



ANDY LIVINGSTONE PARK PLAYGROUND RENEWAL

Consultation Summary
March 2016



Background

- Vancouver Park Board is renewing the playground in Andy Livingstone Park from August to December 2016. The renewed playground will accommodate a wide range of ages and abilities, and will experience higher use, because of a new elementary school opening next door in 2017.
- The playground will be CSA (Canadian Standards Association) compliant, feature rubber safety surfacing throughout, ensure retention of all existing trees and provide shaded seating areas for parents and caregivers.
- To help inform the final concept for the playground, members of the public were asked for their feedback on two preliminary playground concepts. The questionnaire ran from February 15 to March 1, 2016.
- A total of 115 respondents completed the questionnaire, accessible in the following ways:
 - A paper version of the questionnaire, made available at an open house event on February 16, 2016 (see the next page for a summary of the event);
 - Open invitation to the general public via the Andy Livingstone Park Renewal project page on the City of Vancouver website;
 - An email invitation to Talk Vancouver members living in the FSAs close to the park -V6A, V5T, V5Y, and V5Z.
 - Social media posts promoting and linking to the questionnaire

Who did we hear from?

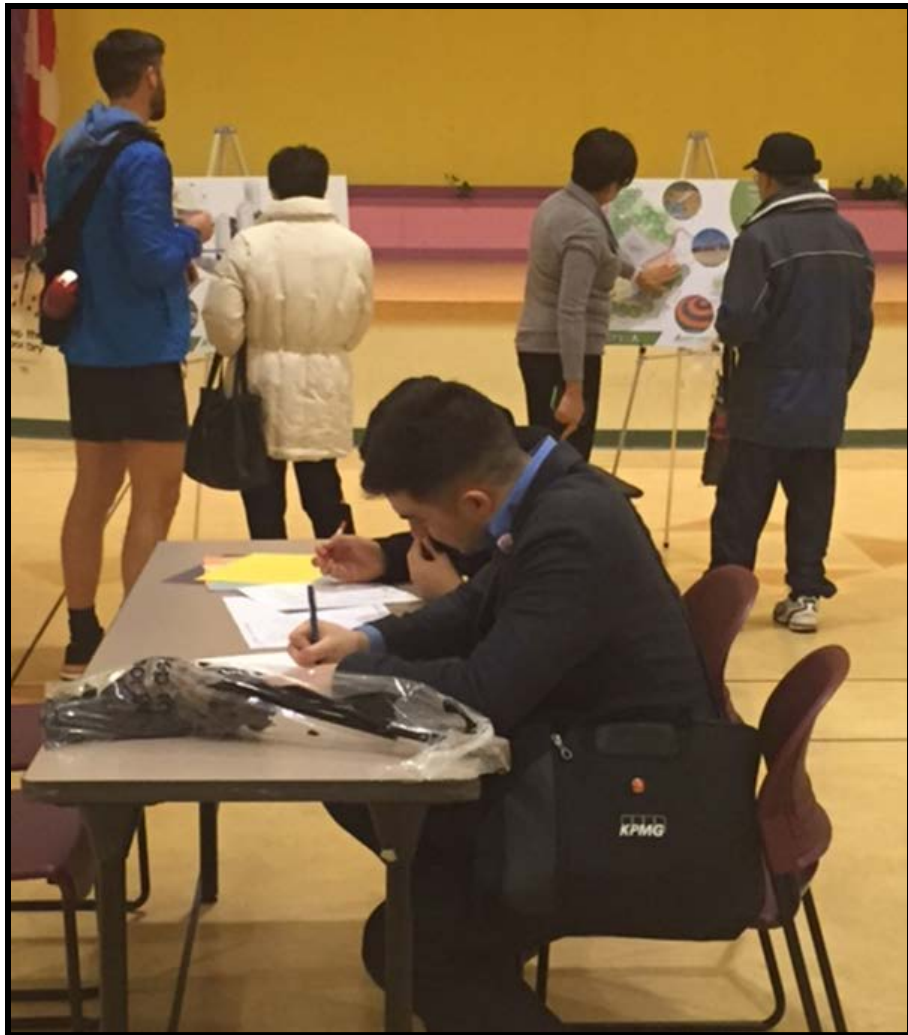
- The majority of respondents were between the ages of 30-49 (65%).
- Just under half had children under the age of 18 at home (46%).
- Respondents lived all across the City, but with the greatest proportion living close to the park in Downtown and the West End (43%), followed by the Northeast part of Vancouver (30%).



Open House Summary



40 residents attended the open house on February 15, 2016 at the S.U.C.C.E.S.S. Social Service Centre Auditorium

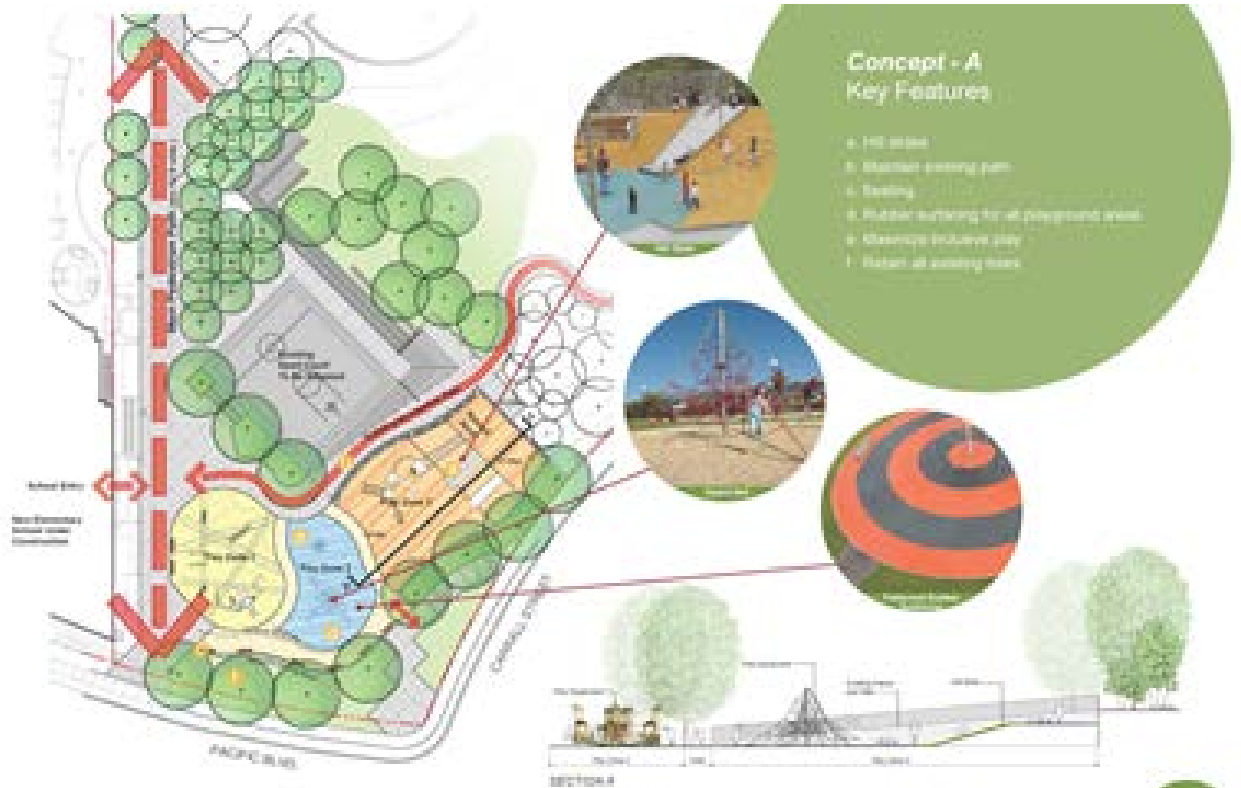




Open House Summary



Two playground concept plans, A & B, were presented at the open house for public input

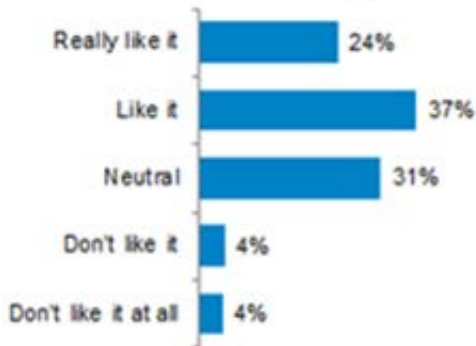


CONCEPT - A

ANDY LIVINGSTONE PARK



Rating of Concept A



61% Like Concept A



Open House Summary



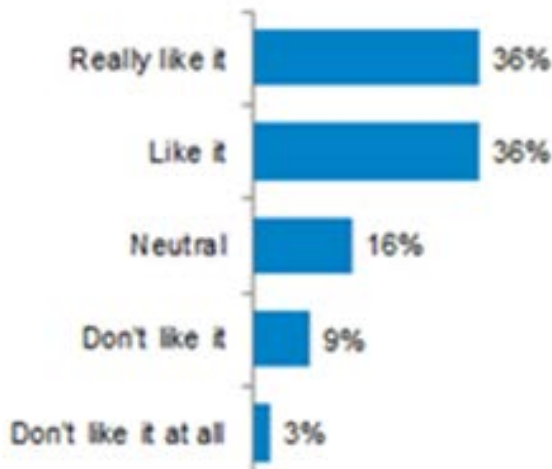
CONCEPT - B

ANDY LIVINGSTONE PARK



3

Rating of Concept B



72%
Like Concept B



Summary of Results



Park and playground use is fairly regular, with the potential for increased use.

- Park use is fairly regular, with just over half using the park once a month or more. Only 10% of respondents “never” use Andy Livingstone Park.
- About 4 in 10 respondents/their children use the playground, and about 3 in 10 use it once a month or more.
- Respondents often commented that they would use the playground and park more often if upgrades were made and concerns around safety addressed.

Climbing and sliding are favourite activities and shade trees are the top non-equipment element.

- According to respondents’, their children enjoy climbing in playgrounds the most- identified by 50% of those surveyed. This was followed by sliding (24%).
- Similarly, respondents’ identified playground equipment for climbing and sliding as among their child’s favourites . About $\frac{3}{4}$ of respondents selected slides as one of their child’s favourite pieces of equipment, followed by climbing apparatus (58% bridge climber and 51% climbing net).
- Aside from equipment, the most important elements for respondents were shade trees (72%). This was followed by benches (54%) and the incorporation of natural elements into the playground (48%).

Responses to both preliminary concepts were favourable, but Concept B was preferred. The key unique playground feature of each concept and level of visibility impact ratings.

- The idea of removing the elevated bath was received positively – 85% liked the idea, or were neutral toward it.
- Both Concept A and Concept B were received favourably, but respondents did like Concept B more (72% vs. 61%).
- Similarly, when asked to select their preferred concept, the greatest proportion, just over half selected Concept B, and 29% selected Concept A.
- The type of equipment drove preferences in part – those preferring Concept B often mentioned how much they liked the hill slides. Those preferring Concept A liked the climbing wall more than the hill slide as well as and the greater visibility associated with that design.



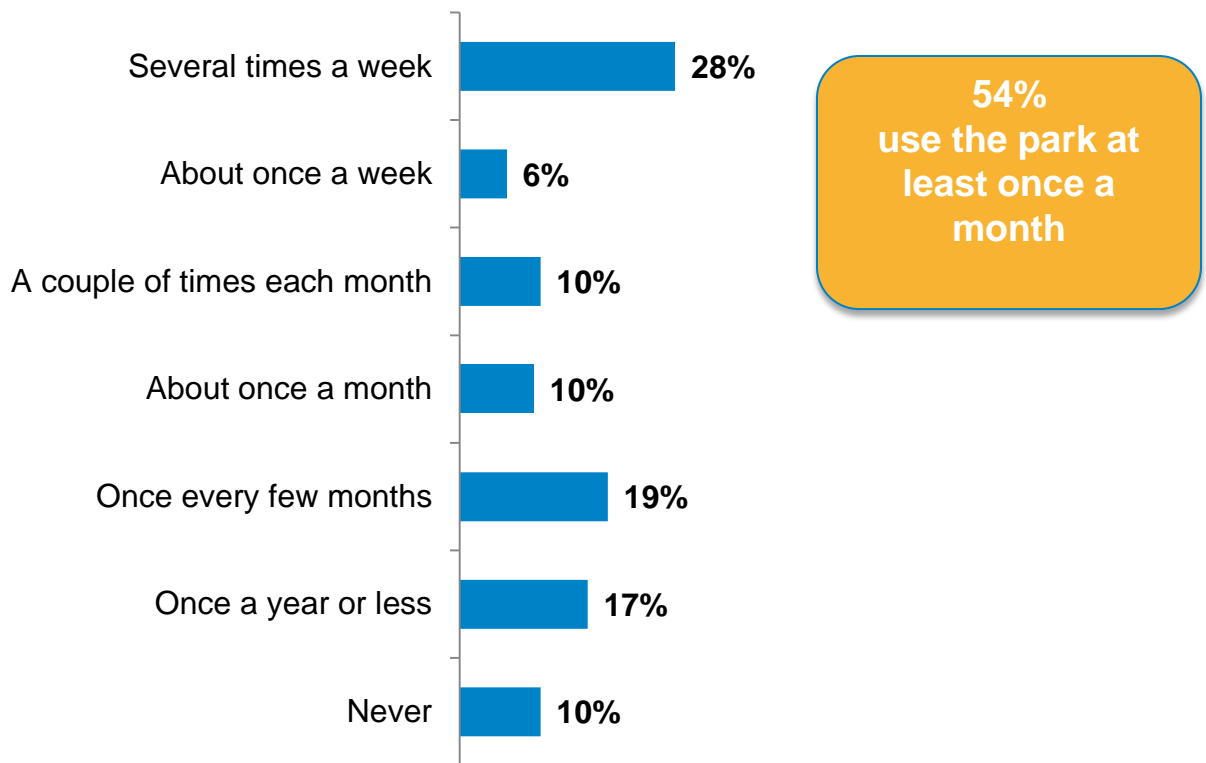
DETAILED QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS



Frequency of Park Use



- Park use is fairly regular, with over half using the park once a month or more. Only 10% of respondents say they never use Andy Livingstone Park.



Base: All respondents (n=115)

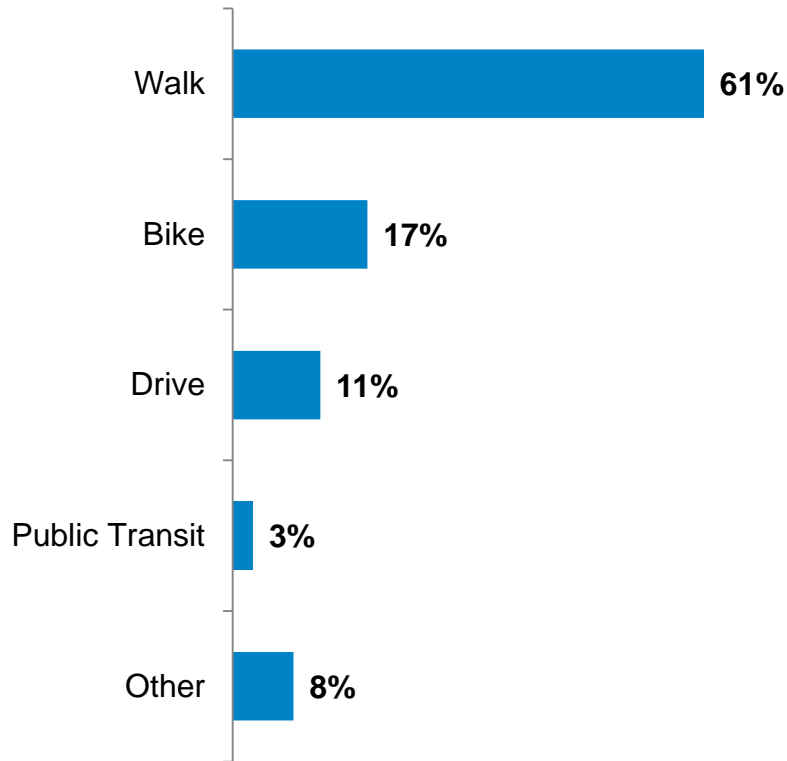
On average, how often do you visit Andy Livingstone Park?



Travelling to the Park



- The greatest number of respondents walk to the park (61%), suggesting that users tend to be in close proximity.



Base: All respondents (n=115)

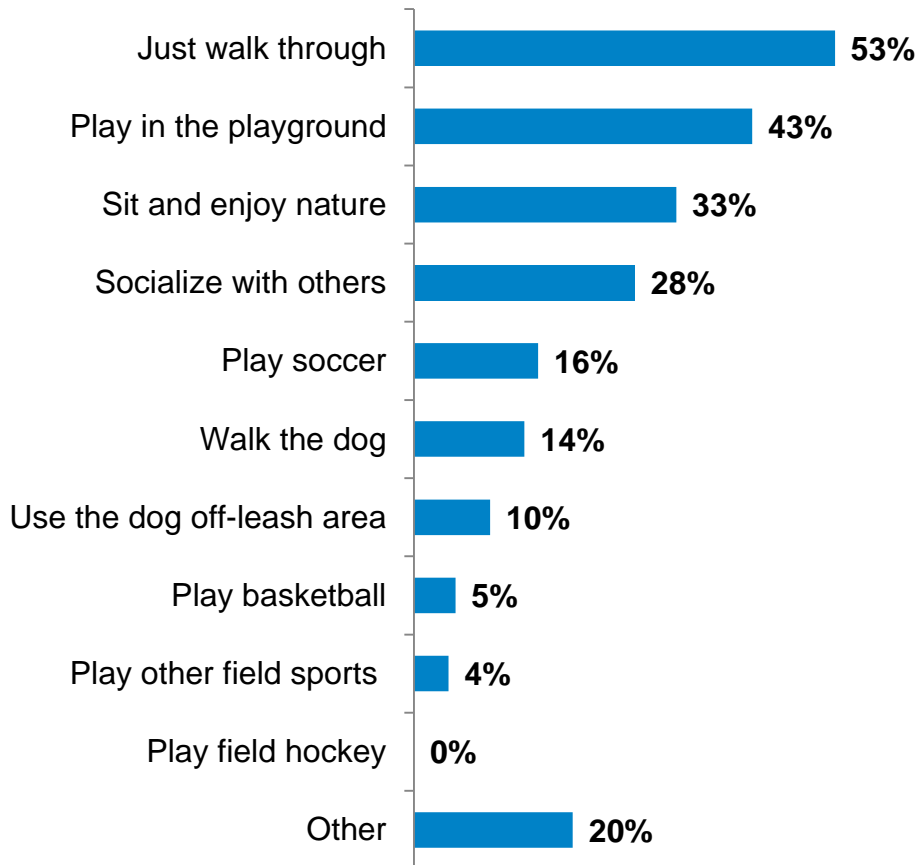
What's the main way you generally get to Andy Livingstone Park?



Park Activities



- The most common park activity is walking through the area, identified by half of respondents. But in terms of in-park activities, using the playground is most popular, identified by 43%.



Base: All respondents (n=115)

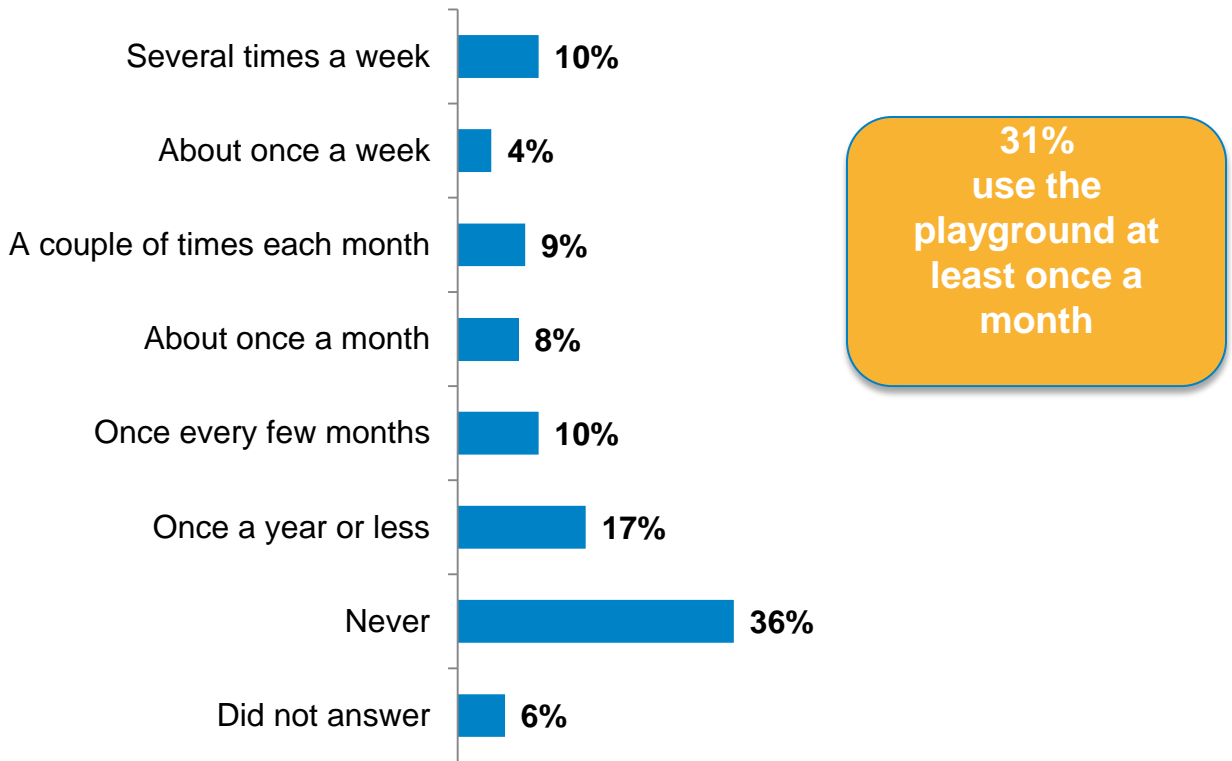
What do you (and/or your children) do at Andy Livingstone Park?



Frequency of Playground Use



- About a third of respondents visit the playground at Andy Livingstone once a month or more.



Base: All respondents (n=115)

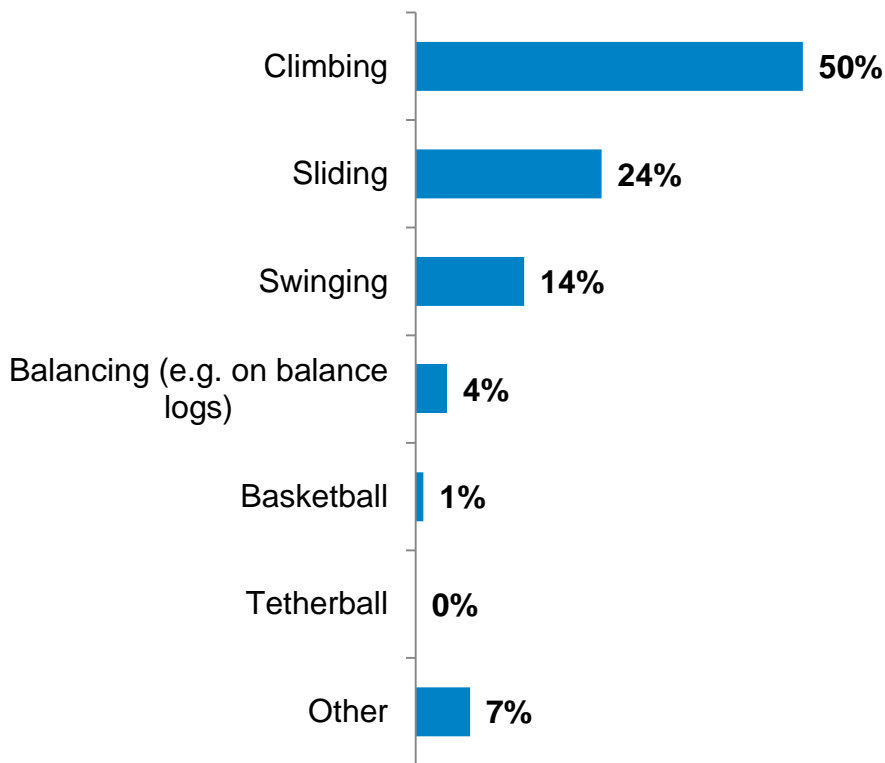
On average, how often do you visit the playground at Andy Livingstone Park?



Child's Favourite Playground Activity



- By far, the activity that respondents' report their children enjoy the most is climbing – identified by half of those surveyed. This was followed by sliding (24%) and swinging (14%).



Base: All respondents excluding those who answered not applicable (n= 74)

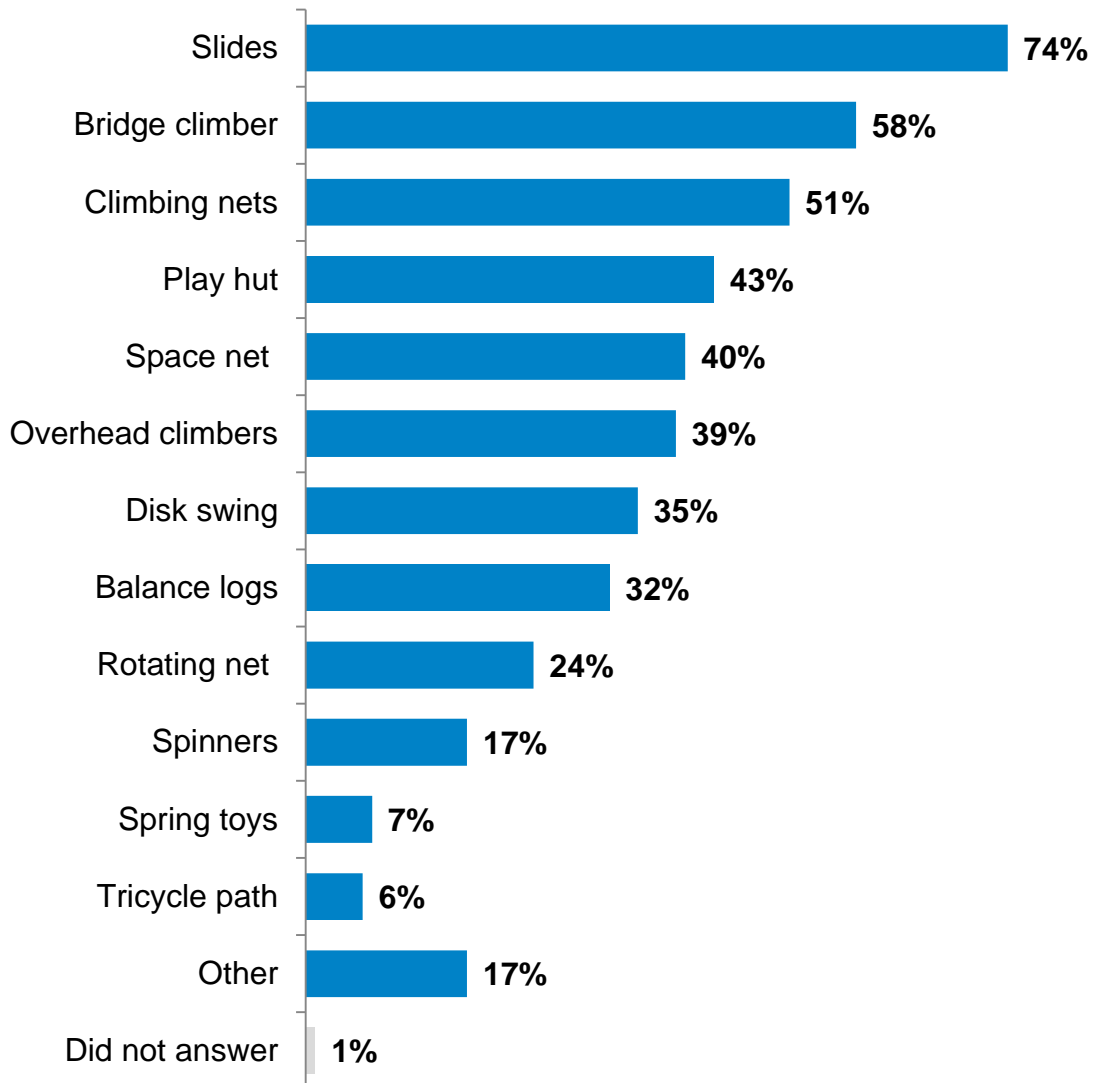
What is your child's favourite playground activity?



Child's Favourite Playground Equipment



- The top five pieces of playground equipment among respondents' children (as identified by respondents) were slides, bridge climbers, climbing nets, play huts and space nets.



Base: All respondents excluding those who answered not applicable (n= 72)

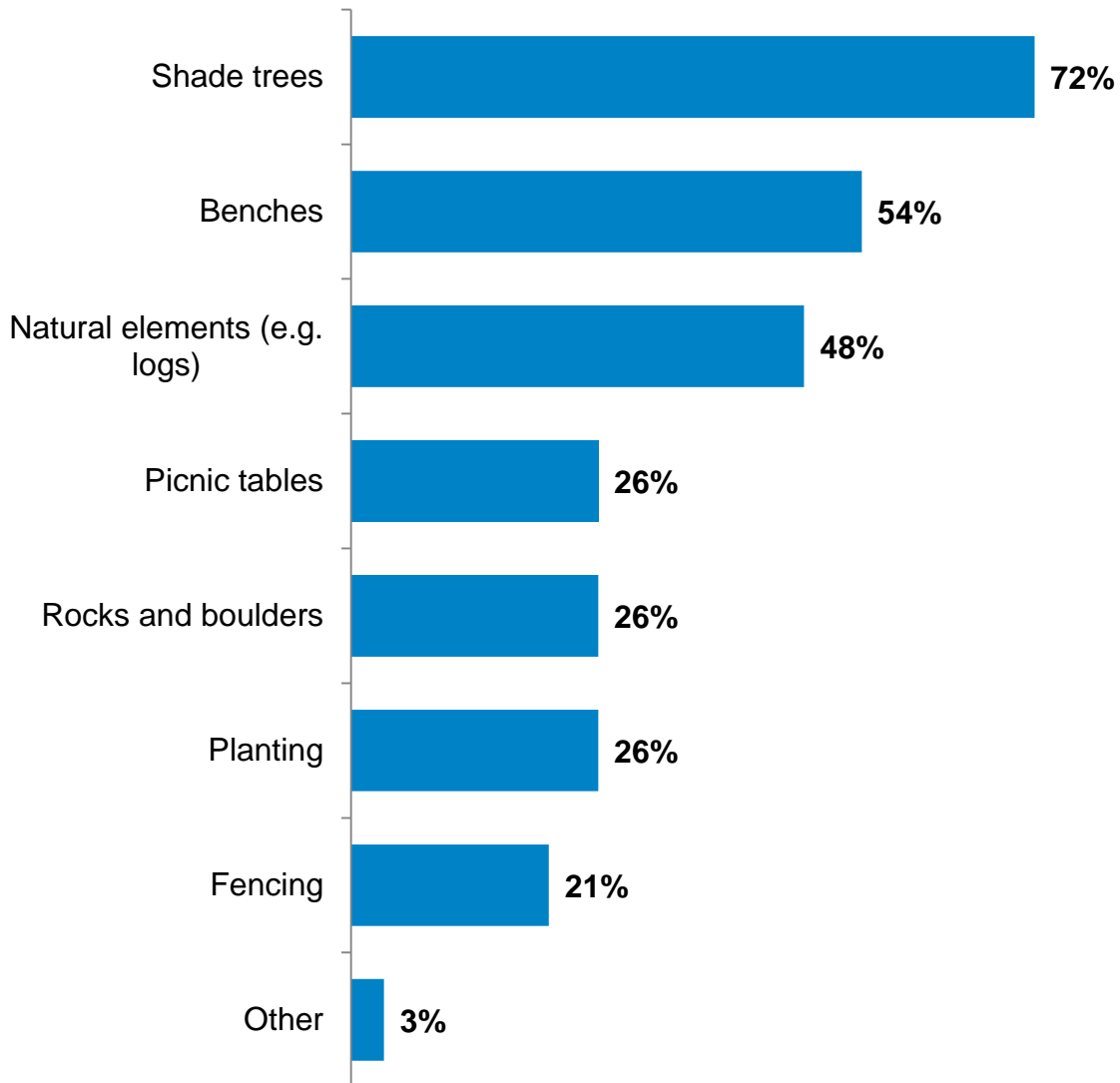
What are your child's favourite pieces of playground equipment? Pick the top 5 pieces below.



Other Important Playground Features



- Shade trees were identified by almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of respondents as one of the most important features of a playground. This was followed by benches and the incorporation of natural elements.



Base: All respondents (n=115)

What other features of a playground are important to you? (aside from the types of equipment)

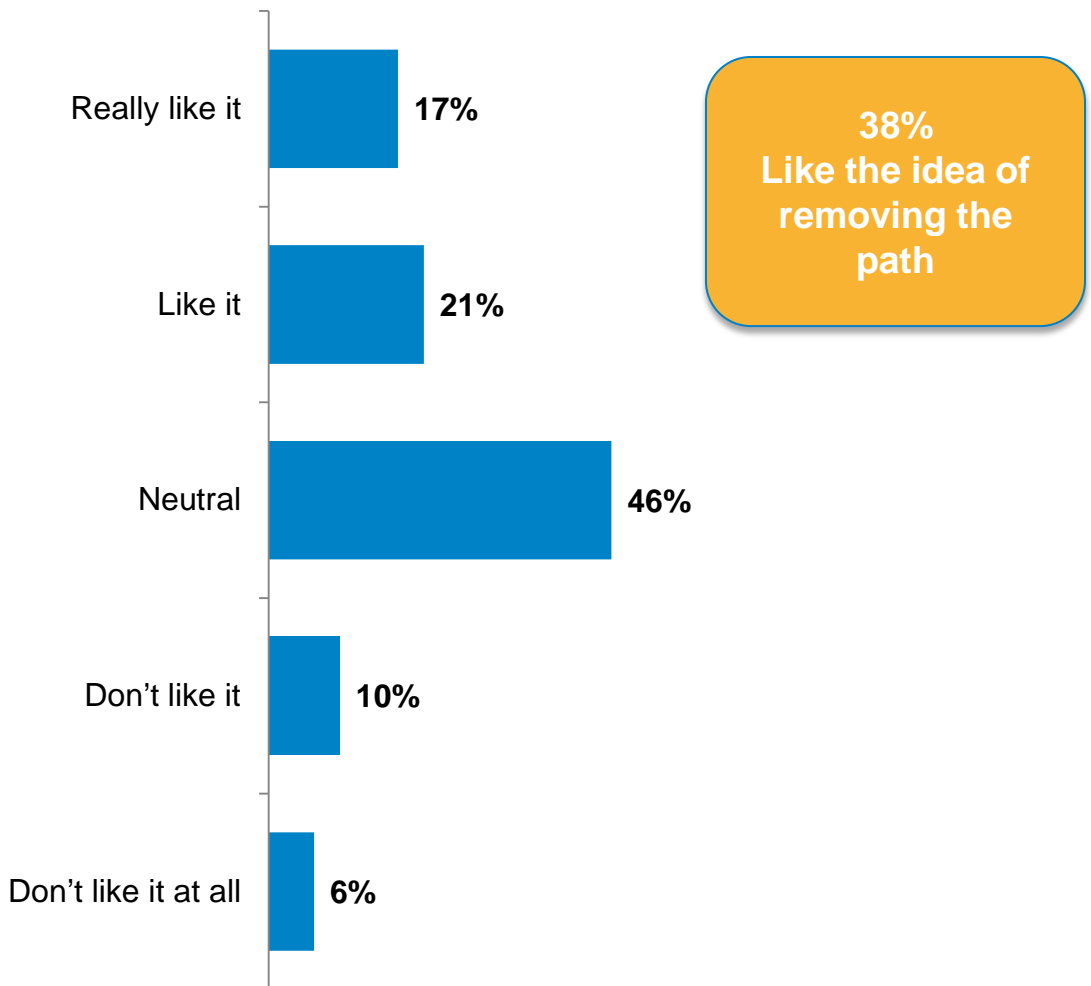
Pick the 3 features most important to you below.



Attitudes Toward Removal of Path



- The greatest proportion of respondents have a neutral attitude toward the removal of the elevated path (46%). An additional 38% like the idea of removing it.



Base: All respondents (n=115)

One change being considered for the playground is the removal of the existing elevated path to open views and level the area between play zone 3 and basketball court. What do you think of this idea?

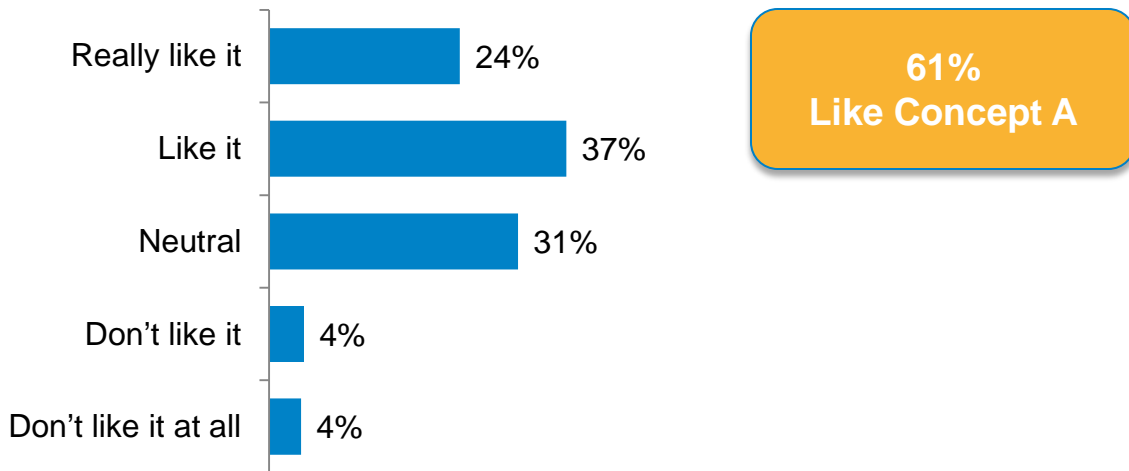


Rating of Playground Renewal Concepts

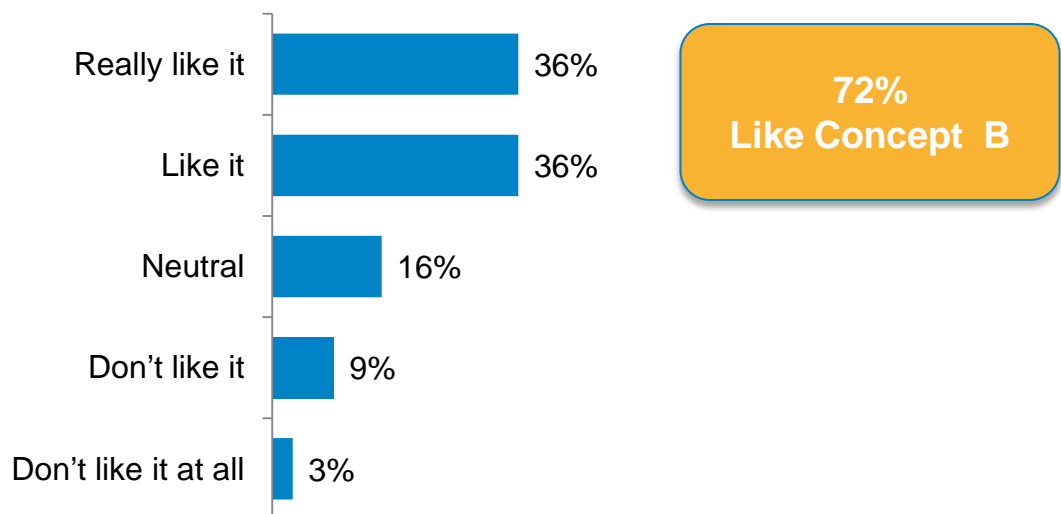


- Both concepts were received positively, but more respondents liked Concept B than Concept A (72% vs. 61%).
- However, it wasn't dislike of Concept A driving its lower overall rating - more people felt neutral towards it than Concept B (31% vs. 16%).

Rating of Concept A



Rating of Concept B



Base: All respondents (n=115)

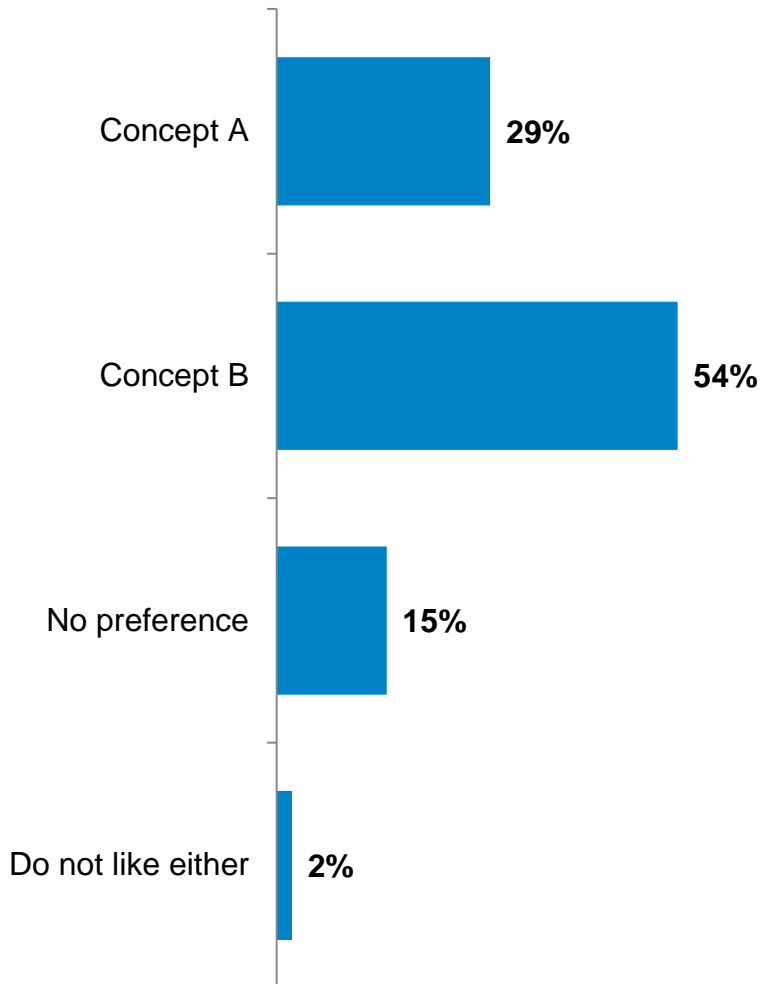
What do you think of Concept A? What do you think of Concept B?



Preferred Concept



- Similarly, when asked to select their preferred concept, half chose Concept B.



Base: All respondents (n=115)

Thinking about both concepts, which concept do you prefer?



Reasons for Concept Preference



The following are some examples of respondents' explanations about their preferred concept.

"I like Concept A. Making big, fun slides on the hill would be a lot of fun. Children would love going up and down over and over. If there are unique ones, really long one, wide ones, curvy one, etc., they will be popular"

"Concept B attracts more types of people in the community, it's multipurpose. And very cool!"

"HILL SLIDES ARE AWESOME. Climbing walls are okay too but that requires a vertical wall, which isn't as aesthetically pleasing."

"I like concept B because I have very young children and want sight lines to the majority of the park from both playground areas."

"Better visibility of the whole playground since there are no trees in the middle - this is very important for the new school as only a few monitors will have to watch all the kids. Also the hill slide looks cool."

"My kids would LOVE the climbing wall. I like the idea of opening it all up by removing the elevated walkway. Looks great!"

"Rains a lot in Vancouver, to use the slope for slides in concept A seems a bit like wasted space. I like the openness concept B proposes as well as the added pathways for greater views, less hiding spaces for the school children at recess and lunch time. To have a view of the courts seems to be an advantage for the older kids. I like the added trees."

Base: Respondents who provided an explanation of their preference (n = 90)

Why is that? (your preference)

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General Comments



The following are some examples of respondents' general comments about the playground renewal and Andy Livingstone Park in general.

"I'm very glad this is finally happening as it was in dire need of an upgrade. The area has lots of families and children and I found us going to Yaletown instead of staying in our neighbourhood."

"Fence all the sides besides both roads so kids won't run to the road."

"I have a granddaughter with a disability and there is nothing for her in either plan. Just because she can get her wheelchair onto the play area doesn't mean it's accessible. How about lower swings, slower slides, anything that would be accessible?"

"Consider alternative paths that lead to the playground / basketball court that are accessible for wheelchair users, etc. that do not require walking around half the park, etc. to get to the playground/basketball court."

"I am looking forward to the playground renewal, we would go more often if it had some of these features. I would also love to see a swing set."

"I'm a dog owner. I favour fences to keep dogs limited in their off-leash joy. It keeps them safe. And we want to be near other people. Not behind too many fences. Perhaps you can find a gracious balance."

"Security is the main concern seeing as it's off of a very busy street and not in the greatest neighborhood. I'm most concerned that the kids are safe - especially at lunch and recess when there are just a few school monitors watching all of the kids."

Base: Respondents who provided general comments (n = 69)

Do you have any other comments about the playground renewal at Andy Livingstone Park? Or, comments about the park in general?

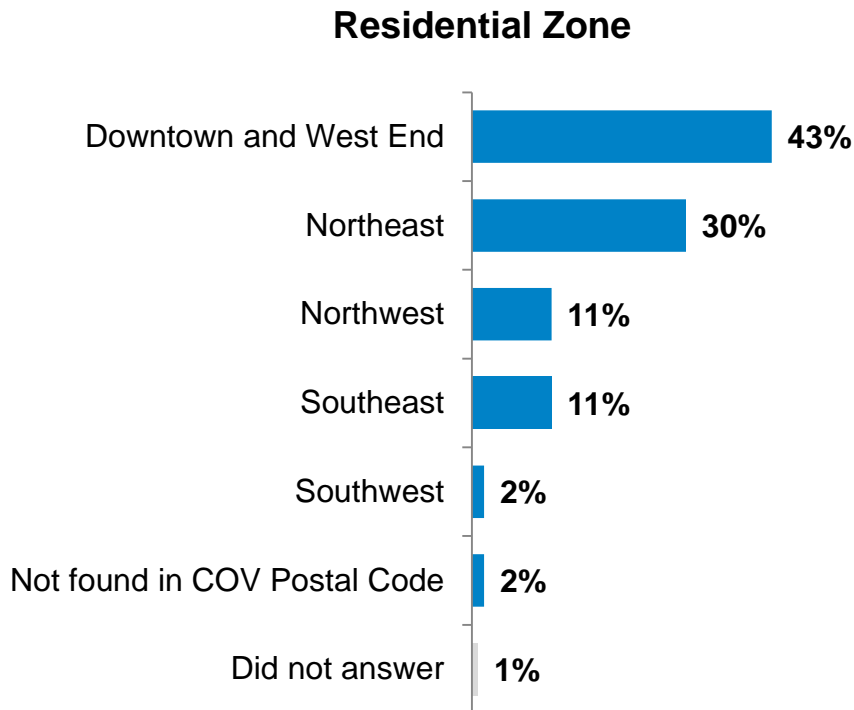
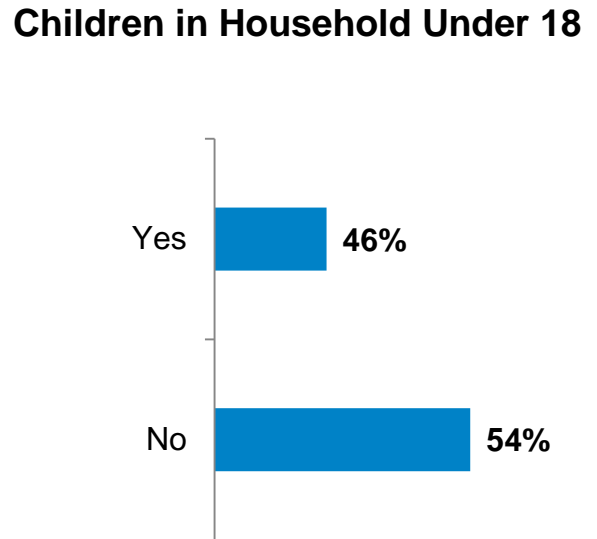
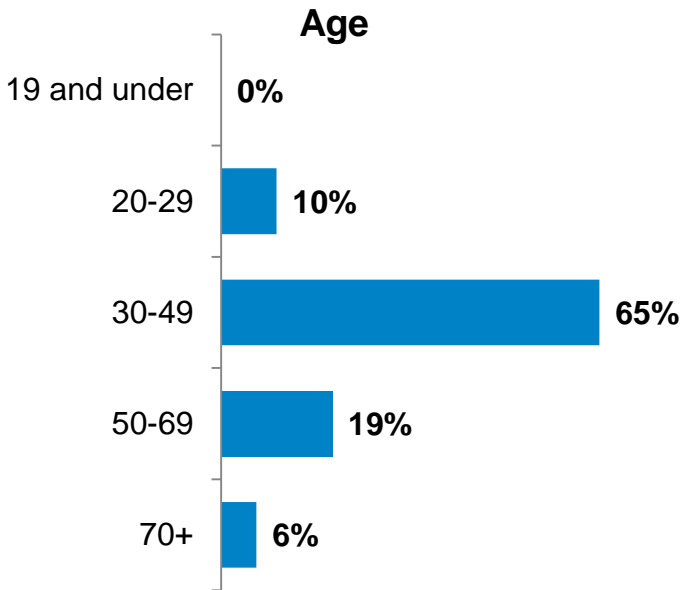
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DEMOGRAPHICS



Demographics



Base: All respondents (n=115)



APPENDIX - CONCEPTS