

NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK IN EAST CLAYTON

Public Engagement Summary
Planning & Design



SEPTEMBER 2021

Summary of What We Heard

BACKGROUND

The City of Surrey facilitated a public engagement process for a new neighbourhood park in the East Clayton neighbourhood generally located at the north-west corner of 72 Avenue and 191 Street. The park is temporarily named 58B Neighbourhood Park and identified as Park Site H in the East Clayton Neighbourhood Concept Plan.

The park is approximately 2.2 hectares (5.5 acres) and is predominantly open grass with a stand of alder and cottonwood trees in the north-east section of the park. An environmental assessment was conducted which determined there are no provincially or municipal regulated streams within the park boundary.

The park is bisected from the north-west corner to the south-east corner by a Fortis gas main and accompanying statutory right-of-way. Amenities that can be placed in the gas right-of-way are typically limited to open grass and pathways.

ONLINE CONSULTATION

Online consultation was key to reach residents during the COVID-19 gathering restrictions. The online consultation was promoted via lawn signs at 58B Neighbourhood Park and at the Clayton Community Centre. A mailout was sent to more than 1900 nearby houses and secondary suites, the City shared the information on our social media channels and News & Events webpage. The survey was available online to the public between February 23, 2021, to March 11, 2021.

A total of 1,238 complete and partial survey responses were received, 1,011 of which identified themselves as Clayton residents. Of those respondents that identified as being residents of Clayton, 39% reported living within one to two blocks of 58B Neighbourhood Park, 28% reported being three to four blocks away, 19% report being five to six blocks away, and 14% reported being seven or more blocks away. It is generally accepted that up to four blocks (approximately 0.8 km) is considered a walkable distance to a destination. As such, 67% of Clayton respondents would be considered in walking distance to this park.

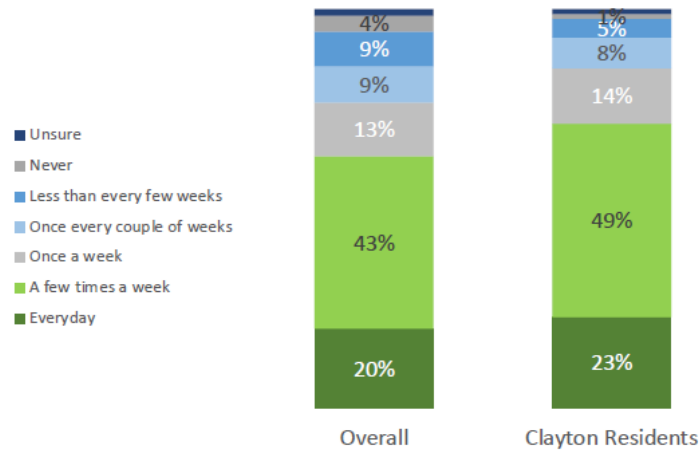
The following findings reflect the comments received through this consultation.

KEY FINDINGS

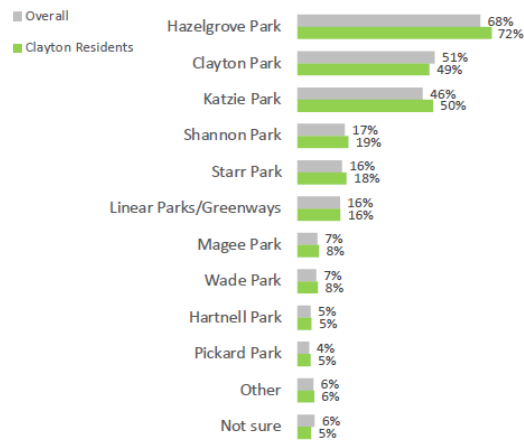
Current Park Usage

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

Frequency of Visiting Parks in Clayton



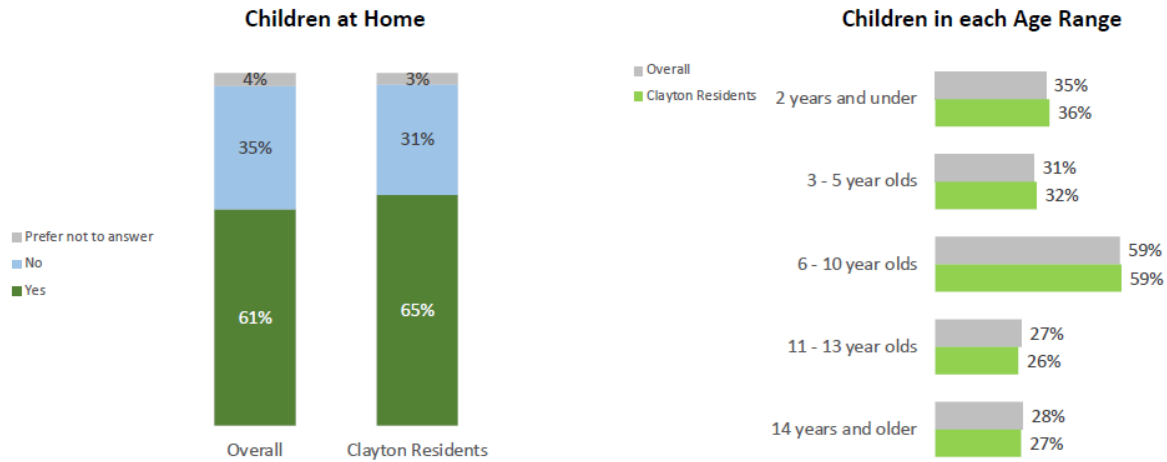
76% of overall respondents and 86% of Clayton resident respondents visit a park in Clayton at least once per week.



Hazelgrove Park, Clayton Park, and Katzie Park were selected as the most frequently used parks in Clayton.

Children at Home

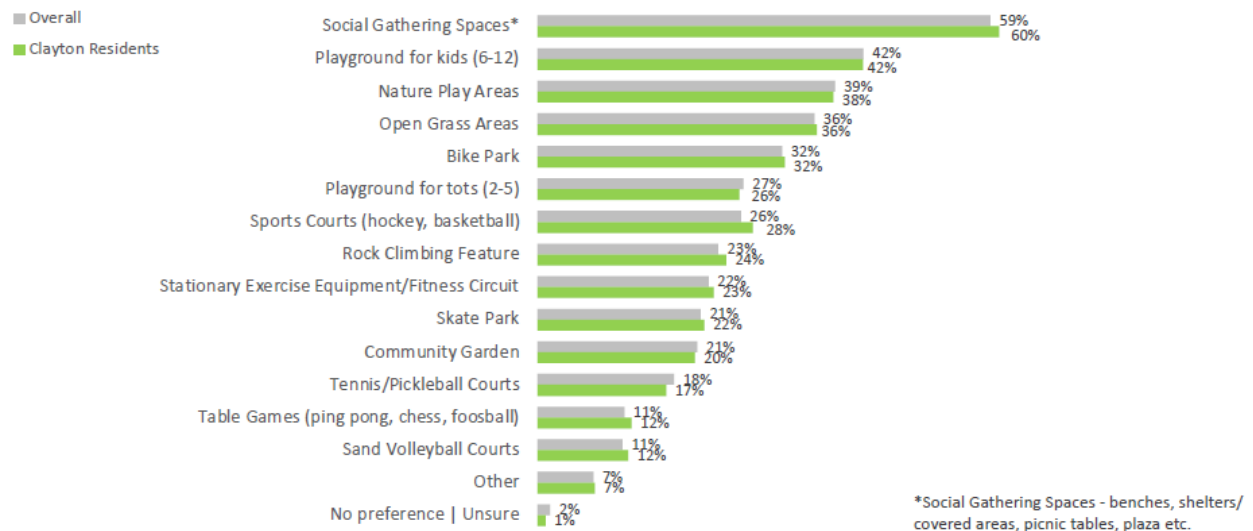
Respondents were asked to identify if they have children at home. 61% of overall respondents and 65% of Clayton resident respondents identified as having at least one child at home.



Of the respondents who had children at home, 59% had children that are between the ages of 6 and 10 years old.

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 allowed to select up to five top preferences.

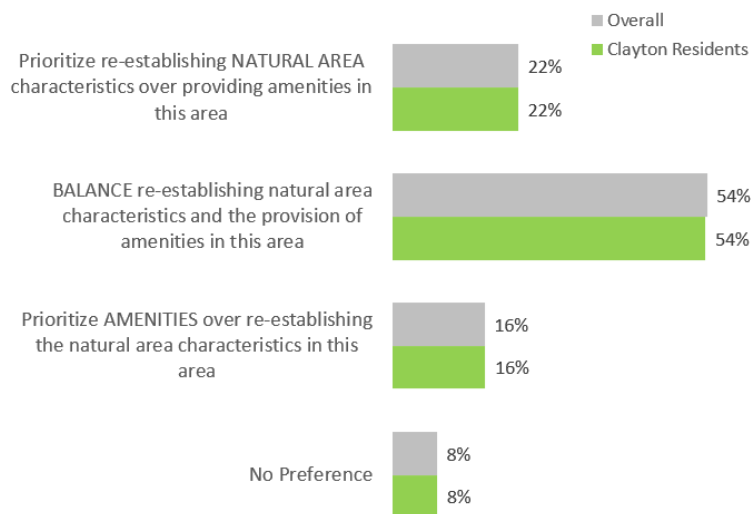


The top five amenities, based on the percentage of respondents selecting the given amenity as one of their preferences, are social gathering spaces (60%), playground for kids ages six to twelve (42%), nature play areas (38%), open grass areas (36%), and bike park (32%).

The *other* category was selected by 7% of respondents 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 size and geometry of 58B Neighbourhood Park, the park is not compatible with a dog off-leash area.

Existing Natural Area

There is an existing stand of trees in the north-east corner of the park. Many of these trees are dying or in decline. Due to the condition of the trees, it has been determined that amenities cannot be provided in this area and that long term retention of the trees is very unlikely. The community was asked their preferences with regards to re-establishing this natural area and providing amenities in this location.



54% of respondents indicated that they preferred balancing the re-establishment of the natural area with the provision of amenities in this area.

SELECTED AMENITIES

After reviewing the public engagement results and undertaking further analysis of the site constraints (i.e. Fortis gas main bisecting the site, drainage patterns, existing servicing), the following amenities were chosen to be included in the concept plan:

Adventure Play

The adventure play amenity combines the community’s preference for nature play areas and a playground for children ages six to twelve. Upon further review of the site, it was deemed that having play amenities within the existing tree stand was not feasible. However, adventure

playgrounds provide a similar unstructured play option for children. These play amenities typically comprise of a network of log beams, platforms, and rope climbs that promote the development of gross motor skills and imaginary play opportunities. Aesthetically, these play elements can have a natural look to them.

Bike Park

58B Neighbourhood Park is located along the proposed alignment of the Hazelgrove Greenway. A bike park in this location provides the opportunity to capitalize on this greenway infrastructure and provides children and youth, who are outside the typical walking radius of the park, a destination amenity within this space.

Social Gathering Amenities

Social gathering amenities was the top selected preference in the community survey. The social gathering area has been located at the corner of 191 Street and 72 Avenue and will serve to activate the entrance of the park. Specific amenities will be selected through the detailed design process, but consideration will be given to providing a set of amenities that serve a range of age groups.

Open Grass

Open grass and lawn can create a feeling of spaciousness in a park and gives residents space to relax, picnic, and have unstructured play opportunities. These areas also help minimize heat island effect by remaining undeveloped by impervious and heat radiating surfaces.

Natural Area Preservation and Enhancement

Based on the community response to balance the re-establishment of the natural area with the provision of amenities in the north-east corner of the park, a portion of this natural area will be retained and enhanced through the park development. However, due to the condition of the existing stand amenities cannot be provided within the natural area. As such this will be a set-aside area with minimal to no public access. It is expected that the southern portion of the tree stand will be removed to accommodate the selected park amenities.

Washroom

A washroom has been proposed in the concept plan within the social gathering area. Parks standard practice is to provide a washroom in parks where covered shelters are also provided.

PARK NAME

In the survey, respondents were also asked to suggest names for the new park, 355 residents provided at least one suggestion.

The Parks Planning, Research & Design Division are analyzing the naming suggestions from the survey and reviewing the area context to recommend a name to the City's Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee, along with the overall park plan, for approval.

SUMMARY

The survey generated a strong turnout, with over 1,200 responses from the community. Residents are excited for new active park space in their neighbourhood and showed support for all the proposed types of amenities in the survey. A majority of the responses indicated support for preserving and enhancing a portion of the existing natural area within the park.

With these results, the Parks Planning Research and Design has selected a list of amenities to be provided in the park and have developed a concept plan to reflect these selections. The concept plan will be available for public review and then brought to Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee for support in Fall 2021. Detailed design of the park will commence through late-2021 and early-2022. Construction is currently scheduled to begin in 2022 after the detailed design is completed.