

The following What We Heard (WWH) report is reflective of the input received from our engagement process. The report gives an overview of responses to be considered in conjunction with technical expertise, research, budget, safety and operational considerations, environmental impacts, and design principles.



Project Overview

Introduction

On behalf of The City of Calgary (The City), O2 Planning and Design has embarked on a Park Design Plan for Richmond Green to guide the expansion and improvements for the park over the next few years. A Park Design Plan will give The City direction on the type of park amenities, programming, and other opportunities to enhance recreation, nature, and sustainability within the park.

Background

In November 2020, Council directed The City's Real Estate and Development Services submitted a land use application to enable the redevelopment of 5.5 acres of land on the north-west portion of the park site. At the same time, Council directed the assessment of the remaining 48 acres.



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In July 2021, the Richmond Green Needs Assessment was conducted to determine current issues and concerns within the park and to note potential areas for improvement in the short, medium and long term. In 2021, the former golf course was converted to a disc golf course for interim use; much of this area overlays critical drinking water reservoirs. The two small ball diamonds on the development parcel will be relocated off site and the existing access road will be enhanced to provide vehicle and transit connections with the Currie community to the south.

With the re-purposing and incorporation of the former golf course (+17.5 acres) and operations depot (+10 acres), an increase of approximately 22 acres will become open park space available for public use, despite the loss of the development parcel (-5.5 acres). A total of 48.5 acres will become a publicly accessible park that will exist in conjunction with drinking water infrastructure. Pedestrian safety, connectivity and the park experience are important aspects for park development. The initial WWH report can be viewed [here](#) and full project background can be review on the [webpage](#).

How We Got Here

As part of the Richmond Green Visioning and Concept Design engagement phases, feedback was received indicating some of the key values that provided direction on developing nature, culture and recreation components within the park design. These elements were developed into a Preferred Concept Plan and presented for input and feedback. For the full reports from previous engagement phases please click on the following links: [WWH – June 2022](#) and [WWH – January 2023](#).

Engagement Overview - Preferred Concept Plan

Initial engagement process in this round started with a workshop for internal departments as Subject Matter Experts in each of the following departments and business units to gather feedback and have discussion on the Preferred Concept Plan prior to public presentation. The project team wanted to review the plan in conjunction with internal needs for safety, maintenance, and operational function. This process included input and discussion from the following:

- Utilities Delivery
- Corporate Security
- Calgary Transit
- Calgary Recreation
- Pathways and Trails
- Planning and Development
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Water Services



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- Urban Forestry
- Customer Services and Communications
- Climate and Environment
- Partnerships

The project team made refinements to the Preferred Concept Plan, and this was shared with the public on the webpage at engage.calgary.ca/richmondgreen from April 6 to 27, 2023. This plan considered the priorities, suggestions and concerns captured in the earlier concept design phases, along with operational needs and functional considerations. The Preferred Concept Plan focus was to help improve park amenities, programming, and other opportunities to enhance recreation and nature in Richmond Green Park for both summer and winter uses.

In addition to the open public engagement noted above, an online session was held with key impacted groups and an online session with internal staff to review the content of Preferred Concept Plan. The discussion included concerns or suggestions from these groups who have a more direct interaction with the park from an operational or current use standpoint. The impacted groups that were sent invitations via email included surrounding community associations and other groups with current noted use, or occupancy, in the park. These are noted below:

- Rutland Park Community
- Killarney Glengarry Community
- Richmond Knob Hill Community
- Marda Loop Community
- Westgate Community
- Calgary Horticulture Society
- Calgary West Little League
- Calgary Disc Golf Club
- Grace Lutheran Manor
- Carewest Facility
- Canada Lands Corporation
- Ward 8 Office

Who did we hear from: These sessions had participation levels as follows:

- Online engagement (open to public) – 509 contributions received
- Internal session with subject matter experts (40 participants)
- Online session with identified impacted groups (20 participants)



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How did we advertise: Promotion for the engagement was completed using the following tactics:

- Bold signs – 11 roadside signs placed in surrounding communities.
- Social media – posts on The City of Calgary’s Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and NextDoor accounts, targeted to the surrounding communities.
- Direct emails – sent to identified interested parties and newsletter subscribers (sign up available on calgary.ca/richmondgreen).
- Media coverage – there was an article on [CBC Calgary](https://www.cbc.ca/calgary) on April 6, 2023.

What We Asked / What We Heard

This phase of Engagement was focused on the presentation of a Preferred Concept Plan that had been developed using previous inputs, including technical expertise, public input and site parameters. The Preferred Concept Plan shows general design and uses. Final placement of features and amenities in the park will be determined in the detailed design phase.

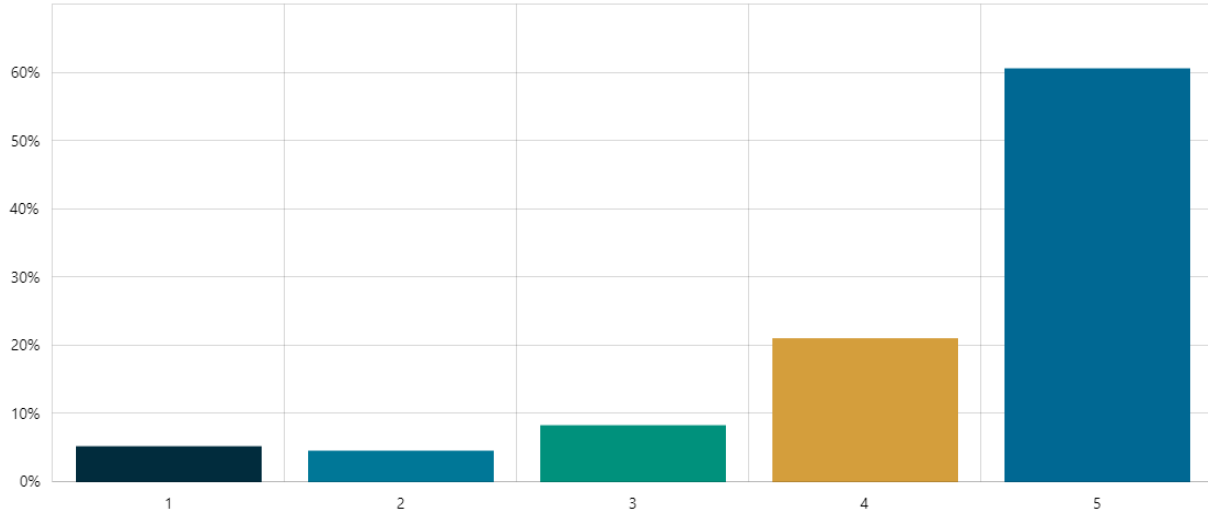
A single plan was presented to highlight the recreational uses and options, access, and circulation into and through the park. We provided rating style questions to receive input as to how well these key components were achieved. An open ended “additional comments” question was provided to allow for further input and clarity on reactions and responses to the presented plan.

The responses to the “additional comments” are organized into general themes, with samples of supporting comments, representative of those overarching categories to reflect what was heard. These results will help influence the design development to create a plan that best reflects input with design principles, safety, and function, along with project goals.

[Question type and response rate shown for clarity and transparency.](#)

1) Does the design provide sufficient recreational opportunities (built spaces)?

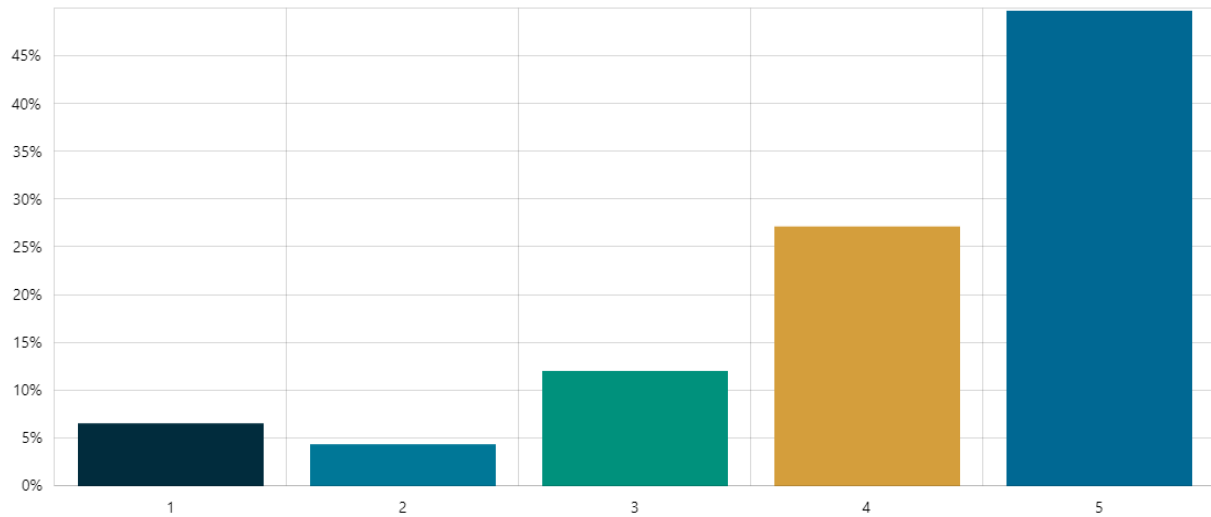
Rating / Skipped: 54 / Answered:455 (89.39% response rate) – a rating of one to five stars was given to represent response (agreement) to question presented.



1	2	3	4	5	Count	Weighted Average
24	21	38	96	276	455	4.27

2) Does the design provide adequate access into and through the park?

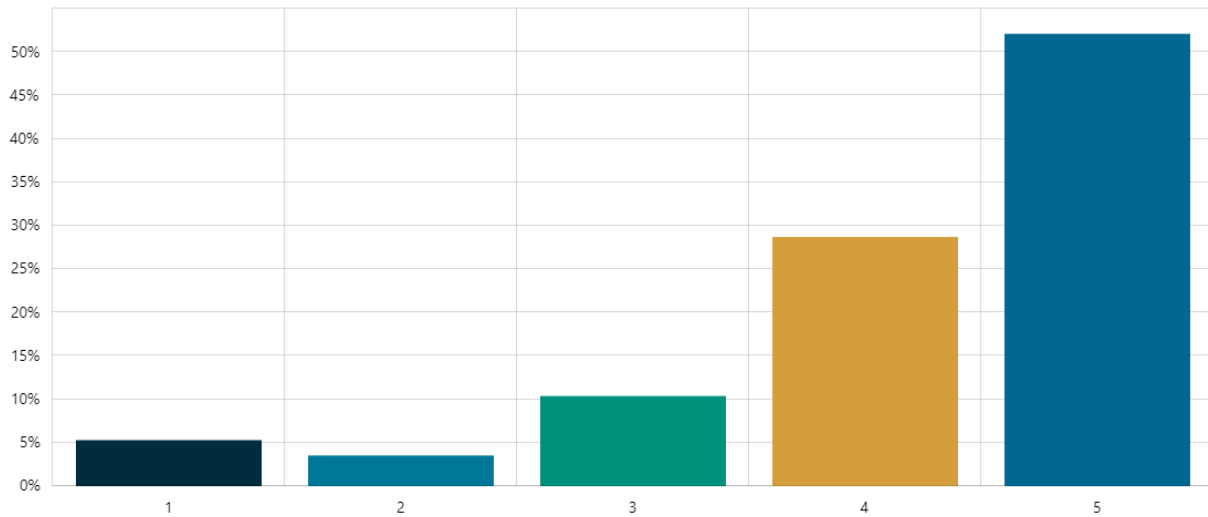
Rating / Skipped:53 / Answered 456 (89.59% response rate) - a rating of one to five stars was given to represent response (agreement) to question presented.



1	2	3	4	5	Count	Weighted Average
30	20	55	124	227	456	4.09

3) Does the design provide effective routes within the park?

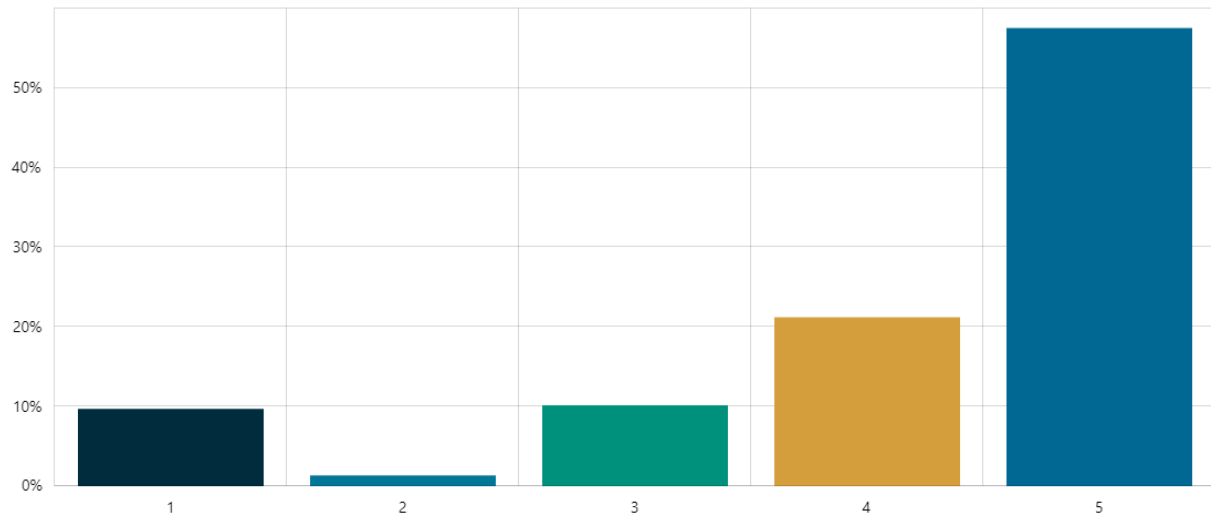
Rating / Skipped 56 / Answered 453 (89% response rate) - a rating of one to five stars was given to represent response (agreement) to question presented.



1	2	3	4	5	Count	Weighted Average
24	16	47	130	236	453	4.19

4) Does the design provide sufficient natural areas and open green space?

Rating / Skipped: 66 / Answered 443 (87.03% response rate) - a rating of one to five stars was given to represent response (agreement) to question presented.



1	2	3	4	5	Count	Weighted Average
43	6	45	94	255	443	4.16

5) Do you have any additional comments?

Short Text / Skipped 126 / Answered 383 (75.25% response rate) – responses are shown in themes with representative supporting comments.

Verbatim responses are in unedited format (no changes to spelling or grammar) unless there is offensive language or inappropriate commentary, or personal information in alignment with The City of Calgary's Respectful Workplace Policy. To view all [verbatim responses please click here](#).

Themes are not presented based on any sort of statistical basis but rather identify frequent commonalities and a sampling of the collective participant responses representing balanced feedback and overview.

Themes That We Heard	Supporting Verbatim Comments
<p>Consideration of other (additional) activity options.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - splash park/wading pool was often mentioned - space allocation for activities, e.g., desire for more or less space per given activity - good support for winter design activity - activity specific (individual choices) comments noted throughout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would love to see a water component. A wading pool or splash park. Otherwise it looks great. I like the year round usage. • Will there be shade near the playground? Often playgrounds do not include areas for people to get out of the sun. Will the playground be suitable for many age groups and be accessible for differently abled children? Can beach volleyball/bocce be included • Would love to see a splash park or wading pool, instead of fitness equipment that never gets used. • This park looks fantastic. I'm looking forward to the skating rink in the winter and the playground and other amenities. Is there room there for a splash park to go with the destination playground

<p>Disc Golf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support for inclusion of disc golf - needed in this quadrant of the city - free accessible activity that is growing in popularity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I use this park exclusively for disc golf. While I would prefer that the existing course remained at its current size, I feel the proposed plan is a reasonable compromise. • Please keep the Currie Disc Golf course. It's a great course and is well used. • I've been very happy with the disc golf course at Currie. Challenging but easy to get to compared to other courses in the city! • Please keep disc golf in this Park. My entire family loves it and it would be a real loss to the community to lose it.
<p>Disc Golf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concerns regarding the amount of space allocated – with potential user conflict concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disc Golf looks like it is taking up too much space. Not enough space for people to play soccer, or croquet, lawn bowling, or volleyball • I like the winter use concepts, esp cafe and skating rinks. The large circular pathways are good as is pickle ball court and basketball court. By far the biggest flaw is the space devoted to one limited activity - disc golf. • Needs more clearly marked and safe pedestrian crossings of the internal road. Not many are shown. The disc golf still takes up WAY too much space. It severely reduces the area for other users in favour of a niche use with very few users.

<p>Accessibility and mobility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - comments regarding making buildings, pathways and park access points accessible for inclusive use - inquiry and concern re roadway through the park – safety and flow concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I love the Horticultural Society's new home there including the demonstration garden. Please make sure this park is accessible for everyone! • Suggest working with Canada Lands Corp to carve out a small easement for pedestrian access in the SW corner of the park to the west of Quesnay Wood Drive. Currie residents can't easily access from CareWest and Quesnay is a bit too far east. • I would like to see the Calgary Horticultural Society become a long-term tenant of the space they are currently renting. The building needs to be made more accessible for people with all mobility types. Keep the washroom on the east side open all year • A large accessible playground would make the space much more inclusive. They have been highly successful at sandy beach and Shouldice for example. Also, more pedestrian access from Currie is needed. Residents can't access the carewest entrances.
<p>General discontent with the plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concerns with the process of developing park - upset over selling of parcel of land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The design needs both more open spaces and natural areas. The design is very crowded and not relaxing at all. The playground should be much larger. We don't need a pickle ball, basketball

	<p>courts and cricket batting cages. Golf course should of been left.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave it all as green space and natural habitat for birds. Stop putting in more infrastructure for people... leave things green!!! • Over designed with limited access points for surrounding established areas. • I would add hundreds more trees. City parks tend to look manicured, unnatural, and overthought. Just drop in an urban forest and let people figure out how to enjoy it; we don't need everything planned down to ridiculous detail. More trees! More trees!
<p>General support for the plan and design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - pleased with integration of current use within new plan - happy opportunity for added amenities and recreational opportunities - Calgary Horticultural Society is a welcomed component within the park and ongoing operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nice! The plan nicely provides recreation of a variety of types for many different people. I think the plan is well thought out. Thank you! • Wonderful design for a useable park for all ages, all activities and not rearranging at a substantial cost. Thank you City of Calgary • I worked at Carewest Saree until 1 year ago. I loved walking in the park at lunch. This design is a welcome enhancement to this beautiful space! • I am very excited to see the Richmond Green Golf course finally being replaced by something



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	<p>the entire community can use and enjoy!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looks amazing! Pump track for the win! This is going to be so fun to Explorer with both partner, friends & family. Something for everyone
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Engagement Summary:

Based on the overall review of the collective responses reflected in this report. There was support for the general design of the park and the opportunities represented with some noted inquiry into additional amenities. One noted area of split in the comments was with regards to disc golf. Many complimented and appreciated the inclusion of disc golf as an accessible and needed part of the park design plan, while others expressed some concerns over the allotment of space and potential user conflicts between disc golf and other park users in this area.

This report is meant to clearly show the range in public input and give all community members a forum for their opinions to be heard and given response and consideration. A final Concept Plan will be developed to create a balanced approach to feedback received, within parameters of the project scope and goals, to help improve park amenities, programming, and other opportunities to enhance recreation and nature in Richmond Green Park.

Ongoing work and next steps

The planning and design of the park continues to follow the timeline shown on calgary.ca/richmondgreen. The Final Park Plan will confirm the amenities and their locations to the level of detail needed for submission to the development authority. Through that submission process The City will support the project team in finalizing the design, while confirming that all the rules and planning policies have been considered before moving into the detailed design drawings necessary for construction.