

# NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK IN SOUTH NEWTON

## Public Engagement Summary Planning & Design



AUGUST 2021



## Summary of What We Heard

### BACKGROUND

The City of Surrey facilitated a public engagement process for a new neighbourhood park in the South Newton neighbourhood located at 13760 62 Ave, temporarily named *72k Greenbelt*. The park includes natural area around Archibald Creek and open areas that were previously a home and landscaped yard. An environmental assessment was conducted which determined the appropriate buffering to Archibald Creek.

The South Newton Neighbourhood Concept Plan, created in 1999, designated this park as riparian protection and detention pond. With the pond no longer needed, the land is now available for development into park amenities to serve the surrounding neighbourhood.

### ONLINE CONSULTATION

Online consultation was key to reach residents during the COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The online consultation was promoted via lawn signs at 72k Greenbelt and neighbouring parks McLeod Park, Senator Reid Park and Heritage Woods Park. A mailout was sent to more than 500 nearby residents, the City shared the information on our social media channels, and it was included in the January 2021 Public Consultation eNews. The survey was available online to the public between February 1<sup>st</sup> and February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

A total of 1098 complete and partial survey responses were received. The overall response rate was high due to the survey's availability online. 39% of respondents reported living within a walking distance of 72k Greenbelt (See Figure 1). 61% of survey respondents self-identified themselves as residents of Newton. A further 38% reported they live in the rest of Surrey.

The following findings reflect the comments received through this consultation.

*Figure 1. The neighbourhood was defined by King George Boulevard/136 St, 140 St, 64 Ave and 60 Ave. This area was chosen to reflect an approximately 500m, 5 to 10 minute, walkshed around 72k Greenbelt.*

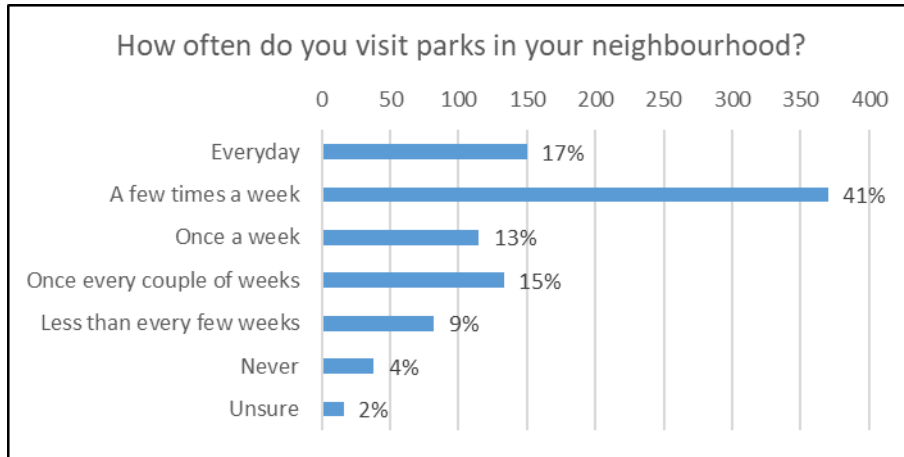


## KEY FINDINGS

### Current Park Usage

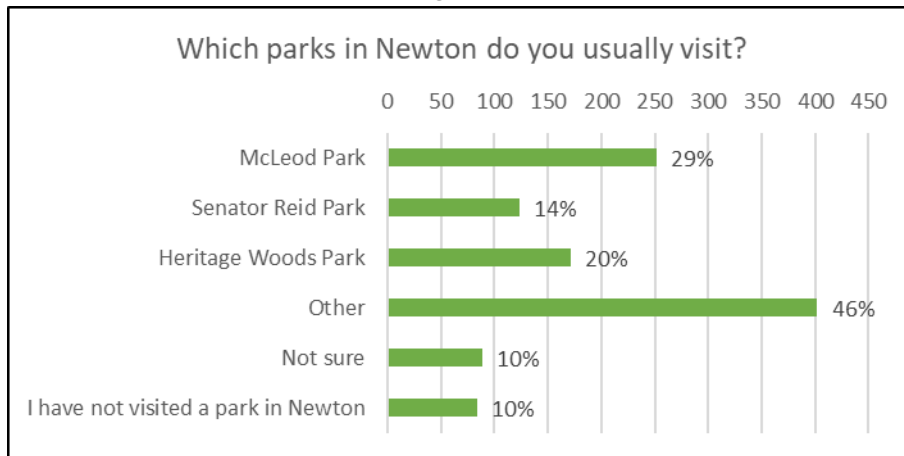
Respondents were asked about their current park usage, specifically how often they visit parks, and which parks they visit.

Figure 2



85% of respondents visit a park in their neighbourhood at least once per month, with 41% visiting more than once per week.

Figure 3



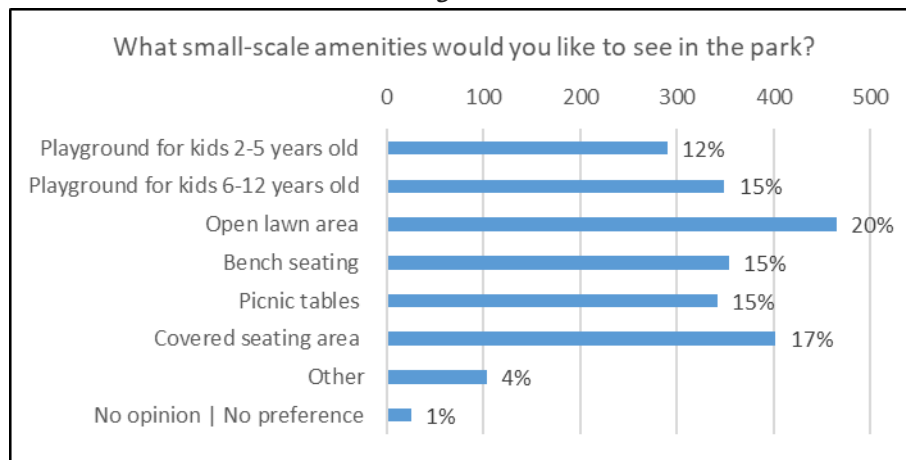
The parks respondents reported visiting are highly varied. When *Other* was chosen, the most popular responses were Goldstone Park, Unwin Park, Newton Athletic Park, Bear Creek Park, Sullivan Park, Hyland Park, Hazelnut Meadows Park, and various dog off-leash parks.

## Amenities

Respondents were asked about the amenities they would most like to see included in the park. They were presented with a list of options and were also given the opportunity to write in other amenities. Respondents were asked to indicate their top three, with a total of 2330 choices.

Due to the size, environmental protection areas, and location within the neighbourhood, the amenities that can be accommodated within 72k Greenbelt are limited.

Figure 4



All amenities listed received widespread support, with open lawn and covered seating narrowly exceeding the others. These results show general support for these amenities, with no outliers on either end of the scale.

The *other* category received 4% of the total selections and in the verbatim responses a wide variety of amenities were listed by respondents. The single most common request was for dog off-leash facilities. Unfortunately, because of the small size of 72k Greenbelt and the close proximity to neighbours, the park is not compatible with a dog off-leash area.

The second most commonly requested amenity was for walking paths through the natural area. Due to the challenging grades and environmental sensitivity of the natural area in the south of 72k Greenbelt, the City does not intend to connect 62 Ave to King George Boulevard through the park. During the upcoming design stage of the project, the City will incorporate walking paths along the environmental protection fencing to maximize interaction with the natural area.

### Choosing a name for the park

In the survey, respondents were also asked to suggest names for the new park, and we received more than 600 responses. The most popular response was to name it after the creek that runs through the park, Archibald Creek. This could lead to confusion as the Archibald family homestead was at 144 St and 80 Ave, and 144 St was previously known as Archibald Rd. Therefore, the Archibald name is best reserved for any future park naming in the 144 St and 80 Ave area.

The next most popular names are either already taken by other parks in Surrey (like Panorama Park) or are not specific enough (like Newton Park) for a neighbourhood park.

The Parks Planning department are analyzing other responses based on suggestions from the survey and area context to recommend to the City's Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee, along with the overall park plan, for approval.

## SUMMARY

The survey generated a strong turnout, with nearly 1100 responses. Residents are excited for new active park space in their neighbourhood and showed support for all the proposed types of amenities.

With these results the City is moving forward and is currently developing a concept plan. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in late 2021 or early 2022.