

CASTLEGAR

Brandson Neighbourhood Park Renewal

Phase 3: Prioritizing Possibilities and Building the Vision

What We Learned Report

December 10, 2024



Prepared for:

City of Castlegar

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Executive Summary

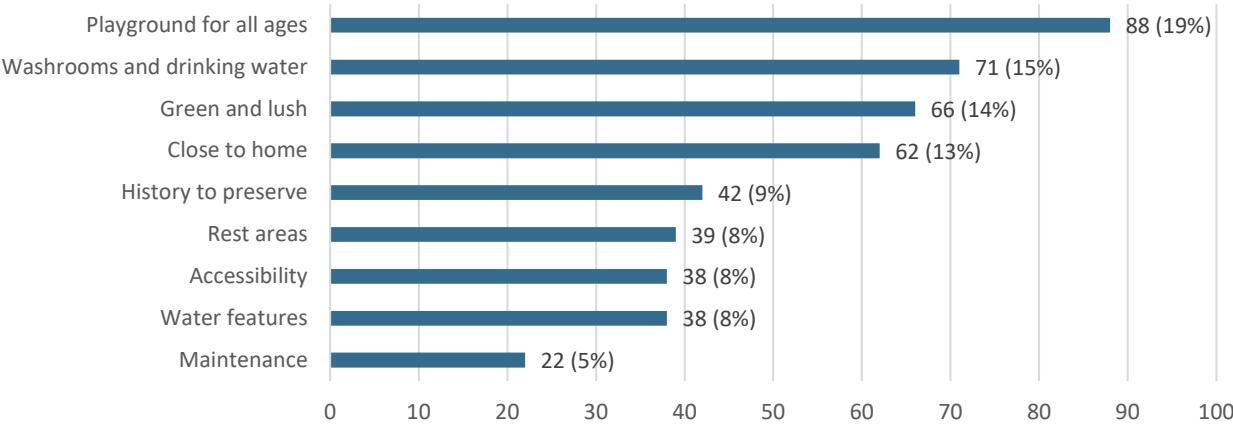
In the third phase of public engagement for the Brandson Neighbourhood Park Renewal, the City of Castlegar shared three concepts for Brandson Park that were developed based on the input from community members in Phase 2 – Dreaming of Big Ideas. Community members were asked to compare each concept to learn about what was most important to include in the preferred design.

Community members were engaged in several ways, including at an open house, seniors Expo (46 participants), Picnic in the Park Pop-Up (48 participants) an online survey (71 participants), and a Grade 5/6 classroom visit (22 participants).

A total of 205 people participated in the engagement activities.

Priorities

Participants ranked the priorities that were identified in Phase 2 of engagement – “Dreaming of Big Ideas for Brandson Park” – and identified that the top three priorities are playground for all ages, washrooms and drinking water, and green and lush

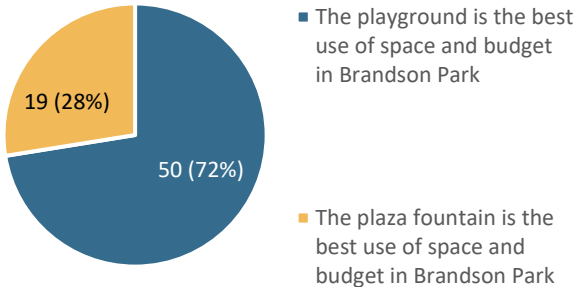


Concepts

Out of the three potential concepts, participants preferred Concept 1 the most. Concept 1 “Play Perch” includes an accessible aggregate plaza along the park’s eastern edge and an accessible hillside path that connects to a playground with a three-bay swing set and sensory mushroom play. Seventy-two percent of survey respondents also felt that the playground is the best use of space and budget in Brandson Park. Ninety percent of survey respondents thought that the proposed concepts met the goal for the park or almost met the goal for the park.

Out of all of the elements from each concept, participants preferred these elements:

- **Plaza:** Concept 1
- **Hillside Path:** Concept 1
- **Lawn Space:** Concept 1
- **Drinking Fountain:** Concept 3
- **Playground Location:** Concept 1
- **Play Elements & Experiences:** Concept 2



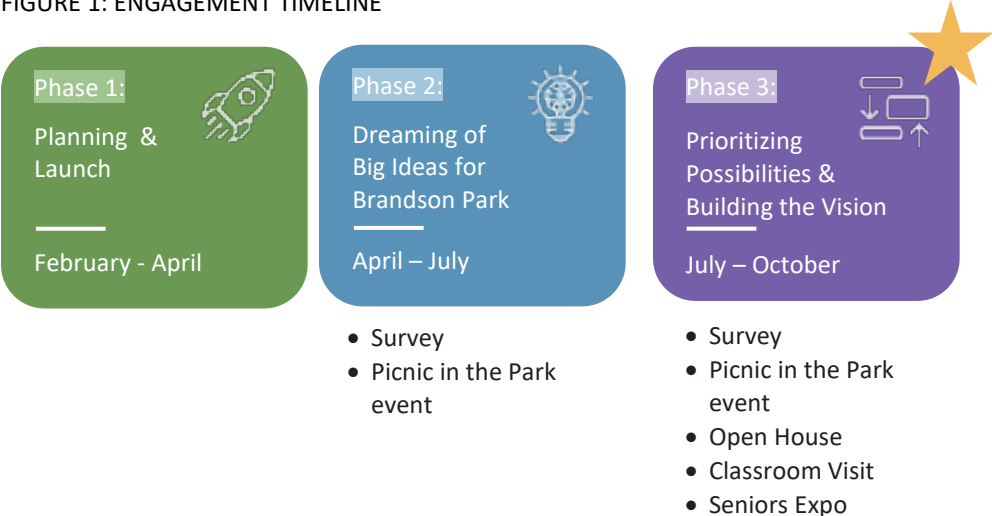
Background

In April 2022, Castlegar City Council approved a mixed-use residential development next to Brandson Park, known as *The Park Place*, to meet the need for more housing in the neighbourhood. When Council approved this development, it committed to dedicating the remaining space as park land, engaging the community to determine what the community prefers for the park space, and capturing and commemorating the history of the park. The City is engaging the broader community to gather ideas about how the park should be designed and how the history of the park should be celebrated.

How We Engaged

Phase 3 of engagement for the project took place in fall 2024 and asked the community to compare and contrast three concepts for Brandson Park to identify the most important elements to include in the final design. Based on this feedback, the design will be finalized in winter 2024. Construction is anticipated to start in spring 2025.

FIGURE 1: ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



Who Participated

This third round of engagement gathered feedback from 205 participants. The participants had the opportunity to share their perspectives through several different engagement activities: an Open House, a Picnic in the Park Pop-Up Event, an online survey, at the Seniors Expo, and a Grade 5/6 classroom visit at Kinnaird Elementary School.

Open House

Kinnaird Hall | October 9, 2024 | 8 participants

Seniors Expo

October 24, 2024 | 46 participants

Online Survey

October 1 to November 1, 2024 | 71 responses

Grade 5/6 Classroom Visit

Kinnaird Elementary School | October 10, 2024 | 22 participants

Picnic in the Park Pop-Up

Brandson Park | October 10, 2024 | 48 participants

City of Castlegar operations staff also provided feedback on the feasibility of different concept elements from an operational and maintenance perspective.



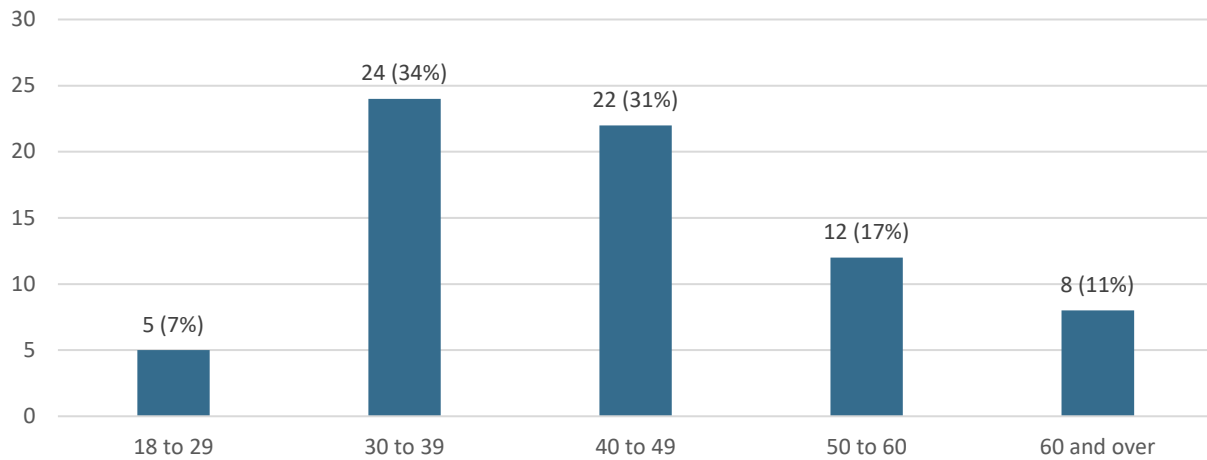
Survey Demographics

The majority of survey respondents were between the ages of 30 to 49, representing 65% of the total responses. Most (51%) of respondents lived in Kinnaird, followed by 21% of respondents that lived Downtown.

Almost half (46%) of the survey respondents rarely or never visit Brandson Park. Close to one-third (30%) visit weekly, 21% visit monthly, and very few people (3%) visit daily.

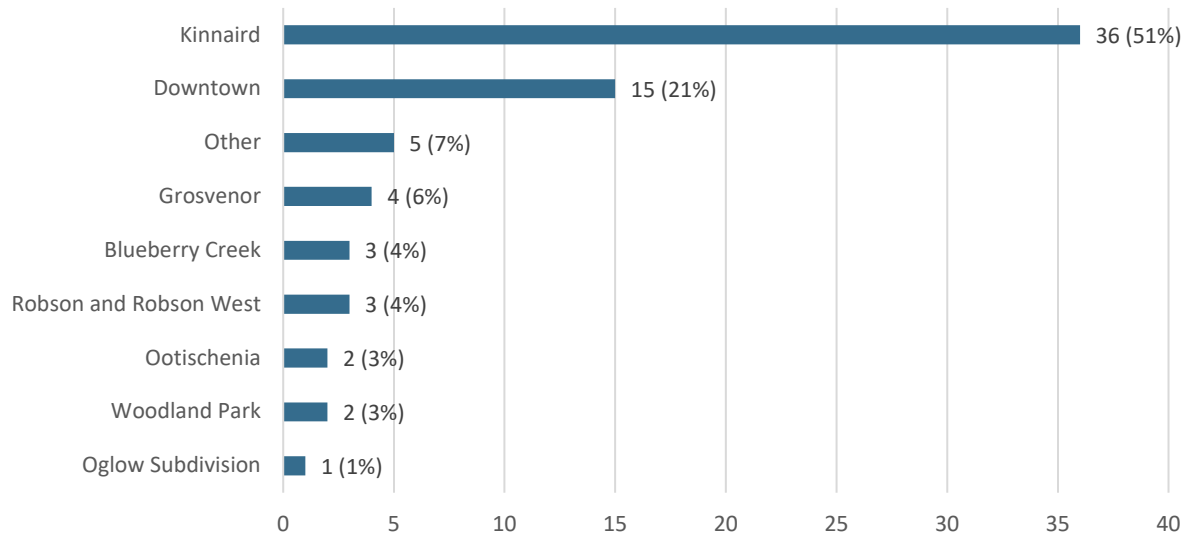
The top activities survey respondents would like to do in Brandson Park are bring their kids to play, relax and enjoy nature, and gather with friends and community members.

FIGURE 2: AGE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS



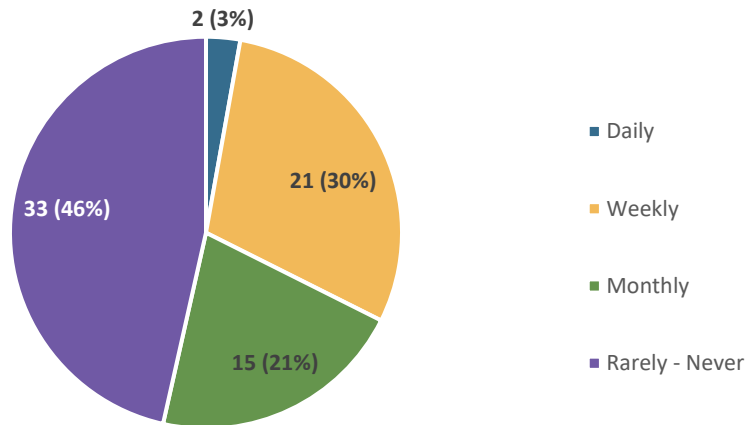
N=71

FIGURE 3: NEIGHBOURHOOD OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS



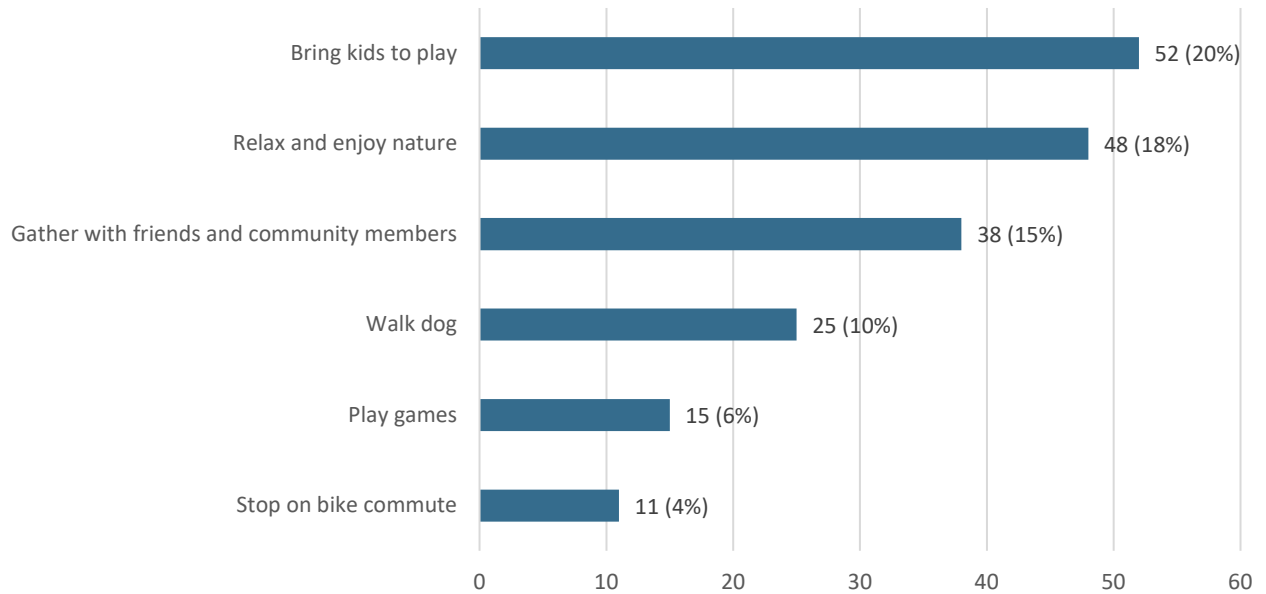
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FIGURE 4: FREQUENCY OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS VISITS TO BRANDSON PARK



N=71

FIGURE 5: ACTIVITIES SURVEY RESPONDENTS HOPE TO DO IN BRANDSON PARK



N=71

What We Learned

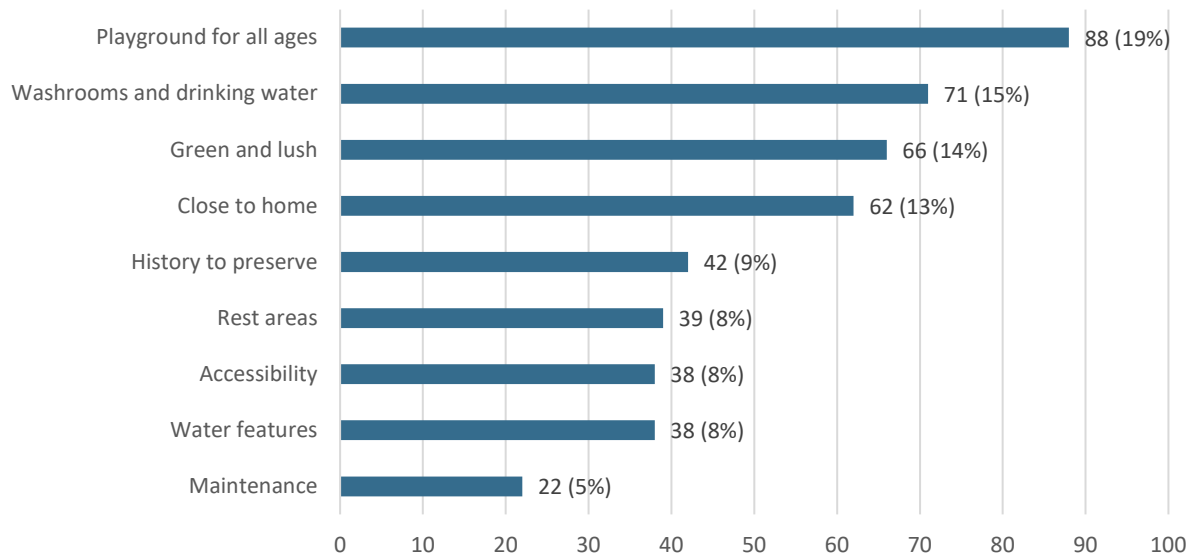
Priorities

Participants in all engagement activities were asked to prioritize the themes that emerged from the community input received in Phase 2: Dreaming of Big Ideas for Brandson. Across all engagement activities, participants felt that the three most important themes, in order of most to least important were:

- Playground for all ages
- Washrooms and drinking water
- Green and lush

Figure 6: Participant Priorities shows all of the nine themes from the Phase 2 engagement findings ranked from most to least important based on the input from all of the Phase 3 engagement activities.

FIGURE 6: PARTICIPANT PRIORITIES



N=328



TABLE 1: PARTICIPANT PRIORITIES BY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

Priority	Open House	Seniors Expo	Picnic in the Park	Classroom Visit	Survey	Total
Playground for all ages	4	5	10	25	44	88
Washrooms and drinking water	1	9	10	13	38	71
Green and lush	1	7	4	17	37	66
Close to home	0	1	1	47	13	62
History to preserve	2	4	0	25	11	42
Rest areas	1	6	9	6	17	39
Accessibility	2	7	2	7	20	38
Water features	2	4	5	9	18	38
Maintenance	1	1	3	8	9	22

**Survey respondents were asked to rank the priorities from most to least important. This table only includes the count of participants who ranked each theme in their top three priorities to ensure comparability with the responses from the other engagement activities. The full responses from the survey are included in Appendix C.*

Participants were also asked to share if anything had been missed from the engagement themes. The top responses for additional priorities residents have for Brandson Park included:

- A zipline (6 responses). All suggestions for a zipline came from the grade 5/6 classroom visit.
- A slide (3 responses)
- A treehouse (3 responses)
- A covered area, so seating is usable in all seasons (3 responses)

Concept Options

Three different concept options were presented to participants:

Concept Option 1 - Play Perch. This concept option includes an accessible aggregate plaza along the park's eastern edge and an accessible hillside path that connects to a playground with a three-bay swing set and sensory mushroom play.

Concept Option 2 - Swing Low. This concept option includes an accessible aggregate plaza located along the park's eastern entrance, with key elements and a playground grouped nearby.

Concept 3 - Mushroom Misting Plaza. This concept option includes an accessible concrete plaza with a mushroom-themed fountain located along the park's eastern entrance. All the park's key elements are grouped near the plaza.

The drawings for each concept can be found in the panel boards in Appendix A.

Concept Feedback

TABLE 2: CONCEPT FEEDBACK

Concept	Survey Rating	Survey, Open House & Picnic in the Park Feedback	Student Feedback	Staff Feedback
Concept 1	3.5/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the playground (add equipment for ages 5 to 12, a slide, and more swings) This is the preferred concept Add more picnic tables and seating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a slide Add a ball pit Support for new and preserved shade trees (4 votes) Support for the picnic tables (5 votes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the park is to have snow clearing in the winter, staff recommend using pavement on the path to allow for plowing and reduce maintenance Allow space between trees to allow for leaf clearing and mowing Use ground cover that reduces maintenance Picnic tables should be mounted for mowing and grass clearing Will need irrigation for plants and trees The playground shouldn't be so far back The pathway needs improvement
Concept 2	3.1/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The swing is good but there should be more than one The playground is too small Add a gathering area Add a water feature or fountain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add soccer nets, monkey bars, a pool, and a zipline Add washrooms Add a treehouse Support for new and preserved shade trees (2 votes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the play structure and lawn space Playground inspectors will be needed for the play elements Allow space between trees to allow for leaf clearing and mowing Will need irrigation for plants and trees Wood play features will need maintenance to prevent cracks and splinters
Concept 3	2.6/5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There needs to be a playground The fountain shouldn't be the main feature Concerns about the cost and maintenance of the water fountain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a basketball court, wiffle ball field, volleyball net, pool and zipline Support for the picnic tables (1 vote) Support for the fountain (2 votes) Support for the drinking fountain (2 votes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be a playground Good arrangement of tables and benches Fountains require a lot of maintenance Drinking fountains can be winterized Add a barrier under the fence to reduce challenges with mowing Will need irrigation for plants and trees

Overall, **Concept 1** was the preferred option. Participants liked the plaza, hillside path, lawn space and playground location most out of all the options and gave this option a rating of 3.5/5 overall. This rating will serve as a reference point moving forward as a new, final concept is developed based on the most preferred elements, suggestions from the community and other feedback. Suggestions for improvements included adding more play features, picnic tables and seating. City of Castlegar operations staff recommended paving the path if snow clearing will be required to reduce maintenance and allow for plowing, increasing the space between the trees to allow for mowing and including irrigation for the plants and the trees.

Concept Elements

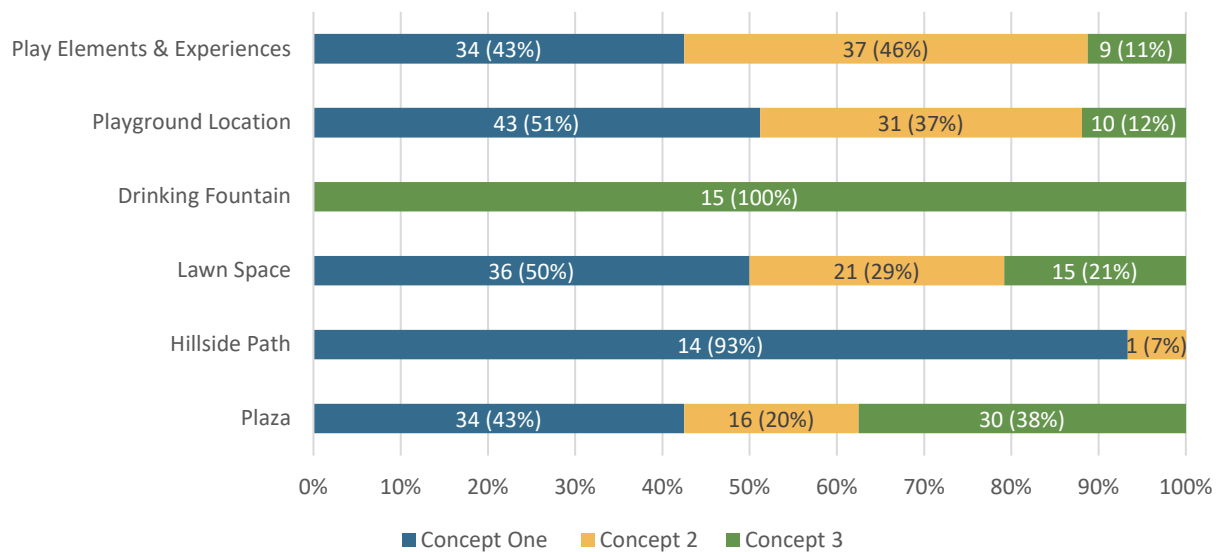
Participants in all engagement methods were asked to compare and contrast the features of each of the options to help refine the final design.

The preferred concept elements, as shown in Table 3 and Figure 7, are as follows:

TABLE 3: PREFERRED CONCEPT ELEMENTS

ELEMENT	CONCEPT	DESCRIPTION
Plaza	Concept 1	An accessible aggregate plaza is located along the park's eastern entrance
Hillside Path	Concept 1	An accessible aggregate path connects the plaza to the playground
Lawn Space	Concept 1	There is an upper and lower open lawn space
Drinking Fountain	Concept 3	There is a drinking fountain located in the plaza
Playground Location	Concept 1	The playground is located on the hill and connected by a path
Play Elements & Experiences	Concept 2	Swings are one part of the playground. A small play structure and balance play create lots of different play options.

FIGURE 7: PREFERRED ELEMENTS FROM EACH CONCEPT



N=70

TABLE 4: VOTES FOR EACH CONCEPT ELEMENT

Elements	Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3	Suggestions
Plaza	34 votes	16 votes	30 votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add more trees
Hillside Path*	14 votes	1 vote	0 votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suggestions
Lawn Space	36 votes	21 votes	15 votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suggestions
Drinking Fountain*	0 votes	0 votes	15 votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suggestions
Playground Location	43 votes	31 votes	10 votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be shade and picnic tables near the natural play elements
Play Elements & Experiences	34 votes	37 votes	9 votes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a baby swing, bigger swings, climbing features and monkey bars

*Attendees at the open house and picnic in the park were asked for their preferences on all the elements. Survey respondents were asked about their preferences for the plaza, lawn space, playground location and play elements, but not the hillside path or drinking fountain.

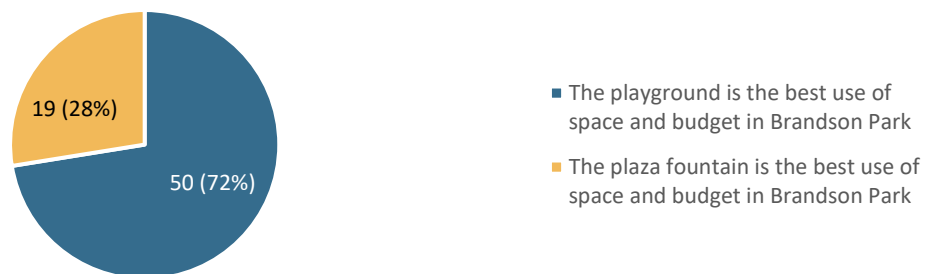
Other potential elements that participants suggested should be included were:

- Washrooms (7 comments)
- Fencing around the playground (4 comments)
- A covered area (2 comments)
- Picnic tables (2 comments)
- A climbing structure (2 comments)
- A drinking fountain (2 comments)
- Sensory play (2 comments)
- Spray park (2 comments)
- Dog area (1 comment)

Preferred Use of Space and Budget

Survey respondents were asked to share whether they thought the playground or the plaza fountain was the best use of the space and budget for Brandson Park. The majority (72%) of participants believed the playground is the best use of space and budget, consistent with the feedback received on each of the three concept options shared above.

FIGURE 8: SURVEY RESPONDENTS' PREFERRED USE OF SPACE AND BUDGET

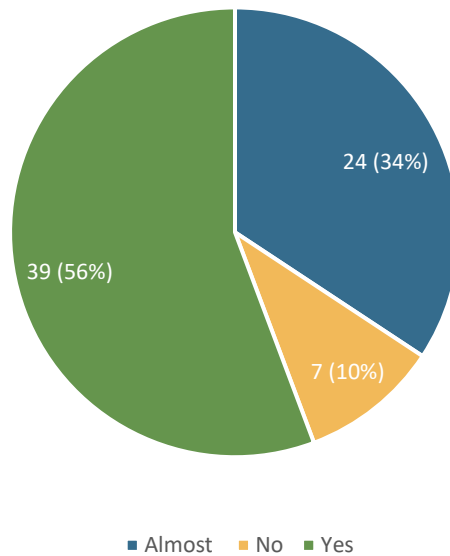


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Goals & Expectations

The City's goal for Brandson Park is to create an accessible and inclusive park that is welcoming to everyone and celebrates the stories and history of the park. More than half (56%) of survey respondents felt that the park almost achieves this goal, and 34% of survey respondents believe that the concepts already achieve this goal.

FIGURE 9: SURVEY RESPONSES TO: DO THE PROPOSED CONCEPTS MEET THE GOAL?



N=70

The top suggestions from participants who believed that the concepts don't achieve the goal or almost achieve the goal are:

- Improve the accessibility of the park with an accessible path, ensuring ground is level, having accessible play equipment, and including braille and large print signage (6 comments)
- Build a playground that is inclusive of all ages (5 comments)
- Add more seating and a covered area (2 comments)
- Move the location of the park away from the parking lot to be more central (2 comments)

Next Steps

Thank you to all community members who took the time to share their perspectives with the City about the future of Brandson Park. Your perspectives are invaluable to shaping our community and the future design of the park.

Based on the feedback received in this phase of engagement, the park design will be finalized in winter 2024. Construction on the park will begin in spring 2025.





Appendix A: In-Person Event Panel Boards

Brandson Neighbourhood Park Renewal

Project Overview

The City of Castlegar is renewing Brandson Park and wants to hear feedback on the concepts from the community! Your ideas and input will help refine the vision for the park.

We have gathered input from the community and asked how the stories and history of this park can be celebrated. We are pleased to share the themes that emerged from the community as well as concepts that represent how the themes could be realized within the current capital budget.

Our Goals

The City's goal is to create an accessible and inclusive park that is welcoming to everyone and celebrate the stories and history of this park.

Public Engagement



Share your ideas! 

Help us refine the vision for the park by responding to the concept options.

 Take the online survey: 

For more information, visit: castlegar.ca/brandsonpark



What We Heard!

Brandson Neighbourhood Park Renewal



How We Engaged

Throughout spring 2024, community members were asked to share their big ideas for Brandson Park, through two engagement activities: a Picnic in the Park Pop-Up Event and an online survey.

In total, roughly 200 participants shared their ideas and perspectives about the future of the park. Nine themes emerged from the engagement feedback, including the need for a playground suitable for all ages and abilities, the importance of rest areas and washrooms, and a desire for the park's greenery and history to be preserved.

Picnic in the Park Pop-Up
 Brandson Park | May 7, 2024 | 87 participants

Online Survey
 April 16 to May 31, 2024 | 113 responses

Share your ideas! 

Help us refine the vision for the park by responding to the concept options.

Take the online survey:

For more information, visit:
castlegar.ca/brandsonpark









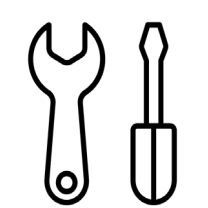
KEY THEMES:

Themes	Descriptions
 Close to home	The park is an important space for residents who live nearby.
 Playground for all ages	The playground needs to be suitable for all ages.
 Rest areas	Participants shared the importance of picnic areas and seating throughout the park.
 Water features	Many participants learned to swim in the pool that was once in this park and would like to have an interactive water feature in the park again.
 Green and lush	Participants like the greenery, trees and plants in the park and would like to see more.
 Washrooms and drinking water	Key amenities are needed in the park such as well-maintained washrooms and drinking water.
 History to preserve	The history of the park should be referenced and reflected on the site.
 Accessibility	Everyone should be able to enjoy the park, including people with different mobility needs.
 Maintenance	The City needs to develop a strong maintenance program for the park so it can be enjoyed for many years.

Have your say!

Add notes to this sticky board:

Help us understand more about your priorities for Brandson Park. Indicate your top 3 priorities, for Brandson Park here!

Themes		***
	Close to home	
	Playground for all ages	
	Rest areas	
	Water features	
	Green and lush	
	Washrooms and drinking water	
	History to preserve	
	Accessibility	
	Maintenance	

Did we miss anything? Share your thoughts on the engagement themes here!



For more information, visit: castlegar.ca/brandsonpark

Brandson Park Concept 1

Add notes or draw on this board:



Play Perch

Core Components

- 1 Shade Trees - Preserved
- 2 Shade Trees - New
- 3 Preserve Existing Vegetation
- 4 Interpretive Signage
- 5 Frontage Fence
- 6 Picnic Tables
- 7 Bench Seating
- 8 Bike Racks and Repair
- 9 Waste Receptacle

Concept 1 Specific

- 10 Accessible Aggregate Plaza
- 11 Accessible Aggregate Hillside Path
- 12 Upper and Lower Open Lawn Space
- 13 Natural Playground - On Slope
 - Sensory Mushroom Play
 - Three-bay Swing Set

For more information, visit:
castlegar.ca/brandsonpark



Brandson Park Concept 2

Add notes or draw on this board:



Swing Low

Core Components

- 1 Shade Trees - Preserved
- 2 Shade Trees - New
- 3 Preserve Existing Vegetation
- 4 Interpretive Signage
- 5 Frontage Fence
- 6 Picnic Tables
- 7 Bench Seating
- 8 Bike Racks and Repair
- 9 Waste Receptacle

Concept 2 Specific

- 10 Accessible Aggregate Plaza
- 11 Hillside Open Lawn Space
- 12 Natural playground - By Plaza
 - Single-bay Nest Swing
 - Balance Play
 - Small Play Structure

For more information, visit:
castlegar.ca/brandsonpark

Brandson Park Concept 3

Add notes or draw on this board:



Misting Mushroom Plaza

Core Components

- 1 Shade Trees - Preserved
- 2 Shade Trees - New
- 3 Preserve Existing Vegetation
- 4 Interpretive Signage
- 5 Frontage Fence
- 6 Picnic Tables
- 7 Bench Seating
- 8 Bike Racks and Repair
- 9 Waste Receptacle

Concept 3 Specific

- 10 Fountain plaza
- 11 Accessible concrete plaza
- 12 Drinking fountain
- 13 Hillside Open Lawn Space

For more information, visit:
castlegar.ca/brandsonpark



Sample Images

Core Components

Shade Trees – New and Preserved



Preserved Vegetation



Bench Seating



Interpretive Signage



Frontage Fence



Natural Playground



Picnic Tables



Bike Repair



Bike Racks



Share your ideas!



Help us refine the vision for the park by responding to the concept options.



Take the online survey:



For more information, visit: castlegar.ca/brandsonpark

Concept Options – Have Your Say!

The concept plans presented share many of the elements but differ in several key ways. Indicate your preference for the concept plan elements in table below. If you have a suggestion that does not appear in either of the concept plans, please add it in the column to the right under suggestions.

Elements	Concept 1 Play Perch	✿	Concept 2 Swing Low	✿	Concept 3 Mushroom Misting Plaza	✿	Suggestions
Plaza	An accessible aggregate plaza is located along the park's eastern entrance.		An accessible aggregate plaza is located along the park's eastern entrance. Key elements are grouped near the plaza.		An accessible concrete plaza is located along the park's eastern entrance. Key elements are grouped near the plaza. The plaza has a mushroom themed misting fountain		



 **DID YOU KNOW?**

Aggregate paths are a lower-cost option for accessible routes. Crushed gravels are packed tightly together and sealed with a water-based, non-harmful resin, locking the material in place and ensuring a firm, stable surface that is safe for individuals with mobility challenges.



Share your ideas! 

Help us refine the vision for the park by responding to the concept options.

 **Take the online survey:** 

For more information, visit: castlegar.ca/brandsonpark



Concept Options – Have Your Say!

The concept plans presented share many of the elements but differ in several key ways. Indicate your preference for the concept plan elements in table below. If you have a suggestion that does not appear in either of the concept plans, please add it in the column to the right under suggestions.

Elements	Concept 1 Play Perch	*	Concept 2 Swing Low	*	Concept 3 Mushroom Misting Plaza	*	Suggestions
Hillside Path	An accessible aggregate path connects the plaza to the playground.		An accessible aggregate path connects elements across the park entrance. There are no pathways on the hill.		There are no pathways on the hill or throughout the park.		
Lawn Space	There is an upper and lower open lawn space.		There is an open lawn space across the entire hill.		There is an open lawn space across the entire hill.		
Drinking Fountain	There is no drinking fountain		There is no drinking fountain		There is a drinking fountain located in the plaza		

Concept Options – Have Your Say!

The concept plans presented share many of the elements but differ in several key ways. Indicate your preference for the concept plan elements in table below. If you have a suggestion that does not appear in either of the concept plans, please add it in the column to the right under suggestions.

Elements	Concept 1 Play Perch	*	Concept 2 Swing Low	*	Suggestions
Playground Location	The playground is located on the hill and connected by a path.		An accessible aggregate plaza is located along the park's eastern entrance. Key elements are grouped near the plaza.		
Play Elements & Experiences	Swings are the main play feature! Swing play is supplemented with sensory mushroom play		Swings are one part of the playground. A small play structure and balance play create lots of different play options.		



DID YOU KNOW?

A natural playground is a play environment that consists of elements and textures from the earth such as tree logs, tree stumps, boulders and plants. Natural playgrounds foster a creative, freethinking playtime atmosphere, allowing children to interact with natural elements and their environment.

For more information, visit:
castlegar.ca/brandsonpark

Have your say!

Add notes to this sticky board:

The concept plans presented reflect what we learned during community engagement and the current available budget for Brandson Park.

Do the proposed park concepts meet your expectations?

Are there any other elements you wish were included in the park?

Share your ideas!



Take the online survey:



For more information, visit: castlegar.ca/brandsonpark



Appendix B:

Panel Board Responses

Appendix B: Panel Board Response

Did we miss anything? Share your thoughts on the engagement themes here

ACTIVITY	COMMENT
Seniors Expo	Wide tire bike racks
Seniors Expo	Lighting which does not pollute the sky for safety
Seniors Expo	Signage re: animals and other activities
Picnic in the Park	Security cameras
Picnic in the Park	Fencing between park & park place
Students	zipline
Students	treehouse with zipline
Students	Gaga ball pit
Students	Monkey bars
Students	zipline
Students	treehouse with zipline
Students	treehouse with zipline and slide
Students	24 foot metal slide with cover
Students	soccer nets/field
Students	volleyball net
Students	obstacle course
Students	big slide
Students	pool zip line
Survey	Test
Survey	A covered area is a priority so we can use it in spring and fall weather. Bathrooms are also very important.
Survey	Keep it simple and avoid it being used for drifters - no washrooms - a meeting place for local residents to enjoy nature and a coffee, water feature is nice but not necessary. Hard for these times but I'm sure residents would be happy with green space especially for residents and the new Park Place. Even a small community garden for apartment dwellers would be very important in my opinion. Growing food is so important now..
Survey	We really miss the big trees. Plant new ones please. It is heartbreaking to see the ugly building where the beautiful big tree used to be
Survey	Green and lush to me means grasses that don't use a lot of water (tall ones) bushes that feed bees and butterflies
Survey	Parking
Survey	Covered seating areas for picnics and working (laptop) outdoors
Survey	Shade in the summer
Survey	Space for dogs to play
Survey	This questionnaire seems to be designed to gather information from residents living in the adjacent area of this park. It sounds OK but it should be also considered that all Castlegar residents and visitors may use this park. A suggestion is to set aside two well marked parking spots for people with mobility challenges at the park's entrance.

Survey	You missed everything. How can it be any sort of nature with a massive ugly building there. You've already disgraced the name of Brandson by allowing the sale and development of this land. You should all be ashamed. Another building that no local can afford rent, a company owned building. These will be rented/bought by people in Vancouver and rented back at a massive upcost and raising our taxes to fill your own pockets
Survey	A water park would be nice to have on this side of the city.
Survey	The old park was terrible. So anything you do will be an improvement, even if people don't agree
Survey	This park is SO much smaller than it was, a third of the space. Green space is limited so I don't think wasting time and money on washrooms is worth it. Also, where will people park to access the park if they aren't walking to it? A space that can be used all seasons is important to me and my family. Which means incorporating a snow sledding hill. My family would also ask for a privacy screen/wall/hedge to separate the park from the Park Place building....my kids already don't want to use the park because people will be staring down at them from their apartment/condo balconies.



Are there other elements you wish were included in the park?

ACTIVITY	COMMENT
Senior Expo	Need picnic tables
Open House	Mushrooms with springs under them are more inclusive than climbing mushrooms
Open House	Fence maybe a chain link will keep children in better with trees/shrubs as border too
Open House	#1 is preferred with added rope climbing wall or structure like in #2 - where #12 is on the map
Open House	#1 where 12 is a rope climbing wall or structure like in #2. 5-fence maybe a chain link so kids don't disappear through trees. Spring leaves (mushroom) are preferred than the climbing mushrooms
Open House	play features that are interesting for a while (not one + done)
Picnic in the Park	public wash room within the park
Picnic in the Park	Washroom pls.- 4 seniors - get grant
Picnic in the Park	washrooms are more important to suiqs than swings
Picnic in the Park	fountains where you can fill a water bottle please!!!
Picnic in the Park	Lots of shady trees, water fountain, natral play structures, picnic tables all good. Generally looking forward to a place to have a picnic, sled and stretch/yoga during a bike ride.
Picnic in the Park	Need a toilet more than a bike repair
Survey	Test
Survey	It would be nice to have a roof structure/small gazebo(?) so shade is available and the park could be used on bad weather days. Bathrooms? Where are families supposed to go with children who are playing and need to go? Does Park Place plan to have a public washroom? A water fountain is a must! Will there be underground sprinklers so the grass stays green and lush for enjoyment? Garbage cans with regular pick ups?
Survey	Bathrooms should be a much higher priority. The expense of them should have been expected in any park rebuild.
Survey	A fence to keep children from accessing the road
Survey	A spray park rather than a water fountain feature would be a better investment for uptown park space. Easier to maintain and more useful.
Survey	Keep it simple!
Survey	Basketball hoops. How do we not have any basketball hoops in our entire city? It is an affordable, inclusive sport for all ages. If not at Branson park then at the Millennium. We have adequate pickle ball courts in 2 locations. Not to mention at Selkirk College.
Survey	Sand play or sensory play for kids
Survey	Actual play area would be nice
Survey	Pollinator garden
Survey	Perhaps only have one mushroom theme concept, the other concept could include something that kids can play in ie boat
Survey	The whole point was to replace the playground that was there and add in a water feature and it seems that you guys aren't into that as the playground is lacking and the water feature is a fountain that kids can't play in
Survey	A covered seating area, to provide shade in the summer and rain protection.
Survey	Turf mounds in the open areas to reflect the whimsy if the mushrooms

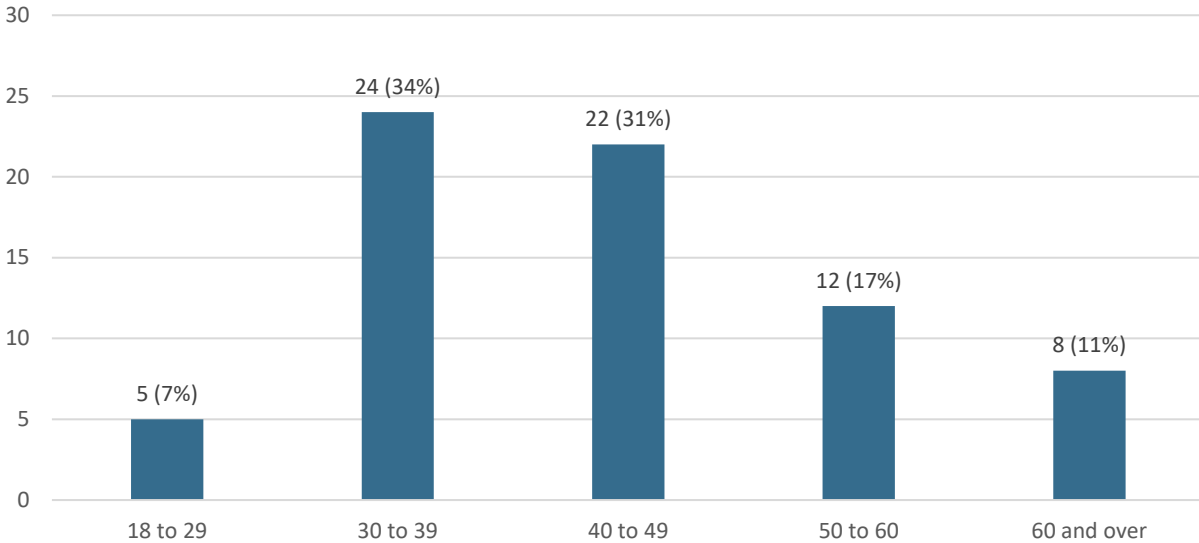
Survey	Sensory elements such as sound and touch elements
Survey	A good place to add a book share box
Survey	fenced in area for dogs to play
Survey	Consider accessibility to mobility challenged residents and visitors.
Survey	Not a massive building that Noone here can afford rent in
Survey	Washrooms
Survey	Having a spray park or a wading pool would be impressive.
Survey	Nine
Survey	Parking and more play equipment.
Survey	Unsure
Survey	Natural play structures
Survey	We took out a large playground. Let's make sure we put one that is close to the same back in.
Survey	Community garden space would be so nice. 🌱



Appendix C: Survey Responses

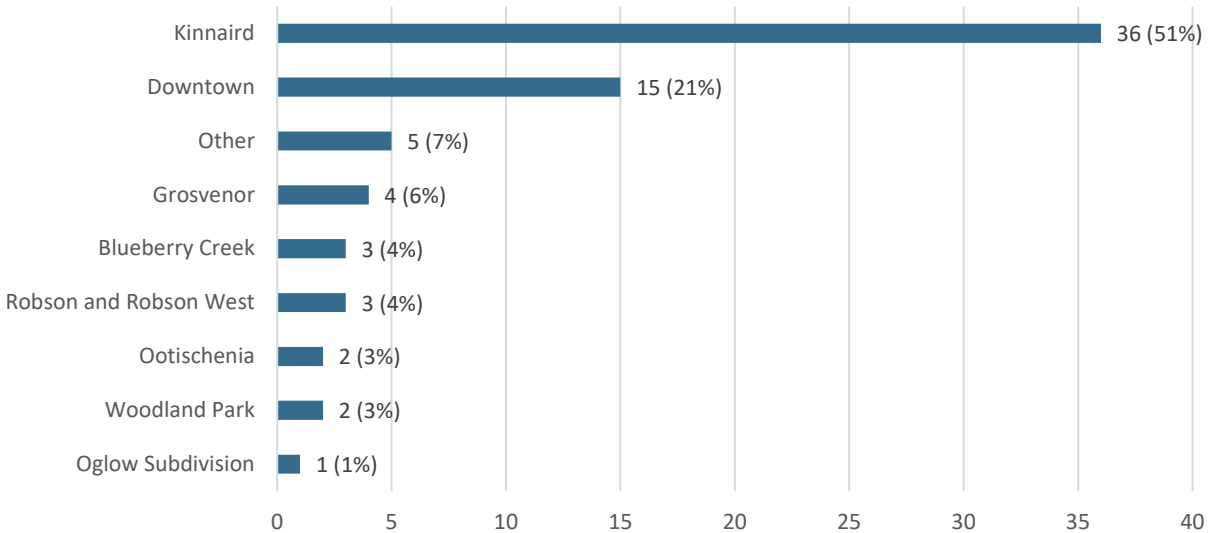
Appendix C: Survey Responses

Question 1: Which of the following best describes your age? Select one.



N=71

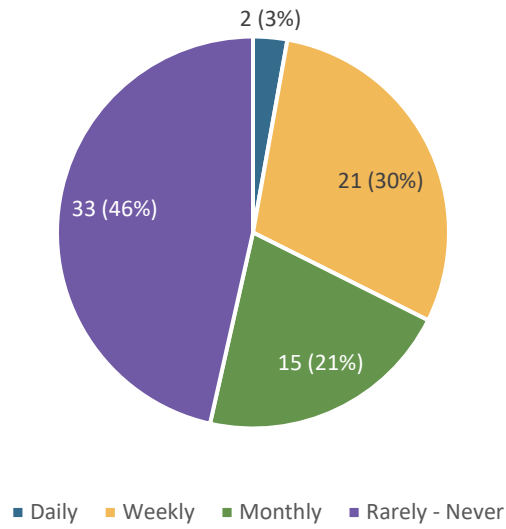
Question 2: Which neighbourhood in Castlegar do you live in?



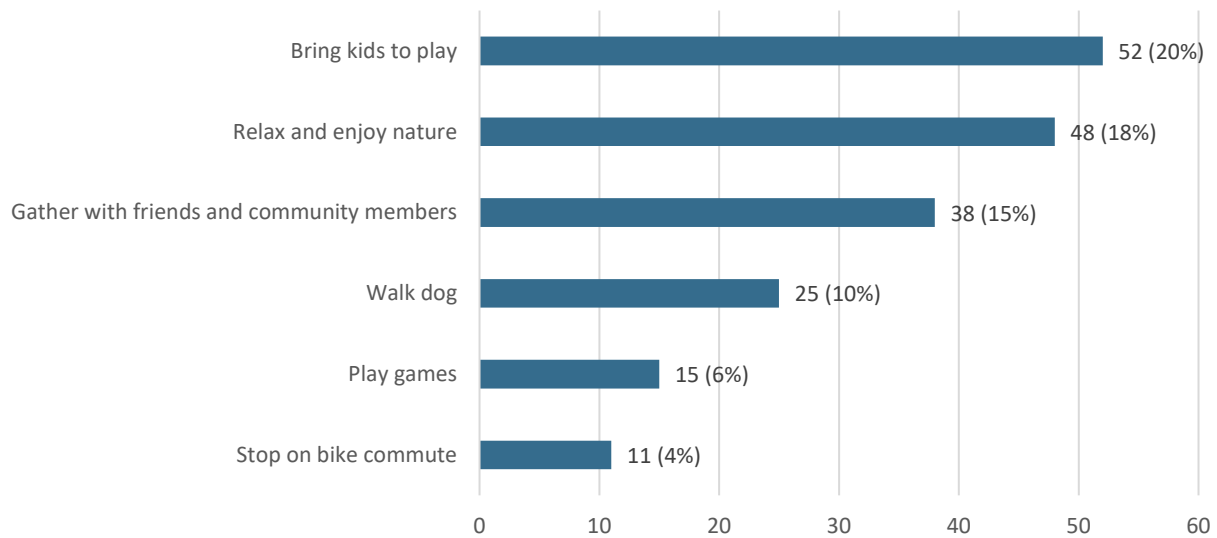
N=71

Question 3: How often do you visit Brandson Park?

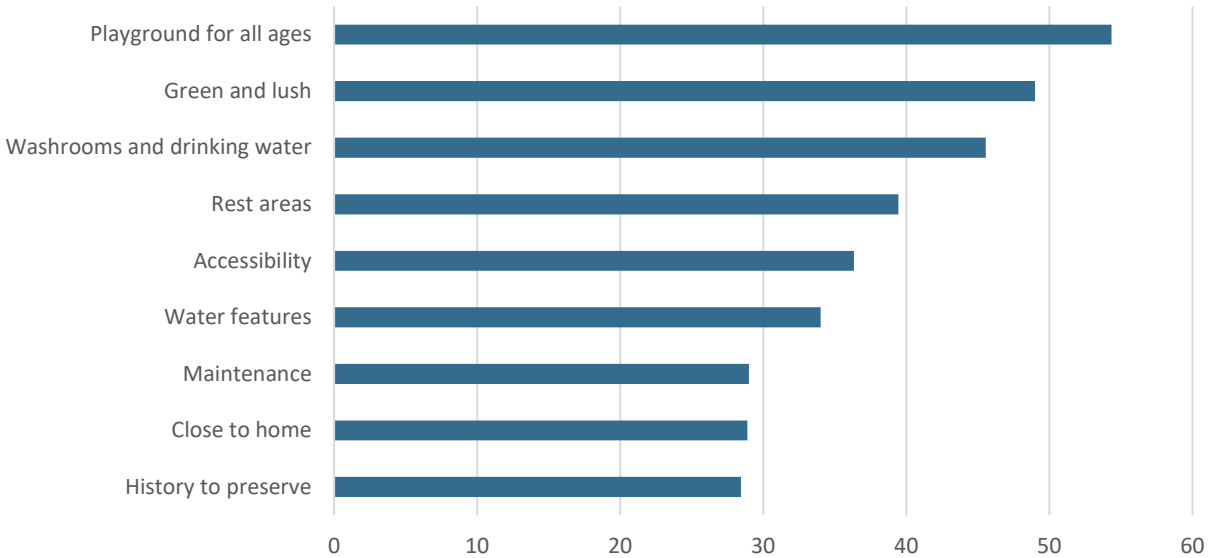




Question 4: What activities do you hope to do in Brandson Park? Check all that apply.



Question 5: Throughout spring 2024, community members were asked to share their big ideas for Brandson Park in two engagement activities. Nine themes emerged from these engagements. Please help us understand your priorities for Brandson Park by ranking them from most important to least important below.



N=70

**Responses have been weighted*

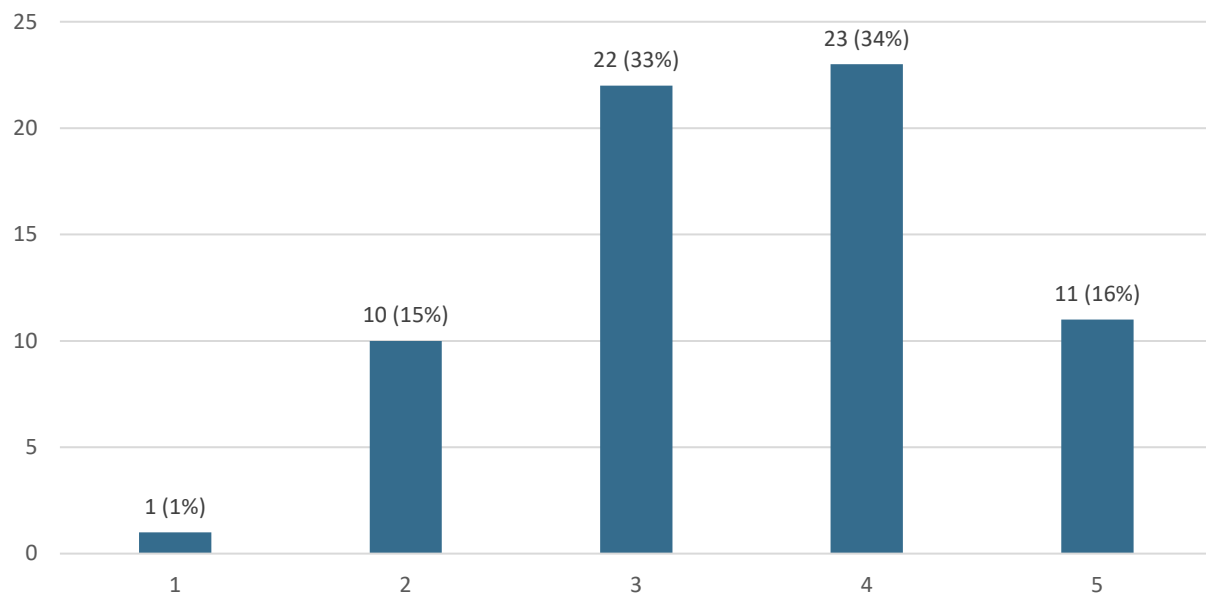
Question 6: Did we miss anything? Share your thoughts on the engagement themes here!

RESPONSES
A covered area is a priority so we can use it in spring and fall weather. Bathrooms are also very important.
Keep it simple and avoid it being used for drifters - no washrooms - a meeting place for local residents to enjoy nature and a coffee, water feature is nice but not necessary. Hard for these times but I'm sure residents would be happy with green space especially for residents and the new Park Place. Even a small community garden for apartment dwellers would be very important in my opinion. Growing food is so important now..
We really miss the big trees. Plant new ones please. It is heartbreaking to see the ugly building where the beautiful big tree used to be
Green and lush to me means grasses that don't use a lot of water (tall ones) bushes that feed bees and butterflies
Parking
Covered seating areas for picnics and working (laptop) outdoors
Shade in the summer
Space for dogs to play
This questionnaire seems to be designed to gather information from residents living in the adjacent area of this park. It sounds OK but it should be also considered that all Castlegar residents and visitors may use this park. A suggestion is to set aside two well marked parking spots for people with mobility challenges at the park's entrance.
You missed everything. How can it be any sort of nature with a massive ugly building there. You've already disgraced the name of Brandson by allowing the sale and development of this land. You should all be ashamed. Another building that no local can afford rent, a company owned building. These will be rented/bought by people in Vancouver and rented back at a massive upcost and raising our taxes to fill your own pockets
A water park would be nice to have on this side of the city.

The old park was terrible. So anything you do will be an improvement, even if people don't agree

This park is SO much smaller than it was, a third of the space. Green space is limited so I don't think wasting time and money on washrooms is worth it. Also, where will people park to access the park if they aren't walking to it? A space that can be used all seasons is important to me and my family. Which means incorporating a snow sledding hill. My family would also ask for a privacy screen/wall/hedge to separate the park from the Park Place building....my kids already don't want to use the park because people will be staring down at them from their apartment/condo balconies.

Question 7: Concept Option 1 - Play Perch. This concept option includes an accessible aggregate plaza along the park's eastern edge and an accessible hillside path that connects to a playground with a three-bay swing set and sensory mushroom play. How satisfied are you with this concept? Rank this park! (1-Not quite there to 5-Absolutely nailed it)



N=67

Question 8: Share your thoughts on Concept 1 - Play Perch

RESPONSES

I'm not sure the play park is great in the centre of the park. Depending on how many kids are there or what is going on, it could make the park less enjoyable for others.

Really like the swing set

There should be more picnic tables or seating on the grassy area

I prefer this location, but I don't like this design structure.

Please build play equipment for ages 5-12

It's ok

What is a sensory mushroom play? I think you need better drawings and explanations

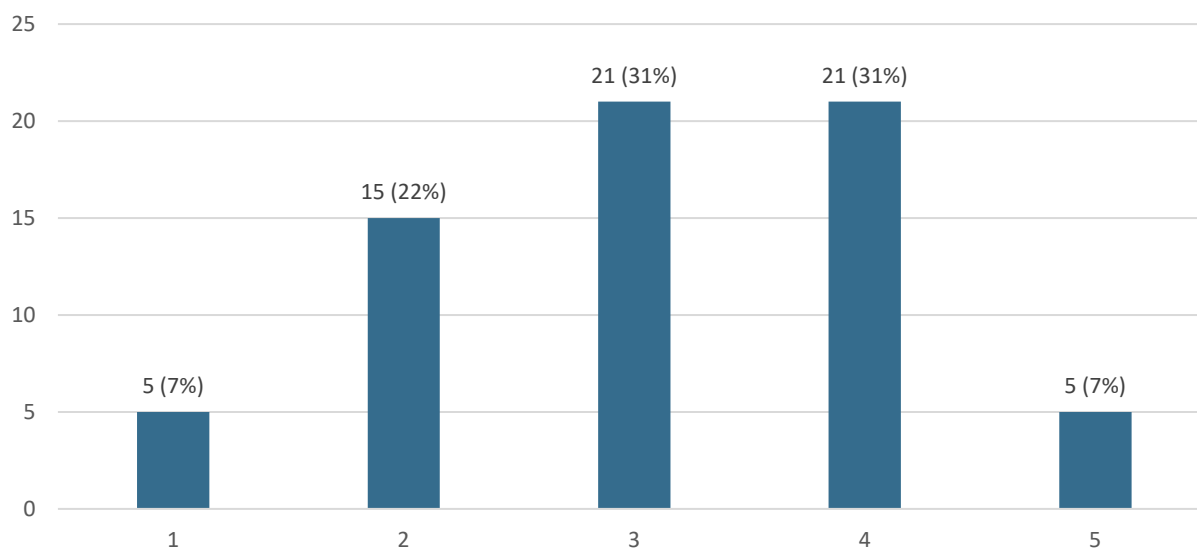
I would like to see a couple less trees and more helpful plants for bees and butterflies/hummers

Like the path through the middle

Where is a playground that was promised.... Because that's not what kids and parents want

We need better playgrounds in castlegar. This one needs slides climbing structures and a flying fox! (Zip line)
A slide would be nice
This is my preferred concept. Good mix of everything. Would like to see a bit more done for the kids playground. I like that the mushrooms are incorporated as it brings back a piece of history from when there were mushrooms to play on before in the park
There are enough playgrounds here. How about a space where adults can gather to chat and have an outdoors place to relax
This is the most acceptable.
Wasteful
Having a play zone and a water park would be amazing.
Best
It's OK, no water fountain and swings aren't enough of a play structure. Also, no parking.
I appreciate the three bay swing set. Ideally with two regular swings. Not many parks where both kids can swing same time
Natural, draws people into the space, limited hardscape
great concept as so many people deal iwth sensory issues.

Question 9: Concept Option 2 - Swing Low. This concept option includes an accessible aggregate plaza located along the park's eastern entrance, with key elements and a playground grouped nearby. The playground has a single-nest swing and a small play structure. How satisfied are you with this concept? Rank this park! (1-Not quite there to 5-Absolutely nailed it)



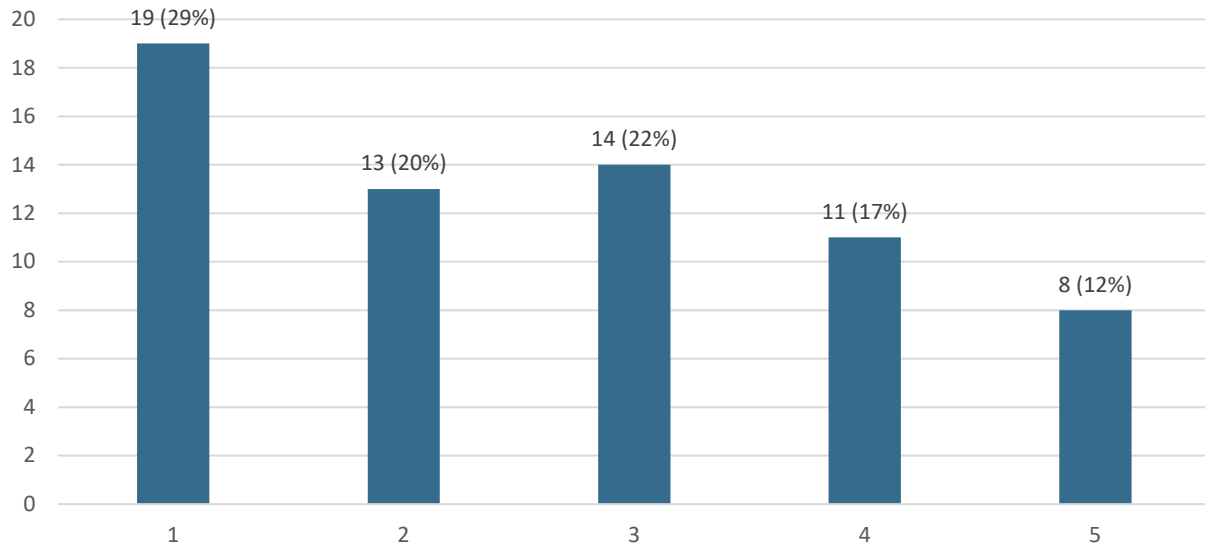
N=67

Question 10: Share your thoughts on Concept 2 - Swing Low

RESPONSES

I like the idea of the net swing and the small play structure. I wonder if any kind of grants could be available to help with the cost of this?
Like the small play structure, dislike only one large swing
More seating, picnic tables
I prefer this option but I think the location should be at the far side away from the gate. The rest of the green space will likely go unused with this design layout.
Playground too small
A bigger playground would be awesome. Like the one at Nickleplate in Rossland PI
One swing is enough for kids to play on?
I would like to see a couple less trees and more helpful plants for bees and butterflies/hummers
Looks like more play options
Better but not by much
More swings
Single swing set too limiting. Flow of the park area not as nice as concept 1
see answer above - there are enough kids playgrounds around here. Need quiet space for adults.
Not suitable to every one
Wasteful
Adding a spray park would be amazing
Having one swing is tricky for parents of multiples
Ok
Needs more to do, more swings and a water fountain. Also, no parking.
I like the balance and small structure but dislike only 1 swing
Doesn't draw people further into the space, I prefer the simpler accessible swing to concept 1, nice larger gathering area
great concept for children and those with mobility challenges.

Question 11: Concept 3 - Mushroom Misting Plaza. This concept option includes an accessible concrete plaza with a mushroom-themed fountain located along the park's eastern entrance. All the park's key elements are grouped near the plaza. How satisfied are you with this concept? Rank this park! (1-Not quite there to 5-Absolutely nailed it)



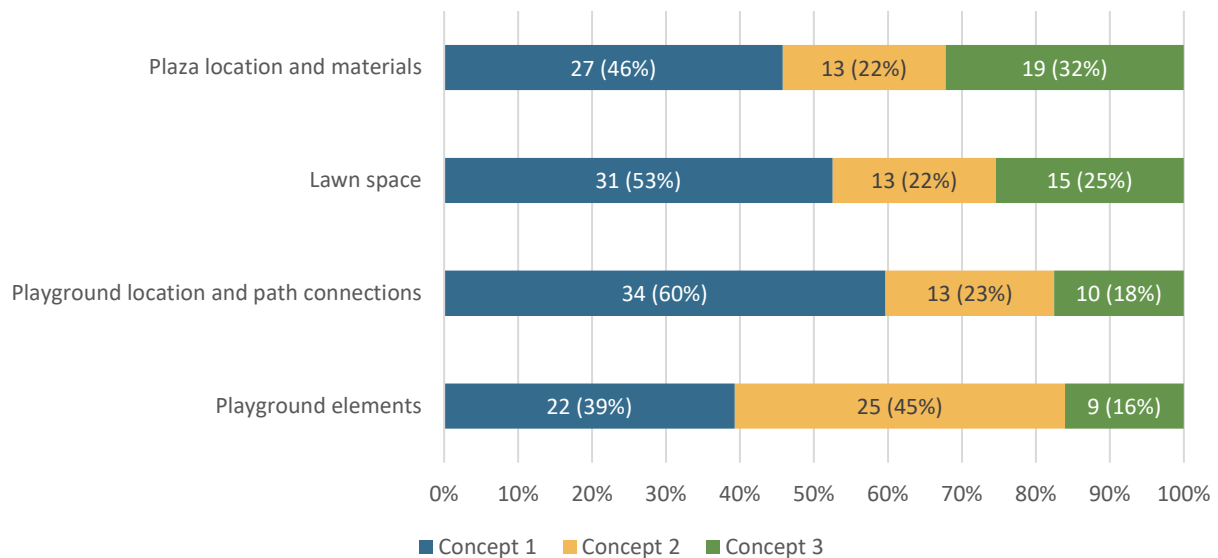
N=65

Question 12: Share your thoughts on Concept 3 - Mushroom Misting Plaza

RESPONSES
Water features like fountains get dirty unless this is supposed to be a small spray park like downtown? I'm just not sure based on the description. I do like that there is a water fountain!
I don't support the fountain being a decorative water feature, that's too costly and high maintenance
No park?
Once again I think having everything right near the street is not a great design concept. I think moving everything into the middle of the space will create a more inviting space throughout.
No playground
Not very kid friendly, no parks or play structure
So no actual play structure for kids?
water feature helps birds, bees etc plus being visually pleasing with added plants to help feed bees, butterflies and hummers it would be a 5+
There is already a spray park in Castlegar, don't think we need another one
O
Water feature not necessary. No shortage of water play options in Castlegar. Maintenance costs too much.
So no play ground and a fountain. You are kidding right?
I feel like these designs being focused so closely to the Park Place parking lot, community members will feel like it's the condos park, not everyone's.
Why can't we do this with a small play ground?
Needs more year round play structures
Needs to offer more play area for kids space. Playgrounds enhance neighbourhoods for families. Please let's not do another water feature.
This seems like it might be the most peaceful option.

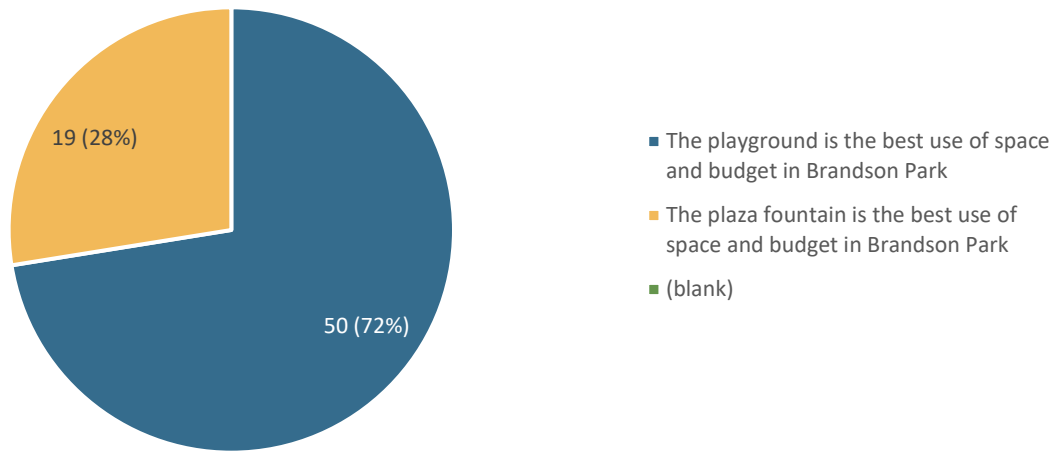
Least acceptable of the concepts.
Wasteful
Water feature is unnecessary and not sustainable
This would be a nightmare to maintain.
No play structures for kids
This would be a 4(or 5) if there was more than water play, a hill slide and or some swings and or a play structure. Also, no parking.
Not super family friendly
It isn't clear if the misting feature is a visual or participatory feature, too much hardscape, doesn't draw people into the space
as a blind person, this concept provides ease of access to park elements.

Question 13: The concept plans presented share many of the elements but differ in several key ways. In the table below, indicate your preference for the concept plan elements.



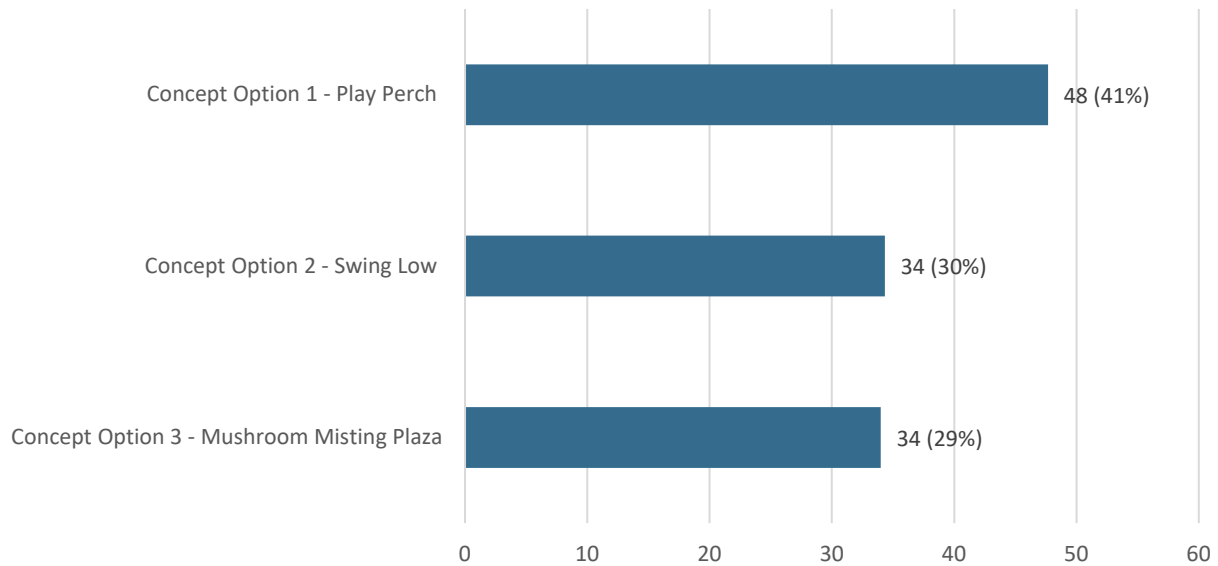
N=71

Question 14: Space and budget limit the possible options for Brandson Park. In concepts 1 and 2, the playground is the main attraction, while in concept 3, the plaza fountain is the star of the show. Of these two main attractions, which do you prefer most?



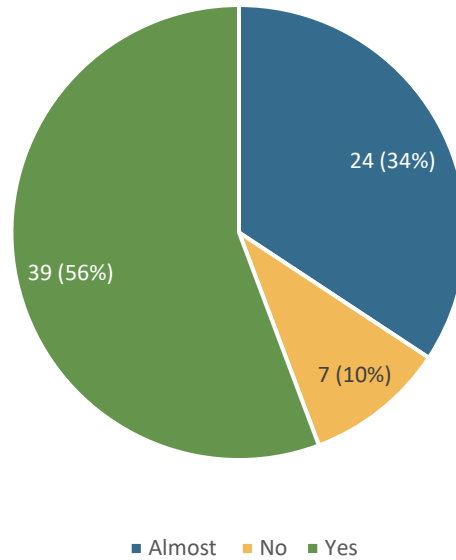
N=69

Question 15: Which concept option do you prefer the most? Rank your preferred concept option for Brandon Park below.



N=69

Question 16: The City's goal is to create an accessible and inclusive park that is welcoming to everyone and celebrates the stories and history of this park. Do the proposed concepts achieve this goal?



N=70

Question 17: What would help the proposed concepts better achieve this goal?

RESPONSES
unknown
Don't put everything by the gate. Put the attractions in the middle with maintained accessible pathways to beat use the entire space pathways
Keep it simple, gardens would bring people together and give them something to do helping keep it in beautiful condition. Food for most people is hard to afford, community gardens achieve more than growing food but a sense of pride for their community Spirit too.
Playground that is for older children. Zip line from sloped hill.
Make sure to make it family friendly yet fun for everyone
You sold a park for a housing development. Assuming it is successful do you not think that a park for children will be needed? I think the closest park is the school across the highway. Kids can't go there to play by themselves. Put in a park. Put in benches. Put in trees and grass. You guys screwed this up...fix the mistake you made. This park was a memorial and donated land. You sold it. I would expect the money you get would be invested in the tiny sliver of park left and possibly making a new park somewhere else. Also, how are we supposed to vote on something with such vague explanations? Add some drawings showing what the features are going to look like. Shame on you all.
The accessible path should be in all the designs. Also need interpretive signs with history. A wildflower/pollinator garden would also be ideal.
There needs to be some seats with a covered area
The ground is pretty much flat so why are we adding Hills and mounds to it which will not make accessibility better
The focus area of the park shouldn't be right off park place parking lot.
A small water park and a small play structure

Accessible swing in the swing set, flat play area in design to allow wheel chair access
Concept 1 but with a bit more to entertain the kids & help them burn energy at the playground
Consider accessibility to mobility challenged residents and visitors.
Taking back the donated land
More picnic tables spread out across the property
Having play associated with water would bring this park back to history and remind residents why the park was built and donated in the first place.
You achieved it
None
More play equipment, more parking and a bigger budget.
Unsure
Accessible swings such as at Robson School, ramps, natural
Braille and large print signage.

Question 18: The concept plans presented reflect what we learned during community engagement and the current available capital budget for Brandson Park. Are there any other elements you wish were included in the park?

RESPONSES
It would be nice to have a roof structure/small gazebo(?) so shade is available and the park could be used on bad weather days. Bathrooms? Where are families supposed to go with children who are playing and need to go? Does Park Place plan to have a public washroom? A water fountain is a must! Will there be underground sprinklers so the grass stays green and lush for enjoyment? Garbage cans with regular pick ups?
Bathrooms should be a much higher priority. The expense of them should have been expected in any park rebuild.
A fence to keep children from accessing the road
A spray park rather than a water fountain feature would be a better investment for uptown park space. Easier to maintain and more useful.
Keep it simple!
Basketball hoops. How do we not have any basketball hoops in our entire city? It is an affordable, inclusive sport for all ages. If not at Branson park then at the Millennium. We have adequate pickle ball courts in 2 locations. Not to mention at Selkirk College.
Sand play or sensory play for kids
Actual play area would be nice
Pollinator garden
Perhaps only have one mushroom theme concept, the other concept could include something that kids can play in ie boat
The whole point was to replace the playground that was there and add in a water feature and it seems that you guys aren't into that as the playground is lacking and the water feature is a fountain that kids can't play in
A covered seating area, to provide shade in the summer and rain protection.

Turf mounds in the open areas to reflect the whimsy if the mushrooms
Sensory elements such as sound and touch elements
A good place to add a book share box
fenced in area for dogs to play
Consider accessibility to mobility challenged residents and visitors.
Not a massive building that Noone here can afford rent in
Washrooms
Having a spray park or a wading pool would be impressive.
Nine
Parking and more play equipment.
Unsure
Natural play structures
We took out a large playground. Let's make sure we put one that is close to the same back in.
Community garden space would be so nice. 🍄

Question 19: Anything we missed? Share any last thoughts on the priorities and proposed design for Brandson Park here!

RESPONSES
See above.
The entire park area needs to be visible from the east side so police or security is able to easily see anything that shouldn't be happening in a park.
Well done for including community planning!
Option one provides something for everyone, picnic table, park, green space, pathway throughout the park and history.
Small drinking fountain for dogs
PLAY AREA. It is a park for children. Put in play structures.
Flowers!
more picnic area
Yeah what happened to low income housing and a beautiful playground for the kids
I'd love to see a combo of option 1 & 3. The path, and the misting mushroom.
Concept 1 but with more at the play area for kids. Single swing set too small but 2 swing set would be okay if that opened up some options,
Consider accessibility to mobility challenged residents and visitors.
Again, put it back the way it was
None
Try to keep it maintained for the users.
Parking and more play equipment.
None at this time

Many communities in our province provide community garden spaces. Wouldn't it be nice if we could join that movement! Just another way to provide affordable food resources to those in need. To provide a space for those who don't have it to grow organic food. Or create a food share space. Herb gardens are beautiful too!

