

Portsmouth Waterfront Pathway Engagement Summary

In July 2020, a series of presentation panels were posted on the [project page](#) to introduce to the community the proposed pathway and shoreline improvements.

We received feedback from approximately 20 residents.



Summary of Feedback on the proposed pathway:

- Most respondents were pleased with the scope of the pathway improvements and the shoreline protection initiative.
- Many liked the lookouts and opportunities to access the water.
- Some people were concerned that the east end of the pathway near Portsmouth Harbor would draw excessive numbers of people to a relatively small area. Concerns included increased noise levels, tight spatial constraints in some areas, the possibility of trespass onto private lands and safety considerations regarding the steps into the small bay at the Mowat Avenue pedestrian bridge.

Response to Feedback on the proposed pathway:

Why was a public meeting not held for this project?

A public meeting was scheduled for March 2020 and was cancelled when COVID precautions were implemented. In place of an in-person open house the City provided detailed graphic panels online and accepted feedback via email or phone.

Will the 'gathering places' and improvements to the shoreline increase the usership levels in the residential areas?

The proposed pathway and shoreline improvements do not include destination scaled gathering places. The drawings and website have been revised to eliminate the term 'gathering place'.

The design intent is to allow people the opportunity to stop along the pathway to enjoy the shoreline experience. Given the scale of the site and the proposed project improvements, the number of pathway users gathering in the area is not expected to increase significantly.

Will people be able to launch small watercraft at the beach at Portsmouth Olympic Harbor?

Yes. The project will include a concrete shore wall and steps that will be mostly submerged under a pebble/cobble beach. As water levels and beach location fluctuates, the access to the beach and the amount of exposed steps will vary.

What is the purpose of the steps into the basin immediately north of the peninsula at Mowat Ave and will they encourage people to trespass on adjacent private property?

The steps were included in the original design as a safety measure. They have been relocated to the bridge in the revised plans.

What is happening to the Mowat Ave. Bridge?

The bridge is being widened and raised moderately.

How long might the project take to construct and what is the impact on those who use the pathway regularly?

Construction is expected to start in winter 2021 and to be completed in 2022. It is expected there will be interruption to the use of sections of the waterfront pathway during this time. Updates will be provided.

Other community concerns and comments that have been taken into consideration and are reflected in the final design:

- Increase parking concerns on Mowat Avenue and Yonge Street.
- Concern with increased noise levels in residential areas.
- Interest in substituting stone seating in areas in place of typical benches.
- A concern that additional tree plantings on the Mowat Ave. peninsula may block views.
- Concerns that private trees and infrastructure be protected during construction.
- A desire to see more pollinator plants in the Mowat Ave peninsula garden.
- A desire to see more plantings adjacent to private property to assist with screening views.
- Interest in installing stationary binoculars along the pathway.