



What We Heard Report

Round Two of the Public Engagement for Indigo Shores Park Planning

June 2023

HALIFAX

1.0 Project Process

Overview of the Parks Planning Survey

The second round of engagement for Indigo Shores Parkland Planning project intended to gather feedback on concepts for the community's seven parkland parcels.

After the initial phase of engagement, concepts were created for each parcel, taking into account the emergent themes and community values derived from the first round of public engagement. Public input from the second round of engagement will be used to refine the proposed concepts and develop the final park plan.

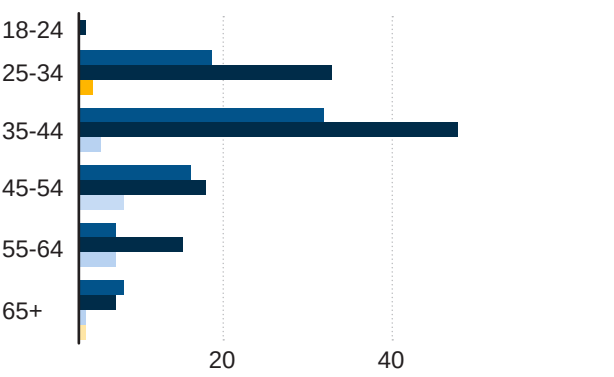
What We Heard - Parks User Survey 2

In March 2023, a second public survey was launched on the Municipality's Shape Your City website. The survey ran from March 21st to April 6th, 2023. Results show that 661 individuals were aware of the survey and visited at least one page online, 370 were informed and engaged with at least one page of content, and 218 people participated in the online survey.



2.0 Who Participated

Survey participants were asked about their previous participation in Indigo Shores survey, place of residence, and their demographic profiles.



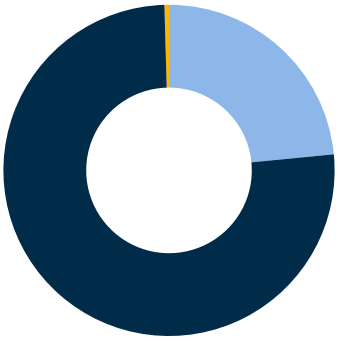
What is your age/how do you identify?

- Cis Woman
- Cis Man
- Trans Woman - Trans Feminine
- Non-binary, gender fluid, non-conforming, queer or gender queer
- Prefer not to answer

Age and Gender

Individuals between the ages of 35 to 44 represent the majority of respondents (39%), followed by people between the ages of 25-34 (24%), and 45 to 54 (17%). Individuals aged 18-24 represented the smallest age group (0.4%).

Over half (56%) of respondents identify as cis women. Cis males are the second largest group (35%). 8% preferred not to answer; 1% are non-binary, non-conforming, queer or gender queer; 0.5% identify as trans-women/trans-feminine.

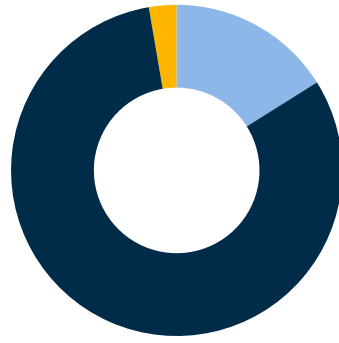


Are you a resident of the Indigo Shores subdivision?

- Yes (76%)
- No (23%)
- Don't Know/Not Sure (0.4%)

Neighbourhood Profile

More than three-quarter (76%) of respondents are from the Indigo Shores subdivision. The majority of participants who were not from the Indigo Shores community, were from the Middle Sackville area (15 respondents), Halifax's South End (7 respondents), and Halifax's North End (4 respondents). The remaining participants were from the Bedford, Dartmouth, and Halifax areas, and nearby municipalities.



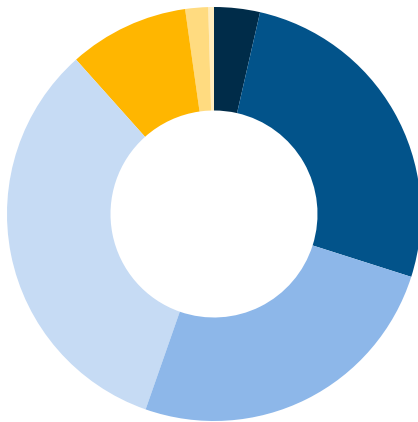
Do you have a private residence fronting on McCabe Lake?

- Yes (16%)
- No (81%)
- Don't Know/Not Sure (3%)

Private Lake Access

Over three-quarters of respondents do not have a private residence fronting on the lakeside. 16% of participants have private property or other property on McCabe Lake.

Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

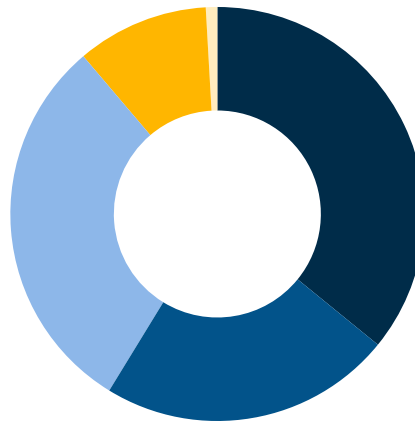


- 1 person (4%)
- 2 people (26%)
- 3 people (25%)
- 4 people (33%)
- 5 people (9%)
- 6 people (2%)
- 7 people (0.4%)

Household Composition

The majority of respondents live in four person households (33%). Almost the same amount of participants live in two person (26%) and three person (25%) households. The remaining participants live alone (3%), in five-person households (9%), or in households with more than five people (2%).

How many children under the age of 18 live in your household?

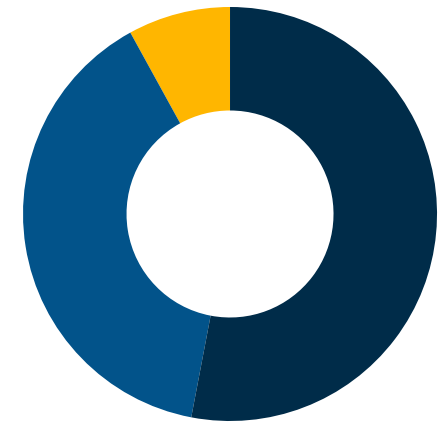


- 0 children (36%)
- 1 child (23%)
- 2 children (30%)
- 3 children (10%)
- 4 children (0.9%)
- 5 children (10%)

Households with Children

Respondents were asked how many children under the age of 18 they had in their households. Most respondents do not have children (36%). However, 30% have two children. Almost one quarter have one child (23%).

Did you participate in the first Indigo Parks Survey?



- Yes (53%)
- No (39%)
- Don't know/not sure (8%)

Survey Participation

Over half the respondents (53%) participated in the first round of engagement. Of the remaining participants, over one-quarter (39%) did not participate in the initial survey. 8% were unsure whether they had participated in the first survey.

3.0 Park Feedback

Respondents were presented with park concepts for each of the parcels. Feedback will be used to refine the concepts presented in the final park plans.

Concept Plan Presented for McCabe Lake Drive Park

McCabe Lake Drive's primary intent is to provide an accessible trail to Sackville River. The site features include a parking lot, trail development, and a potential space for future amenities.

Parking lot

- The upper section of the park near McCabe Lake Drive has been cleared and levelled. This area would be a suitable location for a parking lot.

Trail Development

- There is a significant slope from the site's upper area to the southern shoreline. The concept proposes a switchback trail with a snakes and ladder motif, which will create an accessible slope and provide additional play opportunities.
- The site is heavily forested and slopes from its middle section towards the river's shoreline. The concept plan proposes an accessible trail with a 1:20 (vertical:horizontal) incline towards the edge of the Sackville River.

River Access

- The river channel in this area is narrow, with a fast moving current flowing over a rocky, shallow stream bed. Access points for kayaks, canoes, and swimmers are not a suitable amenity option for this park.

Amenity Space

- There is a flat area in the northwest corner of the site that would be suitable for a future amenity space.
- Programming for the potential amenity space will be considered in future phases of parkland development.
- A scenic lookoff point and amenity area is proposed in the southeast corner of the site.



McCabe Lake Park Feedback

Agreement with McCabe Lake Drive Park's Concept Plan

Participants were asked to rate their level of agreement for the proposed concept plan for McCabe Lake Drive Park.

- Over three-quarters of participants were in agreement with the proposed plan: 64% definitely agree, and 24% somewhat agree.
- 7% of participants neither agreed nor disagreed with the concept plan.
- 5% of users disagree with the proposed plan: 3% somewhat disagree, and 2% definitely disagree.

Accessible Trail

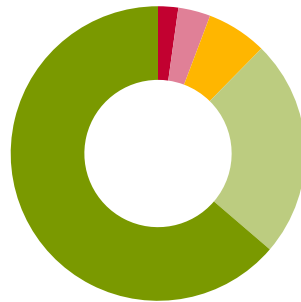
Respondents were asked whether they felt an accessible trail to the river was an important feature.

- Half of the respondents (50%) said an accessible trail to the river was important to them.
- Over one-quarter (25%) said that an accessible trail was somewhat important.
- Less than one quarter respondents said that an accessible trail was not important (14%) or did not have an opinion (3%).

An accessible trail is more important to users who do not have lakefront access.

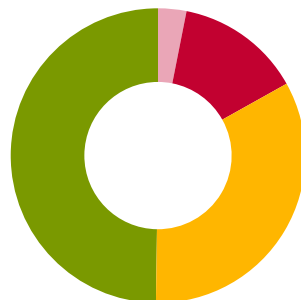
- Of the respondents who indicated that an accessible trail is very important, over one-quarter (84%) do not have private access to McCabe Lake; 10% of respondents with private lakefront access said the trail is very important.

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: I support the primary intent and proposed park concept for McCabe Lake Drive Park



- Definitely agree (64%)
- Somewhat agree (24%)
- Neither agree or disagree (7%)
- Somewhat disagree (3%)
- Definitely disagree (2%)

How important is it for you to have an accessible trail to the river?



- Very important (50%)
- Somewhat important (33%)
- Not important (14%)
- No opinion (3%)

Additional Feedback

The majority of the comments expressed support for the proposed concept plan. Other common themes included:

Privacy concerns

Survey participants and open house attendees said there is currently a large number of trespassers using the privately-owned Eventide Lane. Respondents were concerned the proposed park would lead to an increased number of people parking along the road and accessing private property, which has already caused safety issues for homeowners.

Respondents also felt the look-off area would cause issues for residents nearby. Specifically, participants worried the gathering area would encourage loitering, littering, and increased noise - particularly during the nighttime. Participants asked that the look-off be moved further away from the neighbouring properties.

Playground

Several respondents wanted to see a small playground built in the proposed amenity space. Residents felt the playground proposed in Midnight Run was too far for those in the McCabe Lake Park area and an additional playground would reduce the amount of driving throughout the subdivision.

"The biggest concern is that Eventide is a private lane - with this proposal having a seating area at the bottom of the park, and only a few steps from private property, this will only encourage increased vehicle traffic on the private lane and non-residents parking on the lane and private property."

However, when asked later in the survey whether one playground had more disadvantages than multiple, smaller playgrounds, more respondents than less agreed it was a good idea (38% definitely agree; 11% definitely disagree).

Lake Access

Survey participants were supportive of the trail access to the lake. Many respondents felt creating a looped trail system would get more people to use the trail.

Environmental Concerns

Respondents felt the trail system could affect the parcel's existing environmental integrity. Several respondents said the trail would result in the removal of existing, mature trees and the additional human presence would have a negative effect on the subdivision's deer and animal population.

Concept Plan Presented for Midnight Run Park

The concept for Midnight Run Park intends to provide a range of active recreation facilities in a central location for the Indigo Shores community.

Sports Courts

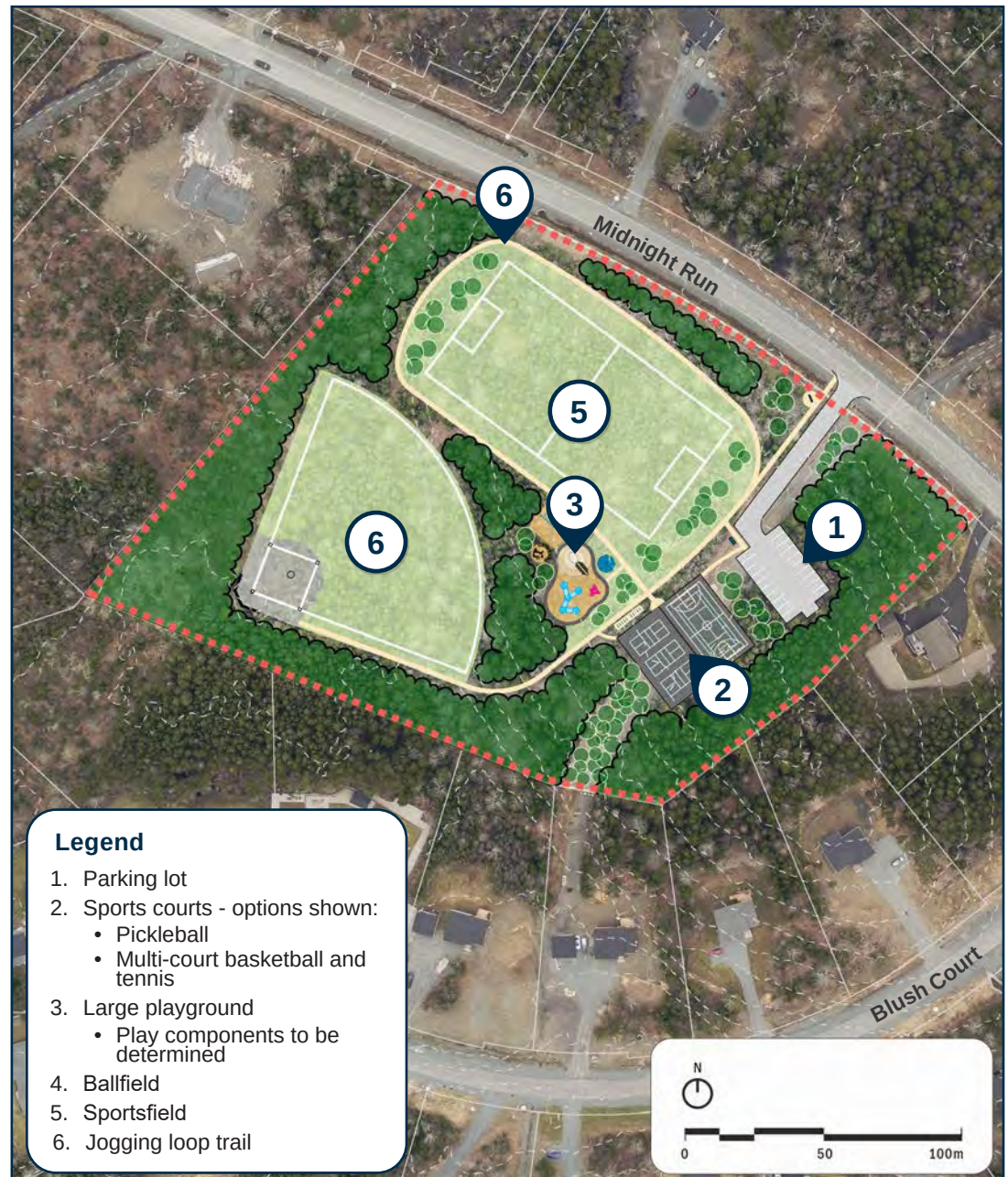
- The site's relatively even terrain and large size is favourable for developing sports courts amenities.
- The site's proximity to Highway 101 allows easier access into the subdivision for visiting teams in recreational league sports
- The concept plan demonstrates a general playing field. Feedback from the open house will be used to finalize the type of sports court in the final Parks Planning document.

Playgrounds

- The overall park plan recommends that only one playground will be constructed in the Indigo Shores subdivision to serve the needs of the neighbourhood.
- Implementing the playground in one area will encourage Indigo Shores' residents to gather in a central location, thereby increasing the amount of interaction between community members and the overall use of the playground.
- Proposing a single playground enables a focused allocation of capital funds, allowing for or multiple play structures that serve a range of interests and ages.

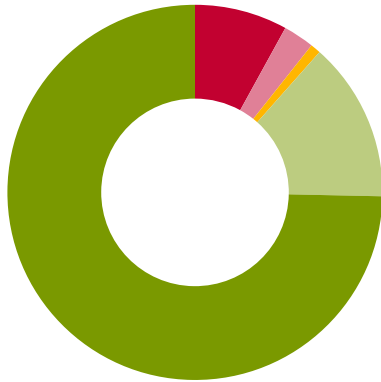
Existing Terrain

- The site features an existing logging road which will continue to serve as the site's main access point.
- Recreation facilities and playing field should be placed on higher ground and away from the lower, wetter areas in the southwest and northeast corner of the park.



Midnight Run Park Feedback

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: I support the primary intent and proposed park concept for Midnight Run Park



McCabe Lake Park Feedback

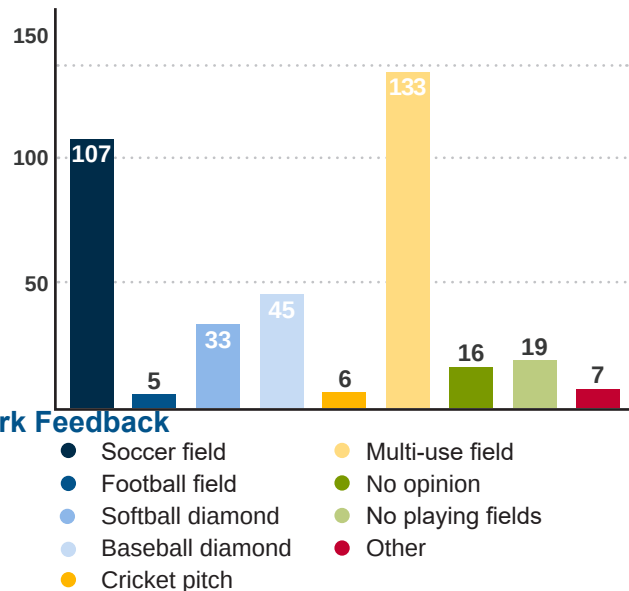
- Definitely agree (75%)
- Somewhat agree (14%)
- Neither agree nor disagree (1%)
- Somewhat disagree (3%)
- Definitely disagree (8%)

Support for Midnight Run Park

Respondents were asked to indicate their support for the concept plan proposed for Midnight Run Park

- Compared to the other proposed concept plans, Midnight Run Park received the most support
- 75% of respondents said they definitely agreed with the proposed concept plan; 14% said they somewhat agree.
- 3% of participants said they somewhat disagreed with Midnight Run's concept plan; 8% of respondents definitely disagree.

What types of sports field would you like to see included in this park? Please select up to two options.

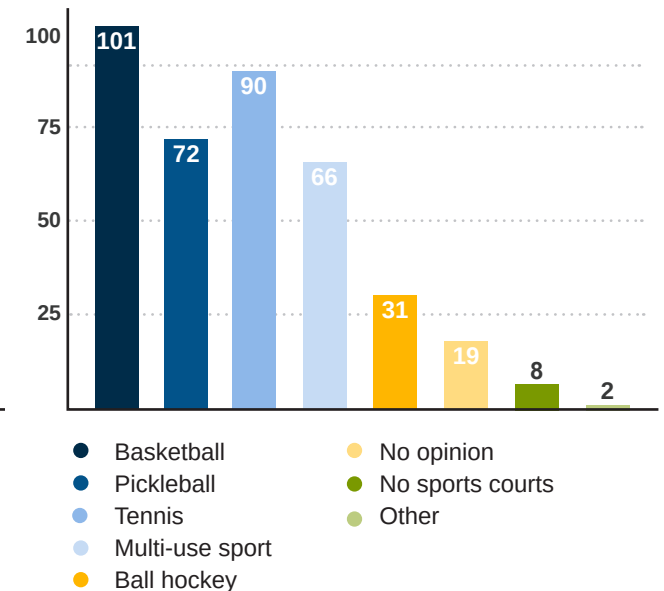


Sports Field Preference

Midnight Run's concept plan propose two sports fields, but does not identify specific uses. Respondents were asked to select which type of sports fields they are the most interested in.

- A multi-use field (133 of 227 responses), soccer fields (107 of 227 responses), and baseball fields (45 of 227 responses) were the most popular options.
- No playing fields (19 of 227 responses), a cricket pitch (6 of 227 responses) and a football field (5 of 227 responses) were the least popular option.
- 19 respondents did not have an opinion

What types of sports courts would you like to see included in this park? Please select up to two options.



Sports Court Preferences

The concept plan for Midnight Run Park did not identify specific sports courts. Participants were asked what kind of sports courts they would like to see built in Midnight Run:

- Basketball courts (101 of 224 responses), tennis (90 of 224 responses), and pickleball (72 of 224 responses) were the top-ranked preferences for sports courts.
- Multi-use courts (66 or 224 responses), ball hockey (31 of 224 responses) and no sports courts (8 of 224 responses) were the least popular options.
- 19 respondents did not have an opinion.

Additional Feedback

Open House

While the proposed concept for Midnight Run Park received positive feedback, several visitors to the public open house expressed concern about the proposed plan. Specifically, residents were worried the park would be noisy. Many participants with properties neighbouring Midnight Run Park were nervous that removing the existing vegetative buffer would raise privacy concerns and create undesirable views from their properties into the park; many residents would prefer if the buffer surrounding the parkland remained intact.

Parking

Due to the number of proposed amenities, several participants were concerned by the size of the proposed parking lot. Respondents noted that the playing fields - specifically the ball diamond - would draw in residents from surrounding communities who would be likely access the amenity by car.

Additionally, survey participants expressed concern that insufficient parking would lead to parking on the side of the road on Midnight Run, leading to increased traffic and potentially dangerous situations for pedestrians and cyclists trying to access Midnight Run Park. Many participants stressed the importance of including additional parking in the final park plan.

Noise and privacy

Similar to comments heard during the open house, many respondents were concerned about the increased noise levels park amenities may cause. Several respondents said that park amenities would

lessen the appeal of the neighbourhood, as many residents like living in Indigo Shores because of the subdivision's tranquil nature. Like open house attendees, survey respondents would like to see the existing vegetative buffer surrounding the parkland preserved to buffer noise and views of the proposed parkland.

Respondents also noted that the addition of destination amenities, specifically ballfields, would cause an increase of on-street parking, non-local traffic, and members of recreational leagues using the park after hours. Several participants also said the ball diamond's lighting would be disruptive.

Number of amenities

The number of proposed amenities was a divisive subject amongst participants. Several respondents were excited to see the range of amenities proposed in the concept plan.

Conversely, numerous participants also felt there were too many proposed amenities. Feedback included comments about how the proposed amenities would cause the removal of existing vegetation, an increase in non-local traffic, littering, and partying.

Playground

Many participants felt the playground should be the priority for development, and should be built if only one amenity could be developed.

There was some disagreement about locating a sole playground for the community in Midnight Run Park. Many respondents felt it would bring the community together and offer a place for parents and their children to meet; other respondents said

the distance would be too far to travel by foot and was only accessible by driving.

"These recreation facilities are greatly needed for such a fast growing area. Sports fields and courts are great and the community could greatly benefit from a playground."

"I live next door to where the park will be and think this would be a great addition."

"...[there is only] around 25 parking spaces, this will not be enough for the amount of amenities proposed."

"I think the proposed plan is too much for our community. The majority of people live here because they love living in nature and appreciate the quiet."

Concept Plan Presented for Azure Court Park and Gaspereau Court Park

The concept plan for Azure Court Park and Gaspereau Court Park aims to provide a connective trail from Gaspereau Run to Midnight Run. The potential for park planning is considered by allocating space for future amenity areas.

Trail Development

- The proposed trail will be a standard 3m wide multi-use path to accommodate a range of users.

Crosswalk

- To ensure pedestrian safety amongst trail users, a cross walk is proposed on Azure Court to connect Azure Court Park to Gaspereau Run.
- The proposed crosswalk will be approved by HRM traffic prior to final recommendation.

Forest Discovery Nodes

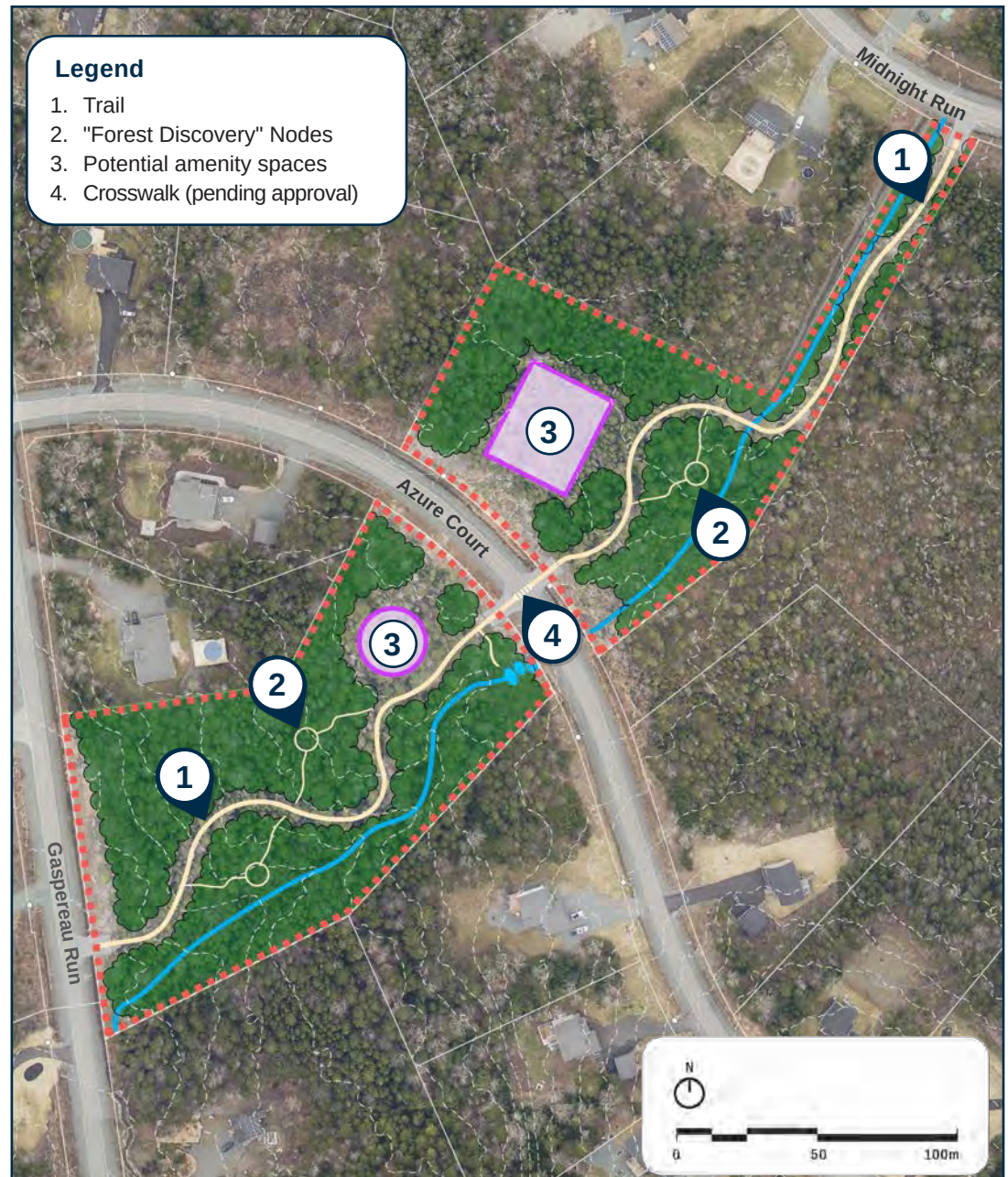
- To promote learning and nature play amongst the community's children, a series of interpretive nature panels are proposed along the trail.
- Panels and discovery nodes will highlight the area's natural fauna and the parks' history to teach children and encourage a sense of exploration.

Watercourse

- There is a small watercourse running through the two parks.
- Seating amenities, forest discovery nodes, and interpretive panels will be located nearby.

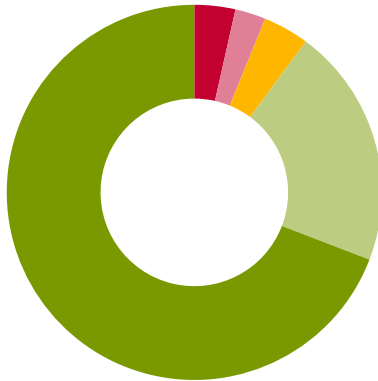
Future amenity spaces

- The concept plan allocates space for future amenities with access from the road or the proposed trails.
- The amenity spaces are sized to potentially accommodate a playground or sports courts.



Azure Court Park and Gaspereau Run Park Feedback

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: I support the primary intent and proposed park concept for Azure Court Park and Gaspereau Run Park



- Definitely agree (69%)
- Somewhat agree (21%)
- Neither agree nor disagree (4%)
- Somewhat disagree (3%)
- Definitely disagree (3%)

Level of Support

Survey participants were asked to rank their level of agreement with the concept plans for Gaspereau Run Park and Azure Court Park

- 90% of participants definitely agree with the proposed concept plan: 69% definitely agree and 21% somewhat agree.
- 4% of respondents neither agree nor disagree with the proposed concept plan.
- Less than 10% of survey participants disagree with the proposed concept plans: 3% of respondents somewhat disagree; 3% of respondents definitely disagree.

Additional Feedback

Connectivity

Survey participants liked the trail connectivity proposed in the concept plan and said the proposed trail would make the neighbourhood more walkable. The lack of sidewalks in the subdivision has led many residents to feel unsafe as pedestrians; many respondents said they would frequent the trail frequently to access different parts of the subdivision without having to walk or bike along the shoulder of the road.

Some respondents said they would like the trail to be paved to better accommodate biking, roller blading, and jogging in the community.

Potential for Vandalism

Though participants supported the proposed trail system, they were worried the secluded nature of the trail would lead to vandalism. Respondents noted the inclusion of garbage bins would be beneficial in reducing the amount of litter in the future park space.

Amenity Spaces

Respondents said the success and overall use of the park would be determined by how the potential amenity spaces were eventually programmed. Several participants noted that the park may be hard to access in the amenity spaces were desirable, as there is not space allocated for parking. The most requested amenity was a small playground.

Environmental Protection

Several participants would like to see the parks' natural setting preserved. Many noted that these

"I love the connective nature of the park and the addition of educational signage, although I am concerned about the vandalism that is typical of unsupervised park sites."

"We all need this - kids, families, dogs - everyone in the community would benefit from accessible outdoor space."

"I like this idea and would definitely use a longer trail in the neighbourhood. I would like to see a paved trail if possible. We currently travel to Lower Sackville for our child to use their scooter."

parks were the more likely to have wildlife compared to other parkland parcels. Respondents would like to see the parkland left as close to its natural state as possible, and would prefer one amenity space rather than multiple to preserve as much forested area as possible.

Off-leash Dog Area

Several respondents noted said they would frequent the trails with their dogs. Some respondents requested that the trails be off-leash, while others said the amenity space could be used for a fenced-in off-leash area. Participants suggested a dog park would be a good place to meet other dog owners in the neighbourhood and socialize their dogs.

Concept Plan Presented for Unnamed Park 22

Unnamed Park 22's primary intent is to provide water access to McCabe Lake to launch non-motorized watercraft such as kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards.

Parking lot with turnaround

- Of the two park parcels with water access, Unnamed Park 22 has the shortest distance to the shoreline. The parcel is wide enough to provide a driveway with a turnaround, allowing visitors to drop off their boats close to the shoreline and park nearby.

Gazebo and lawn area

- A gazebo is proposed to provide a scenic seating area for users.
- A small lawn area allows visitors to have a space to relax, lay down, or enjoy a picnic.

Floating dock and change stall

- A floating dock for launching kayaks/canoes will allow residents without private lakefront access to use McCabe Lake.
- A changing stall will offer privacy to visitors who wish to change before and after using the lake.

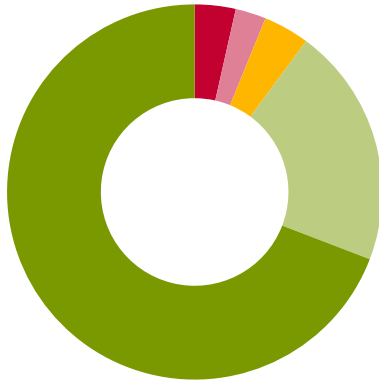
Trail

- An informal trail will allow pedestrians to access the lake without having to share the driveway with vehicles.
- The trail will provide additional recreational uses for visitors who wish to visit the gazebo or use Unnamed Park 22 for non-boating related purposes.



Unnamed Park 22 Feedback

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: I support the primary intent and proposed park concept for Unnamed Park 22?



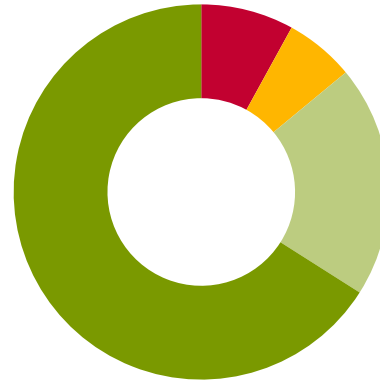
- Definitely agree (69%)
- Somewhat agree (21%)
- Neither agree nor disagree (4%)
- Somewhat disagree (2%)
- Definitely disagree (3%)

Level of Support

Participants were asked to indicate their level of support for the proposed concept plans for Azure Court Park and Gaspereau Run Park.

- 90% of respondents were favourable to the concept plans: 69% definitely agreed and 21% somewhat agreed.
- Only 5% of respondents disagreed with the proposed concept plans. 2% disagreed and 3% definitely disagreed.

How important is it for you to have amenities for launching kayaks and other small, non-motorized watercraft at Unnamed Park 22?



- Very important (66%)
- Somewhat important (20%)
- Not important (8%)
- No opinion (6%)

Non-motorized watercraft

Participants were asked whether they considered non-motorized boat launches to be important amenity for Unnamed Park 22.

- The majority of participants felt that a non-motorized boat launch is an important amenity: 66% said they are very important; 20% said they were somewhat important.
- 8% of participants indicated that non-motorized boat launches are not an important amenity.

Similarly to McCabe Lake Park, residents who did not have private lakefront access were more interested in the non-motorized boat launch than those who do:

- Over half (52%) of users without private lake access considered a non-motorized boat launch very important; 34% of users with private access to McCabe Lake said a non-motorized boat launch is an important amenity.
- 11% of respondents without private lake access said a non-motorized boat launch was not an important amenity; over one-quarter (26%) of participants with private lake access said the same.

Additional Feedback

Open House

Open house attendees were concerned about alterations to the riparian zone, as a significant amount has already been removed along the lake's shoreline. Additionally, many expressed concern about rising temperatures and lake levels - especially as it relates to lake health and the potential for algae blooms in the future. Several participants stressed that water health must be monitored for pH levels if additional recreational activities are being proposed to ensure the health of McCabe Lake and its users.

Ultimately, if the proposed concept were realized, attendees want the environmental and zoning policies are recognized to maintain the health, safety, and privacy of McCabe Lake and its surrounding residences.

"I agree with giving access to the lake. I wouldn't want to see a large number of trees cut down. The park would lose its appeal. Perhaps the parking is okay, but the less tree clearing the better."

"The water level here is very low during the late summer months. I worry about the privacy of neighbouring lots. The changing stall is a nice touch as long as the city maintains it. I wouldn't want to see anyone take advantage of this space (drugs, drinking, etc.)."

"So excited to see this. We need more spots to access the lake. Such a beautiful lake to explore with paddle boards or kayaks. This my favourite idea I saw."

Non-motorized Boat Launch

The subject of a motorized boat launch was a divisive subject during the initial survey and during the open house. Though participants communicated an interest in a motorized boat launch, the majority of responses indicated an overall lack of interest in the proposed amenity. Similar to the first survey, several participants indicated they were supportive of a non-motorized boat launch.

Fewer participants expressed their disappointment in there not being a motorized boat launch included in the proposed concept plan.

Changing Stalls

Many respondents were concerned about the changing stalls proposed by the concept plan. Many participants stressed that the unsupervised changing stalls would be a target for vandalism and become a hang out spot for teenagers. If changing stalls were implemented, respondents would like to see frequent visits from park staff to ensure they are properly maintained.

Additionally, many participants suggested a change stall was insufficient and requested a washroom facility instead. The inclusion of a washroom facility

would in the final park plan would include significant cost analysis and consultation with HRM's Park Capital and Operations staff and a review of the Municipality's Washroom Strategy.

Lake Access

Several participants expressed excitement about the proposed lake access. Many residents said they are unable to use the lake as often as they would like due to lack of private lakefront ownership.

Several respondents mentioned the distance from the parking lot to the shoreline at Unnamed Park 23 is too far to comfortably carry a kayak or canoe; many said they would be more likely to use Unnamed Park 22 due to the relatively shorter walking distance from the drop-off area to the shoreline. However, some participants felt the distance still too far and the proposed road should be lengthened for easier access.

Private Island

Survey participants and Open House attendees expressed concerns about the possibility of people using the proposed boat launch to access the private island across the channel. Past incidents of littering and fires on the island have already caused

concern. Respondents worry the provision of a boat launch would increase accessibility to the island and exacerbate issues, ultimately leading to a greater number of future occurrences.

Privacy Concerns

Similar to concerns that were raised for the previous park concepts, respondents were worried about the impact would have on traffic and the privacy of nearby residences.

Participants were worried that a public open space with access to the water would become a popular hangout spot for teenagers and young adults at nighttime. Additionally, many were worried the proximity to the water would cause safety issues related to unsafe boating conditions and increased noise from sounds travelling across McCabe Lake at nighttime. Respondents expressed a desire for fencing and park hours to ensure cleanliness, privacy and the protection of neighbouring properties.

Several participants also commented on the lack of parking proposed in the concept plan. Respondents worried that lack of parking space would lead to visitors parking along the roadside and cause safety concerns for vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

Concept Plan Presented for Unnamed Park 23

The primary intent for Unnamed Park 23 is to improve access to McCabe Lake and the Sackville River.

Existing Terrain

- The eastern portion of the site is a wetland with emergent vegetation. Future amenities should be avoided in these areas.

Amenity Space

- A small amenity space is allocated for future phases of parkland development.

Trail Access and Boardwalk

- The current trail system allows visitors to access McCabe Lake's shoreline. Trail expansion is currently limited due to existing wetland.
- The proposed boardwalk creates a looped walking system and extends the current trail network.

Non-motorized Boat Launch

- The long distance from the parking lot to the shoreline makes it unfavourable for launching non-motorized watercraft
- A non-motorised boat launch is proposed closer to the parking lots to accommodate people carrying kayaks and canoes.

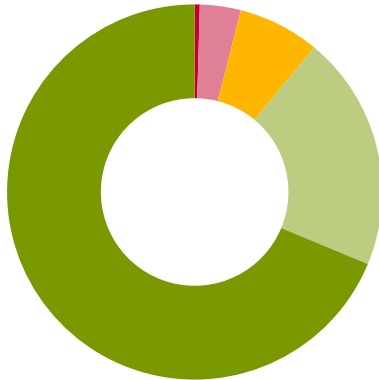
Swimming Access

- The southern shoreline is rocky with gentle, shallow slopes. Shoreline improvements would improve water access.
- Swimming access can be improved with an anchored floating dock and change stall.



Unnamed Park 23 Feedback

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: I support the primary intent and proposed park concept for Unnamed Park 23



- Definitely agree (69%)
- Somewhat agree (20%)
- Neither agree nor disagree (7%)
- Somewhat disagree (3%)
- Definitely disagree (1%)

Level of Support

Participants were asked to specify their level of support for Unnamed Park 23's concept plan.

- Almost 90% of participants agreed with the proposed concept plan: 69% definitely agree, and 20% somewhat agree.
- 7% of participants neither agree nor disagree with the proposed concept plan
- Under 5% of participants expressed disapproval for the proposed improvements to Unnamed Park 23: 3% somewhat disagree; 1% definitely disagree.

How important is it to have a dock for launching kayaks and other small, non-motorized watercraft at Unnamed Park 23?



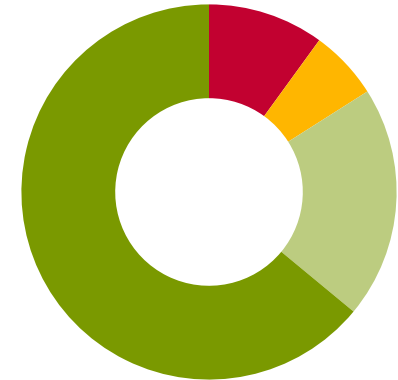
- Very important (47%)
- Somewhat important (32%)
- Not important (12%)
- No opinion (9%)

Non-motorized boat launch

Respondents were asked whether they felt a non-motorized boat launch would be beneficial in improving Unnamed Park 23.

- Comparatively, less respondents felt a dock would be a very important amenity for Unnamed Park 23 than Unnamed Park 22. 47% said a dock was very important; 32% said a dock was somewhat important.
- 8% of respondents said a dock was not important in developing Unnamed Park 22; 12% of participants said that a dock was not an important amenity for Unnamed Park 23.

How important is it to have swimming amenities at Unnamed Park 23?



- Very important (64%)
- Somewhat important (20%)
- Not important (10%)
- No opinion (7%)

Swimming Amenities

The survey asked users to indicate how important Unnamed Park 23's proposed swimming amenities (i.e., swimming platform and changing station) are to the park's development.

- More users selected very important for swimming amenities (64%) than a dock for non-motorized boats (47%)
- More users felt a dock was somewhat more important (32%) than swimming amenities (20%)
- 10% of respondents said swimming amenities were not important; more users (12%) said a dock was not important.

How important is it to have a boardwalk through the wetland at Unnamed Park 23?



- Very important (48%)
- Somewhat important (31%)
- No opinion (10%)
- Not important (12%)

Boardwalk

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of the proposed boardwalk through the wetland at Unnamed Park 23.

- Almost half (48%) of participants said they consider the proposed boardwalk to be very important. Over one-quarter (31%) consider the boardwalk to be somewhat important.
- Less than one-quarter (12%) of participants said the proposed boardwalk was not important.
- 10% of respondents did not have an opinion.

Additional Feedback

Boat Launch Location

Survey respondents and open house attendees were concerned about the location for the proposed boat launch, as the lake level is significantly lower in this area during the summertime. Several participants suggested that the boat launch be relocated closer to the swimming area.

Swimming Access

Many survey participants expressed enthusiasm for the proposed swimming access. Currently, the swimming access for Unnamed Park 23 is rocky and difficult to use. Many respondents said they would be likely to use this area for swimming if the beach were groomed and access was improved.

Change Stall

The comments regarding the proposed change stall were similar to comments left for the other park plans where changing stalls are proposed. Many respondents discouraged the proposed amenity, suggesting they were likely to become a hangout spot and a target for vandalism - especially if left unsupervised.

Boardwalk

Respondents were favourable to the proposed boardwalk. Several noted they would appreciate the longer walking trail the proposed boardwalk provides.

"The boat launch is a poor location... I have lived here for years and the water level drops too low nearly every year in this location. The boat launch should be moved to the #6 area."

"Would be wonderful to access the water easily. The current access point is rocky and dangerous. Very difficult to get in and out of safely. This would be a dream!"

"A changing stall would be an eyesore and an invitation for potentially inappropriate behaviour. It would also likely be a target for vandalism."

"I like these improvements to the current trail. It's definitely very short would be nice to have the boardwalk to make it longer."

Concept Plan Presented for the Future Parkland on Bondi Drive

The primary intent for the Future Parkland on Bondi Drive is to retain the existing hill for winter recreation and panoramic views. The municipality is currently in the process of acquiring the parcel for future parkland.

Parking Lot

- A small parking lot is proposed at the southwest portion of the site.

Foot Bridge

- There is a small stream running from Drain Lake along the site's western edge to the southern border.
- A footbridge currently exists over the stream, allowing access to the hill portion of the parkland.
- Depending on future site access, the footbridge may have to be reinforced to allow HRM maintenance vehicles to access the site.

Existing Terrain

- The existing hill has been cleared and would be suitable for sledding during the wintertime.
- The top of the hill offers panoramic views to the western and southern areas of the site.

Trails

- The site's size lends itself towards an extensive trail system and an off-leash area.
- The dog off-leash trails will be separated from the children's play area.

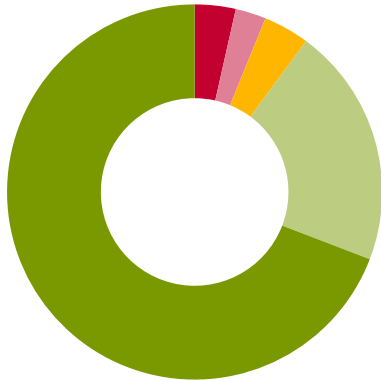
Potential Amenity Space

- A future amenity space has been allocated for later phases of parkland development.



Future Parkland on Bondi Drive Feedback

Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: I support the primary intent and proposed park concept for the future Parkland on Bondi Drive.



- Definitely agree (69%)
- Somewhat agree (20%)
- Neither agree nor disagree (8%)
- Somewhat disagree (2%)
- Definitely disagree (0%)

Support for the Future Parkland on Bondi Drive's Concept Plan

Participants were asked to indicate their level of support for the concept plan proposed for the Future Parkland on Bondi Drive.

- Over half the respondents (69%) definitely agree with the concept plans proposed for the Future Parkland on Bondi Drive. Almost one-quarter (20%) somewhat agree.
- The proposed concept plan had the least amount of disagreement compared to the other plans: None of the participants expressed any kind of disapproval; 2% of respondents somewhat disagreed with the proposed plan.

How important is it to have designated area for off-leash dogs at this location?



- Very important (45%)
- Somewhat important (20%)
- No opinion (13%)
- Not important (22%)

Off-leash Dog Area

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of an off-leash dog area in the Future Parkland at Bondi Drive.

- Almost half (45%) of users said the off-leash area is very important; 20% of participants said it was somewhat important.
- Almost one-quarter (22%) of participants expressed that the off-leash dog area was not an important amenity.
- 13% of respondents did not have an opinion.

Concept Plan Feedback

Off-leash Dog

Overall, respondents were favourable to the proposed off-leash dog area and said it was a much needed amenity in the area. Many participants said the off-leash areas must have regularly-maintained garbage bins at regular intervals to ensure the park's cleanliness. Participants also said visitors and dogs should not be able to access Drain Lake from the off-leash dog area due to bacteria levels in the lake.

Drain Lake

Attendees to the Open House encouraged signage detailing Drain Lake's unique ecology. Attendees also asked the HRM to conduct a floodplain study for Drain Lake, and would like Drain Lake Brook to be protected due to its importance as a connective link for migrating gaspereau.

Proposed amenities

Many respondents expressed support about the proposed trail system and sledding hill. Several participants expressed an interest in picnic and seating areas.

One of the main concerns was the overlap between the proposed amenities. Respondents were particularly concerned about potential overlap between off-leash and children's play areas. Additionally, respondents did not want walking trails to interfere with the off-leash areas or cyclists who may use the trails.

4.0 Parkland Development

This section of the survey focused developing strategies for the development of the overall park system. Information gathered from this section will be used to determine the priority for parks development and the location of proposed amenities.

Park Visitation

Survey participants were asked how often they would visit the respective parkland parcels if they were developed.

Overall, the majority of respondents are very likely to visit all of Indigo Shores' proposed parks:

- "Very likely" was the most popular response for all of Indigo Shores' parks.
- Unnamed Park 23 is already developed and visitation is already occurring.

Top ranked parks people are very likely to visit:

- Unnamed Park 23 (173 of 226 responses)
- Midnight Run Park (168 of 227 responses)
- McCabe Lake Drive Park (157 of 226 responses).

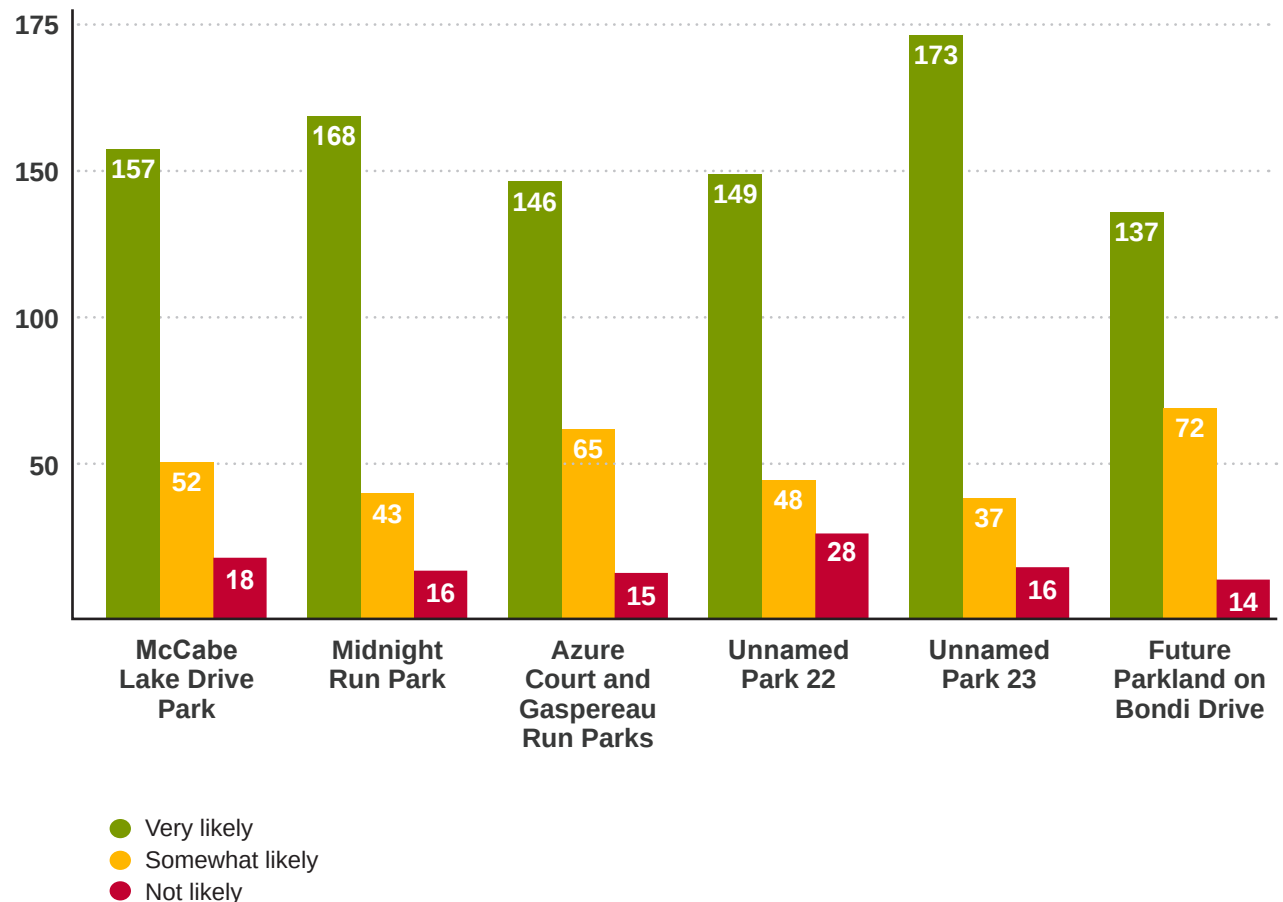
Top ranked parks people are somewhat likely to visit:

- Future Parkland on Bondi Drive (72 of 223 responses)
- Azure Court Park and Gaspereau Run Park (65 of 226 responses)
- McCabe Lake Drive Park (52 of 227 responses)

Top ranked parks people not likely to visit:

- Unnamed Park 22 (28 of 225 responses)
- McCabe Lake Drive (18 of 227 responses)
- Midnight Run (16 of 227 responses) and Unnamed Park 23 (16 of 226 responses)

How likely are you to visit the following parks:



Implementation Priorities

Respondents were asked to rank proposed amenities in their preferred order of implementation. Please note: Lower numbers mean the proposed amenity was ranked higher by more respondents.

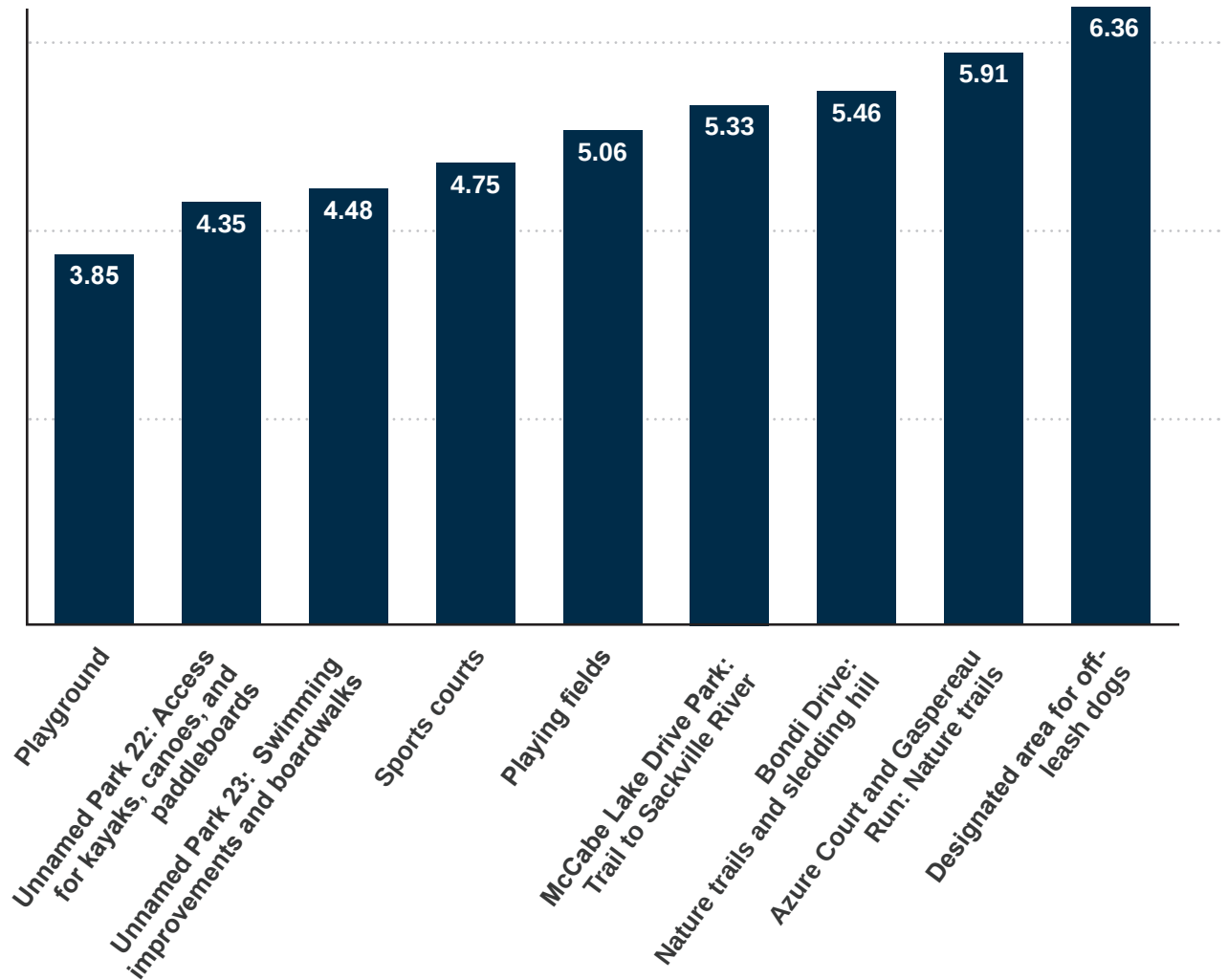
Participants were the most interested in developing playgrounds and water-based recreational amenities. The features that participants would like prioritized for implantation are:

1. Playgrounds (3.85)
2. Access for kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards at Unnamed Park 22 (4.35)
3. Swimming improvements and boardwalks at Unnamed Park 23

Participants were the least interested in trail development and off-leash areas for dogs. The lowest ranking features for implementation priority are:

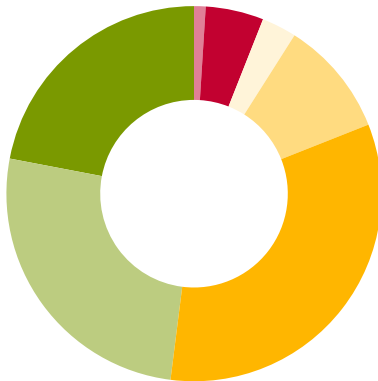
1. Nature trails and sledding hill at Bondi Drive (5.46)
2. Nature Trails at Azure Court Park and Gaspereau Run Park (5.91)
3. Designated area for off-leash dogs (6.36)

Please rank the following features of the Parkland Development Plan in order of importance to you for implementation:



Parkland Development Feedback

What type of playground would you be most interested in for Indigo Shores?



- Traditional (22%)
- Nature (26%)
- Adventure (33%)
- Inclusive (10%)
- Community-built (3%)
- No opinion (5%)
- Other (1%)

Indigo Shores Playground

Respondents were asked to specify the type of playground they would like to see implemented:

- Respondents were the most interested in adventure playgrounds (33%), nature playgrounds (26%), and traditional playground (22%).
- The least popular playground options were inclusive playgrounds (10%) and community-built playgrounds (3%).

Please rate your level agreement with the following: The priority should be to develop Midnight Run as the central recreational area for the community.



- Definitely agree (51%)
- Somewhat agree (24%)
- Neither agree nor disagree (14%)
- Somewhat disagree (3%)
- Definitely disagree (8%)

Central Recreational Hub

Participants were asked to indicate their level of agreement with the statement that Midnight Run should become a central recreational hub for the Indigo Shores community

- Three-quarters of respondents agreed that designing Midnight Run to become a central recreational hub would be a good idea: 51% of respondents definitely agree and 24% somewhat agree.
- 14% of respondents did not have an opinion on Midnight Run becoming a central recreational hub.
- 11% of respondents disagreed with the concept of a central recreational hub: 3% somewhat disagree and 8% definitely disagree.

Please rate your level agreement with the following: One large playground has more advantages than multiple smaller playgrounds.



- Definitely agree (38%)
- Somewhat agree (21%)
- Neither agree nor disagree (13%)
- Somewhat disagree (17%)
- Definitely disagree (11%)

Central Playground Area

Respondents were asked whether a central playground would better serve the Indigo Shores community.

- Over 50% of participants agreed that a central playground would be good for the community: 38% definitely agree and 21% somewhat agree
- 13% of respondents neither agree nor disagree.
- Survey participants expressed more disinterest in a central playground than Midnight Hub becoming the main recreational hub for the community: 17% somewhat disagree and 11% definitely disagree.

Additional Amenities

Several concept plans allocated spaces for future amenity spaces for future phases of parkland development. Participants were asked which amenities they would like to be considered for these spaces, and whether there were amenities they would like to be prioritized.

Playgrounds

Playgrounds were the most popular option participants would like to see included in the future amenity space and prioritized for implementation. Several respondents stressed that if development is delayed, their children would be too old for the playground by the time the proposed concepts are built.

Participants also voiced concern about a centralized playground; many felt smaller playgrounds in multiple parks would prove to be more beneficial to the entire community. However, over 50% were in agreement (38% definitely agree; 21% somewhat agree) that a central playground was more advantageous to the community than multiple, smaller playgrounds.

Sports Courts and Seating Areas

Respondents were equally interested in seeing sports courts and seating areas developed in the allocated amenity spaces. Many respondents specifically asked for a gazebo or picnic area where community members can gather.

Water Access

Participants did not specifically mention which type of water-based recreational facility they would like developed. Rather, many respondents said that being able to access the water - whether to use

a boat, swimming, or visit a scenic look-off point - would be beneficial to them. Additionally, several survey participants said that water access was second most important amenity.

Additional Feedback

Participants were asked to any further feedback regarding the proposed concept plans:

Priority in Implementation

Several participants stressed that the parks should be implemented as quickly as possible. Respondents did not want to see a delay between the adoption of the Indigo Shores Park Plans and the inclusion of the Indigo Shores' parkland into the Parks Capital budget.

Privacy

Participants voiced that residents of the Indigo Shores subdivision purchased property due to the area's quiet, tranquil nature. However, several respondents felt that the proposed concept plans would add too much noise, traffic, and cause privacy concerns for community members. To ensure the proposed plans improve the lives of Indigo Shores' residents, participants made the following suggestions: Fence parkland, maintain vegetative buffers, implement park hours, and omit amenities that encourage loitering, noise, and after-hours use.

"I have elementary school children who really need close access to a playground before they are too old to benefit. This is my number one wish list item, followed by swimming access to the lake for those of us who do not have lakefront properties."

"I think it is very important for a community this size to have playgrounds and sports courts, along with walking trails for the community."

"We are all really hoping to get these things going as soon as possible. I want my kids to be able to use these fun things before they are too old."

"Anyone living next to a park should have their privacy respected. We purchased large, wooded lots. We should not have to look at parking lots, etc. As much as possible, trees should remain between parks and residents to provide sound barriers. Parking should be provided so that anyone living next to the park is not having others park or use private property as a turnaround."