

VANCOUVER PARK BOARD

TRACK+FIELD

STRATEGY



ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Vancouver Park Board is working with the Vancouver School Board to plan for the future of track and field sports and facilities in the City.

BACKGROUND

The Vancouver Park Board wants to develop a comprehensive strategy for track and field sports and facilities that will enhance opportunities for all residents from casual users through to competitive athletes.

The results from this second round of engagement will inform the refinement of the project vision and principles to guide the future of track and field sports and facilities in Vancouver. It will also inform the criteria used to evaluate options for the location of track and field facilities and the priorities for different facility types.

PARTICIPATION

There were a total of **939** public and stakeholder interactions during the Vancouver Track and Field Strategy Round 2 engagement period. These included:

- **913** completed surveys through TalkVancouver in English, Chinese and Punjabi.
- **26** participants in public and stakeholder open house workshops.

The Round 2 survey and open house workshops were promoted through the project website, the TalkVancouver network, and the Park Board's social media accounts.

How Input Will Be Used

The planning team will consider feedback from this round of consultation, along with technical information, to develop recommendations for the planning, design, and management of Vancouver's track and field facilities for Park Board review and approval.

SUMMARY OF INPUT

The second round of engagement aimed to test the draft vision and principles, to gather input on which criteria should be considered the most important in prioritizing locations for improved facilities, and to test some ideas around improving awareness and participation in track and field programs and making facilities more welcoming, inclusive and accessible. Two open houses were also held to provide an opportunity for more in-depth discussions of opportunities and priorities.

Vision

Overall survey respondents agree with the draft vision statement with over 60% of survey respondents who either agree or strongly agree. Less than 12% of survey respondents disagree, and only 5% strongly disagree. Many comments mentioned the need to include non-athletes and all ability levels in the vision. Many asserted that Vancouver's Track + Field facilitates could not currently be described as "excellent" but there is support for pursuing this as a vision.

Draft Principles

The majority of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed with all of the draft principles. Three principles had over 50% of survey respondents "strongly agree", including Strengthen Partnerships, Support Growth of Track and Field, and Provide Equitable Access.

‘Strengthen Partnerships’ was the most supported principle (93% respondents who agree or strongly agree). Partnering with schools and community groups was mentioned, as was the importance of providing opportunities for children, youth and entry level participation. Strengthening partnerships was also identified as a high priority in the Round 1 survey, with the Vancouver School Board in particular.

There were many attendees at the open houses who were either participants, parents or coaches at the school age level. They mentioned the need for facilities for elementary school teams within walking distance of schools and facilities for secondary school teams on the east side, as Point Gray and UBC are the main team training locations.

Facility Types

The most important priority identified by survey respondents was ‘Neighbourhood- Recreational Facility’ (37%) followed closely by ‘Community- Training Facility’ (35%). Overall, those who said they use Vancouver facilities were fairly evenly split in terms of which facility they would prioritize. Those who selected the destination facility as their top priority were more likely to be users of Vancouver’s track and field facilities. Those who said they don’t use any Vancouver facilities were more likely to prioritize neighbourhood facilities. Only a small percentage (7%) of survey respondents indicated that track and field was not a priority at all.

The feedback from the public and stakeholder open house workshops indicate the most support for a community level facility followed by a destination facility. During discussions with stakeholders, the idea of a “community plus” facility was also suggested.

Participation and Location

When asked if they currently use a track and field facility in Vancouver, 41% said they do not. This is a slightly higher number than in the Round 1 survey where 33% of respondents said they either don’t currently participate. The track at Killarney (13%) and Point Gray (12%) were the most popular among respondents to this survey, compared with the Round 1 survey where Point Gray (17%) was the most frequently mentioned.

Location Priorities

When asked what criteria are most important in prioritizing what facilities are upgraded, the top three answers were:

- Close to a community centre or other community facility
- Location improves equitable access for all users city-wide
- Easily accessible by bus

These three criteria all received over 50% support and were consistent between users and non-users of Vancouver’s track and field facilities. The least important criteria were “near areas of growth” and “near elementary schools”.

Responses for those most interested in neighbourhood and community facilities were very consistent with the overall survey answers, but being located near a secondary school was more important for community facilities than neighbourhood facilities or destination facilities. Improving equitable access was the second most frequently chosen location criteria for those who prefer neighbourhood or community facilities.

The responses from those who said a destination facility was their priority had different location criteria priorities compared to the overall survey responses:

- Easily accessible by bus
- Parking on site or available parking lot within 1km
- Close to a community centre or other community facility

The strong support for prioritizing locations near community centres is also supported by previous findings from the Round 1 survey which indicated that better facility amenities should be a priority. By locating track facilities near community centres or other community facilities, there are opportunities for shared amenities such as washrooms, equipment storage, and event hosting support infrastructure.

Parking available on-site made the top 5 for those who chose a community facility as their priority and was #2 for those who chose a destination facility as their priority.

Other Priorities

At the open houses, it was mentioned that an immediate, short-term need is resurfacing of the Point Gray track, as it sees a very high level of use by teams and clubs from across the city as well as casual users. There was also interest in upgrading the VanTech facility so that it could host District meets.

Equitable Access

Equitable access was well supported in the Round 2 survey and was also a theme that emerged during discussions with participants at the open house workshops. Currently, Point Gray is the only location that has a rubberized surfaces, 6 lanes, and a standard distance for hosting track and field practices and meets. As a result, secondary school students from across the city are spending a significant amount of time travelling to Point Gray in order to participate. Most participants at the open houses indicated that 2-3 community level tracks that were geographically distributed would be more desirable than one destination facility.

There was concern about one centralized facility that would potentially mean more driving/travelling for participants. Distance was also cited as a barrier, particularly for children and youth.

Information and Awareness

One of the most significant barriers to participation identified in the Round 1 survey were access to information about facilities, programs, clubs and teams. The Round 2 survey sought to gather feedback on some potential strategies to address this barrier.

Overall, the highest ranking answer was “support track and field clubs in their outreach programs” followed by “work with local clubs and organizations to promote track and field events and activities”. The second highest ranking answer differed between those who currently use Vancouver facilities and those who do not, however, with non-users selecting “promote and share information through community centres”. Current users of Vancouver facilities also ranked “hosting events that highlight track and field” higher than nonusers.

Other ideas included hosting more track and field events, looking beyond just schools to other organizations and local businesses, and ensuring that tracks are visible from roads and have identifiable signage. These were similar to the responses and suggestions from the Round 1 survey.

At the open houses, participants mentioned that having facilities visible from main roads is beneficial in terms of increasing awareness and access. Secure bike parking is also need.

Inclusivity and Access

The Round 1 survey welcoming, inclusive and accessible facilities should be one of the top 3 priorities over the next 10 years, so the Round 2 survey sought to gather feedback on potential strategies. Overall, the highest ranking answer to the question of how the Park Board can better support inclusive, welcoming, and accessible track and field facilities was “explore ways to support non-competitive, beginner-level recreation programs”, with “explore ways to support the development of more informal and accessible groups and programs” a close second. There was no difference in rankings between users and non-users.

Some other ideas mentioned were inviting parents to participate, creating adapted fitness programs collaboratively with people with disabilities, and offering special days/times for beginners are opportunities.

There were many comments throughout the survey responses about providing inclusive facilities, providing equitable distribution of facilities, and supporting health. The comments indicated that there is a desire to have facilities for both competitive athletes and casual users. From the casual user point of view, there was concern about access and the potential for facilities to become exclusive or only focused on elite athletes.

Other overall themes from the survey

The survey offered an open-ended opportunity for respondents to provide feedback. Many survey respondents mentioned their support of the Track and Field Strategy. Some of the themes that emerged included general support for prioritizing accessibility of facilities, improving or building new support amenities (i.e. washrooms, water fountains, viewing areas), and improving maintenance of existing and future facilities. There was also an emphasis on building partnerships, particularly with schools. Access was a recurring theme and was mentioned both in terms of convenient location of facilities geographically, but also in terms of the facilities themselves being accessible and inclusive. Lighting facilities was mentioned as a benefit in terms of improving safety and extending the hours of use.

Additional Findings from the Open Houses

At the open houses, there were many participants from club and teams, stakeholder organizations, and people who are involved in the organization and delivery of track and field programs and events. Representatives from the Vancouver School Board, BC Athletics, and BC Wheelchair Sports were also in attendance. The following are some of the key findings from the open house discussions.

Facility Types

Through discussions with participants at the open houses, there was a lot of information shared around facility needs for different levels and participants. There was strong support for a community facility or a “community plus” type facility that could host secondary school district meets. While there was some support for a high level destination facility, a majority of the discussion centred around the need for 2-3 community facilities that would allow the sport to grow.

Facility Details

To host meets for elementary school participants, the facility should have a track as well as a long jump pit, high jump, and shot put area. For secondary schools, additional field facility needs are pole vault, javelin, hammer throw, and discus. The number of track lanes was mentioned as a key factor because the more lanes, the faster a track meet can be completed. With only 6 lane tracks, elementary school meets in particular take a long time to complete because there are so many participants.

Short Term Facility Priorities and Concerns

Resurfacing the Point Gray track was highlighted as a short term priority, and it also emerged that the track at Eric Hamber Secondary School is going to be unavailable for possibly 10 years to accommodate seismic upgrading.

Improving Support and Participation

Participants mentioned the need to better support teams. Strategies to support existing teams included the need for storage, the desire to be able to reserve a facility, and the need to improve access for the eastern part of the city. The potential for teams or clubs to be based in community centres was also suggested.

The need to improve access for those who may not have access to teams was also mentioned. Not all elementary schools currently have track and field or cross country teams because it is reliant on teacher interest and capacity. As elementary school is a main entry point for track and field participation, a key opportunity is to expand outreach, training, and programs at elementary schools and to inspire and support teachers and volunteers to be coaches. BC Athletics also has a Run Jump Throw Wheel program that does not require a track and field facility and can be run at gymnasiums, outside at parks, etc. This program could be added to VSB programs or offered at community centres.

ABOUT THE TRACK+FIELD STRATEGY:

Why is this needed?

Currently, no site within the city boundaries offers all the elements needed for a competitive track and field competition and training facility. Many track facilities are also in need of upgrades to improve the experience for recreational and casual users of all ages and abilities.

The Vancouver Track+Field Strategy will:

- Assess existing facilities, current and anticipated use and demand, and trends in track and field sports;
- Identify options for track and field facility improvements to meet the needs of competitive, recreational, and casual users;
- Develop three options for a new competitive track and field facility;
- Establish priorities for track and field facility planning, improvements, and management across the city and a preferred option and conceptual design for a competitive track;
- Outline a plan to guide implementation over the next 10 years.

Consulting with you

The planning team will consider feedback from the first round of consultation, as well as future consultation and technical information, in order to develop recommendations for the planning, design and management of Vancouver's track and field facilities for Park Board review and approval.

What has already been done?

Vancouver Park Board staff attended numerous track and field meets during the 2018 season to inform athletes, coaches and attendees about the upcoming Strategy.

A preliminary public survey was conducted on TalkVancouver in May and June of 2018. The survey asked questions about how people use the existing track and field facilities and how they could be improved. A kid's survey was also conducted...

Assessment of the existing inventory of track facilities in terms of site conditions, attributes, level of use, suitability and service gaps is currently underway.

ROUND 2 PUBLIC + STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:

1: Purpose + Key Goals

The purpose of Round 2 engagement was to test the draft vision and principles, to gather input on which criteria should be considered the most important in prioritizing locations for improved facilities, and to test some ideas around improving awareness and participation in track and field programs.

2: Participation

Who

The public and stakeholders were engaged during Round 2 with an emphasis on getting additional feedback from stakeholders and those who participated in Round 1, as well as expanding the range of participants to make sure that casual users also had a chance to provide input. Stakeholders and the public were both engaged through two open houses with facilitated discussions and an online survey through Talk Vancouver. The survey was translated into Chinese, which was available online along with the English version. The survey was also translated into Punjabi, which was made available in hard copy form. Park Board staff conducted outreach to staff at several community centres, as well as to organizations that serve diverse communities (Mosaic and S.U.C.C.E.S.S.).

When

Round 2 engagement occurred in December 2018. The Talk Vancouver survey was open from X to X. Two open houses were held on December 1st and 4th, 2018.

How many

A total of 939 people were engaged during Round 2. While the overall number was lower than Round 1, there were nearly 200 more responses to the survey in Round 2 and a broader audience was reached including people who speak languages other than English and a higher proportion of non-users.

TalkVancouver survey: 913 responses

Open Houses: 26 participants

3: Topics

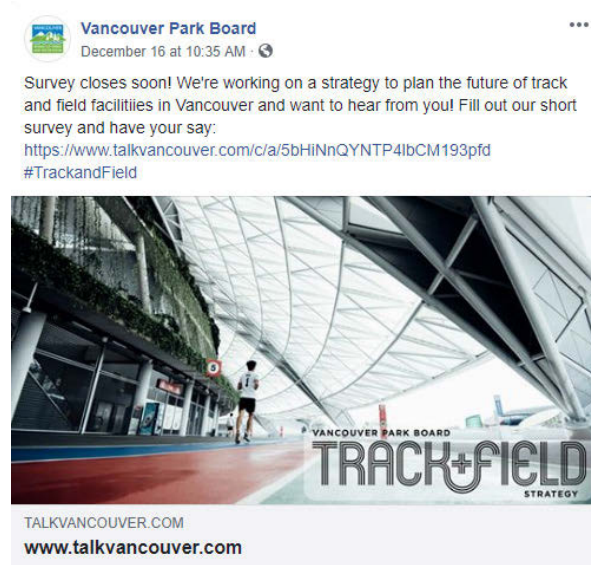
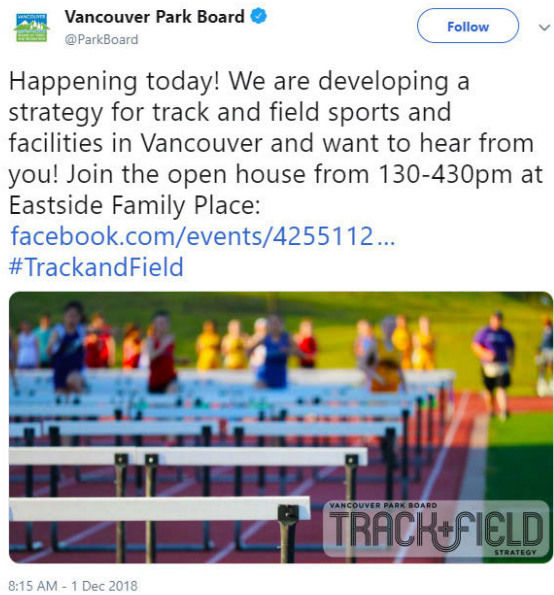
Round 2 engagement explored the following topics:

- The draft vision and principles
- The criteria to be used for prioritizing locations for facility improvements
- Strategies to improve awareness of track and field facilities and programs
- Strategies to support inclusive, welcoming, and accessible track and field facilities

Publicity + Outreach

Outreach included:

- 15 posts to the Vancouver Park Board Twitter account between Nov. 29 and Dec. 19, 2018. The account has 24,900 followers;
- 5 posts to the Vancouver Park Board Facebook account between Nov. 27 and Dec. 16, 2018. The account has 12,032 followers;
- 1 post to the Vancouver Park Board Instagram account on Nov. 28, 2018. The account has 5,125 followers;
- Project website at www.vancouver.ca/trackandfield with **XX** discrete page views;
- Project mailing list with **236 (+)** names;
- Project email address at trackandfield@vancouver.ca



ONLINE SURVEY:

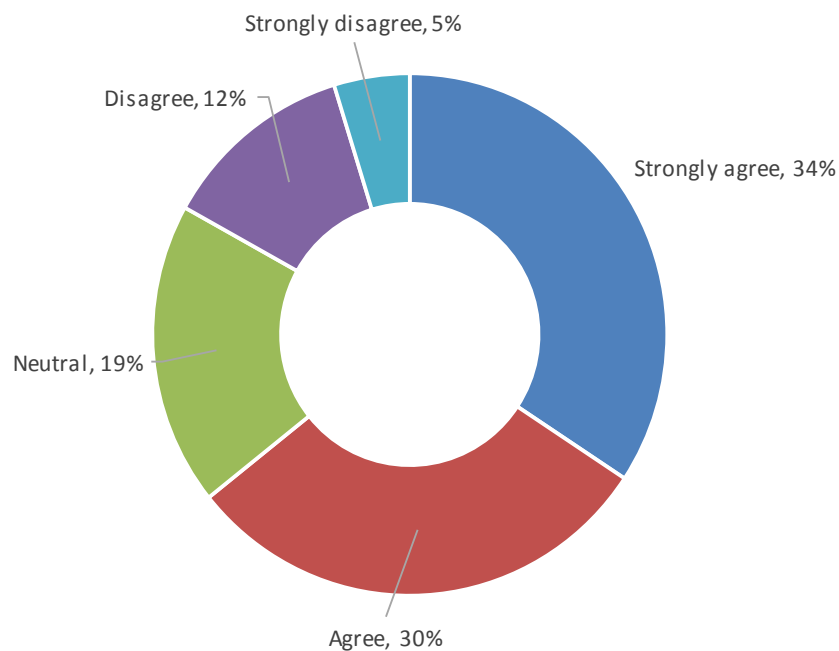
The TalkVancouver questionnaire was designed to help determine the priorities for track and field facilities and inform strategies to support more participation in track and field activities. The following is a summary of the responses to each question, as well as key themes and highlights from the written responses.

1: How much do you agree or disagree with the draft vision?

“Vancouver’s exceptional track and field facilities and activities attract and elevate all levels of track and field users, helping Vancouver athletes grow to their fullest potential.”

Key Findings:

Overall survey respondents agree with the draft vision statement with over 60% of survey respondents who either agree or strongly agree. Less than 12% of survey respondents disagree, and only 5% strongly disagree.



Please tell us why:

Most survey respondents agreed that it was important to include “all levels” of track and field users in the vision. Many respondents commented that it should be made more clear that participation of all people, for example non-athletes, are included in the vision.

Many survey respondents commented that Vancouver’s track and field facilities are not yet “exceptional” and that the vision could be refined to clarify that this is a proposed future condition for facilities.

Representative Comments:

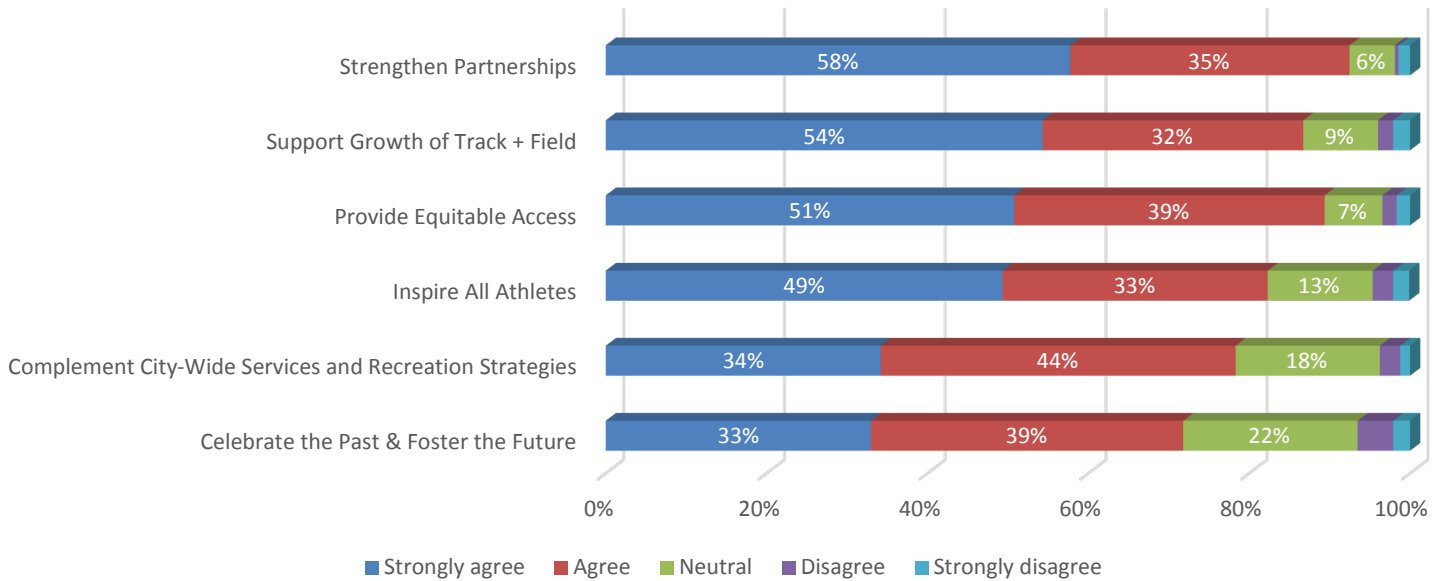
- “Everyone should have a chance to train and play in good safe facilities.”
- “I like that it encompasses all levels of users, not just competitive.”
- “It appears too focused on competitive athletes. We don’t have to be exceptional, we can and need to have good facilities for the majority of users.”
- “While “all levels” is noted, I think it should also address Vancouver “residents”, not just “Vancouver athletes”. Something that addresses inclusivity more, is needed I think.”
- “Vancouver doesn’t have exceptional track and field facilities.”

Other Comments:

- “There are far more important issues to be tackled in the city; don’t waste my tax dollars on this.”
- “I was not even aware that Vancouver had any tracks. I have been a runner for over 5 years now and have either run on the seawall or on residential sidewalks because I was not aware of any alternatives. To me, this demonstrates a lack of effective promotion through Vancouver Parks and Recreation.”

SURVEY RESULTS: VISION + PRINCIPLES

2: How much you agree or disagree with the following draft principles?



Draft Principle	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
<i>Celebrate the Past & Foster the Future</i>	33%	39%	22%	4%	2%
<i>Complement City-Wide Services and Recreation Strategies</i>	34%	44%	18%	3%	1%
<i>Inspire All Athletes</i>	49%	33%	13%	3%	2%
<i>Provide Equitable Access</i>	51%	39%	7%	2%	2%
<i>Support Growth of Track + Field</i>	54%	32%	9%	2%	2%
<i>Strengthen Partnerships</i>	58%	35%	6%	0.4%	1%

Key Findings:

- The majority of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed with all of the draft principles.
- ‘Strengthen Partnerships’ was the most supported and least opposed principle, with 93% respondents who agree or strongly agree, only 1.4% who disagree or strongly disagree and 6% who responded as neutral.
- ‘Celebrate the Past & Foster the Future’ was the least supported principle, although still generally supported by the majority of respondents, with 72% of respondents who agree or strongly agree and 6% who disagree or strongly disagree and 22% who responded as neutral.

Q2a. Do you have any other comments on the draft principles?

Inclusiveness was an important topic that was frequently commented on by survey respondents. Many noted that the wording around inclusiveness should be made more clear in the principles, particularly in the description for the 'Support Growth of Track & Field' principle.

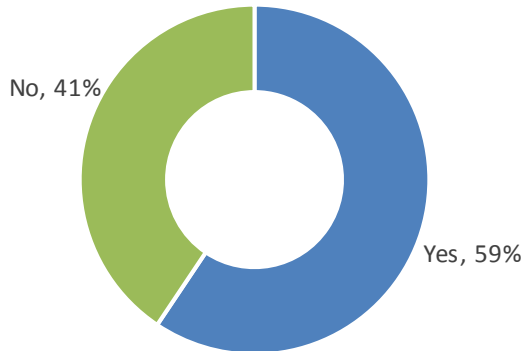
Representative Comments:

- "It would also benefit to add a health piece to the principles with increase in physical activity will reduce stress, mental health, anxiety and accessibility to green space is also very important."
- "Very important to support inclusive activities regardless of ability...this should be about fun & participation and not just 'for the best' ."

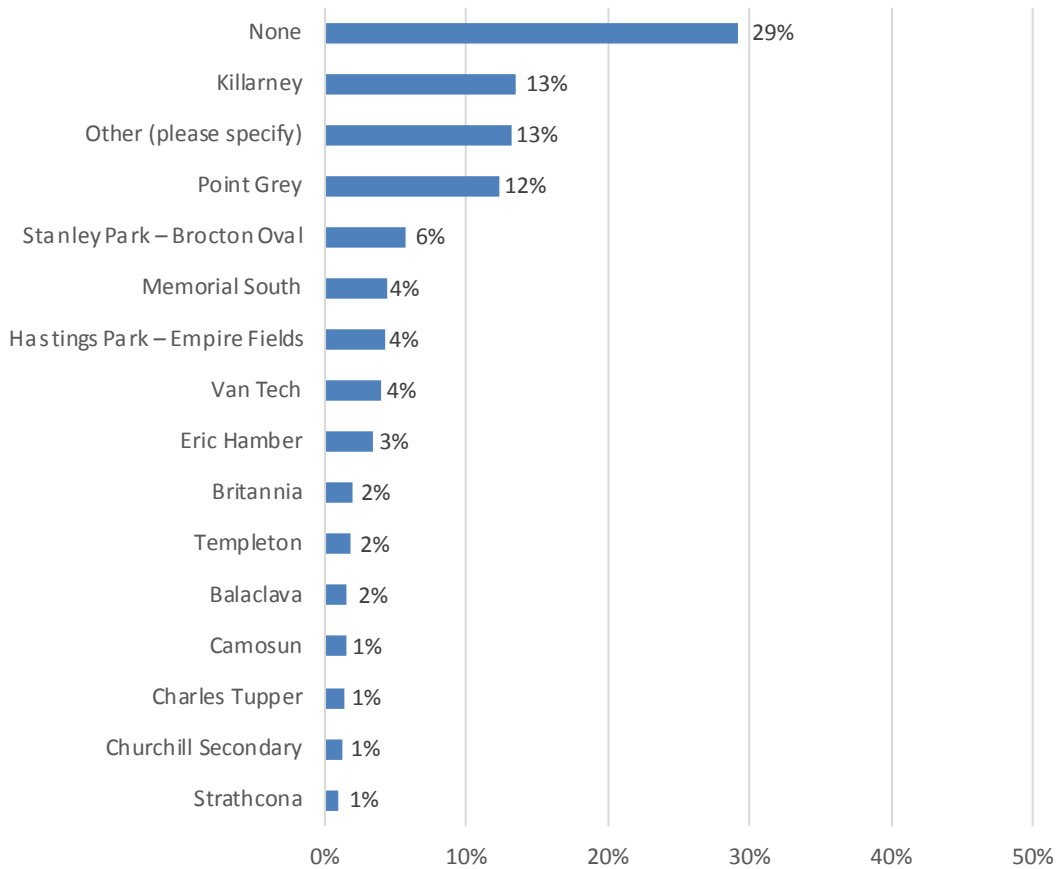
Other Comments:

- "Equitable distribution of facilities across the city is important. Centralizing in one location is not acceptable- it encourages more and more car driving the further out of neighbourhoods we have to go."
- "Encourage participation and not just elitism. Exclusive and elite level clubs need to share with others."
- "Focusing on the past keeps us in the past...this should not be a key focus. For adults facility equity is not as important as they have the ability to travel easier than children. Equity at younger ages and for entry level facilities is more important."
- "Support health of Vancouver residents by increasing availability and by supporting community connections."
- "Partnerships are a key piece of the puzzle. Schools and community groups need to work together to share the facilities."

3: Do you currently use any track and field facilities in Vancouver? (i.e. athlete, coach, parent, spectator, casual user, etc.)



4: What facility in Vancouver do you use most frequently?



SURVEY RESULTS: PARTICIPATION

Other:

13% of respondents noted use of other track and field facilities in or around Vancouver including the following:

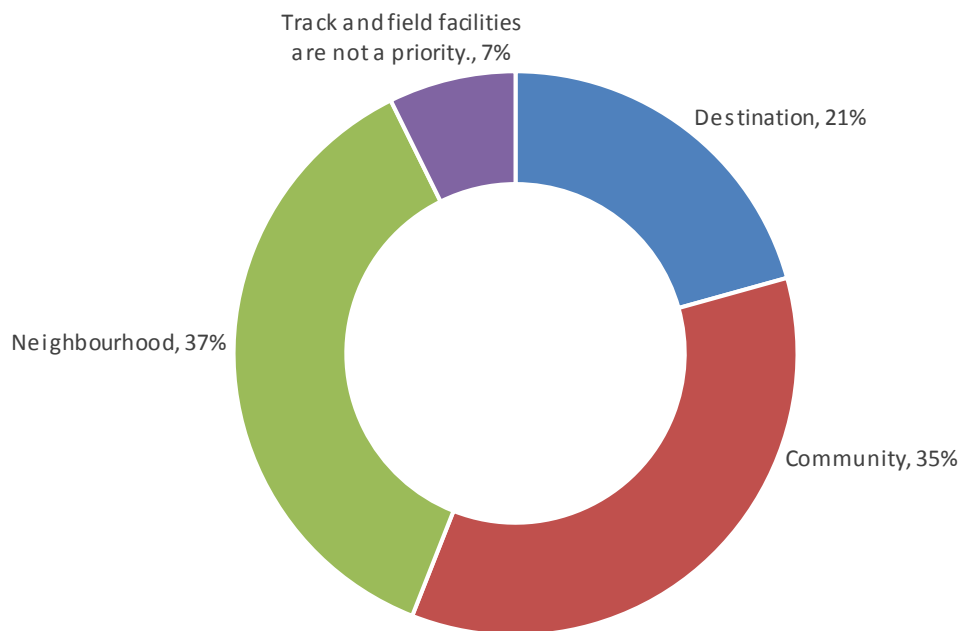
- UBC Rashpal Dhillon Track
- Indoor tracks, outdoor walking loops and trails, streets, beaches, parks, trails, fitness centres
- Burnaby Central, Burnaby
- Swangard Stadium, Burnaby
- SFU Terry Fox Track & Field, Burnaby
- South Surrey Track & Field, Surrey
- Bear Creek Park Track & Field, Surrey
- South Delta Secondary, Delta
- Minoru Oval/Clement Track & Field, Richmond
- Holy Cross, Surrey
- China Creek Park Track/Trail, Vancouver
- St George Private Secondary, Vancouver

Key findings:

- About one third of survey respondents (29%) indicated that they do not frequently use any track and field facilities in Vancouver.
- Killarney was the most used facility indicated by respondents (13%), as there were a high number of respondents from SE Vancouver. The second most used facility was Point Grey (12%).
- Camosun (1%), Charles Tupper (1%), Churchill Secondary (1%), and Strathcona (1%) were the least used facilities indicated by respondents.

5: What type of facility is your top priority?

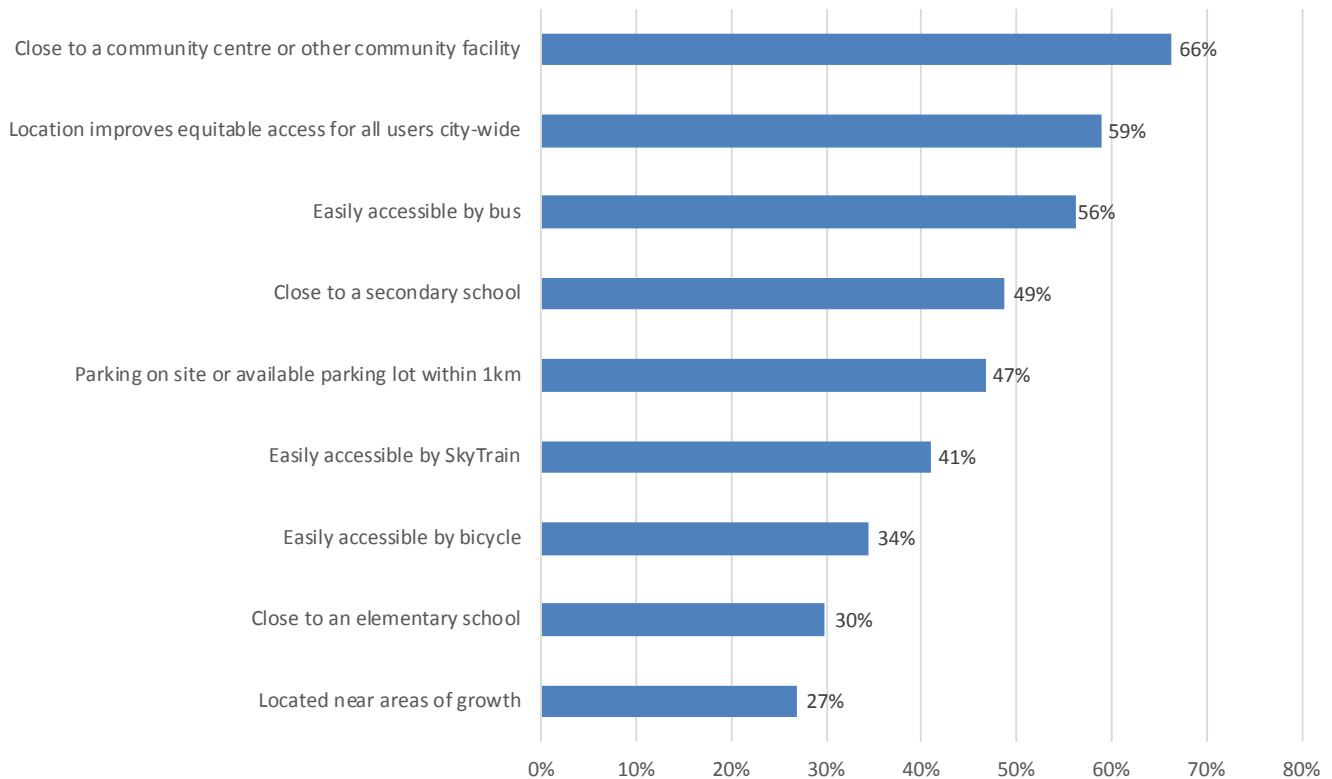
- Destination – Competition Facility: Venue for athletic and para-athletic training that can host high level competitions. It includes an 8-lane rubberized track built to international standards, jumping and throwing areas, and spectator seating.
- Community – Training Facility: Venue for athletic and para-athletic training that can host local events and competitions. It has a rubberized or asphalt track and throwing and jumping areas for elementary and secondary school level training.
- Neighbourhood – Recreational Facility: Amenity for causal fitness and recreation activities. It has a track or loop and compatible amenities based on space availability and local interest.
- Track and field facilities are not a priority.



Key Findings:

- The most important priority identified by survey respondents was ‘Neighbourhood- Recreational Facility’ (37%) followed closely by ‘Community- Training Facility’ (35%).
- Of the survey respondents, 7% indicated that track and field was not a priority at all.

6: Of the following draft criteria, which are the most important to you when considering which facilities get upgraded?



Key Findings:

- Proximity to a community centre or other community facility was rated by the majority (66%) of survey respondents as being most important consideration for track and field facility upgrades.
- A location that improves ‘equitable access for all users city-wide’ (59%), and a facility that is ‘easily accessible by bus’ (56%) were also identified as being important considerations.
- The least important consideration identified (27%) was facility located ‘near areas of growth’.

7: Which of the following would improve awareness of track and field facilities and programs the most?



Key Findings:

- Overall, survey respondents noted that support for track and field club outreach programs would improve awareness of track and field facilities and programs the most (23%).
- Providing links to clubs and organizations from The City's website was identified by respondents as having the least effect (5%) on improving awareness of track and field.

7a. Do you have any other ideas about improving awareness?

Work with local clubs and organizations to help promote track and field events and activities

Supporting partnership with other organizations, businesses and schools were also identified as ways to promote awareness. The most noted partnership opportunity was schools (ex. elementary schools, universities). Other examples of partnerships identified by respondents include senior organizations, healthy living organizations/clubs, local businesses (ex. Running Room etc.).

SURVEY RESULTS: BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION

Representative Comments:

- “Tie up with the schools, they’re the biggest proponents of track and field and where most competitors are going to be coming from. Increase those links, especially for schools without those facilities and you’ll see more use.”
- “Clubs, organizations, teams, etc. should bear some of their own advertising and coordination costs.”

Improve and expand public information

Raising awareness through the use of media was identified as a way to promote awareness. Examples identified by respondents include: media (TV, newspaper, YouTube), City website, social media, cross promotion at events (such as Car Free Day).

Representative Comment:

- “City of Vancouver social media events for the public”

Host events that highlight track and field in Vancouver

Survey respondents noted that hosting high profile track and field events at Vancouver facilities could gain awareness and reputation as a destination facility.

Representative Comments:

“Bringing more high profile meets to Vancouver. Canada wide and International track competitions IN Vancouver. Too many meets happen in Langley Burnaby Kelowna but people want to see Vancouver. The world loves Vancouver not Langley”

Include signage at track and field facilities about local clubs and programs

Providing clearly visible and readable physical signage at track and field facilities was noted as having potential to raise awareness of passersby and visitors. Similarly, some respondents indicated that the physical visibility (from the street) of track and field facilities could also help promote awareness.

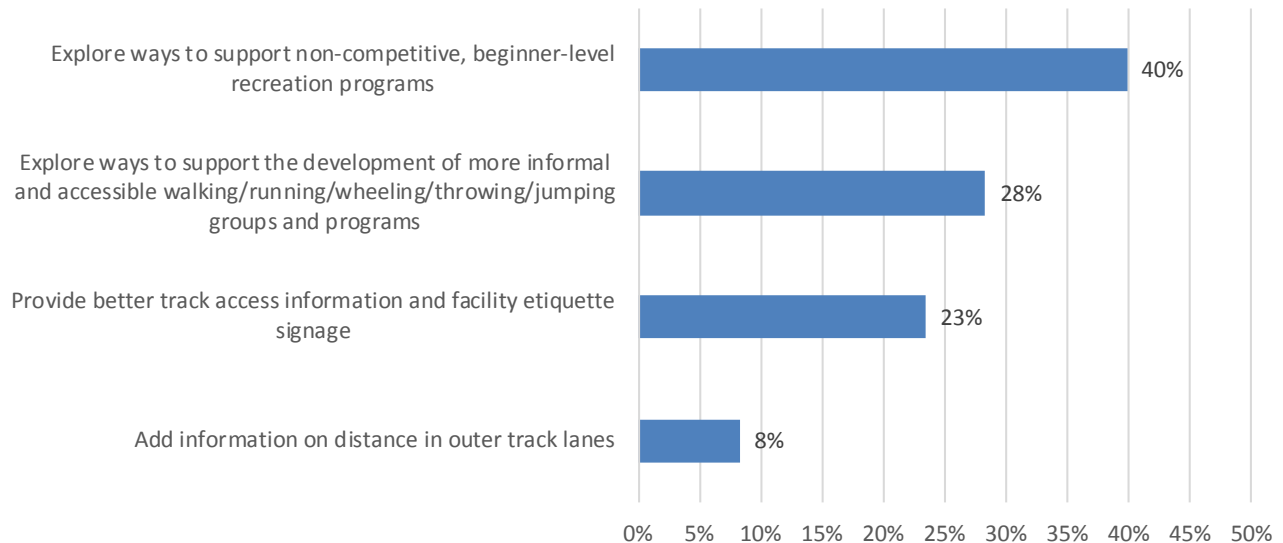
Representative Comment:

- “Track Signage. Similar to Vancouver Park Board signs for park, I think identifiable signage identifying the tracks will cohesively tie the Vancouver tracks together.”

Other Comments:

- “Don’t just reach out to the schools. Set policy that makes the schools the gateway to Track and Field. Make policies that make our children more athletic to begin with rather than try to convert adults already set in their ways.”
- “Having track and field clubs housed at the community centres.”
- “Funnily enough, I become aware of a lot of local things via bus shelter ads. If affordable, a few of those scattered around near the site of a new facility would probably go a long way.”
- “The city should be spending it’s money and scarce time resources on more important matters- like listening to the city councilors about housing.”

8: How can the Vancouver Park Board better support inclusive, welcoming, and accessible track and field facilities?



Key Findings:

- A large portion (40%) of survey respondents indicated that exploring ways to support non-competitive, beginner level recreation programs was a major way in which VPB can support inclusive, welcoming and accessible track and field facilities.
- Adding information on ‘distance in outer track lanes’ received the least amount of support (8%) from survey respondents.

8a. Do you have any other ideas?

- “Invite parents to participate. Indigenous games. Raising awareness for the vulnerable communities. So on.”
- “Adapted fitness programming by first asking users what they need instead of creating programs that able bodied people think those with disabilities need”
- “Offer special days/times for usage for beginners so they don’t feel intimidated by more athletic or professional sports users”
- “Some facilities are difficult to access by people with disabilities. There needs to be parking, and designers need to remember how difficult it is to access facilities if one has movement issues”
- “Have the appropriate equipment available for people to try! Ex high jump mats, discus, shot put etc. Also, have community “sports days” that could be business or family oriented. So fun.”
- “Signage in multiple languages.”

9: Are there any other comments you would like to make about improving track and field experiences in Vancouver?

Overall, most survey respondents were in support of the Track & Field Strategy. Some major themes emerged which indicated general support for prioritizing accessibility of facilities, improving or building new amenities such as washrooms and sheltered viewing areas, maintenance of existing and future facilities as well as partnering with schools. The following summarizes the main themes and provides some representative comments from the survey responses.

Prioritize Accessibility

Many survey respondents commented on the accessibility of track and field facilities with most people noting that a central location, easily accessible from where they live was important. The lack of facilities in East Vancouver was noted. Other respondents expressed the importance of promoting inclusion of all people to facilities, including non-athletes, seniors and casual users.

Representative comments:

- “Tracks should be welcoming to seniors as well as athletes.”
- “I find the idea of approaching a track and field club or recreation league very intimidating. As someone who has no friends or family involved in track and field but would like to become involved, it would be excellent if these services, events, and facilities were better promoted--especially in a way that was welcoming to newcomers.”
- “Currently people in East Vancouver need to travel west (30min or more) or to other municipalities to participate in the sport. This creates barriers to access.”

Develop Amenities

Several respondents indicated that including amenities such as water fountains, a sheltered viewing area, food vendors, and washrooms would improve the experience at track and field facilities.

Representative comments:

- “Washrooms facilities, water fountains, cover or storage for personal belongings, access to equipment for track and field activities should be accounted for.”
- “Offer vendor licenses to food trucks at all of the tracks. It would be great to have a morning coffee with a stroll around the track.”
- “Encourage more track clubs to train on the east side. Most clubs are downtown or on the west side making it very difficult to find club practices in east Vancouver.”
- “Please, plan a covered area for spectators and parents.”

Prioritize maintenance at existing and future facilities

Another popular theme was emphasis on prioritizing maintenance of existing and future track and field facilities. Generally, respondents indicated that they value high quality and well maintained facilities and identified some existing facilities that need repair and improved maintenance such as Brockton Oval and Killarney.

Representative comments:

- “Invest more in maintaining the existing track and field facilities.”

Facilitate Partnerships with Schools

Many respondents noted that the key to promoting track and field is to partner with schools and universities to promote youth involvement and encourage use of facilities.

Representative Comment:

- “The Vancouver School Board should stop its practice of locking up school fields over the summer. The reality is that many school fields (like the one at Templeton) are actually parks, used by citizens in the evenings and on weekends. Locking up school fields over the summer significantly reduces access at the prime time of the year to the citizens who are paying for the facilities through their taxes. There needs to be much better effective coordination between the Park Board and the School Board”

ADDITIONAL THEMES

Lighting and Safety

Lighting was brought up as a common desired amenity. Respondents noted that proper lighting at facilities would create a safer environment and prolong use into the evenings.

Representative Comment:

- “Make sure outdoor tracks or outdoor pathways that are used for recreational/fitness running are always well lit. Make Vancouver safe for women. This needs to be a priority.”

Track and Field facilities as a community amenity

A few survey respondents indicated the importance of creating facilities that are not only for elite athletes but also for casual use by residents.

Representative Comment:

- “Vancouver has an opportunity to encourage participation in competitive track and field, as well as provide an valuable community amenity”

Other Comments:

- “Reduce it. The land consumed for the tiny user base is indenfensible. A park would be an improvement. One track for all of Vancouver please.”
- “Spend tax money on many more important things.”
- “This should be part of a larger strategy to improve health among Vancouverites. Track and field sports are just one type of activity. Looking at these types separately isn’t efficient.”
- “An option for a covered or indoor track would be useful. Somewhere to walk in bad weather, ie. BC Place concourse open when the venue is not in use.”

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES + STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

Two Public Open Houses + Stakeholder Workshops were held. The format included time for participants to review display boards summarizing work to date, a brief presentation, and facilitated table discussions.

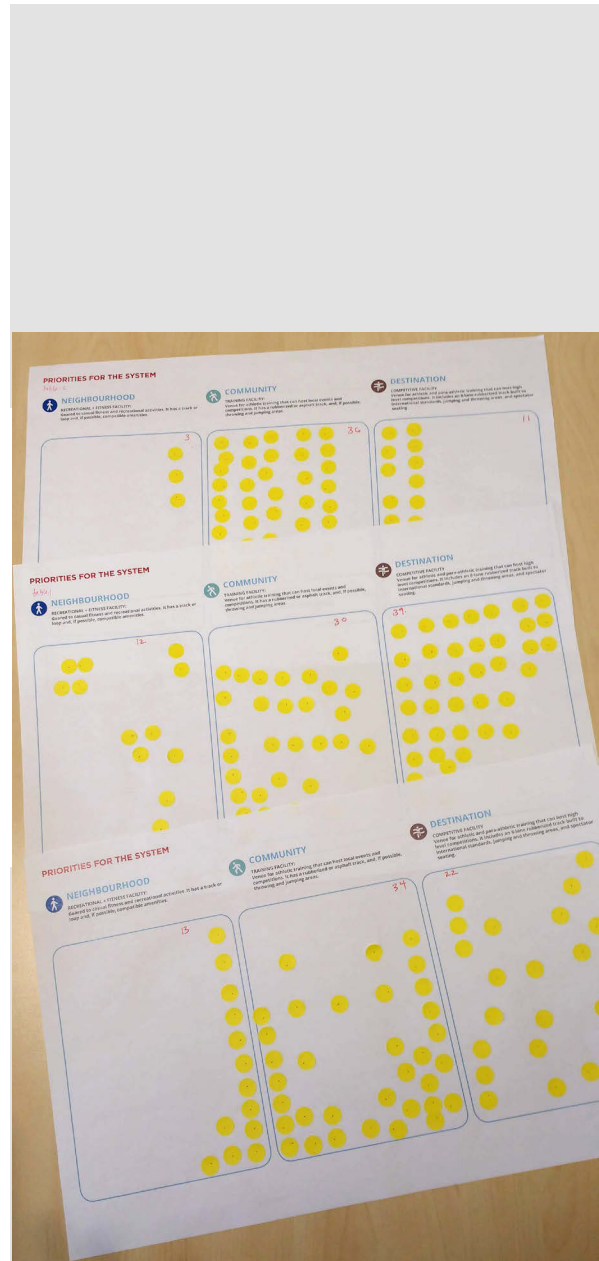
Open House + Workshop #1:

- Saturday, December 1, 2018
- 1:30 to 4:30pm
- Britannia Community Centre- Eastside Family Place
- Attendance: 8 people

Open House + Workshop #2:

- Tuesday, December 4, 2018
- 5:00 to 8:00pm
- Kitsilano Community Centre
- Attendance: 18 people

The key themes and input from these open houses are summarized on the following pages.



Summary of Results

Current Facilities & Needs:

- There are many options for running and walking for casual and recreational users. The gap is in rubberized tracks & facilities that meet the needs of track & field participants.

Point Gray:

Heavily used and does not have capacity to meet demand

- Rubberized surface, standard track size, and lighting are the attractors
- School-age participants are coming to Point Gray from all across the city; students lose educational time. This is a barrier for east side residents
- Resurfacing should be a very high short-term priority.

VanTech - Interest in upgrading VanTech to host District meets and accommodate throwing/jumping events.

Camosun - Used by at least 4 elementary schools and Lord Bing Secondary.

Brockton Oval - Site has a lot of history. It should be preserved with better maintenance rather than rubberized or upgraded

Track + Surfacing:

- Gravel or earth track is preferable to asphalt for community training, or competition tracks
- 8 lane track is essential for competition, 10 on the straight-away if possible

Location + Access:

- Visibility of facility has public benefit
- Secure bicycle parking needed

Facilities:

- Access to washroom facilities is important (add \$1 million to project)
- Proximity to existing schools or community centres would be important
- Langley's McLeod Athletic Park is good example, adjacent to Langley Secondary School
- Only 1 destination facility, max. The whole budget shouldn't be blown on one facility.
- 2-3 community facilities geographically distributed would address the current demand and allow the sport to grow. Facilities are the main factor limiting growth. This is true for competitive and recreational/casual users.
- ~ 2 clubs/teams could be accommodated per track without major capacity issues if they are 8 lane rubberized surfaces.
- Primary focus should be on Community facilities that can serve local clubs, teams, and schools, as well as the public
- Burnaby Central was referenced as an example of a high-level community track.
- Storage, covered areas, and washrooms are desirable support amenities.
- Field facilities have been lost over time to multi-use, so there is a need for suitable space where the official track + field events as the priority.
- Throwing cages and safety require special attention in terms of facility design.
- Community facilities need: 8 lane rubberized, visible from the street, high jump, long jump, triple jump, shot put and discus for elementary/beginners; pole vault, javelin, hammer, steeplechase for secondary school/advanced.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: OPEN HOUSES

- St. George's is an example of a design that enables coaches to coach multiple events simultaneously.
- Extra straightaways attached to track (e.g. Point Gray) would increase capacity (have 2 instead of just 1).
- Splitting events up onto different sites will exacerbate silo-ing and will hurt the "team" aspects; would be a challenge for parents and those who do multiple events.
- Lighting won't be accepted in some neighbourhoods (i.e. Balaclava would be an uphill battle).
- Recreational and casual users: Length of track is less important. Intervals or training can be adjusted.

Minimum Field Event Facilities:

Elementary School level:

- o Long jump pit, high jump, shot put

Secondary School level:

- o Pole vault, javelin, hammer throw, discus

Field events located adjacent to track are preferable to field event facilities located in the centre of the track "It's a nightmare having people in the infield during a large event."

Funding & budgets:

- Sponsorship or naming rights not a good idea ("Too American")
- Private sponsorship is a good idea ("Let me get my check book")
- Private sponsorship would likely influence location of improved facilities. It may not be consistent with project equity goals.

Proximity:

- Oakridge 1 km running loop planned for Oakridge Centre redevelopment
- Locations and mapping of elementary and secondary schools is important

Priorities for hosting:

- Secondary school level: "We need to be able to host the people that live in this city"
- National level
- Stadium like Swangard would be a duplication of service

Priorities:

- Strong interest in "Community Plus" facility or defining community facility to exclude asphalt tracks
- Open House exercise with 10 dots: How would you distribute \$100 between the different types of facilities?
 - Neighbourhood: 27 dots (\$270)
 - Community: 100 dots (\$1000)
 - Destination: 72 dots (\$720)

Outreach:

Outreach strategy needed around etiquette, access, opportunities at time of new tracks or improvements coming on line.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS: OPEN HOUSES

Support for teams:

- Equipment storage space needed
 - Need to allow access for new teams forming, as well as legacy teams
- Strong need for youth & competitive teams in the east side
- Financial support or grants for purchase of equipment (hurdles etc?)
- Support for cost sharing of equipment
- Need for strategy to allow reservation of facilities & this knowledge needs to be public
- Lack of facilities is a barrier to starting teams & clubs
- Interest in being able to book or reserve a facility, but concern that teams/clubs may dominate specific facilities and block access to smaller/newer clubs/groups. This indicates a need for a fair and equitable allocation policy.

Support for individuals and kids who may not have access to teams:

- Track+Field clubs or events programmed by Community Centre?
- More partnerships between VPB and clubs/team
- Community centre coaching
- Subsidies for joining clubs

Support for coaches:

- BC Athletics has coach training programs.
- There is potential to improve school coaching capacity and consistency across the city. Currently it's mostly based on teacher interest and ability/capacity. This is the main entry point for kids.

Programming:

- Run Jump Throw Wheel can happen anywhere (gym, outdoors, etc.)
- Suggestion to partner with UBC for hosting venue to make capital funds go farther
- BC Athletics Run Jump Throw Wheel could possibly be part of VPB recreation offerings
- BC Athletics is the communication hub for clubs and teams; they can help mobilize clubs and groups for big events.
- There are opportunities for more social running clubs and for collaboration between groups.
- 2-4 entities are needed to be responsible for ongoing care & maintenance for any community track.

Quotes:

- "Competition drives inspiration"
- "Track is awesome"
- "It's so important to see big picture, to see the strategy as a whole"
- Regarding asphalt tracks "Um, we've got roads everywhere"

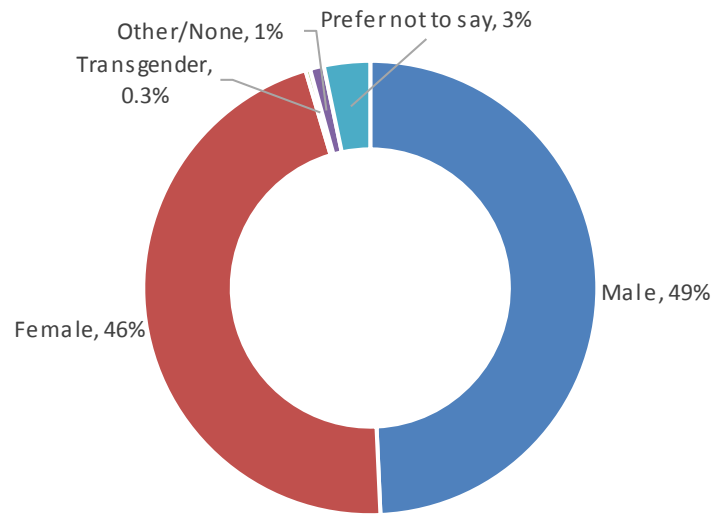
OTHER INFORMATION/FACTS:

- Langley is hosting Nationals in 2019
- Elem schools operate in groups. For example, 12 elementary schools compete with each other in ~ 6 events per season and then finals with Grades 4/5 and 6/7 categories.
- Eric Hamber Secondary School will be undergoing seismic upgrades, so the track will be lost for 10-15 years.
- There are "all comers" meets at UBC and SFU during the pre-season (late March/early April). Anyone can come and participate. A wide range of ages and abilities represented.

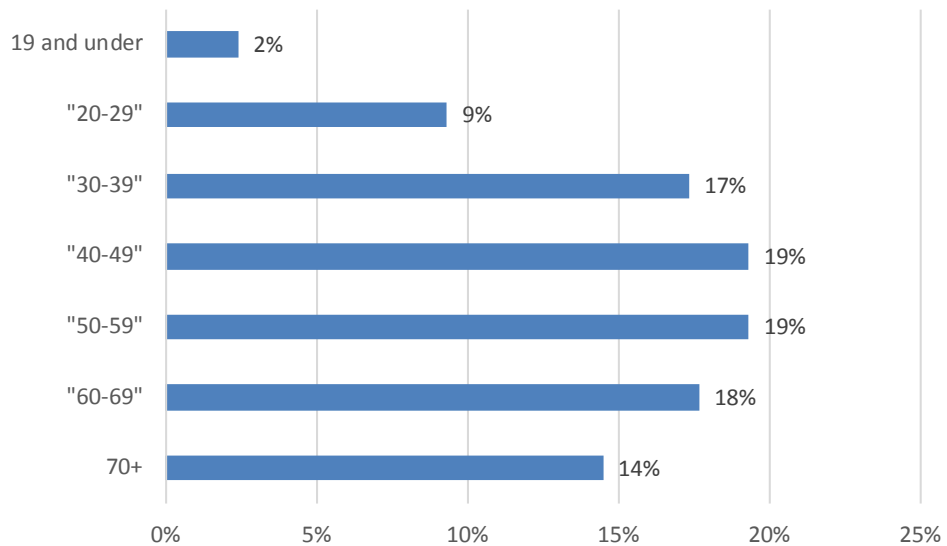
APPENDICES

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

10: What is your gender identity?

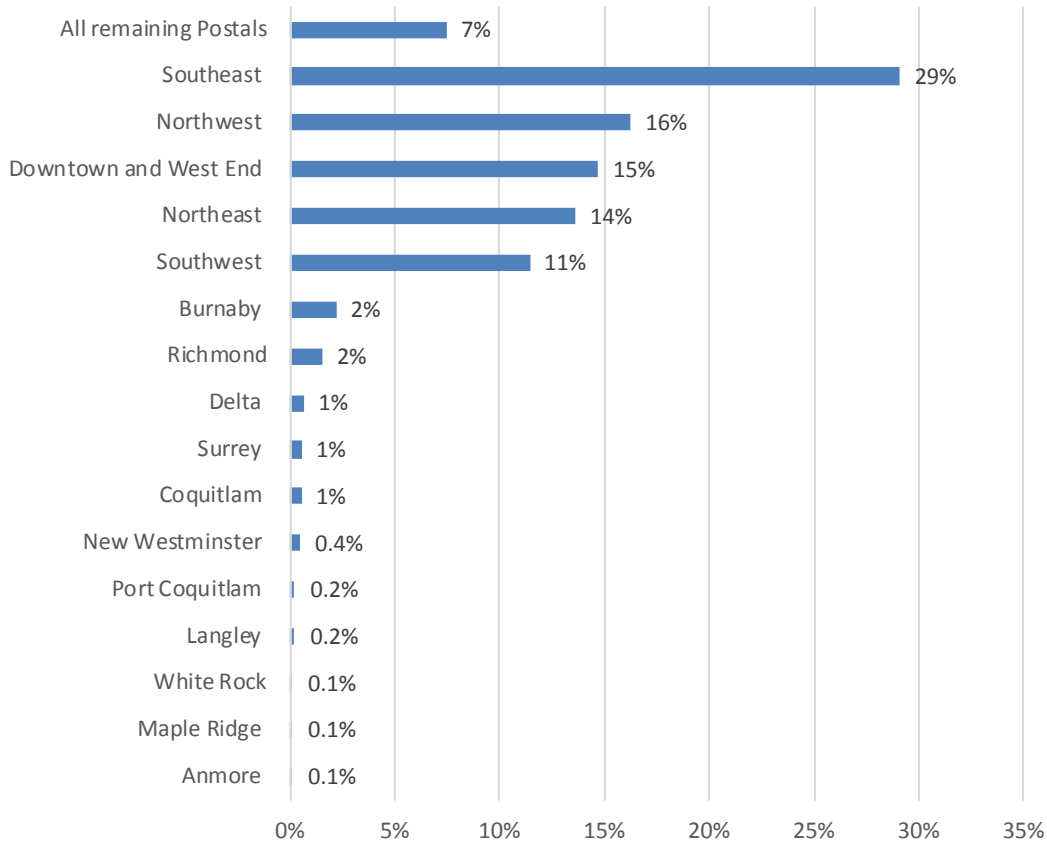


11: Which of the following age groups do you fall into?

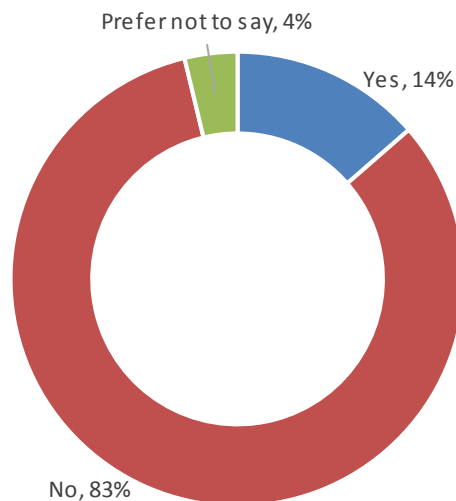


12: What is your postal code?

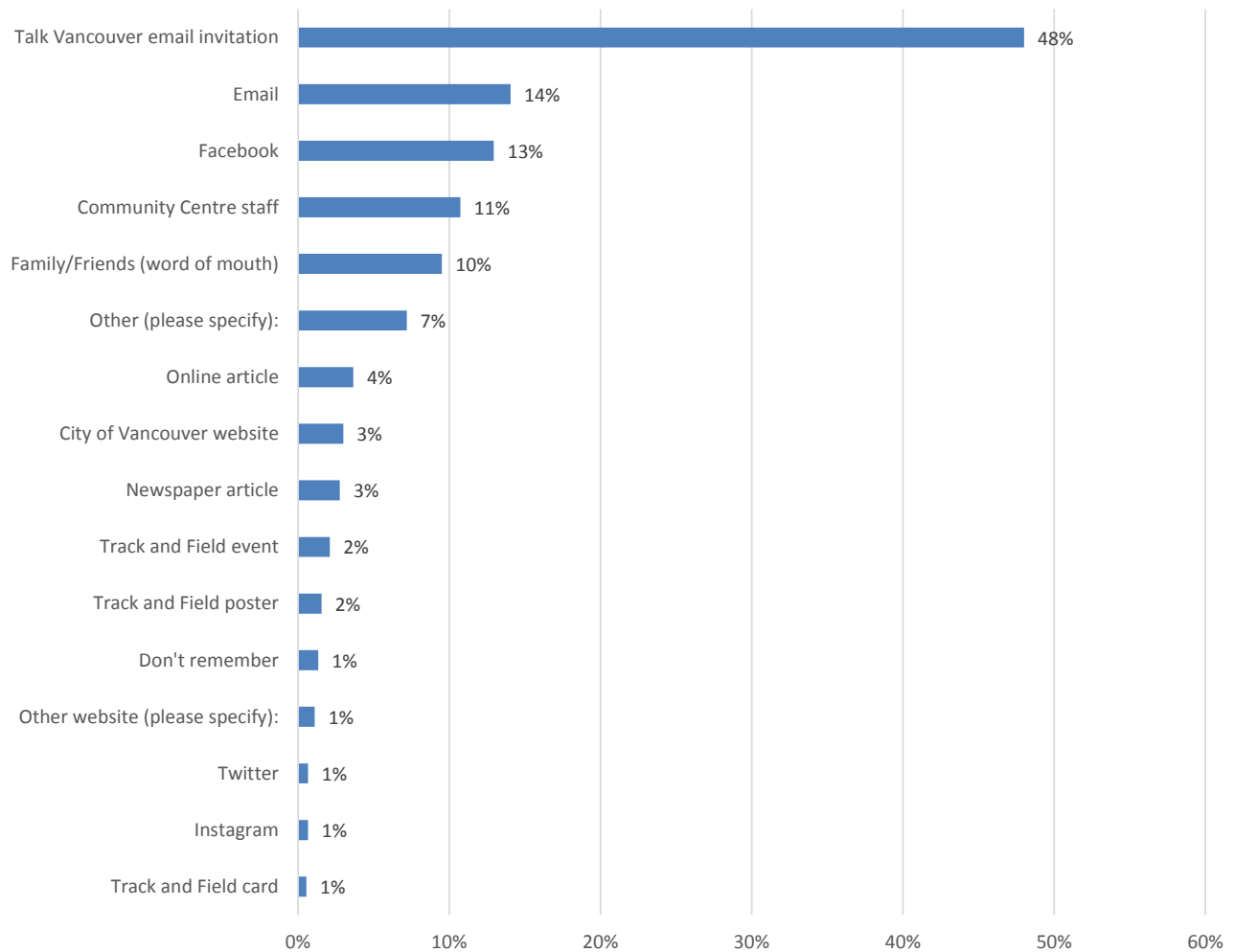
A relatively even distribution was seen among the postal codes of respondents to the TalkVancouver online survey.



13: Do you identify as a person with disabilities or limited mobility?



14: How did you hear about this survey?



Other:

- Club post
- BC High School track and field
- Running Club
- Vancouver School Board Athletics
- Elementary school coaching email
- B.C. Athletics