

City of Toronto – Parks, Forestry & Recreation

# **New Parks at 10 Ordnance Street & 801 Wellington Street West**

## **Phase 3: Exploring Design Options** Online Survey Summary Report

October 2023



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## Overview

From August 21<sup>st</sup> to September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the City of Toronto hosted an online survey so that community members could help shape the vision and design for the new parks at 10 Ordnance Street and 801 Wellington Street West.

# 802

Respondents

**802 people** responded to the online survey, providing their comments, thoughts, and preferences to inform the parks' vision statement, design principles, design priorities, and design options.

## What We Heard

### The Vision Statement

A vision statement provides direction for what the future parks will look and feel like.

The draft vision statement is:

**“Ordnance and Wellington parks will provide a unique urban oasis with spectacular views of the City skyline, as well as enhanced connections to the adjacent community and city. The parks will balance ecological design, restful open spaces, and a dynamic and playful public realm.”**

The following details how the draft vision statement resonated with the respondents:

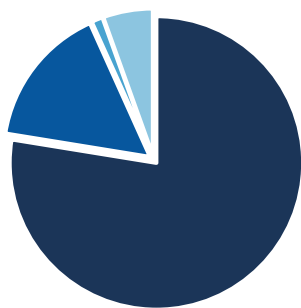


Figure 1: Respondents' answer to "Does the vision statement resonate with you?"

Legend	Response	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
■	Yes: I like the vision statement	622	78%
■	Somewhat: I would change the vision statement a little	126	16%
■	No: I would change the vision statement a lot	10	1%
■	I am not sure	44	5%

The following section summarizes the feedback received when participants were asked if they had any suggested changes or comments for the vision statement, sorted thematically. 62 participants (8%) provided input on this section.

### Ecological Design

- Prioritize ecological restoration over playfulness.
- Support biodiversity by including native species of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers.
- Add meadowlands and space for wildlife, including pollinators and migratory birds.
- Consider participating in the David Suzuki Foundation's Butterflyway Project to promote pollinator-friendly environments.
- Create safe spaces for pets and incorporate designs that support local urban wildlife.
- Increase greenery and emphasize multi-use green spaces with trees and plants.
- Avoid an "urban oasis" design and minimize the amount of cement and concrete.
- Balance Indigenous ecology with supportive public spaces and services.
- Include native plant species and pollinators, possibly incorporating them into a Medicine Wheel design.

### Amenities

- Cater to the diverse needs of local residents in the area.
- Ensure inclusivity by providing amenities for both young and older individuals.
- Prioritize accessibility within the park by focusing on pedestrian and bike access.
- Strive for a balance between simplicity and functionality in park amenities, given the limited space.
- Focus on providing amenities and spaces for relaxation and enjoying views.
- Create more meeting spaces within the park.
- Incorporate historical context and honor the heritage of the spaces.
- Incorporate Indigenous art and design elements into the park, potentially featuring sculptures and artwork by Indigenous artists.

### Connections

- Reduce the emphasis on "enhanced connections" as people come to parks for relaxation and play.
- Consider the park's proximity to other parks, downtown, and transit.
- Provide accessible wayfinding signage.
- Strive for a balance between restful and energetic spaces, acknowledging the challenges posed by highways, train tracks, and traffic routes.

## Dynamic and Playful

- Clarify the meaning of "dynamic and playful public realm," as it appears vague and filled with buzzwords.
- Align the vision with a stronger emphasis on "restful open spaces" and omit the term "playful."
- Recognize the existing presence of playgrounds nearby.
- Prioritize practical elements like bathrooms and lighting over playfulness.
- Consider the preferences of the local demographic, which may prioritize tranquility over playfulness.

## Dogs

- Highlight the distinction between human-focused and dog-friendly aspects of the park.
- Emphasize the importance of enforcing animal bylaws to ensure safety.
- Address concerns about irresponsible dog owners and their impact on the park.
- Maintain the park's role as a space for dogs to play, possibly expanding into a large dog park with a walking trail outside.
- Create a park where people can walk and enjoy the space, not just a passage-through area or a dog park.

## Wording

- Create a vision statement using a more locally informed approach to have a more realistic and relatable tone.
- Rephrase the sentence starting with "the parks will balance..." to make it less vague.
- Prioritize equity, access, safety, and nature in the vision statement.
- Focus on ecological design, restful spaces, and enhanced connections.
- Make the vision statement more concise for better memorability.
- Remove the word "oasis" and replace it with "space."
- Remove the word "unique" and consider how simplicity in park design is sufficient.
- Consider how the term "urban oasis" may imply inhospitability in the surroundings.

## The Design Principles

Design principles are a set of recommendations to guide the project and design process.

There are 8 design principles for the new parks. The following details how each design principle resonated with the respondents:

### 1) Establish a **Distinct Identity** for the Parks

- Emphasize unique site features including landforms and views.
- Include public art.



Distinct  
Identity

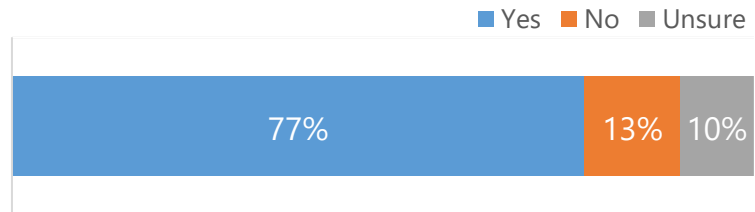


Figure 2a: Respondents' answer to "Do the following draft design principles resonate with you?" relating to Distinct Identity.

### 2) Protect And Enhance **Key Views**

- Maintain and frame views of the city skyline from Ordnance Park, and create new vantage points.
- Create a signature viewing space, potentially with porch swings.



Key  
Views

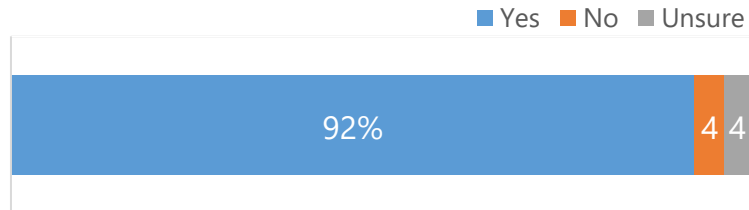


Figure 2b: Respondents' answer to "Do the following draft design principles resonate with you?" relating to Key Views.

### 3) Strengthen Site **Topography and Landform**

- Emphasize and sculpt the peninsula at Ordnance Park and the berm at Wellington Park.
- Create sculpted berms, shifting planes, steps, and slopes to create unique spaces, support programming, direct views, and provide physical and visual buffers.

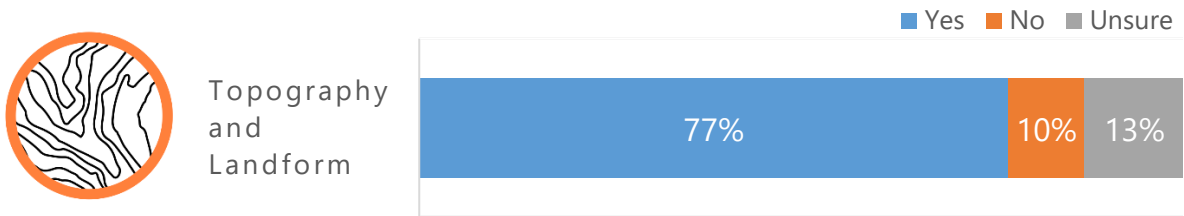


Figure 2c: Respondents' answer to "Do the following draft design principles resonate with you?" relating to Topography and Landform.

#### 4) **Improve Connections** in the Parks and to the Community

- Provide new connections to the local community, other open spaces and active transportation networks.
- Develop a hierarchy of pathways and spaces that will improve accessibility and connectivity throughout the parks.

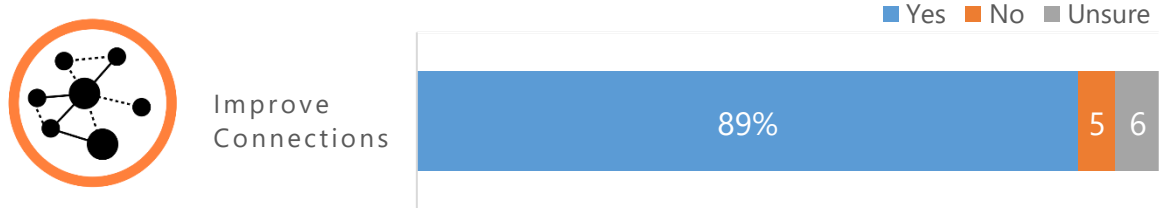


Figure 2d: Respondents' answer to "Do the following draft design principles resonate with you?" relating to Improving Connections.

#### 5) Enhance **Site Ecology**

- Maximize tree planting to increase the tree canopy.
- Include naturalized plantings and pollinator species, creating wildlife habitat.
- Include traditional Indigenous medicine and plants.
- Use plants that provide seasonal texture and colour.
- Use trees and vegetation to frame views and create visual and sound buffers.

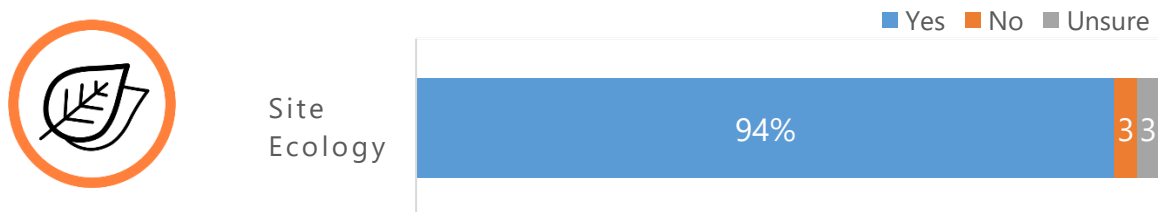


Figure 2e: Respondents' answer to "Do the following draft design principles resonate with you?" relating to Site Ecology.

#### 6) Create **Safe and Inclusive** Parks for All Ages and All Abilities

- Provide a range of seating options and ample, accessible seating and gathering spaces.
- Maintain balance between quiet and active spaces.
- Avoid over-programming to protect the existing qualities of the parks.

- Provide active programming involving play or fitness.
- Design dog-friendly spaces and protect sensitive areas from dogs.
- Provide safe site lighting, enhanced feature lighting and protect dark spaces.

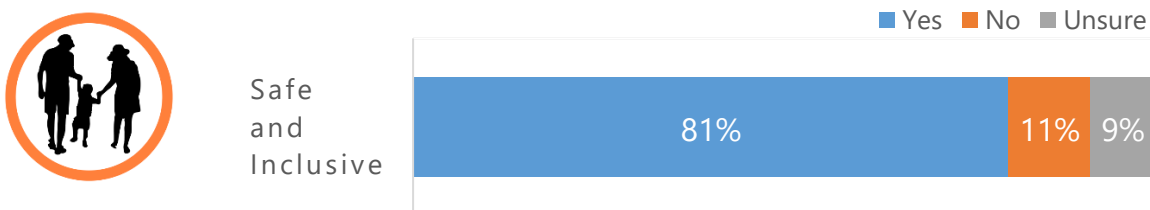


Figure 2f: Respondents' answer to "Do the following draft design principles resonate with you?" relating to Safety and Inclusivity.

#### 7) Contribute to Public Health through **Sustainable and Resilient** Design

- Use robust and low-maintenance materials.
- Provide shade, wind protection, improved air quality, and increased biodiversity.

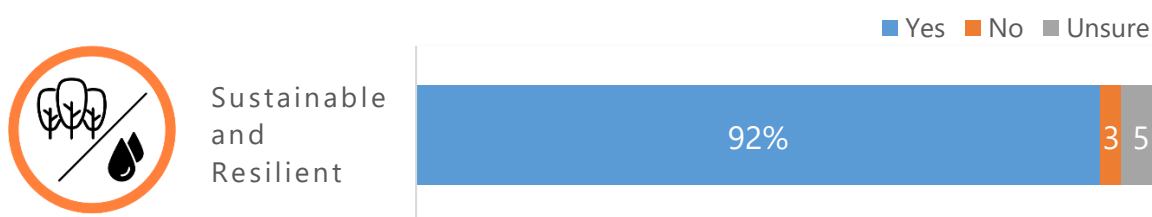


Figure 2g: Respondents' answer to "Do the following draft design principles resonate with you?" relating to Sustainability and Resiliency.

#### 8) Reflect the **Natural and Cultural Heritage** of the Site

- Provide integrated interpretive elements that reflect the history of Garrison Creek, Indigenous peoples' relationship with the land, British colonial military use, and rail and trade routes.



Figure 2h: Respondents' answer to "Do the following draft design principles resonate with you?" relating to Natural and Cultural Heritage.



The following section summarizes the feedback received when participants were asked if they had any suggested changes or comments for the design principles, sorted thematically. 187 participants (23%) provided input on this section.

### Park Identity

- Incorporate the multicultural identity of the neighbourhood.
- Consider creating a modern park with contemporary art.
- Include more input from Indigenous peoples in park design.
- Ensure the park primarily serves local residents rather than becoming a tourist destination.
- Emphasize the need for urban oases that allow residents to escape the feeling of being in the city, particularly for those tired of downtown development.
- Highlight the popularity of the park as a dog-friendly space.

### Views

- Preserve the excellent view and keep the park natural without public art or beams.
- Avoid blocking views for ground-floor townhouse residents.
- Consider providing seating options, but avoid excessive additions like porch swings.

### Topography & Landform

- Focus on dynamic topography and planting to complement the existing views offered by the unique location.
- Incorporate a water feature to represent Garrison Creek's history.
- Emphasize the need for more natural landscaping to create a unique and valuable natural park in the downtown core.
- Advocate for minimal concrete, and preserve trees and vegetation.
- Avoid using wood chips for playgrounds or dog areas.
- Recommend the inclusion of buffer zones and private spaces in the park design.

### Amenities

- Acknowledge the park's popularity among runners and cyclists, and optimize pedestrian pathways for efficiency and usability.
- Advocate for a flow that accommodates people and bike traffic while allowing for gathering and resting spots.
- Encourage simplicity and functional paths, and avoid excessive design.
- Add a recreational court such as a tennis court, bocce ball or pickleball to promote activity and connection.

- Consider incorporating skateboard infrastructure in the park.
- Question the need for additional pathways as they might reduce green space.
- Consider the practicality and maintenance costs of porch swings and other proposed amenities.
- Establish LED lighting along the path to King Street.
- Add a path between 11 Ordnance Street and the park.

## Ecology

- Create a park that fosters a close connection with nature and coexistence with wildlife.
- Focus on providing pathways, open grassy spaces, and shade-providing trees.
- Promote ecological preservation and sustainability, and maintain greenery and plants in this valuable green space.
- Advocate for greenery and open space; minimize pavement and benches.
- Highlight the importance of preserving the area's natural state and minimizing concrete in the park design.
- Protect the habitat of migratory birds and pollinators in the park by enforcing animal-related bylaws.
- Take inspiration from English gardens and French parks, including water features.

## Big Moves

The top five Big Moves (design priorities) that participants felt were most important for **both parks** are listed below. Details about the Big Moves can be found in **Appendix B**.

		Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	<b>Range of Seating Options</b>	437	79%
2.	<b>Tree Planting &amp; Seasonal Colour</b>	431	78%
3.	<b>New Pathway Connections</b>	416	75%
4.	<b>Pollinator Meadows &amp; Wildlife Habitat</b>	359	65%
5.	<b>Gateway Entrances</b>	298	54%

The top three Big Moves (design priorities) that participants felt were most important for **10 Ordinance Street** are listed below:

		Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	<b>Framed Views</b>	192	35%
2.	<b>Porch Swings &amp; Feature Lookout</b>	164	30%
3.	<b>Children's Play</b>	121	22%

The top three Big Moves (design priorities) that participants felt were most important for **801 Wellington Street West** are listed below:

		Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
1.	<b>Outdoor Fitness</b>	139	25%
2.	<b>Children's Play</b>	122	22%
3.	<b>Sculpted Landforms</b>	79	14%

The following section summarizes the feedback received when participants were asked if they had other Big Moves (design priorities) they would like to see.

- Avoid imposing features like porch swings and large black steel beams that obstruct views; instead, opt for more natural and blended-in elements.
- Create more picnic areas, walking space, and community garden space.
- Preserve old trees and plant more greenery in the downtown core.
- Strategically plant trees to muffle trains and downtown noises.
- Prioritize ecological design and climate adaptation, including using trees for cooling and introducing native plants.
- Allocate space for cycling to reduce conflicts in high-traffic areas.
- Highlight the need for trash cans, water fountains, and shared bike racks.
- Emphasize the importance of safety and cleanliness in the park.
- Ensure there are quiet areas for meditation and reflection in the park.
- Add a stage or amphitheater for small concerts or plays.
- Improve communication about park events and their frequency.
- Provide Wi-Fi.
- Add public barbecue spaces for outdoor cooking.
- Incorporate a skateboarding park.

## The Design Options



### Design Option 1: FLOW

*Flow* takes inspiration from the movement of people, the meander of water, and the migration patterns of plants and wildlife. The design creates a hierarchy of circulation routes, provides ecological corridors, and provides places to rest and play. All of this is framed by trees and meadows that heighten one's experience of the site

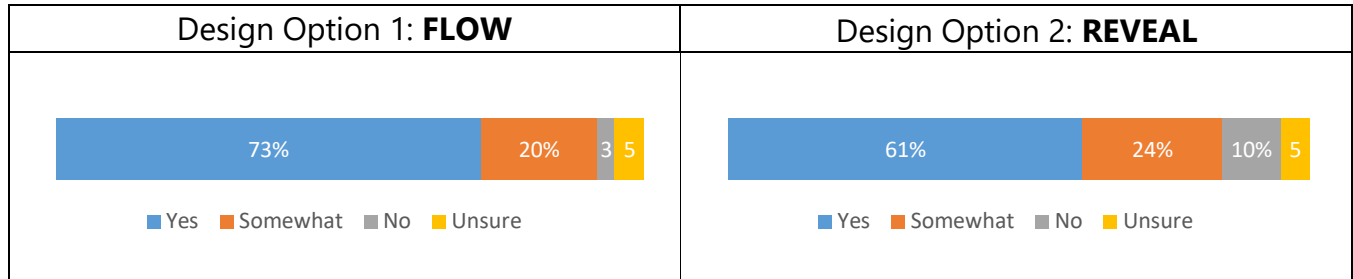


### Design Option 2: REVEAL

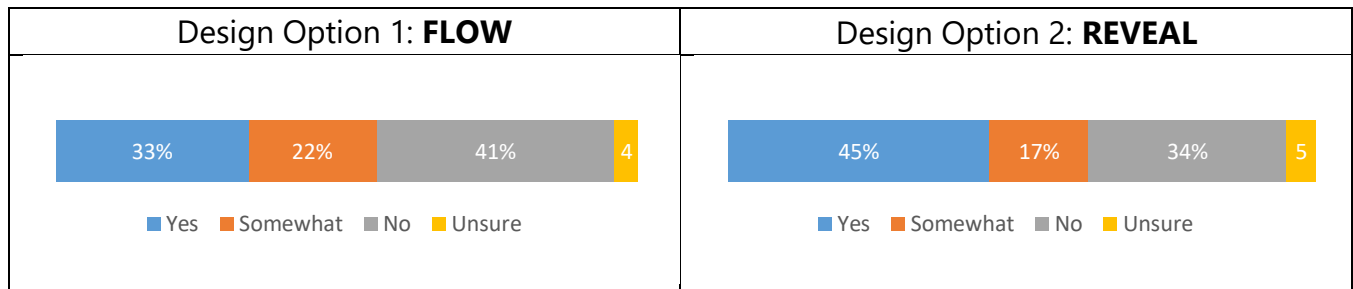
*Reveal* takes inspiration from the existing topography of the site, using sculptural landforms, sloping planes, and vertical edges to frame the space. The design uses trees and vegetation to define spaces, and to frame and enhance dramatic views. Interpretive design throughout will heighten awareness of the layered ecological and cultural heritage of the site.

The following outlines the respondents level of agreement with each statement relating to each design option.

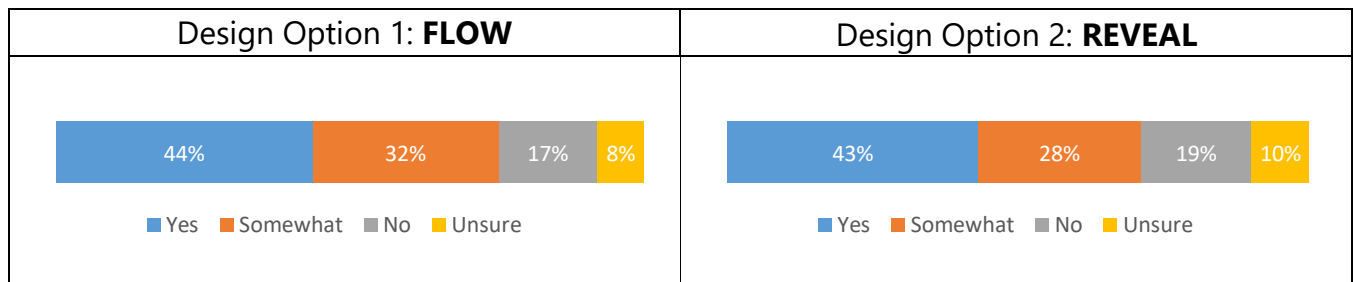
1) The pathways connect with park features, natural areas, and surroundings.



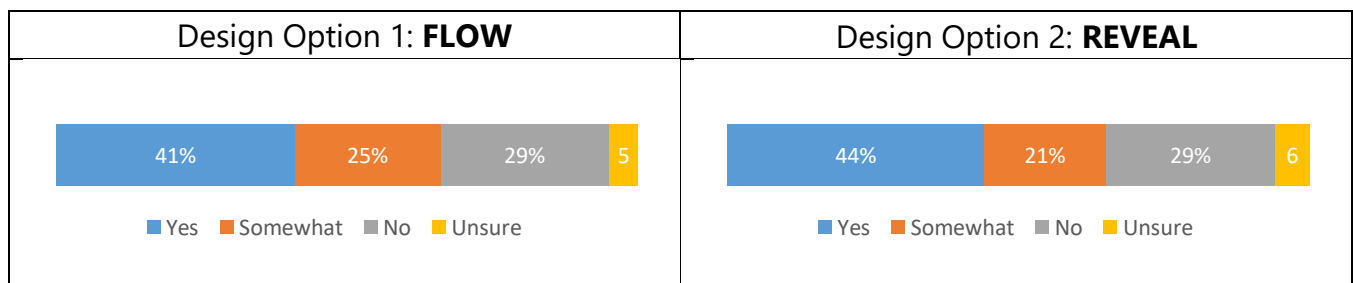
2) There are enough trees and plantings that provide shade and spatial definition.



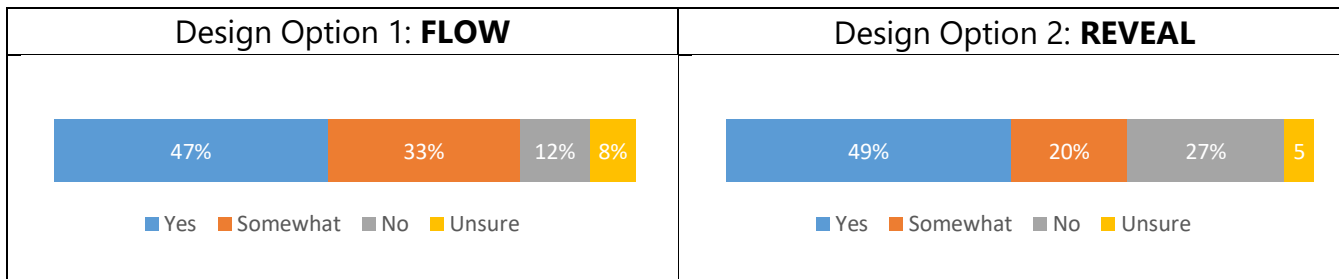
3) There are enough pollinator meadows and wildlife habitat planting. There are enough seating options throughout.



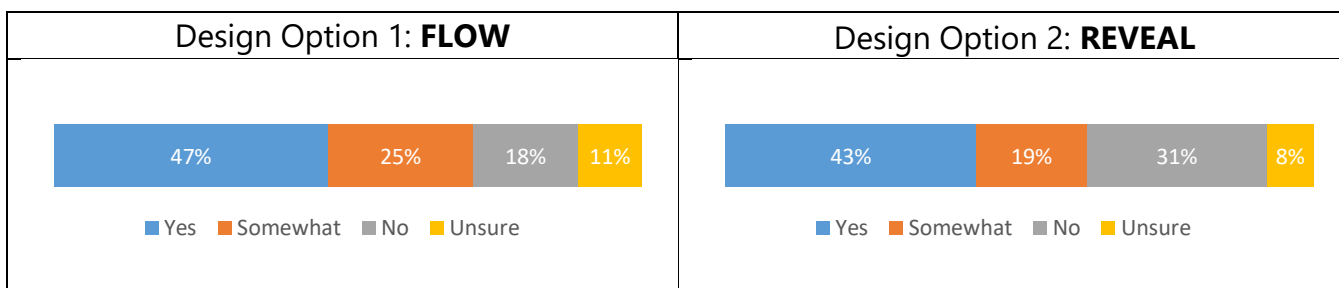
4) There are enough seating options throughout..



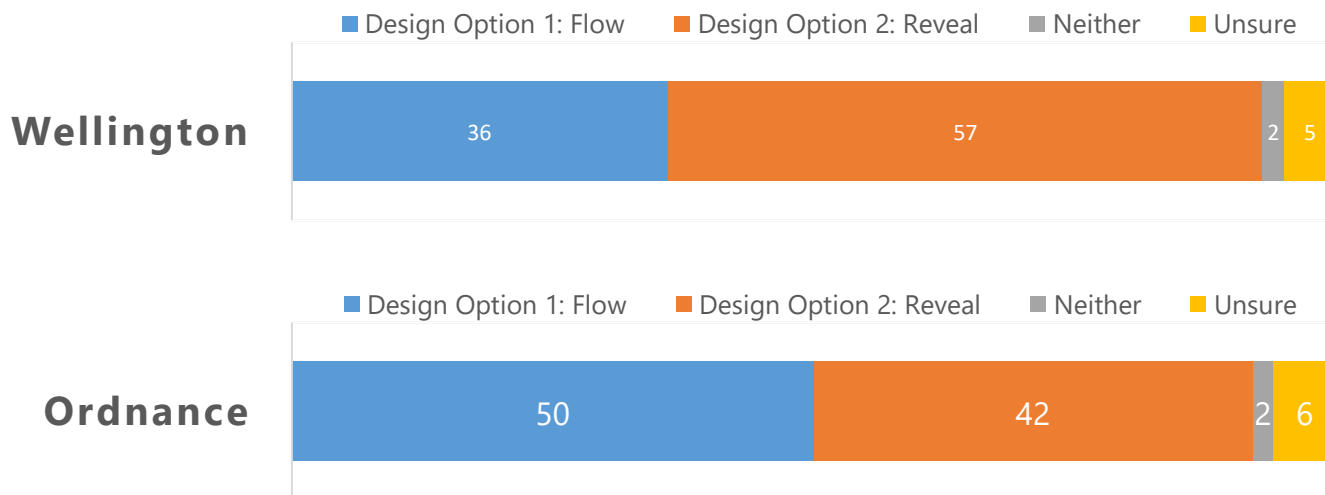
5) There is a good balance between active and relaxed spaces.



6) I like the size and location of the play and active program area.



The following details which overall park design option the respondents prefer for each park:



## Who Did We Hear From?

Participants were asked to provide demographic information. This helps Parks, Forestry & Recreation better understand who participated and whether particular groups in the community were missed during the engagement process. This data was collected in alignment with the [Data for Equity Strategy](#), which was passed unanimously by [City Council in November 2020](#), and is meant to ensure that City programs and services are delivered equitably. Respondents had the option to select 'prefer not to answer' for any of these questions. A summary of the demographic findings can be found in **Appendix A**.

## Next Steps

The project team will use feedback provided from the Phase 3A Design Options engagement activities to develop one preferred design option for each park. In the next phase of the project, the City will share these preferred design options with the community for further feedback. Once the preferred design for each park is confirmed, the project will move into the detailed design phase. During this phase, the design team will continue to develop each park's preferred design by working through the technical details and will finalize the detailed plans and drawings to be used by the construction contractor.



## Appendix A: Quantitative Response Summary

### Housing Situation

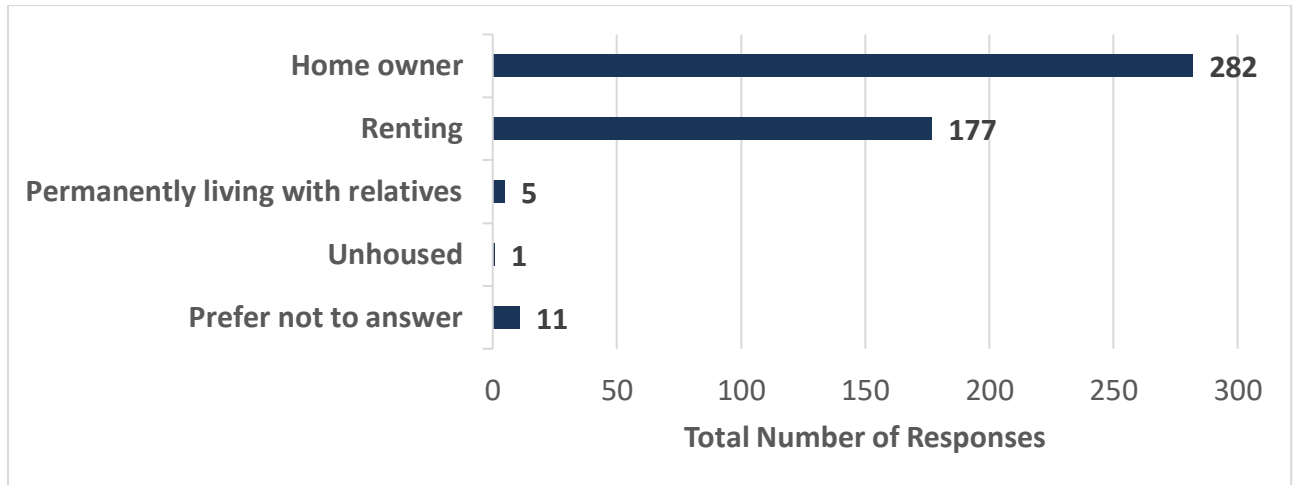


Figure A-1: Respondents' answer to "What best describes your current housing situation?"

### Postal Code

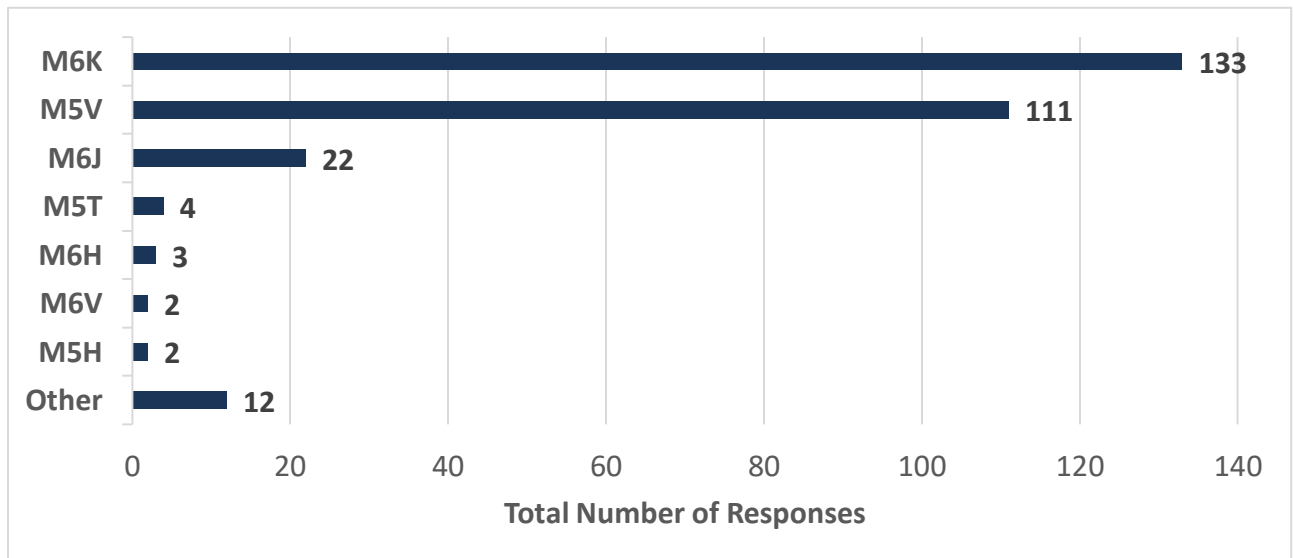


Figure A-2: Respondents' answer to "Provide the first three characters of your postal code."

## Access to Outdoor Space

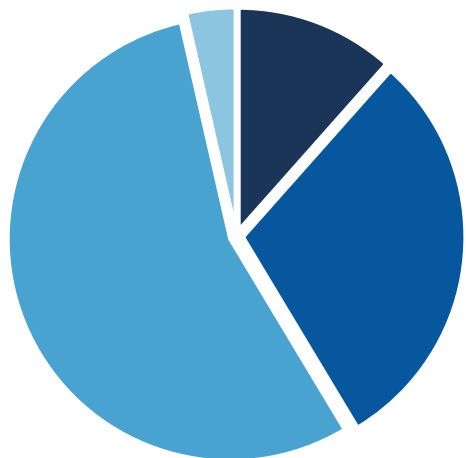


Figure A-3: Respondents' answer to "What best describes you and your household's access to outdoor space?"

Legend	Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
■	I have access to private outdoor space like a yard	55	12%
■	I have access to semi-private or shared outdoor space	142	30%
■	I only have access to public spaces like parks (I do not have access to private or semi-private outdoor space)	262	55%
■	Prefer not to answer	17	4%

## How Respondents Found the Survey

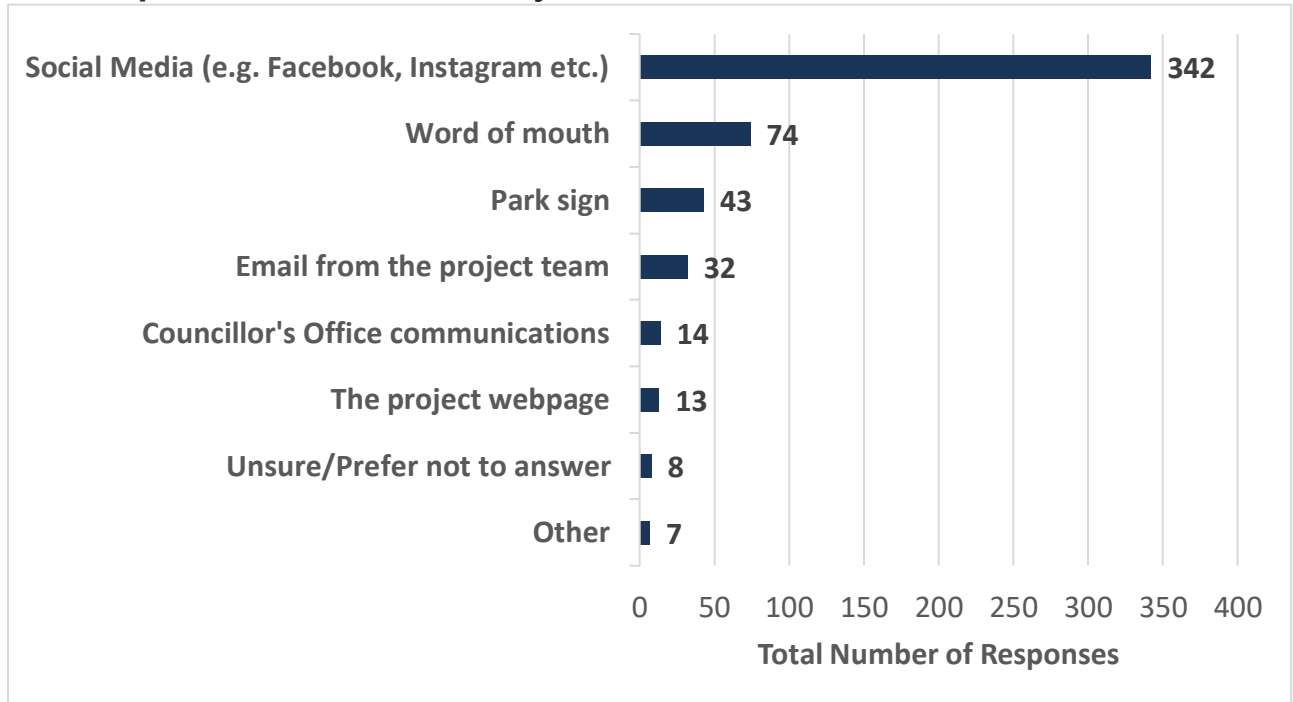


Figure A-4: Respondents' answer to "How did you find out about this survey?" Those who selected 'Other' indicated that they found the survey through park pop-ups, their community or building Facebook group, or postcards in their mailbox.

## Demographics

### Age of Participants

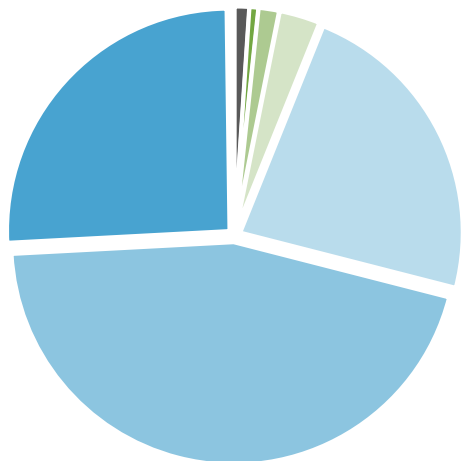


Figure A-5: Respondents' answer to "What is the age of the person filling out this survey?"

Legend	Response	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Respondents
■	13 to 18 years old	1	0%
■	19 to 29 years old	122	26%
■	30 to 39 years old	215	45%
■	40 to 55 years old	109	23%
■	56 to 64 years old	14	3%
■	65 to 74 years old	7	1%
■	75 years old or above	3	1%
■	Prefer not to answer	5	1%

### Gender Identity

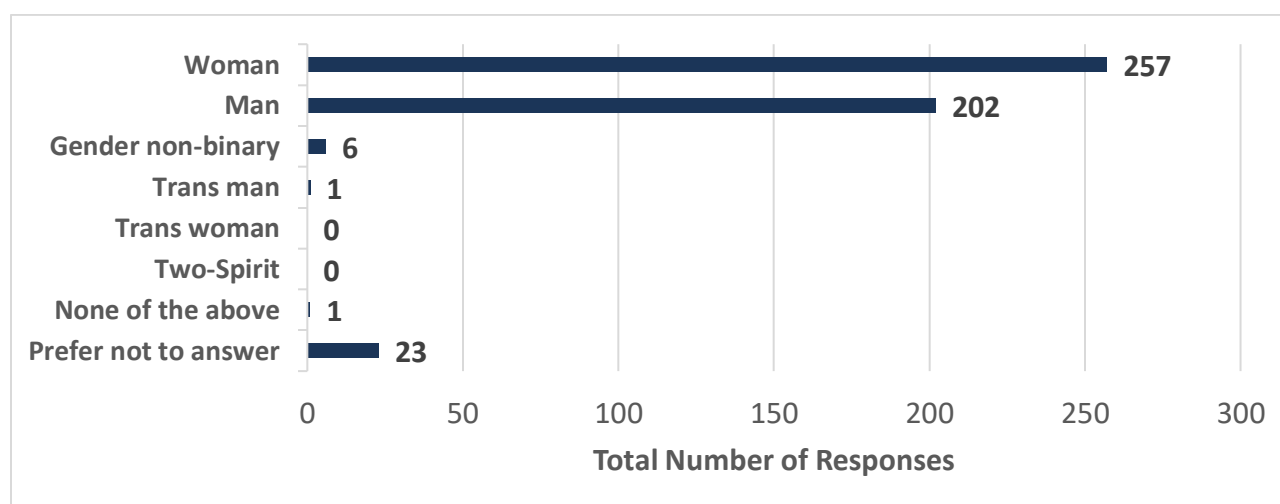


Figure A-6: Respondents' answer to "What best describes the gender of the person filling out this survey?"

### Sexual Orientation

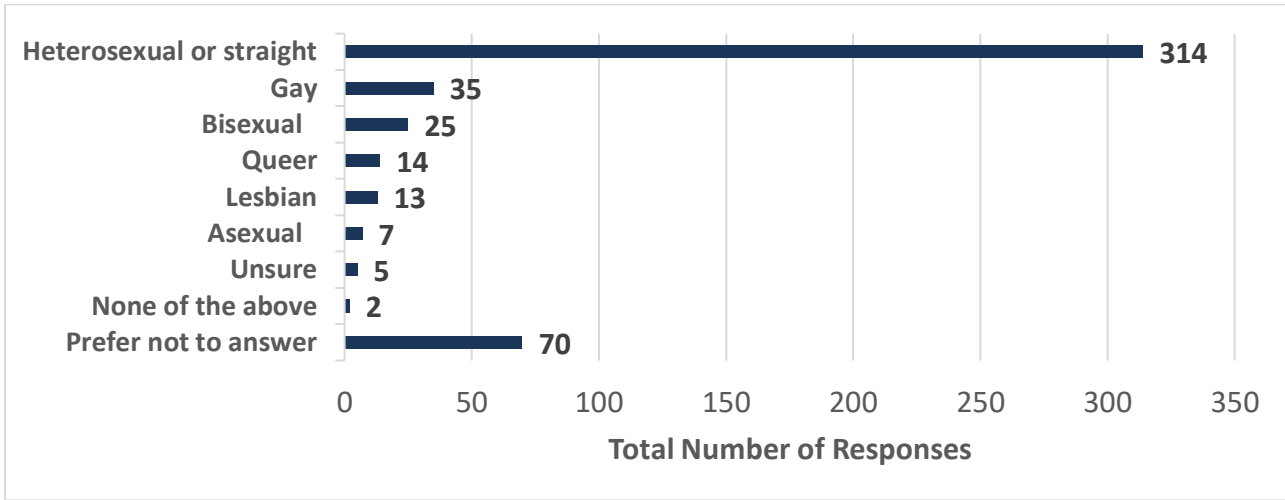


Figure A-7: Respondents' answer to "What best describes the sexual orientation of the person filling out this survey?"

### Racial Background

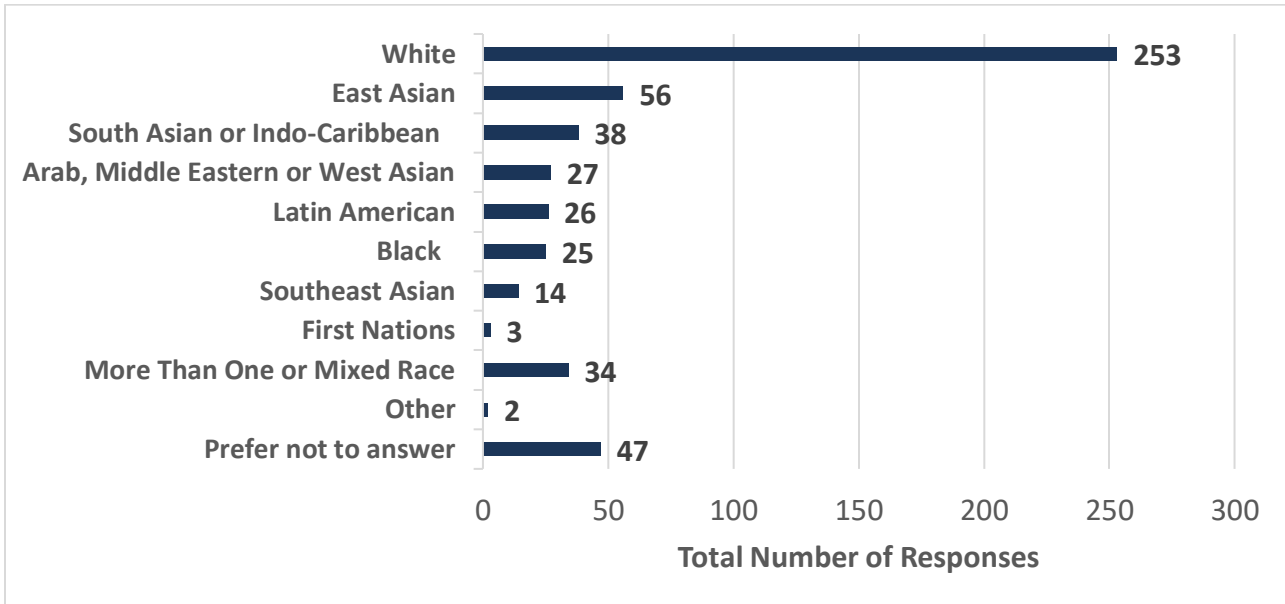


Figure A-8: Respondents' answer to "Which race category best describes the person filling out this survey?"

### Preferred Language

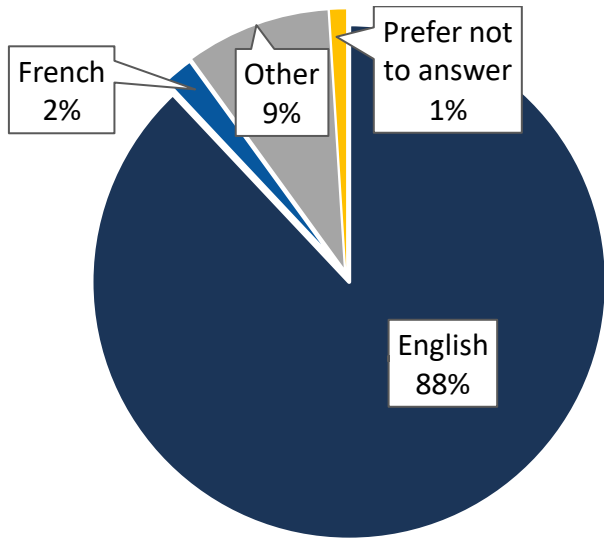


Figure A-9: Respondents' answer to "What language do you prefer speaking?"

### Indigenous Identity

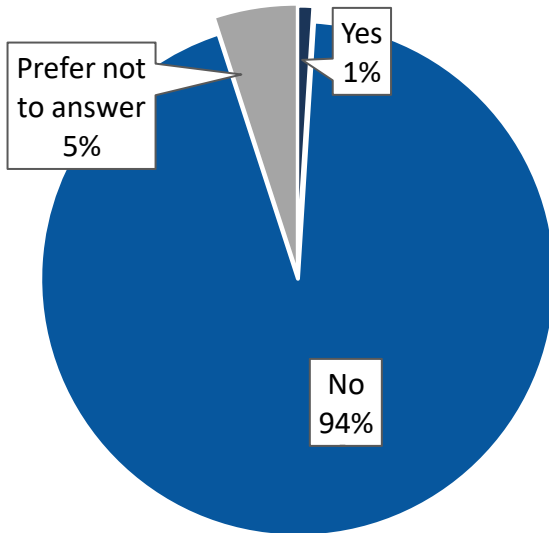


Figure A-10: Respondents' answer to "Does the person filling out this survey identify as Indigenous to Canada?"

### Disability Identification

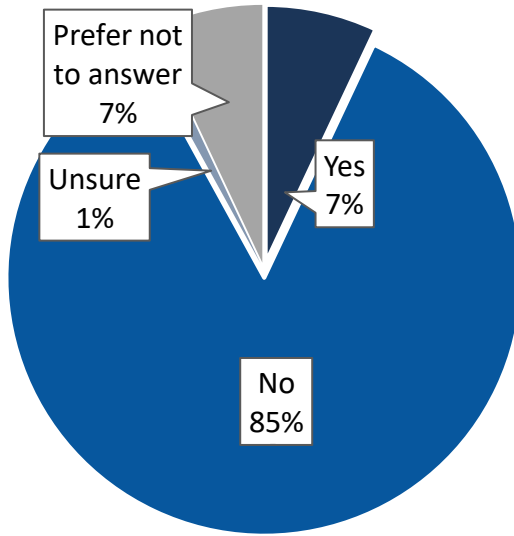


Figure A-11: Respondents' answer to "Does the person filling out this survey identify as a person with a disability?"

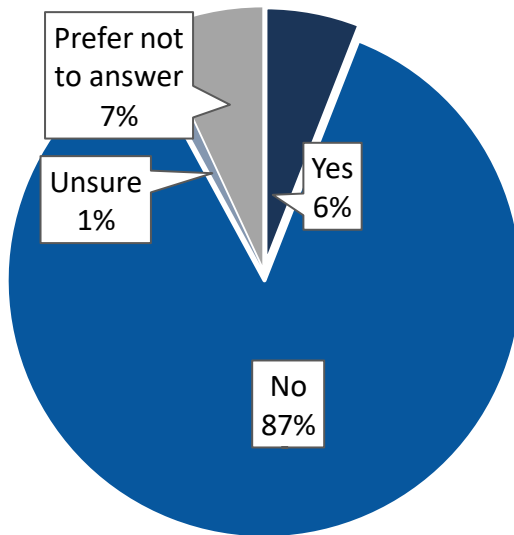























Figure A-12: Respondents' answer to "Excluding yourself, does anyone in your household identify as a person with a disability?"















Appendix B: Big Moves  
**The Design Priorities (Big Moves)**













Big Moves are design priorities for the new parks. The following details which Big Moves (design priorities) respondents feel are most important for each park:

	Ordnance	Wellington	Both	Neither	Unsure
<p><b>Framed Views</b></p> 	 35%	 6%	 46%	 6%	 7%
<p><b>Porch Swings and Feature Lookout</b></p> 	 30%	 11%	 30%	 15%	 14%
<p><b>Children's Play</b></p> 	 22%	 22%	 22%	 26%	 8%



<p><b>Tree Planting and Seasonal Colour</b></p> 	<p>6%</p>	<p>11%</p>	<p>78%</p>	<p>2%</p>	<p>3%</p>
<p><b>Pollinator Meadows and Wildlife Habitat</b></p> 	<p>12%</p>	<p>9%</p>	<p>65%</p>	<p>6%</p>	<p>7%</p>
<p><b>Range of Seating Options</b></p> 	<p>6%</p>	<p>5%</p>	<p>79%</p>	<p>5%</p>	<p>5%</p>
<p><b>New Pathway Connections</b></p> 	<p>6%</p>	<p>7%</p>	<p>75%</p>	<p>5%</p>	<p>6%</p>

<p><b>Sculpted Landforms</b></p> 	 10%	 14%	 50%	 15%	 11%
<p><b>Outdoor Fitness</b></p> 	 9%	 25%	 21%	 29%	 16%
<p><b>Heritage Interpretation</b></p> 	 9%	 10%	 48%	 13%	 20%

<p><b>Dog Friendly (on-leash) Spaces</b></p> 	 9%	 7%	 41%	 34%	 8%
<p><b>Gateway Entrances</b></p> 	 6%	 7%	 54%	 17%	 17%

