

City of Toronto – Parks Development & Capital Projects

Kidstown Water Park

Online Survey 2

Summary Report

December 31, 2020

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Project Background

L'Amoreaux Kidstown Water Park is the City's only owned and operated water park. It is the most popular outdoor aquatic facility in the City, enjoyed by kids and families from all across Toronto. It has come time to replace this iconic destination and revitalize its surroundings to ensure the water park is in good working order for many summers to come. The redesigned water park will be a dynamic, accessible, safe, and exciting space that will better serve existing and new park users.

The water park redesign will be developed through consultation with the community.

Survey Objectives

The City conducted an online survey to obtain feedback from community members to inform the Kidstown redesign. This is the second online survey conducted for this project. Survey participants were given the opportunity to review different design options for the water park, parking lot, and change rooms and share their preferences and suggestions.

The survey was available to complete online from to December 31, 2020. The survey received a total of 292 responses with **530** people contributing to these responses.

The survey was also available in Traditional and Simplified Chinese. In total, 14 responses were collected in Traditional Chinese and 9 in Simplified Chinese. These survey results were translated and included in the response analysis presented in this report (including raw but translated text responses in the appendices).

The feedback from the survey will inform the development of a preferred design options for the water park redesign. These preferred design will be presented to the community during the next and final phase of engagement.

Notification

The online survey was promoted through the following channels:

- Email updates to people who had signed up for project notifications
- Facebook and Instagram advertisements targeting area residents
 - In addition to English ads, this included ads in both Traditional and Simplified Chinese to promote both translated surveys
- Outreach to Facebook groups whose membership is concentrated around Kidstown.
 - This included parent groups and Chinese heritage groups based in Scarborough.
- Promotions through the local Councillor's Office
- Park signage
- [The project webpage](#)

Key Feedback Highlights

The following provides a high level summary of survey feedback. See Appendix B for proposed designs, concepts, and features presented in the survey.

- For Concept A – Beach Theme:
 - The top 3 splash pad features preferred by respondents are (1) water play structures (2) water tunnels and (3) splash pad toys.
 - The top 3 pool and hill features preferred by respondents are (1) an accessible slide (2) stepped seating into a pool and (3) a pool with swimming lanes.
 - The top 3 seating types respondents would like more of include (1) picnic tables (2) lawn picnic areas and (3) tables and chairs.
 - About a third of respondents would not like any seating types removed.
- For Concept B - River Theme:
 - The top 3 splash pad and hill features preferred by respondents are (1) splash play toys (2) a water room and (3) tiered pools and falling water (tied).
 - The top 3 water park features preferred by respondents are (1) pool with beach entry and spray toys (2) a canal with bubblers and edge seating and (3) grate and mist features.
 - The top 3 seating types respondents would like more of include (1) picnic tables (2) canal edge seating and (3) lawn picnic areas.
 - About a third of respondents would not like any seating types removed.
- For Concept C - Lake Theme:
 - The top 3 pool and hill features preferred by respondents are (1) the pool (2) the waterfall and (3) the rope bridge and stepping stones (tied).
 - The top 3 splash pad features preferred by respondents are (1) boulders and jets (2) a suspension bridge and (3) stream features.
 - The top 3 seating types respondents would like more of include (1) picnic tables (2) tables and chairs and (3) lawn picnic areas.
 - The 3 seating types respondents would like less of include (1) (2) and (3)
 - About half of respondents would not like any seating types removed.
- When asked to rank their preferred park design, respondents ranked Option A – Beach theme highest (43% average ranking); Option B – River theme second (37% average ranking) and Option C – Lake theme last (20% average ranking).
 - The preferred pool design was Option A – Beach theme (37% average ranking)
 - The preferred splash pad design was Option A – Beach theme (42% average ranking)
- Overall, the top 3 seating types preferred for the new park include (1) Hill-side seating with backrest (2) accessible picnic tables and (3) stream-side seating walls.
- The preferred shade structure idea was a colourful, see-through, but solid roof.
- 82% of respondents like the natural play ideas (see Appendix B) presented a lot or a little.

- 89% of respondents like the cognitive and inclusive play ideas (see Appendix B) a lot or a little.
- Locker, change room and shower preferences were close, with the Grid formation being the most preferred (40% average ranking) and the Meander formation being the second preference (37% average ranking).
- Drop off zone location preferences were also close, with Option B being the most preferred (38% average ranking) and Option A being the second preference (36% average ranking).

Detailed Feedback

The following provides a detailed overview of the text responses received through the online survey. The number in brackets identifies the quantity of comments that contained each sentiment or suggestion.

Parking Lot Comments

- Increase lot size and provide more parking spaces (6)
- Prioritize safety at the entrance and drop off area (5)
 - Suggestions for improving safety include preventing overcrowding or traffic congestion, for example by separating the park entrance from the drop off zone
- Separate the park entrance, line, and other pedestrian areas from the parking lot (5)
- Improve circulation by:
 - Creating a separate entrance and exit for vehicles using the drop off zone (2)
 - Installing a roundabout in the drop off area to avoid congestion (2)
 - Using enforcement mechanisms to prevent idling in the drop off area (2)
 - Including effective wayfinding signage (1)
 - Ensuring enough space for school buses to navigate the parking lot safely (1)
- Ensure parking spaces are:
 - Clearly marked(1)
 - Wide enough for large vehicles (1)
 - Colour-coded (by section) for easy wayfinding (1)
- Include parking spaces for:
 - Electric vehicle/scooter charging (2)
 - Expectant mothers (1)
 - Parents with young children (1)
 - People with accessibility needs(1)
 - Staff (1)
 - Bikes (1)
- Do not allow busses to park in an area that will disrupt pleasant views from inside the park (1)

Water Park Design Comments

- Respondents noted that they like the following features of the proposed designs:
 - The natural play areas/features (8)

- A few respondents suggested that natural play areas and features be spread throughout the park (3)
- The water slide (4)
- Incorporation of Indigenous cultures into the design (3)
- Permitted picnic areas (2)
- Sensory play areas/features (2)
- The wading pool (1)
- Water spray features (1)
- Respondents suggested the following additions or changes to the proposed designs:
 - Providing the following play features:
 - Keeping the/a bucket feature, as it is a very popular and well-loved part of the park (3)
 - As many water features as possible (1)
 - An enlarged beach area (1)
 - More water slides (1)
 - A pool (1)
 - One respondent does not want swimming lanes included, suggesting they would be used more by adults than children (1)
 - Mini golf (1)
 - A winter ski route (1)
 - Rope swings (1)
 - Illuminated water falls (1)
 - A paddle boat area (1)
 - A lazy river (1)
 - Including boulders and a river feature in the same design (1)
 - Providing the following shade/ seating/ picnic area features:
 - More shade over both seating and play areas (9), and over the entrance queue (1)
 - One respondent also suggested structures should provide shelter from rain (1)
 - Poles with hooks for belongings throughout seating areas (2)
 - More picnic areas(1)
 - More accessible seating (1)
 - Seating for caregivers (1)
 - Seating with armrests (1)
 - Less/no lounge seating (1)
 - Converting the perimeter hill to stonewall seating (1)
 - High level design changes:
 - Include spaces and play features specifically for toddlers (2)
 - Expand the water park's size (2)
 - Distinct zones to make child supervision more manageable (1)
 - Spaces for multi-age group play (1)
 - Adding more greenery around the perimeter fencing (1)
 - Groundcover suggestions:
 - Not including sand in the design, as it is messy (2)
 - Conversely, another respondent noted they would like a sand-play area (1)
 - Using soft or rubberized ground cover (1)

- Change room/ washroom suggestions:
 - Stools for smaller kids at sinks (1)
 - Diaper dispensers (1)
 - Plentiful hooks (1)
 - Swimsuit dryers (1)
 - A small washroom on the opposite end of the park to prevent the need to take children across the entire park to use the facilities (1)
 - Not placing misters beside the change area (1)
 - Ensuring enough space for strollers around the shower area (1)
- Food and vendor suggestions:
 - Including food stalls or vending machines (2)
 - Allowing food trucks to park nearby (1)
 - Including spaces for small vendors (e.g. selling toys or books) (2)
- Respondents suggested the following considerations while developing a preferred designs:
 - The safety of some features (e.g. slippery surfaces and hard concrete or boulders to fall on) (4)
 - Providing enough staff/ lifeguards are present to keep people safe and enforce park rules (4)
 - Ensuring the water park is fully accessible and inclusive (3), including for strollers (1)
 - Ongoing maintenance needs/costs (3)
 - Using environmentally sustainable construction practices and materials (1) (e.g. keeping and updating existing play features (1))
 - Providing enough space throughout the park so that many children can play at once (1)
 - Not allowing smoking inside the park (1)
 - The impacts of traffic and noise on neighbours (1)
- Other suggestions and comments include:
 - Aesthetic preferences:
 - More colourful design (3)
 - Simplified design (2)
 - Unique design (1)
 - A theme park design style rather than a natural design style (1)
 - Provide more waste bins throughout the park (2)
 - Warm the water (1)

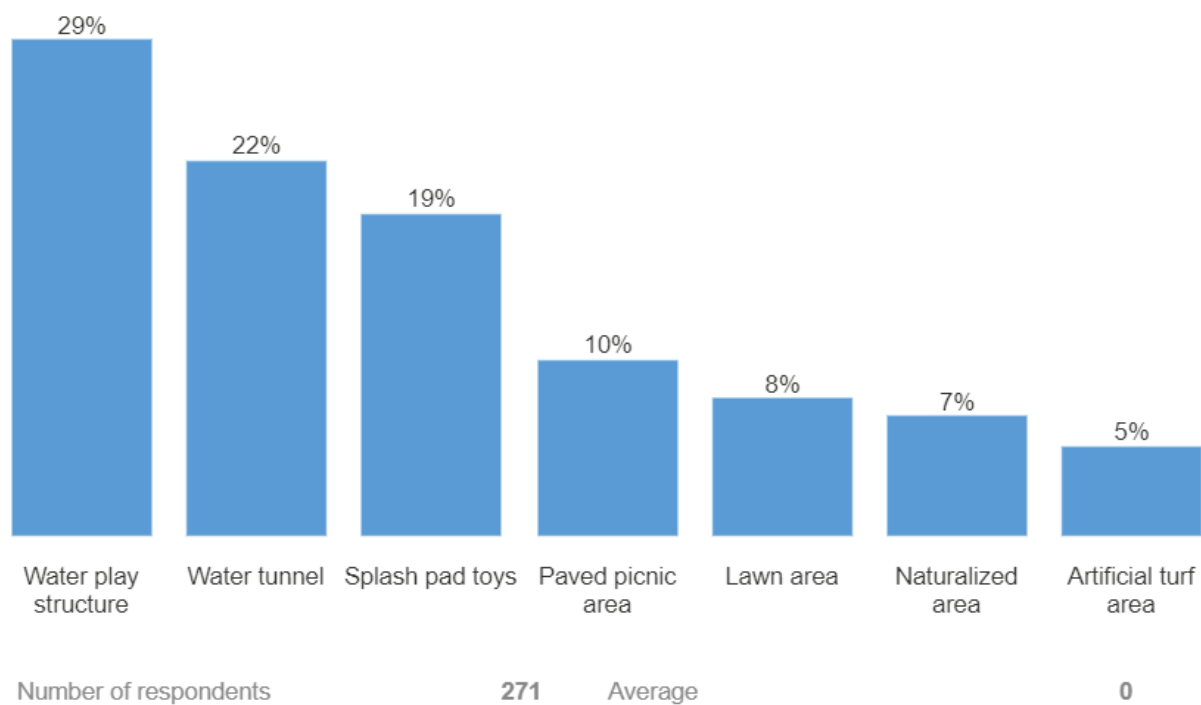
Additional Project Comments

- Some respondents noted they are excited about the coming Kidstown improvements (15)
- Build quickly to prevent the loss of another season (1)
- Provide an online booking system (1)
- The project is unnecessary/a waste of City resources (1)
- Introduce park user fees (1)
- Host a focus group with kids of different ages (1)
- Questions:
 - Will the adjacent playground remain? (1)
 - What is the impact of this project on the nearby trail? (1)

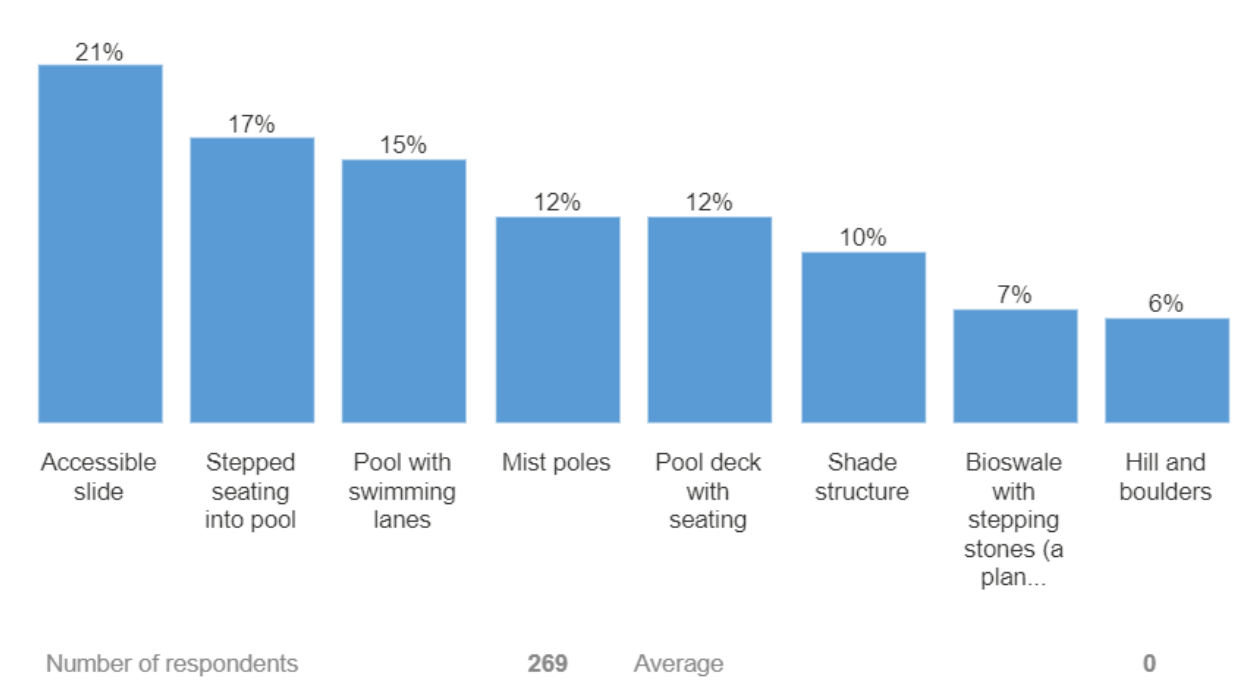
Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary

For Concept A: Beach Theme

Rank the Splash pad features above, with 1 as your favourite and 7 as your least favourite.



Rank the pool and hill features above, with 1 as your favourite and 8 as your least favourite.



What type of seating would you like to see more of? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Picnic tables	172	<div></div>	64%
Tables and chairs	131	<div></div>	49%
Chaise lounges	103	<div></div>	38%
A long continuous bench	82	<div></div>	30%
Stepped seating into the pool	108	<div></div>	40%
Lawn picnic area	137	<div></div>	51%
Permitted picnic areas	110	<div></div>	41%
No change/ good as shown	37	<div></div>	14%
	880		

N 269

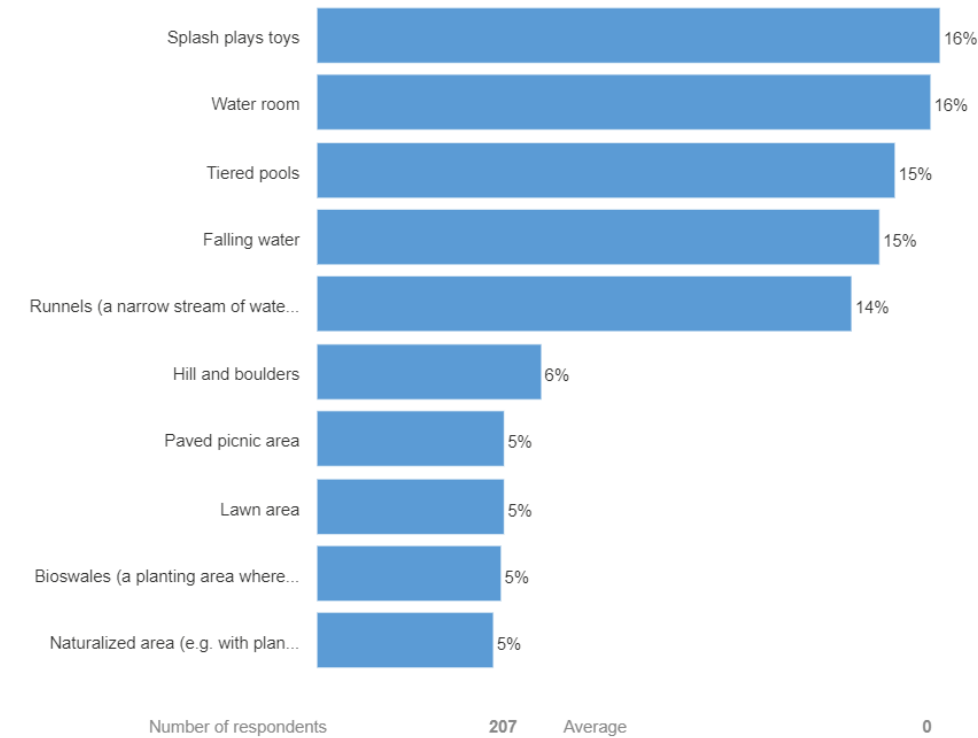
What type of seating would you like to see less of? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Picnic tables	35	<div></div>	14%
Tables and chairs	34	<div></div>	14%
Chaise lounges	59	<div></div>	24%
A long continuous bench	78	<div></div>	31%
Stepped seating into the pool	31	<div></div>	12%
Lawn picnic area	28	<div></div>	11%
Permitted picnic areas	37	<div></div>	15%
No change/ good as shown	80	<div></div>	32%
	382		

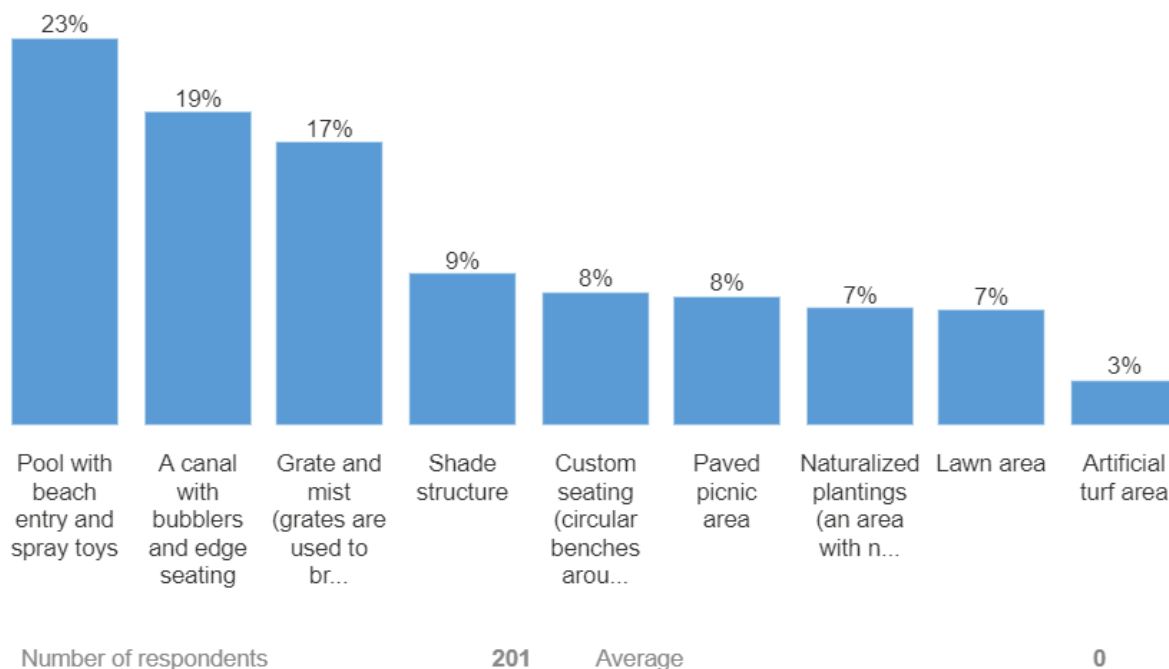
N 249

For Concept B: River Theme

Rank the Splash pad and hill features above, with 1 as your favourite and 10 as your least favourite.



Rank the water park features above, with 1 as your favourite and 9 as your least favourite.



What type of seating would you like to see more of? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Picnic tables	107	<div></div>	53%
Tables and chairs	83	<div></div>	41%
Chaise lounges	66	<div></div>	33%
A long continuous bench	57	<div></div>	28%
Lawn picnic area	86	<div></div>	43%
Canal edge seating (edge seating along a small water canal)	97	<div></div>	48%
Permitted picnic areas	58	<div></div>	29%
No change/ good as shown	36	<div></div>	18%
	590		

N 201

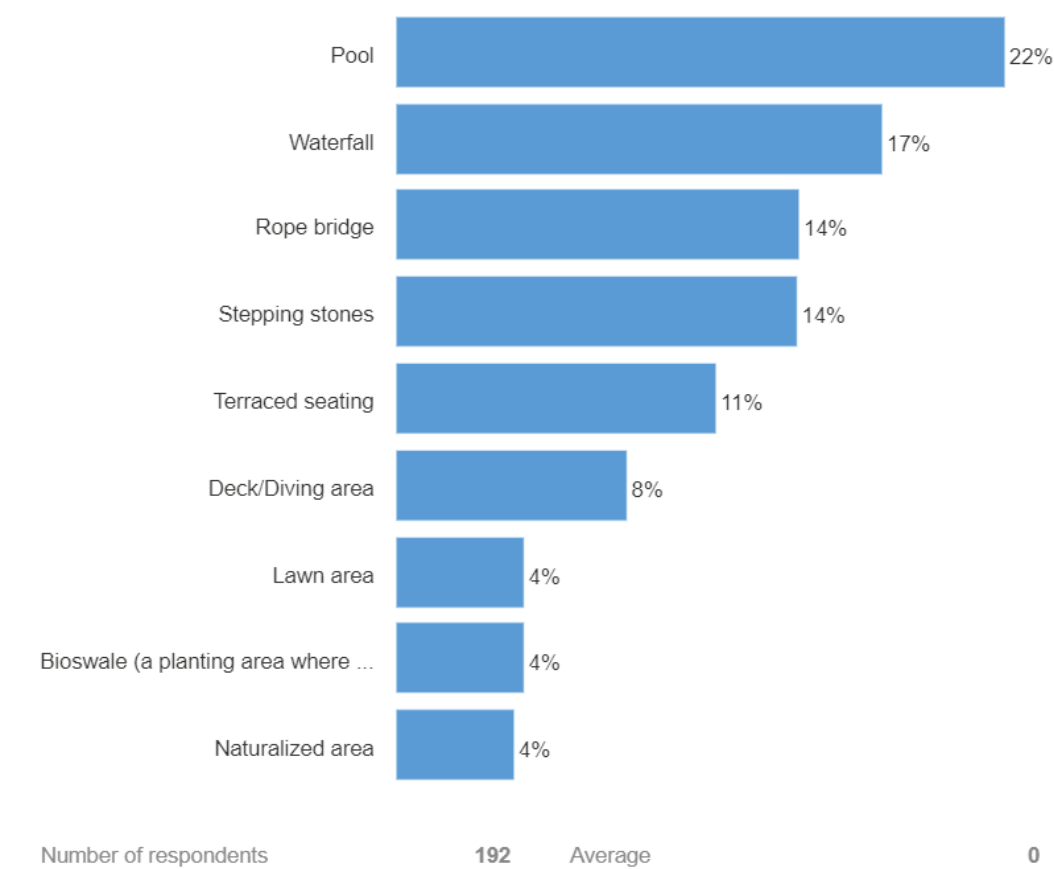
What type of seating would you like to see less of? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Picnic tables	23	<div></div>	13%
Tables and chairs	26	<div></div>	14%
Chaise lounges	48	<div></div>	26%
A long continuous bench	55	<div></div>	30%
Lawn picnic area	18	<div></div>	10%
Canal edge seating (edge seating along a small water canal)	16	<div></div>	9%
Permitted picnic areas	26	<div></div>	14%
No change/ good as shown	61	<div></div>	33%
	273		

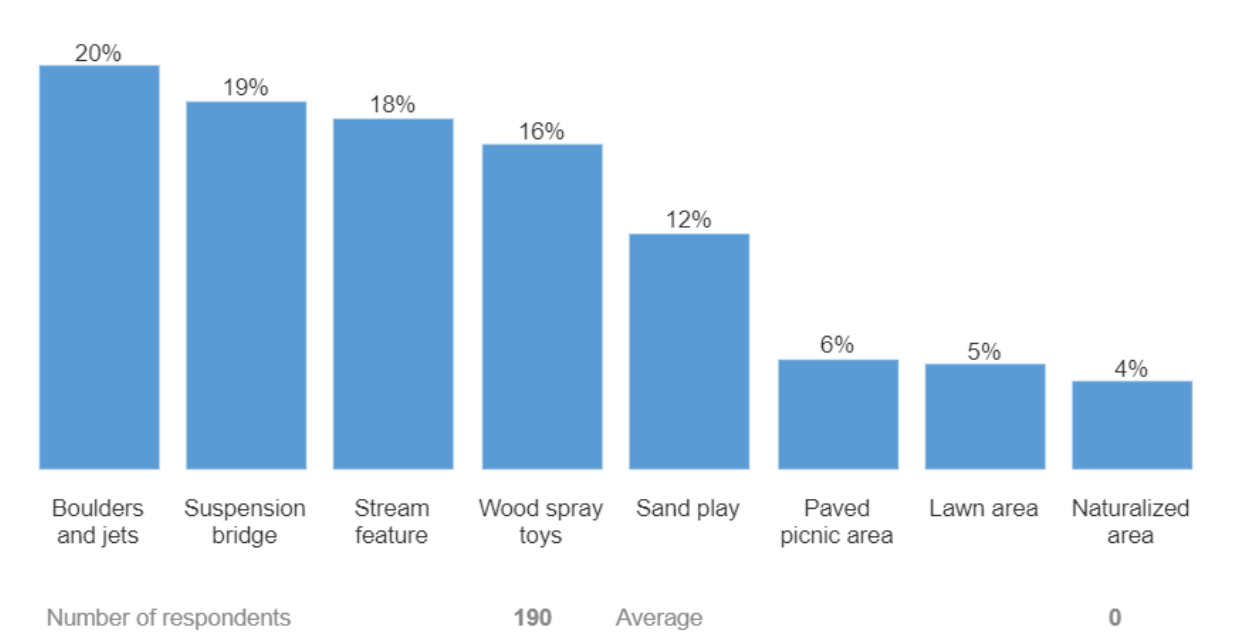
N 184

For Concept C: Lake Theme

Rank the pool and hill features above, with 1 as your favourite and 9 as your least favourite.



Rank the splash pad features above, with 1 as your favourite and 8 as your least favourite.



What type of seating would you like to see more of? Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Picnic tables	101	<div></div>	54%
Tables and chairs	86	<div></div>	46%
Chaise lounges	64	<div></div>	34%
Lawn picnic area	84	<div></div>	45%
Permitted picnic areas	45	<div></div>	24%
No change/ good as shown	42	<div></div>	22%
	422		

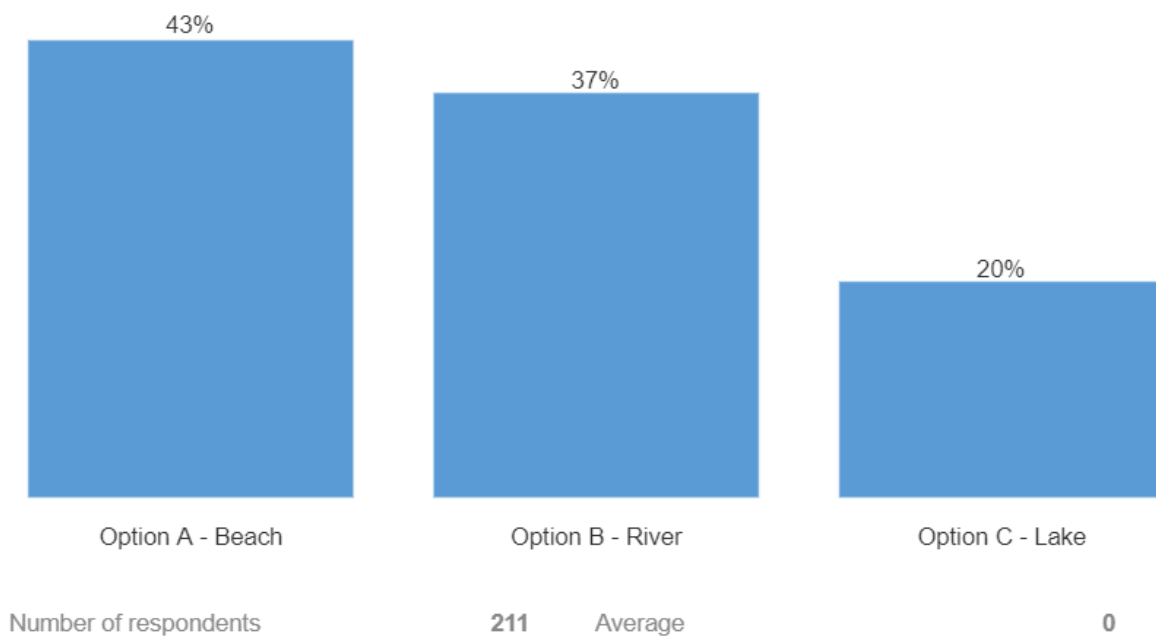
N 187

What type of seating would you like to see less of? Select all that apply.

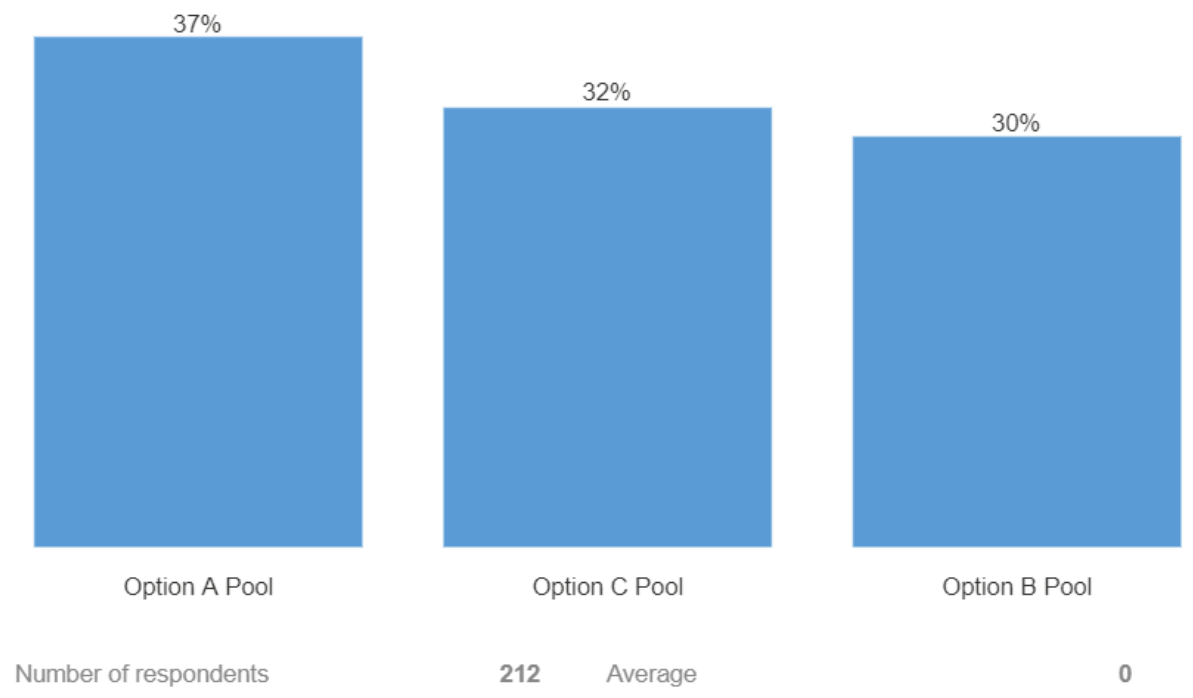
	Count	% of responses	%
Picnic tables	20	<div></div>	12%
Tables and chairs	24	<div></div>	14%
Chaise lounges	40	<div></div>	24%
Lawn picnic area	18	<div></div>	11%
Permitted picnic areas	35	<div></div>	21%
No change/ good as shown	78	<div></div>	47%
	215		

N 167

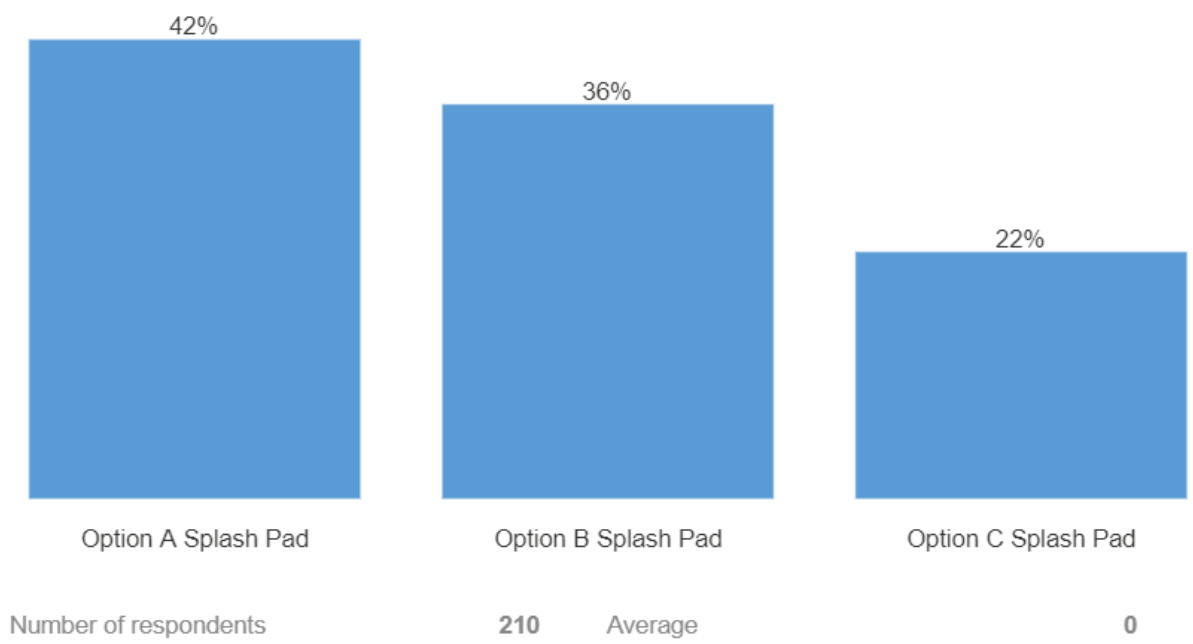
Please rank the overall design in order, with 1 as your favourite and 3 as your least favourite.



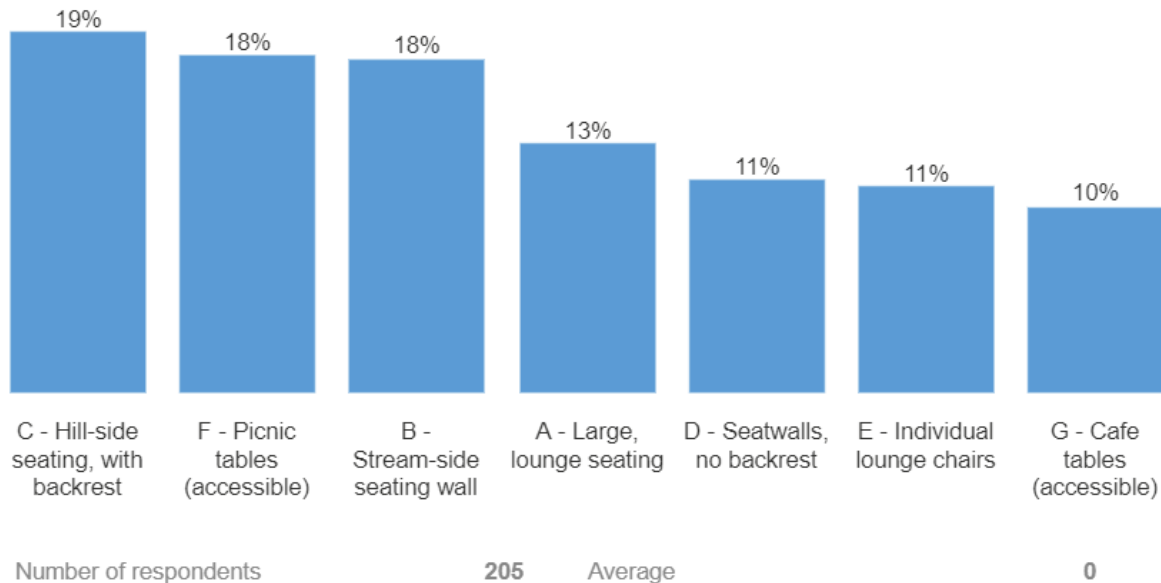
Please rank the pool designs in order, with 1 as your favourite and 3 as your least favourite.



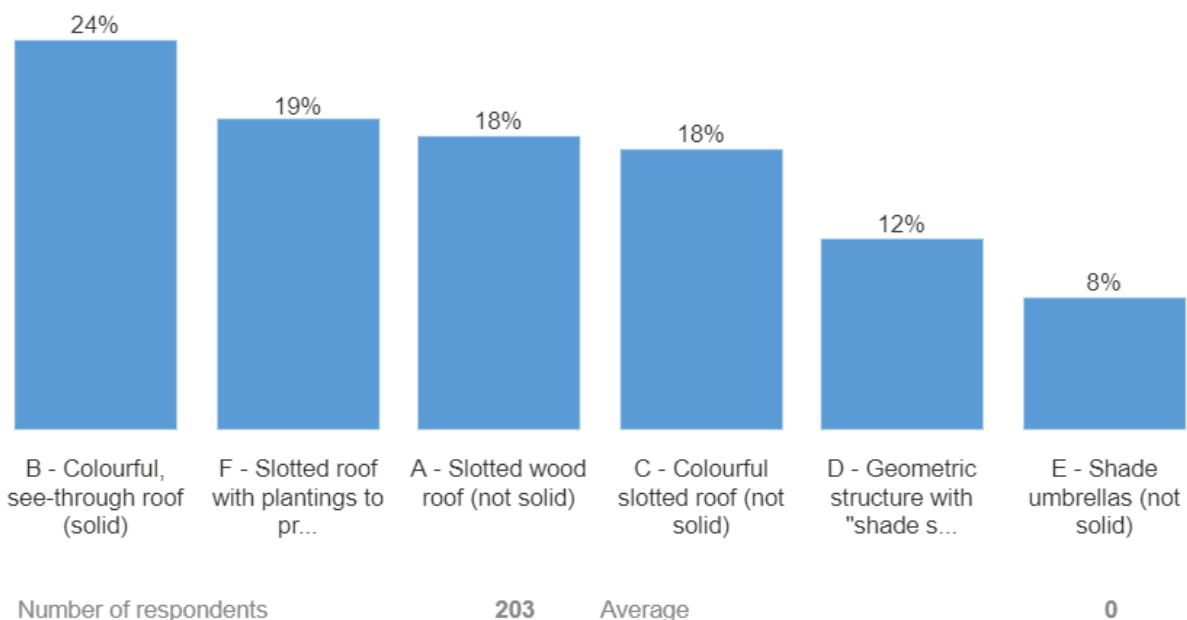
Please rank the splash pads in order, with 1 as your favourite and 3 as your least favourite.



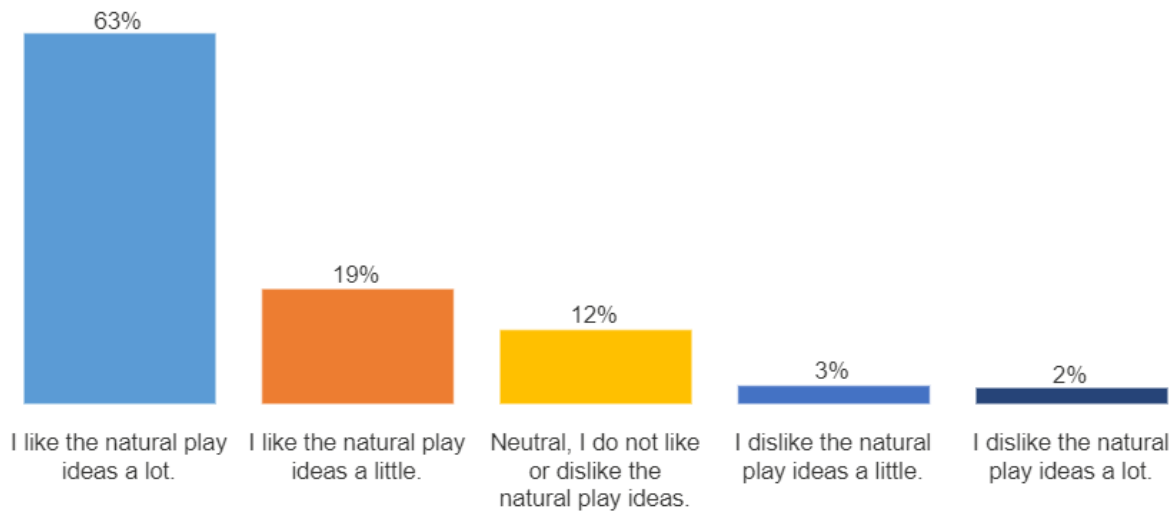
Please rank your favourite seating types, with 1 as your favourite and 7 as your least favourite.



Please rank your favourite shade structure ideas, with 1 as your favourite and 6 as your least favourite.

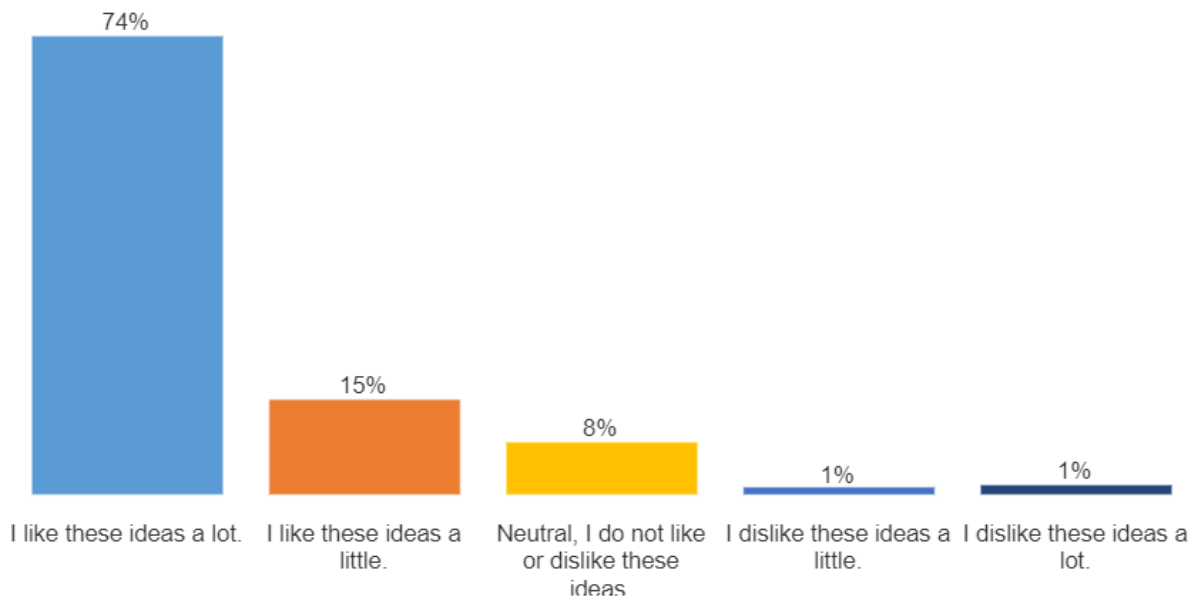


How do you feel about the natural play ideas?



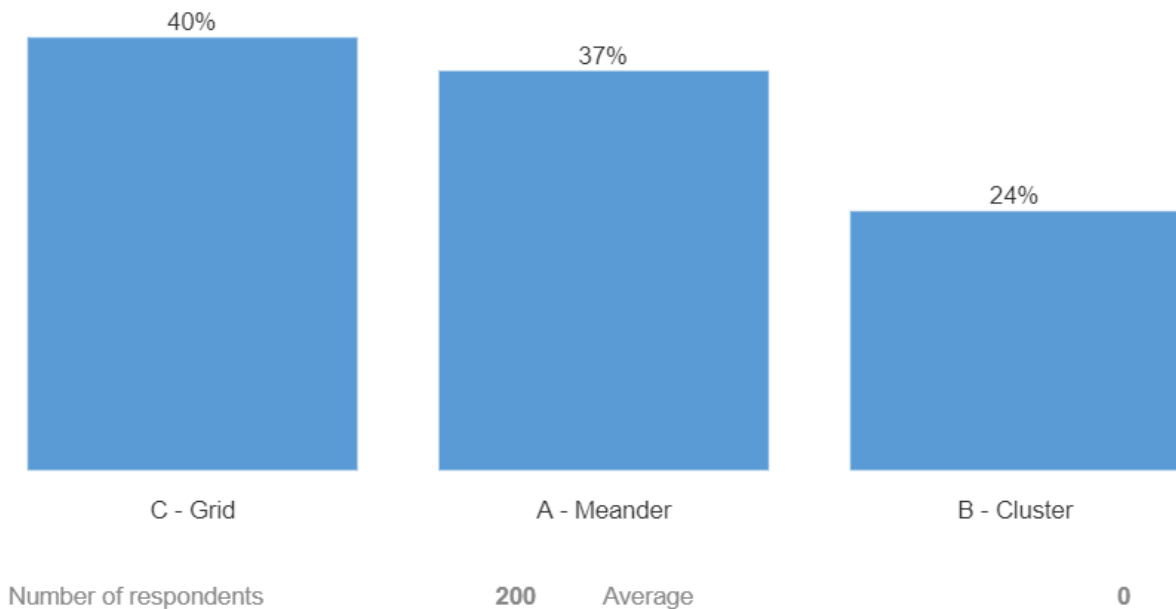
N 201

How do you feel about cognitive and inclusive play ideas shown above?

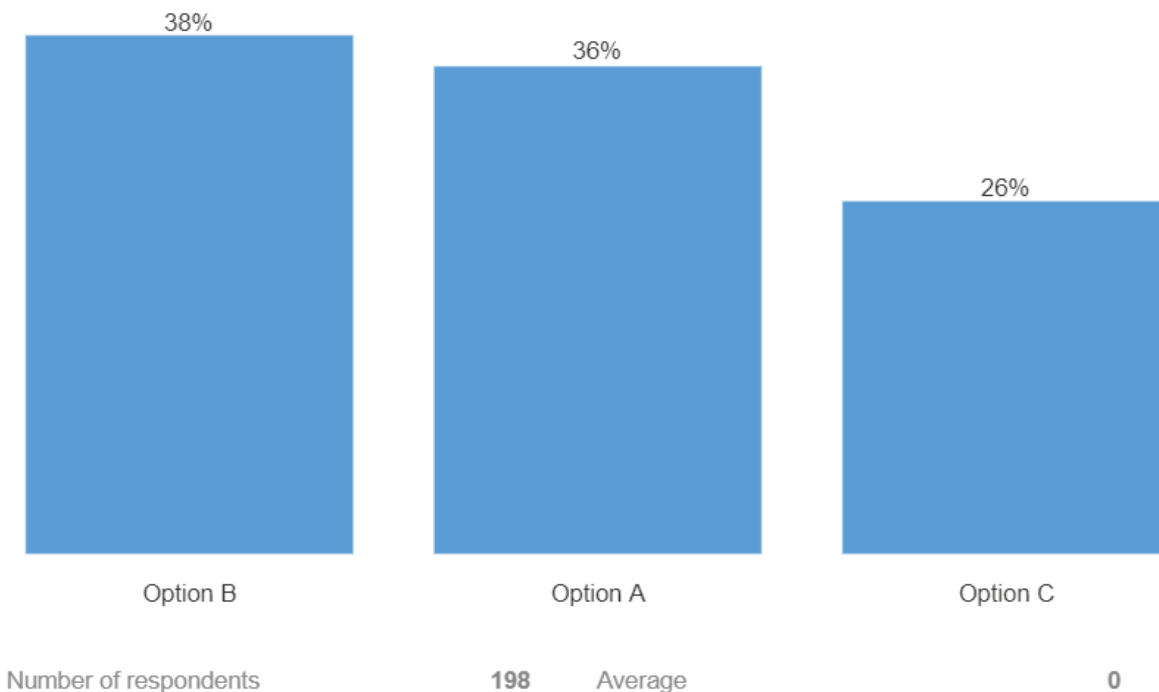


N 203

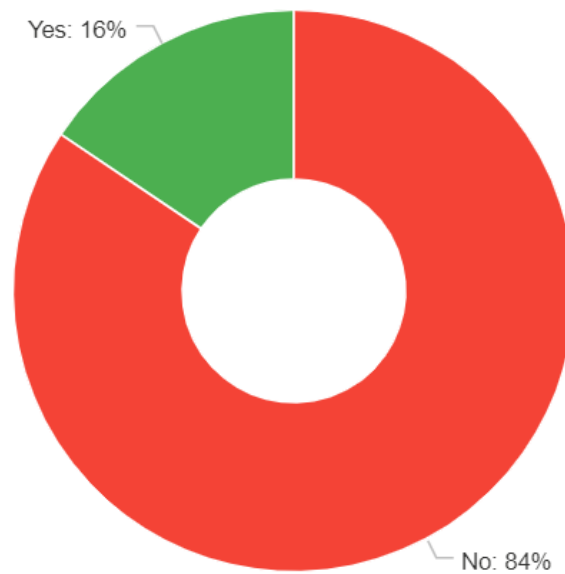
Please rank the locker, change room, and shower are options, with 1 as your favourite and 3 as your least favourite.



Please rank the drop off zone locations, with 1 as your favourite and 3 as your least favourite.



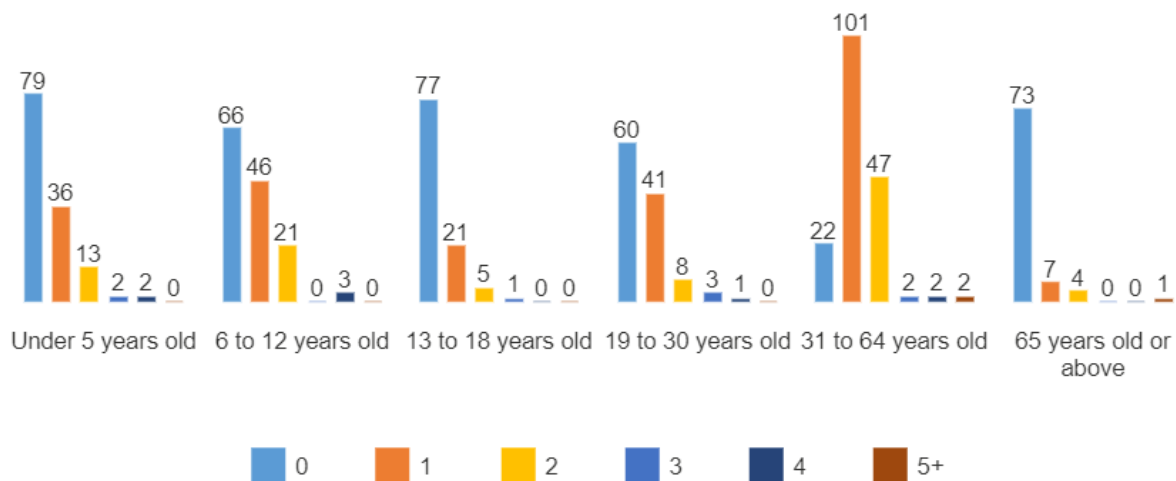
Do you have any comments or suggestions about the drop off area or parking lot ?



N 186

Demographics

How many people of each age group participated in this survey?



N 199

Total responses per age group include:

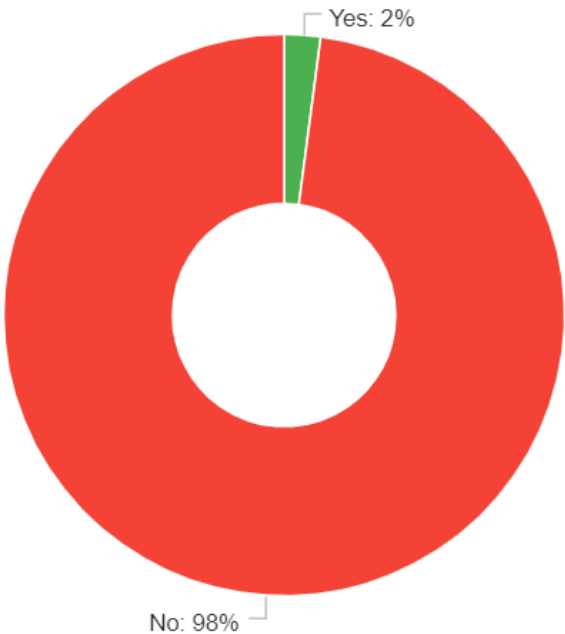
- 76 kids under 5
- 100 kids between the ages of 5 and 12
- 34 teens between the ages of 13 and 18
- 70 young adults between the ages of 19 and 30
- 219 adults between the ages of 31 and 64
- 31 seniors aged 65 and above

Please select the racial backgrounds that people who completed this survey identify with. Select all that apply.

	Count	% of responses	%
Black (African, Afro-Caribbean, African-Canadian descent)	17	<div></div>	9%
East Asian (Chinese, Korean, Japanese)	62	<div></div>	31%
Indigenous (First Nations, Métis, Inuk/Inuit)	3	<div></div>	2%
Latino (Latin American, Hispanic descent)	6	<div></div>	3%
Middle Eastern (Arab, Persian, West Asian descent, e.g. Afghan, Egyptian, Iranian, Lebanese, Turkish, Kurdish, etc.)	5	<div></div>	3%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Indo-Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, etc.)	24	<div></div>	12%
Southeast Asian (Taiwanese descent; Filipino, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Thai, Indonesian)	17	<div></div>	9%
White (European descent)	87	<div></div>	44%
I don't know/Prefer not to answer	15	<div></div>	8%
Other, please specify	2	<div></div>	1%
	238		

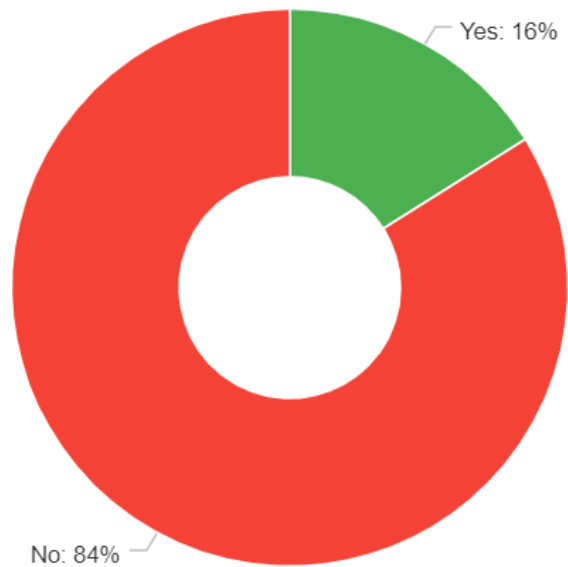
N 198

Indigenous people residing in Canada are those who self-identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian. Does anyone participating in this survey identify as Indigenous to Canada?



N 192

Disabilities, both visible and invisible, include physical, hearing, seeing, developmental, learning or mental health conditions, chronic illness and addictions. Disabilities may be from birth, caused by injury or accident, developed over time, or result from the combination of a person's condition and barriers in society. Does anyone participating in this survey identify as a person with a disability?



N 193

Do survey participants rent or own their home?

	Count	% of responses	%
Owner	129	<div></div>	66%
Renter	45	<div></div>	23%
Neither owner nor renter	22	<div></div>	11%
	196		

N 195

Appendix B: Design Concepts and Additional Elements

Design Concepts

There are 3 different concepts for the Kidstown redesign.

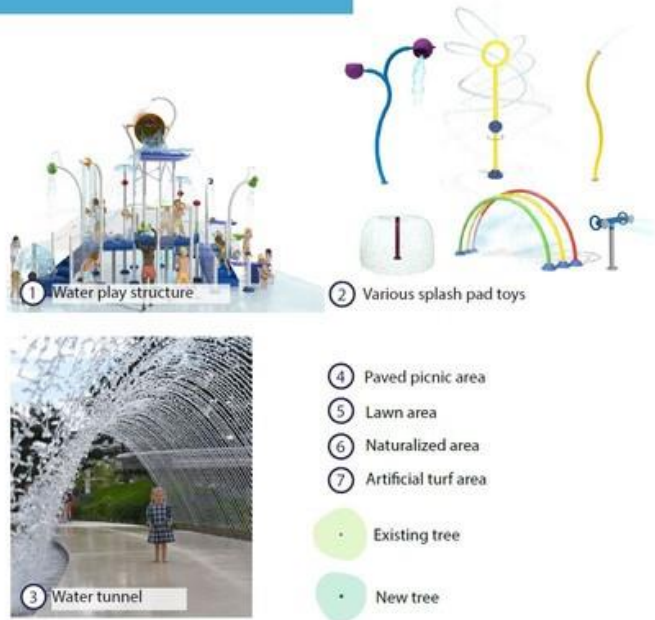
Concept A: Beach



The key features of Concept A are:

- Splash Pad: A flat area with a large play structure, colourful spray toys, jets, boulders and plantings in corners.
- Pool: An angular pool with a shallow "beach" entrance, swimming lanes, a seating steps entrance and an island with misting poles and spray toy.
- Water Slide: Spiral slide with an accessible path connection.
- Activated hillside: Hillside redesigned with native plantings and boulders to climb on.
- Accessible path: Gently rising path connecting to the slide and a lookout on top of the hill.
- Bioswale: An area where water collects and water-loving plants thrive.

Concept A - Splash Pad



The splash pad has many water features, and a large water play structure. It is surrounded by picnic areas, a lawn, plantings, and turf. There will be trees throughout the lawn area.

Concept A - Pool and Hill



There is a pool you can enter using an accessible ramp, the beach area, or large steps. The pool is deep enough to swim in, and includes swimming lanes and an accessible slide. Around the pool is a deck with seating and some shade umbrellas. Towards this edge of the park there is a more natural area with natural play features like boulders and hills to climb on.

Water Park - Concept A - Seating Areas

- Public picnic area
- Permitted picnic area
- ① Picnic tables
- ② Tables and chairs
- ③ Chaise lounge
- ④ Linear seating
- ⑤ Stepped pool seating
- ⑥ Lawn picnic area



The pink shows "public" picnic areas. These are seating area where you can use tables and chairs whenever they are not being used by others.

The blue shows permitted picnic areas. These are spaces you need to get a permit for, which means you can reserve them for small gatherings, like a birthday party.

Concept B: River



The key features of Concept B are:

- Splash pad: flat area with stainless steel spray toys and jets spread out, with planted islands and boulders and a central "water room" feature.
- Pool: Round pool with a shallow "beach" area with some spray toys.
- Expanded hillside: Hillside redesigned with boulders, planting and small streams for natural play.
- Accessible path: Gently rising path connecting to tiered pools and a lookout at top of the hill.
- Bioswale: A depressed area, similar to a rain garden, where water collects and water-loving plants thrive.

Concept B - Splash Pad and Hill



① Splash pad toys



② Water room



③ Tiered pools



④ Falling water



⑤ Runnels



⑥ Hill & boulders

⑦ Paved picnic area

⑧ Lawn area

⑨ Naturalized area

⑩ Bioswale

Existing tree

New tree

Water Park - Concept B



① Pool with beach entry and spray toys



② Grate & mist



③ Canal with bubblers and seating edge

④ Paved picnic area

⑤ Lawn area

⑥ Naturalized planting

⑦ Custom seating

⑧ Shade structure

⑨ Artificial turf area

Existing tree

New tree

Water Park - Concept B - Seating Areas



The pink shows "public" picnic areas. These are seating area where you can use tables and chairs whenever they are not being used by others.

The blue shows permitted picnic areas. These are spaces you need to get a permit for, which means you can reserve them for small gatherings, like a birthday party.

Concept C: Lake



The key features of Concept C are:

- Splash pad: gently sloping area surrounded by boulders with integrated water jets draining into a stream, few wooden spray toys, and a large sand play area.
- Pool: Organically shaped pool with two "beach" areas, stepping stones, rope bridge and a waterfall you can walk under.
- Expanded hillside: Hillside redesigned with boulders, planting and small streams for natural play.
- Accessible path: Gently rising path connecting to terraced seating areas.
- Terraced seating: Elevated seating areas with shade trees.
- Naturalized hillside: native planting, boulders and a lawn path to explore and play.
- Bioswale: A depressed area, similar to a rain garden, where water collects and water-loving plants thrive.

Concept C - Pool and Hill



- 6 Deck / Diving area
- 7 Lawn area
- 8 Naturalized area
- 9 Bioswale

- Existing tree
- New tree

Concept C - Splash Pad



- 6 Paved picnic area
- 7 Lawn area
- 8 Naturalized area
- Existing tree
- New tree

Water Park - Concept C - Seating Areas

- Public picnic area
- Permitted picnic area
- ① Picnic tables
- ② Tables and chairs
- ③ Chaise lounge
- ④ Lawn picnic area



The pink shows "public" picnic areas. These are seating area where you can use tables and chairs whenever they are not being used by others.

The blue shows permitted picnic areas. These are spaces you need to get a permit for, which means you can reserve them for small gatherings, like a birthday party.

Overall Design Preferences

OPTION A - Beach



OPTION B - River



OPTION C - Lake



Pool Preferences

Concept A - Pool and Hill



1 Accessible slide



2 Pool with swimming lanes



3 Stepped seating



4 Mist poles



5 Hill & boulders

6 Pool deck with seating

7 Shade structure

8 Bioswale with stepping stones

Existing tree

New tree

Concept B - Pool



1 Pool with beach entry and spray toys



2 Grate & mist



3 Canal with bubblers and seating edge

4 Paved picnic area

5 Lawn area

6 Naturalized planting

7 Custom seating

8 Shade structure

9 Artificial turf area

Existing tree

New tree

Concept C - Pool and Hill



- 6 Deck / Diving area
- 7 Lawn area
- 8 Naturalized area
- 9 Bioswale

- Existing tree
- New tree

Slash Pad Preferences

Concept A - Splash Pad



- 4 Paved picnic area
 - 5 Lawn area
 - 6 Naturalized area
 - 7 Artificial turf area
- Existing tree
 - New tree

Concept B - Splash Pad and Hill



① Splash pad toys



② Water room



③ Tiered pools



④ Falling water



⑤ Runnels



⑥ Hill & boulders

⑦ Paved picnic area

⑧ Lawn area

⑨ Naturalized area

⑩ Bioswale

Existing tree

New tree

Concept C - Splash Pad



① Boulders and jets



② Wood spray toys



③ Stream feature



④ Suspension bridge



⑤ Sand play

⑥ Paved picnic area

⑦ Lawn area

⑧ Naturalized area

Existing tree

New tree

Additional Elements

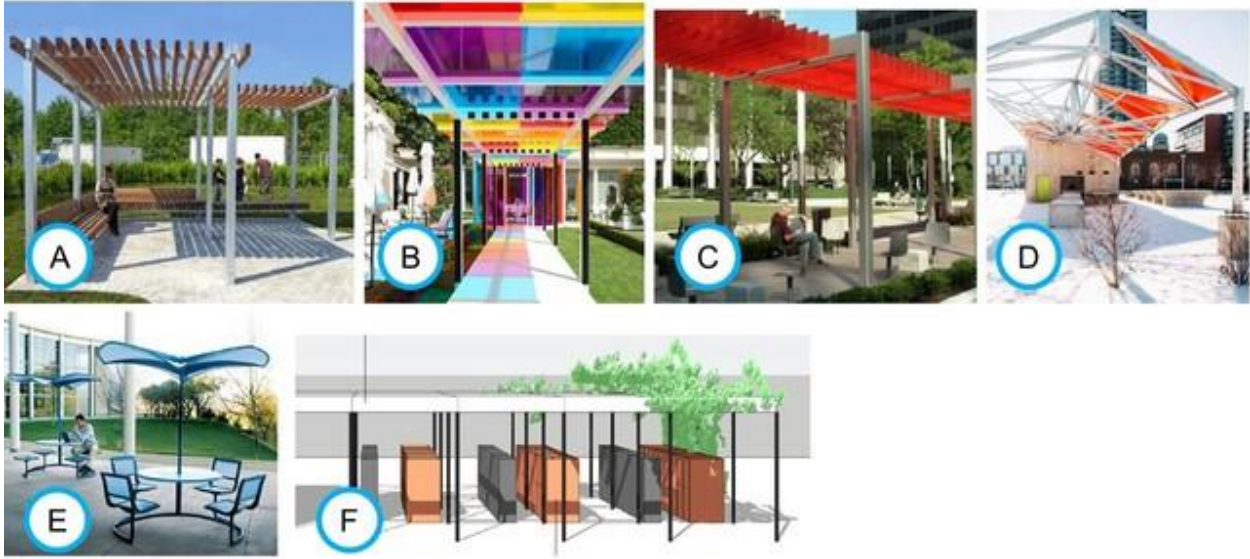
Other features the design team may include throughout the new Kidstown are:

Common Elements: Furnishings and Shade



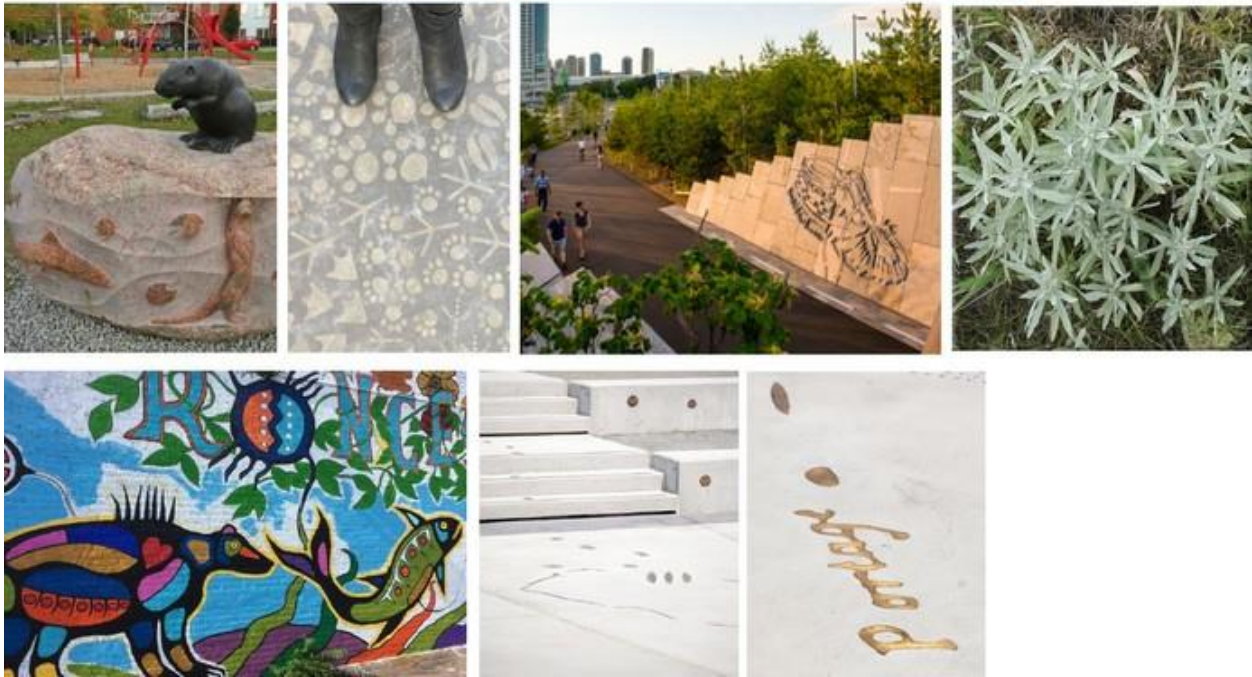
- A – Large lounge seating
- B – Stream-side seating wall
- C – Hill-side seating, with backrest
- D – Seatwalls, no backrest
- E – Individual lounge chairs
- F – Picnic tables (accessible)
- G – Café tables (accessible)

Common Elements: Shade



- A – Slotted wood roof (not solid)
- B – Colourful, see-through roof (solid)
- C – Colourful slotted roof (not solid)
- D – Geometric structure with "shade sails" (not solid)
- E – Shade umbrellas (not solid)
- F – Slotted roof with plantings to provide more shade (not solid)

Common Elements: Indigenous Placemaking



Kidstown is located near the site of a 14th century Huron-Wendat village, known as the Alexandra Site. During an archaeological assessment in the year 2000, evidence of 16 longhouses and several sweat lodges were found. The design team is consulting with the Huron-Wendat Nation to find ways to incorporate the history and culture of this area in the redesign of Kidstown.

We propose that the new Kidstown include elements that reflect and respect the historic and enduring presence of Indigenous Peoples on this land. This may include murals, plantings of Indigenous significance, and various forms of art and story telling throughout the site.

Common Elements: Naturalization and Play



The design team proposes to include natural play settings throughout the new Kidstown. For example, river bed and stream play areas, sand play, rain gardens (gardens where water-loving plants grow), nature paths, and climbable boulders.

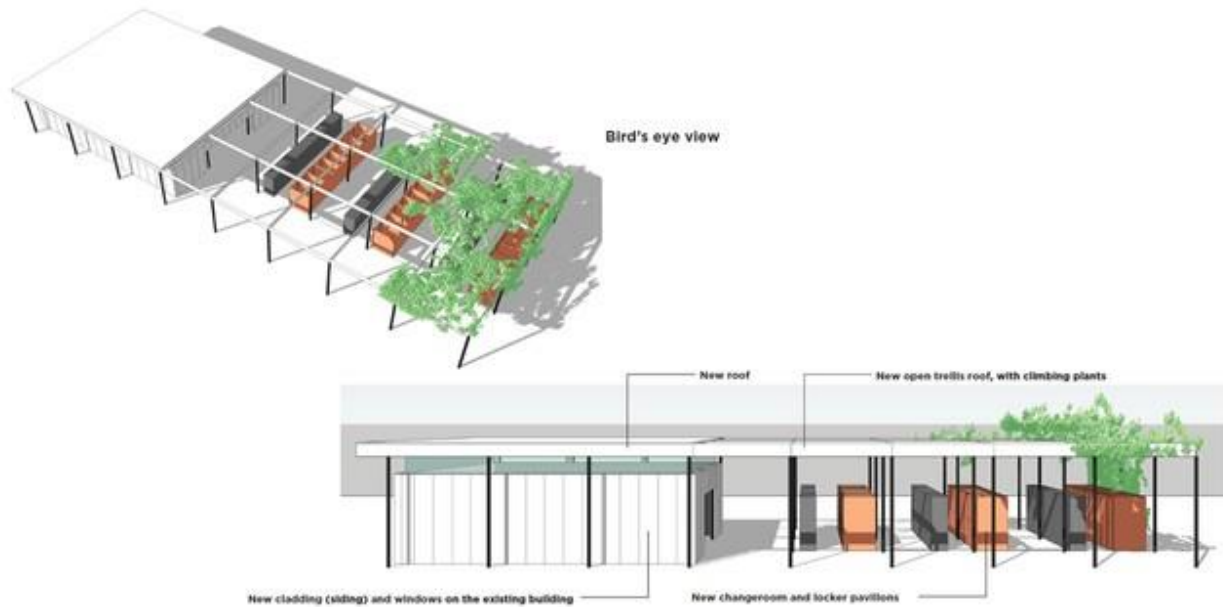
Common Elements: Cognitive and Inclusive Play



Potential play elements for Kidstown can be accessible for children of different ages and abilities, who more enjoy calm, gentle, and thought-based play.

Washrooms, Change Rooms, Showers, and Lockers

The existing washrooms and changerooms are aging and need to be improved. The following image shows what the new washroom, change room, shower, and locker area could look like.



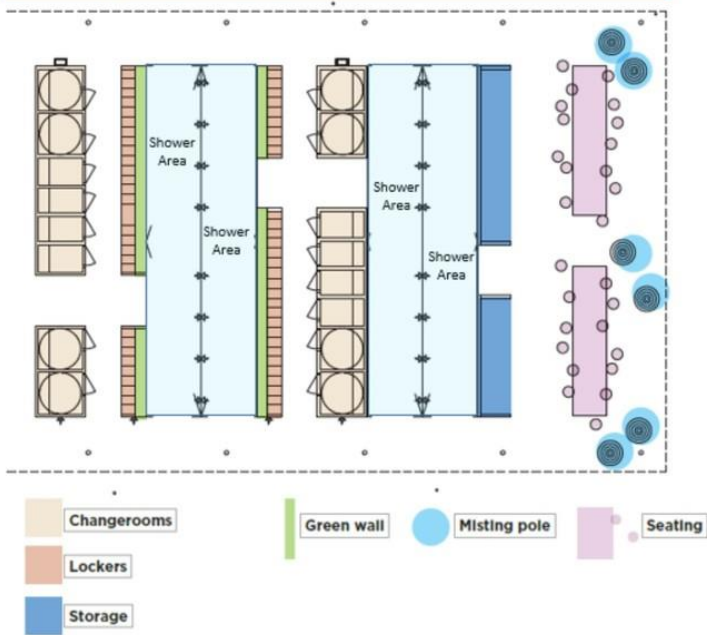
Proposal:

- Update the existing building façade (the outer shell of the building) and install new windows.
- Build a Trellis (a roof structure that is not solid) over the change room, shower, and locker area.
 - Climbing plants will grow on the trellis.
- Indoors:
 - The sink and baby change area are shared by all genders.
 - Private washroom stalls are provided for individuals and for families.
 - Accessible washrooms stalls (e.g. for those with mobility devices) will be provided.
- Outdoors
 - Lockers.
 - Change room stalls with doors are for individuals and families. Each stall is private.
 - Accessible change room stalls will be provided.
 - Showers for rinsing off are shared spaces.

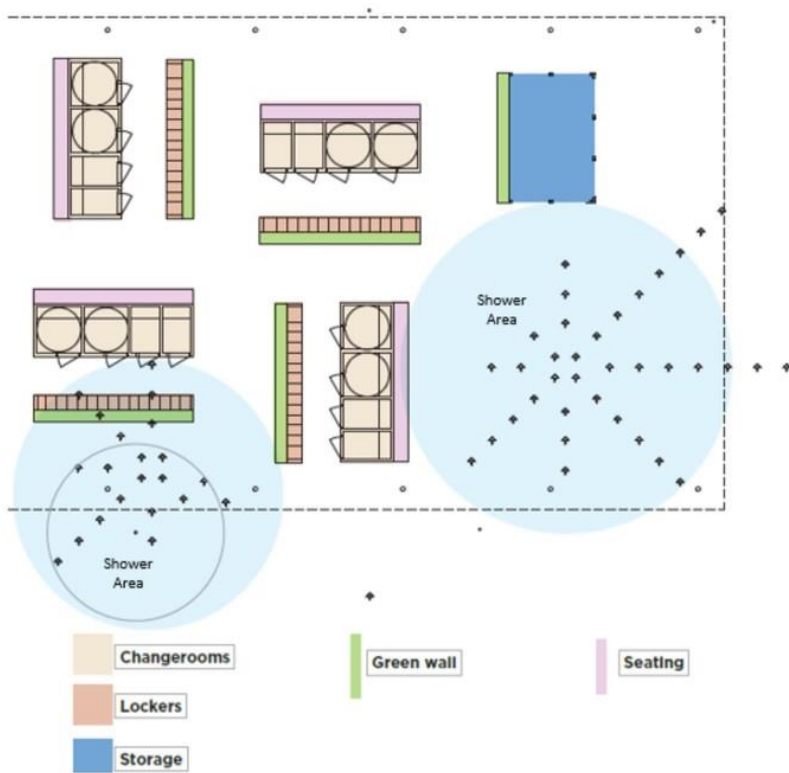
Outdoor Area

There are three layout options for this outdoor area, below:

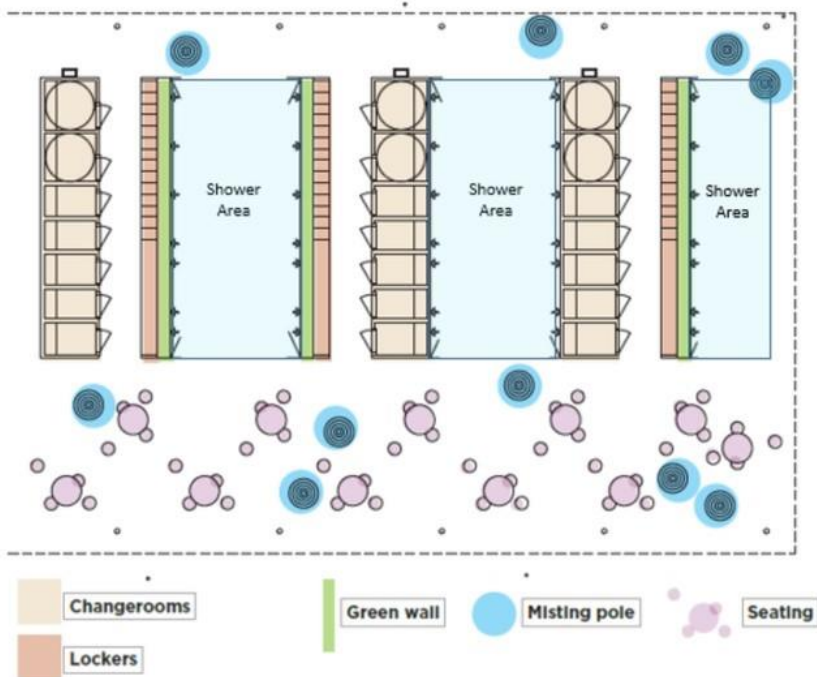
Locker, Change Room and Shower Area Concept A - Meander



Locker, Change Room and Shower Area Concept B - Cluster



Locker, Change Room and Shower Area Concept C - Grid



The Kidstown Parking Lot

People get to Kidstown many different ways. The Kidstown redesign may include a redesign of the parking lot to :

- Provide more parking spots for busses and vehicles, including accessible parking spots
- Provide a safe drop off zone for buses and vehicles
- Create safer and larger pedestrian pathways through the parking lot
- Improve the direct route from the TTC stop to the Kidstown entrance
- Include two driveway entrances/exits onto Birchmount Road

There are three options for where the new drop off zone for busses and vehicles is located. In the image below, the options for drop off zones are within the yellow rectangles.

Option A: The drop off location is west of Kidstown, at the south end of the main parking lot.

Option B: The drop off location is at the north-west corner of Kidstown.

Option C: The drop off location is west of Kidstown, at the north end of the main parking lot.

OPTION A



OPTION B



OPTION C



Appendix C: Text Responses

Do you have any additional comments or suggestions about any of the designs or elements that have been presented in the survey so far? If no, click to the next page.

This question was asked at the end of the *Pool and Splash Pad Preferences* section, just before the *Washrooms, Change Rooms, Showers, and Lockers* section of the Survey.

- Think about electric vehicles and scooters charging station.
- beach would be nice, but river poses problem if a child all of sudden goes off and falls in with no adult supervision, its not safe unless u have lifeguards all over.
- The water slide is my favourite.
- Natural play areas AND inclusive sensory play areas are ESSENTIAL especially since COVID, kids have been stuck at home and isolated. Only the rich can afford to leave the city to go to their cottages or vacation elsewhere. Therefore city children, especially middle to lower income and new immigrant families need to experience nature AND inclusive sensory play to support all children especially children with special needs (eg Autism). COVID has caused so much anxiety and stress in children which will have an adverse impact on their psychological developmental & social emotional growth and well being. Please add as much nature and inclusive sensory elements as possible, while honouring First Nations - universal design is more important than ever since COVID. These specific play structures can help children develop positive social-emotional and other developmental skills that they cannot experience just swimming in a concrete pool. Studies have shown that children exposed to natural & sensory play have enriched learning and are happier. Plus , when give the chance, older children and teens like to play in nature and with sand where the young toddlers play. The examples of the naturalist parks found in cities all around the world have only had positive reviews. One

of them is outside the main rec.center of downtown Port Coquitlam BC - my kids had a blast there.

- Kidstown can get very crowded during peak times and space efficient shade and seating is very important for my son, who has special needs.
- Really do not like the sand aspect in option C. Sand and water can get messy and especially at a splash pad. I really would not enjoy sand being added to KidsTown
- I really like the boulders natural splash/spray area but my favourite overall is the river. It would be nice to put these two concepts in the same design.
- Include a water slide and sand play area in whatever design is ultimately chosen. More shade and permitted areas, more picnic areas.
- I love the natural play idea, but I am also wondering how we can ensure maintenance is provided. Knowing that the park is one that is frequented by many around the area, I worry that the combination of sand and water would make the area very messy very quickly. However, if there's a plan in place for maintenance, I'd love to see the natural elements incorporated into the new design!
- This is wasteful a s frivolous spending. Do not tear down perfectly good facilities. Add in instead. Reconsider this whole thing. Is it really priority?
- I'd be concerned with combining water features with climbing features (boulders) and sand features. Real solid shade is needed!!
- Still have a similar structure with the bucket dump and water sprayers.
- Kidstown is used by young children so I think lot of small features is better than large features.
- Parking can be a major deterrent as the park becomes more attractive. The plan looks like it has covered all aspects of a family friendly environment. Because of the amount of attendees, the beach area may need to larger area taking into consideration that we'll be in a post pandemic era and users may feel more secure in social distanced facilities.
- Hoping this doesn't take years to develop since we already lost one season to Covid, and my grandchildren will grow up beyond wanting to go to a waterpark
- Love the natural elements and indigenous place making. Emphasis on these ans learning opportunities re importance of water could be very valuable and fun.
- I was fine with Kidstown the way it was in regards to the water area. It was more the inability to get in on busy days and maybe an update to the changing area. So any upgrade would be great! And the ability to reserve a permit for parties is amazing!
- Water slide is great. Shade elements are important. As much water toys and spray items as possible. I prefer not having a place to go to get wet but water slide and with an enhanced wading pool. The swim lanes are a bit too much like a swimming pool. Would adults be using this?
- Water slides and the water play structure with dump bucket are a must especially for bigger kids. My 3 kids would not want to go as much without these features. Adding a pool is an amazing idea!
- Idea C is good, but by experience alot of water and sand features do not get proper maintenance and are not fixed. So by spending alot of money on these beautiful designs which are not maintained over the life of the structure it defeats the purpose. For example I have been to parts where there is barely any sand left or ones that should have water are completely dry. Also you need to take into account all the garbage that gets left behind. For example in Richmond Hill Lake Wilcox it asks for no water balloons which is great to keep the place clean.
- More greenery around the fence line!
- no

- More planting for natural shade should be included in all of the models. Environmentally friendly construction materials as well.
- Great work! Thanks for asking for input from families who love KidsTown, like us! I personally love the rubbery/spongy “floor” over concrete in play areas for safety reasons (kids don’t get hurt when they fall). Also—all the kids loved the bicycle pedal operated squirt guns you had before if there’s a way to include that. Love the physical activity element of them too.
- I feel a colourful inviting play space is essential, mother’s for to these places instead of the beach because it’s fun for kids and they like the play structures. There’s little to no places in the city for babies and young toddlers to play in pools Or parks in general that’s at their level. My son is 1 and have to drive 35 min for him to able to play in the nearest wading pool/ kiddy pool
- Love the new designsCan’t wait to use the new facilities.
- This is really inspired thinking! Exciting!
- Better parking lot.
- Far too complex ideas - keep it simple and safe. Boulders and concrete surfaces are dangerous. Too much water creates a supervision problem.
- I don’t have any ideas or designs. But as a kid my mom brought me to kids town. There was always little hidden gems at kids town that made it different from other basic water parks. I hope you continue to keep it that way. I understand technology and safety has changed over the years. But please try to keep it unique and fun for kids. Just like the hill slide. And the paddle bike that sprayed water. Having things that are different from other basic parks will grab a lot more attention and satisfaction. Things change over time I’m glad you are redoing the park it’s been needing a change.
- Please make sure it is fully accessible for both parents and kids
- great ideas, can't wait to see it and bring the kids!
- I don't like sand. It's coarse and rough and irritating and it gets everywhere. Please, no sand play areas.
- What if it rains? The proposal is only including one type of shade with a solid roof. Parents need a dry space to pack up their belongings if it’s raining or somewhere to huddle so please offer more solid roof shade options. Is the playground outside of the current park staying? Please elaborate that on the next version.
- Safety is a concern for some of the designs
- I think having a mixture of theme park style play/swim areas and natural areas may be difficult for parents to navigate with children if each does not have its own distinct area. Also, I believe having natural play will make it difficult for the theme park style areas to maintain their cleanliness and appearance. I love the natural ideas but for a separate place. Kids town has always been an exciting theme park style place that I thoroughly enjoyed as a child and now take my own children there.
- I think it’s important to keep in mind that this is a high traffic play structure that has to accommodate a lot of children being able to enjoy to space at the same time
- I love what the design team has come up with! Great work—this will be an amazing update to a Scarborough landmark.
- Love the additions that allow inclusivity, indigenous acknowledgements and nature based play. Although I adore the Concept A which I find is a traditional pool and splash pad area, why not include some of that nature play (e.g. boulders, river streams, waterfall feature) all throughout the park! I’d find that way, more people would be enticed to take a stroll around the area rather than plop themselves specifically around the pool

and splash pad area. It may reduce the cluster of people if there's more to do - other than have a picnic - in the surrounding areas.

- Natural elements are amazing.
- More shading areas for families with small children. More areas that are accessible for strollers etc especially around the smaller play features, splash pad, wading pool etc
- Please try to avoid taking down the existing play structure with the big bucket unless it is a greater cost to maintain than to take it down because a lot of kids go to kidstown for the big bucket. A lot of parents and kids enjoy the big bucket as a highlight of the park and it is the feature that attracts more people to the park in the first place. If the old play structure were to be replaced, please try to add the big bucket to the new plans as it would increase traction of visitors.
- I don't like the idea of lounge seating. some may leave their belongings on them while they swim or involve in other activities. Other visitors who may need the seating will be just looking at seating filled with people clothes and picnic basket but no people.
- Shade sails and trees for shade would be a huge draw/reason for going to the park. Provide shade not just over seating areas but also the pools edges and splash pad areas. I would like to see a lot more shading. Seating like benches and ledges needs to be next to rivers/pools so caregivers can watch toddlers and big kids close up.
- These ideas look promising and I look forward to bringing my kids post-revitalization. Would be great to have a combination of spaces for toddlers to play in water safely and for older kids to be more active without interfering with the little ones experience. The boulders/ runnels/ opportunities to jump, leap, climb etc might achieve this.
- It would be great to have focus groups with parents who have multiple kids in different age groups for their input and suggestions to make this park's layout ideal for families. Love the natural play spaces!

Do you have any comments or suggestions about the drop off area or parking lot?

- Roundabout
- Ideally it would be better to have the drop off lane be completely separate from the rest of the parking.
- More spaces
- Figure out a way or staffing to ensure no loitering in the drop off area. Make sure parking spaces are wide enough to allow for mini vans and SUVs. Include some parking spots for expectant mothers or parents w young children , carpool. Paint and colour code different areas of the parking lot like how they have it at the Toronto Zoo...making it easier for people to find their vehicles.
- I hope the busses won't be parked somewhere where it interrupts line of sight while in the park so we have a pleasant view.
- drop off area needs to definitely be a time limited area so that people don't sit and wait for people to come out for 15 -20 minutes.
- More parking space required
- Location should be an area that isn't Going to cause any sort of traffic buildup, or safety of those crossing.
- Just keep it away from the entrance lineup area. For safety reasons. And to avoid overcrowding.
- More parking spots please
- Should be a bit far from entrance avoids unnecessary blocking
- Additional parking spots and marked lines on ground between parking spaces

- Include proper very visible signage to avoid congestion or misuse.
- Keep buses and cars as far away from pleasure areas as possible.
- Please make it safe and if it will be off Birchmount to not cause a cluster for main traffic
- Have entrance to the drop off area only accessible through one specific entrance from the main road, not both entrances.
- Bike lock area would be nice too.
- We like walking so drop off doesn't concern us.
- Try to keep parking lot far so cars are not idling close by the park when dropping off.
- Preferable slightly away from the entrance to reduce congestion at the entrance where a lot of people may be crossing!
- Make sure it's wide enough for school buses and cars to access
- Lots of space, HANDICAP PARKING
- I would suggest designated drop off round about to avoid causing traffic in the parking lot
- Staff parking
- Stagger as much as possible to ensure the safety of children getting off in the drop off area
- Bigger parking lot is necessary, lots people couldn't find a place for parking during summer before

Do you have any other comments or suggestions for the Kidstown Redesign?

- I was also hoping for mini golf and a ski route in the future also a place to hook up electric vehicles.
- long its secured with lifeguards at all appropriate places at all times
- High ropes where u swing on a log, light up waterfall, paddle boats area, and place to have birthdays
- consider effects of traffic and noise upon the neighbouring households how are you going to manage line ups/overflow of admittance
- Please include natural and sensory play. Overall fantastic designs. Make sure there are MORE staff when it opens. Make sure bailar officers are there to enforce rules and bylaws - no smoking, no littering, don't hog the seating areas or picnic tables, make sure that children are actually being supervised by their parents/guardians or camp counselors - because that wasn't really happening. It's not fair to life guards to have to police the rest of the patrons when they should be watching the water and or they're on their break. The old kids town people felt they could do what they wantedI even saw someone clipping their toenails, kids physically fighting , bullying among campers, dirty hygiene practices by adults and kids would copy,if you want the new kids towns to stay looking new and people respecting the rules, then there needs to be designated and fully supported staff "security" or bylaw officers. The poor lifeguards were jaded and tired and knew that a lot of people weren't listening to them...and the city of Toronto camp staff didn't bother watching their campers either. Over the years, it really turned me off to go to kidstowne and I stopped going. I really hope and would like to go back with my kids.
- Shade is important. Moving the fence line outward would provide more room. Currently I find that the hill is too steep as it approaches the fence that makes it uncomfortable and impractical for setting out a picnic blanket. The hill would be a great place for natural stones cut into the hill 'amphitheatre style' to provide seating as well.
- Whatever seating style is chosen, please ensure there is lots of it. Please include arm rests on seats/benches for seniors, expectant mothers, people with disabilities.
- Love it!!

- I love the nature-inspired play themes. Kids and adults alike need to become more in touch with various elements of nature!
- Thanks! Keep me updated :)
- More slides in water park. A lazy pool is a must and a major attraction. All these new amenities, you can introduce a small fee for use
- Please make sure the sinks in the washroom have stools for little kids, hooks in the washrooms and changing stations If possible add diaper dispensing machines
- As long as it's fun and safe. Any redesign will be great!
- Would be good bins for recycle, garbage and organics. Don't permit smoke.
- What is going to happen to the trail?
- Lots of colours!!
- no
- Include a snack bar or vending machine for snacks or drinking water and other drinks in the building, maybe seasonal permits for food trucks to park on the street. Not the parking area (as it is limited). Provide an online booking system to avoid overcrowding and fair access. Garbage, recycle and organic material disposal bins. With fines to those who litter. A few towel or swimsuit drier Machine like the one at the Olympic sports center in the pool area in Scarborough.
- Best of luck with this project! We will be eagerly counting down for its reopening. :)
- More colourful and leave the existing play structure or update it. I feel if people are looking for more natural play they can go to the many existing beaches, lakes or rivers
- Look forward to see it taking shape!
- Keep it simple.
- Part of the problems with Kids town has always been managing the number of people and the litter/hair balls that inevitably make the splash pad/pool/deck area so gross looking. We need budget for cleaning and education. I love the idea of natural play areas, but perhaps lifeguards will need to be trained as outdoor play facilitators as well as being lifeguards (and inevitably that may mean more staff needed). Think the OPAL program in public schools, and how that same ideology of risky (but managed) play can be beneficial.
- On the fence, it would be nice to have hooks or ledges to hang bags/towels or dry things off
- I think the colourful, theme park style play is what kidstown entails. Although the natural elements are brilliant ideas, I do not think it suits the kidstown name and/or legacy. However, if it were to become mostly natural elements I would still bring my children, but for a different kind of adventure.
- It's looks amazing! All the options are good, the beach is best in my opinion.
- Would love to see more nature features and based play areas throughout Kidstown rather than it being the sole concept of the actual pool or splash pad. Also think that would entice people to explore the rest of the place since there's more to see and do!
- Paved parking lot, smoother transition to enter the park, overall more shading areas for seating
- Be inclusive.
- Overall great concepts
- Shades for line ups,
- Have an additional small bathroom stall on far side opposite buildings so kids can quickly urinate there and not in the pool and parents don't have to leave their spot to take the kid to the bathroom. Leave room around shower area for parents to park

strollers without them getting wet (why are there misting poles around the change areas? Hopefully these are button activated) Interactive spaces with movable features and buttons are great and where kids work together to dam a stream or fill something with water to make something happen. Consider hooks on poles that hold up shades over seating areas so people can hang towels or backpacks up. Provide capacity updates on city website

- Hoping the water will be warmer than before. Not sure why the water at kids town was always freezing cold.
- Very good, come on 🐢
- Expand the area, and build small commercial-style food street stalls and small shops selling toys or books.