

What We Heard Laurel Community Park

ADVISE

City of Edmonton
Integrated Infrastructure Services,
Open Spaces Planning and Design
January 2026
[Edmonton.ca/CommunityParkDevelopment](https://edmonton.ca/CommunityParkDevelopment)

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Edmonton

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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 Catholic School Division (ECSD), Alberta Infrastructure and residents for sharing their thoughts and insights on the draft design.

Project overview

The City of Edmonton is planning the Laurel Community Park to support the implementation of the provincial [School Construction Accelerator Program](#). This park is being planned alongside the development of a new Edmonton Catholic Kindergarten to Grade 9 school. The park and school site is located at 32 Street and 18A Avenue.

The new community park is designed to support programming at the school and for the enjoyment of surrounding community members. The City worked closely with ECSD to develop the draft design for the park. Planning and design of the school is not within the community park project scope. Alberta Infrastructure and the Edmonton Catholic School Division are responsible for the school project.

Community park project scope

The scope of work for the Laurel Park project includes base-level park amenities as defined in the [Urban Parks Management Plan](#). Base-level development includes:

- Site grading, levelling and seeding
- Sports fields complete with sports fixtures
- Landscaping, including tree planting to plant 55 trees per hectare
- Pathways, including connector paths to the neighbourhood
- Site furniture, including seating, picnic tables, waste bins and bicycle racks
- A park sign
- A playground

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 ECSD and Alberta Infrastructure representatives to gain a thorough understanding of the school's programming needs and the ECSD 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 City sport and recreation staff to gain insight on 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 Laurel 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, and budget to determine a final, preferred design.



Gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) considerations

According to the Canadian Census (2021) data, over 90 per cent of Laurel residents know English and the neighbourhood has a low occurrence of low-income households. For these reasons, an online method of engagement was used as residents were unlikely to experience language barriers and digital and internet access were likely to be affordable. The survey and project webpage included contact information for City staff if engagement participants needed help to complete the survey or wanted to share their views in another way.

How we engaged

Public engagement for the Laurel project occurred from November 13 to November 27, 2025. An online survey was the primary engagement method.

The project was listed on the City of Edmonton [Community Park Development webpage](#), and the public was invited to view the draft design, fill in the online survey and contact the project team to share their views.

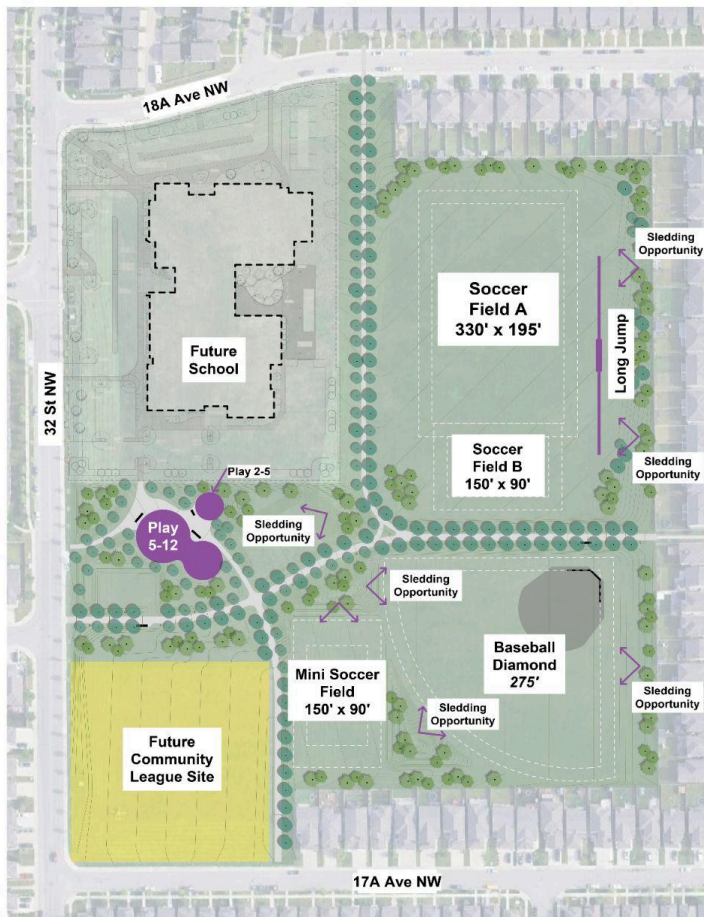
Information about the project and the opportunity to complete the survey were promoted through the City of Edmonton social media accounts and lawn and road signs within the area.

What we asked

The public was asked to provide feedback on:

- Satisfaction with the draft design,
- Preferred playground elements, and
- Local insights relevant to the draft design and project.

The draft design presented during the engagement is shown below.

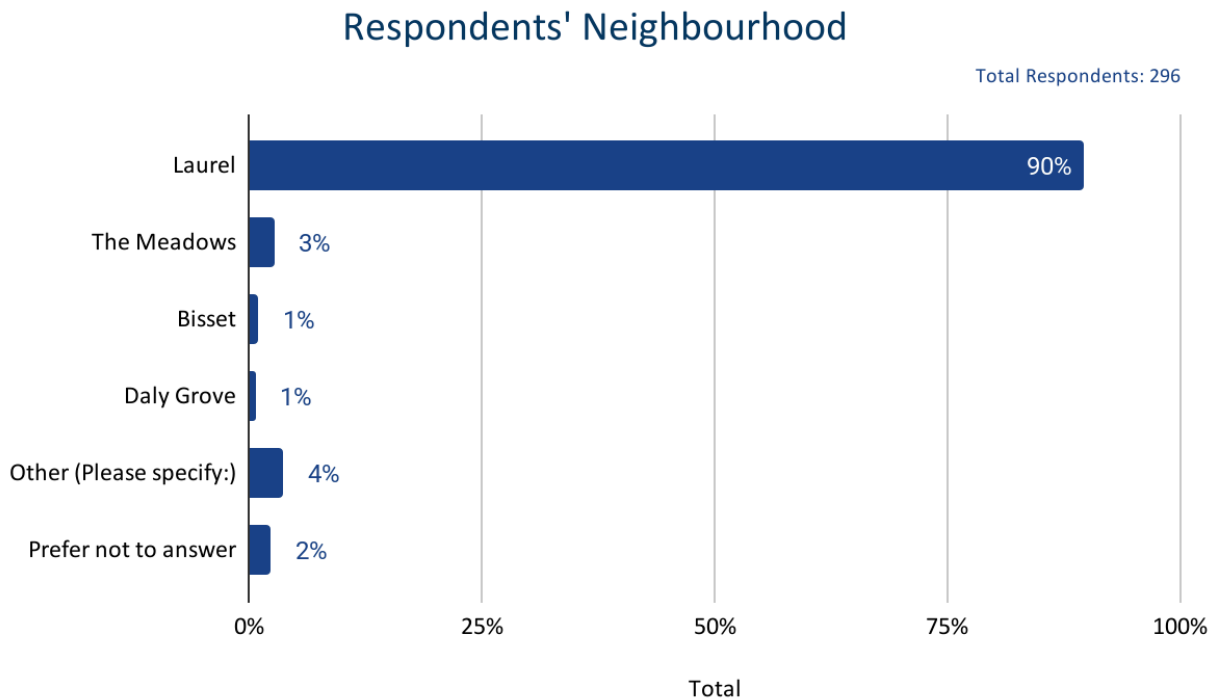


The draft design shows:

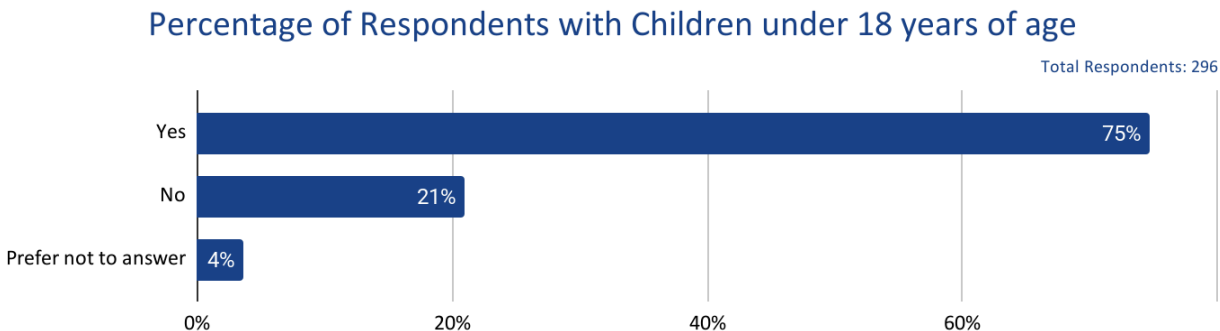
- One ball diamond facing southwest
- One large soccer field in the northeast corner of the park
- Two small soccer fields in the middle of the park
- One long jump track to the east of the large soccer field
- A playground and gathering space near the school
- Open space surrounding the playground and ball diamond
- A shared pathway connection east-west through the park
- Walkway connections north-south through the park
- Lighting along the east-west shared pathway
- Seating
- New trees

Who we heard from

A total of 296 residents completed the survey, with the majority (90 per cent) of respondents indicating they lived in the Laurel neighbourhood. Other respondents (5 per cent) lived in The Meadows, Bisset, and Daly Grove, with some (4 per cent) living further away. A few respondents (2 per cent) chose not to answer this question.

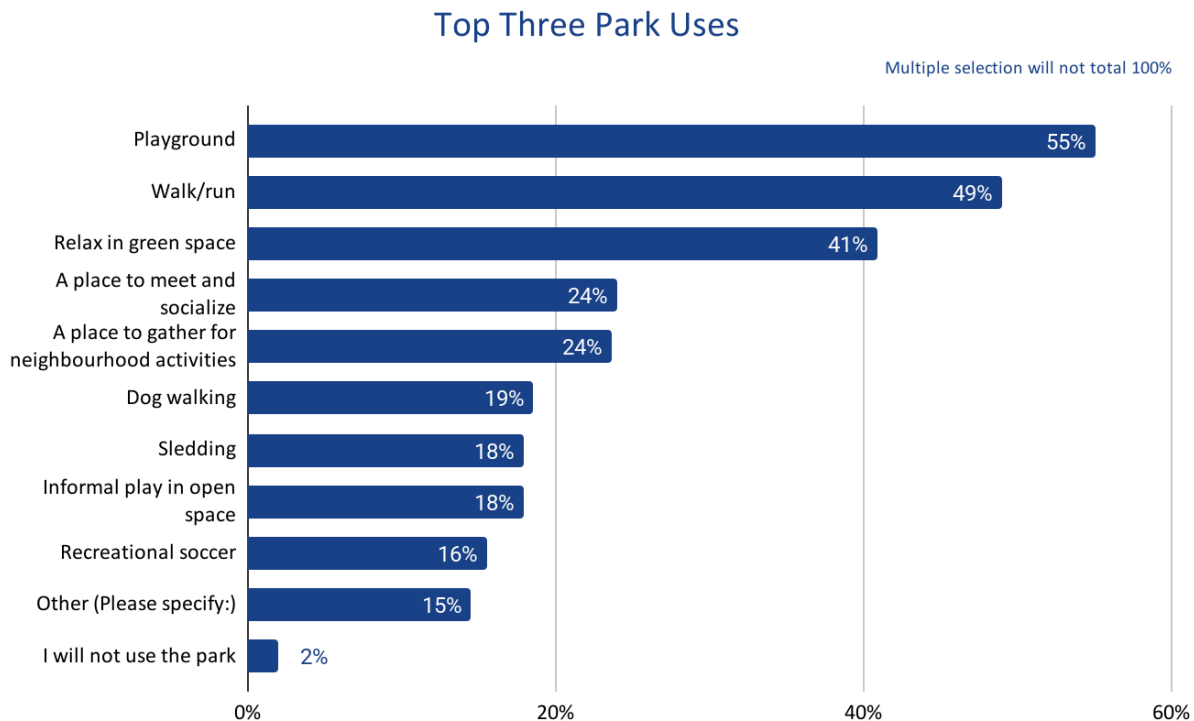


The majority of respondents have children/grandchildren under the age of 18 years in their household. Just under half (42 per cent) of respondents expected to send their children to the new school when it opens. Over a third (37 per cent) indicated they did not plan to send their children to the new school, and about one-fifth of respondents (18 per cent) were unsure.



What we heard

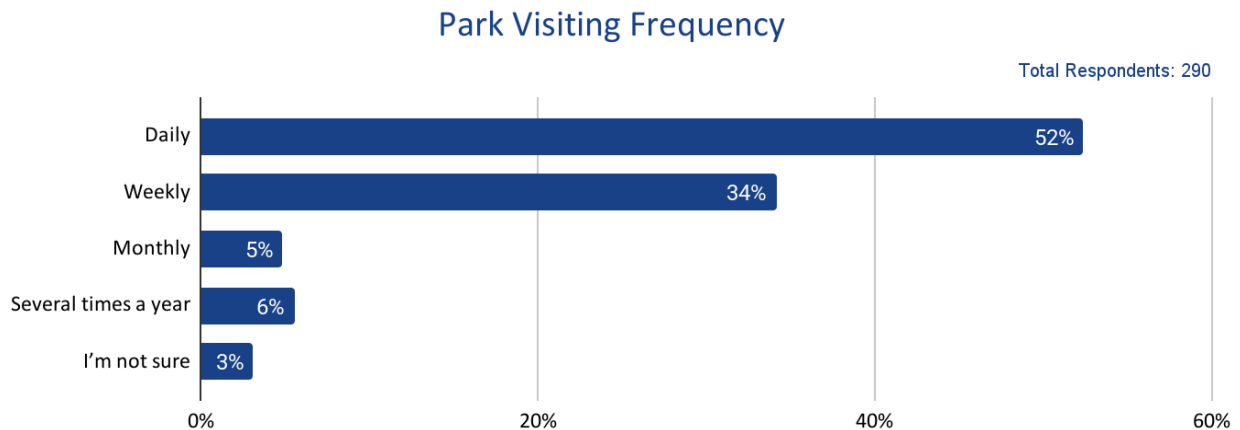
The survey began by asking respondents for up to three things that they or a member of their household would use the park for. Favoured park uses indicated were the playground (55 per cent), walking or running (49 per cent), and relaxing in green space (41 per cent).



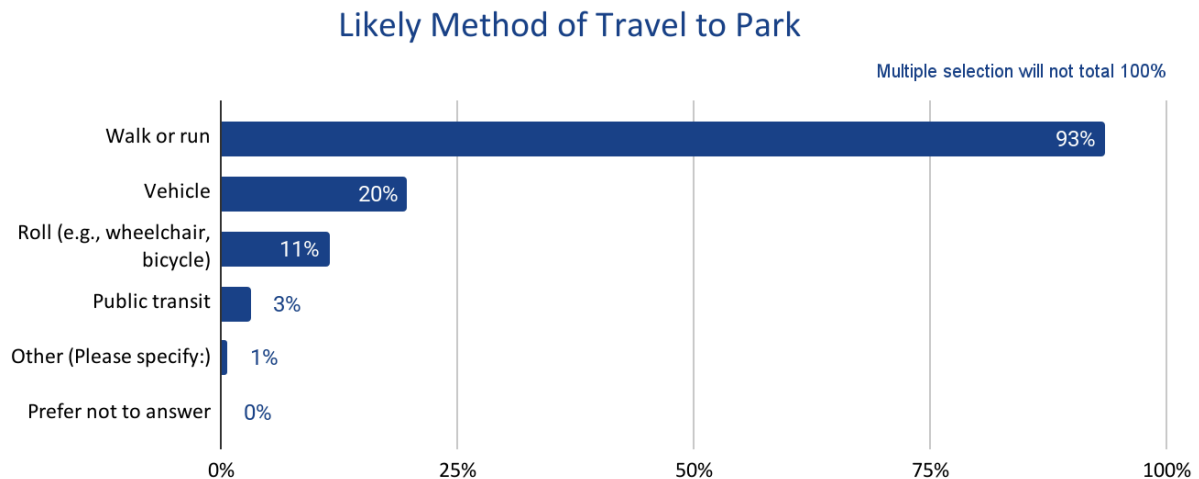
The written comments survey respondents offered related to the design are summarized below.

- **Amenities** respondents would like included in the design: Cricket pitch, hockey rink, basketball court, paved pump track, and water spray park were frequently mentioned. Less frequently mentioned were a dog park and pickleball and tennis courts. Many respondents commented that they believe ball diamonds are underused and they would rather have a cricket pitch, as there are no facilities in the area. A few commented that they would like to see a hard surfaced court for a variety of activities, such as basketball or hockey.
- **The desired elements** respondents want to see in the park included: green space, accessible public washrooms, benches, and shade. Shaded seating near the playground was deemed especially important. Respondents also asked that the project team consider a walking and running loop, particularly around the soccer fields, so parents and older adults could exercise while watching children.
- **Adequate lighting** was expressed as a safety issue to increase visibility for park users at night to frequent wildlife, such as coyotes.
- **Local traffic and parking** were a concern amongst some respondents. These respondents expressed concerns about potential traffic congestion during peak school pickup and drop off hours. A few people also worry about sufficient parking spots when the sports fields are in use.

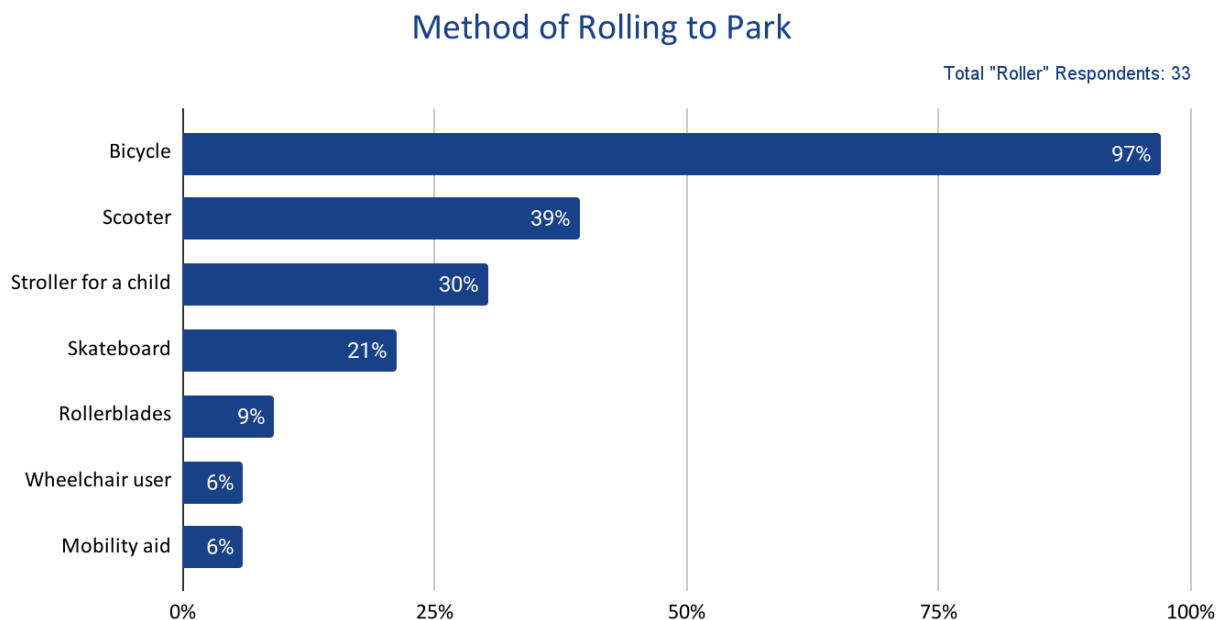
Survey respondents indicated they or a member in their household would use the park frequently when it is complete. Over half the respondents (52 per cent) said daily, and about one third (34 per cent) attending at least once a week.



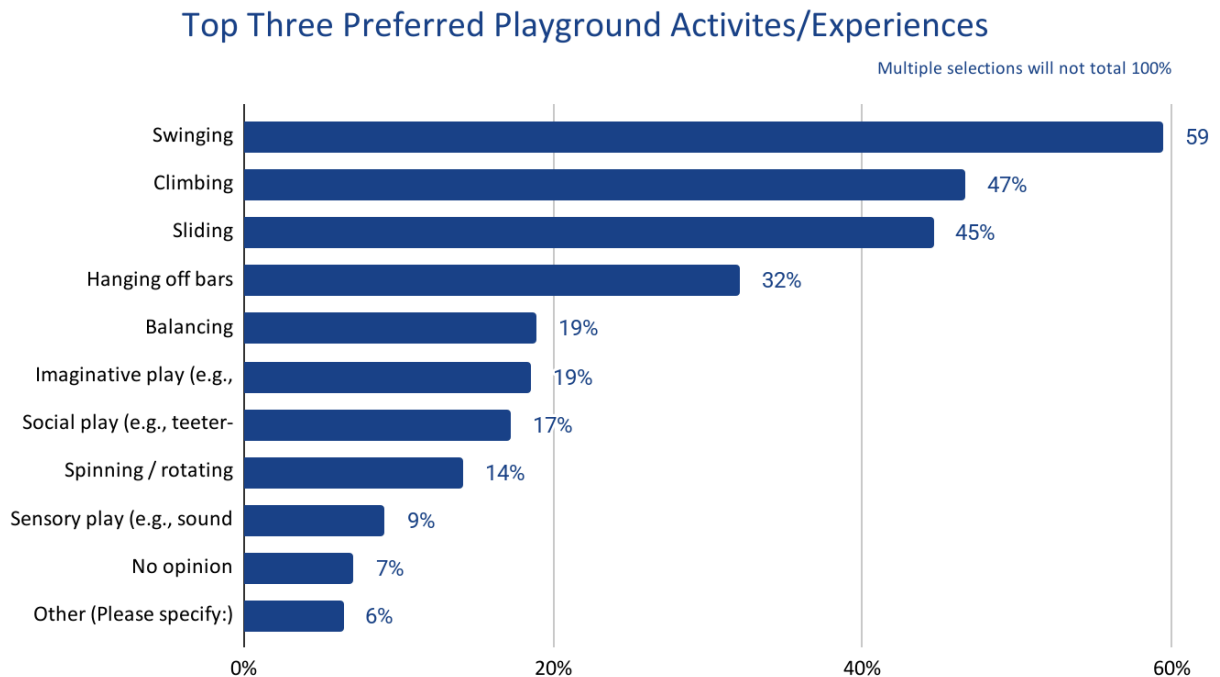
Survey respondents were also asked how they would likely travel to the park when it is completed. Most (93 per cent) indicated they would walk/run, while one-fifth (20 per cent) indicated that they would use a vehicle. A small number of respondents (14 per cent) indicated that they would “roll” (e.g., wheelchair, bicycle) or use public transit.



Of those respondents indicating that they would “roll” to the park, almost all respondents (97 per cent) indicated that they would use a bicycle, with many also choosing to use other active modes, such as a scooter, skateboard, or rollerblades. About one third (30 per cent) indicated that they would use a stroller for a child, and a smaller number indicated that they would use a mobility device (12 per cent).

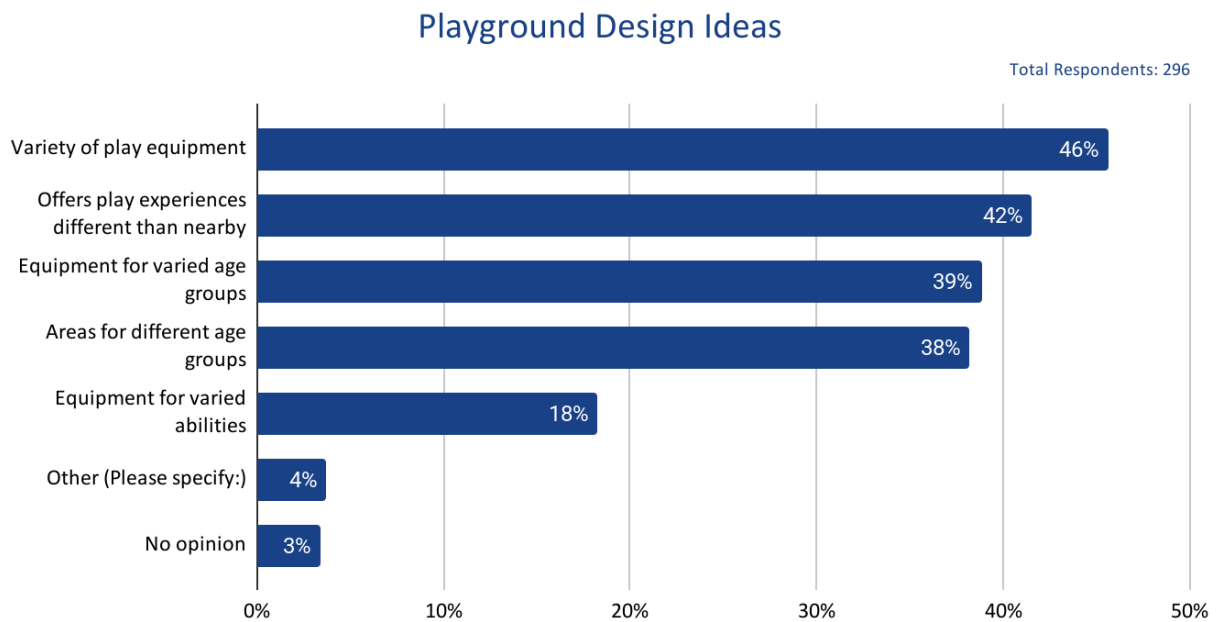


The engagement survey also asked respondents to share their input on the proposed playground for Laurel Community Park. Respondents were asked to select up to three activities and experiences they would like to see at the new playground. Favoured play elements included swinging, climbing, and sliding.

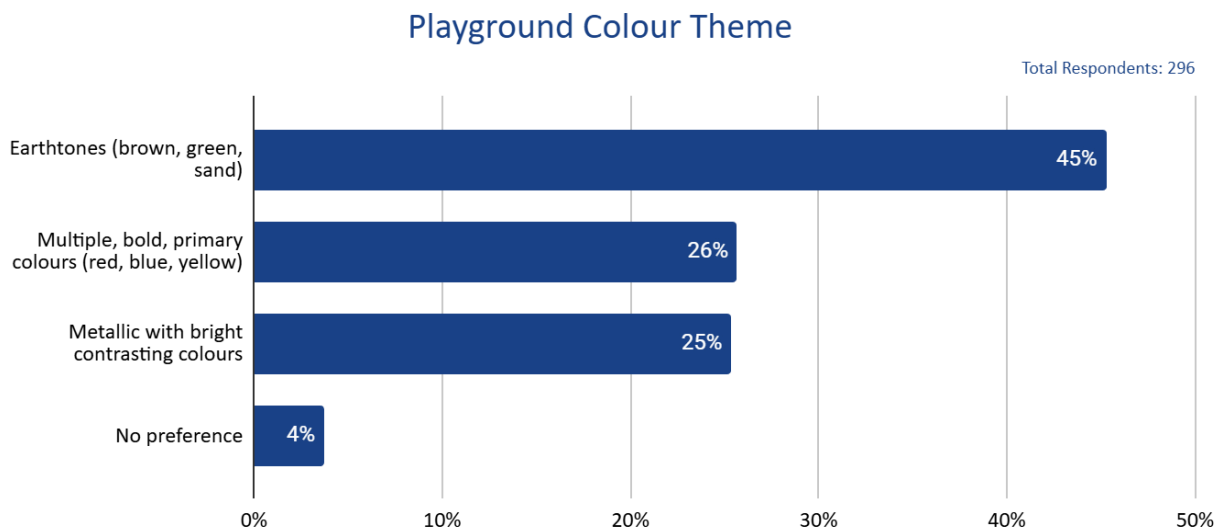


Most respondents who selected “other” play elements suggested a basketball court or a cricket pitch. A few respondents asked for a zipline, exercise equipment for adults, a water spray park, and activities that many age groups could play together, such as basketball or volleyball. Two respondents would like sand for play, while another respondent asked for more teen and young adult amenities.

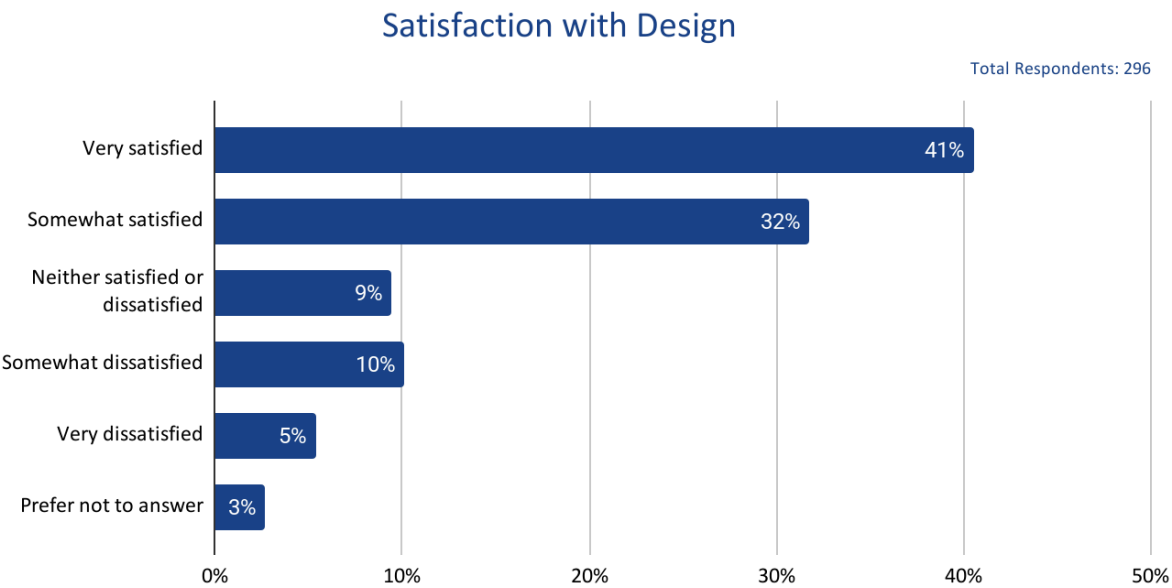
Survey respondents were also asked to select the two most important things they'd want to see in the playground design. The majority chose varied play equipment (46 per cent) and a close second chose a playground offering different experiences than nearby playgrounds (42 per cent).



When it came to playground colour theme, the majority of respondents (45 per cent) preferred earthtones (brown, green, sand) over bold, primary colours (26 per cent) or bright contrasting colours (25 per cent).



When asked about their overall satisfaction with the park design presented, most respondents (73 per cent) were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the draft design as shown in the chart below.



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 design.

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 community park development, are part of ECSD school design development, or may be included at the discretion of the provincial government. The Laurel Community Park must offer amenities to meet ECSD Kindergarten to Grade 9 schools' programming needs and, at the same time, strive to offer residents an open space focused on ecology, celebration, and wellness.

The chart below outlines the City's and Alberta Infrastructure's responsibilities for developing amenities at the community park site. It also outlines other amenities valued by public engagement respondents. Funding does not allow for the above base-level amenities within this project, but these could be developed in the future through community efforts.

Community Park Amenities	City of Edmonton (CoE) Base level Development	Alberta Infrastructure (AI) School Site Development	Partnership Development Opportunities (PDO)
Ground grading, leveling and seeding	CoE	AI	
Tree planting	CoE	AI	
Sports fields and fixtures – baseball and soccer	CoE		
Park sign	CoE		
Playground	CoE		
Benches, picnic tables, trash cans	CoE		
Shared-use pathways with lighting	CoE		
Bicycle parking/racks	CoE	AI	
Parking lot		AI	PDO
Basketball / Hard surface court		AI*	PDO
Social gathering places (e.g., gazebo, plaza)			PDO
Ice rink			PDO

CoE – provided through the City of Edmonton's base-level development

AI - provided through the provincial government, Alberta Infrastructure

AI* - provided at the discretion of the provincial government, Alberta Infrastructure

PDO - can be provided in partnership with community groups

What happens next

The project team will continue to work with site partners to further the community park design. A final design will be developed in 2026 and shared on the project website at edmonton.ca/CommunityParkDevelopment.

The new school is anticipated to open in 2028. Edmontonians are encouraged to contact ECSD 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, ECSD, and Alberta Infrastructure as the project proceeds.