

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

New Parks in the Six Points Neighbourhood

Phase 1: Pre-Engagement

Thought Exchange Survey Summary Report

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Project Background

New parks are coming to the Six Points neighbourhood!

These new parks are a part of the City's Parkland Strategy and are located near the intersection of Bloor Street West and Kipling Avenue. The new parks will include Etobicoke Centre Park (5,500 m²), Dunkip Park (2,210 m²), and an expansion of existing Six Points Park (1,600 m²). A fourth new park referred to as Linear Park (2,708 m²) will be converted into parkland in the future.

This project is in the pre-engagement phase and community feedback collected during the community engagement process will help determine the design of the new parks and district plan.

Proposed Design

The new parks are a result of the Six Points Interchange Reconfiguration project which realigns several roads, including Kipling Avenue, Bloor Street West and Dundas Street West. The road reconfiguration has created four new park sites and several new development areas. The parks will surround the new Etobicoke Civic Centre and Civic Plaza, which is a separate project that is not within the scope of this project.

The project will focus on the development of three new parks (Six Points Expansion, Dunkip and Etobicoke Centre). Note: the park names for Dunkip and Etobicoke Centre are not final. The official park names will be determined through the process outlined in the City's updated Property Naming Policy.

Programming in the new parks may include:

- Multi-sport court (e.g. basketball, tennis, pickleball, etc.)
- Sport field
- Small skateboarding area (i.e. skate spot)
- Playground and/or water play (e.g. splash pad)
- Park entrance/gateway feature
- Dogs off-leash area
- Indigenous placemaking and placekeeping
- Integrated art/design feature
- Seating and gathering areas
- Green space and new plantings (e.g. trees, shrubs etc.)
- Lighting
- Accessible pathways

Park District Vision

The new parks coming to the Six Points neighbourhood will form a new park district that will benefit existing and future residents of the community. The new park district will provide open green spaces to a neighbourhood in need of additional park space, including new park amenities and features that could include a playground, fitness area, seating, and recreational/leisure space as well as a dogs off-leash area (DOLA). The new parks will allow for multifunctional uses by all age groups and will be designed for community members to relax and enjoy upon their visit.

Online Survey

On June 15, 2022, the project team launched an online survey to collect community insights on the new parks coming to the Six Points Neighbourhood. Responses to the survey will help inform future draft design options for the new parks and the park district plan.

The online survey was available from June 15th to July 1st, 2022. The survey received a **total of 1,661 responses**, which included input from participants of various ages and backgrounds.

Key Feedback

Community members shared their excitement and ideas for this new park district. The following are key themes identified by survey participants in their responses (the total number of responses provided for each theme is shown in brackets):

- General Park Design (344)
- Open Green Space (332)
- Safety (271)
- Pets (164)
- Accessibility (157)
- Play Features (114)
- Sport Facilities (68)
- Water Play/Features (57)
- Outdoor Fitness (41)
- History/Heritage (40)
- Shade (40)
- Seating (39)
- Park Maintenance (38)
- Winter Programming/Design (29)

All additional responses and a full summary of results for the survey questions can be reviewed through this [Thoughtexchange survey report link](#). The following summarizes key feedback from the online survey of the most popular ideas that are within the project scope. **Feedback received regarding park maintenance has been noted and will be*

*shared with the appropriate City Staff and will remain outside the scope of the **design** and **construction** project.*

Gathering and Open Green Space

The new parks should be built with a higher portion of gathering and open green space and should be accessible during the warmer and winter seasons. Environmentally friendly & sustainable materials should be used in the park designs for building new park amenities and features.

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "Area lacks greenspace which is important for health and wellness" – 4.4 rating.
 - "Need more green space with an area that is full of tall buildings" – 4.4 rating.
 - "Lots of natural elements and seating that can be enjoyed both summer and winter." – 4.3 rating.
 - "Various materials used in creating park district are environmentally friendly & sustainable" – 4.0 rating.
 - "We need more outdoor space for people to just sit outside - SO many condos without yards! Lots of us don't have access to yard space." – 4.0 rating.

Shade Trees and Plantings

Ensure the new parks include a large quantity of new trees for shade, pollinator and native plantings, as well as vegetation barriers to help improve climate conditions, air quality, protection against urban heatwaves, and to separate the park areas from nearby traffic.

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "Greenery encourages relaxation, creativity and places to gather under the shade." – 4.3 rating.
 - "Trees and other natural foliage are important in cities because they help to battle the urban heat effect, and encourage natural pollinators in the area." – 4.2 rating.
 - "Trees, safe walking area, keep it natural with local flora and fauna. Like Colonel Samuel Smith Park" – 4.1 rating.
 - "Urban tree canopy. Cool shade. Pollinators because climate. Because children. Air quality and life." – 4.1 rating.
 - "More plant density to block out sound and sight of traffic. There aren't a lot of large plants in the area and the roads are wide and busy" – 4.0 rating.
 - "It would be nice if there were parts of the parks that have lots of trees and native plants, and not just grass and amenities. For clean air and wildlife (birds and pollinators)." – 4.0 rating.

Ensure the parks provide ample shade for park users to relax, create, and play under.

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "Trees. Lots of trees. Way more trees than you think. Shade. Climate change. Nature." – 4.4 rating.
 - "This area could really benefit from lots of green and lush plants and trees. Greenery encourages relaxation, creativity and places to gather under the shade." – 4.3 rating.
 - "A lot of people took up walking during Covid more so along Bloor than Dundas so it would be nice to have shaded park benches to sit at under trees." – 4.0 rating.
 - "Shade and tree plantings to curb urban heat island and winter warming. Make the area safe for elderly and children during extreme heat/cold days. Health and safety in hot summer and winter for all ages is essential for successful park use and needs thoughtful design." – 4.0 rating.

Park User Safety

Residents and community members of the Six Parks neighbourhood and wider Etobicoke area consider safety as a top priority for the new parks district. Ensure the park is safe by considering the following popular thoughts:

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "Creating a buffer zone between roadway/park and maximizing park space. The buffer zone is important for safety as the parks are close to major roadways, and maximizing green space is important given the smaller park size" – 4.3 rating.
 - "Safety for women" – 4.2 rating.
 - "Large senior population. Many children, we need this as a slow and safe zone. Cars run many lights, we need to keep this a safe and slow zone. More parks. No more condos here. It is already congested." – 4.2 rating.
 - "Lighting so park can be used during winter months. Often parks are very dark when it gets dark out at 5 pm and it's important for these features to be useable and safe during the fall/winter" – 4.2 rating.
 - "The parks are along very wide, noisy roads with people who don't respect speed limits. They need good separation and maybe safer crossings (bollards?)" – 4.1 rating.
 - "Road, pedestrian and road safety. Proximity of green spaces are close and how the edge treatment and connection between them by means of travel can be studied to create user safety." – 4.1 rating.
 - "Safety is of the utmost importance. Feeling safe to use this park at all hours of the day and evening should be the first priority." – 4.0 rating.

Noise Mitigation

Build a park that creates an oasis experience within an increasingly dense and high-traffic area. The design of each park should consider how noise can be mitigated utilizing natural elements.

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "Would be nice to have a park area with trees or bushes around the edges to block out traffic noise and views. To provide some form of escape from the city chaos." – 4.4 rating.
 - "Small, quiet seating areas spread throughout the park. To provide residents in this densely populated neighborhood access to a peaceful space to quiet and calm" – 4.4 rating.
 - "We need a forest of trees because of all the roads and asphalt and very noisy vehicles. Our environment needs nature and green space to stop climate change. Trees are important for mental health." – 4.0 rating.
 - "Limit noise. I don't want to be reminded that I am sitting in the middle of traffic." – 4.0 rating.

Multi-Season Design Options

Ensure the new parks and available amenities are functional and safe to use during all seasons, especially during winter.

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "Lots of natural elements and seating that can be enjoyed both summer and winter." – 4.3 rating.
 - "Consider how it's used during all seasons, have the flexibility for the space to be transformed into an inviting space even in winter. I can't think of any spots nearby that would make me want to leave my house during the winter. Usually have to drive away from this area." – 4.1 rating.
 - "Seating, tables, hangout spots. Adults and older youth in the area have limited access to places to just spend outdoor time with friends. Sitting, picnic spots, etc." – 4.0 rating.

Connectivity, Accessibility and Inclusive Park Design

Build parks that are accessible to all age groups and consider a wide range of disabilities and barriers to access in the park design. The new park district should create an efficient pathway network that emphasizes connectivity between all four park areas, open green spaces, park amenities, and the future central community centre.

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY. I'm in a wheelchair.", and "Must be accessible as my daughter is in a wheelchair." – 4.1 rating.
 - "Accessible and safe for seniors and for people with pets. This space needs to be for all ages not only children. Provide spaces

that serve the surrounding community; not only families with children." – 4.1 rating.

- "Has to be accessible & spacious. This area should benefit everyone to a certain degree; from those with disabilities to those who want to cherish nature." – 4.1 rating.
- "Access for people with physical disabilities and their families 12 months of the year (to the best of the staff's abilities depending upon the weather. Everyone deserves an opportunity to enjoy and learn and share with their neighbours." – 4.1 rating.
- "It's important to have paths through the parks as they are on a major intersection and it is much more enjoyable to get around. Adds to the beauty and functionality of neighbourhood." – 4.0 rating.
- "Walkability. It's already much better but the area needs to be more accessible. It would be nice to walk to the subway and into the neighbourhood more easily, especially with kids and the future civic centre." – 4.0 rating.
- "Pedestrian accessibility. To encourage walking in the neighborhood, to also reduce the use of cars." – 4,0 rating.
- "Public washrooms. If meant for children, please include washrooms." – 3.9 rating.

Spaces for Dogs

Build a dog park or dog-friendly spaces for local residents to use safely with their pets and to gather with other pet owners within their neighbourhood.

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "We absolutely need a dog park in this neighbourhood. There are a ton of dogs in our neighbourhood and not a single dog park. It's quite sad actually. Dog owners and their dogs need a safe, relaxing space. Everyone I know has a dog and this the single biggest complaint we hear all the time!" – 4.1 rating.
 - "Dog park! Dogs need space too." – 4.0 rating.
 - "Dog-friendly spaces. Lots of dogs in the neighborhood and they need dog-friendly spaces around play with other dogs." – 4.0 rating.
 - "Dog-friendly spaces. Dogs and pets are good for mental health and they need spaces to be healthy and social." – 4.0 rating.
 - "We need more dog-friendly spaces. There aren't enough safe and contained off-leash area for dogs in this neighbourhood that has a high density of dogs. Dogs need room to play/exercise." – 4.0 rating.
 - "Off leash dog park. There are none in the area and during Covid most people here got dogs. There is no safe place for them to interact and socialize which is crucial." – 4.0 rating.

Outdoor Fitness Equipment/Areas

Consider including fitness equipment for use by all age groups. During COVID-19, many residents in the area became increasingly active and need safer spaces to walk and exercise.

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "An outdoor work out area as there are many young workers in the area. Access to outdoor work out equipment promotes public health especially after years of being inside." – 4.0 rating.
 - "I've tried exercise equipment for adults in other countries and it is really great . I haven't seen it in Canada. Provide a reason to visit the park." – 4.0 rating.

Park Design for All Ages and User Groups

Ensure the parks are designed for all age groups, especially older adults and seniors.

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "Seniors. Because parks are always being built for children. Not seniors." – 4.1 rating.
 - "Parks can be designed for everyone not just children's play parks, or walkways don't have to always lead to them. Areas can be built for others to enjoy. If parks are designed for all ages, then everyone can enjoy the space." – 4.0 rating.
 - "Multi use for all ages. Diverse community of young couples with young kids, single couples and retired families" – 4.0 rating.
 - "The seniors population is increasing and their needs should be considered in design and any shared use with different age groups. Seniors with mobility issues need safety considerations such as proper lighting, non slip surfaces or reduced tripping hazards etc." – 4.0 rating.

Build play areas for youth and teenagers that are accessible and influenced by a unique design/approach. Ensure the play areas are spacious and large enough to accommodate large groups of users.

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "As little concrete and as much greenery as reasonable; unstructured play areas for children - like Dufferin Grove Park's Children's play area; seating. Children need areas to just mess around and adults need trees and seating to watch their children play." – 4.0 rating.
 - "Many buildings in the area, just few parks for them. Kids have no places to go or are overcrowded. Also, there isn't much do in those parks, specially for kids 10+." – 4.0 rating.
 - "We need a space for the teenagers, not just the little kids and their parents/pets. Kids grow up and the playground alone won't serve them well through the different stages of their life." – 4.0 rating.

Park Maintenance

Ensure the park is well maintained and garbage bins should be strategically spread along walking paths and near access points of the parks, park amenities, and open green spaces.

- Popular relevant thoughts:
 - "When people see a clean community they are inclined to keep it that way. Adds to the appeal of the area." – 4.4 rating.
 - "Continued maintenance will ensure that the parks are continued to be used and enjoyed." – 4.3 rating.
 - "Having trash bins and pet poop bags, signs to deter ppl from not picking up poop is important for health safety" – 4.1 rating.

How We Reached People

The community was informed of engagement activities through social and print media, listed below:

Print Media

Signage near the site

Project information was displayed on 36x48 notice boards placed near the new park sites. These notice boards provided information about the project, details about the online survey, and how to access additional information on the project webpage.

Community Mail Outs (Postcards)

20,172 postcards advertising the project webpage and online survey were delivered to addresses in the neighbourhood within 2km of the site.

Digital Media

eFlyer

A digital flyer was circulated to community groups and the local Councillor's Office for additional distribution.

Social Media and Digital Ads

The City of Toronto used its Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts to promote the virtual community meeting and online survey through paid advertisements and organic posts from June 15 to July 1st, 2022.

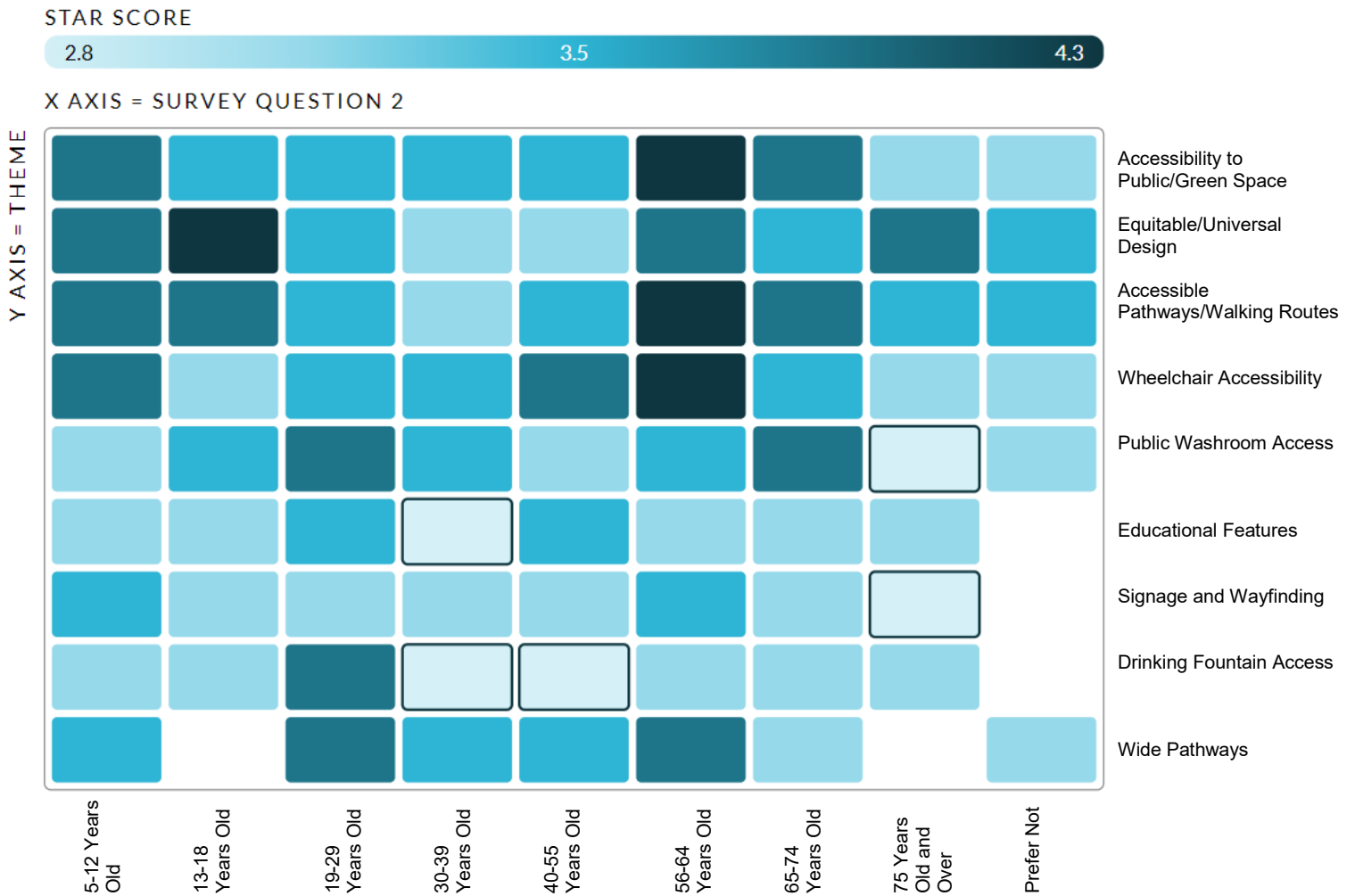
Project Webpage

A webpage (toronto.ca/SixPointsParks) was set up to act as a communications portal to inform the public about the new park project. The webpage hosts all up to date information regarding the project, including links to the online survey and a sign-up button for e-updates.

Appendix A: Survey Feedback Analysis

This section of the report includes additional key insights collected from the Six Points ThoughtExchange survey, organized in specific categories that reveal unique user perspectives that will help inform future design options. It is important to observe data from various perspectives to ensure the designs for each park space, as well as any upcoming engagement events, consider the individual lived experiences of the area's park users. All key themes (Y Axis) are rated out of 5, with 5 representing a highly popular rating and 2.8 or less representing a lower popular rating.

Accessibility Interests, by Age

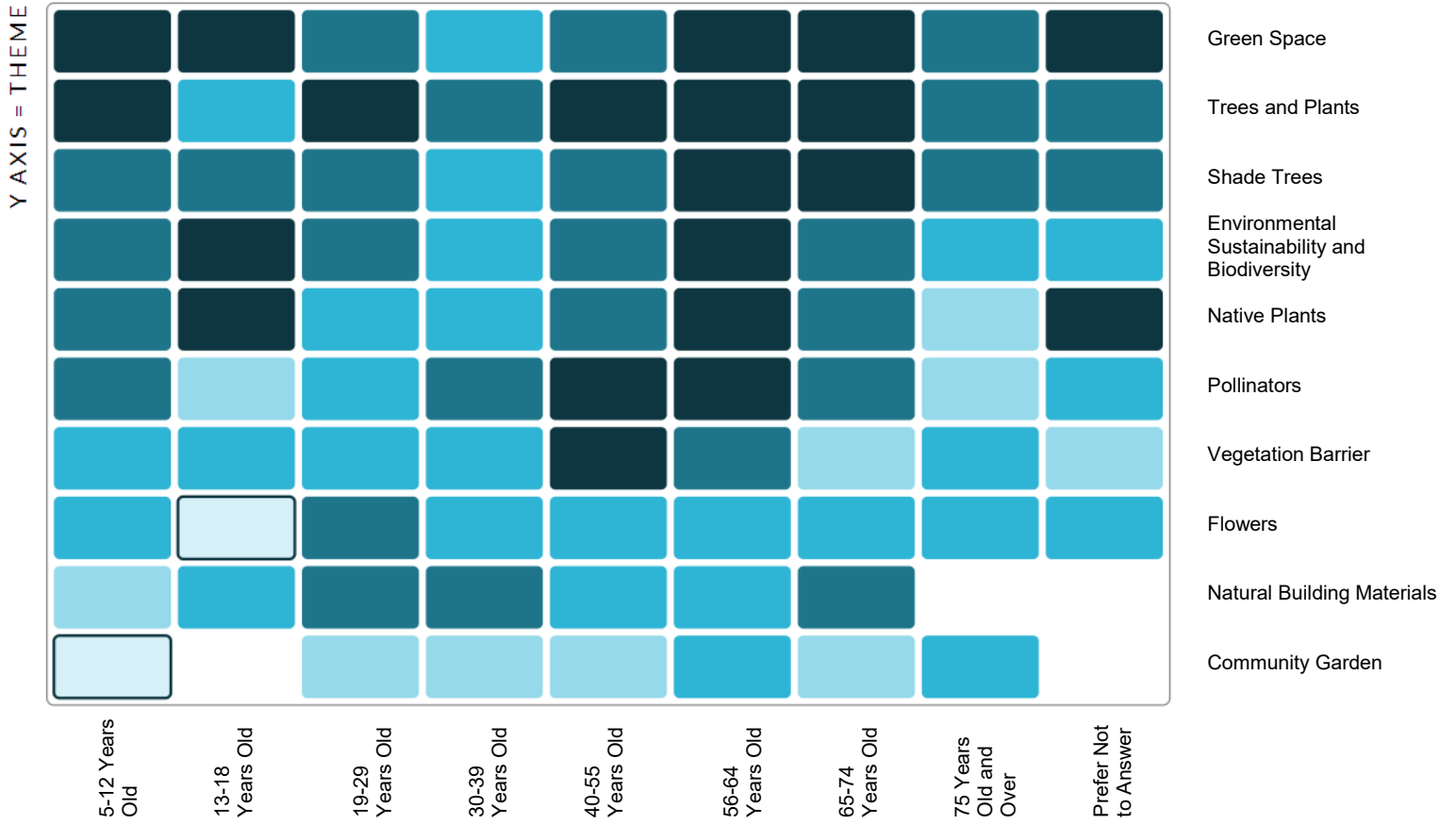


Green Space and Sustainability Interests, by Age

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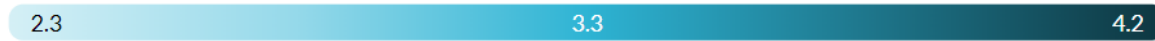


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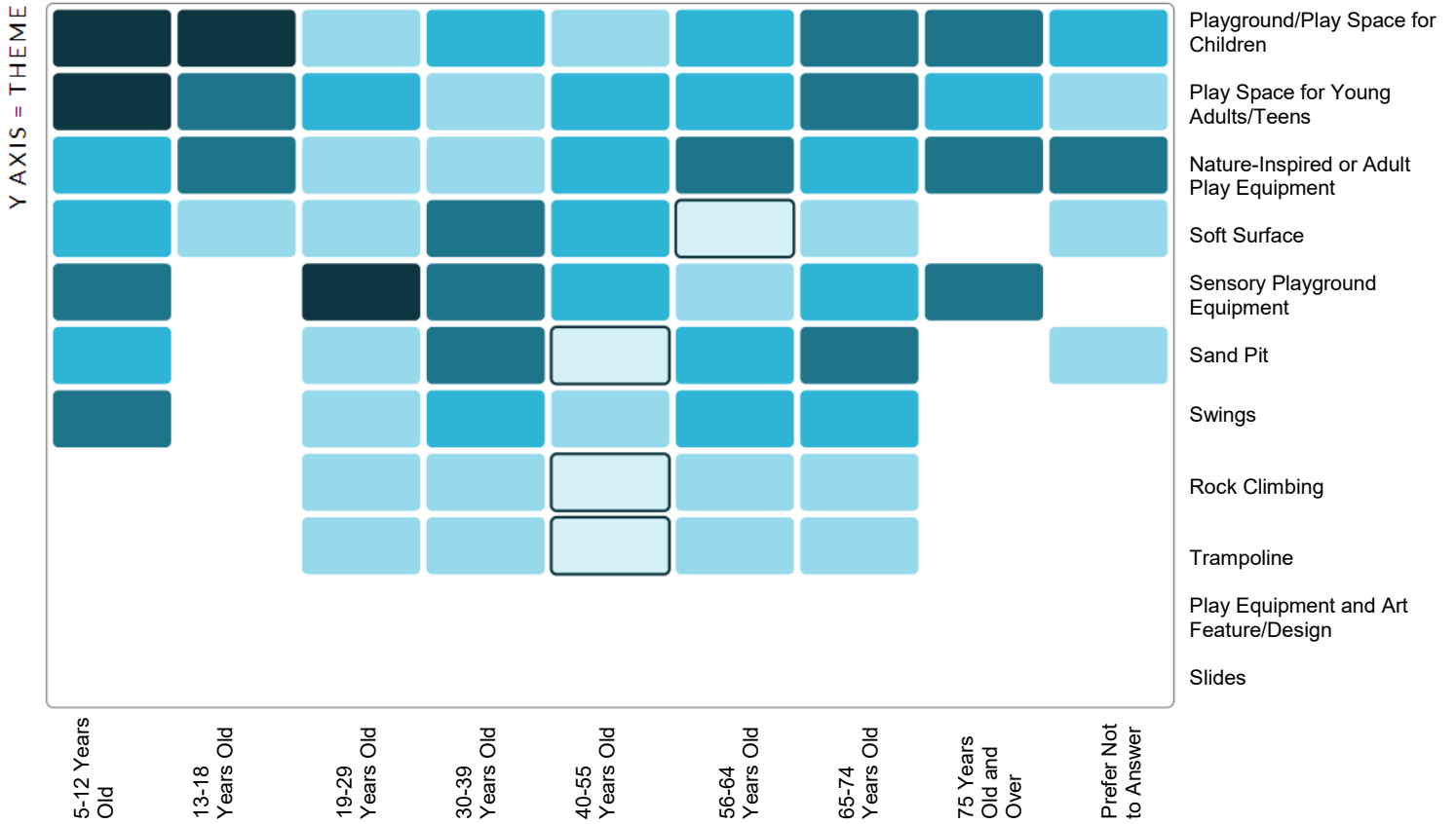


Playground Features and Outdoor Play Interests, by Age

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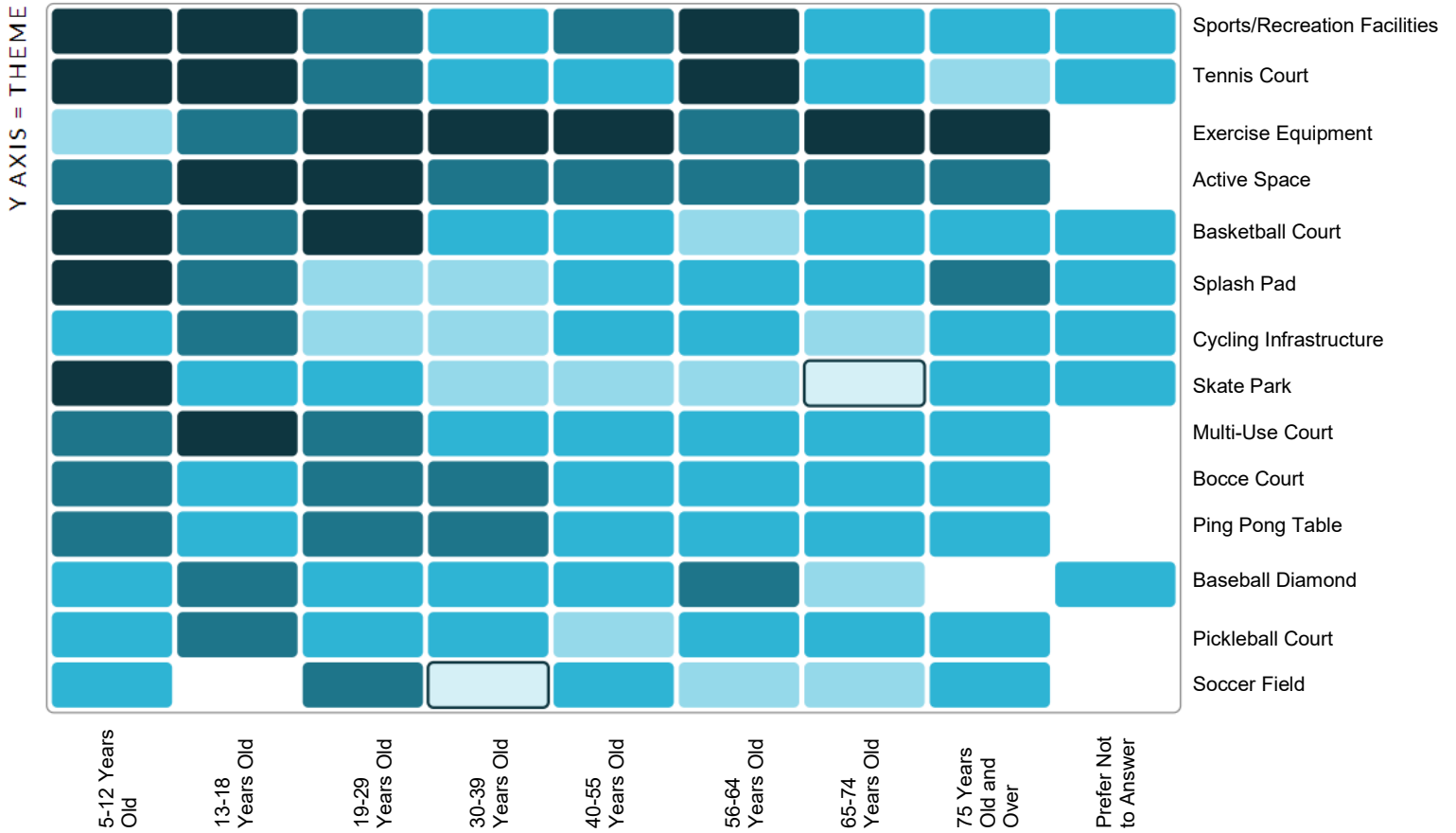


Sports and Recreational Use Interests, by Age

STAR SCORE



X AXIS = SURVEY QUESTION 2



Safety Interests, by Particular Identity Groups

STAR SCORE



X AXIS = SURVEY QUESTION 4

