



DATE: July 3, 2018

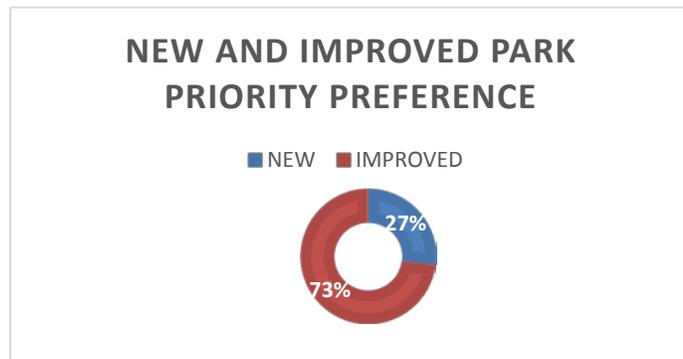
SUBMITTED BY: LAND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RE: Parks and Recreation Survey Results

As of June 30, a total of 197 surveys were completed on the topic of parks and recreation.

1) Should the City focus on improving existing parks or start to build new ones?

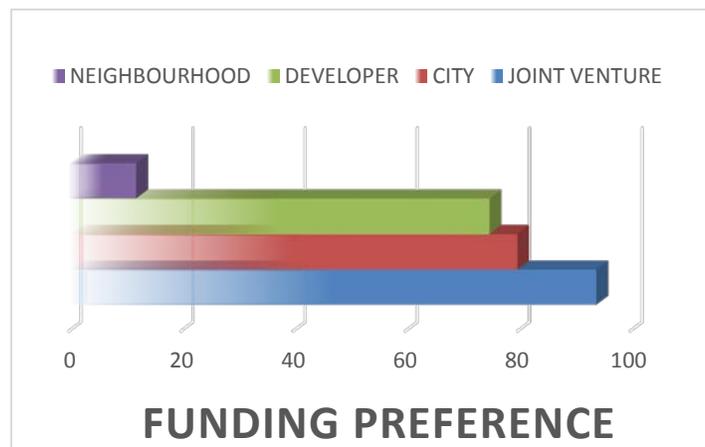
More than 2/3 of respondents would like the City of Estevan to improve our existing parks and facilities prior to building new parks. New parks are generally created as a result of the subdivision of undeveloped land. Nevertheless, it does appear as if the desire of the respondents is to look after existing parks before considering new projects. This would be consistent with a previous survey that had the same message for recreational infrastructure.



2) Who should fund the initial improvement to a park?

Under provincial legislation, when parks are created as part of the development of new residential neighbourhoods, a traditional approach has been to have the developer set aside the land, but do nothing with it afterwards. It would then fall to the municipality and community organizations to fund park infrastructure.

In this question, it does appear as if the respondents would like to see partnerships

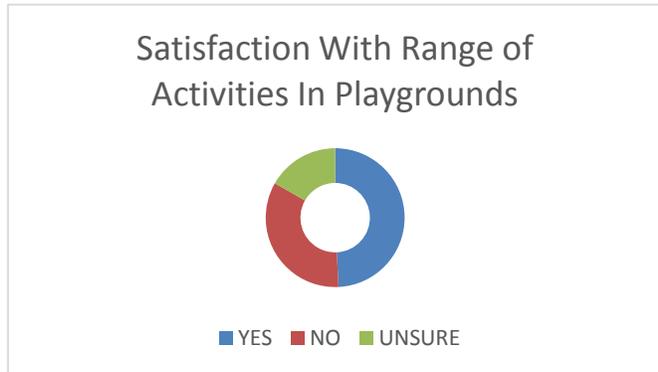


or joint ventures for the funding of initial improvements to parks. The partnership would be between the City and the Developer to develop a park with trails and equipment. There are a variety of ways to accomplish this goal without direct costs to the City Budget. These will be explored as part of the overall planning directions for the *OurEstepan Official Community Plan*.

3) Are you satisfied with the range of activities that are offered in playgrounds of your neighbourhood park?

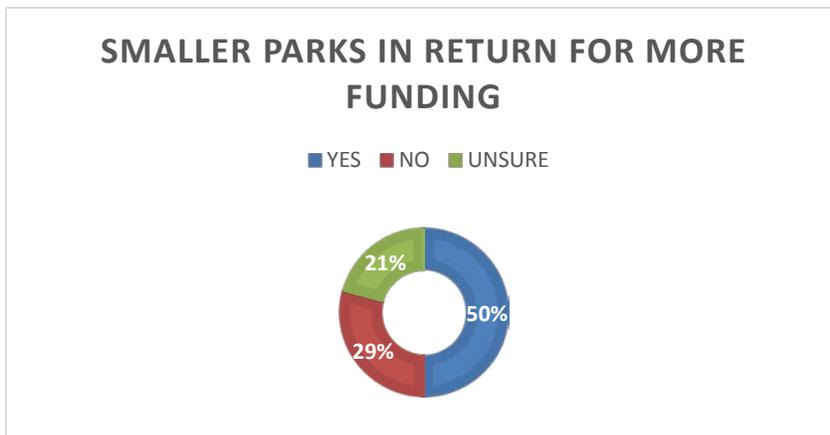
Just under half (49%) of respondents are happy with the range of activities in area parks. About 1/3 of respondents were unhappy with the range of activities available in our parks while about 17% were of no opinion.

The next survey which is directed to children may help explain any gaps that may exist between activities that are provided for in parks vs. what park users would desire.



It is expected that feedback from previous surveys expressing a desire to have more park benches and trails may have an impact on this score. This data will be shared with

4) Should we consider smaller parks if it allows the Developer to put more funding towards its initial improvement?

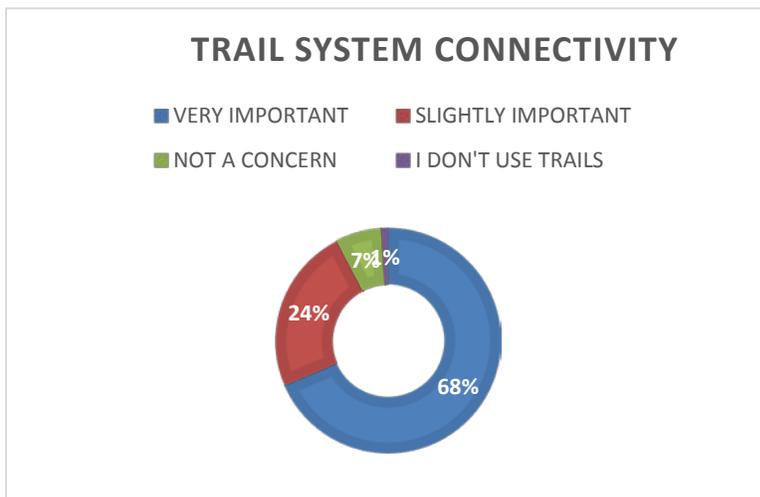


Respondents at the beginning of this survey expressed a desire for a partnership approach for the future development of parks. In this question, respondents appear to favour the concept of having a smaller park, but with better equipment funded by the Developer.

What this potentially allows for is for the City to dedicate a smaller area for park improvement as part of the development process on raw land. This would allow the Developer to generate a bonus density in housing builds as less developable land would be used for park purposes. As a result, the Developer would be in a position to dedicate funding towards park improvements, funded in part from the bonus density. The end result would be a smaller, but better developed park while maintaining a lower lot price for new homeowners.

As part of the OurEstevan process for recreational policy, Council has the option to consider this as part of its approach to future park planning.

5) How important is it to have a trail system to connect neighbourhoods?



In the *Community Identity and Vision* survey, respondents were of the opinion that a future trail network would be a valuable asset to the community into the future. Trails and connectivity between trails and sidewalks through the City are a high priority. In this survey which focuses on recreation, trail connectivity is determined to be very important or slightly important to 92% of the respondents.

As part of the future policy directions for the *Official Community Plan*, it will be important to highlight the *City's Pathway Master Plan*, though development of the trail system will be subject to Council budgeting deliberations.

When planning future trail systems for undeveloped lands, the City can also strive to use the same lands for both surface drainage and trail systems. This multi-use approach will help to make trail systems more cost effective.

6) Should a sidewalk for a trail be wider than a sidewalk for only pedestrian use?

Respondents to this question are very strong in the view that sidewalks should be wider when incorporated to a city-wide trail system.

This will be a relatively easy item to incorporate into future planning in undeveloped areas. All that would be



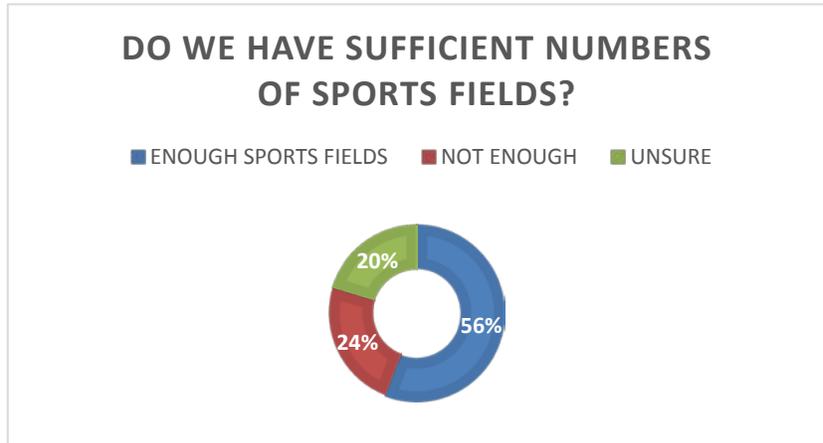
required is for a designation for future trail routes as part of the neighbourhood plan and subdivision process.

In existing areas, constraints may exist as the land is already developed and right of ways are fixed. A collaborative approach by City Parks, Engineering and Planning would be needed to realize this goal.

7) Do we have sufficient numbers of sports fields?

The question of sports fields was raised because these recreational uses are very large in area and are labour intensive to maintain.

From a planning perspective, a requirement for additional sports fields could result in less land being available for smaller parks and trail systems. As well, not planning for future sports fields at the appropriate time could result in a demand exceeding supply situation which the City would like to avoid.



As part the future land use visioning for OurEstevan, the City will be examining how the issue of additional sports fields can be accommodate when required without adversely impacting on other recreational developments.