

Engagement summary

Eastview Community Park proposed 18-hole disc golf course

Overview

A public survey was live on the City's engagement web page from February 13–March 14, 2021. The consultation was promoted to the public through the City's web page, Facebook and Twitter, roadside signs, a mail-out sent to a distribution list of residents within 500 metres of the proposed location and targeted engagement with key stakeholders such as sports groups that use the park. In total, 2.2k people visited the consultation page, 897 contributed to the survey, 20 called or emailed feedback and 9 people contributed to the questions tool.

Limitations

Responses received are not a statistically valid sample and are subject to standard response biases including self-selection. In-person engagement was not completed due to COVID-19. The data does, however, provide some insight into public opinion of the proposal.

Findings

Three key findings were learned through the survey responses:

- Support for the course proposal to build an 18 hole disc golf course
- Concern for the safety of other park users in the area
- Concern for the preservation of the treed and natural areas

Recommendations

Based on the overall feedback provided by the survey, the following recommendations are presented for consideration:

1. Facilitate pre-construction procedures for the course, including a tree inventory on the proposed lands, confirming the site suitability with internal stakeholders, securing budget, and detailed design.

Desired outcome: A complete, detailed, and supported design that aligns with overall findings. The final design and plans to move the project forward include:

- Define the land we intend to use
- Develop safety measures for all park users
- Plan for the preservation or removal of trees, including non-hazard or invasive species
- Find ecological restoration opportunities within or near the park

2. Inform interested stakeholders and nearby residents of the survey results and recommendations

Desired outcome: Keep interested parties informed of our progress.

3. Consider strategic ways to engage the community on unique outdoor recreational assets

Desired outcome: Increased feeling of meaningful engagement among citizens and refine survey questions to provide opportunity for citizens to voice opinions. Increase amount of supporting informational resources about unique outdoor recreational assets to better inform citizens.

Summary of survey results

Full detailed results are available, but themes and key findings are outlined below.

Contributors to the survey

When asked “What is your experience playing Disc Golf”, 71 per cent cited they had played before. 16 per cent indicated they had not played but would be interested, and 13 per cent would not play. (see fig. 1)

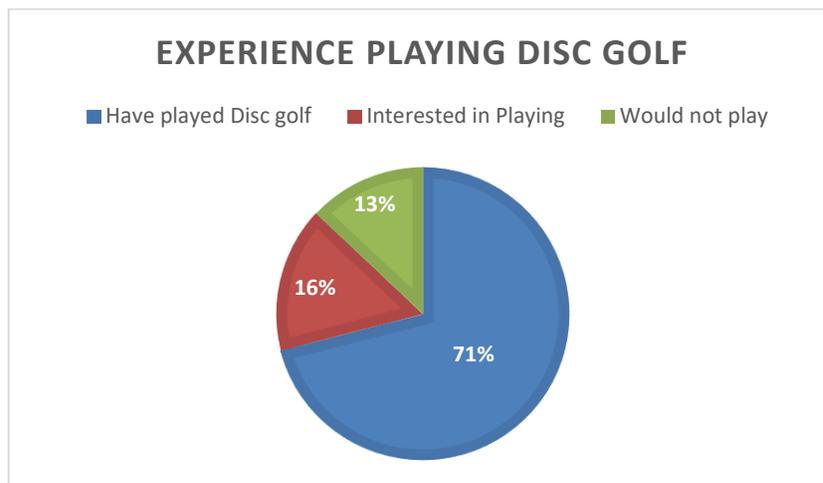
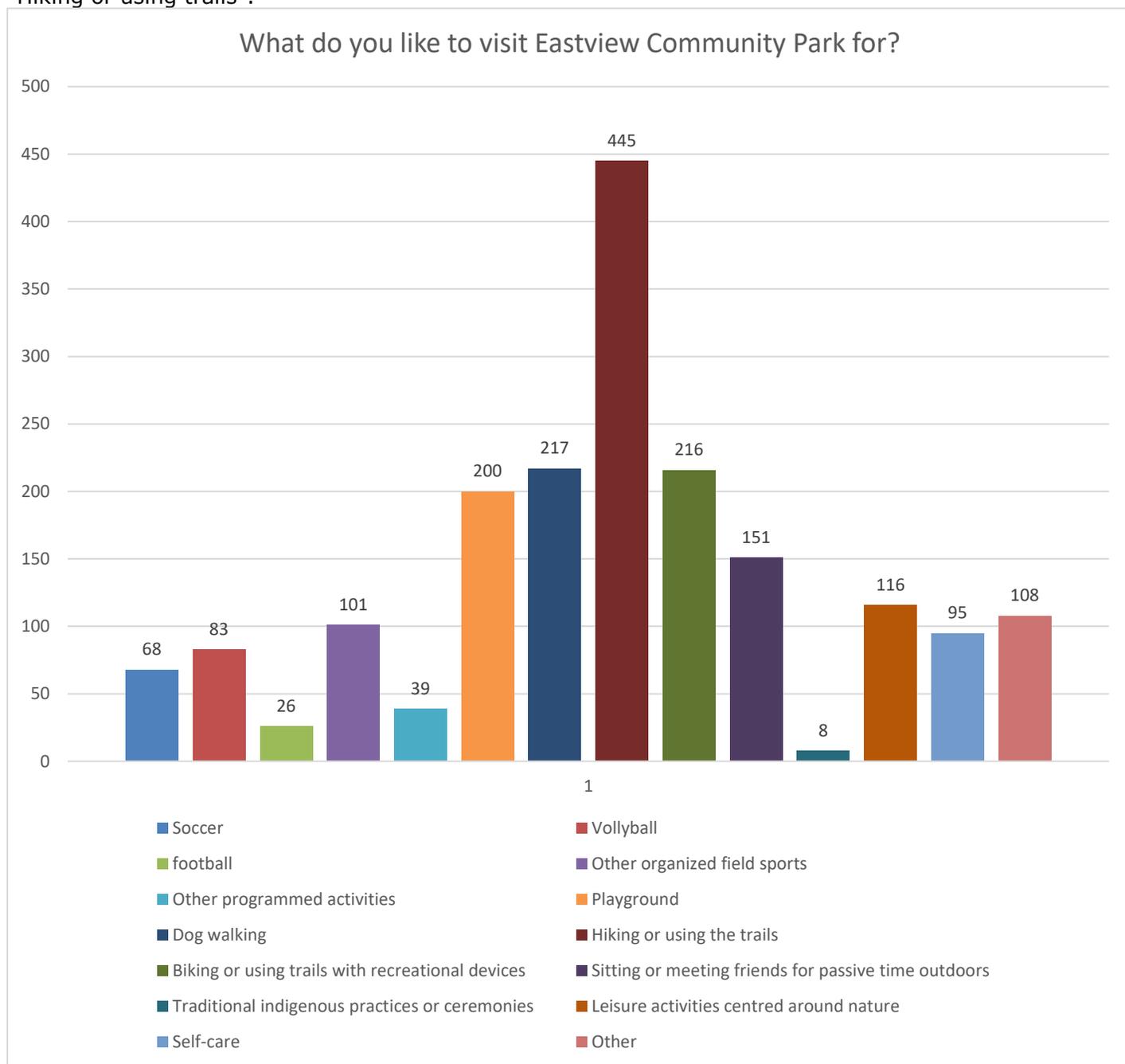


Figure 1

When asked “Have you played disc golf at Riverside Park”, 62 per cent indicated they had.

When asked "What do you like to visit Eastview Community Park for?" most (445) respondents selected "Hiking or using trails".



Overall support for the proposal

When asked "Would the addition of a disc golf course have an impact on the things you like to do in the park", 73.8 per cent indicated that disc golf would have a positive impact. 13.5 per cent indicated a negative impact and 12.7 per cent were unsure.

When asked "Is disc golf an appropriate activity to add to Eastview Community Park?", 78.7 per cent selected yes, 13 per cent selected no and 8.3 per cent were unsure.

Sharing feedback on the proposal

When asked "How might a disc golf course change how you currently use Eastview Community Park?" comments were thematically interpreted as 58 per cent positive, 27.2 per cent neutral, and 14.7 per cent negative. (see fig. 2)

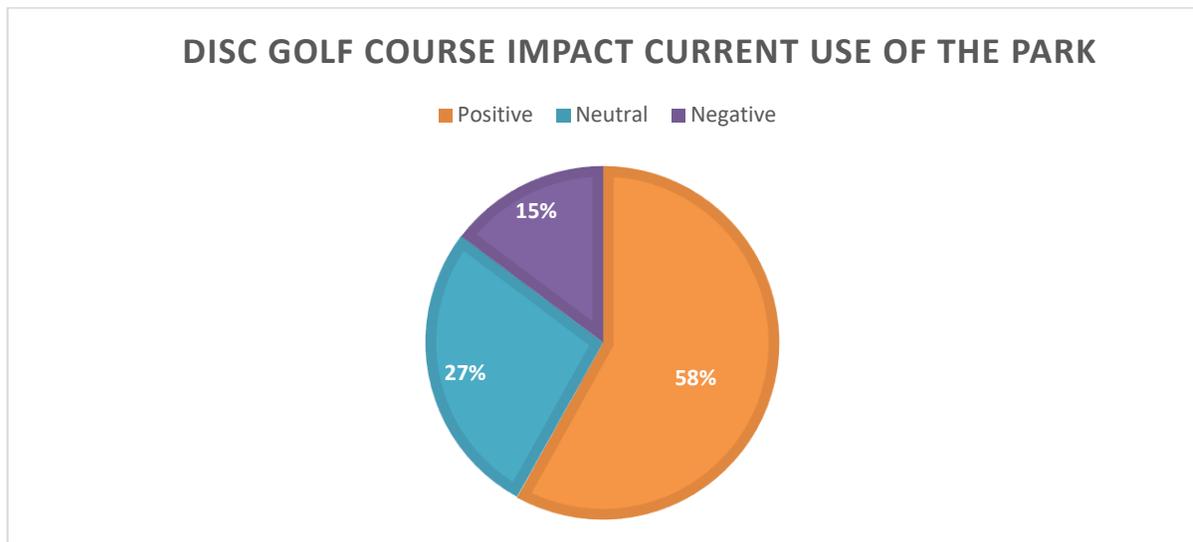


Figure 2

When asked "Are there any other considerations we should make in course design or construction if Eastview Community Park is selected as an appropriate site for disc golf?", comments were thematically interpreted as 25.4 per cent positive, 68.1 per cent neutral, and 6.5% negative consideration. (The large amount of neutral comments is estimated to reflect either satisfaction and/or disinterest in the topic).

Comment summary

Throughout the survey, respondents provided comments either through selection of “other” categories, or in provided comment fields which are themed and summarized below. Due to the significant observed support for the proposal, Comment summary scanned comments for negative sentiment for the proposal to understand potential barriers. Note: comments were summarized based on frequency, and thematically categorized on overall concern.

In response to “How might a disc golf course change how you currently use Eastview Community Park?” The following keywords were selected to highlight key concerns that were prevalent in the comments:

Keywords	Occurrences	Interpreted Sentiment
Walk/hike/trail	89	Safety (negative change)
Tree/forest/wood	64	Preservation (negative change)
Kids/children/school	46	Class in area, would take class to area (mixed change)
Dog/Off-leash	23	Deterrent (negative change)
Noise/sound	6	Deterrent (negative change)
Litter/garbage	1	Increase (negative change)
Drinking/smoking	0	

In response to “Are there any other considerations we should make in course design or construction if Eastview Community Park is selected as an appropriate site for disc golf?” the following keywords were selected to highlight key concerns that were prevalent in the comments:

Keywords	Occurrences	Interpreted Sentiment
Tree/forest/wood	96	Preservation (negative)
Walk/hike/trail	81	Safety (negative)
Kids/children/school/class	23	Class in area, would take class to area (mixed)
Dog/off-leash	19	Deterrent (negative)
Litter/garbage	12	Increase (negative)
Noise/sound	7	Increase (negative)
Drinking/smoking	2	Increase (negative)

For more information

Ian Ferguson, Program Manager
 Sports and Leisure Grounds, Parks
 City of Guelph
 519-822-1260 extension 2802
ian.ferguson@guelph.ca