



Harbour Swim Deck Project

Council Presentation

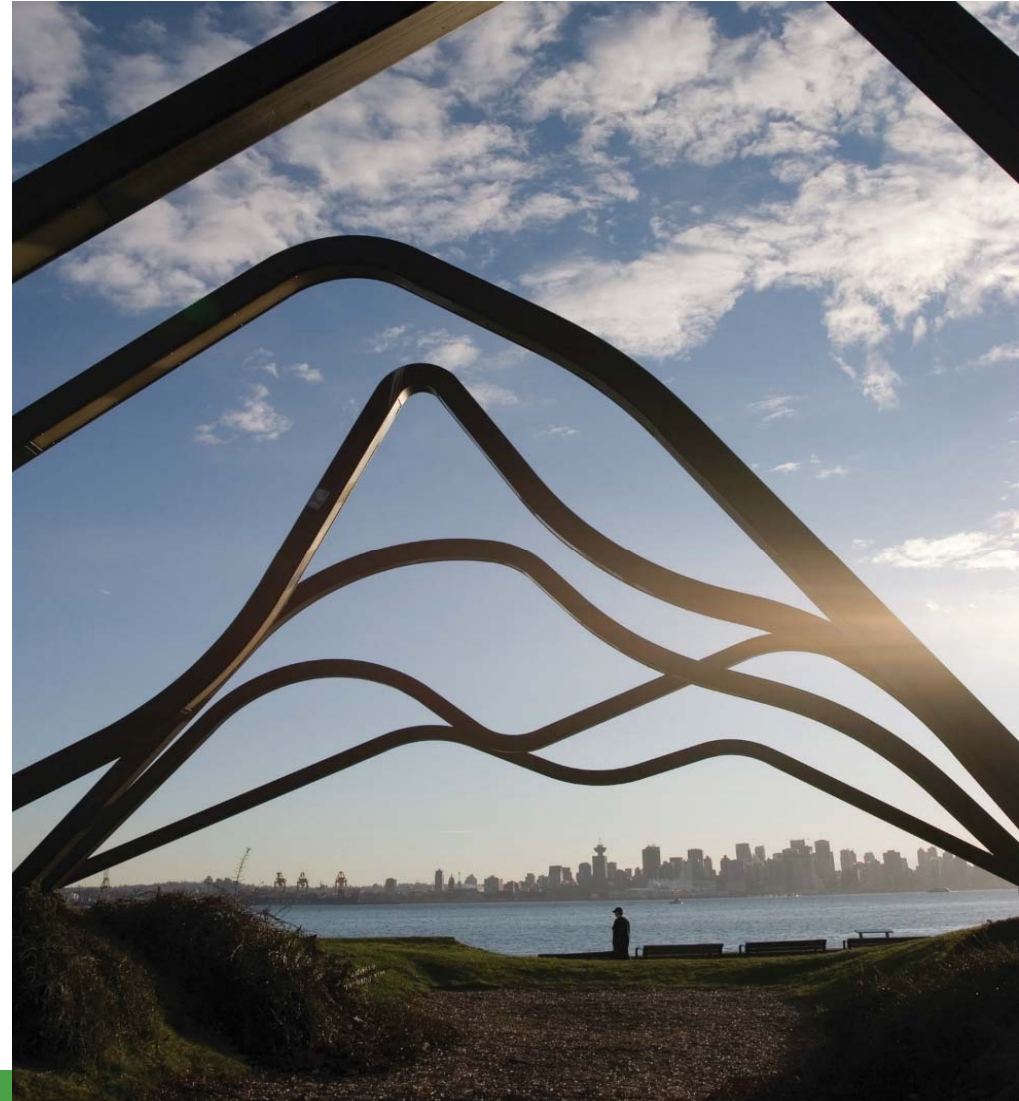
February 2, 2026

Infrastructure, Transportation & Parks

Purpose

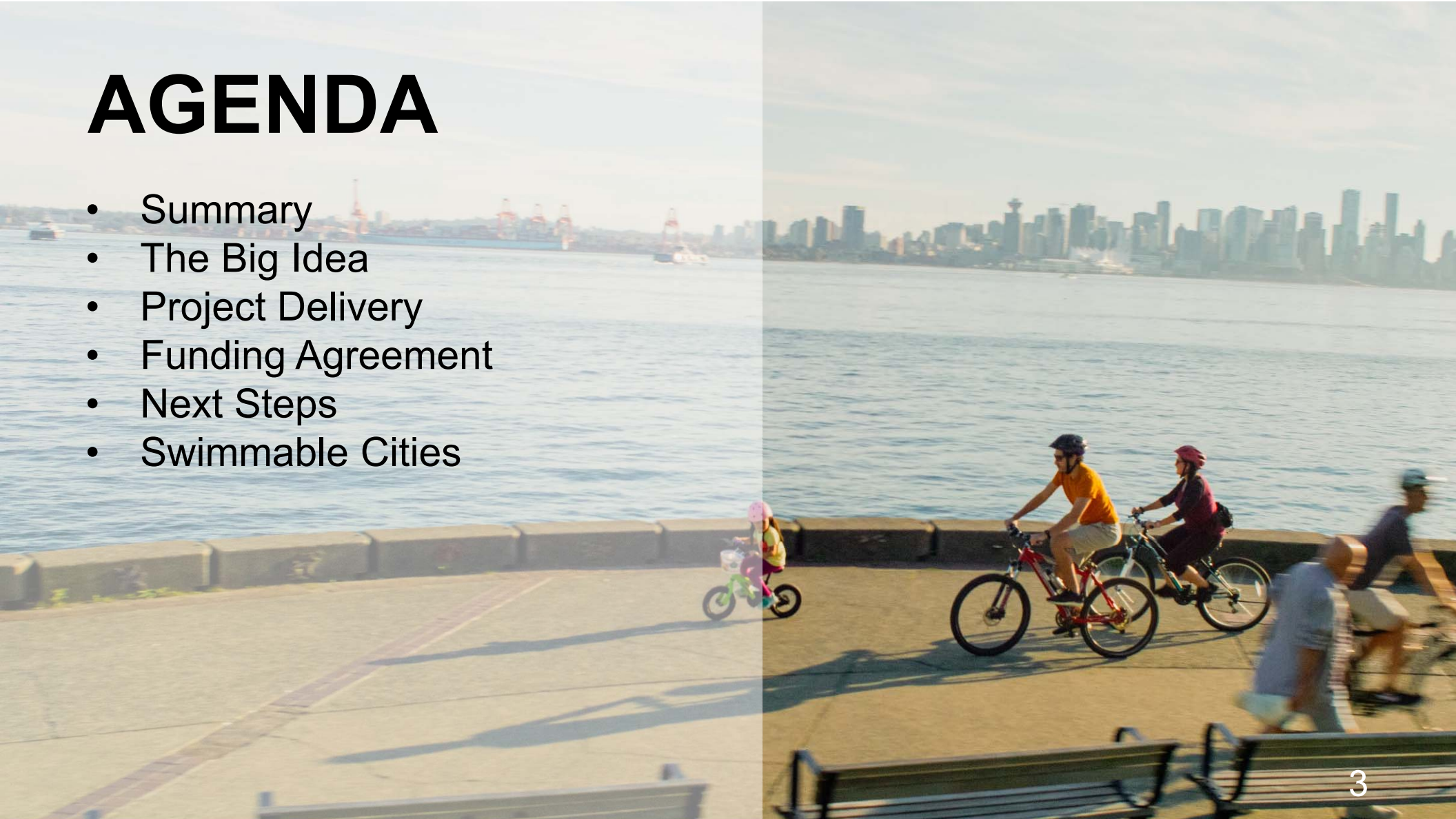
To provide an overview of the Harbour Swim Deck project, the partnership with Swim Drink Fish Canada, and the projected timeline and process.

To introduce the Swimmable Cities alliance, and the Swimmable Cities Charter an international movement for urban swimming.



AGENDA

- Summary
- The Big Idea
- Project Delivery
- Funding Agreement
- Next Steps
- Swimmable Cities



SUMMARY

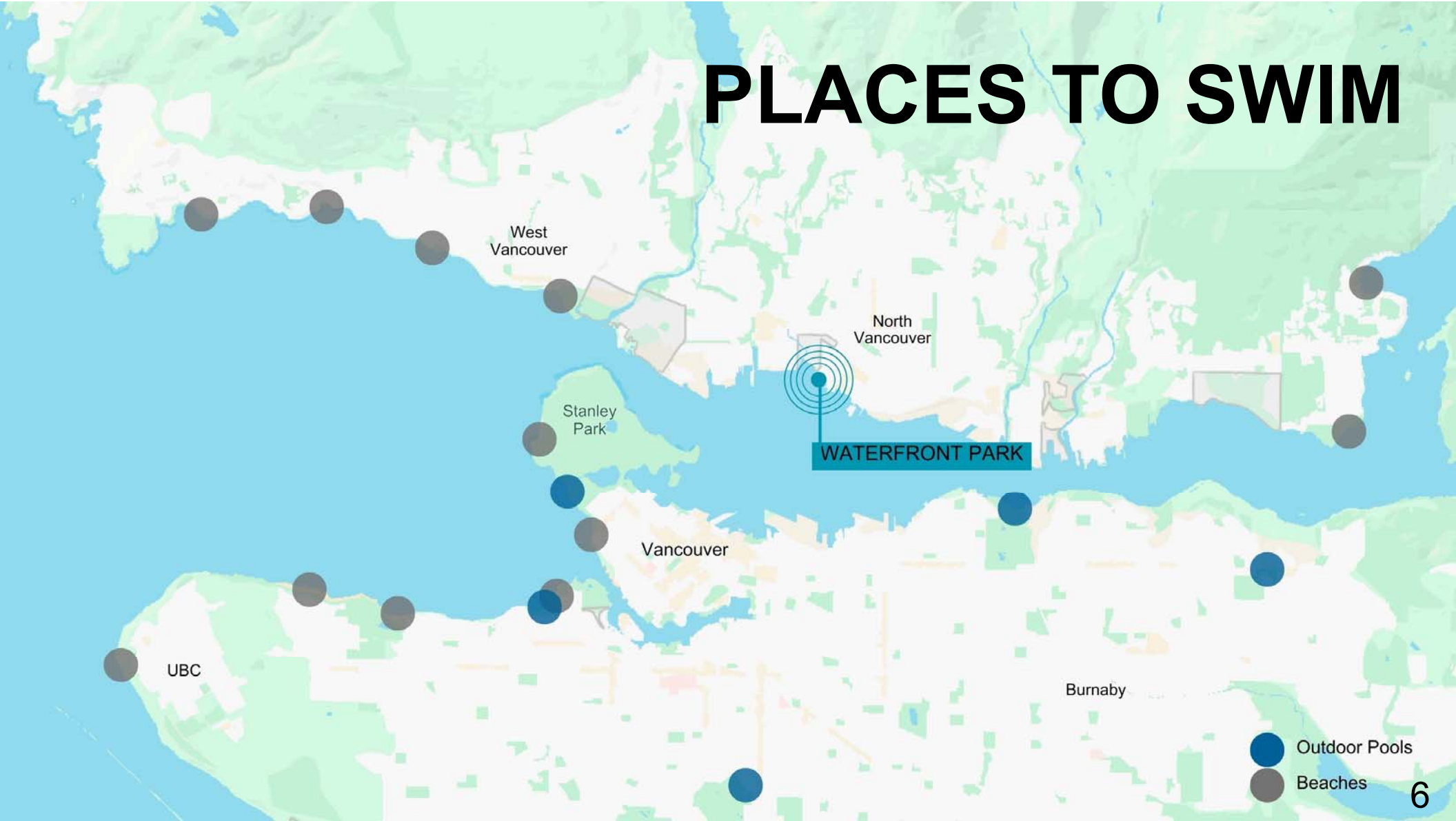
- In late 2023 **Swim Drink Fish (SDF)**, national not-for-profit organization approached the City with the idea of harbour swimming deck in front of Waterfront Park
- The capital cost of the harbour deck is to be predominantly funded through the philanthropy of the **Weston family**
- A **feasibility study** for the project was undertaken to determine practicality and explore a preliminary concept design



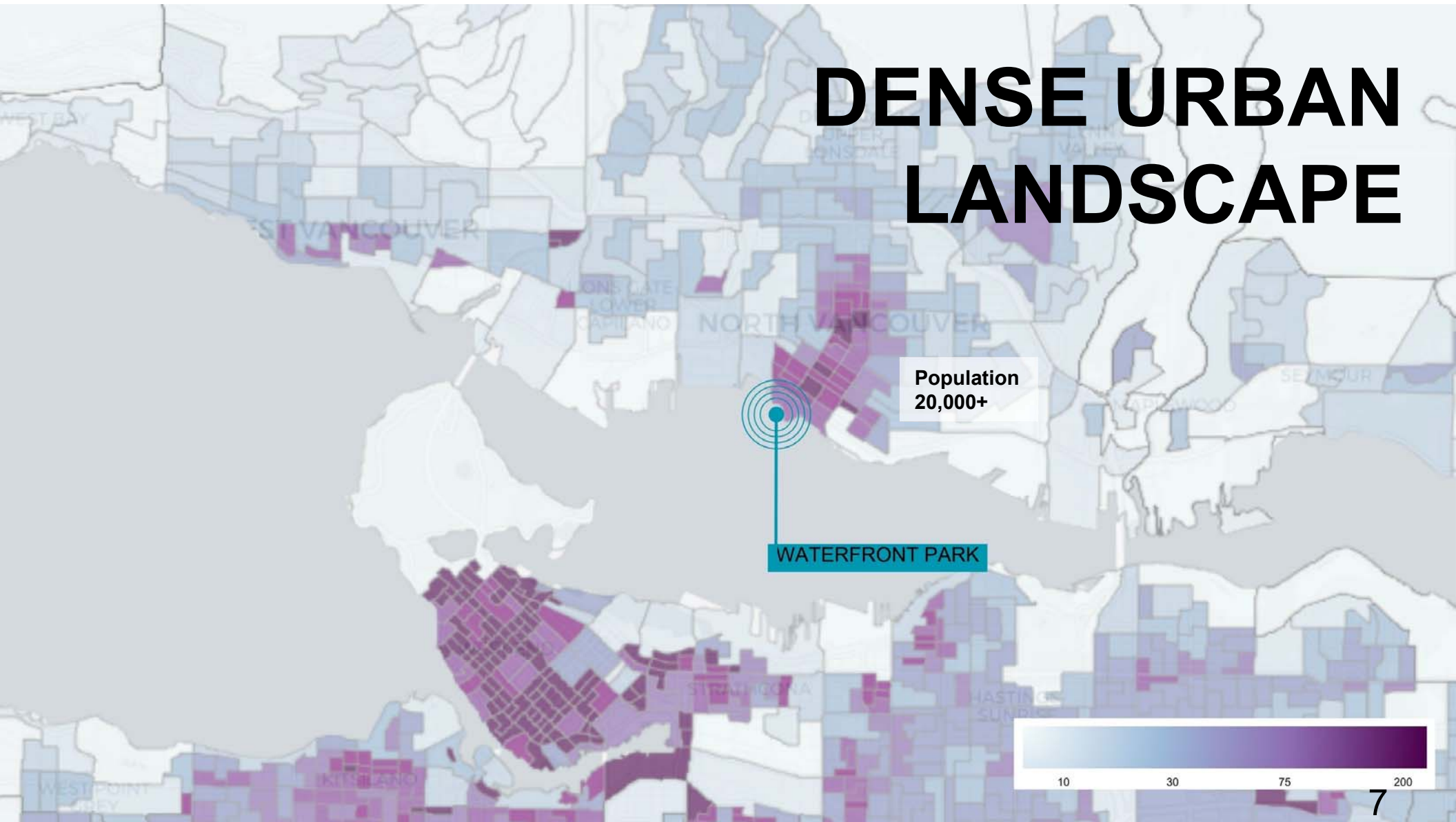
THE BIG IDEA



PLACES TO SWIM



DENSE URBAN LANDSCAPE



An aerial photograph of a city waterfront. The top half of the image is a semi-transparent grey overlay containing the title. Below this, the waterfront area is visible, featuring a marina with many boats on the left, a large green park area in the center, and various buildings and structures on the right. A blue arrow points from the bottom towards a specific area on the waterfront.

EXPANDING THE CITY'S FOOTPRINT

THE CITY'S WATERFRONT EXPERIENCE

KINGS MILL WALK
PARK

HARBOUR DECK AT
WATERFRONT PARK

THE
SHIPYARDS

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KINGS MILL WALK
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LEADING GLOBAL CITIES



Islands Brygge
Copenhagen, Denmark - 2002



Kastrup Harbour Bath
Kastrup, Denmark - 2005



Helgoland Sobadeanstalt
Helgoland, Denmark - 2008



Pirrama Park
Sydney, Australia - 2010



Coral Park
Copenhagen, Denmark - 2011



Sorenga Sjobad
Norway - 2015



Vestre Fjord Park
Alborg, Denmark - 2017



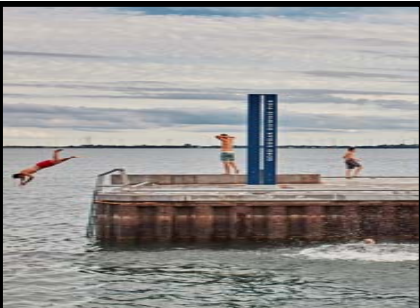
Bassin de la Villette
Paris, France - 2017



Arhus Harbor Bath
Aarhus, Denmark - 2018



Sandkaj Harbour Bath
Copenhagen, Denmark - 2018



Gord Edgar Downie Pier
Kingston, Canada - 2018



BLÅ RUM
Herning, Denmark - 2021



Skanderborg City Baths
Denmark - 2021



L'Oasis
Quebec City, Quebec - 2022



Waterfront Park Harbour Deck
North Vancouver, Canada - 2027

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT DESIGN

Secondary
lowered platform

3m and
5m diving

Social
Seating

Direct Gangway ramp

3x lanes - 50m

Shallow water
with zero-entry

Accessible Gangway ramp

12

Indicative concept design for illustrative purposes only



RECREATION FEATURES

- ✓ Generous, safe, protected swimming areas
- ✓ Shallow sea water pool with zero entry (accessible)
- ✓ Lane swimming - >50m x3 lanes
- ✓ Diving - 3m & 5m
- ✓ Spacious lounging and seating

Indicative concept design for illustrative purposes only



SAFETY FEATURES

- ✓ Life guarded in peak seasons
- ✓ First aid services
- ✓ Life rings
- ✓ Safety railings
- ✓ Two access ramps
- ✓ Ladders and stairs
- ✓ Surrounded by a buoy line to keep swimmers safe
- ✓ Security guarded overnight
- ✓ Water quality monitoring

Indicative concept design for illustrative purposes only



AMENITIES



Changing stalls



Outdoor showers



Lounging/social areas



Improvements to existing washrooms

Site ambassadors and activation elements
umbrellas, chairs,
planters.

Potential pop up bar,
concession in the future.

15



COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Harbour Deck could accommodate **over half a million visitors per year**, to experience:

- ✓ Social cohesion
- ✓ Physical and mental health
- ✓ Community safety with positive social activity, vibrancy and activation
- ✓ Support to maintain optimal health with aging



PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- ✓ Helps meet the high demand for 50m lap swimming
- ✓ On the Spirit Trail - walking, running or cycling

Swimming for just 30 minutes a week can even help to guard against heart disease, stroke and type 2 diabetes – Diabetes UK



YOUTH

- ✓ Social gathering
- ✓ Casual physical activity
- ✓ A sense of fun, adventure and challenge/risk
- ✓ Transit accessible

Cold water immersion can boost dopamine levels of 530%

European Journal of Applied Physiology



CHILDREN

- ✓ Free, low barrier activity for young families
- ✓ Helps meet demand (and long waitlists) for swimming lessons

Kids who swim reach cognitive milestones 10 months earlier compared to the kids who don't

Griffith University of Australia

OLDER ADULTS

- ✓ Social
- ✓ Low impact physical activity
- ✓ Fully accessible for those with mobility challenges

Older adults who swim have better cognitive ability compared to non-swimmers thanks to the rhythmic movements and sensory feel of the water, especially in open water swimming

Journal of Aging Research





WELLNESS

- Growing outdoor swimming culture - wild swimming, open water swimming, year round “polar bear” swimming, cold plunge

“Swimmers who maintained their regular group wild swim sessions for six months or more reported their life satisfaction improved by 25%, their happiness increased by 20%, whilst their feeling of worthiness went up by 23%. Significantly, their anxiety levels decreased by 18%.” The Wild Swim Project (Surrey, UK)

Indicative concept design for illustrative purposes only



INCLUSIVE FEATURES

- ✓ Access ramp to allow access by people using wheelchairs or prams, even at low tide
- ✓ Zero entry, roll or walk in pool in the center of the deck

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

The project is anticipated to have minimal environmental impact

- ✓ Sense of **connection with the water** fosters environmental stewardship and responsibility for water quality
- ✓ The deck would create a **climate change resilient** waterfront recreation space, adaptive to sea level rise and offering a space for **cooling off in extreme hot weather**



ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- ✓ New visitors to the City's waterfront and The Shipyards
- ✓ Increase localized spending (e.g. food and beverage)
- ✓ Enhanced overall positive sentiment
- ✓ Known as a vibrant destination
- ✓ Showing bold, innovative, leadership



ECONOMIC BENEFITS

While accessing the Harbour deck is free, visitors are likely to visit nearby local business

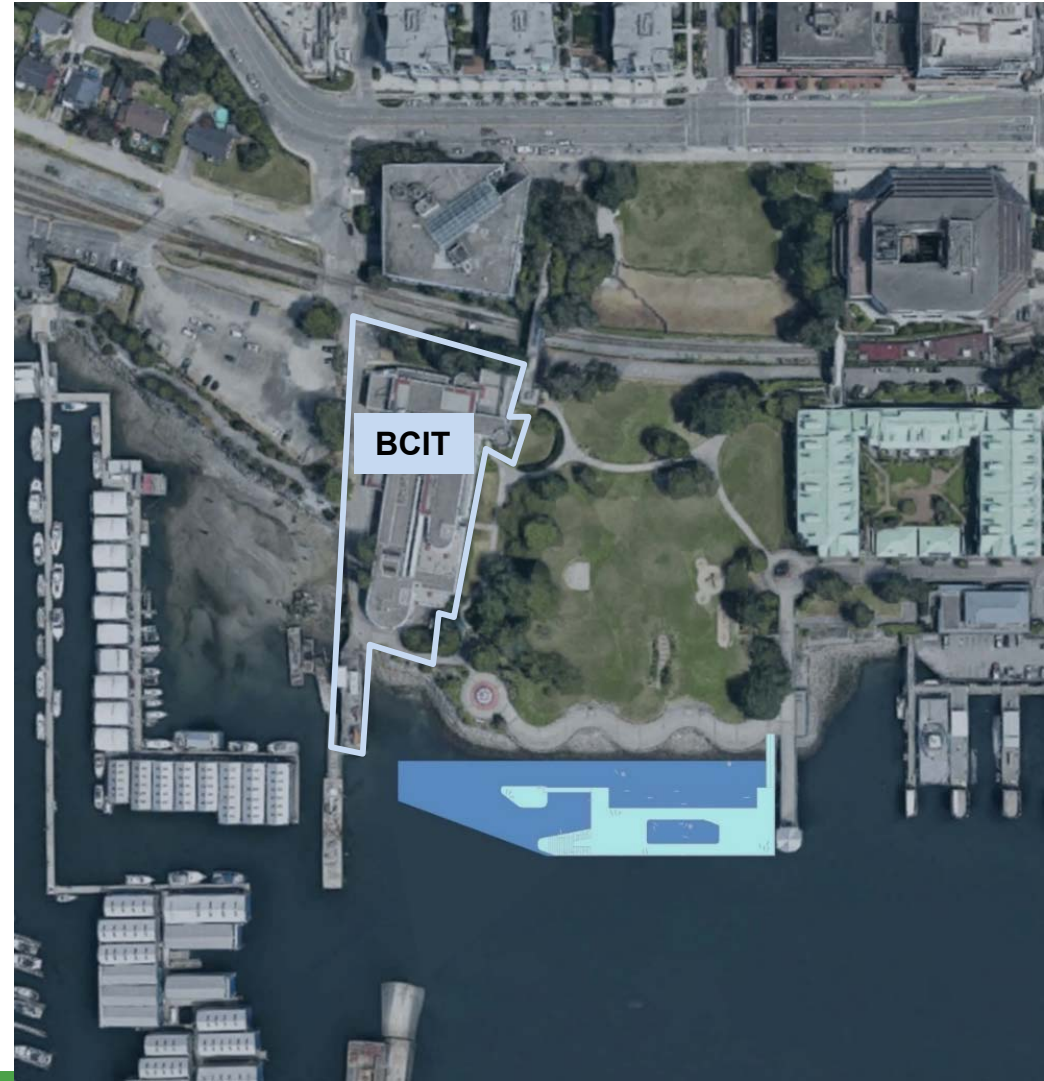
Potentially spending
~\$10M
per year in Lower
Lonsdale



VALUE FOR MONEY

+ ~7000 sqm of public space to the City without purchase of additional land

Land value estimate - \$38.3M
(*BCIT Land value - BC Assessment*)



VALUE FOR MONEY

An open water swimming experience is far cheaper to build and operate than an outdoor pool

Recent 25m outdoor pools in MetroVan

- Construction - \$20-32M
- Operation - \$77k-\$225k/month (4 month operating season)

The proposed Harbour Deck:

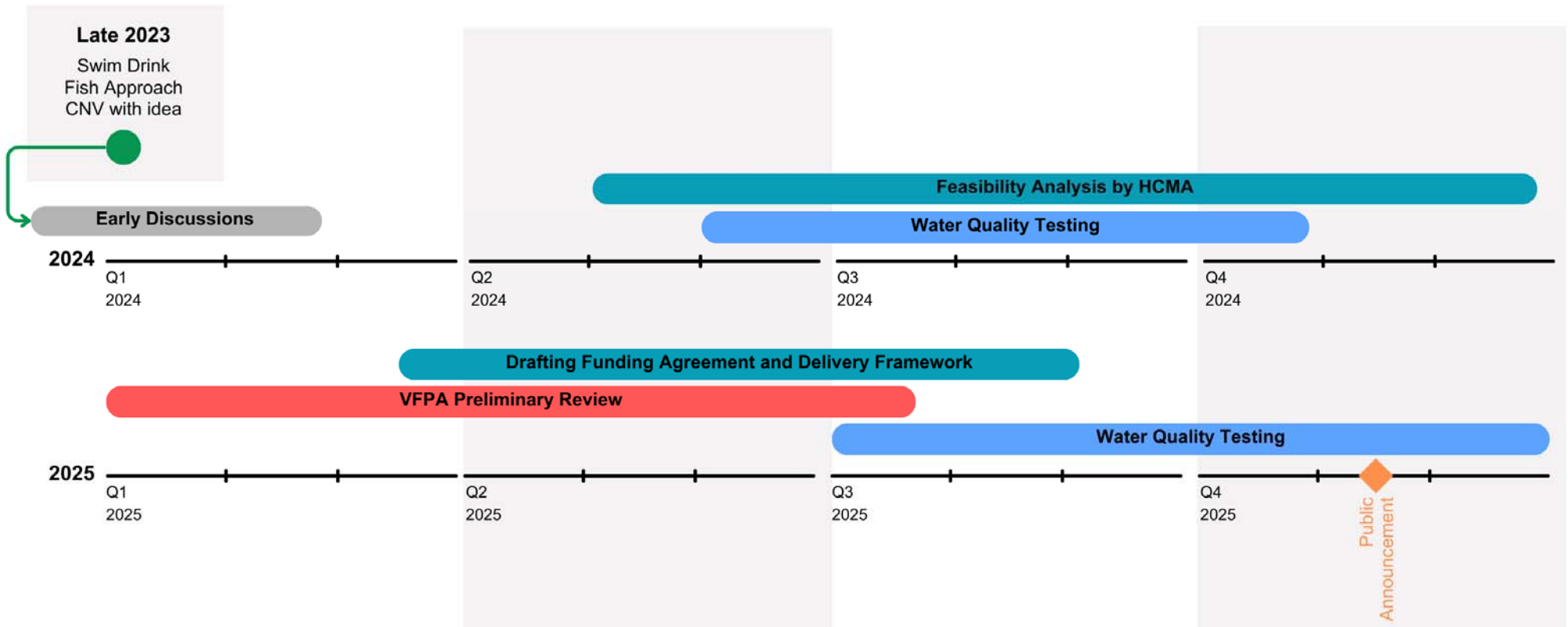
- **Construction - ~\$20M (double the size)**
 - **Operation - \$41k/month (open all year)**
- + longer operating life and more opportunity for external contributions



PROJECT DELIVERY



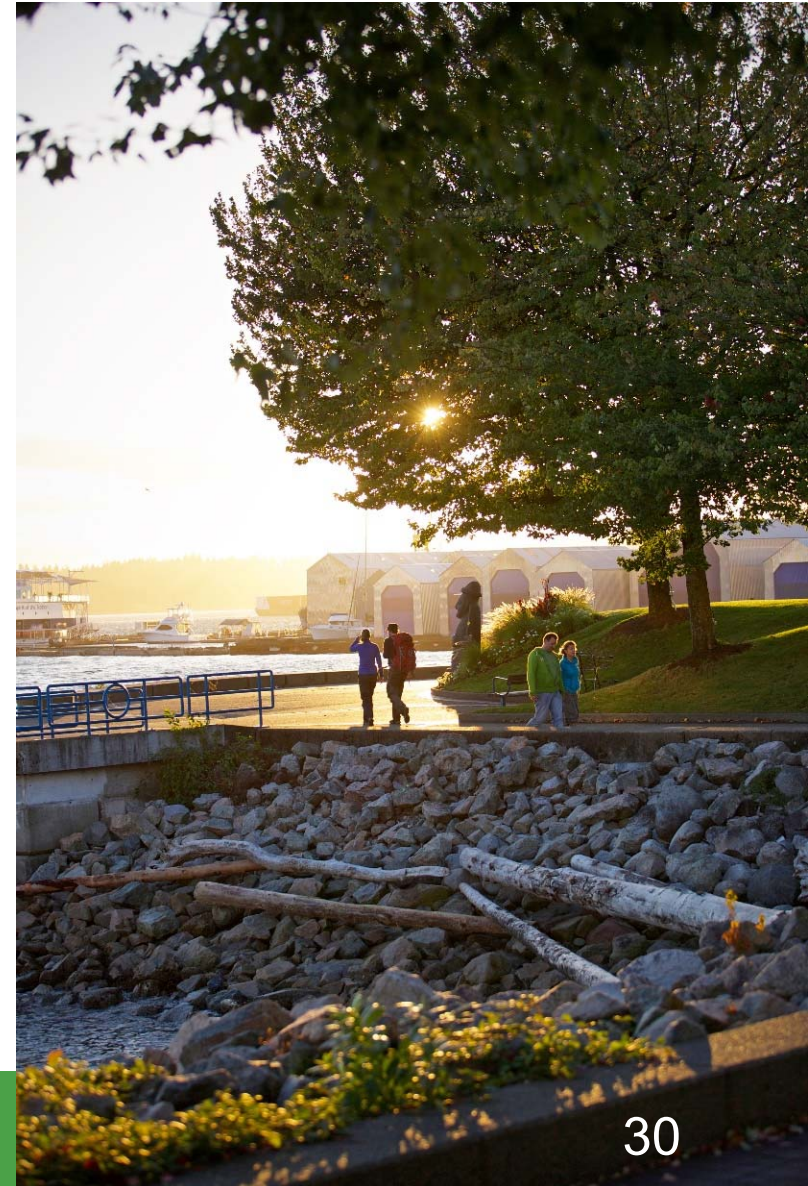
Process to Date



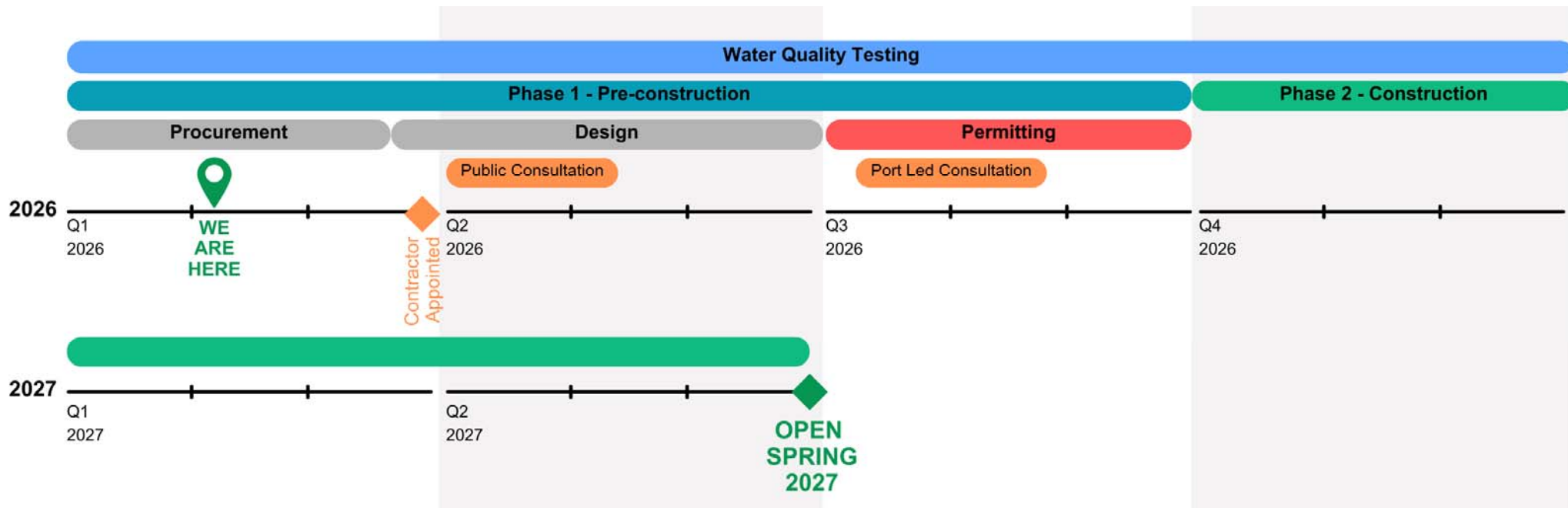
Project Delivery

Delivery of the project is being led by the City including a public procurement process.

- Phase 1 – Pre-Construction
 - Including:
 - Detailed design development
 - Public consultation to inform final design
 - First Nations and stakeholder engagement
 - Application to the VFPA for development permit
 - Refined construction costing (class A)
- Phase 2 – Construction
 - Including:
 - Construction drawings and documentation
 - A fixed price contract for construction
 - Finalization of operations plan



Project Delivery



Timelines are subject to external and internal factors and are subject to change.

Cost Overview

The feasibility analysis cites the following rough order of magnitude (ROM) costs:

Capital Costs* est. \$21M¹

*incl. soft + hard costs

Operating Costs est. \$7-800k/yr²

City of North Vancouver responsibility (City maintains ownership of asset)

¹ Capital costs developed by professional quantity surveyor based on schematic design and VFPA PPR received

² Operating costs developed by internal CNV consultation based on schematic design and identified assumptions including maintenance and renewal costs over the life of the deck - costs would not be incurred until Harbour Deck is operational (estimated from Spring 2027)

Funding Contributions

Swim Drink Fish | Weston family foundations

\$16M funding the majority of the capital cost

The City of North Vancouver

City contribution of **\$5M from developer funds**, covering the remainder of the project capital cost



Swimmable Cities

Launched in the lead up to the Paris Olympics in July 2024, the Swimmable Cities alliance is supporting a global, grassroots movement for swimmable urban waterways.

ABOUT

The Swimmable Cities alliance is emerging and growing through the collective efforts of experts in urban swimming environment design, public mediation, community building, policy, safety, public health, waterway restoration and water quality.

Swimmable Cities

Council may consider signing the Swimmable Cities Charter, joining major Cities around the world in the commitment to adhere to a set of principles all which further a vision for transforming urban waterways and creating better, more liveable futures for communities.

*SWIMMABLE
CITIES*

Swimmable Cities Charter

Signing the Swimmable Cities charter is voluntary and requires no financial obligations

The key requirements are:

- agree to work and make decisions in alignment with the Charter's 10 principles, and
- to become a positive role model for other cities and organisations in the movement

*SWIMMABLE CITIES
MAKING A SPLASH!*

Swimmable Cities Charter

Principles

1. The Right to Swim
2. One Health, Many Swimmers
3. Urban Swimming Culture
4. Water is Sacred
5. Rewriting the Rules
6. Demographic Participation
7. Reconnection & Resilience
8. New Economic Opportunities
9. Sharing Wellbeing Benefits, Culture & Knowledge
10. Stewardship for Today, Tomorrow & Future Generations





Thank you.