

What We Heard Report

Secord South Park Development

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Public Engagement Summary and Results

Project Overview

The Secord South Park Site is located in the Secord Neighbourhood and will include a Catholic (ECSD) elementary and junior high school.

The City of Edmonton is developing a community park in the south section of the Secord neighbourhood, located on the northeast corner of Secord Drive and 93 Avenue. The park site is approximately five hectares (twelve acres) in size and is proposed to include a Catholic (Edmonton Catholic School District) elementary and junior high school. The park is anticipated to be constructed in 2023 (subject to funding).

This project will provide base-level park infrastructure such as sports fields and landscaping, including tree planting. The project is currently in the Concept Phase.

In addition to the base-level infrastructure, the City will develop a concept plan which will identify amenities for potential future partner-led development. While these types of enhanced amenities will not be constructed as part of this project, input collected will result in a concept plan that can accommodate future infrastructure that is not part of the base-level development.

The first phase of public engagement was held in November 2021. Input will be used to develop the preferred concept plan for the park. Further engagement will be conducted in early 2022 to gather feedback on the final concept plan.



Figure One: Project Phases

What We Heard

Engaged Edmonton

Feedback was shared on the project's Engaged Edmonton page from November 1-15, 2021. 180 responses were collected. Overall, the survey respondents supported the concept plan and base-level amenities proposed for the site. The preferred base-level amenities within the scope of a school-park site (as identified in the [Urban Parks Master Plan](#)) were identified as: a sledding hill, social gathering place and open space.

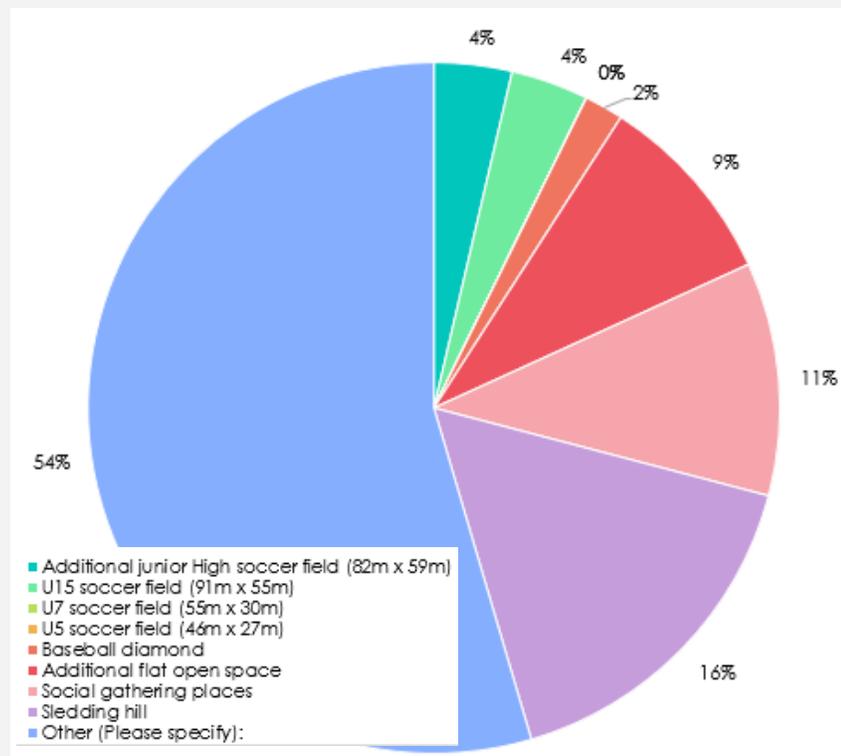
Additional comments were received by email emphasizing the need for an off-leash dog park and the community league expressed interest in the opportunity for partner-led amenities for a community garden, orchard, gazebo and community beekeeping.

This is what we heard from the online survey:

- 57% of respondents were residents of the Secord neighbourhood
- Nine (39%) respondents who live in other areas of the city identified their location as Rosenthal, the neighbouring community to the south, across 92 Avenue.
- Other respondents were from nearby communities including Webber Greens (three respondents or 13%), Suder Greens (two respondents or 9%), and Stewart Greens (one respondent or 4%)
- The age groups most likely to use the park are ranked from highest to lowest:
 - Adults (87%)
 - Children (52%)
 - Toddlers (32%)
 - Youth (29%)
 - Seniors (12%)
- The age group of respondents ranged from 26-35 years (42%) and 36-45 years (41%). Combined, these age groups comprised 83% of respondents

81% support the proposed base-level amenities for the site.

- The age group of respondents and the age group of park users indicate the predominant age group of those interested in the Secord School Park are adults with young families
- 81% of respondents support the proposed amenities in the concept plan that include: a soccer field, pathways, seating areas, naturalized area and an area of flexible/open space
- Of the proposed base-level amenities, the top preferred amenities are identified from most popular to least popular:
 - Other (54%)
 - Sledding hill (16%)
 - Social gathering place (11%)
 - Additional flat open space (9%)



- The Other amenities identified include:
 - Dog park or off-leash area (62%)
 - Recreation centre (10%)
 - Tennis and pickleball courts (7%)
 - Single responses included: a skating rink, outdoor track and a high school

- The placeholder amenities to be included in future, partner-led developments included the following, ranked from most popular to least popular:
 - Playground (47%)
 - Enhanced social gathering spaces (picnic tables, benches, gaming tables) (44%)
 - Naturalized landscape development (butterfly garden, sensory garden, educational garden) (36%)
 - Other (40%)
 - Fitness trail (35%)
 - Sports fixtures for field sports other than baseball and soccer (ultimate frisbee, cricket) (23%)
 - Community garden (22%)
 - Gazebo/shelter (21%)
 - Community orchard (berry garden) (19%)
- The Other amenities identified include:
 - Dog park (43%)
 - Splash pad (27%)
 - Ice rink, hockey rink or skating rink (9%)
 - Recreation centre (4%)
 - Tennis or pickleball courts (4%)
 - Bike skills park (2%)
 - Single responses included: beach volleyball court, basketball court, skate park
- 91% of respondents support the retention and potential enhancement of the existing central tree stand
- 94% of respondents support the concept plan for the Secord School Park Site



Figure Two: Draft concept plan presented through engagement

What We Did

Based on what we heard from the public on the Engaged Edmonton page, and from stakeholders, three main topics informed the refinement of the concept plan: a request for a dog park, a recreation centre, and a community garden. Each topic is outlined below with a rationale as to why or why it is not included in the final concept plan.

Trail and Playground

Key changes to the concept plan include re-aligning the trail through the park to edge around the treestand and flat open space, connecting with the shared use pathway to the north. The playground was moved further north away from 93 Avenue, and closer to the school. The long jumps moved to a vertical alignment to allow for adequate spacing between the soccer field and open space.

Community Garden

The community garden was added as a placeholder for future, partner-led developments as a result of the input received. Based on experience with other community gardens across the city, the placeholder will be located close to 93 Avenue, with access to water for optimal accessibility.

Dog Parks

The Engaged Edmonton page feedback indicated a popular request for a dog park in the neighbourhood. Currently, there are no dog parks in proximity to this area of the city. The City of Edmonton's [Dogs in Open Spaces Strategy \(2016\)](#) outlines the considerations for a fenced off-leash dog park on this type of park site; however, a number of constraints do not make it feasible for this site. The constraints include:

- The scope of the project is a base-level development, as per the [Urban Parks Management Plan \(2006\)](#), and an off-leash dog park is not considered a base-level amenity.
- At 5.02 hectares in size, the park is considered small to contain a school, supporting amenities for school operations and an adequately-sized fenced dog park.
- The requirement for key base-level amenities such as a playground, walking paths, sports fields, benches, etc. to support the school operations are the priority programming.
- The retention of the treestand was supported by 91% of survey respondents as an important feature of this park site. The treestand takes considerable programmable space and is considered a trade-off for other preferred amenities such as a dog park.

Despite this park site not being a viable option for a dog park, the feedback from this survey has highlighted the need and desire for a dog park in this area of the city.

Lewis Farms Recreation Centre

A recreation centre was requested for both base-level and partner-led amenities. The Lewis Farms recreation centre is planned for the Rosenthal neighbourhood, in proximity to this site,

at the southeast corner of 92 Avenue and Rosenthal Way. Information on the recreation centre and up-to-date project information is available [here](#).

Public Engagement Approach

How We Engaged

Public engagement followed the Advise level on the City of Edmonton’s Public Engagement Spectrum. Public engagement events were adapted to online methods to align with COVID-19 public health restrictions.



Public engagement was hosted on the project’s Engaged Edmonton page. The page was live from November 1-15, 2021. The Engaged Edmonton page included a description of the project, outline of the project phases, and a project timeline. The page included links to view a graphic identifying the types of parks and amenities in proximity to the Secord School Park Site and the proposed design concept. A link to the online survey directed participants to share their feedback by answering the survey questions. Advertising for the event included information postcards mailed to residents of the Secord neighbourhood and roadside signage placed in the neighbourhood, and a direct invitation to participate in the engagement sent to the Secord Community League.

94% support the concept plan.

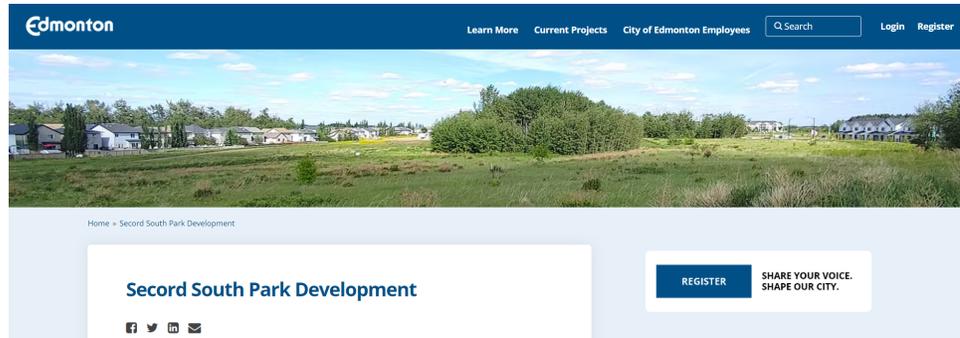


Figure Three: Engaged Edmonton project page



Figure Four: Roadside sign advertising the online survey

Who Was Engaged

Secord residents and the Secord Community League were directly notified about the public engagement opportunity via mail notices. Roadside signs placed in the Secord community notified all passersby whether they were residents of the community, visitors, or passing through.

Additionally, a series of meetings took place between the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Catholic School District, to understand the school and educational program requirements for the site.

What We Asked

We asked for feedback on the following questions:

- Neighbourhood demographics of respondents
- Age groups of park users
- General support for base-level infrastructure provisions
- Top three preferred options for potential future enhanced amenities
- Support for retention and enhancement of the central tree stand
- General support of the draft concept plan

What Happens Next?

The project team will adjust the concept plan based on the feedback gathered from the public and stakeholder engagement, and other technical and financial considerations.

A second public engagement phase will be held from February 7, 2022 to February 22, 2022 to present the final concept plan. The feedback from the second phase of public engagement will support the finalization of the concept plan to advance to permitting and construction tentatively scheduled for 2023 (subject to funding).

Thank you for providing input into the Secord South Park project. Please visit the [project web page](#) for up-to-date project information.