

# What We Heard Report Duncan Innes Park Playground Renewal

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## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

### Project overview

Duncan Innes Park Playground, located in the King Edward Park neighbourhood, at the corner of 80 Avenue and 81 Street, has been chosen for renewal. The objective of this project is to use public feedback in alignment with the City's strategic objectives, plans and policies to replace the playground. A renewed playground will better serve the needs of community groups and partners, residents in nearby neighbourhoods and City residents at large. Construction is scheduled for spring 2026, subject to funding availability.

The scope of this playground renewal project includes:

- Replacing the playground sand with engineered wood surfacing for better accessibility
- Replacing the playground curbs
- Adding new play equipment
- Adding a new pathway to the playground
- Replacing one bench and the concrete pad the bench sits on

This project will not include:

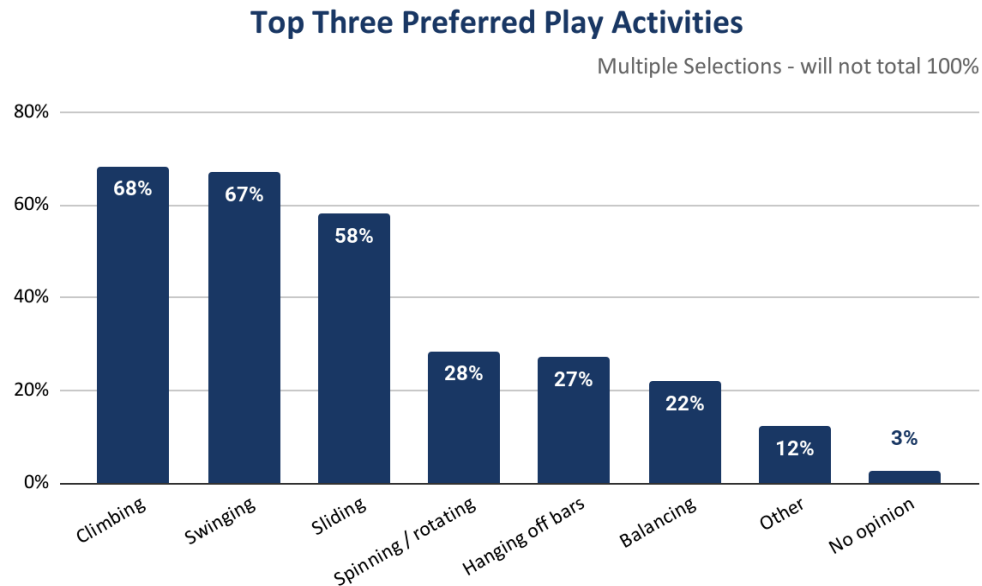
- Changes to existing lighting within the playground
- Park furniture beyond items which will be replaced
- Adding or renewing park fencing
- Shade structures
- Water play (e.g., spray park)
- A skate park
- Any community league amenities
- Landscaping beyond the project location

### What we heard

Many engagement participants wrote about their enthusiasm for the project and look forward to the planned improvements. Over one-third of participants (34 per cent) use the playground at least once per week or daily. The limited play equipment and playground condition likely account for its current low use.

**Play activities and experiences**

Participants said they most want the new playground to support swinging, climbing and sliding. Spinning, hanging off bars and balancing were also selected, but less often.

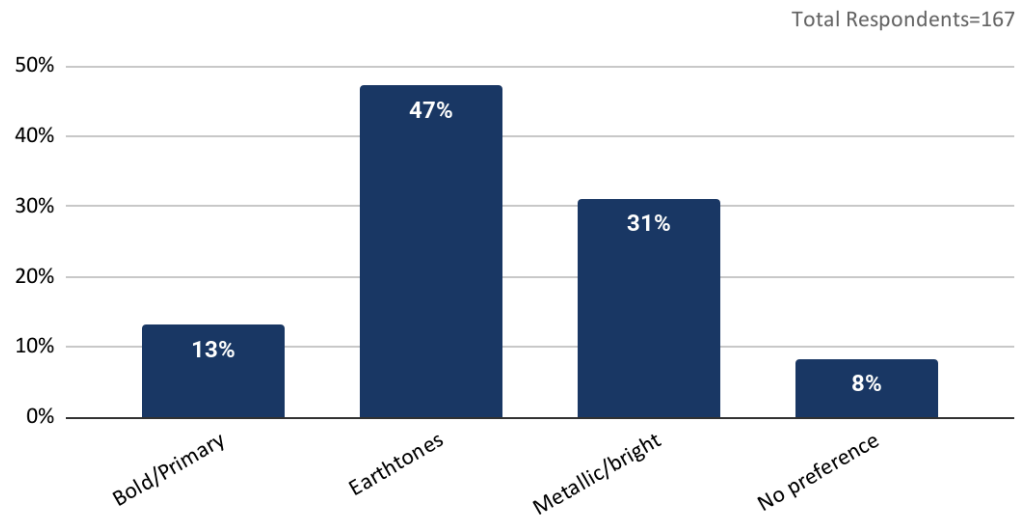


Some participants selected “other”. These comments noted the importance of accessible and inclusive play equipment, including the playground base. One participant suggested a swing that was accessible for wheelchair users. Other play activities mentioned included monkey bars, a play tower, musical options, a zipline and a “big” slide. Other participants took the opportunity to re-emphasize a desire for swings, including an infant swing.

**Playground colour**

Participants varied in their preferences for playground colours. An earthtone colour scheme (e.g., brown, green, and sand) was the most popular overall, with 47 per cent of respondents choosing these colours. About a third of participants preferred metallic finishes with bright contrast (31 per cent). Bold, primary colours (13 per cent) was the least favoured option. A small portion (8 per cent) had no preference.

## Preferred Playground Colours



### Other feedback

#### *All ages and abilities*

Many participants commented that they wanted a playground that met the needs of a broad age range of children, from toddlers to older children. Several respondents noted that older children with autism or other sensory challenges may benefit from swings. As noted below, accessibility of the playground base was a concern. A few respondents suggested that the playground include adult exercise equipment.

#### *Playground base*

Many participants commented on the playground base. Most of these respondents emphasized the need for accessibility and indicated they did not believe wood chips were accessible. A few respondents indicated that they would prefer sand over wood chips.

Note: the term “wood chips” rather than the technical term “engineered wood fibre” was used in the public engagement materials. Engineered wood fibre is intended to bind together over time as it becomes packed to support accessibility.

#### *Safety in and around the playground*

Many respondents commented on safety at the park and playground. Most comments focused on traffic around the playground. Other respondents were concerned about

children getting cuts from wood chips, debris in the playground base, and the use of the arena as a dog park/dogs off-leash near the playground.

### ***General comments and suggestions***

Several participants asked that the Project Team consider comfortable benches positioned to allow conversation. Adequate waste bins were also noted within participant comments. Unique comments advised the project team about honey bee relocation and the presence of organic material to consider as part of project planning.

### ***Out-of-Scope comments and suggestions***

Some participants commented on amenities that are out of scope for a playground renewal project. These desired elements included constructing a spray park, establishing access to drinking water and fencing for dogs.

While out-of-scope for the project, concerns about traffic surrounding the playground will be shared with the [City of Edmonton Vision Zero Street Labs](#) team. Vision Zero works with local communities to improve street safety.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH**

### **What, when, how and who we engaged**

The public was asked to share their thoughts on:

- Preferred play activities and experiences
- Playground colour preferences
- Other information and suggestions they would like the Project Team would like to consider as part of the playground renewal project.

The engagement period was from May 27 to June 10, 2025. An online survey was the primary engagement method. The public was also invited to contact the Project Team by email, traditional mail or 311.

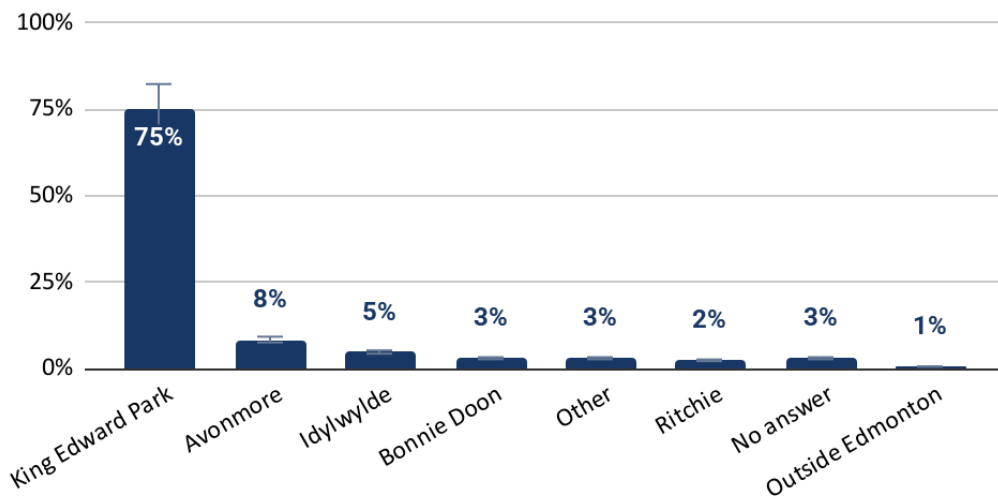
The public was informed of the engagement opportunity through postcards delivered to postal codes surrounding Duncan Innes Park Playground. The postcard informed recipients about the project, the opportunity to complete the online survey and to learn more about the project at [edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal). The engagement opportunity was also promoted through the City's social media accounts, signage in

and around the park and the City of Edmonton’s Public Service Announcement and Public Engagement Calendar.

A total of 167 people completed the survey. As shown in the charts below, most survey respondents (93 per cent) lived in or near the King Edward neighbourhood. A few chose not to answer this question. Most survey respondents (68 per cent) had children under the age of 12 in their household.

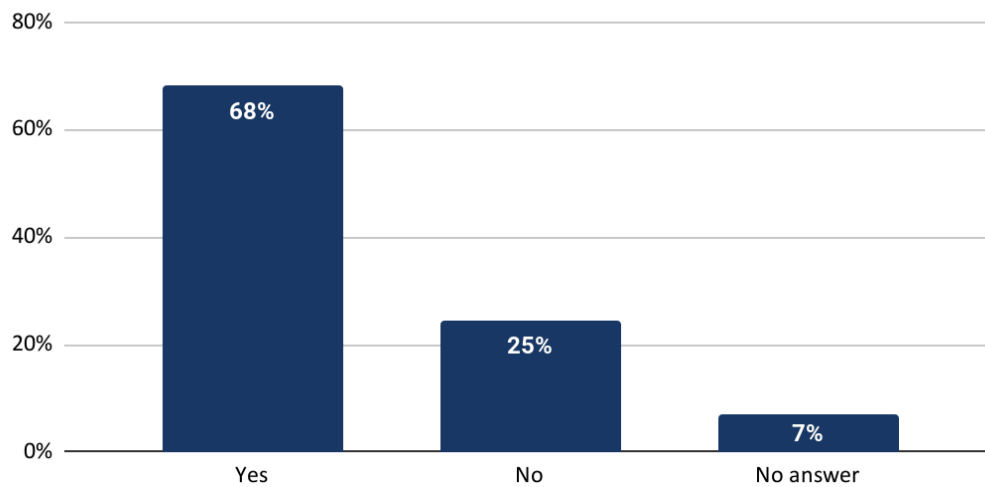
### Respondents' Neighbourhood

Total Respondents=167



### Percentage of Respondents with Children under 12 Years

Total Respondents=167



### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT**

Feedback from this engagement will be used to inform design options for the renewed playground. The project team will consider this feedback, along with technical standards, budget and maintenance needs, to develop design options for the playground at Duncan Innes Park. Design options will be shared with the community for feedback in fall 2025. Construction is expected to begin in 2026.

For updates on this project, please visit [edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal).