



# The Future of Richmond Green

What We Heard - July 2021

## Project Overview

The City of Calgary owns ~52 acres of land in south west Calgary between Sarcee Road SW and Crowchild Trail SW, south of 33 Avenue, as pictured below. The land includes the former Richmond Green golf course and operations depot, tennis courts, one large ball diamond, two small ball diamonds, one small office building, a toboggan hill and a child's playground.

On November 2, 2020, Council directed The City's real estate division to prepare and submit a land use application to enable the redevelopment of ±5 acres of land on the north-west portion of the site, identified below, and, if planning approval is obtained, continue to the disposition process for selling municipal land.

At the same time, Council also directed administration to complete a City assessment on the remaining ±47 acres to identify existing uses and amenities and determine future uses for the site. Finally, Council directed Administration to implement disc golf as an interim use in 2021 on the former golf lands.





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## Engagement overview

A portal page (<https://engage.calgary.ca/richmondgreen>) was created in February 2021 to provide detailed information on the project background and processes to clear up any misconceptions that had started to permeate into the community and within the public realm. The following external stakeholders were engaged before and during the application submission and review:

- » Rutland Park Community Association, January 26, February 17 and April 29;
- » Richmond/Knob Hill Community Association, February 8, 19 and April 30;
- » Canada Lands Company, March 3;
- » Killarney-Glengarry Community Association, February 17 and April 30;
- » Lutheran Manor, March 9, email follow up April 22 and 26;
- » Carewest, prior to application submission and follow up emails April 19 and 20; and

- » Calgary West Little League (CWLL), March 9 and April 27.

In May 2021 there was an online presentation with Q&A session to further communicate project details and overall impacts to the green space. Following this session there were a series of questions opened on the portal page to receive input on components of this project. The following is a reflection of that input received.

It is key to note that the engagement process is not designed as a voting process but rather to gather balanced input and overall response to a project with details and parameters outlined. The feedback received is used to shape the project and/or to provide additional information that addresses that feedback.

## What We Asked / What We Heard

Engagement sought to gather input on two areas of the project plan as outlined in the project overview above: 1) **Land Use / Outline Plan Amendment** as a piece within the plan to provide a funding source towards that development. 2) **Future Use / Needs Assessment** which will gauge interest in future possibilities for

consideration in moving forward with park development.

Information from the May 4, 2021 session was posted on the portal page as listed above. Where appropriate (open ended questions) the responses are organized into general themes, with sample supporting comments, to represent overarching categories to reflect what was heard. Full verbatim of those questions are available at the end of the report in completely unedited format (no changes to spelling or grammar) unless there is offensive language or inappropriate commentary in alignment with the respectful workplace policy.

Themes are not presented based on any sort of statistical basis but rather identify frequent commonalities and sampling of the collective participant responses representative of balanced feedback.

[Question type and response rate shown for transparency.](#)

[Full verbatim of responses received for open ended and "other" can be found here: https://www.calgary.ca/content/dam/www/engage/documents/richmondgreen/richmond-green-verbatim.pdf](https://www.calgary.ca/content/dam/www/engage/documents/richmondgreen/richmond-green-verbatim.pdf)




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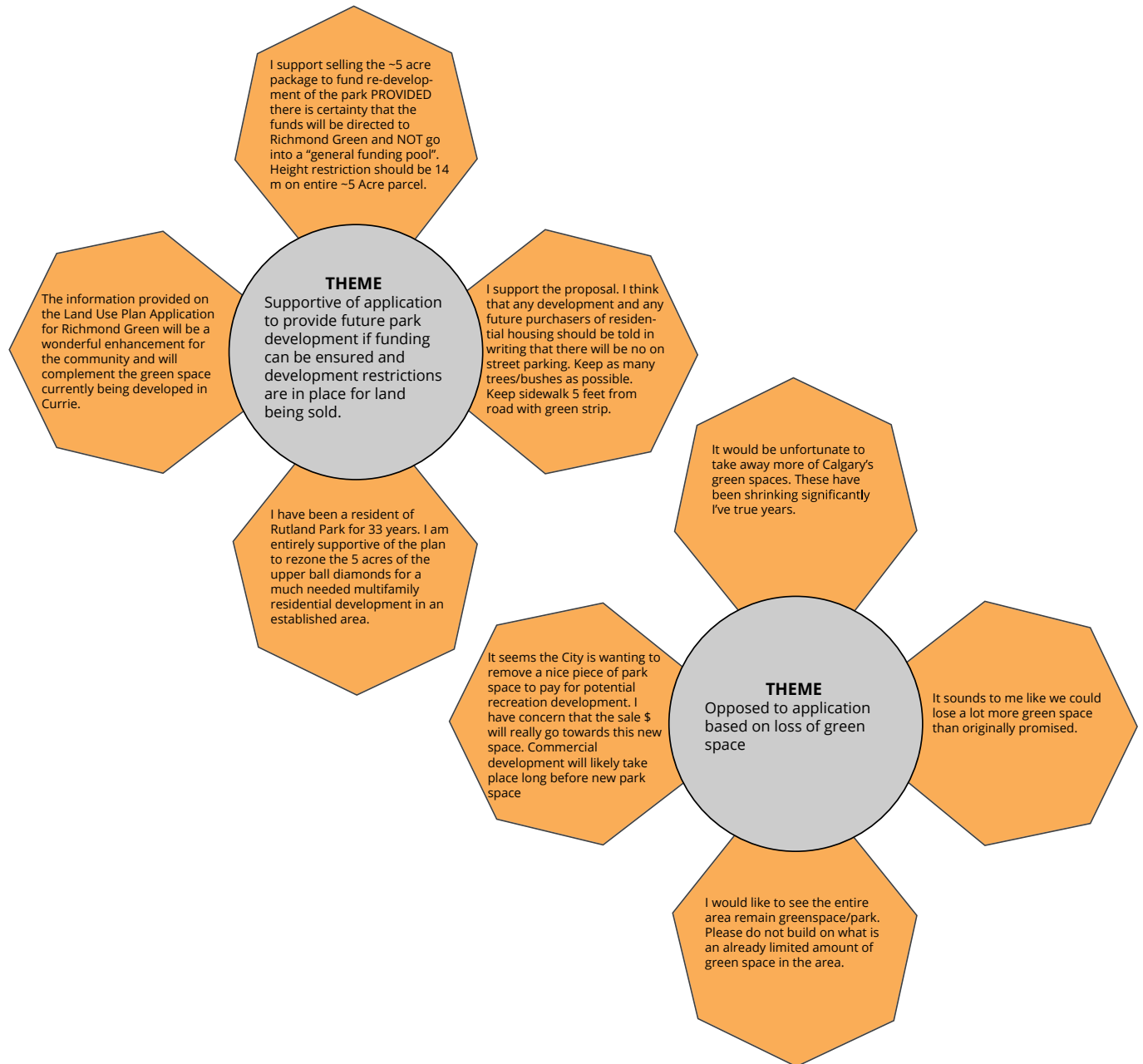
## What We Heard - July 2021

The first three questions asked here are based on the assumption that respondents had either attended the May 4 session or reviewed the posted presentation from that evening. As communication and information sharing was a goal, we sought to check on effectiveness of the presentation and materials to provide clarity in the process and to gauge how respondents felt about the application. ~

### 1. From the information provided on the Land Use/ Outline Plan Application please add your comments.

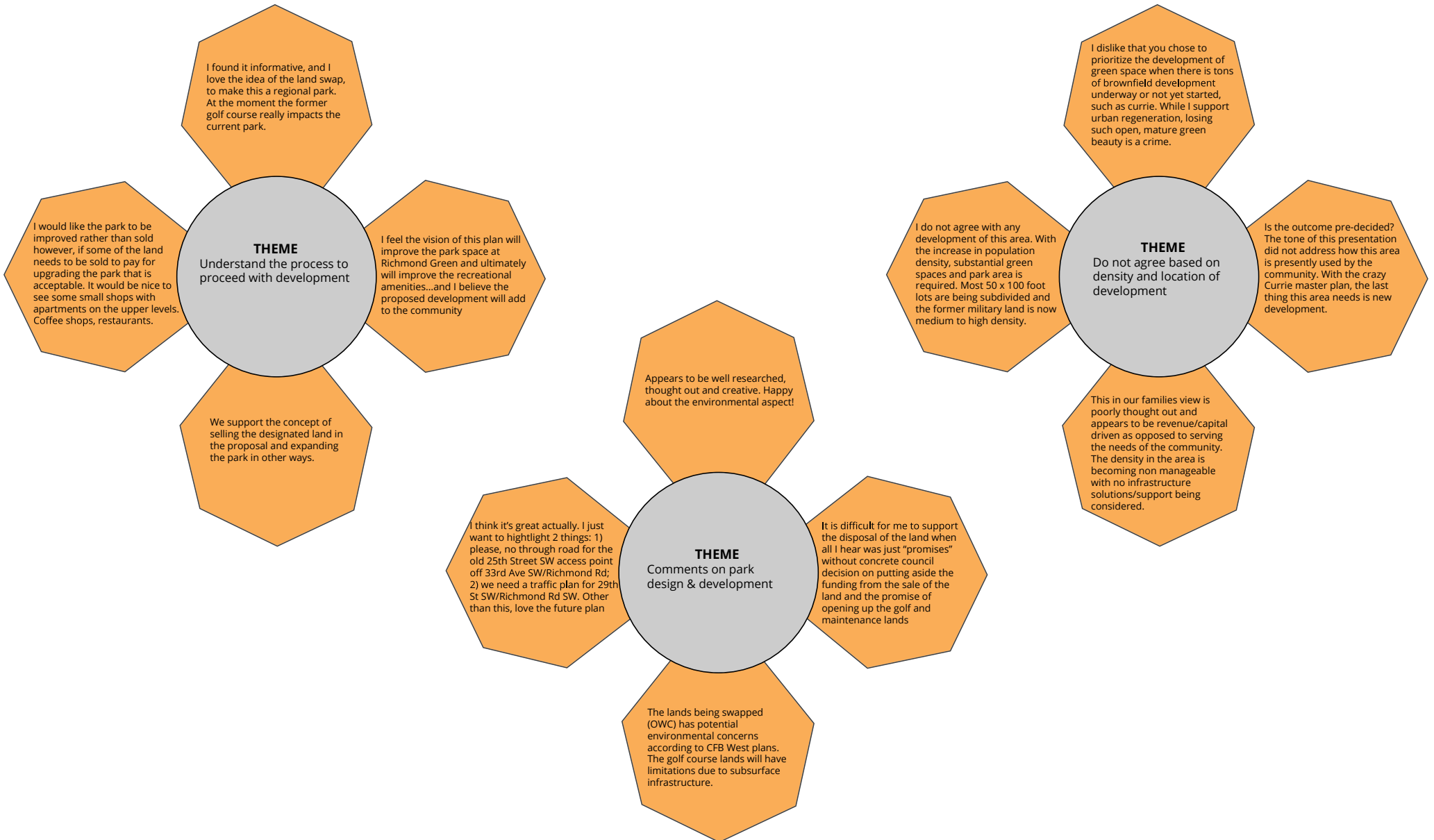
Comments grouped into themes with supporting verbatim comments.

 277 responses



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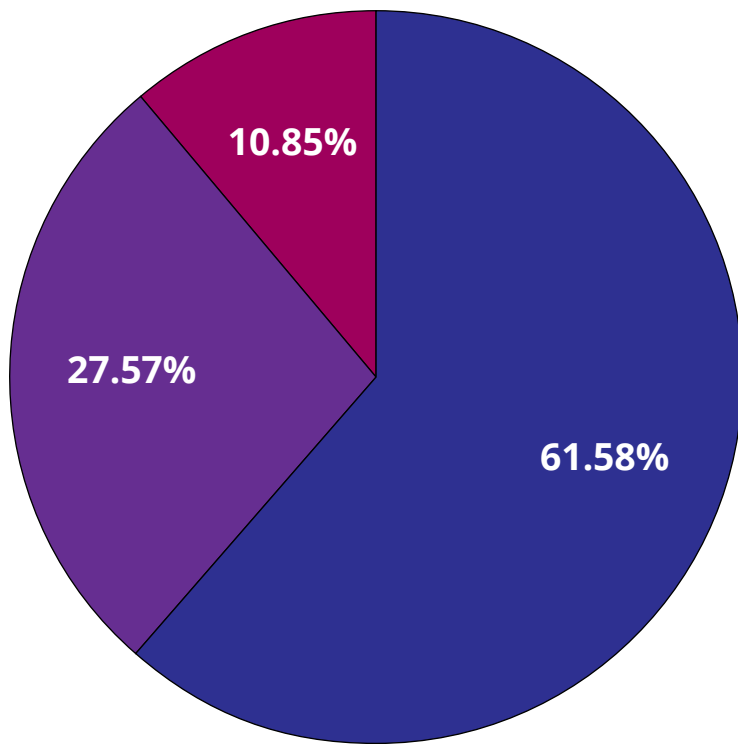


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2. Did the information provided give enough details to provide clarity as to the process – The need for scoping of the project in order to proceed with future planning (Land Use Approvals in order to implement Future Planning Options)?

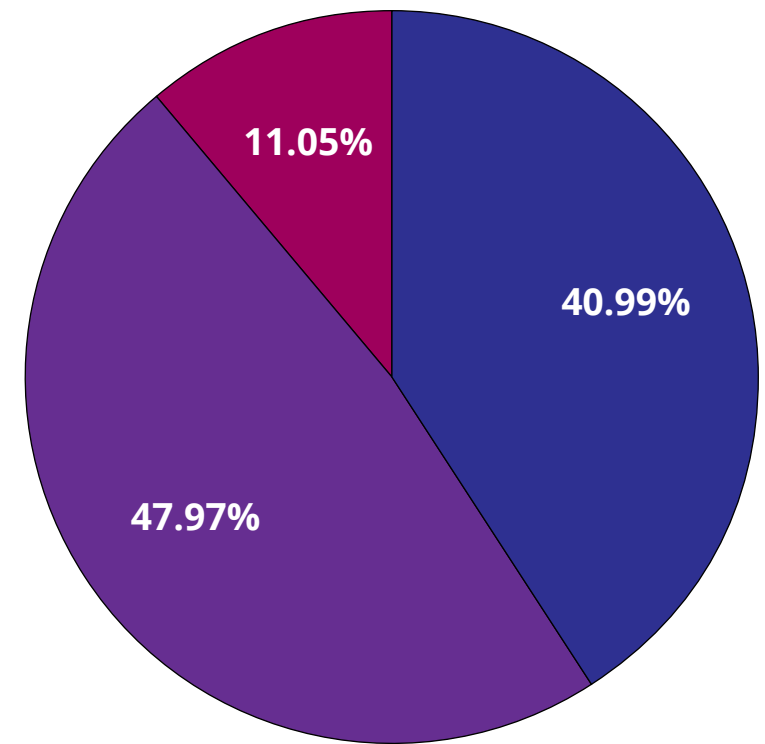
 341 responses



 Yes  No  Other

3. From this information do you feel you can support the plan as an avenue to explore future opportunities?

 344 responses



 Yes  No  Other









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The second set of questions asked were focused on input that will be used in developing plans for the **Future Use of the park**. Respondents were asked to complete the questions below which asked for input on how they currently use the space, how they think the park could be improved, and what amenities they would like to see in the park to enhance future use.

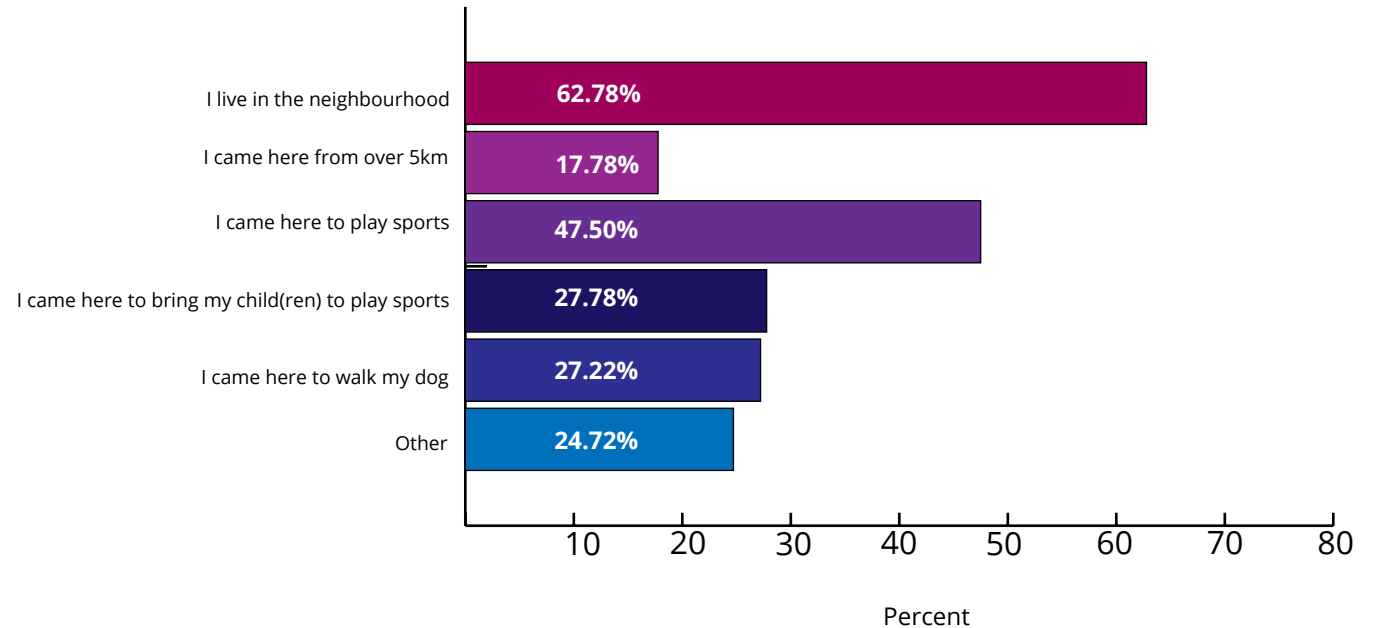
## 1. How do you get to the park?

 362 responses

-  68.51% walking
-  48.07% biking and wheeling
-  3.87% public transit
-  45.3% driving
-  3.04% other

## 2. What brought you to the park?

 360 responses



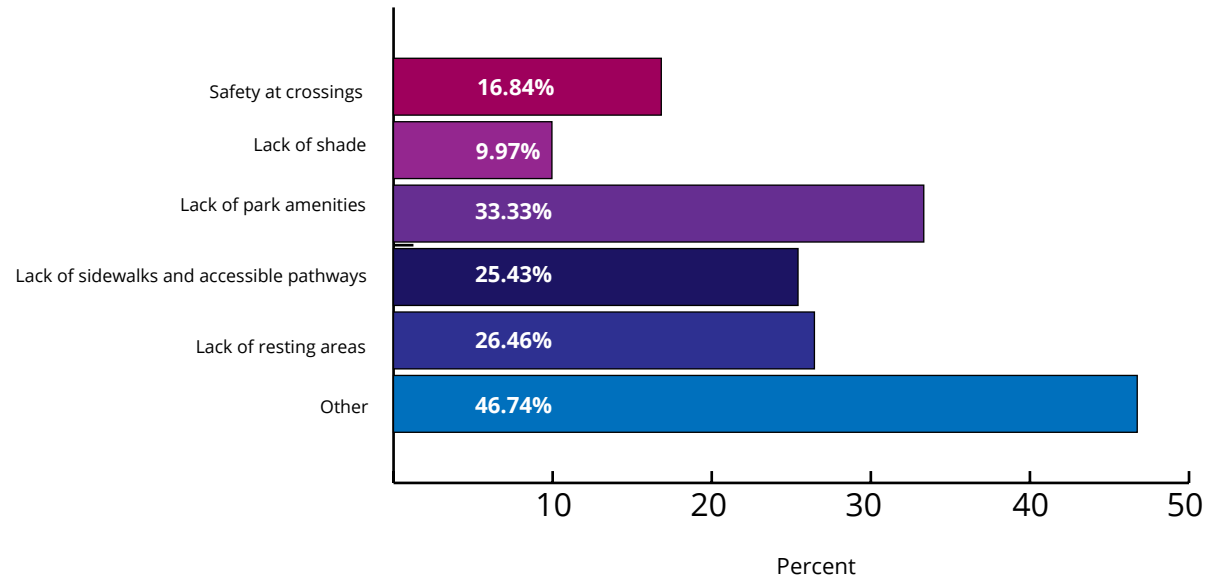


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### 3. What are your top concerns within the park?

291 responses



### 4. What are the parks current strengths?

281 responses


	Score	Count		Score	Count
Tennis Courts	4.21	208	Tree Canopy	5.11	214
Tot Lot (playground)	2.10	151	Pathways	5.06	223
Baseball Fields	3.82	187	Parking Area	2.36	159
Toboggan Hill	4.24	205	Green Open Space	6.77	246
Public Washrooms	2.90	180			

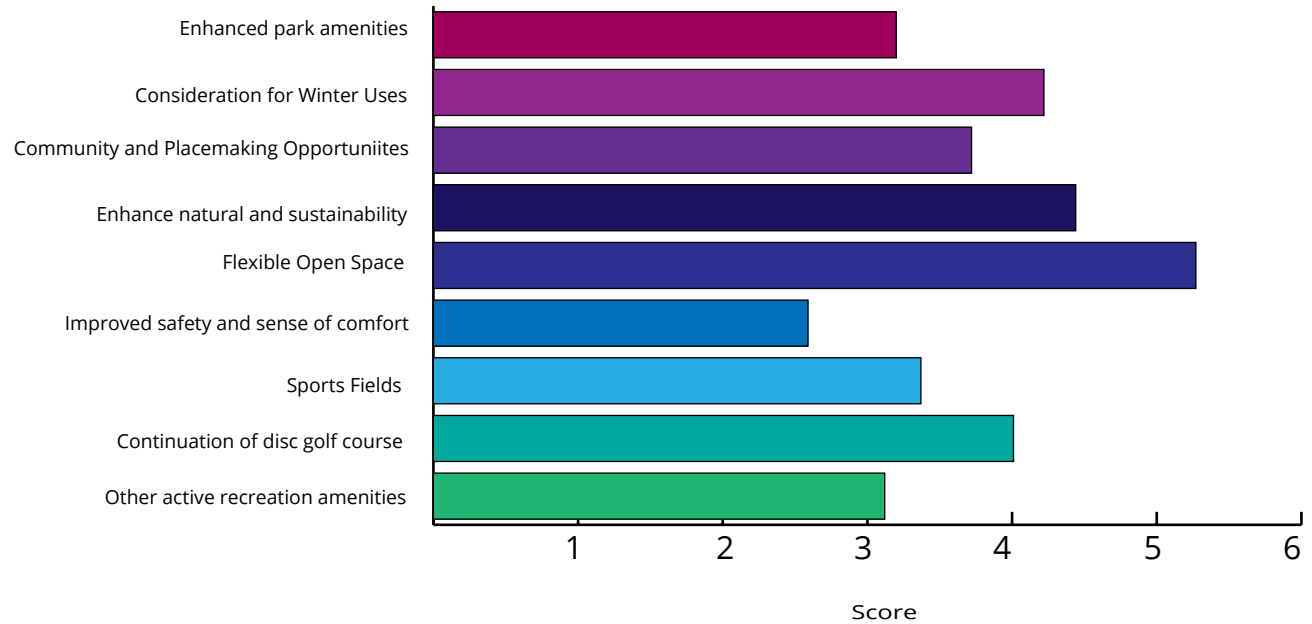


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### 5. Where do you see room for improvement within the future Richmond Green Park?

 286 responses



Answer choices	Score	Count
Enhanced park amenities (i.e. playground, dog runs etc.)	3.20	164
Consideration for Winter Uses (i.e. skating path)	4.22	209
Community and Placemaking Opportunities (i.e. plaza/gathering areas, community gardens)	3.72	187
Enhanced natural and sustainability (i.e. more naturalized areas, grasslands)	4.44	200
Flexible Open Space (i.e. for picnicking, nature observation, etc.)	5.27	217
Improved safety and sense of comfort (i.e. lighting, safer pedestrian crossings, etc.)	2.59	148
Sports Fields (i.e. baseball, soccer, cricket, rugby)	3.37	171
Continuation of disc golf course (remain in place in future planning)	4.01	184
Other active recreation amenities (i.e. pump track, sport courts)	3.12	164





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### 6. What would you do to improve the future of Richmond Green Park?

Comments grouped into themes with supporting verbatim comments.

308 responses

**THEME**  
Improvement ideas - feature and amenity suggestions

Add cultural infrastructure - performance spaces amphitheater, festival activations, library, community resource centre 4 workshops & indoor performance/presentation spaces. Make the park more accessible for people with physical disabilities for seniors/low-income families - accessible affordable housing options; don't split the park with the road

Have more kids activities like splash park, bigger playground and winter uses like skating pond and toboganning hill

Improvements are awesome as long as it remains a park

Ensure there is a pedestrian/bike bridge over the 33rd Ave/Currie Barracks connector road. This is likely to be a very busy road and a barrier between the 2 park areas.

I am excited to see a redevelopment. I would love to see something like St Patrick's Island done. We rarely, if ever, use the park now that our children have grown. I'm dismayed by the amount of disinformation beign spread by certain residents of Rutland Park concerning this redevelopment. I am entirely supportive of changes under discussion

**THEME**  
Leave as is - no changes

Don't develop it unless and until it has been replaced with equivalent or better green space. The current proposed plan does not provide sufficient assurance that will occur.

I wouldn't I would keep it just the way it is, there is nothing wrong with this park it is nice and quiet and fresh air no one to bump into I live right across the street from the park, it is a very beautiful walk for all the seniors that live here don't wreck it for us. Leave it alone for the next 50 years

Avoid developing it. Please don't put the BRT route through it.

Except for some minor landscaping and perhaps playground improvement, I would leave Richmond Green Park alone. No development. Most people in the community don't want it. Evan Woolley kept calling this park "an opportunity." It's not an opportunity. It's a park. Leave it alone and let the community enjoy it as a green space.

No concrete or greedy development, leave it alone for the baseball players, disc golfers, tobogonners, tennis people players, dog walkers and nature for mental health. The inner city neighbourhood's are being destroyed by the city's attitude of greed and a denser population growth attitude. Do not ruin this area too!



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### THEME Golf course space

- Open up the golf course to walking and cycling. An improved children's playground.
- Disc golf is an obvious and important allocation for this space. Disc golf is exponentially increasing in popularity in recent years, and the conversion of the old golf course into a disc golf course seems like an obvious win from both a community accessibility standpoint, as well as a financial standpoint.
- Incorporate the Golf course in to the entire Park. Absolutely no development in the "Development Area." This area needs more and improved Parks. Not Development and "Densification"
- Add more paths and benches, make the clubhouse like River Cafe, add a few benches, open up the golf course
- Permanent disc golf course. Good signage. Alternate tee positions for beginner and advanced players to accommodate everyone and allow for progression.

### THEME OWC/Parks depot parcel - suggested needs/development

- Add a few more benches trees and connect the paths. Deal with the contamination you have at the roads land!
- Do not sell off the 5 acres. Reopen the golf course. Turn the OWC yard and land into more park space with paths and picnic tables.
- Clean up the OWC land. Leave the rest of it alone-- a natural state and paths would be best.
- To start the 9 acres of OWC land should be developed first as it straddles Canada Lands. Rethink the BRT, empty traffic onto Crowchild not congested 33 Av. The City has not done a good job of consulting the owners of this land which are the residents of Calgary. The City and its planning division are only custodians. Lets slow down and start again.
- I think using the operational works area to increase the size of the park is an excellent option. I see no need at all for any residential or commercial development on the existing park site; there is enough in Currie Barracks.

### THEME Other spaces, features & amenities

- Ensure that as much of the tree canopy is conserved and create spaces that can be used by all...not exclusively 'sport' based but gathering spaces for family and community events as well...even 'meeting' spaces for local small businesses to hold outdoor business meetups.
- Eliminate the connecting road, save the old growth trees (Russian Olive & Larch), add winter activities to support the toboggan hill, pathways & rest areas
- Ice cream. I'd really like to see a good walking track where you can walk through a park and still get a good amount of kilometres. Right now we just have to walk around and around and around the baseball diamond. It would be really nice to have a small regional park here
- Make all of the area a large park mimicking Fish Creek Park with introducing plants and trees and a path. We need more areas, besides neighbourhood streets, to go for nature walks within the City. Please and Thank You!
- Pave a path throughout the entire area, make it all one big park area for people to walk and cycle. Compared to other parts of the city, we have more density and a drastic shortage of parks.



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## Engagement Summation

Based on overall review of the collective responses as reflected above and in the full verbatim attachments. There was a definitive mix and balance within the comments and feedback received. There is not any pre-dominant sentiment of “full support” or “fully opposed” but rather a mix of feedback and comments pertaining to those two polarizing views. Perhaps of noted significance were those equally represented comments and feedback that sought to provide suggestions/solutions or were seeking further information, or assurances, in moving forward with the project. This report is meant to clearly show that balanced public input and give all community members a forum for their opinions to be heard and given response and consideration.

## What We Did

This portion of the report has been provided to show how the feedback to date was utilized to create changes with the project. Feedback received will continue to shape the process and outcomes as this project progresses through following phases. The following excerpt from PFC2021-0834 details what was done with the public input received in terms of project changes:

1. The Needs Assessment (Scope 2) was prioritized slightly ahead of the Land Use / subdivision Application (Scope 1), to assist Council decision making on the future of the park and its funding. This may help to provide the certainty the public wants to see for the funding, before deciding on the Land Use changes;
2. A height modifier of 4 storey maximum was placed adjacent to Sarcee Road SW to respect the adjacent single detached houses across the street and the height of the rest of the site was dropped from 25 metres to 22 metres. Policy was introduced within the CFB West Master Plan to ensure that ‘residential’ is the primary use for the MU-1 site.

3. One new baseball diamond is recommended at Richmond Green Park. This will provide a replacement for at least one of the two lost diamonds, mitigating impacts to Calgary West Little League. Administration will continue to work with Calgary Item # 7.9 West Little League to find additional diamonds to ensure there is no loss of playing time.

4. A second Outline Plan and Land Use application is recommended in order to secure the 10 per cent municipal reserve owing as a result of the subdivision of ±5 acre development parcel. The appropriate land use district will be determined to support WR and Parks infrastructure and open space needs.