



TOWN OF QUALICUM BEACH  
Incorporated 1942



# QUALICUM BEACH SKATEPARK SURVEY #1 TERRAIN PRIORITIES SUMMARY



SUMMER 2023 - PHASE 1 OF ENGAGEMENT



# QUALICUM BEACH SKATEPARK PRELIMINARY CONCEPT REPORT

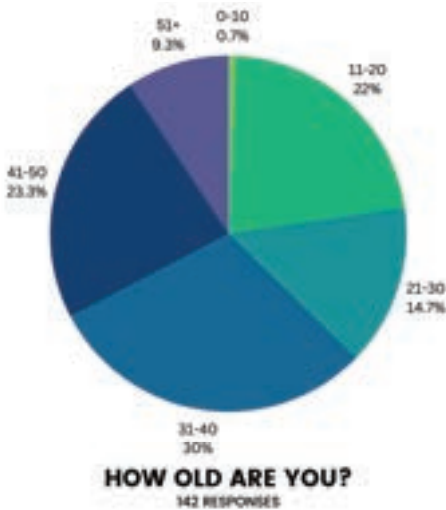
## Introduction

The local skatepark advocates in Qualicum Beach have been instrumental in laying the groundwork for this project over many years. Their diligent efforts, including conducting their own surveys and gathering valuable community input, have significantly propelled the project forward. This report primarily focuses on the findings from our surveys gathered in July 2023. However, the data from the local group’s survey is also considered, particularly when it aligns or significantly diverges from our findings. Combining all this information will help ensure that the new skatepark accurately represents the community’s wishes and requirements.

The following sections delve into the results gathered from the surveys conducted. A diverse group of 145 individuals, including skateboarders, BMX riders, parents, local residents, and others interested in the project, participated in these surveys. The aim was to understand the community’s needs and preferences for the new skatepark, spanning a wide range of topics from riding ability and preferred terrain style, to favorite skatepark features and ideas for making the park unique to Qualicum Beach. The demographic data, complemented by graphs and summaries, will be presented in the subsequent sections.

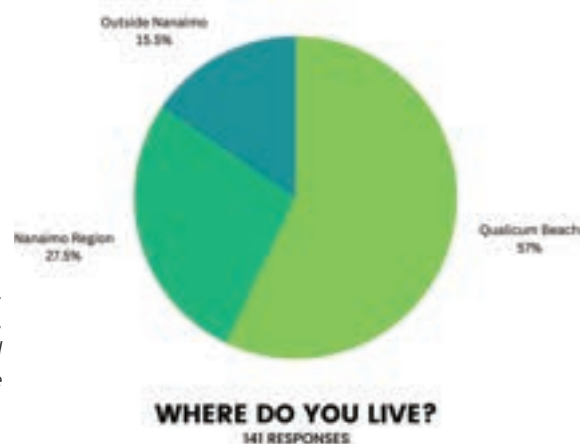
## Part One: Demographics

The surveys conducted garnered participation from a total of 145 individuals. Of these, 17 completed the in-person survey and 128 participated in the online survey.



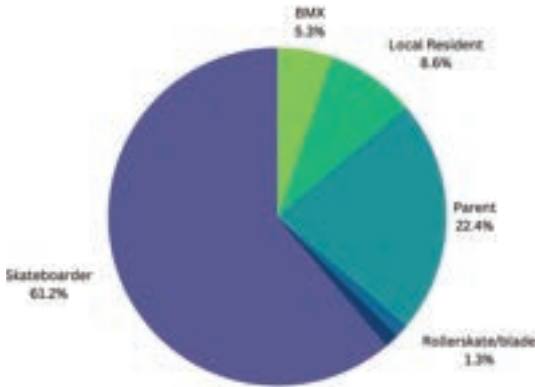
The age of the participants was quite diverse, with a significant number of respondents falling into the 31-40 age group. This was closely followed by the 41-50 and 21-30 age groups, indicating a broad range of ages interested in the skatepark project.

The majority of the participants reside in Qualicum Beach, demonstrating a strong local interest in the project. However, there was also a notable number of participants from the Regional District of Nanaimo and outside of the region, suggesting the skatepark’s potential to attract visitors from a wider area.





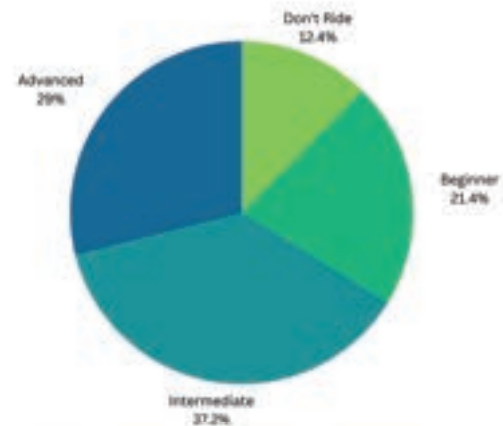
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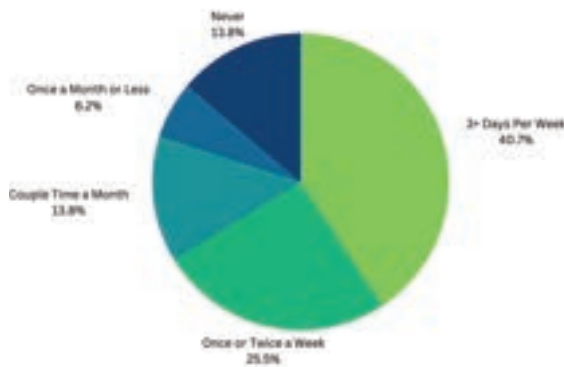
**PRIMARY INTEREST IN THE PROJECT**  
145 RESPONSES

The majority of participants identified as skateboarders (93 total), showing strong interest from the primary user group. Parents or guardians were the next largest group (34 total), indicating family interest in the community. A smaller group of participants (13 total) were local residents interested in the project. Other user groups, such as BMX riders, roller skaters/bladers, and scooter riders, also participated, highlighting the skatepark's diverse appeal.

The majority of participants identified as intermediate riders (54 total), followed by advanced (42 total), and beginner riders (31 total). This indicates a broad range of skill levels among the users. A smaller group of participants identified as non-riders (18 total), showing that the skatepark is of interest to the wider community, not just active riders. This suggests that the skatepark should cater to a variety of skill levels, with a focus on features that can help beginner and intermediate riders progress, while also providing challenges for advanced riders.



**WHAT IS YOUR RIDING ABILITY?**  
145 RESPONSES



**HOW OFTEN DO YOU RIDE?**  
145 RESPONSES

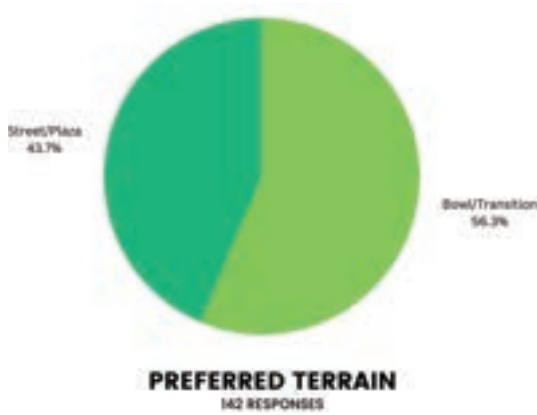
The frequency of riding among participants varied, with the largest group riding three or more times per week (59 total), followed by those who ride a couple of times per week (37 total), and those who ride a couple of times a month (20 total). A smaller group indicated that they ride less frequently or not at all. This suggests that the skatepark will see regular use by a core group of riders, with additional occasional use by others. The design should therefore accommodate regular, intensive use while also being welcoming to less frequent users.



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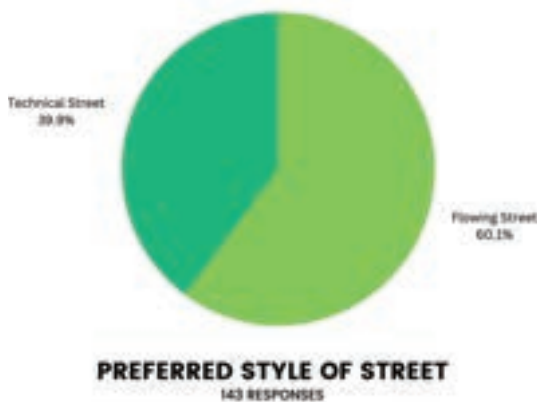
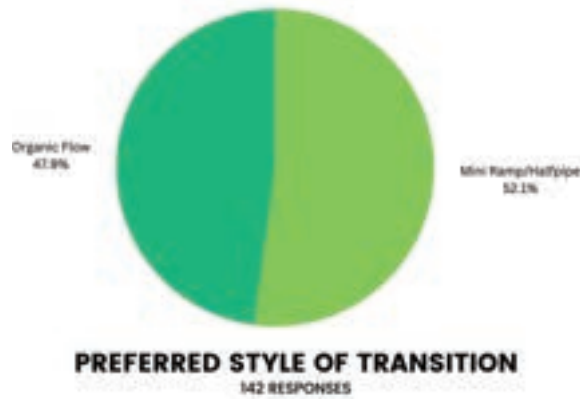
## Part Two: Preferred Skatepark Feature and Terrain Styles

Part Two of the report delves into the preferences of participants regarding skatepark features and terrain styles. This section was primarily completed by those who are likely to be the main users of the skatepark, ensuring that the design aligns with their needs and expectations. The following sections provide a detailed analysis of these preferences.



The majority of participants (80) expressed a preference for Bowl & Transition Terrain, indicating a desire for a skatepark that offers a variety of features that encourage flow and momentum, such as bowls, ramps, and quarter pipes. However, a significant number of participants (62) also showed interest in Street/Plaza Terrain, suggesting that elements such as ledges, stairs, and rails would also be appreciated. This indicates a need for a balanced design that incorporates elements of both styles.

When it comes to transition styles, our participants were almost evenly split. Half of them (74) preferred Mini Ramp / Half Pipe Style, which features long straight walls, hips, pockets, and lots of coping. The other half (68) preferred Organic Flow Style, which includes bumps, rollers, pockets, and less coping, similar to a pump-track style. This suggests that the skatepark should offer a mix of both styles to cater to the diverse preferences of its users.



In terms of street style, the majority of participants (86) favored Flowing Street Terrain, which includes features like hips, funboxes, A-frames, and stairs that allow for higher speed. However, a significant number (57) also showed a preference for Technical Street Terrain, which includes lower-speed features like ledges, manual pads, and rails. This indicates that the skatepark design should incorporate a blend of both flowing and technical street elements to satisfy the preferences of all users.



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### **Part Two (Continued): Preferred Skatepark Features**

Part Two of the survey delved into the preferred features for the skatepark. Participants were asked to select their top three features, with **Flow Bowl, Mini Ramp, and Flat Ledges** emerging as the most popular choices. This aligns with the earlier local advocacy group survey responses, indicating a **preference for transitional features, both flowing and mini-ramp style, balanced with fundamental street elements.**

When asked to identify their single most desired feature, responses varied, reflecting the diverse interests of the participants. However, **Stairs, Hip, Spine, and Organic Flow** were frequently mentioned. This suggests a preference for features that facilitate both **technical tricks and a smooth setup between each feature.** This valuable insight will guide the design process, ensuring the skatepark meets the diverse needs of its future users.

The surveys reveal a strong interest in the skatepark project from a diverse group of individuals. Skateboarders form the majority of participants, with a significant number being parents or guardians of potential users or interested local residents. The variety of skill levels among riders and the frequency of riding suggest a need for a skatepark design that caters to all abilities and usage patterns. This diverse interest highlights the importance of a skatepark that is welcoming and functional for everyone, from regular riders to those who see it as a valuable community amenity.

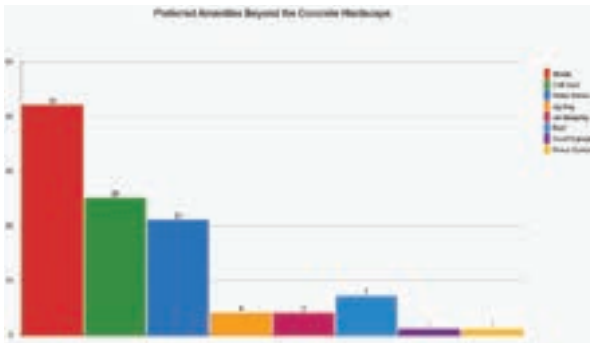


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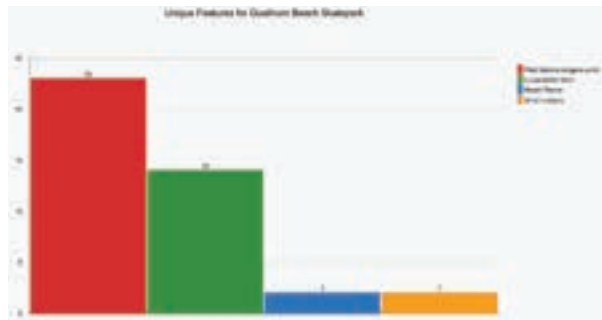
## Part Three: Unique Features and Amenities

This section explores the participants' ideas for making the Qualicum Beach skatepark unique and their preferences for additional amenities. Participants were asked two questions to gather their thoughts on what could make the skatepark unique to Qualicum Beach and what they would like to see included beyond the concrete hardscape.

Beyond the concrete hardscape, participants in the survey expressed a strong preference for amenities that enhance comfort and usability in the skatepark. The most requested feature was shade, suggesting structures or trees to provide relief from the sun. A dedicated area with seating, referred to as a 'chill spot', was also popular, indicating a desire for spaces for rest and socializing. A water station was another popular request, highlighting the need for hydration facilities. Other suggestions included lighting for evening use, good signage to help relay important information to newcomers, landscaping with trees for natural shade and aesthetic appeal, a power station for charging electronic devices, and a roof for shelter from weather. These responses indicate a desire for a skatepark that has some functional amenities, but also a desire for a facility that can be used beyond the usual operating times in daylight and good weather.



Participants in the survey gave their thoughts on how to reflect the unique character and culture of Qualicum Beach into the new skatepark. The most popular suggestion was the incorporation of First Nations or Indigenous art, indicating a respect for the local Indigenous culture and a desire for its representation in the skatepark. The inclusion of local artists' work was also popular, reflecting a desire to showcase local talent and create a sense of community ownership. A beach theme was suggested, reflecting the coastal location of Qualicum Beach. Other participants suggested the use of bricks for ledges and pads, or textured concrete features to add to the park's uniqueness. These responses highlight a desire for a skatepark that is not only functional but also deeply connected to the local community and its unique cultural and geographical context.



Part Three of the survey has offered valuable insights into the community's vision for a unique and user-friendly skatepark in Qualicum Beach. The participants' suggestions for additional amenities and unique features reflect a desire for a skatepark that goes beyond the standard concrete terrain, incorporating elements that enhance comfort, usability, and local character. The strong preference for practical amenities like shade, seating, and water stations, along with unique elements like local art and brick features, underscores the community's interest in a skatepark that is not just for riders, but a welcoming space for all. This feedback will be crucial in designing a skatepark that truly reflects and serves the Qualicum Beach community.



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### **Part Four: Questions from the Community**

The final section of the survey presented an opportunity for participants to voice their individual concerns and inquiries regarding the new skatepark. These questions touched on a range of topics, some examples being:

- the design of the park to accommodate both beginner and advanced riders,
- the potential for further community input on proposed designs,
- the future of the existing skatepark.

Addressing these questions will provide clarity and demonstrate a commitment to transparency and community engagement. The insights gained from this section will be instrumental in guiding the project's next steps, ensuring the skatepark aligns with the community's needs and expectations.

### **Part Five: Conclusion**

The feedback gathered from the Qualicum Beach Skatepark project surveys, both our in-person and online surveys, as well as the local skate group's survey, has been instrumental in understanding the community's needs, preferences, and concerns. The majority of participants are skateboarders, emphasizing the importance of a design that caters to their needs while also considering the interests of other stakeholders such as parents and local residents.

There is a clear alignment between the results of our surveys and the local skate group's survey, particularly in terms of the preferred terrain styles and the importance of including amenities beyond the concrete hardscape. Both sets of data highlight the community's preference for a mix of Bowl & Transition and Street/Plaza terrains, and the desire for practical amenities such as shade, seating, and water stations.

However, there were also some differences. For instance, our surveys showed a stronger preference for flowing street terrain, while the local skate group's survey had a more even split between flowing and technical street terrain. These differences underscore the importance of a design that offers a variety of features to cater to different riding styles and preferences.

The community's willingness to engage in the survey process, their insightful questions, and their eagerness to see the project come to fruition underscore their commitment to the skatepark project. The project team is dedicated to creating a skatepark that reflects the community's needs and becomes a source of pride for Qualicum Beach. We look forward to the next steps in this exciting project, armed with the valuable insights gained from these surveys.



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**Dotmocracy boards from the in-person Workshop #1**



**Attendance at the in-person Workshop #1**





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*The preceding report is a summary of public commentary as interpreted by New Line Skateparks. For further data, demographic information, comments or clarification please contact us.*