What We Heard

Terminals Point Public Lands
Community Meeting

Winter 2024

TERMINALS
POINT



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"Without any doubt my favourite thing to do in Collingwood is to walk or cycle to the end of the terminals peninsula, spending an hour or two enjoying the view and reading while seated facing westward toward the escarpment. The shimmering water, beautiful view and stunning sunsets at this spot are what make Collingwood so special and worth preserving at any cost."

Participant comment

1 Introduction

On November 27, 2024, from 6pm to 8pm, the Town of Collingwood hosted a public meeting focusing on public lands for the Terminals Point redevelopment. The meeting offered the community an opportunity to learn about the initial concept design for public lands, created during the developer competition, including park spaces and the marina, and to share their input on the plan. Public input gathered through this meeting and the accompanying online survey will help shape the next iteration of the landscape plan, ensuring the final design reflects community priorities and enhances the waterfront experience in Collingwood.

The in-person meeting focused on the public lands within the project area, with a presentation by the Town's consulting landscape architect DTAH. The presentation took place in the Simcoe Street Theater and in an overflow room in the Collingwood Public Library via a live video-feed. Following the presentation, illustrative presentation boards were displayed in the Theater vestibule, and project representatives were available to discuss the design in more detail. To ensure broad participation, a recorded presentation (https://youtu.be/wPKLntzGdU?si=eNDJ8d2j6rRlhUOh) and an online survey were available following the meeting via the dedicated Engage website.

This session was dedicated exclusively to the design of public spaces, with a separate meeting planned to discuss private development within the project area.

Outreach and Promotion

The public meeting and survey were promoted to residents through the following channels:

- Town of Collingwood website and social media channels
- Via the project engage webpage (https://engage.collingwood-grain-terminals)
- News releases on Town website
- E-blast to subscribers to the Town's newsletter
- A radio advertising campaign
- The Mayor spoke about the event during a radio appearance on Peak FM
- Digital display at Town Hall
- Sidewalk sign installed in front of the Simcoe Theater before and after the public meeting
- Targeted Meta advertisements

Public Survey Details

Following the in-person public meeting, a survey was launched to solicit feedback about the plan and ask participants about their aspirations for the public lands of Terminals Point. The survey asked for some basic demographic information, about how people get to and use the park today, what they think of the plan, and several questions about the future of the public lands of Terminals Point.

The survey, accessible via the project engagement page, was open from November 27 to December 20, 2024, and received a substantial number of responses.

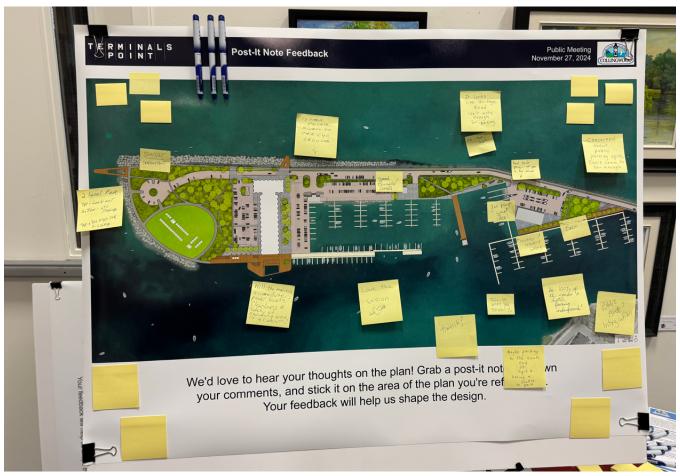
TOTAL RESPONDENTS: 494 COMMENTS: 2,475



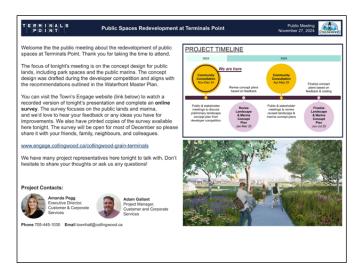
Public presentation on November 27, 2025 in the Simcoe Street Theater



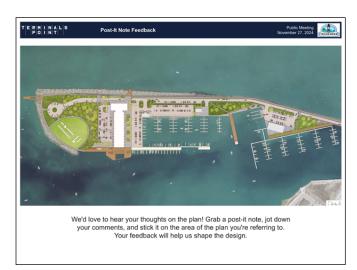
Project representatives discussing the project with attendees following the presentation



Meeting attendees were encourage to post comments direction on a plan













Six display boards from November 27, 2024 public meeting

2 Summary of Key Themes

Community feedback on the Terminals Point Public Spaces Redevelopment highlighted several key priorities and concerns. The most valued aspects of the site include its scenic waterfront views, accessibility for walking and cycling, and the importance of maintaining open public space. Many respondents expressed strong support for improving amenities such as public washrooms, seating, shaded areas, and better water access for swimming, paddling, and boating. There was significant interest in adding recreational features, including a skating trail for winter use, designated swimming areas, and improved marina facilities to support both motorized and non-motorized watercraft.

Concerns centered around potential overdevelopment, particularly regarding private development limiting public access. Many participants voiced opposition to the inclusion of a hotel or condominium, citing risks to the community character, waterfront views, and affordability. Traffic congestion, parking availability, and environmental impacts were also noted as areas requiring careful planning.

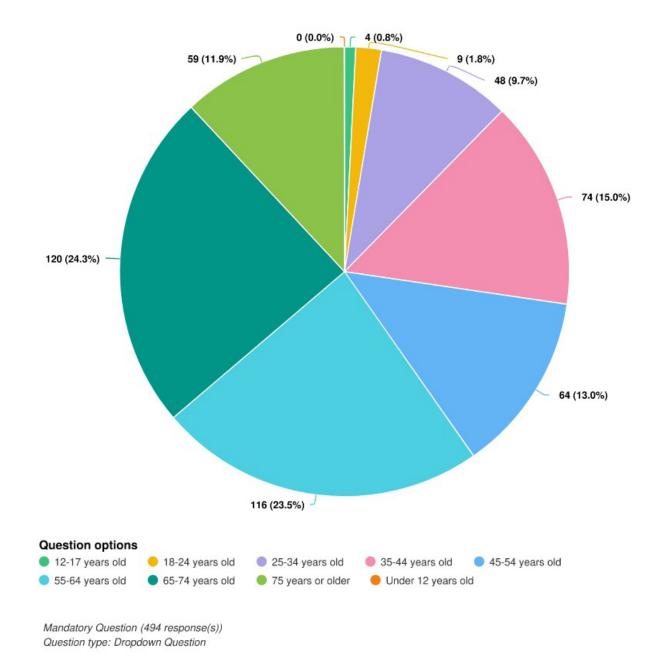
Overall, the community supports enhancements to public spaces, with a focus on accessibility, passive recreation, and maintaining an inclusive and welcoming waterfront. While there is enthusiasm for improvements, ensuring that development prioritizes public use and remains true to Collingwood's heritage and natural beauty will be critical in refining the design.

3 What We Heard

The following question-by-question summary captures the key themes and feedback shared during the public meeting and through the online survey. This summary was prepared by the project team and represents our interpretation of the input received. Every effort has been made to fairly and accurately reflect the discussions and comments. All responses have been anonymized and are included in the appendix of this report for full transparency.

Q.1: What is your Age Range?

The responses to the question "What is your age range?" indicate a diverse range of participants, with the largest groups being ages 65-74 (24.3%), ages 55-64 (23.5%), and ages 35-44 (15.0%). Other age groups represented include ages 45-54 (13.0%), ages 75 and older (11.9%), and ages 25-34 (9.7%). Participation from younger respondents was lower, with 1.8% aged 18-24, 0.8% aged 12-17, and no responses from those under 12 years old. These results suggest that engagement was highest among older adults (62.8% of participants were ≥55 years old), with limited participation from younger demographics.



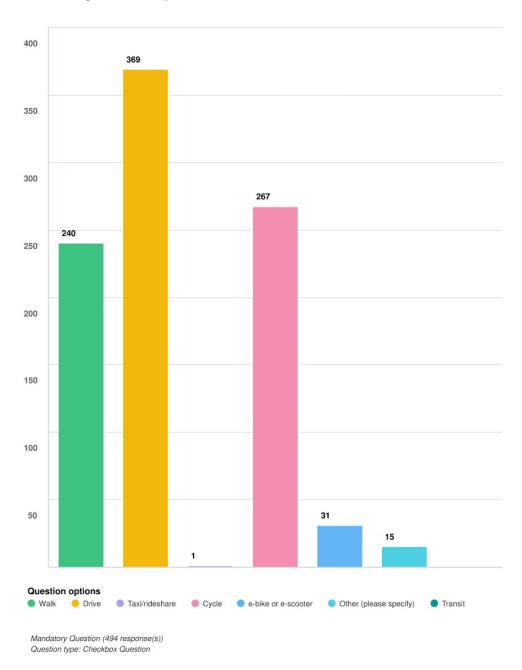
Q.2: Provide the first three characters of your postal code.

The survey responses indicate that approximately 87% of participants are from the L9Y postal code area, which corresponds to Collingwood, Ontario. The remaining respondents are from neighboring areas, including postal codes L0M, N0H, N0C, and L9Z, which correspond to communities such as Stayner, Wasaga Beach, and parts of Grey County. This distribution suggests that the majority of survey participants are residents of Collingwood, with additional input from surrounding regions.



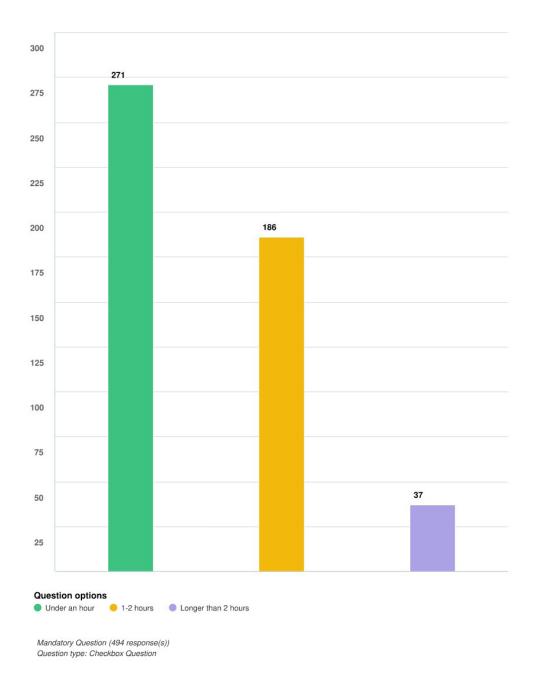
Q.3: How do you typically get to Terminals Point? Check all that apply.

The responses to "How do you typically get to Terminals Point?" show that the most common mode of transportation is driving (369 responses), followed by cycling (267 responses) and walking (240 responses). E-bike or e-scooter use (31 responses) were less frequently selected, while taxi/rideshare (1 response) and transit (0 responses) had almost no representation. A small number of respondents selected "Other" (15 responses), specifying alternative modes of transportation. These results indicate that **while many people drive to Terminals Point, active transportation modes—particularly walking and cycling—are also widely used**. These results also represent current access patterns to Terminals Point and may not reflect future transportation trends following its redevelopment.



Q.4: How much time do you typically spend at Terminals Point when you visit?

The responses to "How much time do you typically spend at Terminals Point when you visit?" indicate that the majority of visitors stay for under an hour (271 responses). The second most common duration is 1-2 hours (186 responses), while a smaller number of respondents reported spending more than 2 hours (37 responses). These results suggest that **most visits to Terminals Point are relatively short**, with fewer people spending extended periods of time at the site.



Q.5: What's your favorite spot on Terminals Point? It could be where you like to fish, swim, walk, or just take in the view. Tell us what makes it special and share any ideas for how the park could make it even better.

Most people love Terminals Point for its stunning views of the water, hills, and sunsets. Many enjoy walking, sitting, and taking in the peaceful atmosphere, while others prefer more active experiences like swimming, boating, and picnicking. Several respondents highlighted the importance of maintaining public access to the waterfront and ensuring any changes preserve the area's natural beauty. Below are the most common themes from the responses.

1. The View and Tranquility (Most Popular)

Many respondents appreciate Terminals Point for its breathtaking views of Georgian Bay, Blue Mountain, and the surrounding landscapes. Whether sitting on a bench, parking for a quiet moment, or walking along the waterfront, the peaceful atmosphere is what makes it special. Several people emphasized the need to protect sightlines and keep the space open and natural.

"The view is awesome. We like to bicycle or walk out to the point to relax and see the sights."

"The view of the open water and seeing everyone outside enjoying the area makes it special."

2. Swimming and Jumping Off the Pier (Very Popular)

A large number of respondents love jumping off the pier into the deep water, considering it a unique and exciting feature. Many want to see safer and more accessible entry points while keeping the experience fun and natural. Some suggested designated swimming areas, better ladders, or floating docks to improve accessibility.

"Swimming off the pier is the best spot in all of Collingwood. Making it more safe and accessible will be amazing."

"The pier is like a diving board that you don't have to line up for. We always go for swims in the summer."

3. Walking, Biking, and Enjoying the Open Space (Very Popular)

Many people enjoy using the area for walking, jogging, or cycling, often making it part of their daily routine. The open green spaces allow for relaxation, picnics, and informal activities like frisbee or yoga. Several respondents emphasized the need for more seating, shade, and better-maintained trails.

"I enjoy parking at the circular parking lot and just taking in the view and listening to the sounds of water activity."

"We like to walk around the point and watch people swim. It's a special place that brings us closer to nature."

4. Public Access and Keeping the Space Open (Common Theme)

A strong theme in the feedback is the desire to keep Terminals Point a public space, free from excessive commercialization. Respondents stressed the importance of maintaining public waterfront access, protecting the park's openness, and ensuring it remains an inclusive gathering place.

"Any changes should augment public access. Access should not be limited by private interests or to support cars/parking."

"The space is essential as a place for the community to gather. Keep it open and accessible to all."

5. The Need for More Amenities and Improvements (Common Theme)

While people love the space, many suggested improvements such as additional seating, shaded areas, better accessibility, more trees, and public washrooms. Some also suggested food trucks, art installations, or a small amphitheater to make the park more inviting year-round.

"More seating, shade, and proper bike and walking trails would make the park even better."

"Adding a safe swimming area and more trees for shade would enhance the experience for everyone."

Additional Insights

Some respondents shared ideas that were not part of a larger theme but still add valuable perspectives: Several boaters and paddlers enjoy using the marina and paddling club and want to ensure easy access to the water. A few people suggested creating a protected fishing area, as the current rocky shoreline makes it difficult. Some enjoy watching storms roll in, stargazing, and using the area for quiet reflection. A small number of respondents feel the area is currently underwhelming and could benefit from revitalization efforts.

Overall, the feedback highlights the importance of preserving Terminals Point's open, scenic, and accessible nature while making thoughtful improvements to enhance the experience for all visitors.

Q.6: The concept plan includes updating marina facilities. What are the most important marine services to you? Or do you have any suggestions to improve boating access and services?

The responses highlight a wide range of perspectives on the proposed updates to marina facilities. While some community members are not directly involved in boating, they recognize the importance of maintaining marine services for visitors and local boaters. Many respondents emphasized the need for expanded access, improved facilities, and affordability. Below are the most common themes that emerged from the feedback.

1. More Public Docking and Expanded Marina Services (Most Popular)

A large number of respondents support increasing the number of boat slips and ensuring public access to the marina. Many highlighted long waitlists for slips and the need for better services such as fueling stations, pump-out facilities, and transient docking for visiting boaters.

"More slips. Long wait list to get a slip. Marina and gas facility is a great idea."

"We need gas service. I have to take my jetski elsewhere because there's no fuel available in the harbour."

2. Better Facilities for Boaters and Visitors (Very Popular)

Many people want improved amenities, such as washrooms, showers, laundry, and food options for both local and visiting boaters. A well-maintained marina with these facilities could attract more boaters and benefit the local economy.

"A gas dock, pump-out station, washroom and shower facilities, marine store, and covered picnic pavilion would turn the harbour into a much-coveted destination."

"Having clean, welcoming marina facilities with public washrooms and a small restaurant or café would be a great improvement."

3. Dedicated Spaces for Non-Motorized Watercraft (Very Popular)

Many respondents emphasized the need for better access and launch areas for kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddleboards, and rowing shells. Some suggested adding a separate launch area for small craft to prevent conflicts with motorized boats.

"It would be lovely to have a dedicated small craft launch area (paddle boards, kayaks, canoes)."

"I want to be able to park and easily launch my kayak. Right now, it's not convenient or accessible."

4. Public Access and Affordability (Common Theme)

A significant number of respondents stressed that marina services should not cater exclusively to yacht club members or wealthier boat owners. Some suggested adopting a model similar to other towns that integrate private and public marina facilities to ensure accessibility.

"Can we please NOT make it another inaccessible and expensive private club for the rich?"

"Keeping multiple free public launch ramps is the most important thing. Locals should have access to affordable boating options."

5. Improved Traffic Flow, Parking, and Safety (Common Theme)

Several respondents raised concerns about parking congestion, boat launch efficiency, and safety in the marina area. Suggestions included better traffic control, expanded trailer parking, and enforcement of speed limits within the harbour.

"Nice wide boat ramps, good docking, and easy parking for truck/boat trailers. Nobody wants to line up and wait."

"The marina should have better security, including cameras and proper gating to prevent unauthorized access."

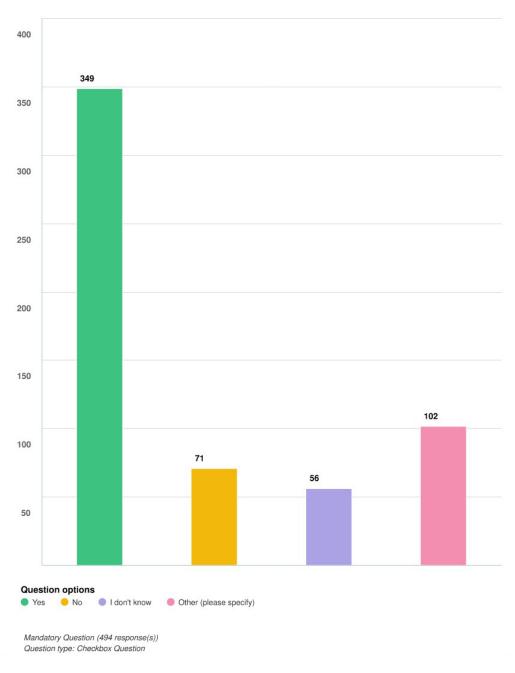
Additional Insights

A few responses shared unique perspectives that did not form a dominant theme but still add value: Some respondents suggested adding a seafood restaurant or café overlooking the marina to enhance the visitor experience. A handful of people proposed a water taxi or boat tour service to connect the marina to other waterfront destinations. A few respondents expressed concerns about environmental impacts, including pollution from motorized boats and increasing numbers of geese affecting water quality. Some suggested integrating the Collingwood Rowing Club, Paddling Club, and Sailing Academy into a shared four-season facility.

Overall, the feedback highlights strong community support for improving marina services while ensuring accessibility for all users. Expanding boat slips, adding essential amenities, and improving access for non-motorized watercraft are key priorities. Maintaining affordability and keeping the space public and welcoming remain critical considerations for many respondents.

Q.7: Would you and your friends or family visit Terminals Point in the winter if there were a skating trail in Millenium Park? What else might make you want to come down during the colder months?

The responses to "Would you and your friends or family visit Terminals Point in the winter if there were a skating trail in Millennium Park? What else might make you want to come down during the colder months?" indicate strong interest in winter activities. The majority of respondents (349 people) said yes, they would visit if a skating trail were available. A smaller number of respondents were unsure (56 "I don't know" responses) or said they would not visit (71 "No" responses). Additionally, 102 respondents selected "Other", suggesting additional ideas or conditions that might encourage winter visits. These results suggest that adding a skating trail could significantly increase winter use of Terminals Point, with further opportunities to enhance cold-weather appeal based on community input.



Q.8: How well do you feel the concept plan supports the kind of waterfront access and experience you would like to see?

Overall, public responses to the waterfront concept plan were mixed, with a strong divide between support and concern. Many people appreciated the effort to enhance public space, improve access, and add new amenities. However, concerns about the proposed hotel and condominium development, traffic congestion, and parking were common. Public access and the preservation of Collingwood's character were top priorities for respondents. Below are the most common themes identified from the feedback.

1. Support for Public Space Enhancements (Most Popular)

Many respondents liked the improvements to public access, trails, swimming areas, and green spaces. They felt the plan would enhance the experience for both residents and visitors by creating a more engaging and functional waterfront.

"The plan certainly makes the area more accessible and provides more public-friendly spaces."

"Love the swimming access points and the designated swim area. It would be great to add lane swimming here."

2. Concerns About Private Development and Public Access (Very Popular)

A significant number of respondents expressed opposition to the inclusion of a hotel and condominium, fearing that it would limit public access and change the character of the waterfront. Many were concerned that the development would cater to wealthy visitors rather than the local community.

"It doesn't once you build a hotel and stores, nobody will be able to get near it."

"The terminals need to be salvaged and repurposed, but not in a way that benefits the wealthy while taking away one of our landmarks."

3. Traffic, Parking, and Accessibility Concerns (Very Popular)

Many respondents were worried about increased congestion, a lack of parking, and difficulty accessing the waterfront, particularly for local residents. Some suggested designated parking for locals, better pedestrian and cycling infrastructure, and limits on vehicle access.

"My biggest worry is the increased traffic to the area. It is already a tiny road into the terminal, and that will only increase with new attractions."

"Concerned regarding locals' ability to access and enjoy the area. Can there be some local-only parking with no fees?"

4. Preservation of Collingwood's Character and Heritage (Common Theme)

Respondents emphasized the importance of maintaining Collingwood's small-town charm and preserving its historical elements. While some liked the revitalization, others felt the plan leaned too much toward commercialization.

"It strikes me as designed for tourists to wander around looking at the view. Not a Central Parktype park. It looks sterile."

"The best part of it is preserving the iconic grain elevators. Those that want to destroy them to get a bit more land are short-minded."

5. Need for More Recreational and Community- Focused Features (Common Theme)

Some respondents felt the plan should include additional recreational elements such as a skate park, performance space, or community facilities. Others wanted more green spaces, natural areas, and family-friendly amenities.

"I would like to see a playground included."

"A skate area with a refreshment stand in winter is excellent; no hockey!"

6. Environmental and Water Quality Concerns (Common Theme)

Some respondents raised concerns about the environmental impact of the plan, particularly regarding stormwater treatment, sewage discharge, and water quality for swimming.

"I like the protected swimming area but have a concern about water quality, especially after rains. Water quality should be tested daily and results posted online."

"It doesn't mention the impact on the environment or the need for a Municipal Class Environmental Assessment."

Additional Insights

Beyond the main themes, some respondents raised unique points that didn't fit into larger categories but add to the overall feedback: Some wanted more food and beverage options, particularly waterfront restaurants or cafes. A few respondents suggested integrating Indigenous design and cultural elements into the space. Others were concerned about how the space would function in winter and suggested features like wind protection for skating areas. A small number felt the plan was too ambitious and questioned whether it was financially feasible.

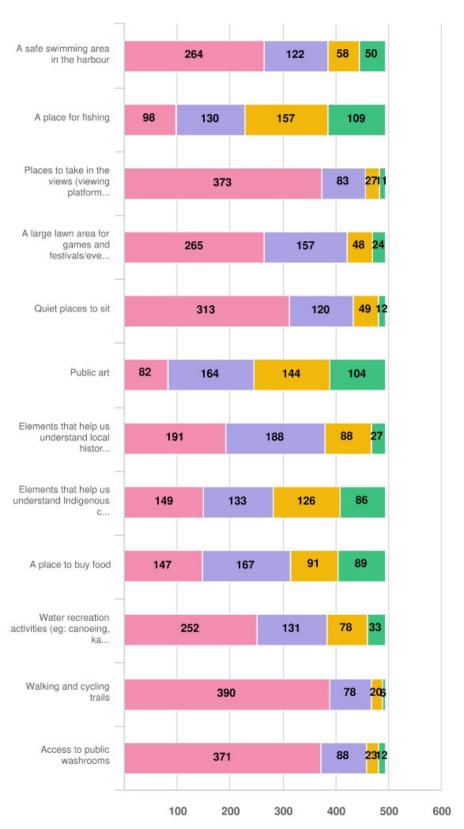
The concept plan received mixed feedback, with strong support for improving public spaces but significant concerns about private development, traffic, and accessibility. Many want to see the waterfront remain an inclusive, community-focused space rather than a commercialized destination. Addressing parking, public access, and environmental considerations will be key to gaining broader support for the plan.

Q.9: Tell us which park features are most important for you

The responses to "Tell us which park features are most important for you" highlight key community priorities for the Terminals Point redevelopment. The highest-ranked features, with the most "very important" responses, include walking and cycling trails (390 responses), access to public washrooms (371 responses), and places to take in the views (373 responses). Other features that received strong support as "very important" include quiet places to sit (313 responses), a safe swimming area in the harbour (264 responses), and water recreation activities like canoeing and kayaking (252 responses).

Features with more mixed opinions include public art, elements that help understand local history and Indigenous culture, and a place to buy food, which had a more even distribution of responses across "very important," "somewhat important," and "neutral." Fishing was one of the least prioritized features, with lower numbers ranking it as "very important" and more respondents marking it as "neutral" or "not important."

Overall, these results suggest that the community places high value on active transportation, access to basic amenities, scenic viewpoints, and passive recreation opportunities, with a range of interest in cultural and commercial elements.



Question options

Somewhat important

very important

NeutralNot important

Mandatory Question (494 response(s)) Question type: Likert Question

Q.10: Are there any public spaces or features you feel are missing from the plan?

The responses to this question reveal a diverse range of suggestions and concerns from the public. While some respondents feel that the plan is comprehensive, others suggest additions or modifications to enhance public spaces. The following themes capture the most prevalent responses:

1. Enhanced Recreational Spaces (Most Popular)

Many respondents expressed a desire for more recreational amenities. Suggestions included an outdoor skating rink, pickleball courts, and a playground for children. There was also interest in seasonal activities like skating trails and spaces for sports like basketball or disc golf.

"An outdoor skating rink; pickleball public courts... a winter 'chalet' to allow people to put on skates & have hot choc."

"A playground for kids that is also a learning tool for Collingwood's history."

2. Improved Amenities and Facilities (Very Popular)

Respondents frequently mentioned the need for improved amenities such as public restrooms, drinking fountains, and seating areas. Additional suggestions included change rooms, shaded areas, and picnic spots to make the space more user-friendly.

"Missing washrooms near the swimming and Millennium Park area."

"Public clean drinking fountain along the walking trails."

3. Waterfront and Marina Enhancements (Very Popular)

The community highlighted the potential of the waterfront area, suggesting the addition of a marina, more boating facilities, and kayak/canoe launches. Some advocated for enhanced access to the water and services for recreational boating.

"We have the most amazing port and no marina. Why? Would be wonderful to have an open marina for travellers and locals."

"Public access to kayak, canoe, and paddleboard launch."

4. Food and Beverage Options (Common Theme)

Numerous comments emphasized the importance of food and beverage options within the public space, including cafes, food trucks, and restaurants with waterfront views. This would enhance the visitor experience and provide local business opportunities.

"Somewhere to purchase food."

"Restaurants or food options, shops."

5. Concerns About Overdevelopment and Preservation (Common Theme)

Several respondents expressed concerns about potential overdevelopment, particularly regarding high-rise buildings and their impact on the community's character and waterfront views. They emphasized preserving natural beauty and ensuring that spaces remain accessible to locals.

"Do not let them build a condo tower!"

"Keep the historical aspect and don't try to make it look like it should be in downtown Toronto."

6. Inclusivity and Accessibility (Common Theme)

Ensuring accessibility for all ages and abilities was a recurring topic. Suggestions included wheelchairaccessible paths, safe crossings, and amenities for seniors and people with disabilities. "Please make sure paths are paved and not gravel. As a wheelchair user, I cannot use the gravel paths."

"Vehicular access for seniors and mobilitychallenged people."

Additional Insights

Other individual comments highlighted unique ideas and concerns. Some suggested creating art spaces for local artists, developing educational play areas for children, and adding features like a bandshell for performances. Additionally, there were concerns about parking adequacy, security, and maintaining public access amid private development initiatives.

Overall, the feedback indicates strong community interest in enhancing public spaces while balancing development with preservation and accessibility.

