

What We Heard Glenridding Heights Community Park

City of Edmonton
Integrated Infrastructure Services, Open
Spaces Planning and Design
September 2025
Edmonton.ca/CommunityParkDevelopment

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ADVISE

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements..... 3

Project overview.....3

 Project scope..... 3

Public engagement approach..... 4

 How we engaged.....4

 What we asked..... 5

Who we heard from.....6

What we heard..... 7

 Satisfaction with draft design.....7

 Playground needs and preferences..... 8

 Expected park use.....12

 Likely travel methods.....13

What we did..... 14

What happens next..... 14

Acknowledgements

The City of Edmonton acknowledges that the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw/Cree, Dene, Anishinaabe/Saulteaux, Nakota Isga/Nakota Sioux, and Niitsitapi/Blackfoot peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all people who come from around the world to share in Edmonton as a home. Together, we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

The project team thanks the Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB), Alberta Infrastructure, residents and Glenridding Heights Park users for sharing their thoughts and insights on the draft design.

Project overview

The Government of Alberta announced a new public Kindergarten to Grade 6 school in the Glenridding Heights neighbourhood. The school will be located within the existing park site at 2305 Glenridding Boulevard SW. To accommodate this provincial initiative, the City of Edmonton will further develop the park.

The additional development at Glenridding Heights Park must support programming at the school, but is also intended for the enjoyment of surrounding community members. The City worked closely with EPSB to develop the draft design for the park. Planning and design of the school is not within the community park project scope.

Project scope

Glenridding Heights Park is already home to a playground, tobogganing hill and soccer field. These amenities will remain. The current project includes further development to meet the base-level standards as defined in the [Urban Parks Management Plan](#). The additional assets proposed with the scope of this project include:

- An additional sports field
- Landscaping enhancements, including tree planting to achieve a minimum of 5 trees per hectare
- Pathways, including connector paths to the neighbourhood
- Pathway lighting
- Site furniture, including seating, picnic tables, waste bins and bicycle racks
- A park sign
- A playground expansion

The project is also guided by the [Community Parks Framework](#) and supports implementation of the city-wide [Breathe: Green Network Strategy](#).

Public engagement approach

The City of Edmonton project team met with EPSB and Alberta Infrastructure representatives to gain a thorough understanding of the school's programming needs and the EPSB draft design for the school. This collaborative approach ensures the City's park design integrates the school's needs. The project team also met with the City's sport and recreation staff to gain insight into the City's overall inventory and demand for sport field types and recreational opportunities. The project team used this information to develop a draft design for the community park.

As noted earlier, a community park is intended to meet both school and community needs, so after meeting with school and City representatives, the project team wanted to gain feedback from the public. The public was asked to **ADVISE** the project team on the draft design for Glenridding Heights Community Park. The City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum (below) notes that an ADVISE level of engagement means the project team will consider public feedback as part of project decision-making. Project decisions are also driven by the Urban Parks Management Plan, Community Parks Framework, technical standards, maintenance considerations and budget to determine a final, preferred design.



How we engaged

Public engagement occurred from July 22 to August 5, 2025. An online survey was the primary engagement method. The project team also spent time at Glenridding Heights Park on July 24, 2025, to inform park users (children and adults) about the project, hear their views and encourage them to complete the online survey. Staff with the City's Green Shack program also shared their experiences and suggestions during the project team's visit to the park.

The project was listed on the City of Edmonton [Community Park Development web page](#), where the public was invited to view the draft design and contact the project team to share their views. The project page also hosted the online survey to gather feedback.

Information about the project and the opportunity to complete the survey was promoted through City of Edmonton social media accounts, lawn signs within the area and a postcard mailout to neighbourhoods surrounding the project site. The City's Facebook and Instagram ads received 1,507 clicks. The project team also informed the Greater Windermere Community League about the engagement opportunity, so it could be promoted to its membership.

What we asked

The public was asked to provide feedback on:

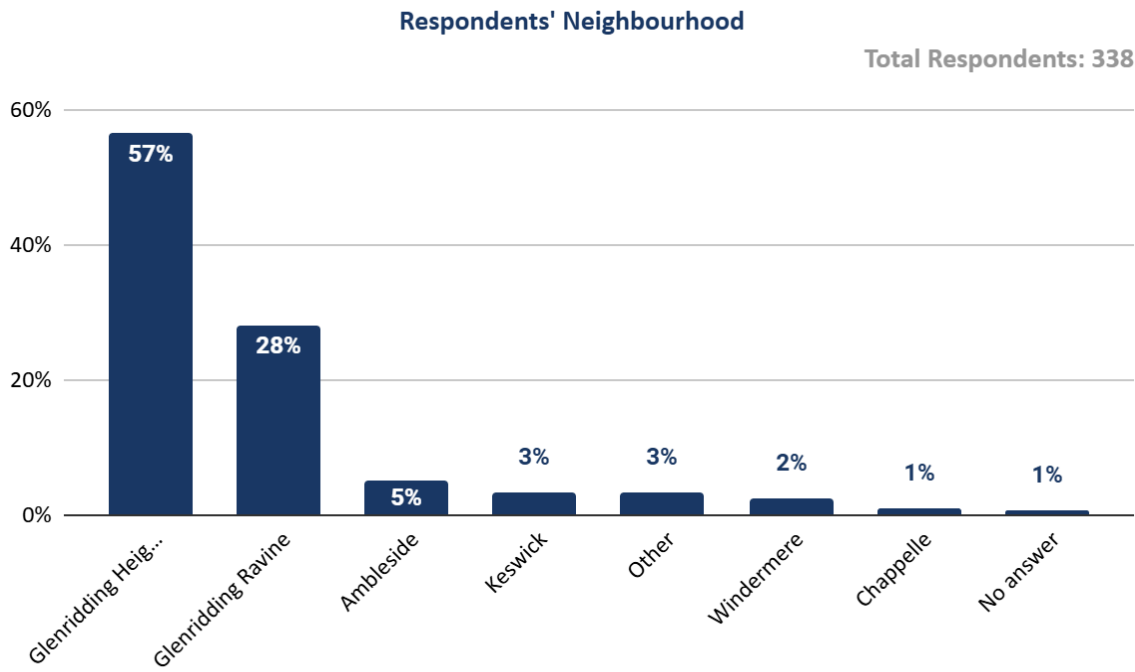
- Satisfaction with the draft design
- Playground needs and preferences
- How they would use the park
- How would they get to the park
- Other insights relevant to the draft design and project

The draft design presented during the engagement is shown below.

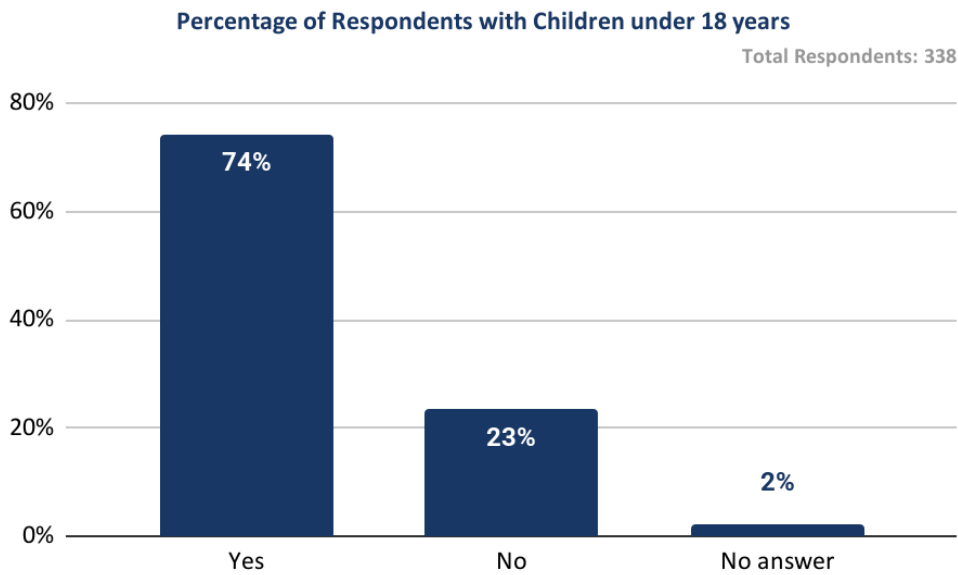


Who we heard from

A total of 338 residents completed the survey. Most survey respondents lived in Glenridding Heights (57 per cent) and Glenridding Ravine (28 per cent) neighbourhoods. Many other respondents (14 per cent) lived in Ambleside, Keswick, Windermere and other neighbourhoods near the project site. A few respondents (one per cent) chose not to answer this question.



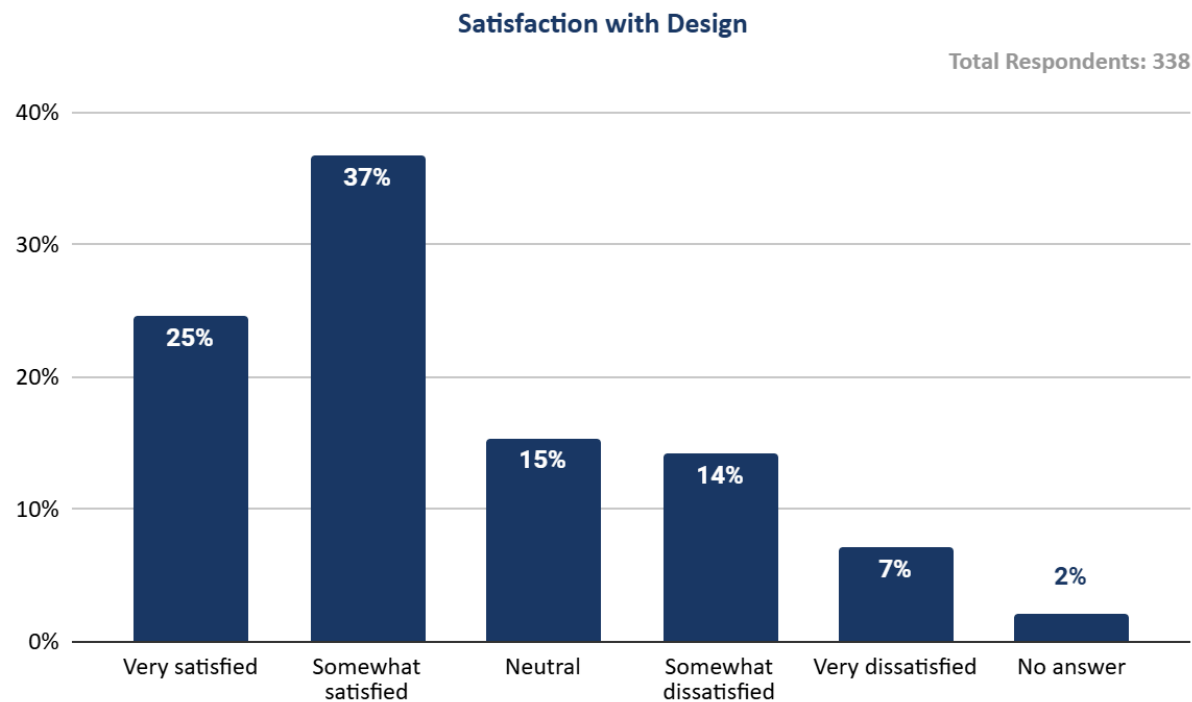
Most respondents (74 per cent) had children/grandchildren under the age of 18 years in their household. Almost half of the respondents with children (45 per cent) expect to send their children to the new K-6 school when it opens.



What we heard

Satisfaction with draft design

Most respondents viewed the draft design favourably, with 62 per cent being very or somewhat satisfied. About one-fifth (21 per cent) were very or somewhat dissatisfied. The remaining respondents were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (15 per cent) or chose not to answer the question (two per cent).



Respondents were asked to include comments they would like the project team to consider as the design moves forward. Almost half the respondents offered comments related to the park design or the project generally. Whether satisfied, neutral, or dissatisfied, most respondents asked the project team to consider adding the desired amenities listed below. The most popular amenities are listed first.

- 1. A spray/water park
- 2. Seating and shade
- 3. Basketball and/or a basketball court
- 4. Gathering areas and picnic tables

Amenities such as an ice rink, tennis/pickleball courts, a cricket field or cricket wicket at the side of the park, a dog park, a bike pump track, a skateboard park, adult exercise equipment and an outdoor running track were mentioned less frequently. A community hall, community garden, water feature and public washrooms were also mentioned.

Within their comments, several respondents indicated that the soccer field should be replaced to allow for preferred amenities. One respondent commented that the park should have more soccer fields.

A few respondents commented that they were pleased to see the existing tobogganing hill remain as part of the draft design. Many were also pleased to see tree planting in the design. Some respondents included specific recommendations for tree types. Property owners next to the current park had comments about specific tree locations.

Respondents also identified pathway and playground lighting as important. Several asked that adequate waste bins be included in the design to support pet waste cleanup.

Many survey respondents wrote about their concern that the school and park would have a negative impact on traffic and parking in the neighbourhood. Respondents who were dissatisfied with the park draft design were most concerned about traffic and parking.

The survey results are consistent with feedback park users gave the project team during their visit to the park. Several park users inquired about the possibility of a spray park and basketball hoops/court in the park design. Park users mentioned and were seen using the park’s pathways with their dogs. The City’s Green Shack staff advised that a shaded area with seating would be beneficial for children to get a break from the sun and to engage in activities, such as colouring. Older adults at the park said they wished for a gathering area where they could meet and socialize comfortably.

Playground needs and preferences

The survey included questions about the accessibility needs of a respondent’s household when using the playground. Respondents were also asked about preferred playground activities and colours. The survey results are outlined below, along with feedback received from park users during the project team’s visit to Glenridding Heights Park.

Playground accessibility

While most survey respondents (69 per cent) did not have someone in their household who required accommodation, almost one-third identified a range of accessibility needs they would like considered in the playground design. The results are shown in the table below.

| Playground accessibility consideration | Percentage of Respondents* | Number of Respondents* |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------|
| People with low vision or vision loss | 5% | 18 |
| People who are Deaf or hard of hearing | 4% | 14 |
| Someone with limited mobility | 18% | 61 |
| A person with learning difficulties | 11% | 38 |
| People with sensory challenges | 10% | 34 |
| People with developmental disabilities | 11% | 37 |
| Other | 2% | 8 |
| None of the above | 69% | 232 |
| *Multiple selections will not total 100% or total respondents | | |

Respondents who selected “other” and those who provided written comments about accessibility offered the recommendations listed below. The recommendations are ordered from most to least frequently mentioned.

1. **Shade and cover** - some respondents considered this an accessibility issue for those with sun sensitivity. This was also viewed as supporting caregivers who may have accessibility needs when supervising children.
2. **Seating** - viewed as important for caregivers supervising children and for those with mobility issues who may need to rest at regular intervals when walking.
3. **Safe street crossing** - several respondents had safety concerns for both children and older adults crossing Glenridding Boulevard to enter the playground. Establishing a crosswalk, traffic enforcement and improved road infrastructure was suggested.
4. **Playground base material** - some respondents favoured a rubber base, while others preferred wood fibre and sand. Other comments were general and asked that the base be easy for wheelchair users and that there be enough space to “park” strollers.
5. **Increasing the size of the playground** - supported for the purpose of both accessibility and safety.
6. **Toddler-friendly** - equipment and activities were desired by several respondents.
7. **Increased lighting** - mentioned in the context of safety, but may also support people with vision loss.
8. **Specific elements to support children/adults with sensory needs** - a communication board, water or sensory play table, a sand pit and measures that could reduce playground noise.

Respondents also asked that the needs of people with autism and those with medically complex needs be considered in the playground design. One respondent asked the project team to consider people with limited English proficiency, too. A few respondents indicated their household does not have a member with playground accessibility needs, but they supported inclusive playground design.

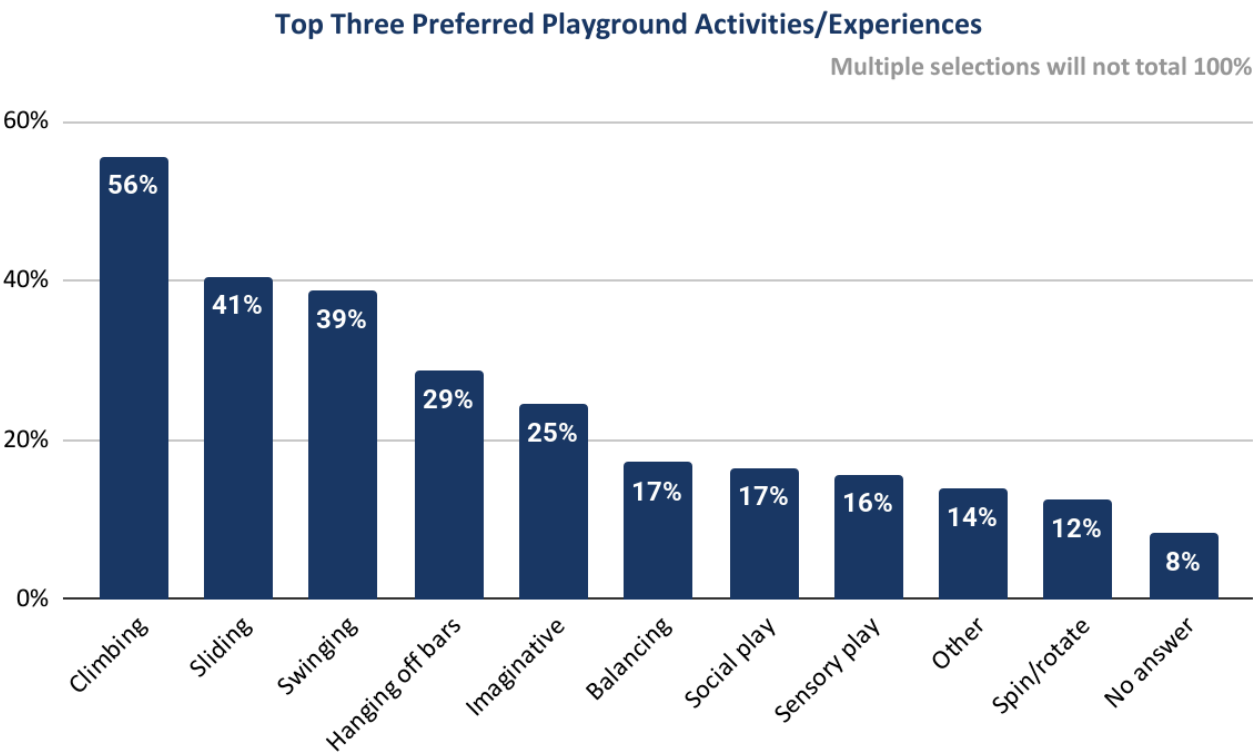
The survey results are consistent with feedback children and adults gave the project team during the visit to Glenridding Heights Park. Park users were pleased that the draft design increased the size of the playground. Children and adults at the park also asked for “low height” activities for babies and toddlers, as well as equipment for older children.

Playground activities and experiences

The existing playground and its equipment will remain at Glenridding Heights Park. The draft design for the park adds space for a playground addition, which will almost double the current size of the overall playground space at the park.

The playground addition will have new equipment. The survey asked respondents to select up to three activities or experiences they would like the added playground and its equipment to provide.

The most favoured activities and experiences were: climbing, sliding and swinging. Respondents who selected “other” play elements primarily asked that a spray or water park be included in the playground design. Additional desired play elements included: ziplines/seated zipline, a trampoline and a Ninja course. A few respondents used this space to reiterate accessibility needs such as a communication board, accessible/inclusive play options, toddler-friendly play options, baby swings, and a place for children who are Blind to play safely. Space for social play, such as “grounders” and “eagle eye”, was also mentioned. Other comments were not related to play elements and included: an ice rink, skateboard park, increased benches and a barbecue grill.



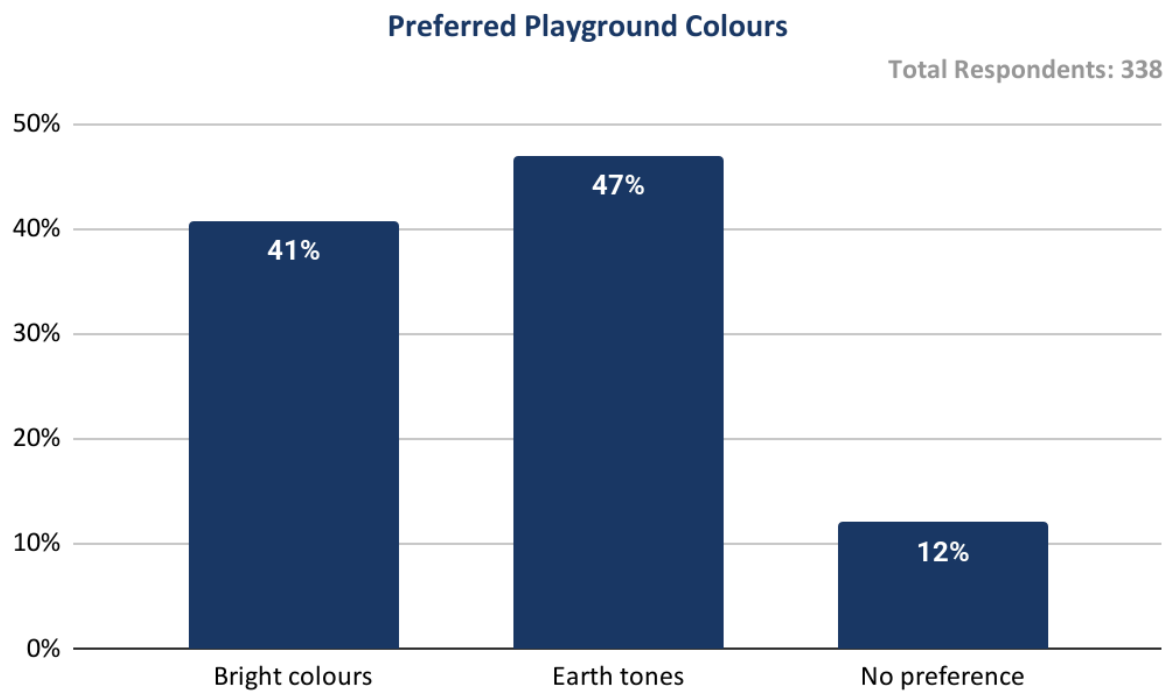
The survey results are consistent with feedback given to the project team during the visit to Glenridding Heights Park. Park users (children and adults) asked for:

- Swings, including infant swings
- Climbing, including “a big climbing wall”
- Ziplines, particularly tiered ziplines, so all ages/heights could use them
- Additional activities for very young and older children
- Interactive play structures

Playground Colour Preferences



The existing playground equipment will remain at the park and has a colour scheme similar to the sample above. The survey asked respondents for their colour preferences for new equipment at the expanded playground. Survey respondents had a slight preference for earth tone colours (brown, green, sand) over bright colours (red, yellow, blue), as shown in the chart below.



During the visit to the park, children at the park asked for:

- Bright colours
- Dark orange
- Rainbow colours

Expected park use

A large portion (85 per cent) of survey respondents expect to use the park at least once per week or more. Respondents were also asked to select how they or a member of their household expects to use the park and its amenities when it is completed. Respondents could select as many uses as applied. As noted in the table below, two of the three most desired uses focus on children and existing amenities (playground and tobogganing), with walking/running also being an expected high-use activity.

| Likely Use | Percentage of Respondents | Number of Respondents |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Playground | 66% | 223 |
| Walk/run | 43% | 144 |
| Tobogganing | 41% | 137 |
| Relax in green space | 25% | 85 |
| Dog walking | 24% | 80 |
| Neighbourhood activities | 20% | 68 |
| Informal play | 18% | 62 |
| Recreational soccer | 14% | 47 |
| Other | 14% | 47 |
| I will not use the park | 1% | 4 |
| Multiple selections will not total 100% or equal the total number of respondents | | |

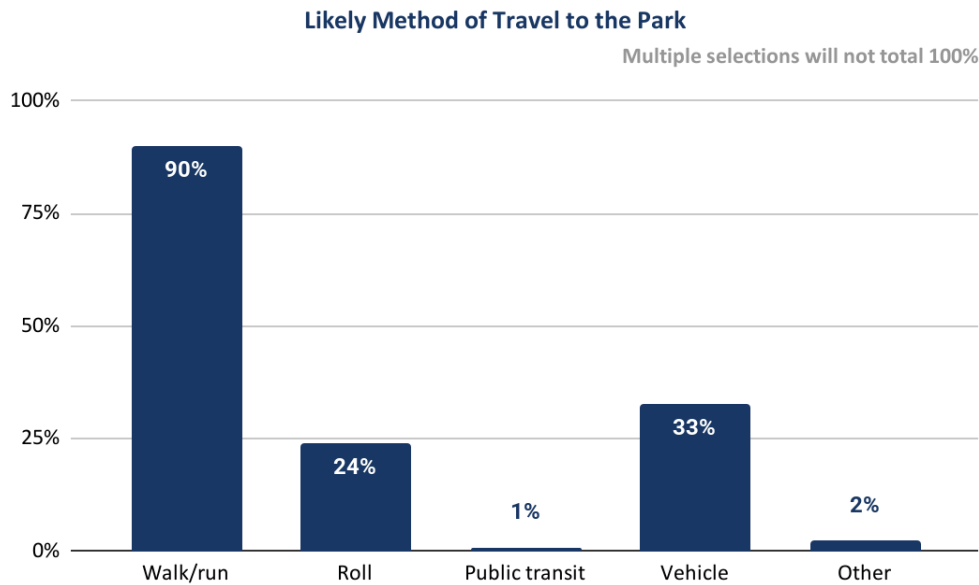
Some respondents selected “other” and specified an activity they would like to do or see at the park. The other desired activities/amenities are listed below from most to least frequently mentioned.

1. Water park for children
2. Ice rink/hockey
3. Pickleball/tennis
4. Basketball
5. Bike pump track
6. Off-leash park

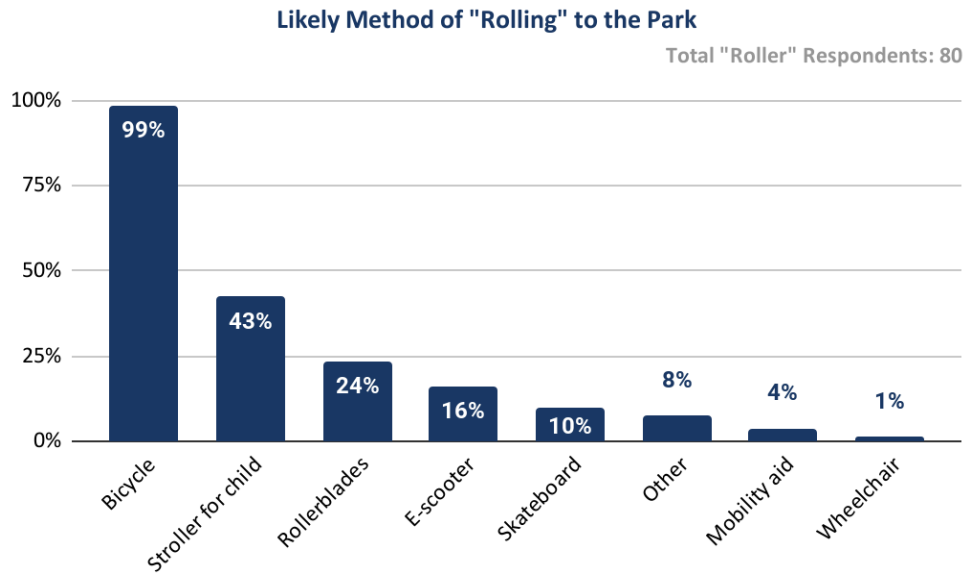
Activities or amenities rarely mentioned were: a cricket side net, flying a kite, track and field training and adding a water fountain to the park.

Likely travel methods

Survey respondents were asked how they would likely travel to the park when it is completed. Respondents could select as many methods as applied. As shown in the chart below, most (90 per cent) indicated they would walk/run. One quarter indicated they would “roll” (e.g., bicycle, wheelchair) and use public transit. One third of respondents expect to use a vehicle. The small portion of respondents (two per cent) who indicated “other” specified that they would walk, bike, or use a stroller to get to the park.



Respondents who expect to “roll” to the park will use a variety of methods, with almost all (99 per cent) using a bicycle at least some of the time. Strollers are also predicted to be used frequently (43 per cent), and five per cent will use a mobility aid or wheelchair. Those who selected “other” specified they would use a non-electric scooter, wagon, or electric bike.



What we did

All public engagement feedback was shared with the project design team. Where technical, policy, and cost constraints allow, the project team will incorporate public feedback into the final preferred design. Amenities such as social gathering places, an ice rink, and a splash pad, which were highly valued by public engagement respondents, are above the City's base level development policy, so they cannot be included in this project.

Working across different levels of government and site partners is complex and collaborative. The chart below outlines park amenities that are included as part of the City's base-level development, are part of Alberta Infrastructure school design development, or may be included at the discretion of the provincial government. The Glenridding Heights Community Park must offer amenities to meet the Kindergarten to Grade 6 school's programming needs and, at the same time, strive to offer residents an open space focused on ecology, celebration and wellness.

| Community Park amenities | City of Edmonton Base-level development | Alberta Infrastructure School Site Development |
|--|--|---|
| Ground grading, leveling and seeding | X | X |
| Tree planting | X | X |
| Sports fields and fixtures – baseball and soccer | X | |
| Park sign | X | |
| Playground | X | |
| Benches, picnic tables, trash cans | X | |
| Shared-use pathways with lighting | X | |
| Bicycle parking/racks | | X |
| Parking lot | | X |
| Basketball / Hard surface court | | X (discretionary) |

What happens next

The project team will reach out to the public again in 2026 for feedback on playground design options. The project team will continue to work with site partners to further the community park design. A preferred design will be developed in 2026 and shared on the project website at edmonton.ca/CommunityParkDevelopment.

The new Kindergarten to Grade 6 school is anticipated to open in 2029. Edmontonians are encouraged to contact EPSB directly for information related to the school design development.

The project team thanks Edmontonians who shared their views about the draft community park design and looks forward to continued collaboration with residents, EPSB and Alberta Infrastructure as the project proceeds.