

What We Heard

Crystallina Nera East Community Park Development

ADVISE

City of Edmonton
Integrated Infrastructure Services,
Open Spaces Planning and Design
August 2025
Edmonton.ca/CommunityParkDevelopment

| **SHARE** YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

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Acknowledgements

The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside, is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw/Cree, Dene, Anishinaabe/Saulteaux, Nakota Isga/Nakota Sioux, and Niitsitapi/Blackfoot peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

The project team thanks the Edmonton Catholic School Division (ECSD), Alberta Infrastructure and local residents for sharing their thoughts and insights on the draft design.

Project overview

The City of Edmonton is planning a new community park in Crystallina Nera East to support the implementation of the provincial [School Construction Accelerator Program](#) and the needs of the growing community. The proposed park is located at 178 Avenue NW and 71 Street NW in Ward tastawiyiniwak Cᑦᑕᐃᐱᐱᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅᐅ of northeast Edmonton.

The new community park is designed to support programming at the school and the City's open space network for all Edmontonians to enjoy. Two concept design options have been developed for the park and shared for feedback. The planning and design of the school is not within the community park project scope.



Community park project scope

The scope of work for the Crystallina Nera East Community Park project includes base-level park amenities, including:

- Site grading, levelling and seeding
- Sports fields, complete with sports fixtures
- Landscaping, including tree planting
- Pathways, including connector paths to the neighbourhood
- Site furniture, including seating, picnic tables, waste bins and bicycle racks
- A park sign
- A playground

The design of the park site is developed based on the City's Urban Parks Management Plan (UPMP) and in accordance with Breathe, Edmonton's Green Network Strategy.

As noted above that the planning and design of the school is not within the community park project scope. For information on that project, please visit the [provincial web page](#).

Public engagement approach

The City of Edmonton project team met with ECSD and Alberta Infrastructure representatives to gain a clear understanding of the ECSD draft design and programming needs. This collaborative approach ensures the City's park design supports the school programming needs. The project team used this information to develop two concept designs for the community park.

The team met with the City's Neighbourhood Resource Coordinator to discuss ideas for engagement, identify which community leagues to connect with and gather suggestions on additional individuals or groups to engage throughout the process.

After meeting with school and City representatives, the project team sought feedback from the public. The public was asked to **ADVISE** the project team on the concept designs for Crystallina Nera East Community Park. The City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum (below) notes an ADVISE level of engagement means the project team will consider public feedback as part of project decision making. Project decisions are also driven by the Urban Parks Management Plan, Community Parks Framework, technical standards and budget to determine a final, preferred design.



How we engaged

On May 24, 2025, more than 200 postcards were distributed at a show home grand opening event in Crystallina Nera East, to raise awareness about the planning of the new community park and to inform residents that public engagement would be launching soon.

Public engagement occurred from June 17, 2025 to July 8, 2025. An online survey was the primary engagement method for this project.

The project was listed on the City of Edmonton [Community Park Development web page](#), and the public was invited to view the concept designs and share their feedback. The project page also hosted the online survey to gather feedback.

Information about the project and the opportunity to complete the survey were promoted through the City of Edmonton social media accounts, road signs within the area and a postcard to residents surrounding the project site.

To further support outreach, the Lago Lindo Community League:

- Shared project information on their Facebook page when the engagement went live, and
- Promoted the online survey to their members to encourage broader participation.

Public engagement promotion summary	
Social media and project web page	3,068 clicks on the Facebook and Instagram ads 3,648 visits to the Community Park Development web page*
Postcards	Door-to-door delivery of approximately 1,800 postcards
Road sign	A large road sign displayed near the park site
Handouts	Handouts shared with area developers, home builders and the Lago Lindo Community League
Emails	Emails to special interest groups

*This web page is shared with other community park projects, so some visit metrics may be for other projects. No other community park projects were undergoing public engagement at the same time.

The project team presented the two park design concepts at the Lago Lindo Community League Annual General Meeting on June 11, 2025. This in-person engagement provided an opportunity to share the concepts directly with residents and to gather their feedback.

What we asked

The public was asked to provide feedback on:

- Which of the two concept designs they prefer and why
- Preferred playground elements, colours and accessibility considerations
- Other concerns and insights they would like the project team to consider

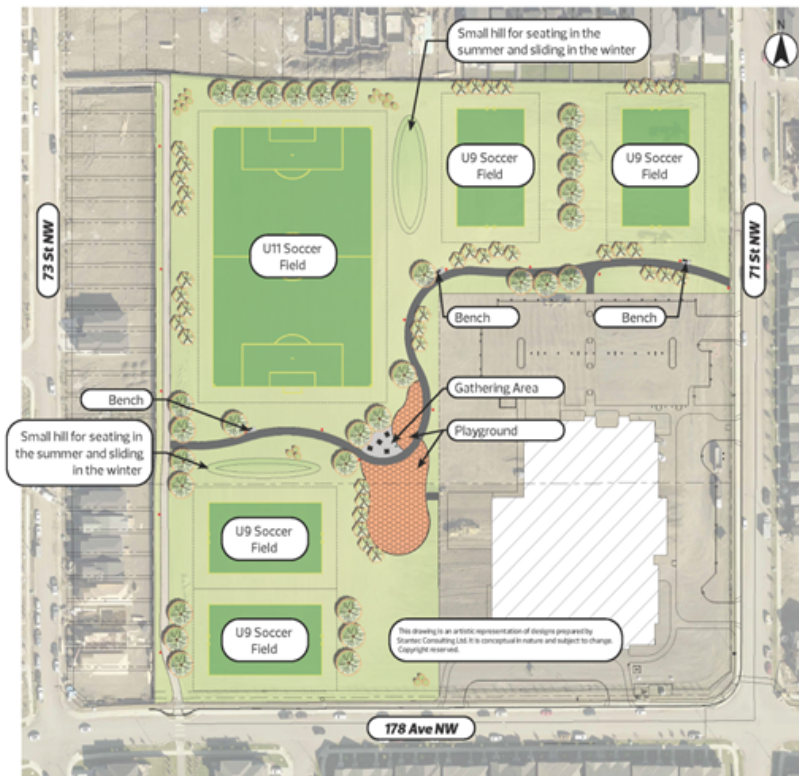
The following highlights the two concept design options that were created based on best-fit analysis, existing recreational supply and demand, as well as school programming needs. Public engagement materials highlighted the similarities and differences between the two draft designs to help the public determine their preference.

The design options are the same in that they have:

- The same school building location and envelope size (this is a technical requirement and cannot be changed)
- Large and small soccer fields
- A playground
- Public gathering space
- Seating areas
- Pathways throughout the site
- Trees
- Berms (raised areas in landscaping) that could be used for summer seating and winter sledding

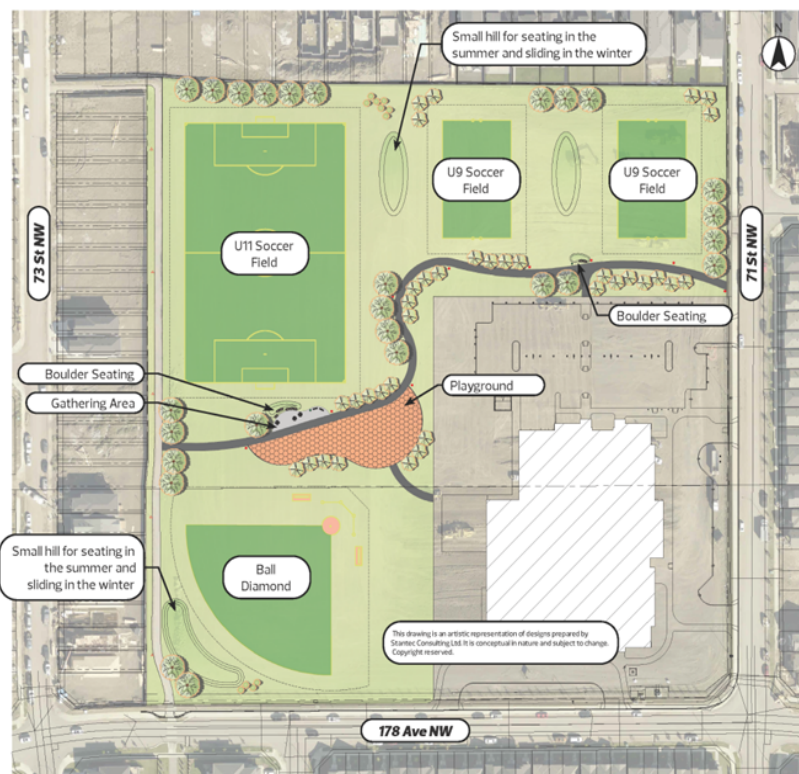
The concept options differ in the following ways:

Concept #1



- Two small soccer fields
- Separate playground areas
- Seating in the central gathering area and three seating areas with benches along the path

Concept #2



- Baseball diamond
- Combined playground area
- Boulder seating in the central gathering area and a small node along the path

Who we heard from

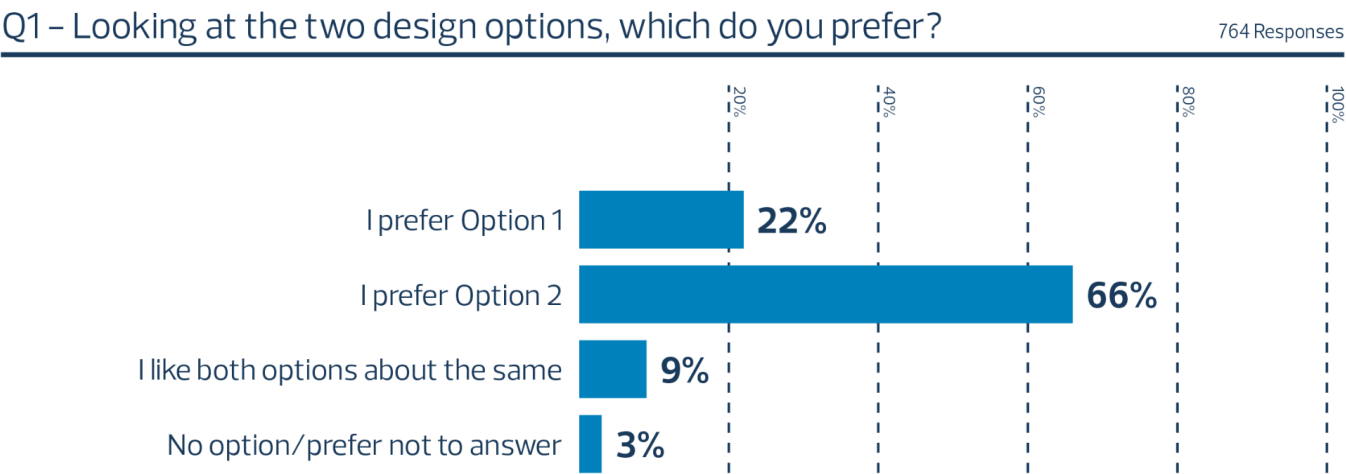
A total of 764 respondents completed the survey, with the majority (73 per cent) of respondents indicating they lived in Crystallina Nera East, Crystallina Nera West and Schonesee neighbourhoods. Many other respondents (27 per cent) lived in Lago Lindo, Klarvatten, Eaux Claires, Mayliewan, Ozerna, Schonsee and other neighbourhoods near the project site. A few respondents (one per cent) chose not to answer this question. The majority of respondents had children/grandchildren under the age of 18 years in their household (61 per cent).

What we heard

The charts below summarize the survey results and include the questions asked within the survey. The total responses for each question vary slightly because not all questions required a response.

Park design

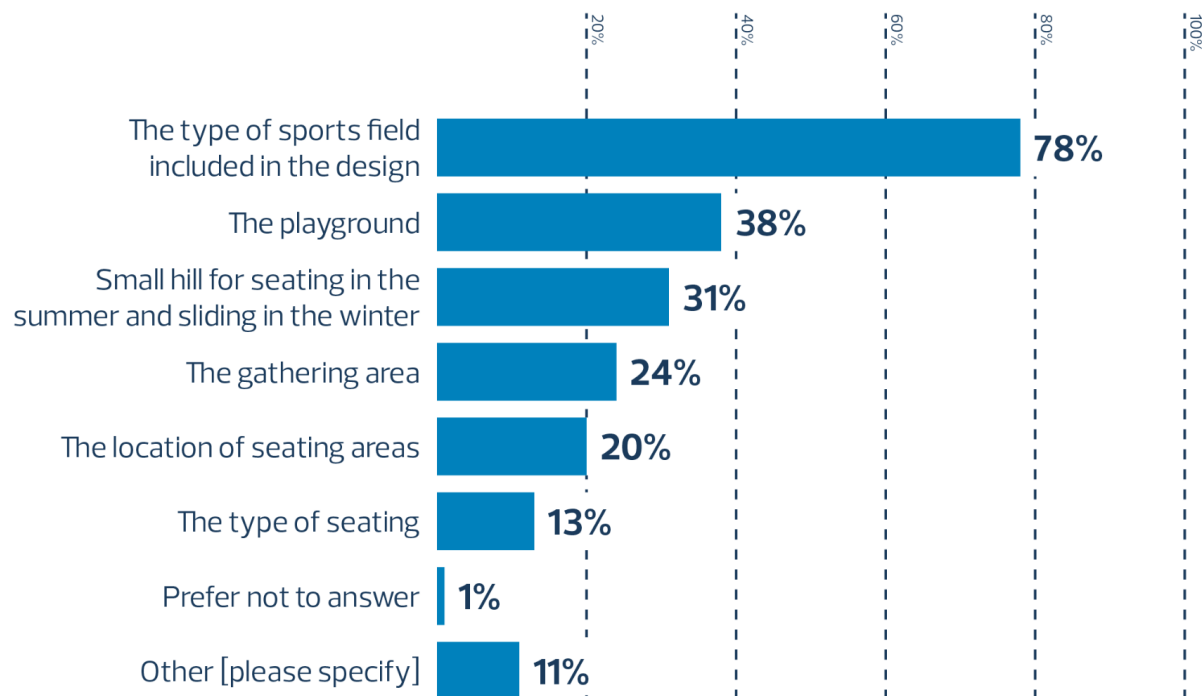
Most respondents (66 per cent) preferred Concept Design Option 2 over Option 1.



Most respondents (78 per cent) indicated their reason for preferring one concept over the other was the type of sports fields included in the design.

Q2 – What is the reason for your preference?

676 Responses



For Q3, respondents were asked if they had any additional comments they wanted to share with the project team. A summary of the written survey responses related to the park design are summarized below (304 responses).

Q3 – Do you have other comments about the design options you would like to share with the project team?

304 Responses



"A couple more benches along the path would be great!"



"Lots of trees please!"



"Parking and traffic control, this area is already very congested and busy"

"There are already so many soccer fields in the city. We need outdoor tennis and basketball courts!"



"Can we also get a community garden somewhere?"

Many respondents felt the draft designs included too many soccer fields and wanted a greater variety of recreational amenities. The most frequently mentioned alternatives were basketball and tennis courts, which were noted as being especially needed for kids and teens in the area. Other suggestions included pickleball courts, baseball/softball diamonds, outdoor hockey rinks, cricket pitches, volleyball courts, and walking or running tracks.

The Lago Lindo Community League shared that there is a local demand for soccer fields that can accommodate older children, especially U13, U15, and U17-sized soccer fields. Currently, there is no dedicated home field for older age groups, requiring residents to travel elsewhere.

Participants also highlighted the importance of green space, trees, flowers and shaded areas, particularly near playgrounds and seating. Tree planting was described as essential, both to provide natural shade and to create privacy buffers along residential fence lines.

Other commonly raised ideas included adding more benches and picnic tables (many of which are already included in the base-level design), and enhancing safety by reducing the risk of balls entering nearby roads or properties.

One specific concern was that a pathway running directly through the playground could create safety hazards and should be reconsidered.

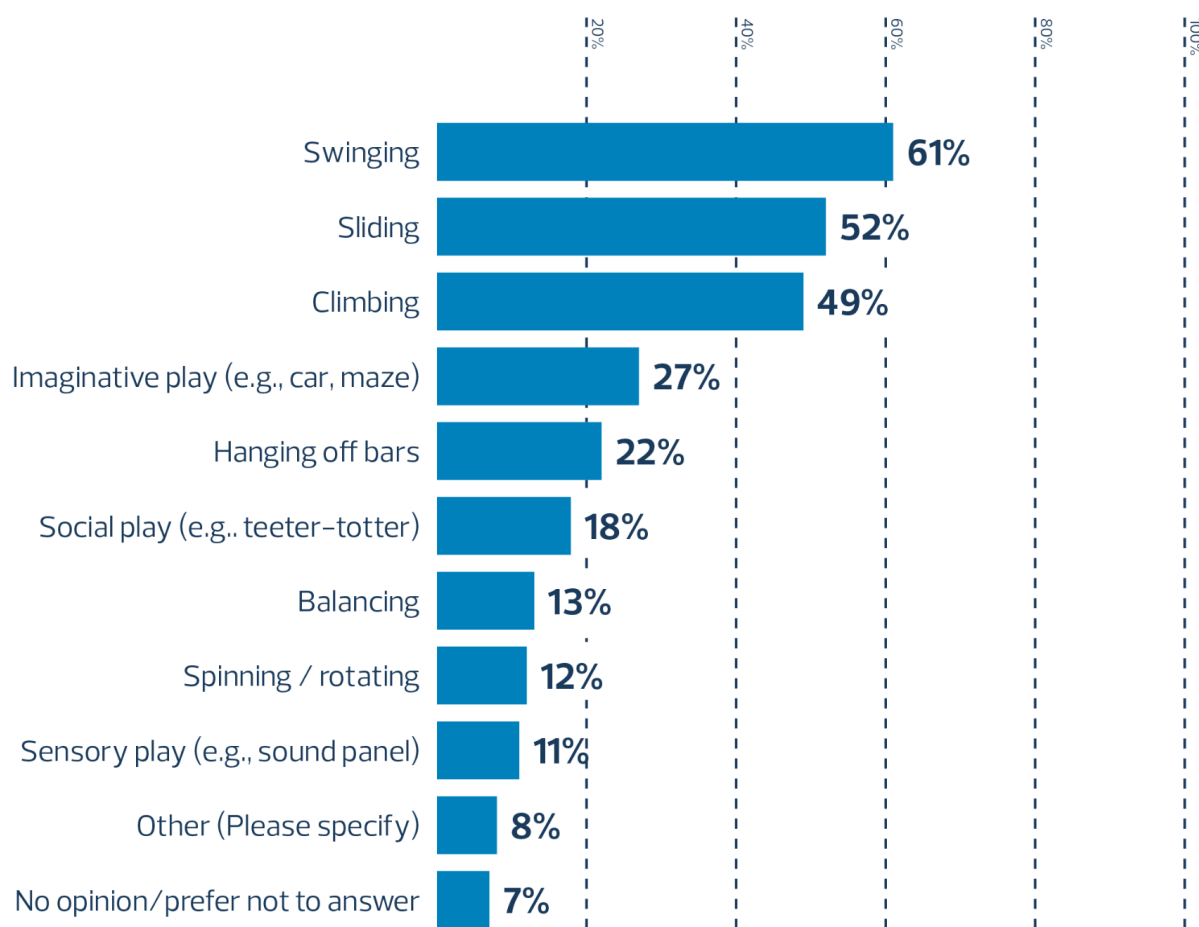
Traffic and parking issues were also a recurring theme, with participants anticipating congestion during peak use times. Suggestions to improve safety and accessibility included safe crosswalks, wide pathways and designs that are accessible to all park users.

Playground findings

The engagement survey also asked about activities and experiences people would like to see at the new playground. Survey respondents favoured play elements that involved swinging, sliding and climbing.

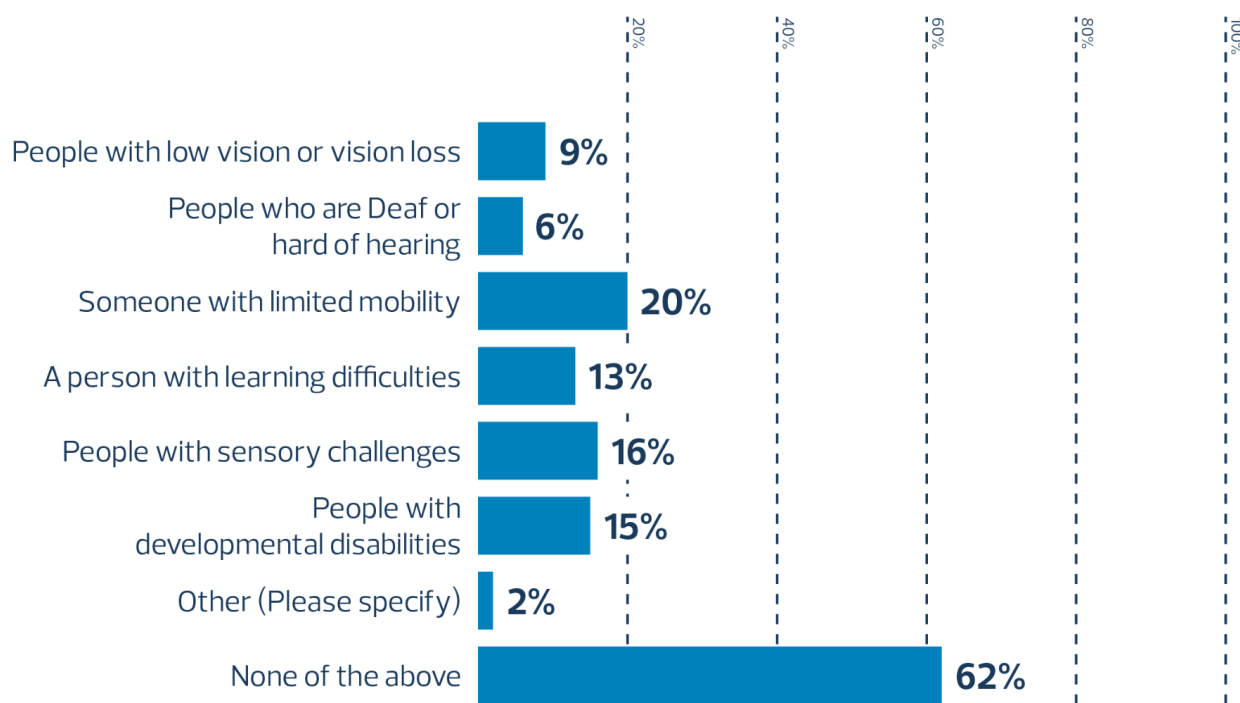
Q4 – Please select the top three activities and experiences you would like the playground equipment to provide.

764 Responses



As outlined in the chart below, up to one-fifth of respondents identified a range of accessibility needs they would like the project team to consider as the new playground is developed. A large portion of respondents (62 per cent) indicated accessibility considerations did not apply to themselves or their household.

Q5 – Please tell us about any accessibility needs you or a family member may have that you would like considered in the playground design. Select all the apply. 764 Responses



When asked if they had other comments about playground accessibility (Q5b), respondents highlighted the need for an inclusive, accessible playground that welcomes children and adults of all abilities. Rubber flooring received widespread support for its safety and ease of use with wheelchairs, walkers and strollers. In contrast, wood chips and sand were largely discouraged due to mobility challenges, though a few supported a small, contained sand play area.

Respondents' suggestions for specific equipment and design considerations included accessible swings, ramps and ground-level structures to support children with mobility, sensory and developmental needs. Many called for separate zones for toddlers, younger children and older kids (ages nine to 12), with diverse, engaging play options that aren't overly high or difficult to access.

Safety and ease of movement throughout the park were top priorities. Respondents requested speed bumps, improved parking, shaded seating and wide, level paths with lighting. Fencing or double-gated areas were recommended to prevent children from running into roadways. Additional ideas included quiet zones, sensory play panels, communication boards and amenities for supporting animals.

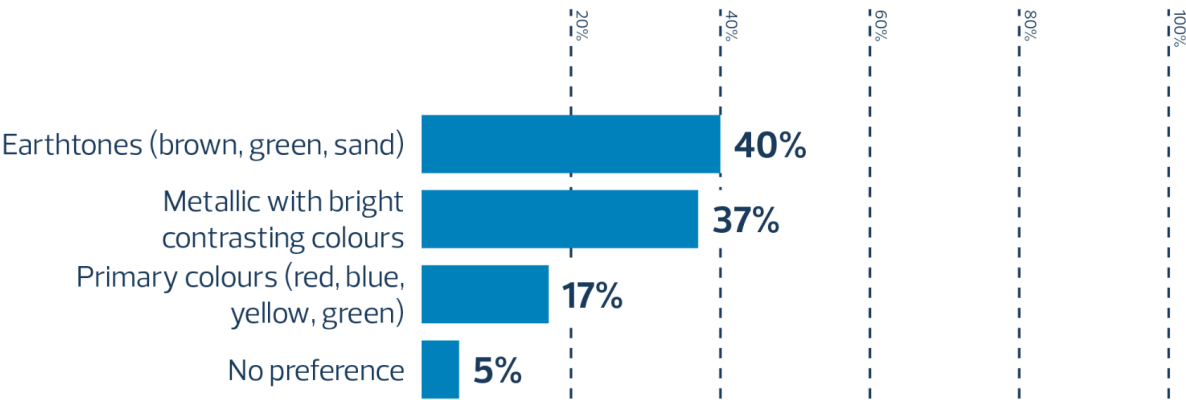
Respondents who selected "Other" highlighted the need for spaces for seniors, shade for sun sensitivity and accommodations for children with autism and hyperactivity.

The message was clear: create a fun, thoughtfully designed, universally accessible space where all children can feel included, explore safely and play side by side, no matter their abilities.

The engagement survey asked respondents to share their preferred option for a playground colour theme. The results are included in the chart below, with earth tones and metallic bright contrasting colours being the most favoured.

Q6 – Please indicate your preferred option for a playground colour theme below.

Note: The colour themes below represent general colour families to guide the design. Exact colours may vary in the final playground. 764 Responses

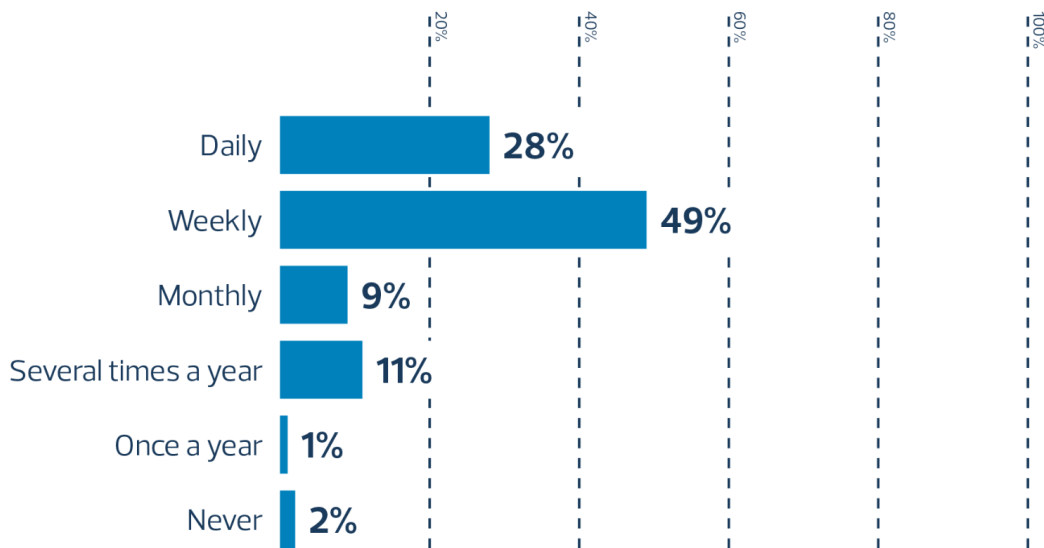


Park use

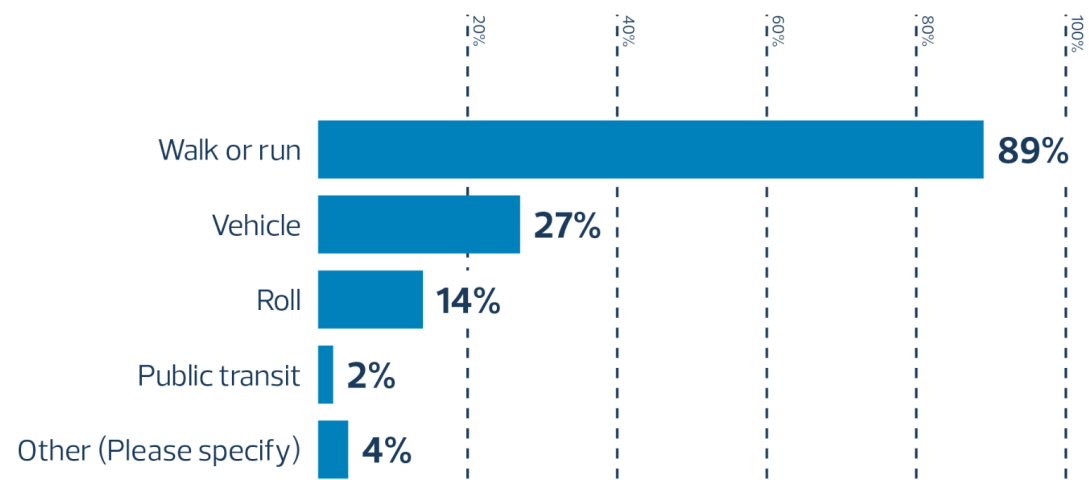
Respondents were asked how often they thought they would use the park and how they would get there. Findings are shown in the chart below, with most (77 per cent) respondents expecting to use the park daily or weekly.

Q7 – How often do you think you will use the park?

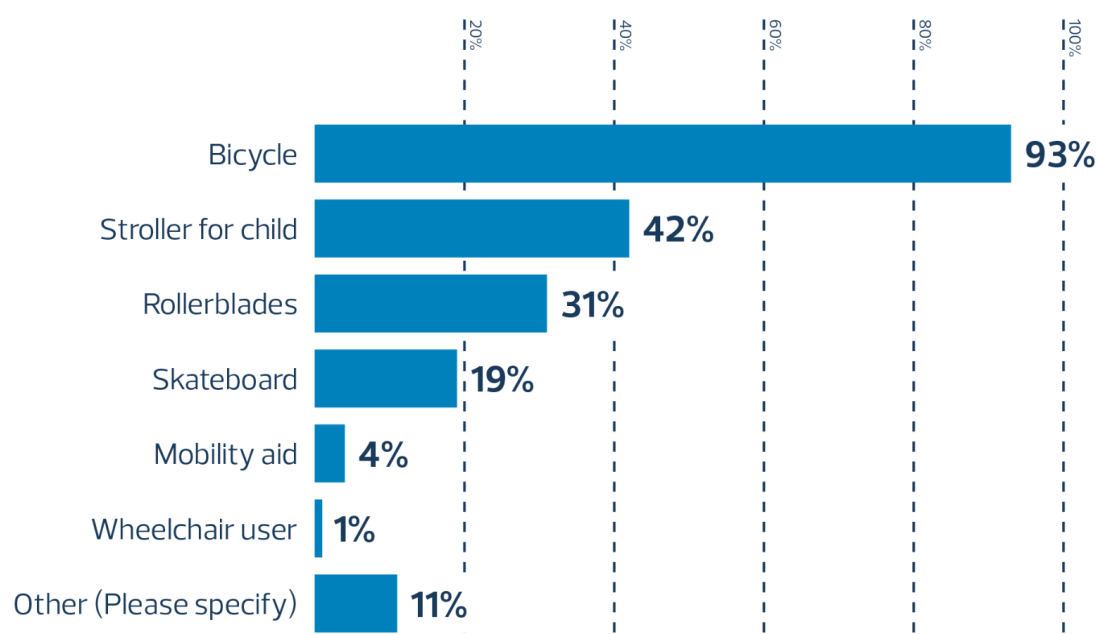
764 Responses



Q8 – How do you think you will get to the park? Check all that apply. 752 Responses



Q9 – You selected “roll” to the park in the previous question, what will you use? Choose all that apply. 105 Responses



Other

Survey respondents were asked if there was anything else the project team should consider when designing Crystallina Nera East Park (Q10). 289 respondents offered written comments. Below is a summary.

Q10: Is there anything else the project team should consider when designing Crystallina Nera East Park?

289 Responses



"Please consider a tennis, pickleball or outdoor rink for the park. This will allow families and kids to participate in a variety sports!"

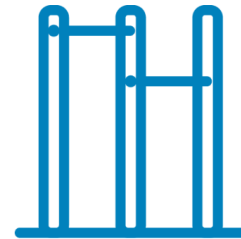


"Please include a dog park."



"Enough garbage/recycling bins and lighting."

"I think it would be good to have equipment targeted towards older people to get them out of the house and do gentle exercise outside."



"Consider a wide walking path to accommodate kids riding bikes and fast scooters."



A diverse range of recreational features were suggested to make the park more inclusive and engaging for all ages, including a spray park or splash pad, basketball, pickleball and tennis courts, as well as multi-use spaces for activities like ball hockey and outdoor skating. Many respondents also highlighted the need for play structures for older children, outdoor fitness equipment and a running or walking track. A few suggested adding a cricket field to reflect the area's cultural diversity.

To improve convenience and accessibility, several people recommended adding washrooms, stroller parking and bike racks, which were seen as essential for families and active park users. Pet-friendly features were also commonly mentioned, with calls for an off-leash dog park and dog waste bag dispensers to support the community of dog owners.

Traffic and accessibility concerns were raised, with suggestions for dedicated parking areas, school drop-off zones, and traffic calming measures like speed bumps and crosswalk lights. There were also requests for public transit access and wide, accessible pathways for bikes, scooters, and strollers, while some mentioned considering the impact on local residents, including limited parking and increased traffic.

Safety and security were important topics as well, with calls for lighting, security cameras, fencing and measures to prevent loitering once the park and school are built. Many respondents advocated for environmental and aesthetic improvements, such as incorporating native plants, trees and landscaping that supports local wildlife, as well as low-maintenance vegetation and natural colour schemes. One person suggested including an Indigenous land acknowledgement to reflect the community's heritage and values.

While all feedback is valued, some suggestions, such as enhanced amenities like a splash pad or washrooms, fall outside the scope of base-level development and cannot be included in this project. However, this input is still valuable, as it helps guide future planning and identify priorities should opportunities for enhancements arise as development continues in the neighbourhood.

As this is a shared community park and school site, the core amenities must support the programming needs of the future school. At this time, there are no plans to include enhanced recreational facilities such as tennis courts, pickleball courts, or a splash pad. These types of amenities are typically developed in partnership with the local community league for neighbourhood-level parks.

What happens next

The project team will use the feedback gathered from engagement to help inform the next steps in the design process for Crystallina Nera East. The team will continue collaborating with site partners to advance the overall community park design. A preferred design will be developed and shared on the project website in late 2025 at edmonton.ca/CommunityParkDevelopment

The project team thanks all Edmontonians who shared their feedback on the two concept designs. We look forward to continued collaboration with local residents, Lago Lindo Community League, ECSD, and Alberta Infrastructure as the project moves forward.