

What We Heard Windermere District Park

ADVISE

City of Edmonton
Integrated Infrastructure Services
Open Spaces Planning and Design
September 2025
Edmonton.ca/WindermereDistrictParkDevelopment

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SHAPE OUR CITY

Edmonton

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Acknowledgements

The City of Edmonton acknowledges that the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as nêhiyaw/Cree, Dene, Anishinaabe/Saulteaux, Nakota Isga/Nakota Sioux, and Niitsitapi/Blackfoot peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all people who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together, we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

The project team thanks Edmonton Public Schools (EPSB), Edmonton Catholic School Division (ECSD), Alberta Infrastructure, the Greater Windermere Community League, Glenridding Park users and residents for sharing their thoughts and insights on the draft design.

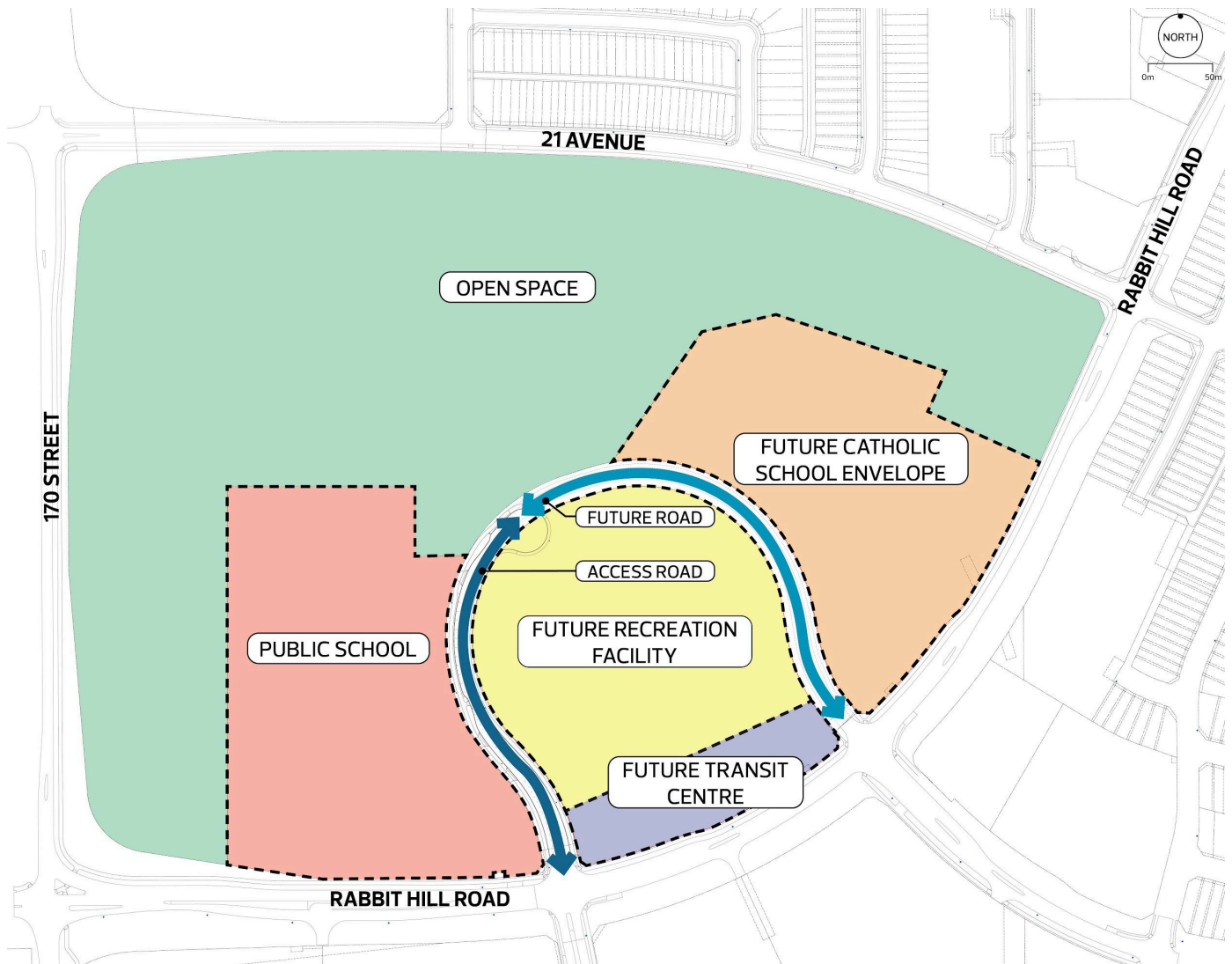
Project overview

The Windermere District Park will serve the greater Windermere area. This park is being planned alongside the development of a new Grade 7-12 Edmonton public school, which is anticipated to open in 2028.

District parks are large sites intended to serve the recreational needs of multiple communities. In addition to the public high school, the Windermere District Park site has space allocated for a future Edmonton Catholic Grade 10-12 school, a City of Edmonton recreation facility and a transit centre. The timing of these future developments is unknown and these facilities are not funded at this time.

The image on the next page shows the location of the park within the Glenridding Heights neighbourhood along with the space allocated for each amenity. The park is bordered by 21 Avenue SW to the north, 170 Street to the west and Rabbit Hill Road to the south and east. This project focuses on the design of the open space only (shown in green), with other space on the site allocated for:

- A future loop road in the central portion of the park, connecting two existing intersections on Rabbit Hill Road
- A future transit centre within the loop road, north of Rabbit Hill Road
- An area for a future recreation facility north of the future transit centre, within the loop road
- An area for the future Catholic school envelope on the eastern side of the park bordered by Rabbit Hill Road on the southeast and the loop road on the southwest
- An area for the public school on the west side of the park, bordered by Rabbit Hill Road on the south and the loop road on the east
- Open space area along the western edge and the north and central area of the park. This includes a location for a future maintenance yard



Project scope

The scope of work for the Windermere District Park project includes base-level park amenities as defined in the [Urban Parks Management Plan](#). Base-level development includes:

- Site grading, levelling and seeding
- Sports fields complete with sports fixtures
- Landscaping, including tree planting
- Pathways, including connector paths to the neighbourhood
- Site furniture, including seating, picnic tables, waste bins and bicycle racks
- A park sign

The project is also guided by and supports implementation of the city-wide [Breathe: Green Network Strategy](#).

Public engagement approach

The City of Edmonton project team met with both school boards (EPSB, ECSD) and Alberta Infrastructure representatives to gain a thorough understanding of the schools' programming needs. This collaborative approach ensures the City's district park design integrates the schools' needs. The project team also met with City sport and recreation staff to gain insight on the City's overall inventory and demand for sport field types and recreational opportunities. Additional input and expertise was sought from City transportation and urban planning staff. A traffic assessment confirmed the planned park access road will be able to handle the anticipated future traffic volumes. A parking study was completed that confirmed there will be sufficient parking planned on and around the site to support anticipated parking needs once the site is fully built. In May 2025, the project met with representatives from the Greater Windermere Community League to share information about the project and gain their knowledge about community needs. The project team used information from all parties to develop a draft design for the district park.

As noted earlier, a district park is intended to meet broad recreational needs, so after meeting with school and City representatives, the project team wanted to gain feedback from the public. The public was asked to **ADVISE** the project team on the draft design for Windermere District Park. The City of Edmonton's Public Engagement Spectrum (below) notes an ADVISE level of engagement means the project team will consider public feedback as part of project decision-making. Project decisions are also driven by the Urban Parks Management Plan, the city-wide Breathe Strategy, technical standards and budget to determine a final, preferred design.



How we engaged

Public engagement for the Windermere District Park project occurred from June 10 to June 24, 2025. An online survey was the primary engagement method, supplemented by meetings with the Greater Windermere Community League and conversations with people at Glenridding Park.

A [project web page](#) was established and the public was invited to view the draft design and contact the project team to share their views. The project page also hosted the online survey to gather feedback.

Information about the project and the opportunity to complete the survey was promoted through City of Edmonton social media accounts, road signs within the area and a postcard mailout to neighbourhoods surrounding the project site. The Greater Windermere Community League also promoted the engagement opportunity to its membership.

What we asked

The public was asked to provide feedback on:

- How they would use the park
- How they would get to and enter the park
- Satisfaction with the draft design
- General thoughts on the draft design and project

The draft design presented during public engagement is on the next page and shows:

- A cricket pitch, overlapped with soccer fields in the NW corner of the site
- Space for a future maintenance yard south of 21 Avenue and Glenridding Boulevard SW
- Two 91m (275 foot) ball diamonds in the north central area of the park
- Two combo football fields, 137m x 64 m, one in the NE and one in the SW corners of the park
- Two soccer fields, 100m x 64m, one in the NE corner and one on the western edge of the park
- Three paved pathways through the park
- A central pathway starting at the intersection of Glenridding Blvd and 21 Avenue, south to the internal loop road
- NE corner of the park, meeting with the central pathway north of the internal loop road
- Intersection of 21 Avenue and 163 Street, meeting with the internal loop road and at the centre of the park
- Lighting along the pathways
- Seating nodes along the pathways
- A small picnic or gathering area at the intersection of the pathways in the centre of the park
- Open green space in the centre of the park
- A park sign at the corner of Rabbit Hill Road and 21 Avenue SW
- Trees throughout

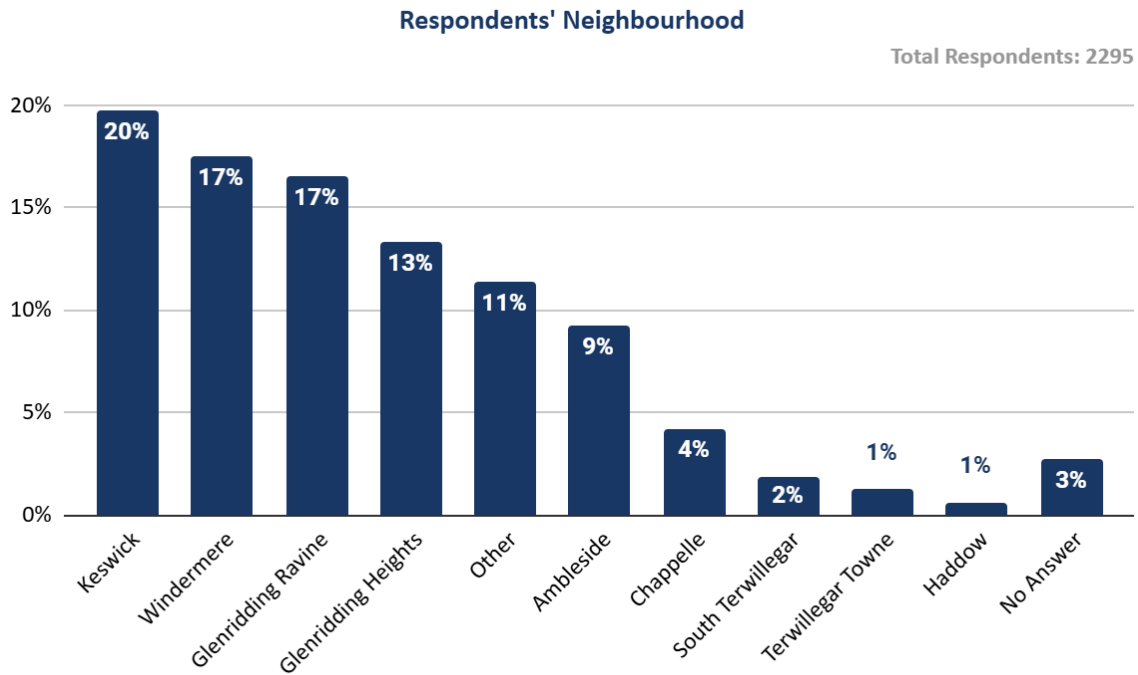
Draft Design - Windermere District Park



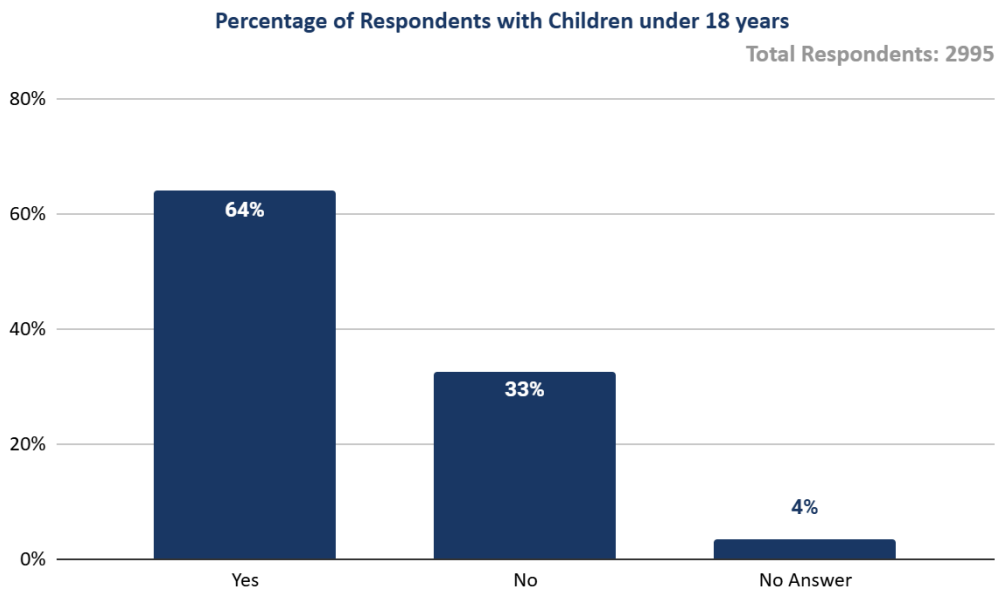
Who we heard from

A total of 2,995 residents completed the survey, with the majority (67 per cent) of respondents indicating they lived in Keswick, Windermere, Glenridding Ravine or Glenridding Heights. Many respondents (11 per cent) selected “other” when answering the question about their neighbourhood. Most respondents who selected “other” were from neighbourhoods in south Edmonton. A sizable portion of these respondents lived in Windermere and Glenridding neighbourhoods, but selected “other” and provided the name the developer gave their community, rather than the Edmonton neighbourhood they lived in.

Survey results also included respondents from Ambleside, Chappelle, South Terwillegar and Terwillegar Towne neighbourhoods (17 per cent). A few respondents (three per cent) chose not to answer this question.



The majority (64 per cent) of respondents had children/grandchildren under the age of 18 years in their household. A large portion of respondents with children intended to send their children to one of the schools planned at Windermere District Park when the site is complete (69 per cent).



Most survey respondents were between the ages of 25 to 54 years old (85 per cent). About half identified as male (51 per cent) and female (45 per cent). A small portion (one per cent) of respondents identified as non-binary, transgender, Two-Spirit or another gender. A few respondents (four per cent) chose not to answer this question.

What we heard

Expected park uses

Respondents were asked to select how they or a member of their household expect to use the park and its amenities when it is completed. Respondents could select as many uses as applied. As noted in the chart below, the most desired uses include “passive” open space enjoyment and use of park pathways for travel such as walking and rolling.

Expected Park Use	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
Walk/run	73%	2,195
Relax/reading/socialize	61%	1,841
Pathways to travel through	53%	1,578
Informal Recreation (e.g., frisbee, yoga)	51%	1,539
Soccer fields: non-bookable	38%	1,130
Cricket pitch: non-bookable	29%	872
Soccer: bookable	26%	781
Combination football/soccer: bookable	23%	690
Other (see below)	23%	679
Ball diamonds: bookable	19%	573
Did not expect to use the park	2%	71
Not sure	2%	59
Multiple selections will not total 100% or equal total respondents		

Almost one quarter (23 per cent) of respondents selected “other” and specified an activity they would like to do or see at the park. The “other” desired activities/amenities are listed below from most to least frequently mentioned.

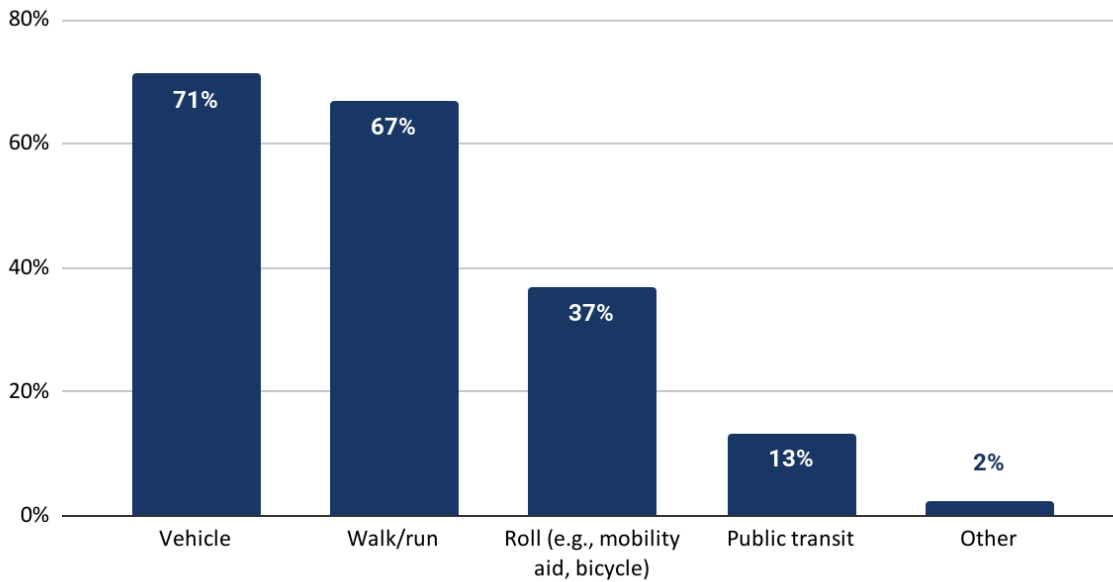
1. Racquet sports
 - Pickleball and tennis are highly desired
2. Spray park for children
3. Dog walking and/or a dog park
 - The importance of pathways to enjoy green space was also noted in these comments
4. An ice rink
 - Occasionally these comments advocated for greater consideration of winter activities at the park
5. Playground for children
6. Basketball hoops and/or court
7. Gathering spaces and enjoyable green spaces
8. Other sports and activities: volleyball, a running track, adult exercise equipment, a skate/skateboard park and disc golf
9. Public library
10. Community hall

Travel methods and entry points to the park

As shown in the charts below, respondents expect to use a variety of travel methods to get to the park, with vehicle use and walking or running the most likely. Over one third (37 per cent) of respondents expect to “roll” to the park. Rollers are most likely to cycle (97 per cent) and use strollers (35 per cent). At least five per cent of rollers expect to use a mobility aid or wheelchair.

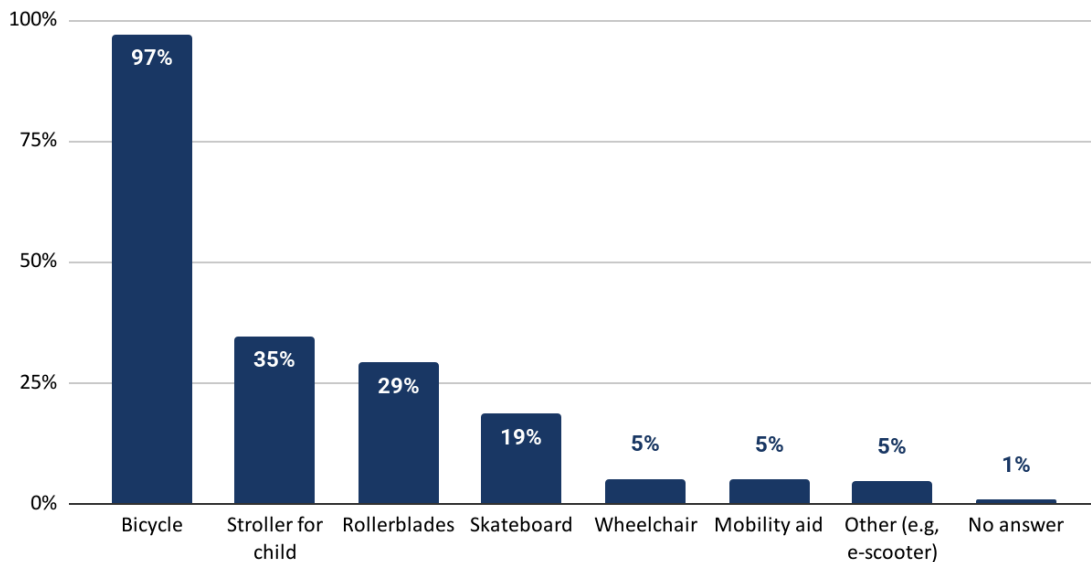
Likely Method to Travel to Park

Multiple selections will not total 100%



Likely Method of "Rolling" to Park

Total "Roller" Respondents: 1,057



Survey respondents were shown the image below and asked which entry points to the park they were most likely to use. The chart below shows the results, with entry point #1 and #5 being the most likely access points.

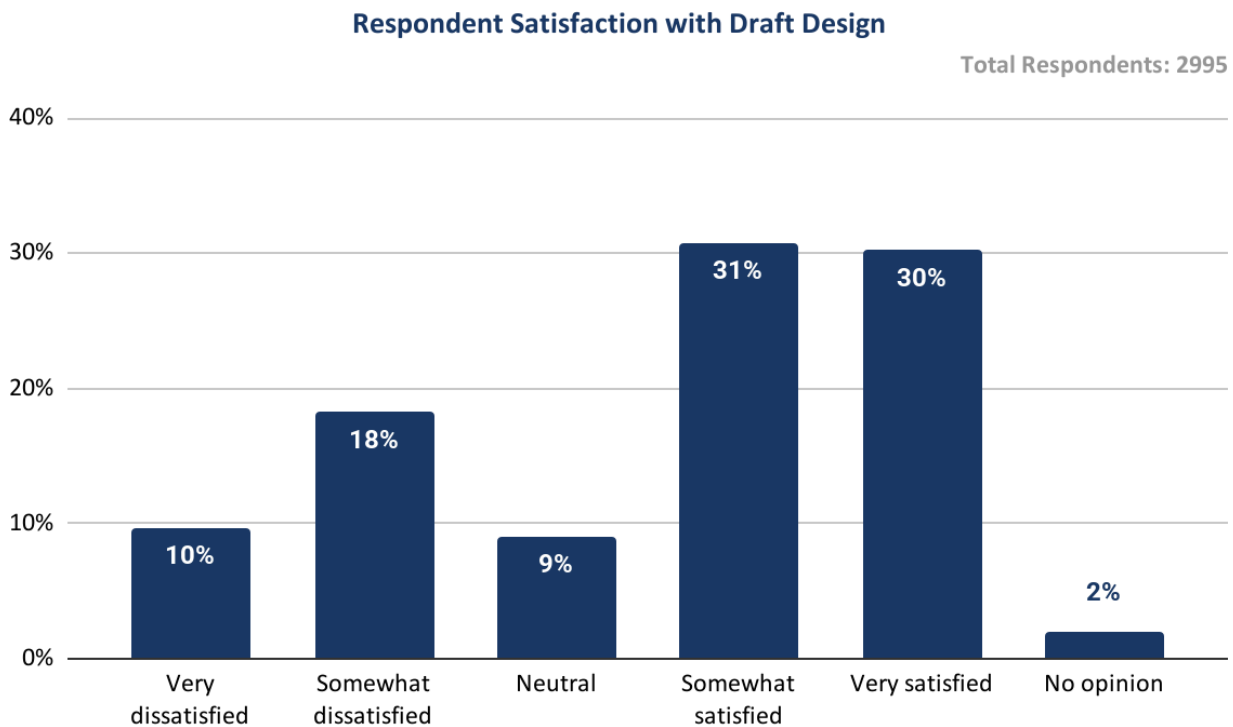


Entry Point	Percentage of Respondents	Number of Respondents
1 - 170 Street & 21 Avenue	38%	1,122
2 - Glenridding Boulevard & 21 Avenue	25%	730
3 - 20 Avenue & 21 Avenue	12%	365
4 - 163 Street & 21 Avenue	15%	431
5 - Rabbit Hill Road & 21 Avenue	34%	1,002
6 - 28 Avenue & Rabbit Hill Road	20%	587
7 - Glenridding Ravine Drive & Rabbit Hill Rd	32%	950
8 - 170 Street & Rabbit Hill Road	34%	989
I'm not sure	9%	274
No answer	2%	45

Multiple selections will not total 100% or total respondents

Satisfaction with draft design

Most respondents viewed the draft design favourably, with 61 per cent being somewhat and very satisfied with the design. Over one quarter (28 per cent) of the respondents were somewhat and very dissatisfied with the design. The remainder were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied or did not have an opinion (one per cent).



Respondents were asked to include comments for the project team. The written comments are summarized below.

- Increased traffic and sufficient parking spaces** was the most prominent concern amongst respondents, regardless of whether they were satisfied with the draft design. Respondents expressed frustration with current one lane roadways, traffic control measures and traffic congestion, saying it makes getting in and out of their neighbourhoods difficult. Respondents were concerned that the future schools and district park amenities would draw more vehicles to the area and worsen existing travel conditions. Similarly, respondents worry about sufficient parking spots when the sports fields and schools are in use.

Some respondents called for the City to address road infrastructure and parking before the site is developed. Others suggested pedestrian overpasses to the site to support traffic flow and road crossing. Increased pathways and connections from the site to surrounding walking and rolling pathways was also suggested as a traffic mitigation measure.

- The number and type of sportfields** was also frequently commented upon. Many respondents were pleased to see the inclusion of a cricket pitch in the design, while others did not believe it responded to community needs and that it would not be well utilized. Similarly, many respondents questioned the need

for “duplicate” sportfields to support public and Catholic schools and suggested one sportfield of each type would be sufficient. The cricket pitch and less so the ball diamonds were the fields many respondents thought could be reduced and replaced with other amenities.

Sport enthusiasts were concerned about “non-bookable” sportfields and worried that if scheduling rules were not in place, leagues and other groups may coordinate to prevent others from using the space. Similarly, some cricket players asked for exclusive field use. Cricket players also offered suggestions to improve the pitch including: practice nets, dug outs, change areas, a spectator area and several technical considerations that could allow winter play.

- **Family and community-focused amenities** were highly valued amongst all respondents regardless of whether they approved of the draft design. Within these comments, respondents frequently expressed a desire for activities and amenities that young children, families, different age groups and community members could enjoy together. Some writers noted organized sports are not affordable for some families and suggested the draft design include options beyond sportfields. Others asked the project team to incorporate more winter-use activities. A few older adults suggested their needs were not accounted for within the park design (e.g., benches, ensuring pathways were wide and connected, lawn bowling, accessible parking).

A summary of activities/amenities respondents would like added to the park are listed below from most to least frequently mentioned.

1. Pickleball and tennis
2. A spray park
3. An ice rink
4. A playground
5. Enjoyable green space (e.g., trees, shade, plantings)
6. Gathering spaces (e.g., gazebos, picnic areas)
7. Basketball hoops and/or court
8. A dog park
9. Visually pleasant, wide, and well connected pathways
10. An outdoor running track
11. Other sports/activities such as: volleyball, disc golf, a tobogganing hill, adult exercise equipment, a bike/skateboard park, cross country skiing, field hockey, and lawn bowling

A few respondents commented on their desire for a community hall, library, pool, and community garden at the site.

- **Unique comments** suggested including art at the site. One commenter recommended a large art installation to “hide” or camouflage the maintenance yard. Two other writers advocated for art or a similar element to acknowledge Indigenous people and Truth and Reconciliation. A few respondents asked the project team to consider the ecological needs of plants, wildlife, and birds in the area and to incorporate climate change mitigation strategies into the design.

The nature and content of survey respondents' comments is consistent with emails received by the project team through the course of the engagement period as well as discussions with Glenridding Park users during the project team's onsite visit to the park in June 2025. Feedback from the Greater Windermere Community League representatives is also consistent with the engagement results. The community league noted local residents had an interest in tennis, skateparks and an outdoor rink. The community league emphasized there is a high need for bookable soccer fields (U15) for teens in the area.

What we did

All public engagement feedback was shared with the project design team for consideration as the design moves forward. Some public feedback was outside the scope of this project, but is valuable to other City departments. The results of this engagement will be shared with Urban Planning and Economy, [Breathe: Green Network Implementation Project](#) team to inform their work. The Greater Windermere Community League will also be notified and provided with a copy of the What We Heard report.

Working across different levels of government, site partners and City departments is complex and collaborative. The park will provide amenities to support the future recreation facility and future school programming with amenities such as sportsfields and pathway connections. At the same time, it is anticipated the future recreation facility and school developments will provide amenities that benefit the park such as parking and indoor recreation opportunities. Open space has been included in the design for unstructured recreation opportunities like frisbee or yoga. There is also open space that could accommodate amenities above base level in the future, as funding allows.

The chart below outlines base-level amenities included in the design. It also outlines other amenities highly valued by public engagement respondents. As funding does not allow for above base-level amenities at this time, these additional amenities have not been included.

	BASE LEVEL* to be delivered through this project	ABOVE BASE LEVEL Potential future development depending on funding and need
District Park Amenities		
Site grading, leveling and planting grass seed or sod	x	
Tree planting and landscaping	x	
Sports fields and fixtures	x	
Park sign	x	
Furniture: benches, picnic tables, bike racks, trash cans	x	
Shared-use pathways	x	
Parking	Expected to be provided with other facilities on site	
Pickleball/tennis		x
Spray park		x
Ice rink		x
Playground		x

District Park Amenities	BASE LEVEL* to be delivered through this project	ABOVE BASE LEVEL Potential future development depending on funding and need
Basketball court		x
Off leash dog park		x
Gazebo or picnic shelter		x
Running track		x

*Base level development as defined in the City of Edmonton’s [Urban Parks Management Plan](#)

Alberta Infrastructure is responsible for development within the school parcel, including parking, pathways, lighting, landscaping and furniture.

What happens next

The project team will continue to work with site partners to further the park design. A preferred design will be developed and shared on the project website at edmonton.ca/WindermereDistrictParkDevelopment. Funding to deliver the project will be requested as part of the fall 2025 Supplementary Capital Budget Adjustment. Construction of Windermere District Park is expected to begin in 2026, pending funding availability.

The new Grade 7-12 public school is anticipated to open in 2028. The schedule and funding for the Edmonton Catholic Grade 10-12 school is unknown at this time. Edmontonians are encouraged to contact EPSB and ECSD directly for information related to the school design and development.

The project team thanks Edmontonians who shared their views about the draft design and looks forward to sharing the preferred design in the coming months.