

## NORTH PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD FREE SKATE

On Friday, December 13 from 6-9pm the North Park Neighbourhood Association hosted a free public skate at the Save on Foods Memorial Arena. Over 500 community members participated in this totally free, family friendly, inclusive event. We were blown away with the positive response and the attendance at this event, which demonstrates the desire in the North Park neighbourhood for free, recreation based community events.

The event featured free skate and helmet rentals, several free take home crafts making use of upcycled craft supplies, a "Humans of North Park" professional photo booth where guests were invited to have a family portrait taken, and free food. The NPNA board took advantage of the event to engage with community members on their priorities for the North Park neighbourhood through a survey, newsletter sign up, and community mapping exercise. The responses combined with the success of this event are a clear indicator that residents in North Park are seeking opportunities to come together and take advantage of community amenities.

The guests that arrived for this event reflected an incredibly diverse neighbourhood. We already know that North Park is diverse, but this event really brought the neighbourhood's diversity to life! The success of this accessible and inclusive event demonstrates that there is potential for more engagement and community building in the North Park neighbourhood. That said, in order to make this happen the NPNA requires resources, support, and the physical space to make these events a consistent feature of the neighbourhood.



## SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT

We had incredible community support for this event. We received many in-kind donations, volunteer support, and discounts that made this free event possible, but also allowed us to offer activities in addition to skating, such as a professional photo booth, food, crafts, and prizes!

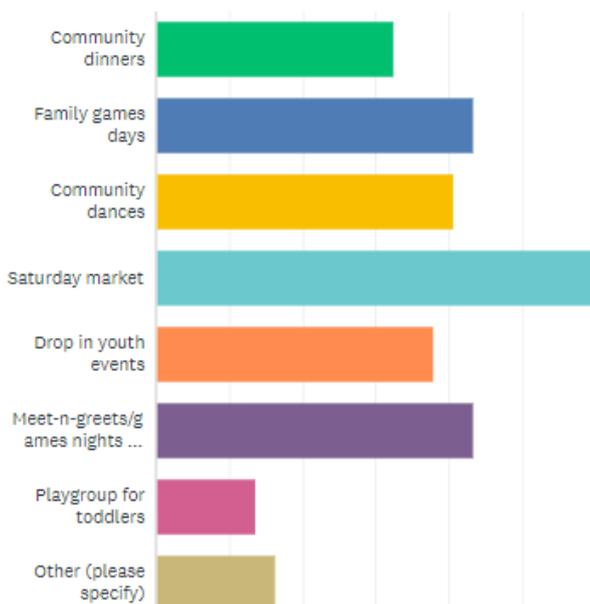
City of Victoria, Quadra Village Community Centre, First Metropolitan United Church, Inter-Cultural Association, Save on Foods (Pandora), QV Bakery & Cafe, The Parsonage, North Park Bike Shop, Thrift/Craft, SUPPLY, Cold Comfort, HarbourCats, Mount Royal Bagel Factory, Toes 'n' Taps Dance Shoppe, TrueStock.ca, Superheroes of Victoria, Marty the Marmot, Harvey the HarbourCat.

## FUTURE EVENTS

The NPNA is eager to build on the momentum and success of this event to offer more free community activities in North Park.

We believe that hosting free, recreation themed events that activate public spaces in North Park will be an effective model for building community capacity, and engaging with the residents of North Park. These events have the potential to demonstrate what an equitable approach to community development can look like while addressing the issues and priorities in North Park.

What kind of free activities would you like to see in the neighbourhood?



## EVENT EXPENSES

Venue rental: \$422  
 Music: \$150  
 Crafts: \$250  
 Poster printing & distribution: \$284  
 Food Kart honourarium: \$200  
 Hot chocolate: \$165  
 Event support: \$240  
 Event coordination: \$1000  
 Total: \$2711

## ENGAGEMENT NUMBERS

500 guests  
 38 survey respondents  
 60 newsletter sign ups  
 75 stickers placed on map  
 84 Humans of North Park photos

## SAMPLE OF ENGAGEMENT RESPONSES

What community events would you like to see happen in Royal Athletic Park?

"Access to the park whenever there are no events!"

"Movies in the park"

"Family friendly events with educational, environmental, and sustainability topics"

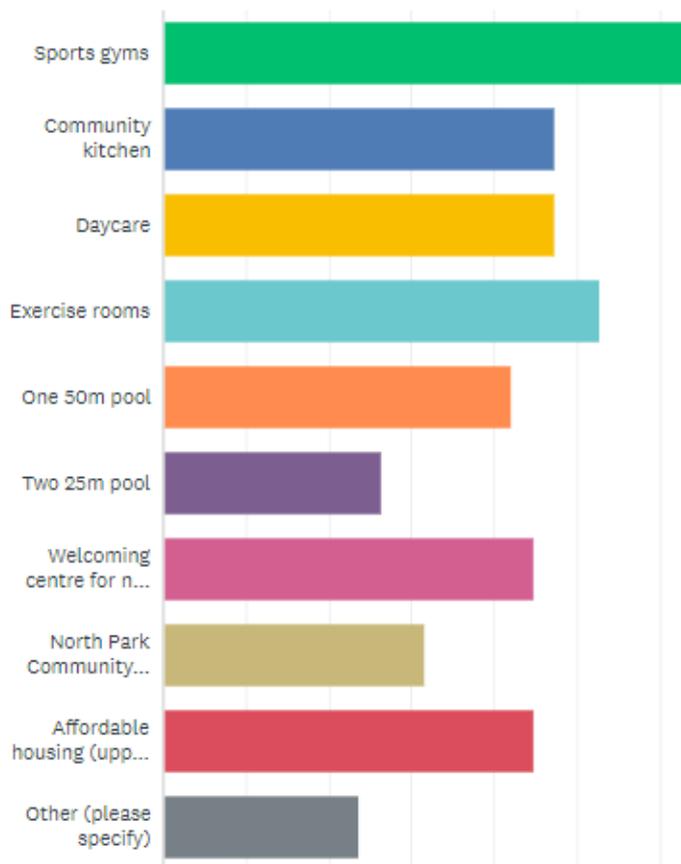
What community events would you like to see in Franklin Green Park?

"North Park arts festival"

"Community fundraisers"

"Free weekly workouts to encourage physical literacy and fitness in an accessible way"

What kind of facilities do you think should be included in the new Crystal Pool?



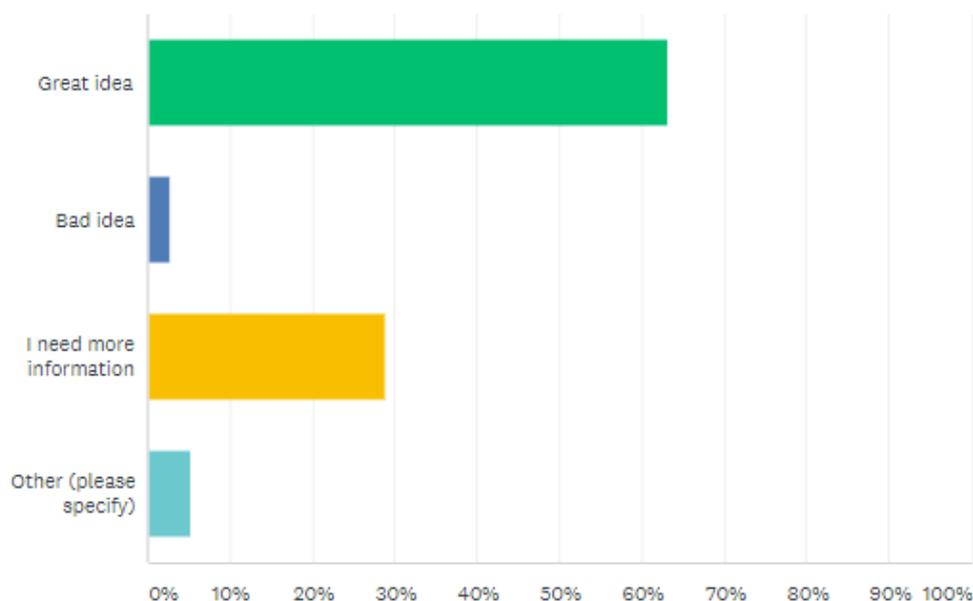
## SAMPLE OF SURVEY RESULTS

The feedback we received from a brief survey displayed a desire for community amenities and opportunities to gather. A Saturday market, family games days, and meet & greets in local bubs ranked the highest on free neighbourhood activities.

When asked about Crystal Pool, a sports gym, exercise room, community kitchen, and day care were the most desired facilities.

And when asked about whether the YMCA should partner with the City of Victoria to operate the new pool, nearly 65% of respondents selected that this is a great idea.

What do you think of the idea of the City of Victoria partnering with the YMCA/YWCA to operate the new pool?



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