


Survey Results: Community Pool

 Survey Info - This survey was sent on behalf of City of Valdez to the FlashVote community for Valdez, AK.

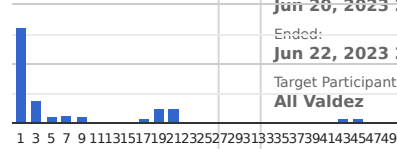
These FlashVote results are shared with local officials

162
Total
Participants

161 of 224 initially invited (72%)
1 other
Margin of error: $\pm 8\%$

Applied Filter:
Locals only
Participants for
filter:
148

Response Time (hours)



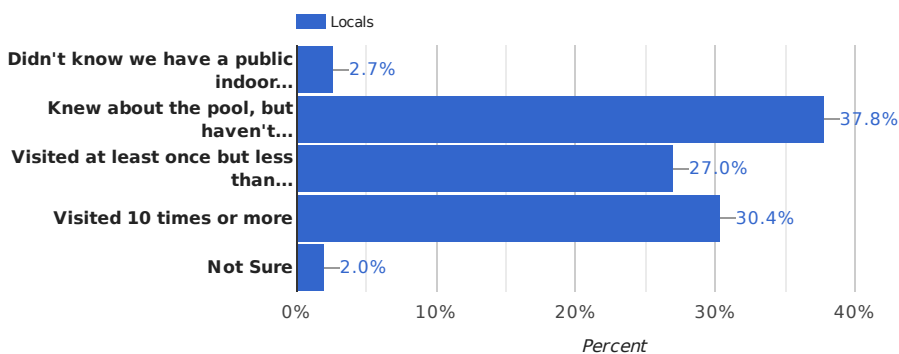
Started:
Jun 20, 2023 2:19pm PDT
Ended:
Jun 22, 2023 2:16pm PDT
Target Participants:
All Valdez

Q1 The City of Valdez has an indoor pool located within the Valdez High School. It is generally open 6:00AM to 5:30PM Monday through Friday and 9:00AM to 3:00PM on Saturday. The pool is closed on Sundays and admission is free for residents. The pool hosts a variety of swimming opportunities.

In the last 12 months which best describes how often you or your household visited the indoor pool?

(148 responses by)

Options	Locals (148)
Didn't know we have a public indoor pool (so haven't visited)	2.7% (4)
Knew about the pool, but haven't visited in the last 12 months	37.8% (56)
Visited at least once but less than 10 times	27.0% (40)
Visited 10 times or more	30.4% (45)
Not Sure	2.0% (3)

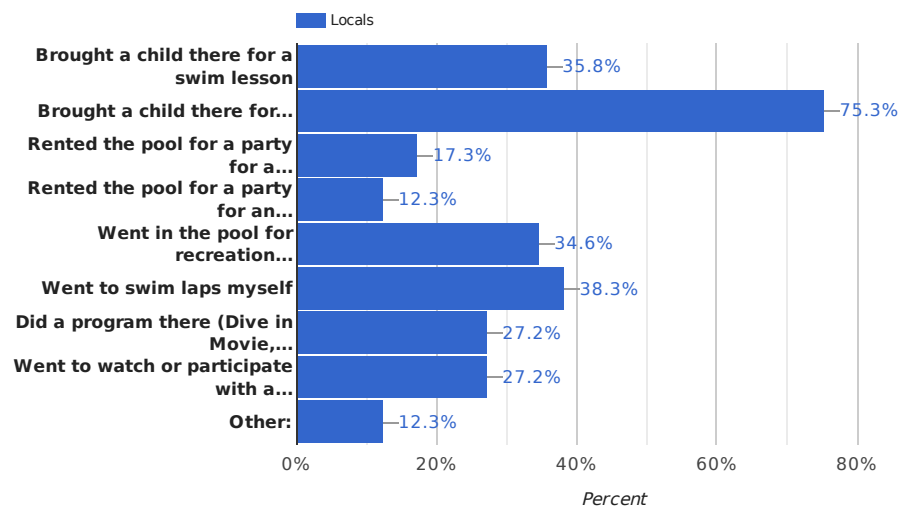


Q2 Which of the following have you done at the pool? (Choose all that apply, if any)

(81 responses by)

Options	Locals (81)
Brought a child there for a swim lesson	35.8% (29)
Brought a child there for recreational swimming	75.3% (61)
Rented the pool for a party for a young child (0-6 years old)	17.3% (14)

Options	Locals (81)
Rented the pool for a party for an older child (7-13 years old)	12.3% (10)
Went in the pool for recreation myself (not lap swimming)	34.6% (28)
Went to swim laps myself	38.3% (31)
Did a program there (Dive in Movie, Water Aerobics, Rehab Swim, etc.)	27.2% (22)
Went to watch or participate with a swim team	27.2% (22)
Other:	12.3% (10)



Attended birthday parties
Attended birthday parties held at the pool
Elementary school field trip
Kayaking!
Kids don't float class volunteering, pool kayak practice.
Physical therapy session with therapist
Rented pool to practice diving skillz

Went to a pool party rental

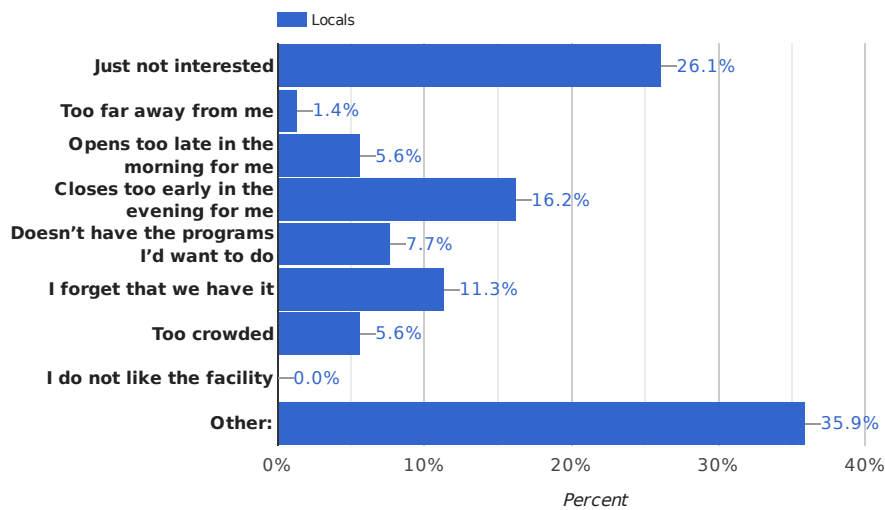
USCG Physical Fitness Testing

Birthday party someone else hosted

Q3 What, if anything, prevents you from using the pool or using the pool more? (Choose all that apply, if any)

(142 responses by)

Options	Locals (142)
Just not interested	26.1% (37)
Too far away from me	1.4% (2)
Opens too late in the morning for me	5.6% (8)
Closes too early in the evening for me	16.2% (23)
Doesn't have the programs I'd want to do	7.7% (11)
I forget that we have it	11.3% (16)
Too crowded	5.6% (8)
I do not like the facility	0.0% (0)
Other:	35.9% (51)



year water consistent weekends book
 like use cold hours chlorine
 hard love slide pool make morning
 issues take swim lap evening
 busy go time work forget
 available kids much open ages
 programs

Actual warm pool would be amazing! But not a deal breaker. Mainly just forget it's there.

Covid was an interruption and my work schedule. I will be back in the pool for lap swim soon!

Early morning openings not consistent as scheduled.

Happy with pool and understand staffing issues. Gail and staff excellent.

Have physical limitations

Health issues

I don't have any motivation to swim

I just do other types of exercise

I love our pool and love how much the staff is trying to accommodate the use for all ages and phys.

I'm fat, and whales are frowned upon at the pool

It's great activity for our community and critical our kids learn to swim.

It's too cold.

I'm lazy

Lap swim hours are hard to make work in my schedule

Lapse I'm not available Tuesday/Thursday.

Love the swim lessons!

My own scheduling issues. I'd like to use it more!

Needs evening lap swim every night

Not much opportunity to use the diving board and strict rules on diving.

Not open consistently or full weekends

Not reliable

Now that you've reminded me I'll make the trek to swim!

Open swim too late in the evening

Shy

Sometimes the kids pool is too cold for my 1 year old so we don't last long

The chlorine. It would be a dream to have another purifying system like saline or ozone.

The class that I used to take got moved to middle of the week and during working hours

The hours open are not the same as hours available. I work when lap swim is scheduled.

The programs offered for my children are at inconvenient times. A lot of them are during work hours

The water hurts my skin. I don't go in, but I take my kids to swim with friends

The water slide is never open

Time

Timing

To cold for me

Too much chlorine, I prefer salt pools.

Too busy at work

Too many competing programs, the pool doesn't rank

Too tired from work to go swimming

Turn on the water slide more

Unfamiliar with policies etc.

Water is too cold for me and my young child

Would like to go to lap swim in the mornings to use paddleboard and rehab legs, but am intimidated

some timed two much chlorine

Constantly changing registration for process

Hard to get rental - only available for certain times and booking goes fast

I'd love it a little warmer

Llfe gets busy and I forget about it.

Busy with other things

Cold

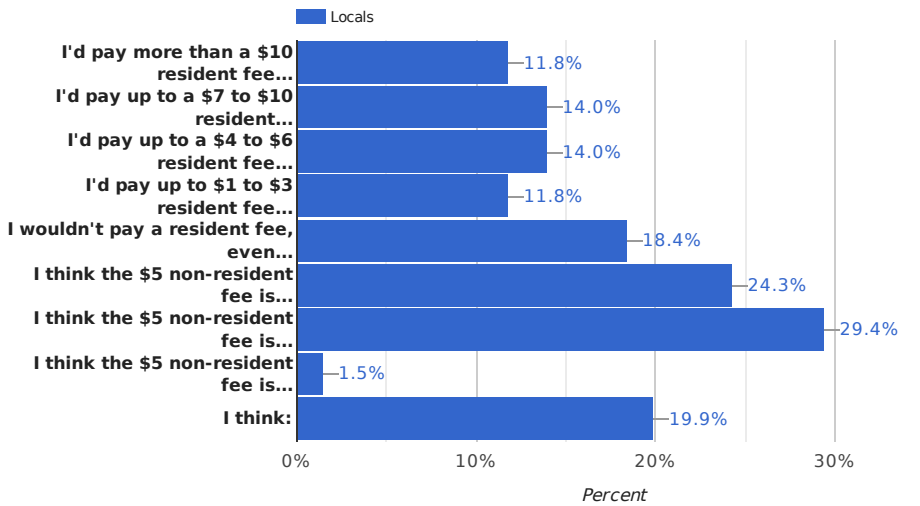
Staff not available to book the pool for parties

With kids, it's way easier to go when my husband can go with me. So more time on weekends

Q4 Right now the pool is free to residents and \$5 for non-residents. Which of the following are TRUE for you about the pool fees?

(136 responses by)

Options	Locals (136)
I'd pay more than a \$10 resident fee if it paid for improvements at the pool	11.8% (16)
I'd pay up to a \$7 to \$10 resident fee if it paid for improvements at the pool	14.0% (19)
I'd pay up to a \$4 to \$6 resident fee if it paid for improvements at the pool	14.0% (19)
I'd pay up to \$1 to \$3 resident fee if it paid for improvements at the pool	11.8% (16)
I wouldn't pay a resident fee, even if it paid for improvements at the pool	18.4% (25)
I think the \$5 non-resident fee is too low	24.3% (33)
I think the \$5 non-resident fee is about right	29.4% (40)
I think the \$5 non-resident fee is too high	1.5% (2)
I think:	19.9% (27)



large community improve maintain high annual charge yearly 20 fee city lower ever think still tax pay mill visit valdez board free pool resident cover necessary open shut family property use wouldn't

\$5 per non-resident visit is still a value to those that want to enjoy the pool.

A 10 dollar yearly fee

City has the funds to maintain

Everyone should pay to use the pool. The city gives the college money and we still pay for the gym

I Wouldn't pay a fee, this city has plenty of income and wastes it across the board

I don't have an opinion on this.

I would pay a residential annual fee if it paid for improvement like new diving board or expansions

I wouldn't pay the resident and don't think improvements are necessary

Is the \$5 non-resident fee per use?

It should be free to residents because we have to pay high taxes. Lower the mill rate and charge

I'd pay for. Season pass, especially a family pass. Large family can't do individual fees

Non-residents should have to pay an increased fee for all City services

TAXES HIGH IN VALDEZ, NO CHARGE TO RESIDENTS EVER!

That my 20 mill property tax pays my resident fee

It's fine how it is

I don't have children yet but if I did I would use the pool more often than I currently do.

I don't think there should be a charge for anyone. The city subsidizes most things because of our high taxes, this should be free. Or lower the mill rate.

I feel the staff at the pool is wonderful and I appreciate their professionalism. I will be furious if there's any more fees attached to pool use as a resident.

I haven't been for over 24 months and I stopped going because it was the locker, shower and bathrooms were not clean.

I think a one page brochure about each public PRCS facility would be really nice to have. Something that could get new residents or visitors acquainted with the facilities, but also help locals who haven't used certain facilities before become more knowledgeable about what's available to them.

I would be irritated to have to pay a fee as a resident when we have such an extravagant water slide and rock wall that is hardly in use. It seems like if the city can't continue to offer a free pool then maybe it shouldn't have added those things.

It's a good facility. I'd like to swim in the mornings using just a kickboard, but am intimidated because I've been told the ones swimming in the morning are accomplished swimmers and more serious - would not appreciate me just using a kickboard to rehab my legs.

It's mostly just hard to get both my kids ready afterwards and I often don't go because lack of help. As they get a little older I don't see it being as big of an issue and we will probably go more often.

I'm glad we have a pool and need to utilize it more

Lap swim morning and evening. General swim is a great idea, keep it. Open swim should not be so late on school days, those kids need their sleep. I think the pool should open on Sundays again.

Market it and its amenities and schedule more, and how it can be of use for the community!

More lap swim opportunities in the evenings

More opportunities throughout the year for rec/general swim for families on weekends - especially winter

More programs for kids outside of standard work hours please

More swimming classes for adults would be great

My family, especially my children use the pool regularly and would love to see improvements.

My water aerobics class was recently changed from Saturdays to Wednesday morning. Most people cannot attend a Wednesday morning class! Instructor said this was only option offered to her.

Open on Sundays, at least an occasional afternoon

Pay the life guards a decent wage. If you don't pay them to care, they won't.

Please add press releases to Twitter not just Facebook. Thank you.

Please don't waste my tax dollars anymore than you already have on ineffective programs, initiatives, and organizations supported by CSO grants that the City fails to provide adequate oversight of and hold accountable.

Shut it down. I do not consent to pay taxes for it.

The hours aren't consistent enough due to lack of staff. Right now, it seems PR has been building that up and I hope those hours can continue to be considered and expanded on. If there is maintenance that needs to be done, money from the public makes sense, but if it's for more upgrades, I don't think we need that at this time!

The pool is a very worthwhile facility to have in our community.

The pool is one of our best assets.

The pool temperatures are too low. Even with a wetsuit and constant movement my child is freezing and has purple lips. Often the small pool's temperature is too cold for babies.

There have been some communication glitches when the pool has closed due to staffing or other issues. Getting the word out to users is important. Some residents come from 10 mile, for instance, and to have a sign on the door the only warning of an unplanned closure should not be the norm. And imagine how that is for those that come from up-country.

This survey would not let me type what I wanted into the comment "I think" section

Turn on the water slide and rope swing more. Stop giving the lifeguards so many breaks. Get rid of the fee and membership cards.

Valdez pool lifeguards are the BEST!

We love the pool and use it all the time.

Would love to explore options for a salt water pool, chlorine is so bad for health. Lap swim tuesdays and thursdays would be appreciated. Sad that the slide is seldom open. (I've never seen it open) Often there are multiple lifeguards about and still not

enough to 'man' slide.

Get rid of the slide, put in a hot tub or sauna please!

I have lived my whole life in Valdez for 42 years and I have enjoyed the free pool, especially as a child. And now my children enjoy the free pool. Even though it was free all those years, I would have gladly paid a fee to go swim, as this is the only free pool that I know of.

I like what you are doing

It is a really great thing to have for recreation for our residents. That being said, if it comes to less recreation opportunities, but also less taxes... I would vote for less taxes. Or make it fee-based to cover it's own expenses (or mostly).

More staffing - slide is almost never open due to "short" staffing

We love the pool, the shallow pool, and our swim team the Valdez Torpedoes! Having the pool and our team has been positively life changing for my family. It would be great to make our pool more spectator friendly for when we host meets (especially the Banana Meet). Fans for the heat, more seating, etc. Keeping the Torpedoes swim club thriving is a big priority for my family. I would also rather pay an annual fee than a drop-in fee.

I don't use the pool, but I used to when I had younger children. I also know a lot of people who do use it. It is a great resource and nice that it is free. I would have always been willing to pay a small fee though.

I think private swim lessons should be offered. Or family. I would be willing to pay more for that

I would be willing to pay a yearly family membership fee of around \$50 if the money went to improvements at the pool and the city didn't spend it on other things.

Mommy and me swim classes would be awesome, keeping the online schedule up to date so we don't drive into town and realize the online schedule doesn't match what's actually happening, and more hours on the weekend

Warmer water and no many random closures

[Additional survey reports](#)