



**BLUE MOUNTAIN PARK MASTER PLAN
PHASE 1
ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT**

SUMMER 2021 – WINTER 2022

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1 PROJECT INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Blue Mountain Park (“the Park”) is an 8-hectare (19.9 acre) community level park in the Austin Heights neighbourhood of Southwest Coquitlam. It is one of Coquitlam’s oldest and most popular parks with a rich history. The Park has a wide range of amenities and programming (baseball diamond, playground, wading pool, water spray area, picnic shelters, tennis courts, memorial cenotaph, trails and public art), with some dating back to the 1960s.

As outlined in the [Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan](#), a community level park is intended to provide a broad range of park and recreation facilities that primarily serve the surrounding neighbourhoods, but may also be used by residents and groups from the entire city.

In 2017, a Facility Asset Management Report indicated some key elements of the Park (i.e., washrooms/concession building, Scout Hall, wading pool and spray park) are at the end of their usable life and are in need of replacement. The master planning process is also informed by The City of Coquitlam’s [Aquatic Services and Infrastructure Strategy \(2015 – 2040\)](#) and [Tennis and Pickleball Services and Facilities Strategy \(2017-2037\)](#).

Blue Mountain Park currently lacks the amount of active and social amenities required to support the growing demand. The development of this 20-year Master Plan through 2021 - 2023 will ensure future park users have expanded and updated services to meet the future needs of the neighbourhood and community.



2 WHAT WE DID

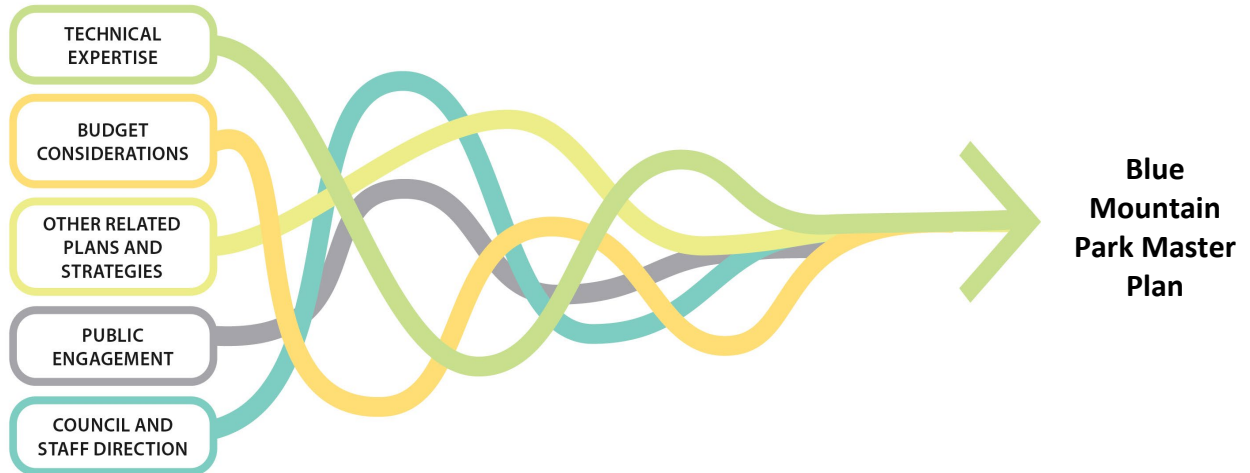
2.1 OVERVIEW OF ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

2.1.1 LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT

The International Association of Public Participation’s (IAP2) Spectrum of Participation recognizes the appropriate level of engagement for each public engagement process. To ensure an authentic and transparent process it is important to be clear about what we are engaging on, how we are engaging, and how people’s input will be used to influence the process.

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that Your concerns and aspirations are reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Based on the scale, level of impact, complexity and target timeline of this project, the bulk of the engagement took place at the **Consult level**. At this level, the goal is to obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions. The promise to the public is that we will keep them informed, listen to, and acknowledge concerns and aspiration, and provide feedback on how public input has influenced the decision.



It is also important to recognize the multiple streams of input and analysis that will inform this project. “The Weave” diagram above shows how this project will integrate technical landscape design and parks planning with budget considerations, other related plans and strategies, public engagement, and Council and staff direction in order to create a well-supported Master Plan.

2.1.2 PROJECT PROCESS TIMELINE

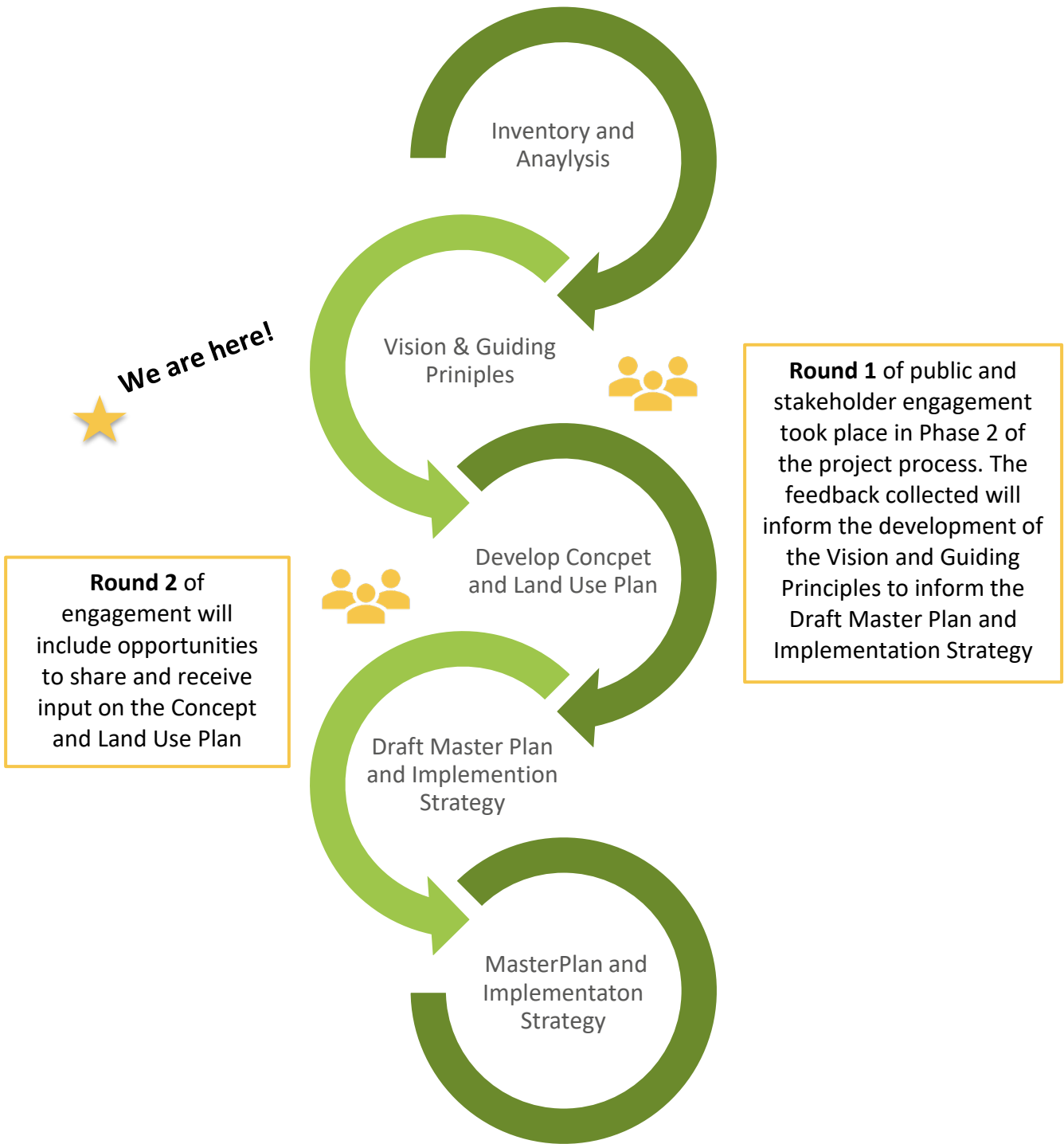
The timeline on the next page provides a project overview of where we are and what's to come in the engagement process to inform the Blue Mountain Park Master Plan.

Phase 1 began with an initial site and inventory analysis, and the development of our Engagement Strategy for the public and other interested parties.

We have completed our first round of engagement (in Phase 2), which will support the drafting of the Master Plan values and goals. The next phase of engagement (in Phase 3) will provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the draft vision, concept, and Land Use Plan for the Park. From there, the project team will develop a Draft Master Plan that will be shared publicly for comment and considerations on what should be prioritized for implementation.

The final Master Plan and Implementation Strategy will be presented to Council for approval in Winter 2023.





2.2 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Engagement activities in this phase involved a combination of focused engagement activities (targeted to specific groups/organizations) and public activities (open to the anyone). Given the public health context during the engagement period, these engagement activities occurred primarily in virtual environments and in-person outside.

Public Questionnaire

The purpose of the questionnaire is to provide an opportunity for the public to have their input on the vision, goals, and values for Blue Mountain Park. Participants had the option to complete the online survey or to fill out the survey by hand (at a park engagement session).

In-Person Engagement Sessions

The project team facilitated two pop-up events at Blue Mountain Park on August 21st and 29th, 2021. The purpose of these sessions was to raise awareness and connect with a broad range of community members. A series of information boards allowed participants to learn more about the project, what to expect going forward, and provide input on the type of amenities and programming they wanted to see in the Park. These events followed COVID-19 restrictions as they considered safety and health measures accordingly.



Virtual Engagement Sessions

Two virtual engagement sessions held on August 25th and September 14th, 2021 provided an online option for park users and community members to learn more about the project, ask questions, and provide feedback to inform the future Master Plan.

Small Group Discussions

Small group workshops or discussions were facilitated by City staff with 11 community groups and Advisory Committees. These workshops allowed us to gain valuable feedback while providing a comfortable space for organizations who are already meeting.

The following groups participated:

- Advisory Committees
 - Sports and Recreation Advisory Committee (SRAC)
 - Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC)
 - Cultural Services Advisory Committee (CSAS)
 - Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee (UAAC)
 - Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)
 - Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
- Coquitlam Youth Council
- Legion 263
- Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership (TCLIP)
 - Farsi Speaking
 - Mandarin Speaking
 - Korean Speaking

Online Reach

The project information reached many people through online channels including:

- 1,200 visits to <https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca/bluemountainpark>
 - 975 aware visitors (i.e., visited the page)
 - 666 informed visitors (i.e., clicked on at least one link or document)
 - 542 engaged visitors (i.e., participated in an engagement tool such as a survey)
- Nearly 12,000 people reached on social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Engagement Activity	Date	Participation
Public Questionnaire	Fall 2021	549 participants
2 Park Engagement Sessions	August 21 st , 2021 August 29 th 2021	160 participants
2 Virtual Engagement Sessions	August 25 th , 2021 September 14 th , 2021	25 participants
11 Small Group Discussions	September - November 2021	77 participants
TOTAL		811 participants

2.3 WHO PARTICIPATED

It is important for the City and project team to hear from diverse people within our community. For our online survey, respondents had the option of sharing basic demographic information to give us a sense of who participated in this engagement method. The following is a summary of the demographics represented by the online survey. We did not collect demographic data from participants who attended the park or virtual engagement sessions or small group discussions. See **Appendix A** for a more detailed breakdown of the 549 participants who completed the online survey.

Location of Residence: Most of the postal codes provided by survey respondents were from the City of Coquitlam (93%). The other 7% were from other municipalities within Metro Vancouver.

Relationship to Coquitlam: Most respondents (89%) indicated that they live in Coquitlam while some (8%) go to Coquitlam to play and spend time recreationally. 2% own a business in Coquitlam and 1% of respondents work in the City.

Common Languages Spoken at Home: The majority of survey respondents (90%) speak English at home. In the Austin Heights neighbourhood, 76% of residents speak English most often at home and 24% speak a different language (*Census Canada, 2016*). English speakers were over-represented by survey respondents relative to the neighbouring population.

Gender Identity: Survey respondents who identify as women made up the majority of those who took the online survey (53%), while 40% identify as men. Under 1% of respondents identified as non-binary and 6% either preferred not to say or self-identified as something else. In comparison to the gender distribution of the neighbourhood, 49% identify as women and 51% as men (*Census Canada- V3J 1X4, 2016*).

Age Distribution: Around half of respondents (51%) were 55 years of age or older and over 70% were 45 years or older. Those 18 years and below were the smallest percentage of survey respondents (under 1%). Compared to the neighbourhood age distribution in Austin Heights, residents who are 50 years and older make up about 40% of the population and those 18 years and younger make up about 15% (*Census Canada, 2016*). This indicates that the youth population was underrepresented in the online survey.

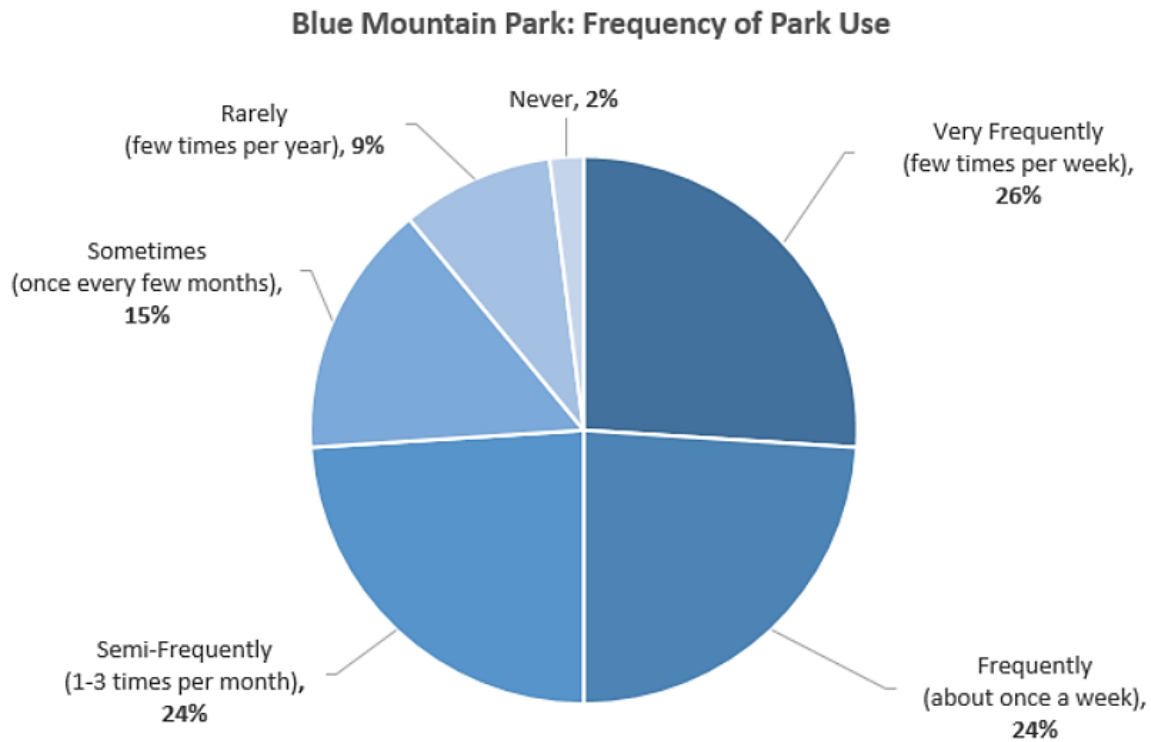
3 WHAT WE HEARD

The following section summarizes what we have heard from the first round of public and stakeholder engagement. It is organized by the topics we engaged on and the method of engagement. For open-ended questions that were asked or discussed, we have included key themes analyzed from the feedback along with the number of references in parenthesis. *Example: Enhanced Lighting (7)*

3.1 CURRENT PARK USE

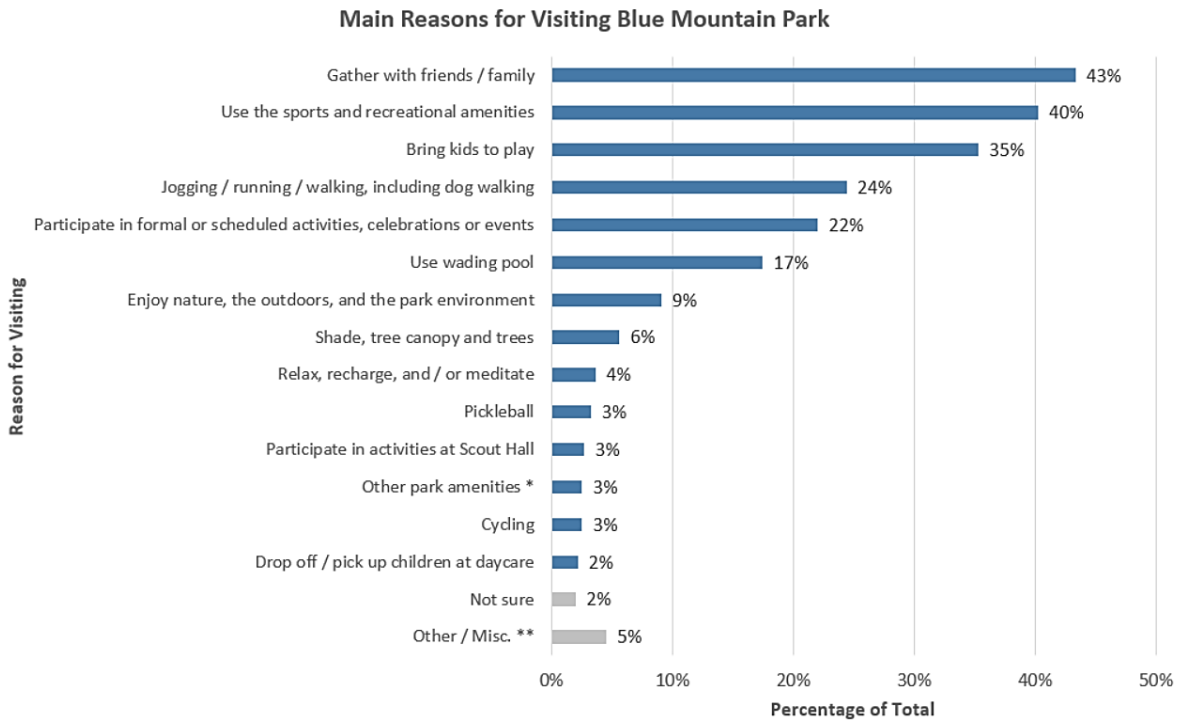
Participants from the online survey were asked how often they visit Blue Mountain Park. Figure 1 shows that most respondents (74%) visit the Park “very frequently”, “frequently” or “semi-frequently”, ranging from a few times per week to 1 - 3 times per month.

Figure 1: Frequency of Park Use by Survey Respondents



When asked to select the main reason(s) participants visit Blue Mountain Park, Figure 2 shows that the most common reason is “to gather with friends and/or family”, followed by “to use the sports and recreational amenities (i.e., baseball, tennis courts) and “to bring kids to play (e.g., at the playground or spray park)”.

Figure 2: Main Reasons for Park Use by Survey Respondents



* Other Park Amenities include: picnic table, seating, washrooms, water foundation, etc.

** Other / Misc. include bird watching, enjoy the sculptures / public art / memorial, other exercise, and people watching.

Blue Mountain Park is most used as a space to gather with friends / family or to play sports and recreate.

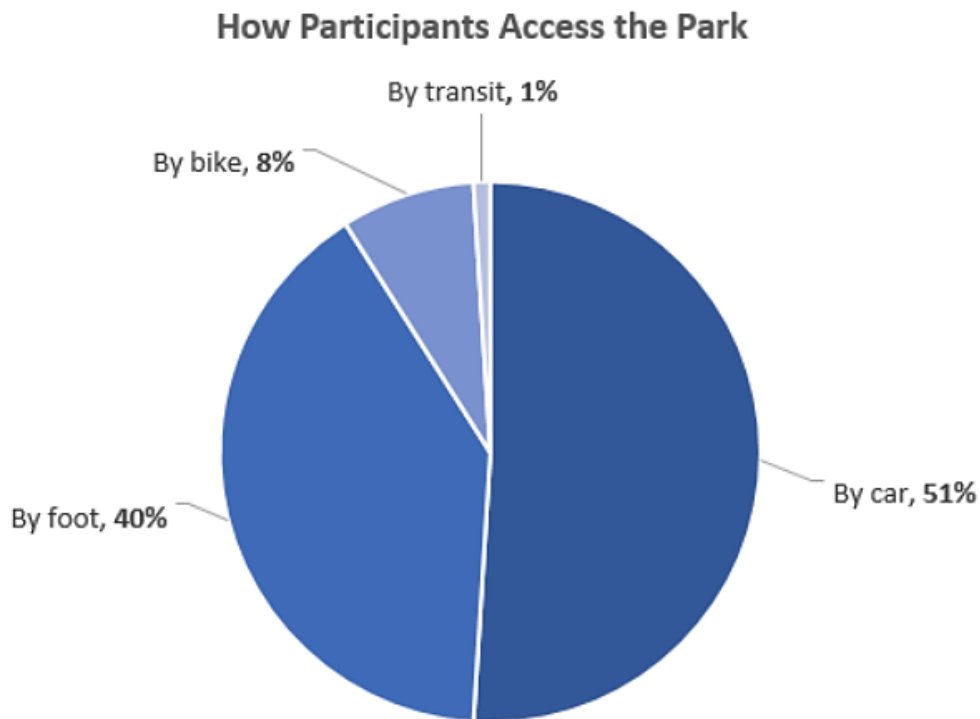


51% of respondents who come to the Park to gather with friends and/or family indicated they visit either once or a few times a week. Of those who visit to use the sports and recreational amenities, 60% come once or a few times a week.

3.2 MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

Participants in the online survey, the virtual and park engagement sessions were asked to select the way they most often access the Park. Figure 3 shows combined responses from all engagement activities, indicating that about half of respondents (51%) access the Park by car, followed by 39% who access it by foot and 8% by bike. 60% of those who took the survey at an in-person open house or virtual session access the Park most by foot.

Figure 3: How Participants Access the Park by Survey Respondents



Under 1% of respondents specified Other or Not Sure.

Blue Mountain Park is most used as a space to gather with friends / family or to play sports and recreate.



3.3 COVID-19 IMPACTS

Most respondents* conveyed that COVID-19 has not impacted the way they have used the Park, including frequency of use and what activities they partake in. Other participants noted they used the Park more during the pandemic. Key activities included taking advantage of the open and covered spaces to gather safely with friends and family, play pickleball or exercise while the gyms were closed, bring children to play, and for walking and relaxation. For those whose park use decreased during COVID-19 restrictions, some expressed concern with overcrowding and cleanliness of surfaces, as well as the ability to properly distance from others.

**Has COVID-19 impacted the amount or ways in which you use the park?
If so, how?**

“

“Not really [any impacts to the way I use the park]. I just stay distanced from others.”

“We have not gone as often. When we do, we are more careful of interacting with others.”

“I've used it more often because it is an open space with activities in different parts of the park, so it is much easier to social distance than in parks with defined trails.”

- Survey Respondents

”

3.4 IDENTIFIED BARRIERS

When asked if there is anything that prevents them from visiting Blue Mountain Park more often, respondents (316) identified different types of barriers, including those that relate to space and Park capacity, desired recreational opportunities, Park maintenance and comfort, and network connectivity. It is important to note that some of the barriers identified were more prevalent due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

SPACE AND CAPACITY (139)

Overcrowding (79)

Many participants noted that overcrowding is an issue and dictates when they choose to visit Blue Mountain Park. The playground, pickleball courts and covered picnic spaces were mentioned as specific areas of overcrowding. The overall level of noise from crowding and shared use are related factors.

Parking (51)

Limited parking was identified as a barrier in visiting the Park due to lack of convenient and available spots as well as inaccessibility along King Albert Avenue.

RECREATION AND EXERCISE (91)

Many respondents experience barriers specific to recreation and exercise. The categories below depict what was most mentioned in the survey.

Court Space (77)

- Lack of Pickleball Courts (58)
 - Many people indicated that there is currently a lack of dedicated pickleball courts which creates conflicts with tennis players, often resulting in people going to other municipalities for court space. There are suggestions to increase the number of pickleball courts to six.
- Tennis Courts (10)
 - Tennis players expressed concern with the limited court space for tennis as it is often used for pickleball.
- Limit Pickleball Playtime (8)
 - There were suggestions to limit the hours of pickleball playtime as it is loud and results in long wait times for court use.
- Squash Court (1)
 - A suggestion to add a squash court.

Wading Pool (11)

Respondents expressed concern that the wading pool is often closed and not large enough. A couple respondents also expressed interest in having a standard sized pool.

General Sports and Exercise (3)

A few respondents expressed that there is a lack of space for other sports such as basketball and skateboarding.

MAINTENANCE AND COMFORT (52)

Lack of Amenities (13)

Respondents indicated generally that a lack of amenities and poor condition of some amenities caused them to not visit the Park more often.

Covered/Picnic Areas (12)

Participants noted a lack of covered and/or picnic areas for use and expressed they often have to go to other parks to find picnicking space.

Safety (9)

There were concerns over the perception of safety in the Park. This includes the lack of security and well-lit paths as well as the presence of smoking and the nearby busy streets.

Washrooms (7)

Some commented on the poor condition of washrooms and suggested upgrades and increased maintenance, as well as the need for additional washrooms in the park.

Lighting (7)

The lack of lighting is a concern, particularly at night, along trails, and in the courts.

Lack of Family Friendly Areas (6)

The crowdedness of the Park poses a concern for families as there is not enough space or features at the Park for them to use, including the playground and picnicking/gathering spaces.

Seating (6)

There were comments on limited seating in the park, which impacts the accessibility for some users.

Other

- Lack of Community Events (1)

CONNECTIVITY (17)

Walking Paths and Navigation (9)

Respondents expressed that there is currently a lack of walking paths around and throughout the Park, and added suggestions to add informational signage and distance markers.

Transit Access (4)

Some noted limited reliable and convenient transit access to the Park.

Bike Access (3)

Safe bike routes and bike access to the Park were identified as a barrier.

Space and capacity limitations present the most barriers to user access, specifically for grass/picnic areas, parking, and court or recreational space.



OTHER (18)

- COVID-19 (7)
- Park Proximity (too far away) (5)
- Weather (3)
- Dog amenities (2)
- Steep terrain (1)

Is there anything that prevents you from visiting Blue Mountain Park more often?

“

“Crowded on the weekends, amenities are not usable by our family, not enough seating or picnic tables.”

“We could use more courts. Often the pickleball courts are full so we need to go elsewhere to try and find available courts.”

“There isn’t an easy way to walk around the park. It’s built to mostly facilitate walking through or to a destination but no way to go in a loop without exiting the park.”

”

- Survey Respondents

3.5 IMPROVED ACCESS AND ACCESSIBILITY

The following themes summarize participants' responses (374) to the question, *how do you think we might improve connections and access into and through the Park?*

It should be noted that while many people expressed and offered ideas for improvements, 8% (38) of people are content with the current state of the Park and do not wish to change it at all.

AMENITIES AND MAINTENANCE (134)

Enhanced Lighting (104)

Lighting was identified as the top consideration to improve connections and access to Blue Mountain Park. Some suggestions include upgraded lighting in trails and courts and consideration for solar paneled options. While the majority favoured more lighting, some expressed concern for light pollution and disruption of the peaceful nature of the Park.

Other Park Amenities (30)

- Bathrooms (10)
- Picnic Tables (9)
- Seating (6)
- Food and Concession Stand (2)
- Scout Hall Upgrades (2)
- Water Fountain (1)

CONNECTIVITY (116)

Improved Pathways (100)

Participants suggested accessibility improvements such as paved pathways throughout the Park to create an even surface for wheels. Other ideas include hand railings along pathways in higher sloped areas and an accessible path/route from the parking lot to amenity areas.

- Walking paths (53)
 - Many expressed that the paths require improvements such as widening paths, landscaping, and type of surface material. Some are hoping to have paths paved for accessibility while others hope it is made from natural material to support the local ecosystem.
- Wheeled paths (47)
 - While improvements to current paths were suggested, many would also like to see separated paths for wheeled modes of transportation such as bikes, wheelchairs, and scooters. There was concern around safety on shared pathways caused by the speed of wheeled devices.



Enhanced lighting and improved pathways for pedestrians and wheeled transport (such as mobility devices and scooters) are seen as key ways to improve accessibility.

Connected Spaces and Wayfinding (16)

Overall, there is desire to have more points of connection between key amenities (such as the bathroom, sports field, courts, and trails). Some expressed interest in a North-South connector pathway. Wayfinding was suggested to help new visitors in the Park find key locations and amenities.

PARK FEATURES (52)

Bike Infrastructure and Amenities (22)

Respondents expressed interest in more bike infrastructure, including bike racks, wide trails, and bike lockers. There were a couple of concerns related to the speed of bikes and shared paths with pedestrians, particularly for seniors and young children.

Additional Parking (19)

Respondents commented on limited availability for vehicle parking and noted the likelihood of increased park usage spurred by future development in the neighbourhood.

Children's Areas (8)

Respondents expressed a need to keep and/or upgrade the existing playground area and structures for children, specifically children with disabilities.

Dog Friendly Spaces (3)

A few people mentioned that they would like to see the Park more open to dogs, keeping in mind all other Park users. Some suggested a separate dog area and/or enforcement of leashed dogs outside of that area.

RECREATION AND EXERCISE (38)

Court Upgrades (18)

Suggestions to enhance the existing court space include soundproofing elements and more lighting to enable longer use of the space when it gets dark.

Designated Pickleball Courts (9)

Respondents expressed the need for dedicated pickleball courts to reduce conflict over shared court space with tennis players. Pickleball was noted as a growing sport locally and globally, particularly among seniors.

Wading Pool (7)

There were comments to keep the wading pool, particularly for small children and those who are learning to swim. It was mentioned that the wading pool should be replaced, but not removed.

Other (4)

- Open Space (2)
- Spray Park (1)
- Ping Pong (1)

DESIGN (34)

Green Space and Environment Protection (27)

Participants expressed concern for tree removal at the expense of redeveloping the Park. Some suggested using permeable surfaces for rainwater as well as providing educational spaces to teach the public about the biodiversity in the area.

Safety (7)

Generally, people expressed that there should be speed control around the Park, with specific mention of Porter Street. There was a suggestion to implement crosswalks at highly frequented areas between intersections.



How do you think we might improve connections and access into and through the Park?

“The paths through the forested area need upgrading. Not necessarily paved, but wider and flatter to accommodate a wheelchair or stroller and prevent seniors from tripping.”

“Bike pathways would allow better access to central underused areas of the park.”

“Whatever improvements can be made without changing the essential character and ambience in the park. Care must be taken not to negatively impact the mature trees especially.”



-Survey Respondents

3.6 TYPE OF FUTURE SPACE

Participants were asked what kind of spaces they envision in the Park and reflect on how they may want to feel. Below is a graphic of the most common words respondents (143) used when envisioning the future Park, followed by key themes of their responses.



DIVERSITY OF SPACES (81)

Resting & Gathering Spaces (30)

Picnic areas (17), multi-use spaces (7), and seating (4) were the top amenities identified by participants. These were often supplemented with a desire to use spaces to meet or connect with other residents in the neighbourhood, to gather with friends and family, and to relax in a natural and shaded area. There was also a suggestion to include more reservable spaces.

Natural and Forested Spaces (24)

When asked to envision the ideal space of Blue Mountain Park, many envisioned a space that preserves its natural landscape and/or contains many natural features. This includes maintaining the forested and natural areas, expanding the open green space, and adding landscaping and small gardens.

Family Friendly (15)

Respondents expressed interest in family friendly areas and energizing activities at the Park. Suggestions include playground maintenance, zipline, hockey box and more spaces for gathering.

Relaxing (10)

People generally commented that they would like the Park to be relaxing and peaceful.

Youth Friendly (2)

There were a couple of suggestions to ensure that the Park is designed for all ages, especially for youth. The addition of a skate park was suggested.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY (39)

Wading Pool (16)

Participants indicated interest in a wading pool, including suggestions to upgrade the existing one. The main reason being that it is an appropriate activity and size for young children. Some supported an enhanced spray park if it can be used by children from toddlers to pre-teens.

General Recreational Space (13)

There is support for additional upgrades to the current playground, including accessible design such as sensory elements and considerations for flexible green space. In general, people hope to use the open grass areas for a variety of activities, including bocce ball, volleyball, and badminton.

Pickleball Courts (10)

Participants expressed a desire for dedicated pickleball courts to lessen the need to share with tennis players and to reduce wait times.

ART AND EVENTS (23)

Sense of Community (17)

Participants commented that the Park should create a sense of community and be a safe space to engage in various activities. Others indicated that they appreciate the current state and feel of the Park and do not wish to have major changes except increased maintenance of existing amenities and spaces.

Performance Area (6)

Some participants suggested that having a covered performance/stage area would be a nice space to host events such as concerts, movie nights, and outdoor classes.

The Park is envisioned as an inclusive and natural resting, gathering, and recreational space for all ages of the community.



Imagine Blue Mountain Park in 10 years. What type of space(s) do you envision?

“

“Keep it relaxing through trees and vegetation with spaces for people to gather and do recreational activities.”

“More places to relax, would love more gardens/flowers, and more/better water features (e.g. fountains).”

“Being able to gather with friends, family, [bring] our kids to use the pool and spray park, and epic playground.”

“Community feel, but still a park. We don’t need too many amenities. Keep it simple.”

”

- Survey Respondents

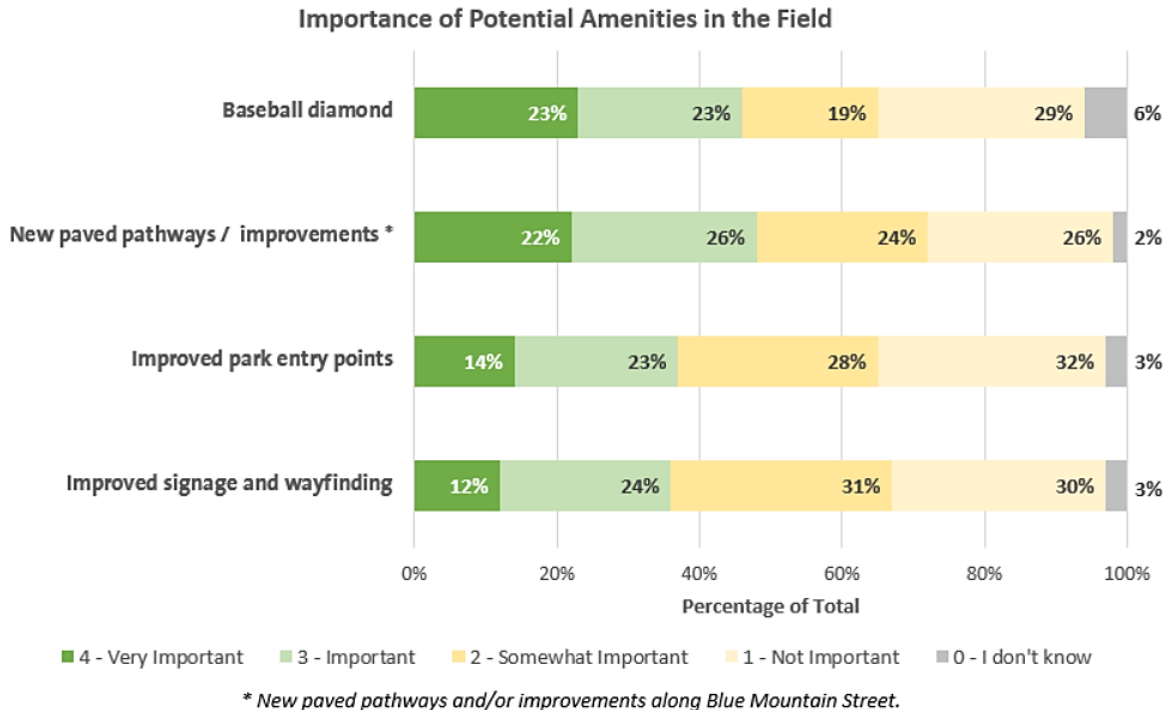


3.7 FUTURE AMENITIES BY ZONE

THE FIELD (274)

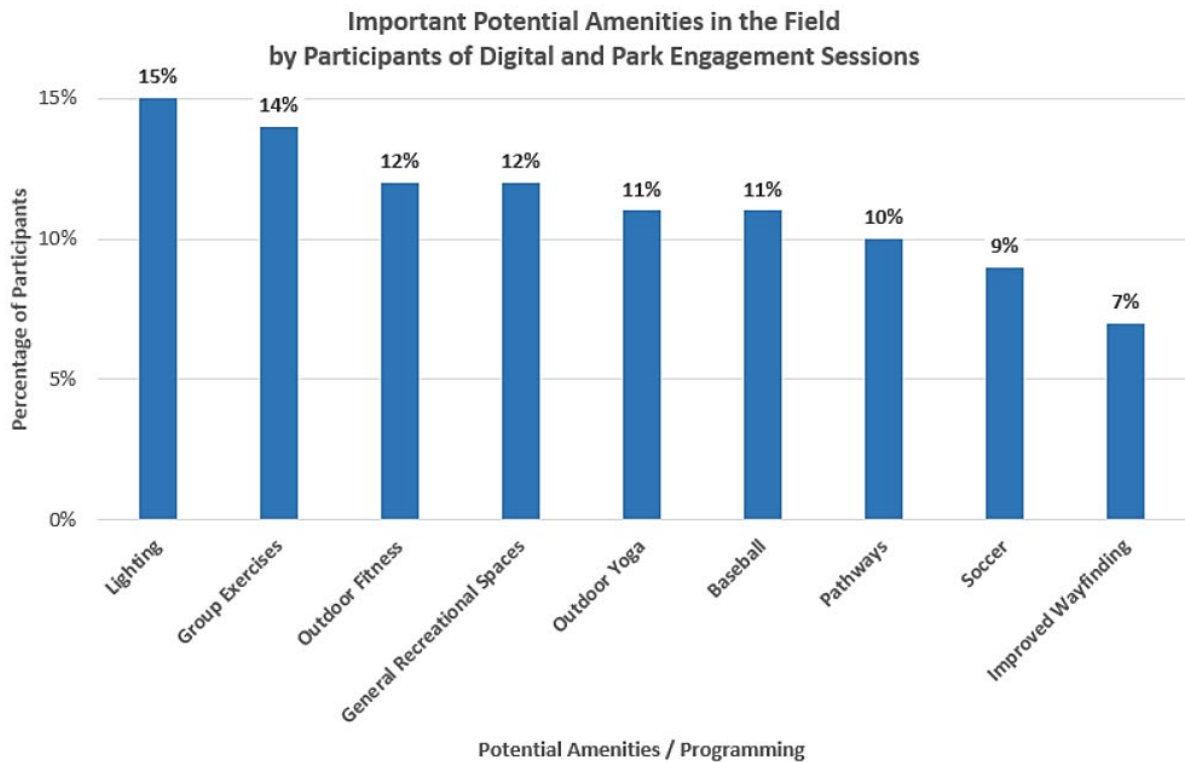
Participants in the online survey were asked to rate the importance of potential future amenities for the renewal of the Field area. Figure 4 indicates that the amenity of most importance is new paved pathways and improvements along Blue Mountain Street, followed by the baseball diamond. Many people noted that there is not a need to upgrade the baseball diamond but a desire to see it used for additional recreational programming and an open area for relaxation.

Figure 4: Importance of Potential Amenities in the Field by Survey Respondents



Participants in the digital and park engagement sessions were asked what specific future amenities and programming should be included in the Field. **Figure 5 shows that lighting is the most important amenity for participants, followed by spaces for group exercises and outdoor fitness.**

Figure 5: Important Potential Amenities in the Field by Participants of Digital and Park Engagement Sessions (228)



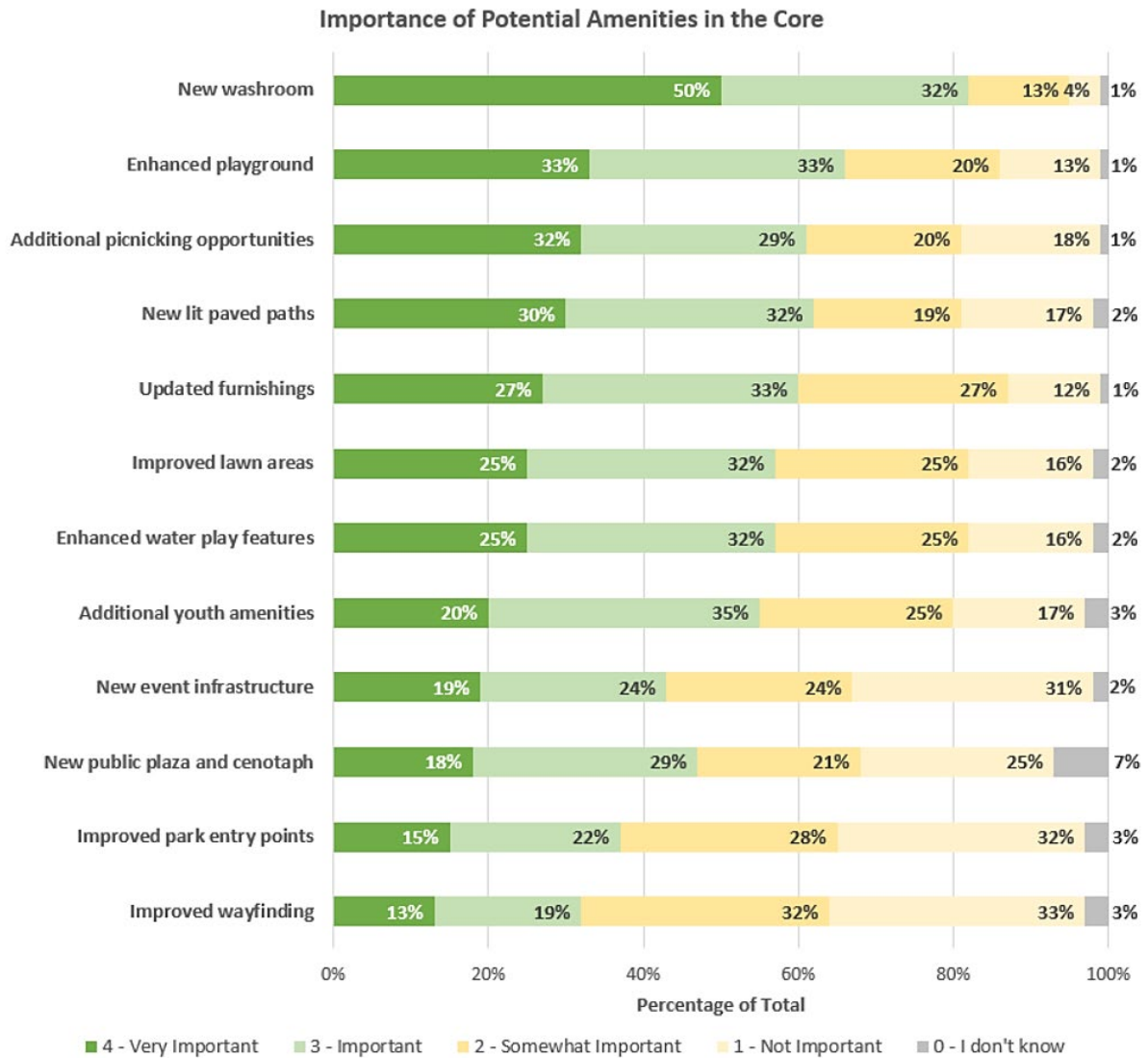
Other considerations and suggestions of what should be included in the Field (from all engagement activities) include:

- *Park Features (67)*: Including more benches and seating; improvements to the drinking fountains; better wayfinding and signage; concession/food options; updated bathrooms
- *Environmental Preservation (28)*: Preserving the natural landscape by maintaining green/natural space (no pavement) and planting native plants to attract pollinators.
- *Access & Connectivity on Pathways (19)*: Improving lighting, particularly along the exterior of the field fence. There is a desire to have wider paths and a separate path for wheels as well.
- *Outdoor Fitness (10)*: Providing spaces specifically for circuit training.
- *Dog Amenities (8)*: Off-leash dog area, water fountain.
- *Family Friendly Spaces (5)*: Ensuring spaces are family friendly, specifically with children’s amenities and spaces that can be used year-round.

THE CORE (304)

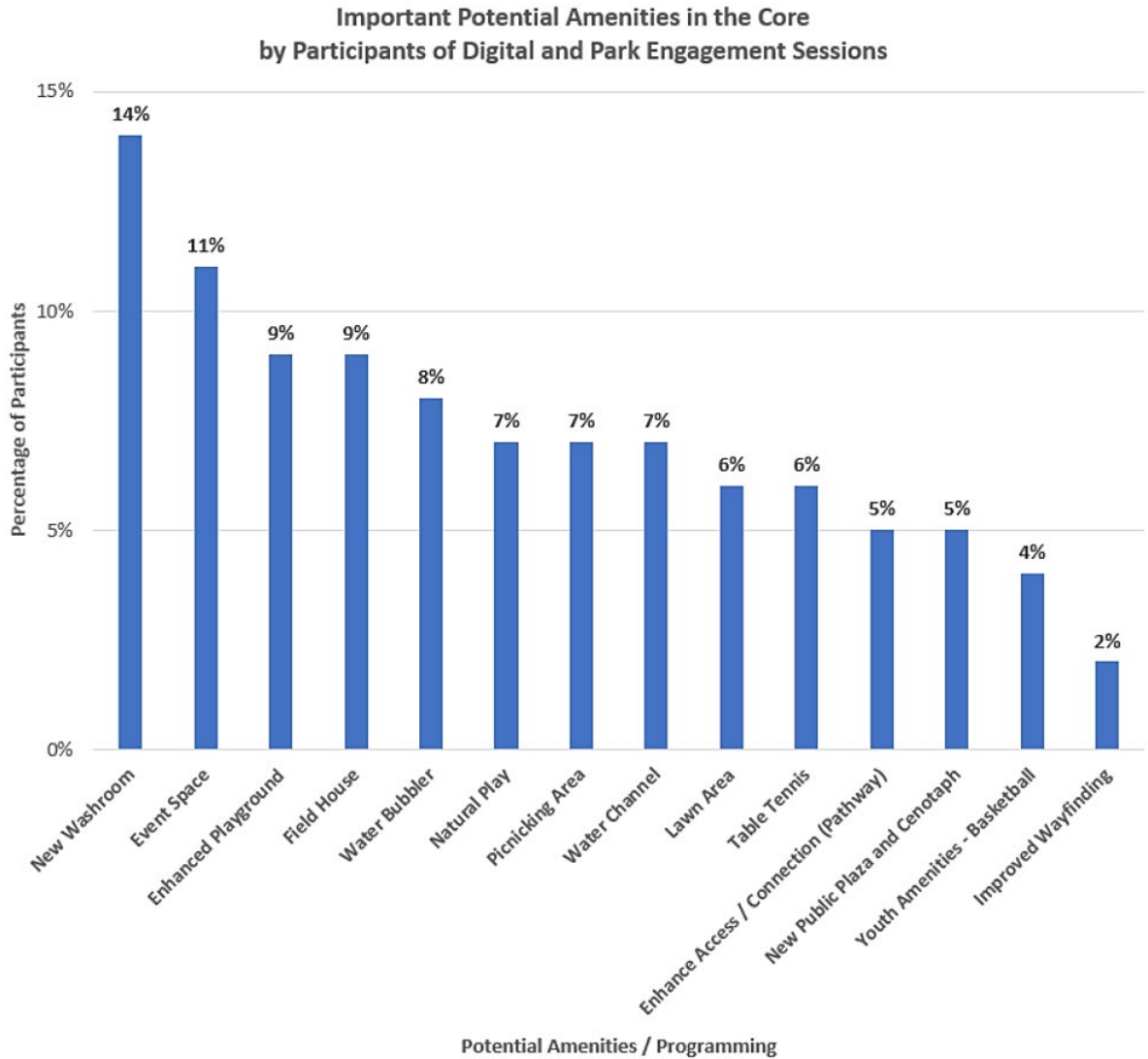
The Core is the central area of the Park where most activities and amenities are located. Participants in the online survey ranked potential amenities in the Core by level of importance. Figure 6 shows that new washrooms are the most important amenity to be included, followed by an enhanced playground and additional picnicking opportunities.

Figure 6: Importance of Potential Amenities in the Core by Survey Respondents



In the digital and park engagement sessions, participants were asked what specific future amenities and programming should be included in the Core. Figure 7 shows that a new washroom is the most desired amenity, followed by a new event space and enhanced playground.

Figure 7: Important Potential Amenities in the Core by Participants of Digital and Park Engagement Sessions (419)



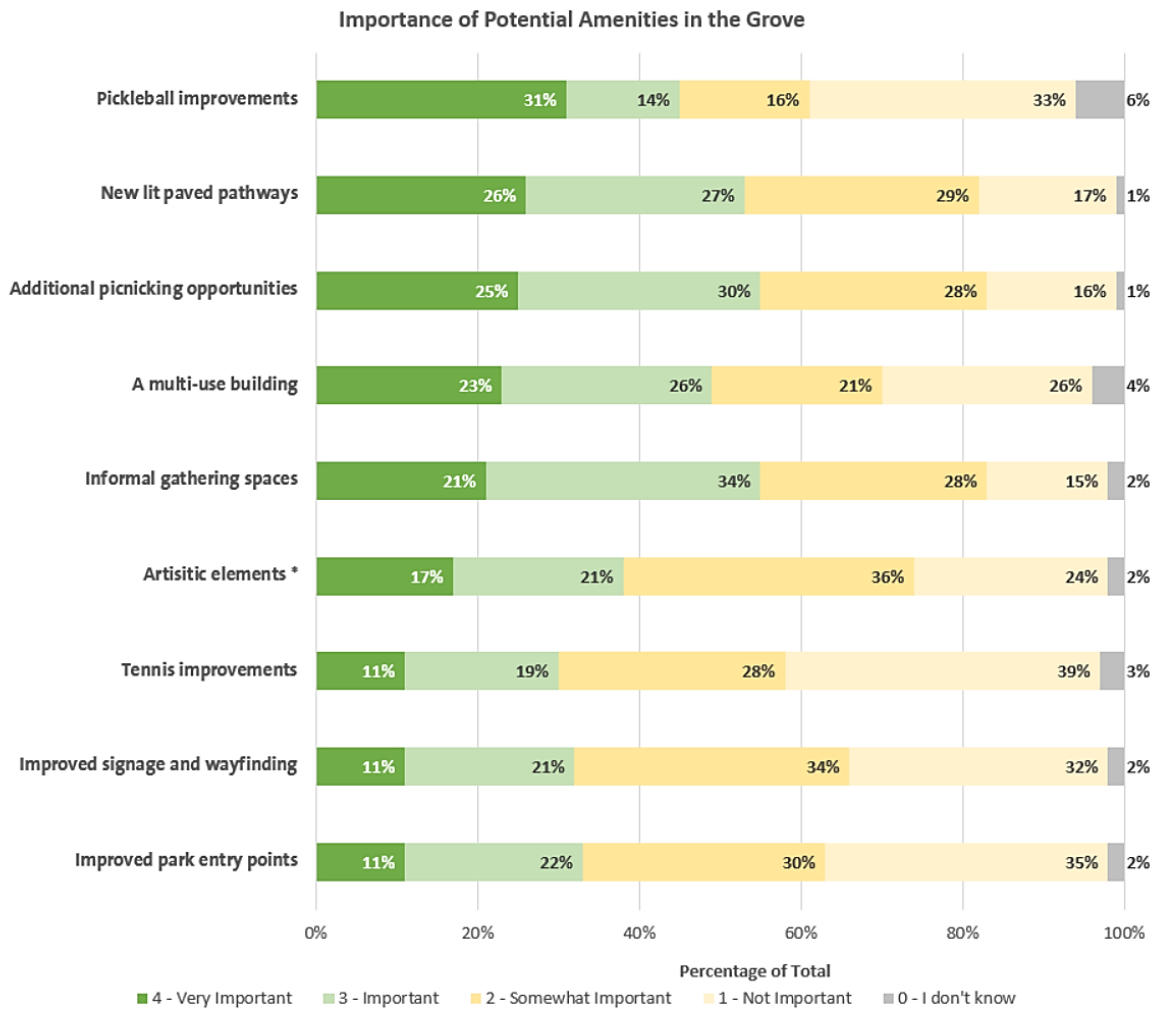
Other considerations and suggestions of what should be included in the Core (from all engagement activities) include:

- *Water Play (70)*: Many participants expressed support for maintaining the wading pool and upgrading it to make it accessible for wheelchairs. There is concern that the wading pool is suitable for young children and that a spray park is suitable for older children.
- *Sports and Recreational Areas (14)*: There is desire for an open area for volleyball, bocce ball, hockey box, and general lounging.
- *Cenotaph (10)*: Many people acknowledged and appreciated having the cenotaph represent a piece of local history. Suggestions include to design the plaza at an angled elevation so that the cenotaph is visible to all during Remembrance Day proceeding and to offer more available seating.
- *Youth Amenities (8)*: Suggestions for additional youth amenities at the Park such as a skate park, basketball court, and bike park.
- *Design Elements (6)*: Participants expressed a need to intentionally design the Park with sustainable materials from renewable sources and consider ground surfacing such as rubberized flooring for accessibility.
- *Food Trucks (5)*: Spaces that can accommodate food trucks for public events or during busy weekends.

THE GROVE (287)

The Grove is popular for those who wish to access nature in the neighbourhood. Participants in the online survey indicated the level of importance of the following potential amenities in the Grove. Figure 8 shows that new lit paved pathways are the most important amenity to consider, followed by additional picnicking space and informal gathering spaces.

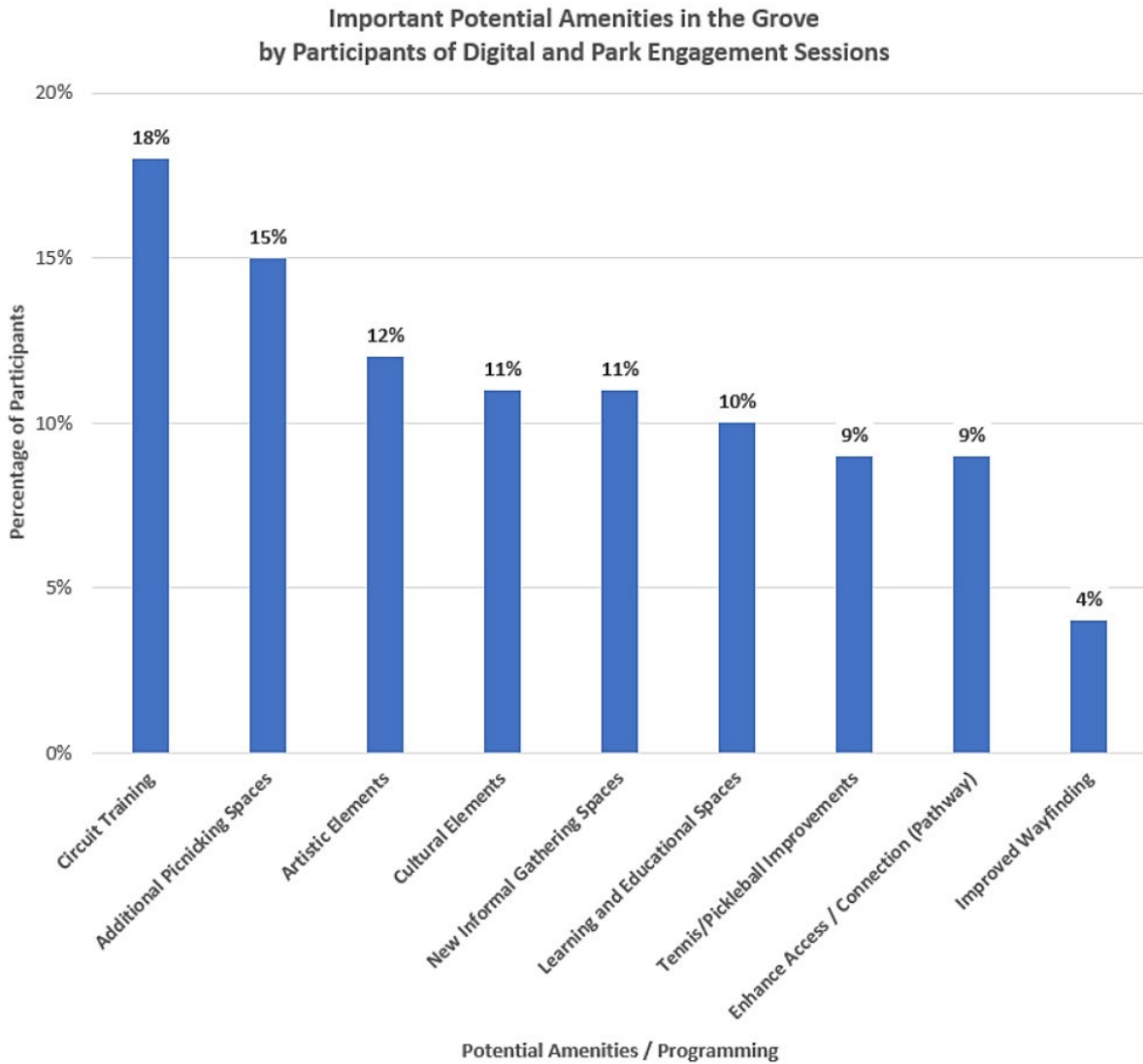
Figure 8: Importance of Potential Amenities in the Grove by Survey Respondents



* Artistic elements that celebrate the park's important natural, historical and cultural features.

In the digital and park engagement sessions, participants were asked what specific future amenities and programming should be included in the Grove. Figure 9 shows that circuit training is the most desired amenity, followed by additional picnicking spaces and artistic elements.

Figure 9: Important Potential Amenities in the Grove by Participants of Digital and Park Engagement Sessions (390)



Other considerations and suggestions of what should be included in the Grove (from all engagement activities) include:

- *Green Space & Tree Retention (79)*: As this area is filled with a mix of conifer trees, many respondents expressed that they would like to retain as many trees as possible, if not all. This area is identified as a key component of the Park that adds to its character and natural feel. The area also attracts birds and insects.
- *Pickleball Courts (61)*: Many participants indicated that the pickleball community is growing and desire for dedicated pickleball courts. This would allow for more play time and less conflict with tennis players in sharing the space. However, it is also noted that the expansion of courts should be of minimal disruption to the natural environment and include noise control features.
- *Multi-purpose facility (29)*: While Scout Hall is not what it once was, many people hope to see upgrades to allow it to become a multipurpose space. This space could host community meetings, banquets, children's camp, educational programming, or childcare. Some expressed that it is unnecessary to replace the whole building, but renovations are important.
- *Artistic Elements (10)*: Suggestions to retain the waterfall sculpture and further develop the gardens around it, including more trees and natural, open spaces. This also includes adding more signage and educational resources to share the significance of the existing art.

SUMMARY OF PREFERRED AMENITIES BY ZONE*

Highest Rated Potential Amenities by Park Zone (*Online Survey*):



Highest Rated Potential Amenities by Park Zone (*Virtual and In-Person Engagement*):



* See detailed figures on pages 22 - 29 for public survey results on the importance of potential amenities by zone.

3.8 ADDITIONAL SURVEY FEEDBACK

Participants in the online survey were asked if there is anything else that should be considered when developing the Blue Mountain Park Master Plan. Overall, the most frequently discussed topic was the protection of the natural environment. Participants desire to see upgrades to the current space and not encroach on existing forested areas or habitat. Other prominent considerations include maintaining the wading pool, maintaining and upgrading existing amenities and public infrastructure, and securing dedicated pickleball courts for permanent use.

3.9 FEEDBACK FROM USER GROUPS

The key themes below summarize feedback from the 11 meetings facilitated with the following advisory and user groups:

- Advisory Committees
 - Cultural Services Advisory Committee (CSAS)
 - Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
 - Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC)
 - Sports and Recreation Advisory Committee (SRAC)
 - Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee (SEAC)
 - Universal Access-Ability Advisory Committee (UAAC)
- Coquitlam Youth Council
- Legion 263
- Tri-Cities Local Immigration Partnership (TCLIP)
 - Farsi Speaking
 - Mandarin Speaking
 - Korean Speaking

Themes are listed in alphabetical order below.

Cenotaph Location

Participants discussed the importance of the Cenotaph and voiced support for moving it to a more prominent location in the Park, such as the central lawn. Representatives of the Legion noted that the current location is too small and cannot accommodate the increasing attendance at ceremonies and events (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic). Annual events include the Battle of Atlantic, Liberation of Holland, Korean Veterans, and Dogwood Veterans. Although parking is not an issue for events, Legion members expressed a need to provide power to the Cenotaph site (i.e., to run an extension cord for lighting and sound equipment). They also requested a hardscape surface for the structure (e.g., Grandview Park, Vancouver) and identified federal programs that support Cenotaphs.

Community Spaces and Programming

The inclusion of more community spaces and programming in Blue Mountain Park was the most frequently discussed topic throughout the meetings. Participants expressed the need to replace Scout Hall with a multi-use community facility that could accommodate learning spaces (including the continuation of the City's Library Link) and bookable spaces for arts, performances, and cultural events. This could also involve the addition of an outdoor classroom with educational programming. Participants requested more covered areas with groupings of tables and chairs for smaller gatherings, particularly for youth, and a covered stage for all season programming. Other suggestions include dedicated space for a regular farmer's market and a concession stand or indoor facility that could provide coffee/snacks and act as an indoor resting area. Some also mentioned the need to provide shelter for extreme weather and emergency response, particularly for those experiencing homelessness in colder seasons.

First Nations Involvement

Involving local First Nations in the master planning process was an important topic discussed. Participants saw this as an opportunity work with First Nation communities to incorporate Indigenous histories, design, and art through the Park's renewal.

Green Space and Picnic Areas

Many participants expressed a desire for expansion of the lawn and grass areas in the Park for picnics. This included the need for additional barbeque pits, grills, benches, and picnic tables to accommodate more groups. Some voiced support for dedicated areas to host food and ice-cream trucks and the opportunity to support local businesses. There is also a need for more quiet, reflective green spaces in the Park, such as a community garden, as well as an off-leash area for pets.

Master Planning Process

There were general comments and questions about the timeline for the Master Plan and engagement, and the desire to hear from all communities that may use this space over the next twenty years to ensure diverse needs are equitably represented in the Plan.

Neighbourhood Density and Demand

Participants acknowledged the increasing density in the Austin Heights neighbourhood and that the growing need for outdoor recreational amenities, particularly since the COVID-19 pandemic, has caused increased Park demand. Many are concerned that there will be a lack of vehicle parking and felt that parking opportunities should be explored in the Master Plan. Some also suggested the provision of charging stations for electric vehicles and the consideration of links to other modes of transportation, such as bus.

Play Areas

There was desire for new playground equipment and play spaces in the Park. Participants, specifically from the meetings with TCLIP, expressed a need for play areas that could accommodate younger children (i.e., toddlers) as well as equipment for adults and seniors, such as swings. Some suggested incorporating more natural materials into play spaces (i.e., sand, water, wind) and referenced the timber playground in Mundy Park as a popular example.

Protection of Biodiversity and Wildlife

Many participants commented on the need to minimize impacts to the Park's urban forest (The Grove) and to protect wildlife habitat by considering light and noise pollution at night (e.g., using specific LED colours to reduce impact). Some were concerned that trees would be cut down in future building phases and that development should retain as many existing trees as possible. There were also suggestions from the Sustainability and Environment Advisory Committee to prioritize more permeable materials in the renewal and re-establish understory in the Park to better support local biodiversity.

Safety and Accessibility

Considerations around safety and accessibility are important to prioritize in the Park's renewal. Many participants commented on the need for better lighting along pathways so that people feel safe walking through the Park at different times of the day and during seasons when it gets dark earlier. There was some concern about pedestrian safety and suggestions to enforce slower speed limits around the Park and/or build fencing to provide more separation from the road and grass areas. Considered in the Access-Ability Advisory Committee, there was a suggestion to work with an accessibility certification program (e.g., Rick Hansen Foundation) to assess the Park Master Plan and engage with people with disabilities during the design phases.

Accessible and covered drop off areas were requested by multiple groups, where park users or families can unload equipment and picnicking supplies or drop off individuals who may have a difficult time walking longer distances. There was expressed need for sidewalk improvements and ensuring the paths and surfaces are soft, accessible and can be easily navigated by people with visual or physical disabilities. Participants discussed upgrades to Park washrooms to ensure they are cleaner, more accessible and gender inclusive. There is a desire for dedicated family changing rooms and showering facilities. Some suggested these facilities could be designed to act as emergency response shelters when necessary.

Sports and Activities

There was discussion around the pickleball pilot program and although some were supportive of making it a permanent amenity, others expressed concern for noise impacts on nearby residences. It was suggested by the Sports and Recreation Advisory Committee that if the pickleball was to be expanded at the Park, the courts would need appropriate sound barriers.

Ideas for additional sport and recreational amenities include circuit exercise equipment, a basketball court (that is covered and well-lit for playing after dark), games, (especially for youth (e.g., chess boards and table tennis), volleyball courts, skatepark, zipline, bike or pump track (in addition to more cycling infrastructure), multi-purpose field space for various sports (i.e., soccer), and pop-up beaches.

Water Play

The expansion of the Park's water features and planned removal of the wading pool were important topics of discussion. Many group participants support a new and enhanced spray park to accommodate both children and youth and suggested a waterslide as an additional feature.

Some voiced a need to replace the existing wading pool because of its central location in the neighbourhood and the need for more swimming amenities to accommodate the growing number of families in Austin Heights. Participants noted the absence of outdoor pools in Coquitlam and it will be important to consider how we provide convenient cooling opportunities for communities during extreme heat conditions.

There was also support for the wading pool closure as participants commented on the barriers to accessibility (i.e., children using wheelchairs cannot access the wading pool) and the cost of pool maintenance.

Wayfinding

Participants requested better wayfinding and improved signage around the Park, specifically on how to book available facilities and to locate public washrooms and changing rooms. There were some suggestions to incorporate more interpretive and artistic signage to enhance the learning opportunities on site (i.e., on the different tree species, history of Blue Mountain Park, etc.).

4 KEY INSIGHTS AND CONSIDERATIONS

The following insights and planning and considerations are based on the feedback received in this phase of engagement and will inform the vision, guiding principles, concept and land use plan for the Blue Mountain Park Master Plan.

Program

- **Balance of park uses:** People use Blue Mountain Park in a variety of ways and value both the natural setting as well as the recreational amenities. Maintaining this balance will be important.
- **Inclusive programming:** The Park is many things to many people and will need diverse and flexible programming for all ages and abilities. Park programming will need to consider all ages and abilities, from toddlers to seniors. Acknowledging that the Park can be “something for everyone” but not “everything to everyone”, will be important through the planning process to identify what the program at Blue Mountain Park needs to achieve within the broader Coquitlam Park inventory and distribute amenities accordingly.
- **Capacity challenges:** Increased demand for Park amenities has created challenges for people in accessing the park, finding vehicle parking, and using green space and picnic areas. It will be important for the design team to consider programming space and connectivity efficiently and consider how additional (and/or duplicate) amenities will impact or address Park usage.

Accessibility

- **Access for all modes:** We heard that users access the Park in a variety of ways; however, those that rely on vehicles expressed a lack of parking. Multi-modal access (walking, cycling, driving) and connectivity will be important in the planning process.
- **Accessible pathways:** A priority for participants is better pedestrian pathways that can accommodate people walking or rolling (i.e., using a mobility assistance device, stroller, scooter).
- **Separation of cyclists and pedestrians:** Participants expressed potential conflict between walking/rolling and cycling, noting safety concerns on shared pathways. The design of routes and access points to and through the Park may need to consider the separation of modes, by placing bike facilities on the Park edge and by major amenity areas for example.

- **Enhanced lighting:** Lighting in the Park and especially along trails and pathways was seen as a priority for improvement. The Park design should consider enhanced and environmentally friendly lighting that can support accessibility during different times of the day and support perceptions of safety.
- **Improved wayfinding:** We heard that additional wayfinding would help improve navigation around the Park and access to key locations. The design team could consider the use of creative wayfinding to distinguish the various amenities and features found in each Park “zone” (i.e., Field, Core, Grove).

Resilience

- **Preservation of natural areas:** Many people value Blue Mountain Park because of the forested and green spaces. To provide this access for park users and to support climate resilience, it will be important to retain and potentially expand tree coverage and the natural landscape in the Park.
- **Community needs:** Blue Mountain Park was an important space during the COVID-19 pandemic, giving people a place to gather safely and to retreat outdoors. Parks are also a community asset during extreme heat and weather events by providing shade and cooling amenities. The planning process should consider ways the Park can continue to be a hub for the neighbourhood and strengthen community health.

5 LESSONS LEARNED FROM ENGAGEMENT

Through this first round of engagement for the Blue Mountain Park Master Plan, the project team took away several key lessons that will guide the later phases of engagement:

Provide diverse opportunities to engage. Because this round of engagement took place under COVID-19 restrictions, we provided multiple opportunities for people to engage and provide feedback. We facilitated both online and in-person events to accommodate different abilities and comfort levels.

Prioritize “go to them” approaches. To reach a diversity of voices and perspectives, the project team tailored workshops to the different City Advisory Committees and other user groups (Youth Council, Legion, TCLIP). We extended our engagement timeline to accommodate each group’s schedule and coordinated translation when required.

Seek broad representation of the neighbourhood. Where appropriate, in future phases of engagement we will conduct additional outreach and engagement with Austin Heights residents who have not yet participated or who may be underrepresented in the process (based on the demographic data collected from the survey).

Find opportunities to target youth involvement. To better understand the youth perspective and priorities for the Park, we will aim to work with local schools and youth organizations in the next round of engagement to facilitate targeted opportunities for younger Coquitlam residents to provide input.

Expand methods of communication. We had success in sharing project background information and informing residents about the process through the project website, social media and printed materials. In the next phase, we can strengthen our social media presence and explore potential new ways of communicating to reach a wider age demographic.

6 NEXT STEPS

All feedback in this Engagement Summary Report in addition to technical reviews and site analysis will inform the development of the site vision, guiding principles, concept and land use plan.

In Phase 2 of engagement, community members will have an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the concept and land use plan.

Please visit <https://letstalkcoquitlam.ca/bluemountainpark> to learn more about the project and stay up to date on past and future engagement opportunities.



The following information was collected from participants of the online survey (**549 total**).

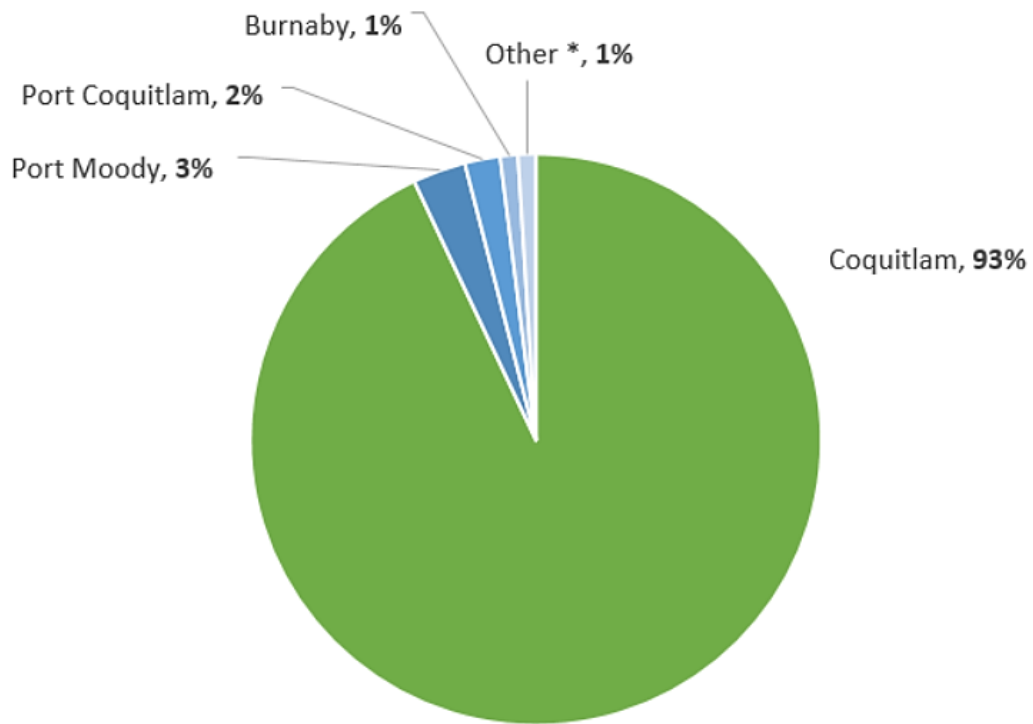
This demographic information will help us understand who is participating and what gaps exist so we can better reach out to any missing voices in future phases.

Location of Residence:

Most of the postal codes provided by participants were from the City of Coquitlam (93%).

Appendix Figure 1: Location of Residence of Survey Respondents

Who We Heard From: Home Municipality



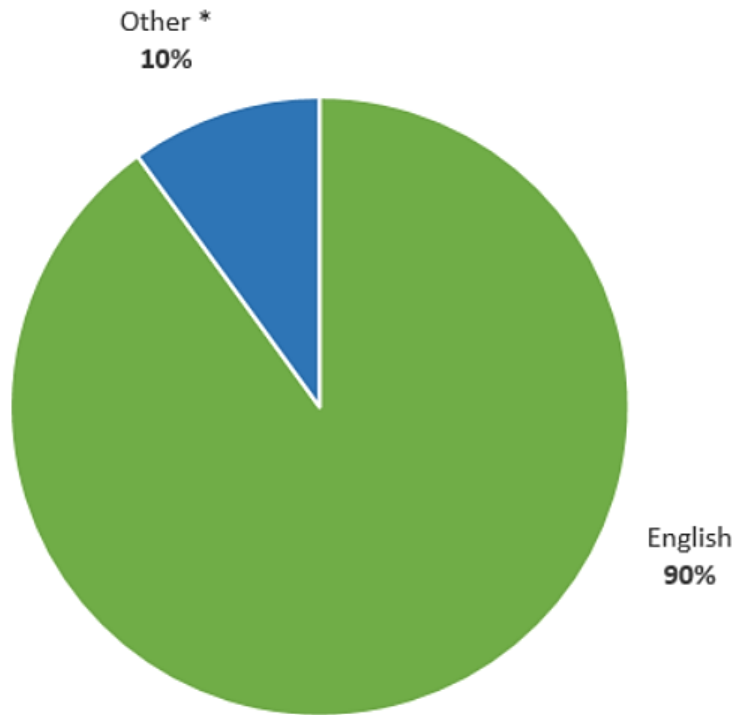
** Other Municipalities in Metro Vancouver: Surrey and Vancouver*

Most Common Languages Spoken at Home:

The majority of survey participants (90%) speak English at home.

Appendix Figure 2: Most Frequently Spoken Languages by Survey Participants

Most Common Languages Spoken at Home

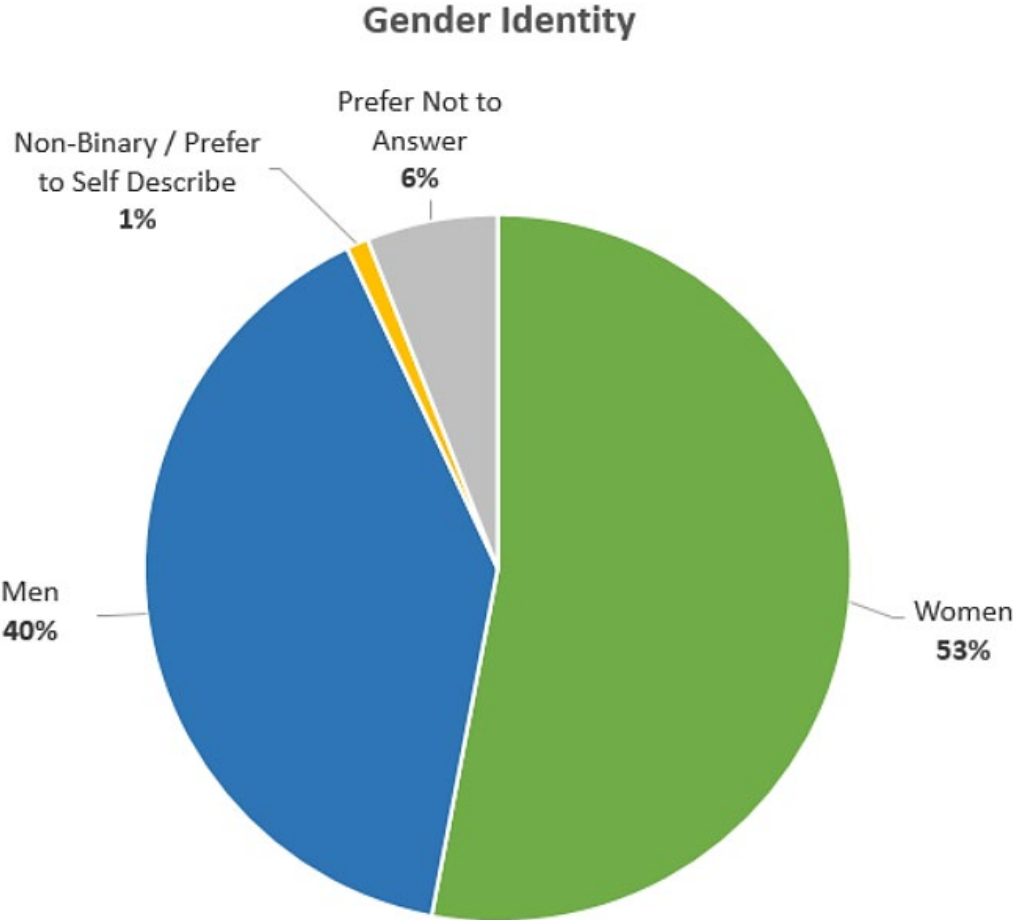


* **Other:** Mandarin (under 2%), Korean (over 1%), French (under 1%), Cantonese (under 1%), Persian (under 1%), and other language reported (under 0.5% each, listed in alphabetical order): Arabic, Bahasa, Dutch, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Maltese, Polish, Punjabi, Romanian, Spanish, and Tagalog.

Gender Identity:

Survey participants who identify as women made up the majority of those who took the online survey (53%), while 40% identify as men.

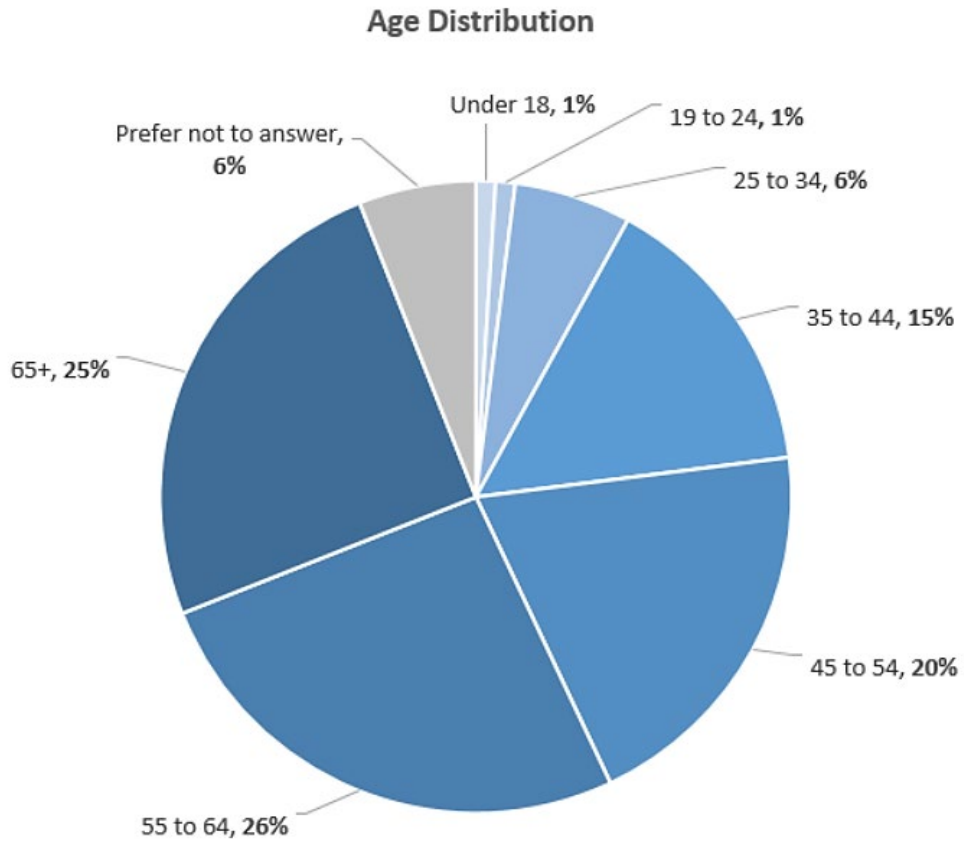
Appendix Figure 3: Gender Identity of Survey Respondents



Age Distribution:

Around half of respondents were 55 years of age or older (51%). Those 18 years and below was the smallest percentage of survey respondents (under 1%).

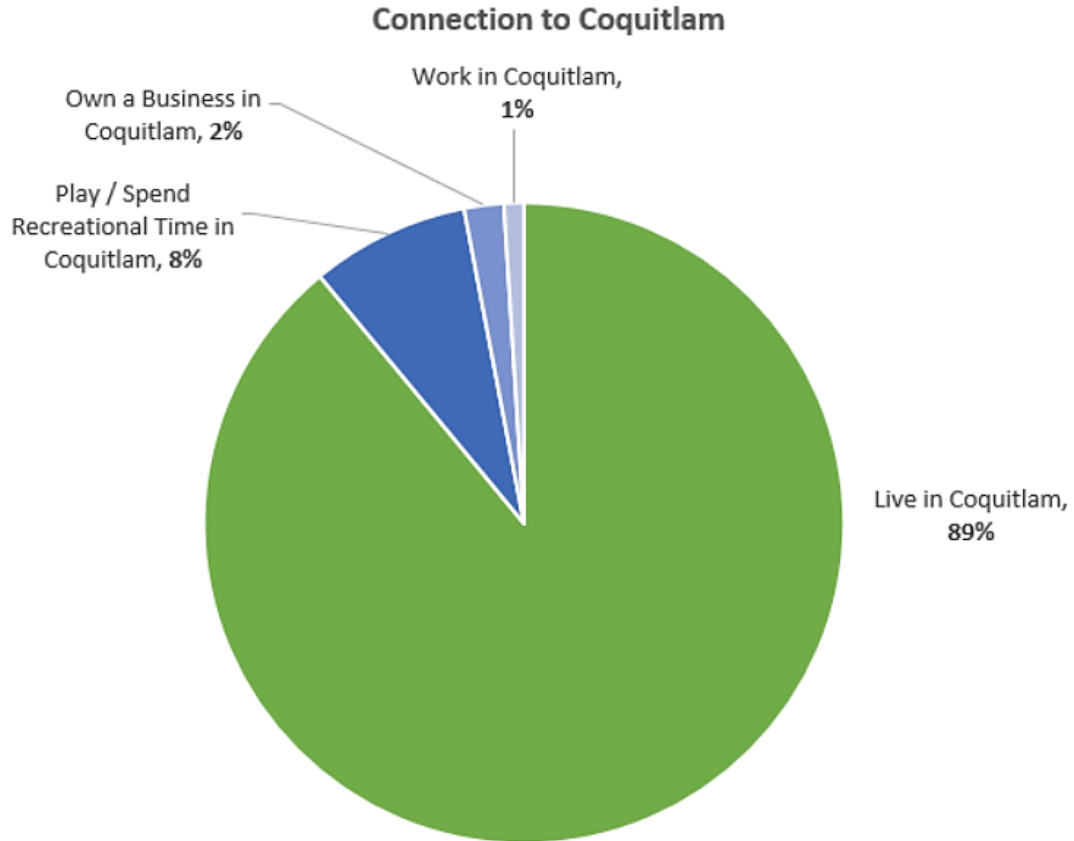
Appendix Figure 4: Age Distribution of Survey Respondents



Relationship to Coquitlam:

Most respondents (89%) indicated that their main connection to the City was living in Coquitlam while others (8%) go to Coquitlam to play and spend recreational time. 2% own a business while 1% work in the City.

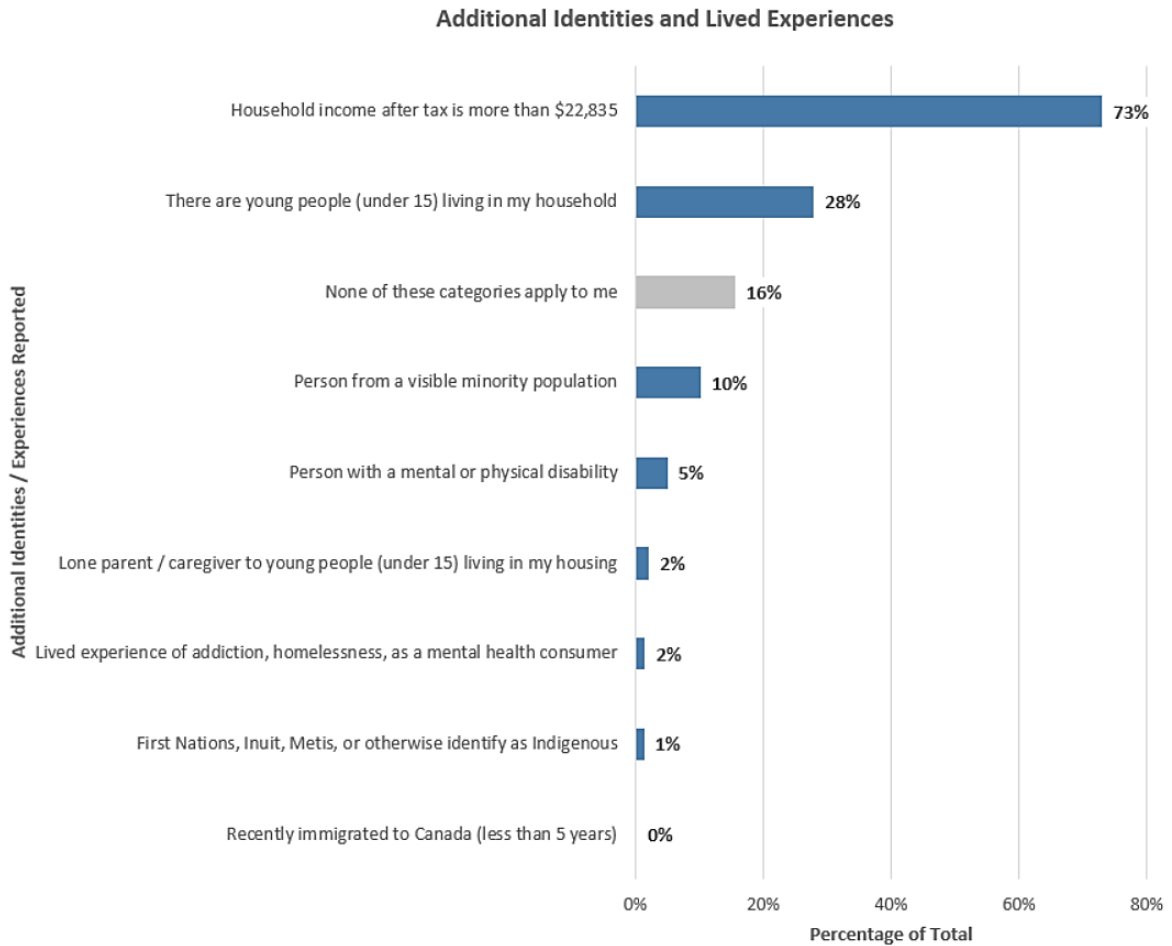
Appendix Figure 5: Relationship to Coquitlam by Survey Respondents



Identity Descriptions:

Respondents were asked to select the following descriptions that they identify with if applicable.

Appendix Figure 6: Identity Descriptions by Survey Respondents



Information Sharing:

Survey participants were asked how they learnt about the survey. The most common method of outreach was by email, followed by word of mouth and posters or signs in the Park. This information will support our communication approach going forward.

Appendix Figure 7: Method of Information Sharing by Survey Respondents

