



MARIPOSA PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT — QUESTIONNAIRE SUMMARY

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Prepared by

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ENGINEERING PLANNING URBAN DESIGN

INTRODUCTION

In August 2021, The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS) retained CTQ Consultants Ltd. to provide public engagement and landscape design services for the Mariposa Park Development Plan, located on the West Bench near Penticton, within RDOS boundaries.

Mariposa Park is located in a gully at the south end of Vedette Drive, and includes amenities such as:

- Grassy area
- Shade trees
- Playground equipment
- Tennis court
- Washrooms
- Toboggan hills
- Parking
- Cricket pitch

To help support their budgeting process in view of providing improvements to Mariposa Park and reflecting community needs, RDOS has asked CTQ to prepare a conceptual re-design of Mariposa Park, along with a cost estimate for improvements, and a public engagement component that helps to feed the design work for this project.



SNAPSHOT OF THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS:

- Visioning
 - Meet with RDOS Staff
 - Site visit
 - Inventory and Analysis
 - Survey
 - Preliminary concept development
- Concept Options Review
 - Open House
 - Refine Design Concept
- Final Concept Review
 - Final design concept presented to RDOS



The first stage of the public engagement process was an online survey, that was available through the Regional Districts public engagement website, <https://rdosregionalconnections.ca/>. The survey was promoted through a news release issued by the RDOS, along with social media posts and information available on the Regional Districts website.

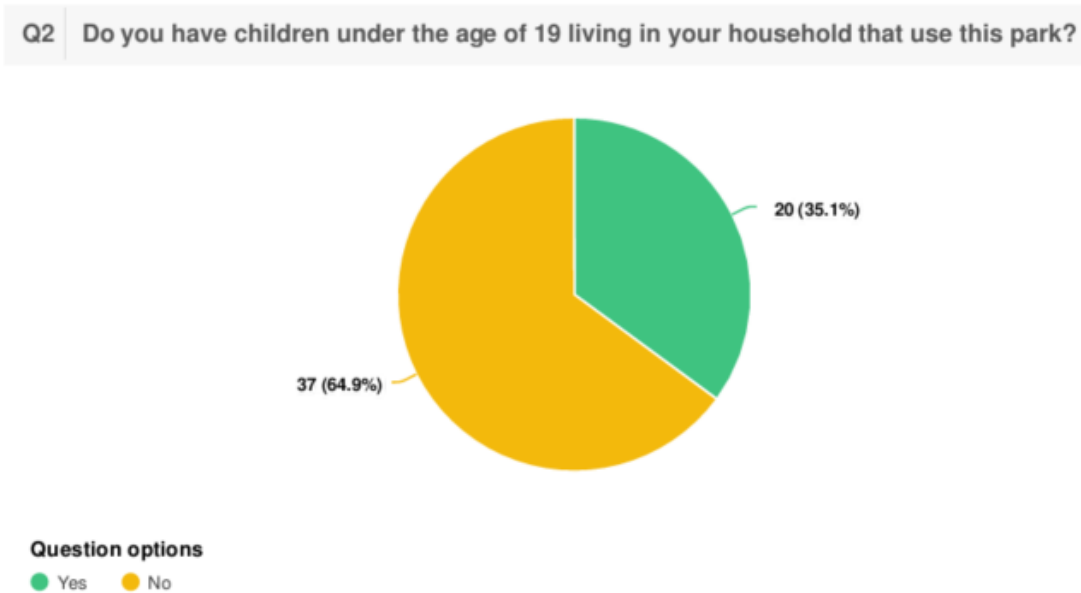
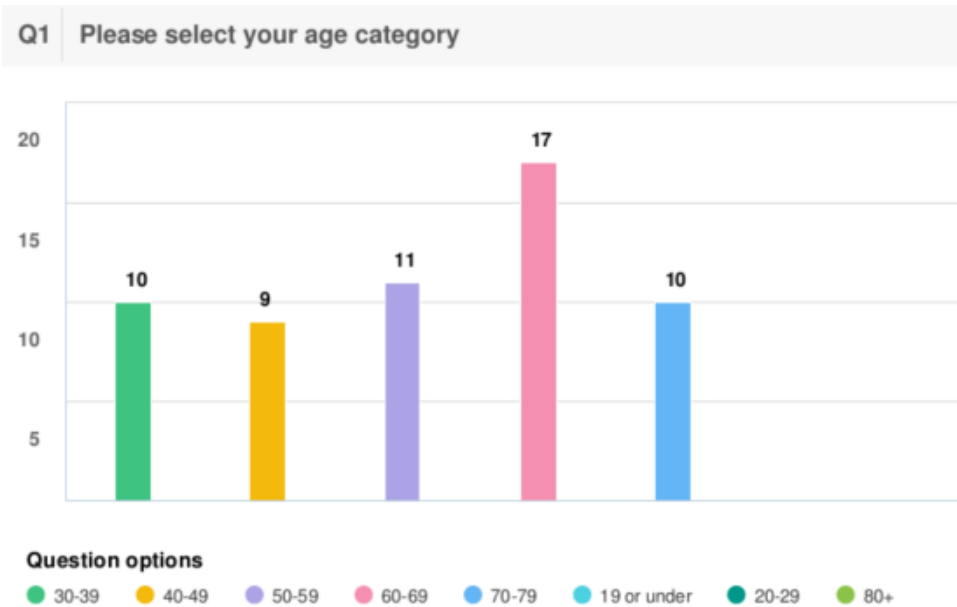
The survey was available to the public to respond from September 2 – 19, 2021.

In total, there were 57 responses to the survey. The majority of respondents were between the ages of 50-69 (47%) and did not have children who lived at home. Most respondents indicated that they visit Mariposa Park occasionally throughout the year (47%) with about 67% of respondents noting they lived within one kilometer of the park.

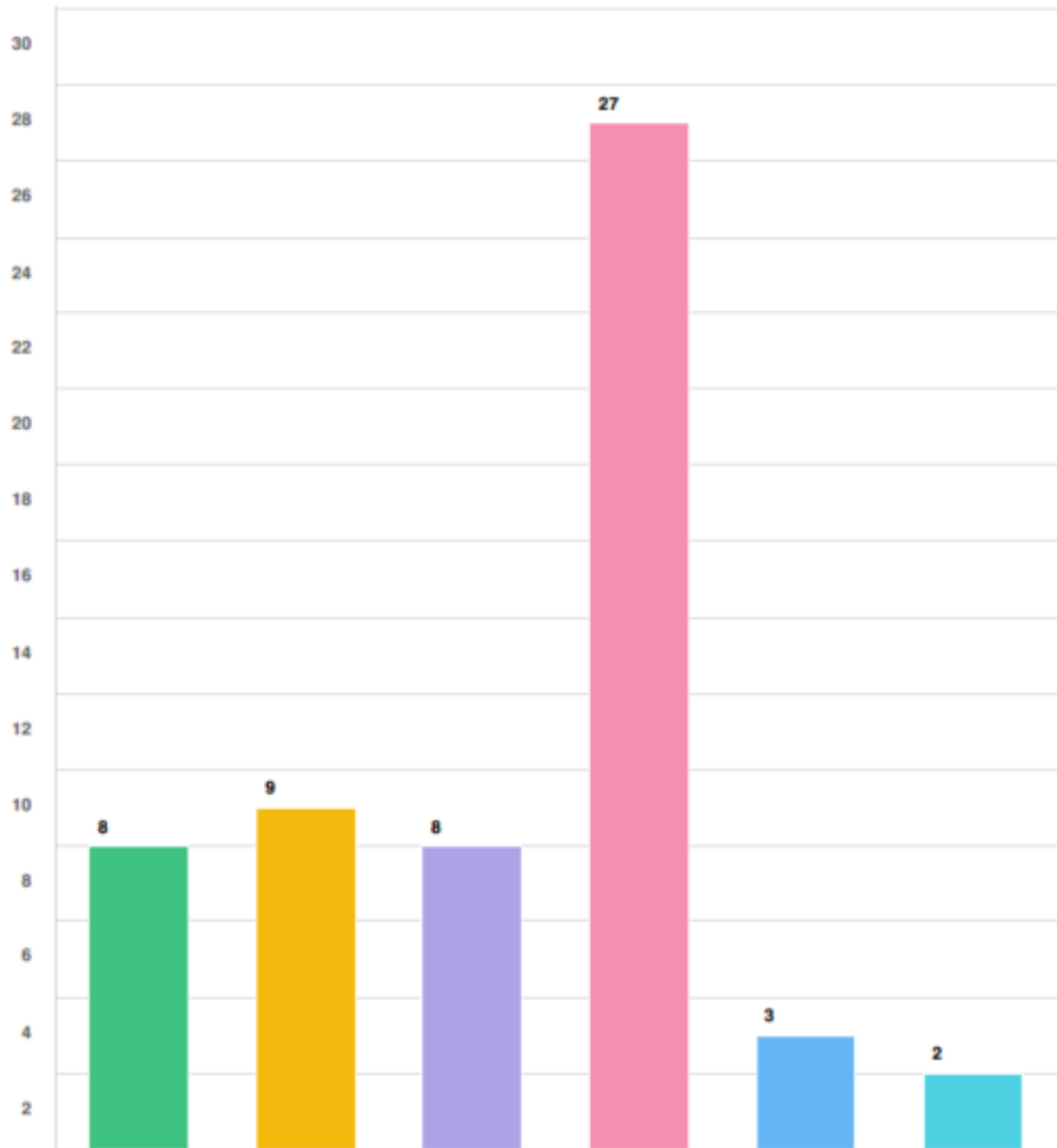
The primary mode of transportation to and from the park is walking, with cycling being the predominant secondary mode of transportation.

The majority of residents who visit the park noted that they visit Mariposa Park for the natural/outdoors aspect (67%), along with using the playground (45%) and playing court games (33%).

86% of survey participants would like to see some sort of improvements made to Mariposa Park. The survey broke these improvement recommendations down into three further categories: passive recreation and accessibility, active recreation, and park facilities.



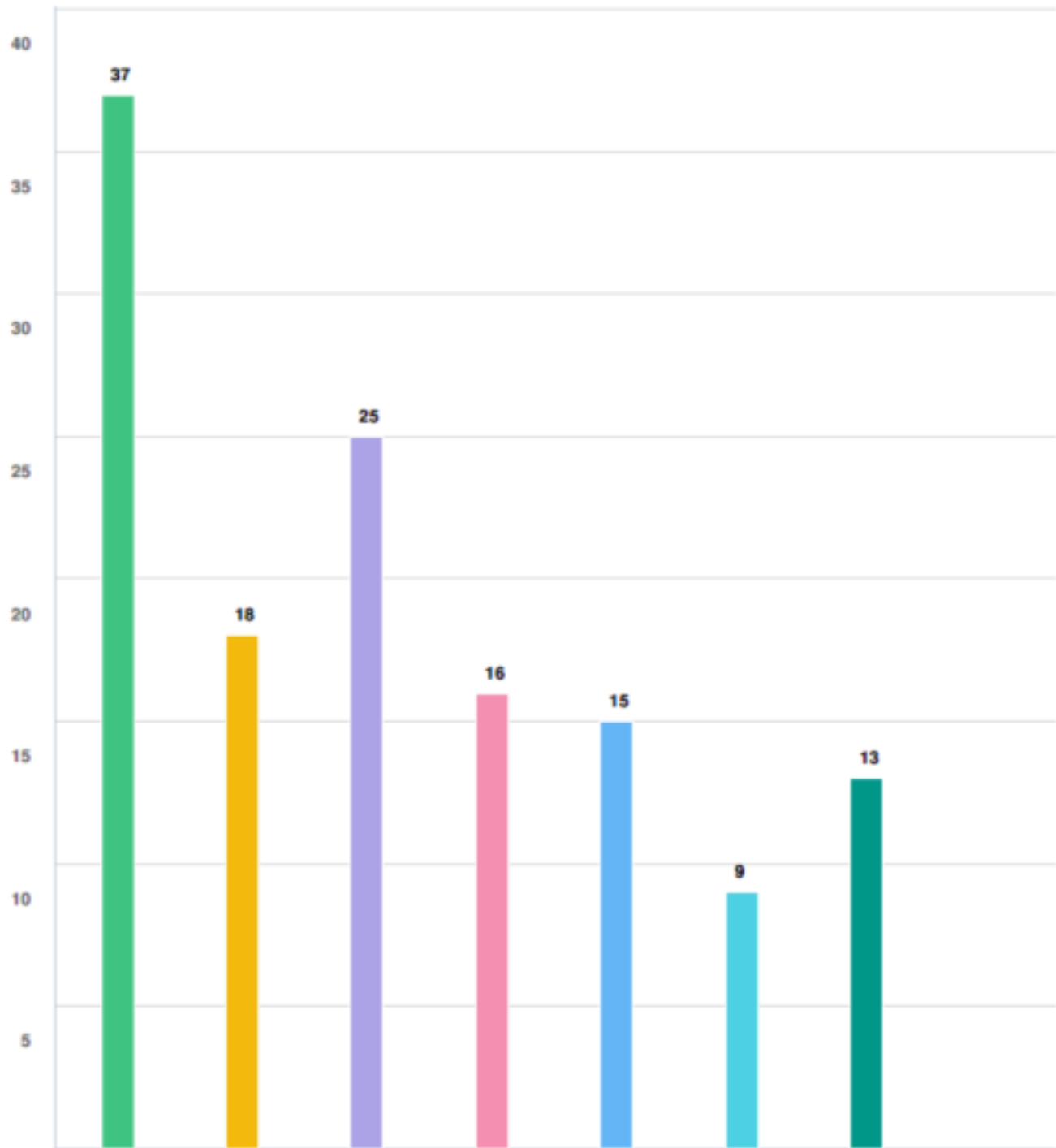
Q4 How often do you visit Mariposa Park?



Question options

- Daily or multiple times in a week ● Weekly ● Monthly ● Occasionally throughout the year ● Annually
● I do not visit this park

Q9 What are the current reasons you visit Mariposa Park? (Select all that apply)



Question options

- Enjoy nature and the outdoors ● Play court games ● Use the playground ● Picnic ● Community Events
● Outdoor fitness class (i.e. yoga, bootcamp) ● Other (please specify) ● Use Cricket Pitch

PASSIVE RECREATION

Pathways and trails received the highest scores for passive recreation and accessibility improvements, with a walking track and accessible pedestrian passage and amenities from the parking lot to the tennis court area and park coming in second and third, respectively.

ACTIVE RECREATION

Play equipment for older children (i.e. climbing structures) received highest marks for recommended active recreation improvements, with inclusive play equipment and natural play features coming in shortly after. Interestingly enough, a cricket pitch received the lowest mark out of fourteen options. This may indicate an opportunity for the RDOS to redesign this area of the park, and create a more inviting, inclusive area for an improved landscape design and meet the needs of a more diverse range of users.

PARK FACILITIES

Enhanced washrooms, picnic tables and benches received top marks in the Park Facilities category. Understanding the RDOS' vision to make Mariposa Park accessible for all ages and abilities, this also poses an excellent opportunity for the Regional District to potentially incorporate a more accessible design for the washroom facilities, and include more seating and gathering areas for residents who wish to stop and enjoy the park while resting on a bench, or sit at a picnic table with friends or family while others play in the park.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVED DESIGN

The top three park amenities that survey respondents indicated they would like to be considered a priority were:

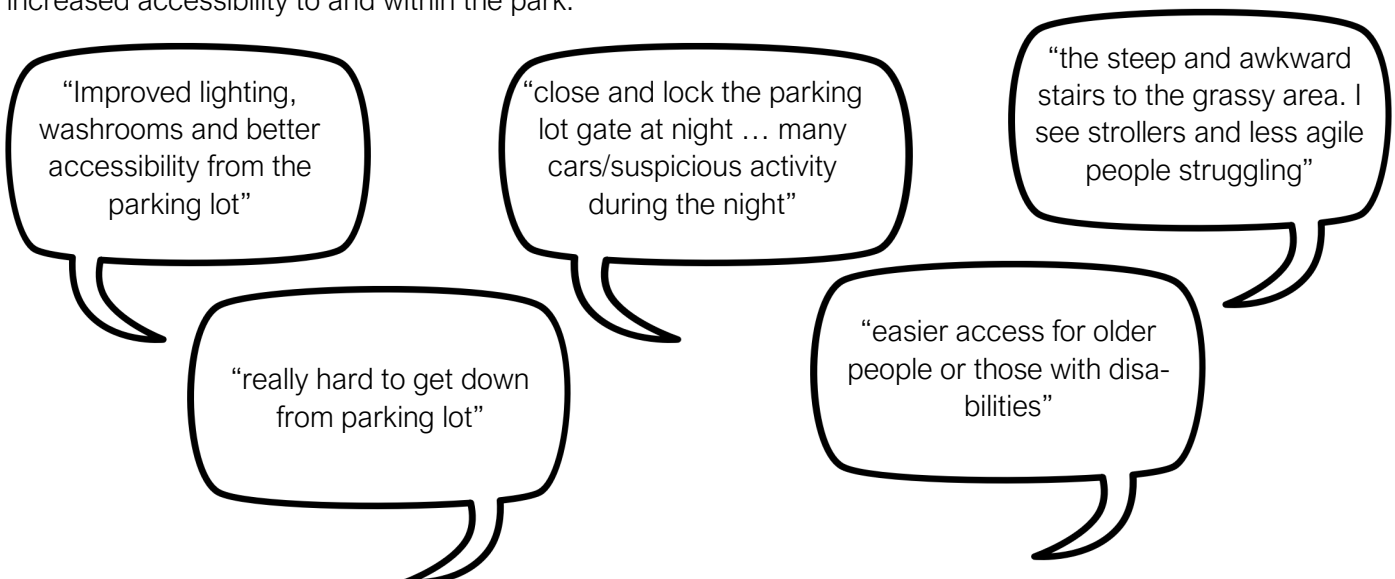
- Urban greening and biodiversity
- Accessibility and walkability; and
- Sport infrastructure (increasing sport facilities or improving existing infrastructure).

After analyzing the survey results, it is apparent that most residents would like to see the natural spaces within Mariposa Park maintained and/or expanded upon, as participants noted how much they enjoy the quiet green space.

What do you enjoy most about Mariposa Park?



Crime and safety were recurring concerns for residents who left comments in their survey responses, along with increased accessibility to and within the park.



Residents also indicated that they would like to see improvements to the playground structure, so that more children of all ages and abilities are able to utilize the space. Maintaining the green space (open field) is also a high priority for residents, as it can be utilized for a number of different purposes throughout the year – including a space to run around, stop and picnic, enjoy the natural beauty, host community events such as yoga, and walking dogs.

Suggested ideas for future uses of Mariposa park by residents include an ice rink, outdoor exercise equipment, and multi-purpose spaces that can be used for additional community events throughout the year.

CONCLUSION

In summary, residents overwhelmingly find mariposa park to be of great value to their community, and support the idea of improvements being made. The attached survey results will help to support the conceptual design process, which will be brought back to the public on October 5th for an open house at the park, to ensure that residents' comments and concerns have been addressed.

Additional communications will be sent out regarding this project as we continue through the design and public engagement process, with everything wrapping up by end of October, 2021. A high-level cost estimate that results from this redevelopment project will be presented at the end of October for the RDOS to help inform the annual budget process, and help to secure funding for this projects vision to be realized.

