

What We Heard Report

Edgemont Community Park Development

Phase 1 Engagement

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Public Engagement Summary and Results

Project overview



To review project information about this project, visit edmonton.ca/EdgemontPark

The City of Edmonton is developing a community park in the Edgemont neighbourhood. The site will be the future home of a Kindergarten to Grade 9 school for Edmonton Public Schools. In preparation for this school, and for the use and enjoyment by all residents, the City of Edmonton will undertake base-level development of the park.

Base-level park development will include grading, seeding and landscaping, sports fields, adding park furniture and shared-use paths. A new playground will also be built in the park.

The project includes public engagement for feedback during the planning and design stages which began in spring of 2024 and will be ongoing into the fall of 2024.

The following report summarizes public input from Phase 1 of the engagement. In the first round, the City met with key stakeholders and the public to share the two approaches to the park design and gather feedback on select design elements. Opportunities for providing input included group meetings with the Edgemont community league and local developer, Brookfield Residential, an online survey and a drop-in public engagement session. Members of the public were also able to share additional comments, concerns, or ask questions by emailing EdgemontCommunityPark@edmonton.ca.

What We Heard - Key Stakeholders



Draft Preliminary Concept



Draft Alternate Approach

Prior to engaging the Edgemont community, the project team collaborated with Edmonton Public Schools and Alberta Infrastructure to incorporate site considerations into the design concepts. After establishing site considerations and constraints, the project team met with the community league, Brookfield Residential and community members to gather additional feedback for the development of Edgemont Park.

Meeting #1

During the first meeting with the community league, the main topics of discussion were the construction of a skating rink on the community-league-leased area in the park and the design of gathering and green spaces. The league expressed its desire to construct a skating rink with a concrete base that could be used for both winter hockey and skating and summer sports activities. While these items fall outside the current project's scope, the league has explored fundraising strategies and potential partnerships to facilitate the construction of these initiatives.

For gathering and green spaces, the community league highlighted the lack of event spaces in Edgemont and the surrounding communities as they are new and still developing. The league would like a highly visible open space suitable for hosting community-wide events and family gatherings. Some members of the community league mentioned this addition could attract

people from other neighbourhoods and avoid replicating park amenities offered by nearby communities.

Meeting #2

During the second meeting, the project team presented the preliminary concept options to the community league. Overall, the community league was satisfied with both options, but some members favored Option 2: Draft Alternate Approach over Option 1: Draft Preliminary Concept. These members noted Option 2 would be better suited for accommodating small and large community gatherings. They appreciated the location of the playground and the proximity to both the school, community league and the visibility from the road. Additionally, the community league offered suggestions regarding the placement of walking trails.

The community league board members were concerned about challenges such as site grading and the impacts on the park design.

What We Heard - Public Engagement

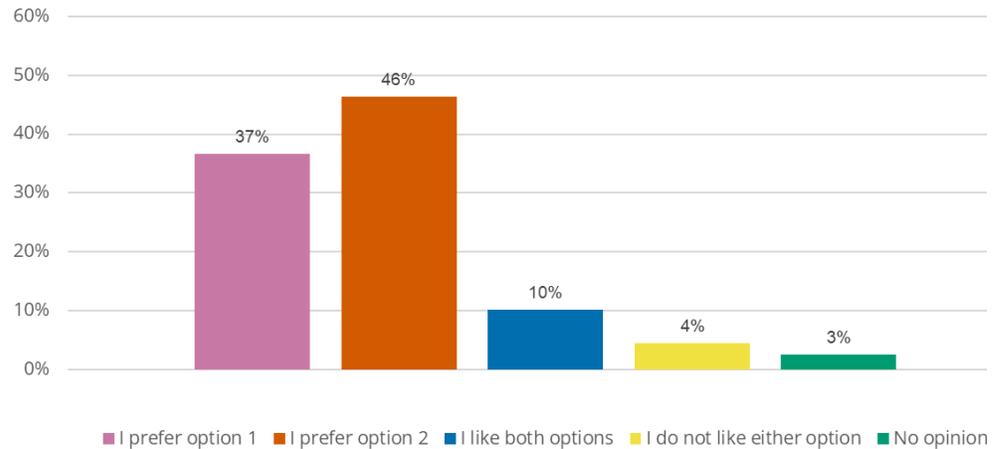


The following section summarizes what we heard and learned from the public through the in-person public engagement session as well as the online survey.

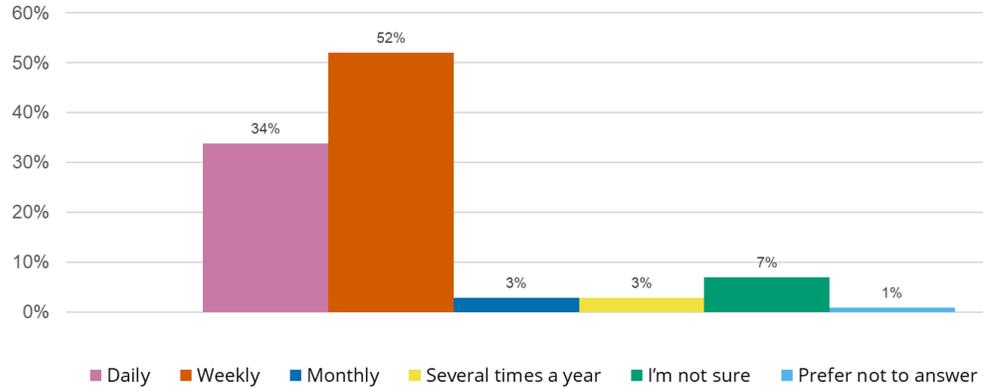
“Option 2 gives more flex space that is more useful to a more diverse audience.”

The new playground

The majority of community members were in support of the Edgemont Park development, with more people supporting Option 2 over Option 1.



Many respondents expect to use the park often, with most people saying they will use the park daily or weekly once it is built.

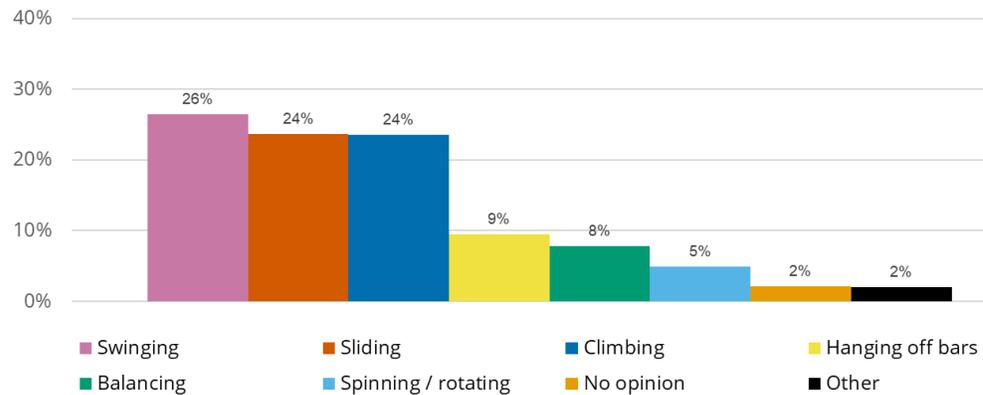


"It would be great if community members could reserve that area to host cultural events or celebrations..."

We asked people to select the top three activities and experiences they would like the new playground equipment to provide*. The top activities selected were swinging, sliding and climbing. Hanging, balancing and spinning/rotating also received votes, but were less of a priority.

Other activities mentioned included having pickleball courts, tennis courts, a hockey rink, water features or spray park, zipline, parkour items and options inclusive for all ages and people with disabilities.

**Respondents are able to select more than one option therefore percentages will not add to 100%*



Gathering spaces and green space

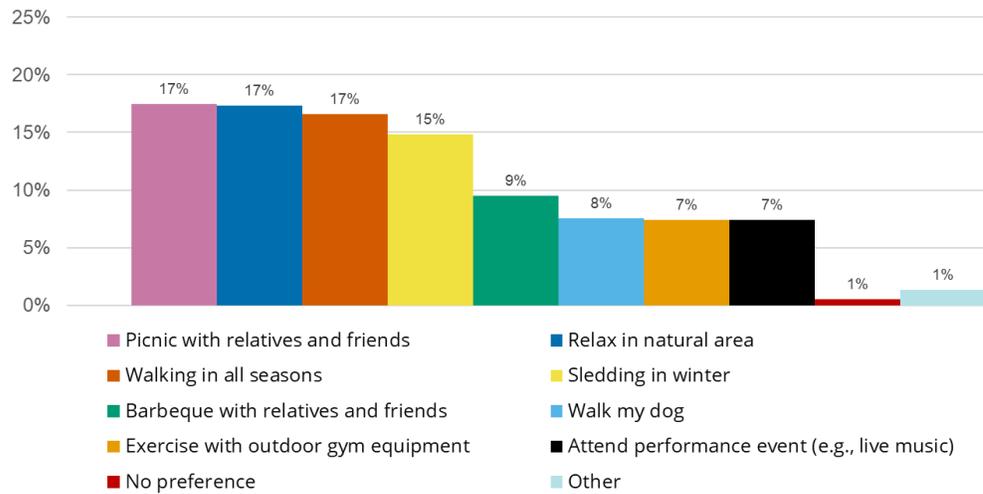
We asked people how they wish to gather and enjoy the green space within Edgemont Park*. Most people wanted to see the green space used for picnicking with relatives and friends, relaxing in a natural area, a space for walking in all seasons and winter sledding.

"A community gathering

space where all cultures, gender identity, lifestyles, etc. can be celebrated.”

When asked to share other ideas about gathering and green spaces, many elaborated on their responses in the previous question*. For picnic areas, some people wanted benches and picnic tables, with a few mentioning shelters to shield against sun, wind and rain. Some responses also mentioned including more varied sports facilities instead of a soccer field like a tennis court, pickleball court, basketball court and hockey rink. Having a park water feature, like a fountain or spray park, and making space for an off-leash dog park were other responses.

*Respondents are able to select more than one option therefore percentages will not add to 100%



A park for everyone

We asked people to share ideas to make Edgemont Park more welcoming and inclusive for people of all incomes, ages, cultures, abilities and genders. Below is a list of common themes received in the responses.

All ages: A park that has elements for young children, adults and seniors.

Accessibility: A park that has accessibility elements and amenities like washrooms facilities, door operator, accessible swing, wide ramps, lighting, accessible parking, benches at a higher height, benches with armrests and paved areas (cement or rubber) for those who roll to access park amenities.

Culture: A park that reflects the local culture through artwork, spaces for cultural celebration and a park that includes Indigenous representation.

Public engagement Approach



The City of Edmonton seeks input from residents of Edgemont and the public to help guide the project. The City's Public Engagement Spectrum, shown above, illustrates the four levels of influence the public can have on decisions made by the City throughout the project. In this phase of engagement, the public was invited to provide input that would help **ADVISE** and **REFINE** the development of design options for Edgemont Park.

In addition to public input, the project team makes decisions using a combination of policy and program information and technical requirements. This process helps to ensure the decisions made are fiscally responsible, follow best practices, consider the existing infrastructure, land uses and activities in the neighbourhoods and result in the best outcomes for our city.

How We Engaged



Two virtual group meetings with the Edgemont Community League and Brookfield Residential were hosted by the project team to share project information and learn more about community needs when designing Edgemont park.



The online survey was open for public input from June 17 to July 5, 2024 and gathered feedback from **318** people.



An in-person engagement session was held Monday, June 17, 2024 from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. near the community of Edgemont at River West Christian Church. A total of **53** people attended the event.

The public was informed about the engagement opportunities through the following means:

- + **Two** road signs
- + **20** yard signs
- + **5,519** postcards delivered
- + **27,400** social media ad impressions
- + **4,000** social media ad impressions in Edgemont Neighbourhood
- + **714** unique views on the project web page

Who Was Engaged

The key stakeholder groups included the Edgemont Community League, Alberta Infrastructure, Edmonton Public School Board and Brookfield Residential helped **REFINE** the project plans. These groups also provided ideas for the park, as well as detailed the technical constraints for the park design. Through both virtual and in-person discussions, the designs are aligned with the existing Alberta Infrastructure and Edmonton Public Schools plans and policies (relating to site access, utility servicing, site grading, number and sizes of sports fields and connections for active transportation) and with existing Brookfield Residential plans.

Residents of Edgemont and the general public helped **ADVISE** the project by providing feedback on specific park elements through the online survey and public engagement session.

What We Asked

For the first phase of engagement, the questions asked were split into three topic areas with a final section for sharing additional comments and thoughts. The same questions were asked of the public within the survey and during the in-person engagement sessions.

Playground

Based on discussions with the key stakeholder groups, two approaches were shown to the public. The first was the Draft Preliminary Concept that provides a single play space and a U8 - U9 soccer field. The second, the Draft Alternate Approach, showed two smaller play spaces and a flexible open lawn instead of the soccer field. We asked people which draft approach they preferred and to explain their responses.

For this section, we also asked people to share what activities and experiences they would like the new playground equipment to provide. People could choose from a list of activities and experiences (swinging, sliding, climbing, spinning / rotating, hanging off bars and balancing) and provide their own comments.

Gathering and green spaces

There will be opportunities in the park for people to gather and enjoy the green space. We asked people to choose from a list of activities and provide their own comments about gathering and green spaces. The following activities were listed:

- + Picnic with relatives and friends
- + Barbecue with relatives and friends
- + Relax in a natural area
- + Attend performance events (e.g. live music)
- + Exercise with outdoor gym equipment
- + Walking in all seasons
- + Sledding in winter
- + Dog walking

A park for everyone

The City wants to make the park a welcoming and inclusive space for all incomes, ages, cultures, abilities and genders within the community. In this section, we asked participants how we can make the park more inclusive and accessible to all.

What Happens Next?



Thank you to all who shared their input during the first phase of engagement for the Edgemont Community Park Development project. In fall 2024, the public will be invited to support the project team in finalizing early design plans. During this second phase, we will invite you to provide feedback on the early design plans for the park.

Planned project timeline

- + Park design - 2024
- + Construction - 2025 to 2026
- + Park opening - spring 2027
- + School opening - fall 2027

For more information about the project and upcoming engagement events, visit edmonton.ca/EdgemontPark or contact the project team with the information below.

Contact Us

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