

Renovating the Living Room:

Public Process in Preparation for Design Improvements in Pigeon Park



A project conducted by The Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA)

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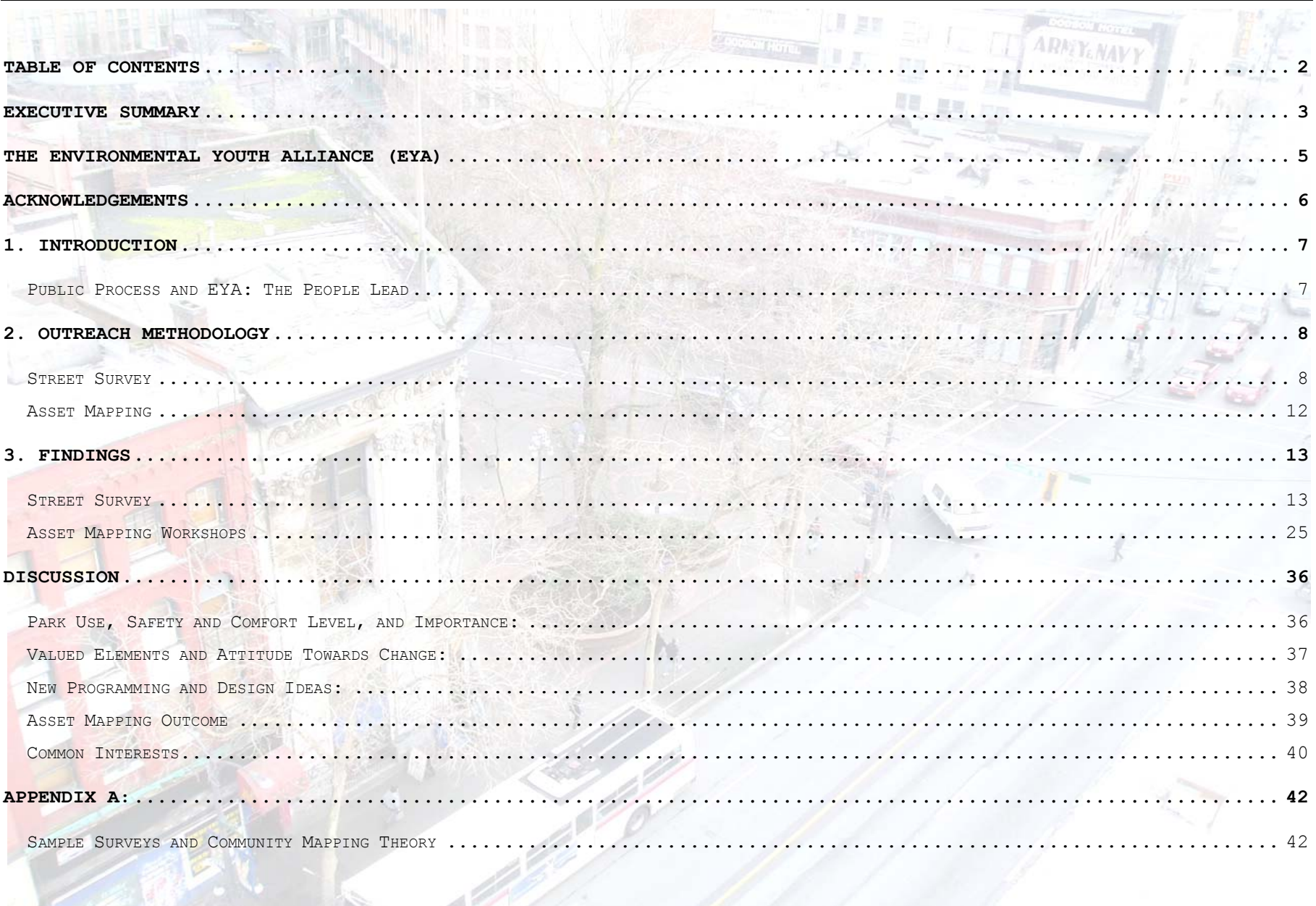


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pigeon Park is an important park in the Downtown Eastside. It is situated in a key location, at the corner of Hastings and Carrall Streets, surrounded by several communities within the Victory Square district. It is also connected and adjacent to many initiatives happening within the Downtown Eastside and is used by predominantly, low-income residents.

The Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA) recognizes that traditional methods of consultation may not be appropriate or effective in the low-income community within the Downtown Eastside and that special consideration is required when engaging in the public process. As such, EYA conducted street surveys and asset mapping workshops in order to inform the planned design improvements at Pigeon Park.

EYA youth teams conducted this process over the course of four weeks, at locations in and within a few blocks of Pigeon Park. In total, 90 residents were surveyed and many others participated in mapping workshops held at service providers / organizations in the area and in Pigeon Park. Overall, community asset mapping was considered more successful at obtaining specific ideas and creative thoughts compared to survey information.

All findings should be reviewed, however, common ideas (including suggestions not listed as options in the survey) that were found in both surveys and asset mapping, include:

- An interest in benches that do not prevent people from sleeping
- An interest to increase and expand on the variety of vegetation (noted most were flowers and native plants)

- An interest to retain the existing trees
- An interest in new recreational and entertainment programming opportunities, including space that supports community artwork and existing or future community driven programs for Pigeon Park (maintenance and art projects)
- An interest to improve upon the cleanliness of Pigeon Park
- People value drinking water access in the park
- Pigeon Park is a valued place within the community by both park users and those who don't use the park
- Other independent, common ideas included, a covered shelter space, birdhouses, seating (not necessarily benches) arranged for socialization, washrooms, and historical or memorial markers.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH ALLIANCE (EYA)

The Environmental Youth Alliance is a Vancouver based youth-centered national charity that provides meaningful work and environmental services both in Canada and overseas. EYA has served thousands of youth throughout Canada and has been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally for its contribution to society and the earth.

EYA's vision is to build community and environmental health through an understanding of our connection with our physical environment. We promote this vision through skill building, youth-centered projects that motivate youth to respond creatively and effectively to the important choices faced in reconciling social and economic needs with the environmental imperative. We espouse life-long learning by developing new approaches to education, employment, and community development.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Public Process and EYA: The People Lead

The Environmental Youth Alliance (EYA) recognizes that traditional methods of consultation may not be appropriate or effective in the low-income community within the Downtown Eastside and that special consideration is required when engaging in the public process.

As such, EYA conducted street surveys and asset mapping with residents of the low-income community to inform the planned design improvements to Pigeon Park at the intersection of Hastings and Carrall Streets. This report contains findings that explore residents' thoughts on the existing and possible future uses in and around the park taking into consideration the existence of other initiatives such as, the Carrall Greenway, the CPR right of way, the Interurban Art Gallery and the proposed new Media Center.

STEP ONE:

The Downtown Eastside is a unique community where the streetscape, parks, and community centers are analogous to people's "living rooms". As a result changes to this environment need to be undertaken

2. OUTREACH METHODOLOGY

Street surveys and community asset mapping occurred over the course of four weeks, at locations in and within a few blocks of Pigeon Park. As a component of the public process, EYA informed participants, when possible or when asked, of the existence of other initiatives that may impact Pigeon Park. This included the following, that Pigeon Park is identified as a key pedestrian linkage between other central area districts along the proposed Carrall Street Greenway, that it is a historical location within the CPR right-of-way, and situated at an important location adjacent to the proposed new media center and existing Interurban Gallery as well as a potential site for initiatives of other local community organizations in the DTES. Those involved in asset mapping or surveys were advised (if interested) to obtain more information either through the City or directly from a representative of the related initiative.

Street Survey

The following key topics were identified to develop the survey questions.

STEP TWO:

Street surveys

were conducted to obtain and characterize individual community members' ideas and values.

Asset mapping is

long recognized as a participatory and creative tool to gather

- Programming / space use (current and new positive, beneficial activities)
- Physical amenities (existing, needs replacement, new ideas)
- Level of comfort and safety
- Sense of place (current and historical)
- Connectivity with other initiatives in the area, namely:
 - Carrall Street Greenway
 - CPR right of way
 - Interurban Art Gallery
 - Media Center (planned)

Two separate surveys were then developed to evaluate the specific requirements of "those who use Pigeon Park" and for "those who do not use Pigeon Park" [see Appendix A].

These questions were intended to allow the Park Board and the City to gain a better understanding from existing park users of:

- a) How people use the park;
- b) What people value about the park;
- c) What features people like about the park;
- d) What features people don't like about the park

And those who do not currently use the park of:

- a) why people do not use the park;
- b) what would attract people to the park.

Citizens using the streetscape, parks, and community centers in the neighbourhood were directly approached by an EYA youth survey team member to complete a survey. In addition, youth teams set up a table at each of the following locations where residents and others could fill out a survey on a voluntary basis:

- The Carnegie Center (Main and E. Hastings St.)
- Tellier Tower (DERA residence - 12 E. Hastings St.)
- The Portland Hotel (20 W. Hastings St.)
- The Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society (432 E. Hastings St.)
- United We Can (39 E. Hastings)
- The West Hotel (488 Carrall St.)

In order to accurately represent the local community members, a target number of total surveys was set at 50 - 75; to be completed by a relatively equal proportion of those residents who go to Pigeon Park and those who do not go to Pigeon Park.

Each survey was reviewed and all responses were entered into an excel spreadsheet. For each question the following was reported, the total number of responses, the total number of those who did not respond, the number of responses for each possible option provided, other

independently added responses (where applicable), percentage of responses (based on the total number of those who answer the question), field/survey notes, and a written summary of findings. Responses to open ended questions were listed and like answers were grouped together (i.e. "I like the community atmosphere" and "I like the feel of the people together in the park", were represented as 'community atmosphere - 2').

Asset Mapping

Through mapping, EYA intended to provide an inclusive and graphic framework for community members to affirm and pool their experiences and knowledge about Pigeon Park as their place.

The EYA youth mappers conducted asset-mapping workshops at the following five locations:

- Pigeon Park (Hastings and Carrall St.)
- The Carnegie Center (Main and E. Hastings St.)
- Tellier Tower (DERA residence - 12 E. Hastings St.)
- The Portland Hotel (20 W. Hastings St.)
- The Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society (432 E. Hastings St.)
- The West Hotel (488 Carrall St.)

Each workshop began with a large 2 x 3 ft base map of Pigeon Park. Community members were asked for their input in an open process through stickers, icons and markers as a means of locating their historical, physical, social and spiritual attributes in Pigeon Park.

As findings, an inventory of the graphic feedback from the asset mapping was compiled in a table. Commonalities, which existed between all locations, were highlighted.

3. FINDINGS

Street Survey

EYA youth teams surveyed a total of 90 residents in the low-income community. These residents were found in Pigeon Park, on the streets nearby, at other parks in the area, in local organizations and residences. Many lived in SROs, in social housing, or on the street. Ages varied from youth to older adult, but primarily middle aged.

Demographics of the Residents Surveyed

Those who go to Pigeon Park:

Demographic Characteristic		Total Number	Notes
Gender	Male	35	<i>Not all of those surveyed would offer information for all of the demographic characteristics.</i>
	Female	24	
Age	Youth (under 30)	19	
	Middle aged (30 - 50)	34	
	Older adult (over 50)	6	
Average time living in	Under a year	0	
	Between 2 - 5 years	3	

STEP THREE:

Although data was obtained, some community members expressed a lack of enthusiasm for completing surveys due to an excessive amount of past surveys done in the neighbourhood. Community mapping turned out to be

the DTES	Over 5 years	6	
Place of Residence	House	7	
	Apartment	11	
	SRO	29	
	Street	8	
TOTAL		59	

Those who do not go to Pigeon Park:

Demographic Characteristic		Total Number	Notes
Gender	Male	21	<i>Not all of those surveyed would offer information for all of the demographic characteristics.</i>
	Female	10	
Age	Youth (under 30)	5	
	Middle aged (30 - 50)	17	
	Older adult (over 50)	7	
Average time living in the DTES	Under a year	0	
	Between 2 - 5 years	0	
	Over 5 years	1	
Place of	House	5	

Residence	Apartment	10	
	SRO	10	
	Street	3	
TOTAL		31	

The following pages highlight findings. For a comprehensive table of findings refer to the two charts, 'Those who go to Pigeon Park' and 'Those who do not go to Pigeon Park' (Appendix B) which summarize all data and key findings of the street survey work conducted by the EYA youth survey teams.

Park users were asked -

How often do you use Pigeon Park?

Everyday (41%)
Once or twice a week
(32%)

People who go to Pigeon Park, also go to:

- Oppenheimer Park (56%)
- Portside (CRAB) Park (51%)
- Victory Square Park (47%)



Why do you go to Pigeon Park if you go to these other parks? *

Only 11 of 59 answered this question.

82% of those who answered the question (including a few who go to other parks) said other parks are too far away.

27% said those other parks are

Those who don't use the park were asked -

Why don't you use Pigeon Park?

Not safe (45%)
Not pleasant (45%)
I go to other parks (26%)
Too noisv (13%)

Do you use any of the following parks in the area? *

*****:

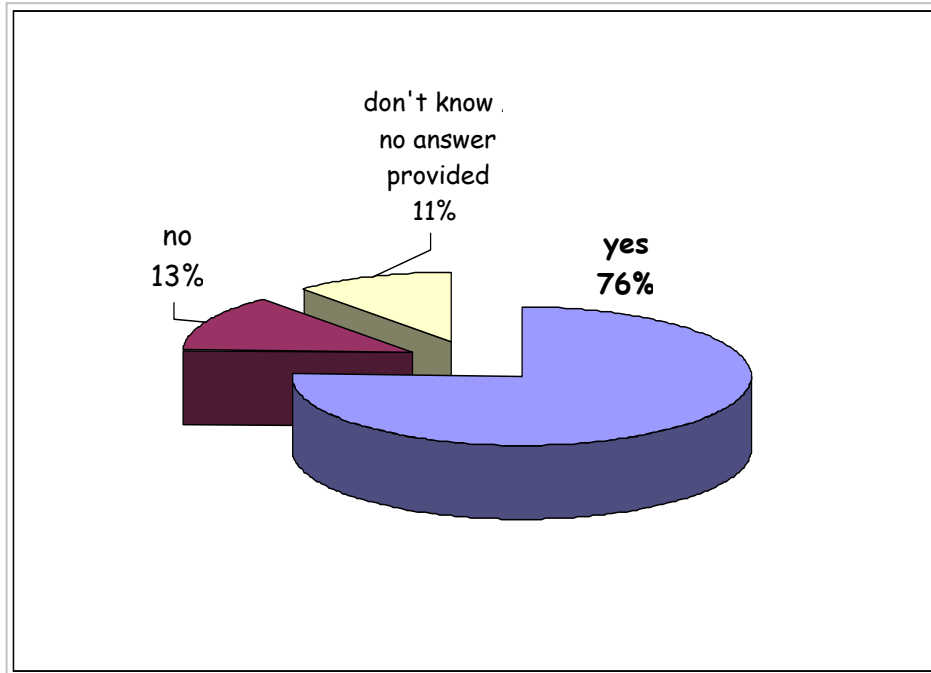
- Andy Livingstone Park (37%)
- Victory Square Park

*Note: multiple answers were possible

Both groups were asked...

Do you consider Pigeon Park an important place?

If yes, why?



Why is it important to the people who don't use it?

- feel it's an important place for people in the DTES community (43%)
- feel it's a significant historical place (32%)
- gave other reasons like, it's a place

Why is Pigeon Park so important to the people who use it?

- felt it was an important community owned space (34%)
- said that its where they meet up with friends, pass messages along, and socialize (19%)
- think that its retains a historical significance (15%)

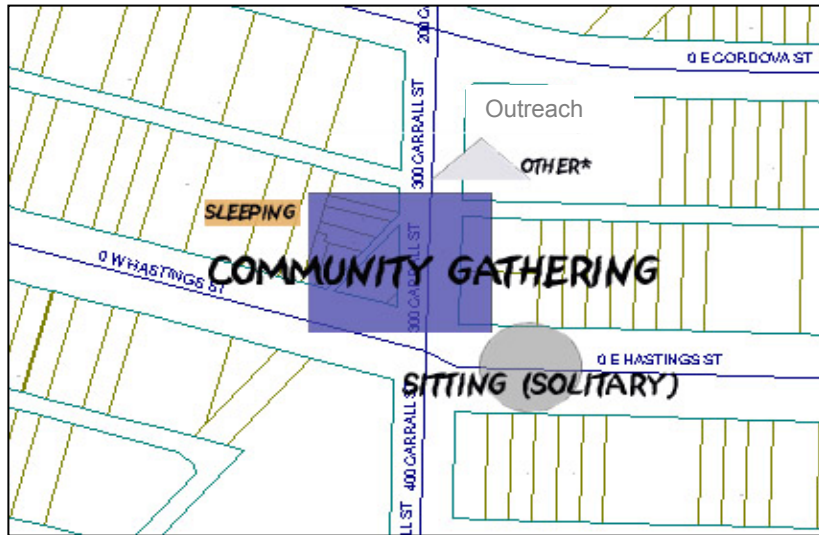
People who use the park were asked...

Do you consider Pigeon Park safe and comfortable?

For the people who go there, it is. (81% said yes)
Environmental Youth Alliance

Many people who use Pigeon Park indicated they felt safe from outside community members and/or police when they are in Pigeon Park.

How do you use Pigeon Park?



Gathering / Meeting	60%
Sitting (Solitary space)	56%
Outreach / Street Programs	11%
Sleeping	9%
*Other	37%
(recreational, leave messages, smoking, art, eating, singing, playing music)	

Are there things about the park that you do not want changed?



...and 15% of people indicated that they do not want to see

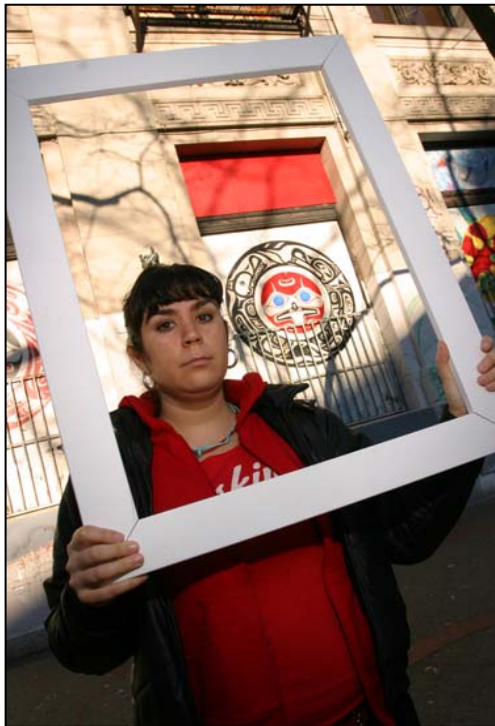
ARTWORK/MURALS/
GRAFFITI (22%)

COMMUNITY
ATMOSPHERE (17%)

TREES (15%)

Both park users and people who don't use the park were asked...

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN PIGEON PARK?



The top five for people who use the park are...

- New seating spaces (84%) / benches that allow for sleeping too (59%)
- Vegetation (green feeling) (60%)
- Entertainment space (theatre, concerts, art display, other) (47%)
- New drinking fountain (38%)
- Additional/new programming and activities (35%)

Other suggestions, included:

- A shelter space
- Birdhouses
- More grass/lawn space to sit
- Signage, statues and historical markers
- Picnic tables
- Washroom

For the people who don't go th

- Additional/new programming

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Environmental Youth Alliance

Other suggestions included:

- alternative and creative seating spaces
- a memorial to the missing women in the DTES
- food access
- bike racks and garbage cans
- to creatively design the vertical spaces

- A Project Conducted by The

- New drinking fountain (38%) and/or a water feature (34%)
- Lighting (38%)
- New seating spaces (34%) / benches that allow for sitting only (28%)
- Entertainment space (theatre, concerts, art display, other) (34%)

People who use the park were asked...

Would improvements to the park change whether or how frequently you use the park?

Of the existing park users, 33% said it would remain the same, 27% said yes, they would go more often, and 4% were certain they would go less often. Several people expressed their concern with further indication that their answer was



People who don't use the park were asked...

If we made changes to Pigeon Park, would you start going there?

There were mixed feelings about whether changes to the park would encourage those who currently don't use the park. Most indicated no (39%), others thought perhaps (30%), depending on whether

o you think you would use Pigeon

ng, meeting place (44%)

(28%)

Do people want to be involved in the design development of Pigeon Park or in programming in the Park?

THOSE WHO USE THE PARK...

Of those who use the park, 35% said they don't want any involvement, 24% said yes, they would like to be involved and 3% indicated that they would like to just be informed of what's happening there.

Several suggested they could be included in the design/programming through community driven projects such as art creation or maintenance /clean up in the park.

THOSE WHO DO NOT USE THE PARK...

65% of people who don't use the park did not want to be further involved in the redesign process or programming, however, 17% said yes and 17% said they weren't sure or didn't know.

Of those that did want to be involved in the design improvements and programming in the park, several suggested that people could be involved through community work programs and additional consultation in the concept and design stages.

Asset Mapping Workshops

The EYA youth mappers successfully conducted asset mapping workshops at the following five locations:

- Outside in Pigeon Park*
- Inside The Carnegie Community Centre
- Outside Tellier Tower (DERA)
- In the lobby of The Portland Hotel*
- In the lobby of The West Hotel
- The Downtown Eastside Youth Action Center

*Note: The Pigeon Park workshop and the Portland Hotel workshop is combined onto one map.

Many people demonstrated an interest in the mapping exercise at all locations. Asset mapping proved successful at obtaining a lot of information in addition to the surveys. It allowed people to convey ideas through graphic communication and provided an opportunity to look at other peoples' ideas. As such, the list of graphic



Common ideas found in at least three of the five maps:

- Retain the trees
- Recreational activities
- Art
- Cleanliness
- Community driven programs (art and

Table 3. Inventory of graphic information found on each map.

MAPPING LOCATION	INVENTORY OF SYMBOLS AND WRITTEN COMMENTS (Bold indicates ideas found in at least 3 of the 5 maps)	OTHER NOTES
The West Hotel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • retain the trees, • keep the park inclusive, • marking historical points of interest, • make use of the rails, • more recreation, • community art, • youth friendly, • community policing, • cleanliness, • space for outreach, • maintain drinking fountain, • a cultural shelter, • less concrete, • community plant maintenance program, • a stage for outdoor performance and DJ, • community information / resource booth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extremely busy spot, lots of traffic • many people appeared to have an interest in mapping
Pigeon Park and Portland Hotel lobby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational activities, • birdhouses, • more grass/lawn area, • retain trees, • more flowers, • provide a washroom, • the park is a solitary/spiritual place for the community, • a water feature/small pond, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one placed icons for history or health • There is references to issues within the community non-related to the park • Someone signed the map • Someone claimed a tree

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • space for entertainment and music, • specific paving pattern with grass 	
<p>Downtown Eastside Youth Action Centre</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monument to missing women in the DTES • spiritual, cultural- community importance • cleanliness, • wooden benches • performance space (placement of speakers) • artwork / existing murals • covered seating area • mosaics (allow professional local artists to contribute) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to issues and concerns not related to the park design • Absolutely interested in being actively involved in the park development - especially mural work.

MAPPING LOCATION	INVENTORY OF SYMBOLS AND WRITTEN COMMENTS (Bold indicates ideas found in at least 3 of the 5 maps)	OTHER NOTES
Carnegie Community Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collapsible performance stage • more trees • increased security • a safe injection site • additional food and outreach services • water feature • more art and murals, • community programs for maintenance • educational and art/performance programs • long planter wall with a fence enclosing a community café • giving more money to the homeless [instead of spending it on the park?] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No one was interested in filling out the surveys, however, a lot of interest in the mapping
Downtown Eastside Residents Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recreational activities/center • flea market • community work programs (maintenance and artwork) • cleanliness • aquarium • signage • vegetable garden with flowers • more grass/lawn space and vegetation • shelter • bike access • three tier water pond/garden oasis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High interest in participation by DERA.

The following pages display the resulting maps produced in the community asset mapping workshops.

Note that red dots indicate elements to be retained.

Figure 1. Community Asset Map Workshop – Pigeon Park and Portland Hotel lobby.

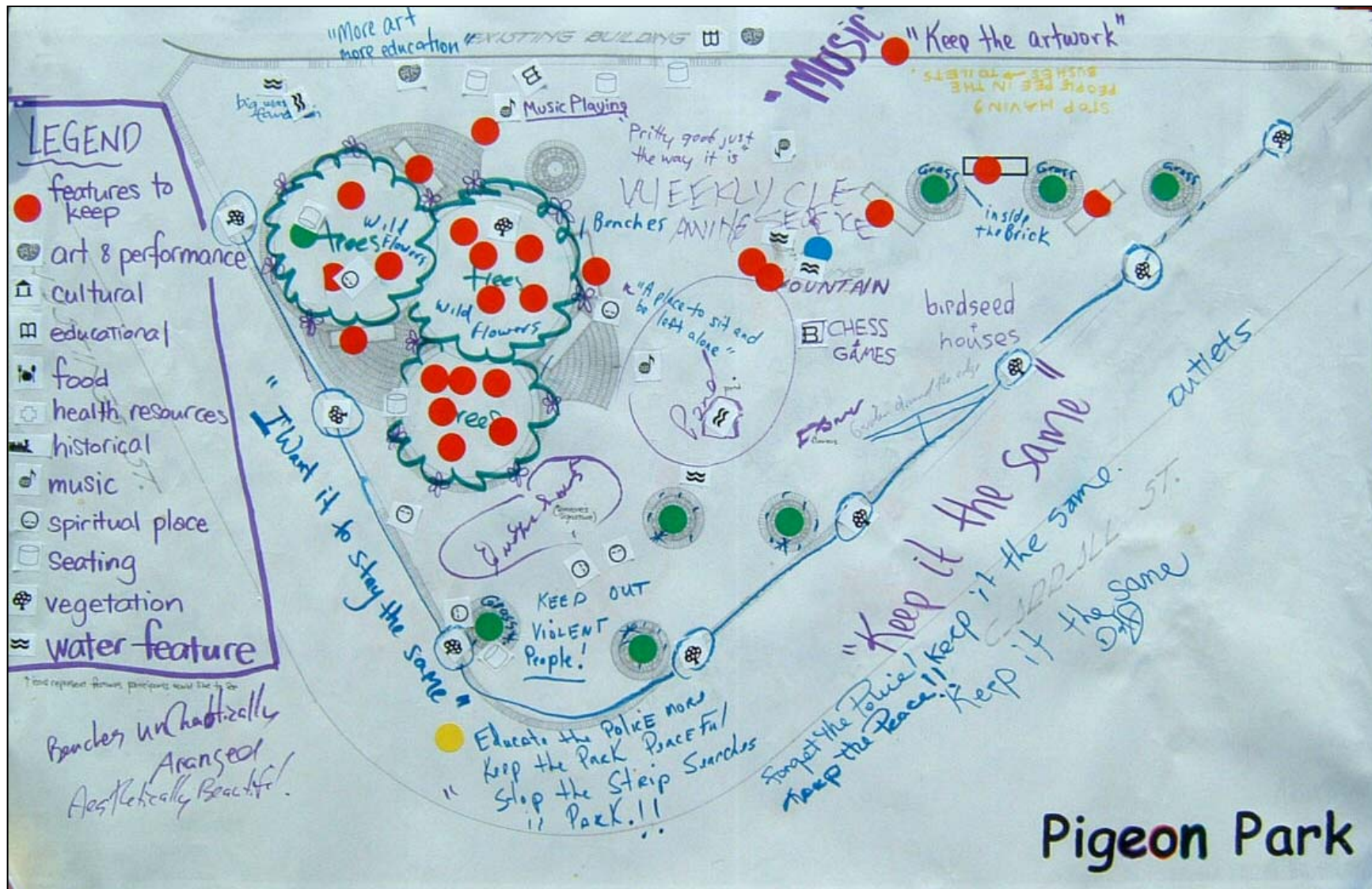
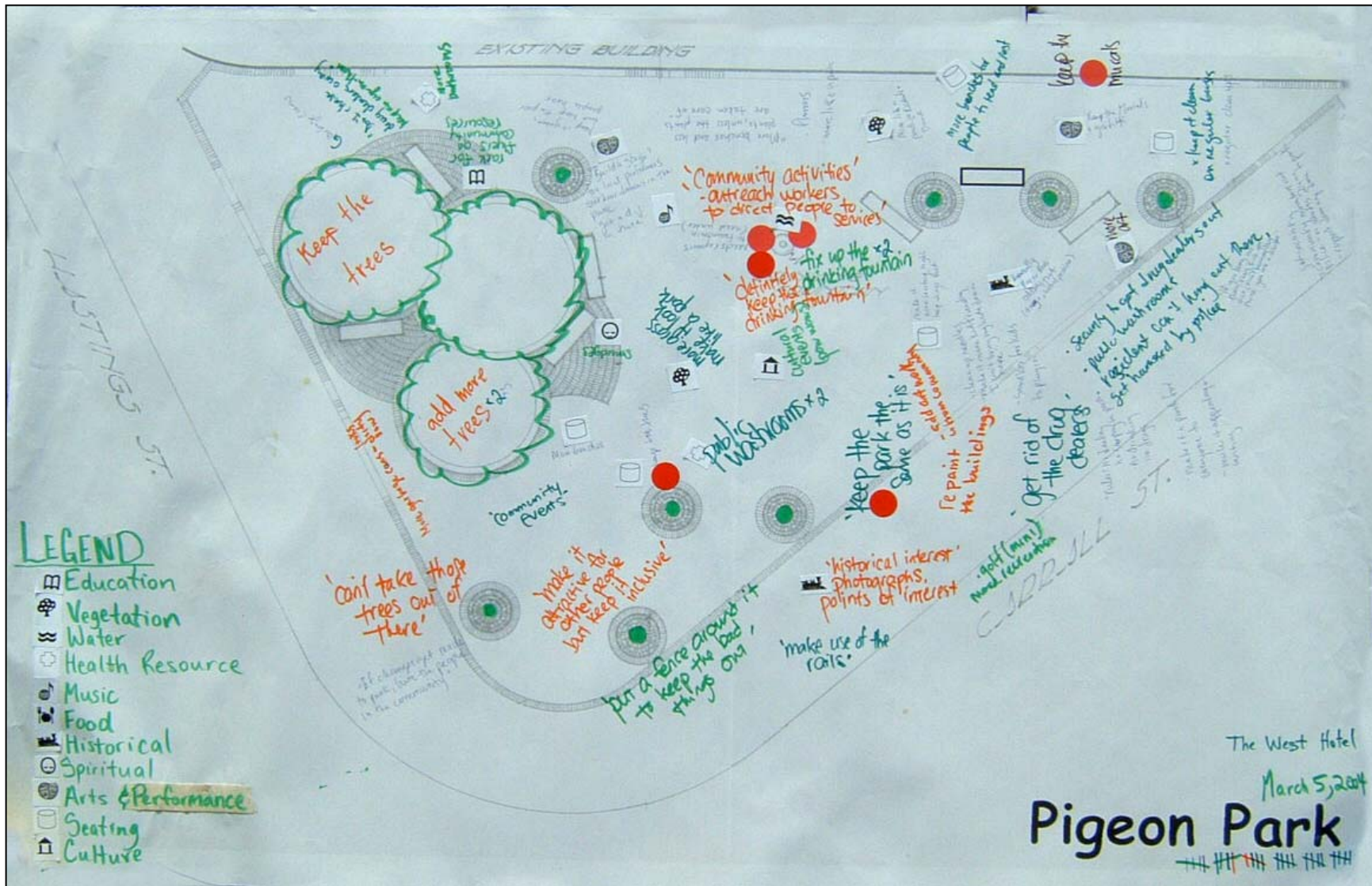


Figure 2. Community Asset Mapping - The West Hotel Lobby.



DISCUSSION

Park Use, Safety and Comfort Level, and Importance:

Of those people surveyed, there is a core group of people (41% of park users) that go to the park to gather, socialize or just sit in, on a daily basis. The majority (81%) who go to Pigeon Park indicated they felt safe and comfortable there, likely because, as also indicated, 92% of park users feel that Pigeon Park is an important space due to its 'community feel' and for gathering. Aside from Pigeon Park, most of these people also go the other parks in the area, however, a small group (19%) of park users (perhaps some of those who go to Pigeon Park everyday) feel that other parks are too far away or that they don't feel comfortable in them.

Of those who do not use the park, many feel it is not safe (45%) and an unpleasant (45%) place to be. Despite that these people do not use Pigeon Park, the majority (72%) maintain that it is an important place because it is an important space for the DTES community, its place in history, the location and as a space for community art display. Of the options provided, most felt that if they were to use Pigeon Park, it would be a good gathering space (44%), sitting space (28%), space for outreach services (9%), and for sleeping (3%). Other independent

STEP FOUR:

The creative ideas, interests, aspirations, and programs of the local community provide an opportunity to develop flexible and creative solutions to

answers included, as a lunch spot, chess / outdoor games, and as apart of a walking tour.

Valued Elements and Attitude Towards Change:

Those surveyed that go to the park indicate that seating; people/activities in the park, vegetation, drinking fountain and community artwork are the most valued existing aspects. The artwork, community atmosphere and trees are again noted most when asked what park users would not want to change (assuming 'people/activities' meaning the same as 'community atmosphere' and 'trees' as 'vegetation'). However, seating and the drinking fountain are not mentioned in the top three and therefore, it could be said that these aspects are valued yet more flexible with respect to new ideas or redesign. It is only a small group of park users that feel resistant to any change at all (15%), however, about the same (17%) indicated there isn't anything that they wouldn't want to see changed at all. Some people surveyed indicated that any changes to the park would not affect whether they go there or not (33%), others stated that they would go more often (27%) and 25% were cautious, indicating that it depended on the what the changes were. As such, it appears that some community members welcome improvements, whereas others are cautious and even sensitive to changes.

There was a mixed response to whether non-park users would choose to go there if Pigeon Park underwent design improvements. Most indicated no (39%), others thought perhaps, depending on the result of the changes and whether that had any effect on the current park use (30%), and other said yes (30%).

New Programming and Design Ideas:

Those who go to the park stated that they would like to see additional/new programming (35%), or an entertainment/display space (47% and of this 47%, 46% specifically marked 'art' was the primary interest). Other popular ideas included, outreach services (24%), market (18%) and games - chess/other (15%). The majority of people had an opinion on the style of benches with respect to sitting only or sitting/sleeping (84%). Of this many agreed that they wanted to see new benches, of which should allow for sleeping (59%) and 43% said the benches should be for sitting only. As the questions only allowed for these two possible choices, there wasn't a direct outlet to explore seating space not in the form of a bench. However, youth survey teams noted that there was some discussion amongst a few surveyed with respect to a more creative idea for seating, and that this should be arranged for socializing. Unfortunately at the time of surveys, many park users were not aware that the drinking fountain was functional, as such, 36% indicated that they would like to see a new drinking fountain, however, perhaps this number would be lower if they knew it was functional. More than half of those surveyed would like a more 'green feeling', including planter boxes (40%), flowers (18%) and native plantings (11%). Almost half (46%) of those surveyed provided an answer not in the options provided, of this, a sheltered space and design/programming for food are most popular.

Those who do not use the park would also like to see additional / new programming, including, entertainment space (34%), games - chess/other (28%), outreach services (21%) and market (17%). Slightly more respondents (28%) feel that sitting space/benches should be

allocated for sitting only, over those who feel that sitting spaces/benches should allow for sleeping too (21%). Generally, those who don't use the park are open to both a new drinking fountain (38%) and/or a water feature (34%). Additionally, there was an openness to design that included vegetation (21%), in particular, flowers (28%), native plants (28%) and trees (21%). People who do not currently use the park would also like to see better lighting (38%) and additional physical amenities (bike racks, garbage bins, etc.). Respondents provided a wide range of other suggestions (some more than one) including design related to food, washrooms, memorial for missing women, a shelter and also initiatives such as a community policing station, and community art programs within the park. 74% of those surveyed answered this question. The majority of respondents indicated that they are not interested in being a part of the design process (65%), while 17% said they either didn't know or would like to further be involved in the design process. Those respondents who were uncertain, or wanted to be involved in the process suggested they could be involved through community programs in the park and additional community consultation during the concept and design process.

Asset Mapping Outcome

Many people demonstrated an interest in the mapping exercises at all locations. Asset mapping proved successful at obtaining a lot of information additional to the surveys. As this is a form of graphic communication, each map should be reviewed to gain a sense and scope of ideas. However, common ideas and values found in at least three of the five maps was to retain the existing trees, recreational activities, importance and value of community art, cleanliness, community driven programs (art and maintenance) and spaces for

entertainment and performance. In comparison with other maps, the Carnegie Community Center and the Downtown Eastside Youth Action Center maps appear to communicate the most specific ideas.

Of all community members surveyed, those who do not use the park tended to have a higher response rate per question, than those who use Pigeon Park. Many of those surveyed appeared to have a difficult time answering all the questions and often there was many blanks or a lack of specific information. As a result it was difficult to obtain information, let alone, independent ideas through the survey questions. Additionally, many appeared to have a lack of self-esteem when asked for their own ideas, indicating that they 'didn't have any good ideas'. As such, the few independent ideas that have been offered should be considered valuable despite that perhaps only one person indicated that particular idea. In contrast, asset mapping appeared to attract more people and allow people to see others' ideas (perhaps enlarging their scope) and graphically represent their thoughts. It also created a comfortable setting with other residents to interact as opposed to a one-on-one scenario whereby questions were asked, and answers recorded. For these reasons, *community asset mapping was considered far more successful at obtaining specific ideas and creative thoughts in addition to survey information.*

Common Interests

Based on the findings, the following interests appear to be common ideas found among residents; this list also includes several independent contributions (ideas that were not provided as options but were suggested in both mapping and surveys):

- An interest in benches that do not prevent people from sleeping
- An interest to increase and expand on the variety of vegetation (noted most were flowers and native plants)
- An interest to retain the existing trees
- An interest in new recreational and entertainment programming opportunities, including space that supports community artwork and existing or future community driven programs for Pigeon Park (maintenance and art projects)
- An interest to improve upon the cleanliness of Pigeon Park
- People value access to the drinking water
- Pigeon Park is a valued place within the community by both park users and those who don't use the park
- Other common, independent ideas included, a covered shelter space, birdhouses, seating (not necessarily benches) arranged for socialization, washrooms, and historical or memorial markers.

APPENDIX A:

Sample Surveys and Community Mapping Theory

NEEDED: YOUR IDEAS??!!

The City of Vancouver is interested in design improvements to Pigeon Park. Prior to development of concepts and designs, the City wants to obtain ideas for improvements to the park from members of the community who are existing park users and non park users.

In order to **GET YOUR IDEAS**, the following survey is being conducted by the Environmental Youth Alliance; a Vancouver based, locally focused, youth-centered organization. This is your chance to voice **WHAT YOU THINK** of Pigeon Park. So please take a moment to fill out the survey below so that we can present your ideas to the City of Vancouver!

Do you use Pigeon Park? YES or NO

If YES, see survey "Questions for those who USE Pigeon Park".

If NO, see survey "Questions for those who DO NOT use Pigeon Park".

SURVEYOR PLEASE NOTE:

Are you a resident of the neighbourhood? YES / NO

Gender of respondent:

Where do you live?

- in a house
- in an apartment
- in a single occupancy room
- on the street

Approximate age of respondent:

- youth (under 30)
- middle age (30 to 50)
- older adult (over 50)

Date/Time of Survey:

Location of Survey: Any other observations or information you feel is important to the survey:

QUESTIONS FOR THOSE WHO USE PIGEON PARK

1. How often do you use Pigeon Park?

- Every day
- Once or twice a week
- Once in a while

2. Do you consider Pigeon Park an important place? If YES, why?

3. Do you consider Pigeon Park to be safe and comfortable? YES / NO

(please note why):

4. How do you use Pigeon Park? (Check which apply)

(If the respondent uses other parks)

Why do you come to Pigeon Park if you go to this (these) other park(s)?

(If the respondent doesn't use any other park)

Why don't you go to any of these parks?

- too far away
- don't feel comfortable in those parks
- I get hassled in those parks
- I can't sleep there
- other (please explain):

- gathering / meeting place
- sitting
- sleeping
- outreach /street programs
- other activities (please explain):

5. Do you use any of the following parks in the area?

(Check those used)

- Victory Square Park
- Andy Livingstone Park
- Portside (CRAB) Park
- Oppenheimer Park
- Other parks _____

6. What do you consider the most important EXISTING features of Pigeon Park?

Rate these as, (3) most important, (2) somewhat important, and (1) least important.

- _____ seating
- _____ drinking fountain
- _____ people / activities in the park
- _____ existing vegetation / planters
- _____ existing trees (shade)
- _____ artwork /murals /graffiti
- _____ history
- _____ lighting
- _____ location
- _____ other (please explain):

7. Are there things about the Park you do not want to change?
(please be specific).

- not safe
- not enough greenery
- too many drug deals
- too much garbage
- smells bad
- other (please explain):

8. What do you NOT like about Pigeon Park?

- too much noise

9. What would you like to see in Pigeon Park (consider programming, physical elements and aesthetic)? Check and circle (in each category) those which interest you most and provide a short description (of the look, feel and function). Please ADD YOUR IDEAS to the list.

- additional /new programming and activities:
entertainment - theatre /concerts /art display /other
games - chess /other
market
outreach services
other (please describe):

other (please describe):

- benches
allow for sleeping
allow for sitting only
other (please describe):

- vegetation (green feeling)
trees
planter boxes
flowers
native plantings
theme garden (please describe):

- new drinking fountain
a water feature (i.e. a water garden, waterfall...)

- security features:
- lighting (describe aesthetic):
- other physical amenities (bike racks, garbage bins...):
- other (please be specific):

10. Would improvements to the park change whether or how frequently you use the park?

- YES - use the park / use the park more often
- YES - use the park less often (please note why below)
- NO

11. Would you like to be involved in the design development of Pigeon Park or in programming in the Park? If yes, how?

12. Any other comments or suggestions?

QUESTIONS FOR THOSE WHO DON'T USE PIGEON PARK

1. Why don't you use Pigeon Park?

- too noisy
- I go to other parks
- not safe
- not pleasant

2. Do you use any of the following parks in the area? (Check those used)

- Victory Square Park
- Andy Livingstone Park
- Portside (CRAB) Park
- Oppenheimer Park
- Other parks _____

-

3. Do you consider Pigeon Park an important place? If yes, why?

4. If we made changes to Pigeon Park, would you start going there? Why?

5. How do you **think you would** use Pigeon Park? (Check which apply)

- gathering / meeting place
- sitting
- sleeping
- outreach /street programs
- other activities (please explain):

6. What would you like to see in Pigeon Park (consider programming, physical elements and aesthetic)? Check and circle (in each category) those which interest you most and provide a short description (of the look, feel and function). Please **ADD YOUR IDEAS** to the list.

- additional /new programming and activities:
entertainment - theatre /concerts /art display /other
games - chess /other
market
outreach services
other (please describe):

- benches
allow for sleeping
allow for sitting only
other (please describe):

- new drinking fountain
a water feature (i.e. a water garden, waterfall...)
other (please describe):

- vegetation (green feeling)
trees
planter boxes
flowers
native plantings
theme garden (please describe)

- security features:
- other physical amenities (bike racks, garbage bins...):
- other (please be specific):lighting (describe aesthetic):

7. Would you like to be involved in the design development of Pigeon Park or in programming in the Park? If yes, how?

8. Any other comments or suggestions?

SURVEYOR PLEASE NOTE:

Are you a resident of the neighbourhood? YES / NO

Where do you live?

- in a house
- in an apartment
- in a single occupancy room
- on the street

Gender of respondent:

Approximate age of respondent:

- youth (under 30)
- middle age (30 to 50)
- older adult (over 50)

Date/Time of Survey:

Location of Survey:

ANY OTHER OBSERVATIONS OR INFORMATION YOU FEEL IS IMPORTANT TO THE SURVEY:

What is Community Asset Mapping?

Community asset mapping is a process that uses the creation of a map as a metaphor for recording one's personal or community assets. Most importantly mapping is not just the creation of a paper based map, but a multi-stage process that begins with opening up spaces for community voices, and ends with a graphic representation of a person or community's assets, demonstrating how those are related or linked to one another.

The next stage is the interpretation of the maps. If used for research, these maps are summarized and analyzed by coding the ideas on the maps and drawing out the common themes or perspectives.

Why Community Asset Mapping?

Community asset mapping offers a fun and meaningful way to participate in research and their community. Through community asset mapping, people are able to have input into municipal planning processes and thus be actively involved in creating their community. Maps become a great visual presentation to various community developers and the information gathered can be incorporated into the neighborhood's Community Visioning. As such, community asset mapping offers a new way to involve the energy and knowledge of residents in maintaining and building stronger, more sustainable cities.

For more information on the Environmental Youth Alliance Community Asset Mapping tool visit:

www.eya.ca/youthmappers.

