

Central Park Master Plan

What We Heard Report

Phase 1: Public Engagement

December 20, 2024



Land Acknowledgement

The City of Burnaby is located on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ and Sḵwxwú7mesh Sníchim speaking peoples. We are grateful for the opportunity to be on this territory.

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Introduction

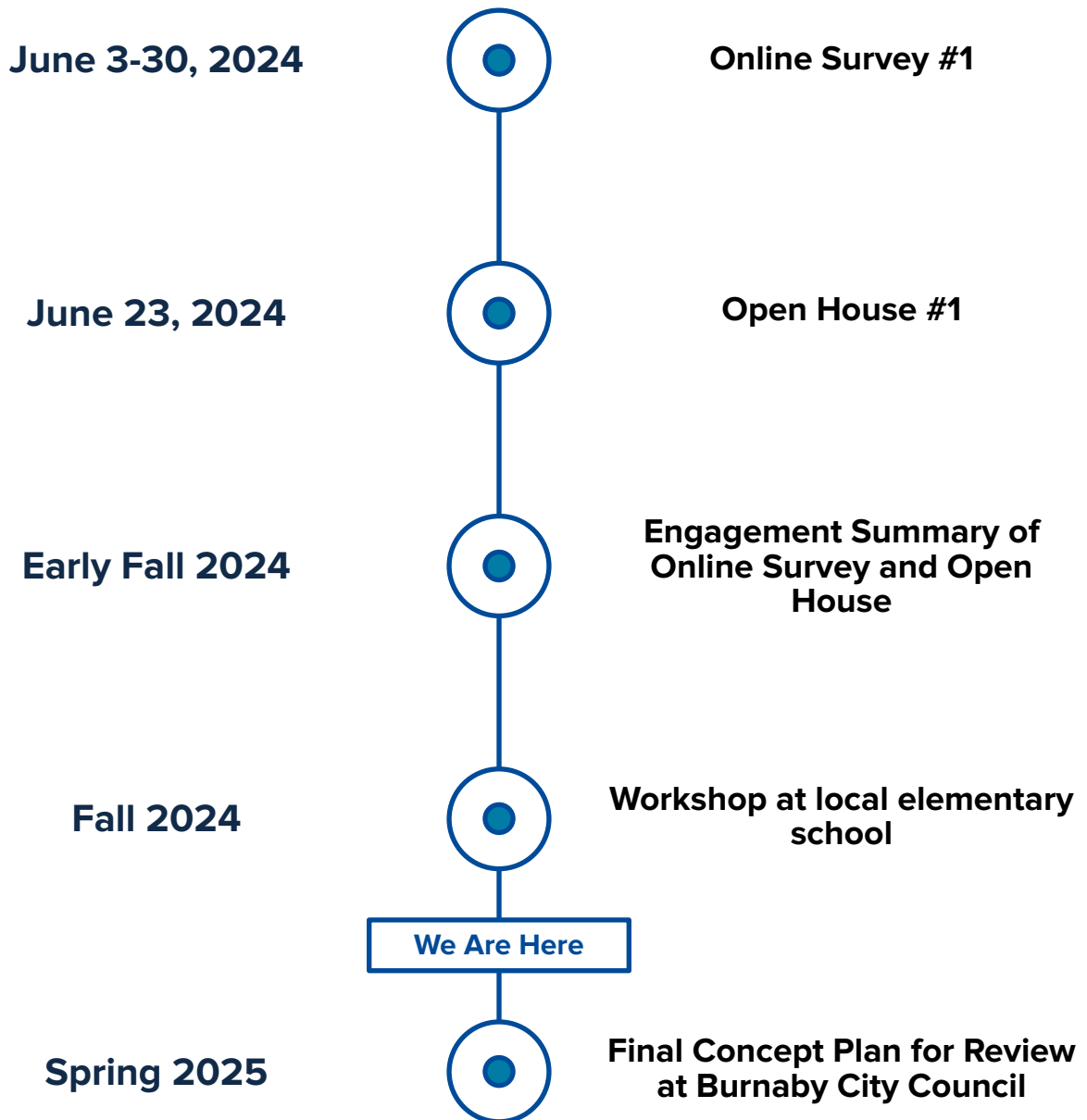
Central Park is located on the western edge of Burnaby and is bounded by Boundary Road, Imperial Street, Patterson Avenue and Kingsway. It is served by Patterson Station. This document provides a summary of engagement work thus far on a proposed playground and redesign for the space east of Inman Road access including the Jubilee Grove Arch and Central Park baseball field.



An aerial view showing the boundaries of Phase 1 design work.

Engagement Timeline

For Central Park Phase 1, the City of Burnaby's goal is to inform residents and affected parties about the progression of the design, and to consult on key priorities so these can be incorporated into the final schematic design.



Open House

On Sunday, June 23, 2024 between 2-7 pm, City of Burnaby staff and consultants from VDZ+A held an outdoor open house at Patterson SkyTrain Station. The turnout was fantastic, and the weather was perfect for engaging with the community. During the event valuable feedback was gathered from attendees. A summary is provided below and on the next page of this document.



209 people attended



Overall support for park upgrades



Top concerns were noise, lighting and traffic



Public Feedback

Design Action

Preserve existing trees and increase green space	Retain all significant trees and create large open lawn
Improve accessibility	Create accessible path network and focus on playground accessibility
Need for covered space	Include both flexible and permanent covered space in design
Need for restrooms	Build new restrooms and concession building
Desire for an enclosed dog park	Consider dog park for BC Parkway design
Playground noise and lighting concerns	Orient playground westward and increase screening to Patterson Ave.
Increased traffic on local roads	Promote access by bicycle and transit
Safety and maintenance concerns	Create clear sight lines and lighting. Universal restrooms only

Online Survey

An online survey featured open-ended, multiple-choice and ranking questions. This survey was promoted to residents through on-site signage and direct mail.

Age



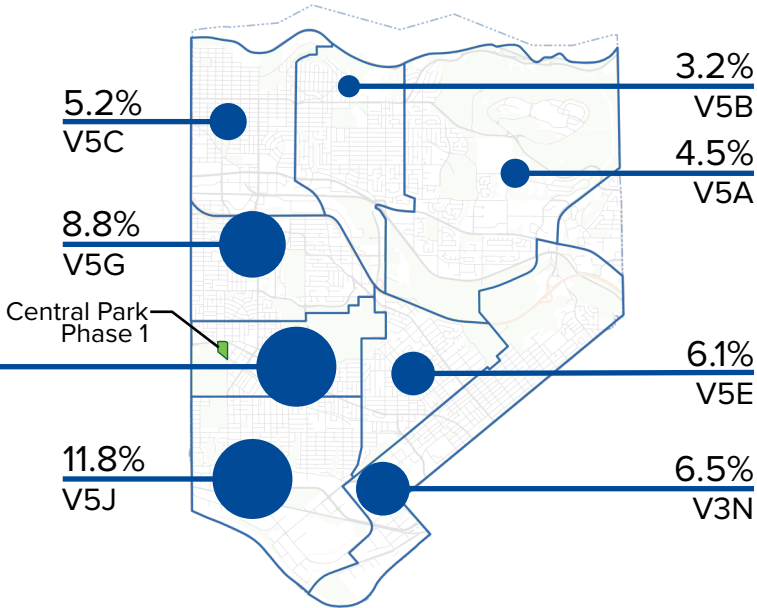
27.2%
35 to 44

- 24.5% 25 to 35 years
- 16.3% 45 to 54 years
- 18.8% 55 to 64 years
- 9.9% 65 years and over
- 4.6% 18 to 24 years
- 2.9% Prefer not to say
- 0.9% Under 18 years

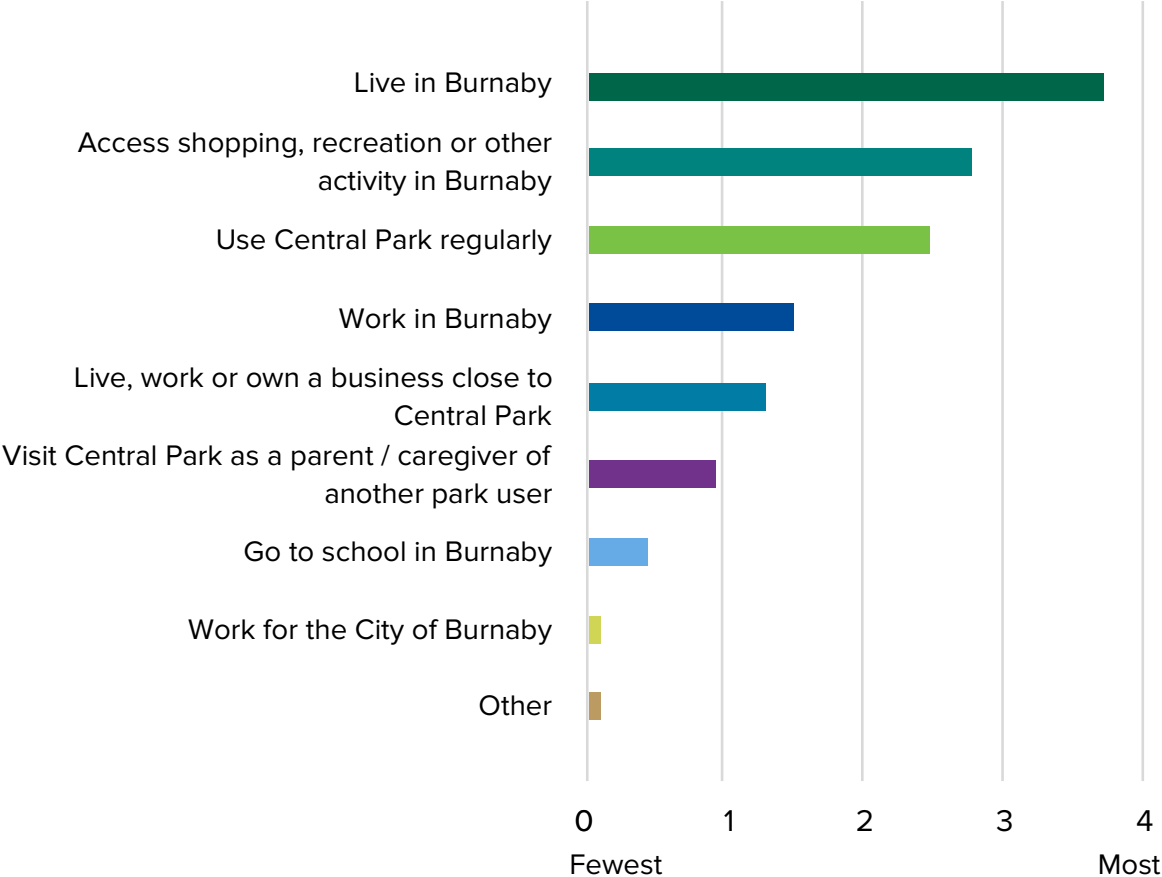
Primary Residence



38.5%
V5H



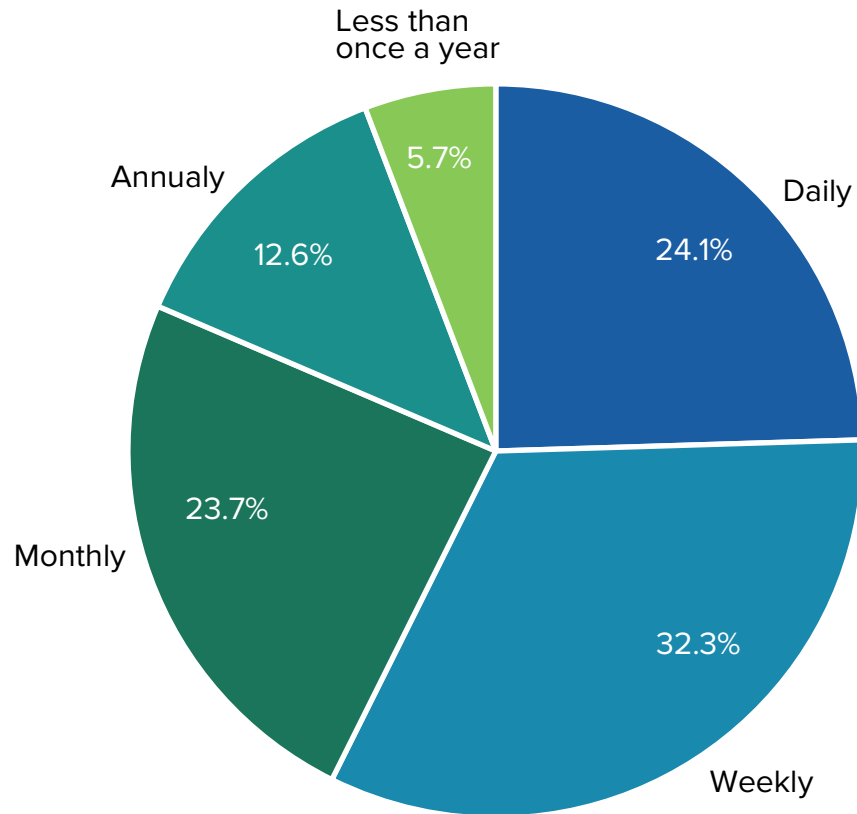
Relationship to Central Park and Burnaby



Key Takeaways

- » The majority of survey respondents live close to Central Park
- » Nearby activities and amenities are a major draw for users of Central Park. Proximity to Metrotown is a factor in why people come to the area
- » Older demographics were more likely to take the online survey

How Often Do You Visit Central Park?

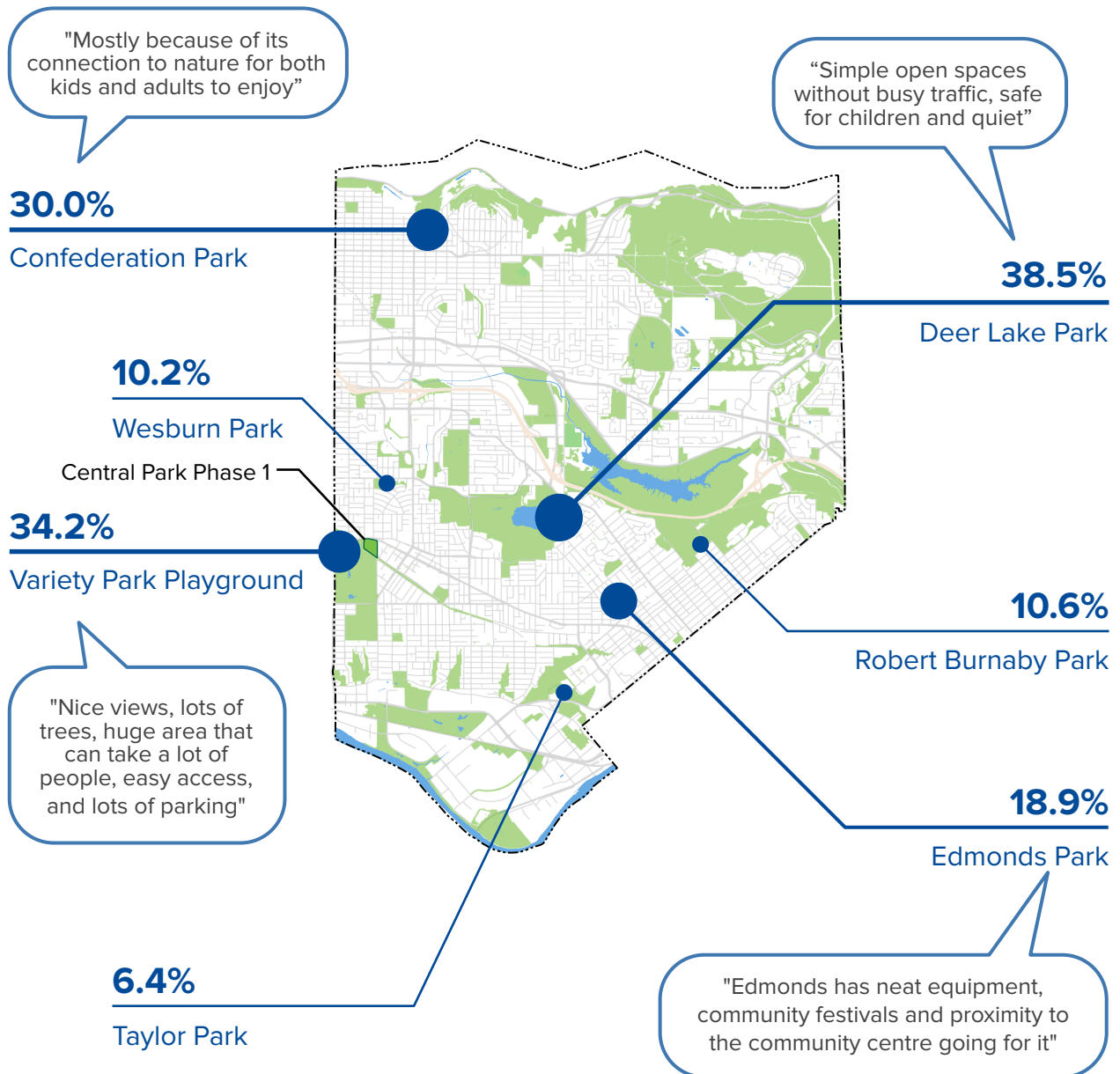


Key Takeaways

- » A majority of respondents use Central Park regularly
- » Those living nearby are most likely to spend time in Central Park
- » Visitors from other parts of Burnaby and the Lower Mainland also visit Central Park but do so less frequently

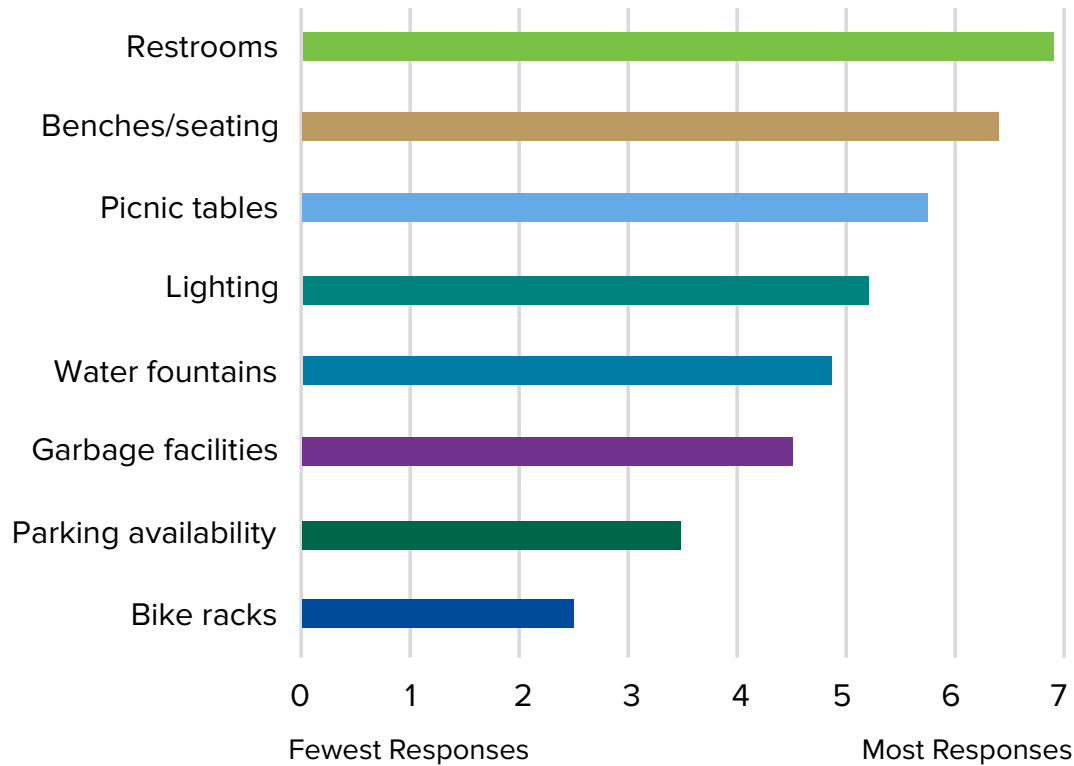
Favourite Playgrounds in Burnaby

Where are your favourite playgrounds in Burnaby? (choose up to three)



Desired Features and Amenities

What amenities/features would improve your experience at Central Park (check all that apply)?

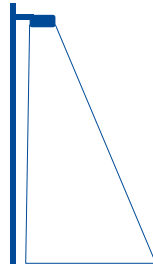


Key Takeaways

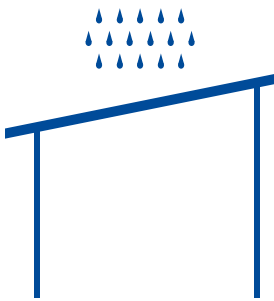
- » Clean and safe restrooms are a priority for respondents and would improve accessibility in the park
- » Seating options like picnic tables and benches are important to park users
- » Lighting would help improve nighttime access and safety, especially in the winter
- » Providing more bike racks would help improve access to Central Park and to draw in cyclists from nearby parts of the cycling network

Here's what we heard about desired features and amenities:

“More undercover spots would be good. Especially during the off seasons when you still want to go to the park but don't want to stand in the rain.”



“More trees, more green! We all live in apartments, so the green space is incredibly valuable to everyone that lives in Burnaby.”

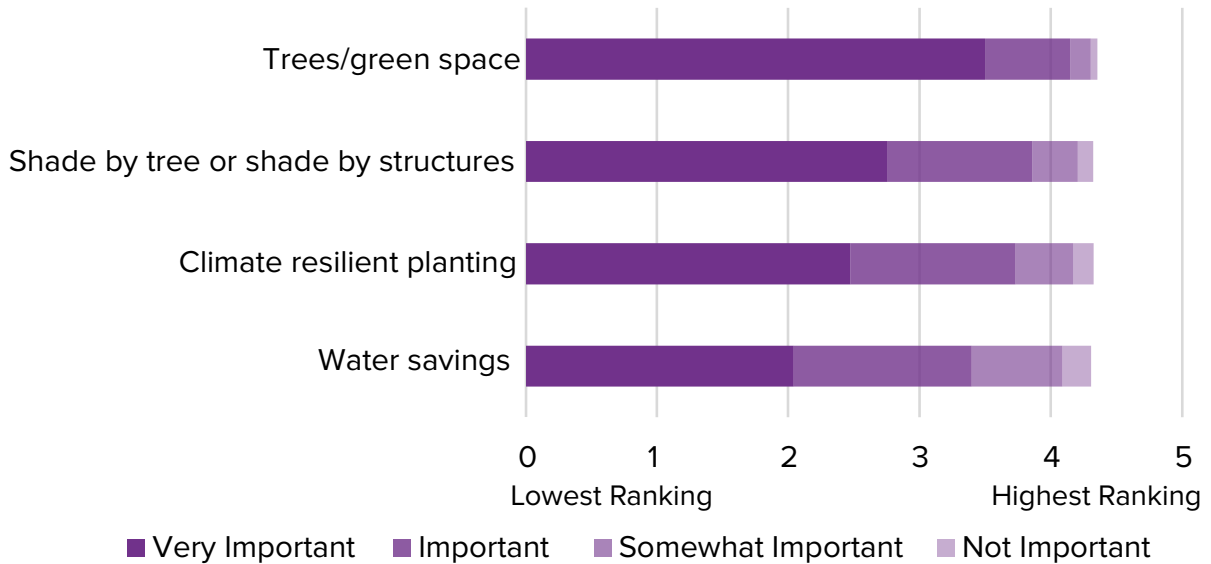


“Lighting along the path for walking is rather important for safety to all ages.”



Climate Action Priorities

How important are each of the following climate action items to you when it comes to planning future amenities for Central Park?



Key Takeaways

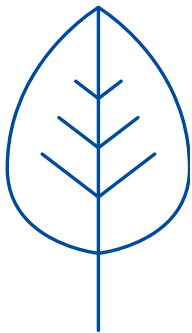
- » Trees and green space were the highest priorities for climate action according to respondents
- » People are interested in having options for shade and want to be able to go outside even as summer days get hotter

Here's what we heard about climate action priorities:

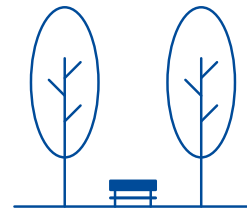
“Deciduous trees that provide an umbrella like growth canopy for shade in summer activities and allow more sunny areas in colder months.”



“Not building anything else. Too much concrete already. Green spaces are what we need, less parking and more park.”

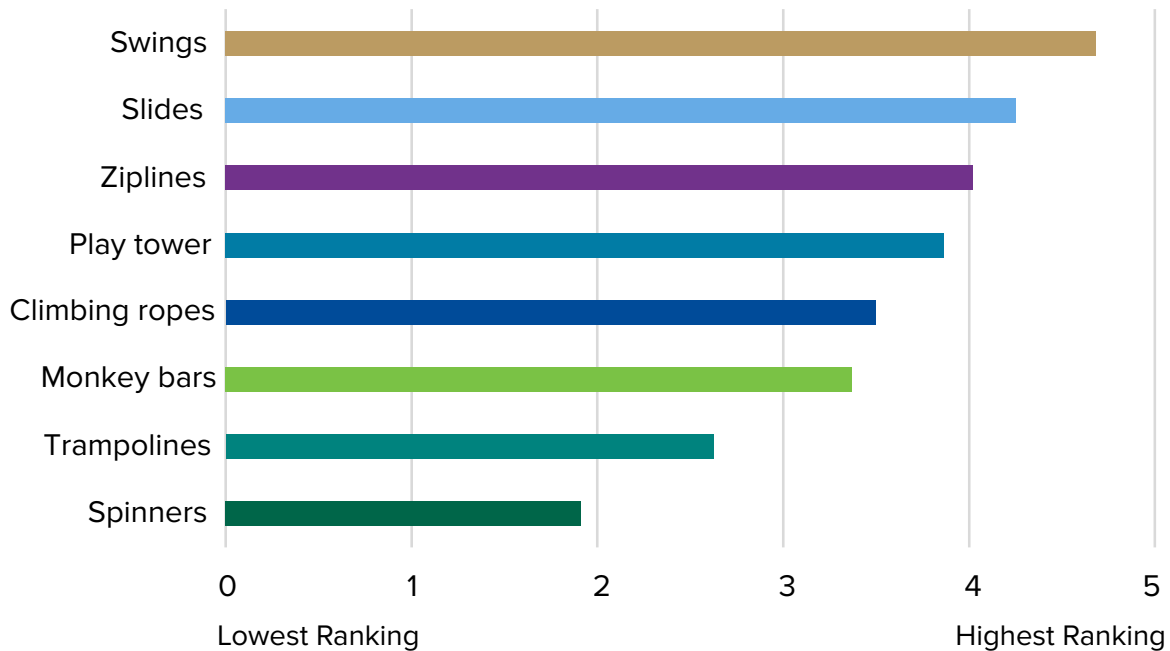


“Biodiversity and protection of native species; providing cool shady spaces for people during hot weather events.”



Most Desired Playground Features

Please rank the features you would like to see most in the new playground.



Key Takeaways

- » Swings, slides and zip lines are the most popular playground items
- » A feature play tower was also popular with respondents
- » Under the “Other” category, sand and water play, and accessible play were popular responses

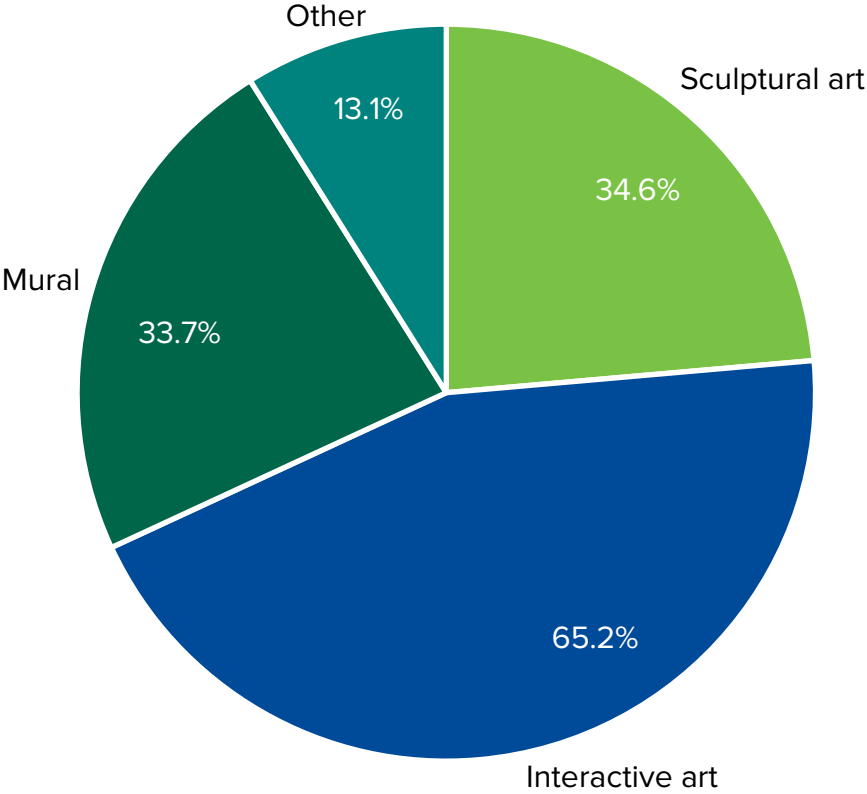
Here's what we heard about desired playground features:



“Ensuring a ramp for accessible friendly access and maybe a ‘slow play’ area designed for less intense activities different to a traditional children's playground.”

Public Art

What kinds of public art would you like to see integrated in Central Park? (Check all examples that apply)



Key Takeaways

- » Interactive art is the most popular type of public art
- » The other responses indicate that there are many forms public art can take, and respondents are interested in innovative ways to incorporate public art into spaces

Here's what we heard about public art:



“Incorporating Indigenous art from communities whose traditional territories the parks reside on.”

“More of the greenery/ sculptures done by the fantastic floral and gardening team. The green sculptures change regularly keeping interest and can be themed for seasonal or holiday use.”

Playground Accessibility

How can we make the new playground more accessible and welcoming for persons with disabilities?

Here's what we heard about playground accessibility:

Tactile Signage
Accessible Equipment
Accessible Restrooms
Sensory Play
Paved Paths
Ramps
Quiet Areas
Accessible Parking
Accessible Seating
Ground Level Play

Key Takeaways

- » Respondents are interested in even surfacing and ground-level play that provides opportunities for kids who use mobility aids to participate in play
- » The importance of quieter spaces and rest areas for kids as well as their parents and guardians was a common response
- » A desire for a wider variety of play opportunities including storytelling, crafts and sensory activities was expressed by respondents

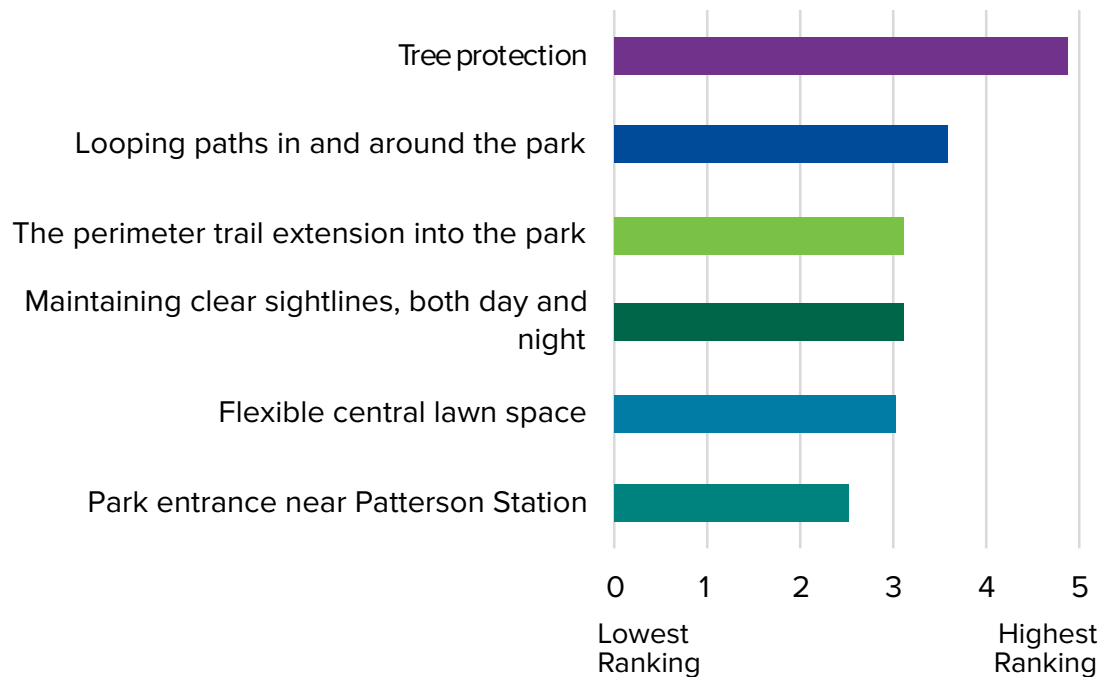
“Barrier free, softer ground material. Ramps, elevated walkways, bridges connecting to playground elements (towers, slides) so that children, grandparents, wheelchair users, strollers can all access more of the playground.”

“Incorporate accessible equipment into the main design, not as a separate/parallel structure. Hold meetings with member of the community (there are various groups available as well as individuals), ask them what they would like/feel would work.”



Layout Principles

Please rank how important each of the following layout principles are to you when it comes to planning Central Park.

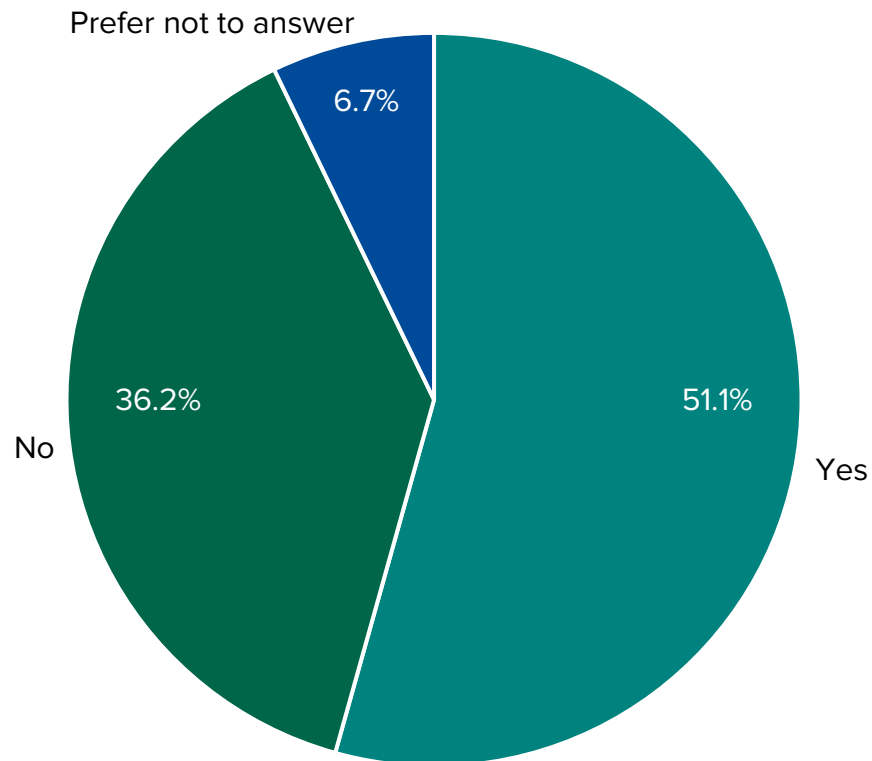


Key Takeaways

- » Existing trees in Central Park are highly valued and their retention is the top priority for respondents
- » Respondents are interested in looping paths and options for how to move through the park
- » Extending and connecting existing trails into Phase 1 was the third priority
- » A main entrance off Patterson Station was the lowest priority for respondents

Playground Colours and Surfacing

Are colourful play elements and surfacing in the new playground important to you?

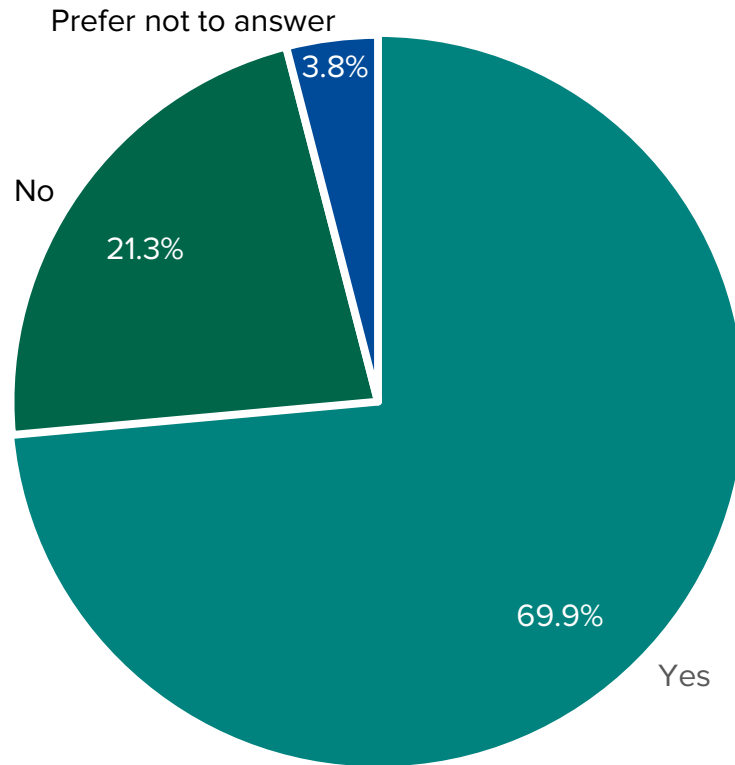


Key Takeaways

- » Only about half of respondents felt that colourful playground elements are important
- » Respondents were interested in varied and soft materials in the playground
- » Natural materials and sand play were popular responses

Playground Lighting

Is lighting in the new playground for evening use important to you?



Key Takeaways

- » Lighting is a priority for Central Park users
- » Respondents want to feel safe while using Central Park and think that improved lighting would help with that
- » Better lighting would extend and increase opportunities for use during the winter months

Final Thoughts

This section discusses common themes that were mentioned throughout the survey in long answer questions. Below are quotations from survey respondents.

Baseball

“Keep the baseball field. We only have 2 in all of Burnaby for kids to use.”

“To keep the green space and the baseball court alive is very important for our community, because the population is rapidly growing now. No more extra green space can be found and no more space for new baseball courts can be built for baseball lovers and youth in Burnaby.”

“Please keep the baseball field. We love playing on this field. Please add lighting for night games/practices. We like the fences and being able to use this field. The open space you can add playgrounds and etc closer to the SkyTrain. But we love this baseball field.”



Dogs

“Instead of a playground, why not dog park paddocks for off leash use, or a designated space for the cricket players who show up more often than the baseball players, or more floral and greenery for the local residents to stroll through and enjoy some peace along a very busy street and SkyTrain.”

“Make it a dog friendly park with fenced areas for large or small breeds. Our pets are family too.”

“Many families with young kids have dogs as well. A closed in area to keep an eye on both or integrate both would be nice.”

“Lots of dogs get walked in Central Park. It would be nice for it to have a dog park like Burnaby Foreshore and Confederation Park.”



Noise

“Directly involve disabled people and/or a consultant in the design. Consider how you can provide calm and quiet for people who want a break from the noisy city.”

“Build a noise barrier along the SkyTrain track near the current baseball park area - Please reduce the noise pollution from the SkyTrain. The loud noise from the trains is very disturbing and diminishes our enjoyment of the park. A noise barrier would definitely improve our experience in the park.”

“The Kingsway traffic noise is unpleasant. adding trees & berms or adding decorative highway noise barrier walls/ murals might help.”

“The high pitched noise at the existing playground is pretty bad for noise-sensitive kids. Should be avoided. Natural sand and water play is great.”



Water/Splash Park

“Waterplay, sufficient seating for parents surrounding playground, drinking fountain, tree coverage, rubberized flooring in play area, add colors to design, varied terrain, bathrooms. playhouse. Please have proper playground designer involve to make it fun for different kid age groups.”

“I think water areas are nice, even something small like a single standing sprayer or a user (child) controlled angled water jet. This helps kids keep cool and play longer.”

“A water park using recycled water, a maze, logs/ stumps and large boulders for children to climb.”



Bikes and E-Mobility

“A separated bike route connecting Inman Ave and Patterson Station.”

“Futuristic transportation facilities like electric charger stations, rental bikes, and electric scooters.”

“Provide wooden pathway around the lake. Continue to widen the hiking trail within the park and separate the bike lane from the pedestrian pathway.”

“Safe transportation routes for active transportation such as cycling or walking. Reduction of cars in and around the park to improve noise, air quality, and safety (and emissions).”



Safety

“Improve safety in the early morning/evening hours and after dark.”

“Overall safety in park most important. Improved by lighting around park and cameras.”

“There are parts of Central Park that are overgrown and blocked from view of trails. Please consider cutting back the brush regularly to increase safety and visibility. Also, please consider having more bike and/or foot police patrols year round in the park.”

“Safety is most important. I would like to see plenty of lights around the park along the trails and playgrounds.”



Next Steps

Respondent feedback in addition to design best practices, amenities elsewhere in the neighbourhood and existing policy guidelines for parks will inform the final design of the new park.

Park construction is scheduled to begin in 2025.



