

Calgary



October 2025

Killarney Summer Park

What We Heard Report

Prepared by The City of Calgary
Engage Resource Unit



Project Summary

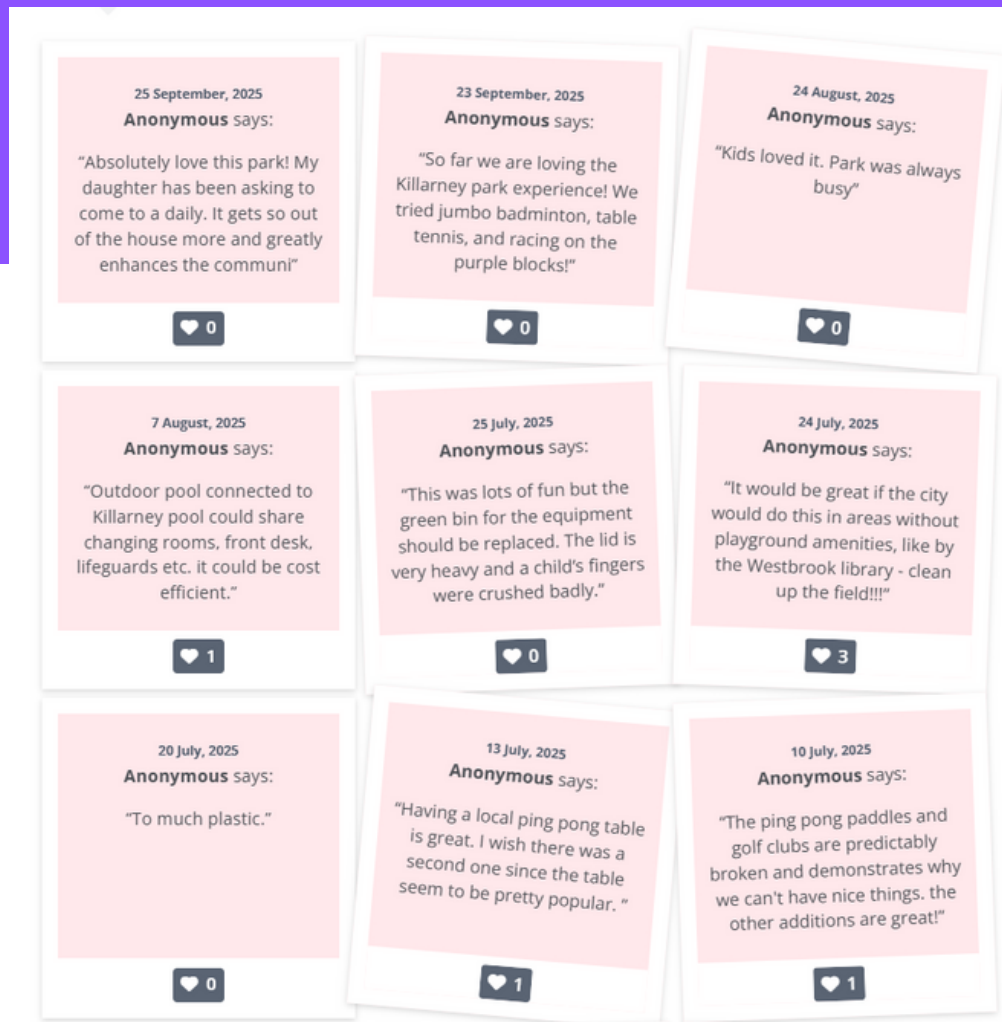
We worked with the Killarney Glengarry Community Association to build a temporary pop-up park for the Summer of 2025, with new games, art and seating for the community to enjoy. The pop-up park was located just south of the Killarney Aquatic & Recreation Centre on 19 Avenue between 29 and 30 Street SW.

The Westbrook Communities Local Area Plan wants “to ensure that residents of the Westbrook Communities have equitable access to a wide variety of public spaces that serve not only active and passive recreation needs for all ages and abilities through all seasons but also enhance environmental quality.”

The temporary Killarney Summer Park Pilot Project responded to this objective to provide new opportunities for playing, socializing, relaxing, and gathering in the Killarney neighbourhood.

The park was funded from the Local Area Investment Fund (LAIF) and was a collaboration with the City's PlayBins in the Park Program.





Engagement Overview

Killarney Summer Park opened on June 19, 2025. An online engagement page was used to collect public feedback about participants' experiences in the pop-up park. QR codes on the park furniture along with signage directed people to the online page. Postcards were delivered to adjacent neighbours, the Killarney-Glengarry Community Association and the Killarney Aquatic Center.

Feedback was collected from the opening of the park on June 19, 2025 until it closed on October 16, 2025. There were 2,154 views of the page, and 44 photo or comment submissions with memories, photos or comments about the park experience.



2,154 

Project page views

38



Online participants

44 

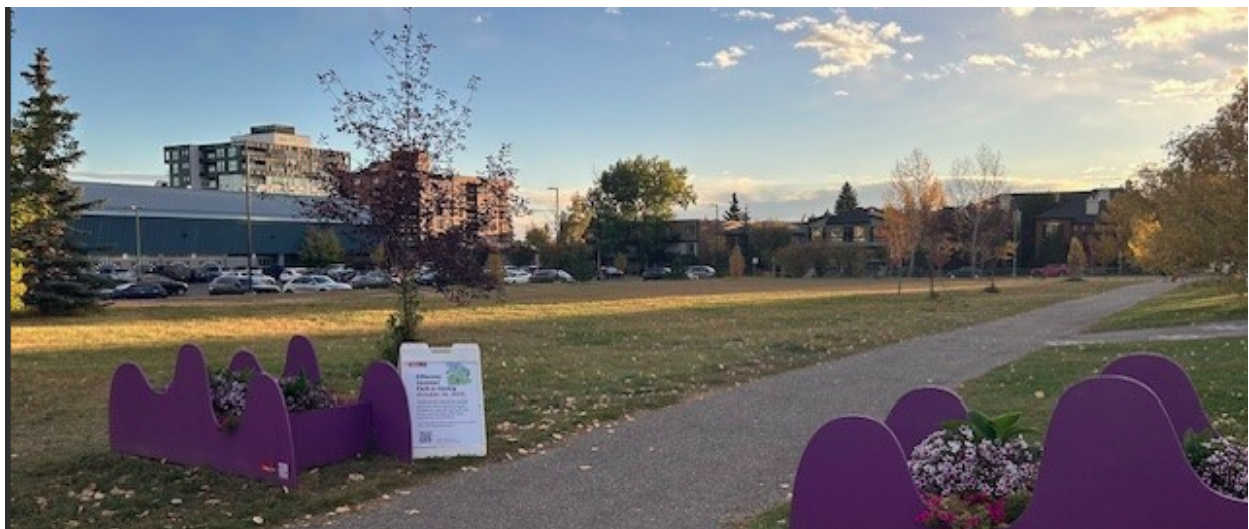
Comments and photos
shared

Project Communications

To introduce the Killarney Summer Park pilot project, promote park use, and encourage engagement, communications tactics such as postcards, posters, Bold signs, and park signage were used to create public awareness. Social media promotion of the temporary park installation was conducted on Facebook, Instagram and Next Door from June 19- July 3, 2025 for two weeks, as the park opened to the community. The social media campaign performed well, achieving just over 72,000 impressions and 884 link clicks to the project page online, despite being geo-targeted to a small, localized area.

Communications toolkits were provided to the Ward 8 Councillor, to Killarney-Glengarry Community Association, and to the Killarney Aquatic and Recreation Centre to support their added promotion of the park.

To inform the community of the summer park closure in mid-October 2025, signage was updated in the park, two weeks prior to amenities being removed. Wrap-up communications were shared with the Killarney-Glengarry Community Association and the Aquatic Centre.



**“Enjoyed the outdoor
ping pong table and
obstacle boxes to do
some ninja and acro
moves!”**



Question 1: Please upload your photos of you using the park. What are you having fun doing? We want to learn how folks are using the space and who is using it.

The below themes summarize what we heard from participants.



Creative and Versatile Play

- Users appreciate the **multi-use design**—lounging, sliding, climbing, and imaginative games like “floor is lava.”
- The structures encourage **acrobatics, parkour, and ninja-style movement**, appealing to a wide age range.



Pet-Friendly Use

- The park is also being used by **dog owners** for agility and training, especially when play structures are not in use by children.



Community and Family Engagement

- Strong emphasis on **family fun** and **community connection**.
- The park is seen as a **conversation starter** and a way to **energize the neighborhood**.
- Appreciation for the **vibrant, purple design** and fun furniture.



Inclusivity and Accessibility

- Positive feedback on diverse users (cultures and ages).
- A call for **greater accessibility**, especially for children with disabilities



Popular Features

- Specific praise for **ping pong tables, obstacle boxes, and new play structures** that keep kids engaged for long periods.

Question 1: Please upload your photos of you using the park. What are you having fun doing? We want to learn how folks are using the space and who is using it.



Great Versatility

Posted by Anonymous | 10 days ago

We had a wonderful time lounging, sliding, standing, sitting. The purple was brilliant- a great contrast and noticeable from the street.



The Floor is Lava!

Posted by Anonymous | 3 months ago

Challenging themselves not to get burned by "lava".



Parquor mini artist

Posted by Anonymous | 3 months ago

Trying it out



Love it!

Posted by Anonymous | 3 months ago

What a great way to energize the park and engage the community!



Local super dog!

Posted by Anonymous | 3 months ago

Killarney park is my dog and I go to for our morning walk! When Rembrandt new play structures are open for use and there's no kiddos around, my puppy and I LOVE practicing our agility and focus jumping on the play structures and using them as an...



Love it! Awesome addition to the neighborhood

Posted by Anonymous | 3 months ago

So fun!

Question 1: Please upload your photos of you using the park. What are you having fun doing? We want to learn how folks are using the space and who is using it.



Family fun

Posted by Anonymous | 3 months ago

Super fun for everyone in the community. Love this initiative!



Ping Pong & Obstacles Park

Posted by Anonymous | 3 months ago

Enjoyed the outdoor ping pong table and obstacle boxes to do some ninja and acro moves.



Killarney summer park

Posted by Anonymous | 3 months ago

The new game and equipment in the park area have been a big hit! Kids are really enjoying it and staying engaged for a long time during the summer. Thank you team



Such a fun idea!

Posted by Anonymous | 4 months ago

This is such a neat concept. It's not even fully implemented yet and it's already been such a great conversation starter/engagement initiative for all!

Love it!

Posted by Anonymous | 3 months ago

Great idea! Nice to bring life to the park. Love the many ways these features can be used



So excited as the park is getting installed!

Posted by Anonymous | 4 months ago

The kids are loving it!

Question 2: Q: Share a written memory about the park.

The below themes summarize what we heard from participants.

Positive Experiences and Enjoyment



- **High engagement:** Many families and children are using the park daily and loving it.
- **Fun activities:** Specific mentions of ping pong, mini golf, jumbo badminton, obstacle courses, and table tennis.
- **Community building:** The park is seen as a space that fosters connection and play.
- **Convenient location:** People appreciate having these amenities close to home or near other facilities like pools and libraries.

Suggestions for Improvement



- **Equipment issues:** Broken or missing items (especially ping pong paddles and golf clubs) are a recurring issue.
- **Safety concerns:** Heavy lid on the play bin was a concern for kids' access.
- **Infrastructure ideas:** Suggestions to share resources with nearby facilities (e.g., pool), add more ping pong tables, and install permanent badminton nets.
- **Accessibility:** A request to make future installations inclusive for people with motor disabilities.

Maintenance and Respect



- **Vandalism or misuse:** Some users are disappointed by how others treat the equipment.
- **Durability concerns:** Comments like “why we can't have nice things” reflect frustration with wear and tear.
- **Too much plastic:** Environmental concerns about materials used.

Desire for Expansion



- **More locations:** Requests to bring similar setups to other areas, especially underserved ones like near Westbrook Library.
- **Permanent installations:** Some users wish the pop-up features could become permanent.

Youth Engagement



- **Appeals to older kids:** Activities like ping pong and mini golf are appreciated for engaging teens.
- **Spontaneous discovery:** Teens finding the park while biking or walking home and enjoying it.

Question 2: Share a written memory about the park.

25 September, 2025

Anonymous says:

"Absolutely love this park! My daughter has been asking to come to a daily. It gets so out of the house more and greatly enhances the communi"



23 September, 2025

Anonymous says:

"So far we are loving the Killarney park experience! We tried jumbo badminton, table tennis, and racing on the purple blocks!"



24 August, 2025

Anonymous says:

"Kids loved it. Park was always busy"



7 August, 2025

Anonymous says:

"Outdoor pool connected to Killarney pool could share changing rooms, front desk, lifeguards etc. it could be cost efficient."



25 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"This was lots of fun but the green bin for the equipment should be replaced. The lid is very heavy and a child's fingers were crushed badly."



24 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"It would be great if the city would do this in areas without playground amenities, like by the Westbrook library - clean up the field!!!"



20 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"To much plastic."



13 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"Having a local ping pong table is great. I wish there was a second one since the table seem to be pretty popular. "



10 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"The ping pong paddles and golf clubs are predictably broken and demonstrates why we can't have nice things. the other additions are great!"



Question 2: Share a written memory about the park.

9 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"Awesome addition. Love it!"



8 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"Sad that people are not treating it well. Would be great to see permanent badminton nets as well "



8 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"I think thr park is amazing. Love that there is something for older kids as well (especially ping pong and mini golf). Hope it stays"



6 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"Fantastic idea, and so much fun!! Came here after swimming and spent the whole afternoon playing tennis, golf, and more with our daughter. "



6 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"We are loving the park!! Great to come and meet friends and enjoy the tables with a picnic and have fun on the obstacle course. Thank you!"



5 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"Best pop up park! Thank you, The City!"



3 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"Love this pop up park! Gets everyone outside, inspires play, and fosters community!! "



1 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

"I remember Glengarry School 1940's and early 50's Playing scrub baseball in Sw corner. Skating in NW corner. Sledding down slope from 30 St"



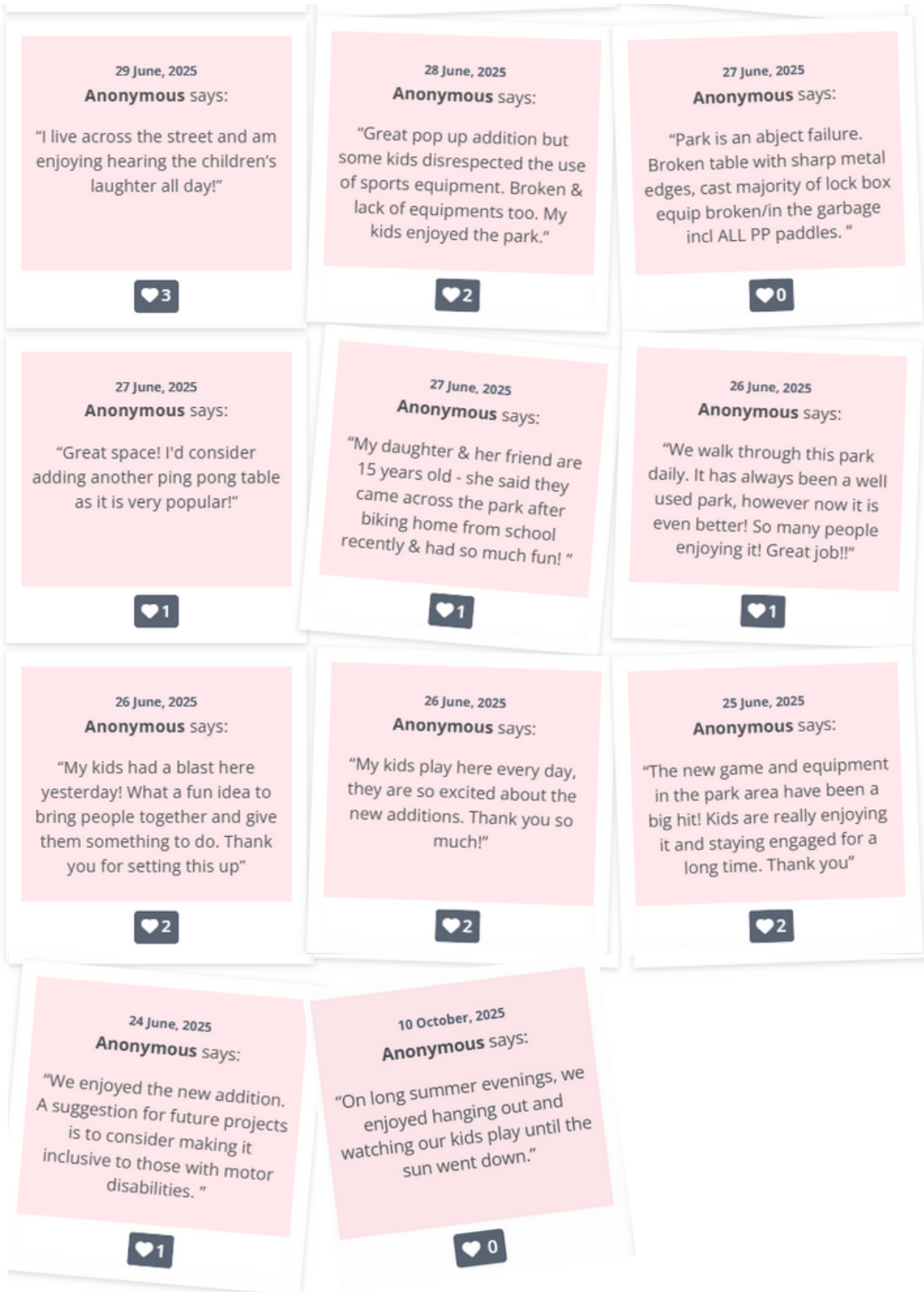
1 July, 2025

Anonymous says:

" the obstacle course and mini golf were a highlight!! love it!"



Question 2: Share a written memory about the park.



Question 3: Hopes and Dreams for the Future

What types of amenities or upgrades would you like to see added to the park in the future? Feel free to upload images or ideas.

2 people left comments/ ideas.

Pickleball for All!

Posted by Anonymous | 2 months ago

I would like to see more pickleball courts and have all existing courts painted with pickleball lines. It is a fantastic, social game for young ones and old.

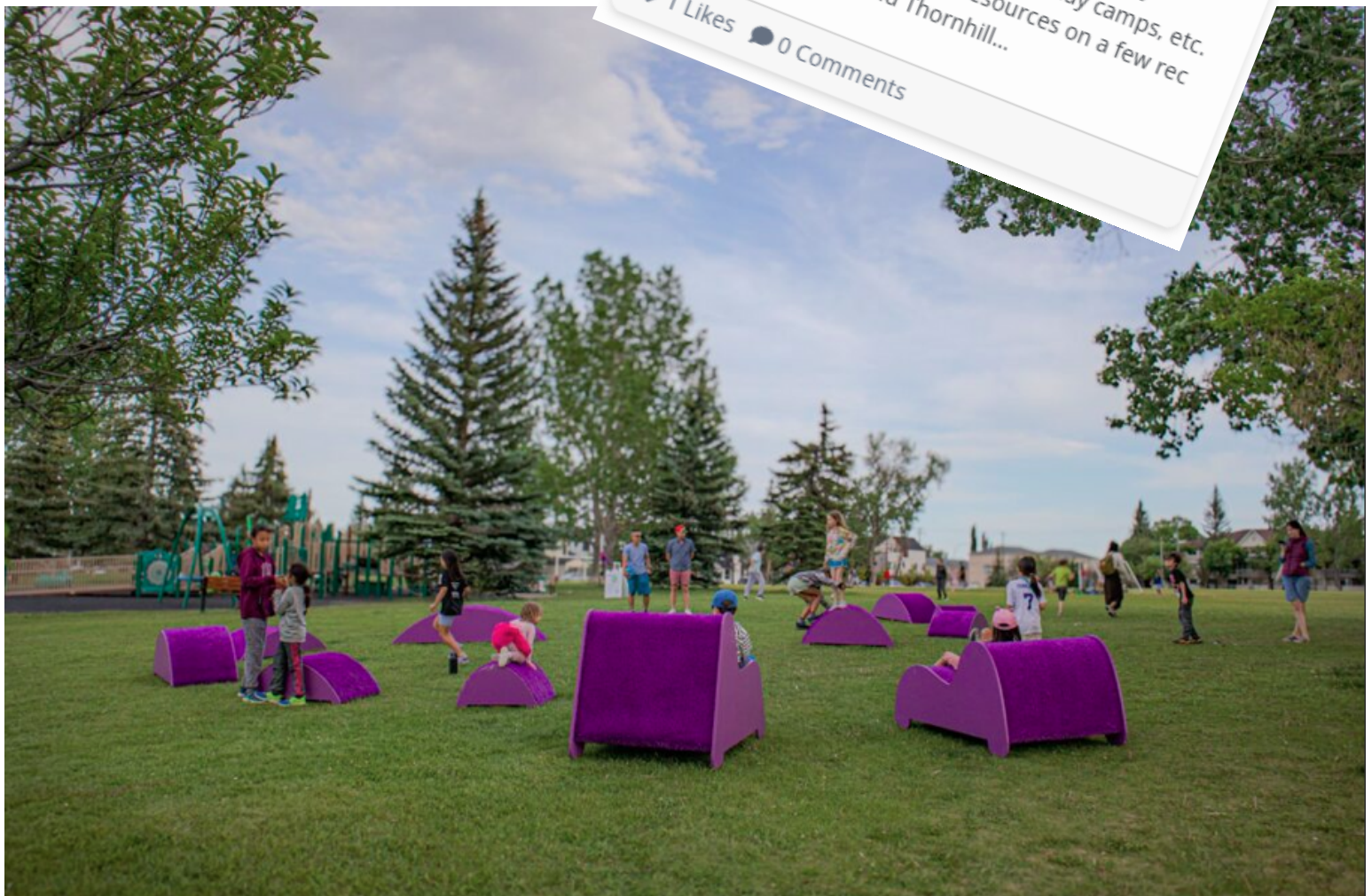
0 Likes 0 Comments

Focus elsewhere

Posted by Anonymous | 2 months ago

I do not understand why the city seems to want to concentrate all amenities at a few pool sites across the city. If these temporary structures were added to a park with NO current amenities that would be a much bigger benefit for the families in those areas. For folks that do not drive and do not live near a major pool they have very little access to city programs like this, summer camps, day camps, etc. when the city focuses all its resources on a few rec center sites (southland Thornhill...

1 Likes 0 Comments





“The new games and equipment in the park area have been a big hit! Kids are really enjoying it and staying engaged for a long time”



Next Steps

Public feedback on the temporary summer park will be used to guide and build on the next phase of the project.

We are excited to announce the green space south of the Killarney Aquatic & Recreation Centre has received funding under the Established Area Growth and Change Strategy (EAGCS) to explore upgrades and/or new amenities to create a stronger public space for the surrounding communities.

More information will be shared shortly.

Verbatim Comments

Verbatim comments presented here include all feedback, suggestions, comments and messages that were collected online and in-person through the engagement described in this report. All input has been reviewed and provided to Project Teams to be considered in decision making for the project.

Any personal identifying information has been removed from the verbatim comments presented here. Comments or portions of comments that contain profanity, or that are not in compliance with the [City's Respectful Workplace Policy](#) or [Online Tool Moderation Practice](#), have also been removed from participant submissions.

Wherever possible the remainder of the submissions remains. No other edits to the feedback have been made, and the verbatim comments are as received. As a result, some of the content in this verbatim record may still be considered offensive or distasteful to some readers.

Q: Share a written memory about the park.

- Absolutely love this park! My daughter has been asking to come to a daily. It gets so out of the house more and greatly enhances the community.
- So far we are loving the Killarney park experience! We tried jumbo badminton, table tennis, and racing on the purple blocks!
- Kids loved it. Park was always busy
- Outdoor pool connected to Killarney pool could share changing rooms, front desk, lifeguards etc. it could be cost efficient.
- This was lots of fun but the green bin for the equipment should be replaced. The lid is very heavy and a child's fingers were crushed badly.
- It would be great if the city would do this in areas without playground amenities, like by the Westbrook library - clean up the field!!!
- To much plastic.
- Having a local ping pong table is great. I wish there was a second one since the table seem to be pretty popular.
- The ping pong paddles and golf clubs are predictably broken and demonstrates why we can't have nice things. The other additions are great!
- Awesome addition. Love it!
- Sad that people are not treating it well. Would be great to see permanent badminton nets as well
- I think the park is amazing. Love that there is something for older kids as well (especially ping pong and mini golf). Hope it stays.

Verbatim comments continued....

Q: Share a written memory about the park.

- On long summer evenings, we enjoyed hanging out and watching our kids play until the sun went down.
- Fantastic idea, and so much fun!! Came here after swimming and spent the whole afternoon playing tennis, golf, and more with our daughter.
- We are loving the park!! Great to come and meet friends and enjoy the tables with a picnic and have fun on the obstacle course. Thank you!
- Best pop up park! Thank you, The City!
- Love this pop up park! Gets everyone outside, inspires play, and fosters community!!
- "I remember Glengarry School 1940's and early 50's
- Playing scrub baseball in Sw corner. Skating in NW corner. Sledding down slope from 30 St"
- the obstacle course and mini golf were a highlight!! I love it!
- I live across the street and am enjoying hearing the children's laughter all day!
- Great pop up addition but some kids disrespected the use of sports equipment. Broken & lack of equipments too. My kids enjoyed the park.
- Park is an abject failure. Broken table with sharp metal edges, cast majority of lock box equip broken/in the garbage incl ALL PP paddles.
- Great space! I'd consider adding another ping pong table as it is very popular!
- My daughter & her friend are 15 years old - she said they came across the park after biking home from school recently & had so much fun!
- We walk through this park daily. It has always been a well used park, however now it is even better! So many people enjoying it! Great job!!
- My kids had a blast here yesterday! What a fun idea to bring people together and give them something to do. Thank you for setting this up
- My kids play here every day, they are so excited about the new additions. Thank you so much!
- "The new game and equipment in the park area have been a big hit! Kids are really enjoying it and staying engaged for a long time.
- Thank you"
- We enjoyed the new addition. A suggestion for future projects is to consider making it inclusive to those with motor disabilities.

Verbatim Comments

Q: Hopes and dreams for the future

- Pickleball for All! I would like to see more pickleball courts and have all existing courts painted with pickleball lines. It is a fantastic, social game for young ones and old.
- Focus elsewhere: I do not understand why the city seems to want to concentrate all amenities at a few pool sites across the city. If these temporary structures were added to a park with NO current amenities that would be a much bigger benefit for the families in those areas. For folks that do not drive and do not live near a major pool they have very little access to city programs like this, summer camps, day camps, etc. when the city focuses all its resources on a few rec center sites (southland Thornhill Killarney etc) it disproportionately advantages those who live near the pool and disadvantages those who do not (especially families that don't drive). Killarney pool already has the pool, the gym, dance areas, summer camps, a playground ball diamonds and basketball. Why should that site get more?? Look at where city recreation is already holding summer camps (there's only about 4 sites in the whole city) and offer these pop ups and services somewhere else please!!



Verbatim Comments

Q: Upload any photos, and memories

13 photos were uploaded. The comments were as follows:

Great Versatility	We had a wonderful time lounging, sliding, standing, sitting. The purple was brilliant- a great contrast and noticeable from the street.
The Floor is Lava!	Challenging themselves not to get burned by "lava".
Parkour mini artist	Trying it out
Love it!	Great idea! Nice to bring life to the park. Love the many ways these features can be used
Love it! Awesome addition to the neighborhood	So fun!
Local super dog!	Killarney Park is my dog and <u>Is</u> go to for our morning walk! When Rembrandt new play structures are open for use and there's no kiddos around, my puppy and I LOVE practicing our agility and focus jumping on the play structures and using them as an obstacle course. We love seeing the diversity of cultures and ages using the soccer field and the playground! These new structures bring that much more joy and engagement to the park!
Love it!	What a great way to energize the park and engage the community!
Family fun	Super fun for everyone in the community. Love this initiative!
Ping Pong & Obstacles Park	Enjoyed the outdoor ping pong table and obstacle boxes to do some ninja and acro moves.
Killarney summer park	The new game and equipment in the park area have been a big hit! Kids are really enjoying it and staying engaged for a long time during the summer. Thank you team
Fun in the Killarney Sun	(Redacted) has mild cerebral palsy and was able to enjoy parts of the park but hopefully more consideration can be given for all to enjoy the park fully.
Such a fun idea!	This is such a neat concept. It's not even fully implemented yet and it's already been such a great conversation starter/engagement initiative for all!
So excited as the park is getting installed!	The kids are loving it!