

# What We Heard Report

## Tipton Park Playground Renewal

Phase Two Public Engagement

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## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

### Project overview

Tipton Park, located in the Queen Alexandra neighbourhood at 10849 81 Avenue NW, has been selected for playground renewal. This project aims to replace the playground using input from the public and ensuring alignment with the City's strategic objectives, plans and policies. A renewed playground will better serve the needs of residents, their families and local organizations. The project is fully funded by the City of Edmonton.

The scope of this playground renewal project includes:

- Removing existing playground equipment and timber curbs
- Removing three playground pods north of the asphalt walk and replacing these with grass to alleviate accessibility and grading constraints
- Replacing sand from remaining pods, adding weeping tile to improve drainage and adding engineered wood fibre play surface for accessibility
- Adding new playground equipment
- Installing new concrete curbing to define the playground area
- Renewal of asphalt walk with drainage improvements
- Removal of one dead poplar tree
- Adding new accessible picnic tables
- Refurbishing and retaining existing bench and waste bin
- Working around the existing mature trees

The project does not include any other improvements to Tipton Park such as:

- Tipton Arena parking lot or access road
- Splash pad
- Baseball diamond
- Green space

The first phase of engagement for this project was completed in July 2024. During this phase, the project team gathered feedback from the community on preferred play elements, playground colours, accessibility and other

insights. The Phase 1 What We Heard report is available at [edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal). Phase 1 engagement results informed the development of three playground design options presented in the second engagement phase.

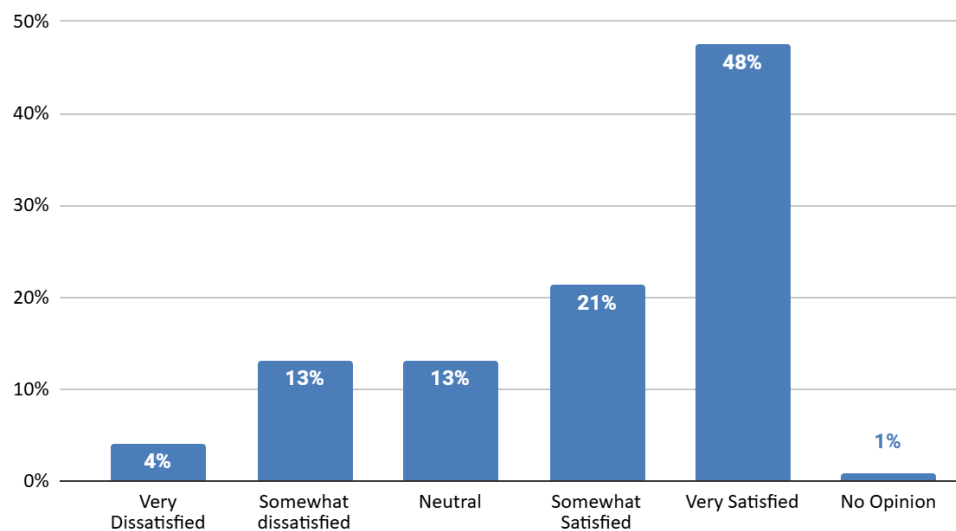
### What we heard

In this second and final phase of engagement, completed in October 2024, 122 residents completed an online survey, which presented three playground design options. The design options are shown in **Appendix A**.

### Design Option A

Survey respondents were favourable about Design Option A, with 69 per cent of respondents indicating they were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with the design. A small portion (17 per cent) expressed dissatisfaction with the design and the remainder (14 per cent) were neutral or expressed no opinion.

**Design Option A - Level of Satisfaction**

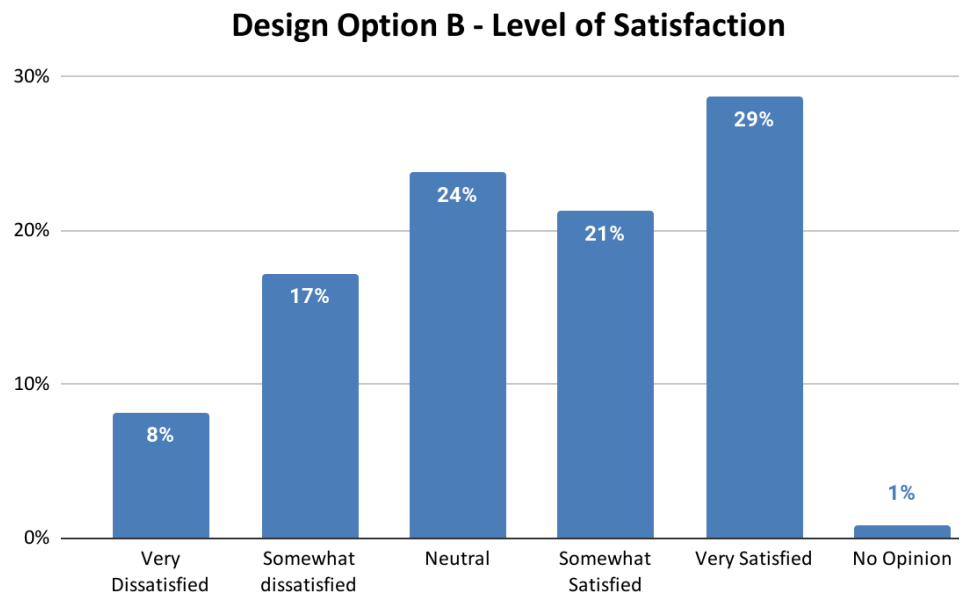


Many respondents commented they were pleased with the variety of equipment included in the design and its use of space to create areas for older and younger age groups. Some respondents were also enthusiastic about the design's bright colours. However, some respondents were concerned about having too much equipment within the space, increasing the possibility of collisions when children are moving between play elements. A few respondents commented it may be difficult to see and supervise children across the entire play area.

Many respondents had positive comments about the design's accessibility features. Suggestions to improve accessibility s included: ensuring accessibility between play pod areas; adding an alternative to climbing slides; and equipment for older children with sensory needs and children with low/no vision. A unique perspective shared was caregiver and parent accessibility needs. This comment emphasized the importance of good sightlines from accessible picnic tables to the playground so wheelchair users who are also caregivers/parents can supervise children at play.

### Design Option B

Survey respondents were mixed in their opinions of Design Option B. Fifty per cent of respondents were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied, but 25 per cent were somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the design. The remaining survey respondents expressed no opinion or were neutral (25 per cent).

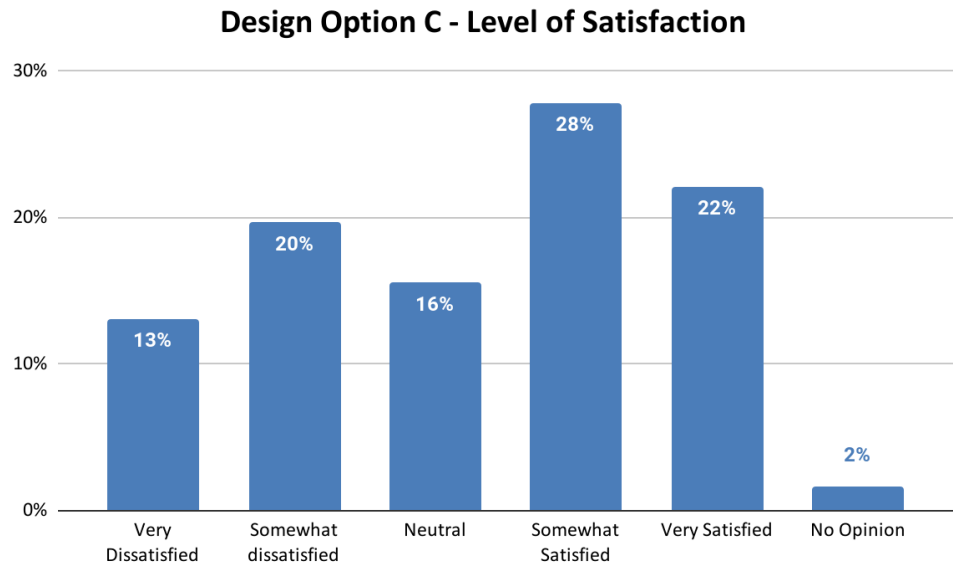


Many respondents had positive comments about the open and interconnected layout of this design. Some noted this improved accessibility across the entire playground encouraged social interaction amongst children, and allowed good sightlines for supervision. Conversely, some respondents thought the design appeared too “spread out” and sparse. A few respondents were concerned about navigation between play equipment for children and caregivers using mobility devices. Others noted that metal slides facing east could get too hot for safe use in the summer.

Respondents had both positive and negative comments about the play elements included in the design. Many liked the variety offered, but others expressed a desire for more equipment for young children, especially junior slides and infant swings. Adding an accessible swing was also noted. A few respondents liked this design's earth tone colours, while others commented it lacked "vibrancy."

### Design Option C

Half (50 per cent) of the survey respondents were somewhat satisfied or very satisfied with Design Option C. About one third (33 per cent) expressed dissatisfaction with the design. The remaining survey respondents were neutral or expressed no opinion (18 per cent).



Many respondents had positive comments about the design, especially its colours, main play structure and use of space. Conversely, other respondents commented the design was too centralized and did not use all the available space.

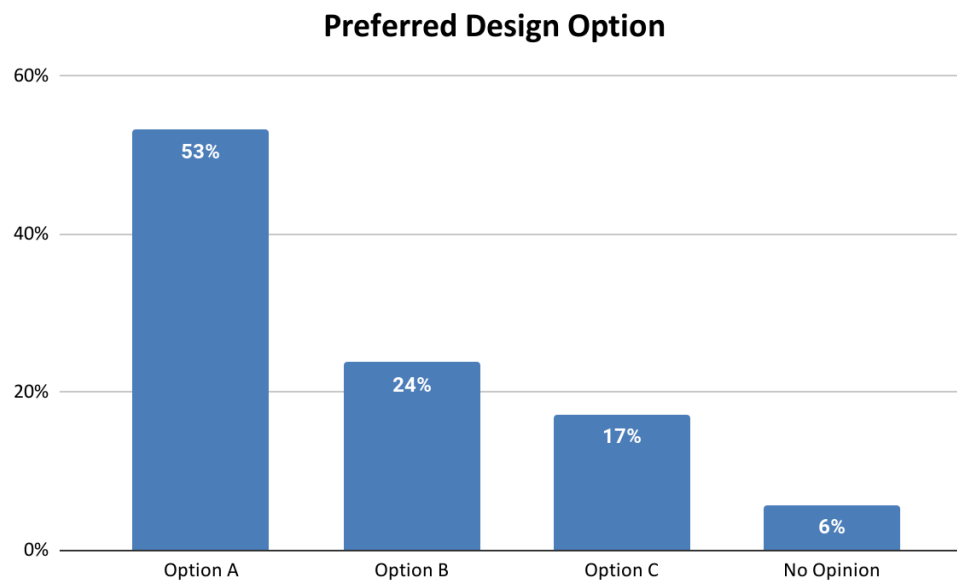
Respondent comments were mixed with respect to the equipment included in the design. Some respondents indicated there was a good variety of equipment for all age groups, while others commented there were too few play options, especially for young children.

Many respondents had positive comments about the design's accessibility. A few respondents suggested accessibility improvements like including play

options for children with low/no vision and noted that benches should be placed where caregivers and parents with accessibility needs can supervise children.

### Overall design preference

Respondents were asked to consider all three designs and indicate which they most preferred. Over half (53 per cent) preferred Design Option A, which is consistent with this design's high satisfaction ratings in the previous question. Almost one quarter (24 per cent) of the respondents preferred Design Option B. Design Option C was the least preferred (17 per cent) and a small portion (six per cent) had no opinion.



Respondents who most preferred Design Option A appreciated the design's layout and play options for all ages and abilities, particularly the swings. Respondents also indicated this design looked unique, modern and "fun" and offered good sightlines for child supervision.

Respondents who most preferred Design Option B appreciated this design's openness, "flow" within the playground area, and variety of equipment and colours. A few respondents commented that this design appeared to prioritize safety and looked the most durable.

Respondents who most preferred Design Option C appreciated the shape and layout of this design. These respondents commented the design allowed good equipment placement and sightlines for supervision.

### **Other feedback**

Respondents were asked to share any other feedback for the project team's consideration.

Many respondents were concerned about social disorder at the park. These respondents would like increased security and maintenance to improve safety and appearance, especially regular clean-up of drug paraphernalia left within the playground and park. While these concerns are outside the scope of this project, this feedback has been shared with relevant City departments.

Many respondents were pleased with the accessibility features included in the playground design but noted many older adults and adults with disabilities live close to the park. These respondents asked the project team to be mindful of adequate and accessible seating areas for adults, particularly accessible seating for those supervising children using the playground. One respondent recommended a swing suitable for teens and adults with sensory needs. Adding a new accessible picnic table and refurbishing an existing bench is within this project's scope, but additional park furniture and elements cannot be included in the project due to budget constraints.

Some respondents asked that the history of the park be highlighted. Suggestions included: interpretive signs, renewing the water fountain and preserving some historical play equipment in a separate area in the park. Respondents were also concerned about how the project would impact the park's trees and asked that the project team keep, maintain and add trees within the park.

A few respondents offered unique ideas that are outside the scope of this project. These suggestions included: public art, exercise equipment for adults, bicycle racks and establishing a community garden. Further information about neighbourhood and community initiatives can be found at [edmonton.ca/NeighbourhoodServices](https://edmonton.ca/NeighbourhoodServices) or by calling 311.



Finally, many respondents expressed enthusiasm for the playground renewal and are looking forward to its completion.

### **How the engagement results will be used**

Results from this public engagement phase will be considered by the project team to develop the final design and equipment options for the playground. Design and construction standards, costs and operational considerations are also key decision-making factors.

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACH**

### **What, when, how and who we engaged**

The public was asked for their views on:

- Preferred playground design options
- Park use and local knowledge that could inform the project

This second engagement period occurred from September 24 to October 6, 2024 through the use of an online survey.

The public was informed of the engagement opportunity through postcards delivered to postal codes surrounding Tipton Park. The postcard informed recipients about the project, the opportunity to complete the online survey and to learn more about the project at [edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal).

The engagement opportunity was also promoted through a social media ad on Facebook and Instagram, the City of Edmonton Public Service Announcement and Public Engagement Calendar. Signage was also put up around the park directing people to take the survey.

A total of 122 people completed the survey. Fifty-five per cent of survey respondents had children under the age of 18 living at home, 74 per cent were from Queen Alexandra and neighbourhoods near the park and 57 per cent used the park once per month or more.

Other survey respondents did not have children (34 per cent) or chose not to answer this question (12 per cent). Some respondents lived in Edmonton

neighbourhoods further away (nine per cent) or chose not to answer this question (12 per cent). A few survey respondents indicated they did not live in Edmonton, but went to the park weekly or several times per year.

## **NEXT STEPS**

Construction of the new playground is anticipated in 2025.

The project team thanks community residents for their feedback and insights to support the playground renewal at Tipton Park.

For more information on the City's playground renewal program and this project, please visit [edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal](https://edmonton.ca/PlaygroundRenewal).

Option A

## Appendix - Design Options for Tipton Park Playground



Option B



Option C

