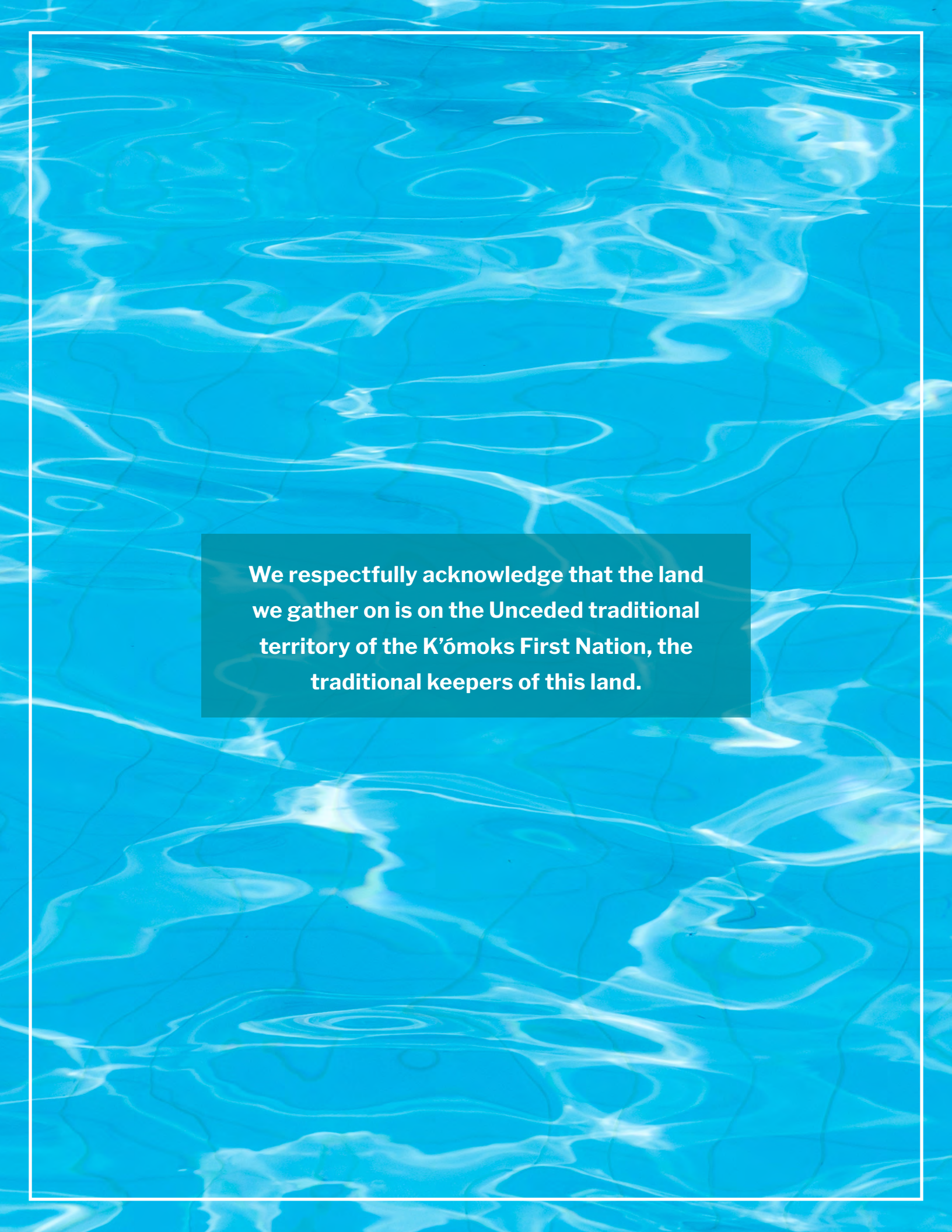


Comox Valley Regional District
Aquatics Strategy

Draft Strategy Review Synopsis

April 2023



The background of the entire page is a vibrant blue color with a pattern of white and light blue ripples, resembling water. A thin white border frames the entire image.

**We respectfully acknowledge that the land
we gather on is on the Unceded traditional
territory of the K'ómoks First Nation, the
traditional keepers of this land.**



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Source: comoxvalleyrd.ca

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Section 1.0

Introduction

The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) and the City of Courtenay commissioned the development of an Aquatics Strategy. The Strategy will serve as a road map, guiding the provision of aquatic facilities and services in the Comox Valley for the next 25 years. Based on an extensive program of research and engagement, a draft Aquatics Strategy was developed and presented to the public for review and comment.

The draft Strategy was posted on the websites of both the City of Courtenay and the Comox Valley Regional District. An online feedback form was also accessible on the two websites. Recognizing that some people may prefer to review a hardcopy version of the draft Strategy and provide their feedback in that same manner, print outs of the Strategy and the feedback form (Appendix A) were available at several locations. (The Strategy is presented under a separate cover.) Locations that people could visit for hard copies of the draft Strategy and the feedback form include the following:

- Lewis Centre*
- Florence Filberg Centre*
- The LINC Youth Centre
- Courtenay City Hall*
- Comox Valley Sports Centre
- Comox Valley Aquatic Centre
- VI Regional Library, Courtenay Branch*

** hard copies of the feedback form were available to the public*

The opportunity to review the draft Strategy and provide feedback was promoted through several means. In addition to the posting and notice on the websites of the City and Regional District, email notices of the review opportunity were sent to community groups who participated in the earlier engagement efforts. The groups were asked to inform their memberships and supporters of the opportunity to review the draft Strategy and provide feedback. The City and Regional District both promoted the opportunity through social media as well. Finally, a poster was developed and posted in recreation facilities in the area. Refer to Appendix B to see the poster.

Section 2.0

Feedback

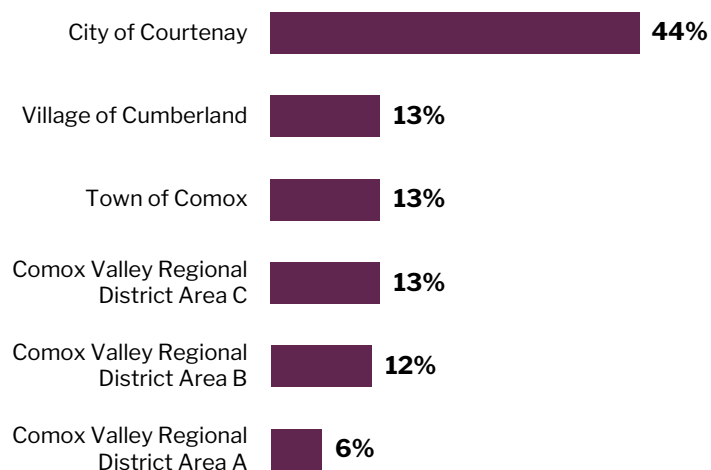


Feedback was gathered from February 6, 2023 through to March 6, 2023. In total 73 submissions were received. This is comprised of 70 responses to the online survey and an additional three comments submitted via Facebook and email. The main themes from the feedback collected is presented below.

- Having a single location for all aquatics in the Comox Valley was questioned generally with some disagreement with the Aquatic Centre being that site. A single location would be inconvenient for some users, particularly those who are current patrons of the outdoor pool (20 comments).
 - » Other arguments against the single location referred to community times and the inability of accessing the Aquatic Centre site using active transportation. An already crowded parking situation at the Aquatic Centre will be exacerbated with additional amenities there.
- The capacity calculations used in the Strategy were questioned with numerous respondents indicating that there is overcrowding in the pools, particularly at key times (19 comments).
- Some respondents complimented the Strategy for its thoroughness (11 comments).
- Several respondents supported the notion of a new aquatic facility while others felt a central location makes sense (7 comments) and is financially efficient (5 comments).
- There were calls to make enhancements at existing facilities (7 comments), particularly the Sports Centre Pool and the outdoor pool. Improvements identified included: additional lane and leisure capacity, change rooms – space and maintenance, and wellness amenities.

As illustrated in the accompanying graph, almost half (44%) of the respondents to the survey live in Courtenay.

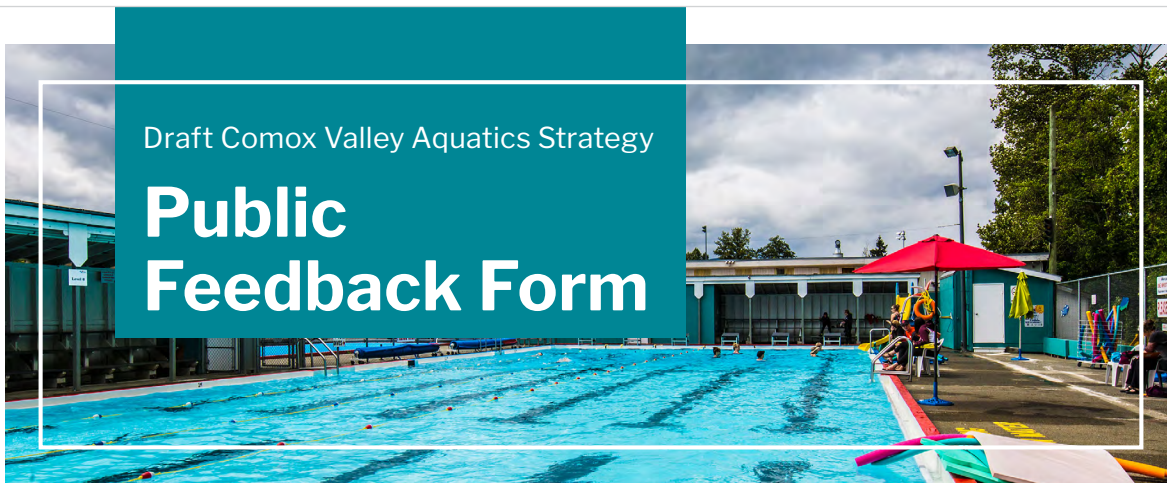
Residency of Respondents



Appendices



Appendix A: Feedback Form



The Comox Valley is served by three publicly-funded aquatics facilities: CVRD Sports Centre Pool, the Courtenay and District Memorial Outdoor Pool, and the CVRD Aquatics Centre.

A draft Comox Valley Aquatics Strategy commissioned by the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) and the City of Courtenay was presented to City Council and the Comox Valley Recreation Commission in January 2023 and is available to the public for review.

The draft Aquatics Strategy recommends strategically investing to increase the quality, efficiency, and sustainability of existing aquatic facilities, and proposes service levels and operational requirements over a 25-year horizon.

Learn more:

comoxvalleyrd.ca/aquaticstrategy

courtenay.ca/aquaticstrategy



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We Want to Hear from You!

Please review the draft Comox Valley Aquatics Strategy and tell us what you think. Your feedback will be reviewed and considered as the Aquatics Strategy is finalized. Provide feedback by **March 6, 2023**.

About You

Where do you live?

- Comox Valley Regional District Area A
- Comox Valley Regional District Area B
- Comox Valley Regional District Area C
- City of Courtenay
- Town of Comox
- Village of Cumberland
- K'ómoks First Nation
- Other (please specify)

Thank you very much for taking the time to provide your feedback!
Your input is very important to the development of the CVRD and City of Courtenay Aquatic Strategy.

Appendix B: Poster



The CVRD and City of Courtenay have developed a **draft** Aquatics Strategy that describes the future of aquatics in the Comox Valley.

Follow the links below to review the **draft** Aquatics Strategy and to share your thoughts about it. Feedback will be collected until **March 6th, 2023**.

comoxvalleyrd.ca/aquaticstrategy

courtenay.ca/aquaticstrategy



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