

# What We Heard Report

## Crestwood Arena Park Playground Renewal

Open Space Planning and Design  
14th Floor, Edmonton Tower  
10111 104 Avenue NW  
Edmonton, AB  
Telephone: 311  
[edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal](http://edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal)

| **SHARE** YOUR VOICE  
**SHAPE** OUR CITY

**Edmonton**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS	3
Project overview	3
What we heard	3
Preferred age group for playground focus	3
Play activities and experiences	4
Playground colour	5
Other feedback	5
Age of focus for renewed playground	5
Playground base	6
General comments and suggestions	6
Out-of-Scope comments and suggestions	6
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH	6
What, when, how and who we engaged	6
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT	7

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

### Project overview

Crestwood Arena Park Playground, located at 9940 147 St NW, has been chosen for renewal. The objective of this project is to use public feedback in alignment with the City's strategic objectives, plans and policies to replace the playground. A renewed playground will better serve the needs of community groups and partners, residents in nearby neighbourhoods and City residents at large. Construction is scheduled for spring 2026, subject to funding availability.

The scope of this playground renewal project includes:

- Replacing the playground sand with engineered wood surfacing for better accessibility
- Removing the existing play equipment at the end of its life cycle, or does not meet current standards
- Adding new play equipment
- Adding a new pathway to the playground
- Replacing three benches and renewing the concrete pad that the benches sit on

This project will not include:

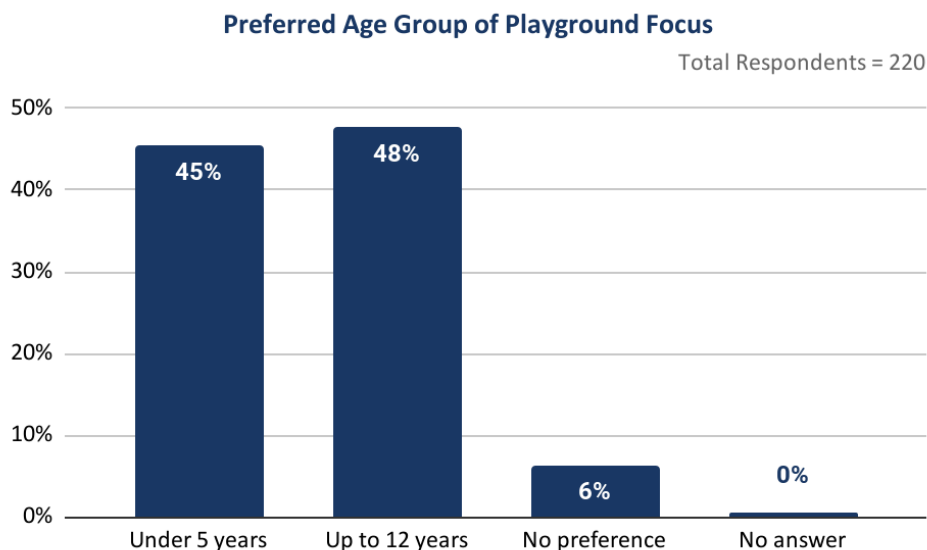
- Changes to existing lighting within the playground
- Park furniture beyond items which will be replaced
- Shade structures
- Water play (e.g., spray park)
- A skate park
- Any community league amenities
- Landscaping beyond the project location

### What we heard

Many engagement participants value the playground and look forward to the planned improvements. Most participants (61 per cent) use the playground at least once per week or daily. Other participants did not support the project, indicating that Crestwood had other playgrounds in the neighbourhood and renewing the Crestwood Arena playground should not be a City priority.

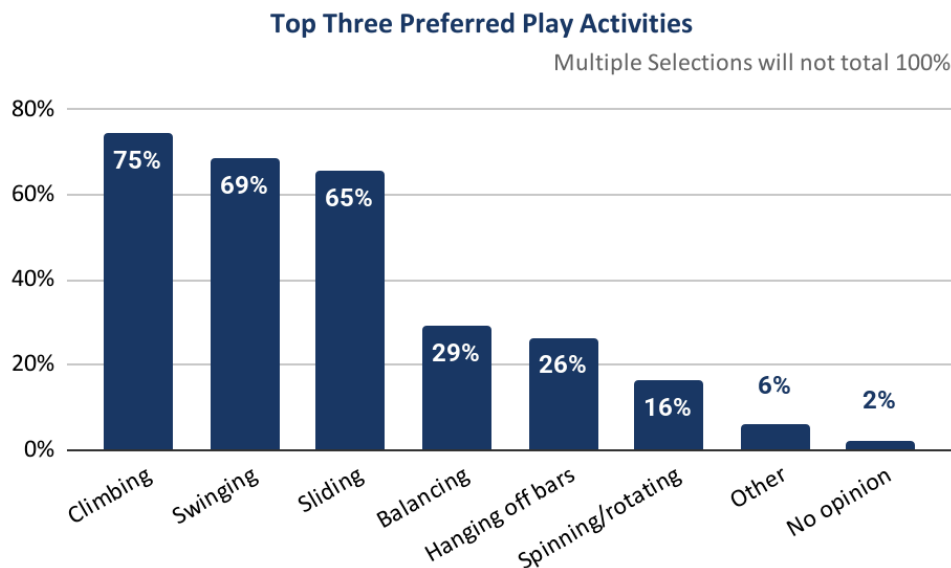
### Preferred age group for playground focus

Engagement participants were split on the age group they want emphasized when the playground is renewed. Overall, there was a slight preference for the playground to include equipment for children up to 12 years of age (48 per cent), rather than a continued focus on children under five years of age (45 per cent). When preferences were reviewed according to how frequently respondents currently used the playground, most daily users would prefer the playground to remain focused on children under five years.



### Play activities and experiences

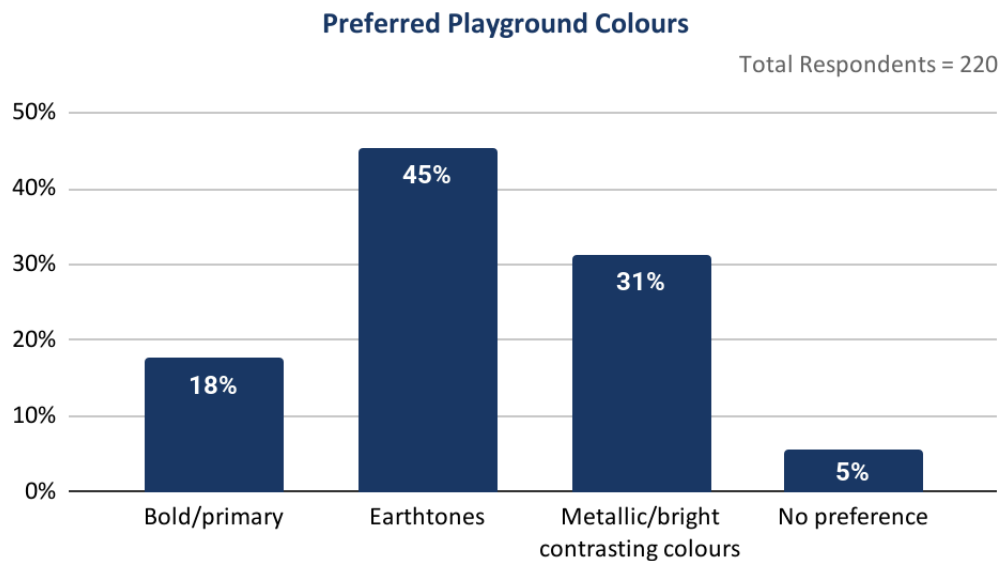
Participants said they most want the new playground to support climbing, swinging and sliding. Balancing, hanging off bars, and spinning were also selected, but less often.



Some participants selected “other”. Several respondents commented they would like sand at the playground. Others noted the importance of accessible equipment for all abilities and suggested a communication board for nonverbal children and their peers/caregivers. Other play equipment mentioned included a large structure to tie all play equipment together, a merry-go-round, trampoline, arched monkey bars, an area with sand and things to jump off of (e.g., toad stools). The notion of play equipment for children with sensory needs was also mentioned (rocking, bouncing).

### ***Playground colour***

Participants favoured an earth tone colour scheme for the renewed playground (45 per cent). About one third of participants preferred metallic finishes with bright contrast (31 per cent). Bold, primary colours were the least preferred colour scheme (18 per cent).



### **Other feedback**

#### ***Age of focus for renewed playground***

Most comments were about the age group the renewed playground should focus on. Many respondents favoured the idea that the playground should continue to emphasize children under five years of age. Many respondents noted that the playground is used by neighbourhood daycares and pre-school programs. Other respondents supported the idea of equipment for older children, noting that younger siblings often use the playground in the winter when older siblings are playing hockey.

### ***Playground base***

Many participants commented on the playground base. Most of these respondents stated they preferred sand (in relation to wood chips); both as a base and for its play value. Several emphasized the need for accessibility and indicated they did not believe wood chips supported wheelchair, stroller or mobility aid use. A few of these respondents were concerned about children getting cuts from wood chips. A few respondents were “anti-sand” and supported its removal.

Note: the term “wood chips” rather than the technical term “engineered wood fibre” was used in the public engagement materials. Engineered wood fibre is intended to bind together over time as it becomes packed to support accessibility.

### ***General comments and suggestions***

A few respondents recommended the Project Team work with local daycares so playground equipment is different from daycares’ equipment. A unique perspective shared recommended that the area where the Zamboni machine, used to clear the ice rink, drops off its snow be incorporated within the renewed playground design. This writer suggested the “hill” created by snow drop off could be used for winter play. The playground’s use during the winter months was also noted by another commenter who suggested “dimpled” play equipment to improve users’ grip when the equipment is cold. Other comments asked the project team to consider the importance of shade within the play equipment and surrounding area during the hot summer months. Benches were also desired.

### ***Out-of-Scope comments and suggestions***

Some participants commented on amenities that are out-of-scope for a playground renewal project. These desired elements included adult exercise equipment and a walking path to enable reflexology. A few respondents asked that a spray park and dog park be constructed as part of the playground renewal project. Other comments that are beyond technical, policy and cost considerations for this project included adding a bike path around the playground, public washroom, picnic tables and bulletin board to the site.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH**

### **What, when, how and who we engaged**

The public was asked to share their thoughts on:

- The age group the renewed project should emphasize
- Preferred play activities and experiences
- Playground colour preferences

- Other information and suggestions they would like the Project Team to consider as part of the playground renewal project.

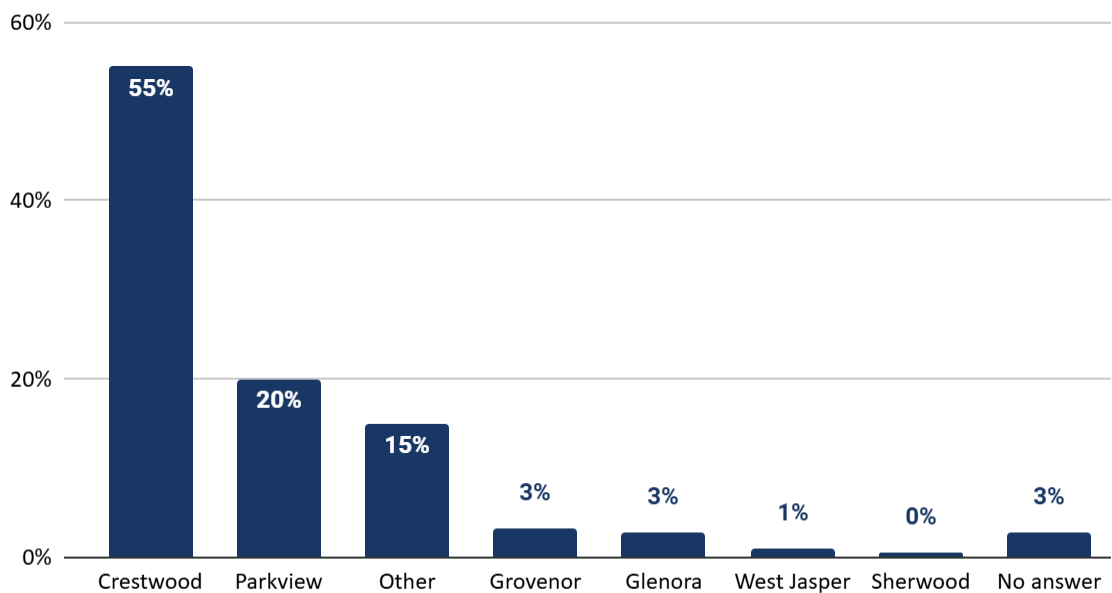
The engagement period was from May 27 to June 10, 2025. An online survey was the primary engagement method. The public was also invited to contact the Project Team by email, traditional mail or 311.

The public was informed of the engagement opportunity through postcards delivered to postal codes surrounding Crestwood Arena Playground. The postcard informed recipients about the project, the opportunity to complete the online survey and to learn more about the project at [edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal). The engagement opportunity was also promoted through the City’s social media accounts, signage in and around the playground and the City of Edmonton’s Public Service Announcement and Public Engagement Calendar.

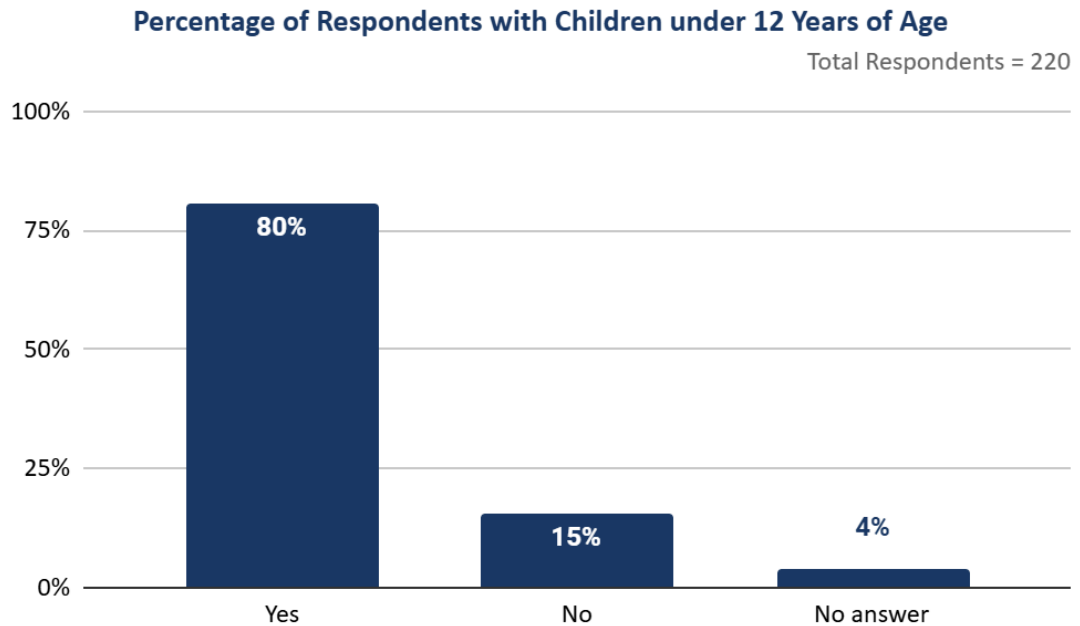
A total of 220 people responded to the survey. Almost all (97 per cent) lived in or near the Crestwood neighbourhood. Most respondents who selected “other” lived nearby in Laurier Heights, Lynnwood, Meadowlark and Patricia Heights. A few survey respondents chose not to answer this question.

### Repondents' Neighbourhood

Total Respondents = 2



Most survey respondents (80 per cent) had children under the age of 12 in their household.



The Project Manager also met with the Crestwood Community League (CCL) to provide information about the project and learn about the CCL's interest in a spray park at this location. As outlined as part of the public engagement materials and within this report, a spray park is out-of-scope for this project. Information about spray parks in Edmonton is available at [edmonton.ca/activities\\_parks\\_recreation/spray-parks-water-play](https://edmonton.ca/activities_parks_recreation/spray-parks-water-play)

### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Feedback from this engagement will be used to inform design options for the renewed playground. The Project Team will consider this feedback, along with technical standards, budget and maintenance needs to develop design options for the Crestwood Arena playground. Design options will be shared with the community for feedback in fall 2025. Construction is expected to begin in 2026.

For updates on this project please visit [edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal).