



Consultation Overview



Background:

- The Vancouver Park Board is in the process of developing a master plan to renew Sunset Park by improving and better connecting its features. Renewing the park was a top priority we heard about during the public consultation for the City of Vancouver 2015-2018 Capital Plan.
- The park's master plan concept design (incorporating earlier community feedback) was presented to the public for further review in July 2015. This new feedback will help further shape the design and prioritize the park features important to the community.
- The feedback questionnaire ran from July 1 to July 31, 2015.
- A total of 74 respondents completed the questionnaire. The questionnaire was accessed in the following ways:
 - Open house event on July 1st at Sunset Park;
 - Open invitation to the general public via the Sunset Park Master Plan project page on the City of Vancouver website; and,
 - Email invitation sent out to Talk Vancouver panel members who had home postal codes beginning with V5X.

Who did we hear from?

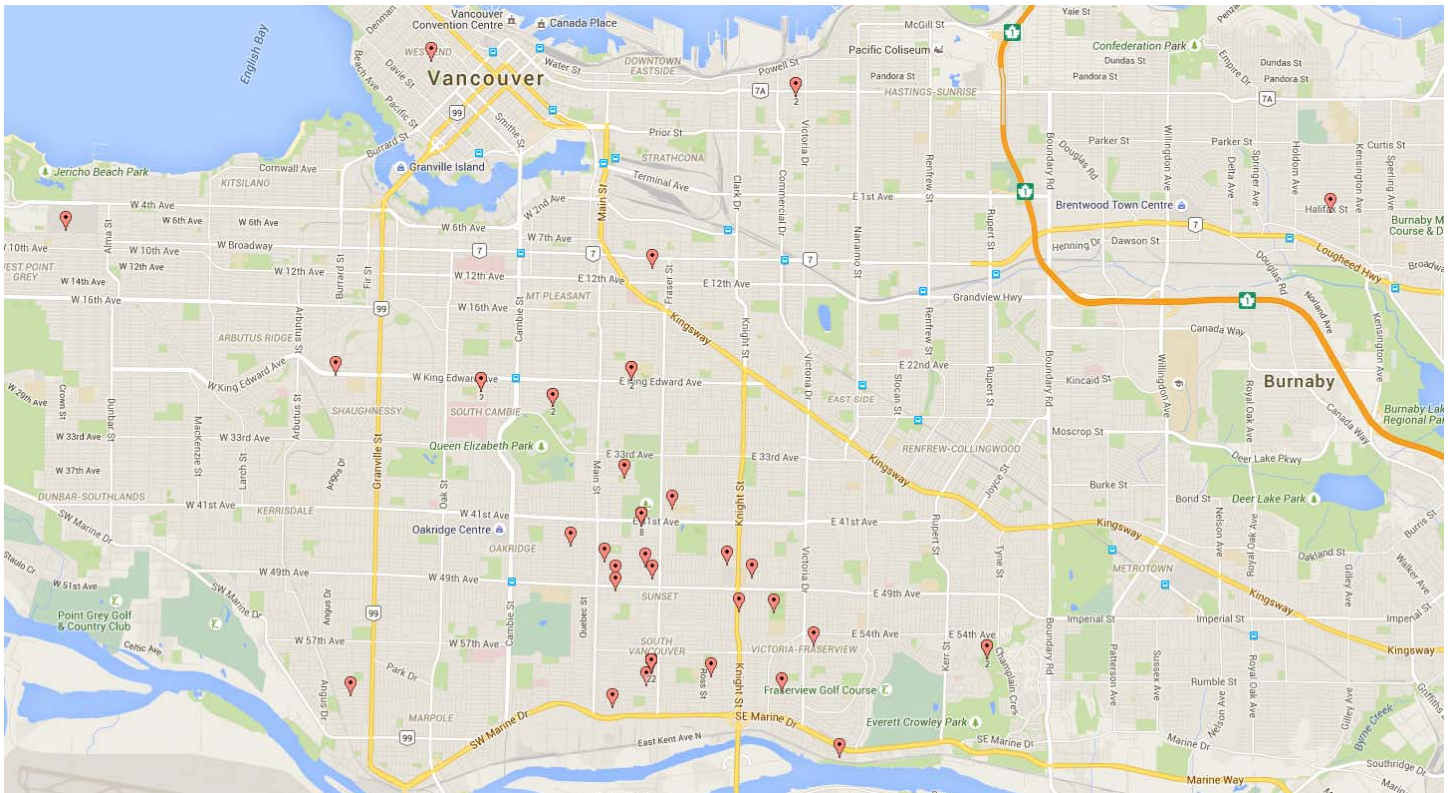
- Respondents from all age ranges were represented, with the greatest proportion (just over a quarter) being 30 to 49 years of age. Those under the age of 19 and those 70 years of age were less well represented.
- Just over a third of respondents had children under the age of 18 in their home.
- The map on the following page illustrates respondents' location based on their home postal code.



Consultation Overview



The majority of questionnaire respondents reside in south Vancouver.





Summary of Results



Current activities in Sunset Park

- The most popular activities in the park were visiting the Sunset Community Centre, or attending a special event/festival (identified by half of respondents). Other common activities include passing through the park, visiting the playground, relaxing, and visiting the ice rink.

Sunset Park Likes and Concerns

- Respondents enjoyed many different aspects of Sunset Park, but some common themes were enjoyment of the community centre, enjoyment of the green space and its openness, as well as the ice rink. People also like relaxing and walking at the site.
- Respondents identified some issues and challenges for the park. The most common were not have a swimming pool, lack of shade and seating areas, desire for a skate park, issues with the community centre facilities/ programming and a need for better use of the green space.

Importance of Future Activities in Sunset Park

- Respondents saw the key role of the park as a place for children to play, with 94% saying it was “very” or “somewhat” important. They also thought it was important for the park to be a destination for community events (89%), and a park with natural areas (87%).
- Other important future uses of the park for respondents included a skate park, swimming pool, track, and features that would bring the community together such as picnic areas and cooking space.



Summary of Results



Concept Design Likes and Concerns

- Respondents viewed many aspects of the design positively. The most well-liked features were the skate park, naturalized areas, stream/rain garden feature, and that overall; the design had something for everyone.
- Some common concerns about the design emerged. Some were related to the skate park –it was opposition in some cases, or support but concern about its planning and implementation. Other common concerns were dogs and the dog-off leash area, and the lack of a swimming pool.

Importance of Park Elements in Concept Design

- The elements of the concept design most important to respondents were the paths and seating (84% said it was important) and the children’s playground renewal (83%).

Support for Partial Closure of Prince Edward Street

- The majority of respondents were in favour of the partial closure, with almost two-thirds supporting it (61%), and only 15% opposed.
- In comments, overall support for the partial closure, concerns about negative traffic implications and alternate options to the closure were expressed.

Support for Skate Park

- Similarly, the majority of respondents were in favour of the skate park, with almost two-thirds supporting it (64%) and only 19% opposed.
- Respondents’ comments included mentions of the positive impact of a skate park for youth, concerns about disruption to the neighbourhood and implementation.

General Comments

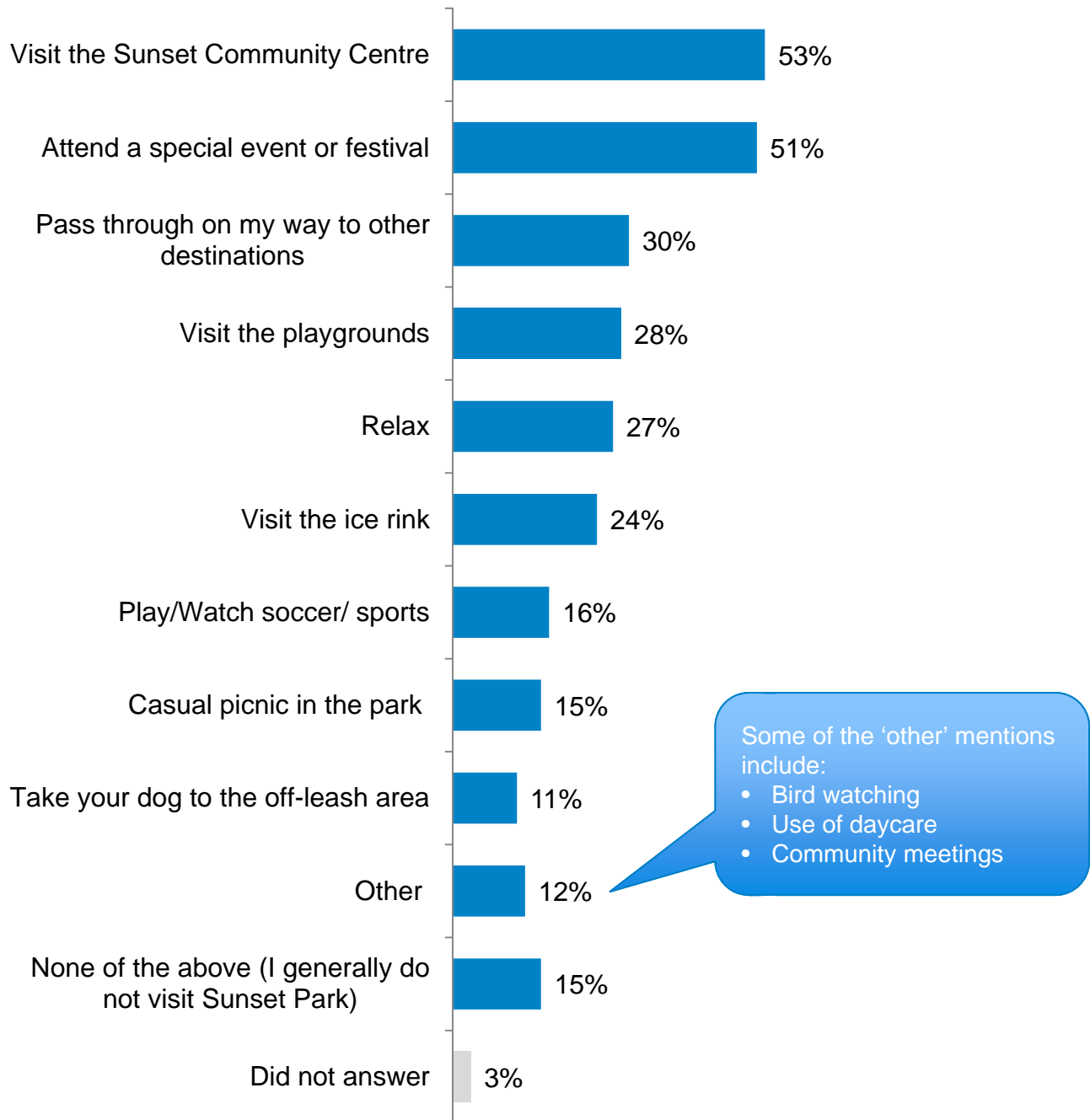
- General comments covered a range of topics, but two common themes were the desire for a pool/water activities, and improved programming at the community centre.



QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS



Current Activities in Sunset Park



Base: All respondents (74)

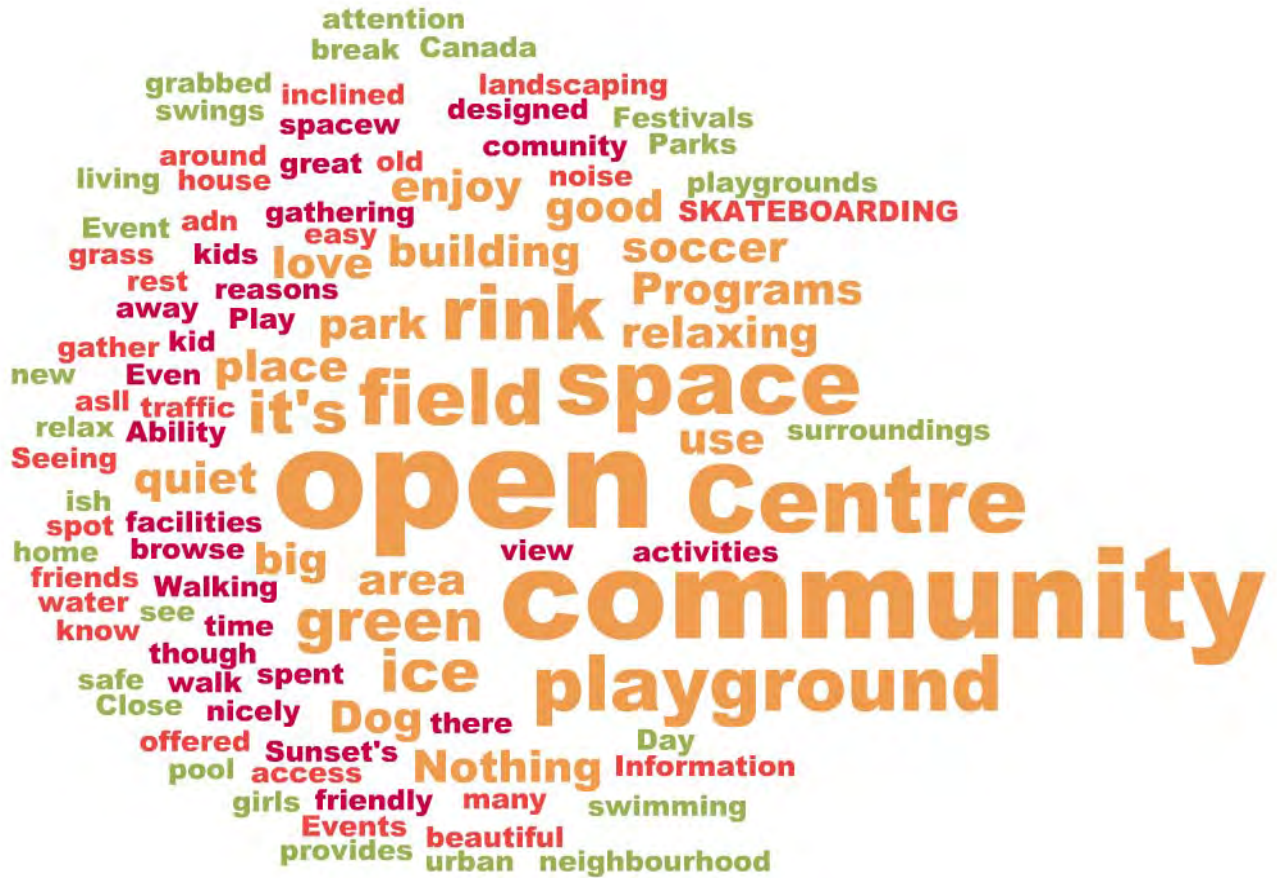
What do you do when visiting Sunset Park?



Sunset Park Likes



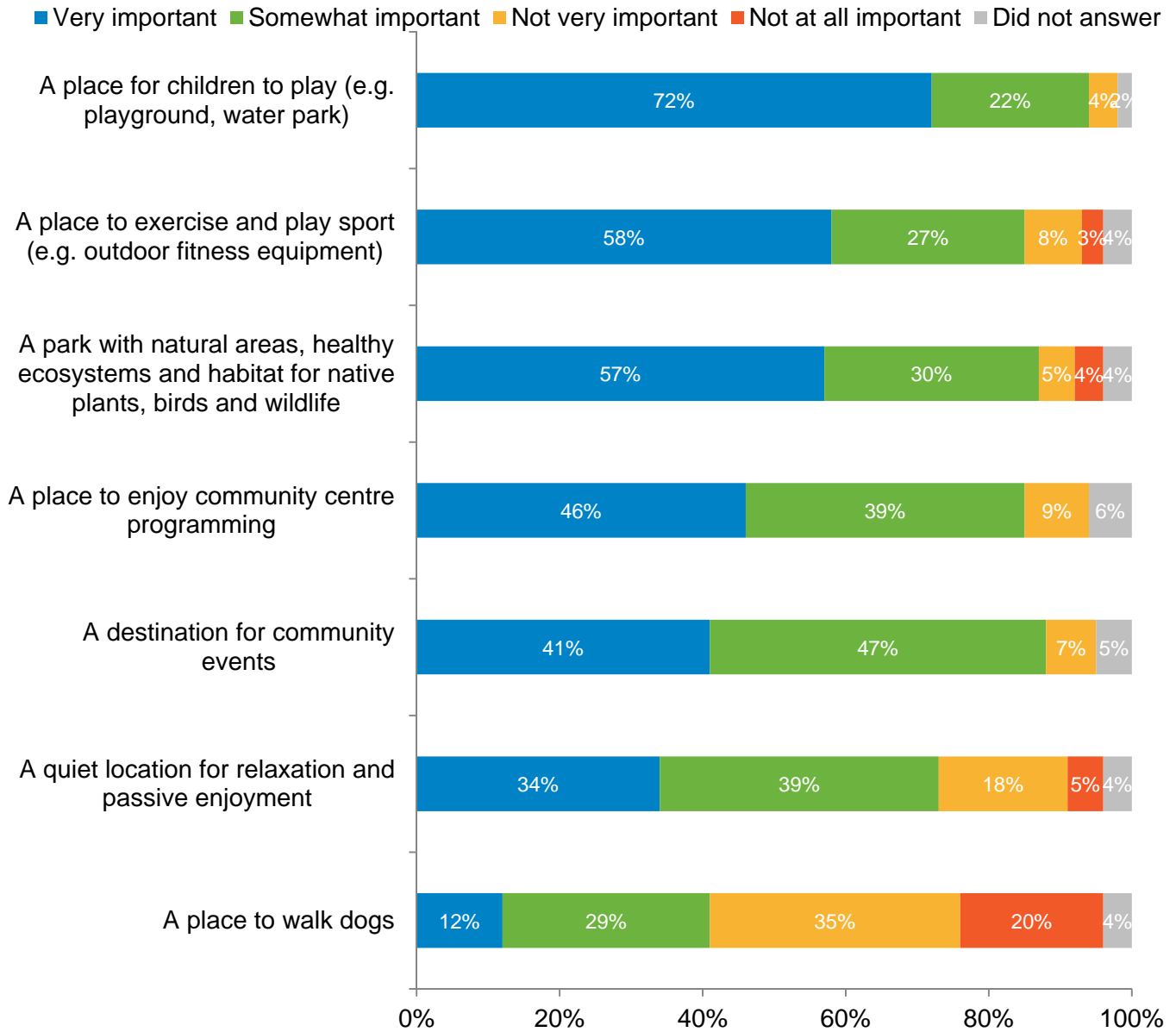
What do you enjoy most in Sunset Park today?



Base: Respondents (44)



Importance of Future Activities in Sunset Park



Base: All respondents (74)

Please indicate how important the following park uses are to you. You may use the same rating for multiple park uses, if applicable. The future Sunset Park should be:



Concept Design Likes



The following are examples of some of the responses to the question about which aspects of the concept design were a positive change or feature.

“Very happy to see multiple facilities for children and teens- playground, skatepark, slides etc. included in the proposed concept.”

“The stream feature is innovative. Re-arrangement of some of the space is nice.”

“Love the community gardens, stream feature, closing of Prince Edward!!!”

“The skateboard park stands out as a very positive addition to the park that will benefit the youth of the community for years to come!”

“Love the naturalized areas as well as the skateboard park. Something for everyone!.”

“It seems to offer something for everyone”.

“I really like the naturalized forest, stream/rain garden feature, and the informal play meadow.”

“I’m especially excited about the road closure and the creation of a bike path on Prince Edward. The fenced dog park and natural forest and meadow are wonderful.”

Base: Respondents (57)

What do you like about this concept design – what stands out for you as a positive change or feature?



Concept Design Concerns



The following are examples of some of the responses to the question about aspects of the concept design respondents found concerning.

“Assigning space for community gardens. Who gets priority? For how long do you have a garden in the community garden zone?”

“The closing of Prince Edward St. should be well-thought out and more input (needed) from the community. Consideration for swimming pool -re-installation.”

“Skatepark area is small and should be designed for many users at the same time.”

“On no account should there be an off-leash dog area ... too many irresponsible owners and detracts from the other natural wildlife (bird) values as well as a risk to kids/other users.”

“Long term maintenance costs/changes, proper construction. Taking various bids from local contractors.”

“No swimming pool and a small kids playground, too much forest area for kids to play”

“No skate park- too close to residents in area - Will go ALL night - Poor spot at corner, bus stop, etc.”

“Very concerned about the interaction of children and dogs, the dog park must be fenced! “

Base: Respondents (42)

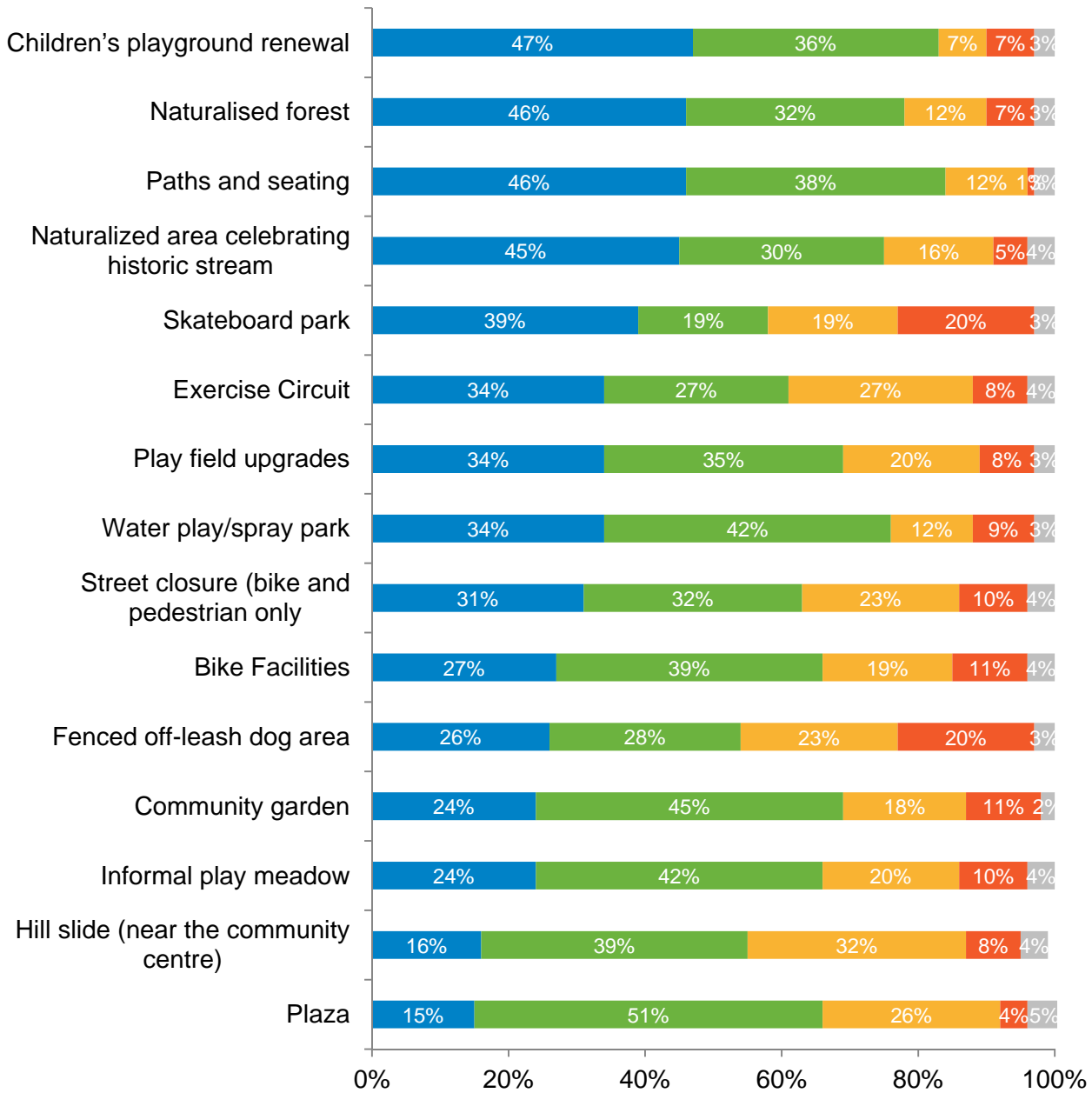
What concerns you, if anything, about this concept design?



Importance of Park Elements in Concept Design



■ Very important ■ Somewhat important ■ Not very important ■ Not at all important ■ Did not answer

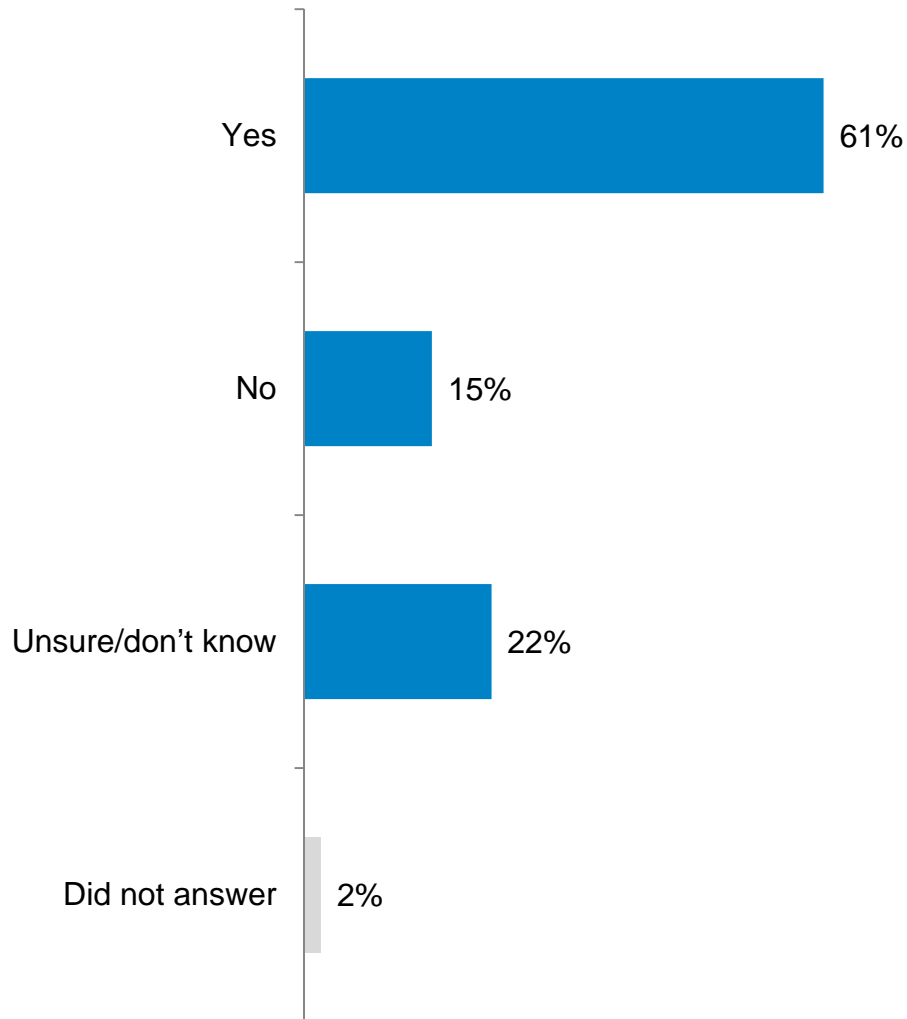


Base: All respondents (74)

Please rate how important the following park features are to include in the renewed Sunset Park.



Support for Closure of Prince Edward Street (between 51st & 53rd)



Base: All respondents (74)

Do you support closing the southern portion of Prince Edward Street to vehicle traffic as it passes through Sunset Park?



Additional Comments – Closure of Prince Edward Street (between 51st & 53rd)



The following are examples of some of the comments received about the partial closure of Prince Edward Street.

“Further study is needed. All the parks need to be presented to the community and a decision made.”

“The streets are very long and we would add to the traffic problems. Would make accessing Ice rink very difficult and major parking problem for residents.”

“Great idea! This should happen in more neighbourhoods near parks in the city.”

“I would prefer spending money on speed bumps to control traffic. They have been proven to be better at controlling traffic than roundabouts and are much less expensive.”

“Since it sit's between the school and park I think it's a great idea.”

“I feel strongly that this is essential to making the proposed changes successful.”

“It shouldn't be closed. A street closed means more traffic on other streets. Especially when Prince Ed. isn't a bike route.”

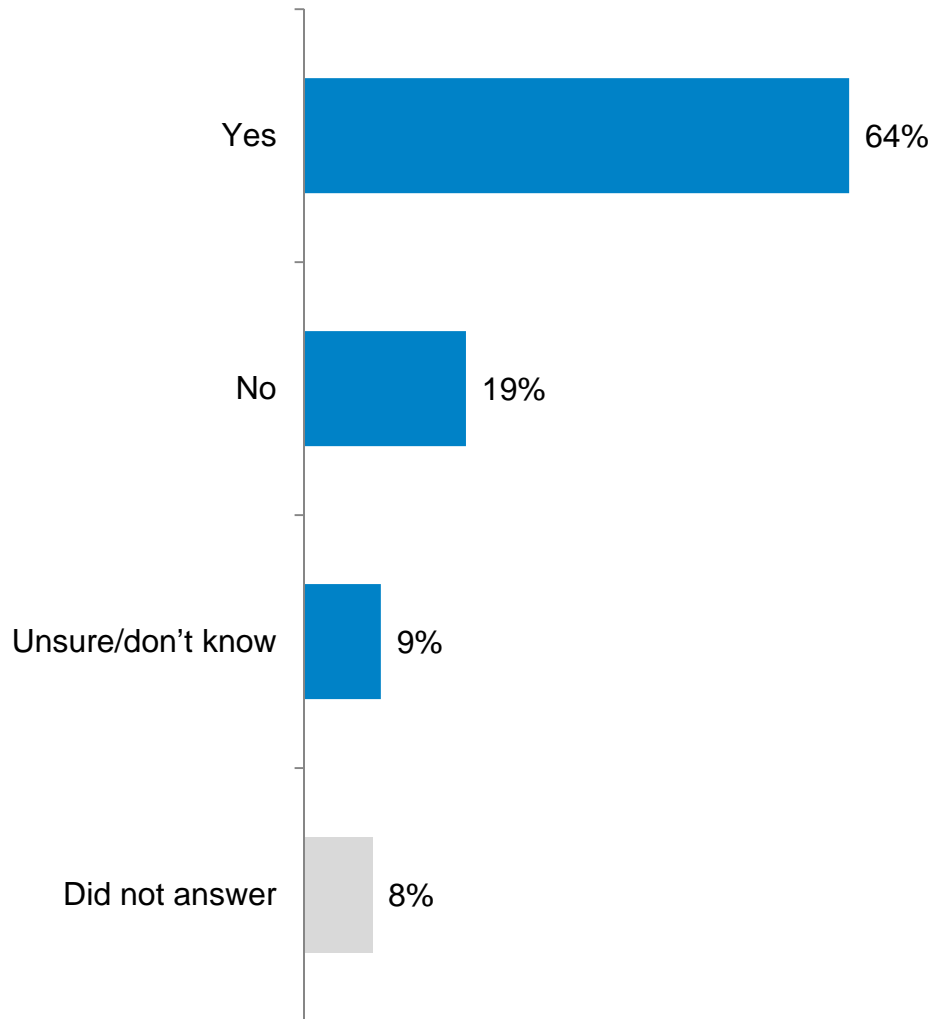
“Make it a one-lane street so some cars can use it slowly.”

Base: Respondents (30)

Do you have any additional comments about closing a portion of Prince Edward Street?



Support for Skate Park



Base: All respondents (74)

Do you support the inclusion of a skateboarding area in the northwest corner as part of the master plan?



Additional Comments – Skate Park



The following are examples of some of the comments received about the proposed skate park.

“I feel it is important to having seating and a common area available for the users as well as a safe open area for spectators. These parks tend to contribute to the surrounding area best when the general public is able easily watch and interact with the users in the skatepark. No big fence please. It just works to isolate the skateboarders from the rest of the park users.”

“Kids grow out of skate parks, it should be for generations to come, skate boarding comes and goes as a sport and is not an overly popular sport.”

“Will cause trouble and noise ...no no no we dont need this.”

“If it will be used, ok; if it becomes a gathering place of rowdy kids, definitely not.”

“Be sure to consult the local community and Vancouver's skateboard community when designing the skatepark. The most loved/used skateparks are ones that accommodate multiple levels of experience from beginner to advanced.”

“I like the location of it, with the ball court next to it. These are important to have, but can be disruptive to other users to enjoy a park.”

“Important for teens but male dominated...more inclusive gender space for teens would be good.”

“Need more places like this for youth to spend time. Lots of areas for children and adults, but what about the teens?”

Base: All respondents (43)

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed skate park?



General Comments



The following are some examples of the general comments received about the Sunset Park Master Plan.

“We need a water/spray park 100% the pool was closed and there is no replacement .In light of drought problems the we are having ,a water park would benefit kids who have been shut out of neighbourhood summer pools cause of water restrictions. Use this chance to build a water park that the kids need and would use during HOT weather.”

“Yes, there is a need for revisiting the programs and activities here to increase the traffic and use of facilities here.”

“Important: community centres like other communities have. Pool, exercise rom, tennis table, etc.”

“No word of a swimming pool or expanding fitness center hours?”

“Benches in shade, more large trees, involvement of Henderson PAC in community garden ,fruit trees, blueberries ,wild flowers ...naturalize this park.”

“The majority of team youth sports are declining in enrollment, skateboarding just keeps getting bigger every year and unlike team sports it is unisex, has low entry cost as well as growing field of proffesional, many of whom are from Vancouver.”

“Fruit trees & sustainable food production - Storm water infiltration systems with growing areas - Integrate swales & growing hills with natural irrigation and have tours & education for kids and the school. Knowledge of nature by kids is severely lacking.”

Base: Respondents (25)

Did we miss anything important to you? Do you have anything further to add to what we've heard so far?



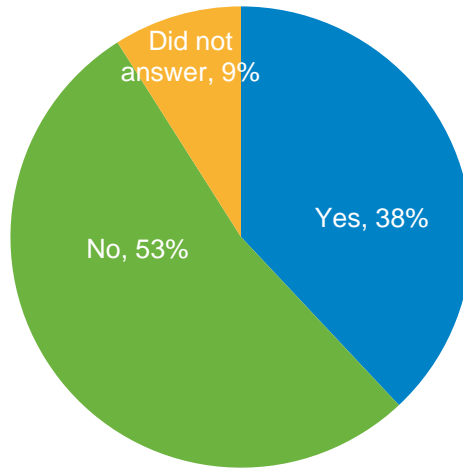
DEMOGRAPHICS



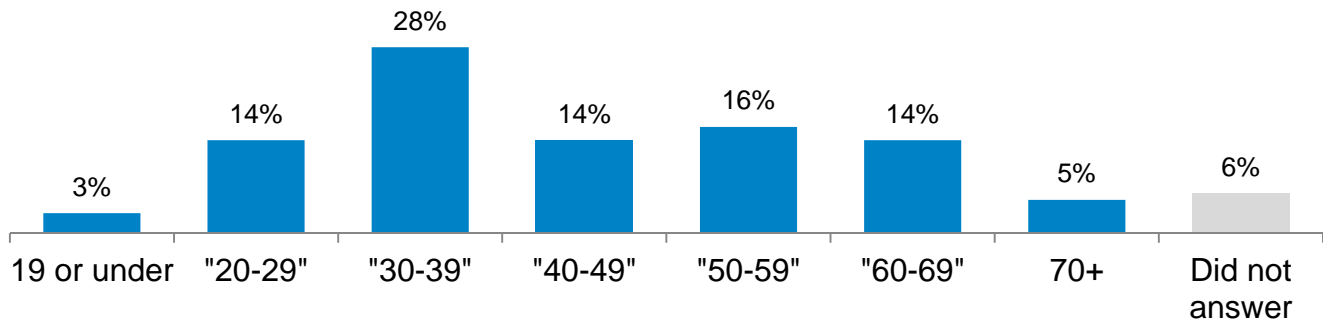
Demographics



Children in Household Under 18



Age



Base: All respondents (74)

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

What age group do you fall into?