



THE WAY WE LIVE

TRANSFORMING | EDMONTON

BRINGING OUR CITY VISION TO LIFE

ISL Engineering and Land Services

Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan

Open House, October 17, 2012
What We Heard Report

Jan Bloomfield
11/22/2012

Table of Contents

BACKGROUND 3

WHAT WE HEARD..... 4

 1: The information presented at the Open House today was clear and easy to understand 4

 2: The information presented at the Open House was appropriate for my needs 5

 3: Participating in the public involvement process has been a good use of my time 6

 4: I feel a range of views and perspectives have been considered in creating the Master Plan..... 8

 5: The rationale regarding what is included in the final Master Plan for Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid
 Laurier Park is clear..... 9

 6: Please provide any other comments you may have regarding the Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier
 Park Master Plan Public Involvement Process..... 11

 7: Please provide any other comments you may have regarding the Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier
 Park Master Plan Public Involvement Process..... 13

DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS SUMMARY 17

 8. On average, approximaely how often do you visit Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park? 18

 9: What types of activities do you do when you visit the park?..... 18

 10. Please tell us how you heard about the Open House today 19

 11: In what neighbourhood or community do you live? 19

 12. What are the first three digits of your postal code? 20

 13. What is your gender..... 20

 14: What is your age group? 20

BUENA VISTA / SIR WILFRID LAURIER PARK (BVLP) MASTER PLAN OPEN HOUSE WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

BACKGROUND:

Purpose of Open House:

The purpose of the open house was as follows:

- To share the final draft Master Plan with interested parties and obtain input regarding any aspects of it that may require refinement or clarification prior to presenting the Master Plan to City Council for approval.
- To provide the public with information regarding recommended changes for Yorath House and Grounds.

Concept Review Open House Outputs (the products or results of the event):

The desired outputs from the open house were as follows:

- Indication of level of support for the final draft Master Plan.
- Identification of any aspects of the final draft Master Plan that need to be further refined, or better justification provided regarding how they were determined, before it is presented to City Council.

Format of the Concept Review Open House:

The Open House was designed as a drop-in format with a series of information stations, and no formal presentations. The room was set up with six stations, including:

- Background, purpose and timelines
- Yorath House and Grounds / Boat Launch / Viewpoint Area
- Environmental / Reclamation / Amenities
- Park Entrance / Roundabout
- Access and Pathways / Parking / Signage
- Off Leash / Beach Access

Each station had appropriate maps posted on the wall, along with a poster identifying the rationale for the proposed option, based on information provided in the Design Options Decision Matrix. Members of the Design Team were available as resource people to respond to questions from participants, and to provide background or additional information about the rationale as needed.

The final draft Master Plan that was presented reflects input received from various sources and events over the past year, including: the project Advisory Committee (various meetings), Visioning Session (March 21), Stakeholder Workshop (April 28), Concept Review Workshop (June 23), two online surveys (April/May and July/August), and input from the City project team.

The workshop ran for 5 hours, from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Wednesday, October 17, 2012, and was held at the West End Christian Reformed Church. A total of 112 individuals attended the Open House, and 82 participants submitted comment/evaluation forms that were full or partially complete.

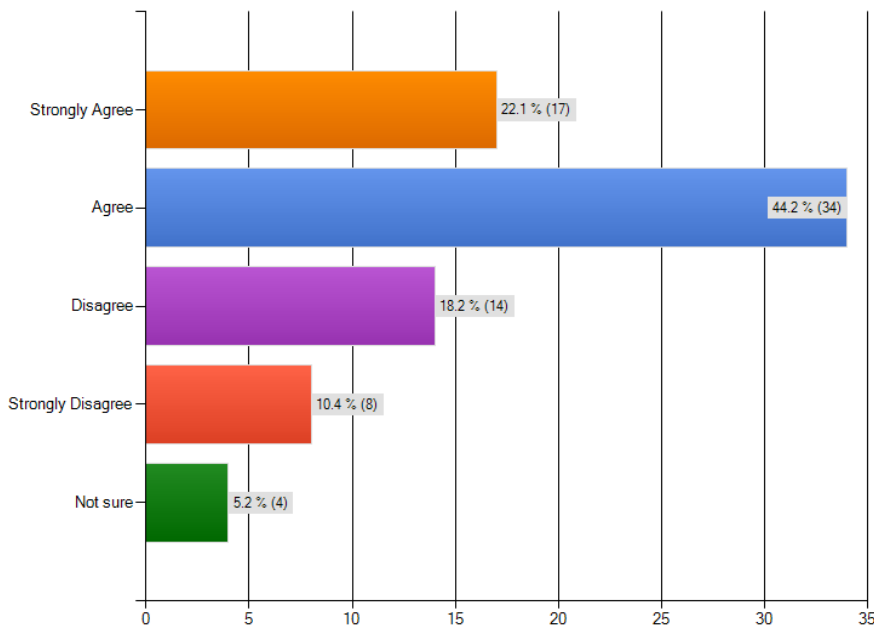
As participants arrived, they were asked to sign in, and were provided with a copy of the Comment/Evaluation form to complete and submit these at the end of the Open House.

WHAT WE HEARD:

Input received from participants at the Open House is presented below, based on the questions posed in the comment/evaluation form, and sorted within each.

1. The information presented at the Open House today was clear and easy to understand.

The information presented at the Open House today was clear and easy to understand.



Please explain:

- A total of 77 individuals responded to this question, and 10 skipped it. Of these, 51 or two-thirds agreed or strongly agreed that the information presented was clear and easy to understand.
- An additional 22 or 29% disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, and a further 4 (5%) were not sure.
- Almost half (36) of respondents provided some comments in relation to their assessment. These have been grouped into categories and are outlined below:

Visuals/Maps Great

- Maps, plans, written explanations as well as willing staff made it easy to understand.
- Visuals were great
- Information sheets are clearly marked

Visuals Good But Needed Explanation

- The visuals were good but needed the oral supplements provided by the resource people (ie consultant staff)
- It's difficult to provide accurate drawings but I think the info is understandable.

- The charts and maps were not particularly helpful to a lay person but my discussion with Jeff Schurek was very helpful.
- Staff had to be found to explain various lines, etc.
- Staff couldn't interpret lines on maps.
- Some of the maps were confusing (incomplete legends) but staff were available to explain
- Because of explanation from staff
- For the most part
- Except for the streets and avenue that are incorrectly marked
- Split rail fence does not say in writing that there is mesh at the bottom

OPEN HOUSE WHAT WE HEARD REPORT, October 17, 2012

- Some was clear, some not. You need to have the materials proof-read!
- However you should fire your proof reader

Maps / Visuals Unclear

- The pictorials, graphs, maps etc., were not very easy to follow. The legends on the bottom did not explain enough.
- Might have been more suitable visually to have overlapping semi-transparent sheets
- Very poor map- difficult to read people did were not able to answer questions.
- Maps are far too confusing
- Too many different maps and poor explanations on them.
- Change the north direction on maps- disconcerting makes it take more time to understand.
- There was no legend for symbols until the end.
- Some of the legends didn't cover path types in the drawings- needed to find the right drawing to understand
- Little continuity and structure. No scales on maps. Legends lacking- no explanation of graphics.
- A legend on each poster would clarify
- The plans were a little confusing as they did not provide legends.

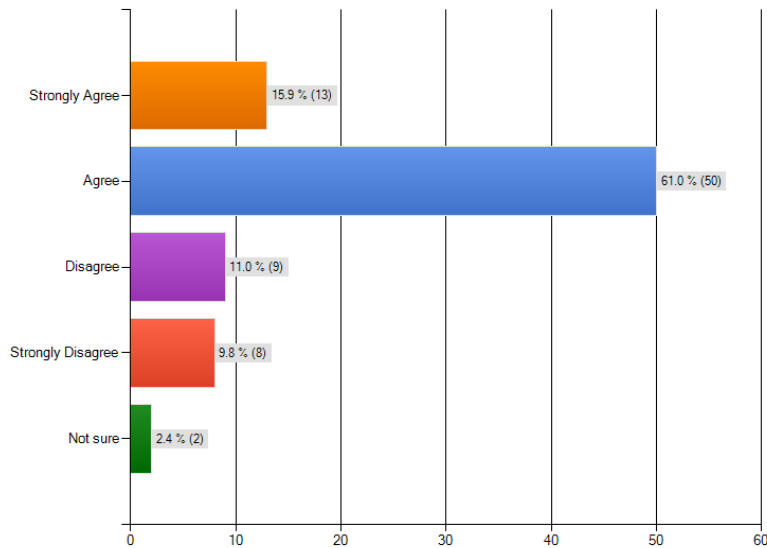
- Need better legends on diagrams/ fencing not clear looks like lots of gates without a fence
- I found 'legend' to miss some details (pathways)
- Some diagrams did not have legends as to what the various colors and boundaries meant.
- Not everything was clear, e.g., where fences would go and what the different colors for the trails meant
- Map legends need to be a focus, many things could have been explained more simply.
- There were maps where route colors were not explained. There were a couple of representatives who could not answer our questions.
- Even the reps from the city that were here were "not sure" when questioned about various aspects
- Yorath House charts were too wordy
- Nope not easy to understand

Other

- What isn't clear is how are we going to pay for maintenance when we can't maintain the current facilities.
- Circled between agree and disagree
- Not one source was the Buena Vista Family Off-leash Park. Why did no one go down to the park to survey users, they are the most important users?

2. The information presented at the Open House today was appropriate for my needs.

The information presented at the Open House today was appropriate for my needs.



Please Explain:

- A total of 82 individuals responded to this question, and 5 skipped it. Of these, 63 or just over three quarters (77%) agreed or strongly agreed that the information presented was appropriate for their needs.
- An additional 17 or 21% disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, and a further 2 (2%) were not sure.
- The following comments were provided regarding the assessment.

Information Provided

- Proper information given
- I got my questions answered even if info was not already presented visually.
- The "interpreters" were very helpful
- Corey was a great resource, well prepared to answer questions
- I came to speak about the Boat Launch
- Would appreciate 'Summary Map/ Visual' with changes layered

- Did not explain where my dogs can be off leash!
- No legends for paths; staff weren't informed
- Improved river access for paddling clubs on-site - may just not be shown
- See above- couldn't find out what some of the markings or lines on the photos were showing.

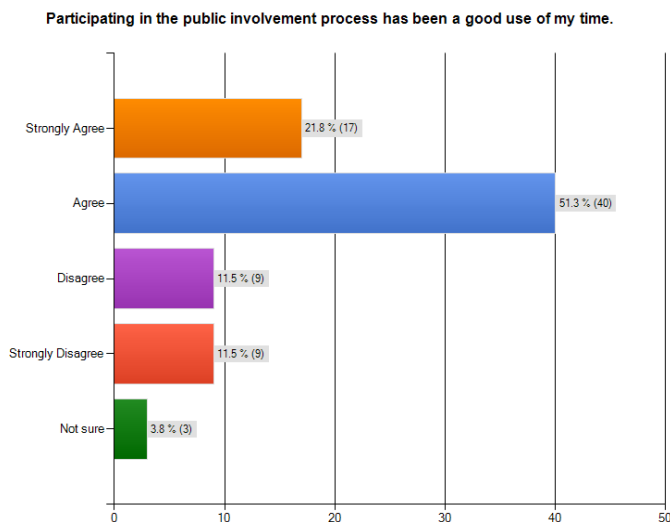
Other

- What is the intent of this question
- It reveals the extent of empire-building. Over development and unnecessary elaboration in the plan
- I would have liked this survey sent to my email address. You have it!!!
- Information biased
- None of the information reflected input from the actual users of the park!
- The time this is placed is not good/convenient for the average working person
- Circled between agree and disagree

Questions Not Addressed

- Two questions not answered at the event: 1) How many dollars from the Trans Canada Trail project to be received? 2) What weight did the Environmental study have on the results?
- Hard to find the specific person to ask. Why this!!
- Not sure why this project was initiated. Buena Vista off leash was functioning on its own quite well before. Why is tax money being used for such an expensive project?

3. Participating in the public involvement process has been a good use of my time.



Please explain:

- A total of 78 participants responded to this question, and 9 skipped it. Of these, 57 or almost three quarters (73%) agreed or strongly agreed that participating in the public involvement process has been a good use of their time.
- An additional 18 or 23% disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, and a further 3 (3.8%) were not sure.
- About one third of respondents provided specific comments regarding participating in the public involvement process, as follows:

Not Sure Yet / Remains to be seen

- It remains to be seen
- It depends on whether individuals concerns will be taken seriously. Need to see the comments online and answers.
- Depends if my opinions are considered.
- I don't know how much weight the public carries here, and how much has been predetermined by bureaucrats
- My point should be heard even if not agreed upon
- Circled between agree and disagree (x3)

Appreciate Opportunity/Feel Being Heard

- Appreciate being able to view, discuss, review all that has generated to date.
- Lots of Information available
- Has provided opportunity to have impact to what happens in the park plus have been able to hear other people's concerns about it.
- Always important for the public to have open access to anything that might affect them.
- By examining the Concept Review Summary Report I could verify that our various inputs were taken seriously, weighted, evaluated and adjustments made to accommodate the inputs.
- So far, as a stakeholder, most concerns have not been met, but I believe I am being heard.
- It's my regular day job so I feel obligated to participate in engagement opportunities that concern me and my community

Don't Feel Have Been Listened To

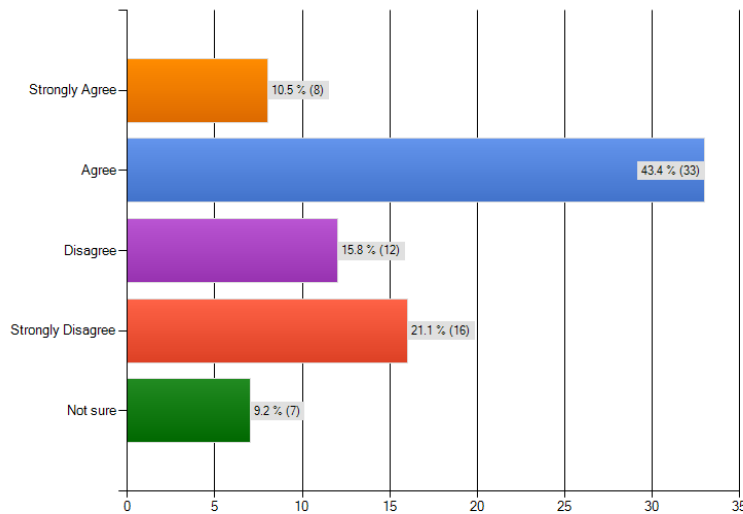
- In the first two open houses we couldn't ask questions, we could not give suggestions.. At the second one I realized that none of the info presented at the first had been listened to.
- City/ consultants have not listened to the concerns of the users
- I went to all the meetings, did the survey and don't feel that the needs/ ideas of the public were to use.
- A lot of suggestions from the original round table were ignored
- The majority of the stakeholders disagree!
- The process has been a waste of time for all dog walkers! We have a majority and still none of what we are saying is being heard.
- Decisions were made long before public involvement
- Probably not as I see this as a done deal. Whatever we wish for has decided by Edmonton Parks Board
- I came for the first session in June and couldn't find a place to sit so had to leave. I feel the survey online was very 'either or' and not including any input.

Other

- Was out of town for this

4. I feel a range of views and perspectives have been considered in creating the Master Plan.

I feel a wide range of views and perspectives have been considered in creating the Master Plan.



Please Explain:

- A total of 76 individuals responded to this question, and 11 skipped it. Of these, 41 or just over half (54%) agreed or strongly agreed that a wide range of views and perspectives have been considered in creating the Master Plan.
- Just over one third (28 or 37%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, and a further 7 (29%) were not sure.
- Approximately half of respondents provided comments regarding this question, as follows:

Yes / Various Groups Input Considered

- Great
- As I look at the various maps and plans I see evidence of how various concerns are being addressed.
- I have been involved since the beginning. I've seen many groups.
- Yes but I don't think we can please everyone- (thinking about the fenced training area)
- As much as us possible considering user groups
- Again, Jeff Schurek was able to inform me as to the various groups that had been considered with coming up with the plan
- Yes, although it seems by the comments that some people have not contributed until now.
- Maybe too wide. I don't know where some of the more unpopular views came from
- I'll review the website for the stakeholders list to ensure representation.

More Input Needed

- Still more input is required. Controlling bike speeds too! Fauna to consider, lady slipper areas, Saskatoon, high bush cranberries, etc.
- It would have been good to have determined exactly who uses the park now and what we wanted for changes, if any the rowers are there only months of the year.
- I feel that the people leading this project have not spent enough time to see what the needs of the users of park area. Online surveys only tell so much.

Not Sufficient Weight Given to Majority of Users

- However has sufficient weight been given to the majority. Seems a lot of "minor" users needs have been accommodated at the expense of the majority.
- The perspectives of the more frequent users were under represented.
- No, only online surveys of people who don't use the park! My grandma loves doing surveys but she has no information of ever coming to the park.

- It would seem the handicap and the cyclists have moved the agenda along not to mention the consultants desire for more fees
- No, rowers only (...)
- Only people gaining from this are cyclists and rowers who are only at Buena Vista 3 months of the year
- Not by percentage (numbers) of users
- But perhaps with not enough attention paid to who actually uses the park
- Yes, but all perspectives are not equal or representative the major park users of the Buena Vista off leash park.
- Some small groups appear to have strongly influenced the plan to further their exclusive agendas at the expense of most users
- At least 90% of the park is used by dog people, their interested are not represented properly!
- I feel that if there is a wish to be a balanced concept, then off-leash would weigh far heavier than bikes or joggers.
- As brought up before the people making the decisions are not equivalent percentage of the users

Other

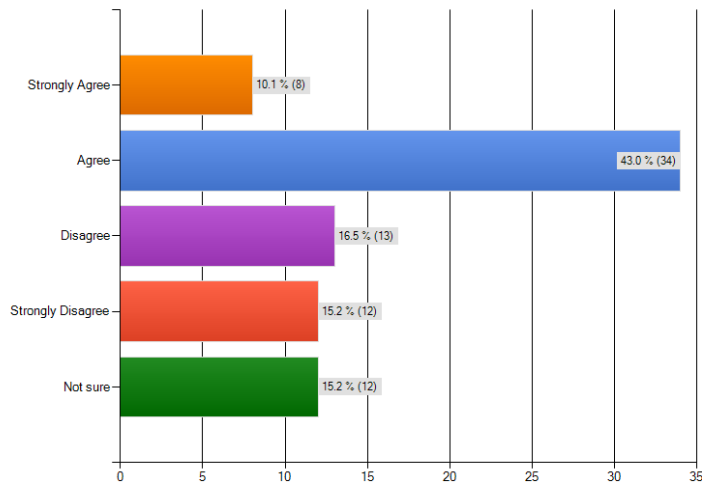
- Dog owners are likely over-represented as they have sign/notification board in off-leash
- User groups input panel was small (13 people?) Overall vision was too broad. Laurier and Buena Vista are different.
- No- Boaters/ bikers -leave the park natural
- Why do you need to mess with a wonderful piece of natural beauty which is Buena Vista when Laurier Park has all the amenities required of a park.
- Do not agree with the strongly agree, agree etc. It skews the results

Not Sure

- It's hard to know- I do know that I have not seen evidence of it.
- I heard some strongly dissenting views
- Too many different needs!
- I am not sure what or who is consulted in this process
- This was my first meeting, so it came as more of a snap shot.
- Circled in between Agree and Disagree

5. The rationale regarding what is included in the final Master Plan for Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park is clear.

The rationale regarding what is included in the final draft Master Plan for Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park is clear.



Please explain:

- A total of 79 participants responded to this question, and 8 skipped it. Of these, 42 or just over half (53%) agreed or strongly agreed that the rationale regarding what is included in the final Master Plan for Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park is clear.

- Just under one third (25 or 31%) disagreed or strongly disagreed with this statement, and a further 12 (15%) were not sure.
- About one third of respondents provided specific comments regarding the rationale, as follows:

Yes / Well Done

- Well done
- I enjoyed the engagement opportunities to gain and share information, however I feel I need to review all plans to ensure I have a clear understanding of the plan.
- Except rationale is spelled wrong

Clear Rationale But Don't Agree

- I agree that it's clear, not that I agree with the rationale
- Clear but not correct
- See above- the weighting given to off-leash is minuscule compared to its users. There are thousands of off-leash users and maybe 20-40 bikes
- Rationale "panders to dog walkers"

Not Agree with Rationale / Not Clear

- I don't agree with all the rationale
- There is NO rationale!
- I agree it is absurd
- The rationale has not been clearly explained. What is the agenda here?
- What does this mean?! It's vague and stupid e.g., "a strong sense of arrival into the park areas" (I get a strong sense of arrival by going down that lousy road.). These are not improvements.
- The maps- not sure what the master plan is
- No. I want it in writing why the storm reservoir area can't be where all the new 100 parking stalls can be. What is the rationale of the preserve area north to Mackenzie Ravine?

Concerns Re: Budget/Priorities

- I do not agree with ambiguity of some of the items listed. More disturbing is the fact that no amount of the budget is listed on the drafts. Even an estimated cost would be useful.

- In money - the rationale doesn't reflect reality.
- Not sure why the changes. Waste of money.
- How much is coming from the city?
- I'm not sure why this is necessary or who is asking for the "improvements"

Fencing Concerns

- However, I still have a problem with the fencing. Freedom of movement has been a key enjoyment of this park area. During winter users will probably develop their own new walkways beside the fencing on the off leash sides. I understand the fencing is only in the one area.
- Limit dog use. Agenda is to fence in dogs and limit swimming for dogs.

Keep it Natural

- NO! Absolutely not! We don't need asphalt. A lot of money is being spent on aesthetics leave it natural!
- You actually spelled rationale correctly here. It's clear you're turning something wild into something tamed and controlled
- At the first meeting there were a lot of people opposed to asphalt, I'm surprised this is still included.

Not Sure

- Some elements like parking make sense. The roundabout at the foot of Buena Vista Drive is not needed. No value for money. Pave Buena Vista Road!!
- Some steps seem to try to preserve the natural character of Buena Vista and others to make it into a Laurier Park clone
- I believe the input results are manipulated to show a "hidden agenda" of proof of stakeholder involvement with cooperation by all.

6. Please provide any other comments you may have regarding the Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan Public Involvement Process.

A total of 50 respondents provided comments related to the public involvement process, as follows:

Good & Inclusive Process

- Hope to enjoy it for many years
- As I have attended all the meetings it is my opinion the team working on it has made many efforts to incorporate as much as they could. They have always been respectful no matter what was asked as they have tried to explain why certain decisions were made.
- Crestwood CL. has had report to the board on this process as two board members are very interested. You appear to have given every opportunity for public input.
- The current plan probably will be viewed by most participants as an improvement over prior versions because it appears to reflect some response to public input.
- The process is good with more clarity in information. I am interested in memorial benches. Not located on most maps, are the being removed? Totally unclear
- Thanks for the real consultation opportunities (not just "info out"), much appreciated.
- Good involvement with open houses and online comments. Well done
- Looks like a well thought out plan that will benefit all users
- This was a good opportunity for input, through a variety of means
- Thanks for your efforts to manage all these idealistic users. Look forward to the future!
- Very inclusive process
- The process was open, just hard for people who work out of town to participate. More into is needed at the dog park

Feel Step Missing in Process

- Many of us felt there was another step before this draft master plan. That's why there are still a lot of "stickies" on the maps, questions from the users and probably a great number of comments.
- The master plan pieces need to be posted in both Laurier and Buena Vista and time allowed for comments
- One more meeting- even set up as today- with the feeling of more input capability on the "draft master plan" would have been beneficial, and the final review people feeling provided -more input -more buy in -less feelings of a "pushed result"

Seems to Support Specific Interests

- Plan is for the rowing club!! Not the dogs
- Favor rowers?
- I am concerned that some of the process has been designed around the particular interests of particular groups.
- A fenced off off-leash park within an off-leash park seems odd
- Opening up the Laurier Park roundabout to vehicle traffic at the back of the park (i.e. far west) seems odd.
- Once again a few squeaky wheels are going to torque up the system, "improving" it for all the rest of us.

Waste of Time / Not True Public Process

- This whole process has been a sham. The users have requested very little- namely parking. The project has grown in scope and costs.
- To date- many of us feel our input has been completely dismissed.
- This is not a true public process. You have failed to reach the majority of users of the Buena Vista Park (again and again). People will not be happy with this.
- The whole process is a sham- the city folks and highly paid consultants have been defensive and inconsistent and have no clue as to how people use this park. It has been an insult to my intelligence, waste of my time and waste of my tax dollars.
- You have managed to piss off the majority of the park users
- Not well thought out at all. Who made these decisions? Politicians? This is not a user friendly multi-use park -leave it as it is. Ongoing maintenance and costs are not worth the price.
- Seems like a lot of suggestions were not heeded- as I went to all workshops and was surprised by some decisions.
- The entire process has been a waste of my time. I am insulted not only for myself but all those with the same position. For the past 6 years I have spent at least an hour a day, 6 days a week. Not once have I ever thought that the park would benefit from extra paving or fencing. We use this park because it is a natural sanctuary for not only dogs, but ourselves. These are MY tax dollars YOU are talking about wasting! Leave the park as is -or you will regret it! Also why did no one survey the actual users of Buena Vista Park?

- The only valid public involvement process is one that involves the public. This did not. No one went down to the park to interview or survey the users! Online surveys and Saturday morning open houses not well advertised is NOT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT! How lazy are these people! Most of the people at the park don't even know any changes are being considered- that's how effective your process is.
- Did not poll people while in the park

Quality of Maps/Displays

- Poor maps
- Poor legends-unable to read
- As to the public involvement process it might be a good idea to have a practice run or practice display of materials in-house to other City employees. This would catch a lot of typos, spelling mistakes, inconsistencies and deficiencies in the materials.
- The displays were too small.

Impact on Natural Areas / Minimal Change Needed

- The Buena Vista/ Sir Wilfred Laurier Park is a jewel in the heart of Edmonton. Part of the beauty is how it has been left in a natural state. I worry about the gentrification of the plan
- As part of a group of naturalists and dog walkers, I have suspicions and concerns about the amount of parking and disruption of the natural areas.
- Caragana- 1) provides good shelter in wind/ winter weather for walkers 2) extremely difficult to rid an area of this species 3) Will disturb a fragile river bank and cause further erosion
- Where is vegetation to stabilize river bank?
- River path wheelchair accessible is ridiculous, so many tree roots, hills etc. It is also not asphalt to disturb too much because of the coyote, fox other small mammal trails.
- I find this park along with Tevilliger to be one of the most harmonious areas in the city. I don't want changes to threaten that harmony. Other than clear rules for pedestrian/ cyclists I believe less change is better.
- Would prefer the park to be left as it is. Spend city money on something more worthwhile.
- Minimize changes
- Too many changes are proposed
- Don't put any gates, fences etc. Just leave it as it is!

Content Suggestions

- Rowing club off leash- allow dogs in that area for 6 months during the winter when unused.
- Round-about at the bottom of Buena Vista road is not required, traffic volumes day to day do not warrant it.
- Traffic circle/ roundabout- very good for traffic flow.
- I'm for the traffic circle (roundabout) great traffic flow
- Valley Zoo signage- Better sign that is obvious is needed as people right near the zoo ask directions as they cannot tell where it is.
- Signage planned is okay
- Additional parking required
- Unnecessary parking stalls on 132 street for regular use, visible from residential area.
- Buena Vista parking changes- DO NOT expand parking along 132 Street west side. There should be no parking at all along 132 Street. Keep this natural looking
- Increasing the parking on 132 street will remove some greenspace
- Why would you consider hard surface walk ways in off-leash areas? We can walk anywhere in the rest of the city on a hard surface.
- Putting a gate across the pathways from tree to tree in bicycle areas is redundant as the dogs run through the trees.
- Put up NO BIKING signs where there is no biking- put up correct on leash signs where there is a necessity.
- The preservation area north of Buena Vista Park must be included as part of Buena Vista Park
- Any fences or special elite use (rowing) cannot be supported
- What is needed at Buena Vista Park is very little, lumping Buena Vista and Laurier Park under one management plan is not practical as the two parks serve very different groups and purpose.
- Stairs to the "beach"- I suspect that the area has not been observed over the years. The erosion takes place and the shoreline changes every winter.
- Make sure that the kitchen in Yorath is huge for events and weddings.
- What are the speed limits!!!!
- There are bikes made for cruising on dirt paths-that's what they are for, not cement. The dogs go there to wander and play and socialize not to be fenced in or walk on hot pavement.

- Paving paths or hard packing makes it easy to speed :)
- I am dumbfounded with the asphalt trail being increased to accommodate wheelchairs
- As I have said in the past I pay to register my dog every year I pay to do the same to my car and motor bikes. When or why are you not doing the same to bicycles (by the way I am a cyclist too)
- Visible tags should be a must!
- A skating rink on a hill is a lawsuit waiting to happen.

Other

- Most of the things look good on paper, let's hope they will work as well when it happens. I go to the off-leash for enjoyment and relaxation and sometimes it isn't that way due to bylaw only checking on dog licences but they do nothing to the bikes that are not following the rules.
- The term 'handicap' is not an inclusive term, perhaps a more 'sensitive' term may be appropriate. :)

7. Please provide any other comments you may have regarding the Buena Vista/Sir Wilfrid Laurier Park Master Plan.

A total of 68 respondents provided comments related to the final draft Master Plan, as follows:

Generally Good Plan

- All in all not as bad as feared but it could certainly be improved.
- The options are well presented and thorough. Difficult to be all things to all people – in most cases the "natural" feel of the park will be diminished, in all cases the existing wildlife will be affected, pathways for wheelchairs are wonderful, if maintained
- In general I like the plan with the following exceptions: Remove the split rail fence and gates. 1) blocks wildlife (it's their home also) and provides dangerous corridors 2) Expensive to build and maintain. I pay taxes. 3) Low volume of cyclists. If they are not capable of negotiating a path with people, wheel chairs, children etc. Should have bike taken away. 4) Takes away from natural intent and beauty of park.

Don't Like Plan / Leave Park As Is

- I did a survey in the park for 6 hours total over 4 days 96% of people do NOT want a fence. 86% do NOT want paving. I counted 600 people entering the park in these 6 hours 59 were cyclists, half of those were commuters! Why change the OFFLEASH FAMILY park for bicycles?!!
- No input to the Master Plan came from the Buena Vista Off leash Family Park!
- Shelve this plan and go down and start over!!
- What a piece of shit! The whole thing is shameful. The city has a jewel of nature that it's looked after for years, now this administration is destroying it!

- Despite the explanations I remain unhappy and dissatisfied with the increased number of parking stalls in the Master Plan. I also dislike the fences along the pathways. I do however like the increased number of restrooms proposed. I do not like the fenced dogs area- chain link fences are ugly and take away from the natural beauty of the area. I do not like an excessive commercial development to Yorath House. Really I am quite satisfied with the park as it is- it is quite adequate in its natural state.
- This master plan does not take anything many of the dog walkers have said! Spend MY tax dollars fixing existing paved roads! Spend MY tax dollars helping stray animals! Hell! Even spend it paving the parking lot! BUT DO NOT TOUCH THE PARK!!
- Perhaps the city would consider repairing the sidewalks in my neighborhood- they are unsuitable and a safety hazard.

Nature / Vegetation

- Preserve native parkland! Enjoyable makes individuals accountable, ecologically sound, inexpensive, Part of our heritage
- The removal of the caragana bushes along the river would be a crime
- Obviously there's going to be an "upgrading" of the whole area in order to meet these regs and those requirements in certain areas. I guess those of us who were enjoying the "wild" will have to go farther from home. Sad really.

- There are many well- developed multi-use parks in the city. Buena Vista is a unique jewel of an area- one of only a couple river valley access with minimal development. The only goal of retaining a really truly "natural" area of original landscape, flora and fauna. It will be a loss that can never be reclaimed.
- Keep the pathways natural- they do not need surfacing and really do not need asphalt. People like to use the park because it is nature.
- In general the River Valley is a very beautiful asset for the city. I do wonder why since it is so beautiful, there is so little of it that is readily visible to the casual walker, jogger, biker, etc. There are many places where pathways exist along the river but you can't see and enjoy it. I suspect that might be why some people break off the path through the bush so they can take it in. It would be nice to see some of the paths have a cleaner view of the river.

Shared Use Pathway

- I like the idea of the fences along the "trans Canada road" to ensure that bikes are not interfered with by dogs that are attracted to fast movement.
- Multi-use (Paved) trail. This path should be realigned to the east to follow the power line right of way from behind the rowing tank building, north behind the rowing and canoe club boathouse and rejoin to the existing bike bike trail north of the N.E. corner of the big field. The big field is the most heavily used part of the park. By relocating the trail to this area it is completely hidden for the most part from dogs in the field by dense bush and trees. Negotiation with the clubs may be need depending on their leasehold boundaries. Realignment eliminates the need for a fence on the east side of the field. The realigned trail would become vehicle access for the clubs' boathouses on the infrequent times they need vehicle access (note the bike trail shares the road with vehicles in Laurier Park). The pavement on 131st street and 79th ave should be removed and be reduced to standard of looping pathways there by (...) attractiveness for bikes.
- It is a good idea to clearly designate that the main road/path that is part of the trans Canada be on-leash and to only allow bikes on that path so that the bikes can commute quickly and not bother others trying to enjoy nature without being run down

- Your claim of improving cycling is, ahem, doubtful. Paving for no clear reason the less used main road trail will, as you suggest, make some cyclists speed up. No one was able to tell me how many cyclists this would affect. However this "improvement" of the main road trail brings with it fences, gates and other ugly impediments to free use of the area affecting all users. If you actually wanted to improve cycling, pave and snow-clear Milton Hill (?) road and keep it on-leash. People can access the dog splashing beach by the bridge with a slight expansion of this off-leash area to cover the beach area. You do not need to mess up the existing access to the bridge or make it off leash.
- Asphalt paving on road is not necessary, consider relocating this path east of the big meadow along the paved straight of way, this would eliminate the need for a fence and potential conflict.

Off Leash Area

- Agree that Laurier Park/Zoo may need some improvements, signage, foliage, but Buena Vista dog off leash should be kept in current natural state
- Why is the triangular are in the north end of the park not off leash> There is no conflict with any other users in this area. There is already a wide cleared (but not improved) path right of way along the north west edge of this area (already heavily used by dog walkers) that could be improved to become part of the loop trail. All the "improvements" seem to be at the expense of the dog walkers. Throw the dogs a bone.
- Area north of Hawrelak bridge should also be off-leash (along the pathways) even if this is conservation area.
- The areas around/ through/ along the river, the rowing club. should only be on leash during the months that the rowing club actually uses the river bank and access to the river- at most 6 months of the year (may to oct) . There is no valid reason that dogs shouldn't be allowed off leash in those areas along the bank the rest of the year.
- It is a good idea to keep the path along the shore OFF LEASH and to not allow (continue to disallow) bikes on that path as it can be dangerous if they get going too fast with limited advance vision on curves and hills of the parks.
- Decrease the space in off leash area; Poor information; Keep it natural; Just fence the rowing area

- Separation of the rowing club and off-leash dogs during the summer makes sense but here is no good reason to exclude off-leash dogs from the river trail between November and March. The area should be off-leash during that season.
- The current signs match the proposed north boundary of the off-leash area. The on leash "addition" to the north should be off-leash because a trail loop along that extended boundary will provide still further separation between pedestrians and dogs walking that loop and cyclists accessing the river bridge on the rerouted trail open to cyclists. That area is used primarily by dog walkers now anyway.
- I appreciate the changes to the off-leash boundaries and the additional looping pathway in the northwest of the park, but most of the improvements are not necessary, practical, or cost effective. I am very disappointed.
- Re: Fences and gates -Would appreciate and encourage a planned approach allowing at least 1 year with improved signage/education re: the paved "road" being an off-leash area -to see if dog walkers respect that etc. if it isn't needed (avoid any unnecessary physical barriers please). If it is erected, make 'gates' as cumbersome as possible!
- Keep "river trail" in Buena Vista park as natural as possible- that is the attraction of coming here and a fantastic resource (escaping the 'city/urban environment" so don't bring those features into the park) roots and all! Perhaps the more "developed" and accessible trail can be included along the Laurier park side, which is already developed (ie south of boat ramp area).
- Make area on river trail between rowing club and paddle site off-leash (have yet to see even one person (paddler) using their club site, so no conflict with them).
- Very unhappy to make this area more developed and limited for dog users. We already have to many areas dogs are not allowed to run free.
- I love the new design. I do think however that the Rowing Club should only be off-leash from May-November. There are no rowers there the rest of the year so if there are no dog walkers it becomes an abandoned area where vandals can do damage anytime they like without being seen.
- I would like the area to remain off leash. I spend many hours down at the park with my family and I have not noticed issues with the walking paths/walkers/cyclists and dogs.

There is a lot of area where bikes can go but not many areas for dogs, I want this area kept for off leash with no fences.

- Dog walkers are in the park in rainy, windy, incredibly cold snowy weather as well as pleasant weather. We rather get the feeling that we are not wanted.

Fences / Gates

- Concerned about all the fences and gates being (...) as this will make the off-leash not an off-leash. The fences will be intrusive to the natural feel of the area right now
- Kissing gates don't allow for wheelchair access. Often, wheelchair users will brave the fields to help throw Frisbees, etc. for the dogs
- No fences, no gates
- I am not against the gate so much as I am by the design- with a closed (hinged) gate ability to open could/ will likely be an issue in the inter -instead maybe a gate with no hinges (picture drawn on comment form)

Fenced Training Area

- Buena Vista. The fenced training area is the worst locations- 131 Street from parking lot to field is busiest area of park, excited just released dogs beside a training area, not good. Training area should be at north end of fields that is west of 132nd street and north of Buena Vista road. This could incorporate part of the field and part of the bush and would interfere with major event overflow parking- area is fairly level
- Consider locating training area on edge of overflow parking area(also an off leash area), having it so close to excitable dogs exiting parking lot seems counter productive

Accessibility

- Handicap accessibility to the leash area. What a joke and waste. How much money can you spend?
- Universal/ barrier-free access is challenging in a park area with unpaved surfaces and elevation changes, but is a worthy effort. I support this, however I want to sell tickets for the an off leash dog attacks a wheel chair user.

Parking

- Concern with removal of the trees to make way for parking lot when current field is used for events can be easily converted to this

- Parking along 131st street. Surely you can find better location rather than bringing cars closer to big field destroying more bush. Suggest grass area on south side of Rowing Tank Building access road or remove caragana jungle between existing parking and expand Rowing Tank building parking
- You have large empty field when you enter the park- why not use that for parking and the dog "caged" area. Nobody can use it now- put it to use. You are trying to "KEEP OUT" everything. As they say: Pave Paradise, put up a parking lot. "LEAVE IT ALONE"
- Love the park area and parking for cars!!
- Please don't tear down trees to make parking- this defeats the notion of keeping the park natural. Use the big open field when you first turn into Laurier Park. Then it will aid the 300 and festival goers.
- If dog people are not allowed to park in the rowing areas, festival goers to Hawrelak park should not be able to park in dog park space.

Hard Surface Walkways

- Please don't asphalt the walkways in off leash. I don't want to walk my dog in a parking lot like setting.
- The additional hard surface is going to be very difficult for me to use. Leave trail as is 3) Asphalt is very difficult for dogs
- I'd really like it if the riverside path were not hard surfaced; however, I do recognize the needs of the mobility impaired.

Cycling

- Increased smoothness of main roadway will lead to increased speed of bikers- control
- A lot of focus on dog control- not so much on the bikers. Speed and Yielding signage.
- Keeping cyclist off the River Path (...) should be a high priority.
- Cyclists should have licence plates and be registered.
- There should be codes of conduct for other users such as cyclists too so that they understand behavior and do not react unreasonably when dogs are near. Also dogs have a right of way as pedestrians.
- From a bikers point I wonder why no bike connection has been made between Buena vista and the McKinnon Ravine. The trek up and over and in traffic is quite dangerous.

- What is to be done to prevent mountain bikes using the unimproved paths on the west side of the park from Milton Ravine to 132nd street (every Wednesday night 10-12 bikes in a group). 5) install a gate to prevents/reduce bike access from residential are 79th avenue.

Washrooms

- Location of washrooms and extra parking areas- okay
- We need washrooms at the Boat Launch. The simple fact is, river users will not typically walk the 15 min return trip to the washrooms by the existing entrance. They should be Handicap accessible.

Yorath House and Grounds

- Yorath house \$300, 000.00 for improvements before it can be used ?? This seems very low. I'm in the renovation business , maybe you should identify a user or users before planning to spend money on this. It all sounds very airy-fairy to me.
- A "Concession" at Yorath House will have garbage here there and everywhere.
- Do your business or get off the pot on the Yorath house.
- Yorath house- don't get the "Historical" significance- much better examples in neighborhoods, retrofit will be lots of money.
- I find the plan of Yorath house is office heavy and if the target use with a meeting room; and the redevelopment is a success. The meeting room may be oversubscribed. Plan for one or two offices to be converted to meeting rooms in future. Some of our residents are very interested in the plan;
- I feel that the Yorath House renovation would be cost prohibitive
- I think the Master Plan with the suggested improvements look great as the area is getting busier. My only concern would be the Yorath house as it has sat empty for so long and could be very expensive to update. That being said I would love it as a tea house and small cafe as a (...) after spot when you are out for a walk. Thanks for the great presentation.
- It's a lovely area- please don't overdo the improvements- keep it as natural as possible. Our dogs love it. Would like to see Yorath House lawn area- with flagstones continuing a winding path from the rockery, benches, trees (some fruit trees and others that grow well in Edmonton)

- Generally, very good plan. I would definitely like to see Yorath house a Cafe/ Tea House and warming spot in winter for outdoor activities, as well as a place for rental for special events --> multipurpose.
- Yorath would not be used by dog walkers who make up the majority of park users. Tea house great idea but I wouldn't use it because where would I leave my dog?
- Natural path around Yorath; say history of Yorath; no fences

Round About

- Disagree with the installation of a traffic circle at bottom of hill. Will narrow and slow down traffic more. There is not enough traffic to warrant building a round about that will cost 350, 000-400, 000 Accident research re "Traffic circle" and big enough for throwing boat truck and trailer unit and many people unaware of driving regulations through "traffic circles" The traffic circle at the bottom of Buena Vista Road is unnecessary and a waste of money
- Round about- think that is a big waste of money- better (clear) signage and a 4 way stop sign would do the same thing.
- Round about is a good idea, these roads are unaligned.
- I believe that a four way stop at the bottom of Buena Vista Drive is better use of money than the roundabout. The roundabout is a big wast of money.
- Entrance improvement and roundabout- not needed at all and is a complete waste of money. Are you kidding me?!

- The roundabout plan is ridiculous, There is no need. Even on the busiest weekend of the year still no need. What a complete waste of money. Please tell me why.

Signage

- Thank you for the increase in signage- make sure that signs are large enough and indestructible! I think that more signs like #17 are needed on the west Broadway.

Boat Launch

- Laurier- don't improve boat launch, more power boat traffic is dangerous for rowers and canoeists

Stairs to Beach

- Make sure that steps down to the beach are wide enough (the drawings say 4m-that's probably a good width) with a nice shallow rise and broad run.

Cost

- What's the budget for this? First priority should be to pave the road down to the park from 142nd Street. The road is appalling! Quit filling it with cold patch fix it properly.

Other

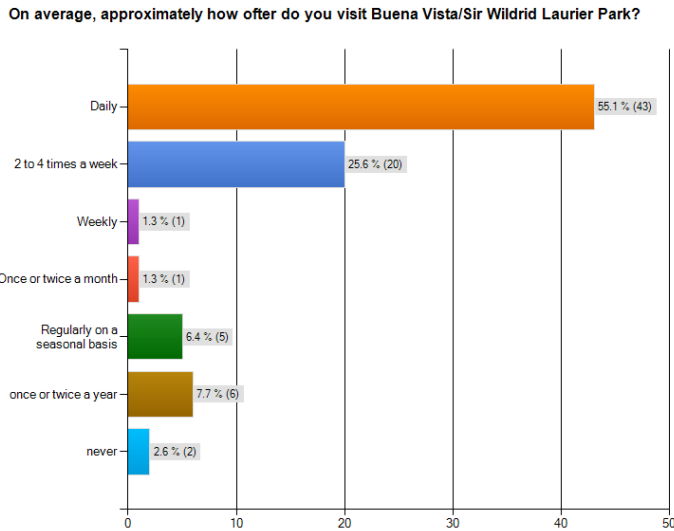
- Is the "Final draft" subject to change from comments received today?
- The best thing about is whole project is neighbors getting pissed off at the city.

Demographic Questions Summary:

Participants were also asked to share some information about themselves to help the Project Team determine if we are engaging with a representative cross-section of Edmontonians.

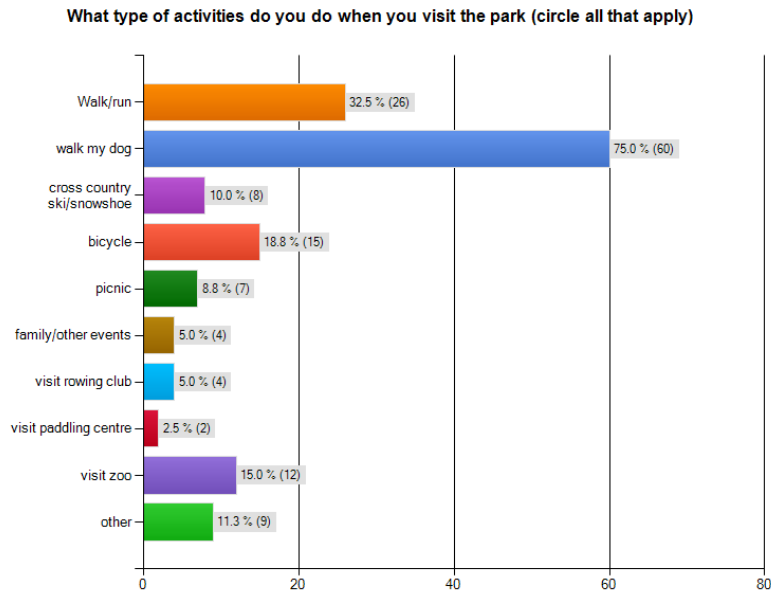
The following provides a summary of responses to these questions.

8. On average, approximately how often do you visit Buena Vista/Sir Wilfred Laurier Park?



- A total of 78 participants responded to this question, and 9 skipped it.
- Two people identified that they visited the park 2 to 3 times a day, every day, and another indicated they visited it once or twice a day in all weather, down to -30 degrees
- Reasons why respondents never visit the park included: new to city, water access inadequate

9. What types of activities do you do when you visit the park?



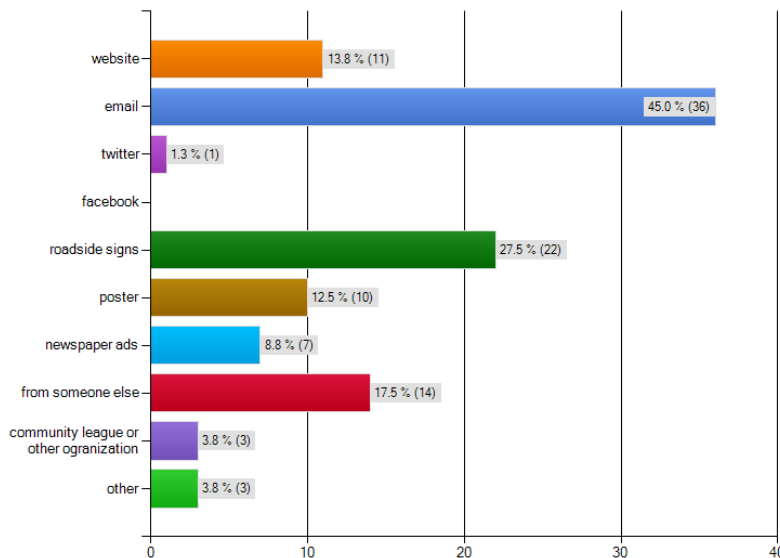
- A total of 80 individuals responded to this question, and 7 skipped it.
- Many respondents indicated they participate in more than one activity when they visit the park.
- The most frequent activity noted by 60 or 75% of respondents was “walk my dog”
- The next most popular activities were “walk/run (26 or 33%)”, “cycle (15 or 19%)”, “visit the zoo (12 or 15%)”, and “cross-country ski/snowshoe (8 or 10%)”.

OPEN HOUSE WHAT WE HEARD REPORT, October 17, 2012

- Other activities identified included:
 - Dark sky commute
 - operate canoeheads.com (canoe rentals)
 - launch/parking for canoe trips (x)
 - Boat launch for canoeing
 - Mountain Bike
 - Family time with dogs
 - I would also rollerblade here if it was paved
 - Attend functions put on by non profit agencies
 - Visited park once to access park and facilities for a planning project

10. Please tell us how you heard about the Open House today

Please tell us how you heard about the open house (circle all that apply)



Other organizations included: Dog walkers interest group- I don't know that we actually have a name :), Off-leash park, Been involved since inception

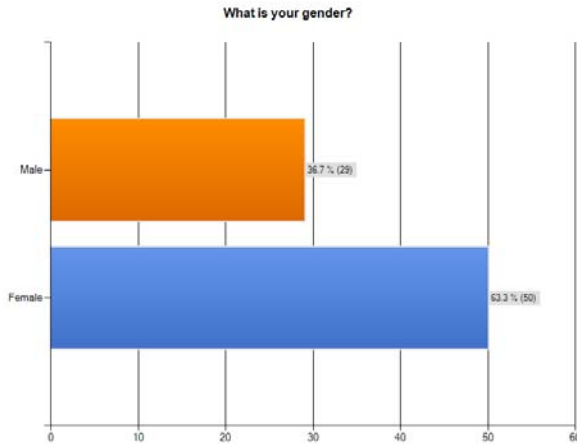
11. In what neighbourhood or community do you live?

Neighbourhood	Number	Neighbourhood	Number	Neighbourhood	Number
Belmead	2	Idylwyld	1	Oliver	2
Brittania	1	Inglewood	1	Parkallen	1
Capilano	1	Jamieson	1	Parkview	6
Crestwood	7	Laurier/Buena Vista	8	Prince Rupert	2
Elmwood	1	Laurier Heights	4	Sherwood	2
Empire Park	1	Lendrum	1	St. Albert	2
Fulton Place	1	Lynnwood	3	Thornccliffe	2
Glenora	6	Meadowlark	6	Valleyview	6
Grovenor	1	North Glenora	3	Westmount	3
High Park	1				

12. What are the first three digits of your postal code?

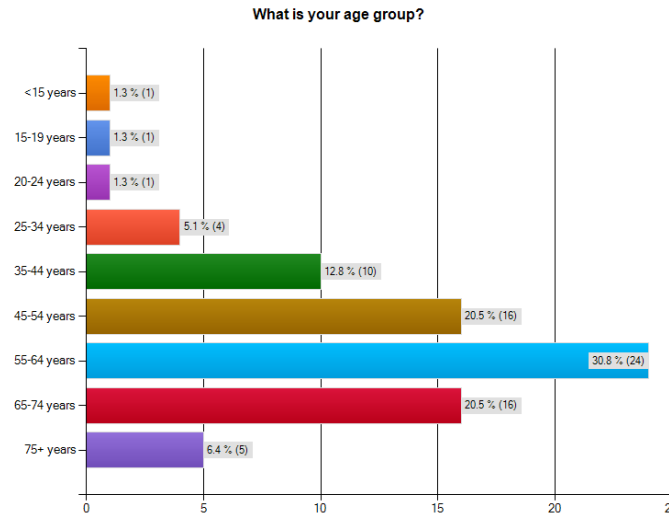
Postal Code	Number	Postal Code	Number	Postal Code	Number
T5G	2	T5P	3	T6A	2
T5K	2	T5R	36	T6C	1
T5M	6	T5S	1	T6H	3
T5N	13	T5T	5	T6M	1
				T8N	2

13. What is your gender?



- A total of 79 respondents answered this question, and 29 skipped it.
- Two thirds of respondents were female (50 or 63%), and 29 (37%) were male.

14. What is your age group?



- A total of 78 participants responded to this question, and 9 skipped it
- Respondents represented a range of age groups from under 15 to 75+ years.
- The majority of respondents (66 or 85%) were between the ages of 35 and 74 years of age