

What We Heard

River's Edge Community Park

ADVISE

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

| **SHARE** YOUR VOICE
SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements.....	3
Project overview.....	4
Project scope.....	5
Public engagement approach.....	5
How we engaged.....	6
What we asked.....	7
Who we heard from.....	9
What we heard.....	10
What we did.....	14
What happens next.....	15

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 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 Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB), 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 creating community parks across multiple neighbourhoods to prepare for new schools and offer recreational spaces for residents. River's Edge Community Park will serve River's Edge and nearby communities. It is being planned alongside a new Kindergarten to Grade 9 Edmonton Catholic school, expected to open in 2028.

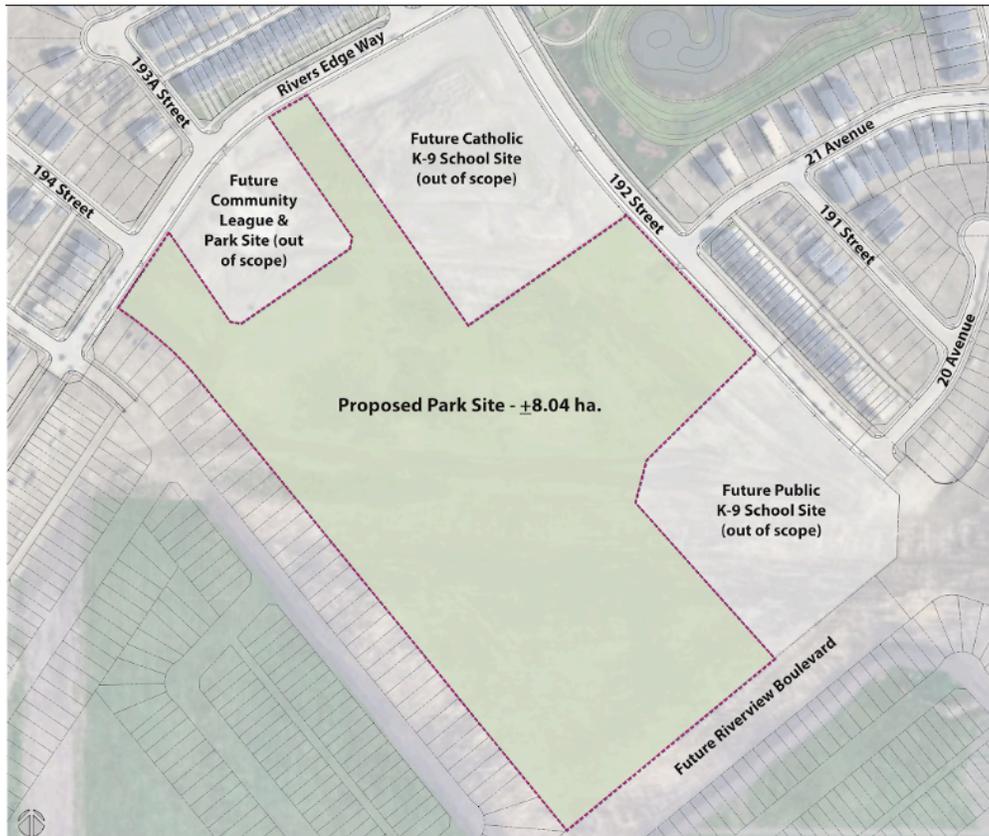


Community parks are neighbourhood-focused green spaces, designed to meet local social and recreational needs with amenities like playgrounds, sports fields, and picnic spots. These parks are often linked to schools or community leagues for active public use and fostering community well being. The River's Edge Community Park site is currently undeveloped with areas identified for an Edmonton Catholic Kindergarten to Grade 9 School, Edmonton Public Schools Kindergarten to Grade 9 and community league site.

The image on the next page shows the location of the park within the River's Edge neighbourhood along with the space allocated for each amenity. The park is bordered by River's Edge Way to the north, 192 Street to the east, future Riverview Boulevard extension to the south and existing residential development to the west.

This project focuses on base-level development of the open space only (shown in green). The other space on the site is allocated for:

- The future Catholic Kindergarten to Grade 9 School in the north corner
- The future public Kindergarten to Grade 9 School site in the southeast corner
- An area for a future community league and park site along Rivers Edge Way



Project scope

The scope of work for the River's Edge Community 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
- Pathways, including connector paths to the neighbourhood
- Site furniture, including seating, picnic tables, waste bins and bicycle racks
- A park sign

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

Public engagement approach

The City of Edmonton project team collaborated with both school boards (EPSB and ECSD) and Alberta Infrastructure to understand the schools' programming needs to ensure the community park design aligns with these requirements. The team also engaged City sport and recreation staff to assess inventory and demand for sport fields and recreational amenities, as well as transportation and urban planning staff for additional expertise. The project team used information from all parties to prepare a draft design for the community park.

As noted earlier, a community park provides neighbourhood-focused green space designed to meet local social and recreational needs, so after meeting with school and City representatives, the project team sought public feedback on the draft design for River's Edge Community Park. The public was asked to **ADVISE** the project team on the draft design, as outlined in the City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum (below).

Final design decisions will also be guided by the Urban Parks Management Plan, the city-wide Breathe Strategy, technical standards and budget considerations to determine a preferred design.



How we engaged

Public engagement for the River's Edge Community Park project took place from November 17 to December 1, 2025. An online survey was the primary engagement method. The Rivers Edge project was included on the City's [Community Park Development](#) web page and the public was invited to view the draft design and contact the project team to share their views. The web 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 and yard signs within the area. The City's Facebook and Instagram social media ads received 1,668 clicks.

What we asked

The public was asked to provide feedback on:

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

One draft design was presented during public engagement. Design is on the next page and shows:

- One small, 55m x 37m, soccer field in the southwest area
- One medium, 76m x 55m, soccer field in the southwest area
- One large, 100m x 64m, soccer field in the southeast area
- One ball diamond in the south corner facing northwest
- One small toboggan hill north of the baseball diamond
- One playground pod is located next to the Catholic school
- One playground pod located next to the public school
- One gathering area with seating
- A 3m wide pathway connection from 192 Street into the park
- A 2m wide pathway connection from River's Edge Way into the park (pending future community league and public school development)
- One long jump pit located next to the Catholic school
- One long jump pit located next to the public school
- Landscaping and areas for natural style planting throughout

Draft design

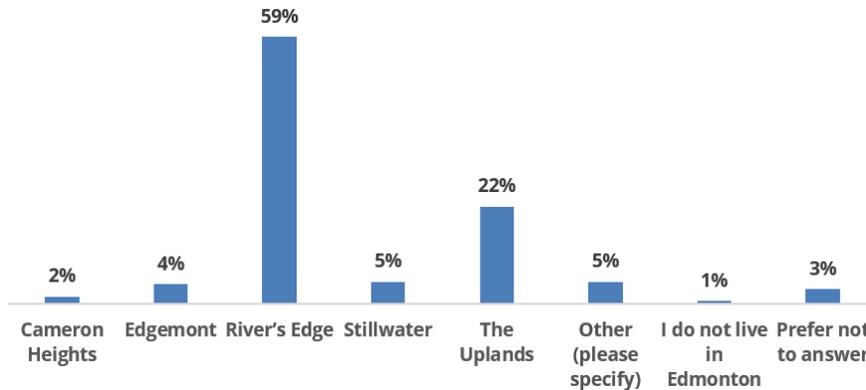


Legend

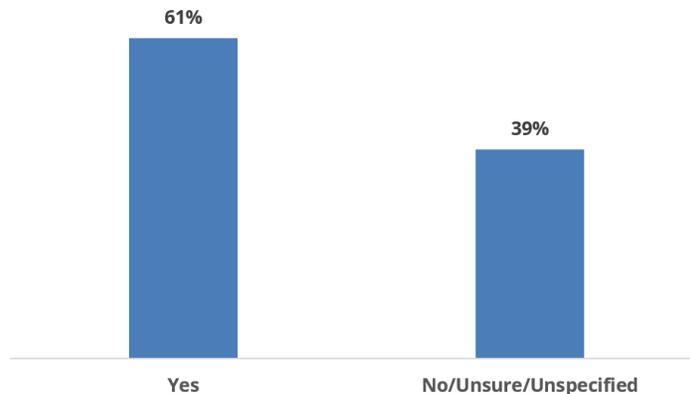
	Park Site		Proposed 2m Wide Pathways		Existing Landscape
	Proposed School / Community League Site		Potential Future Connections		Proposed Naturalization Areas
	Connection of Trails, Play and Gathering Spaces		Proposed 3m Wide Shared Use Pathways		Proposed Trees
			Existing Crosswalk		

Who we heard from

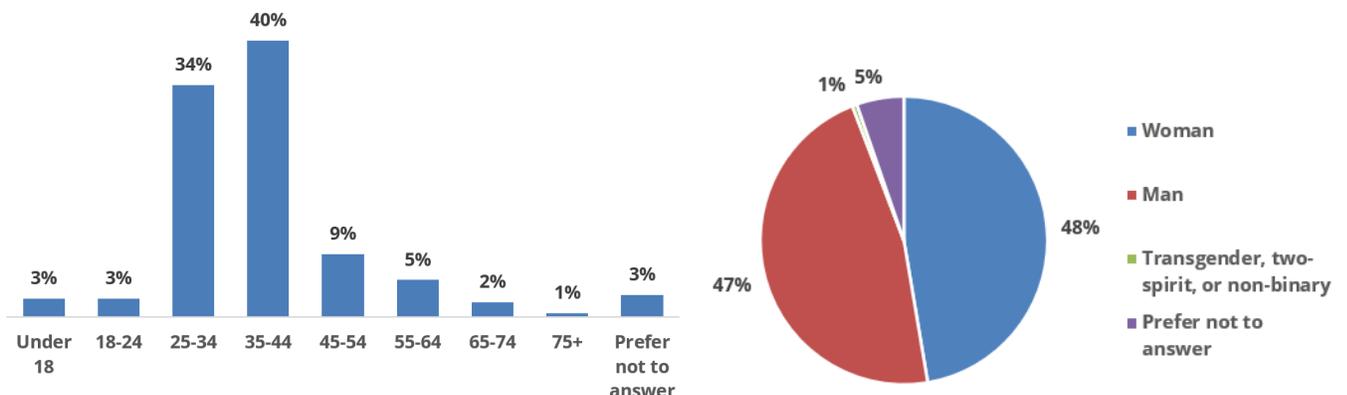
A total of 186 residents completed the survey, with the majority (81 per cent) of respondents indicating they lived in River's Edge or The Uplands. Many other respondents (11 per cent) were from neighbourhoods in southwest Edmonton (Cameron Heights, Edgemont and Stillwater). Few respondents (three per cent) chose not to answer this question.



The majority (61 per cent) of respondents had children/grandchildren under the age of 18 years in their household. A large portion of respondents with children intended to send their children to one of the schools planned at River's Edge Community Park when the site is complete (61 per cent).



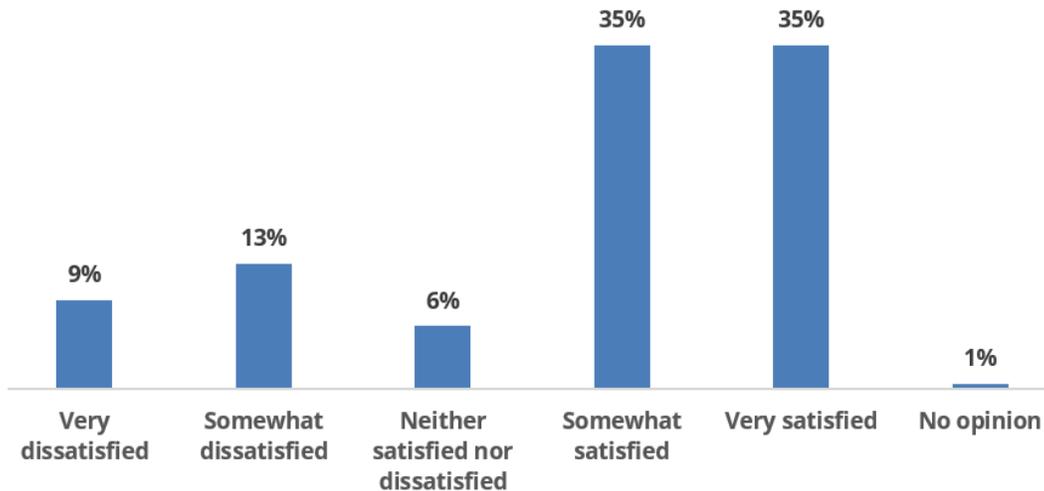
Most survey respondents were between the ages of 25 to 44 years old (74 per cent). Less than half identified as female (48 per cent) and male (47 per cent). A small portion (one per cent) of respondents identified as transgender, two-spirit, or non-binary. A few respondents (five per cent) chose not to answer this question.



What we heard

Design satisfaction

Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction with the present design of the park. As noted in the chart below, a majority (70 per cent) of respondents were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the park design. About one-fifth (21 per cent) were very or somewhat dissatisfied. A small portion (7 per cent) were neutral or did not share an opinion.



Most important park elements

Respondents were asked to select their top three park elements in the present draft park design. As noted in the chart below, the most desired uses include the playground, landscaping and green spaces, pathways and sports fields.

Expected Park Use	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Playground	60%	111
Pathway connections within the site	33%	61
Public gathering space	25%	46
Open space for informal play	17%	31
Open space for community use	28%	53
Toboggan hill	24%	45
Landscaping and greens spaces	42%	79
Sports fields	33%	62
Other	27%	50

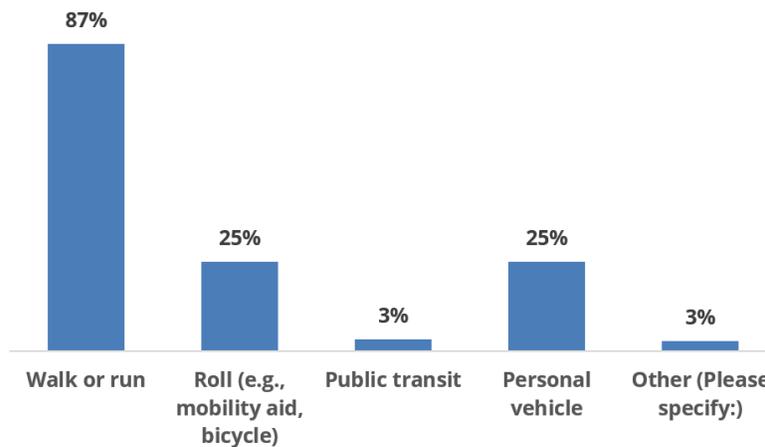
Multiple selections will not total 100% or equal total respondents

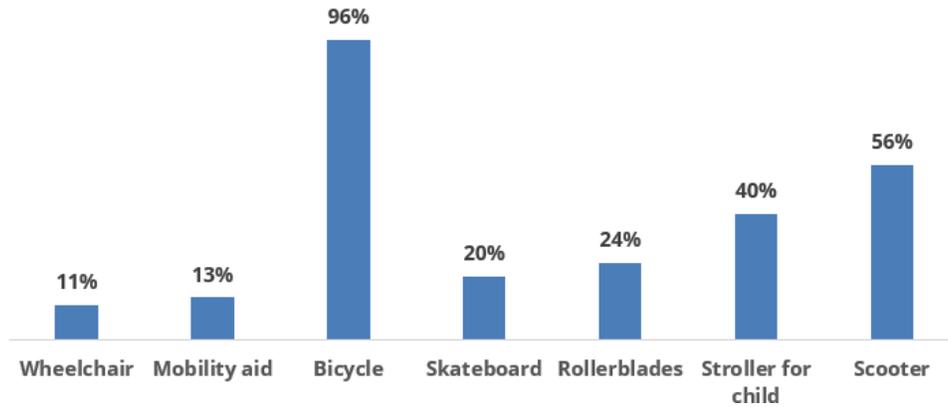
The respondents (27 per cent) who selected “other” specified an activity they would like to do or see at the park. These desired amenities do not fall within the City’s scope of park base-level development and will not be included in the design for River’s Edge Community Park. The “other” desired activities/amenities are listed below from most to least frequently mentioned.

1. Hard surface sports
 - o Basketball courts dominate the responses, often mentioned multiple times and in variations (full courts, convertible to volleyball, multi-use)
 - o Tennis courts and badminton courts also appear frequently, showing interest in racket sports
2. Dog walking and/or a dog park
 - o Respondents mention the need for a fenced and safe area for dogs
 - o One detailed comment notes safety issues with current informal off-leash practices, reinforcing the need for a designated space.
3. Family friendly and social gathering spaces
 - o Splash parks, spray parks and water play areas are repeatedly requested, suggesting a focus on children and family recreation
 - o Picnic tables, BBQ pits and shaded seating areas are highlighted for community gatherings
4. Infrastructure and accessibility concerns
 - o Parking is mentioned several times, indicating awareness that the area is not fully walkable and lacks transit

Travel methods to the park

As shown in the charts below, respondents expect to use a variety of travel methods to get to the park, with active modes (walk, run or roll) the most likely. Many (25 per cent) of respondents expect to “roll” to the park. Rollers are most likely to cycle (96 per cent) and use a scooter (56 per cent). Some rollers expect to use a mobility aid or wheelchair, 11 and 13 per cent respectively.

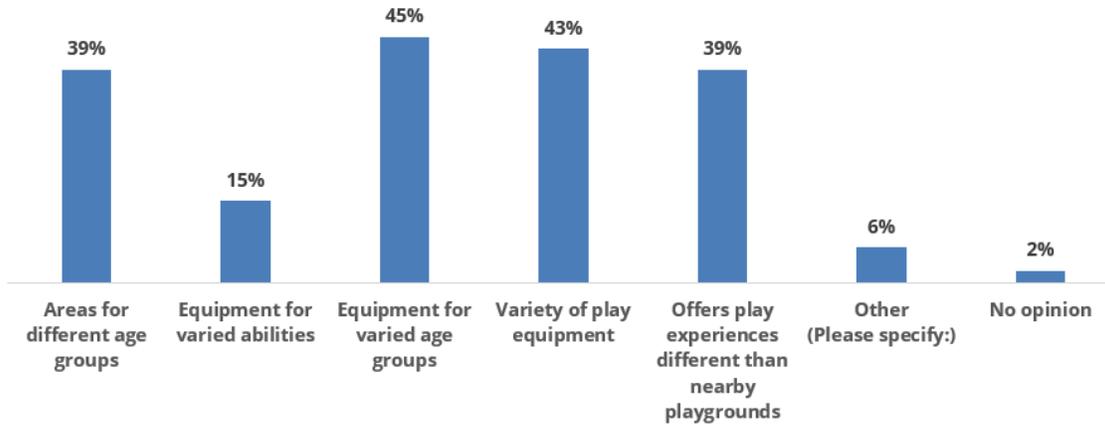




Playground design

Respondents were asked to select their top two most important considerations for playground design. The four leading options were very close in popularity (within 10 per cent of each other):

- Equipment for varied age groups – 45 per cent
- Variety of play equipment – 43 per cent
- Offers play experiences different than nearby playgrounds – 39 per cent
- Areas for different age groups – 39 per cent

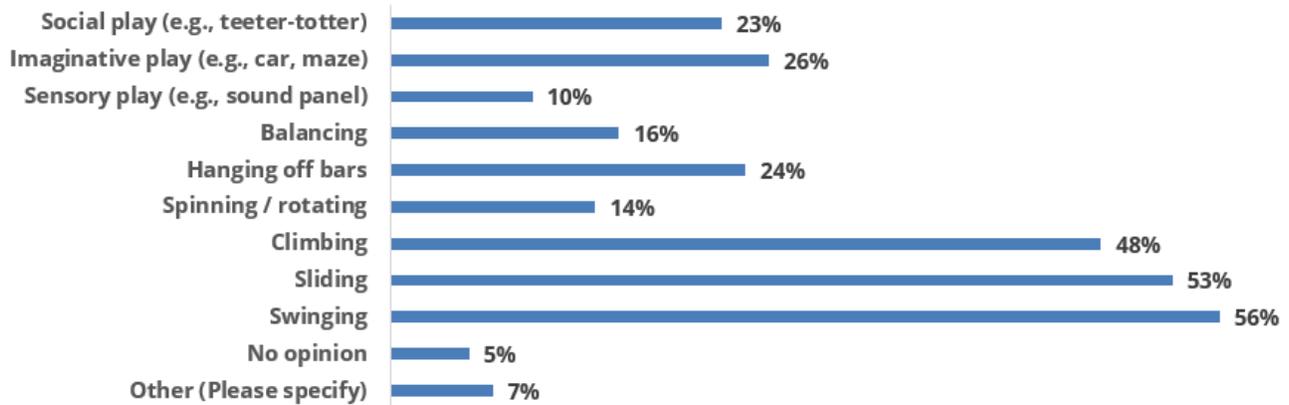


A few respondents (six per cent) selected 'Other' and specified the considerations outlined below.

- Request for traditional playground equipment (monkey bars, slides, climbing structures, swings).
- Equipment suitable for toddlers (ages 2–3).
- Provide wider slides for younger kids and fewer for older children
- Ensure design is simple and nature-focused, avoiding over-engineered features
- Mention of safe footing to prevent injuries
- Suggestion for outdoor workout equipment for adults

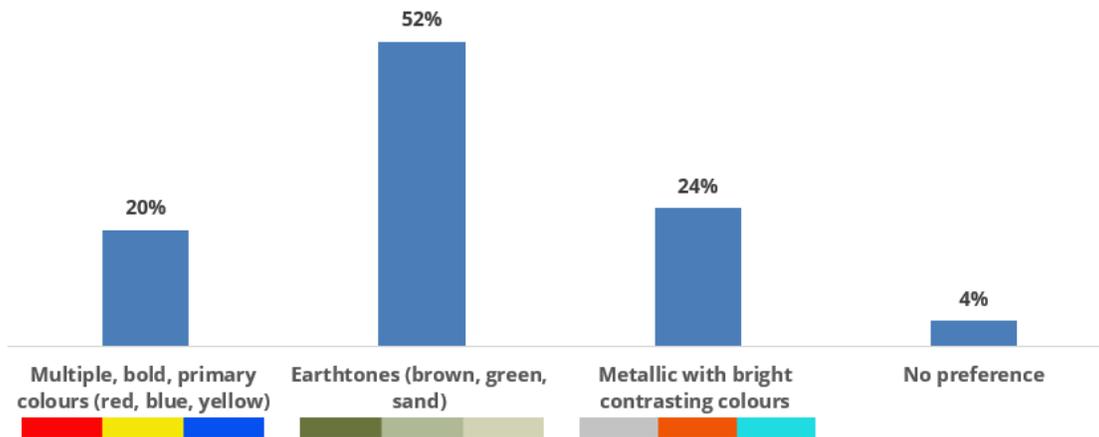
Playground activities and experiences

From a list of activities and experiences, respondents were asked to select the top three. Overall, respondents' top three were swinging (56 per cent), sliding (53 per cent) and climbing (48 per cent). The bottom three were balancing (16 per cent), spinning/rotating (14 per cent) and sensory play (10 per cent).



Playground colour theme

A majority (52 per cent) of respondents preferred the playground have an earthtones colour theme.



Overall comments

Respondents were asked to include comments for the project team. The written comments are summarized below.

1. Strong demand for hard surface courts

- Basketball, tennis and pickleball are the most requested amenities that were not included in the design, but were repeatedly mentioned as a high-demand sport for youth and adults
- Suggestions for multi-use courts convertible for volleyball or pickleball
- Seen as inclusive and accessible for diverse age groups

2. Winter-friendly amenities

- Concerns that soccer fields will be underutilized in winter

3. Social gathering spaces

- Strong interest in spray parks for children
- Picnic tables, BBQ pits, shaded seating and washrooms for community gatherings
- Emphasis on inclusive spaces for toddlers, seniors and parents

4. Pet-friendly amenities

- Frequent calls for dog parks, specifically fenced and safe areas
- Safety concerns about dogs in kids' play zones
- Comments highlight current unsafe off-leash practices, reinforcing need for designated areas

5. Green and open spaces

- Requests for open areas, trees and river access for natural recreation
- Community gardens suggested due to high-density living and lack of private yards
- Desire for usable green space (avoid "naturalization" that becomes messy and unusable)

6. Surface & safety preferences

- Strong opposition to sand; preference for rubber surfacing or foam for safety and cleanliness.
- Lighting for safety during all times of the day and winter months
- Fencing for safety around play areas and sports zones

7. Accessibility & infrastructure

- Parking is a major concern due to narrow roads and added traffic from schools and sports fields.
- Comments about preventing wasted space and ensuring parks are accessible for all

8. Additional ideas

- Fitness equipment, pump tracks, art features, and community gardens
- Requests for raised garden beds, water fountains, and market spaces for local vendors
- Emphasis on inclusive design for all ages, not just children
- Community Identity and Critique - consider a unique park name

What we did

All public engagement feedback was shared with the project design team for consideration as the design moves forward. Some public feedback was outside the scope of this project, but is valuable to other City departments. The results of this engagement will be shared with Urban Planning and Economy, [Breathe: Green Network Implementation Project](#) team to inform their work.

Working across different levels of government, site partners and City departments is complex and collaborative. The park will provide amenities to support future school programming with amenities such as sportsfields and pathway connections. At the same time, it is anticipated that the school developments will provide amenities that benefit the park such as parking and indoor recreation opportunities. Open space has been included in the design for unstructured recreation opportunities like passive recreation, frisbee or yoga.

The chart below outlines base-level amenities included in the design. It also outlines other amenities highly valued by public engagement respondents. As funding does not allow for above base-level amenities at this time, these additional amenities have not been included.

Community Park Amenities	BASE LEVEL* to be delivered through this project	School Sites	Community League Site
Site grading, leveling and planting grass seed or sod	X	+	O
Tree planting and landscaping	X	+	O
Sports fields and fixtures	X		O
Park sign	X		
Furniture: benches, picnic tables, bike racks, trash cans	X	*	O
Shared-use pathways	X		
Playground	X		O
Social gathering places	X		O
Parking		+	
Bicycle parking/racks		+	O
Hard surface court (basketball, tennis, pickleball)		*	O
Dog park / off-Leash area			O
Ice rink			O
Spray park			O
Parking			O
Community garden			O
Pump Track for Bikes			O

*Base level development as defined in the City of Edmonton’s [Urban Parks Management Plan](#)

X – Provided amenity by City of Edmonton + - Provided amenity by Alberta Infrastructure

* - Potentially provided amenity by Alberta Infrastructure

O – Optional amenity if desired and funded by the community league

Alberta Infrastructure is responsible for development within the school parcel, including parking, pathways, lighting, landscaping and furniture.

What happens next

The project team will continue to work with site partners to further the park design. A preferred design will be developed and shared on the project website at edmonton.ca/CommunityParkDevelopment. Funding to deliver the project will be requested in fall 2026 as part of the 2027-2030 Capital budget.

The design of the new Kindergarten to Grade 9 catholic school is currently underway. Edmontonians are encouraged to contact ECSD directly for information related to the school design and development.

The project team thanks Edmontonians who shared their views about the draft design and looks forward to sharing the preferred design in the coming months.