

# 261 Nairn Park



## Phase 2 Survey Summary Report

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## Project Background

The subject site is located at 261 Nairn, at the southeast corner of Nairn Avenue and Rogers Road. The site at 261 Nairn is relatively small and was recently converted into parkland. There is an opportunity to thoughtfully design a space that meets the needs of the diverse local community for years to come.

The site currently includes:

- Four public benches
- A small vacant lot with sod

## Survey Objectives

An online survey was available from December 1 to December 17, 2021. The survey gathered community feedback on two concept designs.

The survey received a total of **473 responses**. Some surveys submissions included feedback from multiple people (e.g. entire households). In total **596 people** participated in the survey.

## Notification

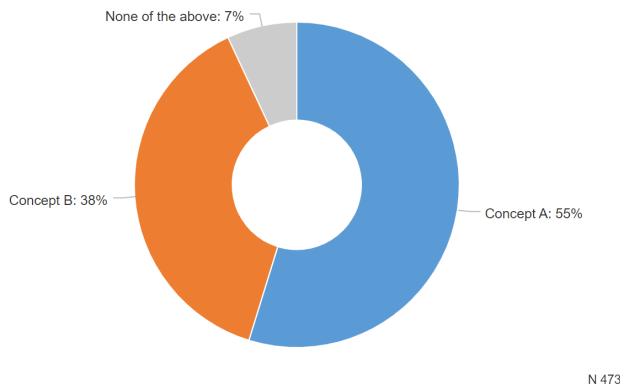
The online survey was promoted through the following channels:

- Facebook and Instagram advertisements targeting area residents
- Promotions through the local Councillor's Office
- Project webpage: [toronto.ca/261NairnPark](https://toronto.ca/261NairnPark)
- On-site signage

# Key Feedback Highlights

## Preferred Concept

The majority of respondents (**55%**) preferred Concept Design A. Concept designs and descriptions in Appendix C.



For Concept Design A:

- **80%** or more of respondents like the proposed:
  - Pathway layout (including entrances, connections and 'curved' form)
  - Location of the water bottle filler/fountain
  - Shape and location of the shade structure
  - The location of fencing
  - The metal fence along the East side of the park and the planting buffer along the north edge of the park as safety features.
  - The size, layout, and location of the playground
  - Open lawn area for flexible use
  - New trees and plantings
  - Seating options

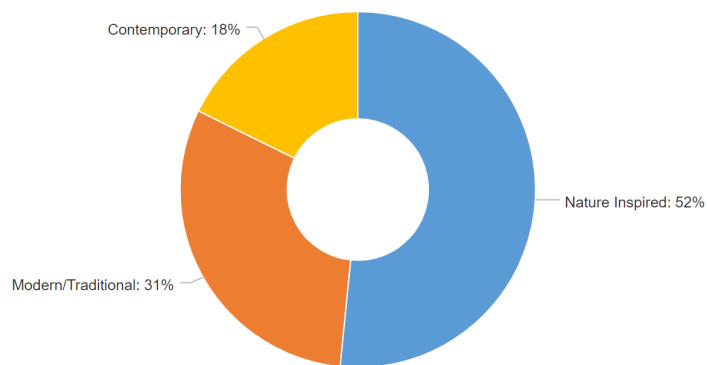
For Concept Design B:

- **80%** or more of respondents like the proposed:
  - location of the water bottle filler/fountain
  - the size, layout, and location of the playground
  - New trees and plantings
  - the metal fence along the East and North sides of the park as safety features
  - the size and location of the shade structure
- **70-80%** of respondents like the proposed:
  - Location of the fencing
  - Seating options
  - Open law area

- **57%** of respondents like the pathway layout in this design (including entrances, connections and 'angular' form)

## Preferred Playground Theme

The majority of survey respondents preferred the **Nature Inspired** playground theme.

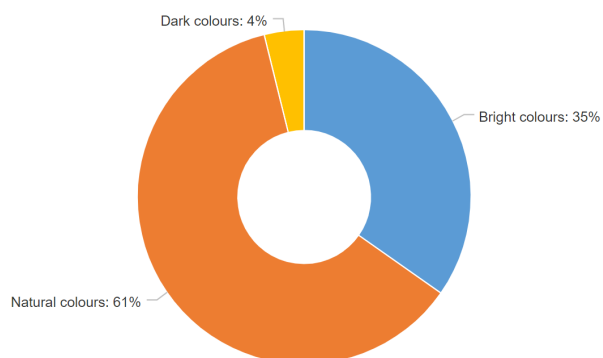


N 316

The top six preferences for play equipment features are:

1. Slide
2. Climbing wall
3. Playhouse
4. Rope Climber
5. Disc Swing
6. Overhead Climbing Features

## Playground Colour Preference



## Additional Amenities

### Games tables

The majority of survey respondents (**58%**) would like games tables to be added to the park design. When asked what table games they would like to see, **46%** said ping pong and **40%** said chess or checkers.

The majority of survey respondents (**61%**) would like to see Muskoka chairs incorporated into the park design.

## Additional suggestions for the new park include:

### Fencing:

- Some respondents would like the entire park to have a perimeter fence, outlining a concern about the safety of children in the park playing near busy roads without a solid (not natural) barrier. Others noted the importance of including a fence along Rogers Road in particular. Respondents are concerned about
- A couple of respondents suggested the fencing around the park include gates.
- A couple of respondents commented on fence height. One respondent suggested the 2 metre high fence between the park and private homes is too high and will create unsafe, hidden spaces. Another suggested the fence on the east side be 1 metre and shorter on the Rogers Road side.
- One respondent suggested the northern fence be extended to sit right beside the sidewalk.
- One respondent is concerned there is too much fencing, which will result in people leaving their dogs off leash in the park

### Seating:

- A few respondent suggested more seating, including:
  - Seating around the playground for parents and guardians watching children
  - Picnic Tables
  - Accessible seating (replacing the Muskoka Chairs that are more difficult for people with mobility challenges to get in and out of)
  - Covered or shaded seating
  - Seatwalls
- A few respondents suggested moving the benches on Rogers Road inside the park

### Dogs:

- Some respondents would like a separate area for dogs
- Some respondents would like the park to be more dog friendly through the addition of amenities like dog fountains
- One respondent would like off-leash dogs to be allowed in the park, with fencing installed around the park. Another respondent had the opposite view, noting they are concerned about adding too much fencing for fear it would become an off-leash area.
- A few respondents are concerned about the park being used by off-leash dogs or dog owners who do not pick up their dog's waste.

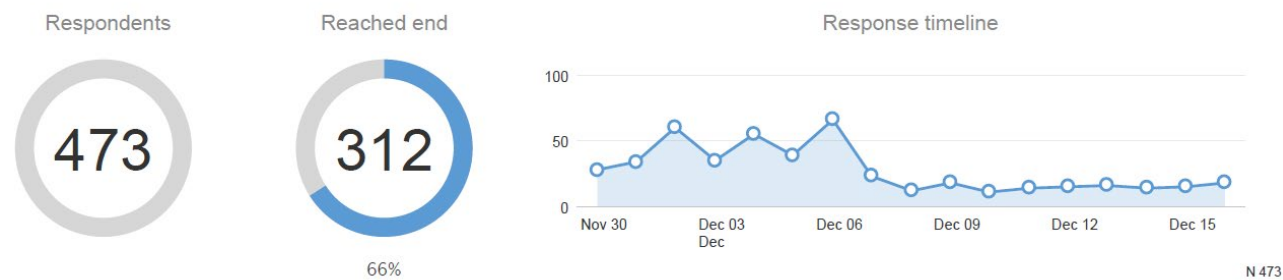
### Safety:

- Some respondents would like safety improved in the park. Suggestions to improve safety include:
  - A perimeter fence (as noted above)
  - Bollards at entrances, cement walls, or other barriers between the street and the park/sidewalk
  - Good sightlines into and through the park
  - Security cameras
  - Lighting
- Playground:
  - A few respondents suggested rubber playground surfacing.
  - A few respondents suggested the playground size be reduced.
  - A respondent suggested the playground include features for all ages.
- Open Space
  - Some respondents suggested increasing the area of open space or naturalized space.
- Shade:
  - Some respondents suggested adding more shaded areas through shade structures and trees, especially around the playground and over seating.
  - One respondent suggested the shade structure look more natural. Another suggested the location of the shade structure be moved away from trees (which already provide that location with shade).
- Trees, Plantings, and the Pollinator Garden:
  - Many respondents said they were interested in being directly involved in the planting and caring of a pollinator garden on the site. A few respondents are concerned that the pollinator garden will result in children being stung and would like the pollinator garden moved far away from where children will play.
  - A few respondents suggested planting more trees.
  - A respondent suggested planting only native species while another suggested more plantings overall.
- Accessibility:
  - A few respondents noted they want to see accessibility prioritized. Specific suggestions include ensuring seating is accessible (alternatives to Muskoka Chairs) and ensuring the playground is accessible for all children, with the inclusion of wheelchair accessible "climbers".
- Noise:
  - A few respondents would like noise in the park reduced through natural and built sound barriers, and traffic calming measures.
- Waste Bins:
  - A few respondents suggested adding more waste bins. Suggested locations include near entrances and the playground.
- Features for all ages:
  - A few respondents would like to see more features for teens and/or adults, such as fitness equipment, meeting spots, games tables, and quiet seating areas.
- Other:
  - A few respondents noted that they want the park to be well-maintained, with tree protection/maintenance programs (especially for those exposed to salt along roadways) and litter pickup.
  - A couple of respondents suggested adding bicycle parking
  - One respondent each suggested:

- Adding a basketball court/net.
- Adding a community notice board.
- Adding a skate park.
- Adding a washroom.
- Adding space for a natural ice rink.
- Adding space for pickleball.
- Adding space to play soccer.
- Adding water features or a splash pad.
- Ensuring the design is baby and toddler friendly.
- Ensuring the park is sustainable.
- Including fewer gathering spaces to increase the focus on children's spaces.
- Making the design more unique.
- Signage to encourage environmental stewardship and discourage littering.

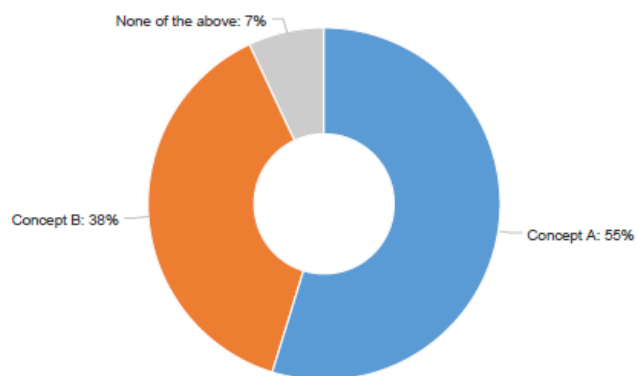


# Appendix A: Raw Response Summary



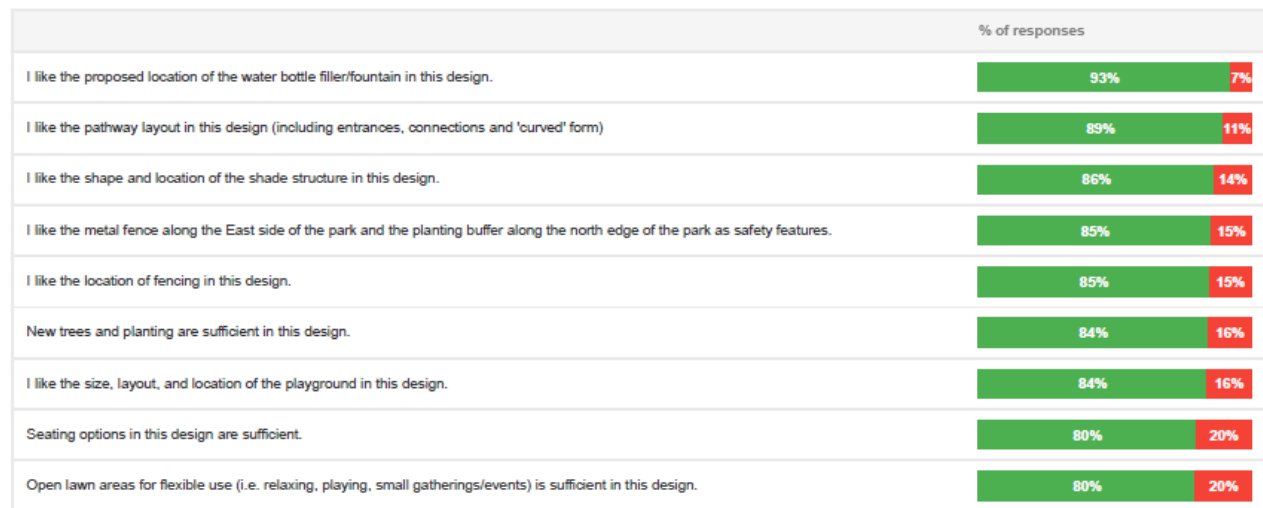
## Section 1: Concept Designs and Features

### Concept Design Preference



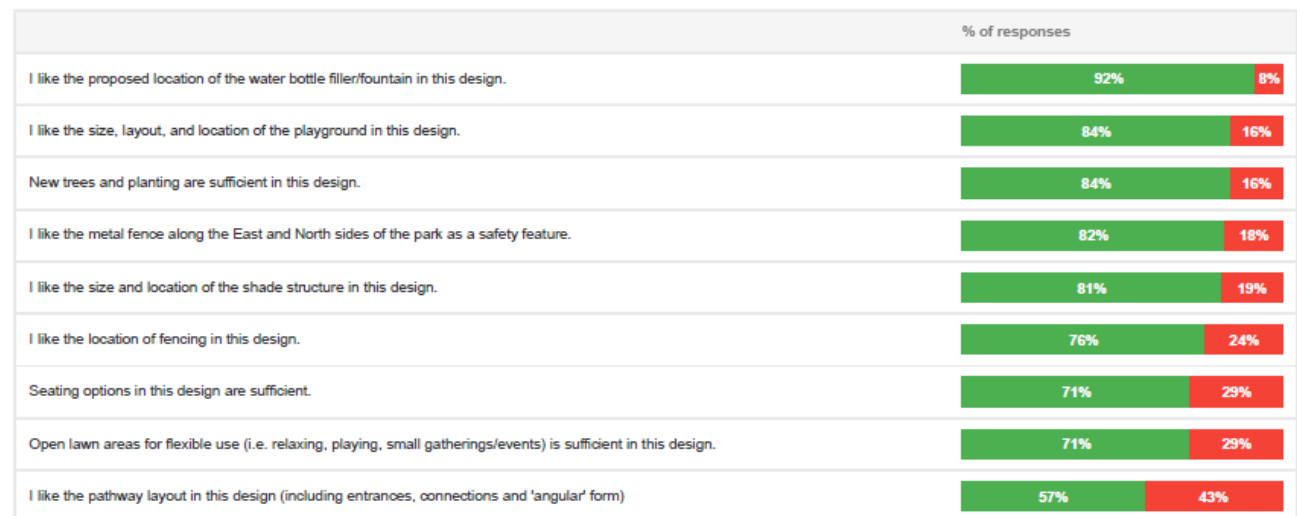
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## Concept Design A Feedback



■ Agree or Strongly Agree
 ■ Disagree or Strongly Disagree

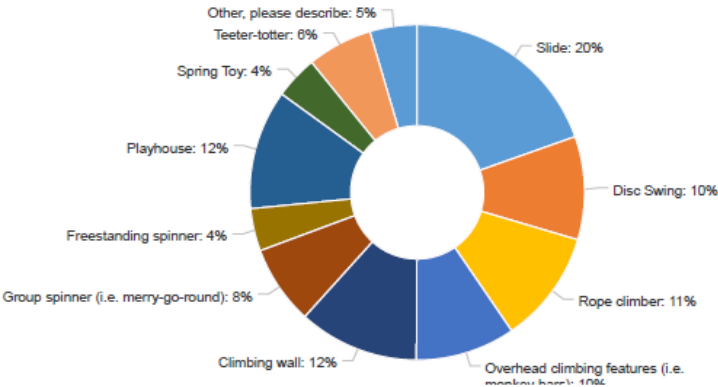
## Concept Design B Feedback



■ Agree or Strongly Agree
 ■ Disagree or Strongly Disagree

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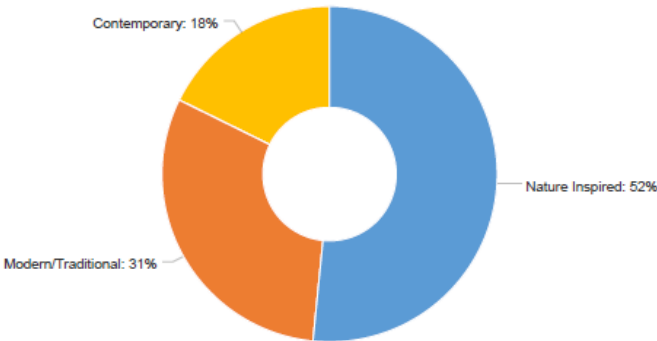
What type of play equipment features would you like to see in the playground? (Rank in order of most to least preferred. 1 = most preferred)



N 291

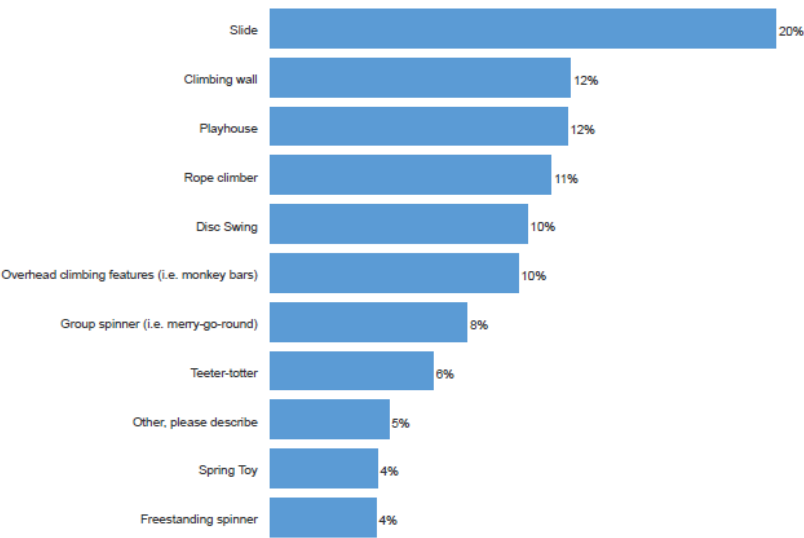
Section 2: Playground Equipment

Playground Theme Preference



N 316

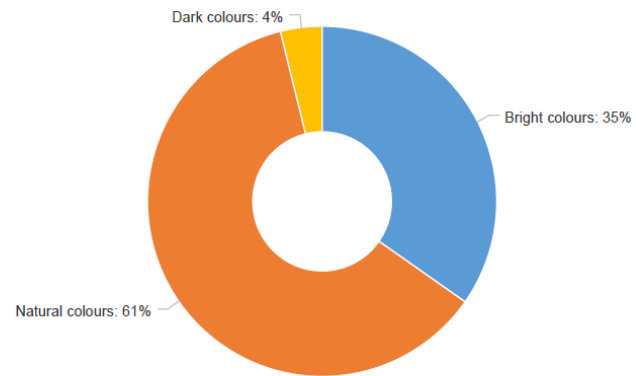
Preferred Play Equipment Features (List Ranking)



Other responses included:

- Climber ropes
- Swings – baby and child
- Dog park
- I dunno, ask kids!
- Swings
- I would like to see a workout area. OR make the playground in a way adults can work out too e.g. making things to resist heavy weight people. This is good to incorporate all age groups not just children.
- Exercise equipment
- No preference
- Classic swing set
- Teenage/adult game table. TOO many kid's parks in the area.
- Swings
- Normal swings and ones for infants
- Baby swings
- Accessible equipment is a MUST no matter what you choose
- Accessible area for children or parents with disabilities
- Regular swings
- Regular swings
- Swings for babies, toddlers, and children/adults
- Swings
- Standard swings
- Balance beam
- Swings
- Swing set with baby swing
- Splash pad
- Regular swing set
- Swings!
- Water feature
- Normal swing
- I would forgo a spinner (exist in nearby areas) for a small ping-pong table for slighter older kids and adults – yes, we would probably have to forgo more

### Playground Colour Preference



N 311

### Desire for Games Tables (e.g. ping pong or chess)



N 317

### Desire for Muskoka/Adirondack Chairs



N 322

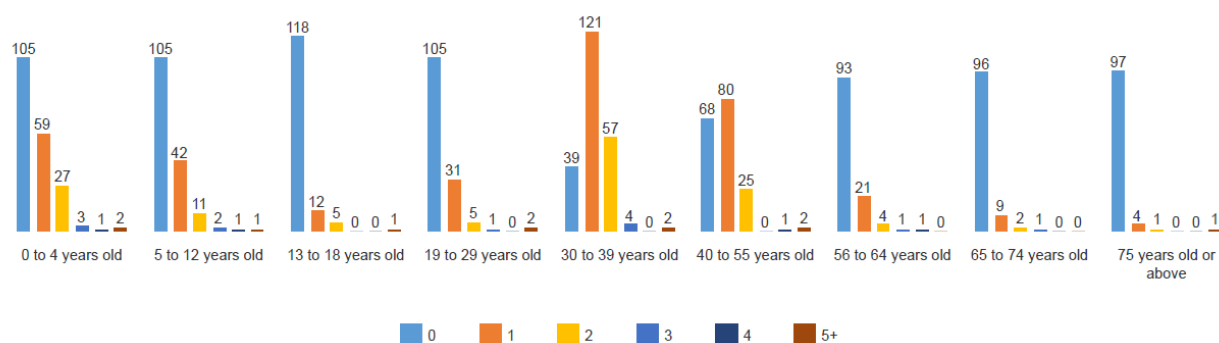
## Interested in Being Involved in the Pollinator Garden



N 322

## Demographics

How many people of each age group participated in this survey?











Gender identity is the gender that people identify with or how they perceive themselves, which may be different from their birth-assigned sex. What best describes your gender?






	Count	% of responses	%
Woman	214	<div></div>	71%
Man	60	<div></div>	20%
Prefer not to answer	29	<div></div>	10%
Gender non-binary (including gender fluid, genderqueer, androgynous)	4	<div></div>	1%
Not listed, please describe	2	<div></div>	1%
Trans woman	0		
Trans man	0		
Two-Spirit	0		

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Sexual orientation describes a person's emotional, physical, romantic, and/or sexual attraction to other people. What best describes your sexual orientation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Heterosexual or straight	230		76%
Prefer not to answer	41		14%
Bisexual	12		4%
Queer	8		3%
Gay	5		2%
Lesbian	4		1%
Not listed, please describe	4		1%
Two-Spirit	1		0%
Don't know	0		

People often describe themselves by their race or racial background. For example, some people consider themselves "Black", "White" or "East Asian". Which race category best describes you? Select all that apply.

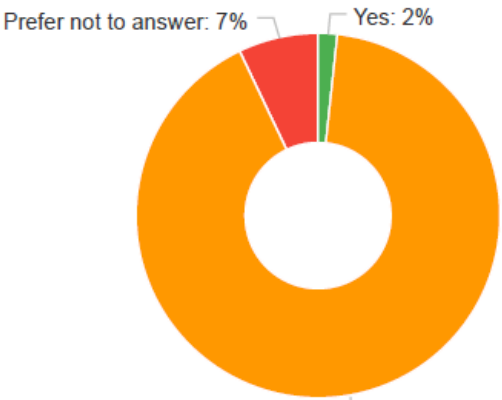
	Count	% of responses	%
White (e.g. English, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Slovakian)	194		64%
Jewish	36		12%
Prefer not to answer	36		12%
Latin American (e.g. Brazilian, Colombian, Cuban, Mexican, Peruvian)	16		5%
East Asian (e.g. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese)	11		4%
Southeast Asian (e.g. Filipino, Malaysian, Singaporean, Thai, Vietnamese)	11		4%
More than one race category or mixed race	8		3%
Arab, Middle Eastern or West Asian (e.g. Afghan, Armenian, Iranian, Lebanese, Persian, Turkish)	6		2%
South Asian or Indo-Caribbean (e.g. Indian, Indo- Guyanese, Indo-Trinidadian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan)	6		2%
Other, please describe	4		1%
First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit or Métis	3		1%
Black (e.g. African, African-Canadian, Afro-Caribbean)	2		1%

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What language do you prefer speaking?

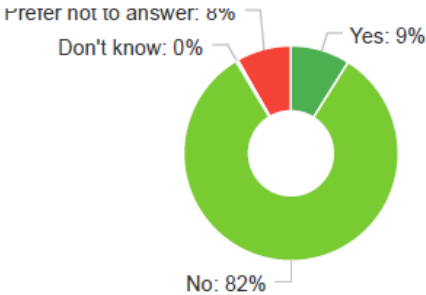


Indigenous people from Canada identify as First Nations (status, non-status, treaty or non-treaty), Inuit, Métis, Aboriginal, Native or Indian. Do you identify as Indigenous to Canada?



N 296






Disability is understood as any physical, mental, developmental, cognitive, learning, communication, sight, hearing or functional limitation that, in interaction with a barrier, hinders a person's full and equal participation in society. A disability can be permanent, temporary or episodic, and visible or invisible. Does anyone participating in this survey identify as a person with a disability?



N 302



What best describes your current housing situation?

	Count	% of responses	%
Home owner	226		75%
Renting	45		15%
Permanently living with parent(s) or other family member(s)	15		5%
Temporarily staying with others (no fixed address)	0		
Unhoused (staying outside, in a shelter, in a 24-hour respite)	0		
Prefer not to answer	16		5%
Not listed, please describe	1		0%

What best describes you and your household's access to outdoor space?

	Count	% of responses	%
I have access to private outdoor space like a yard	237		78%
I have access to semi-private/shared outdoor space	28		9%
I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	22		7%
Prefer not to answer	16		5%

N 303

## Appendix B: Text Responses

1. Games tables are not currently included in the plan – would you like to see a games table such as ping pong or chess included in the design? Yes, I'd like specify what kind (examples: chess, ping pong, mancala)

- ping pong
- Ping pong would be great
- Ping pong, mancala
- Ping Pong
- Chess
- Ping pong
- Ping pong, chess
- Only if it's mancala
- Ping ping and chess would be great
- pingpong, chess
- Chess
- Chess
- Chess
- YES any of the options will be welcome!

- Mancala
- Mancala
- Ping pong
- Ping pong!
- A ping pong table would be a fantastic addition
- Chess
- Ping pong!!!!
- Chess
- Ping pong
- Pingpong
- Chess
- ping pong
- Ping pong
- Ping pong
- Chess
- Ping pong
- Ping pong
- Ping pong
- Chess
- Chess
- Ping pong
- Yes, I'd like specify what kind (examples: chess, ping pong, mancala)
- Ping pong
- Ping Pong
- Chess would be nice
- Literally anything that prioritized adult enjoyment over children.
- Mancala, lawn bowling
- Chess
- Chess
- Chess
- Ping pong. There are chess tables at st Clair just west of Caledonia and are sadly never used.
- Ping pong
- Ping pong or a bocce pitch
- Ping pong
- Ping pong
- Chess please

Is there anything else you would like to share about the design for the new park at 261 Nairn Avenue?

- We can't wait for the new park to be built thanks for the survey
- Make it sustainable
- Please add something dog friendly

- Pollinator garden is a bad idea...don't want to attract bees and wasps to a playground. I have an anaphylactic wasp allergy and kids might too.
- Excited! A few bollards at the northwest entrance (big concrete balls perhaps) would be a great safety/design feature.
- bike locks please!
- More garbage cans. One at every entrance of the park and one by the playground area. Also make educational blurbs of nature and a sign that says 'lets keep the park beautiful for everyone to enjoy. Please clean up after yourself. Lets all play a part in the environment'
- I as the neighbour right next door would like to see the park kept clean. And no garbage thrown over onto my property. Thank you
- More trees in the playground or shade structures to Provide shade to children and parents using the playground. More seating around the playground.
- I'd like to encourage designers to include all native plant species rather than ornamental.
- 2m high fencing along the street is a very poor design choice. It will create safety issues as it can be a desolate stretch and if any one was in danger behind the fence it would not be known. It will also turn this park into an ad hoc leash free area and will become unusable to all other community members. This is a certainty. It will also generate areas for undesirable activity at night - creating risks. I walk through mainly in the evening and I would feel this fence would create the possibility for unsafe situations. I argue strongly against a 2m fence.
- I think you should prioritize accessibility and remember to put shade around the playground. Also I am not seeing many picnic benches which would be nice
- Punic benches and washroom for kids
- less playground, more grass, fence along rogers road. very dangerous cars drive fast. ping pong and more adult features and places to meet, minimal design. thank you!
- I think you should consider including a small skate park
- Could we have a small little area for dogs? Not a full dog park but somewhere small where they could play? I know a lot of people would have dogs. Even if it was just a sectioned off area nearby
- I like the curved stonewall seating in A but there should be more seating. I like the idea of covered seating in the play area.
- There are so many dogs in our neighbourhood it would be lovely to have a place for them to be separate from the play ground
- I love pollinator gardens but I worry about the bees and children mixture but if it gets included I would like to volunteer to care for the garden.
- Please add security cameras to deter crime from happening in this area.
- For parents with young children, opportunities to sit near to the playground are essential. This is especially true given the size of the park and its proximity to a laneway and two roadways. You could consider a bench or other seating on the southwest corner of the playground and extending the seating wall further south along the east side. Please also consider shade trees near these seating options

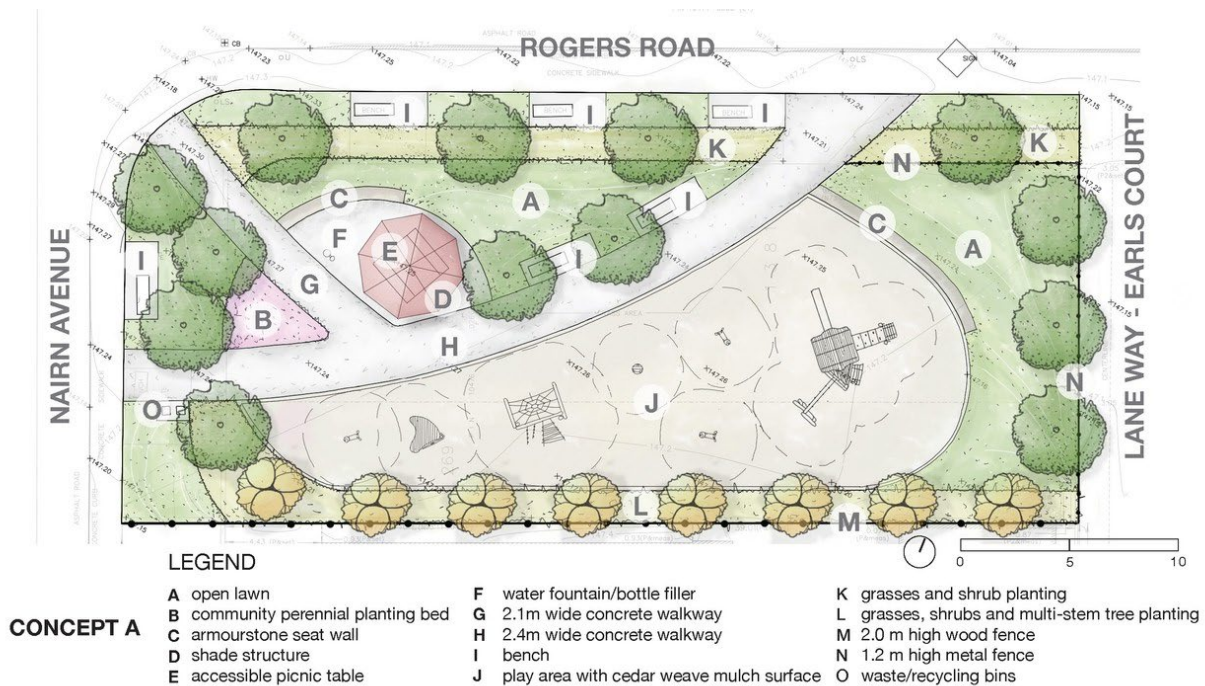
to shade the seating areas and parts of the playground. Summers are only going to get hotter, shade in/around the playground will be appreciated!

- Pollinator garden is very concerning as many children have severe allergic reactions to bees. Infants and toddlers would also be discouraged from walking through (mothers with strollers) due to potential for interaction with bees or pollinators. As this neighbourhood is growing with young families, I would highly suggest against having this at this park and place it elsewhere, away from children and families.
- Soccer/basketball court
- Effective security lighting
- More trees and more evergreen trees
- The shade structure could be closer to the playground so families with young babies can seek shade while toddlers play in the playground, and parents can keep an eye on them
- I want to stress the need for accessibility for all children. Including a wheelchair accessible "climber"
- Adirondack are difficult to get in and out of esp for elderly/mobility. Please design to take citizens into consideration - all other green areas in the neighbourhood (even cemetery) used by careless dog owners who let them run off leash and forget to pick up after them
- Consider accessibility
- Please emphasize nature.
- I think it is a great design
- Very happy to see a park here and both concepts are good. My only thing is the benches on Rogers on the existing cement pads. I don't see the value of these, especially if facing toward Rogers.
- Please put in ping pong tables and lots of seating areas
- What about a fence for the Rogers Road side?
- Please consider fencing the entirety of the park. Children are fast, and Rogers is a busy road. Fences and gates would make parents feel safer letting their children play here.
- Thank you. We hope to see this park come to reality by next summer
- Fenced dog area if possible
- Dog space
- rubber ground of playground soft for kids and no cleanup
- If there isn't a fenced off section for dogs, the dogs, in my experience, take over the parks because the owners let them off leash. It is not safe for little kids, and a pain for everyone
- else.
- Not enough open space!!
- Thanks for adding a park!
- I would like the park to be enclosed and to allow for dogs
- Dog area

- Pickle Ball is becoming very popular is it possible to incorporate this activity into the park
- Fencing around the hole park, more recycle and waste bins, picnic tables, and more vegetation
- Rogers is a high traffic area, fencing should be around whole park. In both options there should be a picnic table on the east side under the trees. There should be waste/recycling at all entrances.
- I would love to see an alternative to the wood base for the play area - a spongy bottom like the park just north of the No Frills at Alberta. Some more trees WITHIN the play area (just move the existing ones) to provide actual SHADE in the play area where needed. I love SO MUCH about the park designs you've provided overall - but not the shade structure. Can that be more 'natural looking' less, Provincial park eating area? The fence height: Yes to 1 metre at the East side, but maybe a bit shorter on Rogers - the 1.2 metres feels too high
- These designs are great. I prefer the 'curve' approach. The playground proposed is big; can we give more of that space to lawns? Re: chairs and PingPong tables, please keep in mind that unfortunately everything in our neighbourhood gets abused.

## Appendix C: Concept Design Options

### Concept Design A



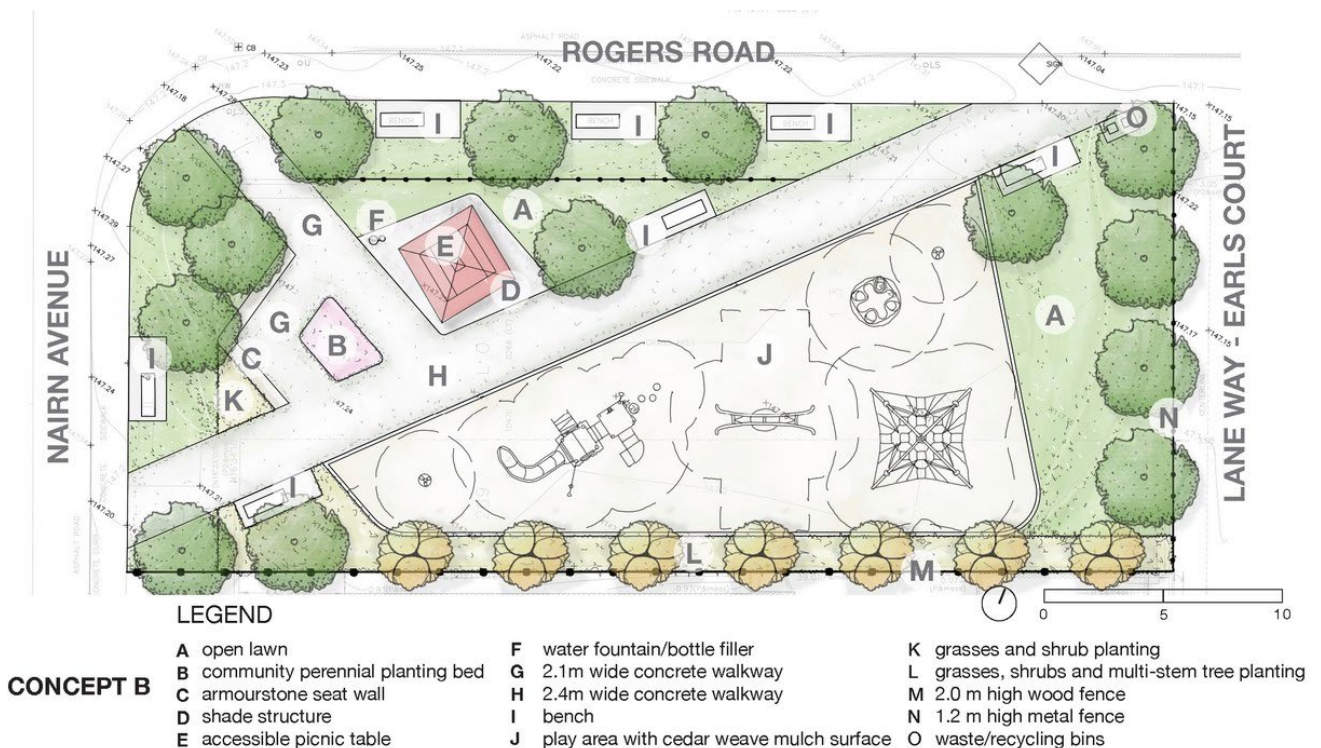
### Concept Design Focus:

Design Concept A is characterized by curvilinear shapes and forms. Concept A has three entrances to the park. The central 2.4m wide pathway stretches from the southwest to the northeast corner of the park allowing enough space for pedestrians, cyclists and park maintenance.

The main entrance to the site is located on the corner of Nairn Avenue and Rogers Road, leading directly into the park which has a curve-shaped design. In the centre of the park is a gathering area with an armourstone seat wall and shade structure with a picnic table for people to sit and relax. Across from the congregation area is a space for a perennial garden to be maintained by local community members. Along the north and east side of the park stretches an open lawn area for various passive recreational activities. The north edge also features a planted buffer to provide a natural buffer from the street.

A metal fence is proposed on the east side of the park along the laneway, acting as a safety barrier while maintaining sightlines and allowing light to pass through for safety purposes. A two-meter high wood screen is proposed along the entire southern edge of the park along with trees, ornamental grasses and shrub planting to act as a buffer and screen for the neighboring residence and add aesthetic appeal to the park.

## Concept Design B



### Concept Design Focus:

Concept B is a more sleek and modern approach with angular shapes and forms. Similar to the layout of Concept A, Concept B's pathways are orientated through the park from the southwest to the northeast side, with the main entrance coming from Nairn Avenue and Rogers Road.

The main pathway leads you towards a congregation area, an armourstone seat wall surrounding a space for a community-maintained perennial garden. Where the paths intersect, there is an armourstone seat wall overlooking the angular playground space. A modern style play structure is proposed to fit in with the sleek, angular forms of the park. Nestled into the playground space is a concrete congregation space with a shade structure and picnic tables.

Located on the park's north, east and west sides are open lawn areas surrounded by a grove of trees acting as a buffer from the street. Similar to Concept A, this park also has trees, ornamental grasses and shrub planting proposed along the southern edge and the same wood screen and metal fence configuration.