



FINAL REPORT

February 2025



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Section I. Introduction

This is the final report of the Westbrook Water Talk three-part public engagement series and survey which were conducted during the period of August – November 2024. This final report was developed under the guidance of Good Group Decisions of Brunswick, Maine, and was compiled by Senior Planner Rebecca Spitella and Assistant City Administrator Angela Holmes.

Purpose

The City of Westbrook launched the Westbrook Water Talk public engagement series and survey to provide an enhanced public engagement opportunity to determine the community's opinion on the future of Westbrook's outdoor aquatic amenities. The primary goal of this process was not to identify any specific project that the City should or should not pursue, but to identify the **values** and **priorities** of the community that City leadership should take into consideration if or when the City were to pursue a public outdoor aquatic amenity.

Through three public learning sessions and a public survey, staff facilitated the collection and assessment of community needs and priorities, and through this report provide elected leadership with a summary of the values, priorities, and feedback from community members to inform future action.

History

The City of Westbrook decommissioned the Cornelia Warren Outdoor Pool in 2020 due to significant structural, code, and safety issues. This closure meant the loss of the City of Westbrook's only public outdoor pool, and there was significant community conversation on the rationale for the closure, conflicting information regarding the history and available resources, and concerning the possibility of a new, replacement, or enhanced outdoor water facility.

Given the level of public engagement and the conflicting information circulating the community, the City recognized that there was an opportunity to both provide clarity on past decisions made and potential paths forward, along with providing a structured way to ensure public opinion was widely sought and accurately captured. This process was conceptualized under the guidance and direction of Mayor David Morse (serving as Acting Mayor at the time of this public engagement series and survey, referred to hereinafter as Mayor Morse), and intended to provide an enhanced public engagement opportunity relating to the potential development of an outdoor public water amenity in the City of Westbrook.

The engagement series and survey were supported by Westbrook City Council, who authorized the funding to engage with Good Group Decisions of Brunswick, Maine as a

third-party, professional facilitator to assist City staff in public meeting facilitation and with design, tabulation, analysis, and the development of a report of findings. This process also received the support of the Recreation and Conservation Commission, who is the recommended body to review this final report and offer next-step recommendations.

Value of Public Engagement

There were several factors that led to the decision to launch an enhanced public engagement opportunity, and this approach intended to capture more public input than might otherwise be garnered through a traditional public hearing process.

Given the long timeline and complexity of Westbrook's historical public water amenities – how they were created, used, and eventually decommissioned – providing a robust history and a common understanding of past actions and rationale would require a significant amount of time that might not also accommodate a quality public engagement opportunity in the same session.

In addition, the level of investment that would be required to contemplate a new public water amenity might create a significant impact on Westbrook taxpayers, justifying a process that would provide numerous opportunities to gather public feedback. At the time of the public sessions, Westbrook taxpayers had just experienced a significant tax increase to cover the cost of existing services and amenities. It was determined that any new investment, recreational or otherwise, required a significant level of public support before it could reasonably be contemplated.

The City also recognized the critical importance of avoiding assumptions in community priorities, particularly in light of the changing demographic landscape of its residents. The incredible growth in Westbrook's cultural diversity in recent years means that the public value placed on water amenities may be different from that of past years, and that investment in other recreational amenities might be a higher priority for the Westbrook of today.

Lastly, the level of community energy and volume of conflicting information being shared relative to the closure of the Cornelia Warren Outdoor Pool demonstrated the need for both information sessions and a survey, to ensure that the public had access to accurate data and a comprehensive history prior to providing feedback. This would then allow a definitive understanding of our community's values and priorities, based upon commonly understood information.

Value of Professional Facilitation

Recognizing the need for robust public participation, the historical and cultural connection Westbrook residents have to public outdoor water amenities, and the need to impartially

collect data for future policy and/or investment decisions, it was determined that engaging with a professional facilitator would ensure a thorough and unbiased outreach process.

By engaging a professional facilitator, the City intended to effectively engage the community in an informative needs assessment, efficiently prioritize options for a potential future aquatic amenity, inform future planning and design to properly serve Westbrook's expanding and diverse community and their respective needs, and to establish a reasonable timeline for elected officials and the community to prioritize any potential outdoor aquatic amenity in light of competing priorities.

The City solicited quotes from four vendors, and Good Group Decisions of Brunswick, ME was the responsive vendor who could accommodate the scope of work within the requested timeline. Summer 2024 had been selected as the preferred period for the public engagement sessions, as community members were more likely to be thinking about water amenities in general during the summer months. With the support of Westbrook City Council, the City partnered with Good Group Decisions to facilitate the three public engagement sessions and to advise City staff on the design, tabulation and analysis of a survey, and in the development of a final report.

Section II. Community Engagement Series

All three sessions of the community engagement series were held at the Westbrook Community Center (426 Bridge Street), due to its centralized location, the ability to accommodate audio/visual recording and livestreaming, capacity for audience, and availability. Three separate sessions were recommended by Good Group Decisions, as outlined below.

Session 1 – Where are we now? (Pre-Survey)

The first Water Talk meeting was held on August 15, 2024. This was an informational session to set the stage for community participation in a future survey. At the beginning of this session, it was noted that the goal was to gain a common understanding of the history, facts, challenges, and options known as of the present moment. Ensuring that the community was presented with an overview of decisions made in the past and of the information available was a necessary first step prior to soliciting feedback, to ensure transparency and to confirm that all had access to accurate information on which to base their opinions.

This session included an overview of Westbrook's past outdoor public water amenities, including outdoor pools over the years and the use of the Presumpscot River for recreational swimming. In addition, staff provided an overview of the circumstances that led to the decommissioning of the Cornelia Warren Outdoor Pool in 2020, an overview of citizen-led initiatives relative to a replacement outdoor water amenity, available grant funding and limitations on its usage, and quotes and estimates that had been received to-date.

Following the staff presentation, Craig Freshley, the founder of Good Group Decisions, facilitated a question-and-answer session with the purpose of providing further clarification and insight into the options available. Mr. Freshley's summary notes from Session 1 (see Appendix C) along with the staff presentation slides and a recording of the meeting were made available online following the session.

Session 2 – What do you think? (Pre-Survey)

The second Water Talk meeting was held on August 28, 2024. While the first session was intended to establish a common understanding of the history of outdoor public pools, the second session was intended to launch the request for public opinion. During this session, staff reviewed the key themes that emerged from the first session and provided additional information based upon questions that were asked. Following this staff presentation, Mr. Freshley led an interactive exercise with audience members to help identify values, priorities, expectations, and preferences concerning an outdoor water-based amenity.

Attendees were asked to share their feedback on how they would prioritize the range of known options for an outdoor public water amenity, including facility features, accessibility, programming, swimmable versus non-swimmable options, and feedback on the most appropriate timing of such an investment.

Mr. Freshley's summary notes from Session 2 (see Appendix C) along with staff presentation slides and a recording of the meeting were made available online following the session.

Modifications were made to the public survey based on feedback received during the second session, after which said survey was launched and made available from August 28, 2024 – September 29, 2024.

Session 3 – Where do we go from here? (Post-Survey)

The third Water Talk meeting was held on November 14, 2024, and marked the conclusion of the Water Talk series. During this session, staff presented preliminary survey results and decision considerations and recommendations. Mr. Freshley facilitated a public input period to gather questions and clarifications to be addressed prior to the finalization of any report.

Mr. Freshley's summary notes from Session 3 (see Appendix C) along with staff presentation slides and a recording of the meeting were made available online following the session.

Section III. Survey Methodology

Summary

The Water Talk survey was designed by City staff in consultation with Good Group Decisions based upon discussions that occurred during the Water Talk public meetings held on August 15, 2024 and August 28, 2024. As identified in Section I, the goal of the survey was not to identify what project the City should or should not pursue, but to identify the **values** and **priorities** of the community that City leaders should take into consideration if or when the City were to pursue a project.

The survey was promoted on the City Website, through a City-wide mailing, outreach at Canal, Congin and Saccarappa Elementary Schools, a digital ad with Press Herald and American Journal, distribution of translated flyers to the Intercultural Community Center, the New England Arab American Organization and the City Community Policing Coordinator, as well as through City social media channels.

Printed copies of the survey were made available at Westbrook City Hall, and the option to take the survey by phone was provided as well – both methods were utilized by survey participants. The survey remained open from August 28, 2024 through September 29, 2024 and received a total of 632 responses. The survey consisted of a total of 20 questions, included both closed- and open-ended questions, and was designed to take an estimated 5-10 minutes to complete.

Report Structure

To provide clarity in this report, the 20 survey questions have been grouped into general themes for analysis, as follows: Demographics, Preferences, Priorities, Importance, Tradeoffs, Support for Local Share of Costs, Amenity Attributes and Project Timeline.

Within each themed section, we address the following:

1. Why did we ask these questions?
2. What were the answers?
3. A summary outlining:
 - a. What do these answers tell us?
 - b. What don't these answers tell us?

Section IV. Survey Analysis

Demographics – Questions 1, 2, 4 & 6

Questions

This section includes an analysis of the questions relating to the demographics of the survey respondents. The questions were as follows:

1. Are you a Westbrook resident?
2. Are there people living in your house under the age of 18?
4. Did your household have access to a water amenity during the summer of 2024, whether in Westbrook or elsewhere?
6. Does everyone in your household know how to swim independently (i.e. without the assistance of a floatation device)? Please check all that apply.

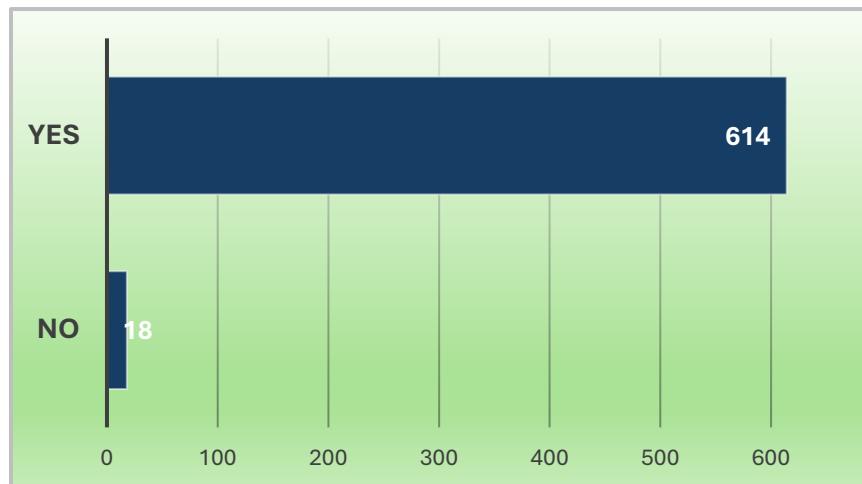
Why did we ask these questions?

These questions were asked to learn more about who was taking the survey, what those respondents identified as the problem (e.g. needs related to an outdoor public water amenity), how intense the problem is perceived, and who is affected by the problem.

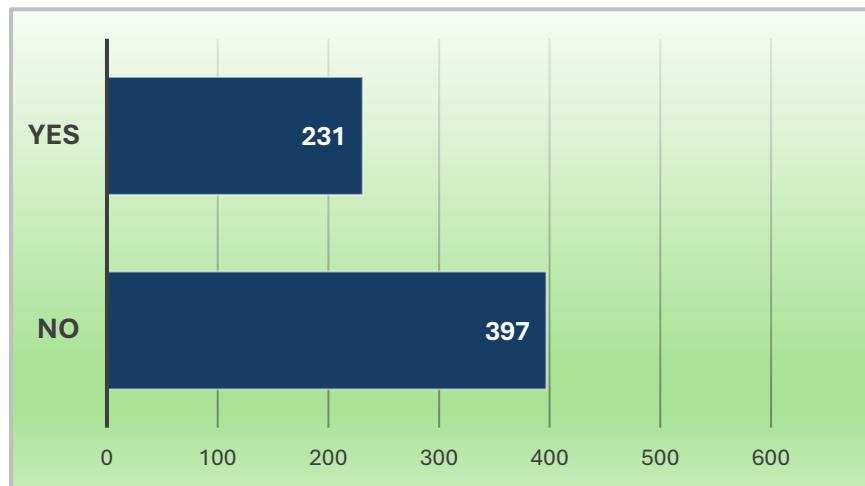
What were the answers?

Included below are the answers to each question included in this Demographics section.

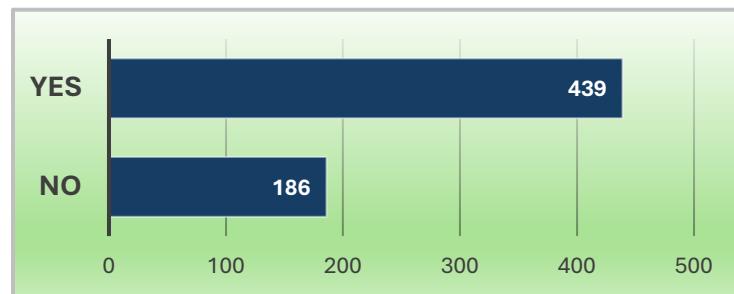
1. Are you a Westbrook Resident?



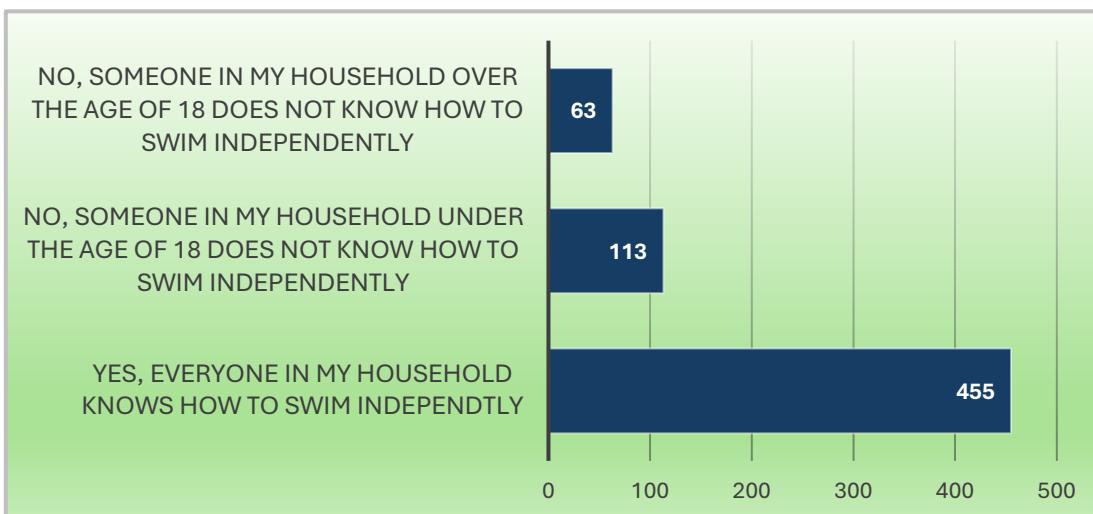
2. Are there people living in your house under the age of 18?



4. Did your household have access to a water amenity during the summer of 2024, whether in Westbrook or elsewhere?



6. Does everyone in your household know how to swim independently (i.e. without the assistance of a floatation device)? Please check all that apply.



With Question 6, we received 8 'other' answers, which did not provide any additional significant information to incorporate into the question. All open-ended responses are included in Appendix A.

Summary

What do these answers tell us?

- There was strong public participation in this survey.
- 28% of the responses provided included households with individuals who do not know how to swim independently – a need is represented for water safety education and opportunities.
- 70% of respondents had access to water during the summer of 2024 while 30% of responses did not – not everyone has access to water.
- 63% of responses were not voices for children in their households – this is not a child-focused issue.

What don't these answers tell us?

- We do not know what the exact barriers are that prevented some respondents from having access to water, or whether access was desired.

Preferences – Questions 3, 5 & 8

Questions

This section includes an analysis of the questions relating to the preferences of the survey respondents. The questions were as follows:

3. Please select all the water amenities you have utilized in Westbrook.
5. If you answered YES to question 4, where did you go?
8. Given the following regional water amenities, please rank the following in terms of where you would be most likely to visit if transportation was not a factor. Please arrange from top to bottom in order of your preference.

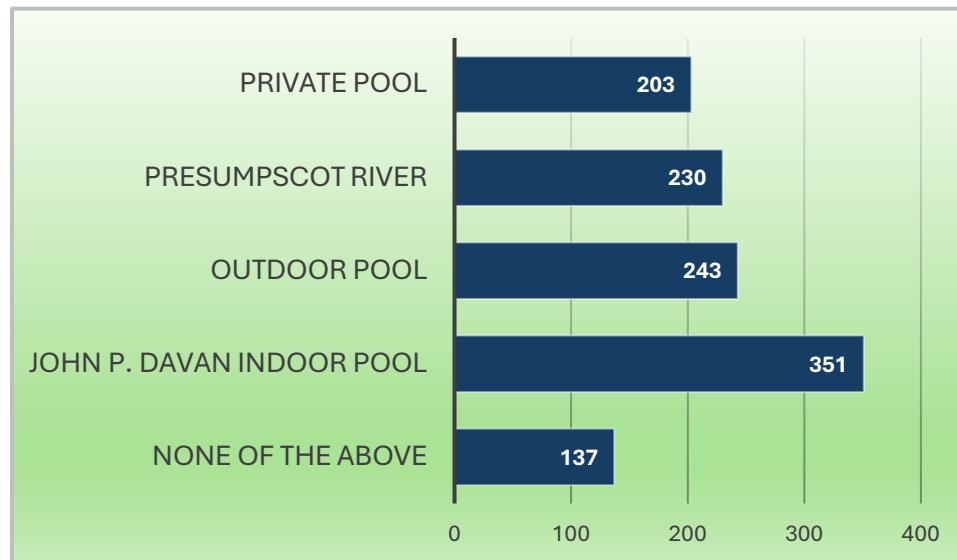
Why did we ask these questions?

These questions were asked to help us understand more about the preferences of the respondents when it came to recreational interactions with water, given some existing options that are available. Learning more about preferences in how respondents interact with water, and the preference of what kind of water we are interacting with, could provide insight as to how the community would prefer to interact with a future water amenity.

What were the answers?

Included below are the answers to each question included in this Preferences section.

3. Please select all the water amenities you have utilized in Westbrook.



There were 27 “other” responses to this question, most of which were not Westbrook amenities. Of the responses that were located within Westbrook, Mill Creek, Beaver Pond, and Highland Lake were identified as areas where respondents

recreated, with Beaver Pond receiving the greatest number of responses. All open-ended responses are included in Appendix A.

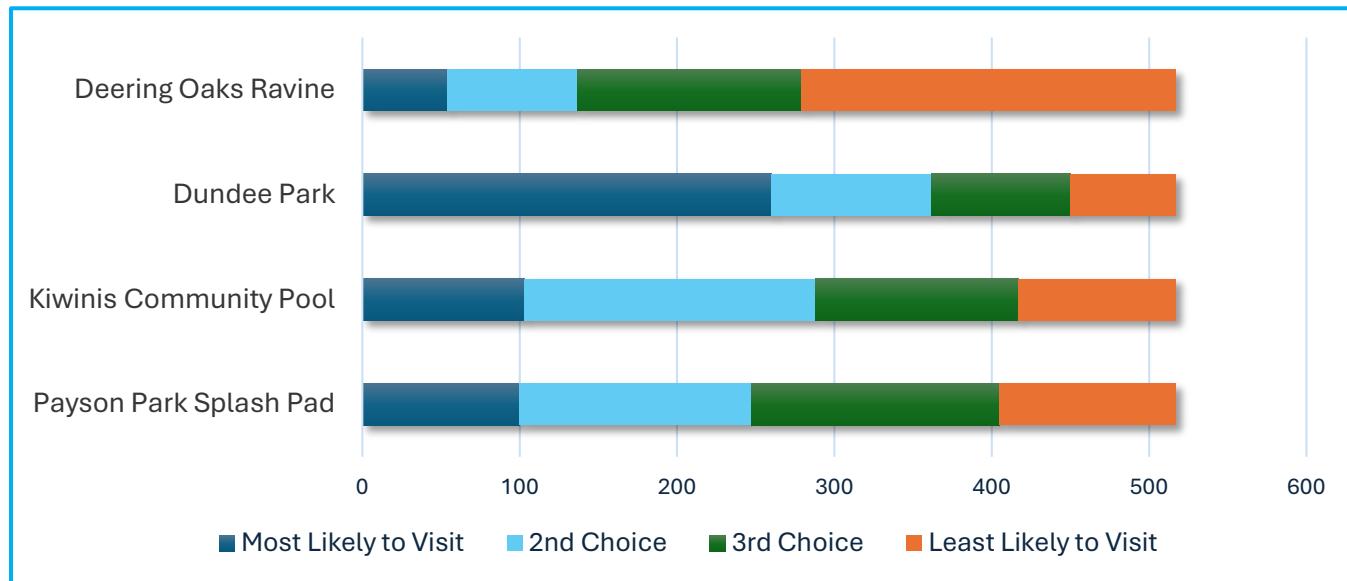
5. If you answered YES to question 4*, where did you go?

**For reference, Question 4 asked “Did your household have access to a water amenity during the summer of 2024, whether in Westbrook or elsewhere?”*

The survey received 432 responses to this question. Respondents identified many area amenities ranging from public/private pools, natural waterbodies (rivers, lakes, creeks, ponds and the ocean), public/private water parks, and some responses stated that, while access was there, they did not choose to engage with a water amenity.

Respondents offered differed opinions on the availability of access to water with some responses citing a large range of options within close proximity to Westbrook and others expressing that, while there are a lot of options to access water in Maine, they are all at a distance and not easily accessible to Westbrook.

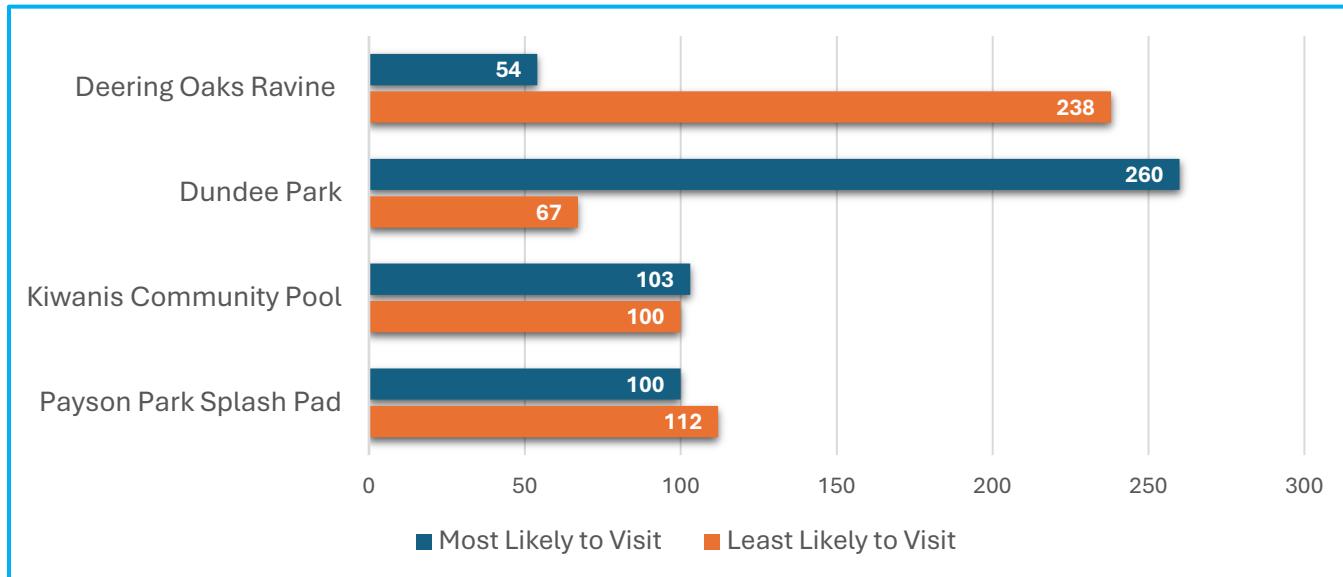
8. Given the following regional water amenities, please rank the following in terms of where you would be most likely to visit if transportation was not a factor. Please arrange from top to bottom in order of your preference. If you would not be likely to visit any of these, please skip.



This type of graph is helpful when looking at ranked questions as it expands the story of the answers beyond which option had the majority of first choices. For example, when looking at first choice alone, it would appear the Kiwanis Community Pool was not a wildly chosen option, however when looking at first and second choice together (the dark and light blue

portion of the bars), you can see that option was a clear second choice, as compared to the Payson Park Splash Pad and Deering Oaks Ravine.

Another way to view this information is to compare the most and least likely to visit selections. We chose to look at this information in this manner working under the assumption that people generally feel strongest about their most and least preferred options.



Looking at the information in this manner we can see a strong preference by respondents for the experience of Dundee Park, as compared with the experience of Deering Oaks Ravine in Portland.

Summary

What do these answers tell us?

- Interacting with natural water bodies in the region is a value to respondents.
- Swimming is the preferred interaction with water for respondents.
- A small wading pool (Deering Oaks Ravine) does not appear to be a preferred way to interact with water.

What don't these answers tell us?

- We do not know why these preferences were chosen. These answers may be influenced by other factors or surrounding amenities. Deering Oaks Ravine, while located within a park, is not located directly next to or around other active recreational amenities while other options have equal access to playgrounds, picnic tables, etc.

These results could equally be telling us that it is preferable to have multiple other amenities available near a swimming experience (i.e. playground, beach, etc.).

Priorities – Question 7

Question

This section includes an analysis of the single comprehensive question included in the survey relating to the priorities of survey respondents, as follows:

7. Please rank the following in terms of what is most important to you. Please arrange the items from top to bottom in order of importance

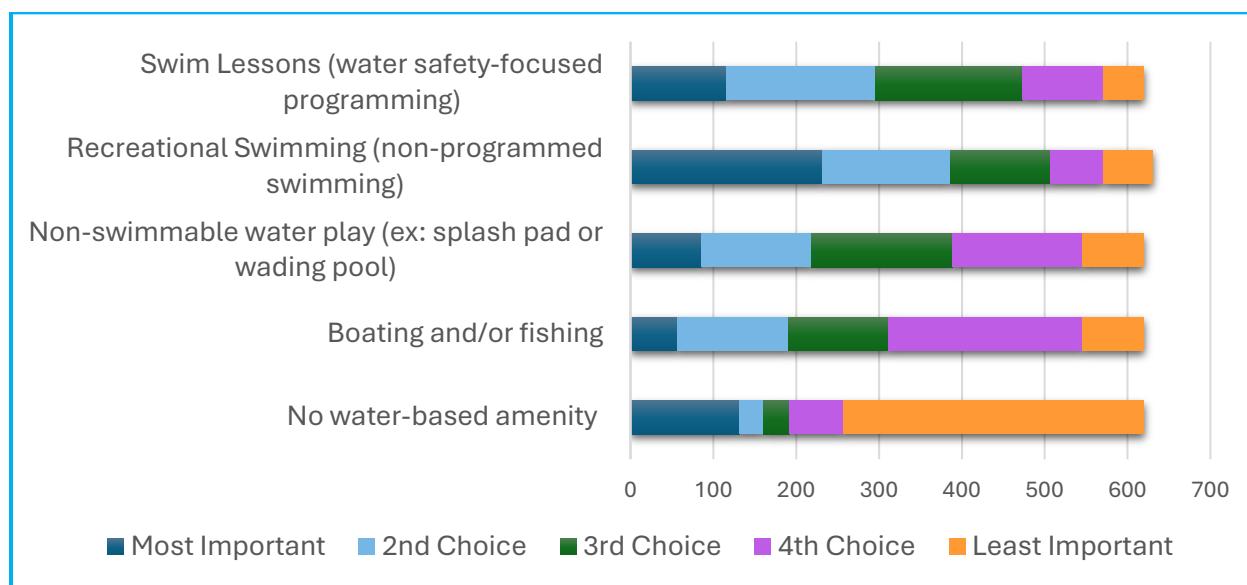
Why did we ask this question?

This question is intended to help us understand how respondents would want to **use** a new water amenity. This information will provide direction to City leadership concerning the type of amenity to pursue, should the results of this report indicate that a new water amenity is desired.

What was the answer?

Included below are the answers to each question included in this Priorities section.

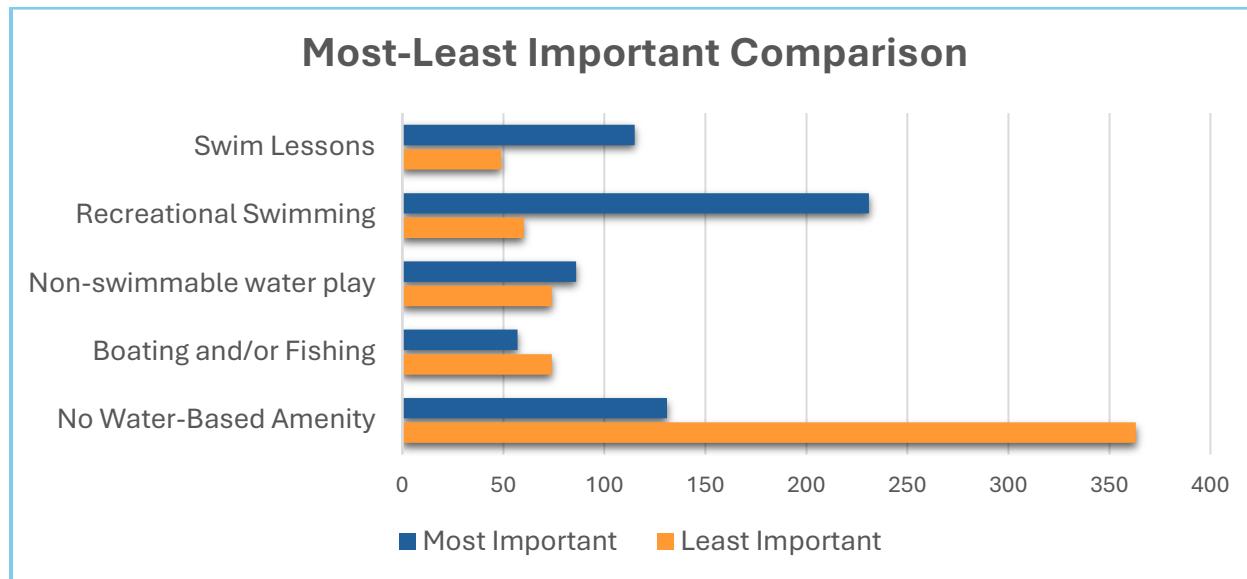
7. Please rank the following in terms of what is most important to you. Please arrange the items from top to bottom in order of importance



This question provides another opportunity to look beyond the first ranked choice of respondents. In looking at the number of responses for each category's first choice (dark blue), 'Recreational Swimming' received the highest number of responses followed by 'No Water-Based Amenity'. However, when grouping the first and second choices together (dark and light blue), we can see that 'No Water-Based Amenity' receives the lowest

number of total responses as compared to the other choices, indicating the importance of considering all data received.

Included below is a simplified chart showing only the most and least important choices of survey respondents.



It is important to note that 58.5% of respondents chose 'No Water-Based Amenity' as their last choice, meaning they would prefer some kind of water amenity over doing nothing.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Exercise

As this question concerned the ranking of multiple choices, staff applied a Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) process to review the answers to this question another way. RCV is an exercise used to determine majority support when there are several choices and where no one choice results in a majority vote (i.e. no option received support from more than 50% of respondents) and where options are ranked in the order of preference.

For this exercise, we took the votes that were cast toward the lowest ranking option and reallocated them to those respondents' second choices. This exercise is typically then repeated until one option received more than 50% of the total votes. This helps us better understand the data that is received and avoids the declaration of a "false winner" due to the large number of choices.

Included below is a summary of the RCV exercise conducted based on the responses to this question.

Ranked Choices	1 st Round	2 nd Round	3 rd Round
Swim Lessons	19%	20%	25%
Recreational Swimming	37%	41%	49%
Non-Swimmable Water Play	14%	16%	--
Boating and/or Fishing	9%	--	--
No Water-Based Amenity	21%	23%	25%

Although no option reached a 51% majority, we stopped the exercise after the 3rd round as ‘No Water-Based Amenity’ would be the next reallocation, and we proceeded under the assumption that respondents who chose this as their first choice would not be in favor of any amenity at this time.

Summary

What do these answers tell us?

- Respondents value interacting with water and desire a water amenity over nothing.
- Respondents prefer water that is swimmable, as opposed to water that can accommodate splashing/play activity only.
- Non-programmed swimming (“open swim”) is preferred over programmed water-safety focused swim lessons.

What don’t these answers tell us?

- This information does not provide us with the reasoning behind respondents’ preferences. Other factors could play into these choices such as the cost/timing of lessons vs. the freedom of open swim play.

Importance – Questions 9 & 10

Questions

This section includes an analysis of the questions relating to the relative importance of a public water amenity. The questions were as follows:

9. How would you finish this statement: “Investing in an outdoor WATER amenity is...”
10. How would you finish this statement: “Investing in an outdoor WATER amenity is...”

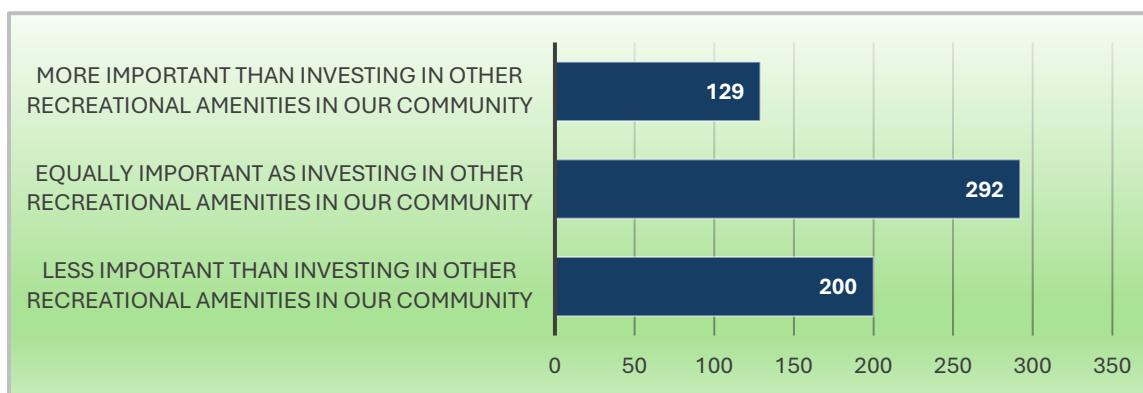
Why did we ask these questions?

The answers to these questions indicate whether investing in a water-specific recreational amenity is more, less, or equally important to respondents relative to investments in other recreational amenities.

What were the answers?

Included below are the answers to each question included in this Importance section.

9. How would you finish this statement: “Investing in an outdoor WATER amenity is...”



10. If you answered above that investing in a water amenity is LESS important than other amenities, what is the most important recreational amenity that our community should invest in?

There were 180 responses to this question with the following themes being the most prominent (please note – this is a summary. An actual list of all responses are provided in Appendix A). These themes are presented in no particular order:

- Walking Trails
- Expansion of activities at the Community Center
- Other City Services (non-recreational)
- Maintenance/Improvements to existing amenities (water or otherwise)

- New athletic fields/sports courts (pickle ball, volley ball, etc.)
- Parks, playgrounds and open space
- Nothing (concern about tax impact)
- Riverwalk North
- Non-seasonal amenities

Summary

What do these answers tell us?

- A water amenity is not more important than other recreational amenities.
- There are a lot of competing needs, wants, and priorities within the community.
- Respondents fear the City has limited resources available to maintain existing infrastructure, and no capacity for additional project investments.

What don't these answers tell us?

- These answers do not inform us of a single leading priority or focus.

Tradeoffs – Questions 11 & 12

Questions

This section includes an analysis of the questions relating to tradeoffs. The questions were as follows:

11. Would you be in favor of an outdoor water amenity if it meant the loss of a sports field (i.e. soccer field)?
12. Would you be in favor of an outdoor water amenity if it meant the loss of a non-programmed green space or field?

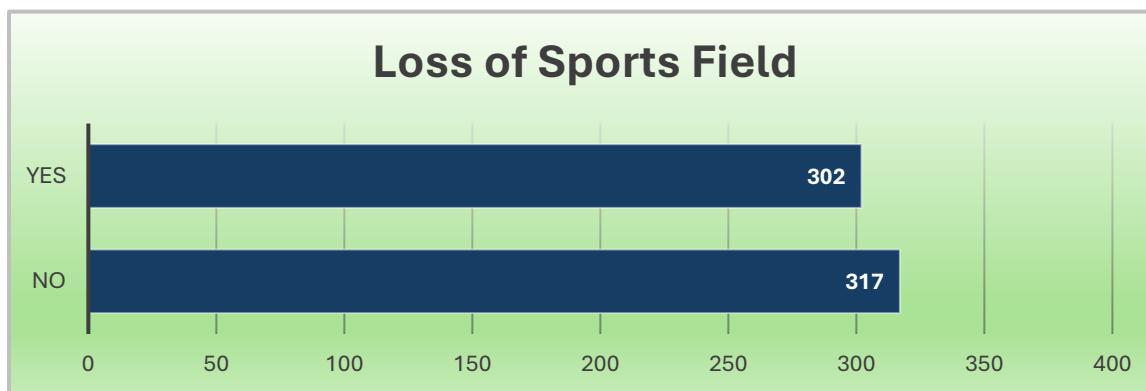
Why did we ask these questions?

In a community with many competing needs, these questions were intended to assess the appetite of respondents in prioritizing a water amenity above investments in other recreational needs.

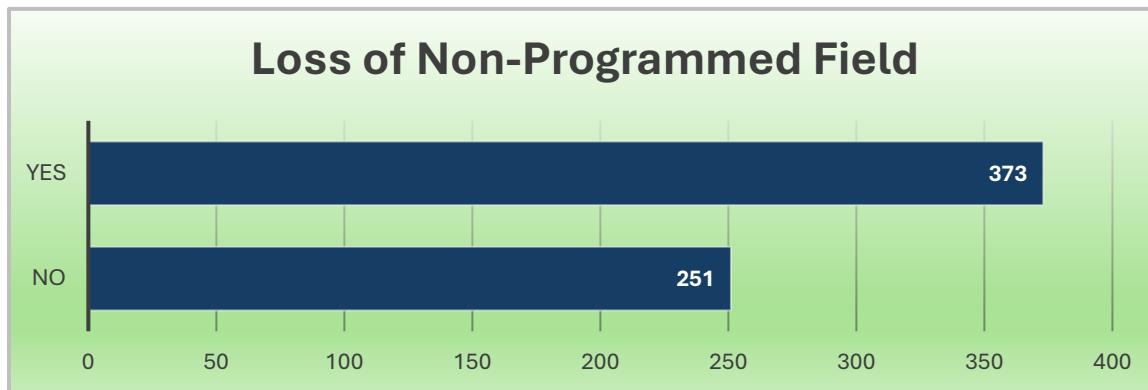
What were the answers?

Included below are the answers to each question included in this Tradeoffs section.

11. Would you be in favor of an outdoor water amenity if it meant the loss of a sports field (i.e. soccer field)?



12. Would you be in favor of an outdoor water amenity if it meant the loss of a non-programmed green space or field



Summary

What do these answers tell us?

- A water amenity is important to the community, although there is less support for a water amenity if it meant the loss of another recreational amenity.
- Respondents would prefer the use of non-programmed space when considering locations for a new water amenity.

What don't these answers tell us?

- Of the respondents who answered 'No' on Question 11, we don't know if they were stating no because they do not support the loss of a programmed sports field, or if they do not support a water amenity at all.

Support for Local Share of Project Costs – Questions 15, 16 & 17

Questions

This section includes an analysis of the questions relating to survey respondents' willingness to support a certain level of a local share of project costs. The questions were as follows:

15. Would you support an outdoor water amenity at an estimated cost of \$5 million, which would result in an additional \$34.10 on the annual tax bill for the median single-family home in Westbrook?
16. Would you support an outdoor water amenity at an estimated cost of \$10 million, which would result in an additional \$60.82 on the annual tax bill for the median single-family home in Westbrook?
17. Would you support an outdoor water amenity at an estimated cost of \$15 million, which would result in an additional \$102.30 on the annual tax bill for the median single-family home in Westbrook?

Why did we ask these questions?

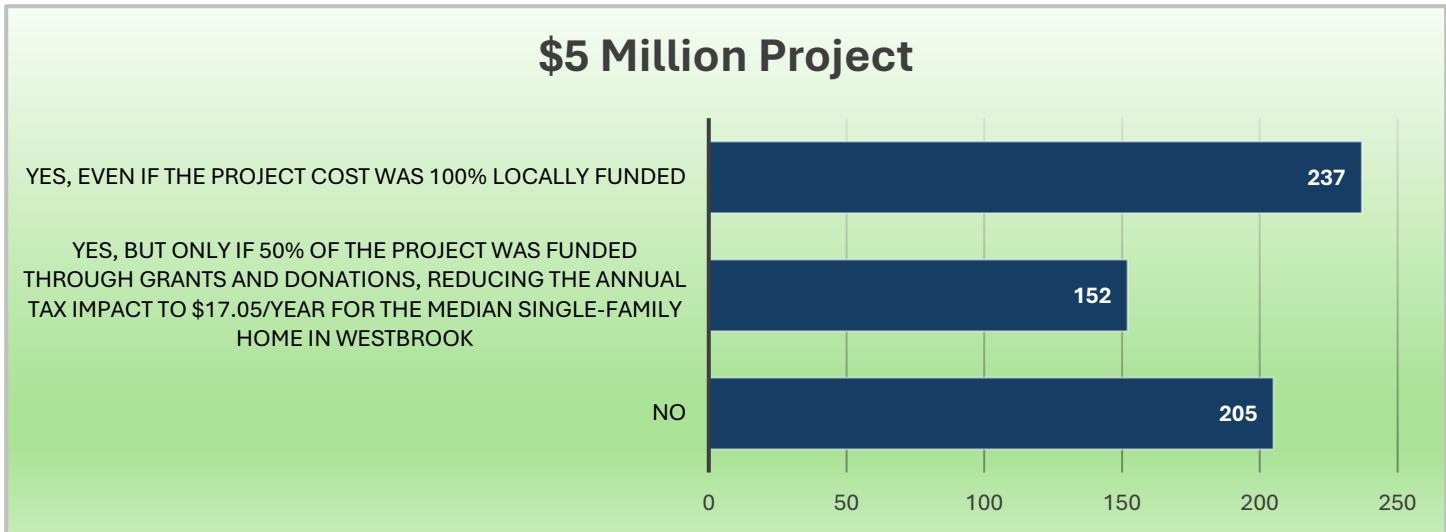
The responses to these questions will indicate our community's willingness to make certain levels of investment, whether 100% tax covered, or 50% tax covered. As noted during the three public engagement sessions, the figures provided are very rough estimates, and the specific dollar amount impact is based upon costs that were provided to the City as part of a 2024 study. These numbers do not necessarily represent the impact of a future investment and were only used in this survey to give a sense of a 'willingness to pay.'

Following the launch of the public survey, staff noted that Question 16 contained an error – the figure \$60.82 should have read \$68.20. However, as this question intended to weigh respondent appetite to pay at three different levels (low, medium and high), the misprint was deemed to be immaterial as these figures did not reflect actual costs but estimates only, and the provided figure achieved that intent.

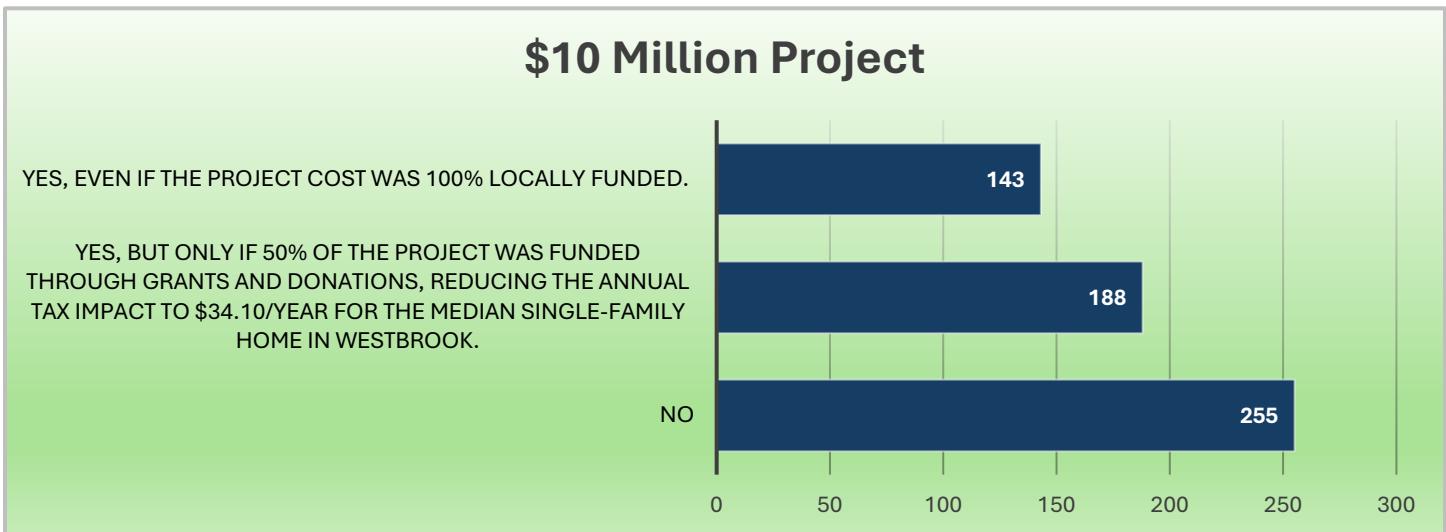
What were the answers?

Included below are the answers to each question included in this Project Costs section.

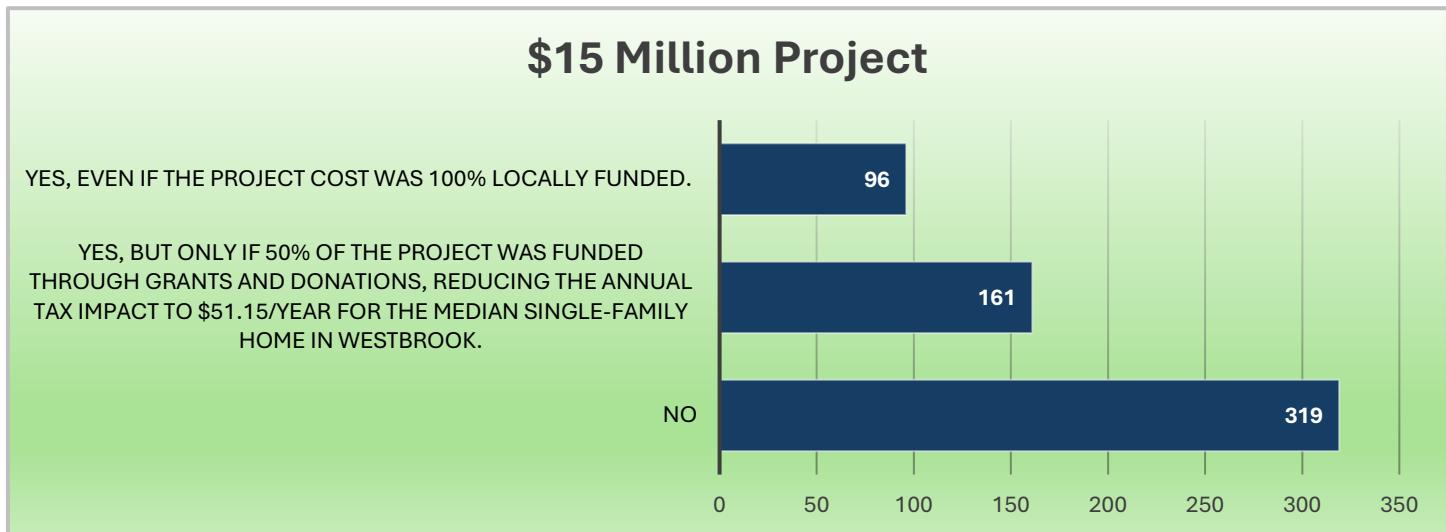
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17. Would you support an outdoor water amenity at an estimated cost of \$15 million, which would result in an additional \$102.30 on the annual tax bill for the median single-family home in Westbrook?

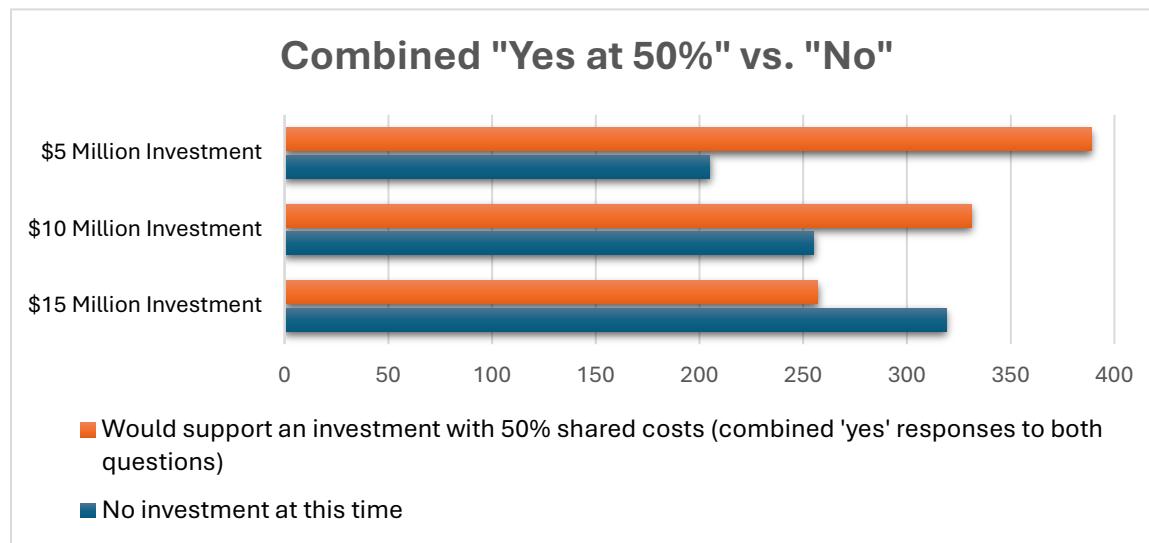


For each of these questions, a comment box was provided for respondents who replied 'No' as an opportunity to provide feedback. We received 30, 38, and 47 comments to Questions 15, 16, and 17, respectively. Some comment themes expressed in this section are as follows:

- A lack of support for any level of investment that would have an impact on property taxes.
- Respondents felt there were other priorities in the city where funds would be more appropriate.
- Concern for ongoing maintenance costs or investments at this level for seasonal use.

All open-ended responses are included in Appendix A.

Another way to review this data is to look at the combined 'Yes at 50%' responses with the 'Yes at 100%' responses and compare the cumulative total against the 'No' responses. This assumes that respondents who answered that they would support a project if it were fully funded with local (taxpayer) dollars would also support a project if half of the project were funded through grants or donations. See graph below.



Summary

What do these answers tell us?

- Assuming respondents who answered that they would support a project if it were fully funded with local (taxpayer) dollars would also support a project if 50% of the project were funded through grants or donations, there is majority support by respondents for an investment in an aquatic amenity in the community within the \$5 - \$10 million range, **provided** at least 50% of that cost is shared with grants or donations.
- A project of more than \$10 million appears to be too large of an investment for the community at this time.

What don't these answers tell us?

- Where these are rough numbers showing tax impacts based on 2024 bond rates, these questions do not tell us what an actual tax impact would be for a project of this size.
- These answers do not tell us which types projects would or would not be supported at each range.
- This survey was not intended to solicit feedback on whether a privately-funded water amenity intended for public use would be supported.

Amenity Attributes – Questions 13 & 14

Questions

This section includes an analysis of the questions relating to the existing amenities utilized by the survey respondents. The questions were as follows:

13. If our community invested in a new outdoor water amenity, how would you prioritize the following attributes? Please arrange from top to bottom in order of your preference.
14. Of the range of options considered so far, rank the following in terms of preference. Please arrange the items from top to bottom in priority order

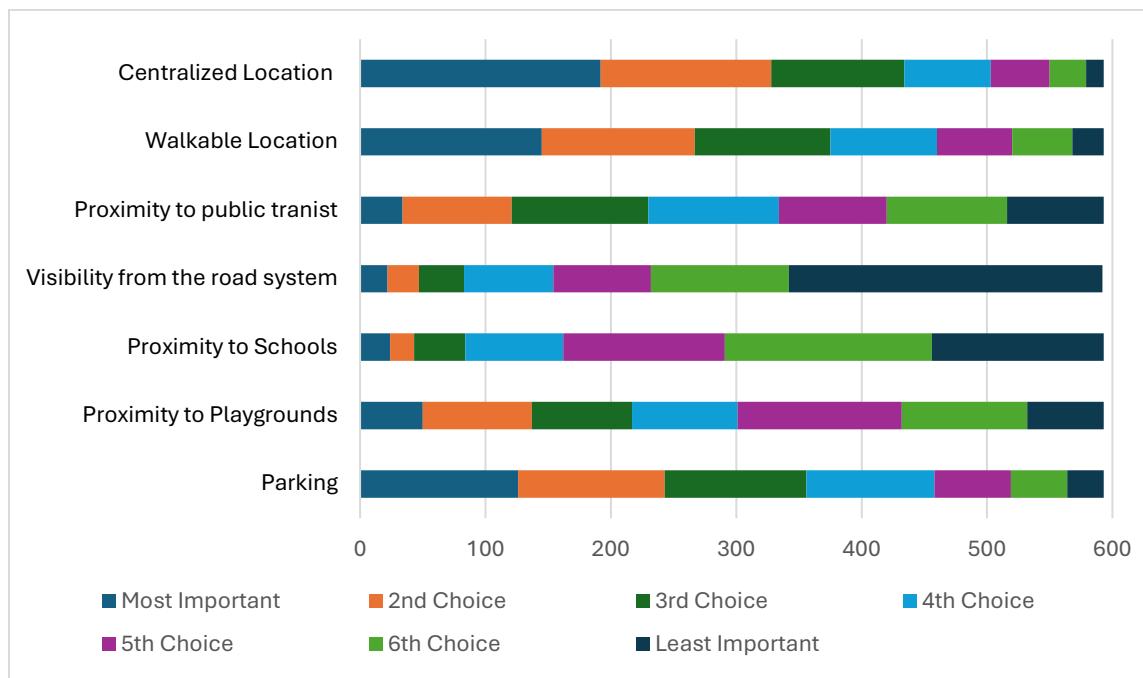
Why did we ask these questions?

We asked these questions to gain insight into the features that would be desired when determining an appropriate location for a water amenity. Understanding that every location has site-specific benefits and limitations, we wanted to know what features were identified as important to respondents.

What were the answers?

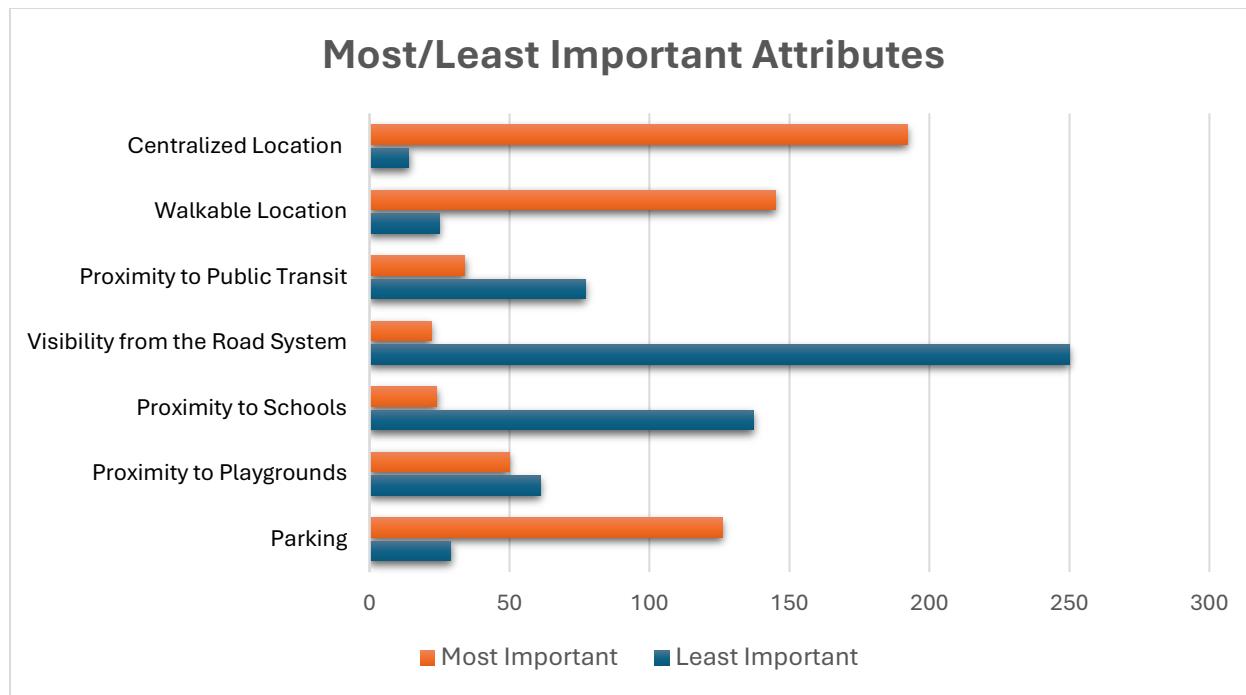
Included below are the answers to each question included in this Amenity Attributes section.

13. If our community invested in a new outdoor water amenity, how would you prioritize the following attributes? Please arrange from top to bottom in order of your preference.

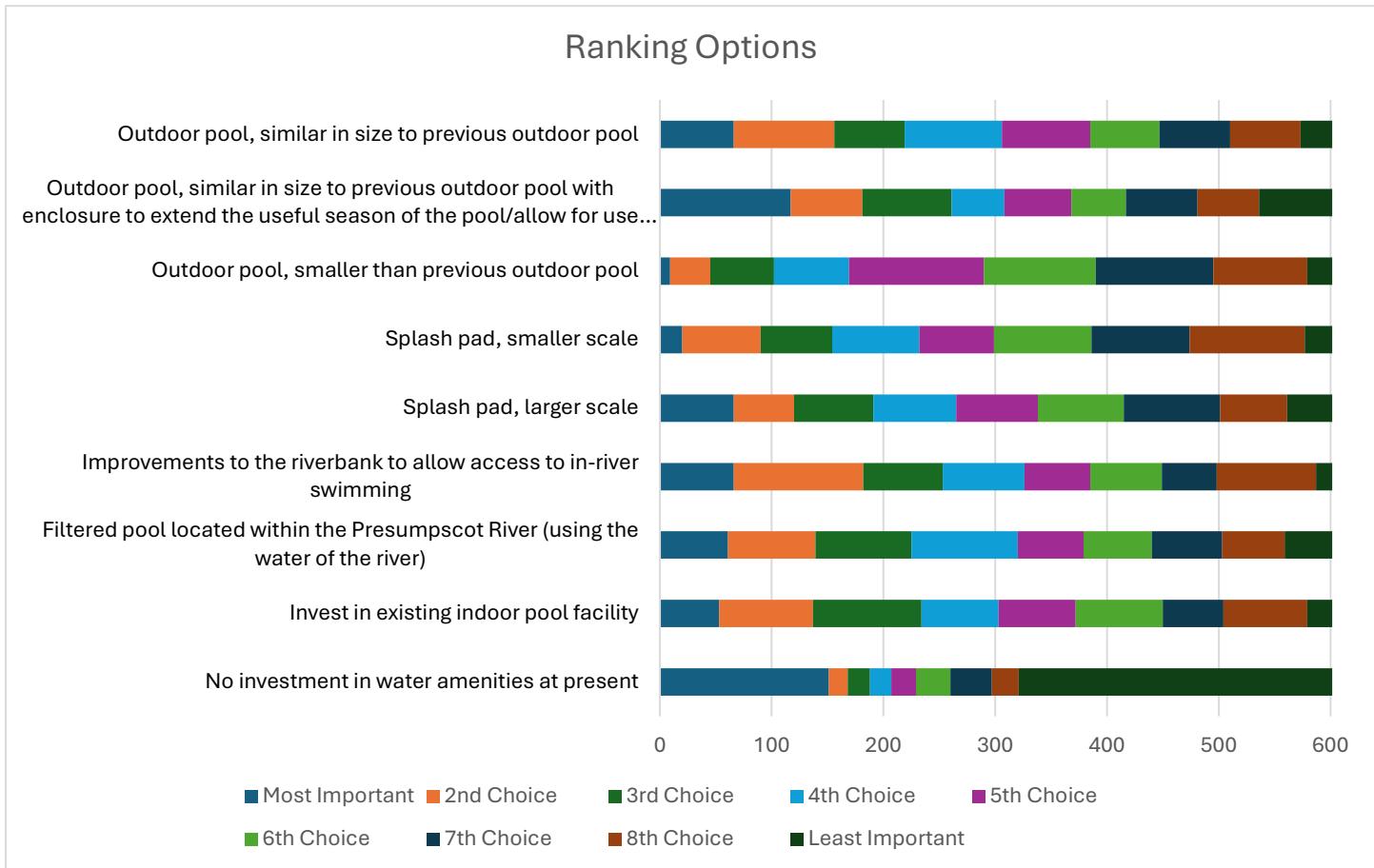


Centralized Location, Walkable Location and Parking are the three attributes that would be most important for a new amenity.

Proximity to Schools and Visibility from the road system were identified as the least important attributes.



14. Of the range of options considered so far, rank the following in terms of preference. Please arrange the items from top to bottom in priority order.



This graph contains a significant amount of critical data, and it is valuable to look at responses in another manner.

First, we chose to look at only the first and last choices selected by respondents. Understanding that there were nine items to categorize, we understand that there may be some flexibility in the 2nd choice through 8th choice selections, but used the assumption that individuals were likely to have strong preferences on their highest and lowest priorities. The three graphs that follow display these most- and least-preferred options.

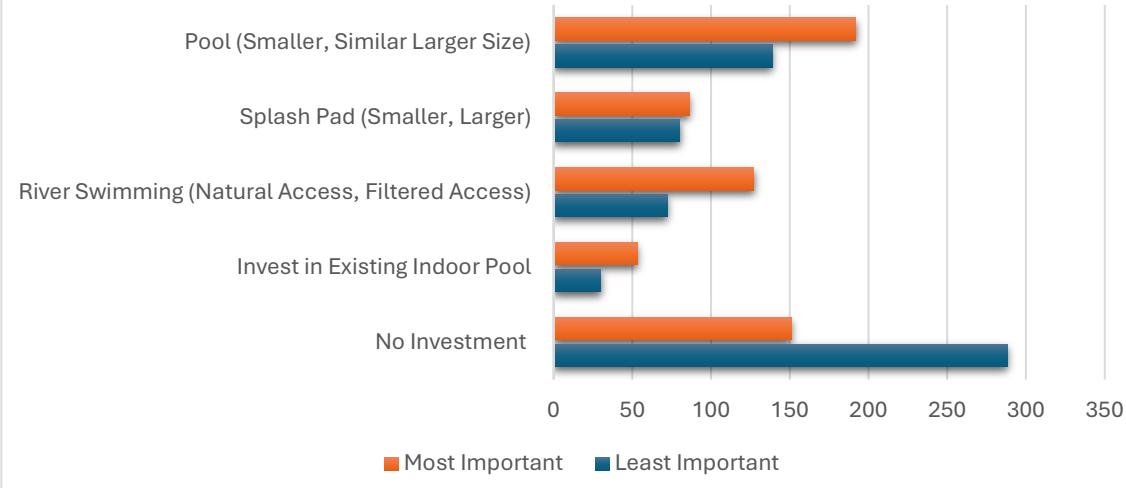
Most Important (Choice 1)



Least Important (Choice 9)



First/Last Comparison



Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Exercise

Ranked Choice is an exercise used to determine majority support when there are several choices and where no one choice resulted in a majority vote (i.e. no option received a result of greater than 50% of the respondents) and were options were ranked in the order of preference. For this exercise, we took the votes that were cast toward the lowest ranking option and placed them toward those respondents second choices. This exercise is then repeated until one option receives more than 50% of the total votes.

This exercise went through seven rounds and resulted in the following (full breakdown of analysis is included with Appendix B):

Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool with enclosure to extend the useful season of the pool/allow for use during weather events	43%
Improvements to the riverbank to allow access to in-river swimming	29%
No investment in water amenities at present	28%

A typical RCV exercise would continue until at least one item receives 50%, however given that the next round would reallocate the ‘No Investment’ votes, the exercise concluded here as it was assumed those respondents would not want a second choice as they do not prefer an amenity at all.

Summary

What do these answers tell us?

- The RCV exercise results for Question 14 roughly **aligns** with the RCV exercise results of Question 7 where ‘No Water-Based Amenity’ resulted in 25% of the responses. This demonstrates consistency in survey responses and reinforces the validity of the survey results.
- 288 respondents chose ‘No Investment’ as their last choice. This represents 47% of total respondents for this question. This is important to note because, while not everyone may have had a complete listing of preferences, choosing any investment over no investment is informing us that the majority of the survey respondents prefer to have *something* rather than nothing.
- Given the range of amenity options listed in the survey, a pool of some size is preferred over other options.
- The most important location attributes are: Centralized, Walkable, Adequate Parking.

- The most preferred type of amenity: Outdoor pool similar in size to previous outdoor pool with enclosure to extend useful season.
- The majority of respondents prefer moving forward with some kind of amenity rather than nothing.

What don't these answers tell us?

- This survey highlights general community priorities, but project-specific preferences could differ depending on the type, size, and location of the project.

Project Timeline – Questions 18 & 19

Questions

This section includes an analysis of survey responses concerning project timeline. The questions were as follows:

18. Projects that are larger in scale and/or complexity take longer to complete. Given this information, would you rather see:
 - a. A smaller-scale outdoor amenity that could be used sooner
 - b. A larger-scale outdoor water amenity that could be used later
 - c. No new outdoor water amenity at this time
19. What do you feel is an appropriate timeline for the creation of a new outdoor water amenity?

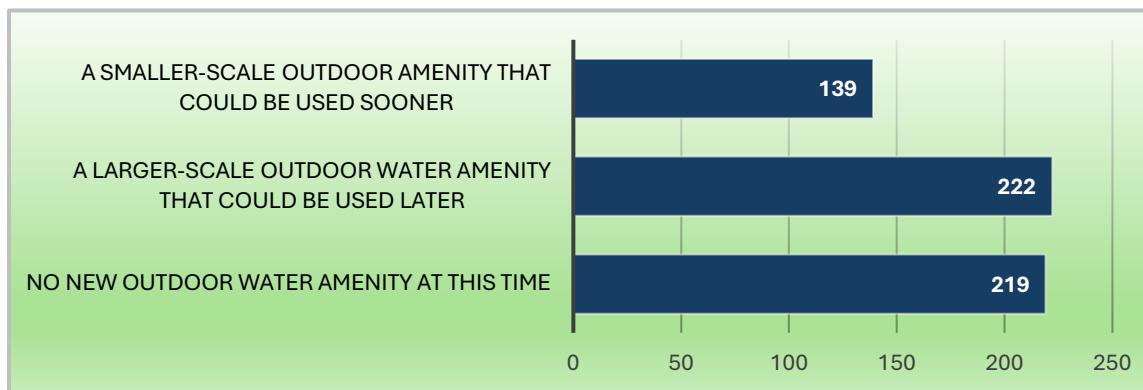
Why did we ask these questions?

These questions were intended to provide an idea of what expectations respondents have in terms of timing for any kind of new water project. In conjunction with the values and attributes identified in this survey, an expectation on timing can assist with determining what scale may be more appropriate. These questions are another way to gauge the intensity of the problem or need (e.g. requires immediate action vs. a solution can wait).

What were the answers?

Included below are the answers to each question included in this Project Timeline section.

18. Projects that are larger in scale and/or complexity take longer to complete. Given this information, would you rather see:



This question included an option to allow respondents to provide a comment. 34 comments were provided and are included with Appendix A of this report. Comments

varied and provided input as to what the appropriate timeline would be for differing amenities, with no majority consensus.

19. What do you feel is an appropriate timeline for the creation of a new outdoor water amenity?



This question included an option to allow respondents to provide a comment. 39 comments were provided and are included in Appendix A of this report. Similar to the comments of Question 18, comments varied and provided input as to what the appropriate timeline would be for differing amenities, with no real overall theme or consensus.

Summary

What do these answers tell us?

- Highly conflicting information. The majority of respondents prefer a larger-scale project in the more distant future **yet** feel the near future (2-3 years) is an appropriate time to create a new water amenity.

What don't these answers tell us?

- How respondents classify “smaller” vs “larger” or “sooner” vs “later”.
- We do not know where the middle ground is given this conflicting information.

Open Feedback Themes – Question 20

Question

This section provided survey respondents with an opportunity to provide open feedback concerning a new outdoor public water amenity, as follows:

20. Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Why did we ask these questions?

We wanted to provide an opportunity for respondents to share information that may not otherwise have been collected through the survey questions.

What were the answers?

There were 282 responses that were provided to this question. These responses did not identify any new or significant information that was not previously captured in this report. However, these responses are a strong indicator as to the passion that respondents feel, on all sides of this issue.

While the majority of the responses to this question carried a negative opinion concerning any potential public project, it is important to note that approximately 55% of survey respondents chose not to leave a comment on this question. While the responses received from those who chose to answer this question can provide valuable feedback to the survey, it is important not to draw a conclusive opinion based solely on the responses to this question alone.

Summary – Open Feedback

What do these answers tell us?

- This is an issue that many in the community care deeply about.

What don't these answers tell us?

- There is no single consensus on what the next action steps should be.

Section V. Leading Considerations & Decision Criteria

As noted in the introduction of this report, the purpose of the Westbrook Water Talk public engagement series and survey was not to identify any specific project that the City should or should not pursue, but to identify the **values** and **priorities** of the community that City leadership should take into consideration if or when the City were to pursue a public outdoor aquatic amenity. In addition, we have gained valuable insight into the **attributes**, **amenity preferences**, **appetite for public funding**, and **timeline** preferences of our community.

After compiling the survey takeaways, we have drafted decision criteria and recommendations that should be used as a rubric against which any proposed publicly funded water amenity project should be judged.

Survey Takeaways	Decision Criteria & Recommendations
A water amenity is desired, at some point.	
Swimming is a valued skill and activity in our community	
Swimmable water is preferred over non-swimmable water	
Opportunities for recreational swimming (“open swim”) are more important than programmed swimming (swim lessons)	A water amenity should be included in a future plan for Westbrook and should increase access to swimmable water, particularly recreational (“open swim”) opportunities. A water amenity should provide opportunities for all age groups.
A water amenity is not a child-focused issue	
An investment of more than \$10 million is too large of an investment in a water amenity for the community at this time.	Priority should be made for a project that can be phased to allow for some investment now with a potentially greater allocation thereafter.
There is an immediate desire for an amenity, but a strong concern for the financial implications associated with an investment.	A new amenity should not cost more than \$5m - \$10m, with no more than 50% covered through City taxpayer funds with the remainder covered through grants/donations.
The tax increases over the past two years have felt significant.	Priority should be given to projects that are less costly while achieving other goals/values identified in this report.
A water amenity is not more important than other recreational amenities	An investment into a water amenity should not be given unilateral priority over investments in

A new amenity should not come at the expense of an existing amenity	other recreational amenities. A new water amenity should not take away from an existing recreational amenity, either by space (sports field) or resources (maintenance of existing pool).
The limited seasonal use of an outdoor pool is a concern	Priority should be made for a project that provides an extended useful season.
The existing pool does not meet the current demand for swim opportunities	Review existing indoor pool usage/policies to determine if swim opportunities can be expanded.
A water amenity should be located in a centralized, walkable location where adequate parking is provided.	Priority should be made for a project with these attributes
Interaction with natural water is important	Explore opportunities for increased access and utilization of natural water bodies.

Appendix A

Included below is a list of all the answers to open-ended questions that were provided, as they were received. Portions of some responses were redacted where they used offensive language or provided identifiable information to a resident.

Q3 – Please select all water amenities you have utilized in Westbrook

Other – 27 Answers

1. In Windham
2. Mill Creek, Highland Pond launch
3. Goldfish portland
4. local public beaches, lakes, etc
5. Highland Lake
6. beaches and lakes
7. lake, ocean
8. Beach, Portland splash pad
9. None
10. Camp on lake in Maine
11. Pond at prides corner trails
12. lakes, ponds and ocean
13. lake & ocean
14. Lake & ocean
15. Beaver Pond
16. Portland Public Pools indoor and outdoor on a daily basis
17. River - in gorham and windham
18. Ocean
19. Big Sebago Lake
20. Beach
21. Beaver Pond
22. State parks
23. Lakes and Ocean
24. Beaver Pond
25. I ran through Sprinkler at [redacted] house naked
26. None of your business
27. Stroudwater River

Q4/5 – Did your household have access to a water amenity during the summer of 2024, whether in Westbrook or elsewhere

(YES responses) – 432 answers

1. Friend's House (2)
2. Neighbor's pool; beach (OOB Pine Point, etc.)
3. Beach, lakes
4. Community center
5. Deering Oakes Park, the ocean
6. Long lake
7. Neighbors' pool, Sebago beaches
8. Highland Lake
9. Riverbank Park and Lincoln St boat launch
10. Davao Indoor pool
11. Local beaches (ocean), local lakes, Westbrook Community Center Pool, and destination beaches.
12. Community Center Pool
13. Wcc pool, lakes, ocean
14. Westbrook Community Center
15. South Portland, Westbrook, Portland splash pad
16. Indoor pool and river
17. Kiwanis pool, and the beach
18. Lakes in Cumberland and York Counties
19. Long Lake Little Sebago Lake Lake Cobbossee
20. Private pool
21. Sebago Lake, old Orchard Beach Reid
22. seabogo lake
23. Windham dundee park
24. I have a pool at my house
25. Ocean
26. YMCA pool Freeport
27. Maine has lots of options
28. Brandy Pond and the Atlantic Ocean
29. Presumpscot River, Mill Creek, Highland lake
30. the river walk
31. Davan pool, ocean, rivers
32. Lakes and oceans
33. Splash pad in Portland, pools in other communities
34. I had access, but did not go or make use of it.
35. Splash fun in saco
36. State park beaches
37. Home pool
38. Daven, boat in lake
39. Presumpscot River
40. Paddling/swimming in the Presumpscot, use of the dock at the rink

41. Family pool and splash pad
42. Highland Lake
43. Too many to list, but a drive for sure.
44. Family pool, beach
45. See question 3
46. WCC Pool
47. Microtel, Raymond. St.Joe's college, Standish
48. Our private pool
49. Rivers, lakes, ocean, out-of-state
50. Westbrook is a rediculous community , advertising and exploiting tax dollars saying we have a pool only available for limited people in rec or school system.. Socialist use of my tax dollars
51. Sebago Lake White Mountains
52. Portland and Windham
53. Every other public pool withing a mile of Westbrook.
54. Private pool
55. Someone's house
56. Kayak windham to Westbrook and Westbrook to Falmouth
57. Lake in Idaho while traveling.
58. My mother in laws pool
59. Portland Kiwanis Pool, Deering Oak Park Ravine
60. Water country and the community pool.
61. John P Davan inside pool
62. Private pool
63. State park in Raymond
64. Drive to friends camps on lakes, ocean, that kind of thing.
65. Ocean, lake, pool at home, water parks
66. Presumpscot River
67. Pine point-ocean
68. Family's private pool outside of Westbrook, Sebago Lake, Higgins Beach
69. Various places outside of Westbrook.
70. Water park out of state
71. Presumpscot River & Beaver Pond
72. Sebago, ocean, lakes
73. Dundee Beach, Raymond Beach, Sebago Lake State Park
74. We have waterfront property in Hiram, ME
75. Beaches
76. Indoor pool at Westbrook community center
77. Limington Horne pond
78. Backyard
79. sister pool
80. Davan Indoor Pool for swimming lessons for our baby; the Presumpscot also runs through our backyard so we've canoed there but NOT swam (too muddy/stinky in Pride's Corner section).

81. Davan pool
82. Private pool and Aquaboggin
83. Sebago Lake, Dundee Park, Friend's pool
84. Home pool, lakes
85. Presumpscot River and private pool
86. Westbrook Indoor Pool and outdoor beaches, etc. The beauty of Maine is that these are at our fingertips
87. Aquaboggin
88. Deering oaks splash pad
89. Payson park
90. River
91. Ocean
92. camp in windham maine
93. My back yard
94. Sebago Lake
95. Goldfish swim school, Splashtown, private pools, lake
96. Sebago Lake State Park
97. pleasant pond Otisfield, me
98. private pool
99. Presumpscot River
100. Deering splash pad, nearly every trail that has river access, swim lessons at gold fish.
101. Lake
102. Secret swimming hole
103. Lake Megunticook (Lincolnville, ME)
104. I own a pool, my mom lives by the beach.
105. Old Orchard Beach
106. Summer Residence - North Pond - Smithfield Maine
107. Presumpscot River
108. Brandy Pond, Sebago and Long lake
109. Sebago Lake
110. Sebago Lake State Park
111. Beach
112. Presumpscot River walk was only amenity I'm close enough to use, but you couldn't PAY me to swim there.
113. Kiwanis Beach in Standish
114. Lake and private home
115. went to the ocean
116. Private Pool, Crescent Beach, Indoor Pool (Rec Camp)
117. Indoor pool
118. Shaw park.
119. Friends on Highland Lake.
120. Lakes, waterparks
121. The river
122. wcc pool sebago lake

123. My daughter has an in ground pool in Windham.
124. Advance pool and several lakes
125. Beach
126. John P. Davan indoor pool
127. Ocean
128. Neighbors pool, friends pools, lake winnipesaukee
129. Dundee Park
130. Pine point beach
131. Davan
132. Swimming in Presumpscot River at Shaw Park in Gorham. Most years I also swim in Presumpscot River at Dundee Park in Windham. I sure wish that there was a safe, nice place to swim in the Presumpscot River in Westbrook.
133. Hotel
134. Friends pool
135. Crescent beach
136. Beach, Lake, Splash pads at parks in Portland
137. Presumpscot River
138. The beach, a hose and small pool in our yard, the splash park in Portland.
139. Falmouth country club
140. Indoor Pool, local beaches
141. Sebago Lake and the Presumpscot River
142. Beaches at the ocean or lakes
143. Beach, rivers, private pools
144. Community center pool, sebago lake, Willard beach
145. friend house
146. Steven square community center pool Ferry beach Private pool Presumpscot river at Covered Bridge
147. Community center, camp, Portland
148. Old Orchard Beach and Sebago State Park
149. Sebago Lake
150. Presumpscot River
151. I had signed up for swimming at the Davan Pool.
152. Shaw Park
153. Lakes, rivers, ocean, and private pools
154. Shaw Park (Gorham) / Babb's Bridge (Windham/Gorham) / neighbor's pools
155. River
156. Davan pool
157. Private pool
158. Mackworth Island Fort Williams Kettle Cove Two Lights Shaw Park
159. neighbor's pool
160. Higgins Beach, Ferry Beach, private pools outside of Westbrook
161. Listed above. Beach. Private pool. Portland water pad
162. Presumpscot River, Saco River, Highland Lake to kayak and swim
163. Presumpscot River

164. The Atlantic Ocean
165. Lake and ocean
166. Friends and family's pool
167. My daughter attended Westbrook Rec camp and had swim time at the rec center a few times per wk
168. Camp
169. Home
170. Davan pool at community center for lap swimming
171. presumpscot river
172. Davan indoor pool
173. Davan indoor pool
174. We went to Sebago Lake day use picnic park area and Ferry Beach
175. Beach
176. Davan
177. I SUP off East End Beach in Portland.
178. Went to Sebago Lake state park and Scarborough state park
179. Sebago Lake and the ocean beaches
180. My backyard. I have an inground 20 x 40 pool.
181. John Davan Pool
182. Private residence
183. BACK YARD
184. Davan
185. Sebago lake
186. Presumpscot River
187. Rangeley, Maine
188. Family friends camp
189. Sebago Lake, Ocean
190. The beach
191. Dundee park and our own above ground pool
192. Oceans or the lake
193. River but in Windham
194. Inground pools of friends in Westbrook
195. Local hotels. Paid at seacoast adventure
196. Lakes and ocean
197. Private pools in Portland, ocean
198. Lake
199. WCC, Kiwanis in Portland. Lakes
200. Community Center.
201. Sebago lake
202. Private pool in Yarmouth
203. Friends pool and ocean most of the time
204. Shaw Park, State Parks and lakes
205. Beach
206. private pool

- 207. Portland splash pad on the boulevard and deering oaks
- 208. Sebago Lake and a family camp on a lake
- 209. Davan pool
- 210. Ocean, lake pool
- 211. Boating/swimming on sebago and Moosehead Lake
- 212. Private pool at our home
- 213. Sebago Lake and the ocean
- 214. Swimming site in Falmouth
- 215. Babbs bridge on Presumpscot river
- 216. Used the pool a little pool in are yard
- 217. Raymond beach
- 218. The ocean.
- 219. Davan pool
- 220. We have a pool
- 221. Private pools, little sebago
- 222. Wassamki Springs Campground
- 223. Family pool an hour away.
- 224. Shaw Park-Presumpscot River
- 225. Pond at prides corner trail. The community center pool was never open to my family free of chsrge or reservations which I find unacceptable
- 226. Beach
- 227. pool and lake
- 228. pool
- 229. Lake & our pool
- 230. Usually out to Sebago or the beach for swimming. But we walk along the river every day.
- 231. we purchased a state park pass and visited several beaches in the area.
- 232. Private pool and river
- 233. Did not go but had access
- 234. Deering Oaks. Payson Park. Kettle Cove. Willard. Beaver Pond
- 235. My own pool at my home
- 236. We have a pool. We also went to Scarborough Beaches and Crescent Point State Park.
- 237. Sebago Lake & Willard beach
- 238. Shaw Park, Gorham Dundee Park in recent summers
- 239. Shaw Park in Gorham
- 240. Lake
- 241. River walk pathway and Crescent Beach
- 242. Ocean
- 243. Westbrook Cimmmunity Center
- 244. Had access did not go.
- 245. Portland Kiwanis and Reiche Pools
- 246. Portland; Range Pond,
- 247. Saco
- 248. Daven indoor pool, Sebago Lake,

- 249. Private Pool Presumpscot River
- 250. Family pool and lake
- 251. Our small inflatable pool
- 252. Windham, Raymond, Casco, Naples, Gorham, Portland, Scarborough, OOB, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth
- 253. Windham, Raymond, Scarborough, casco, Naples, Gorham
- 254. Presumpscot River
- 255. Indoor pool, presumpscot river, drove to other lakes/ocean
- 256. Saco river
- 257. Portland outdoor pool Beaches/Lakes
- 258. Beaches, lakes, WCC
- 259. beach
- 260. Shaw Park in Gorham, Beaches in Cape E and Scarborough
- 261. Limington Rapids, Crescent Beach, Long Pond, Sebago Lake,
- 262. Sebago Lake
- 263. Family camp
- 264. Family camp on a lake near Farmington, Cape Elizabeth beaches, upper Presumpscot in Windham
- 265. Deering Oaks, lakes, ocean
- 266. Pine Point Beach, Royal River Boat Launch
- 267. The Presumpscot for paddle boarding. The Trestle and the Covered Bridge for swimming.
- 268. Private pool at home of family member
- 269. Community center pool
- 270. Sebago Lake
- 271. Splash pool at Deering oaks
- 272. Presumpscot
- 273. Private pools. Public beaches and lakes.
- 274. Private pool
- 275. River Indoor Pool
- 276. Home
- 277. Sebago Lake, Crescent Beach State Park
- 278. Presumpscot River
- 279. nearby lakes
- 280. Crescent Beach
- 281. friends private pools, lakes, ocean hotel pools exc we swim a lot
- 282. River and pool at our condominium
- 283. SOPO Community Center Pool. And the Davan Pool.
- 284. Seacoast Adventure in Windham
- 285. Portland pools, private pool at grandparents house, Raymond boat launch beach
- 286. Deering Oaks splash pad, Payson park splash pad, Kiwanis pool and splash pad in Portland
- 287. Swimming & kayaking in pond/river in Windham; away on vacation, lakeside.
- 288. Private pool

289. My house
290. Beach oob, sebago state park
291. John P Davan Pool, kayaking on the Presumpscot
292. Kawanas and community center
293. Crescent Beach, Cape Elizabeth, Me
294. Private pool
295. Lakes, ocean
296. The ocean
297. Davan indoor pool
298. Portland splash pads, Deering Oaks park, Kiwanis splash pad
299. My parents, also Westbrook residents, have a pool.
300. Davan pool for swimming lessons.
301. Range Pond.
302. Sebago Lake State Park, Greely Pool in Cumberland, Square Pond in Acton.
303. Lakes, private pool rental
304. Sebago Lake
305. Presumpscot River, public ocean beaches
306. My pool
307. Numerous opportunities within 20-30 minutes
308. Presumpscit River at Shaw park in Gorham
309. Shaw park, covered bridge, Sunday river
310. Ocean beaches and out of state
311. State Beaches
312. Family camp in Cornish
313. Relative pool, river, state park, beach.
314. Sebago Lake
315. The River and the community center pool.
316. Ocean
317. Tasseltop Sebago lake
318. Kiwanis pool and Deering Oaks splash pad
319. Seacoast Adventure Windham
320. OOB
321. Sebago and two lights
322. Friends pool, lake, water parks.
323. Kiwanis outdoor pool in Portland
324. Presumpscot River
325. Did not use for to family medical issues this year and other personal reasons.
326. Rivers, lake, ocean
327. Presumpscot River & Babbs Bridge
328. private pool
329. Neighbor pool
330. Standish to a lake, and a friend's pool in Westbrook, and the ocean
331. Home
332. You didn't ask if we went, just if we had access; of course we had access

- 333. Moy Mo DaYo in limington
- 334. We have a pool at home
- 335. Lakes
- 336. Home pool and beaches.
- 337. Camp
- 338. Kiwanis pool - Portland, splash pad in pats on park and Deering oaks.
- 339. Sebago Lake, old orchard beach, private pools in Portland and Windham
- 340. Area Lakes
- 341. Beach, lake, and splash pads in Portland
- 342. Mill brook along the Mill Brook Preserve trails
- 343. Private pool
- 344. Private pools, beach/lake access
- 345. Private Pool, Beach
- 346. Splash pad at Deering Oaks
- 347. Higgins Beach Pine Point Beach Other ocean beaches
- 348. Lakes
- 349. A friend lives on a pond
- 350. We have a pool, friends' pools, Sebago Lake, ocean, etc
- 351. Sebago Lake State Park, Stillwater Dr private pool as guests, camping trips in other parts of Maine, community center pool for birthday parties and LEARNS camp
- 352. Ocean beach, relatives pool, relatives lake house
- 353. Beach, lake, open swims at Davan Pool.
- 354. Sebago
- 355. John P. Davan Indoor Pool and Beaver Pond
- 356. Traveled in Maine
- 357. WCC pool, Presumpscot River
- 358. Sebago Lake, Crescent Beach, Range Lake state park,pine point beach
- 359. Presumpscot river
- 360. Presumpscot River
- 361. Payson Park, Douglas Field, Deering Oaks + South Portland Community Center
- 362. Togus Pond, Augusta ME
- 363. Casco Bay and Kennebec River
- 364. River
- 365. My pool
- 366. Shaw park
- 367. Sebago Lake State Park...
- 368. Crescent Beach in Scarborough and Ferry Beach in Saco
- 369. beaches and lakes
- 370. Private pool, state parks, sebago lake
- 371. State Parks: Sebago Lake, Crescent Beach and Ferry Beach in Saco. Also Pine Point Beach, OOB, Drakes Island Wells, also Hotel Pools
- 372. Personal Pool
- 373. Our personal pool and WCC pool
- 374. Friends pools/lake houses, local beaches

- 375. Camps
- 376. A personal pool.
- 377. [redacted] Sprinkler Party
- 378. Deering Oaks Splash Pad, Shaw Park "Beach"
- 379. Sebago Lake Scarborough Beach Relative's Pool
- 380. Beaches on Casco Bay and Saco Bay
- 381. Highland Lake
- 382. WCC indoor pool, presumpscot river, private pool
- 383. Private pool
- 384. Range Pond
- 385. Presumpscot River, Portland Splash Pads, State Parks (Sebago Lake & Scarborough Beach), Pine Point
- 386. Presumpscot
- 387. Private pool
- 388. Little sebago lake, private pool, local splash pads/water parks
- 389. We have an above pool but also use highland lake.
- 390. Private pool, lakes, ocean
- 391. Not used
- 392. John P Davin pool
- 393. Ocean, Range Pond State Park, Mooselookmeguntic
- 394. Local beach, pond
- 395. The Davan pool
- 396. Westbrook Community Center, Portland, Splashtown, private water toys
- 397. Private pool and indoor at the community center
- 398. Ocean, lakes, kid pool
- 399. The Community Center pool, one time.
- 400. Higgins Beach
- 401. Sunset Ridge, Westbrook Community Center, the river
- 402. River
- 403. My back yard pool and I pool I rent to teach swim lessons out of in Durham
- 404. Sebago Lake, Long Lake, Highland Lake, Moose Pond, Woods Pond, Hancock Pond, Atlantic Ocean beaches (several locations state wide), Presumpscot River, Saco River (ME & NH), Swift River(NH)
- 405. Lake at a Friend's camp
- 406. Ocean and lake
- 407. Presumpscot River
- 408. Sebago Lake and friend's pools
- 409. Kiwanis Pool/Douglass Street Cape Elizabeth pool Vacation rental
- 410. We had access but did not use it
- 411. Lake and beach
- 412. Sebago Lake
- 413. Westbrook Community Center, Sebago Lake
- 414. Family
- 415. Davan indoor pool, Kiwanis pool, SoPo pool, Cape pool, beaches

416. Sebago Lake, Beach
417. Sebago lake, oob
418. Popham beach, Webb Lake, Aquaboggin.
419. Presumpscot River, Stroudwater River and area beaches
420. The boat ramp by the outdoor roller rink
421. My camp
422. Splash pad @ Payson Park
423. Portland, Saco, Glenn,NH
424. The indoor pool, neighbor's private pool, and canoeing in the Presumpscot
425. Sebago lake
426. Various ocean and lake beaches across the state.
427. Crescent beach
428. Sebago Lake
429. Neighbors pool, lake, ocean
430. NA
431. Beach, lake, ocean, outdoor pool.
432. Portland splash pad and wading pools, the ocean, lakes

Q6 - Does everyone in your household know how to swim independently (i.e. without the assistance of a floatation device)? Please check all that apply

8 answers

1. one person
2. I know how and I am sole person living here.
3. I'm the only one in my home.
4. Someone over 18 knows how but needs assistance
5. Swimming programs are important
6. Formerly qualified WSI
7. But our grandchildren don't swim independently
8. We can swim but not well

Q10 - If you answered above that investing in a water amenity is LESS important than other amenities, what is the most important recreational amenity that our community should invest in?

180 Answers

1. Trail system
2. New outdoor pool and splash pads!!
3. Better upkeep of Westbrook hiking trails.
4. Public paths and trails
5. None at this time. Taxes were raised to much this year.
6. Recreation should be downtown NOT at the Community Center
7. Playground update/enlarge
8. Recreation field complex
9. Hiking, biking trails
10. Senior activities
11. Tennis, track for safe walking, basketball, pickleball for all residents.
12. Parks
13. Outdoor parks and children's play areas.
14. We are Wasting and Exploiting dollars on the new to maine community and not on real Tax needs. Our Current Town Elected officials need to be voted out for exploitation of the middle class working residents
15. Stop spending MONEY!!! Nobody wants this, waste of money. STOP
16. Keeping the indoor pool that can be utilized for all ages all months of the year barring maintenance. Invest in its longevity. Also use the money not spent on outdoor water amenities, on sports field maintenance and low income programs for all families and youth.
17. A solar powered recycling water fall or fountain in a modified botanical garden connected to a program to teach young people gardening, i.e. growing food organically.
18. Playgrounds, parks, ball fields, keeping the community center and pool in good condition.
All more important than adding something new
19. Walkway on brown street side of river
20. Bike lanes and walking/hiking trails
21. Finish the northern section of the Riverwalk. Combine that loop walk with the trail presumpscot land trust is building off Lincoln Street. That will give the people of Westbrook a wonderful place to walk and will bring many people in from other towns to also enjoy this great walk. Plus it can be used year round.
22. Nothing at this time. Taxes are TOO HIGH
23. Putting the park space back in that was turned into a parking lot.
24. Not jacking up my taxes every year
25. Keeping property taxes low or lowering them.
26. Lighting for the river walk
27. Any feature that is accessible to all residents and does not take away from other projects that are being planned. I.e. new athletic complex at WHS
28. More open gym time for middle and high schoolers to play basketball. Wednesday for 2 hours is not enough given all the gyms available.
29. Indoor walking track that could be used year round like the one at the South Portland Rec Ctr. These water recreation suggestions are only going to be utilized 2 months out the year!

30. Given our recent increase in taxes, I don't feel that investing in recreational amenities is a good idea.
31. stop spending money
32. We have a indoor pool and that is all we need. Gorham, South Portland and Scarborough do not have outdoor pools.
33. none
34. Tennis, and other team sports that have now become to expensive for residents of Westbrook
35. Taking advantage of our beautiful lakes and beaches
36. Lowering taxes
37. pickle ball courts
38. Parks & Trails Larger workout area in community center (and classes!) Overall improvement, making community center nice
39. our local community center and programs that can be utilized more than 2-3 months a year.
40. Lowering property taxes so Westbrook citizens could afford the private equity recreation of their choice
41. I would continue to utilize the River and keep the current event and perhaps expand on those..I believe there was a kayak event and cookout...I also like the concert series at Valley square
42. Splash park for young children. Older children and adults can use the Davan pool. Also for swimming lessons and programs.
43. outdoor sports
44. Volleyball
45. Na
46. Stop raising my taxes... I have my own pool that I've had for 32 years and I don't appreciate being charged \$2.95 every month for a sub meter I've had for over 30 years. I am a senior citizen and I'm tired of getting tax tax tax.
47. Less taxes period.
48. Hiking trails Pickle ball courts More and updated playground equipment
49. If it's costing large sums of money nothing. Taxes are extremely high and whatever the city invests in will end up destroyed.
50. Parks
51. To much cost to maintain and other people will ruin it with garbage or conflict with migratory birds/wild life over people
52. Trails (biking, walking etc)
53. Local sports
54. Biking lanes
55. Free public parking which we already have but please keep this. Other than that the community is good. Lower city taxes. Stop spending money on stupid [redacted], sincerely hard working Westbrook resident. Reading further down, why would you get rid of other outdoor amenities we already have in place of a pool. Again just wasting money for the sake of wasting money. "Let's build a soccer field, 3 years later let's destroy the soccer field for a pool, 3 years later let's destroy the pool to build a playground, etc" dumb dumb dumb.

56. None of them. It is not the town's responsibility to be spending so much money on recreational areas that barely get used.
57. Not wasting money.
58. Outside activities for all ages
59. swimming pool
60. None
61. None!
62. Recreational sports run by the community center.
63. After school programs for kids
64. more indoor basketball courts and/or more open gym time at the community center
65. safe walking paths/areas
66. Access to quality sports fields
67. 24/7 Security guards around the homeless shelter and surrounding area.
68. Improved indoor pool amenities, larger pool, more hours of availability
69. Playgrounds, trails and walking paths
70. Anything that is less expensive than.
71. Bike lanes.
72. Nothing. Our community is fine the way it is
73. Summer classes to teach kids reading, writing (cursive), and arithmetic.
74. Pickle ball court available evenings
75. Bike and walking trails
76. Something that doesn't cause another tax increase that is driving residents out of town
77. Walking trails
78. Invest in the existing pool at the Community Center.
79. Can't afford tax hike as it is. No more costly investments in things no one needs. Cut taxes if anything.
80. Hiking trails.
81. Affordable housing for Maine citizens, and help our citizens first
82. Walking trails
83. Basketball courts, local playgrounds and parks.
84. We need to manage spending. Taxpayers are being forced to have services for those here illegally. We have no money. This isn't a need.
85. Westbrook has a year-round indoor pool. Funds should not be invested in outdoor facilities that are only valid 3-4 months/year.
86. Lower taxes
87. Upkeep to the amenities we have
88. Community recreation programs for youths
89. sports
90. Fields and playgrounds
91. parks
92. Walking Trails
93. Trails
94. ANY other safe recreational facility/ environment or situation that would hopefully include good lighting and require less maintenance than a water amenity.
95. Less LAND TAXES

96. walking trails
97. Lower taxes.
98. Large open space for rec activities; pickleball
99. Open the existing pool to residents free of charge at community center. Rental and paid access is unacceptable. No construction needed.
100. More programs at the community center, even programs geared toward teens, ie cooking classes, crafting classes, more trips. All around more programming. Maybe a better set up for the food trucks over the summer with a pavilion to eat under and some outdoor recreation games to play. Maybe a disc golf course.
101. Outdoor parks
102. I didn't answer less, but it would be helpful to define "recreational amenities" before asking the question as it could change the results.....
103. School activities, but those need to be kept in check. Taxes need to be kept stable.
104. I think improving access to the river would be great, especially if that could be utilized for swimming, but otherwise, I would improve walking paths and hiking areas.
105. Walking paths & expansion of River Walk all the way around the river.
106. Outdoor trails
107. Athletic fields
108. Most recreational amenities offered are not cost effective in such a small community.
109. walking trails
110. None. Too much money being spent as it is. One pool is enough. Taxes are too high, period!
111. Planet fitness type gym- inexpensive
112. Improved playgrounds with greater accessibility, security and play structures in Riverbank Park
113. Lowering taxes.
114. Walking paths. River Walk was never repaired from the damage of October 1996 flood.
115. None
116. Equally important, but swimming lessons and water safety are critical with having a river through the City, and as part of investing in outdoor water amenities.
117. Due to the current tax situation, NO recreational amenity should be invested in. Maybe in a few years but not now.
118. Better fields for youth soccer
119. N/A
120. Green space/park for children and elderly. A park dedicated to reduce anxiety and connect with nature. The Japanese Garden in Montreal is a great example. A small waterfall, water fountain, or water cooling feature for children could be included. Many studies prove that green spaces improve mental health. That is what our community NEEDS.
121. The city needs to replace the ice skating rink that is now apartments across from WHS
122. Pickle ball court
123. Playgrounds

124. Outdoor play that everyone can use - a pickle ball court, hiking trails,
125. Walkable trails
126. We have an indoor community pool and access to a river.
127. Organized recreational sports such as soccer, track, football, basketball, etc.
128. Big item trash pickup. Bring it back. This is needed more then a water feature.
129. Better playgrounds, walking trails, pickleball
130. Family activities
131. No recreational amenities needed. How about just police the streets so people aren't driving 50mph through residential neighborhoods with no consequences.
132. I think we have enough public parks and rec areas already.
133. No investment. Or funds should go to maintaining our current Water amenities we already have.
134. None, save money. Stop spending so much on unnecessary things
135. I think that you should focus more on preparing our bodies of water for emergencies. There was a drowning recently in the city i see on the news. The public services need to have the resources to be more ready to get someone who is in trouble. There is too much money getting thrown around into recreational needs, we need the people in the positions to save us, our families and our neighbors.
136. Riverwalk and four season pavilion
137. Stop spending our money
138. Pickleball, water access to the river
139. Walking paths and sidewalks that are smooth
140. We have adequate parks-restore the land near the falls to it's original status as a park. there are adequate playgrounds. MY tax dollars should not e used to fund recreational activities for others. There is a pool at the WCC.
141. If you're paying for it with my taxes, which just went up exponentially, then I don't think these things are a top priority
142. Trails and kayaks on the river. Things that cost little money to taxpayers
143. There is No Money to invest in anything . How about pulling in the reins for awhile and stop spending!!!cut expenses
144. Kids don't need recreational things, we didn't when I was a kid. They need coping skills.
145. Pickleball courts, bike trails, bocce courts, pétanque
146. LOWER TAXES you stupid clowns
147. Walking paths
148. Sports
149. None
150. LOWERING TAXES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
151. The river
152. Taking out another dam or two. Finishing the riverfront walkway that is at a standstill. Putting park back where parking lot is currently
153. Fields and trails
154. Not to increase home owners taxes!!!!!!
155. splash pad
156. Hiking Trails, which may be utilized year round in any weather. Water amenity is very limited due to weather. If a pool is required, I would build another INDOOR pool which

may be utilized year round, opposed to an OUTDOOR pool which may be utilized only a few months.

157. New and improved playground, greater accessibility, used year round, weather permitting
158. Pickleball courts, outdoor track, walkable trails downtown.
159. Currently, I cannot agree to investing in any new amenities due to the outrageous tax increase that resident's just experienced.
160. Nothing, please hold off. Real Estate Taxes this year hurt!
161. Indoor walking track, WHS update fields,
162. Community events (e.g. Bridge StrEAT, music events, etc), light parks in winter, more lights all around town not connected to a holiday
163. None; bring the property taxes down for a few years first then revisit the pool / splash pad idea.
164. Improving athletic facilities, more and better sports fields
165. I do not have a MOST important amenity to report on, but a water amenity is the least important, regardless.
166. My kids are grown-ups so not sure what kids do these days...I think with recent add'l increases to live in Westbrook, now is not the time for this
167. Pickleball - there's already a pool in Westbrook, it no pickleball courts
168. Athletic fields
169. A lot depends on what amenity you mean. But it is more important to maintain what we have in good condition than add another facility
170. Riverwalk North
171. Riverwalk north
172. Open spaces and trails
173. Outdoor pickleball (free)
174. Just keep the pool as is. Love the kayaks available for rent on the river
175. Walking, running, bikes, playgrounds
176. Current facilities
177. Pickleball courts!
178. Bike paths, sidewalks
179. river trail/river front
180. A water amenity could only be used for likely 8 weeks (we can't just open things early/keep them open longer because of good weather, likewise we don't recoup money if it's a rainy cool summer. There's better recreational options that can be used for a larger part of the year.

Q15 - Would you support an outdoor water amenity at an estimated cost of \$5 million, which would result in an additional \$34.10 on the annual tax bill for the median single-family home in Westbrook?

30 answers

1. No bonded funds at present
2. 0
3. I cannot absorb the tax increase
4. Reallocate current taxes
5. None. Low priority. Only used 2-3 months
6. Absolutely not. I've lived in this city my entire life. Your splash pad idea is stupid. Westbrook continues to make stupid investment choices
7. I will never use this pool or splashpad
8. I 100% do NOT support any of these suggested amenities due to recent tax increases. How can this be considered when we have folks living on fixed incomes that are struggling to pay taxes. This initiative is being explored too soon after residents have received their tax bills.
Put your collective brains together and think about what you're asking of us!
9. Property Tax is too high now
10. Taxes are too high. Only if we can get donations for entire project
11. I can personally support and afford it but I worry about my neighbors. Grants would be preferred.
12. Over the past 2 years, my property taxes have increased by about \$900.00. I'm on a fixed income and am barely getting by. If certain people want a pool - let them have their own fundraisers. and raise the money themselves.
13. Because the city of Westbrook is ALREADY taxing its residents entirely too much with not much to show for.
14. Too much increase already
15. Too soon after tax increase
16. Taxes are already high enough
17. Westbrook already has a pool
18. None
19. The school budget has been killing us the last couple years
20. What happened to the money we already paid for this project? Out the money towards schools not a pool
21. Expensive, short season amenity. I'd only support splash pad if fully funded by grants or corporate, including maintenance and staffing. I cannot support another pool.
22. Taxes
23. Cost of living like SSA
24. Our taxes have gone up astronomically the past two years, and now the city wants to drain us for even more unnecessary spending.
25. Taxes are too high right now.. maybe look at it at a later date
26. Taxes are already too high
27. None
28. Should be self funded. Could have local business investment, pay per use for patrons, other ways to cover the cost. If it has to be funded then that needs to come back somehow.

29. I do not support this investment and I find it astonishing that because a handful of people got their feathers ruffled the City leadership is spending this amount of time & resources on this process.
30. No. I want to pause large expenditures after a double digit tax increase.

Q16 - Would you support an outdoor water amenity at an estimated cost of \$10 million, which would result in an additional \$60.82 on the annual tax bill for the median single-family home in Westbrook? – No (please tell us why)

38 answers

1. Taxes already went up too much
2. No bonded funds at present
3. 0
4. see above
5. Reallocate current taxes
6. Way down on priority list
7. Get over yourselves.
8. I will never use this pool
9. See my previous answers.
10. Property tax is too high now
11. Taxes are too high
12. Our fixed income neighbors would have trouble affording higher taxes.
13. See comment above on question #15.
14. Taxes are already high and the affordability to live within Westbrook due to property taxes is hard on everyone. Here y.
15. See answer to question 15
16. Same as above
17. Funding percentage should increase incrementally with increased cost.
18. Costly
19. Too expensive
20. Taxes are high enough
21. Westbrook already has a pool
22. Too much
23. Other amenities are higher priority
24. Taxes are too much
25. I would rather see that money spent on improving water quality and public in the Presumpscot
26. See above
27. Our tax money keeps getting spent on dumb projects. We already paid for this
28. Too much for short season ammenity
29. Taxes
30. Other priorities
31. Absolutely not. Our taxes have gone up astronomically the past two years, and now the city wants to drain us for even more unnecessary spending.
32. Too expensive
33. We do not need a pool, splash pad etc. PERIOD. No more spending
34. Too much of a tax increase
35. None
36. paying that kind of money for something used for a very few months is unwise, foolish & irresponsible.
37. I'm tapped out

38. er a double digit tax increase

Q17 - Would you support an outdoor water amenity at an estimated cost of \$15 million, which would result in an additional \$102.30 on the annual tax bill for the median single-family home in Westbrook? – No (please tell us why)

47 answers

1. 75% funded through grants
2. To expensive
3. No bonded funds at present
4. 0
5. See above
6. Reallocate current taxes
7. That amount of money could be better utilized for larger projects.
8. Impacts small % of citizens
9. Too expensive
10. Too much upfront cost for a project that fulfills a projected need and not an established data point
11. Stop burdening me with your stupid ideas that cost me money
12. No I would never use the pool
13. See my previous answers.
14. ABSOLUTELY NOT
15. Taxes too high
16. Our fixed income neighbors would have trouble affording higher taxes.
17. Can't afford it.
18. See above
19. Too expensive. Nobody uses the current pool we have except swim teams
20. Please see answer to question 16
21. Not worth the cost
22. Same
23. Funding percentage should increase incrementally with increased cost.
24. Costly
25. Too expensive
26. Taxes are high enough
27. Westbrook already has a pool
28. That is way too much to spend on a pool.
29. Too much
30. I'm not sure what the impact on taxes would be for maintenance. Is this increase just for construction? If so, for how many years would the increase be in effect?
31. Other amenities are higher priority
32. Too expensive
33. See above
34. See above
35. This city still is with planning and spending money. Put it towards our schools
36. Continued increases are unsustainable
37. Taxes
38. Too much

39. ABSOLUTELY NOT! Our taxes have gone up astronomically the past two years, and now the city wants to drain us for even more unnecessary spending!!!!
40. Too expensive.. buy a hose and sprinkler
41. Our taxes are too high now.
42. High taxes are going to drive hard working people out of town
43. Too much tax increase
44. None
45. paying that kind of money for something used for a very few months is unwise, foolish & irresponsible.
46. See above
47. er a double digit tax increase

Q18 - Projects that are larger in scale and/or complexity take longer to complete. Given this information, would you rather see: Other (please specify)

34 answers

1. Upgrade the current facility
2. What happened to the original plans for the large splash pad?
3. I'm not interested
4. lowered taxes stop spending money foolishly like that waste of a parking garageg
5. either a project that all citizens can enjoy, teaches swimming, or contributes to teaching food self-sufficiency
6. Improvements for access to presumpscott for swimming
7. A medium-scale water amenity that uses the best of the 'smaller' amenity items; something that would utilize and exemplify what is already present (focus on natural beauty & fortification of existing structures
8. Timeline is not an issue if amenity is accessible to ALL community (including Disabled, elderly, infants/youth, carless, and New Mainers) and has minimal negative environmental or positive environmental impact (i.e., appreciating out river).
9. Well planned and built water amenity, regardless of time.
10. PROJECTS OF THIS TYPE SHOULD BE JUDGED IN RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER CITY NEEDS
11. Do not spend more money on unnecessary stuff
12. Depends on what later means
13. Existing indoor pool access please
14. Specify timelines clarifying what 'sooner' and 'later' means. Kids should have access to forms of cooling off sooner from a public health and safety perspective, but if only so many funds exist, don't blunder a good project by trying to rush it. In the meantime, public awareness initiates of existing swimming locations that are accessible from downtown may help.
15. a small splash pad first, then an option that would take longer
16. Within 2-3 years
17. Add an outdoor/indoor option to the existing indoor pool
18. Fix what we already have with Cornelia Warren pool which has been a staple of Westbrook for a very long time. It is in a great spot that is already set up. It would not require using any other green space or purchase of other land. It was donated by Cornelia Warren with the intent that it would be accessible for all. It is only right for the city to maintain it and not spend money on another location for a different pool. It is near the black bridge which allows residents easy access from both sides of the river. It is walkable and easy for kids to get to. It is near the river and other recreational areas (basketball courts, ball fields, etc.). People can also swim in an indoor pool at the community center already.
19. I'd like to have the option with the lowest ongoing annual operations costs
20. money to get put toward public services for safety.
21. Large outdoor pool
22. Unsure at this time. More concerned with longevity of the amenity and cost than time it takes to build.
23. Investment in river swimming would be the best option!! We should be utilizing natural resources
24. Large or small, I would rather the city spend the money to get better, longer last equipment than cheap out in the name of budget. Going the cheap route will always be more expensive

in the long run. Spend the money up front, buy the nicest equipment available, put into place the proper maintenance techniques, and let's get a water feature that will last for generations.

25. Why not both a sooner option (smaller scale) and a later option (larger scale)? We could invest in two locations/spots.
26. Use the river. Make it better
27. Not if it's going to raise the home owners taxes!
28. Sprinkler Parties at *[redacted]*
29. Reallocate and make it happen
30. A smaller less expensive amenity FIRST, with robust planning and funding sourcing for a larger amenity LATER.
31. Phased project without sacrificing the end goal
32. I can't answer without knowing roughly how long and how good an amenity we'd end up with
33. We are in Westbrook for the long haul. Anything that would make Westbrook appealing for others that could raise property values and improve businesses and schools and other things in Westbrook I am all for.
34. the only wise investment for the cost is investing in the river, river front + access and the riverwalk

Q19 - What do you feel is an appropriate timeline for the creation of a new outdoor water amenity? Other (please specify)

39 Answers

1. Don't know
2. When the budget makes sense
3. 1 year
4. I don't see how any water project could take more than 2 years.
5. It should have been done last year! We had the funding!
6. 1-2 years
7. No preference- quality over speed for the commons!
8. Last year
9. Whatever time it takes to do it right.
10. 1 year
11. When property increases stop being ridiculous
12. Never
13. Up to the contractor building it but it doesn't take long to build a pool people do it every summer all over the country including Westbrook
14. never
15. 1 year FIX THE RIVER
16. 1 year
17. Immediately open existing pool to residents please
18. I don't see why approved permits/grants/construction plans wouldn't be attainable within 2-3 years, with a year's worth of construction added to that.
19. I sincerely don't have a thought here, I don't have any intel on how long something like this takes, or how to begin.. I
20. ASAP
21. However long it takes to do it right with lasting results!
22. Fix Cornelia Warren Pool as soon as possible so people have access to a clean, safe area to swim and get together with other families and friends.
23. 1-2 years
24. However long it takes to get grants and donations for a quality project
25. Do not do it until the money is available and affordable to residents.
26. If a house can be built in a month, I would expect it within a year. After all, it's our money!
27. It can be done in 6-18 months
28. As soon as possible
29. Less than 2 years
30. Make better boat launches, get rid of the docks. There need to be spot to have emergency boats to deploy
31. With all the regulations for the a river swimming area, I think it would take many years to get all approvals; unacceptable.,
32. 1-2 years
33. Again, spend the time and the money to get the best equipment. It will be cheaper and last longer in the long run. So take as much time as you need to get something nice and worth investing in.
34. Would have been ideal to update the old public pool, instead of destroy it, because a small privileged minority don't believe in their taxes paying for highly valued public amenities.

35. I'm against an outdoor pool at this time, that doesn't mean we can't take our time and thoughtfully have a plan for the future. If we set a 10 year timeline and worked on raising funds it could be more sustainable than putting it on the backs of taxpayers now.
36. In river or splash pad amenity in 1- years, outdoor pool in 5-7 Years.
37. After plans are approved-1 year
38. Never
39. Maybe phases? I am unsure how to answer this.

Q20 – Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

282 Answers

1. While I actually like the idea of a new outdoor pool, I think we should upgrade the one we currently have. I think there are more important things our taxes can go towards, but if it makes sense in the budget some improvements would be nice.
2. Taxes keep going up but not necessarily our income. It's too much.
3. I was very glad to see this survey/discussion as a resident of Westbrook. I am from Maine but have lived in Florida, Atlanta, and Boston and think both indoor and outdoor options in Westbrook/Southern Maine are far below average offerings elsewhere. Glad to see investment and development of this for our community!
4. you just killed us on the taxes, give us a few years to try to get above the water.
5. As a long time resident of Westbrook I am shocked the city is even asking for anything that would increase taxes. Especially after a tax increase that many people can't afford. The city council needs to be completely replaced with council members that actually care about the city and its residents.
6. As a resident of Westbrook. I am totally frustrated with the current administration. After an increase in taxes and the city underhandedly reevaluating properties and increasing taxes even more I for one do not want any type of water themed anything that will increase our taxes.
7. **BUILD THE POOL AND STOP BEING RACIST**
8. No water amenity. Taxes just went up by a large amount. People are struggling financially. Figure out how to reduce our taxes instead of spending more money. There are other needs besides having another pool and also unforeseen future needs. Maybe the indoor pool use needs to be prioritized to make time for more swim lessons, which are important. Figure out how to bus the kids from school for swim lessons. Too many new homes already have caused indoor pool to have long swim lesson wait list and money needed for schools to expand. Westbrook has too many homes now. We need a more rural atmosphere. People can go to other places to swim in lakes and enjoy the sand/beach and be able to visit somewhere else. People would have more money for gas etc., to get to those places if their tax bill was lowered.
9. Shoulda kept the old pool and rebuilt what it needed
10. Rather than increasing taxes for us, use federal and state grants, fundraising, private and corporate donations (for example Idexx...)
11. We had the funding for a splash pad and for some reason, the money raised did not go towards this. Furthermore, the community was never given a reason why. People worked hard to raise the funding for the splash pad project. .
12. Can't afford this.
13. Every school student should learn water safety
14. Look at other communities around the country and see what they have done, including large water parks with corporate sponsorships. If done right operationally, it should be able to break even or turn a small profit to be invested in future repairs and upgrades.
15. I've done my best with this. Several questions are difficult to answer, not knowing the utilization of the former pool, the number of soccer fields in Westbrook and their utilization, etc.
16. Thank you for having this survey and seeking much public input.

17. Westbrook has an indoor pool, summer is TOO short to spend millions on a new outdoor pool option.
18. Kids need to have a place for recreation during the summer/keeps them out of trouble.
Swimming saves lives
19. Taxes are too high already.
20. I think it's important to focus on the water amenity that exists which is the river, its health, cleanliness, accessibility. If we can't take care of what we have why spend money on something new.
21. Taxes are high enough and senior citizens are struggling to pay the recent increases in the property taxes.
22. Stop over taxing us!
23. It would be nice to see the existing indoor pool, have different free swim times for people who work during the day, and have swimming lessons for adults as well
24. Sell the new parking garage that was not needed and cost too much by far.
25. Please invest more in the library, to include more books and offerings (such as maker spaces)
26. I believe a pool for the children of Westbrook the opportunity to learn to swim is a worthwhile investment. In the past my family enjoyed both pools and it was a low cost family outing we could enjoy as a family. I also would love a pool to enjoy when I retire. Health issues limit my ability to do other exercise programs.
27. The extra costs for any amenity will no doubt fall on the elderly homeowners who are on a fixed income. While pensions do not rise, taxes do!
28. Stop spending monies on services that are extravagant think about realistic cost to live in Westbrook, you should be ashamed our taxes went up 23%
29. I think where you just made a significant tax increase that now is not the time to go spending money on a luxury at the cost to taxpayers. My husband and I are seniors living on a fixed income.
30. Guys the property taxes are nuts right now. This should be funded through grants and donations from local businesses for tax right offs. With all that we are paying are our teachers, rescue and dpw getting paid more? Where is the money going?
31. Stop spending money we can't afford to keep our house with all these tax increases. My taxes have gone up over 2k in 4 year literally stop [redacted] spending ridiculous money.
32. Not at all.
33. I would also like to see discuss of a couple of small scale splash pads in different locations like one outside the community center, another in the neighborhoods downtown- to allow people access to water use in times of high temps.
34. Want great-grandchildren to learn how to swim.
35. priority one lowering taxes so fixed income or retired people can afford to live here
36. I'd fully support a public pool in Westbrook! I love the idea, especially for group outings with my friends!
37. create an indoor facility to include all ages. Walking space for elderly or older adults year round, activities and creative programs that families could go to freely and be marketed so that everyone knows.
38. About water, but unrelated to this survey. After 7 years of pursuing legal action against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) over the risk posed to the developing brain by the practice of water fluoridation, the United States District Court of the Northern District of California has just ruled on behalf of the Fluoride Action Network and the plaintiffs in our

precedent-setting court case. A U.S. federal court has now deemed fluoridation an "unreasonable risk" to the health of children, and the EPA will be forced to regulate it as such. The decision is written very strongly in our favor, and we will share it in its entirety tomorrow. Below is an excerpt from the introduction of the ruling: "The issue before this Court is whether the Plaintiffs have established by a preponderance of the evidence that the fluoridation of drinking water at levels typical in the United States poses an unreasonable risk of injury to health of the public within the meaning of Amended TSCA. For the reasons set forth below, the Court so finds. Specifically, the Court finds that fluoridation of water at 0.7 milligrams per liter ("mg/L") – the level presently considered "optimal" in the United States – poses an unreasonable risk of reduced IQ in children..the Court finds there is an unreasonable risk of such injury, a risk sufficient to require the EPA to engage with a regulatory response...One thing the EPA cannot do, however, in the face of this Court's finding, is to ignore that risk."

39. I would love to see the pool reopened to the city of Westbrook community with a life guard on duty. People must show proper ID and the pool would be free to residents since tax payers are paying for it. Plenty of parking would be nice as well. This is something I agree with and would be too upset with tax increase. So many Westbrook residents are unhappy with recent tax hike. Seniors are thinking about selling as they can't afford it on fixed incomes.
40. A water amenity would be a great addition to our community if it was free to town and taxpayers. But since that isn't likely I don't think now is the time to spend any money on this when we have many homeowners very concerned about being able to afford their tax bill, we had to cut the school budget of what seemed like needed non-frivolous items like teachers/aides, and that we do have many community recreational options already like riverbank park, the community center - which has a pool- sports fields and school playgrounds. Things are only going to get more expensive. Let's work on keeping what we have going, community center rec programs, keep the schools strong for the kids and family support, and other services residents need, and try and keep costs down for people's property taxes. Spending money on a water amenity doesn't seem like a smart use of taxpayer/town money. Especially at this time.
41. We do not need another pool. Period. Most communities don't even have one pool let alone two. Plus, the current pool at the community center is rarely used unless it's swim meets/practices. I am very much against taking away sporting fields for another pool. If anything, we should be investing in field improvements (benches for players, new bleachers, turf).
42. Let's embrace our beautiful river!
43. Wake up liberals, stop wasting tax payer dollars!!
44. I'd love to see more flexible times for infant swim lessons. The current times are inconvenient for working families.
45. Cleanliness / trash pickup of waterside areas should be better attended (possible reoccurring community event?) And better scheduling for resupply & cultivation of fish in rivers & ponds
46. We are not in a position fiscally at this time to take on a new project. Please give taxpayers a break. If you cannot fully fund it by donation only, do not build it.
47. Yes, definitely. Giving the current state of property taxes in Westbrook, the City needs to hold on any new projects like this. We have lived in Westbrook 36+ years, and always have been proud on how well the City has balanced services to property tax. Unfortunately, we

can no longer say this! Our children were very active in both indoor and outdoor swimming activities. Swim lessons, on to becoming life guards, pool supervisors. So we don't take this lightly! Even though they are grown and gone, we would like to see young Westbrook residents have these same opportunities, as they were wonderful afterschool jobs & taught them responsibility. We can't get behind this project at this time. Westbrook's property taxes are no longer a better deal than the surrounding communities. A very sad statement to make!

48. Stop spending my money on stuff I don't want
49. People can not afford an increase in their property taxes. What world are you living in that makes you think this is okay. Native Mainers voices are displaced by transplants and it's not okay. They've made their money out of state local pay has not matched or kept pace with inflation.
50. No pool. Water feature at Cornelia Warren, not at the community center
51. no
52. Please prioritize community voices that are often not heard during this planning process! It's especially important Black, Indigenous, and People of Color here help decide and design the water amenity, given the awful history of segregation and pollution of Native land and water. I know this will take extra time and money to reach those people but PLEASE prioritize it!
53. Lots of good spaces already. Make better use of that.
54. There was no opt-out option on some of these questions which skews the results (#'s 8 & 13). I'm not in favor of any water recreational options but the questions required me to order the choices. I have a hard time believing the taxpayers in this city would want their taxes to increase AT ALL for something like this, especially after the increase we just had. LOTS of unanswered questions with this proposal.....
55. I'd love a splash pad! I don't really care about an outdoor pool.
56. stop using our taxes
57. We just had a huge tax increase! People will be losing their homes if this continues! Do what we did as kids, get a water hose.
58. Westbrook has always been a community based city and creating an outdoor space for neighbors and friends to gather is essential for its growth.
59. There should be an hour during which the pool would be open for Seniors and adults only.
60. No more spending on non-essential services
61. No
62. taxes are too high at this time to entertain such a venture.
63. We love swimming in natural bodies of water, but we have real concerns about the environmental impacts of installing filtered pools in the water system. The rivers are sacred and support a rich and diverse habitat of creatures year-round. In other towns, waters are drained to keep them "clean" for recreation, destroying the life they contain. We love the river here so much, but we love the creatures we share it with, too, and our needs aren't more important than their survival, especially as we face ever-expanding human impact on the environment and a mounting climate crisis. Thank you for seeking public input in an accessible way!
64. I prefer Westbrook look for ways to cut property taxes not add more of a burden!!!
65. love the expansion of this area for our community!! I look forward to enjoying the future facilities.

66. I really want an indoor swimming pool where I can easily go to swim laps, before 8am or after 4pm
67. I would prefer we use this money to improve our community center and make it have more features (bigger workout area, improved pool, overall nicer facility) or even to subsidize costs so people could use it for free if they are Westbrook residents.
68. Our taxes have been raised enough, would be nice if state finally tapped into marijuana tax money to fund special things such as this and to lessen the burden on tax payers. Thanks!
69. We have taken to long to get something like this done. Summer's are hot and relief that is fun and safe is important. Sounds like you haven't thought this through.
70. #7 ranked my choices even though my answer was #1, i.e., "no". This skews the answers. Please note responses 2-5 of question #7 are meaningless as YOU did an automatic ranking. Shame on you for such skewing. We already have an underutilized pool. I thought Westbrook Housing was going to give us a new ice skating rink as part of the trade for its new building next to the Stroudwater armory. What happened? Westbrook doesn't take care of the recreational areas it has. Public Works is too busy changing banners along William Clark Drive. Even sidewalks are not maintained, with foliage not being trimmed. Westbrook keeps giving its public land away to places such as WHA. What's left to building on that's not already being used? Your survey is extremely biased and meant to channel answers to get the answer you want. Who wrote such a biased survey? If we paid for this survey, taxpayers are once again getting the short end.
71. Truly AFFORDABLE subsidized housing for seniors who are on a fixed income....housing that has large comfortable rooms not tiny little cramped rooms and with storage and closets. 2. Pour more money into the Police and Fire departments...higher pay, improve their equipment and upgrade systems.
72. I'm confused. I thought funding for a splash pad was approved before the outdoor pool was removed.
73. Why was there not enough money to repair the old pool but can justify an enormous amount to build a new one?
74. With the already huge increase in taxes we do not need to see added increases for non-essential items at this time
75. It is so important to learn to swim , be comfortable in water as many adults boat , fish , kayak and do other water based activities . This is important to health and happiness . Broadening activities in childhood helps with the health of the population in adulthood . We have many lakes and the ocean for recreation making swimming a necessary life skill .
76. That is a senior citizen. I'm tired of my taxes going up, and I do not support, putting in a new pool for the city... Stop it stop taxing us.
77. Stop wasting our hard earned money. No money should be spent on any pool of any kind. You had one and well let it go and that's what you did.
78. Excited about these projects!!!
79. Do not need any more tax hikes!
80. I would like to see something happen at Westbrook Community center but it can't be booked out like the current pool. NO RESERVATIONS. WCC Indoor pool has become exclusive to bookings and subjected to scheduled events. It is not a public pool. Keep Lap swimming and aquatics programs AWAY from a new aquatics facility
81. No, thanks.
82. Not ONE penny for anything non essential!
83. Na

84. Our taxes were ridiculous this year so nothing new at all is best.
85. Upgrading the John Davan pool and locker room at the community center should be a priority.
86. I'm impressed by all the options that you've been thinking about!
87. The Cornelia Warren Pool was an amazing part of Westbrook. It was affordable except at the end, and kids had agency. It wasn't the fanciest, but it was ours, and it made a big difference in the summer, just being able to cool off and have fun for an hour or two. That is the spirit of what I would be excited to fund.
88. Thanks for thinking of some fun ideas to add value to our community!
89. Stop spending tax money on stupid [redacted].
90. Water is an incredible valuable resource. We are very very fortunate to live in a place that has access to an abundance of water. I hope that this is considered during this process. I also feel that if we're going to offer community amenities, the first consideration should be is this what the community needs most? I think that many many people in and around Westbrook would argue that if we're investing tens of millions of dollars into the community, maybe that investment should be in housing first, and then in amenities later.
91. Please stop looking for frivolous spending opportunities. Focus on spending the least amount possible and saving your taxpayers money. As a young, solo, disabled veteran homeowner, these property tax increases are just unreasonable. The fact that you're even considering this project is absolutely ludicrous given the recent tax hikes. Try cutting programs instead of adding to the already large budget.
92. We should trying to save money. Save the tax payer!!!
93. Preference for simple pool facility. Shallows and some swim lanes would suffice. Changing rooms and other buildings should be small. Proximity to a playground and or rec fields preferred but not necessary. Diving boards and a deep well likely extravagant and unnecessary. Modest scale and preventing scope creep are paramount to ensuring political feasibility of this project, so a smaller facility is savvy and prudent.
94. PLEASE more pools, either indoor or outdoor!!!
95. I'm very interested in this project
96. Reduce my taxes
97. Stop trying to raise our taxes!!!
98. Wish we could've just maintained the previous existing pool.
99. You're doing a great job 🌟
100. Whatever money there is (without tax increases) should be spent on deteriorating infra-structures such as roads, rather than luxuries.
101. Given the number of newer residents with no swimming skills it is imperative that free or very inexpensive swimming lessons are offered immediately. We have had one drowning on this summer on the river in Westbrook.
102. I'm actually a little shocked that you're even talking about spending millions of taxpayer dollars on an "aquatic amenity" when that last few years have seen property taxes skyrocket; housing, crime, and homelessness remain critical and inadequately addressed local issues; there is already a large public pool available to everyone at the community center; the Atlantic Ocean is easily accessible to residents of Westbrook; and you've given yourself a 750% raise. I would seriously urge you to reexamine your priorities.
103. Resources are clearly thin to support what we already provide in this community. Property taxes are up +/- 10% in each of the last two years. Please stick to the "must haves" and no more spending on "nice to have" projects

104. No
105. 24/7 Security guards around the homeless shelter and surrounding area. Given the number of crimes continually ongoing around that area and the dangers associated with the homeless humans therein, this grave danger is far more important for Westbrook to address instead of some silly outdoor water amenity.
106. In consideration of the design of the pool; a rectangle is preferred for ease of laps swimming. The last pool outdoor pool was stupid. The one before it was a good size but didn't like the sloped sides towards center of pool
107. Ways to pay for projectcharge for parking garage. If pool built offer season passes.....
108. My property taxes went up almost \$1000 per year. Stop dreaming up ways to put us FARTHER in debt! I may have to sell my property that I've owned for 24 years because I can't afford to live here any longer.
109. Many seniors like myself use the pools to stay healthy with swimming and aerobics. The loss of the outdoor pool had a big impact, esp to swimming.
110. You just raised my house taxes over 2000.00, I live by myself and am on disability. Try finding someone who wants this and have them donate to it.
111. The most important thing that Westbrook needs is bike lanes. Westbrook's roads are extremely dangerous to bicyclists. I have been knocked down by cars in Westbrook three times.
112. Swimming is the perfect lifelong activity. Young and old alike can benefit from lessons, classes, community activities and the fun a pool would allow.
113. Beaver Pond is right near downtown Westbrook. Put a diving board and a couple of life rings next to the shore of Beaver Pond and tell the kids, "There you go!"
114. Taxes are too high now and someone will just destroy it
115. WHAT CAN WE AFFORD?
116. Please,please consider all those who are drowning under property taxes currently. Educating our children is far more important
117. Where is info on whats happening at Rock Row?
118. Please consider the financial impact that you are proposing that would adversely affect the residents of Westbrook
119. Splashpads are cheaper and great for kids. Pools cost a ton and attract noise and trash.
120. Do not increase taxes any more please. It's hard to pay taxes now.
121. Taxes are too high as it is. New pools mean more people and money to take care of them.
122. Don't lose the money and keep tabs on who you're actually paying. What about the millions that got lost the last time we tried to get a pool.
123. With all the housing developments going up in our city I would like to propose that the developers pay /pickup the school taxes that are put on us here in our city. They develop and move on and we are stuck paying for the taxes of overflow to accommodate new students/staff.
124. As a kid I learned to swim in the old outdoor pool and would play in the fields near by. As I got old with my family on a fixed income I began swimming in the river. The black bridge was just one of the local kids swimming spot but with the trails running and pillars in the water made it unsafe. The Westbrook falls was another amazing swimming hole, jumping off the rock wall, from the trees, rope swings, but best of all the water falls. That

area was beyond unsafe, but it was AMAZING. Hidden caves behind the waterfalls were very cool, creepy but fun. I could go on and on about growing up in the brok, but most of the memories had the outdoor pool 100% of the time. The outdoor pool should have NEVER been closed, shut down and destroyed. Very very sad to see that whole area destroyed. Whoever was in charge of all that should have never shut it down, and should never go near the new one in replace of it.

125. Buses to the fresh water and ocean beaches instead of \$ on pools.
126. Westbrook needs to be fully transparent about projects, re-evaluations, taxes, spending, etc. I feel like Westbrook gets things done behind closed doors.
127. No outdoor water amenities. Westbrook needs to prioritize other items over short-term, seasonal low-use amenties.
128. It is a disgrace that we allowed the old outdoor swimming pool to fall into disrepair. If a new outdoor pool is ever built, it should go where the old one used to be.
129. More surveys regarding where tax money goes will always be appreciated
130. Westbrook has a pool. A new outdoor pool is a nice to have, not a must to have. Two splash pads, downtown and community center would suffice. Logically, paving Main St is a must to have. Water amenities are used 3 months out of the year, whereas Main St. is used 12 months out of the year and by a much larger audience. Reduce the cost of water amenities and invest in the infrastructure and complexion of Westbrook.
131. Property tax went up .I'm 68 years old and can't afford the increase now so another increase would kill me. I believe if you are over 65 and have no kids in the school system then you should get a break on tax increases. It's sad that the council raised taxes not thinking about the elderly who have been supporting there town for all these years and then get nothing in return but a bigger tax bill. It's wrong and this town is going down a [redacted] road .
132. Due to the substantial tax increase this year, it is evidence that that we will continue to see these increases in the future. This precludes further investment in recreational amenities. Money should be dedicated to the upkeep and maintenance of existing facilities.
133. Sounds like decision has been made. Westbrook has a high population of folks who do not know how to swim. This sounds like a terrible idea all the way around.
134. Low or no fee for families
135. A pool does not cost 5 million dollars even a pool below grade if it did then no homeowner out there would have one I know this would be larger but still does not cost that much however I grew up swimming in the river not the pool because I never had the money to go to the pool so why not swim in what is already there and made by nature keeping cost down just create a small beach area by the park maybe residents only to keep crowds down if that's possible
136. Because of the recent major tax increase will not support anything that would result in a tax increase.
137. These questions seemed to way more to the negative side of obtaining a water amenity. Perhaps the questions should have been more neutral!!
138. Splash pads are for a tiny portion of the population. Sports fields are primarily for children. The indoor pool likely needs an upgrade and is a good investment since it can be used year-round, by all ages. I support a large outdoor pool also and an enclosure would be great, but probably a cost that would need to be cut. The Riverton Pool closure has made the Davan Pool way too busy and I've stopped going as a result until things slow down.

139. OUR KIDS IN WESTBROOK HAVE LEARNED HOW TO SWIM HERE FOR WELL OVER 50++YEARS AND THE POOL HAS BEEN A SUMMER FOR MANY. KIDS AND ADULTS. YOU COULD ALSO LOOK TO BUSINESSES WHO MAY WANT HELP
140. You should have proceeded with the original plan when the project was funded.
141. The problem with the last pool was rules. Kids over 10 should be allowed without parents. The fee should be \$1-2 if anything. Once you pay you should be allowed in for the whole day. Parents should not be forced to stand with young kids in the very shallow end. A picnic area should be set up inside so people can bring food. They should sell food. The pool should be where the people are. It should be in the most dense part of Westbrook. Like behind Brelu or near new parking garage. The pool rules should make the less fortunate people of Westbrook feel welcome. The last outdoor pool had rules to make them not welcome. I would even consider a week or summer pass for kids. The money is only worth it if people other than "rich" stay at home parents can use it.
142. Fix the river. Its water make it clean for kids and people to swim in! DONT be stupid !!! Right by the park. ONLY Westbrook residents can use !!!
143. Children of Westbrook need a place for water recreation that would be safe for their use
144. should have invested in the old outdoor pool
145. Cut taxes.
146. It's about time we consider an outdoor water amenity. It would be great to have one similar to Funtown splash town or Aquaboggan.
147. Please open access to indoor pool at community center free to residents please.
148. the old pool should have been replaced
149. we need more outdoor learning & swimming
150. Would like to see pool with afternoon swim & scheduled morning lessons.
151. I'm sure we all know why cooling stations are important, especially as summers get hotter and the heat-island effect grows more for Westbrook residents. Inaccessibility to water for kids (think about whether this will be bike accessible) means they swing in riskier areas. Incorporating more green space/natural cooling areas is a no-brainer to me, the last thing we need to do is pour more concrete and further exacerbate the urban development.
152. believe me when I tell you that the water aerobics program at the community center is my favorite thing about our little city, and so grateful to everyone who makes it possible.
153. A pool already exists in the community center so there is no need for another. Funding was already obtained for a splash pad and the town didn't do it. To late. I would rather we go without a tax increase than have one for unnecessary improvements than this.
154. I was on board until I saw the taxes; I unfortunately feel that with the current economic situation, that while a water amenity would be nice, people just aren't capable of the tax increase. There are ways to travel to the beaches, or other neighboring water amenities.
155. I think it's really important that the city does active outreach to the parents of elementary school students in Westbrook specifically - small children are likely to use these amenities, and it's important to get the input of low-income households who may really rely on this resource with a changing climate (hotter summers) and need it to be within walking distance/area of public transit BUT also may have a difficult time with those tax increases. If you're not doing active outreach here, you may be missing some very valuable opinions and feedback.

156. Read the article in the AJ, and in a few years we'll need repairs to the schools. We need to focus on only mandatory fixes and investments. We need to keep spending in check to keep tax rates stable.
157. Think climate change. We need relief from the heat and we need something that holds up to storms and high water.
158. Property tax impacts are very important right now. I think community investment is very important, but I think there is significant concern that if the city takes on too much right now, it will blow back on the school budgets and people will be more likely to vote no on the budget. While prices and taxes remain high and every day costs are causing strain on personal budgets, I feel like the first priority for our household is ensuring the schools are well funded and not facing voter veto year after year.
159. I would like to see our taxes go down. The tax hike and second secret vote should not have happened, and Westbrook is going to lose a lot of people who can't afford it live here. Also, Westbrook is not a great place to live, so to have a tax hike when you already do not want to stay here is just going to drive more people out. ☺
160. I feel that an outdoor water amenity is not necessary given all of the other needs the city has now and will have in the years ahead. This city currently has a pool and there are pools in nearby communities to access as well. And there are lakes and rivers to swim in all throughout our local area. Our tax dollars could be spent in many other ways that would better help the City of Westbrook.
161. No
162. Received a 35% tax increase on home this year. 17% last year. Just like the auditorium at the junior high, no one uses it. There aren't enough people in Westbrook interested at that cost, especially on the increase in taxes.
163. I grew up in Westbrook and now live just over the Windham line. That outdoor pool was an indispensable part of my childhood, especially as a kid who grew up poor and couldn't afford other activities. I brought both my daughters to that pool when I became an adult. I really wish it was still there for all to use.
164. You should look at the indoor outdoor pools being build in Europe in every little town.
165. Our taxes are too high to begin with for people on limited incomes.
166. A pool would make a big difference in many many kids lives, kids that live here. Kids who parents aren't there (physically or mentally) every day for whatever reason. I also think something that is close to main st is a big factor. Centrally located.
167. No
168. Inner city kids need a place to cool off they can walk to. With global warming and the high temps this summer, getting Rec swimming should be a priority.
169. Westbrook had a fantastic outdoor pool. Town voted to fix it but you filled it in. Now it will cost more in time and money to replace. Less basket ball courts and soccer fields please. All ages can use a pool. Why does the rec dept think only of sports that limit who can participate? And summers are getting warmer. Who wants to pay to swim indoors on a summers day?
170. We need an outdoor pool, the city residents have already voted in favor of this. We don't want a splash pad, something where families of all ages can utilize and learn how to swim.
171. Lower taxes would be better do not spend money on something that does not make the city money.

172. Please fix Cornelia Warren Pool so everyone has access to a clean, safe pool. Please be sure to have lifeguards on duty and offer swim lessons. All Westbrook children should be able to access the pool free and have the opportunity to learn to swim. Perhaps Westbrook residents would pay a fee to help cover expenses, but Westbrook residents would have free access to encourage parents to bring their children to the pool and so kids who don't have money can swim in a safe place with supervision. Some money could be made from a snack bar. Please keep shower and changing rooms. Perhaps the pool could be salt water vs. chlorine??? Or heated with solar???
173. Having recently traveled in Iceland and seeing the quality of outdoor swimming facilities they have there, even in the smallest of communities, and the major role they play in bringing the community together and providing a central social hub, and remembering a similar role the pool used to play in our city, it would be detrimental to Westbrook to not invest in this. Westbrook should not strive to be a generic suburb. Westbrook should strive to be a community investing in itself and its people. If we do that, I think the expenses will in the end pay for themselves in a better and more valuable Westbrook
174. taxes are already too high.
175. Westbrook people spoke on this subject already a few years ago, we said we want an outdoor pool. But here we are again with city council and rec director asking to get rid of it yet again. The city received money for improvements. The city didn't act and ruined the chances that that money would be almost enough and now we are being told we have to pay. OK I'm fine with that. I already pay high taxes in Westbrook and I'd like something that my family can use. I'd like something that promotes building up the sports in Westbrook schools. Swimming in a river, is not a good idea. Someone drowned this summer! Rivers can be dangerous, and who is going to be cleaning the river? We have an indoor pool right now that is not being taken care of, the current director has been told repeatedly by the aquatics director that the pool needs cleaning and repair and he and the city will not do it. The city will also be having this conversation about replacing the indoor pool (like Riverton) if they continue to refuse to act. This survey is vague and bias and promotes fear mongering and its appalling. What happened to the money that was earmarked for an outdoor pool? Tell the tax payers where that money went. How about having a Capitol Campaign and involving the Westbrook vocational center's marketing program to help? I am more than happy to pay 102.30 starting right now. Sign me up!
176. The Community needs to teach swim lessons to kids and adults, due to recent drownings, this will only get worse. A splash pad will not do anything about that and can only be used for little little kids, instead bring families and the community together with an outdoor pool. seems it would be in the best interest of Westbrook if it wants to boost economic growth, to build an outdoor pool.
177. this is the worst survey I have ever taken. Had to search for ability to take this survey. Info given in the American Journal was incorrect
178. There is almost nothing in this town for teens to do. A pool is a safe and healthy place for kids of all ages and adults too. Summer is hot! And yet the outdoors is far more desirable than indoors. Teens will literally never "hang out" at an indoor pool, regardless of availability.
179. Having a pool in the community is wonderful, but there is a huge expense and liability with it. A splash pad offers a space that is useable for a greater age range, is safer and less costly to maintain.

180. Slow the roll. You just had a massive increase in the property tax. You need to find a way to reduce the people's tax expense, not increase it. What are you thinking? Your job is not to find new ways to steal money from the people that you work for. Maybe we need to find new employees that won't work against us. Your move.
181. Write a grant to get it funded, no tax payer funds. City budget is already to big.
182. Outdoor pool ridiculous given short season. No one wants to spend this money
183. Very keen on making our river more accessible for good swimmers like me; but believe a safe place for non-swimmers and beginners is crucial. Would have liked to answer "maybe" to #12 since it would depend on which space(s) were being considered
184. Recreational amenities are nice but we have much greater issues to tackle with tax dollars. No improvements in recreational facilities should occur without full grant or corporate funding, no staffing costs and little maintenance costs to the city.
185. I think a splash pad would be a great way to include a water facility. Lower upkeep than an outdoor pool since staffing of lifeguards can be difficult especially when school is back in session. Then utilizing funds for the indoor pool to provide swimming lessons would be great since most are middle of the day on weekdays. Most families then go to Goldfish School which means \$\$ goes to a private company rather than back into the town. My last comment would be whatever is decided get installed by a reputable company and done correctly, not on the cheap where the cost outlives its use
186. Regardless of the decision to be made in a water amenity, the issue of children, teens and adults that are unable to swim needs to be addressed sooner than later. This is a life safety issue. I watched many kids teach others to swim in the outdoor pool. Whether we can make this a reality again or not, we cannot wait 2-5 years to address this issue. I am committed to helping find a solution that keeps our children and residents safe.
- [Redacted]
187. I grew up with the old outdoor pool. I used the newer one and when I had children we all used it. I use the indoor pool 3 mornings a week and when they have open swims. I do understand that there are lots of financial needs but we have always had a place where we could swim outdoors in the summer. I had 5 siblings and we all used the pool. My children and grandchildren used the indoor and outdoor pools. I think even if it is even a smaller and not as deep that a pool would be beneficial to our community.
188. Westbrook has had an outdoor swimming pool for generations. It appears we will continue to have hotter days in years to come. The amount of low income families in Westbrook, I feel warrants some type of cooling off facility.
189. The public forum format is gimmicky, divisive, and not disability friendly.
190. People can't afford to pay their taxes currently. They are having a hard time putting food on their table and paying for the basics but yet you are proposing multimillion dollar water amenities. Westbrook cannot afford this. This survey should only be given to those that are paying taxes in Westbrook.
191. Regarding question 19, something could be done in less than 2-3 years, such as improving access to river for swimming with riverbank improvements. Question 11 and 12 are more of a maybe regarding loss of soccer field or other open space. Preferences would be no space lost. Answer, maybe to both. Is there a shortage of soccer fields now or enough? Soccer might be growing with new Portland team!
192. Tax burden is already too high. A pool is not a necessity.
193. I want to be able to swim outdoors.

194. We need to see build out estimates accompanied by operational costs for all big projects in the city, as a matter of practice.
195. If you are going to add a pool or splash pad, you need to make sure that you have enough long term budgeted resources and maintenance resources allocated and available so the facility does not turn to a facility that costs more to fix than it does to tear down or replace. Too many local towns make the mistake in investing in pools, but never put enough maintenance money in the budget to keep up with it. Double whatever you were thinking and it will be an asset to the community otherwise dont waste the money. I have years of experience with local pools and towns not willing to fund proper maintenance and it always ends the same - a gross hole in the ground that is not used by anyone.
196. Not at the moment.
197. you should have built the splash pad with the non tax pay money when you had it! Instead of letting it go to waste. people already told you what they wanted, a splash pad! But here we are again spending 8gs surveying people, again. Crazy. build a nice splash pad, we already have a pool inside.
198. With the climate in maine changing we need to have options for people who don't have or can't afford air conditioning. Also everyone should learn how to swim.
199. We don't want a pool or property tax to go up. Fix the current indoor one. Don't be ridiculous
200. Utilize the indoor pool more for our students. Make swimming instruction part of PE. For elementary students.
201. 33% increase in tax for me but ridiculous "garage" , under average schools and rats in residential neighborhoods. Get your act together before asking for even more taxes
202. For now none
203. If an outdoor water amenity isn't possible, if more open swim/ lap swim times at the Davin Pool could be added, that would be great! But if pool changes/add ons aren't possible, a splash pad would be great. It would be a lot easier to get to and closer for those living outside of Portland. Thank you!
204. I believe investment in an outdoor pool may be good in 5-8 years from now, but not at this current time. Given the current economic situation the country is in I believe it is smarter to hold off on the investment for now. I believe it would be smarter to upgrade our high school and more importantly our infrastructure. Such roadways, traffic lights, sidewalks, schools (high school specifically). Westbrook has been good about redoing roadways and traffic lights (recently Prides Corner light) which is great. I think we need to continue that path as there has been a lot of large scale developments completed or in the process of being built over the last 4+ years. I love that Westbrook has this devolpment happening and attracting people to the area but we need to be able to support that.
205. In the case of favoring a splash pad, multiple splash pads should be an option in order to increase accessibility. With cost of splash pad being perhaps a tenth of regular outdoor pool, why not several of them? Access challenges are then much reduced, a big bonus. Also, splash pads require a much less operational cost than regular outdoor pools.
206. Taxes are too high for what we get from Westbrook. No more unnecessary spending. Bring back big item trash pickup.
207. ONLY add amenities if 100% grant funded or corporate underwriting, including staffing and maintenance until the city and state rework property taxation formulas to bring relief.

208. A splash pad at river bank park along with a swimming hole/ beach would be amazing
209. Instead of a direct tax on this project, whatever happens, make paying for this project as an option so that who cannot afford the increase, like senior citizens, won't have to pay for it.
210. Taxes are too high. The schools have gone downhill since they have been turned into refugee camps. Westbrook has turned into a rat hole under current management. Stop wasting time and money and get your act squared away.
211. There needs to be an easily walkable splash pad which does not require staffing or that is fenced in. This option can be for those that know how to swim and those who do not. No swimsuit needed, no age restriction and allows access by wheelchair or other means. The people who need this the most are near the downtown area and don't always have access to transportation or funds to pay to use a pool. They also don't always have access to internet to make a reservation or even complete this online survey. We need to take the fastest and least expensive option. There must have been plans for the splash pad that was previously approved. Let's use what we already had planned, but where the funds were used for other items! This feature will be used by a lot of non-homeowners. The taxpayers are willing to help, but don't make it to the point we cannot afford to stay in our own homes especially since home values continue to increase.
212. I loved the outdoor pool when it was there, however, it didn't seem that it was maintained properly. So was not surprised to see it fail. It needed more community efforts to keep it properly maintained. I think this community has a lot of talent, all it takes would be a coordinator to rally the interests of handy pple to help maintain another pool if built. Or even build a new pool!
213. Our taxes are high enough... No more public parks and recreation costs! Let them cool off in sprinklers or pools at home...
214. The City of Westbrook needs to prioritize where they are investing taxpayers money. Recently we cut the school budget but are going to spend money on a second pool? Our School, Library, Public Works, Police, Fire, Dispatch, City Hall departments all have needs that are not currently getting funded or invested in. We need a new high school. We need a new fire station. We need to update the Police department as well as dispatch center. We need to maintain our current facilities and fields. We do not need a new pool, we have a pool, people want a pool, WANTS vs. needs. It is wasteful and blatantly disrespectful to our residents who are already struggling financially, to impart any more tax burden on them, besides already existing city services, is an outrage. Our City needs to prioritize funding what is already in place. It is ridiculous we are even talking about spending money on something that may be utilized 3 months out of the year. Furthermore, nobody has considered upkeep and or safety. If there is a new water amenity will we be hiring life guards? Somebody drowned and died this past year in the river and our public safety was ill equipped for water emergencies, will we be investing more in public safety? Is there liability associated with a water amenity and has the City considered that? Overall this project is a terrible investment for the city with little to no return for its citizens and I think it is generally wasteful. If funds are secured through grants or private investors by all means build whatever is deemed reasonable, but no Tax dollars should be spent on this, period.
215. Please stop spending our money. After the unnecessary tax increase that just happened, we don't need another increase. What Westbrook needs to do is simple. Stop digging our debt hole bigger and look into the future. If Westbrook was a person, their house

would be foreclosed, they'd be evicted, and new management would take over. Ever heard of a savings account? This is ridiculous. Gary Raardon stated at the 2nd meeting there would be large requests for spending in the upcoming couple years. Do we really want all that going on at the same time? Take a break people! Spend, spend, spend! It's what Westbrook does best! I am a Westbrook native and I've never been as disappointed in this city as I have been the last couple years. We aren't Boston, never mind Portland. Stop treating us like we are and spending our money and inviting thousands in. Take care of your long-term residents before all others. I am proud to be from this city, but that feeling is diminishing to ashamed.

216. You failed this and us already. The splashpad should have already been built. You tore down the pool and changing house, with seemingly no plan in place, when there were already federal funds secured and then you let them expire. You screwed up, we should NOT have to pay the price for your lack of vision, and now you're attempting damage control. The upcoming elections will reflect that.
217. yah i think you should stop spending money and fix the things that are wrong in this city.
218. Swimming in an outdoor pool versus an indoor pool are very different. An outdoor pool provided a wonderful atmosphere, made many memories, fresh air, sunshine, and a feeling that can't be replicated in an indoor pool. A splash pad does not provide the same experience as an outdoor pool. A splash pad would be a good option if it was an add-on to the construction of a built-in pool.
219. Better water access to the river for boats / emergency access
220. In order to mitigate the increase on taxes, I believe it is a good idea to charge residents of surrounding towns /cities to use the facility while keeping it free or tax-funded for Westbrook residents.
221. Someone at meeting 2 said maintenance would be less with a river pool because of no need for chemicals. I don't want to swim in a river that could be polluted by kids peeing, leaving germs etc.... A splash pad would be fine if it were in addition to a pool. You can't teach kids to swim in a splash pad and it's typically used only by young children.... The 2 kids who drowned, one this year and one several years ago were both immigrants. With more immigrants moving into Westbrook, it's important to teach them to swim. Although both drowned in natural bodies of water, if they had learned to swim in a pool, they might not have drowned....While my husband and I can swim, we go to Kiwanis pool with our grandchildren who don't live with us. We are thinking of them when wanting a new pool.....We already have a lot of outdoor Rec facilities for tennis, basketball, sports teams etc. Perhaps some people want to upgrade them, but at least they are there, unlike an outdoor pool.....We don't go to the indoor pool in Westbrook because the time available for the public is extremely limited and inconvenient; also an indoor pool provides a very different experience from outdoor.
222. The city should focus more efforts on the existing residents and the city itself and reduce its focus on importing new residents and attempting to "grow" the city. Let's focus on maintaining and improving what we have.
223. Would like to see increase's availability for afternoon, evening and/or weekend time slots for both older/seniors 55+ and also Family/General swim times. My family used the indoor pool a lot more in the 1990's and early 2000's when there seemed to be more available pools times for the above mentioned people and groups.

224. just bring back the pool.. it served the citizens well for decades! It shouldn't be that hard to raise the funds to help offset the costs.. it was a beloved part of Westbrook that was basically run into the ground by the local government failing to maintain it year after year the hours at the end were very restrictive- the price to use was restrictive as well.. a city pool should be nearly free for its residents... in the 80s and early 90s it was a quarter ... keeping it very affordable is key to making sure its used. I would argue that it should operate at a loss every year.. its a city pool!! the tax base should be used to run it.. same way nobody bats an eye at the mayors paycheck...
225. No
226. Please please please do NOT sacrifice soccer and or baseball fields without a contingency plan to replace them. We are and will be growing soccer as a youth sport in popularity and need space and fields for kids to play and practice!
227. As a lifelong resident of Westbrook, property owner and taxpayer-it is reprehensible that the city is entertaining a costly amenity that would force me to pay for the recreational activities of others. This is socialism at it's finest. The selfish thinking and spending needs to stop in the community.
228. You could have just built the splash pad you already had the grant money for. This city becomes a worse place to live every year with this city government.
229. Please don't increase tax bills again. People are struggling.
230. Budget should be minimized where at all possible. No NEW SPENDING.
231. As much as I would love a splash/small pool within walking distance of my home (community center) I think 10 million is a bit excessive but Unlike many resident I'm ok with my taxes going up for things that make our community more fun safe accessible and equitable to children in our community
232. Again, investment in riverbank improvements to allow for in-river swimming would be the best choice out of any of the options/ideas floated above. We are sadly lacking this in the Westbrook area.
233. We should have never removed the outdoor pool!!! Just like many things the city decides to discontinue or remove.
234. By putting the bill on people who will never use it is an atrocity. My rent goes up so kids can use a pool that will more than likely get abused because they use it as their personal toilet. I'm sorry but that's just not right.
235. Climate change is making our temperatures rise. Some of us can leave, go to beaches; others can not. Having a 'cooling' spot for families that don't have the means to travel to beaches or buy beach passes, is essential to Having a great community. That said, there also needs to be supervision. Children without parents, roudy people and littering would diminish a great community resource to another place people don't want to visit.
236. You should have followed through with updating the previous outdoor pool that was funded with grants instead of using that money for other outdoor projects. The Community Center is not an ideal area. The roads get backed up already with commuters, which make it difficult getting in and out of the community center. I question how the current parking lot will be able to accomadate more cars.
237. We need places where kids can learn to swim, especially those that come from economically disadvantaged homes. While many like the idea of a splash pad, kids can't learn to swim there and older kids and community members wouldn't benefit from it.
238. Get your priorities straight! This is a joke

239. A splash pad is safer and would be a fun draw to Westbrook. It's both a play area and art/fountain at the same time. No lifeguards needed!
240. I strongly believe that investing in recreation facilities (whether they are water/non-water amenities, nature-based, or programmed/non-programmed) is an essential component to making Westbrook an even more livable and stronger community. Please continue to invest more in these services.
241. I worked with foster kids previously none knew how to swim.I enrolled them in swimming lessons in Westbrook as well as using both pools. They all had memberships. I used the outside pool for exercise when I had bilateral knee replacement.I also used both pools for aquatic therapy as well as swimming. When you made it so the membership couldn't be used at both pools I stopped taking the kids. The memberships were paid by DHHS. When the fees went up I went less. The new director you had was like a dictator. I saw families that preferred to go to state parks because of her attitude. I used to swim a lot at the pools but rarely do now because of the increase in senior fees. I live less than 1/4 mile from the community center. A pool is a real drawing point for families moving to Westbrook. We need to reach teens that can't swim one drowning is too much. Please invest in an outdoor Pool.
242. More awareness of the Friends of Presumpscot River non profit!
243. Thank you for taking the time to consider and research provide community feedback. My family and many families we know will travel near and far for a good splash pad. The splash pads we visit and love the most are those in proximity to/next to a playground.
244. The public pool was a rare & wonderful community space that people could come together, cool off, get exercise, allow kids to play safely, parents teaching little ones to swim, and we need it back. It's not getting cooler in summer. And there aren't community spaces so welcoming & affordable for everyone to relax & connect.
245. Could the quarry be swimmable? It would be a phenomenal spot and a huge tourism feature.
246. Stop raising our taxes. We need a new mayor.
247. After receiving a 30% increase in property taxes, the City of Westbrook should not be forcing another property tax increase down our throats... and that is exactly what they are doing...
248. LOWER OUR TAXES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
249. I believe that swimming is as important as baseball, football, soccer, softball ice hockey, etc. We have many of these amenities in the city, why not a swimming outdoor area? Our taxes go to the making of fields for these sports over and over again so why not consider the swimming outdoors too! Schools will always get there tax increases when needed. But a pool that's probably not going to get tax approval by most people unless they are involved in it so maybe now is the time to do it! It's going to cost but we pay for other things that we don't necessarily need or want with our taxes! Also we should look into grants,funding, business support and fund raising etc to off set some of the costs. Also we need to remember that there are kids that don't have transportation to get here an there we need to consider that also in our planning of locations etc.
250. Instead of taxing residents you should look for grants and ask businesses to sponsor (like Idexx)
251. I'm against investment in an outdoor pool facility at this current time, unless it was funded with minimal impact to residential property tax rates. A potential investment of 15

million to use it 12 weeks of the year isn't responsible in this economy. If my opinion is in the minority and we are to build an outdoor pool we should do it the right way and build something that will stand the test of time and be as inclusive as it can be to different age groups. A pool/splashpad combo would allow that. I would also not be against a reasonably priced splashpad project in Riverbank Park. As I think it would make our downtown more of a destination. Also, if you are to design something don't overcomplicate it or be one of the "first" to try something without a proven track record (looking at you geothermal pumps that failed in the middle school). Prioritize function over fashion and fancy. We're too small to take risks and be aquatic pioneers. I think this process was bias against low income folks and to non-english speaking members of our community. If we're to spend \$8,000 on a community feedback process, figure out a way to include all voices. I could have created this survey and played nice on a microphone in front of a bunch of people for way less. Kudos to City Staff for being prepared with information and being able to field most questions.

252. Are you kidding me? With the tax increases we just experienced? With zero relief in site. We certainly don't need this now.
253. Please Do Not put this on the Home owners t Taxes, if you v want it fundraiser it another way! We have other issues more important than cooling off for a very short period of time.
254. Splash pads are no good, we want a pool. Only [redacted] wants a splash pad.
255. I would support an indoor water amenity, a new one over improvements to existing, if a pool was declared the best option. I would look at utilizing the existing indoor pool, longer available hours, more staff, fixes if issues. Lots of facts missing - what is current indoor pool limitations, how many people use it, how many people are expected to use a new outdoor pool, what problem are we trying to solve, why did we jump right to outdoor pool opposed to other outdoor amenities, what are the operating costs of outdoor vs indoor vs other amenity?
256. We CAN do more than one thing with appropriate planning. Let's get the low hanging fruit, like a small splash pad and river swimming now, (low cost high benefit) and an outdoor pool later (which with planning and funding could be a moderate cost high benefit amenity).
257. If improving recreational opportunities we should focus on multi-seasonal projects and work to secure grants and corporate funding, with low maintenance costs.
258. Sharing past or current data on how many patrons the outdoor pool had annually, how many inquiries and patrons at current indoor pool. Estimated number of visitors to a splash based from neighboring communities. Potential revenue for local businesses.
259. You don't represent the Westbrook I grew up in. Westbrook tries to be something it's not and it's pathetic. It's part your fault for pushing stupid stuff like this. And then paying for a stupid survey.
260. Putting the new outdoor pool at the Westbrook Community Center brings further from the walk ability of the downtown area. The best location for the pool would be off the river walk. We can forgo space at the Riverbank Park and not lose the soccer fields.
261. I'm disappointed in the way the old outdoor pool facility was handled. Now you want a new one located further away so that low income families would struggle to get to. The property tax hit this year hurt and you slap a water amenity on us for millions? Please don't do this, you're breaking our backs.

262. Please think about people on a fixed income that have lived here all their lives that cannot afford higher taxes. Especially with talk of new fire station, up grades to high school fields and we desperately need updates to our High School.
263. If a water amenity were to be created, I would suggest taking into account building in a safer, monitored location like the community center rather than a public location with less monitoring and more risk to children's safety and privacy.
264. Those of us on fixed incomes need taxes to come down for a change! Yes, I have the homestead exemption but having taxes go up \$900+ over 2 years is just crazy. All the building stuff that has been going on over the past several years was supposed to help taxes come down but it did just the opposite. Now, just like in my life, anything extra (and not needed to survive) in the City needs to be a sad, hard "no."
265. There is no need for an outdoor pool in Maine. Especially since the current indoor pool is barely used. Most towns don't even have a single pool. Other towns will flock here and utilize our services at no cost to them.
266. I answered yes on question 11, but want to clarify that I'm okay with losing a recreation field ONLY if it's for a pool, not a splash pad.
267. Being a swim instructor, having any additional spaces with water to connect people to this element is so important. Swim lessons, water therapy, school groups, open swims, adult swim programs, water safety courses, splash pads for hot summer days. It would be so amazing for our growing community!
268. First, I think it's important to clarify that as a citizen in favor of an outdoor water amenity, I am only asking to replace what was taken away. If the original pool could not have been repaired it should have been (immediately) replaced. Instead the city made a decision that is now backfiring and masking their error behind a "feasibility study." I understand to fund the replacement it would still require initial up front costs. I suggest that a committee comprised of Project Sponsor (city officials), a Project Manager (City staff person or a consultant) and local constituents move forward with a proposed, time defined plan that would research permitting processes and costs, design/build concepts and estimated costs and develop a specific financial plan that would not create hardship for the homeowner (business donations, grants, foundation partnerships and fund raising). This proposal could include a predetermined #of concepts to bring back to the community for review and rank vote for design. Thresholds for percentage of funding would be part of the plan (for example, 20% tax funded, 40-50% business donations and 50-60% grants/foundations) or a matching fund model. There seems to be a shortsightedness by some city officials and constituents that a water feature, more so a pool, only adds expense with no return. With a pool and instructional programs, you create a life-long health based activity; you create a feeder system for school and competitive swimming; you provide advanced water safety enthusiasts that may become future employees at community camps and pool facilities (lifeguards, future instructors); you create ambassadors for safe water activities. There also needs to be more cooperative interaction between the city council, planning board and school board to maximize city expenditures and bring benefit to all. Working in silos never benefits anyone.
269. Put a small scale splash pad in the park downtown where the playground is with a small wading pool and make part of the river a free swimming area with a long deck along the edges.
270. We need to make Westbrook a destination for all families, we always talk about investing in our youth but our youth doesn't have anything they can do in our city. 95% of all

kids are smoking weed in middle school. We need to invest this way as well! Keep our kids off the streets and give them social interaction.

271. I know I don't live in Westbrook but I do work in Westbrook and visit the community center often. I would love an outdoor water feature but adding to the existing indoor pool would be great too. Maybe adding an outdoor portion to the indoor pool that can be closed off in the fall winter and spring months.
272. The river ideas sound cool but I'm more concerned about the environmental impact. The thing I want most is more river access along the newly preserved land (in a wild way)
273. Please stop pushing an outside pool. Tell [redacted] to calm down and give it up.
274. The misinformation continuing to circulate as a result of the Warren complex pool closing is hurting this effort and causing division. One party continues to claim it was fully funded and acts as though city council shut it down for no reason. Not helpful.
275. Hiring consultants was a big waste of tax dollars
276. It's extremely absurd that the city failed to use a federal grant to complete the original plan for an outdoor splash pad. Now we want to raise taxes AGAIN to spend money on a ridiculously frivolous project. We already have an indoor pool and easy access to other city's water features. There's no need to spend millions of dollars to rebuild an outdoor pool when the city just tore down the old one and squandered away the previous funding. It's Maine, we have thousands of options for swimming, and it doesn't even get that hot in the summer anyway!
277. I've heard a lot about tracing kids to swim. To me that is the parents responsibility, not The city of Westbrook
278. There is no NEED for a water amenity, if people WANT it let them figure out how to fund it without tax dollars. If people are so concerned with teaching kids to swim, the school department needs to make it happen with the current pool. Spending millions on something that would be used for a small fraction of the year is insane. Needless to say I'm totally against spending any tax dollars.
279. Pickleball courts!
280. It seems like someone has decided they want a pool and this process is about getting the community to at least agree to one of these options even if ultimately most don't want this, at least right now. Given the current climate and recent tax increase, this should be paused and reconsidered some time in the future. We already have a pool.
281. paying that kind of money for something used for a very few months is unwise, foolish & irresponsible. The only wise investment is in the river, river access & river walk.
282. If we have to, this pool should be supported or the cost mitigated by user fees, which can reflect a person's ability to pay (low/no cost swim lesson for low income, full cost for those to pay, etc.

Question 7

Please rank the following in terms of what is most important to you. Please arrange the items from top to bottom in order of importance.

Ranked Choice Voting Exercise

Each table represents a round of voting allocation. With each round, the option with the lowest tally of votes is removed and the votes are reallocated to those respondents next highest ranked choice. Each chart shows the lowest scoring option in grey and indicates where those votes were allocated to in the next round.

Total number of responses: 620

Round 1	Swim lessons (water safety-focused programming)	115	19%
	Recreational swimming (non-programmed swimming)	231	37%
	Non-swimmable water play (ex: splash pad or wading pool)	86	14%
	Boating and/or fishing	57	9%
	No water-based amenity	131	21%

Round 2		Number of Round 1 votes	Reallocated votes	Sum of Round 1 votes + reallocated votes	% of total
	Swim lessons (water safety-focused programming)	115	9	124	20%
	Recreational swimming (non-programmed swimming)	231	21	252	41%
	Non-swimmable water play (ex: splash pad or wading pool)	86	13	99	16%
	Boating and/or fishing	57			0%
	No water-based amenity	131	14	145	23%

Round 3		Number of Round 2 votes	Reallocated votes	Sum of Round 2 votes + reallocated votes	% of total
	Swim lessons (water safety-focused programming)	124	34	158	25%
	Recreational swimming (non-programmed swimming)	252	53	305	49%
	Non-swimmable water play (ex: splash pad or wading pool)	99			0%
	Boating and/or fishing				0%
	No water-based amenity	145	12	157	25%

Question 14

Of the range of options considered so far, rank the following in terms of preference. Please arrange the items from top to bottom in priority.

Ranked Choice Voting Exercise

Each table represents a round of voting allocation. With each round, the option with the lowest tally of votes is removed and the votes are reallocated to those respondents next highest ranked choice. Each chart shows the lowest scoring option in grey and indicates where those votes were allocated to in the next round.

Total number of responses: 609

Round 1		
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool	66	11%
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool with enclosure to extend the useful season of the pool/allow for use during weather events	117	19%
Outdoor pool, smaller than previous outdoor pool	9	1%
Splash pad, smaller scale	20	3%
Splash pad, larger scale	66	11%
Improvements to the riverbank to allow access to in-river swimming	66	11%
Filtered pool located within the Presumpscot River (using the water of the river)	61	10%
Invest in existing indoor pool facility	53	9%
No investment in water amenities at present	151	25%

Round 2	Total number of Round 1 votes	Reallocated Votes	Sum of Round 1 votes + reallocated votes	% of total
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool	66	2	68	11%
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool with enclosure to extend the useful season of the pool/allow for use during weather events	117	2	119	20%
Outdoor pool, smaller than previous outdoor pool	9			0%
Splash pad, smaller scale	20		20	3%
Splash pad, larger scale	66		66	11%
Improvements to the riverbank to allow access to in-river swimming	66	1	67	11%
Filtered pool located within the Presumpscot River (using the water of the river)	61	2	63	10%
Invest in existing indoor pool facility	53	1	54	9%
No investment in water amenities at present	151	1	152	25%

Round 3	Total number of Round 2 votes	Reallocated Votes	Sum of Round 2 votes + reallocated votes	% of total
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool	68		68	11%
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool with enclosure to extend the useful season of the pool/allow for use during weather events	119	2	121	20%
Outdoor pool, smaller than previous outdoor pool				
Splash pad, smaller scale	20			
Splash pad, larger scale	66	9	75	12%
Improvements to the riverbank to allow access to in-river swimming	67	5	72	12%
Filtered pool located within the Presumpscot River (using the water of the river)	63	2	65	11%
Invest in existing indoor pool facility	54	2	56	9%
No investment in water amenities at present	152		152	25%

Round 4	Total number of Round 3 votes	Reallocated Votes	Sum of Round 3 votes + reallocated votes	% of total
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool	68	6	74	12%
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool with enclosure to extend the useful season of the pool/allow for use during weather events	121	11	132	22%
Outdoor pool, smaller than previous outdoor pool				
Splash pad, smaller scale				
Splash pad, larger scale	75	8	83	14%
Improvements to the riverbank to allow access to in-river swimming	72	16	88	14%
Filtered pool located within the Presumpscot River (using the water of the river)	65	8	73	12%
Invest in existing indoor pool facility	56			
No investment in water amenities at present	152	7	159	26%

Round 5	Total number of Round 4 votes	Reallocated Votes	Sum of Round 4 votes + reallocated votes	% of total
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool	74	7	81	13%
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool with enclosure to extend the useful season of the pool/allow for use during weather events	132	18	150	25%
Outdoor pool, smaller than previous outdoor pool				
Splash pad, smaller scale				
Splash pad, larger scale	83	11	94	15%
Improvements to the riverbank to allow access to in-river swimming	88	35	123	20%
Filtered pool located within the Presumpscot River (using the water of the river)	73			
Invest in existing indoor pool facility				
No investment in water amenities at present	159	2	161	26%

Round 6	Total number of Round 5 votes	Reallocated Votes	Sum of Round 5 votes + reallocated votes	% of total
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool	81			
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool with enclosure to extend the useful season of the pool/allow for use during weather events	150	42	192	32%
Outdoor pool, smaller than previous outdoor pool				
Splash pad, smaller scale				
Splash pad, larger scale	94	29	123	20%
Improvements to the riverbank to allow access to in-river swimming	123	8	131	22%
Filtered pool located within the Presumpscot River (using the water of the river)				
Invest in existing indoor pool facility				
No investment in water amenities at present	161	2	163	27%

Round 7	Total number of Round 5 votes	Reallocated Votes	Sum of Round 5 votes + reallocated votes	% of total
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool				
Outdoor pool, similar in size to previous outdoor pool with enclosure to extend the useful season of the pool/allow for use during weather events	192	68	260	43%
Outdoor pool, smaller than previous outdoor pool				
Splash pad, smaller scale				
Splash pad, larger scale	123			
Improvements to the riverbank to allow access to in-river swimming	131	46	177	29%
Filtered pool located within the Presumpscot River (using the water of the river)				
Invest in existing indoor pool facility				
No investment in water amenities at present	163	9	172	28%

APPENDIX C



Westbrook Water Talk: Your Voice Matters!

Meeting One - Craig's Notes

Where are we now? A Retrospective on
Westbrook's Water Amenities

6pm to 8pm, Spruce Room, Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street, Westbrook

About the Meeting

Context and Objective

This is the first of three meetings to inform the public and collect public opinion about the future of our public outdoor aquatic amenities. The objective of this first meeting is make sure everyone understands why the Cornelia Warren Outdoor Pool was decommissioned in 2020 and the options and opportunities going forward.

Water Talk Public Engagement Process

Meeting One	August 15	Where We Are Now
Meeting Two	August 28	What Do You Think?
Survey	Aug 28 – Sep 15	What Do You Think?
Meeting Three	November 14	Leading Options Feedback

Today's Agenda

6:00	Opening
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Westbrook's Assistant City Administrator Angela Holmes will welcome everyone and kick-off the meeting.• Facilitator Craig Freshley will explain the public input process and the format for this particular meeting.
6:10	Where We Are Now
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angela will provide an overview of Westbrook's past outdoor public water amenities (including outdoor pools over the years and the use of the Presumpscot River for recreational swimming), the circumstances that led to the decommissioning of the Cornelia Warren Outdoor Pool, an overview of citizen-led initiatives, available grant funding and limitations on how it can be used, and options and estimates that have been gathered thus far.

- Westbrook elected officials and other City Staff will be invited to share their own perspectives on where we are now.
- Members of the public will also be invited to share perspectives on where we are, and ask questions.

7:45	The Process Going Forward
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Craig will remind everyone of upcoming meetings and plans for the public input survey.
7:50	Final Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Angela and Robyn will offer final comments and adjourn the meeting.

8:00 **Adjourn**

Ground Rules

- This first meeting is all about understanding. Opinions later.
- Let's assume best intentions and demonstrate respect.
- We want to hear all questions and all views.
- Please be recognized before speaking and honor the process.
- Neutral facilitation and notes.

Presentation

Westbrook's Assistant City Administrator and City Clerk Angela Holmes presented a slide show outlining the history of outdoor aquatic amenities in Westbrook, circumstances that led to the decommissioning of the Cornelia Warren Outdoor Pool, an overview of citizen-led initiatives, available grant funding and limitations on how it can be used, and options and estimates that have been gathered thus far.

See Angela's slides, provided separately.

Clarifications

Following the presentation, Craig asked elected officials, city staff, and members of the public to ask questions and provide further clarifications, as follows:

- We don't have to have the same size or kind of pool that we had last time.
- At the last public meeting we had on this topic, there was no clear consensus.
- People in our community need access to water.
- The City Council wants to be as informed as possible.
- The team at City Hall are doers.
- No one at City Hall has a hopeful outcome.

- We at City Hall just want our marching orders.
- It's important to reach non-English speakers as part of this process.
- It's important that Westbrook continue with some sort of outdoor place to swim.
- The river is an asset of the state. We can't make alterations without state permitting. Further, changing the profile of the river would require involvement of the Army Corps of Engineers and approval of the Federal Government.
- Dundee Park in Windham is a good example of a municipal swimming facility in a river.
- People currently swim in the river all the time.
- The river's water quality is safe for swimming.
- The most important thing is the safety.
- It would be good if we had some history of pool usage and projections for the future, should we build a new pool.
- Let's use this opportunity to think bigger than just a pool.
- A \$10 million project would probably require the City to come up with \$5 million, hopefully from non-tax sources.
- Building a cheaper amenity wouldn't mean that we would have leftover money for other things.
- Access to the indoor pool is currently quite difficult because it's used so much.
- Let's ask people how much they value swimming.
- The indoor pool is 50 years old. Last year it hosted thirty parties, 150 family rentals, open swim every Saturday, and 350 children were enrolled in swimming lessons with another 322 on the wait list. The pool is currently used from 5:30 AM to 10:00 PM.
- The School Department is currently working on a \$6-\$10 million update to the Athletic Complex. Could this be combined with a pool?
- It's critical that all kids in Westbrook learn to swim.
- Sanford has a municipal swimming place on their river.
- If we build a new pool, we need to consider what we're displacing.
 - If a new pool was built at the Westbrook Community Center, it would likely displace a soccer field.
- It's not about learning how to swim, it's about learning how to save your life.
- Let's not take too much time with this process. A decision needs to be made.
- Let's look at teaching 4th graders to swim, not just 3rd graders.
- Transportation is a huge factor in getting kids to the pool to teach them how to swim.
- We should have more coordination with the schools.
- It would be good to understand what grants we might be able to apply for.
- Older kids need to learn how to swim too, not just 3rd and 4th graders.
- The Westbrook Community Center is a good location for immigrants who live nearby.
- Not sure if there will be a public vote in the end; it depends on the scale of the project. If it's a very small scale or no project at all, the council will likely make that decision.
- The presentation was great. Now I have a better understanding of why we did away with the old pool.

- Please make sure that there is a public referendum on this decision.
- Please consider the tax impact.
- Consider the boat launch on Lisbon St.

Take-Aways

City of Westbrook Project Manager Robyn Saunders reflected the following list of top take-aways that she heard, and that she intends to act on:

- Look into Tank 2.0 - A safe place to swim in the river
- Understand the dangers of the river
- Re Look at the top five locations
- Important to explore Synergy with the school department
- Consider usage. Projections
- Consider impact on taxes
- Get estimates for a splash pad
- Our indoor pool is good, but there's. Too much demand
- Research funding options

Closing Comments

Angela Holmes thanked everyone for participating and encouraged attendance at the next meeting.



Westbrook Water Talk: Your Voice Matters!

Meeting Two - Craig's Notes

What Do We Value? What Should We Do?

6pm to 8pm, The Gym, Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street, Westbrook

About the Meeting

Context and Objectives

This was the second of three meetings to inform the public and collect public opinion about the future of our public outdoor aquatic amenities. The objective of the first meeting on August 15 was understanding why the Cornelia Warren Outdoor Pool was decommissioned in 2020 and the options and opportunities going forward.

The objectives of this second meeting were as follows:

- To review key themes from Meeting One
- To learn new information gathered as a result of Meeting One
- To discuss what Westbrook values in terms of outdoor water recreation
- To hear public input about how the City should proceed

Water Talk Public Engagement Process

Meeting One	August 15	Where We Are Now
Meeting Two	August 28	What Do You Think?
Survey	Aug 28 – Sep 29	What Do You Think?
Meeting Three	November 14	Leading Options Feedback

Agenda

6:00	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Westbrook's Assistant City Administrator Angela Holmes welcomes everyone and kick-off the meeting.• Facilitator Craig Freshley explains public input process and format for meeting.
6:05	Meeting One Themes and New Information <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Craig provides a brief recap of what was presented and heard in Meeting One.• Angela presents new information staff has learned in response to questions and requests from Meeting One.
6:20	What We Value

- Using a fun interactive technique, we will explore how Westbrook residents feel about the following:
 - Most preferred types of water-based recreation
 - Importance of water-based recreation vs. other types of recreation
 - Willingness to pay for water-based recreation
- We don't plan to come to agreements, but simply explore "where people stand" on some of these trade-offs.

7:00

Public Comment

- This is a chance for anyone to make a public comment.
- We want to hear how you think the City should proceed regarding the exploration and potential establishment of some sort of new water-based recreational amenity.

7:50

Next Steps and Final Comments

- Craig will explain the Public Input Survey and about our next public input meeting.
- Angela and others from the City will offer final comments and adjourn the meeting.

8:00

Adjourn

Ground Rules

- The first meeting is all about understanding. Opinions taken during second + third meetings.
- Let's assume best intentions and demonstrate respect.
- We want to hear all questions and all views.
- Please be recognized before speaking and honor the process.
- Neutral facilitation and notes.

Presentation

Westbrook's Assistant City Administrator and City Clerk Angela Holmes presented a slide show which provided answers to questions raised in Meeting One. See Angela's slides, provided separately.

Here are some highlights:

- **Is Tank 2.0 - a swimming pool in the river – possible?**
 - Standards today are very different than in the past
 - We are required to limit impact on the river
 - We need to coordinate with local shoreland zoning
 - We would start with a feasibility study
- **Can we look to other places for "In River Swimming" ideas?**
 - East River project in New York City – Planning stage
 - Swim park project in Boston - Seasonal, not designed yet
- **Would a splash pad be possible at the Warren Rec Area?**
 - It might require future soil remediation, special foundation considerations, etc.

- Ground improvements increase the cost of the project
 - Warren Rec Area is not only LWCF site in Westbrook
 - All LWCF sites have regulations and restrictions
- **Would River Bank Park have the same soil concerns as the Warren Center?**
 - Not entirely – every site is different
 - We would start with a feasibility study
 - Riverbank Park + Warren Rec were included in the 16 City-owned sites evaluated
 - A slide of all 16 locations was shown
- **What happened to the 3rd grade swimming program?**
 - It was suspended during COVID, primarily due to transportation issues
 - Planning to start 3rd grade swimming again this year
- **Can we coordinate our efforts with the schools on an aquatic amenity?**
 - Possibly – School Dept sets scope first, then we can explore collaboration
- **Does the Congin School proposed expansion conflict with an outdoor pool at the community center?**
 - No – see slide showing the proposed pool footprint in presentation
- **Does the current indoor pool have needs and/or upgrades to consider?**
 - Repairs will be required in the next 20 years
- **How much would the cost of an aquatic amenity impact tax bills?**
 - Given today's market, the median-sized home would experience a \$6.82 annual increase in the property tax bill for every \$1 million in project costs (if there are no other sources of support)
 - So a \$10 million project would increase the median tax bill by \$60.82 annually (if no other sources of support)
- **What's up with the Saco splash pad?**
 - Rotary has partnered with the City
 - About to go to the Planning Board

Public Comment

Following the presentation, Craig asked participants to “show where you stand” on three different spectrums, as follows:

- **Preference for type of water-based amenity**
 - Most people prefer a pool
 - Some prefer a splashpad
 - A few prefer swimming in the river
 - One person favors more boat access
 - A few people prefer no amenity of any type
- **Preference for a water-based amenity vs. another type of recreational amenity**
 - Most people prefer a water-based amenity
 - Some prefer another type of recreational amenity
 - Some prefer “none of the above”
- **Preference for high cost/high benefit vs. low cost/low benefit**
 - Most people prefer a high cost/high benefit amenity
 - A few people prefer a low cost/low benefit amenity
 - A few people prefer “none of the above”

Craig asked people to explain their preferences and make comments on any aspect of investing in a new outdoor water-based amenity.

Comments were as follows:

- **What are people's expectations for an aquatic amenity?**
 - Let's have a 4.5' deep swimming pool and a splash pad
 - Westbrook youth need to learn swimming
 - Swimming lessons are best done outdoors
 - A splash pad would be a draw for family activities
 - This could have an impact on tourism and commerce
- **Where would the people like the aquatic amenity to be located?**
 - The Community Center should have an outdoor pool
 - Kids should be able to walk to the pool
 - A pool would negatively affect our Foster Street neighborhood
 - We don't have infrastructure to support it
 - The neighborhood is subject to flooding
 - Our Foster Street neighborhood is not good for a pool
 - The high school could be a good place for a new pool
 - It's already served with buses
 - Take into account many people.
 - The best place for a pool is where the people are.
- **What other expectations would the people consider for an aquatic amenity?**

- We are a growing city and have the capacity to do this
 - It could have a splash pad and also with a pool
 - It could be along the river
- Let's use the old pool foundation in the river to enhance boating
- Here in Maine we have limited months for swimming - although season could be extended with some sort of pool covering
- Whatever we do should be accessible to everyone in all seasons
- Let's make more of our natural water based resources
 - Many towns have pools but we have a river!
 - Let's take a look at the Lake Auburn Outlet facility
 - Let's make the most of our river
 - It could be an in-river pool and provide a place for ice skating in the winter
 - Can we take advantage of the old foundation in the river?
 - Develop a facility in the river
- What types of amenities do other similarly-sized communities have?
- Regarding cost, let's think out of the box
- Get people to think about the history and how all things are connected
- Westbrook should be a destination place.
 - That's fine, but if we are to build a pool or a splash pad it should be for us, for our community
 - A pool would attract people to our community
- Let's do something creatively
- Make sure everyone can access the survey
 - There's another survey - not the city survey - and of course we welcome all data and public input on this topic.
 - We are looking into making the City survey available in different languages
 - Anyone can call City Hall for help with filling out the survey
 - Perhaps keep the survey open until we get a certain percentage rather than close it on a certain date.
 - We need to educate people about the difference between the two surveys
 - If you want to submit the survey on paper, that is welcome
- **What are the other competing interests for resources for people to consider?**
 - There's a new fire station being planned at Pride's Corner
 - Perhaps we could have a pool there
 - With a shuttle service for senior citizens
 - We have many other types of recreational facilities here in Westbrook
 - Let's look at some benchmark metrics
 - How many municipalities have two pools?
 - What would be the operating costs of two pools
 - There will be proposals forthcoming for other funding of municipal infrastructure
 - Fire stations
 - Police station upgrade
 - Congin school upgrade
 - New high school and athletic facilities
 - Spend the money on transit instead
 - And on bike and pedestrian lanes
 - A pool is not a priority for me

- **What are the people's thoughts on project cost?**
 - Let's spend a decent amount of money and build something that lasts
 - We should build like the Europeans build; that's going to last a long time
 - Regarding cost, let's think out of the box
 - Let's not spend money on a water-based amenity but rather on public transportation such as buses
 - A pool is not a good investment for just 8 to 12 weeks of use.
 - Not sure we need this
 - 12 weeks is not much use for such a big investment
 - What's the life expectancy of a pool versus a splash pad?
 - What are we looking for? Let's define.
 - What would be the cost of a splash pad?
 - Can we have a high benefit with low cost?
 - The payoff of a pool or splashpad will be very high, especially for people who pay lower than average taxes
 - We should do things in moderation
 - Slightly prefer an outdoor pool
 - It could be shallow with lanes
 - It's got to be feasible
 - Look at modularity - building in phases over time
 - Environmental regulations are stricter now regarding what we can (or cannot) do in the river
- **What thoughts would City representatives like to share?**
 - We want to hear from all segments of our Community
 - Please share word about the survey and encourage others to fill it out
 - You can find the survey at the city's official website
 - You can also respond by sending us an email
 - communitydev@westbrook.me.us
 - Email us longer answers if you want
 - Stop by City Hall at 2 York Street
 - Or call us (207-854-9105)
 - When everything is a priority, nothing's a priority. That's why we're asking you to make hard choices about priorities

Closing Comments

- Thank you for coming and participating in the survey before September 29
- These meetings have been great so far
- The Council will find this input extremely valuable
- This is such an important issue. We are making every effort to "read the room" of the whole city.



Westbrook Water Talk: Your Voice Matters!

Meeting Three - Craig's Notes

Survey Findings and Analysis

November 14, 2024

6pm to 8pm, The Gym, Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street, Westbrook

About the Meeting

Context and Objectives

This was the third of three meetings to inform the public and collect public opinion about the future of our public outdoor aquatic amenities.

The objective of the first meeting on August 15 was to understand why the Cornelia Warren Outdoor Pool was decommissioned in 2020 and the options and opportunities going forward. The objectives of the second meeting were to learn new information gathered as a result of Meeting One, discuss what Westbrook values in terms of outdoor water recreation, and to hear public input about how the City should proceed.

The objective of this third meeting was to for everyone to understand the survey findings and analysis, and emerging decision criteria.

Water Talk Public Engagement Process

Meeting One	August 15	Where We Are Now
Meeting Two	August 28	What Do You Think?
Survey	Aug 28 – Sep 29	What Do You Think?
Meeting Three	November 14	Survey Findings and Analysis

Agenda

- 6:00 **Opening**
- Westbrook's Assistant City Administrator Angela Holmes will welcome everyone and kick-off the meeting.
 - Facilitator Craig Freshley will explain the public input process to date and the format for this particular meeting.
- 6:15 **Survey Findings**
- Angela Holmes and Westbrook Senior Planner Rebecca Spitella will provide an overview of the recent public opinion community survey, including findings by question and overall analysis.

- Angela and Rebecca will also provide survey takeaways, including decision considerations and recommendations.
- 7:25 **Questions and Clarifications**
- This is a chance for questions and clarifications of any type.
- 7:55 **Closing Comments**
- Angela and Rebecca will offer final comments and adjourn the meeting.
- 8:00 **Adjourn**

Ground Rules

- This first meeting is all about understanding. Opinions later.
- Let's assume best intentions and demonstrate respect.
- We want to hear all questions and all views.
- Please be recognized before speaking and honor the process.
- Neutral facilitation and notes.

Presentation

Westbrook's Assistant City Administrator and City Clerk Angela Holmes, along with Westbrook Senior Planner Rebecca Spitella, presented a slide show that summarized Survey Findings. They also presented Decision Criteria and Recommendations.

See the slide show separately. Below are some highlights jotted by Craig on the spot.

- Introduction
 - We are going to present:
 - Why did we ask these questions
 - What were the results
 - What do these answers tell us
 - Angela is going to provide overall summaries and Rebecca will explain the details of each question.
- Survey Findings
 - Demographics
 - 634 total respondents
 - 455 know how to swim independently
 - We know that not everyone has access to water
 - A need is represented for water safety
 - This is not a child-focused issue
 - Preferences
 - There are a variety of water amenities that people access or not in a variety of ways
 - Dundee Park is most popular

- Interacting with natural bodies is valued
 - Swimming is the preferred method
 - Small wading pools don't seem to be preferred
- Priorities
 - Recreational non-programmed swimming is most preferred
 - Rank Choice voting results
 - Recreational swimming: 50%
 - Swim lessons and no water amenity: 25%
 - Recreational swimming is preferred over swim lessons
- Water amenity vs other recreational amenity
 - Most people think that other amenities are as or more important than a water amenity
 - Many alternatives were suggested
 - There are many competing recreational amenities
 - There is concern about adding to the burden of maintaining public facilities
- Trade offs
 - Most people favor sports fields over water amenities
 - Most prefer that a water amenity take up not-already-used space
- Financials
 - Most people support a \$5m investment if the City could get half of that paid for with grants.
- Attributes
 - Many people prefer a central location that's walkable, with parking.
- Prioritizing known options
 - Most preferred is an outdoor pool of some sort
 - The least preferred option for most respondents was no investment
 - Rank choice voting results:
 - 43% prefer outdoor pool with enclosure
 - Majority of respondents support moving forward with some sort of amenity
- Timeline
 - For those who support an outdoor water amenity, they want it within three years
- Decision Criteria and Recommendations
 - Intro
 - We are suggesting a rubric for how to evaluate future water amenity
 - Criteria
 - A water amenity should be in any future plan for Westbrook and should increase access to swimmable water, particularly recreational (open swim) opportunities.
 - A water amenity should provide opportunities for all age groups.
 - Priority should be given to a project that can be phased.
 - A new amenity should not cost more than \$5m-\$10m with no more than 50% covered by tax funds.
 - Priority should be a for an extended season

Clarifications and Comments

- It was clarified that a riverfront plan was not looked at very much. It just didn't seem likely to be feasible.
- It would be good to have an explanation of why the old outdoor pool was decommissioned.
 - An explanation was provided
 - It was also explained that a video is available from the first water talks meeting where the whole history was explained.
- We want to make sure that if we cite an outdoor pool in the future, we put it in a place and build it in such a way that it won't have to be decommissioned.
- A question was raised about how the survey was distributed, and it was clarified that postcards were mailed to all Westbrook residents.
 - Although there's some concern that some postcards seem not to have been received.
 - It was also clarified that anyone could call City Hall and complete a survey by phone and that.
 - The city staff made extra efforts to try and include all types of survey respondents
- It was also clarified that both taxpayers and renters are encouraged to give their input. The city sees all residents as equal for purposes of giving a public input
- It was clarified that this will likely go to a council workshop and probably before the council workshop, the survey findings, decision criteria, and recommendations will go to the Rec&Con committee to perhaps add details to the recommendations.
- There seemed to be favor for "centralized" location, although this was not defined in the survey.
- Similarly, there seemed to be favor for a "walkable" location, although walkable was not defined.
- It's nice to see city councilors invested tonight.
- This process should have happened a few years ago.
- Did the survey explore tradeoffs and were people educated about the tradeoffs?
 - It was clarified that we did our best to educate people in Meeting One, although we can't make people get educated before filling out the survey.
- Did people know about the potential sources of funding that might be available when they answer the financial questions?
 - We can't assume that they did, so the answer is probably no.
- In the future, let's explore more about the public's appetite for fundraising
- It will be fascinating to see the results of the survey conducted by the Cornelia Warren Friends group.
- The response rate was questioned with some concern that, for a city with Westbrook's population, there should have been more responses.
- A concern was raised about biases in the survey, such as against Deering Oaks Park.
- We recognize that this is not a perfect survey.
 - It is not based on a stratified random sample. Participation was completely voluntary.

- Yet it's the best we could do with the budget that we had and we believe that the Council will benefit from this information.
- How is the Council going to balance priorities for our community?
 - And does it have to be water amenities versus other amenities? It's not a Zero sum game.
 - It's not one thing versus another
- Really appreciate this whole process. Thanks for the time and effort. This was a good process to reach a lot of people.
- I was surprised by how many people wanted something in the river.
 - Please help us envision what a river amenity might look like and what the trade-offs would be.
- Let's determine how to maximize use of the current pool.
- We need to continue to collect information and continue this process.
- Thanks to all elected officials for supporting this process.
- Staff is planning to publish a report in early 2025.

Closing Comments

- Thank you for coming
- We really appreciate everyone's input