

NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK IN SOUTH NEWTON

Public Engagement Summary
Parks Planning & Design



APRIL 2023

Summary of What We Heard

BACKGROUND

The City of Surrey facilitated a public engagement process for a new neighbourhood park at 15149 Edmund Drive. The park is approximately 0.4 acres in size and includes a north-south paved pathway that provides access to the park from Panorama Drive and Edmund Drive.

When reviewing the development application from Polygon Townsend Homes Ltd proposing townhomes at 5750 Panorama Drive, city staff required the development of a park to serve the growing population of this neighbourhood and create connections to the existing pathway network in Springwood Forest Park.

ONLINE CONSULTATION

Online consultation was the primary source of feedback for this project. The online consultation was promoted via lawn signs at the park, and a mailout to over 600 residents. A project webpage was created to be a landing page for all information regarding the project (i.e., engagement opportunities and updates). The City shared information through City Speaks (survey), social media channels, and included it in the March 2023 Public Consultation eNews. The survey was available online to the public between March 15th to 29th, 2023.

A total of 468 responses were received. 68% of respondents reported living within a few blocks from the park (see Figure 1) while 89% of survey respondents self-identified themselves as residents of Newton.

OPEN HOUSE

An open house at the park was held on March 25, 2023 from 11am-2pm. Due to the cold and rainy weather conditions there was low turnout, however staff spoke to seven residents who either live in the surrounding townhomes complex or in walking distance from the park.

The following findings reflect feedback received from this consultation.

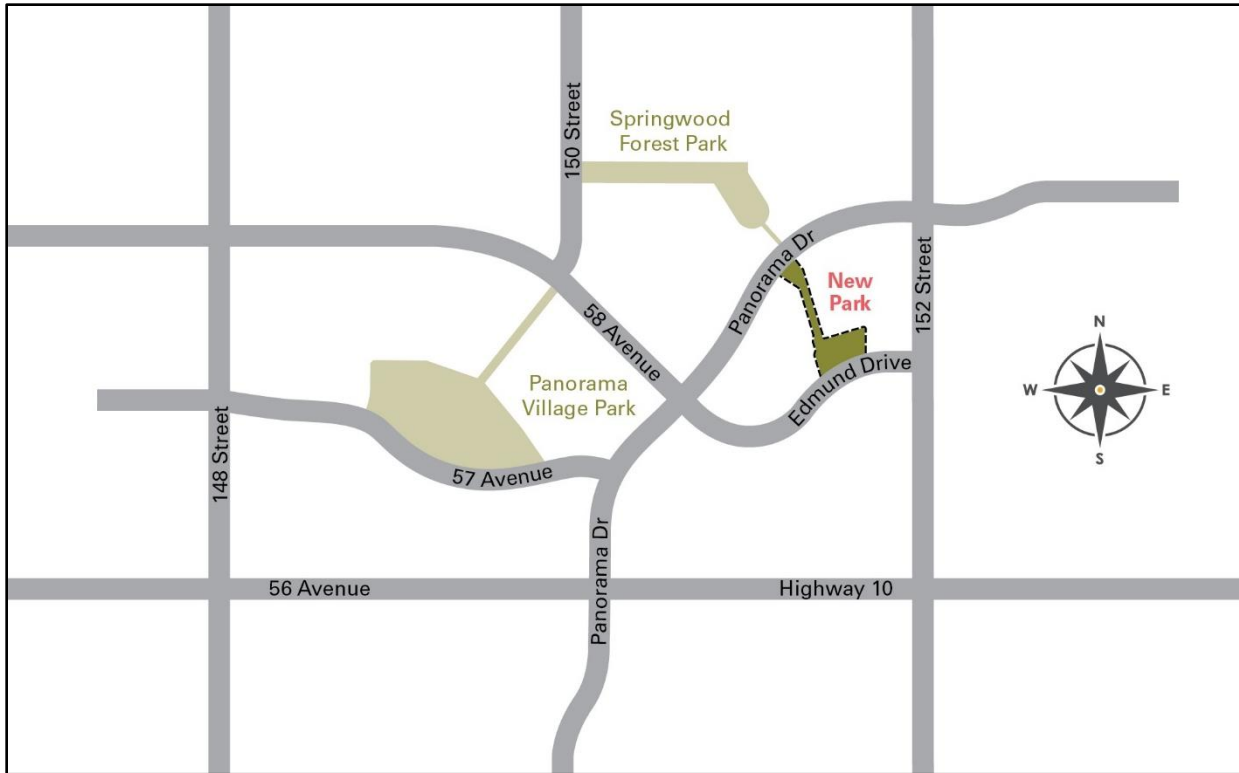


Figure 1. Map of the neighbourhood and main street network to show where the new park is located. This area was chosen to reflect an approximate 500m, 5 to 10 minute, walkshed around the new park.

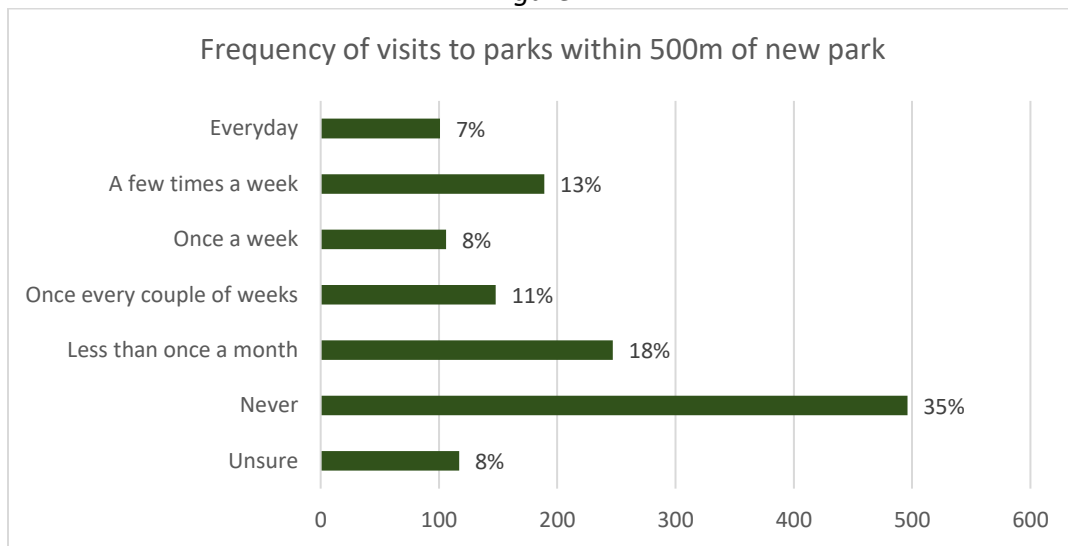
KEY FINDINGS

Current Park Usage

Respondents were asked about their current park usage, specifically how often they visit parks, and which parks they visit.

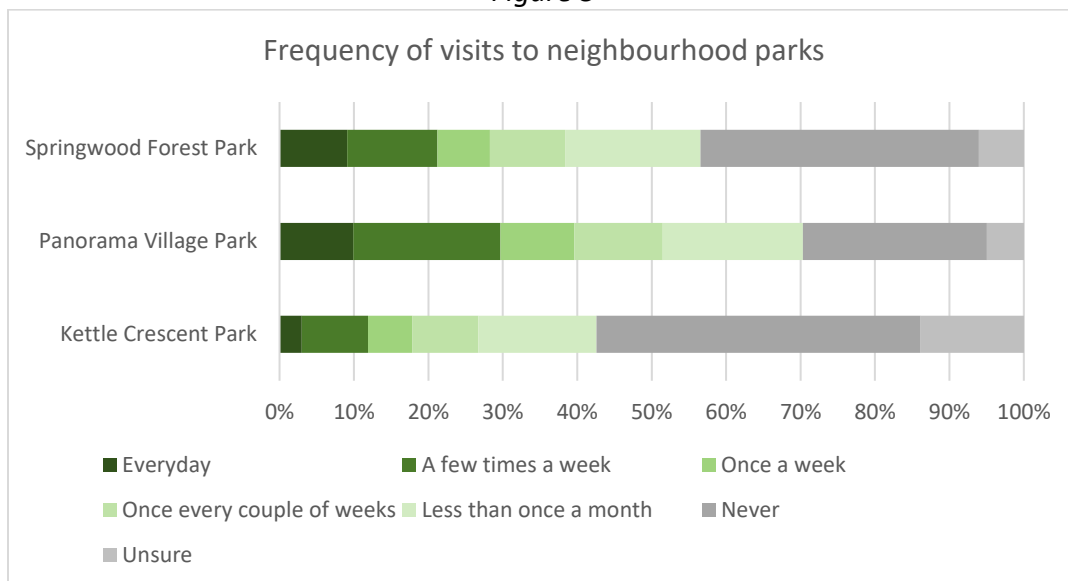
Around 40% of respondents said they visit the parks within 500m of the new planned park (Kettle Crescent Park, Panorama Village Park, and Springwood Forest Park) at least once every couple of weeks (see Figure 2). Notably, 35% never visit these neighbourhood parks.

Figure 2



Panorama Village Park had a higher frequency of visits than the other parks with 40% of respondents going at least once a week (see Figure 3).

Figure 3



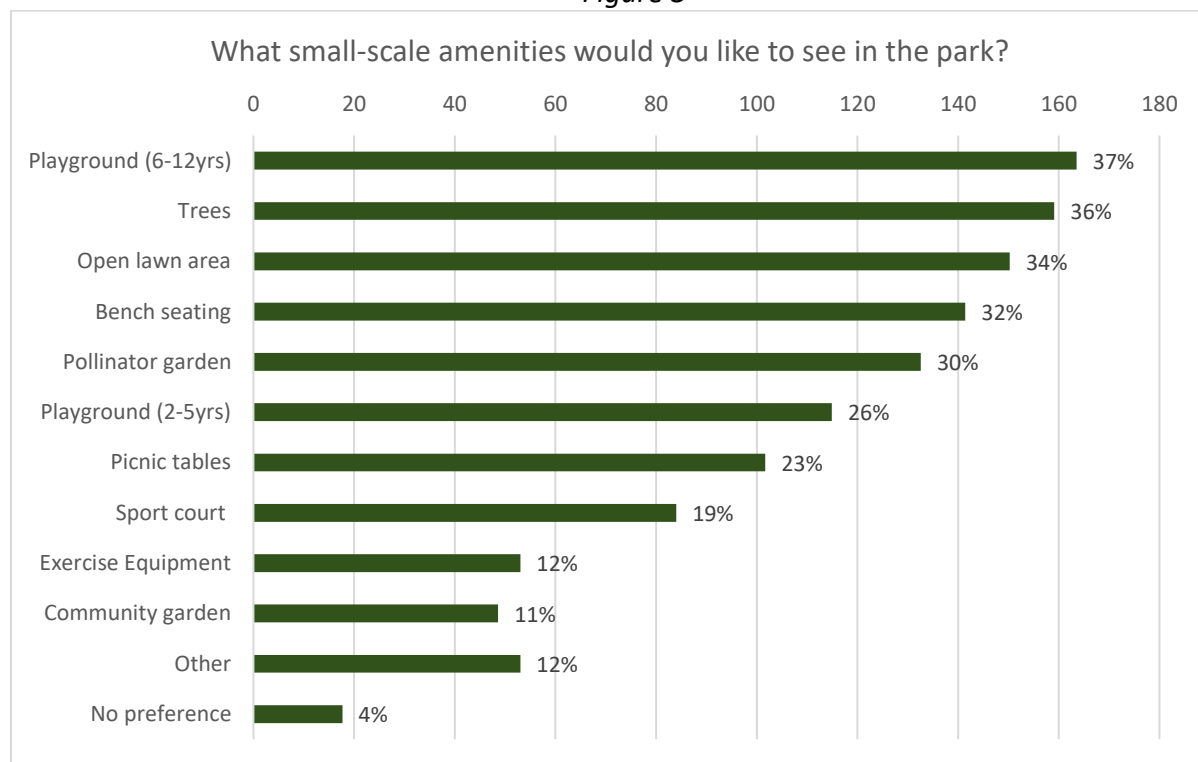
Other parks visited frequently visited outside a 500m radius of the new park included: Goldstone Park and Sullivan Park.

Amenities

Respondents were asked about the amenities they would most like to see included in the park. They were presented with a list of 10 amenities and were also given the option to add an ‘other’ amenity and to indicate ‘no preference’. Respondents were asked to indicate their top three choices. Due to the size of the park the amenities that can be accommodated within the park are limited.

The most popular amenities were the playground (6-12), open lawn space, trees, benches, and pollinator garden. Less desirable amenities included community garden and exercise equipment (see Figure 3).

Figure 3



The ‘other’ category received 12% of responses. Residents expressed high interest in a dog off-leash park (24% of responses in the “other” category). Due to the very limited size of this park and proximity to neighbours, a dog-off leash area would not be compatible. However, this feedback is valuable information that can be used to explore more suitable options for a dog off-leash area in this neighbourhood.

Choosing a Park Name

In the survey, respondents were asked to suggest names for the new park, and we received 294 responses. The most popular response was to name it after the street the park is located on, *'Edmund Park'*.

SUMMARY

The survey generated a strong turnout of nearly 470 responses. Residents are excited for a new park in their neighbourhood and showed support for several proposed types of amenities.

With these results Parks Planning is moving forward and is currently developing a concept plan with construction to begin in late 2023.