

Project overview

Parks will be developing a parcel of land located at 936 16 Avenue S.W. into a vibrant public park space that can be well enjoyed and used by community members.

The City of Calgary has partnered with Ground Cubed Landscape Architects, a professional consulting firm to help develop conceptual designs based on the feedback received from public engagement.



Engagement overview

On June 26, 2019, The City of Calgary held an open house in the Beltline at the Grace Presbyterian Church to ask citizens for their feedback on the following park design elements – softscape areas (types of grasses and planting applications), hardscape areas (types of hard surfaces), site furnishings (types of seating), and creative elements. For those unable to attend the open house, an online feedback form was open from June 24 – July 8, 2019 on The City’s engagement portal at engage.calgary.ca to solicit feedback from Calgarians.

Input from both the open house (48 conversations) and online survey (299 respondents) is being used to help identify patterns of preference for various features in the park’s design and in turn will help inform what’s



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included in the two conceptual design plans. These plans will be shared with the public to collect additional input in the Fall of 2019.

What we asked

Engagement sought public input through questions structured around potential features that may be included in the park's design. Illustrations and pictures were provided to give additional context for participants when submitting their input. We also asked one general question surrounding park usage and two demographic questions to see if we were speaking to community members who would be using the new park space.

1. What activities could you envision yourself using this space for? (Check all that apply)
 - Passive activities (i.e. socializing, reading, picnicking, drinking coffee)
 - Active recreation (i.e. playing frisbee, yoga, ping pong)
 - Flexible event space (food trucks, pop-up market, performance stage)
 - Other _____

2. Where do you live?
 - I live or work right next to or across from the space
 - I live in the Beltline
 - I live in an adjacent neighborhood
 - I do not live close to the site

3. Why are you interested in this project? (Check all that apply)
 - I live or work nearby
 - I was a frequent user of the previous park space located nearby
 - I'm an interested citizen
 - I plan to use the future park space

4. Please select your preferred option(s) of softscape material.
 - Manicured grasses: Turfed areas that are regularly maintained/cut
OR
 - Native grasses: Grassed areas planted with indigenous species providing a more "natural look"

 - Formal planting theme: Plantings and planting bed shapes that follow straight lines and geometric groupings
OR
 - Informal planting theme: Plantings and planting bed shapes that follow meandering/organic lines and overlapping groupings

 - Raised planters: Planting beds that are raised above grade and enclosed
OR
 - At grade plantings: Shrubs, trees, and planting beds that are level with other site surface materials



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Why do you prefer the softscape options you've selected above?

5. Which type of hardscape material do you prefer? Please rank the following. (#1 is favorite and #3 least favorite).
- Pavers: Flat pieces of stone or concrete that are pieced together to create a hard-surfaced area such as a plaza or pathway
 - Permeable Pavers: Pavers separated by joints that allow the movement of water and air around the paving material
 - Stamped concrete: Concrete surfacing that is patterned and/or textured to create a hard-surfaced area such as a plaza or pathway

Please tell us why you selected this hardscape material?

6. Please select your preferred option of seating for the park?
- Formal seating with back: Prescribed seating options that provide users with back support
OR
 - Formal seating backless: Prescribed sitting options without back support

 - Flexible seating: Moveable seating that allows users to adapt their sitting situation rather than prescribing how and where they sit
OR
 - Fixed social seating: Prescribed sitting options that provide for a variety of sitting situations/configurations

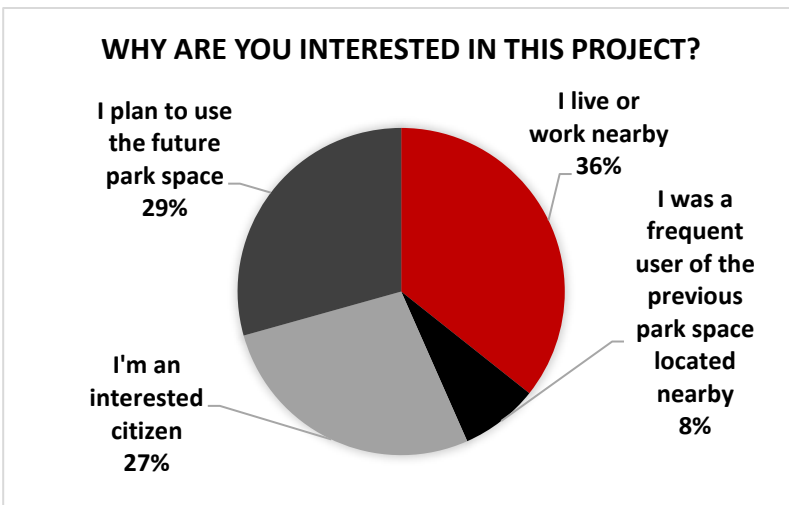
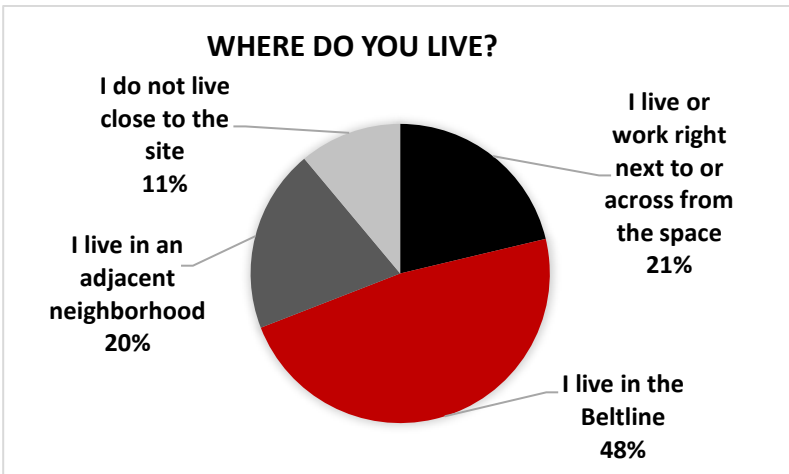
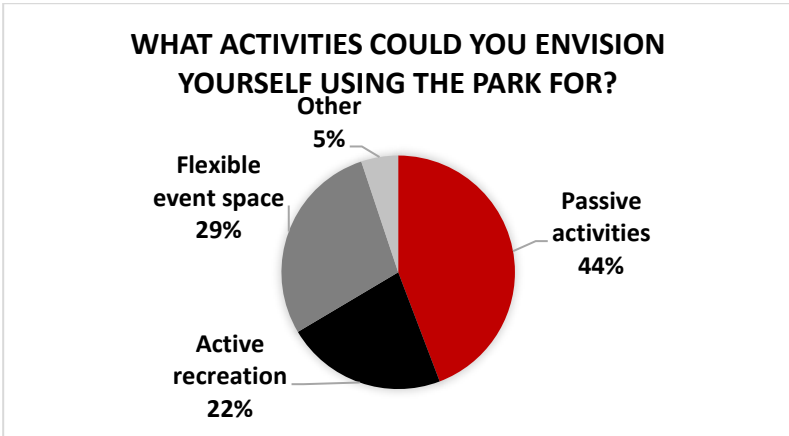
Please tell us why you prefer these seating options?

7. Which type of creative elements do you prefer? Please rank the following. (#1 is favorite and #4 is least favorite).
- Playful furniture: Site furnishings with sculptural or playful elements
 - Bold color theme: The addition of bold color to certain elements within the park to provide year-round color or site recognition
 - Functional art: Elements that have a creative design but also serve a function such as shelter or seating
 - Sculptural piece(s): Formally designed pieces that ground the site, or provide an iconic feature

Please tell us why you selected the above creative element?

What we heard

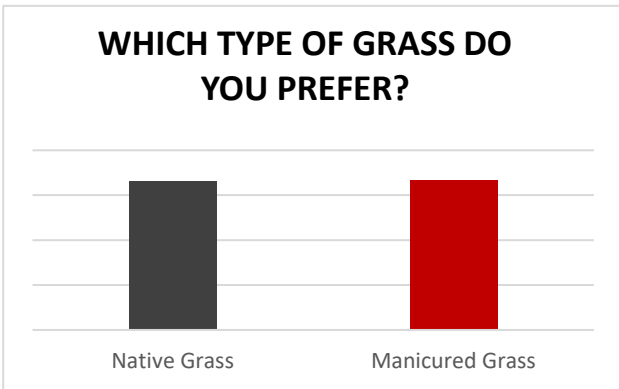
Usage and demographic questions



Please select your preferred option(s) of softscape material:

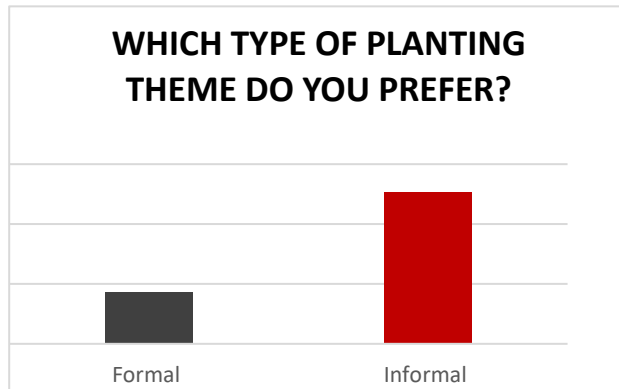
Targeted questions were asked to participants to gauge their preference for the different types of softscape materials to be used in the park’s design. The bar graphs below illustrate the overall trends regarding preferences and should not be viewed as a “vote” between choices. It should be noted that at least 50% of the future park space will include softscape materials (grass and plantings).

- Participants were equally divided in their preference for “native grass” and “manicured grass”
- Participants had a strong preference for an “informal planting theme” in comparison to a “formal theme”
- Participants had a strong preference for “at-grade plantings” in comparison to “raised planters”



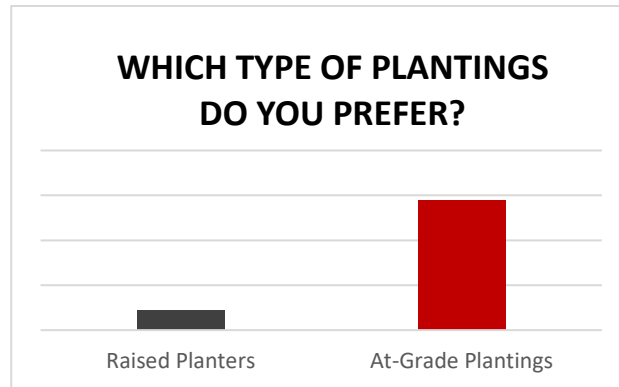
Native grass

Manicured grass



Formal theme

Informal theme



Raised planters

At-grade plantings



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Why do you prefer the softscape options you've selected above?

Softscape	
Participants indicated that when it comes to softscape materials, keeping a natural look was preferred followed by being aesthetically pleasing, and using at grade plantings. These themes have been captured below (among others) and are supported by participant comments. Themes are listed in order from most commonly mentioned to least commonly mentioned when analysing engagement data.	
Themes That We Heard	Examples of Participant Verbatim Comments
Natural look	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love the look of natural grasses • A more natural feel and the ability for the space to be multi-functional! • A more natural look. Less costly to build • Because parks in the area are overly manicured as it stands. More natural appearances are more aesthetic • Enjoy natural settings • Having something natural yet geometric provides an interesting modern look for the space • I am drawn to natural-feeling landscapes with less concrete. I also feel like the other parks nearby are more formal and concretey • I enjoy manicured park with lots of natural elements • I prefer a more natural look • I think the Beltline needs some more natural spaces. The whole downtown landscape is manmade and I would like more nature
Aesthetically pleasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetically more in keeping with the urban setting • More polished feel especially for the sleek new building next to it. Also, it's a small space so looking too unwieldy will just look like it's not maintained well • Prettier • Seems like it'd be more comfortable to spend time there and feel more natural. Also just aesthetically I think it'd fit in better with the beltline • Visual interest and compliment the surrounding developments



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<p>Preference for at grade plantings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dogs will not be able to pee on raised planters • Raised planter creates boxed in maze like look. Small kids might feel dwarfed by it • At grade planting are more conducive for community games, pets to relax on leash & send the message this space is inviting. Raised planters send a message of “this space is a stopping point only” :) • At-grade better for safety and visibility • Better visibility around the park, so homeless don't sleep there • Easier to maintain and will look better if there is no budget to fill the raised planters • I like the natural look of at grade plantings and think it would look less "urban" than a manicured park
<p>Manicured preference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certain grasses can get out of control if not manicured and become invasive. E.g. bluegrass along 13th ave sidewalks from 1st st SE to 4th st SW • This is a very urban area - manicured would be most suitable • Too many allergies associated with native grasses • I enjoy manicured park with lots of natural elements • I want it to look more natural while still making sitting on the grass easier • Manicured grass is better for activities such as bocce ball, frisbee yoga. These are the types of activities I will likely be using the space for.
<p>Informal look</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are already organic options nearby. Informal fits in better with surrounding context • I believe that they're most conducive to informal use • Indigenous species require less maintenance. Space is limited, so I prefer informal and at-grade planting. If you could throw in some elm and oak trees that would be great • Informal and at-grade give a warmer more inviting feel for a smaller space such as this.



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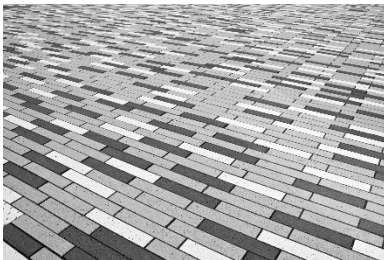
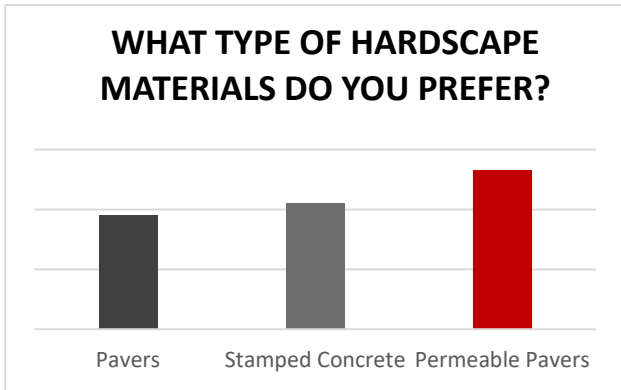
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<p style="text-align: center;">Safety concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No conifers because they pose safety issues • Aesthetics. Also hard surfaces discourage street people from loitering • At-grade better for safety and visibility Better visibility around the park, so homeless don't sleep there • I think they reduce the likelihood of the area being misused especially at night • I'd prefer plants to be in the ground and "natural" while maintaining a tidy appearance - also less places for people to hide. I work kitty-corner from it early mornings and can be afraid at times
<p style="text-align: center;">Trees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of trees please • Need trees in this space • I like a natural look with as many trees as possible • I like all options but with seating (wooden and hard) and easy walkways for disabled/strollers etc and shade trees • Indigenous species require less maintenance. Space is limited, so I prefer informal and at-grade planting. If you could throw in some elm and oak trees that would be great • They are more natural, give the plants a better chance to thrive and grow long-term. Older, natural plants and trees will give more character over time.

* For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.

What type of hardscape materials do you prefer? Please rank the following.

Participants were asked to rank their preference of different types of hardscape materials that have the potential to be used in the park’s design. The bar graph below illustrates participants overall preference to be split fairly evenly between the three materials with a slight edge to permeable pavers, followed by stamped concrete, and then pavers – these results should not be viewed as a “vote” between these choices but rather an indication of general levels of preference.



Pavers



Stamped concrete



Permeable pavers



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Please tell us why you selected this hardscape material?

Hardscape	
<p>When discussing the preference of hardscape materials for the park, many participants indicated that it was important for the type of hardscape material to be aesthetically pleasing and to enhance the look of the space. Additionally, a lot of participants mentioned the importance of choosing a hardscape material that allows for adequate drainage and water management during rainfall events. The ease of maintenance and durability of the hardscape material used in the park was also important to people. These themes have been captured below (among others) and are supported by participant comments. Themes are listed in order from most commonly mentioned to least commonly mentioned when analysing engagement data.</p>	
Themes That We Heard	Examples of Participant Verbatim Comments
Aesthetics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetic, functionality • Aesthetically pleasing yet minimizing the maintenance required • Aesthetics and ease of getting around • Aesthetics/cost • Beautiful ! • Best visually, fits the neighborhood • I like the look. • It looks cool • Looks better to me • More aesthetically pleasing • Pleasing to the eye and easy to maintain • Unique and interesting
Allows for drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permeable reduces runoff • Allow better water runoff, will integrate into the softscape material • Allowing for rain and groundwater to escape seems like it could help with future storm water situations • Allows more greenery to show through. Less pooling of water on the surfaces • Because it allows movement of water and air • Better for water drainage • Drainage first, then architectural variety
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavers tend to be erodable by salt. Looks bad 2 years later • Permeable requires constant maintenance by Parks to keep it neat and trimmed • Assumed maintenance effort required



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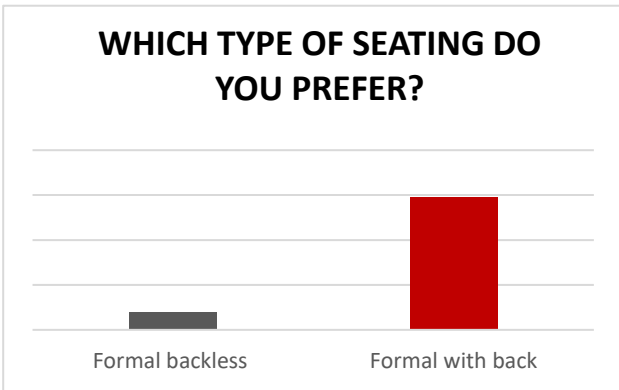
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Durability and the cost of ongoing maintenance • Ease of maintenance • Easier to maintain and clean
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stamped concrete texture can help with accessibility eg those with vision issues • Accessibility • Aesthetics and ease of getting around • As we have many young families and senior citizens in the area, I believe this option would provide the greatest accessibility • Flat pavers are durable, accessible to everyone, slightly permeable and provide an attractive surface • I would hope for surfaces suited to the use - sitting, strolling, picnicking • Many seniors in this area use walkers or canes. The smoother the pathway, the better.
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavers are safer in winter - less slippery • Stamped concrete might get slippery • Easier to walk on in wet weather • I like permeable pavers but I see it harder to walk on. Pavers look slick and easy to walk on aka. Less tripping. • Its a more safe and fun way for my baby to play around • Least slippery in winter • Safer

* For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.

Which type of seating do you prefer?

Participants were asked about their preference for the different types of seating to be used in the park’s design. The bar graphs below illustrate the overall trends regarding preferences and should not be viewed as a “vote” between the choices but rather an indication of general levels of preference.

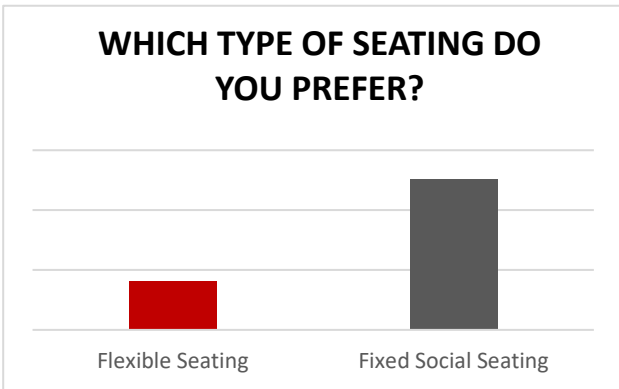
- Participants had a strong preference for formal seating with a back in comparison to a formal backless seating
- Participants had a strong preference for fixed social seating in comparison to flexible seating



Formal backless



Formal with back



Flexible seating



Fixed social seating



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Please tell us why you prefer these seating options?

Seating	
<p>When asked about seating options, participants indicated that the most important thing to consider would be whether the seating could be stolen or vandalized. Many participants also indicated that they would like seating that is comfortable, aesthetically pleasing, and encourages social interaction in the park space. These themes have been captured below (among others) and are supported by participant comments. Themes are listed in order from most commonly mentioned to least commonly mentioned when analysing engagement data.</p>	
Themes That We Heard	Examples of Participant Verbatim Comments
Theft/vandalism concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible seating will lose organization. Theft concerns • Flexible seating will vanish • Anything that isn't bolted to the ground in a downtown park will be stolen in a heart beat • Back rests are good. Fixed amenities won't be stolen • Back support is just more comfortable. Fixed social settings I feel would prevent theft/damage of the seating options • Backs on benches for support for those with injuries, and fixed seating to avoid vandalism or theft • Because then it's a space that you can go to and rely on. Flexible seating near 17th with intoxicated people could be an issue • Can't be moved around. Less vandalism
Comfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has to be comfortable • Seniors need more back support • Metal is too cold visually and figuratively • Formal with back - most comfortable and longest lasting • Backrests are comfortable and flexible seating can be stolen • Benches without a back are uninviting and uncomfortable for long periods of time. A mixture of flexible and fixed seating would be best allowing flexibility of the site • Comfort and durability • Comfort, cleanliness • Comfortable and work with the location, more durable



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<p>Aesthetics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aesthetically. Less chance of it breaking • Better aesthetics • Fixed social is more visually appealing • I just prefer it • It makes it feel more interested into the park • It's modern and could last more • Looks nice • Looks better, no theft concerns • More cohesive look • Neater in appearance
<p>Promotes socializing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better for social gatherings • Better options for future events, more social • Can move around for bigger groups • Contributes more to a feeling of community • Easier for a variety of groups to use in a casual • Easier to take care of, can create more comfortable options, easier to sit with a group • I envision the park being a great meeting place to take your coffee from 17th, or meet some friends for an evening • I think the social seating gives it a better look and encourages people to socialize
<p>Variety of options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variety of seating • A combination of both might be ideal. They should be shaded from the sun in summer as the park will be exposed from the south side to the sun • Variety of both types • A combination would be best • A variety of seating options is important • Actually, I think that it would be lovely to have a mix of fixed social spaces and have flexible seating so that the space can remain flexible in concept but have a fixed social purpose • Allows for more options but i want a mix of both
<p>Homeless/safety concerns</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Urban campers" consider this when designing/placing seating • Assumed level of maintenance. Evening safety



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Homeless/safety concerns (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comfort but ability to move - avoid design that encourage sleeping especially overnight - keep well lit and highly visible• It will limit the long-term comfort of vagrants• Tougher for people to sleep in
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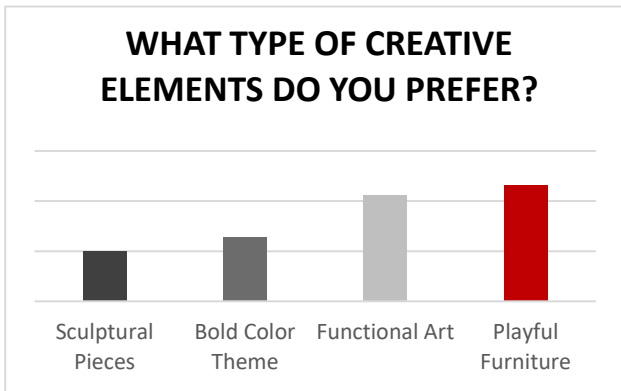
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What type of creative elements do you prefer? Please rank the following.

Participants were asked to rank their preference of different types of creative elements that have the potential to be incorporated into the park’s design. The bar graph below illustrates participants overall preference for playful furniture, followed very closely by functional art, then bold color theme, and finally sculptural pieces – these results should not be viewed as a “vote” between the choices but rather as an indication of general levels of preference.



Sculptural pieces



Bold color theme



Functional art



Playful furniture



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What type of creative elements do you prefer and why?

Creative Elements	
<p>When asked about creative elements, participants indicated that the most important thing to consider would be whether the creative element was functional or not. Many participants also indicated that they would like to see creative elements that are aesthetically pleasing and boldly colored. These themes have been captured below (among others) and are supported by participant comments. Themes are listed in order from most commonly mentioned to least commonly mentioned when analysing engagement data.</p>	
Themes That We Heard	Examples of Participant Verbatim Comments
Functional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like playful functional elements combined. Good for skateboard deterrent and general deterrent • Functional art would allow a play space for children & youth • I like functional art • Aesthetically pleasing but still functional • Art designed to be functional keeps things interesting, and bold colours makes the park stand out • Art draws people to a place and makes it feel unique. Functional art allows people to engage with it and enhance their experience • Art should be engaging - furniture can be a great example of that • Art that we can use! Great! That's why I picked functional art. Sculptural pieces look nice but not enough room in this park to make something really big and cool • Colour is a cheap cop out - functional art achieves is highly attractive and useful
Aesthetically pleasing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual art corner • Despite the grief that public art receives. People love to interact with it, take selfies with, bring visiting family to see • Aesthetically pleasing • Aesthetically pleasing but still functional • I appreciate when public space is used to add some decoration to the surrounding area • I like multi purpose elements for aesthetics and efficiency.

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<p>Aesthetically pleasing (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like the art to be beautiful but also functional • I love art and would love to see some beautiful stuff. Playful furniture is often not comfortable so I don't like that as much • Looks cool • Playful future and Functional art are one in the same. It adds value to the space in a way in which you can interact with it. Design elements that add to the aesthetic of the landscape while keeping in mind the sandstone church across the street • While I enjoy having a nice aesthetic, I prefer if it is functional as well.
<p>Bold colors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bold color theme maybe combine light and sound • Bold color theme - there is not enough color in our neighborhood • Bold color theme light sculpture vertical to stand against building • Art designed to be functional keeps things interesting, and bold colours makes the park stand out • Bold color draws people in from walking by. Playful furniture has a family feel to it • Bold colours look nice in the winter and summer • Creativity...a key theme our city is built on...fun and functional with the colours • Having a colourful park means it will probably get a nickname, which I like
<p>Like all options</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard to choose - all good options • A combination of all is possible, a well designed piece of functional art can complete all of the above. Maybe something like a permanent swing set, which can be a piece of art as well as a functional and playful furnishing • All of the above would be great! • All options above are good • Hard to rank - I like all of these • I enjoy all of these but appreciate how adaptable "playful furniture" is as art and as a site with which users can interact



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<p>Like all options (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like all of the above ideas! They are a great way to make the park unique and attractive • I like all these options! • I like all these options, almost equally. I do want to see local artists engaged in making these pieces. And I'd like to see really bold pieces that help Calgary's tourism
<p>Play space for children</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The previous park had a few benches and equipment for children. Climbing structure, swings & slide. We were told that when the building was completed a similar park for kids would be built. Hope this promise is honored • Functional art would allow a play space for children & youth • The church Grace would love a space for Sunday school children • Playful furniture would allow a play space for children and youth • A nice park for kids and a open area for dogs • Again, there's a lack of playgrounds for small children in the area (Thompson Park is great but for older kids) and anything that would make this park fun for smaller children would be wonderful. There are plenty of toddlers and preschoolers in the area! • I have children and the opportunity to sit but also play a little is appealing
<p>Cost effective</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hopefully this is the most cost-efficient option • Keep it simple. It's a park. Don't waste taxpayers money on ridiculous, non functional seating and artwork • Least amount of cost and maintenance • Most striking to see and perhaps most cost effective • People complain less about taxpayer money being used if functionality is incorporated • Placing things that have a functional use, rather than just aesthetic is a better investment for the city and the users of the park



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<p>Cost effective (continued)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play furniture is more functional than wasting money on just an art piece • Probably less expensive; less formal • Sculptured pieces are a waste of tax dollars
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* For a verbatim listing of all the input that was provided, please see the [Verbatim Responses](#) section.

Next steps

- **July 2019** – Share Phase 1 What We Heard Report
- **Summer 2019** – Concept Design & Development. The project team will review the results from phase 1 engagement which will help inform two conceptual designs to take back to the public for input in the Fall of 2019.
- **Fall 2019 Public Engagement (Phase 2)** – The project team will go back to the public with two concept plans that are based on the engagement feedback from phase 1.
- **Fall 2019** – Publish What We Heard/What We Did Report
- **Winter 2019** – Design & Tendering
- **Summer 2020** – Construction of park
- **Fall 2020** – Target park opening

Verbatim Comments

All of the comments below are verbatim as received. The comments are divided into questions asked. They are unedited, including spelling, grammar, etc. The only exception is where there is profanity or personally identifying information, this is indicated in brackets. The table below is a quick link guide to each of the questions:

<u>Question 4 - Why do you prefer the softscape options you've selected above?</u>	21
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Question 4 - Why do you prefer the softscape options you've selected above?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more natural type landscape can also serve as a natural type playground for children and youth supporting riskier type of plan which is advantageous to children • Certain grasses can get out of control if not manicured and become invasive. E.g. bluegrass along 13th ave sidewalks from 1st st SE to 4th st SW • I want to lie in the grass • Like native grasses but takes up space in an already small area • Love the look of natural grasses • Native grass looks like weeds • Support more environmentally friendly practises including native grass and flowers • This is a very urban area - manicured would be most suitable • Too many allergies associated with native grasses • Area bit too small for a formal garden • Bee friendly • Formal is easy to maintain when compared to organic • Park is too small for a formal garden • The City lacks formal green space. Lots of small general passive parks around. Be different • There are already organic options nearby. Informal fits in better with surrounding context • There is not enough space for a formal garden • Dogs will not be able to pee on raised planters • Green space preferred to concrete • I don't want to see concrete • Loose type planting not clipped, not formal • Lots of trees please • More grass than grey please • Need trees in this space • No conifers because they pose safety issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City living involves a lot of concrete, planned spaces and a lack of "natural" environments, so a more "natural" park is a welcome reprieve. When I use parks those are the types I seek out. • Cost, and having a bit of green space to sit and stretch, or for kids to run and play. • Downtown needs places to escape too - the less 'built' the better. • Easier and less costly to maintain • Easier to maintain and will look better if there is no budget to fill the raised planters • Easy to maintain and provides a flexible space for many activities • Ecologically friendly plantings and maintenance are best. Formal layout will better accommodate layout of tents and structures for special events. Raised planters indicate a pass-through area, and so are not conducive to having the space used for otherwis • Enjoy natural settings • Eye pleasing • Feels like nature in the city • feels more welcoming. formal parks are uninviting, it feels like trespassing most days. • Fits with a predominantly passive use space. • free movement throughout the space • Having something natural yet geometric provides an interesting modern look for the space. • Hopefully lower maintenance costs • I am drawn to natural-feeling landscapes with less concrete. I also feel like the other parks nearby are more formal and concrete-y. • I believe that the small area of the plot provided would lend itself well to a small, formal french-style park.
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No conifers because they pose safety issues • Raised planter creates boxed in maze like look. Small kids might feel dwarfed by it • Root systems won't survive harsh winters in raised planters • Would like to see combination of both • A more natural feel and the ability for the space to be multi-functional! • A more natural look. Less costly to build. • Aesthetically more in keeping with the urban setting. • Aesthetics. Also hard surfaces discourage street people from loitering. • Allows for dynamic activity and it's more inviting • Already a formal park nearby and looking for more spaces to take my dog and relax while she plays.- • Already lots of hardscaping in that area. Anything to try and soften things visually. • At grade planting are more conducive for community games, pets to relax on leash & send the message this space is inviting. Raised planters send a message of "this space is a stopping point only" :) • At-grade better for safety and visibility • Because I do not want to picnic by the concrete planter. • Because it is better for casual use of the space • Because it would make the space more flexible for sitting. But it's also important that it is physically accessible, so it needs paths/seating • Because parks in the area are overly manicured as it stands. More natural appearances are more aesthetic. • Because they fit in with the context of the surrounding area. • Better useability and look. • Better visibility around the park, so homeless don't sleep there • better water retention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I believe that they're most conducive to informal use. • I believe they would provide a more inviting atmosphere for residents/citizens. Also, manicured grasses require a lot of watering and it would be best to conserve as much water as possible given climate change. • I believe we need to be choosing more native plants and edibles as well as different rain water capture and storage techniques to demonstrate an ecological design approach in public space. • I dislike lawn because it wears poorly. Informal design can better address use and function requirements of a particular site. Raised planters rarely live up to expectations- plants are hard to maintain; structures fall apart • I don't think I have a preference. • I enjoy manicured parka with lots of natural elements. • I feel like each option allows for maximum visual appeal/enjoyment, while using minimal maintenance/upkeep resources. • I feel like it would be the most welcoming style while being usable for event space. • I feel like the parks around me have a more natural feel to their layout. I'd like something a little more formal to offer variety • I feel they are more welcoming for people to use the park. while the others make the place look not to be touched. • I feel they are more welcoming inviting you to a space to spend time in • I find that the beltline area lack greenery space and more natural pathways and parks • I like a natural look with as many trees as possible. • I like all options but with seating (wooden and hard) and easy walkways for disabled/strollers etc and shade trees. |
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New Park Space in the Beltline

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring nature closer to the city • Building next door is modern and beautiful, I think the park should look the same • Cheaper, more natural, easier to maintain, more inviting feeling, easier to change down the road if needed. • Cheaper, prettier, more functional • Just has a more natural look and feel to it • less structured.. were in the inner city lets get away from that look. • Look more inviting • Looks awesome and more fitting for urban space • Looks more natural • Looks more natural • Looks more natural and inviting versus more industrial and less comfortable • Looks more natural. • Looks nice and natural • Looks nicer • Looks the most natural • Lots of condo owners like me have dogs and they have no place to go in the beltline. • Low maintainance • Lower maintenance and lower potential for damage during the winter • Make it kid friendly. A playground was there and all of what I see in your "offerings" are more about the perceived value for residents of the Royal it seems. Kids need to be heavily incorporated in this park. As they'll be there anyway, it makes sense... • Manicured grass is better for activities such as bocce ball, frisbee yoga. These are the types of activities I will likely be using the space for. • Manicured grass needs more mowing and watering, this is bad for the environment • More casual • More comfortable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like both types • I like clean, classic outdoor spaces • I like more natural environments • I like parks that look more natural and include native species • I like the look and I believe my choices make the park very accessible • I like the look of the planters • I like the natural look • I like the natural look of at grade plantings and think it would look less "urban" than a manicured park. • I like the option to use the grassed areas for recreation, while enjoying a more natural landscape too. • I live directly across from the beautiful Barb Scott Park that I think the city absolutely nailed. Is well lit at night and is extremely well used by The Neighbourhood for most of the year. It would be nice to see another beautiful park nearby • I prefer a more natural look • I prefer a more natural look. • I prefer more natural and lower maintenance green areas. • I prefer to see more comfortable surroundings - Raised planters and Formal gardens tend to be sterile and unwelcoming. • I think that it's important to have a variety of enviroments within our city. • I think the Beltline needs some more natural spaces. The whole downtown landscape is manmade and I would like more nature. • I think the site right next to a modern building lends itself to a mix of formal and natural grasses. • I think they create a more natural feel and are easier to maintain in the long run. • I think they reduce the likelihood of the area being misused especially at night. |
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New Park Space in the Beltline

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More green less cement • more like nature and no hard edges • More natural • More natural • More natural • More natural • More natural • more natural and less maintenance costs • More natural and organic • More natural appearance. • More natural feeling. • More natural look. The raised everything makes it seem cold and unwelcoming. • More natural looking environment, easier to feel comfortable in the space • More natural looking which is a nice contrast to the surrounding urban area. • More natural looking, less maintenance intensive. I think that we should start converting our spaces from manicured to a more natural grasses look. Seen some great examples of clover lawns - pollinators love it, better for biodiversity. • More natural looking. • More natural, always looks good, more inviting, more environmentally friendly • more natural, but also pleasant to sit on • More opportunities for native/natural landscaping options. • More polished feel especially for the sleek new building next to it. Also it's a small space so looking too unwieldy will just look like it's not maintained well. • More polished look. Deters homeless. • More relaxed feel & lower maintenance requirements. Some. Manicured grass space for ground sitting would also be good. • More relaxing to watch, better for biodiversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I want it to look more natural while still making sitting on the grass easier. • I want less concrete • I would like to see more native grasses and less concrete in the inner city area! • I'm fairly indifferent • I'm not sure; just like the aesthetic • I'd prefer plants to be in the ground and "natural" while maintaining a tidy appearance - also less places for people to hide. I work kitty-corner from it early mornings and can be afraid at times. • I'll always encourage native plants and natural gardens. A fountain is nice but can be a big waste of water. I just enjoy natural parks more than planters. • I'm envisioning what Tomkins Park is and replicating it. I use that space all the time because I love it. I go out of my way to go there • Indigenous species require less maintenance. Space is limited, so I prefer informal and at-grade planting. If you could throw in some elm and oak trees that would be great. • Informal and at-grade give a warmer more inviting feel for a smaller space such as this. • It allows for picnics and to play safely with children in the space. • It creates a more natural environment, plants don't grow as well in artificial planters. • It feels closer to the nature. • It gives the park a more natural look. • It is more natural, bringing in more green, and activities are not limited by structures. • It is what I like. • It just seems more natural and inviting. • It resembles Central Memorial Park with the least environmental footprint. Native grasses at grade. • It will be more inviting space. |
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New Park Space in the Beltline

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More soft and natural! • more space • More traditional looking park. • More welcoming appearance; at-grade plantings are especially important, to my mind, and allow for a much broader set of activities. • Native grasses = less water, less maintenance, fewer weeds. Informal = more inviting. At-grade = more natural looking. • Native grasses and indigenous species • Native grasses are "authentic" our our region, climatically adapted, perhaps lower maintenance, and beautiful generally. The architectural context is quite strong (rectilinear) and informal arrangement softens the character. Planters = easier maintenance? • Native grasses are more environmentally appropriate. • Native Grasses require less water and maintenance. Rectilinear planting tends to be better executed in smaller park spaces that are rectangular themselves. Raised planters add in necessary cost and limitations if there is no building below the park space • Native species are better for our environment, create more biodiversity and cost less to maintain. Raised planters require more materials and look less natural - more green space is better! And curvy because it looks nice. • Native species are naturally adapted to Calgary's climate and are more drought tolerant, requiring less maintainence than traditional manicured spaces. Informal plantings with native plants are aesthetically beautiful and help enhance local biodiversity. • Natural appearance, less maintenance, • Natural grasses are more appropriate for the environment. • Natural look • Natural look | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be nice to have a more natural, less manicured park. • It's more environmental. • It's more environmentally friendly and less costly to maintain while still being appealing and functional • It's more soothing and with the limited outside space many people have, it would be nice to have grass and plants to immerse yourself in • It's nicer • It's too small of a space to be burdened with above ground planters. People will trip on them. • Just a preference of more natural and lush looking spaced amidst all of the Beltline's concrete • These options would create a beautiful, natural setting in our inner-city neighbourhood. Unfortunately, in this area, it's common to see people using raised planters to hide drugs and needles. Hopefully, at-grade plantings would discourage this. • They are different than those at CM Park and would provide some diversity. • they are more natural and are also more financially feasible to maintain over the park's life-cycle • They are more natural, give the plants a better chance to thrive and grow long-term. Older, natural plants and trees will give more character over time. • They are much more natural and beautiful • They are nicer for enjoyment. • They contribute to a warmer and more inviting feeling • They encourage more of an out in the country experience Also would deter loitering • They look better, but I'd be concerned about foot traffic and abuse as the area would get a lot of visitors • They're less formal, more inviting • This combination is a good mix of modern theory but still fits the neighbourhood context well. |
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New Park Space in the Beltline

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural plantings seem more easy to maintain and will fit the space better. • Natural, beautiful and low maintenance • Natural. Less concrete the better. • Nice contrast to the hard lines and surfaces of downtown. More natural greenspace for people that don't get out of the city very often • Nice for relaxing and sitting. Other than me choosing grass, the other options are more natural and relaxed. Less a part of the cement jungle of downtown. • Nicer for general use • not as structured • Only slight preferences. The comparison is not a useful one without a site specific landscape design concept. The raised vs at-grade comparison is strange and unfair as most people will choose the greener image. Why is it one or the other, why not both? • Organic design Provides a better break from the hard city environment • Overall more natural feel and more relaxing space to be in. • peaceful • People tend to damage plants etc less when they are in a plant box. • permaculture & sustainability • Personal preference but all the options look nice! I just would rather not have raised planters as they're too rigid and can look bad with time. • Plant flowers and save the bees lol • please no pesticides in this park • Prefer the look of natural green space. Feels less "corporate". • Prettier • Raised planters and formal gardens have too much concrete and not enough greenery. They do not feel like the kind of place you can relax. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase volume of natural elements, after all, this is a Park. • To soften up a population dense area • Tougher for people to sleep in. Easier to spot needles. • Visual interest and compliment the surrounding developments • Warmer. There's enough concrete nearby • We have a lot of concrete in the Beltline. Nice to see more at-grade greenery. • With every new office campus built, raised, formal, concrete "modern" and manicured grasses are always used. There are few instances of a new modern building using a more organic style for active/passive park use. • Seems like it'd be more comfortable to spend time there and feel more natural. Also just aesthetically I think it'd fit in better with the beltline. • Seems to be the easiest to maintain while still have greenery • Small space in front of a residential building - I think it would be better utilized with grasses conducive to activities • Softer look and feel. Less concrete! • Sustainability • The area is reflective of less structure • The Beltline already has a lot of concrete and arranged in a grid like structure. I think it would be a nice contrast. I also like the lower maintenance that comes with native grass. • The Beltline already has so many formal parks and hardscaping. We need versatile, safe and comfortable softscape parks in the neighbourhood. • The options I selected above complement the urban context of the site |
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New Park Space in the Beltline

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real plants, providing shadows, water drainage, etc. • Seem more natural • There is already so much concrete and structure around that Park we need a little bit more organic space • There is enough concrete around. I think people need a space where you can hear the birds and smell the flowers, especially when you live in an apartment building. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plants and scrubs look more natural which is something i like, but the grass being maintained etc is better if you have children using it for running barefoot etc • The site is small and needs efficient use of the space. • There's already a lot of manufactured spaces in the inner-city and small pockets of "wilder" spaces are needed, in my opinion
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Question 5 – Please tell us why you selected this hardscape material?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavers are safer in winter - less slippery • Pavers tend to be erodible by salt. Looks bad 2 years later • The ground should have pavers or stamped concrete • I prefer pavers but I do not have accessibility issues • Stamped concrete might get slippery • Stamped concrete ugly • Stamped concrete dangerous for seniors - slippery • Yuck - no stamped concrete • Stamped concrete texture can help with accessibility eg those with vision issues • None of the above. Use combo of bark and grass • Incorporate wood • Granular like European parks • Senior focussed. Some shelter, comfortable pathways, rest areas • Permeable reduces runoff • Permeable requires constant maintenance by Parks to keep it neat and trimmed • Permeable may look overgrown and messy • Too much hardscape in parks already 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aesthetically pleasing yet minimizing the maintenance required • Aesthetics • Aesthetics • Aesthetics and ease of getting around • Aesthetics, neatness • Aesthetics. • After experience with 8th street underpass I do not like pavers. • Again, to increase natural, organic surface area • Aiming for a more natural integration of walkways • Allow better water runoff, will integrate into the softscape material • Allow for biking, skating, scootering • Allowing for rain and groundwater to escape seems like it could help with future stormwater situations. • Allows more greenery to show through. Less pooling of water on the surfaces. • Allows most natural appearance. • Allows the landscape to look and feel less hard. Stamped concrete just looks nicer than the pavers
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New Park Space in the Beltline

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Stamped concrete - it looks more organic and easier to maintain. Permeable pavers look awesome, but with unruly kids and some unruly adults maintaining the good looks might cost way too much. • Accessibility • adding plants make it seem more inviting • aesthetic, functionality • aesthetically pleasing • Better aesthetics • Better for grass? • Better for the environment and provide for better drainage. Pavers a second choice because I find them less slippery than the concrete and we need to keep accessibility in mind. • Better for water drainage. • cuts down on skateboard/bicycle traffic. • Don't like the look of pavers. I like permeable pavers, but they can prove messy in rainy weather. Stamped concrete for paths works fine with me. • Don't really have much preference, tbh. • Drainage first, then architectural variety. • Durability and the cost of ongoing maintenance • Ease of maintenance • ease of maintenance so will look good in the long term and easy to walk on - aided (eg wheelchair) or unaided • Ease of maintenance. • Easier to maintain and clean • Easier to remove snow • Easier to walk on in wet weather • Fits in better. • Fits with the casual and inviting atmosphere • Flat pavers are durable, accessible to everyone, slightly permeable and provide an attractive surface. • Flexible and green • For better stormwater drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appears to fit with grass, which I would use to walk my dog • As we have many young families and senior citizens in the area, I believe this option would provide the greatest accessibility. • aesthetics/cost • Assumed maintenance effort required. • Attractive look • Beautiful ! • because it allows movement of water and air • Best to walk on • Best value in durability and appearance • Best visually, fits the neighborhood • I think it looks a little more informal / natural • I think stamped concrete leaves a lot of options for movement through a park • I think these choices are more durable and will wear better in what I hope is a high traffic area. • I would hope for surfaces suited to the use - sitting, strolling, picnicking • I would prefer cobblestone or gravel path • If you have a stroller or child on bicycle, the full paving is better but I also like the fact that the water can flow better • Incorporating more nature into the man made park structures gives a more complete feeling to a park, keeping nature closer, feels closer to the natural environment • it adds greenery to the area which is hard to come by in the beltline. • It aligns with my interest and support of ecological design features • It allows the passage of rainwater • It feels cleaner (minimalist) • It has a classic look to it, and is very functional • It is what I like.
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New Park Space in the Beltline

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • goes with the natural look but is easy to walk on • Good for walking path with my dog • Greener • Greenery • Has a clean outdoor feel. The permeable pavers will get overgrown or brown grass and look gross. • Having grass grow right up feels nice. • Helps the area look clean and nice • I actually don't really have a preference. • I am worried about the permeable pavers getting overgrown if there are maintenance cutbacks. • i hate concrete • I like permeable pavers but I see it harder to walk on. Pavers look slick and easy to walk on aka. Less tripping. • i like smooth, consistent flooring • I like the idea of permeable pavers, but they become unseemly and ugly when not taken care of and maintained carefully. Less maintenance with the others. • I like the look and it's easy to maintain and walk on • I like the look. • I prefer a combo of pavers and permeable pavers. Stamped concrete is tacky and suburban • I prefer a look that fits in more with nature. • I prefer the organic look • i really have no opinion on the type of walkway, im good with all. • Looks nicer • Looks nicer. • Maintenance • Make it kid friendly. A playground was there and all of what I see in your "offerings" are more about the perceived value for residents of the Royal it seems. Kids need to be heavily incorporated in this park. As they'll be there anyway, it makes sense... • Makes it feel closer to nature | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It looks cool • It would be great if the space is as 'wild' and natural as possible • It's beautiful! • It's hard to explain why but it looks nicer • It's more environmentally friendly and less costly to maintain while still being appealing and functional • It's nicer • Its a more safe and fun way for my baby to play around • It's more natural looking and it has easy upkeep. Stamped concrete is number one because it is both natural looking and it enables access to people with mobility barriers. • It's pretty • Just look nice. Easy for walking. • Least slippery in winter • Leed and water management • Less concrete the better • Less potential for cracking during winter and easier/more cost effective to repair • Let's make a fun pathway for a fun neighbourhood! Living downtown can feel like there's an abundance of hard man-made surfaces- keep some green space for balance. • Like the interaction with nature • Like the look • Looks better over time. Permeable pavers look great when they're well maintained but the grass inside would likely die from the foot traffic and it wouldn't look very good over time. • Looks better to me • Looks better, will last longer and have less maintenance. • Looks inviting. • looks modern and easier to clean • Looks nice |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many seniors in this area use walkers or canes. The smoother the pathway, the better. • Maximizing green area is key to a small-park. An urban park with a lot of concrete is merely a parking lot. • Most attractive and timeless • My #1 choice would be smooth finished concrete like the new sidewalks on 1st street. Faux brick concrete is tacky and not good for wheeled sports. • My esthetic • My strong preference is to have material that is the most permeable possible to allow better water infiltration • Natural look <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural looking • Nicer to look at • No preference -- surfacing would depend on the design but could be varied. Permeable pavers could absorb rain and also help cool the space • None of the above Want more of a natural woods feel. bark and grass NO concrete as it traps heat and pollution. • Offers a non-uniform but semi-natural look, without explicit gravel pathway/dirt road. Looks better over time and is not a manufactured and clean look. • Pathways that are pieces together by stone or brick, or have a pattern look very nice. • Pavers allows for a host of geometric options • Pavers are easier to maintain and less prone to damage. Slightly better in winter than the other options. • Pavers are most appropriate • Pavers are played out. Permeable is kinda nice, but see it getting overgrown and gross. Stamped concrete seems durable and easy to maintain • Pavers look nice and sections can be fixed easily. Plenty of options on paver materials and patterns as well. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More aesthetically pleasing • More attractive than just plain pavers. Better for maintenance. Permeable is better for flooding. • more decorative and durable • more drainage • More grass • More green, less concrete. • more inviting • More natural • more natural looking, rain water retention vs runoff • More of a natural look • More plants, and grass is nice! The building beside it is full of slabs of cold material already. • More rustic • Permeable spacers tend to look unkept and messy. • Permeable, then people walking on it will keep the native grasses at bay. • Permeable isn't something I've seen elsewhere. Pavers seem too much like 8 St underpass and stamped concrete seems cheap. • Personal preference. • Personal preference. I don't love the permeable because it can shift and not look good. • Please consult disabled people who use wheelchairs, and people who have mobility issues. I don't have that, but that's how I made these choices for now. • Pleasing to the eye and easy to maintain • Polished feel while still looking natural • Practicality and aesthetics - stamped concrete never looks good and gets patched with asphalt all over the City • Prefer a clean look against natural landscaping • Preference • Prettier |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pavers more aesthetically pleasing than stamped concrete, and both of those over permeable pavers which need high amounts of grooming to maintain their structural integrity. • Pavers offer an opportunity to use unique materials and designs • pavers provide an elegant landscape design feature and also can act in a semi-permeable manner. Permeable pavers while the most environmentally resilient or conscious do not maintain their design quality as long and are further prone to uplifting. • People on wheels, wheelchairs and bicycles who might find it uncomfortable on permeable. Pavers with non uniform colouring (for aesthetics) is most appealing • Permeable is the only eco-friendly option. • Permeable paver incorporate natural setting nicely. • Permeable pavers allow infiltration; helping to reduce overland flow, filtering of stormwater and sediment, and reducing the risk of flooding. • Permeable pavers are better for when it rains. • permeable pavers are sustainable and provide a pleasant look despite the walkability issues for patrons with mobile issues and maintenance issues. • Permeable pavers can age and look dirty, stamped concrete can sometimes be slick when wet • Permeable pavers help with storm water management, less flooding please! • Permeable pavers look the best, but are impractical for people with mobility issues • Permeable pavers move stormwater back into the ecological cycle instead of stormwater drains! So important. • Permeable pavers offer a green and softer feel, plus water management is easier. • Permeable pavers provide more of a soft look | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Probably the least harmful to natural watershed. More plants! • Retain moisture • safer • Seems easiest for a wheel chair or cane user • Seems more durable • Stamped concrete hard to shovel snow in winter and more dangerous • Stamped concrete is cheap looking and had poor lifecycle aesthetics. Pavers are a much better use of the land, look better and will look interesting still in 10 years. • Stamped concrete is ugly, in my opinion; though it can be useful where vehicles are operating on it routinely. High foot traffic areas should be pavers rather than permeable pavers, though. • Stamped concrete is ugly/corny • Stamped concrete looks more rustic, pavers look like a work of art. Permeable pavers can easily shift. • Stamped concrete seems like the most durable. • Sustainability • The city never maintains inventory for replacements and then you end up pouring asphalt in missing parts and it looks *terrible* • The grass can grow through it. • The less concrete, the better. When I think about Fish Creek or even Central park, I don't think about concrete! • The permeable pavers look like it could be a tripping hazard. Stamped concrete has a nice textured look • There is a lot of pavement in the belt line and I think its important for water to be able to drain through instead of going through the storm water system. |
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New Park Space in the Beltline

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permeable pavers require a lot of maintenance to keep them looking good. Plant material usually dies due to high traffic or lots weeds take hold. • Unique design possibilities with pavers - should build something in a unique pattern • We live in a cold climate and need to think about the parks uses in the winter. • Unique and interesting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are aesthetically nice and provides a continuous hard surface for those neighbors that need wheel chairs or baby carts • They create a softer more inviting feel. • To allow for drainage • To allow water to flow into the ground and mitigate flooding. This is so important in the spring when sidewalks develop puddles that freeze overnight, creating a safety hazard.
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Question 6 – Please tell us why you prefer these seating options?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • café style tables and chairs • flexible seating will lose organization. Theft concerns • Do not have it set up like east Connaught Park with long concrete area, metal tables chairs too hot to sit on, surrounded by concrete. The temperature at the seating area is like an oven • Too few parks have moveable seats. Bad placement = bad forever • Flexible seating will suit this space • Flexible seating will vanish • A combination of both might be ideal. They should be shaded from the sun in summer as the park will be exposed from the south side to the sun • Flexible seating to allow for different events. Change the arrangement easily • Community centre needed - gathering area • Variety of seating • Make skateboard friendly • Do not make skateboard friendly please! • Can I bring my own cushion? • Has to be comfortable • Steel and wood • Lounger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better for social gatherings • Better options for future events, more social. • Booth looks expensive and awkward • bums live on the ones with backs. • Can move around for bigger groups • Can't be moved around. Less vandalism • Can't be removed/stolen • Comfort and durability • Comfort but ability to move - avoid design that encourage sleeping especially overnight - keep well lit and highly visible • Comfort, cleanliness • comfortable and work with the location, more durable, • Contributes more to a feeling of community • Cooler • Designated sitting areas a preference over flexible which may or may not remain in good condition and are less stable. • Easier for a variety of groups to use in a casual Setting • Easier to accommodate both recreational activities and passive activities. • Easier to take care of, can create more comfortable options, easier to sit with a group
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Urban campers" consider this when designing/placing seating • Seniors need more back support • Like the back for safety • Centre arms on benches • Variety of both types • Formal backless. One or two of these benches would be good for kids to walk and jump off of • Not the seating like by the dog park • Metal is too cold visually and figuratively • Formal backless - yuck no cheap catalogue seats • Metal can get hot in the summer sun • 6 a formal with back - most comfortable and longest lasting • a combination would be best • A variety of seating options is important • Actually, I think that it would be lovely to have a mix of fixed social spaces and have flexible seating so that the space can remain flexible in concept but have a fixed social purpose. • aesthetically. Less chance of it breaking • Again, allows for more flexibility. • Again, why is it one or the other, why not both? A bench can incorporate backless and backs. • Allows for more options but i want a mix of both • Allows people the freedom to fit in the space as they see it • Anything that isnt bolted to the ground in a downtown park will be stolen in a heart beat • As I have back problems, lying against the back of benches helps when I have been overly active. Fixed social seating doesn't get scattered around and tends to look more beautiful. • Assumed level of maintenance. Evening safety. • Back rests are good. Fixed amenities won't be stolen. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fixed - less chance of being taken • Fixed seating won't get removed in the winter • Fixed social is more visually appealing • Fixed social so people don't steal and horde areas. • Fixed will prevent theft of seating options, and will always look good instead of being left around messily. • Flex seating may go missing. Backs are more comfortable. • Flexible can be added easily. Fixed needs to be done at the start • Flexible seating allows for different size groups • flexible seating allows park space users to "take control" of the space and make it their own in a sense. • Flexible seating gives people choices of where to sit and how to group. I've seen this in Paris, and it was wonderful. • Flexible seating is nice but can be easily damaged and misused. Providing people with a variety to fixed seating allows them to interact with the park in various ways, while minimizing damage. • Flexible seating provides more options • Flexible seating would be stolen instantly • flexible will cause more maintenance and theft/damage • For both options I worry about certain people stealing or throwing movable furniture through windows or at parked cars. • Formal is more comfortable. Flexible will be trashed or stolen quickly. • Formal seating. • Formal with the back is much more comfortable and would allow for a larger number of ppl to find the comfort needed to enjoy the space. Flex seating can adapt to the events in the park and ppl's unique needs |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinking about parents sitting watching their kids play. • Back support is important. Fixed seating because folding tables and chairs will be stolen by drunks at night. Not to mention design wise, fixed seating can be more aesthetically pleasing. • Back support is just more comfortable. Fixed social settings I feel would prevent theft/damage of the seating options. • Backrests are comfortable and flexible seating can be stolen • Backs on benches for support for those with injuries, and fixed seating to avoid vandalism or theft • Because then it's a space that you can go to and rely on. Flexible seating near 17th with intoxicated people could be an issue • Benches without a back are uninviting and uncomfortable for long periods of time. A mixture of flexible and fixed seating would be best allowing flexibility of the site. • Better aesthetics • I like to be able to choose to either be social or not, and this mix allows for that. • I like to lean on a back and I like the look of the fixed seating. Also no one will wander off with fixed seating. • I need back support • I prefer seating with a back, as it is easier when feeding a baby in the park. It also prevents smaller children from falling off so easily. I prefer the moveable chairs as you can then sit closer to where your child prefers to play or in shade if in sun • I think the flexible seating will be stolen or vandalized. Otherwise I would have picked it • I think the social seating gives it a better look and encourages people to socialize. • I worry that flexible seating will go missing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving people as much freedom as possible to create/shape their own environments is important. It makes them feel comfortable. • Great to sit and drink coffee here. • Helps make the park comfortable for everyone, anytime of day! • Hold up better over time, and less likely to be completely broken from being vandalized • Honestly I like a mixture for variety but I prefer flexible seating because it shows trust in the people using the space that they wont misuse it, and it helps people use the space like they want. • Honestly, flexible furniture will probably go missing pretty quick. • I actually like both fixed and flexible seating, the mix of both at st Patrick island is perfect • I am relatively indifferent on this option. The important design function for seating is effective draining and drying after rain. • I can move around if I decide to sit while i watch my son play around • I envision the park being a great meeting place to take your coffee from 17th, or meet some friends for an evening. • I go the with my kids so we could all seat together • I highly doubt that moveable chairs will hand around very long. • I just prefer it. • I like all the options. I would prefer seating that is as inviting as possible. Please do not use designs that prevents people from laying or sleeping on the benches. All kinds of people should be able to use the space! • Though the Beltline is frequented by those who don't need to linger long, local residents and workers would make better use of long term seating with flexibility in their active use.
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New Park Space in the Beltline

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm always worried people steal them • I've seen it out to good use in other parks and in other cities. I like the freedom it allows. • I'm always concerned with "flexible" seating options being stolen • I'm not really sure actually. Both would be good. • It bugs me when I see chairs strewn about • it depends what i'd be doing so a mixture would be good. • It gives the opportunity to use the space in more ways. • It look more organized • It makes it feel more interested into the park • It seems less likely to get lost/stolen. Please make things friendly to homeless people by not putting bars in the middle of benches, etc. • It seems to be more functional for an inner-city space • It will limit the long term comfort of vagrants. • It's encouraging social interactions • it's going to look good • It's good to be able to set up your laptop to work on stuff so I like the tables. I prefer movable so that I can change orientation depending on where the sun is • It's modern and could last more. • laying down, art display, better relaxation, no stealing • Less chance of people wrecking it • Less change of property theft. • Less likely to be damaged or stolen. • Less likely to be dragged or tossed in the river. • Less likely to be stolen • Less likely to be stolen or vandalized • Less likely to be stolen/vandalized • Less likely to get stolen! A back on a chair makes it more comfortable for reading, just make sure faces away from the sun. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like both - not sure why I have to choose between the two options. • More comfortable & less likely to be stolen • More comfortable and attractive. • More comfortable and inviting. Flexible seating can look messy at times. • More comfortable for longer socializing • More comfortable, able to spend more time there. • More engaging to sit and do activities or talk with people. • More inviting • More inviting to sit in more formal • More practical for public spaces, more durable • My back ain't got no time for backless seats, what am I a peasant? Flexible because it's more inviting to have a sit down chat with someone if there are small spaces like in the picture. • neater in appearance • Need fixed seating otherwise it will go missing. A park bench needs a backrest! • Nice for eating and chatting, creates more flow. Also less chance of something being stolen • No reason • People are jerks and steal stuff. • people tend to deface flexible seating • Please ensure they are durable and CPTED compliant. • Seating is more comfortable with a back. Flexible seating is just that, flexible. It is also cheaper. • Seating options that are less prescribed would be nice to see. I think this will lead to more flexible spaces and perhaps be more welcoming to everyone, including those with physical accessibility concerns. • Seating with a back is more comfortable. Any furniture that can be moved is easy to be stolen and annoying to have to move around to get a complete space. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less likely to vandalize • Less maintenance costs • Less opportunity for damage or theft • less theft of furnishings • Let people choose how to be • Light moveable furniture may be tampered with by the inner city folk living in the area. Again the fixed seating gives a more polished feel. • Looks better, no theft concerns • Looks nice. • Lots of socializing in the area, and not enough nice benches. I worry that the flexible seating, while colourful, may exclude anyone overweight. I don't think I would have my elderly parents sit on those flexible seats. • Lower maintenance. No responsibility to store and lock up tables and chairs. • Lower risk for theft or damage, to keep costs down (preferably). • Make it kid friendly. A playground was there and all of what I see in your "offerings" are more about the perceived value for residents of the Royal it seems. Kids need to be heavily incorporated in this park. As they'll be there anyway, it makes sense... • Mitigate damage/loss of equipment • More adaptable • more adaptable • More cohesive look • More comfortable • More comfortable • Tougher for people to sleep in. • Trendy • Variety of seating • Where you can have both is nice, like we have at the Central Memorial Park. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seating with back = better for those with physical limitations. Fixed = tends to be more sturdy • Seating with backs is more comfortable than without, and the problem with flexible seating is that it can disappear. • There are already coffee shops and public spaces with flexible seating. Fixed social seating that is tied to the character of the Beltline would be cool (i.e. thing of park furniture on St. Patrick's Island). • Seating with backs might be more comfortable and suited to all ages? Fixed social may be too restrictive -- users might avoid spaces already "claimed" but flexible seating seems vulnerable to vandalism or theft • Seats with backs are much more comfortable. I don't have a strong preference between fixed and flexible seating - I would use both. • See W Whyte, 1980 • Seems more durable • So that it can't be moved or vandalized • Some of both would be nice. • Someone will steal it if it's not bolted down • Test • The backless allows for more orientation. Would use the back benches if there are shrubs behind it, but backless if its a more open area. The fixed social seems less cheap. • the backrests aren't even comfortable • The design arrangements of the park won't change • The flexible seating would disappear downtown • The seating with backs seem more comfortable for relaxing • Theft • Theft concerns • They are safer, permanent and less likely to be stolen. |
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New Park Space in the Beltline

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This would be a great space to enjoy a treat from one of the many local vendors nearby and socialize with friends • They won't be stolen • They look nicer. Would also encourage park benches with no dividers on them!!!! Keep the benches clear of anything dividing them into 2 etc. This is passive aggressive towards our homeless population • Why not? • With shading in the area, it would probably be ideal to be able to move the seating around. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They offer the most options for different views of comfort and sociability. • They look more comfortable. While I absolutely enjoy flexible sitting near East Village playground, I believe they are not particularly comfortable for all types of recreation. If BOTH are possible, then both will be great for different areas of the park • With back so people can lean back and enjoy and not worry about falling over. Fixed as to prevent theft and also allows for more grand social setting • Won't go missing • You can socialize with others who have chosen to sit nearby
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Question 7 – Please tell us why you selected the above creative element?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To add given small space: Local art work as focus of park • To add given small space: covered gazebo in centre of space for snow/rain • Please consider painting 3D graphic crosswalks at the intersection of 9th street & 16 ave SW • Visual art corner • Hard to choose - all good options • Would like tennis court in the space • Got enough concrete, steel & odd art in city. Mini lights would be nice • The previous park had a few benches and equipment for children. Climbing structure, swings & slide. We were told that when the building was completed a similar park for kids would be built. Hope this promise is honored • Sculptural because I am a visual artist • I like sculpture • Sculptures in Calgary leave a bad taste in my mouth eg the blue ring in the NE and the eye sore by C.O.P. Let's not do any sculptures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bold colour gives the park space a more playful feel and is more welcoming year round (as vibrant colour is a winter design guideline). Playful furniture that is potentially combined with some bold colours could act as a two for one offer for the park. • Bold colours look nice in the winter and summer • bold color themes are dated and gross if overdone...esp red and yellow. • Calgary can be dark and depressing in the winter so color can help to brighten things up. • Calgary needs colour in the winter • Calgary needs more color • Calgary needs more interactive art pieces. Tired of the look but don't touch policy the city seems to have. • Colour • Colour is a cheap cop out - functional art achieves is highly attractive and useful • Conversation pieces
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New Park Space in the Beltline

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- Despite the grief that public art receives. People love to interact with it, take selfies with, bring visiting family to see
- Like playful functional elements combined. Good for skateboard deterrent and general deterrent
- Functional art would allow a play space for children & youth
- I like functional art
- Bold color theme maybe combine light and sound
- Bold color theme - there is not enough color in our neighborhood
- Bold color theme light sculpture vertical to stand against building
- Need something playful
- The church Grace would love a space for Sunday school children
- Children need more play space
- Playful furniture would allow a play space for children and youth
- (form + function) >> function > form
- A combination of all is possible, a well designed piece of functional art can complete all of the above. Maybe something like a permanent swing set, which can be a piece of art as well as a functional and playful furnishing
- A nice park for kids and a open area for dogs
- A sculptural piece is definitely my last choice. I would prefer if it serves a function or has an interactive element, vs. 'plop art', although some sculptural pieces that are interesting and integrated well into the landscape are attractive and engaging
- Aesthetics
- aesthetically pleasing
- Aesthetically pleasing but still functional.
- Aesthetics

- Creating functional public art that can be interacted with is important to how much a park is cared for and used by the public
- Creative elements are great when they're functional as well. I think sculptures are nice as long as they are sightly and compliment the natural elements surrounding them.
- Creativity...a key theme our city is built on...fun and functional with the colours.
- Do I need a reason? I like it more.
- dual purpose elements, beautiful and functional,
- Esthetic
- For their mix of fun and purpose.
- Form and function is always good. Making public art practical will increase support for continuing to invest in it
- Form x function is optimal and less chance of public outcry if disliked (ie like a sculpture). Bold colours and furniture close behind though as they can also be eye catching, appealing and functional. Bold colors could go with 1 or 3 though
- Fun yet functional.
- Function and "fun"-ction are part of what makes a vibrant community.
- Function and creative! Like Apple!
- Function and items that will attract visitors are important.
- function first.
- Function is always best to include! Sculptures are not the best way to go, especially in Calgary. They often don't turn out and I think when art is functional people feel like they get more value for their tax dollars.
- Functional art serves by adding beauty to the space and allowing use of the park space. Structural pieces are fun and whimsical which will draw people to use the space. Playful furnishings



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Again, there's a lack of playgrounds for small children in the area (Thompson Park is great but for older kids) and anything that would make this park fun for smaller children would be wonderful. There are plenty of toddlers and preschoolers in the area! • All of the above would be great! • All options above are good • A lot of sculptures places in other parks are ugly. • An iconic element or art piece will provide some identity to the intersection and park. Colour is also important as it helps add vibrancy to a winter city, and because the adjacent residential tower is a sad grey. • Anything to keep loitering and sleeping in the space to a minimum. • Art designed to be functional keeps things interesting, and bold colours makes the park stand out. • Art draws people to a place and makes it feel unique. Functional art allows people to engage with it and enhance their experience. • Art seems so divisive today. In a public space I think people would enjoy interesting pieces of furniture that they can use with some color play • Art should be engaging - furniture can be a great example of that • Art that is functional is likely more budget friendly as it serves two purposes. Please don't waste more public funds on silly art (we have appreciated the murals popping up round the city!). • Art that we can use! Great! That's why I picked functional art. Sculptural pieces look nice but not enough room in this park to make something really big and cool. • Attempting to limit the comfort for vagrants. • Because I think playful furniture stands the best chance because Calgarians are dumb about hating public art. | <p>seems like a less thoughtful version of art. Colour fades.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional pieces are received better by the public • Functional, yet cool to look at. • functionality • Functionality and aesthetics • Generally in favor of public art, and specific pieces as opposed to more general 'design' • Given the small space and the nearby landscape, functional art will suit the space the best. It's too small to have a large sculpture piece, and this adult urban area shouldn't turn into a kid's playground. • Hard to rank - I like all of these • Hate the color red. • Having a colourful park means it will probably get a nickname, which I like. • Hopefully this is the most cost-efficient option • I actually don't really like any of these... it's not keeping with my interest in keeping the space 'wild' • I appreciate when public space is used to add some decoration to the surrounding area. • I believe the city needs a bit more art and if this can be functional then it could be appreciated and enjoyed more. • I don't like the look of the other items • I don't think there is ANY colour from The Royale, or surrounding area. I'd like something attractive to look at, from Caffe Beano. • I enjoy all of these but appreciate how adaptable "playful furniture" is as art and as a site with which users can interact. • I enjoy bright pops of color • I have children and the opportunity to sit but also play a little is appealing. • I like a good statue. |
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New Park Space in the Beltline

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bold color draws people in from walking by. Playful furniture has a family feel to it. • Bold colors and sculptural pieces are at high risk to be contentious. If done well they are fantastic, if not they are terrible. • I like multi purpose elements for aesthetics and efficiency. • I like the art to be beautiful but also functional. • I like the idea of a well-executed and engaging artwork as iconic or a signature piece for the space. Functionality helps engagement but could potentially trivialize the artwork (make it less interesting, iconic?) • I like the idea of providing an iconic feature on site... something to make people say "oh that park with the ..." • I like the idea of the park having colour even in winter, and I prefer art that is functional, though I have no objection to sculptural pieces; playful furniture isn't always comfortable • I like the look of them, and functional art pieces are great because you can sit on them • I like them. • I love art and would love to see some beautiful stuff. Playful furniture is often not comfortable so I don't like that as much. • I love art but would love to provide people with many different ways to interact with the park and feel comfortable in it. So functional art or playful furnishings just make sense to me • I love colours ! • I prefer a quiet, peaceful, organised environment where one can sit, read, chat without a lot of distraction. • I prefer color in an area with a lot of concrete • I think functional art will get the most use, while being a bit creative and artistic. Bright colours can go out of fashion and be distracting, imo. • I think it encourages socialization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like all of the above ideas! They are a great way to make the park unique and attractive • I like all these options! • I like all these options, almost equally. I do want to see local artists engaged in making these pieces. And I'd like to see really bold pieces that help Calgary's tourism. • I like colour and art. • I like more timeless and something that appeals to many people of all ages and cultures. • Probably less expensive; less formal • Promote activity first. • Provided the sculptural pieces are as interesting as the ones featured that would be my first choice. I can leave with functional art as well. Unobtrusive enough. t would be my first choice. • Right blend of aesthetic and usability • Sculptural pieces provide unique character to the park. Calgary needs more of them. if done right it will make the park unique and attracts visitors not just from Beltline and invigorates the nearby businesses, • Sculpture creates opportunity for artists. • Sculptured pieces are a waste of tax dollars • Shelter for people sleeping rough is important. Please build a space that is welcoming to the unhoused in our community. • Some form of sculpture that looks good, will draw people, will be interactive. Something "instagrammable" especially with this location just off of 17th and an iconic church across the street. • Something interesting • Something that looks good but interesting enough that it will attract people to the space to check out (e.g., the Chinook lighted art sculpture nearby, or art furniture that can be used) • Test test test • The functional aspect of the art pieces
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think they encourage use of the space. • I think this city has enough useless structures. All pieces of art should be functional at this point for awhile. No one has the patience for unidentifiable sculptures that made to sit there and not touch or use. • I think we should create spaces with creative elements that can be both an artistic piece and also serve a purpose. • I voted from most functional to least functional • I will visit a vibrant space, that allows for my family to engage in a variety of recreation activities and creativity. • I would like a fixed sculpture because I am a visual artist and a park is more conducive to artwork than an overpass • If we're really a modern city, we need some play and whimsy. Not that I'm saying this is the right site for it, but finding a park where naturism and nude sun bathing makes sense should be a priority for the city. It's 2019 after all. • interaction & interest • Interaction with art is the best • It is more functional. • It's a park not a playground, the concrete example looks too stark • It's a small space, things should be multi-functional. • Just cause • Keep it simple. It's a park. Don't waste taxpayers money on ridiculous, non functional seating and artwork. • Lack of art in the city • Least amount of cost and maintenance. • Like the idea of having shelter as an option being that Canada weather can be unpredictable • Like the look • Look and useability • Looks cool. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The neighbourhood could use some bright colour. • The sculpture piece has a better chance of talking me out of my day today and letting me look up a bit • They are all strong choices. I thinking living in Beltline, it is important to have a whimsical and interesting place. weird furniture, vibrant colors and sculpture are a fantastic idea. • They're all great options. • Thinking of most useable space for reading • This is a good chance to commission dedicated art for the site and to support the local arts community. • To serve how the park will end up being used i.e. sitting and chatting (Caffe Beano is right across!) • Trendy • Unsure • Urban Parks are essentially our only opportunity to interact with nature on the physical level and art elements offer an intellectual interactivity which in combination make a park a worthwhile, refreshing experience. • Usability • Very important to continue to support artist community. Also having public art in parks is much better than on the road to the airport. Bring the the Big Blue Ring to the Beltline!! • Vibrant, interactive, unique. They're all nice, and the more interactive the better. • We don't need anymore controversial art pieces. Keep it simple, colorful and somewhat functional. It should however have more traditional look to go with a well manicured and traditional park. • We need more monument art pieces. We also need to have a park that is eye catching with bright colours. • While I enjoy having a nice aesthetic, I prefer if it is functional as well. • Winter can be grey. Colour would be a nice addition & art is always great.
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New Park Space in the Beltline

Stakeholder Report Back: What we Heard

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love interactive art and modern lighting. Would love to see a cool light installation or interesting functional art that had cool lighting effects • Make it kid friendly. A playground was there and all of what I see in your "offerings" are more about the perceived value for residents of the Royal it seems. Kids need to be heavily incorporated in this park. As they'll be there anyway, it makes sense... • Make the park feel inviting, for the people, rather than like a formal art installation. • most striking to see and perhaps most cost effective • My son will be able to enjoy more • No particular reason • Playful future and Functional art are one in the same. It adds value to the space in a way in which you can interact with it. Design elements that add to the aesthetic of the landscape while keeping in mind the sandstone church across the street. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks should inspire and be fun. • People complain less about taxpayer money being used if functionality is incorporated. • Personal preference. • Placing things that have a functional use, rather than just aesthetic is a better investment for the city and the users of the park. • Play furniture is more functional than wasting money on just an art piece • Playful furniture = interesting and inviting for all ages. Colour = helpful in the winter. • Playful furniture and bold color schemes are always fun and appropriate. Disappointment in several YYC sculptural pieces makes me put that one last. • Playful furniture creates a great vibe and will also give people more reasons to go to this park, as opposed to sculptural pieces that creates more of a cold, serious vibe. • playground is fun |
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