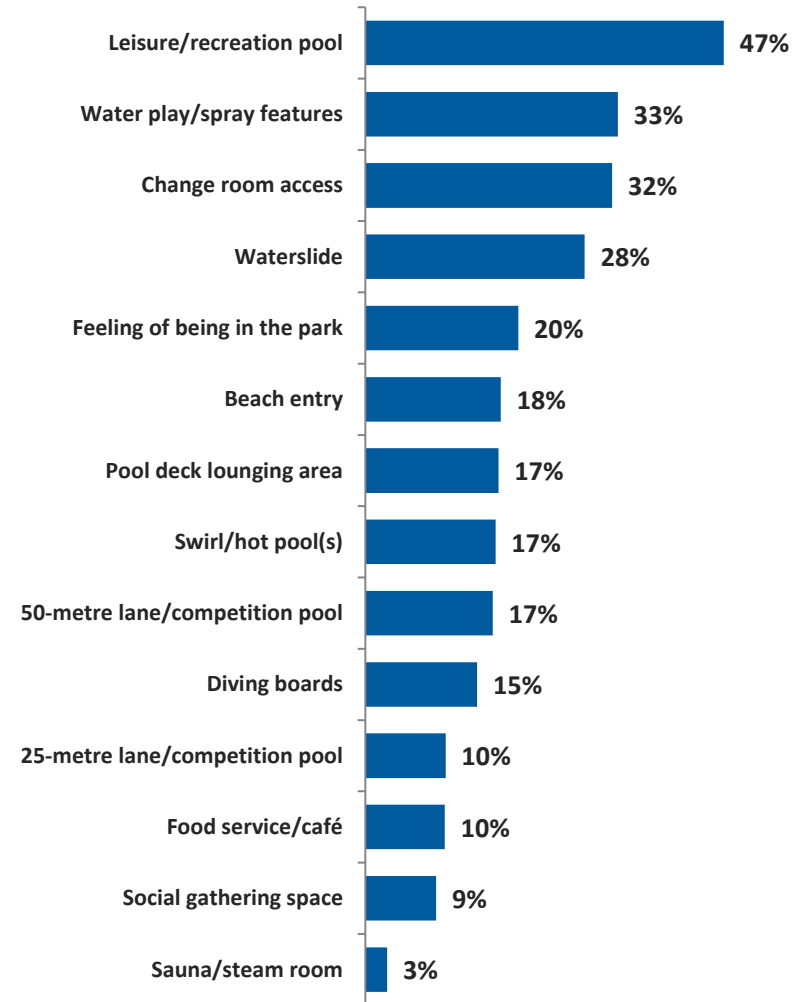
- *Continue it to be an affordable safe public park...everyone welcome.*
- *Have a good shallow end for smaller kids. Pool should be easily accessible for people with disabilities and easily walkable from transit.*

Most Important Features in Renewed Pool

Q. Imagine a renewed pool and identify the three most important features and attributes that you expect will be included.

- Five out of ten (47%) respondents identify a leisure & recreation pool as one of the three most important features they expect in the renewed Wascana Pool.
- A third expect to see water play/spray features (33%).
- A third expect improved change room access (32%).
- More than a quarter (28%) expect a waterslide.
- Approximately a fifth expect to still feel like they're in a park (20%).
- Other frequently named features include beach entry (18%), a pool deck lounging area (17%), swirl/hot pool (17%), 50-metre lane/competition pool (17%) and diving boards (15%).

Top 3 – Leisure/Recreation Pool, Change Room Access & Water Play/Spray Features

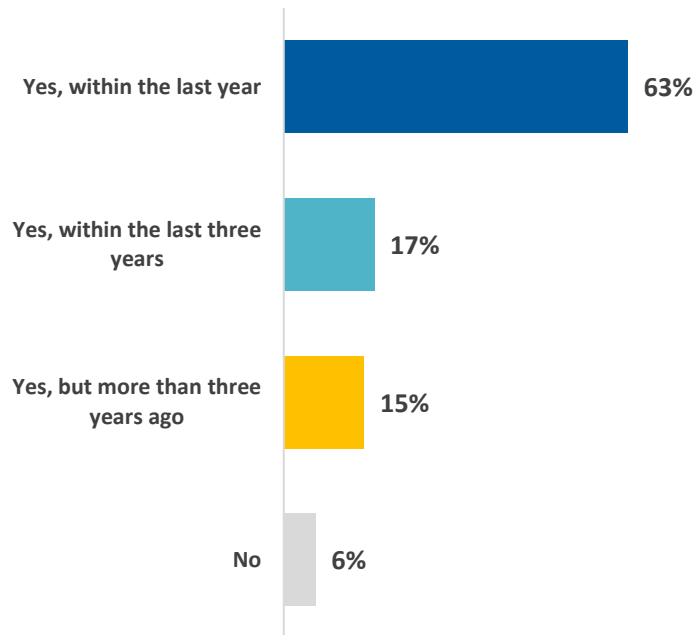


**Multiple response allowed*

Current Pool Visitation

6 out of 10 Visited an Outdoor Pool in Last Year

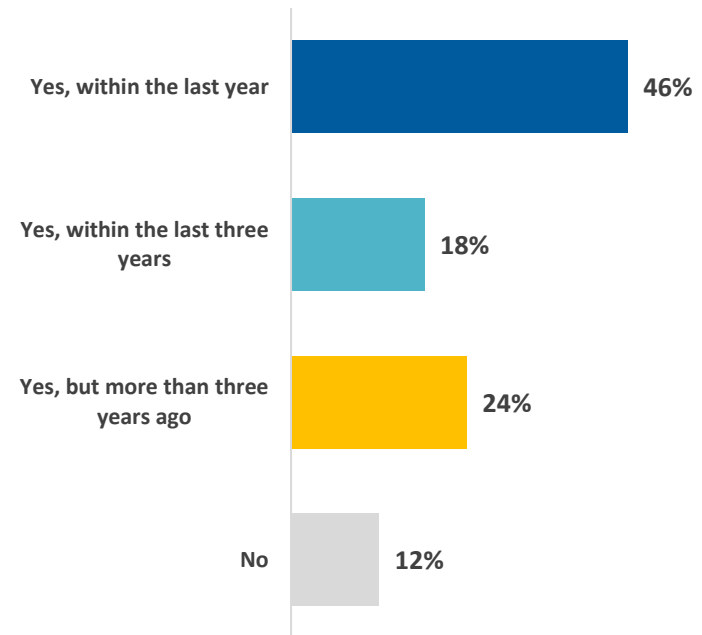
Q. Have you or a member of your household visited any of the existing outdoor pools in Regina?



- Most (63%) respondents have visited a Regina outdoor pool within the last year. Another 17% visited within the last three years, while 15% visited more than three years ago. Only 6% have not visited an outdoor pool.

5 out of 10 Visited Wascana Pool in Last Year

Q. Have you or a member of your household visited the existing Wascana Pool?



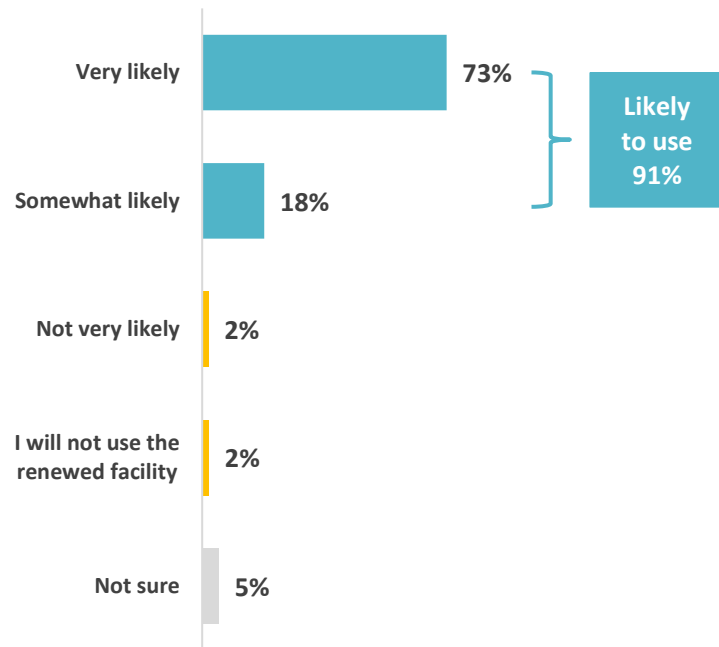
- Close to half (46%) of respondents have visited Wascana Pool within the last year, while another 18% visited within the last three years. Approximately 24% visited Wascana Pool more than three years ago and 12% have never visited.

**Chart may not total 100% due to rounding*

Future Pool Visitation

9 out of 10 Residents Likely to Visit Renewed Wascana Pool

Q. Given that the new site is expected to be ready for the summer of 2021, how likely is it that you or a member of your household will visit the renewed pool site?

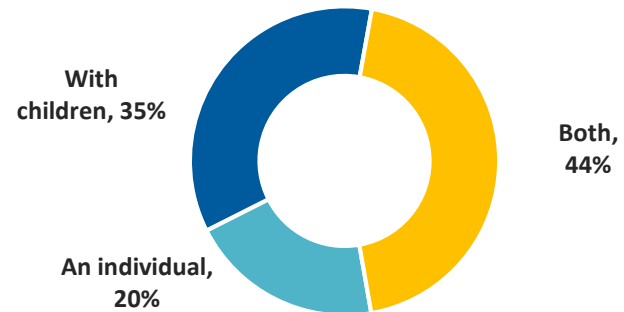


- The large majority (91%) of respondents are likely to visit the renewed pool site—including 73% who are “very likely” to visit.

*Chart may not total 100% due to rounding

4 out of 10 Residents Expect to Come with Children

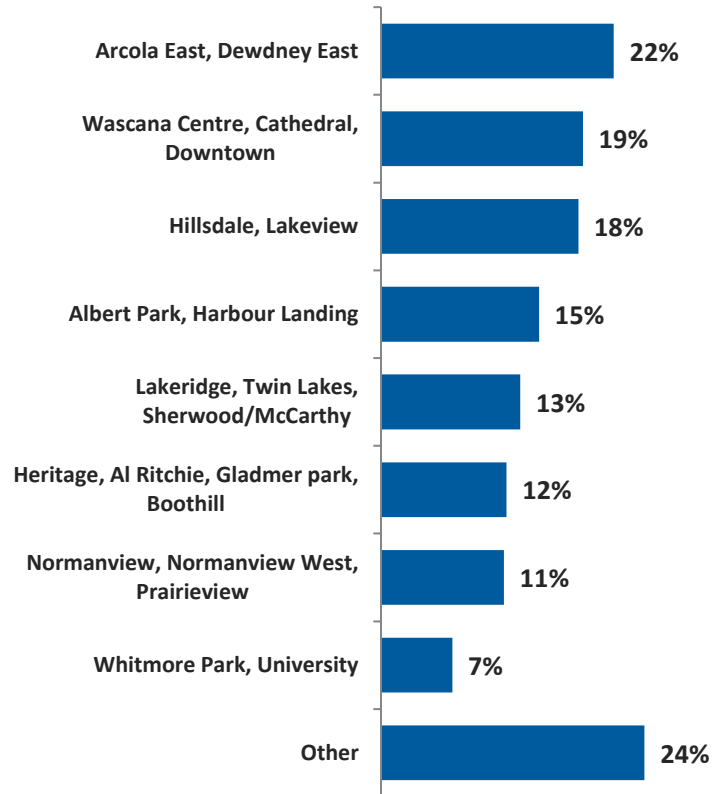
Q. Would you plan on attending the pool as an individual, with children or both?



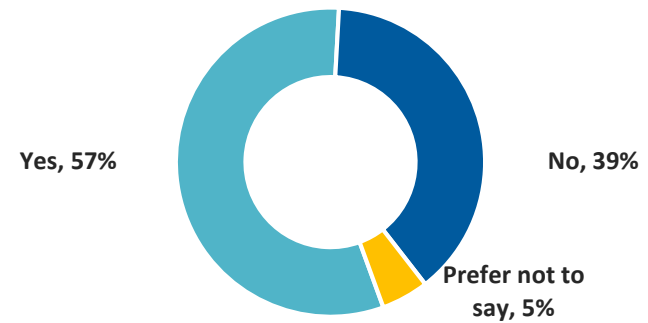
- Four out of 10 (35%) respondents plan on visiting the renewed Wascana Pool with children compared to 20% who plan to visit alone (as an individual).
- The largest percentage (44%) plan to visit both alone (as an individual) and with children.

General Public Demographics

Q. What neighbourhood do you live in?



Q. Do you have children under the age of 18 living in your household?



- Most (57%) respondents have children under the age of 18 living at home; 39% do not.