

Engagement Summary Report: Step 1

Richards and Smithe Downtown Park

DIALOG

City of Vancouver
Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

Revised September 16, 2015



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1

ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



1.1 Project Background

The future park at Smithe and Richards Streets will be a public place that is owned, used, paid for, and enjoyed by the community. As such, a meaningful and robust public engagement process is an important aspect of the process.

The purpose of the public engagement is to host a two-way dialogue with the public –including both broad and diverse stakeholders – on the design of the future park in order to:

- inform the public about existing conditions and context, diverse perspectives and users, and precedents for park spaces, programs, and art integration; and
- obtain input from the public on priorities, issues, and aspirations to meaningfully influence the design of the park.

This engagement process is laid out on the following page, and includes three steps: 1) Visioning; 2) Concept Options Review; and 3) Final Concept Review. This report provides an overview of engagement activities and outcomes of Step 1.

1.2 Activities Undertaken to Date

Step 1 engagement activities included the following:

Park Design Focus Group Meeting #1 – June 16, 2015

This meeting brought together members of the Park Design Focus Group (PDFG) for the first time to be introduced to the process and site, and to provide early input into opportunities, issues, and ideas for the future park. PDFG members represent diverse stakeholder groups in the neighbourhood, ranging from residents and business owners, to youth and artists (refer to page 9). The session included a facilitated discussion and site tour.

Public Ideas Fair – June 27, 2015

This was the first major public event that sought input from the broad community. The Public Ideas Fair was a Saturday drop-in event, held outdoors on the corner of Robson and Homer Streets outside of the Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, from 10am to 3pm. The event provided information about the process and site, as well as several interactive activities designed to obtain input from participants, including: interactive panels, an “imagine” chalkboard, and a “park design sandbox”. Walking tours to the site were also offered. Participants were directed to the online questionnaire to provide more detailed input, and hard copies were also available at the event.

Online Questionnaire – June 29 - July 18, 2015

The materials presented at the Pubic Ideas Fair were posted on the “Talk Vancouver” webpage, which included an online questionnaire in which participants could provide detailed input on their perspectives and ideas for the future of the park.

Snapshot of the Engagement Process

	Step 1 Visioning June - July 2015		Step 2 Concept Options Review September-October 2015		Step 3 Final Concept Review Dec. 2015 or Jan. 2016	
Major Public Event	Public Ideas Fair June 26 and/or 27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive information panels Scheduled walkshops Sketch-it-yourself booth + other activities 		Open House: Concept Options Sept/Oct date TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive panels presenting concepts Scheduled walkshops and possibly other activities 		Celebration Event: Preferred Concept Dec/Jan date TBD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interactive panels presenting concept 	
Online	Talk Vancouver Survey #1		Talk Vancouver Survey #2			
Stakeholder Meetings	PDFG Mtg 1 Mid-Late June		PDFG Mtg 2 Sept/Oct		PDFG Mtg 3 Dec/Jan	

2

WHAT WE HEARD



2.1 Overall Themes

While engagement activities were diverse, several common themes emerged pertaining to park elements and funding opportunities. They are:

PARK INGREDIENTS / DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

- **GREEN:** Participants favour green spaces and lush landscaping including tree canopy, biodiversity, and use of indigenous plant species.
- **PLAY:** Participants favour opportunities for play, including for young children. Examples provided include interactive art, physical play, an interactive water feature,
- **SCALE AND COMFORT:** Participants favour the idea of a comfortable scale and opportunities for lingering (e.g. seating).
- **FOOD AND ENGAGING EDGES:** Participants favour the idea of being able to purchase a coffee or food in the park, and they favour other program and design elements that serve to draw passersby into the park.
- **PROGRAM:** Participants support the idea of having a range of organized activities take place to active the park space.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

In both the survey and at the Public Ideas Fair, participants most strongly supported the following funding opportunities: hidden parking (i.e. beneath the park); food (e.g. coffee shop, food kiosk, restaurant); and rent-able event space.

2.2 Park Design Focus Group Meeting #1 – June 16, 2015

PARTICIPATION

Representation from the following stakeholder groups and project team were in attendance:

- Vancouver Police Department
- Downtown Vancouver Association
- Directions Youth Services Centre
- Downtown Business Improvement Association
- Artists in Schools
- Vancouver Public Space Network
- Nearby Strata
- Nearby Business Owner
- City of Vancouver Planning Department
- Vancouver Park Board
- DIALOG and Project Artist

OUTCOMES

The key themes emerging from the discussion included the following:

Assets and Opportunities

- Existing site conditions: trees, slope, and laneway
- Lots of people-traffic and young adults, and proximity to entertainment district
- Being innovative, unique, and fun
- Supportive of locals

Issues and Challenges

- Lack of solar access at times (i.e. winter shade)
- Traffic noise
- Site maintenance and safety, including issues with homelessness and needles
- Balancing different demands and interests

Ideas for the Future Park

- Native planting
- Accessibility
- All weather park
- Food
- Connection to land, including pre-colonialism
- “Permeable” design
- Fitness area

2.3 Public Ideas Fair – June 27, 2015

PARTICIPATION

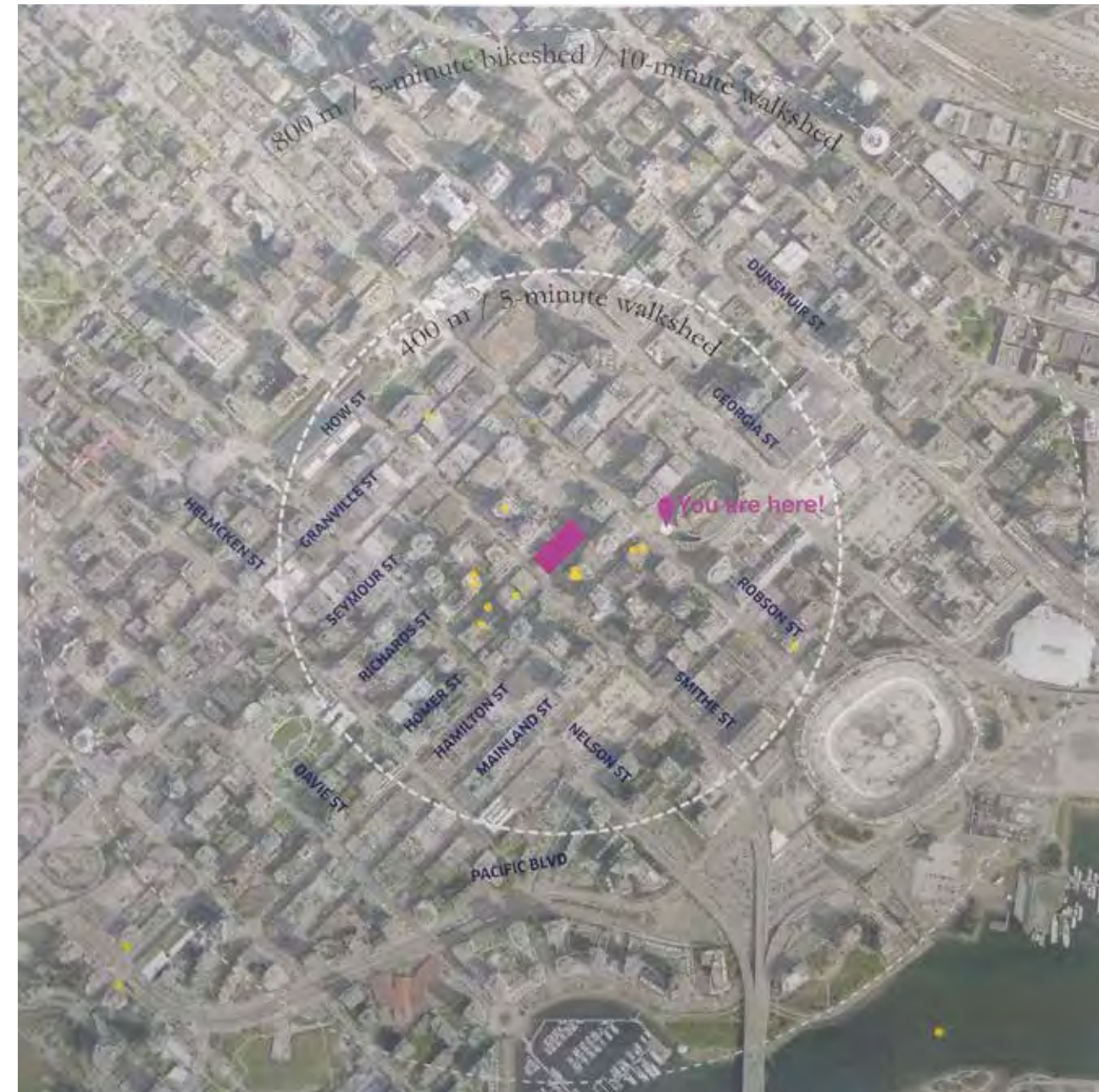
While there were no sign-in sheets or formal head-counts undertaken during the day, the project team estimates that hundreds of people viewed the panels and/or engaged in discussion with facilitators. On the interactive panels, participants left hundreds of individual inputs.

One of the interactive panels included a map asking participants to place a sticker on the location where they live, work, or stay close to the future park. While only a few participants chose to engage with this map (shown at right), it is clear that the input received on June 27th included people who have connections – residential, employment, or otherwise – within a 5-10 minute walk of the future park. More detailed demographic information was collected as part of the online questionnaire.

A video of the Public Ideas Fair can be viewed here:

<https://vimeo.com/132094063>

Do you live, work or stay close to the future park?



Interactive Panels

Of the several panels posted at the event, three were designed to obtain input in two areas:

1. Park Ingredients – These are qualities that influence the look, feel, and function of parks. Participants posted stickers on the qualities they think would work well at the Smithe and Richards. The number of stickers for each example are as follows:

- Urban Greening and Biodiversity – 57 stickers
- Play – 41
- Program – 34 stickers
- Invitation – 23 stickers
- Engaging Edges – 22 stickers
- Layers and Multiple Uses – 21 stickers
- Connections – 16 stickers
- Spectacle and Interest – 16 stickers
- Identity – 9 stickers
- Scale and Comfort – 9 stickers
- Adaptability – 7 stickers
- Transformation and Ritual – 6 stickers

Participants tended to focus on qualities that would provide green space and/or vegetation, opportunities for play and diverse activities and programs/uses, and edges that invite and engage.

2. Businesses and Activities that Generate Funds – These are examples of revenue generators that would help sustain programs and activities within the park. The number of stickers for each example are as follows:

- Hidden Parking – 51 stickers
- Food Kiosk – 35
- Restaurant – 34 stickers
- Event Space – 23 stickers
- Renting a Deck Chair – 4 stickers

Participants focused on hidden parking and informal food destinations as potential revenue generators for the future park.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Show us which park “ingredients” could work here

Parks are diverse, with different qualities that influence how they look, feel, and function as places for people. Place your dots below to identify which ingredients from parks around the world you think could work well here.

Ingredient: TRANSFORMATION AND RITUAL

Due to the design and detailing of the chainmail-like shroud as the operable walls to this stage, its can quickly transform both the experience of the stage and the park around it.

Park + Location: OMS Stage, Winnipeg



Owner: Winnipeg Exchange District BID | Designer: 5488795 Architecture Inc.

Place a dot here if you like **TRANSFORMATIVE** ideas for the new park

Ingredient: PROGRAM

“Program” is a catch-all word used when describing a range of organized activities that help activate park spaces. Program has a lot to do with the success and popularity of this Manhattan park, with a great number of activities and events happening throughout the year, and encouraging people to mix and engage with one another. As a result, this park has become one of the most well used public parks in the city.

Park + Location: Bryant Park, NYC



Owner: Bryant Park Corporation | Designer: Jay Langston

Place a dot here if you like the idea of many **PROGRAMS** for the new park

Ingredient: URBAN GREENING AND BIODIVERSITY

Native plants and soils were used in creating this park, resulting in high degree of biodiversity. Planting including robust tree planting to enhance Vancouver Urban Forest, with the potential for horticultural specimens to soften the Urban context.

Park + Location: Tear Drop Park, NYC



Owner: Battery Park City Parks Conservancy | Designer: Michael Van Valkenburgh + Associates

Place a dot here if you like **GREEN AND BIODIVERSE** ideas for the new park

Ingredient: SPECTACLE AND INTEREST

The temporary pavilions in this park provide an ever changing platform for art and culture. They also create a sense of wonder and engagement that is fostered by the unique designs of the structures themselves, as well as the performances and program they accommodate.

Park + Location: Serpentine Pavillion, London



Owner: Serpentine Gallery | Designer: Severin

Place a dot here if you like the idea of **INTEREST** for the new park

Ingredient: ADAPTABILITY

This structure was used as a theatre space to host diverse events and engage a wide range of audiences. Although it was designed to be temporary and transient in nature, it is a great example of how an idea can be distilled down to a simple idea to fulfill an important purpose.

Park + Location: BMW Guggenheim Lab - New York City, Berlin, Mumbai



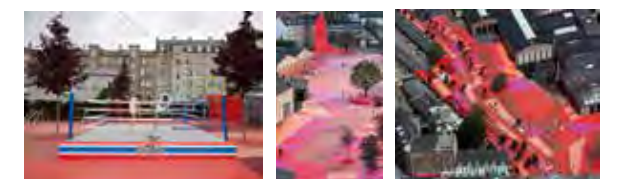
Owner: BMW | Designer: Various

Place a dot here if you like the idea of having an **ADAPTABLE** quality for the new park

Ingredient: IDENTITY

Colour is used in dramatic and creative ways in this open space, blurring the realms between distinct recreation and those spaces for every day city living, while also defining a strong sense of place and bold identity.

Park + Location: Superkilen, Nørrebro, Copenhagen



Owner: Copenhagen Municipality | Designer: Topotek + BIG Architects + Superflex

Place a dot here if you like the idea of **BOLD IDENTITY** for the new park

 **Take the Online Questionnaire:** vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

New Park at Smithe and Richards | Public Ideas Fair | 10



Imagine Chalkboard

A chalkboard was posted at the Ideas Fair, inviting participants to draw their ideas for the future park. Ideas ranged from food and native plants, to performance spaces and play spaces. Examples are shown at right.



Free Icecream



Zip Line



Water Feature Safe for Children



Spider Web



Stage for Fun Community Events



People Using/Making Things with their Hands



Native Plants



Swings



Performance Space



Cafe



Cafe Seats & Shade

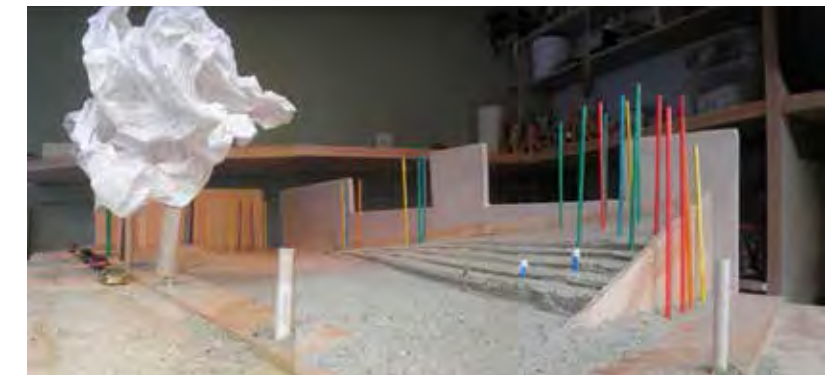


Beer Water Fall

“Design with Us” Sandbox

A “design with us” sandbox – which was designed as a working model of the site – was provided on site so that children and other participants could create and explore design ideas. A video clip can be viewed here:

<https://youtu.be/gq17hsm7htE>



2.4 Online Questionnaire – June 29 - July 18, 2015

PARTICIPATION

A total of 208 respondents completed the questionnaire; participants included:

- Slightly more than half of respondents were in the 30-49 age range, with smaller representation among those under 30 and those aged 50 or older.
- Thirteen percent of all respondents had children under the age of 18 living in their household.
- A majority of respondents own and live in the neighbourhood surrounding the proposed park, while fewer respondents rent in the neighbourhood (18%) or work in the neighbourhood (23%).
- Most respondents reside in downtown Vancouver.

OUTCOMES

Detailed results are enclosed in the appendix, and summarized themes are as follows:

Impact of New Park on Surrounding Neighbourhood

- 85% of respondents said they are likely ('very' or 'somewhat' likely) to use the new park once it's built.
- Almost all respondents (93%) said the park will improve the livability of their community (with two-thirds of respondents saying that the park will improve the livability 'a lot').

Key Design Considerations

- Tree canopy, seating areas, and lush planting are the top three design considerations that were identified for programming and activating the new park space.

- Urban greening, biodiversity, scale, and comfort are the top 'ingredients' that respondents say should be considered as priorities for the new park. These are the only 'ingredients' that were selected by a majority of respondents.

Program Funding for the Park

Several funding options were supported by respondents, including the inclusion of a coffee shop, event space rental, and parking structure beneath the park.

Art Inspiration

Representative examples of inspiring public art that were provided by respondents include:

- "Chicago's Millennium Park and Shake Shack in New York City's Madison Square Park."
- "The bean of Cloud Gate by Anish Kapoor in Chicago."
- "Camden Market London... They have beautiful horse sculptures, lots of old brick. It reflects the history of the area."
- "A False Creek by Rhonda Weppler and Trevor Mahovsky under the Cambie Bridge."
- "Ocean Concrete's painted concrete silos on Granville Island."
- "I really like the public art near the convention centre. The digital orca."
- "Sugar Beach"
- "English Bay laughing statues are amazing and inspire you to play and laugh. I would love to see lounge chairs like the ones near Olympic Village."
- East Van cross. Sometime active too that people can climb on or use. ie. skate-able art, climbing wall?



appendix

A1. Public Ideas Fair Panels

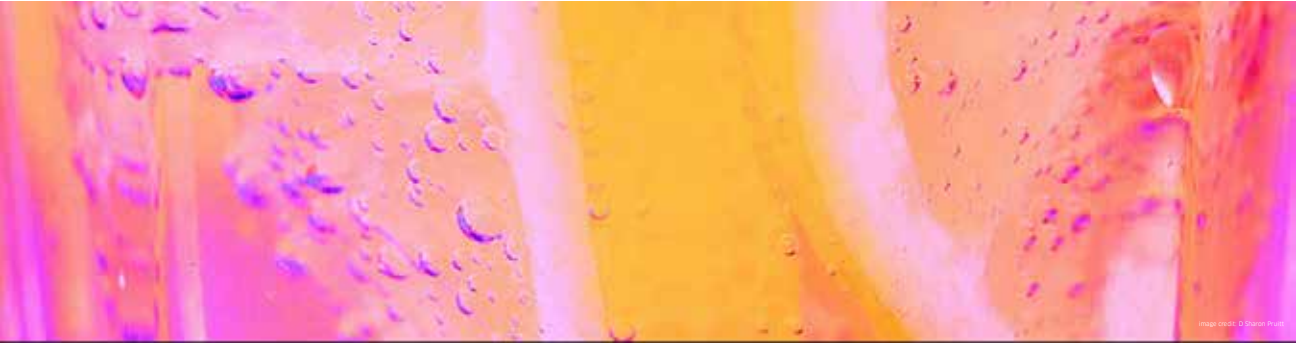


Lemonade

(for your)

2¢

Have your say about the new park at Smithe and Richards Streets!



WELCOME!

What’s happening?

We are transforming a **PARKING LOT** into a **PARK**...

The Vancouver Park Board is undertaking an exciting design process that will create a new park at the intersection of Smithe and Richards Streets. It will serve as a place for community recreation, culture, and tranquility in the bustling downtown neighbourhood.



We want to hear your ideas!

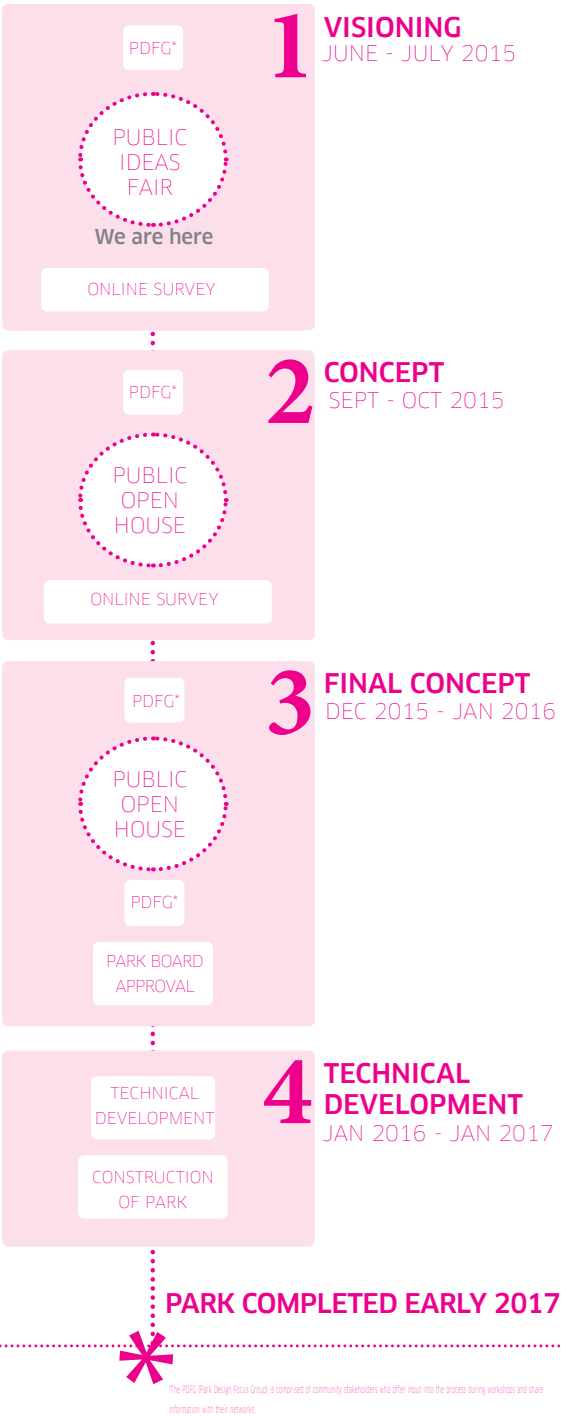
Creating a new park in downtown Vancouver is a rare and exciting opportunity, and today we want to hear your input on how to make it a great public space!

You can have your say in the design of the future park in a few ways:

- ONLINE OR ON THE PHONE BY JULY 12TH**
- Online Questionnaire:** vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards
 - @ParkBoard #SmitheRichards
 - facebook.com/ParkBoard #SmitheRichards
 - SmitheRichards@vancouver.ca
 - 3-1-1

IN PERSON

- Fill out a paper questionnaire today!

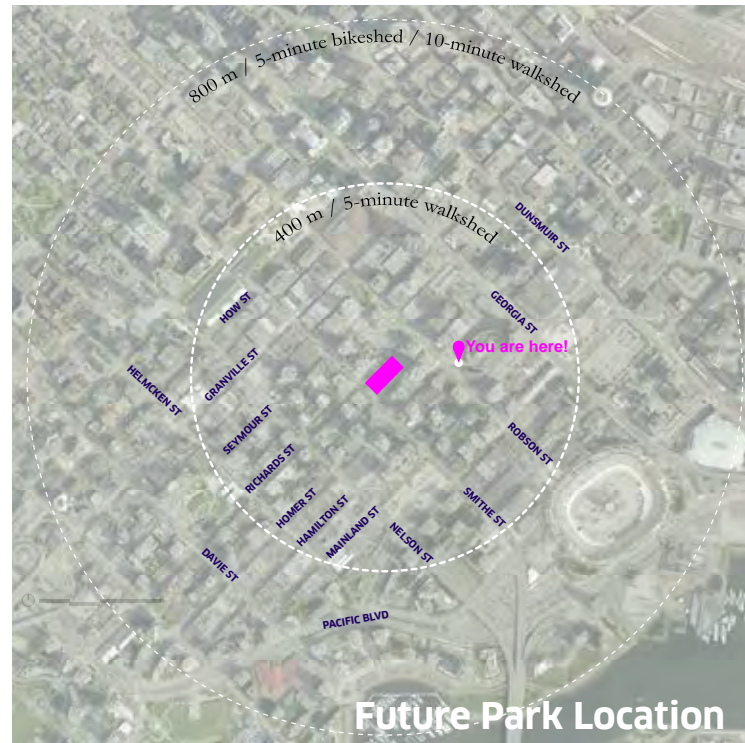


Learn about...

THE SITE

Where will the new park be?

The park will introduce a new public place in the south downtown neighbourhood, just a short walk from where you are right now.



How will the park fit into the bigger picture?

The new park will help meet the Vancouver Park Board's vision to connect people in Vancouver to green space, active living, and community.



Elements of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation's Strategic Plan

Take the Online Questionnaire: vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

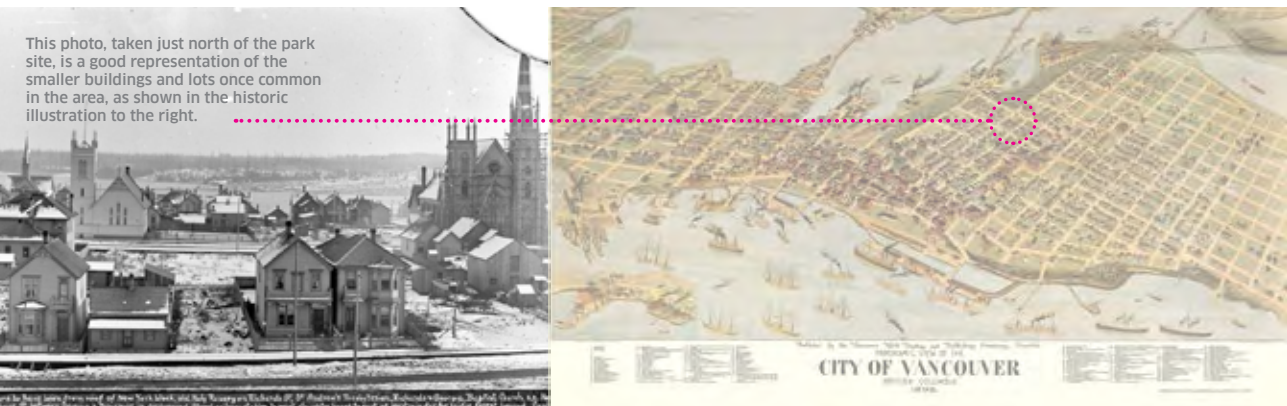
New Park at Smithe and Richards | Public Ideas Fair | 2



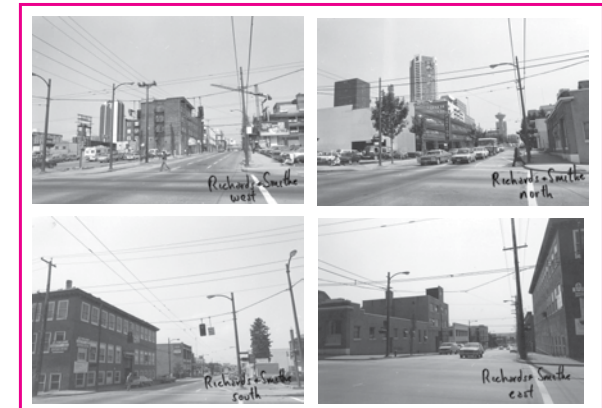
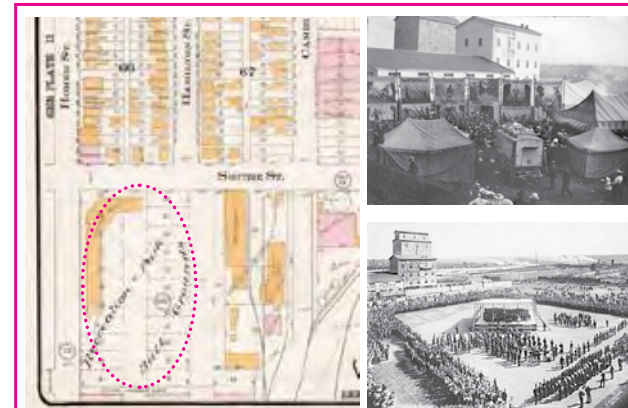
Learn about...

THE SITE

Looking back...



This photo, taken just north of the park site, is a good representation of the smaller buildings and lots once common in the area, as shown in the historic illustration to the right.



Intersection of Richards and Smith (1970s)



These photos and map are from around 1900, and depict the location and types of events that took place at Recreation Park. Located at the corner of Smithe and Homer Streets, this park was just a stone's throw from the future park location.



Demolition of the building at the south part of the site at Smithe Street (early 2000s)

Take the Online Questionnaire: vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

New Park at Smithe and Richards | Public Ideas Fair | 3

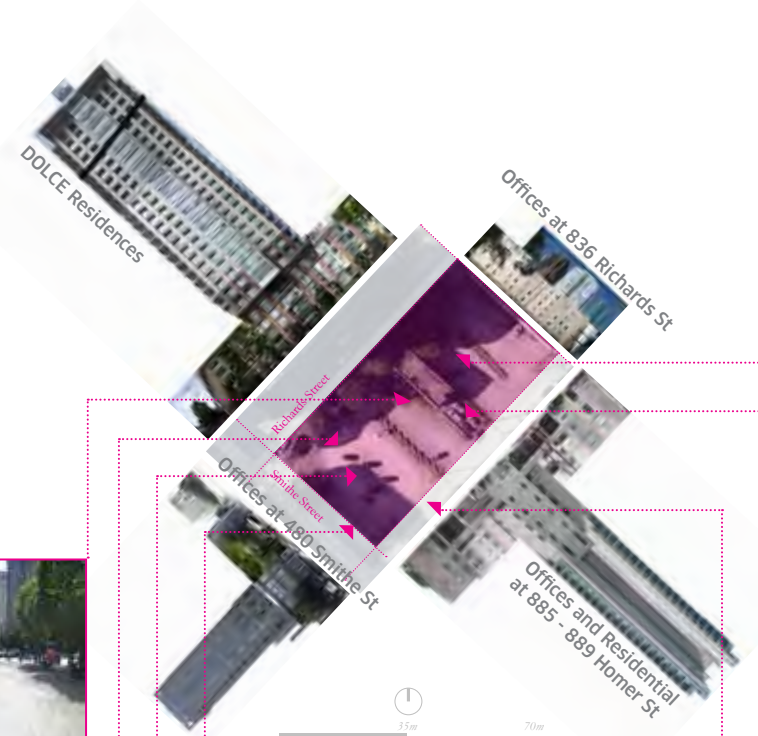


Learn about...

THE SITE

Today...

The site is a parking lot, surrounded by condo towers and retail units at street level. A service lane, which is a prominent characteristic of the site, runs along the eastern edge.



 **Take the Online Questionnaire:** vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

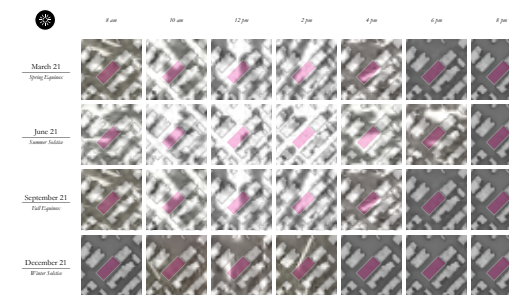
New Park at Smithe and Richards | Public Ideas Fair | 4



Learn about...

THE SITE

Solar Access: Except in winter, the site has sunny spots that move across the space throughout the day.



Slope: The site slopes significantly from Richards down toward the alley at Smithe.



Vehicular Circulation and Traffic: Thousands of vehicles pass by the site via Smithe and Richards Streets.



Noise: There is considerable traffic noise on the site.



Vegetation: There are 12 mature trees on the site, primarily along Richards Street.



 **Take the Online Questionnaire:** vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

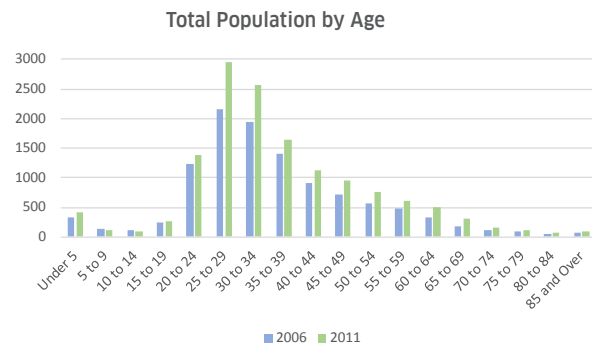
New Park at Smithe and Richards | Public Ideas Fair



Learn about...

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

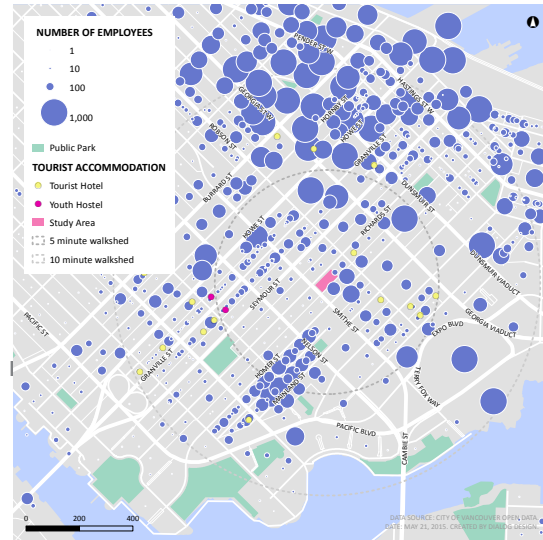
Who lives nearby?



This is a neighbourhood with **young adults and young families**.

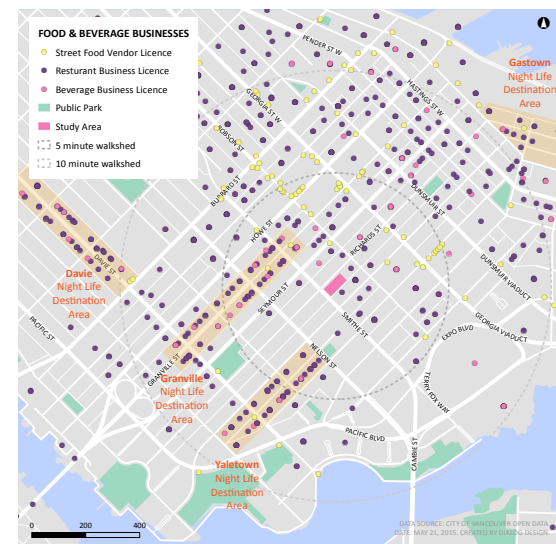
The largest age group in immediate area around the future park site is 20-39 years. Nearby Yaletown is home to the largest percentage of households with children in all of downtown.

Who works + visits?



Several thousand more people are going to be working in new high-tech businesses, building on the current 17,500 people working within a 5-minute walk of the park. Several hotels and youth hostels are also in the area.

What happens here?



There are **lots of destinations for food, beverages, and night life** nearby.

Which cultural spaces are here?



There are **many nearby cultural spaces** ranging from museums and galleries to theatres and studios. Public art, on the other hand, is sparse.

Take the Online Questionnaire: vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

New Park at Smithe and Richards | Public Ideas Fair | 6



Learn about...

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

How do people travel here and pass by?

Walking



There are several important pedestrian connections in the area, including Robson Street, Granville Street, and the seawall.

Cycling



The site is adjacent to bike-ways, connected to a broader cycling network.

Car-Sharing



The site is also well serviced by car-share options.

Transit



This area is well serviced by transit, with several bus stops and one Canada Line station within a 5 minute walk of the site.

Take the Online Questionnaire: vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

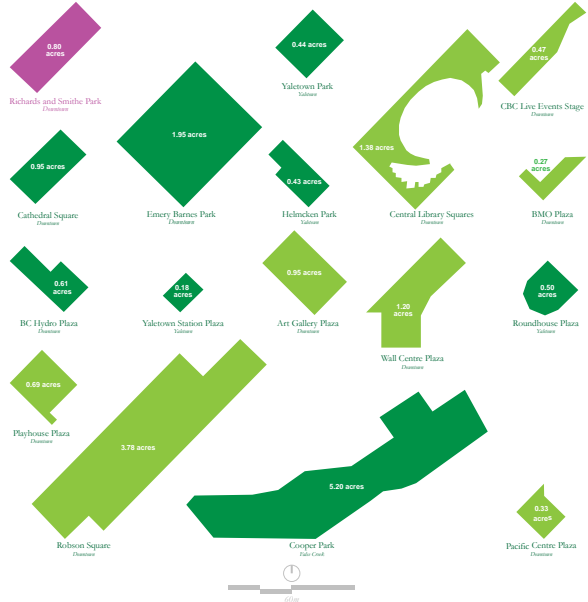
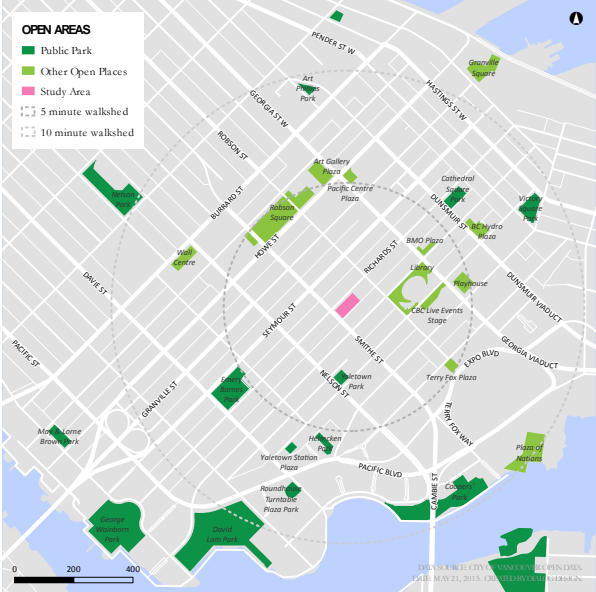
New Park at Smithe and Richards | Public Ideas Fair | 7





Learn about...


NEARBY PARKS


To help guide your input on the new park, take a look at what already exists in the neighbourhood:





- 


1. Emery Barnes Park
- 


2. Yaletown Park
- 


3. Helmcken Park
- 


4. Central Library Square
- 


5. CBC Live Events Plaza
- 


6. Art Gallery North Plaza
- 


7. Robson Square
- 


8. Queen Elizabeth Plaza
- 


9. Pacific Centre Plaza
- 


10. Cathedral Square Park
- 

11. BC Hydro Plaza
- 

12. Wall Centre Gardens
- 

13. Yaletown Station Plaza
- 

14. Roundhouse Turntable Plaza
- 

15. Coopers Park
- 

16. Bank of Montreal Plaza

Take the Online Questionnaire: vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards



Learn about...

NEARBY PARKS

PARK/ OPEN SPACE	PARK/ OPEN SPACE CHARACTERISTICS												PARK/ OPEN SPACE PROGRAM + ACTIVITIES									
	SIZE	TYPE	ACCESS	PERMITS	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA	ADJACENT AREA
1. EMERY BARNES PARK	1.95 acres	R	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. VALETOWN PARK	0.44 acres	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3. HELMCKEN PARK	0.43 acres	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4. CENTRAL LIBRARY SQUARE(S)	1.38 acres	PS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. CBC LIVE EVENTS STAGE	0.41 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6. ART GALLERY PLAZA	0.95 acres	PS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. ROBSON SQUARE	0.78 acres	PS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8. PLAYHOUSE PLAZA	0.69 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9. PACIFIC CENTRE PLAZA	0.10 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10. CATHEDRAL SQUARE PARK	0.75 acres	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11. BC HYDRO PLAZA	0.61 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12. WALL CENTRE PLAZA	0.70 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13. VALETOWN STATION PLAZA	0.44 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14. ROUNDHOUSE TURNTABLE PLAZA	0.50 acres	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15. COOPERS' PARK	0.20 acres	N	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16. BMO PLAZA	0.30 acres	POPS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



What is missing in these parks?

Take the Online Questionnaire: vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards



WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Show us which park “ingredients” could work here

Parks are diverse, with different qualities that influence how they look, feel, and function as places for people. Place your dots below to identify which ingredients from parks around the world you think could work well here.

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Due to the design and detailing of the chainmail-like shroud as the operable walls to this stage, its can quickly transform both the experience of the stage and the park around it.
Park + Location: OMS Stage, Winnipeg



Owner: Winnipeg Exchange District BID | Designer: S4S8796 Architecture Inc.

Place a dot here if you like **TRANSFORMATIVE** ideas for the new park

Ingredient: PROGRAM

“Program” is a catch-all word used when describing a range of organized activities that help activate park spaces. Program has a lot to do with the success and popularity of this Manhattan park, with a great number of activities and events happening throughout the year and encouraging people to mix and engage with one another. As a result, this park has become one of the most well used public parks in the city.

Park + Location: Bryant Park, NYC



Owner: Bryant Park Corporation | Designer: Lunden Miller

Place a dot here if you like the idea of many **PROGRAMS** for the new park

Ingredient: URBAN GREENING AND BIODIVERSITY

Native plants and soils were used in creating this park, resulting in high degree of biodiversity. Planting including robust tree planting to enhance Vancouver Urban Forest, with the potential for horticultural specimens to soften the Urban context.

Park + Location: Tear Drop Park, NYC



Owner: Hudson Park City Park Conservancy | Designer: Michael Van Housen / Associates

Place a dot here if you like **GREEN AND BIODIVERSE** ideas for the new park

Ingredient: SPECTACLE AND INTEREST

The temporary pavilions in this park provide an ever changing platform for art and culture. They also create a sense of wonder and engagement that is fostered by the unique designs of the structures themselves, as well as the performances and program they accommodate.

Park + Location: Serpentine Pavillion, London



Owner: Serpentine Gallery | Designer: Michael Van Housen / Associates

Place a dot here if you like the idea of **INTEREST** for the new park

Ingredient: ADAPTABILITY

This structure was used as a theatre space to host diverse events and engage a wide range of audiences. Although it was designed to be temporary and transient in nature, it is a great example of how an idea can be distilled down to a simple idea to fulfill an important purpose.

Park + Location: BMW Guggenheim Lab - New York City, Berlin, Mumbai



Owner: BMW | Designer: Michael Van Housen / Associates

Place a dot here if you like the idea of having an **ADAPTABLE** quality for the new park

Ingredient: IDENTITY

Colour is used in dramatic and creative ways in this open space, blurring the realms between distinct recreation and those spaces for every day city living, while also defining a strong sense of place and bold identity.

Park + Location: Superkilen, Nørrebro, Copenhagen



Owner: Copenhagen Municipality | Designer: Superkilen + Michael Van Housen / Associates

Place a dot here if you like the idea of **BOLD IDENTITY** for the new park

 **Take the Online Questionnaire:** vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

New Park at Smithe and Richards | Public Ideas Fair | 10

DIALOG 

WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Show us which park “ingredients” could work here

Parks are diverse, with different qualities that influence how they look, feel, and function as places for people. Place your dots below to identify which ingredients from parks around the world you think could work well here.

Ingredient: SCALE AND COMFORT

This scale of this community library allows for a variety of uses, resulting in a site that is comfortable for a single person, a small group, or a large gathering.

Park + Location: Open Air Library, Madgeburg



Owner: City of Madgeburg, Germany | Designer: K&H Architects, Architect + Network

Place a dot here if you like the idea of a **VARIETY OF SPACE AND SCALE** for the new park

Ingredient: LAYERS AND MULTIPLE USES

Miyashita Park is a retrofitted community park built upon an existing parkade structure that required upgrading. It provides an example of how multiple experiences and activities can co-exist in a busy downtown urban site where space is limited.

Park + Location: Miyashita Park, Tokyo



Owner: Shikoku, Tokyo | Designer: Michael Van Housen / Associates

Place a dot if you like the idea of **LAYERS** that allow for **MULTIPLE USES** for the new park

Ingredient: PLAY

Immersive and challenging play spaces that provide a different level of experience than afforded by typical play structures are becoming increasingly popular. Likewise, adult play elements such as ping-pong, enable young and old to equally engage with public spaces and programmed activities.

Park + Location: Arena Playground, Frew Park, Brisbane



Owner: Brisbane City Council City Projects Office | Designer: Jovian Kelly Architects

Place a dot here if you like the idea of **PLAY** for the new park

Ingredient: CONNECTIONS

Back lanes can become well-used pedestrian routes with vibrant commercial destinations. There are many great examples of this, some of which are in Vancouver.

Locations: Blood Alley, Vancouver + Melbourne City



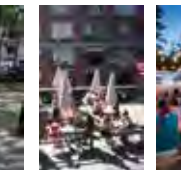
Images: Blood Alley, Vancouver + Melbourne City

Place a dot here if you like the idea of creating **CONNECTIONS** for the new park?

Ingredient: INVITATION

Food is a powerful magnet that invites passersby to explore and visit parks and open spaces. Communal tables and chairs, along with access to a variety of food and refreshments, can create a sense of invitation, comfort, and shared experiences in a public setting. Food vendors also provide 'eyes onto a space', which promotes a sense of safety.

Park+Location: Bryant Park, New York City | Snack Bar Patio on the Highline, New York City | Food Truck Pod, Seattle



Precedents: Bryant Park, New York + Snack Bar Patio on the Highline, New York + Food Truck Pod in Seattle

Place a dot here if you like the idea of **INVITATION** for the new park

Ingredient: ENGAGING EDGES

A space is defined by its surrounding edges. Creating engaging edges allow people to catch some sun, spontaneously strike up a conversation, buy a coffee, or just perch for a few moments and observe the theatre of life.

Locations: Whole Foods, 4th Ave + Art Gallery Steps, Robson St.



Precedents: Whole Foods + Art Gallery Steps

Place a dot here if you like the idea of having **ENGAGING EDGES** for the new park

 **Take the Online Questionnaire:** vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

New Park at Smithe and Richards | Public Ideas Fair | 11

DIALOG 

FUNDING OPTIONS

Businesses and activities that generate funds

Many of the examples of parks and open spaces shown in previous panels include activities or businesses that generate funds. These funds go toward helping sustain program and activities within parks, making them active, engaging, and successful people places. Place your dots below to identify which of the suggested possible revenue generators you think could work well here.

WOULD YOU PAY A TOONIE TO SIT IN A DECK CHAIR IN THE PARK?

The ability to position your chair to share in a conversation or capture a sunny spot in the garden can also be achieved in a public park setting. It might also help to pay for other program in the park.

Location: Hyde Park, London UK



Place a dot here if you can imagine renting a deckchair for \$2 in the new park

WOULD YOU RENT A SPACE IN THE PARK FOR AN EVENT?

A number of parks and city-owned buildings in Vancouver provide facilities that can be rented for private functions.

Location: Queen Elizabeth Park + Mountain View Cemetery, Vancouver BC



Place a dot here if you can imagine renting a space in the park for an event

WOULD YOU BUY A COFFEE OR SNACK IN THE PARK?

Food attracts people. A variety of food options that cater to the quick, spontaneous snack can add another layer of character, ritual, and energy into a space. They can also provide a sense of wellbeing and safety for the park users.

Location: JJ Bean at the CBC in Vancouver + Shake Shack in Madison Square Park, NY



Place a dot here if you can imagine visiting a kiosk in the new park

WOULD YOU DINE IN THE PARK?

By providing food outlets for lunch and dinner, along with weather protection and patio heaters, these popular venues can help activate public spaces in Vancouver parks all year round.

Location: Cactus Club - English Bay, The Water Mark on Kits Beach & The Mill Bar and Bistro at Coal Harbour, Vancouver, BC



Place a dot here if you can imagine visiting a restaurant in the new park

WOULD YOU VISIT A PARK WITH PARKING HIDDEN BENEATH IT?

The current use of the site as a parking lot earns the Vancouver Park Board revenue. By creating underground parking spaces, could the new park earn revenue from private parking or the increasingly popular car-share programs, similar to the examples below?

Location: Coal Harbour Community Centre parking lot and an adjacent development's garden amenity space over a parkade.



Place a dot here if you can imagine visiting the park with parking beneath it

DO YOU HAVE OTHER IDEAS?

 **Take the Online Questionnaire by July 12th:**
vancouver.ca/SmithRichards

ART IN THE PARK

What are your ideas for art in the park?

Art will be an integral part of the new park. An artist is working with the design team to explore ways to incorporate art in new and interesting ways. Some examples are provided below. We want to hear your ideas!

 **Take the Online Questionnaire by July 12th:**
vancouver.ca/SmithRichards



Mary Miss's interactive art installation 'CaLi' asks: by what means can we foster roles for artists and designers to shape and bring attention to the pressing environmental issues of our times?

Location: Manhattan, New York



'Black Cloud' was conceived by Heather and Ivan Morison, and designed with architect graduate Sash Reading. This temporary structure was open to the public over from July until December 2009 and hosted a number of live events.

Location: Bristol, England



'Art with Flooded Chambers Maid', a site-specific multimedia installation on and around Madison Square Park's Oval Lawn by artist Jessica Stockholder

Location: Manhattan, New York



This free annual winter festival at Bloor-Yorkville includes ice carving demonstrations staged at key locations in the public plaza.

Location: Yorkville, Ontario



With the help of volunteers, Joseph Beuys planted 7,000 oak trees over fifteen years in the town of Kassel, Germany, each with an accompanying basalt stone.

Location: Kassel, Germany



Artist Jaume Plensa worked with Krueck and Sexton Architects to realize 'Crown Fountain', an iconic water fountain that incorporates projected photographic portraits.

Location: Millennium Park, Chicago, USA

NEXT STEPS


Have your say!

Thank you for your input! What we heard will be used to develop three concept options for the future park.

 **Take the Online Questionnaire by July 12th:**
vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

OTHER WAYS TO STAY INVOLVED:

 Fill out a paper questionnaire today

 Stay tuned for **upcoming events**, including another open house in the fall, when three park concepts will be brought to the community for input.

 @ParkBoard #SmitheRichards

 facebook.com/ParkBoard #SmitheRichards

 SmitheRichards@vancouver.ca

 3-1-1

TELL YOUR FRIENDS - EVERYONE WELCOME!



Learn about...

THE SITE

Do you live, work or stay close to the future park?



Show us where with a dot!

 **Take the Online Questionnaire:** vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

Learn about...

THE SITE

Play in the Sandbox with us!



Working model showing existing parking-lot condition

 **Take the Online Questionnaire:** vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

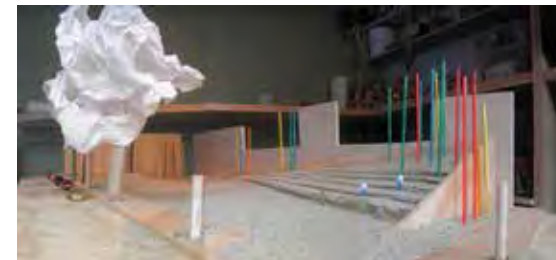
New Park at Smithe and Richards | Public Ideas Fair | 2



Learn about...

THE SITE

Play in the Sandbox with us!



Working model showing early topography studies...

 **Take the Online Questionnaire:** vancouver.ca/SmitheRichards

New Park at Smithe and Richards | Public Ideas Fair | 2



A2. Online Questionnaire Results



Consultation Overview



OPEN HOUSE #1 RESULTS

A NEW PARK AT SMITHE & RICHARDS

Summary Results
August 2015

Background:

- The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation is developing a new park in the downtown core, at Smithe and Richards Street. This proposed new park will provide a location for recreation, culture and tranquility in this busy downtown area.
- As a first phase of consultation on the proposed park, the Board of Parks & Recreation conducted a questionnaire to gather public feedback on preliminary considerations for the park, including design considerations, impact of the park on livability of the community, and public art inspiration, among others.
- The questionnaire ran from June 29 to July 18, 2015.
- A total of 208 respondents completed the questionnaire. The questionnaire was accessed in the following ways:
 - Open invitation to the general public via the Smithe and Richards Street park project page on the City of Vancouver website; and,
 - An email invitation was sent out to Talk Vancouver panel members who had home postal codes beginning with V6B or V6Z.

Who did we hear from?

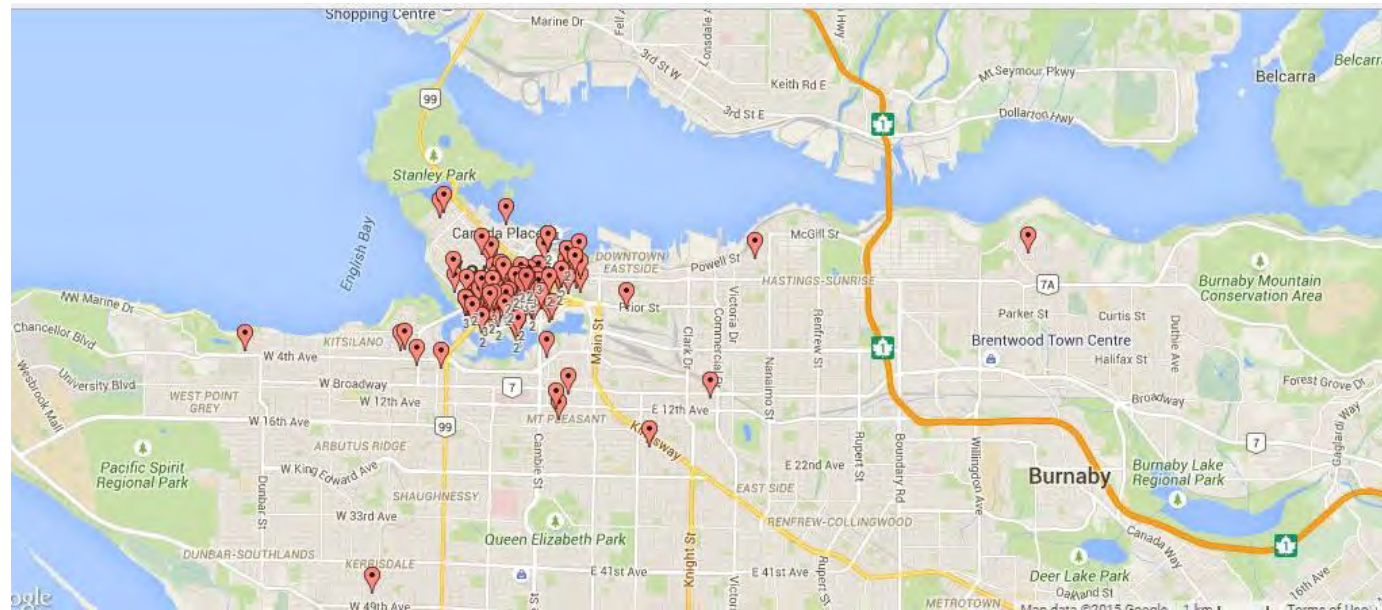
- Slightly more than half of respondents were in the 30-49 age range, with smaller representation among those under age 30 and those aged 50 or older.
- Thirteen percent of all respondents had children under the age of 18 living in their household.
- A majority of respondents own and live in the neighbourhood surrounding the proposed park, while fewer respondents rent in the neighbourhood (18%) or work in the neighbourhood (23%).
- The map on the following page illustrates respondents' location based on their home postal code.



Consultation Overview



The following map illustrates the home location (based on home postal code) of questionnaire respondents. Most respondents reside in downtown Vancouver.



Summary of Results



Impact of New Park on Surrounding Neighbourhood:

- 85% of respondents said they are likely ('very' or 'somewhat' likely) to use the new park once it's built.
- Almost all respondents (93%) said the park will improve the livability of their community (two-thirds of respondents said the park will improve the livability 'a lot').

Key Design Considerations:

- Tree canopy, seating areas and lush planting are the top three design considerations that planners should consider to program and activate the new park space.
- Urban greening and biodiversity and scale and comfort are the top 'ingredients' that respondents say planners should consider a priority for this new park. These are the only 'ingredients' that were selected by a majority of respondents as elements that should be considered as a priority for the new park.

Program Funding for the Park:

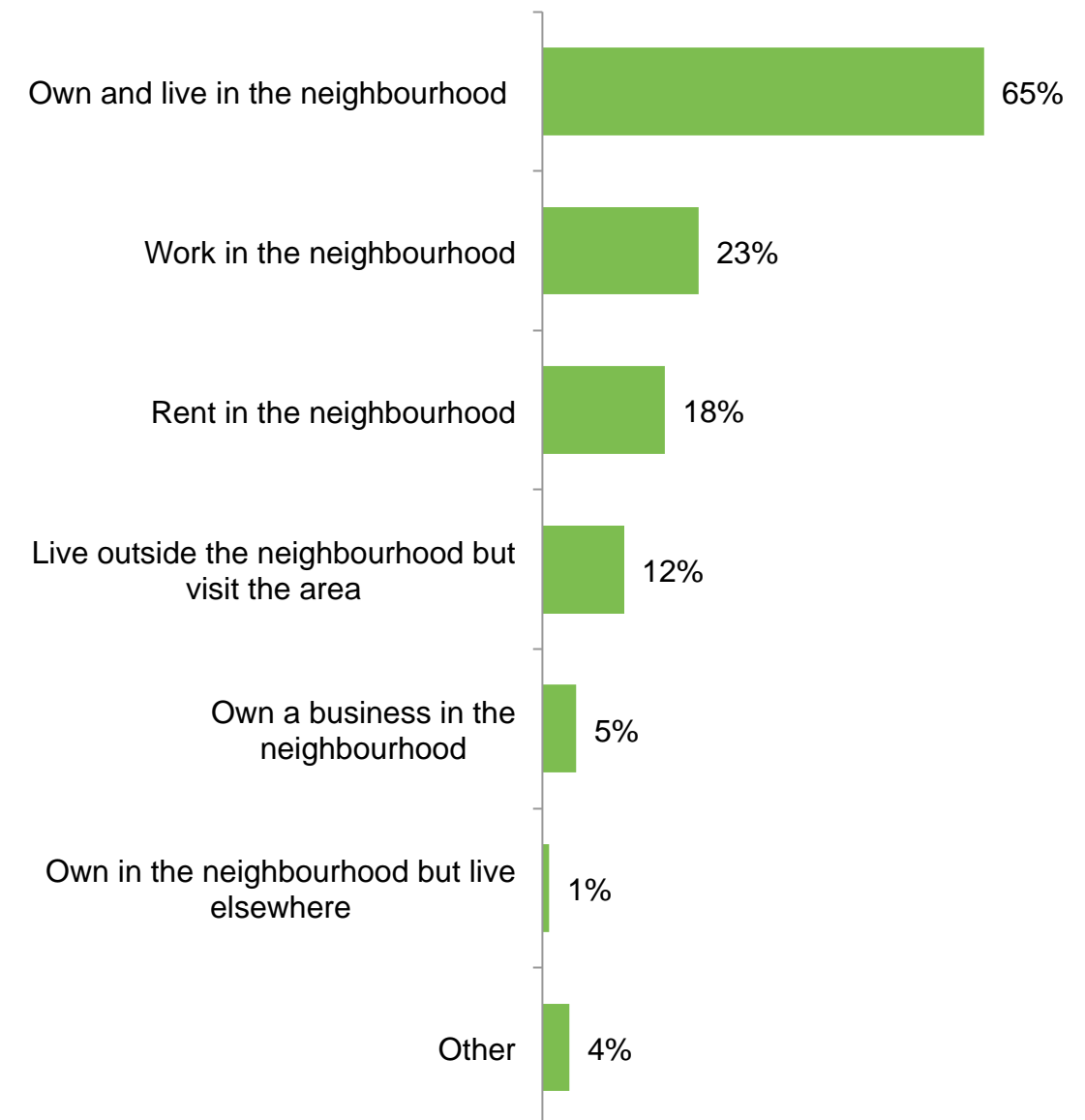
- Several funding options were supported by respondents including the inclusion of a coffee shop; renting the space for events; and including a parking structure beneath the park.



QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS



Connection to New Park Site



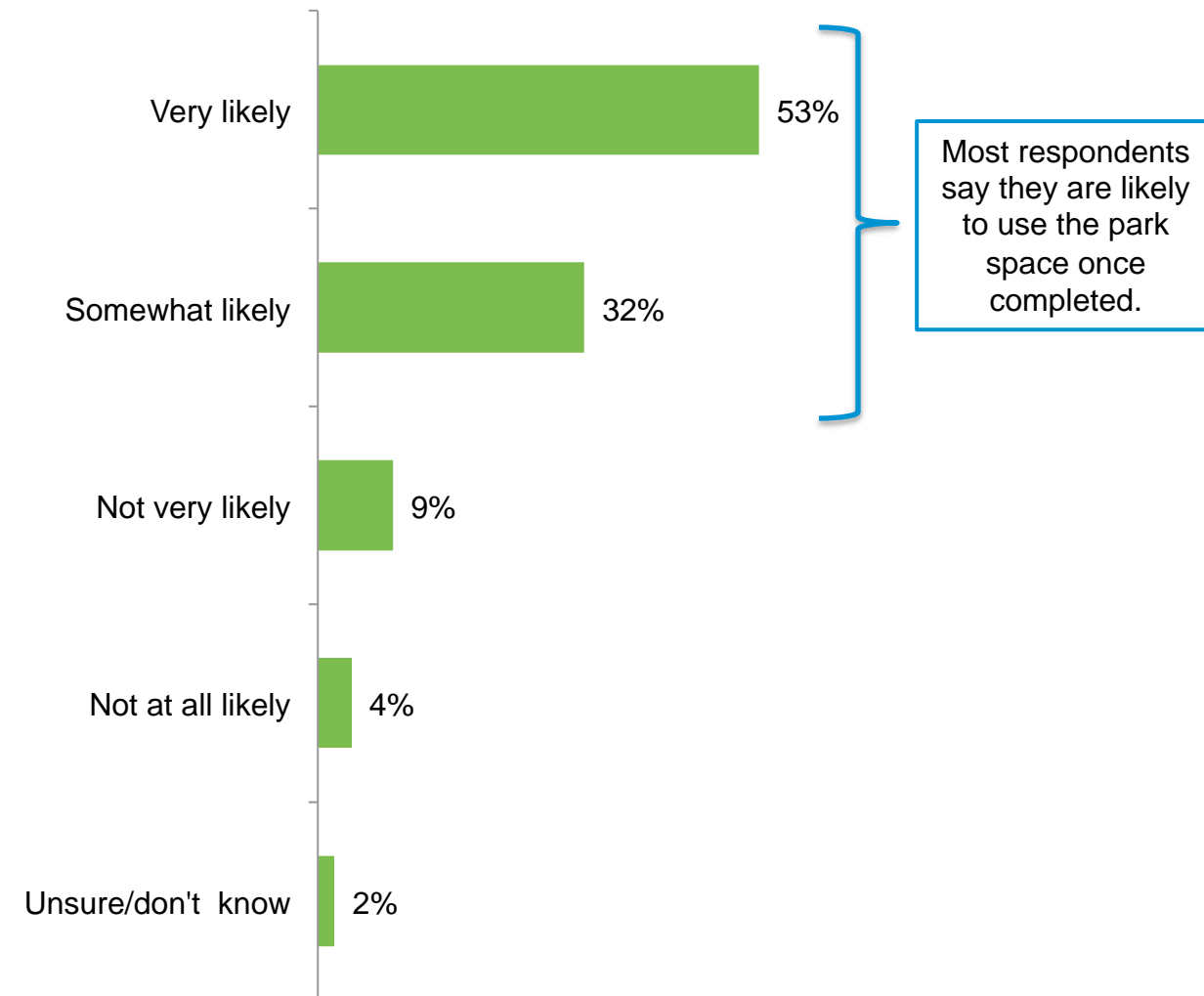
Base: All respondents (208)

What is your connection to the park site?

New Park at Smithe and Richards Street Survey (July 2015)



Likelihood to Use New Park Once Completed



Base: All respondents (208)

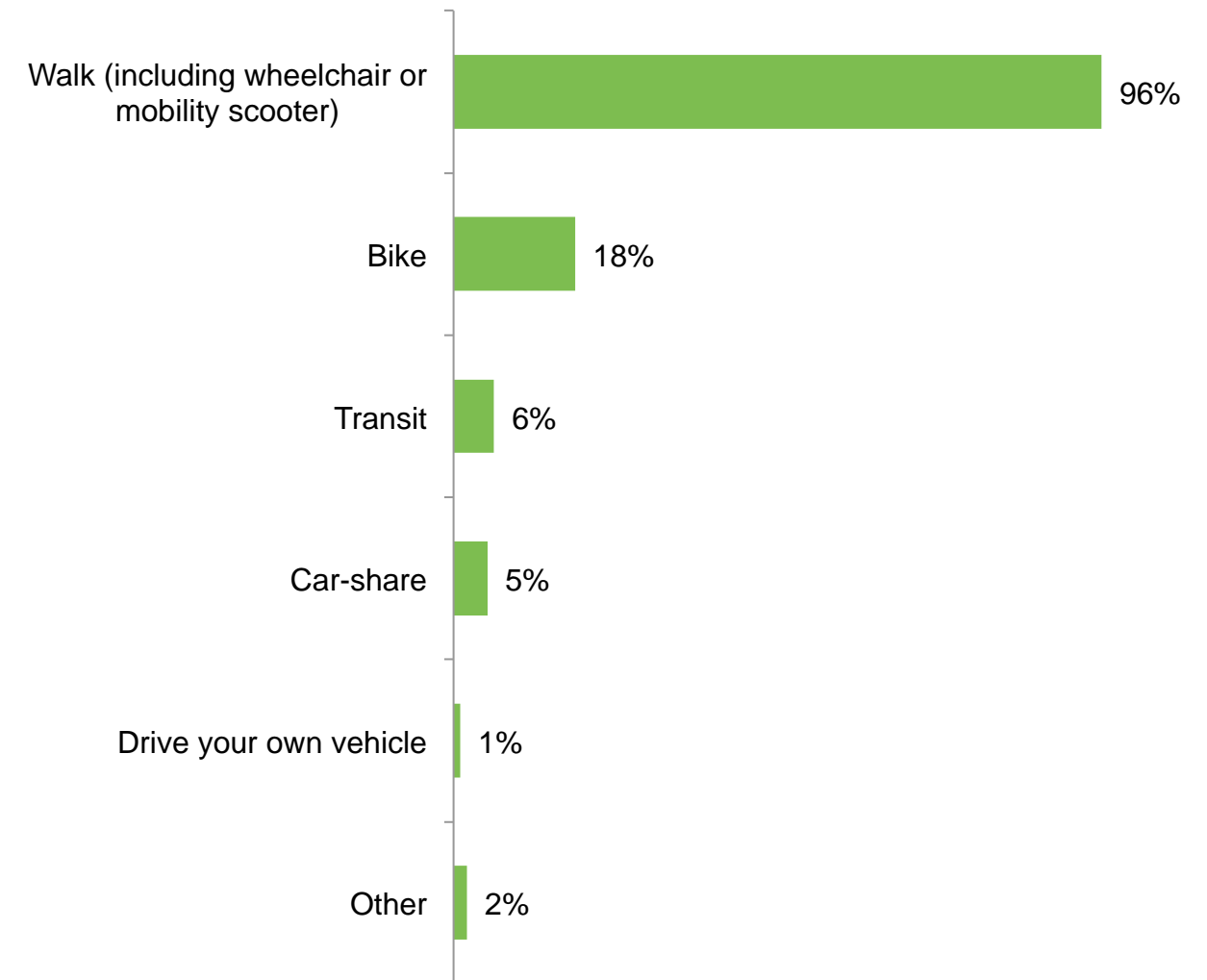
How likely are you to use this park space, once it is completed?

New Park at Smithe and Richards Street Survey (July 2015)

7



Mode of Transport to New Park



Base: All respondents (208)

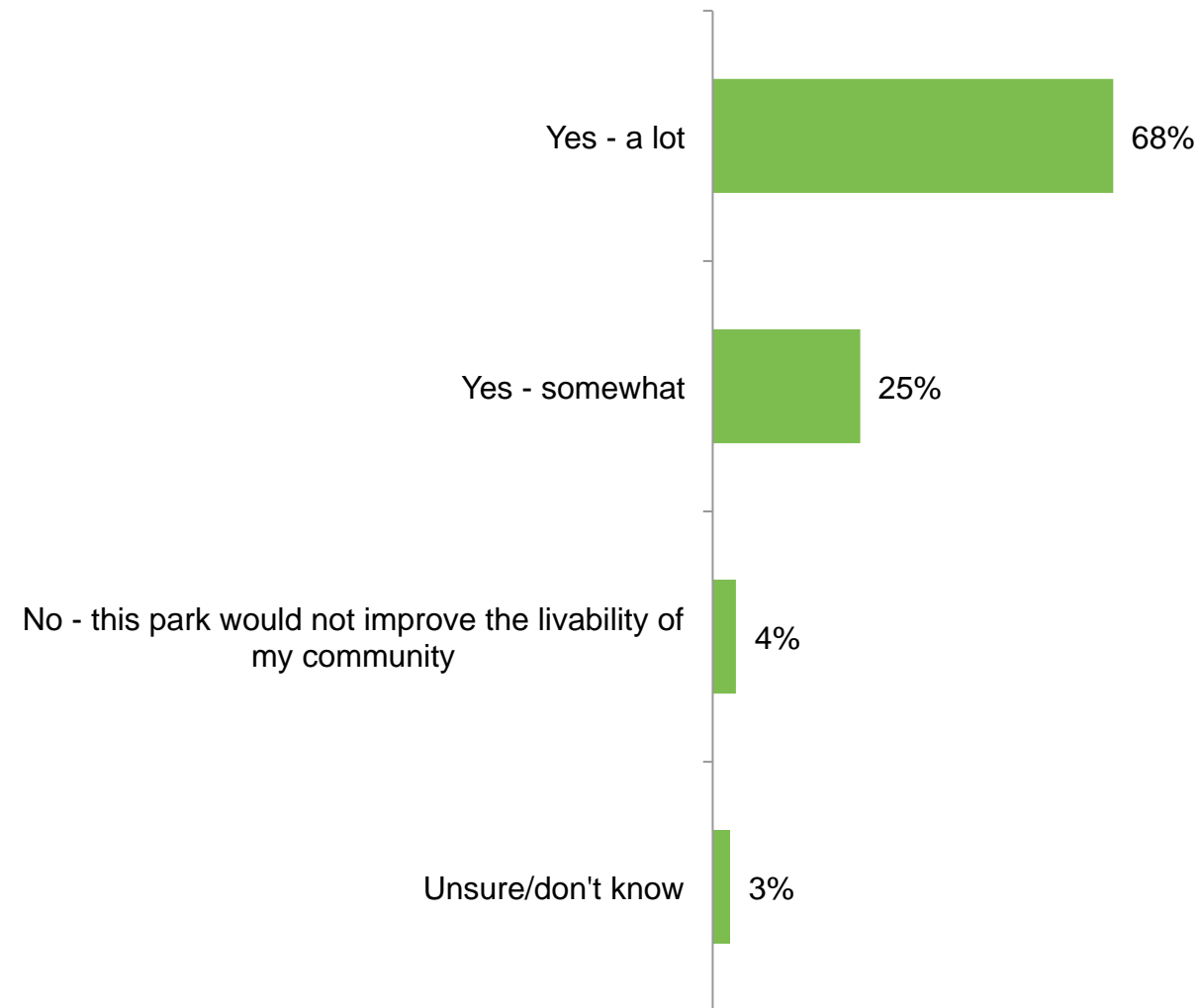
Thinking about when the park is completed, how do you think you will typically get to this park?

New Park at Smithe and Richards Street Survey (July 2015)

8



Impact of New Park on Livability of Neighbourhood



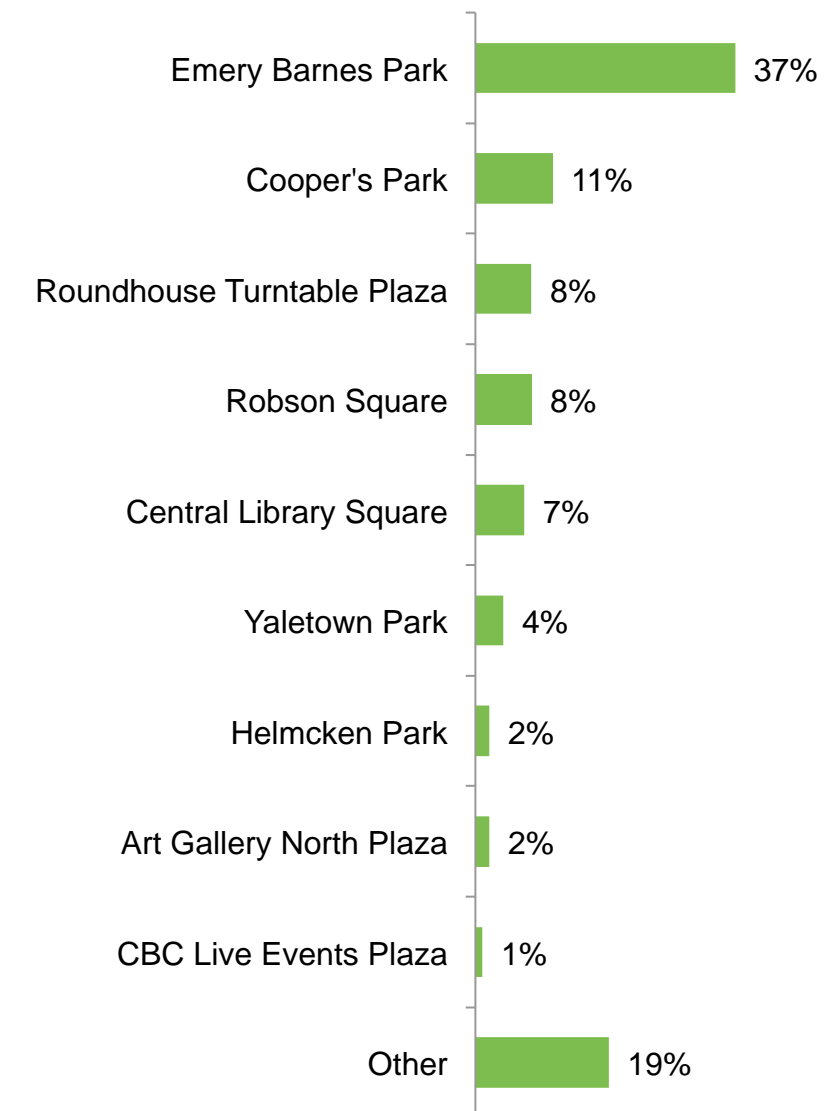
Base: All respondents (208)
Do you think this park will improve the livability of your community?

New Park at Smithe and Richards Street Survey (July 2015)

9



Most Commonly Used Nearby Parks



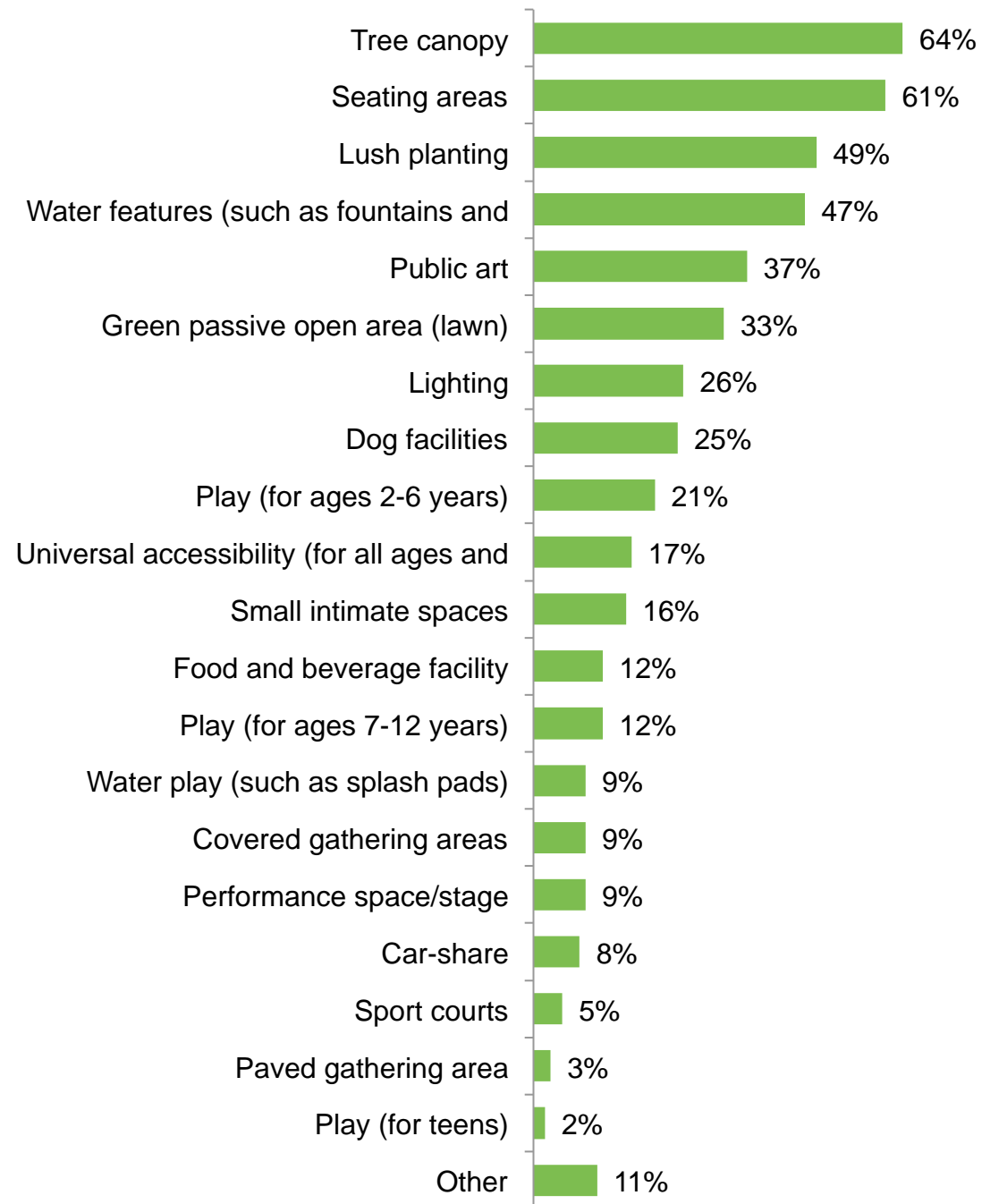
Base: All respondents (208)
Which of the nearby parks and open spaces identified on the open house panels do you use most frequently?

New Park at Smithe and Richards Street Survey (July 2015)

10



Top Design Considerations for New Park



Base: All respondents (208)

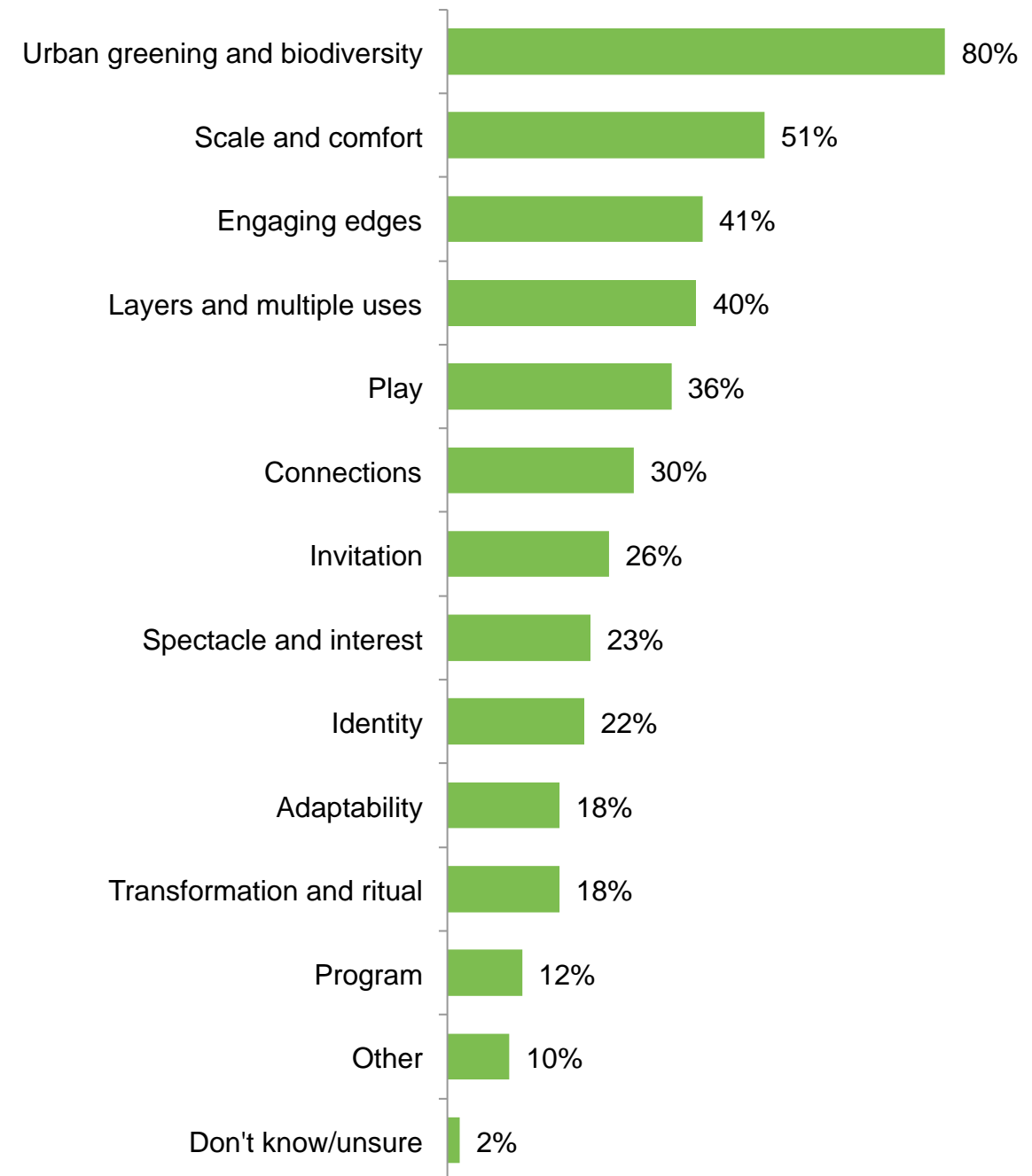
Please indicate your top five (5) of the following design considerations that we should consider to program and activate this new park.

New Park at Smithe and Richards Street Survey (July 2015)

11



Top 'Ingredients' That Should Be Considered for New Park



Base: All respondents (208)

Please indicate your top five (5) of the following park "ingredients" that we should consider a priority for this new park.

New Park at Smithe and Richards Street Survey (July 2015)

12



Important Site History



The following are examples of some of the responses to the question of site history to be aware of when designing the new park:



Base: All respondents (208)

What site history should we be aware of as we move forward with designing this park?

New Park at Smithe and Richards Street Survey (July 2015)

13



Art Inspiration



The following are examples of some of the responses to the question of examples of public art that inspires:



Base: All respondents (208)

A key component of this project will be the integration of public art into the landscape architectural design. With that in mind, please share an example of public art that inspires you.

New Park at Smithe and Richards Street Survey (July 2015)

14



Additional Comments



The following are examples of some of the responses to the question of why the park location inspires you:

"A water feature/fountain or stream would be very pleasant. The water feature in George Wainborn Park is so relaxing and calming."

"As a resident at an adjacent property I couldn't be more pleased with the decision to convert this space."

"Don't do too much, simple and usable is best. Secondly more and more children live downtown and they need safe play areas and greenspace"

"I hugely support this project and am very excited to see it come to fruition! Please take inspiration from the beautiful job done at Emery Barnes Park!"

"One of the most important things for me in a park is whether there is direct sunlight. There are very few places in the downtown core (especially in the business district) that provide for sunlight. I'm surprised there aren't more patios/coffee shops/public places on rooftops."

"Please retain the car share parking :) "

Base: All respondents (208)

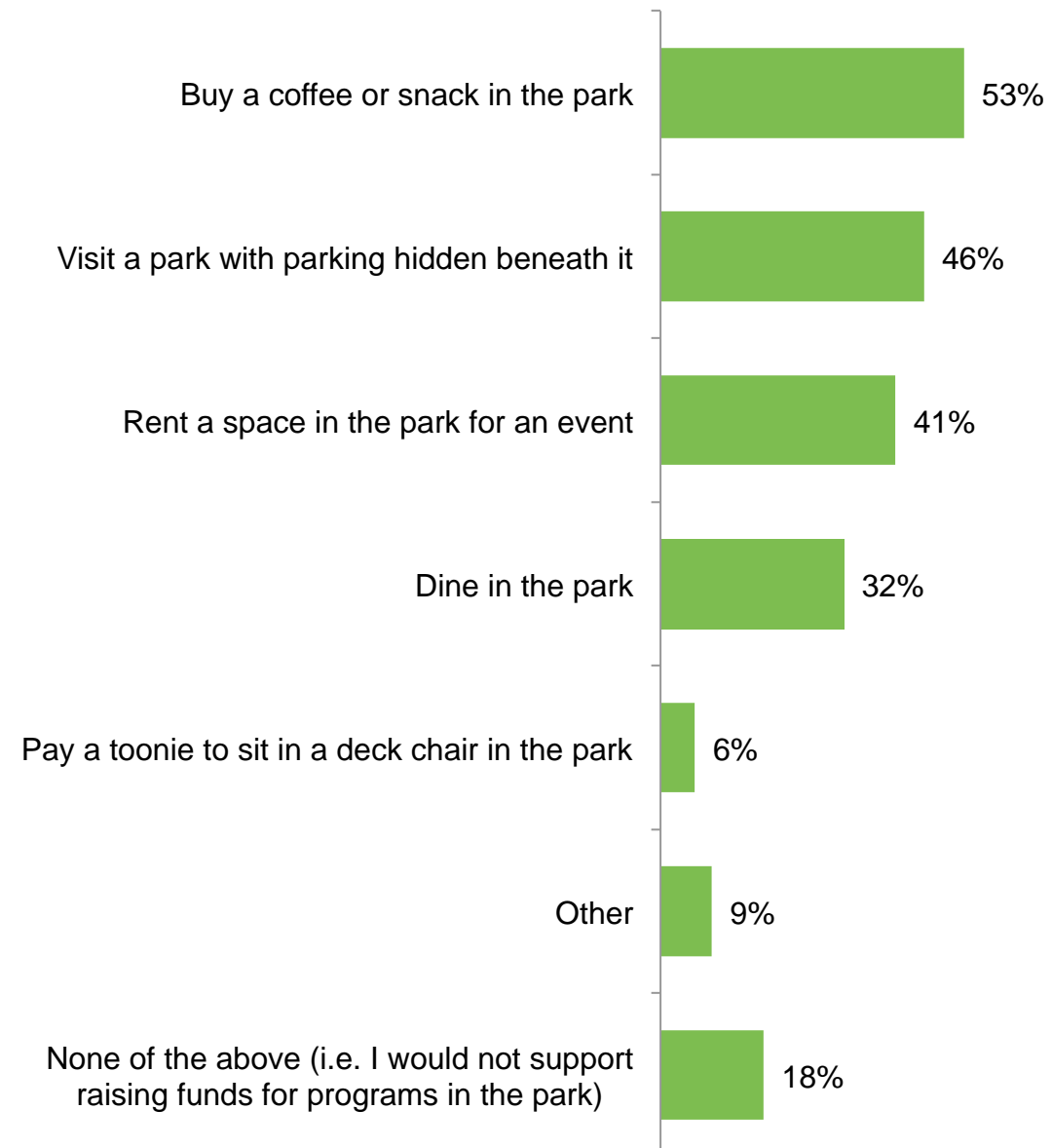
Why does this location inspire you?

New Park at Smithe and Richards Street Survey (July 2015)

15



Potential Funding Sources for New Park



Base: All respondents (208)

Please indicate which of the following you would consider as an option to help fund programs in the park.

New Park at Smithe and Richards Street Survey (July 2015)

16

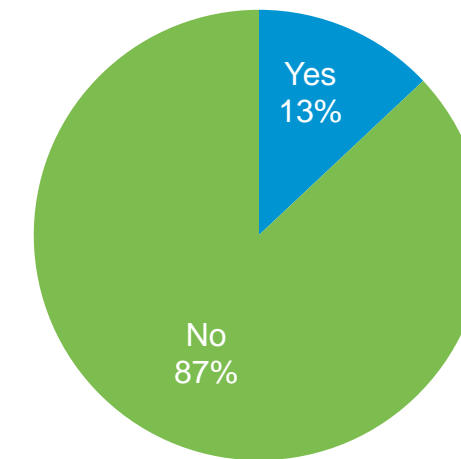


Demographics

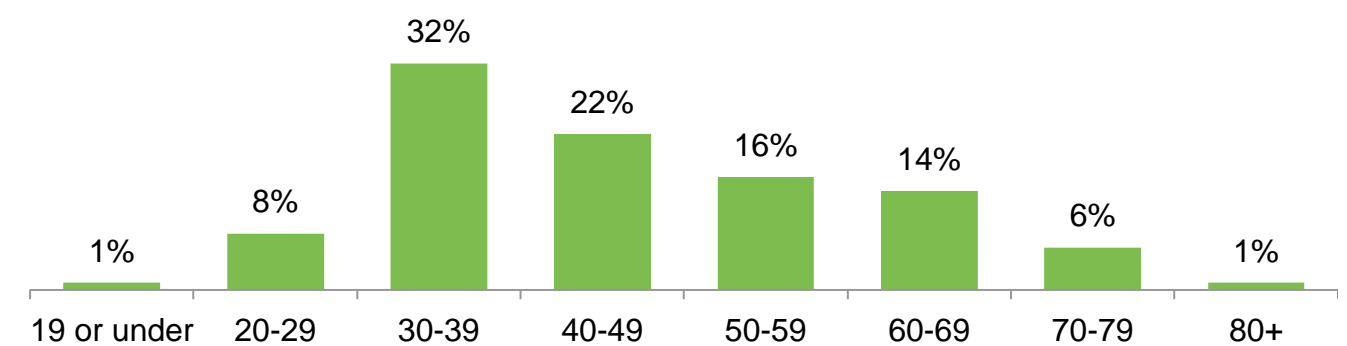


DEMOGRAPHICS

Children in Household



Age



Base: All respondents (208)

Do you have children under the age of 18 living in your household?

What age group do you fall into?

