

Project overview

The Max Bell Park and Pathway Improvement project is two-fold: it includes improvements to segments of an existing pathway network west of Albert Park/Radisson Heights, near the C-Train station, as well as the development of an under-utilized City-stewarded piece of land on the east side of the Max Bell Arena parking lot. The project will focus on approximately 120 lineal metres of pathway improvement and the development of approximately 4,000 square metres—or about one acre—of green space to create a more accessible, vibrant, safe, usable, and inclusive outdoor space for Calgarians and visitors.



Engagement overview

A project page <https://engage.calgary.ca/maxbellpark> was developed and open for input from August 5 through August 27, 2026. The page was promoted throughout the surrounding communities with bold signs and posters placed in Max Bell Arena. Written project updates and engagement information and were sent out to local community associations, the councillor's ward office, and other interested parties. Added social media advertising across 3 separate platforms, targeted to a larger area surrounding the project location.

The page received 2,644 visitors, with 412 choosing to respond to the questions. These web statistics provide support that outreach was effective in promoting the project, directing people to the page for information, and gathering input from those who chose to provide more detail. This variance between page visits and responses is not unusual for many City projects.

What We Asked / What We Heard

Two concept options were presented on the page to provide an opportunity for input on which option offered the most effective design in alignment with future use.

Option 1 emphasized a highly programmed destination that serves both the local community and visitors to the Max Bell Centre. The concept features an open plaza with integrated activity nodes to support fitness or play opportunities. An overhead frame structure is oriented toward the downtown skyline, creating a strong visual focal point that draws people into the space. In addition, tiered seating walls are integrated into the hillside, offering a more passive setting for users to sit, gather, and enjoy the views.



Option 2 focused on a more flexible and adaptable gathering space. The intent is to provide a setting that can accommodate a range of community uses, including small-scale events, festivals, or potential programming associated with flexible user groups for a more defined purpose. This option carries forward key elements from Option 1, including the framed view toward downtown and terraced seating integrated into the hillside, creating an amphitheatre-like environment that supports passive use while maintaining flexibility for a variety of activities.



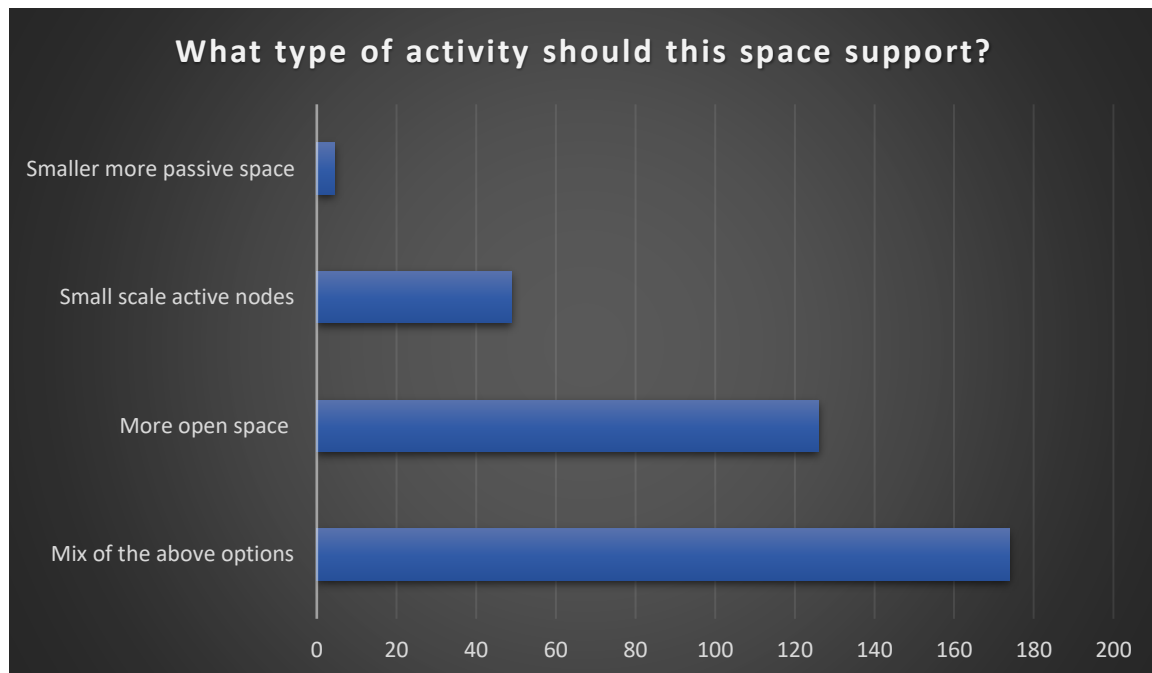
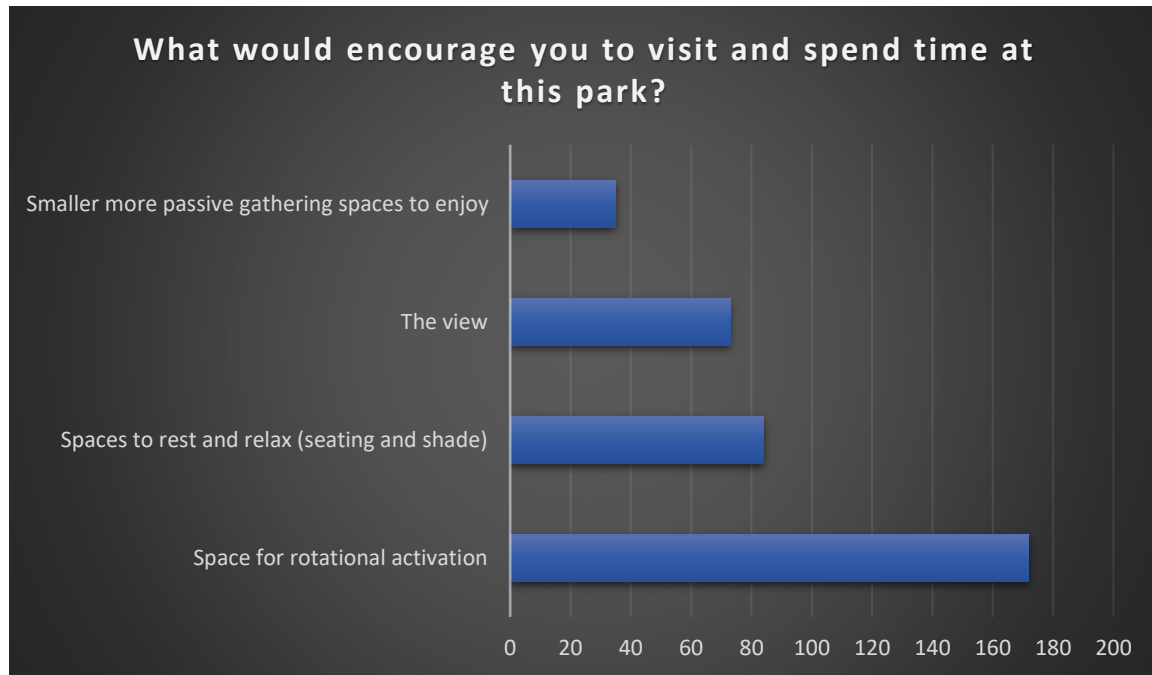
The first two questions focused on the general type of space that would be most appealing for future use. The third question asked respondents to choose between the two concept options, and the final open-ended question allowed them to explain their choices.

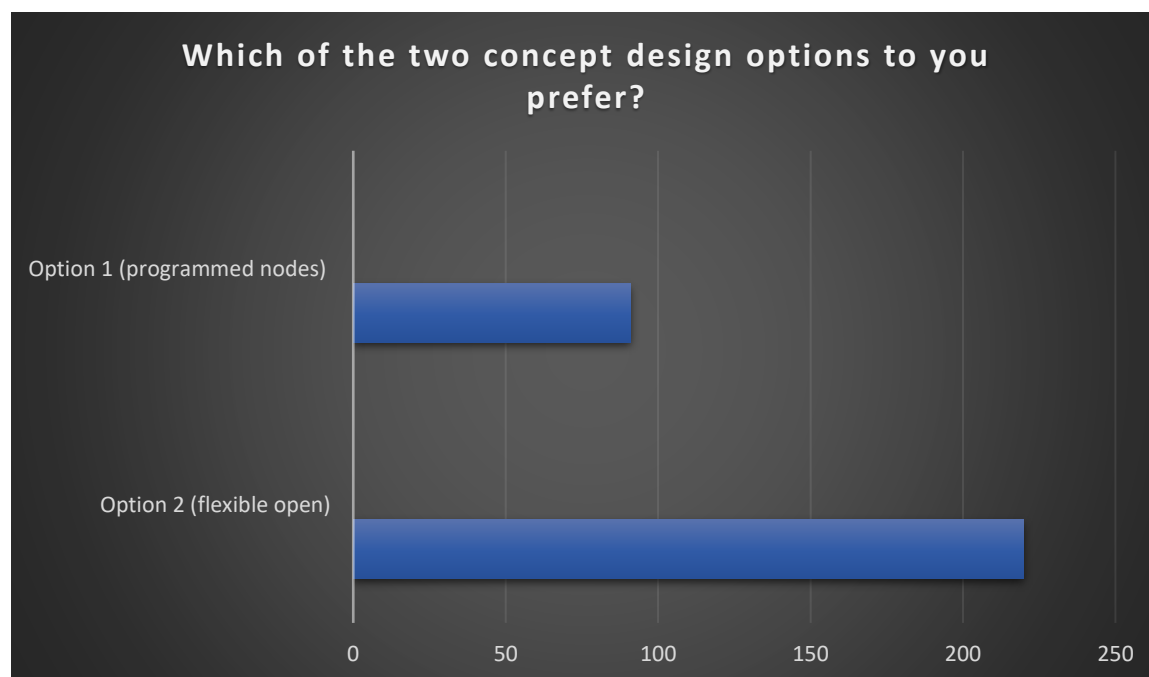
Question #1: What would encourage you to visit and spend time at this park? (multi choice)

Question #2: What type of activity should this space support? (select box)

Question #3: Considering your previous responses, which of the two concept designs do you prefer? (select choice)

Question #4: Please tell us why you made your choice above. (long text open) - responses organized into themes and provided in pure verbatim format.





Please tell us why you made your choice above. (Counts may overlap, as comments can relate to more than one theme.)

Theme	Theme mention count	What residents are saying
Flexible event and gathering space	103	Many comments support a flexible public space that can host festivals, markets, food trucks, music, small events, fireworks viewing, and informal gatherings.
Passive recreation, views, and relaxation	74	Several respondents value the skyline view and want seating, quiet areas, shade, and places to relax, walk, gather casually, or enjoy the landscape.
Play, fitness, and family-friendly amenities	66	A recurring theme is the need for play structures, naturalized play, fitness equipment, active nodes, skating, bike/skate features, and spaces for families and children.



Max Bell Park and Pathway Improvement

What We Heard: September 2026

Green space, trees, shade, and natural elements	55	Many comments ask for more greenery and natural features, especially trees, native planting, shade, reduced hardscaping, and protection of existing natural areas.
Safety, encampments, vandalism, and cleanliness	50	A significant number of respondents raise concerns about safety, homelessness, encampments, drug use, vandalism, litter, graffiti, fire pits, and maintenance.
Access, connectivity, parking, and pathways	45	Residents frequently identify access issues, including pedestrian and cycling connections, lighting, steep pathways, transit access, parking impacts, and safer crossings.
Noise, traffic, and local resident impacts	23	Some nearby residents are concerned that events could increase noise, traffic, street parking pressure, property impacts, and disturbance to adjacent neighbourhoods.
Cost, engagement process, and project value	28	Some respondents question the project's value, transparency, public engagement approach, and whether public funds should be spent on this improvement.

Engagement Summary

The Max Bell Park and Pathway Improvement project gathered public input on pathway upgrades and the future use of an under-utilized City-stewarded green space near Max Bell Arena. Engagement ran from August 5 to August 27, 2026, and generated strong awareness, with 2,644 page visits and 412 survey responses.

Overall feedback shows interest in a space that balances flexibility, passive recreation, family-friendly amenities, natural elements, and improved access. Respondents also raised important considerations related to safety, maintenance, parking, traffic, noise, and project value.

This input will help guide the next stage of design by identifying preferred features, key concerns, and opportunities to create a more accessible, vibrant, safe, usable, and inclusive public space for Calgarians and visitors.



Max Bell Park and Pathway Improvement

What We Heard: September 2026

Verbatim Comments

These comments are unaltered with no corrections to spelling and grammar. The only editing is to remove offensive or personal identifying information.

***will add as link rather than add 24+ pages to this document**