# **What We Heard –** Clarington Waterfront Survey

## Draft Vision, Guiding Principles and Five Distinct Experiences

Survey highlights (between June 25-July 30, 2025):

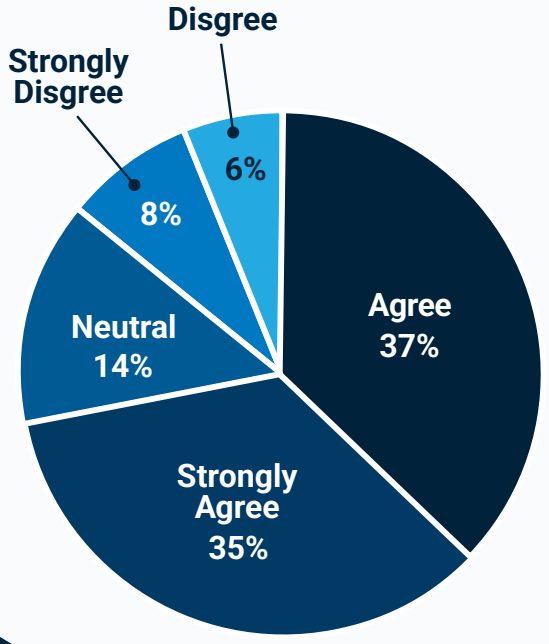
- ☑ **602** survey respondents
- ☑ **4,700** webpage visitors
- ☑ **95%** of survey respondents reside in Clarington
- ☑ **80%** of survey respondents have lived in Clarington for 5+ years
- ☑ **Diverse age range** of respondents, from 15 to 85+
- ☑ **49%** of respondents between the ages of 30-50



## The Vision

When asked, **"how much do you agree or disagree with the draft Vision for Clarington's waterfront?"**

**Overall Rating: 3.84 out of 5**




### What You Told Us:

The community envisions Clarington's waterfront as a publicly accessible, ecologically resilient, and culturally respectful space that prioritizes nature preservation, connected trails, and inclusive recreation. Respondents overwhelmingly support a vision that enhances quality of life through sustainable growth, while expressing concerns about overdevelopment and the loss of natural and community character.

### Your Priorities:

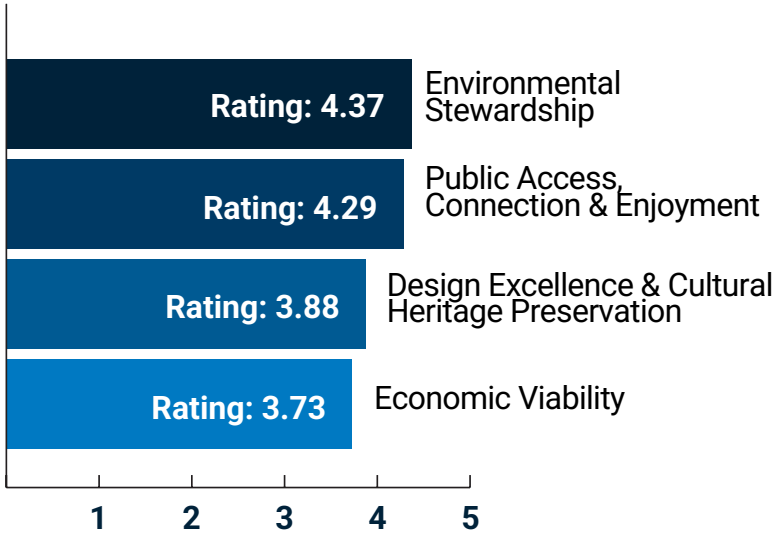
- Environmental stewardship and ecological resilience
- Connected trails and safe, accessible public access
- Year-round recreation and community use
- Support for small-scale local businesses
- Concerns about overdevelopment and high-density housing
- Requests to meaningfully integrate Indigenous voices and local history

## The Guiding Principles

When asked, **"how much do you agree or disagree with the draft Guiding Principles of Environmental Stewardship, Public Access, Connection and Enjoyment, Design Excellence and Cultural Heritage Preservation, and Economic Viability?"**

**What You Told Us:**

Respondents broadly support the draft Guiding Principles of Clarington's waterfront strategy, especially those emphasizing environmental stewardship, public access, and inclusive design. However, there is concern that large-scale commercial development and high-density residential expansion could undermine the natural character, accessibility, and long-term sustainability of the waterfront.




**Your Priorities:**

- Strong protection for wetlands, wildlife habitats and shoreline ecosystems
- Safe, accessible and barrier-free access to trails, beaches and green spaces
- Indigenous consultation, preservation of historic sites along the waterfront
- Support for small-scale, local businesses that complement public use
- Thoughtful, sustainable design that enhances natural beauty and community use





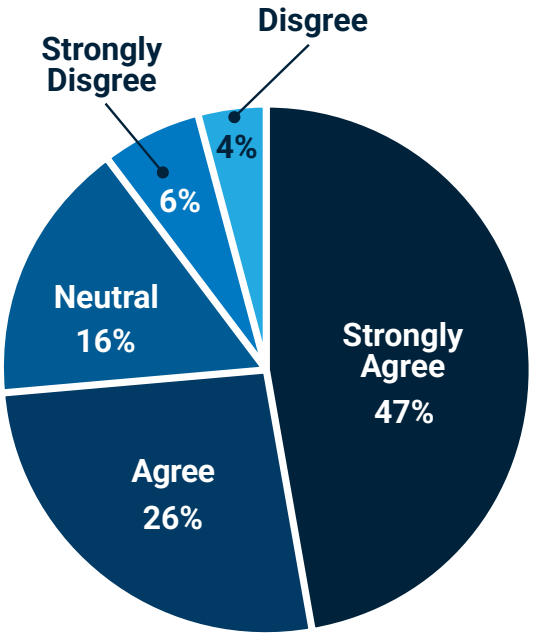


**Attachment 1: PDS-045-25**
Percentages are rounded to the nearest percentile; totals may not equal 100%

Clarington

## The Five Unique Experiences

When asked, **"how much do you agree or disagree with the vision for the Courtice Waterfront Park?"**




**Rating: 4.03 out of 5**

**What You Told Us:**

The Courtice Waterfront is seen as a rare and valuable opportunity to create a landmark public space that balances environmental preservation, recreational access, and community well-being. While many residents are excited about the potential for trails, year-round activities, and shoreline protection, there are concerns about overdevelopment, infrastructure strain, and the loss of natural character.

**Your Priorities:**

- Preserve the shoreline, protect habitats and enhance natural features
- Naturalized landscapes, shade and minimal impacts to the environment
- Offer year-round recreational opportunities, splash pads and family-friendly activities
- Connect Courtice to the broader trail networks and waterfront destinations
- Offer safe, inclusive access via walking, biking and transit – especially across barriers like Highway 401 and rail lines
- Concerns about high-density housing and large-scale commercial sprawl
- Support for small-scale, local businesses (i.e. cafes, ice cream shops)



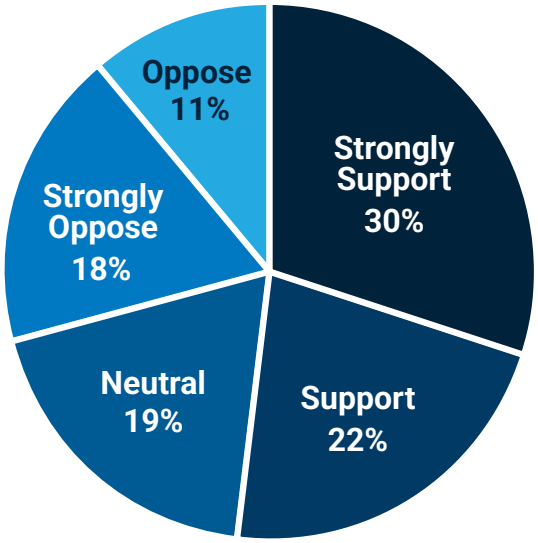


When asked, **"how much do you support or oppose the creation of a new residential community to help fund and acquire land for the 16-hectare/39-acre Courtice Waterfront park?"**

**Rating: 3.36 out of 5**

**What You Told Us:**

More than half of respondents support the idea in principle—recognizing the need for funding and infrastructure—while others express strong opposition due to concerns about environmental impact, overdevelopment, and loss of public access.




**Your Priorities:**

- Guarantee the park's creation
- Offer nature-focused amenities and quiet public spaces
- Opposition to high-density housing and large-scale commercial businesses
- Ensure strong environmental safeguards, including habitat protection, shoreline preservation and sustainable design
- Support for small-scale local businesses that enhance the park experience
- Phased infrastructure delivery to support growth (i.e. schools, transit, services)





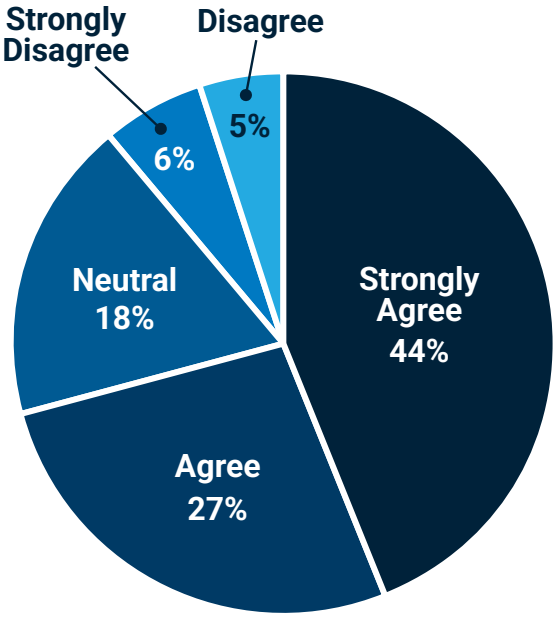


**The following is an appendix to PDS-045-25**
Percentages are rounded to the nearest percentile; totals may not equal 100%

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## Bowmanville Waterfront

When asked, **"how much do you agree or disagree with the vision for the Bowmanville Waterfront?"**




**Rating: 3.98 out of 5**

### What You Told Us:

The Bowmanville waterfront vision is widely supported for its emphasis on environmental protection, improved public access, and recreational amenities. However, residents raised concerns about infrastructure limitations, environmental risks, and the need for clearer planning and community consultation.

### Your Priorities:

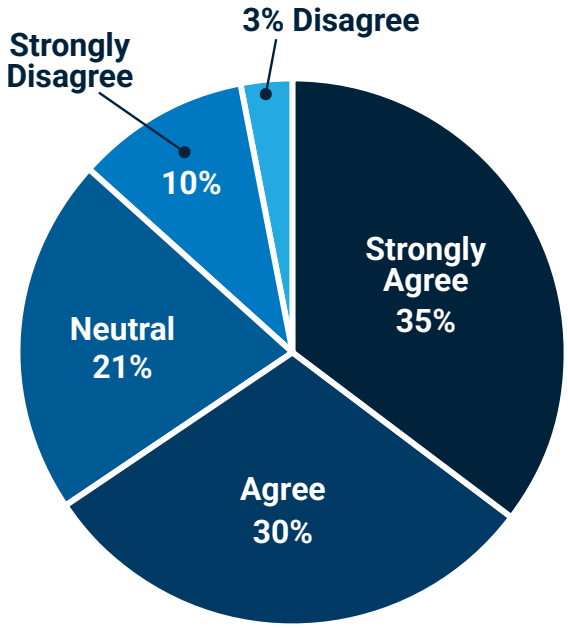
- Protect the Bowmanville Westside Marshes Conservation Area and other sensitive areas
- Position Port Darlington West Beach as Clarington's main beach, and reimagine East Beach as a more accessible and inclusive space
- Suggestions for year-round programming, food vendors and family-friendly features
- Revitalize the Bowmanville Marina as a primary boat launch
- Improve road access, parking, sidewalks, bike paths and public transit
- Preserve heritage cottages, maintain quiet natural areas
- Emphasize accessibility for seniors, children and people with disabilities





## Newcastle Waterfront

When asked, **"how much do you agree or disagree with the vision for the Newcastle Waterfront?"**




**Rating: 3.76 out of 5**

### What You Told Us:

The Newcastle waterfront vision—featuring a gateway park, resilient shoreline, and primary boat launch—has sparked both enthusiasm and concern. While many residents support improved public spaces and amenities, there is strong opposition to designating Bond Head Parkette as a primary boat launch due to its size, infrastructure limitations, and impact on the local community.

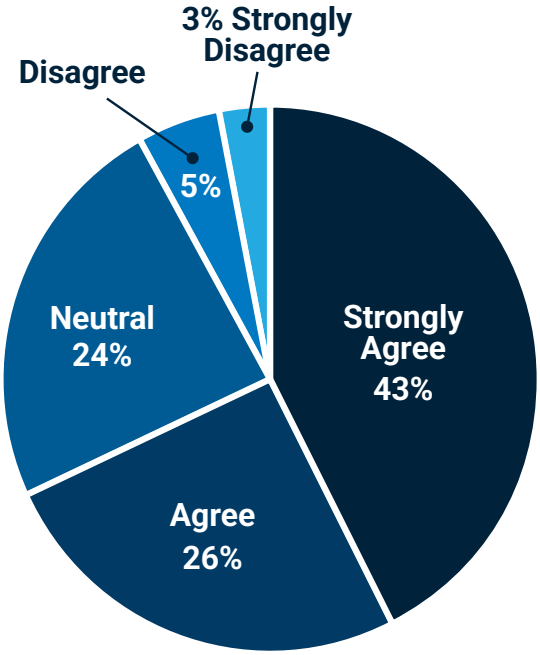
### Your Priorities:

- Broad support for a municipal-wide gateway park with public art, food services and water programs
- Desire for connectivity between waterfront areas via trails and boardwalks
- Emphasis on resilient shoreline design, erosion control and habitat protection
- Opposition to Bond Head Parkette as primary boat launch
- Support for small-scale commercial development (i.e. cafes, restaurants, shops)
- Better transit, accessible washrooms, parking, senior-friendly designs
- Calls for outdoor fitness areas, splash pads and family-friendly amenities



## Agricultural Heritage

When asked, **"how much do you agree or disagree with the vision for an Agricultural Heritage Area?"**




**Rating: 4.01 out of 5**

**What You Told Us:**

The vision to celebrate Clarington's agricultural heritage along the waterfront is widely supported, especially for its focus on preserving farmland, enhancing public access, and promoting environmental stewardship. However, residents expressed a need for clarity, balance, and protection—ensuring that development does not compromise the area's rural character or ecological integrity.

**Your Priorities:**

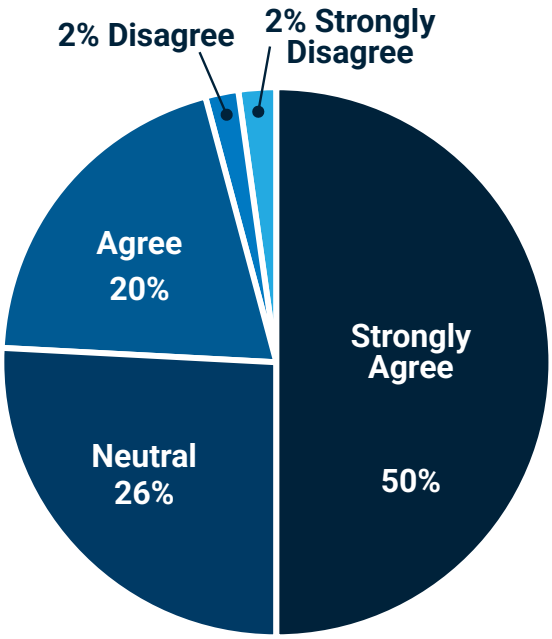
- Protect vital farmland and maintain local food production
- Prevent urban sprawl and subdivision development on agricultural lands
- Provide educational opportunities, like farm tours, markets, and community gardens
- Offer accessible waterfront trails with lookouts and rest stops
- Provide passive recreation that respects the natural landscape (bike paths, shade structures, washrooms)
- Native plantings, wildflower gardens and low-impact design





## Port Granby Nature Reserve

When asked, **"how much do you agree or disagree with the vision for the Port Granby Nature Reserve?"**




**Rating: 4.14 out of 5**

**What You Told Us:**

The Port Granby Nature Reserve vision—focused on environmental restoration, education, and public access—is widely supported. Residents value the opportunity to experience protected natural landscapes, but many emphasize the need for minimal impact, controlled access, and preservation of ecological integrity.

**Your Priorities:**

- Preserve forests, wetlands, meadows and pastures
- Maintain the area's wild, untouched character
- Provide low impact trails, lookouts and quiet nature experiences
- Offer environmental education, especially for youth and schools
- Consider Indigenous-led programming and features
- Ensure limited infrastructure and no commercial development
- Need for accessibility features for seniors and those with disabilities







**Attachment 1: PDS-045-25**
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