

WHAT WE HEARD REPORT

Transom Drive Park Project

March 2025

HALIFAX

Policy & Planning | Parks & Recreation

Fig.1 Concept Plan - Option A



Fig.2 Concept Plan - Option B



Introduction

Overview of the Transom Drive Park Plan

Transom Drive Park is located at 195 Transom Drive, Bedford. It was obtained by the municipality in 2007 during the subdivision's development process and is approximately 2 hectares. It currently contains a playground, benches, and two tennis courts. However, a large portion of the site remains in an unfinished state and could be improved.

The need for a park plan to guide future park enhancements was identified in the Parks & Recreation 2024/2025 Business Plan.

Overview of the Public Consultation and Park Planning Process

Information gathered from site visits, desktop analysis, community submissions, and discussions with the former and current councillors were used to develop a preliminary concept plan (Fig. 1 and 2).

To gather feedback on the proposed concept, the municipality created a webpage on their Shape Your City website and then launched a survey. The session introduced the park concept and asked a series of questions to understand how residents currently use the facilities and determine their values and interests.

The intent of this document is to provide an overview of survey responses and identify common themes, which will inform revisions to the concept plan. An updated version of the plan will be available on Transom Drive Park's Shape Your City webpage for feedback. Staff will review additional comments and finalize the plan, which will then be presented to Regional Council for approval. If adopted, the proposed improvements will be included in upcoming budget cycles.

Shape Your City Survey

The Shape Your City survey ran from January 6, 2025, to January 31, 2025. A total of 640 people were aware of the survey and had visited at least one page online. 439 people were informed, meaning they had engaged with one piece of online content, such as a project, news article, or image. Of those, 135 people were engaged, which means they participated in the survey.

A Canada Post strike was active from November 15, 2024 to December 16, 2024. To mitigate potential mail delays that could have impacted the survey's intended launch date, staff delivered postcards to residences within a 300m radius of the park. Public outreach also included a social media campaign that targeted the surrounding area and information about the survey was included in the local councillor's monthly newsletter.

A low response rate was identified two weeks after the survey launched. In response, staff released a public service announcement to improve engagement. An additional 114 people visited the Shape Your City webpage following its distribution.

Part One

Park Use and Future Programming

This section of the survey asked residents how they currently use Transom Drive Park to understand their interests, values, and how the park could be improved.

Parkland Visitation

Respondents were asked to identify whether they visit the park (Fig.3) - and if so, the frequency of their visits (Fig.4)

- The majority of respondents currently visit Transom Drive Park (91.2%). 8% of survey participants do not.
- The most participants visit the park a few times per week (38.2%).
- Several respondents also identified that they visit the park once every couple of weeks (27.2%) or less than once per month (16.2%).
- The fewest number of participants visit the park every day (5.1%), followed by visitors who frequent the park once per month (7.3%)

Parkland Characteristics

The survey included a description of the park and the characteristics of the surrounding neighbourhood. Respondents were asked to identify their level of agreement with the description, and whether they thought future improvements should be limited to suit the needs and capacity of the surrounding area (Fig.5):

- Over three-quarters (79.0%) of participants identified approval with the statement. Almost half (44.4%) strongly agree and 34.6% agreed. This suggests that future improvements should be tailored to support a neighbourhood scale park.
- The fewest number of respondents did not support the statement. 4.4% said they disagreed and the fewest number of respondents strongly disagree (2.9%).
- 14.0% of participants did not have an opinion on the statement or what kind of facilities should be included.

Top Three Favourite Things

Respondents were asked to identify their three favourite things about the park. The feedback will be used to understand community values and ensure their integration into future iterations of the plan. The following topics were identified as the most common responses (Fig.6)

- Tennis courts (89 of 136 respondents)
- The park's proximity to nearby residences (54 of 136 respondents)
- The playground (23 of 136 respondents)
- The park's natural landscape (18 of 136 respondents)

Three Least Favourite Things

To understand how the park could be improved and where enhancements should be focused, participants were asked to identify their three least favourite things (Fig.7):

- The unfinished state of the park (34 of 136 respondents)
- Lack of facilities (26 of 136 respondents)
- Maintenance related concerns (26 of 136)
- Parking (21 of 136)

Fig.3 Do you currently visit Transom Drive Park?

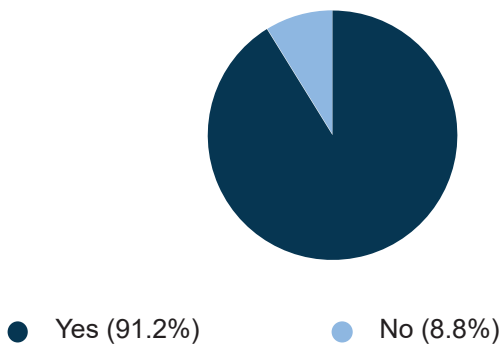


Fig.4 How often do you visit?

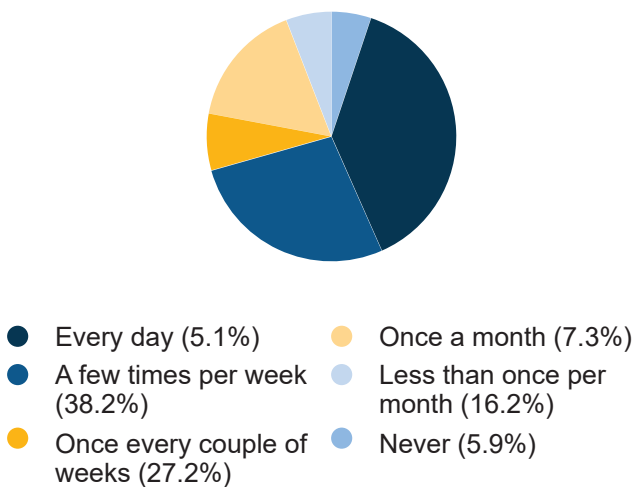


Fig.5 State your level of agreement with the following statement: "I support the description of the park's local character and that the amenity types should be limited to those that would serve the surrounding area."

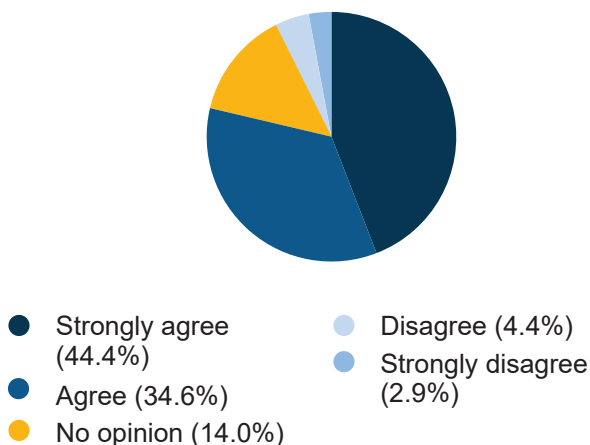


Fig.6 Top 3 Favourite Things – Survey Comments

"The tennis courts – we use these regularly, however they are growing quite busy. I love the green space – we often see deer walking through which is a welcome sight."

"The natural rock and rolling terrain, the close proximity to my home, and the great community"

"I like the two tennis courts, the playground, and its accessibility to the surrounding neighbourhood."

Fig.7 Least Favourite Things – Survey Comments

"Walking there is awful through bush and thorns. So much more space that could be flattened and used for other reasons."

"The lack of trash cans at the other exits/ entrances. The green space alongside of the current path is nice, but seems a bit wasted as it's not big enough to 'play' on and it is just empty..."

"The playground is designed for older kids...It would be good to have a structure for children four and under. It's also close to the busy road which makes me nervous to have older kids there unattended and close to the homes, so further back as indicated in the plan would be better... but with the highly wooded area beside it this would need to be well lit"

Part Two

Feedback on Park Concept

This section of the survey introduced the overall park concept and two options for court layouts. Participants were asked to identify their level of support for the plan, court configurations, and proposed facilities to refine the plan.

Support for the Overall Concept Plan

The survey presented the overall park plan for review and asked participants to identify their level of support for the proposed amenities and their location (Fig.8):

- The categories identifying support were the most popular: 38.2% of participants agree and 35.3% strong agree with the proposed concept.
- Almost 25% (22.8%) of respondents did not agree: 11.8% disagreed and 11.0% strongly disagreed.
- “No opinion” was the least popular response (3.7%)

Additional Comments

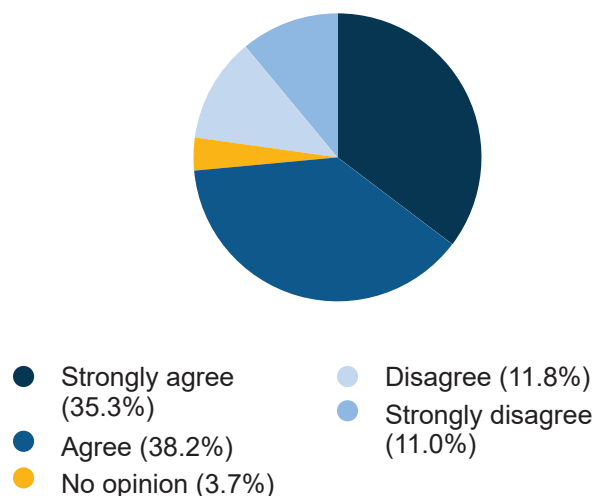
Respondents were asked to provide additional comments about the concept plan. The following topics were identified as common themes:

- The largest portion of respondents identified additional support for the tennis courts (89 of 136). Several expressed concern that one of the tennis courts would be removed (31 of 80 respondents) and said that both should be retained due to their popularity (7 of 136 respondents).
- Participants would like to see park improvements that cater to a wider range of ages and interests than the current facilities provide (7 of 80 respondents). Many approved of the multi-use court, as it would provide alternative recreational opportunities for teenage residents (22 of 80 respondents).
- Other recommendations included improved seating (7 of 80 respondents) and re-grading and sodding the existing open space so it could

be used for informal games of soccer and other sports (6 of 80 respondents). Several participants also identified the need for a splash pad (4 of 80 respondents).

- Many respondents would like to see improved maintenance in the park. Common recommendations included re-surfacing the tennis courts, routinely emptying waste receptacles, and clearing the forested area of debris and hazardous limbs (8 of 80 respondents).
- Though participants approved of the plan's pathway improvements, many would like to see the implementation of a circular walking loop or have trails extend into the park's wooded area (4 of 80 respondents).

Fig.8 Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: “I support the proposed overall concept plan for Transom Drive Park”



Approval for Options

The survey presented two options for court layouts. Option A (Fig.1) recommends the conversion of one of the existing tennis courts into a multi-use court, which would be cost effective and provide additional facilities in a timely manner. Option B (Fig.2) proposes keeping both tennis courts and constructing an additional multi-use court. While more costly, this option would support more park users and a variety of recreational activities. Respondents were asked to identify their preferred option (Fig.9):

- Over three-quarters (81.7%) selected Option B

Both options for the court layout recommend a multi-use court. Respondents were asked to identify their level of support (Fig.10):

- The majority of respondents approved: 49.4% strongly agree and 32.3% agree.
- The fewest number of respondents strongly disagreed (4.4%) or did not have an opinion about the facility (4.4%).

Additional Comments

- When asked to expand upon their level of agreement, over half of respondents (46 of 74) identified additional support for Option B.
- Of the respondents in favour of Option B, several (11 of 74) said it was because both tennis courts were retained.
- Many also approved of the recommendation for a multi-use court because it can accommodate a range of activities and users, such as basketball (13 of 74 respondents) and ball hockey (4 of 74 respondents).
- Some participants said they would like to see the pickleball lines removed from the existing tennis courts and a separate facility constructed (4 of 74 respondents). However, due to the courts' proximity to nearby residences and the noise levels associated with the sport, pickleball courts are not recommended.

Fig.9 Please indicate whether you prefer Option A or Option B:

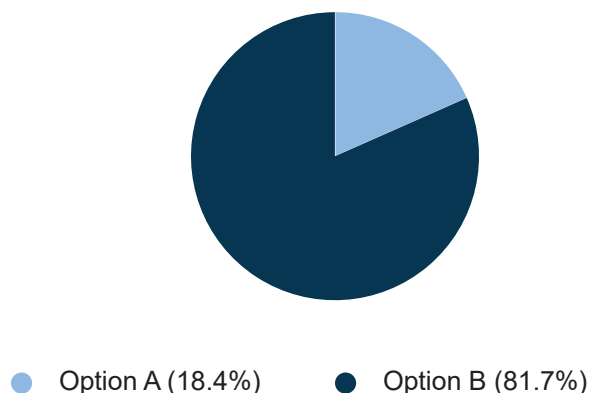


Fig.10 Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: "I support the recommendation for a multi-use court."

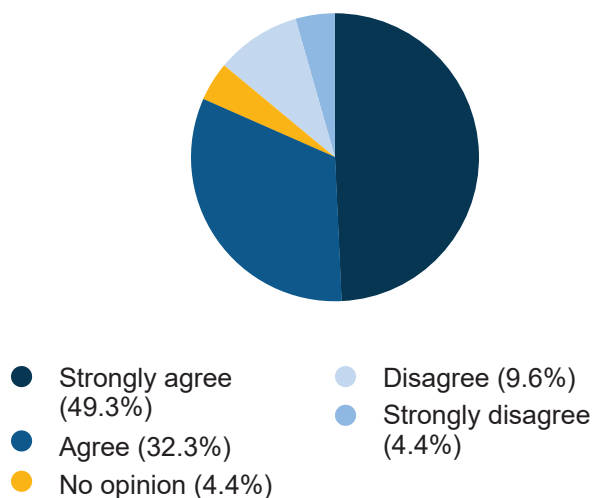
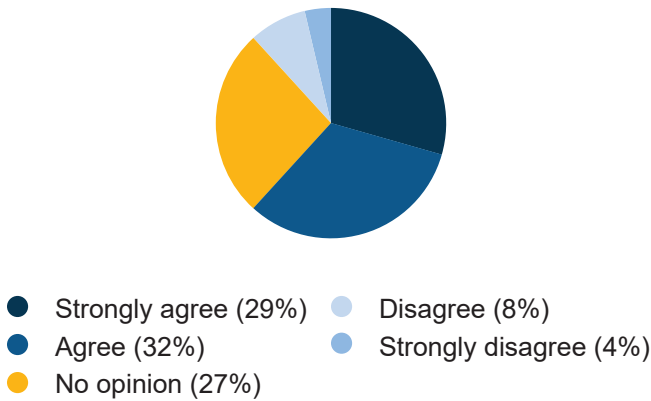


Fig.11 Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: "I support the relocation of the existing playground."



Playground Relocation

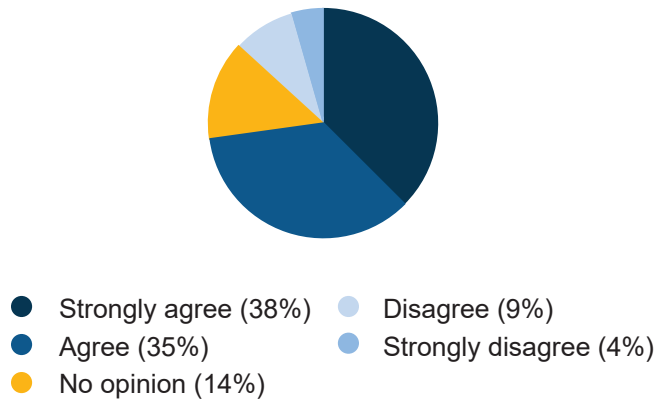
The concept plan recommends moving the playground to a central location once it is due for replacement. Respondents were asked to identify their level of agreement (Fig.11):

- The largest portion of respondents agreed with the playground's proposed relocation (32%). "Strongly agree" was the second most popular category (29%).
- The fewest number of respondents strongly disagree with the recommendation (4%)

Additional Comments

- Many said that the existing facility was already in need of improvement and in need of replacement (9 of 46 respondents).
- Respondents recommended that the new facility should serve a wider age range and have accessible equipment (4 of 46).
- Several participants preferred the playground's current location because it has unobstructed views from the sidewalk and allows children to play while waiting for the school bus (6 of 46 respondents).
- Many respondents identified the relocation as an unnecessary expenditure and recommended that funds should be focused towards other improvements (5 of 46).

Fig.12 Please rate your level of agreement with the following statement: "I support the design for the centralized play area that includes the gazebo, play lawn, and relocated playground."



Centralized Play Area

Participants were asked to rate their level of agreement for the proposed centralized play area that includes a gazebo, play lawn, and the relocated playground (Fig.12).

- The majority of respondents strongly agree (37%) with the design.
- "Agree" received the second highest number of responses (35%).
- "Strongly disagree" (4%) and "Disagree" (9%) were the least popular categories.

Additional Comments

- Many respondents identified additional support for this recommendation (7 of 40). They specifically approved of the play lawn and seating areas (7 of 40).
- Several participants expressed concern about the proposed gazebo due to its potential to attract vandalism and large gatherings (7 of 40 respondents).

Proposed Level of Development

Survey participants were asked to identify their support for the plan's proposed level of development (Fig.13):

- The majority of respondents approved: "Very supportive" (57%) and "Somewhat supportive" (32%) were the most popular options.
- The fewest number of respondents were very unsupportive (1%). "Unsupportive" was the second least popular response (4%).

Implementation Priority

Respondents were asked to rank the proposed facilities on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 equals the most important and 5 equals the least important (Fig.14).

These rankings will be used to determine the order of implementation for the proposed improvements and the plan's final phasing:

- Participants identified the multi-use court (2.54), additional paved pathways (2.96), and the play lawn (3.03) as the most popular improvements.
- The gazebo (3.39) was the least popular proposed improvement, followed by the seating and picnic areas (3.08).

Likelihood of Future Visitation

Respondents were asked to identify how likely they would be to visit the park if the concept were fully implemented:

- Participants are very likely to visit the park if the concept plan were fully realized (68%).
- The fewest number of respondents were unlikely (5%) or very unlikely to visit the park (8%).
- Respondents who identified they were unlikely to visit the parks were concerned about the tennis courts' removal (6 of 11). Participants also did not support the gazebo due to safety concerns (1 of 11 respondents), or would like to see the park reforested (1 of 11 respondents).

Fig.13 Please rate your level of support for the level of development proposed in the concept plan for Transom Drive Park:

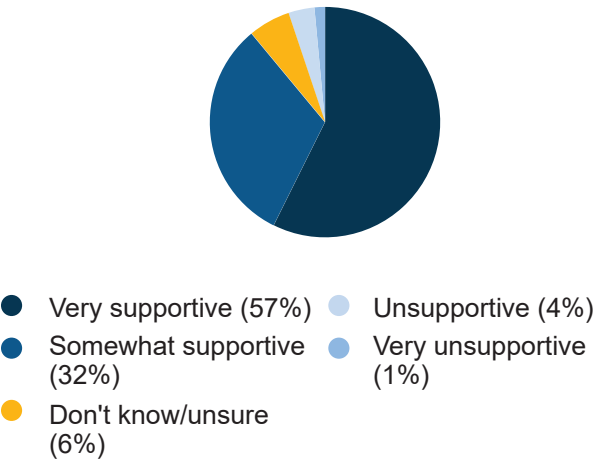


Fig.14 Please rank the following features of the parkland development plan in order of importance (1= most important, 5 = least important)

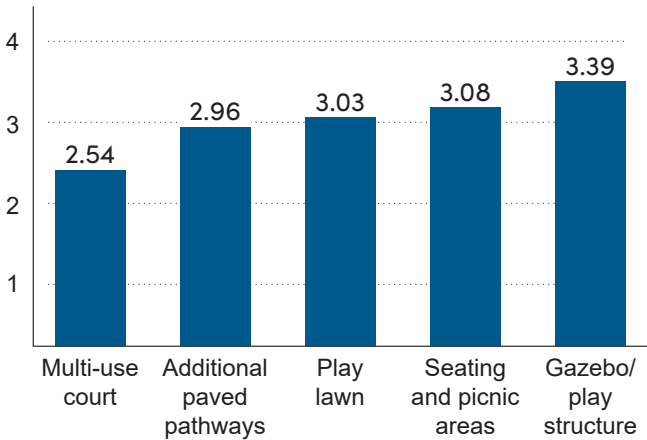


Fig.15 On a scale of 1 to 5, how likely would you be to visit Transom Drive Park if the concept were fully implemented? (1 = very likely, 5= very unlikely).

