

Old Ex Renewal: Recreation and park improvements

Public Engagement Summary

November 2022

Background

When engaging with the community on the North District Police Station in 2018, we heard concerns with how the then-proposed construction could impact outdoor recreation facilities and greenspace on the site.

As well, the outdoor recreation and sport courts at Sergeant Tommy Prince Place are at the end of their lifecycle. The tennis courts are in disrepair and the surrounding greenspace would benefit from enhancements to make the space more accessible, safe, and beautiful.

To balance some of these concerns and issues, the project team allocated \$900,000 to redevelop the tennis courts and greenspace.

Engagement

Community members, stakeholders, and the public at large were invited to a workshop where they were asked to share their thoughts on what outdoor recreation and park amenities would best suit the space and community. Attendees were invited to place stickers representing different amenities on a large table map. The stickers helped the project team understand what amenities the community wants and where those amenities could be located. Sticky notes were also available to add comments or other amenities not represented by the stickers.

The workshop was held alongside an information session on the North District Police Station construction project and Old Ex Arena renovation project. A survey and idea wall were also available online.

Details on public engagement opportunities are available in Table 1.

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- Postcards mailed to 4,688 households – August 8, 2022
- Posters at Sergeant Tommy Prince Place – August 8, 2022
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 3,800 recipients - August 11, 2022,
- Coverage in the Free Press Community Review - August 17, 2022

Examples of promotion are included in Appendix A.

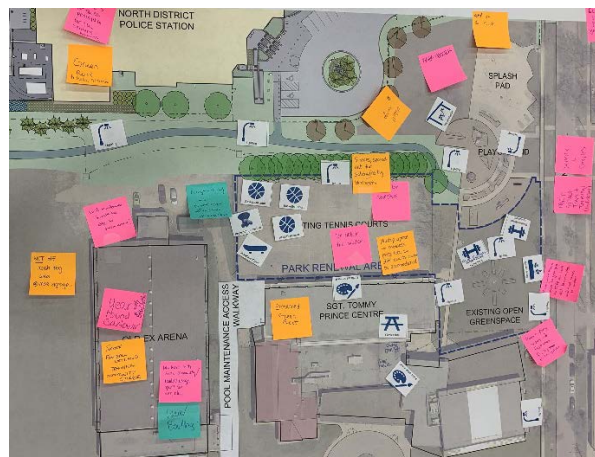


Image 1: Attendees place stickers on a map for their favorite recreation and park amenities

Table 1: Public Engagement Opportunities

Date	Activity	Participation
August 8 – 28, 2022	Webpage	165 visitors
August 8 – 28, 2022	Survey	41 responses
August 8 – 28, 2022	Idea wall	1 submission
August 17, 2022	Workshop	14 attendees

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Key Findings

Workshop mapping exercise

Based on workshop participants' placement of amenity stickers, the top three most desired amenities are:



Lighting (12 comments)



Basketball court (5 comments)



Public art or mural (4 comments)



“A well-lit space is important for safety.”
(Workshop participant – August 17, 2022)

All ideas for what to place at the site of the existing tennis court relate to hard-surface activities (e.g. basketball, pickleball, skatepark). This suggests the community would like to maintain focus on sports and recreation rather than shifting focus for the tennis court space towards greenspace-based activities. Ideas for the existing adjacent greenspace suggest a desire to keep that space green (e.g. garden boxes, fruit trees, outdoor fitness equipment). A full list of workshop ideas and comments is in Appendix B.



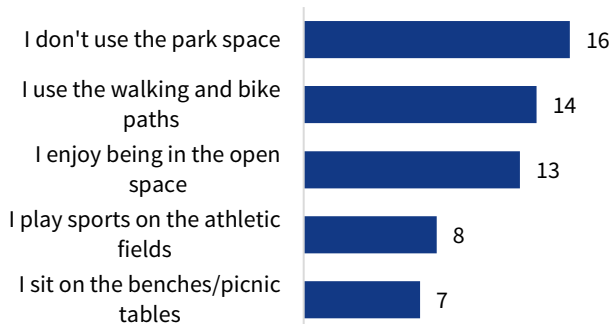
“Move the garden boxes back to the greenspace so Sergeant Tommy Prince Place can book them out to the community and provide access to water.”
(Workshop participant – August 17, 2022)

Online survey

A survey was also available online and in-person (Appendix C). The survey aimed to identify how the community currently uses the park space.

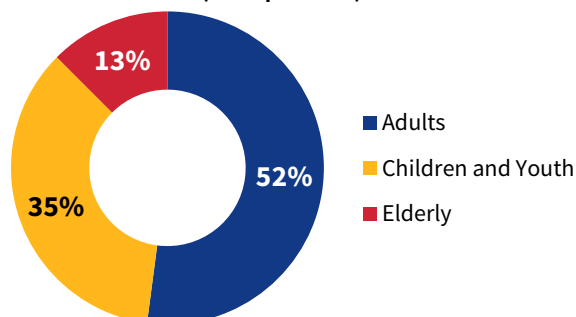
Figure 1 illustrates the top five current uses.

Figure 1: How do you use the existing park space?
(41 respondents)



Respondents who indicated they use the park space represent a broad range of ages. This suggests the site should have activities suitable for a variety of age groups.

Figure 2: Who in your family uses the park?
(41 respondents)



Survey respondents were asked about what amenities they feel are missing in the community. The amenities most selected are:



Active transportation path (5 comments)



Tennis/pickleball court (3 comments)



Trees (3 comments)

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What we heard	How it was considered
Lighting is important for safety.	We will enhance lighting to improve safety and extend the time of day during which the space could be used (depending on operating hours and programming).
Basketball and tennis/pickleball courts should replace the old tennis courts.	The old tennis courts will be replaced with basketball courts and combination tennis-pickleball courts. Other hard surface sport court and recreational activities will also be considered in addition to the new courts.
The community needs more active transportation paths and better connectivity.	We will construct a new path north of the old tennis courts. This path will connect to the existing path. The existing path will be extended south to the parking lot between the baseball diamond and football field.
Trees and other plantings are important to include in the greenspace.	New trees and shrubs will be added to the greenspace area to complement the pathways and seating areas. The community gardens boxes will be relocated and refreshed.
Public art or a mural would enhance the outdoor recreation and park space for the community.	The City will work with the local community on murals or public art pieces in the park area.

Next Steps

Design work will occur throughout late 2022 and early 2023. Construction is expected to begin in spring 2023.

Appendices

Appendix A – Promotion
Appendix B – Workshop Results
Appendix C – Survey Results
Appendix D – Idea Wall Results

Appendix A – Promotion

Old Ex Campus Renewal

Parks and recreation improvements | North District Police Station construction | Old Ex Arena renovations

Crews will soon break ground on the Old Ex Campus Renewal project. First up is construction of the North District Police Station, scheduled to begin in September 2022. Plans are also underway for improving the outdoor recreation and park space adjacent to Sergeant Tommy Prince Place and repurposing the Old Ex Arena. Join us at a community information session to learn more about what lies ahead for the site and provide input into plans for the parks and recreation portion of the project.



Community event

Location: Sergeant Tommy Prince Place, 90 Sinclair St.

Format: Drop-in (come and go) information session and park-specific workshop

Date: Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Time: 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

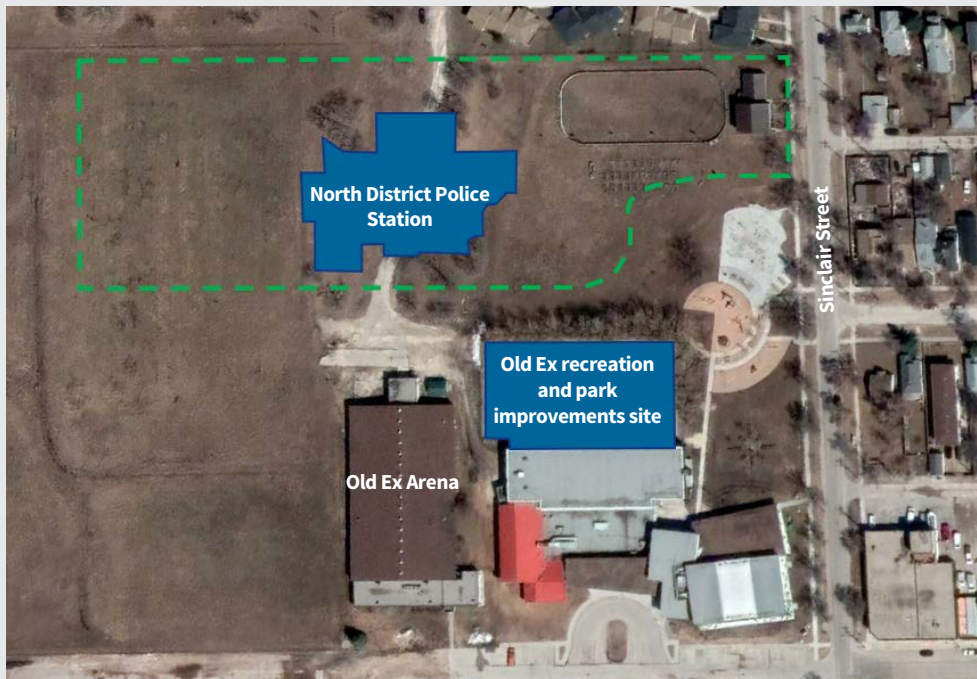


Survey

Your thoughts on recreation and park options will help us design a space that works for your community. Take a park-specific survey online at winnipeg.ca/oldexrenewal by Sunday, August 28, 2022.

If you have questions or require alternate formats or interpretation to participate, please email city-engage@winnipeg.ca or call **204-986-4243**.





For more information on the North District Police Station visit winnipeg.ca/northdistrictstation. For more information on the Old Ex Recreation & Park improvements visit winnipeg.ca/oldexrenewal.

Appendix B – Workshop Results

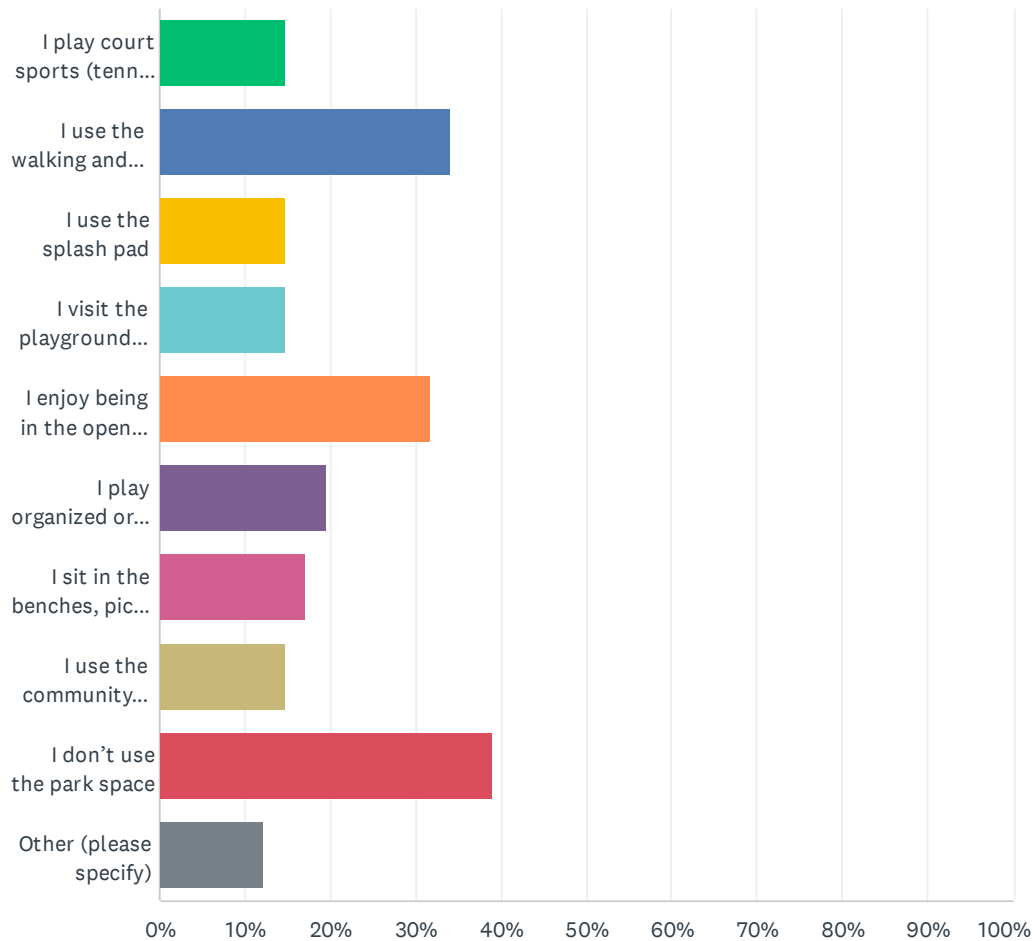




Appendix C – Survey Results

Q1 How do you use the existing park space? (Please check all that apply)

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



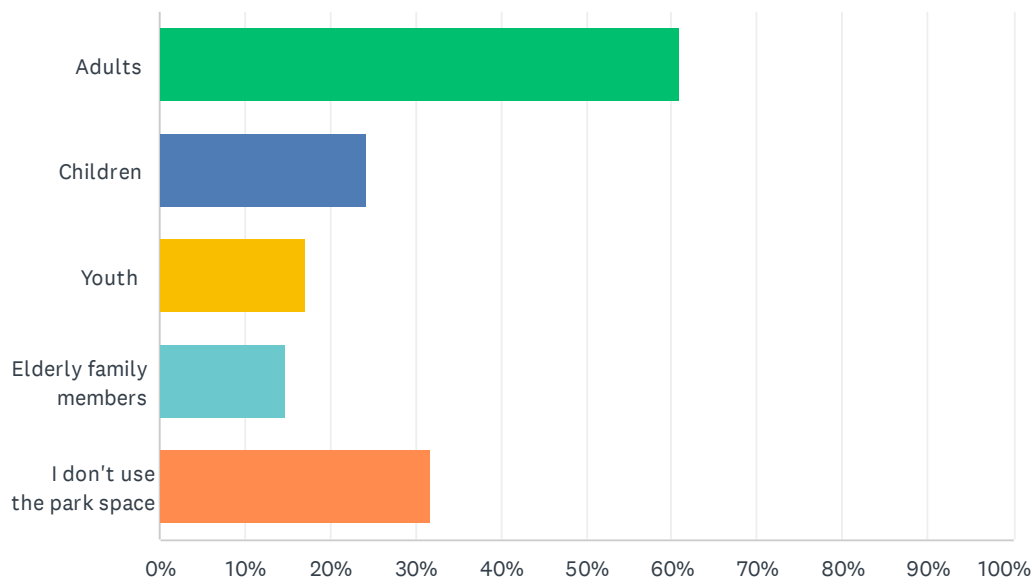
Old Ex Renewal: Recreation and park improvements at Sergeant Tommy Prince Place

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I play court sports (tennis, pickle ball, basket ball etc.)	14.63%	6
I use the walking and bike paths	34.15%	14
I use the splash pad	14.63%	6
I visit the playground and/or swings	14.63%	6
I enjoy being in the open space	31.71%	13
I play organized or casual/pick-up sports on the athletic fields (soccer, baseball, softball, ultimate frisbee, etc.)	19.51%	8
I sit in the benches, picnic tables, and seating areas	17.07%	7
I use the community garden	14.63%	6
I don't use the park space	39.02%	16
Other (please specify)	12.20%	5
Total Respondents: 41		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Although there are no specific paths, I have walked in the park.....certainly would prefer if there were designated walking and bike paths.	8/26/2022 6:39 PM
2	Dont need police station there	8/14/2022 3:02 PM
3	Not close to where I live and so cannot visit this park	8/14/2022 12:51 AM
4	Whatever spend on revitalizing this area will come out of city coffers to which I have contributed. I want to know how you are spending our money.	8/13/2022 4:38 PM
5	I don't think there should be a police station here.	8/11/2022 3:22 PM

Q2 Who in your family uses the park? (Check all that apply)

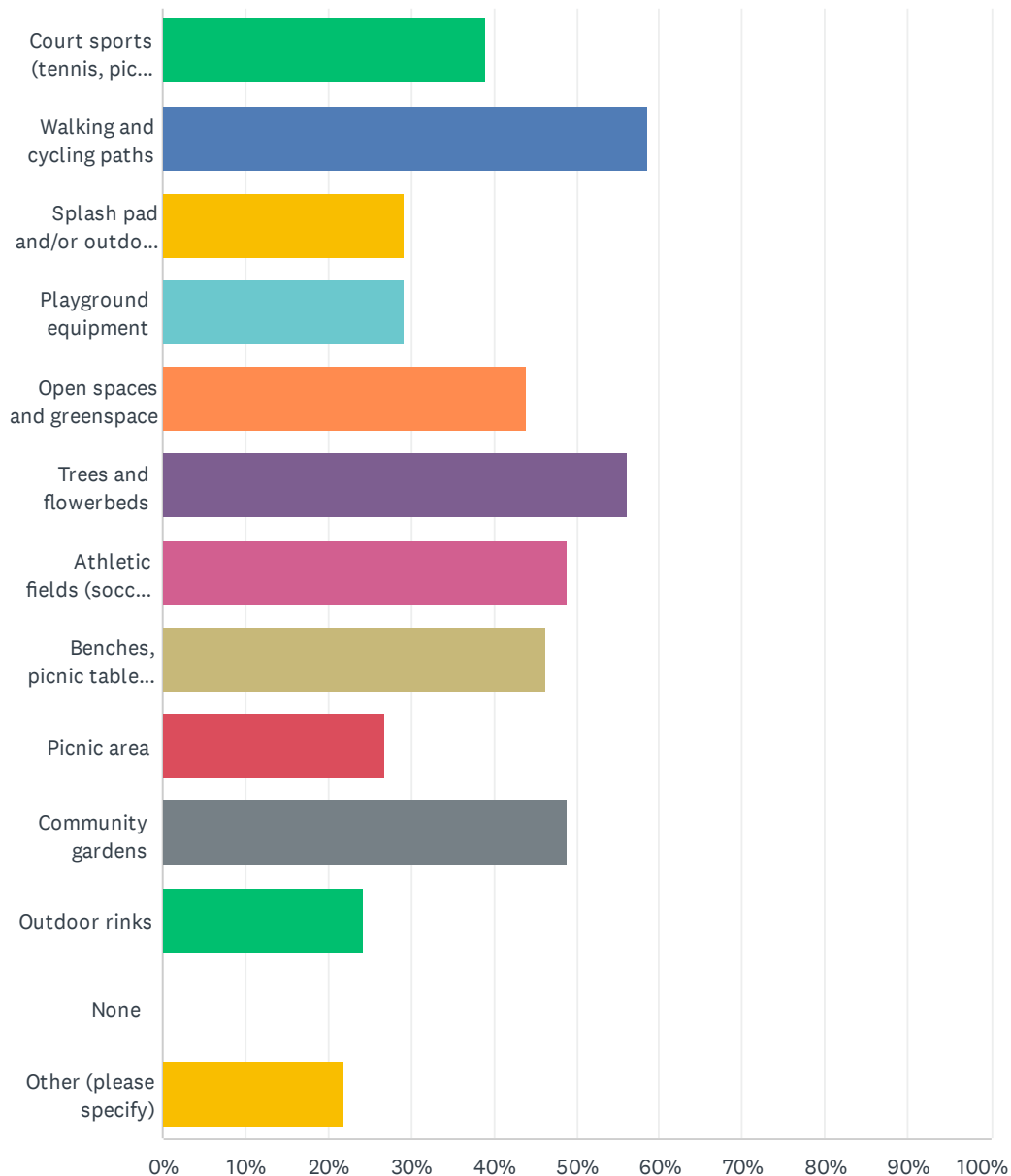
Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Adults	60.98%	25
Children	24.39%	10
Youth	17.07%	7
Elderly family members	14.63%	6
I don't use the park space	31.71%	13
Total Respondents: 41		

Q3 Check all the features you think could be improved? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



Old Ex Renewal: Recreation and park improvements at Sergeant Tommy Prince Place

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Court sports (tennis, pickle ball, basket ball, etc.)	39.02%	16
Walking and cycling paths	58.54%	24
Splash pad and/or outdoor pools	29.27%	12
Playground equipment	29.27%	12
Open spaces and greenspace	43.90%	18
Trees and flowerbeds	56.10%	23
Athletic fields (soccer, baseball, softball, ultimate frisbee, volleyball, etc.)	48.78%	20
Benches, picnic tables, and seating areas	46.34%	19
Picnic area	26.83%	11
Community gardens	48.78%	20
Outdoor rinks	24.39%	10
None	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	21.95%	9
Total Respondents: 41		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	bike park	8/15/2022 3:04 PM
2	Hello	8/14/2022 3:02 PM
3	I can't decide until you put a price tag on each one of those listed above.	8/13/2022 4:38 PM
4	Parking lot, and the surrounding cycling infrastructure.	8/12/2022 2:56 PM
5	Parking for those that use the facilities rather than employees of nearby businesses	8/12/2022 10:57 AM
6	SAFETY	8/11/2022 5:31 PM
7	Safety	8/11/2022 5:30 PM
8	I don't use this park	8/11/2022 3:07 PM
9	An off leash dog park is needed. If one was there I'd definitely use it for my 2 dogs.	8/11/2022 1:20 PM

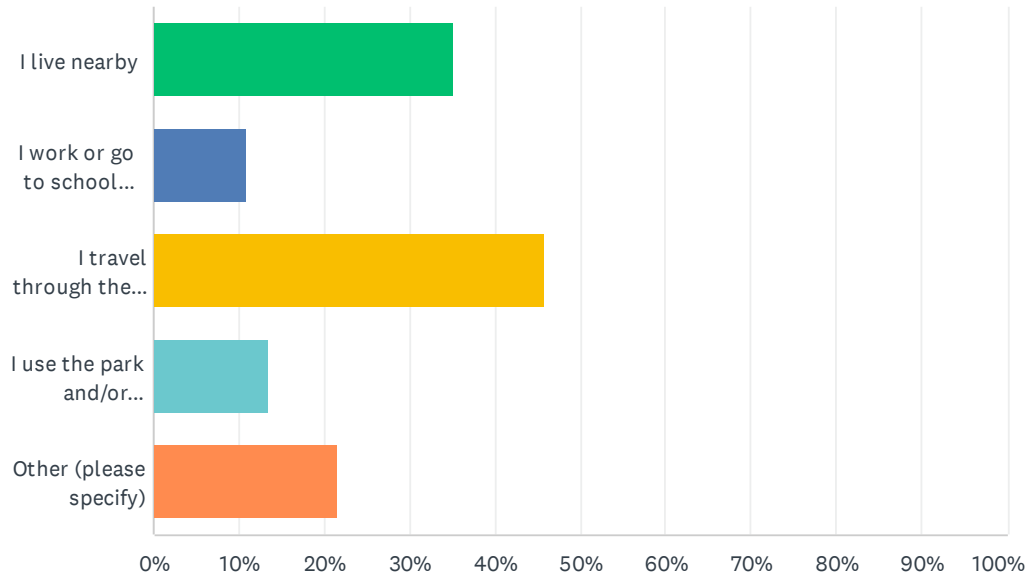
Q4 What do you feel is missing from parks or recreation spaces in the area?

Answered: 21 Skipped: 20

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	It would be wonderful to have an outdoor track to use during the spring/summer for walking & running; and then, during the winter for outdoor skating. The track could be used by school children, young adults, adults, elderly, and for special events.	8/26/2022 6:39 PM
2	Outdoor basketball court	8/24/2022 1:25 PM
3	Outdoor pool, outdoor washroom/drinking fountain, more lights around the area (safety!)	8/24/2022 1:23 PM
4	Public access washrooms outside of the community centre. Available all year.	8/24/2022 1:22 PM
5	skatepark, tennis, pickleball	8/18/2022 2:38 PM
6	Outdoor winter activities	8/17/2022 1:39 PM
7	More trees, gardens	8/16/2022 5:48 PM
8	Active recreation trails.	8/16/2022 3:15 PM
9	bike park and Indigenous cultural representation	8/15/2022 3:04 PM
10	Gardens and more programs for kids	8/14/2022 3:02 PM
11	Are there places where dogs are welcome? Can they be accommodated with waste bins, water, and places to run? Will community gardens be expanded? Can trees to forage food be planted? Can there be a stop to spraying the weeds/grass, and instead encourage the community to forage weeds (for herbal remedies)?	8/14/2022 6:54 AM
12	Trees	8/14/2022 12:51 AM
13	Proper fiscal management. Don't spend needlessly. If we can't afford to fix the space, just mow it and leave it until we can afford it. We want to know how much each item you are offering costs.	8/13/2022 4:38 PM
14	Accessibility via bike-friendly infrastructure.	8/12/2022 3:31 PM
15	Disc golf course tee boxes and baskets.	8/11/2022 9:28 PM
16	More bike and walking paths that are safe and well lit. More trash cans so there is less litter. Tennis courts	8/11/2022 5:31 PM
17	Nice well maintained durable seating for hanging or resting.	8/11/2022 4:34 PM
18	An OUTDOOR POOL with a slide and deep end that goes down to 6 feet or more. 1) The lifeguards at the pool inside Sgt Tommy makes people swim how many laps in order to let you use the non-shallow end of the pool. Many people know how to swim a little but they're not professional swimmers. Teens/younger adults end up having to stay in the pool with the toddlers and little children. Isn't that more dangerous because that side of the pool is packed? 2) It's more fun to swim outside 3) People need vitamin D from the sun. A quick google search can tell you the benefits. The nearest outdoor pool in this area is at Kildonan Park. People living there probably go on yearly vacations abroad in the summer; people living around Sgt Tommy probably don't.	8/11/2022 4:26 PM
19	Don't build a police station in this park, we don't need more police spending, we need community investment.	8/11/2022 3:22 PM
20	The really good public spaces are few and far between. Everyone in all neighborhoods should have comparable access to public spaces.	8/11/2022 3:07 PM
21	There just aren't any off leash dog parks in the area.	8/11/2022 1:20 PM

Q5 How would you describe your relationship to the Old Ex Grounds? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 37 Skipped: 4

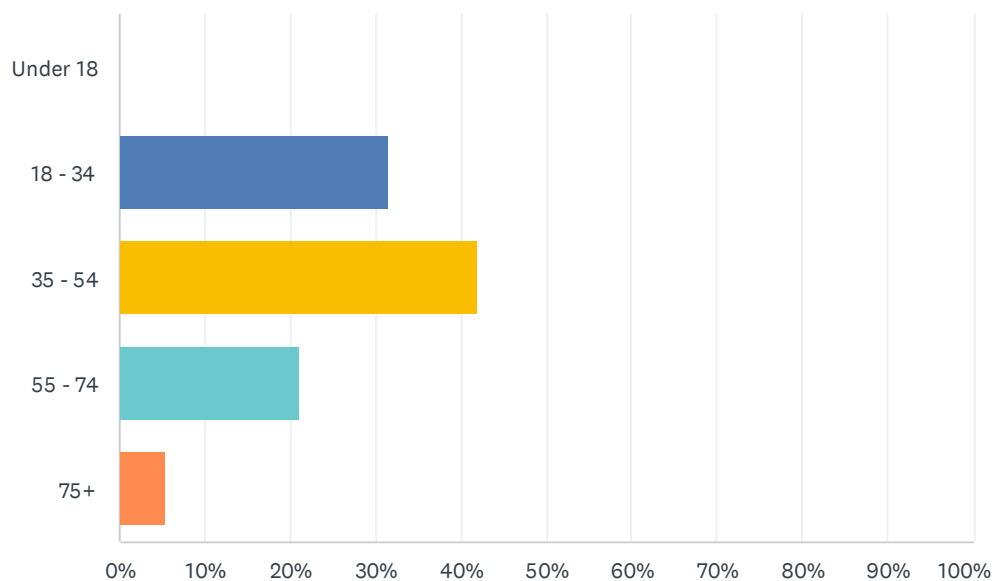


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I live nearby	35.14%	13
I work or go to school nearby	10.81%	4
I travel through the neighbourhood	45.95%	17
I use the park and/or recreation amenities here	13.51%	5
Other (please specify)	21.62%	8
Total Respondents: 37		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	work in area	8/15/2022 3:05 PM
2	Good neighbourhood	8/14/2022 3:02 PM
3	I do not live near the space but appreciate the value of a well designed and maintained park / public space for a community.	8/14/2022 11:19 AM
4	My son used to play shinny on the ice provided by Andrea Babinsky.	8/13/2022 4:43 PM
5	Used to use the park weekly	8/11/2022 9:30 PM
6	Grow up in the area	8/11/2022 4:53 PM
7	i have no history with these grounds	8/11/2022 3:09 PM
8	It's an important community space	8/11/2022 3:07 PM

Q6 What is your age?

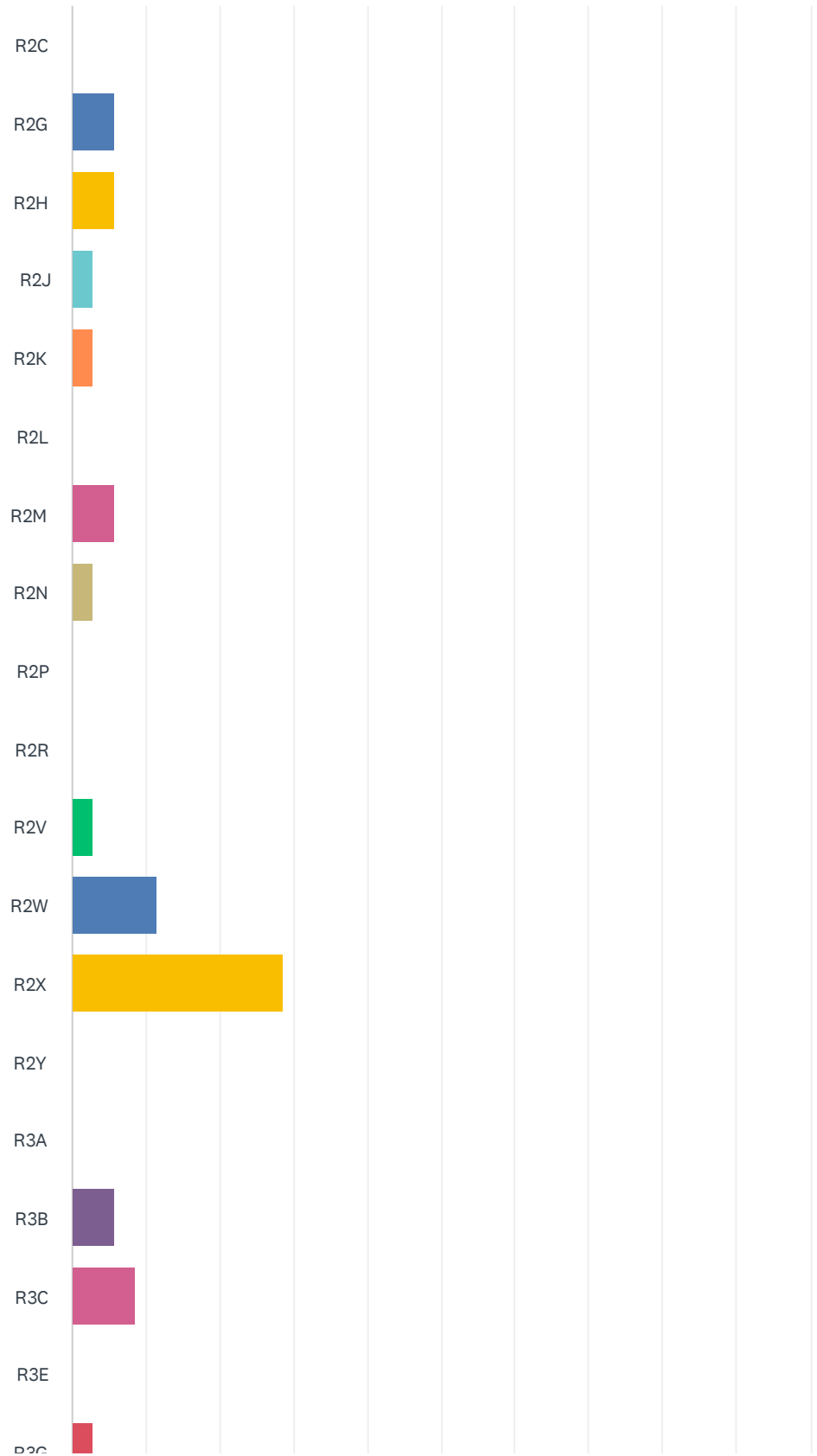
Answered: 38 Skipped: 3



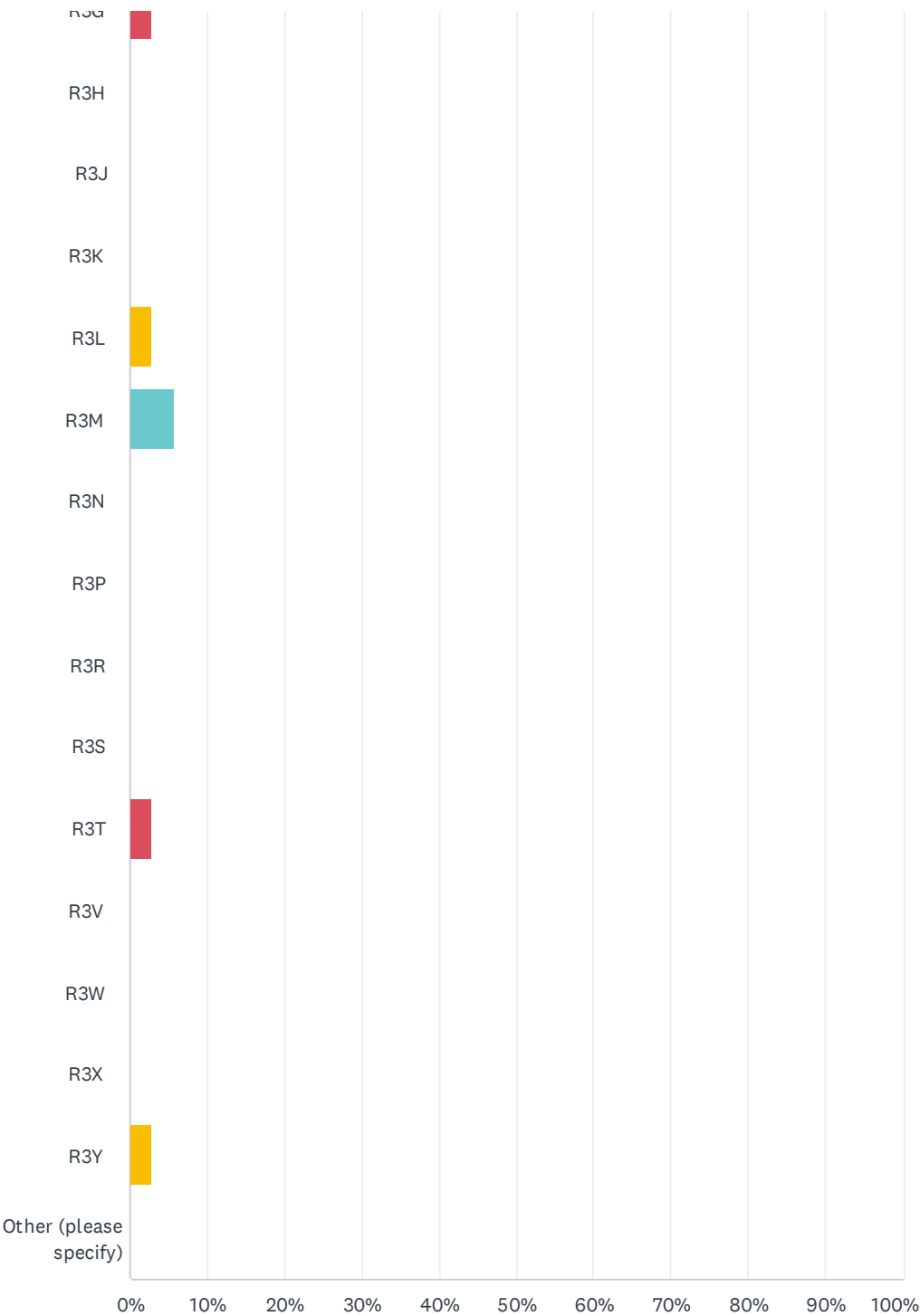
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18 - 34	31.58%	12
35 - 54	42.11%	16
55 - 74	21.05%	8
75+	5.26%	2
TOTAL		38

Q7 Please provide the first three characters of your postal code.

Answered: 35 Skipped: 6



Old Ex Renewal: Recreation and park improvements at Sergeant Tommy Prince Place



Old Ex Renewal: Recreation and park improvements at Sergeant Tommy Prince Place

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
R2C	0.00%	0
R2G	5.71%	2
R2H	5.71%	2
R2J	2.86%	1
R2K	2.86%	1
R2L	0.00%	0
R2M	5.71%	2
R2N	2.86%	1
R2P	0.00%	0
R2R	0.00%	0
R2V	2.86%	1
R2W	11.43%	4
R2X	28.57%	10
R2Y	0.00%	0
R3A	0.00%	0
R3B	5.71%	2
R3C	8.57%	3
R3E	0.00%	0
R3G	2.86%	1
R3H	0.00%	0
R3J	0.00%	0
R3K	0.00%	0
R3L	2.86%	1
R3M	5.71%	2
R3N	0.00%	0
R3P	0.00%	0
R3R	0.00%	0
R3S	0.00%	0
R3T	2.86%	1
R3V	0.00%	0
R3W	0.00%	0
R3X	0.00%	0

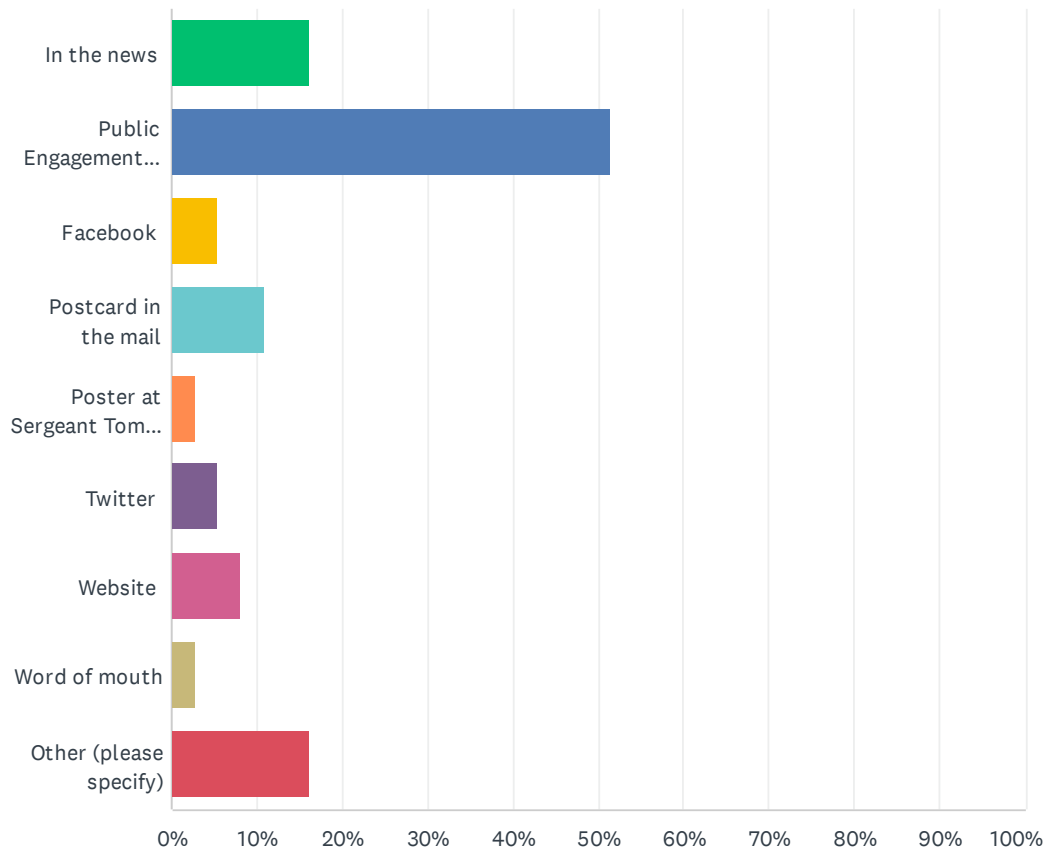
Old Ex Renewal: Recreation and park improvements at Sergeant Tommy Prince Place

R3Y	2.86%	1
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
TOTAL		35

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q8 How did you hear about this project? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 37 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES
In the news		16.22% 6
Public Engagement Newsletter		51.35% 19
Facebook		5.41% 2
Postcard in the mail		10.81% 4
Poster at Sergeant Tommy Prince Place		2.70% 1
Twitter		5.41% 2
Website		8.11% 3
Word of mouth		2.70% 1
Other (please specify)		16.22% 6
Total Respondents: 37		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	In person	8/24/2022 1:25 PM

Old Ex Renewal: Recreation and park improvements at Sergeant Tommy Prince Place

2	Work	8/24/2022 1:24 PM
3	MB Eco Network email	8/14/2022 6:56 AM
4	Browsing the public engagement topics online	8/12/2022 2:56 PM
5	email	8/11/2022 4:30 PM
6	the email with this survey	8/11/2022 3:09 PM

Appendix D – Idea Wall Results



12 days ago



Dog Kick Sledding/Skijoring

Many of the proposals are for summer month activities. For years, I have been enjoying the Old Exhibition Grounds as a place to walk my dog in the winter.

There are very few places, especially in the North End, that are wide open spaces to do activities with our dogs.

Organizations such as Snow Motion, offer free lessons to people with their dogs. All breeds and skill levels are welcomed. I believe they could offer guidance on how to maintain paths etc. I think that Assiniboine Park and Birds Hill have paths maintained in winter for cross country skiers, Skijoring and dog kick sledding.

Another idea might be to have it offered as a seasonal off leash dog park. The park is mostly fenced in, but there are some areas that would need to be closed off.

Thanks!

Share



0 Comment

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