

# What We Heard Report Confederation District Park Renewal: Phase 1 Engagement

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## Executive Summary

The City of Edmonton is renewing Confederation District Park, a 20-hectare park and open space with numerous amenities, including sports fields, tennis courts, a running track, schools and a leisure centre. The project is currently in the Preliminary Design Phase. The City is currently in the process of developing the preliminary design to implement aspects of the approved Master Plan. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2021.

The implementation of the Confederation District Master Plan will be phased based on funding availability and municipal requirements. Park improvements have been categorized into *Renewal* and *Growth* items. Renewal items are funded and will be constructed beginning in 2021 while Growth items will be constructed in the future, should funding become available.

Public engagement was held from November 30 – December 14, 2020 to gather feedback to help refine the preliminary design and ensure that the vision for the park will meet the current and future needs of the community. The preliminary design was presented online on the Engaged Edmonton (Engagement HQ) Web Platform. The online platform offered the general public: project information, a question-and-answer tool, and a survey. External stakeholder groups were part of the engagement process through individual sessions with each group. Overall, there were approximately 68 respondents in the Phase 1 Engagement.

Overall, there was a positive support for the Preliminary Design in Phase 1 Engagement. Generally, participants expressed support for the following amenities:

- **Low-Impact Development:**
  - Strong support
- **Pathways:**
  - Strong support for paths in the park
  - Some support for wayfinding
- **Fitness Equipment:**
  - Strong support for spread out equipment (e.g. in a circuit)
  - Mixed preferences for types of equipment, with the highest preference for static strength equipment
  - Desire for proximity of some fitness pods near play areas for supervision
- **Natural Play:**
  - Somewhat mixed responses to the types of natural play, with the top four preference for 1) Logs, tree stumps, and balance beams 2) Rocks and boulders, 3)

Climbing Features, and 4) Topographical features like berms, mounds, steps, and slopes.

The community participants also expressed concerns about the impacts and types of park renewal, including:

- **Pickleball vs. Tennis Courts:**
  - Mixed views about which sport should have priority for the limited number of courts, with strong proponents for each. Many felt that both sports should have space.
  - Strong agreement that design elements like clear signage or separation of spaces would improve the shared use of the site.
  - Recommendations for sufficient spacing between courts, fencing between courts, and north-south court orientation to ensure direction of play is not towards the sun.
- **Cost:**
  - Some concerns that the park renewal is too expensive for current City budgets.
- **Park Capacity:**
  - Some concern that there are too many amenities on a tight site, with a desire to retain capacity of existing amenities.
- **Public Art:**
  - Mixed preferences for the type of public art, with the highest preference for art that is 1) Interactive and 2) Integrated with Park Surfaces or Amenities.
- **Winter Use:**
  - Desire for the park to support more winter activities, rather than just summer use.

Overall, with Phase 1 Public Engagement complete, the project can keep moving towards construction. The next step will be to create a detailed design for the *renewal* amenities. Construction for *renewal* elements will begin in summer 2021. Detailed Design and Construction for *Growth* elements is currently unknown and is dependent on funding becoming available.

## Project Overview

The City of Edmonton is renewing Confederation District Park, a 20-hectare park and open space with numerous amenities, including sports fields, tennis courts, a running track, schools and a leisure centre.



*Figure 1: Site photograph of Confederation District Park*

The project is guided by the [Confederation District Park Master Plan \(2018\)](#), a long-term vision for the park that was created using input and ideas gathered through public engagement from Fall 2016 to Spring 2018. The scope of this project includes improvements to open space and recreational amenities within the park site. Improvements to facilities, including schools and the [Confederation Leisure Centre and Arena](#) (currently being renewed to rehabilitate priority areas of the facility requiring improvement), are not within the scope of this project.

The project is currently in the Preliminary Design Phase. The City is in the process of developing the preliminary design to implement aspects of the approved Master Plan. Construction is expected to begin in summer 2021.

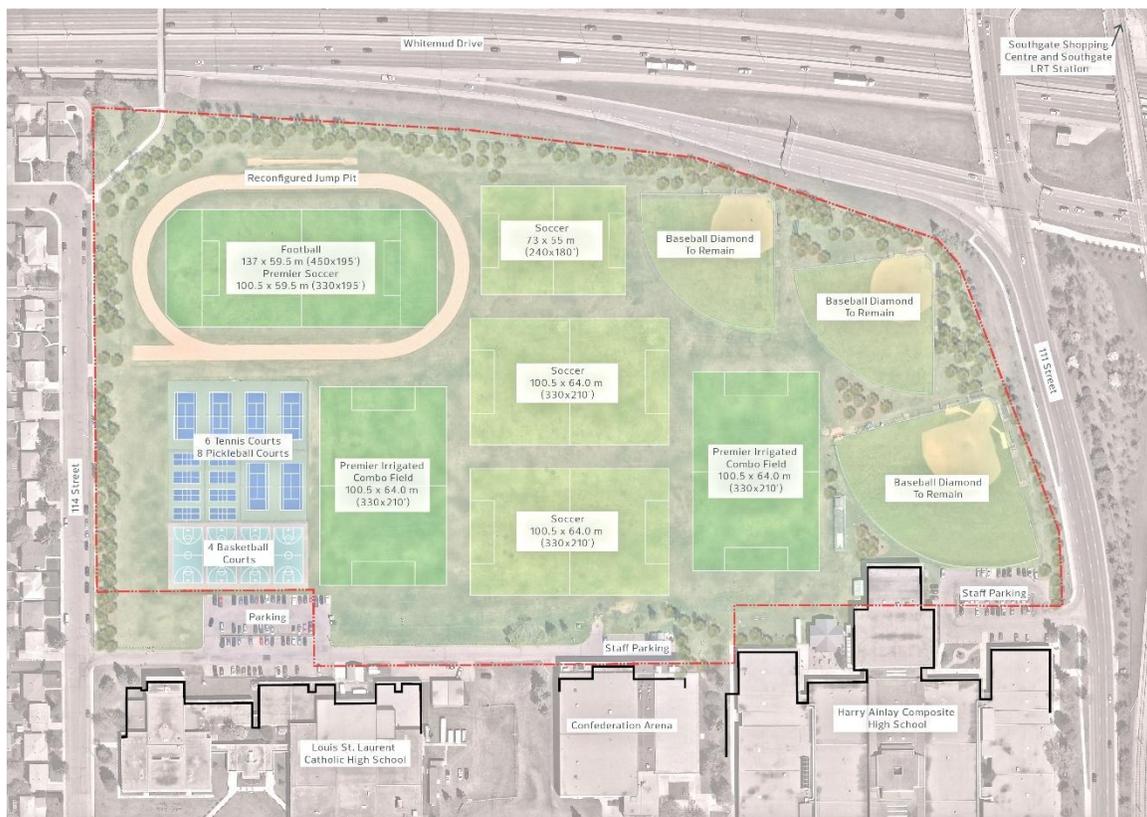
The Confederation District Park Master Plan has re-imagined the park as a vibrant and lively destination for the community and visitors, despite typical challenges associated with mature

neighbourhoods and aging infrastructure. The Confederation District Park Renewal project is a fulfillment of the Master Plan while at the same time ensuring that the implementation meets both the City's and the community's expectations of what Confederation District Park should become.

The intent of this Renewal project is to:

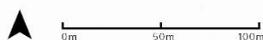
- Improve the park space for the community and on-site stakeholders based on feedback obtained from these same users
- Ensure that the park site is consistent with current City standards and policies
- Maintain the viability of the park as a community destination for years to come

The implementation of the Confederation District Master Plan will be phased based on funding availability and municipal requirements. To guide the roll out of the Master Plan, park improvements have been categorized into *Renewal* and *Growth* items. Renewal items are funded and will be constructed beginning in 2021 while Growth items will be constructed in the future, should funding become available.



#### CONFEDERATION DISTRICT PARK RENEWAL

Renewal



Property Line

Figure 2: Draft Renewal Plan shared during engagement in December 2020.

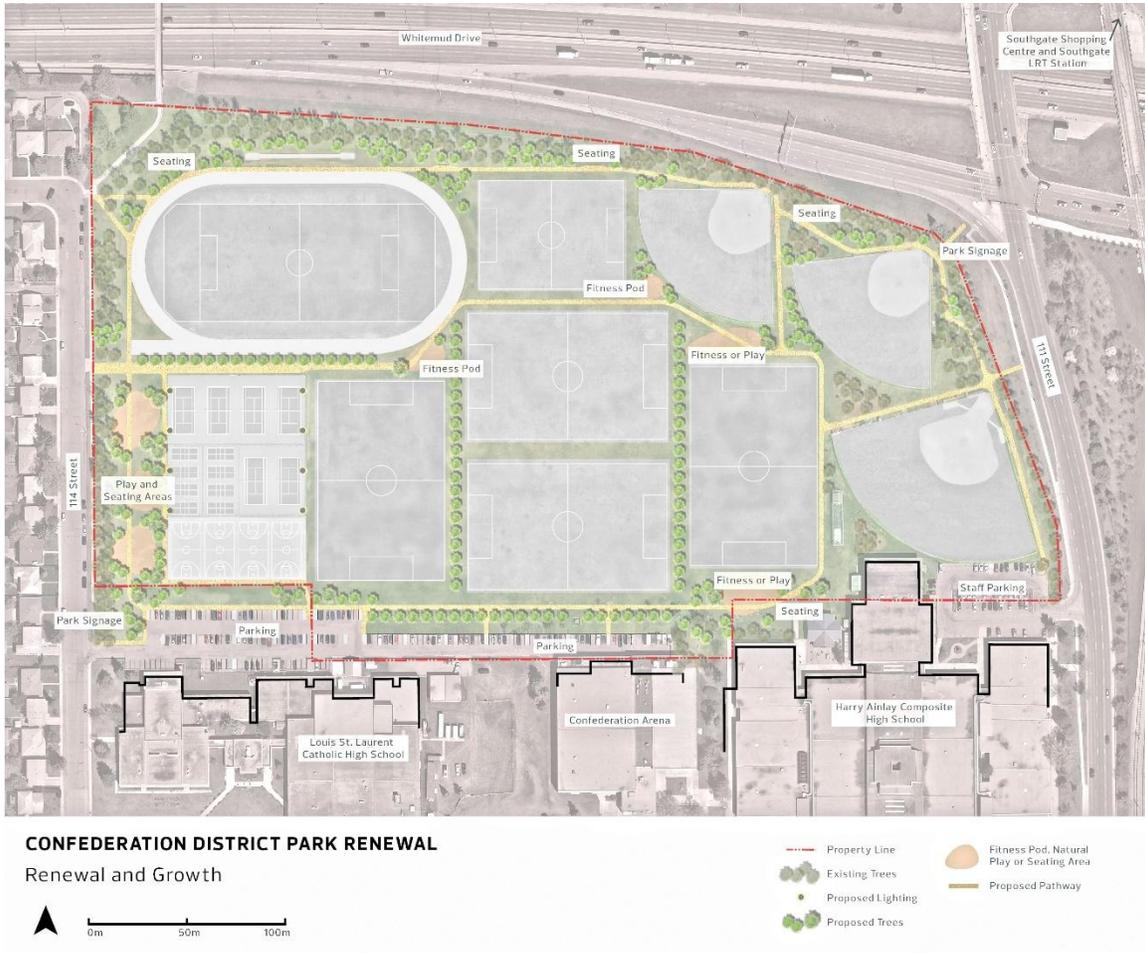


Figure 3: Draft Growth Plan shared during engagement in December 2020.

## Public Engagement Summary

### Overall Engagement Summary

A Public Engagement Plan (PEP) was developed in 2020 and identified two phases of public engagement:

- **Phase 1: Engagement to support the Preliminary Design**  
November 30 – December 14, 2020 (Complete)
- **Phase 2: Engagement to support Detailed Design and Construction**  
Spring 2021 (Upcoming)

This document includes What We Heard reporting for Phase 1 only.

### Phase 1 Approach Summary

Public engagement was held from November 30 – December 14, 2020 to gather feedback to help refine the Preliminary Design and ensure that the vision for the park will meet the current and future needs of the community.

A Preliminary Design draft was created for Confederation District Park Renewal in November 2020. The design was created while taking into consideration the existing site conditions, infrastructure renewal needs and the feedback gathered during the engagement session conducted for the Master Plan in 2017-2018. In the fall of 2020, the Preliminary Design Draft was presented to the public for feedback. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, all Phase 1 engagement was conducted online, including an online survey and introductory video hosted on Engaged Edmonton. Stakeholder groups were asked to provide feedback through the online survey as well as online individual engagement sessions (about 1-8 participant stakeholders each), representing different user groups and partners.

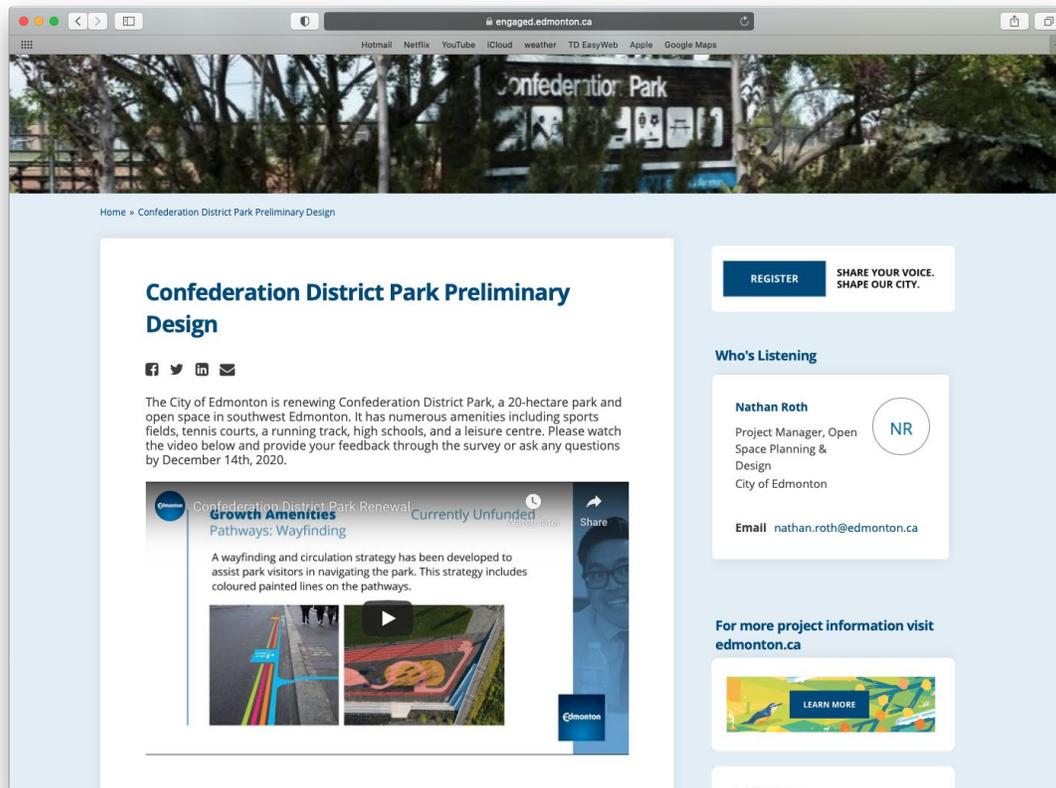


Figure 4: Online Engagement

## Phase 1 Findings Summary

Overall, there was a high level of support for the Preliminary Design in Phase 1 engagement. Based on all feedback collected, we heard that the community is looking forward to many of the improved and new amenities, but also has concerns about how they will fit on the already tight site, and how they will be shared among users (especially the pickleball and tennis courts).

## Public Engagement Strategy

### Decision-Making

The aim of public engagement in Phase 1 was to provide direction on the following: **What is the recommended direction for the preliminary design of the *renewal* and *growth* elements of the site?**

The decision maker for this work is the City Project Team and Leadership. The project team will consider background and technical requirements and incorporate public/stakeholder input where available and appropriate.

Participants/audiences included the general public and identified stakeholder groups (e.g. park and sports field user groups, community organizations, and schools). Input provided by the public and stakeholders was used to advise the decision-making process.

Considerations that went into developing the recommended direction for the preliminary design included:

- Site context and spatial requirements
- Public feedback
- Project funding limitations
- Municipal and technical standards
- 2018 Master Plan direction

### Opportunity Statement

The intent of the engagement is to collect feedback from parks users and stakeholders, the surrounding neighbourhood and communities, and the general public to ensure that the preliminary and detailed design decisions reflect community values and needs.

### Role of the Public

A significant portion of the project's decisions were established in the Master Plan phase or do not require public input. As a result, public engagement will occur at the ADVISE and REFINE levels of the City of Edmonton's engagement spectrum.

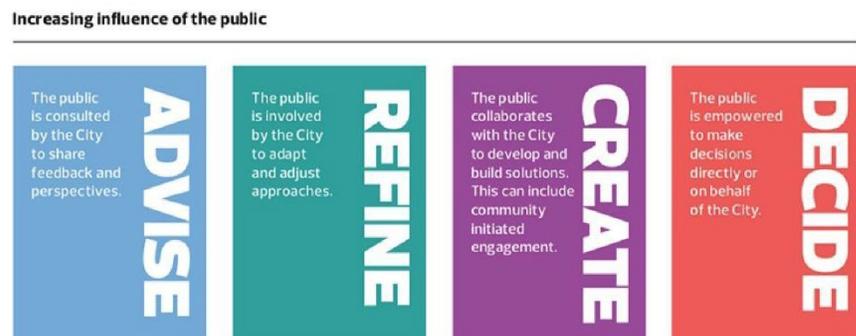


Figure 1: City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum

**REFINE:** Stakeholder feedback will be used to identify opportunities for improvement to the Master Plan elements and inform the preliminary design process.

**ADVISE:** Public feedback will be considered in finalizing the preliminary design of the *growth* elements and select *renewal* elements.

### Public Engagement Objectives

The public engagement objectives were to:

- Inform the public, including park users/groups and adjacent neighbourhoods about the project and phasing.
- Collect input from the public and stakeholders to consider in refining specific elements of the design, as appropriate and identified in the decision map, in order to ensure the preliminary design meets the needs and values of community park users and stakeholders.

### Communications & Engagement Tools

To reach a broad range of audiences and participants, communication and engagement included:

- Engaged Edmonton (Engagement HQ) Web Platform, Q&A Tool, and Online Public Survey
- Virtual Stakeholder Meetings with Community Groups and Site Users
- Notifications: City project website and Public Service Announcement, a roadside sign on 111th Street near the Park, yard signs along the Park, postcards delivered to residents of the Royal Gardens neighbourhood, and 35 email invitations to school, sport, and community organizations for the online and individual stakeholder engagement opportunities

(Note: Due to COVID-19 public health directives, all engagement in Phase 1 was conducted online.)

## How We Engaged

Public engagement was held from November 30 – December 14, 2020 to gather feedback to help refine the preliminary design and ensure that the vision for the park will meet the current and future needs of the community. The preliminary design was presented online on the Engaged Edmonton (Engagement HQ) Web Platform. The online platform offered the general public: project information, a question-and-answer tool, and a survey. External stakeholder groups were part of the engagement process through individual sessions with each group.



Figure 5: Road sign placed on 11<sup>th</sup> Street near the park.

Invitations to the online engagement were sent out to the surrounding community residents and organizations, schools, and sports groups with the intent of public engagement that included and encouraged participation reflective of Edmonton's diverse population. Notification activities used to raise awareness of and promote the public engagement process for this project included:

- City project website and Public Service Announcement,
- Roadside sign on 111th Street near the Park
- Yard signs along the Park, postcards delivered to residents of the Royal Gardens neighbourhood
- 35 email invitations to school, sport, and community organizations for the online and individual stakeholder engagement opportunities

Overall, there were approximately 68 respondents in the Phase 1 Engagement.

Online - Engaged Edmonton Respondents	35
Online – Edmonton.ca/Surveys Respondents	8
Online – Project Webpage Respondents	8
<b>Online – Total Respondents</b>	<b>51</b>
Stakeholder Group Session Respondents	Approximately 17
<b>Grand Total Respondents</b>	<b>Approximately 68</b>

Table 1: Types of Respondents

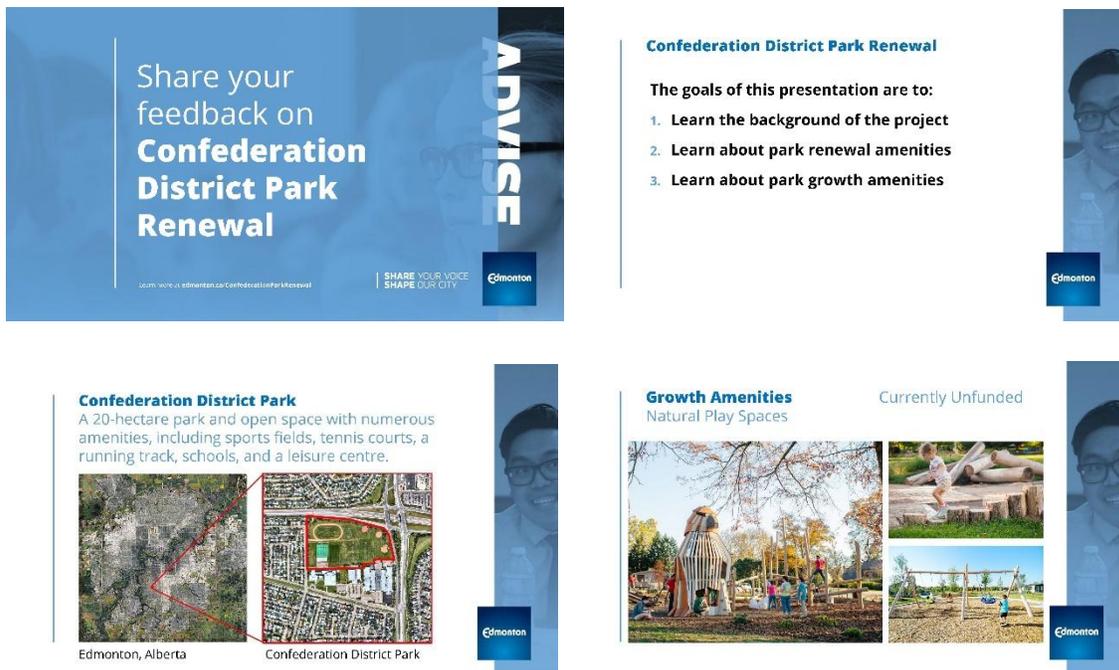


Figure 6: Selection of slides from the online engagement presentation video.

## Who Was Engaged

### Public Engagement

Survey respondents from the general public were asked to answer three questions related to location, gender, and age. Generally, the feedback from participants about age and gender is reflective of Ward 10 (as presented in the 2019 Edmonton Municipal Census), with the exception of youth. The Confederation survey did not receive responses from anyone identifying as ages 0-18, which typically represents about 20% of the popular in Ward 10.

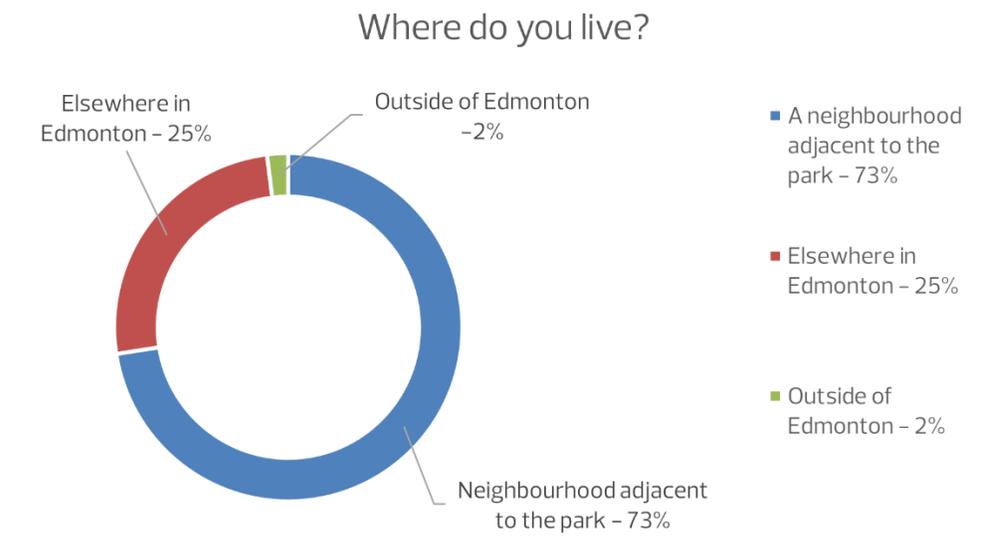


Figure 2: Respondent demographic results: Where do you live?

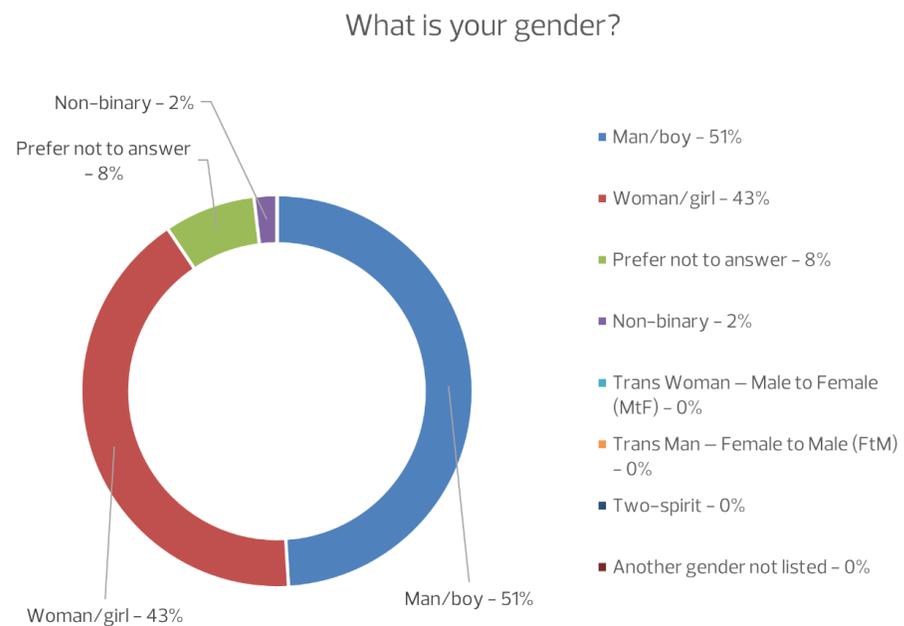


Figure 3: Respondent demographic results: What is your gender?

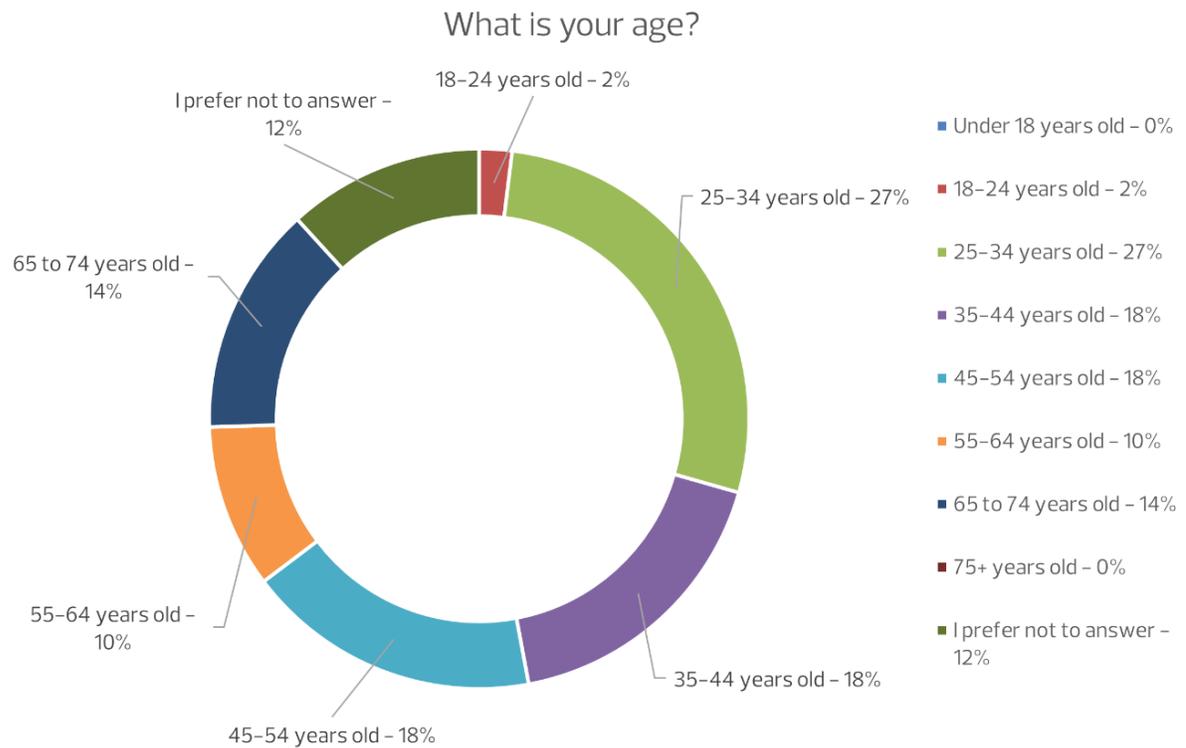


Figure 4: Respondent demographic results: What is your age?

### Stakeholder Engagement

Online stakeholder engagement sessions were held with representatives from nine key stakeholder groups, including:

- Edmonton Catholic School District
- Edmonton Indoor Tennis Facility Community Advisory Council
- Edmonton Junior Tennis Society
- Edmonton Pickleball Club
- Edmonton Public School Board
- Harry Ainlay High School
- Louis St. Laurent Catholic Junior/Senior High School
- Tennis Alberta
- Tennis Edmonton

## What We Asked

### Public Engagement

The online survey included seven project questions and three participant information (demographic) questions, with multiple choice, checkbox, dropdown menus and open response text format. Questions focused on the details and approaches for implementing both *Renewal* and *Growth* amenities identified within the 2018 Master Plan. For a detailed list of questions, please refer to the Appendix: Verbatim Survey Questions.

### Key Stakeholder Engagement

During engagement sessions with key stakeholder groups, the following topics were discussed:

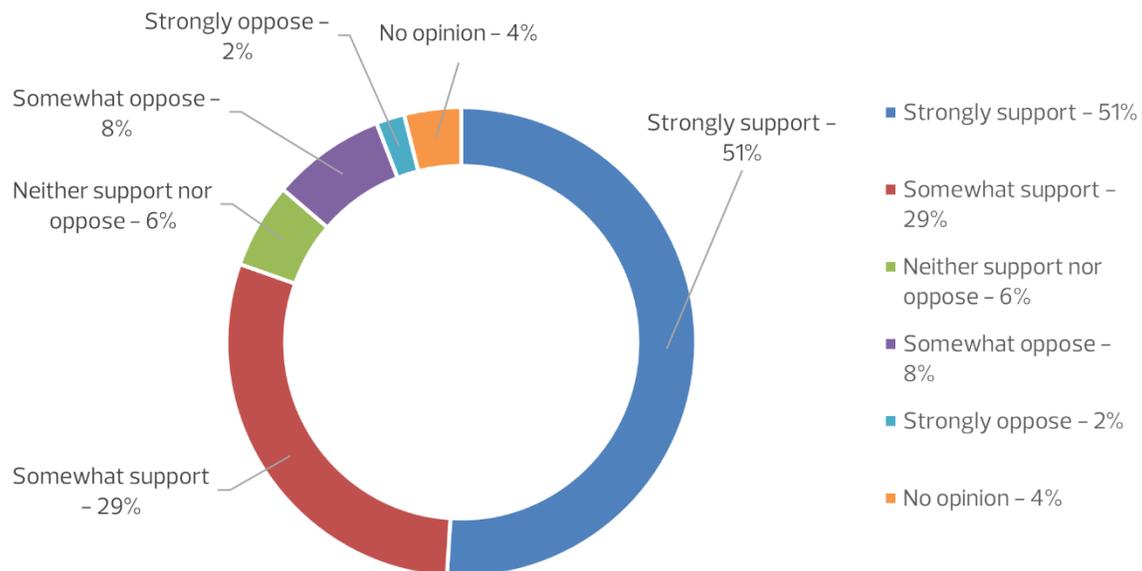
- Renewal and Growth Amenities
- Parking
  - Layout and design considerations
  - Quantity requirements of on-site schools
  - Allocations of reserved / open stalls
- School Athletic Programs
  - Sports fields use and layout considerations
  - Physical education curriculum and typical class sizes
- Tennis Courts
  - Layout and design considerations
  - Preferred approach for integration with pickleball courts
  - Possibility of installing an indoor tennis facility with a dome structure
- Pickleball Courts
  - Layout and design considerations
  - Preferred approach for integration with tennis courts
- Construction Timelines and Phasing

## What We Heard

Overall, there was positive support for the Preliminary Design in Phase 1 Engagement. The feedback collected for each amenity has been divided into two parts:

- Close-Ended / Multiple Choice Question Responses – Pie Charts Provided
- Open-Ended Question Text Responses – Thematic Descriptions Provided

### 1A. To what extent do you support or oppose this approach to integrate pickleball courts with tennis courts in a shared space?

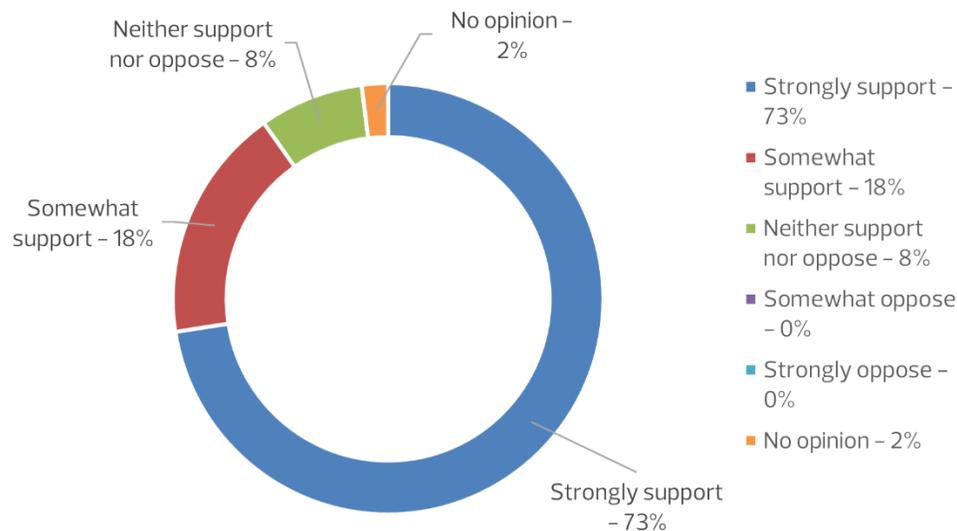


### 1B: Do you have any concerns about pickleball courts?

**Pickleball and Tennis Courts:** Many respondents and stakeholders had opposing views about which sport should have priority for the limited number of courts, asking how the project team will determine who takes priority. Respondents with sport preference advocated for more courts for their respective sports, and very few neutral positions were held. The general public had strong support for both pickleball and tennis, but key stakeholders (with a specific sport as their focus) were more in opposition. Both the general public and stakeholder groups expressed differing ideas about whether pickleball is a short-term "fad" or "growing in popularity." Many respondents, when asked whether they supported tennis or pickleball courts, agreed that user conflict and court availability were big concerns that needed consideration. Some residents said there was a "definite shortage of outdoor pickleball courts in the city", but others wondered "do we really need more [pickleball courts]?" Tennis court supporters from the general public commented "sometimes a line forms because it's so busy in the tennis courts" and that "taking

away tennis capacity to add pickleball is a negative approach.” Proposed solutions included clear signage “so there is less chance for friction between players”, rules for “who is allowed to play”, and a separate space for each sport. Stakeholder groups from both groups noted important suggestions for improve the surfacing, including adding multiple gates and entries for access, fencing between individual courts, and sufficient spacing between and behind court lines. They also requested the project team consider shading and roots from nearby trees and planting beds, and proper drainage for rainwater. School groups expressed interest in combination courts, as they would support large physical education classes in playing a single sport simultaneously.

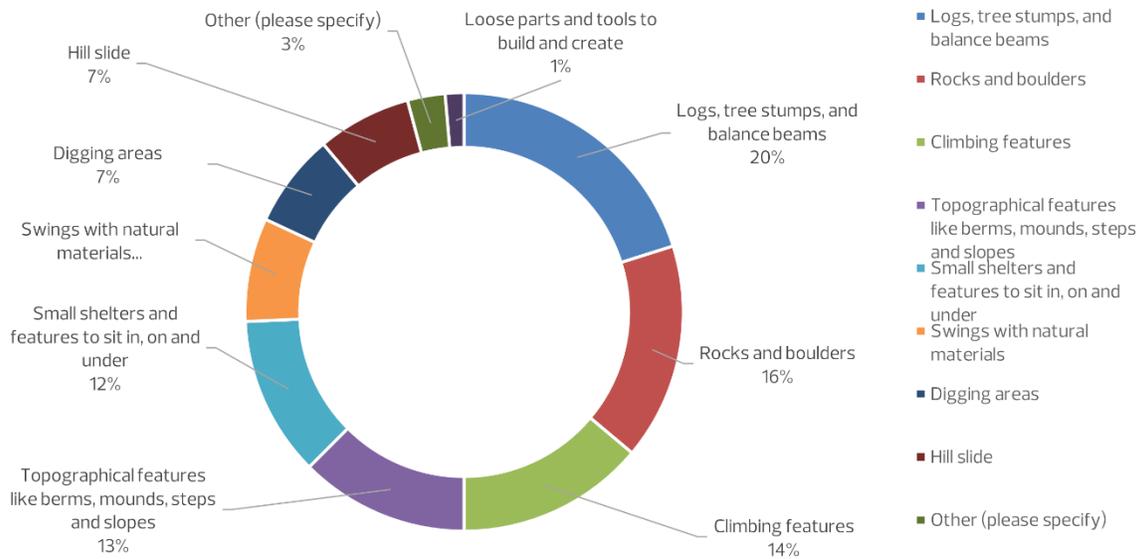
## 2A. To what extent do you support or oppose this [Low Impact Development] approach to manage vegetation in the park?



## 2B: If not, what are your concerns?

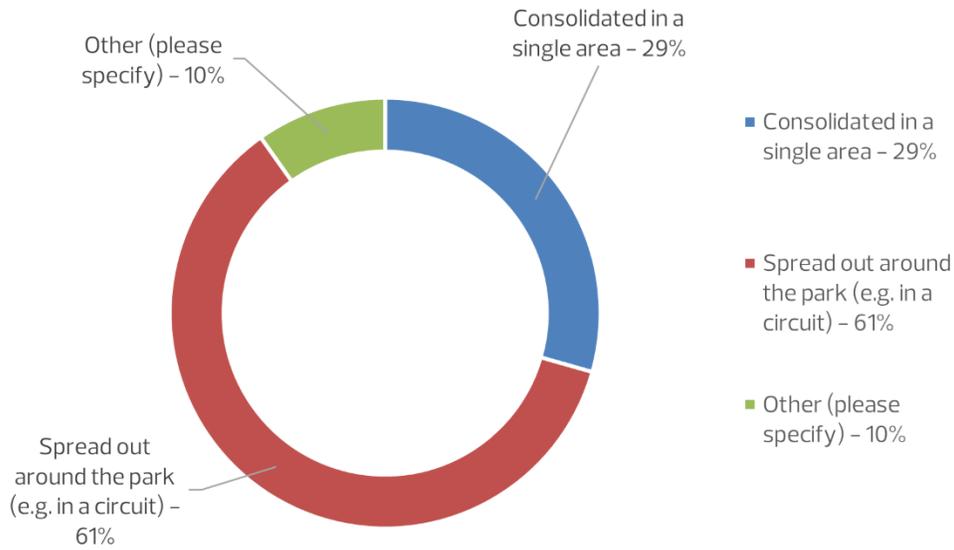
**Low-Impact Development:** 73% of survey respondents strongly supported the preliminary design’s approach to managing vegetation and were “really pleased that we’re thinking of it.” Another 18% somewhat supported it. A small number worried about the cost, and perceived risks, including the risk of mosquitos due to standing water and the spatial impact on existing sports.

**3. What types of natural play would you like to see in the park? (Select up to three.)**

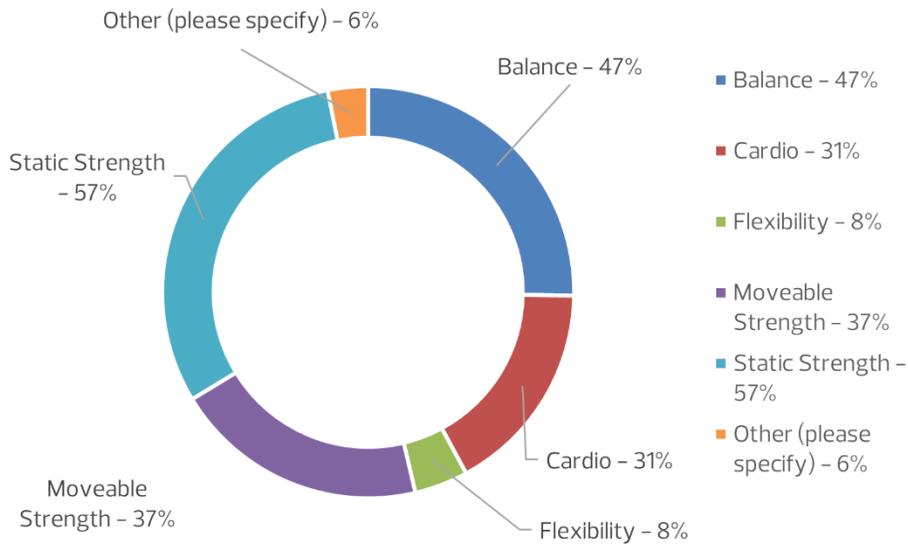


**Natural Play:** We heard that most people were looking forward to new play spaces in the park, with mixed preferences for play types. The top play type preferences were logs, tree stumps, and balance beams. Key stakeholder groups generally agreed that the play space would be well-used by younger siblings and family members of organized sport players.

**4. How would you like to see exercise and fitness equipment placed in the park?**



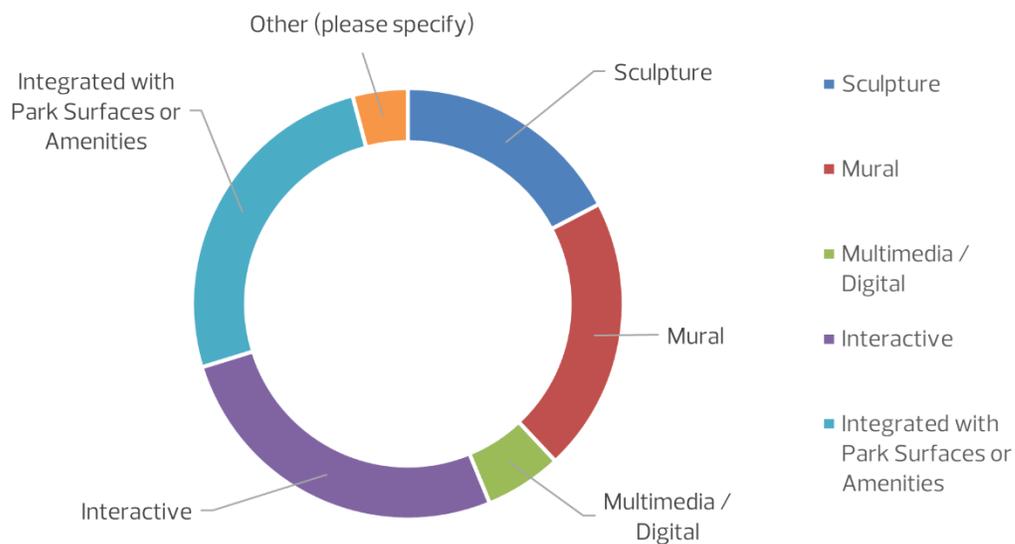
**5. What types of fitness equipment would you like to see in the park? (Select up to two.)**



**Fitness Equipment:** We heard that most respondents, including both the general public and schools, want fitness equipment to be spread out around the park (e.g. in a circuit) rather than consolidated in one area. There was an even distribution of preference for types of fitness equipment, but with static strength as the most desired type of equipment. Several participants asked for some fitness pods to be “close to the natural play area so kids can play while parents can workout while still supervising.” Respondents who selected “Other, please specify” for

questions 4 and 5 did not “feel fitness equipment is a good use of money” or simply noted they did not want fitness equipment installed.

**6. What types of public art would you like to see integrated into the park? (Select up to three.)**



**Public Art:** A couple respondents who selected “Other, please specify” felt the site was unsuitable for public art, because of the risk of vandalism. One respondent requested “Indigenous art.” School groups expressed support for public art, and expressed interest in partnering with the Edmonton Arts Council to have students involved in the selection or creation process.

**7. Anything else? Do you have any other ideas or concerns you would like to share?**  
**characters remaining.**

The survey’s final question allowed participants to bring up any other issues or ideas not identified in previous questions. Comments from this question that relate to amenities in previous questions have been summarized within their respective topics above. Generally, participants expressed support for the park renewal. For verbatim comments, please refer to the Appendix: Verbatim Survey Comments. A thematic summary of the responses is provided below.

- **Pathways:** People are looking forward to having paths added to the park, noting it would increase connectivity for park users and high school students, as well as give more access to adjacent communities and across Whitemud Drive. Respondents felt the paths would be useful for “SO MANY people in the area that like to walk - especially seniors.” A few people were worried that wayfinding paint on paths would be expensive to maintain, and

- that “spending money on wayfinding is [not] needed.” School groups noted the need for several new pathway connections between school building entrances and park amenities.
- **Cost:** A small number of respondents worried that the park renewal was too expensive and asked about the source of funding for both the renewal construction and long-term maintenance of the park.
  - **Park Capacity:** Several participants said they supported additional amenities, “as long as they don’t interfere with the [sports fields]”, noting that the size of the park may lack the space needed for all proposed elements. One respondent said, “the obvious issue is to determine what will be lost in capacity and access to sports facilities by adding these nice but unnecessary [natural play features] to the park.” Potential problems could include: user conflicts (especially at high-use amenities like tennis and pickleball courts), walking access between amenities, lack of parking, and open defecation because of a lack of public washrooms. School groups especially expressed the need for very durable surfaces for sports fields due to the high use, and requested rubberized track and field amenities, and an artificial turf for soccer and football.
  - **Winter Use:** Some contributors noted the park was too focused on summer use, and that the park should provide more opportunities in winter, which would encourage year-round use. Ideas included skating rinks and trails, groomed cross-country ski routes, tobogganing and better lighting for dark winter evenings.
  - **Additional Requests:** Throughout the engagement, participants asked for additional park features to be added that are not currently shown within the preliminary design for either renewal or growth amenities. Respondents requested some additional basic park features, including tables and bike racks. Requests for more significant infrastructure also included: washrooms, a firepit, an artificial turf sport field, a skateboard park, and a berm to buffer noise from Whitemud Drive vehicle traffic.
  - **Parking:** We heard that parking is an important consideration for on-site key stakeholders, especially the schools. Stakeholders shared that parking on-site is in very high demand throughout the day, especially for students, staff, and teachers during school hours, and also in the evening for sports teams, and extra-curricular participants. There were requests for clear signage and parking rules.

## Opportunities and Challenges

Phase 1 engagement confirmed that there is significant support and opportunity to both renew and grow the park amenities. Improvements to existing amenities like standardized sports field sizes and renewed track and field elements would improve the park's ability to support high usage from the many organized users (school athletes and physical education students, community sports groups, etc.). Diversifying and adding new park features like the play space and pickleball courts, would help make the park more accessible and enjoyable for people with varying levels of mobility (eg. children, seniors, students, etc.). Basic improvements like paths, shared and new parking and more vegetation have benefits for all users, increasing the nature on-site and offering better pedestrian and vehicle connectivity.

A key challenge will be to balance the limited space on site (because of the large size of sports fields) with the strong desire for many new amenities. Another key challenge is cost, since *growth* elements are currently unfunded, and the timeline and process for securing funding is currently undetermined.

## What We Did

The following table summarizes 'what we heard' and 'what we did and why', generally listed by category as ordered within the survey.

Amenity	What We Heard	What We Did and Why
<b>Overall</b>	There is significant opportunity and support to both renew and grow the park amenities.	Division of park amenities into renewal and growth categories remained the same, due to public support and funding availability. We proceeded with completing the preliminary design for the park for both renewal and growth amenities. Growth amenities are currently unfunded.
<b>Sports fields</b>	Determine how additional amenities will affect the capacity and access to existing sports fields.	We evaluated design considerations like maintenance requirements, pathway width, standardized field sizes and safety buffers between sports fields to ensure appropriate user

		access to all amenities. Rubberized track and field amenities, and an artificial turf for soccer and football are not within the scope or budget of this project.
<b>Tennis and pickleball courts</b>	Maintain the existing quantity of tennis courts to support the existing high use.	We retained 5 tennis courts, added 4 pickleball courts, and 2 combination courts to support the popularity of both sports. The combination courts allow for some flexibility in use.
	Add pickleball courts to support the sport's growing popularity.	
	Set up guidelines and rules for informal and booked players to avoid social friction.	Although out of scope for this project, this feedback was shared with the City's Sports Fields Bookings team.
	Limit combination courts with overlapping lines.	Although combination courts are not preferred, 2 combination courts were added as they provide a more balanced solution for the courts.
	Consider how redevelopment can be positioned to support the potential for year-round use of the court space, including the option to install a partner-led indoor tennis facility at a future date.	Both the general requirements for an indoor/covered tennis facility, and the preferred layout of courts for a possible facility were evaluated by the project team. We determined that the renewed park site has limited ability to support year-round use due to spatial constraints, available project budget, and shared-programming priorities for the court area.
<b>Low-Impact Development</b>	Work with nature as close to the source as possible to manage stormwater. Replicate natural hydraulic processes.	We will continue to move forward with the low-impact development approach in order to work with nature as close to the source as possible to manage

		stormwater and to replicate natural hydraulic processes.
	Create a plan to manage mosquito breeding in standing water.	<p>We have designed any ponding water in low-impact development areas to drain down within 12-48 hours. This time frame for surface ponding time is typically less than the time required for one mosquito breeding cycle.</p> <p>For more information, please visit the following City of Edmonton pages online:</p> <p><a href="#">Mosquitos</a></p> <p><a href="#">LID Website</a></p> <p><a href="#">LID Factsheet</a></p>
<b>Natural Play</b>	Include logs, tree stumps, and balance beams.	We will commit to including the top three preferences for play elements (as noted on the left) in the detailed design.
	Include rocks and boulders.	
	Include climbing features.	
	Provide spaces for childrens' supervisors to sit or exercise nearby.	We will commit to including seating and exercise options near the play spaces.
<b>Fitness Equipment</b>	Spread the fitness equipment around the park (e.g. in a circuit).	The fitness equipment will continue to be spread out around the park in fitness pods.
	Include equipment for static strength.	We will commit to including the top three preferences for fitness equipment (as noted on the left) in the detailed design.
	Include equipment for balance.	
	Include equipment for moveable strength.	

<b>Public Art</b>	Integrate public art with park surfaces and amenities.	We will share the engagement feedback with the Edmonton Arts Council, who will direct the process for selecting and installing public art, based on the City's Percent for Art Program.
	Integrate interactive public art.	We will share the engagement feedback with the Edmonton Arts Council, who will direct the process for selecting and installing public art, based on the City's Percent for Art Program.
	Integrate public art through murals.	We will share the engagement feedback with the Edmonton Arts Council, who will direct the process for selecting and installing public art, based on the City's Percent for Art Program.
	Plan to protect public art from vandalism.	We will share the engagement feedback with the Edmonton Arts Council, who will direct the process for selecting and installing public art, based on the City's Percent for Art Program.
<b>Paths</b>	Provide better connections through the park to Whitemud Drive and to adjacent communities.	We included paths in the design connecting users to key destinations in the park (sports amenities, schools, etc.) and to key park entrances (vehicular access at 114 Street, NE pedestrian entrance, NW pedestrian overpass at Whitemud Drive).

	Ensure that wayfinding paint on pathways is both durable and a good use of funding.	We will review the maintenance requirements for wayfinding paint, and commit to maintaining the park amenities that are constructed.
<b>Winter Use</b>	Provide opportunities and programming to use the park in winter.	Programming initiatives are not within the scope of this project, but several growth amenities will support year-round activities, including paths, trees, and lighting. We have designed the pathway system as a loop with sufficient width to support cross-country ski trails. Tree planting will add winter visual interest and shelter from northern winds. Park lighting will extend park use and hours into evenings.
<b>Site Furnishings</b>	Add more basic site furnishings like tables, benches, garbage cans and bike racks.	We added bike racks and tables throughout the park design to provide more seating and gathering options.
<b>Parking</b>	Ensure adequate parking for site users.	Free street parking is available on 114 Street. The renewal of the existing parking lot near 114 Street for Louis St. Laurent School is not within the scope of this project. New parking stalls along the vehicular lane at the south side of the park are with the Growth amenity category (currently unfunded). We will continue to communicate and share information about parking with the joint use site users and the Edmonton Public School Board.

## What Happens Next

The project decision makers will review the engagement results in detail and use public and stakeholder feedback along with technical and strategic inputs to finalize the preliminary design early in 2021. The next step will be to create a detailed design for the *renewal* amenities.

Construction for *renewal* elements will begin in summer 2021. Detailed Design and Construction for *Growth* elements is currently unknown and is dependent on funding becoming available.



Figure 5: Project Timeline

Phase 2: Engagement to support the Detailed Design and Construction phases, and to provide an update about the project's progress will occur in spring 2021. It will include another online update and communication with key stakeholder groups.

Thank you for your interest in the Confederation District Park Renewal! For up-to-date project information, please visit [edmonton.ca/confederationparkrenewal](http://edmonton.ca/confederationparkrenewal).

## Appendix: Verbatim Survey Questions

With supporting information and images to provide context, the following questions were asked:

### 1A. To what extent do you support or oppose this approach to integrate pickleball courts with tennis courts in a shared space?

- strongly support
- somewhat support
- neither support nor oppose
- somewhat oppose
- strongly oppose
- no opinion

### 1B. Do you have any concerns about pickleball courts? (please specify)

### 2A. To what extent do you support or oppose this [Low Impact Development] approach to manage vegetation in the park?

- strongly support
- somewhat support
- neither support nor oppose
- somewhat oppose
- strongly oppose
- no opinion

### 2B. If not, what are your concerns? (please specify)

### 3. What types of natural play would you like to see in the park? (Select up to three.)

- Rocks and boulders
- Logs, tree stumps, and balance beams
- Topographical features like berms, mounds, steps, and slopes
- Small shelters and features to sit in, on, under
- Digging areas
- Swings with natural materials
- Hill slide
- Climbing features
- Other (please specify)

[Corresponding precedent images were shown.]

**4. How would you like to see exercise and fitness equipment placed in the park?**

- Clustered in one area
- Spread out around the park (e.g. in a circuit)
- Other (please specify)

[Corresponding precedent images were shown.]

**5. What types of fitness equipment would you like to see in the park? (Select up to two.)**

- Balance
- Cardio
- Flexibility
- Moveable Strength
- Static Strength
- Other (please specify)

[Corresponding precedent images were shown.]

**6. What types of public art would you like to see integrated into the park? (Select up to three.)**

- Sculpture
- Mural
- Multimedia / Digital
- Interactive
- Integrated with Park Surfaces or Amenities
- Other (please specify)

[Corresponding precedent images were shown.]

**7. Anything else? Do you have any other ideas or concerns you would like to share?****8. Participant Information Questions (Demographics)**

## Appendix: Verbatim Survey Comments

Verbatim comments from Phase 1 Engagement are provided below:

### Question 1: Do you have any concerns about pickleball courts?

1	No
2	No concerns, just wondering if it is a fad and if it could be multi-use like pickleball/badminton etc
3	Support keeping eight tennis courts and adding eight pickleball courts given our aging demographic in the area.
4	Definite shortage of outdoor pickleball courts in the city.
5	I know pickle ball is growing in popularity but I don't know anything about pickle ball courts
6	I think it's a great addition.
7	Signage needs to be clear so that there is less chance for friction between tennis players and pb players ( as to who is allowed to play).
8	Royal Gardens Community League has pickleball courts that are not accessible to the community. I would love to have these courts that are accessible.
9	I love the addition of pickball. I think they will be well used.
10	The city has pickleball courts just down the road at Royal Gardens do we really need more?? It would be much better to build in better running paths around the park with lighting for residents to use
11	Doesn't Royal Gardens already have pickelball courts???? How will you decide who gets priority???
12	No concerns. Please add pickleball courts.
13	The ball makes an strange noise that could be irritating to residents living near the field.
14	Taking away tennis capacity to add pickleball is a negative approach. If pickleball is important, build a separate space.
15	There are pickleball courts at Royal Garden community centre. This seems like an unnecessary duplication of recreation resources.also it is darn difficult to get a court on a summer evening at present
16	No
17	no, they will be busy!
18	Tennis court is in greater demand, 8 courts always full in a summer afternoon. Perhaps convert 1 tennis courts instead.  Pickle usually play by senior, I worries they might be hit a tennis ball.
19	Yes, we do. Pickleball is a very noisy sport with an irritating ball and bat sound. Tennis, badminton, table tennis and baseball are sports with no irritating sound.

20	no concerns
21	Great idea
22	None
23	I like the idea, but I think that in the summertime, people prefer tennis. Sometimes a line forms because it's so busy in the tennis courts.
24	strongly support

**Question 2: If [you do not support the LID vegetation strategy as proposed], what are your concerns?**

1	Possible undesirable consequences of bioswales close to sports area: stray balls entering swale, mosquito breeding, water hazard for young spectators.
2	I'm very supportive of having LID in more places in Edmonton. Really pleased that we're thinking of it. Great climate mitigation and resilience measure.
3	I hope you will include plans for mosquito management if there is a lot of stagnant water.
4	I do not clearly understand the LID approach. My main concern would be the cost. I would support if this is a cost saving measure in the long run.
5	I like the idea, as long as it does not interfere with the sport fields
6	While this seems an ecologically desirable approach, it is unclear what impact it would have on the usable sports space.
7	Cost. Sounds wonderful, but very expensive!
8	Mosquitoes famously love standing water to raise their little hell-broods. Will there be corresponding planning to effect spraying strategies?
9	Environmentally sound

**Question 3: What types of natural play would you like to see in the park? Respondents that selected "Other" provided the following comments:**

1	Water fountain
2	More pathways that are maintained and LIT so they can be used all year
3	Again, the obvious issue is to determine what will be lost in capacity and access to sports facilities by adding these nice but unnecessary additions to the park.
4	Lots of seating for supervisors and some picnic tables and garbage can

**Question 4: How would you like to see exercise and fitness equipment placed in the park?****Respondents that selected "Other" provided comments the following comments:**

1	Consolidated and near the kids play areas so parents and grandparents can exercise while watching g kids.
2	I do not feel fitness equipment is a good use of money
3	This again seems like a 'nice to have' addition to the park, but could easily take away capacity and accessibility for sports facilities.
4	No preference I wouldn't use it
5	2 or more pods but 1 pod being close to the natural play area so kids can play while parents can workout while still supervising

**Question 5: What types of fitness equipment would you like to see in the park?****Respondents that selected "Other" provided comments the following comments:**

1	none
2	none
3	Basic question is why we would spend tax dollars on these 'nice to have' additions.

**Question 6: What types of public art would you like to see integrated into the park?****Respondents that selected "Other" provided comments the following comments:**

1	inexpensive. The park itself is beautiful.
2	Lets be honest, all of this will be vandalized as the park is directly behind two high schools...be serious people
3	It will all be vandalized, lets be more strategic about spending \$ -- the park is right behind a high school, they will just paint it with graffiti
4	The city has already spent far too much on 'public art'. This is a sports facility and not a museum.
5	indigenous art

**Question 7: Anything else? Do you have any other ideas or concerns you would like to share?**

1	No comment
2	no
3	Painted lines for wayfinding is not a good idea. Coloured bricks might work better. If we paint, we will have to revisit every year. Coloured stones or bricks would require no maintenance
4	New pathways are my highest priority for growth elements. We already have too many giant grass fields that do not support gathering and are difficult to traverse by foot or bike.
5	Put the artificial turf field in right off the hop.
6	N/A
7	Please add in bike racks at various locations in the park.
8	Looking forward to walking paths and natural play areas!!
9	Pinic tables and small firepits
10	Will there be bike racks available as this area connects to existing bike routes.
11	Winter activities = "Trend & best practice" in Master Plan, nothing here. Plan for Nordic ski and toboggan when landscaping nature play + floodable skate trail. Landscape amphitheater around run track
12	No
13	More important than parking is to ensure that there is good foot and bike connectivity to the district park. There's a great foot bridge that goes over whitemud and connects Malmo community with royal gardens. Kids from neighborhoods surrounding go to Ainlay and Louise by foot and bike abs it would great to have that kind of connectivity considered with the park. Whitemud drive is a man made barrier but we can create connectivity despite it.
14	n/a
15	No
16	There is already a problem with people using the bushes/side of buildings as a washroom. This plan will attract more users - you need to plan for this. Separate cyclists/walkers on paths.
17	The leisure centre (pool and rink) need to look at adding a fitness centre.
18	I would love to see the pathways added to the park!
19	Yes, please add more lighting to the NW corner near the pedestrian bridge. This is a high traffic area that requires more illumination for a feeling of safety. I would also suggest to move installing more lighting and adding the north pathway to the renewal phase, as this will greatly increase the parks use in winter (which is at least 6 months of the year).  I would also be interested to hear more details about the parks use in winter - will the City be

	providing grooming for cross country ski paths, in addition to clearing snow on the walking paths?
20	Park signage should be added to the NW corner near the pedestrian bridge, as this will be a main entrance to the park. All tree planting should be advanced to the renewal phase of the project.
21	No
22	The city does not have the money for this. All this money spent and I am not allowed to walk my dog there
23	No
24	I think the main function of the park is providing the big fields for sports. All the other items are great as long as they don't interfere with that usage.
25	There are SO MANY people in the area that like to walk - especially seniors. Providing safe/well maintained and LIT pathways for runners and walkers that can be used ALL YEAR round would be critical.
26	Why are you prioritizing this only for summer use??? Edmonton is a winter city, put in skating rink; make sure paths are maintained ALL year and make sure they are lit. Think beyond the 4 mo of summer
27	pickleball, tennis and basketball courts are needed
28	why is the focus on areas that can only be used during a few months of the year
29	no
30	Thank you for working hard to build our community!
31	Happy to see an improvement to the area.
32	The reduction in capacity and space for tennis is very concerning, especially if this park is selected as a location for a 12 month covered (air structure/bubble) tennis facility.
33	I really hate to bring up parking but I think it will be a concern.
34	I don't think spending money on wayfinding is needed
35	I'm not sure about the addition of paved paths. they will need to be wide enough to be passable by multiple users
36	I have been chased by angry dog while jogging on the track. I not sure allowing walking dog off-leash is a good ideas.
37	Our concerns are: 1. cost to the taxpayer 2. trying to get too much in the relatively small area

	3. keeping the park clean and free of debris
38	I would like to see the pathways and benches incorporated as soon as possible to make this park useful for senior walkers.
39	Will Growth be funded by Local Improvement Levies? With the increase in parking, will there be time-limit enforcement to mitigate against Southgate Transit park-and-ride use (esp. during the week)?
40	nope
41	Washrooms available for public use
42	Much of the seating is along the freeway side. Will there be a berm or muffler to make it more peaceful?
43	No concerns
44	No
45	Possible Skateboard park? More kids play, sitting areas, exercise, more landscaping
46	I like the multi-coloured wayfinding, but how durable will this be with the different seasons and will it be maintained?
47	No
48	none
49	No
50	Who will fund the project long-term?
51	How about a skate park?