



# MONROE STREET POOL IMPROVEMENTS

## PUBLIC INPUT REPORT



# Monroe Street Pool Improvements Public Input Report

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# Introduction

The City of Carlsbad is taking a new approach to community engagement based on several key principles:

- Members of the public have a right to be involved in decisions affecting their lives.
- Adequate time and resources are provided to allow for meaningful public involvement.
- The public involvement planning process is begun at the earliest stages of decision-making.
- Opportunities for public involvement are clearly defined, including the decision or decisions to be made, the decision-making process and how the public has influenced the decision.
- It is the city’s responsibility to seek out and facilitate the involvement of those interested in or affected by a decision. The city errs on the side of reaching out to people who might not be interested, rather than potentially missing people who are.
- Diverse participation helps ensure a broad range of perspectives is considered.
- Public involvement processes are designed to enable members of the public to participate in ways comfortable and convenient for them.
- City staff provide balanced and factual information to the public and do not engage in advocacy.
- Public dialogue strives for a focus on values over interests and positions.
- Members of the public do not need to have technical expertise to provide valuable input. Their everyday experiences as members of the community have intrinsic value to even the most complex and technical decisions.
- Public involvement planning is coordinated across all city departments to ensure consistency and avoid process fatigue.



## Monroe Street Pool Improvements

The city is considering three options for improving the Monroe Street Pool next to Carlsbad High School.

The City of Carlsbad's Monroe Street Pool is 38 years old and requires maintenance to remain operational and in compliance with current health and building codes. While the city makes required upgrades, there is an opportunity to also make other enhancements to the pool. City staff are exploring three different approaches for the project.

The city gathered input on the three options for the project through an online survey to help develop an approach for improving the Monroe Street Pool that will best reflect the community's needs, values and priorities. This report includes the feedback from the public input gathering process.

### Online Input

The Monroe Street Pool Improvements online survey provided an opportunity for members of the public to provide input at a time convenient to them.

Aug. 31 – Sep. 30, 2020

944 respondents

23,964 individual responses

591 comments

Detailed information about the responses for all questions is available in the appendices.

### About the Findings

By providing a way for the public to provide input at a time that is convenient to them, decision makers can hear from a larger and more diverse group of community members. Respondents were asked to disclose where they live, and the system prevented more than two responses per computer IP address (a computer's unique address). However, unlike a scientific survey, the findings of this process cannot be generalized to the entire Carlsbad population within a defined level of confidence.

That's why the input in this report should be considered with a similar weight as other qualitative forms of feedback that have always been part of the city's decision-making process, such as comments made at City Council meeting or emails sent to the city expressing an opinion.

## Overall Themes

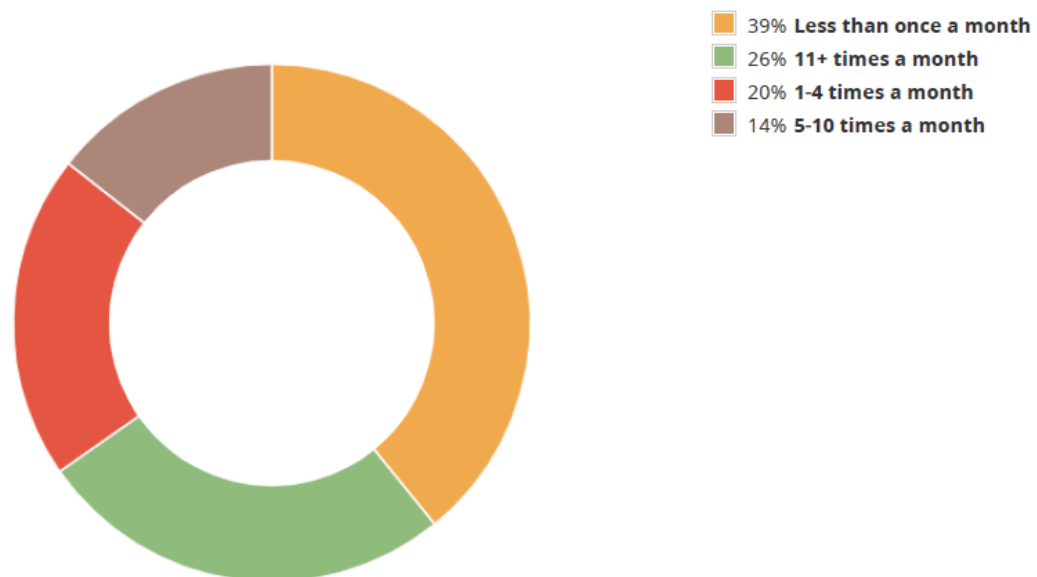
Comments have been analyzed to identifying key themes. Readers are strongly encouraged to read the verbatim comments in the appendices to get a better understanding of specific ideas, priorities and concerns expressed. Following are some of the key themes from the online comments:

- Construction impacts/duration
- Energy Efficiency
- Facility improvements (jacuzzi, lockers/showers, larger pool, entrances, recreation swim area, etc.)
- Fees to use pool
- Funding/cost
- Increased availability
- Second 50-meter competition pool at Alga Norte (in addition to Monroe Street Pool Improvements)
- Youth sports access

## Differences Among Subgroups

In most cases, responses did not differ significantly when comparing subgroups, such as residents vs. nonresidents or based on geographic location.

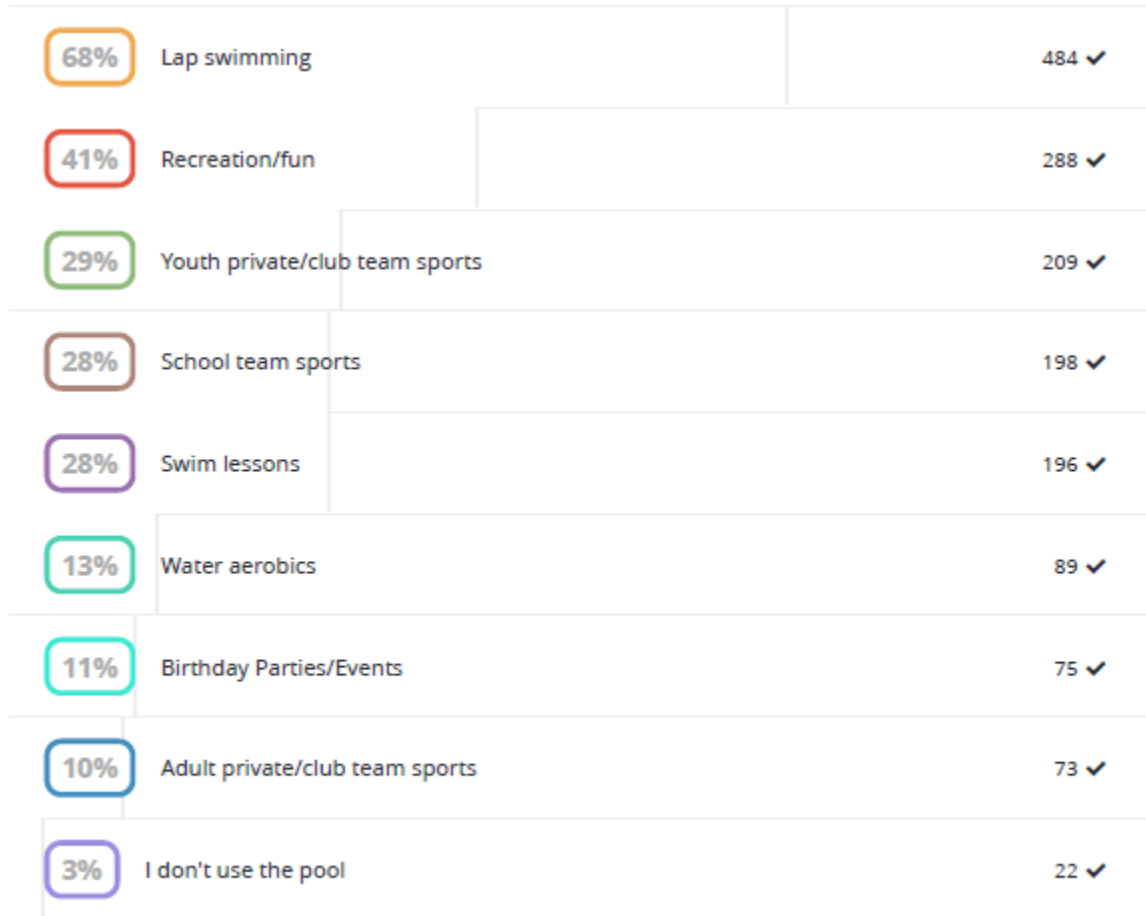
**Question 1: On average, about how many times a month do you use the Monroe Street Pool (prior to the COVID-19 closure and limitations)?**



922 respondents

## Question 2: What pool uses interest you (check all that apply)?

A significant majority of the respondents (68%), stated they use the pool for lap swimming. Most other users also listed recreation/fun (49%), youth/private sports (29%), school sports (28%), and swim lessons (28%) as their main use of the Monroe Street Pool. Less frequent uses included water aerobics (13%), birthday parties (11%), and adult private/club team sports (10%).



710 Respondents

## Considering the Options

Participants were presented with the following chart, outlining the details and differences between the three options presented plus a visual concept of each design:

|   | Option 1                                 | Option 2                                 | Option 3  |
|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Pool activities</b>  |  |  |   |
| Pool shallow end slightly larger  |  | ●  | ●   |
| Widen pool from 25 yards to 33 meters   |  |  | ●   |
| Add more lessons and recreational swim plus water e) classes, camps, lifeguard training and CPR |  | ●  | ●   |
| 50% more lap swim lanes   |  |  | ●   |
| Host larger swimming and water polo competitions  |  |  | ●   |
| <b>Pool deck</b>  |  |  |   |
| Add pool deck lockers   |  | ●  | ●   |
| New exterior deck showers   |  | ●  | ●   |
| Replace shade structures over bleachers   |  | ●  | ●   |
| New shade structures with solar panels over bleacher:   |  |  | ●   |
| Larger pool deck  |  |  | ●   |
| <b>Building(s)</b>  |  |  |   |
| Renovate locker rooms   |  | ●  | ●   |
| Larger lobby  |  | ●  | ●   |
| New entrances, including outdoor option (don't need   |  |  | ●   |
| Meeting/event/birthday party room   |  |  | ●   |
| New trash enclosure, service area and storage area  |  |  | ●   |
| <b>Mechanics/operations</b>   |  |  |   |
| Replace tile, plaster, piping, pool deck, drainage, pum   | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Minor repair of the mechanical building roof  | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Electrical panel upgrade  | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| A new 8 ft perimeter fence with steel gates to reduce   | ●  | ●  | ●   |
| Limited equipment refurbishment/ renovation neede   | ●  |  |   |
| Renovate mechanical building with new equipment   |  | ●  |   |
| Relocating and replacing mechanical building with ne  |  |  | ●   |
| Replace existing solar system   |  | ●  | ●   |
| Install rooftop photovoltaic solar panels   |  | ●  | ●   |
| Six new parking spaces and replace parking area asph  |  |  | ●   |
|   | <b>Option 1</b>                          | <b>Option 2</b>                          | <b>Option 3</b>   |
| Construction cost   | \$4.2 M – \$4.9 M                        | \$11.2 M -- \$11.9 M                     | \$15.8 M -- \$16.5 M  |
| <i>(cost – energy savings and revenue from use)</i>   | \$714,973                                | \$606,035                                | \$555,989   |
| Expected life   | 12 – 15 yrs pool<br>12 – 15 yrs building | 12 – 15 yrs pool<br>15 – 20 yrs building | 12 – 15 yrs pool<br>15 – 20 yrs building<br>15 – 20 parking lot |
| Construction time   | 6 - 8 months                             | 10 – 14 months                           | 12 -18 months   |

## Pool Improvements Option 1

### Option 1

## Monroe Street Pool



#### Mechanics/operations

- Replace tile, plaster, piping, pool deck, drainage, pumps and filters
- Minor repair of the mechanical building roof
- Electrical panel upgrade
- A new 8 ft perimeter fence with steel gates to reduce sound coming from the pool
- Limited equipment refurbishment/ renovation needed to continue pool use



## Pool Improvements Option 2

### Option 2

## Monroe Street Pool



#### Pool activities

- Pool shallow end slightly larger
- Add more lessons and recreational swim plus water exercise
- classes, camps, lifeguard training and CPR

#### Pool deck

- Add pool deck lockers
- New exterior deck showers
- Replace shade structures over bleachers

#### Building(s)

- Renovate locker rooms
- Larger lobby

#### Mechanics/operations

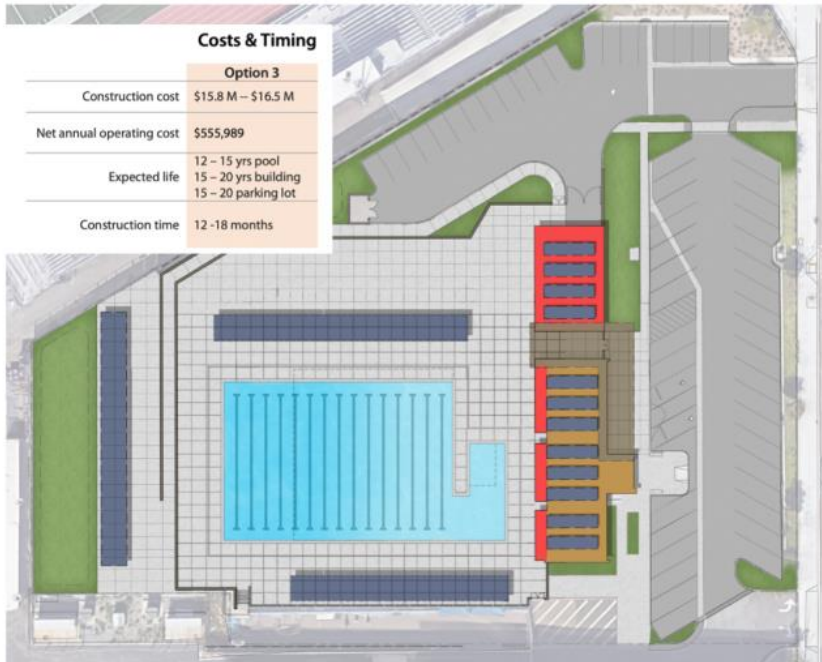
- Renovate mechanical building with new equipment
- Replace existing solar system
- Install rooftop photovoltaic solar panels

*Plus improvements included in Option 1*

## Pool Improvements Option 3

### Option 3

## Monroe Street Pool



#### Pool activities

- Widen pool from 25 yards to 33 meters
- 50% more lap swim lanes
- Host larger swimming and water polo competitions

#### Pool deck

- Larger pool deck
- New shade structures with solar panels over bleachers and on other side of pool

#### Building(s)

- Meeting/event/birthday party room
- New trash enclosure, service area and storage area

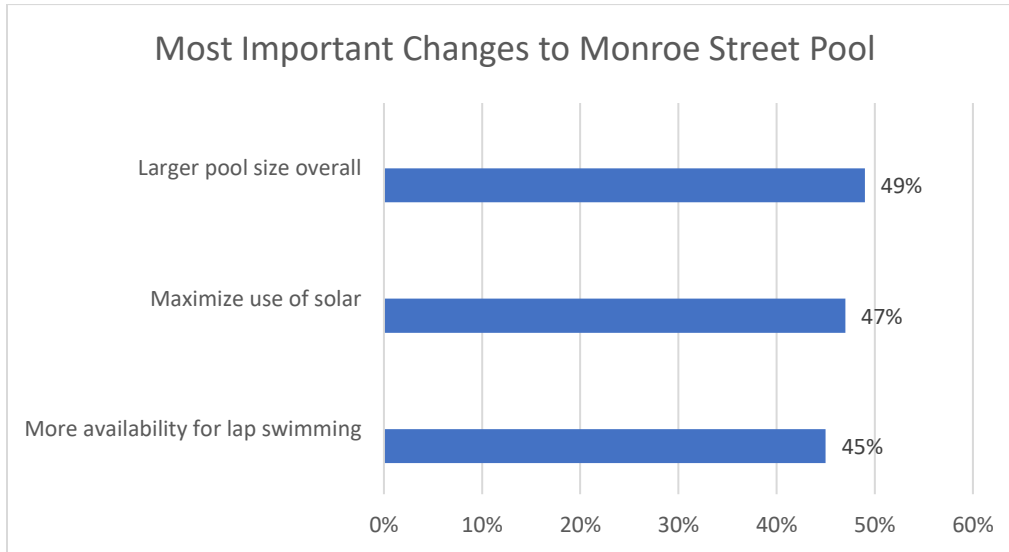
#### Mechanics/operations

- Relocating and replacing mechanical building with new equipment
- Six new parking spaces and replace parking area asphalt

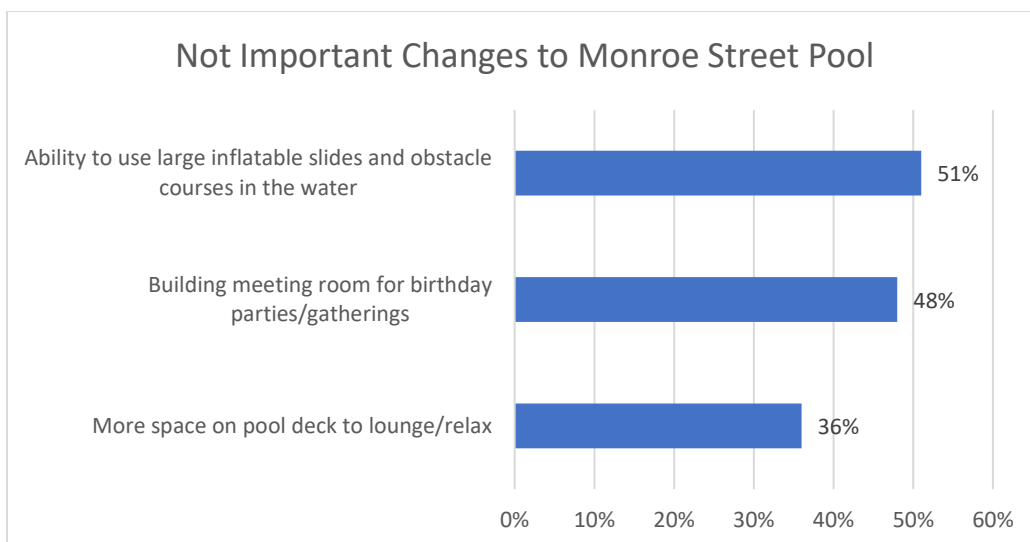
*Plus improvements included in Options 1 & 2*

**Question 3: Please tell us how important you think the following potential changes are, with 1 being not important and 5 being the most important.**

The following chart shows the three potential changes to the Monroe Street Pool that were most important to respondents and the percentage of respondents who ranked them as 5 (most important). These included increasing the overall size of the pool (49%) maximizing use of solar (47%) and more availability for lap swimming (45%).



Here are the three potential changes to the Monroe Street Pool that respondents considered least important and the percentage of respondents who ranked them as 1 (not important). These included the ability to use large inflatable slides and obstacle courses in the water (51%), building a meeting room to hold birthday parties and other gatherings (48%) and more space to lounge on the pool deck (36%).



Here is complete summary of how each potential change was ranked.

|  | <b>1 (Not important)</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5 (Most important)</b> |
|--|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------------|
| More room for kids to play in the pool                             | 25%<br>1 (Not important) | 14%<br>2 | 20%<br>3 | 18%<br>4 | 24%<br>5 (Most important) |
| More availability of lanes for lap swimming                        | 11%<br>1 (Not important) | 8%<br>2  | 18%<br>3 | 18%<br>4 | 45%<br>5 (Most important) |
| More availability for school team sports                           | 18%<br>1 (Not important) | 13%<br>2 | 24%<br>3 | 16%<br>4 | 29%<br>5 (Most important) |
| More availability for youth private/club team sports               | 26%<br>1 (Not important) | 18%<br>2 | 20%<br>3 | 12%<br>4 | 23%<br>5 (Most important) |
| More availability for adult private/club team sports               | 32%<br>1 (Not important) | 24%<br>2 | 22%<br>3 | 11%<br>4 | 11%<br>5 (Most important) |
| More space on the pool deck to lounge/relax                        | 36%<br>1 (Not important) | 18%<br>2 | 20%<br>3 | 16%<br>4 | 10%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Building meeting room to host birthday parties or other gatherings | 48%<br>1 (Not important) | 17%<br>2 | 18%<br>3 | 10%<br>4 | 6%<br>5 (Most important)  |
| More shade structures  | 13%<br>1 (Not important) | 12%<br>2 | 23%<br>3 | 28%<br>4 | 23%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Fully renovated/upgraded pool equipment                            | 6%<br>1 (Not important)  | 6%<br>2  | 20%<br>3 | 26%<br>4 | 42%<br>5 (Most important) |

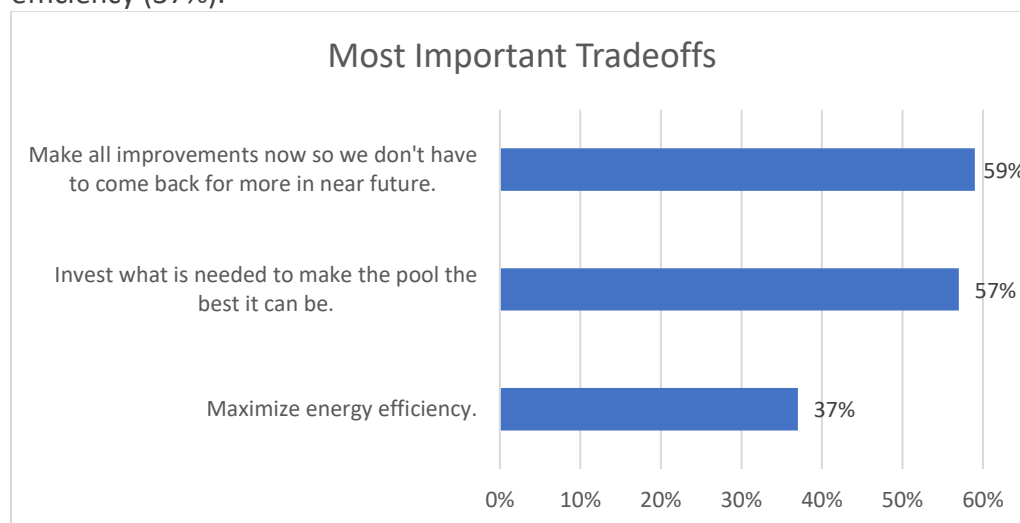
|  | <b>1 (Not important)</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5 (Most important)</b> |
|--|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------------|
| Maximize the use of solar                                  | 6%<br>1 (Not important)  | 5%<br>2  | 16%<br>3 | 26%<br>4 | 47%<br>5 (Most important) |
| More on-site parking                                       | 18%<br>1 (Not important) | 13%<br>2 | 26%<br>3 | 24%<br>4 | 18%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Ability to enter pool without walking through shower rooms | 23%<br>1 (Not important) | 10%<br>2 | 21%<br>3 | 24%<br>4 | 22%<br>5 (Most important) |
| More swimming lessons available                            | 22%<br>1 (Not important) | 18%<br>2 | 26%<br>3 | 19%<br>4 | 14%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Water exercise classes available                           | 28%<br>1 (Not important) | 19%<br>2 | 24%<br>3 | 16%<br>4 | 14%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Larger shower rooms  | 26%<br>1 (Not important) | 17%<br>2 | 23%<br>3 | 21%<br>4 | 12%<br>5 (Most important) |
| More modern shower rooms                                   | 17%<br>1 (Not important) | 12%<br>2 | 22%<br>3 | 27%<br>4 | 23%<br>5 (Most important) |
| More privacy in shower rooms                               | 20%<br>1 (Not important) | 14%<br>2 | 22%<br>3 | 23%<br>4 | 21%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Outside lockers on the pool deck                           | 33%<br>1 (Not important) | 16%<br>2 | 24%<br>3 | 16%<br>4 | 11%<br>5 (Most important) |

|  | 1 (Not important)        | 2        | 3        | 4        | 5 (Most important)        |
|--|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------------|
| Outside showers on the pool deck   | 19%<br>1 (Not important) | 15%<br>2 | 27%<br>3 | 26%<br>4 | 14%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Space better suited for swim meets and water polo matches, including spectator areas | 23%<br>1 (Not important) | 14%<br>2 | 21%<br>3 | 16%<br>4 | 27%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Larger pool size overall   | 11%<br>1 (Not important) | 6%<br>2  | 14%<br>3 | 20%<br>4 | 49%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Ability to use large inflatable slides and obstacle courses in the water             | 51%<br>1 (Not important) | 15%<br>2 | 15%<br>3 | 8%<br>4  | 10%<br>5 (Most important) |

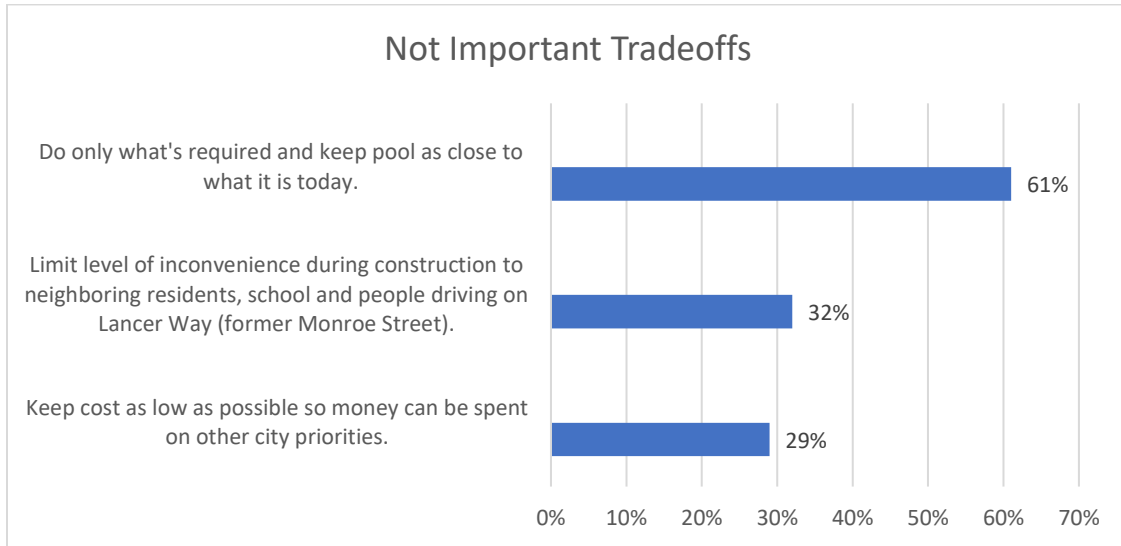
684 respondents

Question 4: Each of the three options involves some tradeoffs. Please indicate the importance of each of the following, with 1 being not important at all and 5 being most important.

The following chart shows the three tradeoffs that were most important to respondents and the percentage of respondents who ranked them as 5 (most important). These included making all improvements now so we don't have to come back for more in the near future (59%), investing what is needed to make the pool the best it can be (47%) and maximizing energy efficiency (37%).



Here are the three tradeoffs that the most respondents considered not important and the percentage of respondents who ranked them as 1 (not important). These included doing only what's required and keep the pool as close to what it is today (61%), limiting the level of inconvenience during construction to neighboring residents, the school and people driving on Lancer Way (former Monroe Street) (32%) and keeping costs as low as possible so money can be spent on other city priorities (27%).



Here is complete summary of how each tradeoff was ranked.

|  | <b>1 (Not important)</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>5 (Most important)</b> |
|--|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------------|
| Limit the amount of time the pool will be closed for construction.   | 28%<br>1 (Not important) | 17%<br>2 | 21%<br>3 | 12%<br>4 | 22%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Limit the level of inconvenience during construction to neighboring residents, the school and people driving on Lancer Way (former Monroe Street). | 32%<br>1 (Not important) | 21%<br>2 | 23%<br>3 | 12%<br>4 | 11%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Maximize energy efficiency.  | 6%<br>1 (Not important)  | 8%<br>2  | 22%<br>3 | 28%<br>4 | 37%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Keep the cost as low as possible so money can be spent on other city priorities.   | 29%<br>1 (Not important) | 25%<br>2 | 30%<br>3 | 10%<br>4 | 7%<br>5 (Most important)  |
| Invest what is needed to make the pool the best it can be.   | 3%<br>1 (Not important)  | 4%<br>2  | 15%<br>3 | 21%<br>4 | 57%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Choose a project that be completed as soon as possible.  | 27%<br>1 (Not important) | 25%<br>2 | 25%<br>3 | 8%<br>4  | 15%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Make all the improvements now so we don't have to come back for more in the near future.   | 4%<br>1 (Not important)  | 4%<br>2  | 10%<br>3 | 22%<br>4 | 59%<br>5 (Most important) |
| Do only what's required and keep the pool as close to what it is today.  | 61%<br>1 (Not important) | 15%<br>2 | 12%<br>3 | 4%<br>4  | 8%<br>5 (Most important)  |

616 respondents



Question 5: Please rank the three options from most to least favorite:

|                 | Ranking  |  | Rating<br>most favorite= 1<br>least favorite = 3 |
|-----------------|----------|--|--|
| Highest ranking | <b>1</b> | Option 3 – most improvements, highest cost, longest construction time        | 1.40   |
|                 | <b>2</b> | Option 2 – moderate improvements, mid-range cost, moderate construction time | 1.78   |
| Lowest ranking  | <b>3</b> | Option 1 – fewest improvements, lowest cost, shortest construction time      | 2.50   |

## Next Steps

The City of Carlsbad will provide the input gathered from the community with the City Council in early 2021 to assist in deciding how ultimately to proceed with the project.