



Vic West Park

FALL ENGAGEMENT REPORT

OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2015

Table of Contents

- About Vic West Park..... 3
- What We Heard 4

- Appendix A – Community Feedback 5
 - Survey..... 6
 - Open House 34
 - Ideas Boards 35
 - Correspondence..... 36

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About Victoria West Park

The City of Victoria is planning future upgrade to Vic West Park. To guide the upgrades, the City is preparing a Park Improvement Plan based on two rounds of community feedback.

Vic West Park is the second largest park in the Victoria West neighbourhood and the eighth largest in the City. The park was first established in 1921 and has seen many improvements since then to address the changing needs of local residents. It currently offers a multi-use sports field for baseball and soccer, a skate park, a lawn bowling club, a basketball court, a leash-optional area, a playground, two parking areas and a public washroom.

The key factors driving the need to update the park include:

- The age and condition of the playground equipment
- The condition of the beginner portion of skate park
- Possible fencing of the leash-optional dog park
- Use of the sports field for some activities is limited due to the condition and grading of the field
- Increased density in the neighbourhood

The first round of community engagement took place in the summer of 2015. A full engagement summary can be found at victoria.ca/parks.

This round of feedback was used to inform proposed park improvements, which were then taken back to the community for a second round of feedback this fall. The proposed improvements included:

- Fenced dog off-leash area and additional off-leash area for off-peak hours
- Bottle fill station with a dog-friendly fountain
- Field improvements to the primary ball diamond with new bleacher seating
- Redesigned parking lot with bike parking area
- Space for a community garden
- Larger improved playground, with a possible water play feature
- New community 'Play Box' and recreational open space
- New picnic area
- Conversion of existing aging basketball court to half-court with new surfacing
- Improvements to the beginners bowl in the skate park (further consultation will follow)
- New washroom by skate park, with a bottle fill station
- New shaded seating area by skate park
- Storage and locker facilities by the skate park
- Paved and widened multi-use pathway on east side of park
- New gravel pathway on north end of park
- New trees north of the skate park

Key priorities proposed to be completed in 2016 include the playground improvements, fenced dog off-leash area, and improvements to the beginners' bowl of the skate park.

A media release, mail drop, posters, social media, the City's website and stakeholder emails were used to promote the fall engagement opportunities. An open house, online survey, an on-site ideas boards were used to collect feedback on proposed park improvements. 40 residents attended the open house, 104 surveys were completed, over 60 thoughts were shared on the ideas boards and two pieces of correspondence were received.

What We Heard

Most participants were from Vic West, with 64% of the survey respondents coming from the neighbourhood. The majority of the open house participants were also from the neighbourhood. The most common age range of survey respondents was between 25 – 59.

The majority of feedback received on the proposed improvements was positive. The most popular proposed improvements to this park based on survey feedback were:

- Relocation and fencing of dog off-leash area
- New washroom facility by skate park
- Larger playground
- Space for community garden
- Improvements to the sports field

The least popular proposed improvements were:

- Shared use of the recreation fields as an additional off-leash area during off-peak hours
- Conversion of the basketball court to a half court facility

Other common feedback included requests for additional park lighting, especially along the pathway adjacent to the lawn bowling cub and at the dog off-leash area.

Next Steps:

This feedback is informing the final Park Improvement Plan, which is being presented to Council in December.

Appendix A: Community Feedback

Survey Responses

104 surveys were completed between October 22 and November 8.

List of most popular improvements from survey:

- Fenced dog off-leash park and an off-leash area for non-peak hours
- New washrooms by skate park, with a bottle fill station
- Larger playground
- Space for a community garden
- New trees north of the skate park
- New picnic area
- Field improvements to primary ball diamond and new seating
- Redesigned parking lot with bike parking

List of improvements that are not wanted by some from survey: (Fewer responses were received for this question than for the above question about the most popular improvements.)

- Conversion of old basketball court to new ½ court area
- Space for community garden
- Fenced dog off-leash area and additional non-peak area

Vic West Park Nov 9 2016

Which neighbourhood do you live in?

Response	Count	
Victoria West	66 63.5%	
Burnside Gorge	1 1.0%	
Hillside Quadra	4 3.8%	
Oaklands	2 1.9%	
Fernwood	4 3.8%	
North Park	1 1.0%	
Gonzales	1 1.0%	
Fairfield	1 1.0%	
James Bay	3 2.9%	
Downtown	5 4.8%	
<u>Outside of the City of Victoria. Where?</u>	16 15.4%	

Total: 104

Uptown

Oakbay

View Royal

Municipality of Saanich

View royal

Langford

Sidney

Saanich

Saanich

South Saanich

Esquimalt

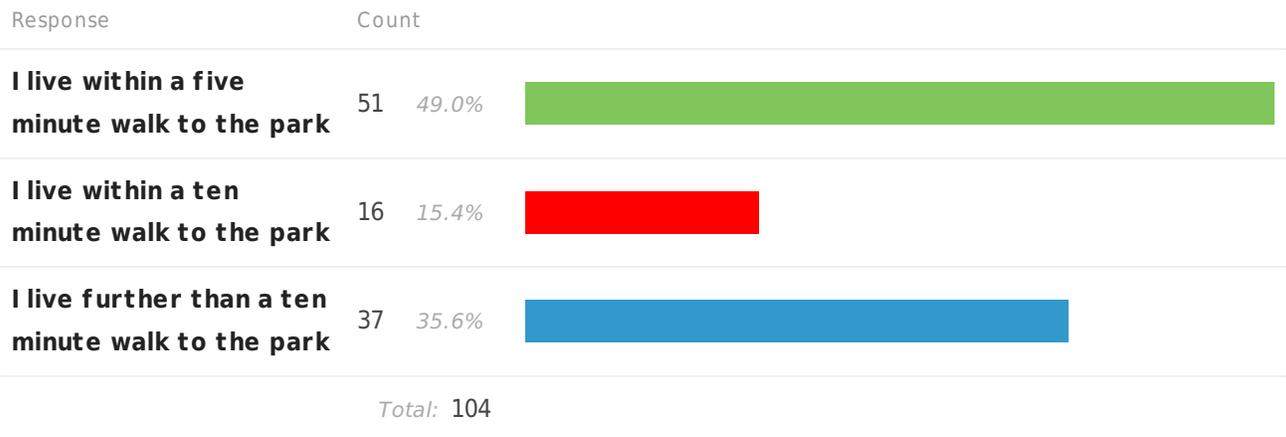
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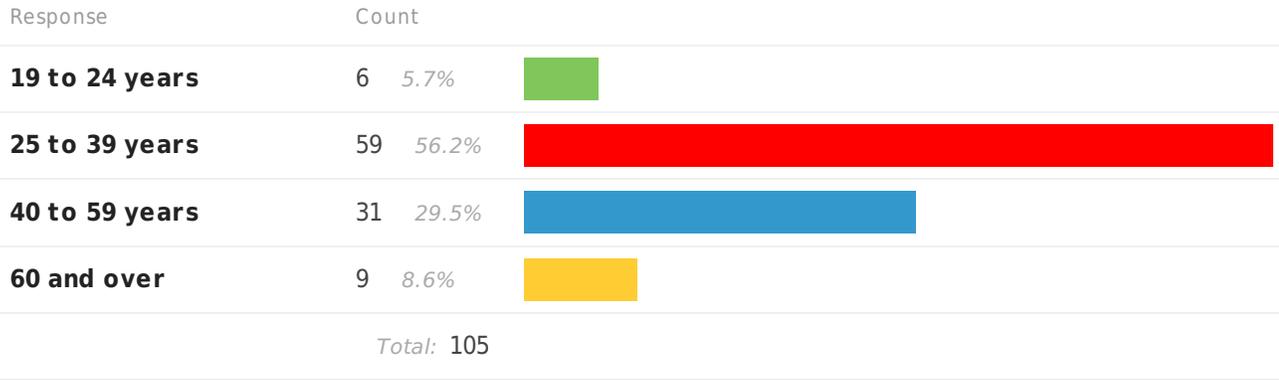
Colwood

Saanich West

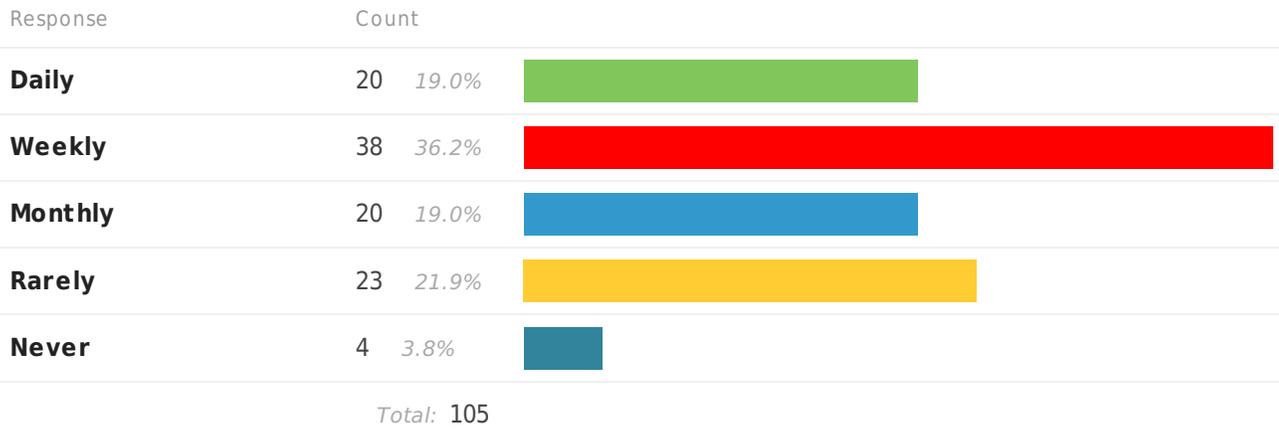
How close do you live to Victoria West Park?



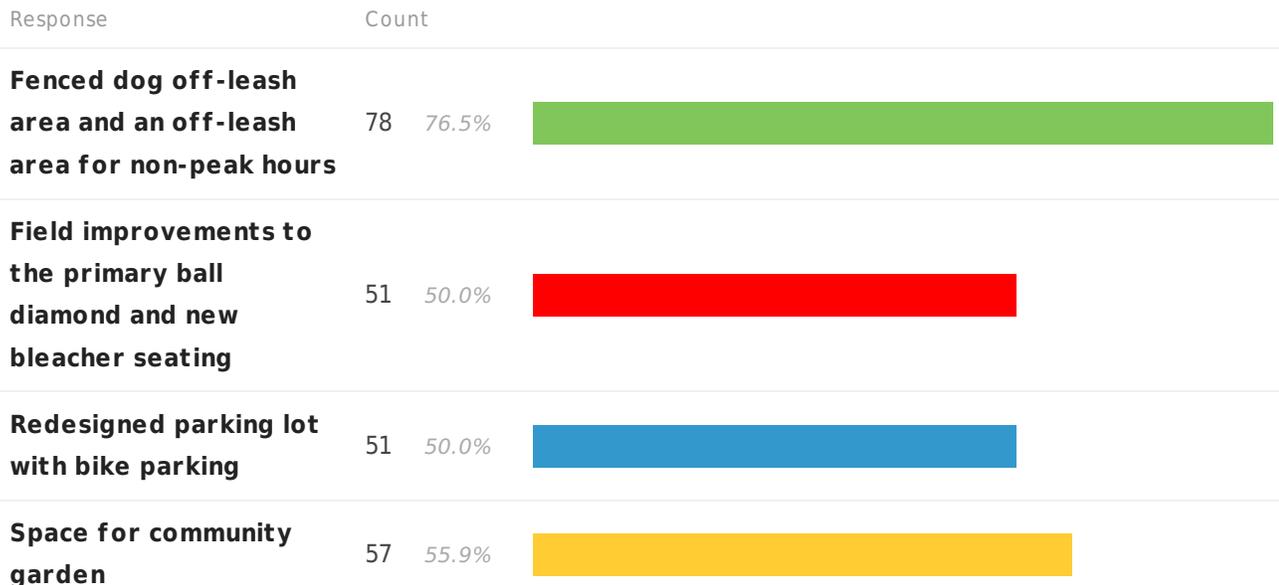
What is your age?

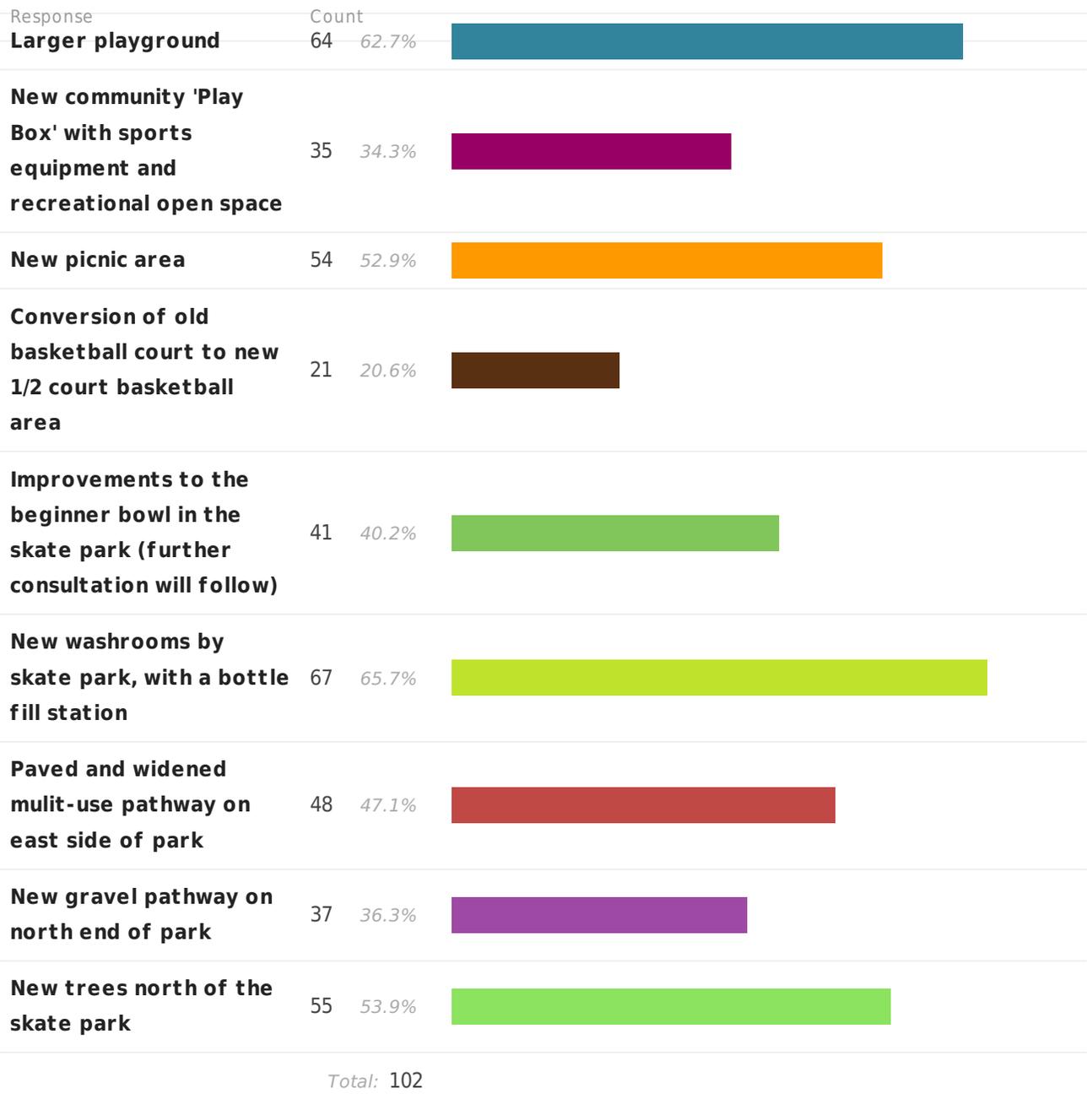


How often do you visit Victoria West Park?



Of this list of proposed park improvements, please check all items that you think will make Vic West Park better for our community. (You can check more than one box.)





Please share any comments about your favourite proposed park improvement, from the above list.

Response	Count
	55 responses

Love the community garden idea

A community garden will be great! Also will appreciate a new playground.

The skatepark is used by kids and adults. It needs to have washroom facilities and access to water.

Would love to see a water park in addition to the playground upgrade!

The improvements to the multi-use path on the east side of the park should include lighting. The path is dark and sketchy at night.

I walk through the park regularly. Current uses are 1) skate park, 2) dog walkers and 3) softball. Concentrate on those areas first.

More enforcement on vagrant population. This park could be great, but instead it's always littered with trash and drug paraphenalia and drunk and/or high people who don't make it a welcoming place. I feel that the community gardens would be luted regularly.

all great ideas and improvements!

An off leash fenced off area would be an amazing addition! It's such a busy area with cars and people and other things and having an area to let well behaved dogs run loose would be amazing!

I support fenced dog area; do not support off leash dogs in greater park

I like the idea of the fenced off-leash dog area, but do not support making the remainder of the park an off-leash area during non-peak hours. Off-leash areas tend to result in conflicts between dog owners and other park users and this seems like an avoidable issue with the off-leash area design for the park.

Lots of dogs live in this neighborhood including in the apartment and condo buildings. A fenced dog area would be wonderful.

I love the idea of a fenced in off leash dog area! We would visit this area more often if the leash optional area was fenced in

The improved pathway is very important. There's many large puddles when it rains which makes it difficult to navigate. Also lighting along the path is essential. It's way to dark and I feel unsafe walking through the park at night

Fenced dog park!!!

We absolutely need a fenced in dog park. The only other one is way up at U Vic.

My favourite part would be the off-leash (fenced) section for the dogs. I feel Victoria (and area) could benefit by something like this, as many "dog" people are often looking for areas to get together for their dogs to socialize and run and play safely.

I like the beginners bowl, fenced off leash area too. Any improvements to this park will be welcomed. As a long time City Employee, I noticed, with dismay, that Vic West was always an afterthought. I applaud this

5 of 29

process.

This area is heavily populated with (yard less) condos. An off-leash park for dogs is a brilliant idea for their pets and for residents to socialize and get to know each other.

The primary baseball field improvements sound amazing, especially if it includes having the playing field re-graded (flattened?) with perhaps with some better aeration and irrigation? I play in one of the leagues that rent the field and games can be a little dangerous with all of the mounds and divots in the field.

The dog off-leash area should be FULLY fenced. In past, attempts to improve off-leash areas have resulted in the city leaving spaces that lead directly to city streets. A fully fenced park with a gate is needed in Victoria.

The current off-leash area is inadequate and, like all dog parks in Victoria, poses safety concerns. The lack of a fully fenced area coupled with the location being right next to a busy roadway shows a complete lack of oversight and understanding in design. As I said, it is a common problem among Victoria's dog parks and something easily fixed by adding full fencing to the off-leash area.

The community play box is a great idea, I hope other parks also get these in the future!

Fencing in the current off-leash area would help certain overzealous and, frankly, unprofessional by-law officers stay out of dog owners' way.

I am new to Victoria and love some of the dog parks. This plan might make me bring my dog to this park.

Love the new larger playground. Please keep some of the play equipment in the shade - it's hard to find a park in the summer that isn't in the blazing sunlight.

The community garden! YES! They are beautiful and productive and great for building community!

A community garden and more trees being planted are a great idea.

Love it all. Please just make it attractive, welcoming, and we will come!

The picnic area will be good to have for those in the nearby office buildings at lunch time. (Such as myself!)

I love the idea to have a community garden.

Field improvements to the primary ball diamond should include proper grading and a classic ball diamond appearance like the one in the park at the corner of Kipling & Brooke Streets.

If the pathway will be paved, please use water permeable pavers. If this area gets "soggy" in the winter months, better drainage would help.

I like the idea of washrooms and bottle fill station; also like the fenced and gravelled leash park; I like the widening of the multi-use path but do not support paving, unless it is divided so walkers don't get run down by bikers.

lighting on west pathway all the way from Bay to Esquimalt, keep the trees by the playground

fenced off leash dog park and expansion of the paws in parks a huge asset for the neighbourhood

To me, an outdoor workout/bodyweight equipment area would be greatly used!

Dog park is a MUST! We have been searching everywhere for one in the Victoria area?

A fenced dog park would be excellent given the lack of dog-friendly areas downtown!

Improving the north end of the park (pathway) would be great for pedestrians. Also encourage bottle fill stations, ideally in more than one location.

There are many great ideas here. My comments relate to the skatepark improvements: without significantly widening the west edge of the beginner bowl/loosing skateable space, there is no room for a seating area, water fountain and washroom as shown. There is plenty of room for these on the grass along the north boundary of the skatepark without losing any skateable space and having people sitting in dangerous areas. The beginner bowl is in great shape as is except for the few cracks, and the park could greatly benefit from a large bowl (similar to Ucluelet's) that is usable by all levels of skater. This type of bowl is all that is really missing from this park. It would almost fit in the existing footprint of the basketball court, which could easily be moved and made smaller to match the single court proposed. I would also like to see the playground moved closer so that kids can play while their parents skate and can see each other the whole time. I really like the idea of getting rid of the under used 2nd baseball field and having other uses for the area.

I like the improvements suggested to the ball park, however I am not happy about the shared dog use as there are some owners who are not as good as others at cleaning up after their pet. Imagine if you will, diving for an epic catch and ending up with a face full of excrement. Please reconsider the shared use and make it off limits. I would also like to see it fully fenced to make it a desirable park for leagues to use. Great diamonds are in high demand. Please spend some time in the construction and maintenance of this ball park. Thanks so much.

My favourite proposed park improvement is the improvements to the beginner area of the skatepark. I hope that we see a smaller transition concrete bowl with many features including extensions, elevators, roll-ins, spines. The smaller size would make it appropriate for beginners, but still fun for all levels. I hope you consult with a specialized contractor such as NewLine.

Better ball diamond for use from many leagues.

I particularly like the improvements to the skate park and area - the skate park and dog park are the areas that are in use every day of the year. I love being able to watch the skaters from afar (since I have a dog who is frightened of skateboards). The kids who use the skate park deserve the improvements.

Fully fenced in dog park would be fantastic. I live right next to the park and own a dog, it is a very dog friendly neighbourhood and a fully fenced in area would be a huge draw to the park.

Please make any tree plantings good ones for honeybees and other insects such as Linden, or maple trees (

7 of 29

already lots of chestnuts. Please re- consider a "water- feature in the playground as we may see more drought like climate change.

Community garden plots are the item I am most excited about--especially with so many apartments in the area.

Washrooms!

Improved access (pathways?) connecting playground, ball diamond and skateboard park for parents with children

I really like the idea of incorporating the rocks into a fenced off-leash area. There are not enough safe and exciting areas for dogs in Victoria, and more and households with dogs are increasing.

Fenced dog park could be larger and should include features for single parents with a dog, e.g. Safe area separated from dogs for children to watch and amuse themselves so the parent does not risk taking the kid into the dog park if it is borderline crowded or there are unknown dogs running around.

Instead of reducing the size of the basketball court, why not install a small futsal (small soccer) net to accommodate an additional user of the park.

I don't want the fenced dog park behind the public washrooms. The gravel would be detrimental to dog's paws and the area isn't big enough for dogs to run.

PLEASE don't turn the current basketball court into a half court. Why would you do this? There is often people already using the court when I arrive. If there was only one hoop we'd have to wait, plus there would be no ability to have games. It would be great if you moved the court slightly away from the skate park, so it's more in the park, but in front of it. Then make the skate part the full width. Why am I suggesting this? It's easy to have the basketball fly off the court and into the skate park with the court beside it. PLEASE don't make the court smaller, there's LOTS of room in the park and basketball is needed.

Of this list of proposed park improvements, please check any items that you don't want to see implemented in Vic West Park.

Response

Count

Fenced dog off-leash area and additional off-leash area for off-peak hours

10 21.7%

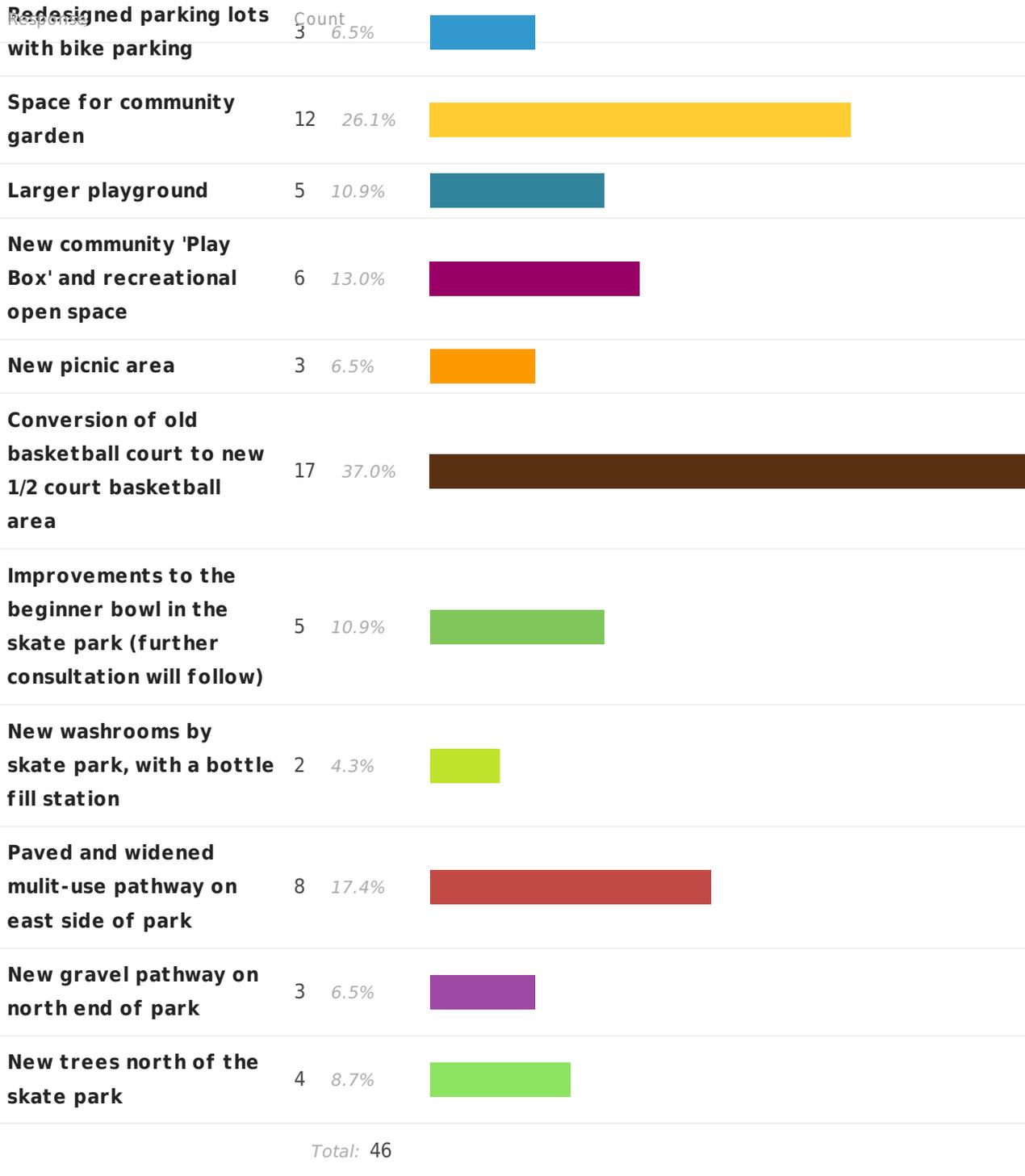


Field improvements to the primary ball diamond and new bleachers

7 15.2%



8 of 29



Please share any comments about your least favourite of the proposed park improvements. What concerns you about this feature?

Response	Count
30 responses	
One washroom is enough	
Not sure if the basketball changes are needed	
Safety of washrooms as transients and alcohol use rule the area. Don't see how a second was room would change the trend. Just do the water station.	
I do not support off leash outside of fenced area	
I like the idea of the fenced off-leash dog area, but do not support making the remainder of the park an off-leash area during non-peak hours. Off-leash areas tend to result in conflicts between dog owners and other park users and this seems like an avoidable issue with the off-leash area design for the park.	
I would like to see new washrooms but some scary people hang around the current ones. I am not inclined to use them because of that.	
At this time I have no concerns	
No concerns, the improvements included look fantastic.	
A lot of the existing facilities work fine, as is. No one expects things to be state of the art. No need to go overboard.	
Letting dogs off leash on the field - even with sign and bags available this will be an issue for sports use	
The location of the new proposed off-leash area is unacceptably small. The majority of this area is occupied by large boulders and is a regular camping ground for transient populations with whom we would then need to compete for space. Leave the offleash area where it is. Furthermore, covering an offleash area in gravel is equally unacceptable. I certainly wouldn't expect my dog to run around on sharp stones. Also, I fail to see the need for a community garden. every section of this park is currently regularly, and in some cases heavily used by it's intended users. Removing such a large section of heavily used park area makes absolutely no sense.	
Curious about the lockers that might be installed by the skate park. Has thought gone into how those lockers might be used for passing illegal substances?	
Why pave when it'll have to be re-done in a few years? And then a few more years? Bikes and feet travel just as well on gravel.	
Need storage shed, arrangements for recycling, a community manager, who farms what etc.	

A half-court basketball court can limit the number of people using the facility as it can be intimidating to share a hoop with other groups

Retain the existing trees between the skate board park and the lawn bowling club. They act as a necessary barrier for sound, visual and safety (protection) for the club. The trees appear fully healthy but if replaced they should be replaced with mature bushes or screens until the trees reach maturity so that minimal disturbance occurs to the bowlers.

I walk through the park on a regular basis and think there are enough trees for shade and green. Rather than adding a new grove of trees, I'd suggest an installation of adult outdoor exercise features similar to those installed in near Esquimalt pool and Beacon Hill Park. As well, because the park is off leash after peak hours, it would be nice if the children's play area could be fenced. That way, children could play without worry of large dogs running too close to them. I've experienced this myself and it was not pleasant. I also like the idea of widening the path, but don't want it paved unless it could be a half-paved and half cobbled so pedestrians had a place to walk.

off leash should be fenced all times

Don't think there is enough traffic on that trail for paving it.

I believe the full basketball court is functional and used currently, and I do not see what benefits would be gained from downsizing.

Why convert the basketball court to a half-court? It's great as it is.

It's not clear why the plan includes a reduction to the size of the basketball court. If there is a good reason I might not be opposed.

As said above. No shared use dog park ball park. They don't belong together.

The dog park, the community garden, the tree planting, and the gravel walkway. I have made my comments on the following page of this survey. The other improvements appear to be fine as is. For any improvements that would extend into the field south of the Leonardo da Vinci Centre, please keep in mind that that area gets so wet it is almost a bog in all but the hottest summer months. I believe that implementing my suggestions would be both cost effective and highly practical and would add to the enjoyment of and best serve dog owners, potential gardeners and other members of the community. I believe the other proposed improvements will add to the community's use and enjoyment of the Vic West Park.

no concerns

Worried that play box will be vandalized. Recycle and garbage facilities needed at skate park. Could we use the type of paver stones that let grass grow thru for any paths?

Unnecessary cost.

the baseball field is a novel idea but it is a huge land dedication to a single user. When it is in play, nobody else can use the space due to the risk of flying baseballs

aise can use the area due to the risk of tying softball

The community garden taking over the current dog park is not necessary for our community. That's too big of a space and the huge amount of dog owners/dogs would not enjoy a tiny gravel park

See above. Improve the surface of the basketball court but don't make it smaller please.

Do you have any comments about the proposed improved dog off-leash areas?

Response

Count

52 responses

Great to have a fenced area

Sounds like a great idea.

a shelter with seating for a plays for doggie parents to sit when it's raining

I would love to see a map before making any comments about this new location. Aside from that, it all sound like a marked improvement over the existing dog area.

Great ideas.....for dog owners

Covered seating (or a covered area beside it) would be great so we have a place to get out of the rain or just get some shade. And lighting for night time.

off leash in the rec fields leads to poor cleanup of waste. Define non-peak hours.

Some shade for the doggy parents inside the dog off leash area. It can get hot while watching dog play

This sounds like a HUGE improvement.

I think that there should also be smaller fenced in areas for people that just want to throw a ball for their own dog or one or two other dogs if their dog doesn't do well with other dogs! Or even just runs so people can let their dog exercise then be done. Separate areas would also be great so you can divide large breed and small breed dogs !

I do not support shared off leash use in non peak hours.

I love the idea of the fenced off-leash area - the amenities seem great. I don't like the idea of a shared off-leash area in non-peak hours as there is too much potential for conflict between dog owners and other park users. Also, it seems odd to allow off-leash dogs on a newly levelled and redone playing field, given the high potential for digging and pooping (people don't clean up on the galloping goose)..

I think this is a great initiative!

12 of 29

I think this is a great initiative!

Great idea! I would bring my dogs here in a heartbeat

Please enact this feature. It is sorely needed.

There should be signage and some sort of control so that people with dogs that have no recall or with dogs with potential aggression issues cannot use the the off leash area.

Great ideas, and I'm a cat owner. No, she won't be visiting!

extra items like this need to be user-paid as owning a dog isn't an entitlement, dog owners need to pay for such extras themselves and not have these facilities paid for by the general taxpayer

Just make it fully fenced, and make sure dogs can't get through it. (Over or under). The fence installed at Alexander Park in Fernwood during its improvements is a joke.

Great! Make this happen at all dog parks. Why has it taken this long?

Ghetto and smell bad. If you can 't trust your dog outside the fence they shouldn't be in public.

Sounds great! Please make sure there is adequate signage on the field for owners to clean up after their pets.

The current location and size of the off-leash area was one of the main contributing factors to my moving to this particular area. My dog does not require a "skills and agility area." She, as a large breed animal, requires space to run which is not afforded by this proposal. Covering a dog park in gravel is about the most non-sensical thing in this entire proposal. Leave the off-leash area where it is and fence it off.

Sounds good to me! No more being bowled over on our walks through the park.

Love the dog park idea. If folks can bring their dogs to a safe play area, everyone will come.

Like how it takes advantage of an under-used section of the park. An odourless solution for dog waste deposits is needed. The appearance of the fully fenced perimeter with wood posts and wire mesh looks promising - A basic chainlinked fence would take away from the beauty of the park.

Gravel surfacing? Hard on their feet.

all good

I love it! The city needs more spaces like this!

Make it pretty and pleasant

It would be nice if there could be some sort of timed lighting to make the space usable in the winter months (from 5- 9 pm)

Is gravel really better than grass?

13 of 29

I do not own a dog, but I believe this would be greatly appreciated to dog owners and dogs, and I encourage this improvement.

An off leash area for all times combined with expanded off leash areas for non peak hours is a great idea.

Awesome !

fenced would be great! much needed in the area! lights would also be awesome.

Great idea! Very excited about this.

Sounds like a great plan. Ensure the double-gated entry is raised gravel or paved as these type of high use areas tend to get very well worn quickly and end up being big mud puddles.

I would like to see no shared use ball park dog park area.

Great feature!

My primary interest is in the dog park. I strongly disagree with the proposed fenced dog area. It is comprised largely of a rocky area which would create a great danger to small dogs when large dogs are running and playing, as they are wont to do, over the rocks. Not only would the small dogs be injured but the large dogs who accidentally step on them while running over the rocks may also be injured. If a dog owner is throwing a ball or stick for their dog - many dogs are passionate about sticks and balls - the risk of injury to the dog or another dog would greatly increase. Someone (owner of two large dogs) insisted to me that the proposed rocky and gravelled dog area would be great for dog agility. I strongly suggest that dog agility training through running over rocks in a fairly small area is not in the best interest of the majority of dog owners who use the Vic West Park. If an owner is interested in dog agility, they would greatly benefit from taking their dogs to parks such as Macaulay Point or the Dallas Road waterfront. Another concern is that dog owners who are not as agile as the average large dog would lose sight of their large or small dog because of the terrain. It is also proposed that the dog area be covered in gravel; I strongly oppose that. It would be hard on the dogs' paws and would promote injury through paws being cut on gravel. Gravel is also not as clean as grass and is much less aesthetically pleasing. Further, the proposed dog park is far too small. The current dog area is a lovely size - there is plenty of room for a multitude of large and small dogs to run and play with one another and plenty of room for ball throwing and the owners can keep an eye on their dogs. The current dog area is already two-thirds fenced. It only needs a fence along the west side with a gate by Wilson and another halfway along the fence so that there would be two points of access and egress, which is another safety issue. I would like to see dogs and owners being permitted to use the large field when it is otherwise not in use. For example, from spring to the end of September, the various teams are out playing in the field or ball diamond. After they are done, the field is virtually unused and it would be a lovely thing to have the off-leash area extended to the field during times when no players are on the field.

Not sure how it would work in that space, would prefer to see the current dog area (where you have plotted for community gardens) fully fenced in. Would prefer grass over gravel.

Supportive. I am not a dog owner but clearly a way people meet

Supportive. I am not a dog owner but clearly a way people meet.

extra waste containers that are easily accessed and have minimal odour release

No I think it's great and will transform the area from currently being used by tenters.

It would in the interest of many dogs to have at least part of the area be grass rather than gravel only.

Nice to have flat grass surfaces for off-leash dogs.

There needs to be SAFE places for dogs to run and burn off some energy. Hopefully, there will be shaded areas and also some seating.

Site drainage is super important to keep dogs clean. A water feature like a fountain where they can swim would be awesome and good for older dogs health. People with kids that need supervision and dogs would appreciate "safe areas" for the kids to comfortably watch the dogs.

Great way to support the multi-use space!

The adjacent area for dog use on off peak hours is brilliant but the gravel dog park is absolutely stupid. I will be protesting that decision every day if you go through with that decision

why are you making it gravel? Can you make it so it's not near the road or parking lot? can you make it bigger?

Do you have any comments about the proposed improved playground?

Response

Count

39 responses

Would love the water channel

Much needed

Two examples of child engaged play areas exist at rotary playgarden in San Jose California. Cement slides and climbing areas. Another is magical bridge playground of man view California. . Seriously check them out! Parks built right.

Sounds fantastic. Bathrooms between the skate park and playground would be ideal for smaller bladders!

Moving it out and away from the corner is especially good so the playground can be seen from more areas for safety reasons

We've had to conserve water the last how many summers, and you want to put in a water feature?

15 of 29

I would never bring children to this park because of the tent city/vagrant population and associated filth, trash and drug use. The park improvements sound nice though.

Agree that moving out from canopy is important

This sounds great! I love the idea of a natural playing area and possible water channel. Keep the trees!!

All sounds great!

This is the main reason I would be going to this park as my 1.5 year old loves playgrounds. If possible the rubber ground is much nicer

Sand may be a bad idea considering how many wasps dig in the sand at this specific location during the summer. My son couldn't use the swings for a couple months because of this. Maybe the soft black material that critters can't dig into

None.

with the exception of the water channel rest of the proposal is okay

The natural areas and water channel sound especially good.

NIL

Really want to see the play equipment, especially for the younger kids, in the shade. The shade is one of the best features of the playground today. Sand for the little kids areas can be problematic with eating, etc. and it's easy for dangerous objects to hide in the sand. Would be preferable to avoid sand. LOVE the separate play areas for different age categories.

Wood equipment is great, water channel is interesting! Sand is better than wood chips. I don't understand moving it, though?

Not crazy about the water channel idea.

Water features should not be considered - they are wasteful especially in drought conditions. Playground and seating areas should be designed in a manner that are not conducive for sleeping.

all good

I'd like to see some attractive low fencing as a barrier to over aggressive dogs. That way children can be protected while allowing dogs room to run.

If it is moved from under the tree canopy i would hope there would still be some shade cover -- during the hotter days in the summer, it is vital for the little ones to have some shade while playing. I love the idea of natural play areas.

incorporate the rock

Water based projects are often costly to maintain and may not be a great idea given recent water shortages

It'll be good to have a new playground

I am concerned about the sand surface as it is less clean (in the rain for example) than woodchips. Also, would a wood surface be the most easily maintained, and safe in the rain? Even though, I do not have any kids, I would benefit from the improvement since I would use it to exercise.

The shaded seating area is great for parents as well as kids. It is very sunny here in summer, and rainy in winter - design for four season use.

Excellent opportunities for climbing and swinging and imaginative play are high priorities. Rubber surfacing like the playground by Fernwood NRG would be better than sand or wood chips

Sounds promising. I used to live next to the Cook St playground and when that was improved the park attendance shot up. Hopefully the same happens here.

It would be great to move it closer to the skate park so parents and older kids can each play within sight of each other. Kids could use the exposed bedrock to climb on...

Would love this, especially natural features and for young ages

Adding a play area for older kids (7 to 12) is a great idea.

No water feature as wasteful of water.

Playground should have connecting pathways to ball diamond and skateboard park

Definitely needing improvement. Please add more swings as the kids can't seem to get enough. Water play would be very neat.

I would use the park much more frequently with a better play area

When designing seating areas, keep in mind that strollers take up lots of room too. Also, a fence to prevent the younger ones from running into the street.

Hardly anyone uses the playground currently. Maybe a spruce up is what it needs?

Do you have any comments about the proposed improvements relating to community recreation, including improvements to the primary playing field and a new 'Community Play Box' and open recreational area?

Response

Count

26 responses

Important to have a safe, well maintained field

Great idea

I am strongly against the off-peak hours off-leash idea. The point of the community asking for a fenced off-leash area is to contain the off leash dogs for the safety of dogs and people alike. The location of this area next to the playground and skatepark is NOT appropriate. LOVE the fenced in off-leash area, but HATE the non-fenced, off-peak idea.

Helpful for parents that can't or don't want to bring their own equipment

The field is in desperate need of levelling and re-seeding or re-sodding. The number of holes and hills are a hazard to anyone playing on that field, and have contributed to more than a few twisted ankles. Removing the secondary diamond is very reasonable.

Sounds great.

Great - just don't let dogs run, dig and defecate all over it

I don't think it would be a good idea for off-leash dogs on a newly restored playing field.

this area should not be park of the off-leash area especially if a fenced area is going to be created for dogs and their owners

This sounds like a much needed and amazing improvement. The secondary diamond is rarely used by leagues as the field really is too small for two simultaneous games. The levelling and irrigation improvements are much needed and will make this a fantastic park to play on.

Stupid idea!

This is such a great idea. One issue is that teams playing softball can hit the ball very far, so it's necessary to make sure people don't encroach on where they can be hit or get in the way of the games

Seeing as the secondary ball diamond is almost never used, almost any change would be for the better

Not crazy about sharing playing field with an off leash option. Folks don't always pick up poop.

The Community Play Box items might be prone to theft. Levelled playing surface with restored grass is absolutely required including drainage under the big trees near the playground on your way to the Da Vinci Centre. Spectator seating should not be seen as a "shelter" for those who are looking for a place to sleep. The new tree plantings would eliminate valuable park space that could be used for soccer, football, ultimate, volleyball, etc.

I'm not in favour of more trees. I would prefer open space with the installation of outdoor adult exercise equipment,

It is a popular softball/beer league location

18 of 29

Removing the 2nd ball diamond is a great idea. Hopefully the plantings will be coniferous to minimize the need for sweeping out the park (wet leaves=danger)

Community Play Box sounds like a great plan in concept, but likely a bad idea to execute properly. Would rather the funds go toward more practical park improvements rather than shared equipment that will likely be abused or stolen.

Play equipment will get stolen

Great idea. Hopefully the new field irrigation will get rid of the boggy area at the north end of the park by the Leonardo da Vinci Centre.

Hope that the Play box is a positive experience.

Outdoor fitness equipment could be installed in this area?

Agree with getting rid of the second ball diamond. Re: Play Box: Although a great idea, how will this be kept in good shape? And how will theft be prevented? Perhaps there could be a better location such as near the playground?

Community play box sounds like a security risk re: theft or vandalism.

The secondary ball diamond area is a perfect size for a community garden and recreational area.

Do you have any comments about a proposed community garden?

Response

Count

38 responses

There is a need in our community- especially with all of the condos

Great way to bring community together

I think it is a fantastic idea!

Community involvement is a plus for all

Where? Will it benefit the whole community, or just a pre-existing gardening club?

Interesting - really interested in how it'll be governed

Sounds great.

I would love to be able to have a plot in a community garden. I live in an apartment. I would also love some

19 of 29

I would love to be able to have a plot in a community garden. I live in an apartment. I would also love some common garden and forage space for learning, sharing and building community.

Great idea but I really don't think it will be properly used or used at all. I'm afraid that tools and items will be stolen and the shed would be vandalized

Great idea

if a garden is going to be established it should be an allotment garden to ensure someone is responsible for the maintenance and is held accountable

There should be gardens everywhere.

This is a great idea, especially given the amount of high density condos in the area with no outdoor space. Great addition!

This would effectively hand control of this area to a select few individuals and as a taxpayer I find this unacceptable. The public park is for use by all. Furthermore, use of this space for the procurement of flowers is absurd.

Sounds like a wonderful initiative. Food security considerations makes this a timely project.

I think this is a fantastic idea. Land is so expensive and many apartment-dwellers just don't have the option to garden. This is so great.

If it has a management system already in place then go for it.

I'm glad to hear that a local community group will be managing the garden. Vandalism of community gardens has been a problem in the past, and having some oversight could help reduce that possibility.

I like the idea of community gardens as long as they are properly and continuously maintained with pride and an inviting and orderly appearance as opposed to randomness. Raised beds look promising. Idea of an organization being accountable and responsible for it sounds promising. Deer fencing must not make the park look less inviting from the street. That being said, I think the proposed dog park area on the Dockside property behind the GoodLife Fitness building would be a better place for the community garden. Any sheds should have a playful appearance that bring a smile to your face - see <http://www.streetartutopia.com/?p=16135> for some inspiration. Concerned that the garden would attract unwanted rodents to the park.

I think the triangle lot across Bay Street would serve this very well. Don't take away park land for this.

good idea!!

LOVE IT! Great use of space.

Smaller boxes/plots would be nice for people who can't use the larger spaces

Just make sure garden is for Vic West residents

I believe this is a great idea, especially with the limited yard space most residents in the condo buildings

I believe this is a great idea, especially with the limited yard space most residents in the condo buildings adjacent to the park have.

The community garden is an important amenity, especially given how many people here live in apartments. Please include some nearby picnic tables which are shaded from sun and rain.

I love it! Fruit trees and berries and herbs would be especially welcome additions by the city to get the garden started...

Great idea, especially towards the Wilson street side of the park. Would be great if you could incorporate a path, paved or gravel to connect to the gate entrance to 'The Wing' building.

Great use of space

A community garden is a very positive idea. However, I strongly disagree with the proposed placement, namely that the current dog area be turned into a community garden. While I support the addition of a community garden to the Vic West Park, I strongly suggest that it would be much better placed at the south end of the field, north of the skate park. That area is very seldom used for any activities, so no one would be adversely affected if the garden was placed there.. The garden would merely need a fence and tool shed, and water. The water supply would be easily effected since the proposed new washrooms by the skate park would be having water access as well and it would be a small matter to extend the water to the community garden if it was set in the area I have suggested. As a plus, that part of the field is currently not shaded so the plants would have good sunlight.

Have seen deer many times in the park...not sure fencing will stop them.

Very supportive.

I had hoped for some plots to be private rentals (perhaps requiring a portion of harvest to be donated).

Should be located away from ball diamond due to errant hit (foul) balls...

Sounds good, but not a priority in my opinion.

Fencing also deters access by people who are not gardeners. Would like to see the community garden inviting to all people to wander through or to contribute, not just those who have the time to look after a plot themselves.

Can't wait to support this.

I like the idea, but please don't take away the dog area side to do it. Many dog owners would be angry

Do you have any comment about these additional park improvements that are also being proposed?

Response	Count
30 responses	
Love the picnic area	
This bulleted list is the first mention of lighting on the east-side pathway. Might want to address that in future communications. It's an important improvement.	
Pathway lighting would go a long way to make the park accessible at night (trips to the grocery, dog walks). Drinking fountains should be installed. I don't use parking, but I think bike racks are a good improvement.	
Additional bathrooms for skate park goers would be great.	
All seem great	
Picnic area would bring in more families to the playground. Parents are tired of sitting on the ground, especially off season	
all good ideas	
The drinking fountains and washroom improvements really interest me.	
These ideas, particularly the lighting of the park, are all quite fine.	
Love all of these proposed improvements. Would be great if the washrooms come equipped with change tables for little ones given the expanded playground (and child-sized toilets).	
I think all these improvements are a wonderful idea.	
The pathway through the park needs to be lit. I won't walk through there in the dark and have to go all the way around on the road.	
water bottle filling stations sounds good. Improvements to existing multi-use pathway on east side of park, including paving and lighting: hopefully any paving would not interfere with the root structure of the neighbouring trees, lighting should be motion sensed or push button activated at either end of the path to reduce energy consumption and light pollution but yes, lighting is required. Shaded Seating Areas should not be seen as areas conducive to sleeping. Washrooms at Wilson Street entrance need to be modernized - if the existing structure will be kept, its exterior should have fun art, not necessarily a mural but something that brings a smile to your face (see http://www.streetartutopia.com for artwork inspiration). Langley Loo at skate park makes sense. Concerned that the storage lockers at the skate park will be misused by transients. Both parking lots need to be redesigned to maximize car parking spaces in the available space without causing more fender benders or vehicle dinks and dents. Proper bike parking makes sense.	
Any paving should not be asphalt or concrete. Let's use water permeable pavers.	

retain bushes between skate board and lawn bowling green - for obvious reasons.

As stated earlier, I'd prefer the multi-use path to include a pedestrian only path way. It could be widened to include a paved bike lane, but please leave access for walkers.

Washoroom at skate park should be moved up the priority list

Shelter from sun and rain is a very good idea whether for parents and caregivers, nursing mothers, passers by stopping for a rest, etc...

Love the water stations, improved pathways and lighting as well as the bike parking.

The existing water fountain at the skatepark is in a good place but needs to have adequate pressure. If it will be moved it should not go as proposed but just north of the skatepark as previously mentioned

All additional improvements sound great, especially the drinking fountains, pathway improvements, seating areas around pathways and off-leash.

It is also proposed that trees be planted north of the skate park, which would eventually shade plants in the garden. They would also obscure the skate park from people such as myself who enjoy watching them from the field or the rocks on the west side of the park north of the skate park. I suggest that trees not be planted all across the field north of the skate park but, rather that the issues of excess shade for the garden and access to viewing skaters from within the park be taken into account by city planners. My suggestions are not made lightly and A new gravel pathway is proposed for the north end of the park. I strongly suggest that the gravel be overlaid with bark mulch as is done along the east side of Beacon Hill Park along Cook Street. The bark mulch is much easier on both joggers and walkers and will likely need less maintenance than a gravel pathway.

Very supportive. Recycling and garbage facilities near skatepark and picnic please.

The ball diamond outfield area should not be used as a shortcut, separate pathway recommended

Love the water stations, new washroom and especially the new pathway on the north side.

Hurray for bottle filling stations! Residents should have more access to public drinking water.

drinking fountains, better lighting and pathways, benches in off-leash areas

Bottle filling stations should be designed for dogs to access too.

Lighting! Lighting! The area has its fair share of vagrants

Drinking fountains with a dog bowl would be fantastic!

Do you have any additional comments about future improvements to Vic West Park?

23 of 29

Response	Count
25 responses	
Some public art or placemaking would be great	
I'm just thrilled to hear that there will be improvements made!	
Please remove the idea of the unfenced off-peak off-leash area for dogs. This is not necessary and defeats the purpose of the new fenced in area. The call for a fenced area comes from a desire to separate the off-leash dogs from the rest of the park users, so why spend the money on that fabulous improvement and then render it pointless?	
Very well thought out ideas...I truly hope this project is a go..	
I would love to see the park used for community events.	
Must address vagrant person issues in order to turn this park around.	
Off leash fenced off area is hands down one of the things that HAS to happen!	
Just please separate kids and dogs. I love dogs but not up in my child's face.	
I would visit it more often if the leash optional area was fenced	
This sounds like an excellent project, however there are often vagrants sleeping in tents in the park overnight and hanging around during the day and this will have to be taken care of if these improvements are to bring more children and families to the park.	
These improvements increase property values, hopefully redevelopment of faded living units etc.	
A picnic area is being removed as part of the first phase. Could the other picnic area being created be added to the first phase as well, so we don't lose all picnic areas?	
Would really like to see sandy/beach volleyball courts in our park as they are surprisingly missing from Victoria's park offerings, especially considering how popular recreational volleyball is amongst adults in Vancouver and other Canadian cities. West Coast Rec Sport and Social Club and Victoria Sport and Social Club would both be interested in using such volleyball courts for their rec leagues if they were available in the City of Victoria. Body weight exercise equipment such as chin up bars would be a great feature to add to the park - perhaps between the lawn bowling club and playground	
keep the trees, design for safety for children and younger and older ladies	
I'm very impressed with the plans. Well done!	
Please redo the Westside of the skatenark with a small transition concrete bowl. Please use a specialized	

Please redo the westside of the skatepark with a small transition concrete bowl. Please use a specialized contractor such as NewLine for this.

I would have to see what is done with the park after this survey. There is likely no place in the park for a building with a couple of rooms where, say, lessons could be given or guest speakers give talks or small groups could meet - but if there was...

All great!

Regarding the basketball courts: Please do not change the court's layout and orientation. The far east side of the current court is located very near the trees that line the gravel pathway. The trees cause a tremendous amount of debris to be spread onto the east side of the basketball courts (leaves, chestnuts, sticks, buds, dirt, etc.) This makes the eastern half of the courts dangerous to play on. I play a couple times a month and currently I have to be very careful to sweep the debris off the courts before I play. In the court's current layout, this is not a big deal. It takes a couple of minutes because only a small portion of the actual playing surface is covered. In the proposed layout, the basket is directly above the area of the court that is most affected by the debris. This means that for many people the court will become unusable because of the amount of effort required to remove the debris. Or, people will use the court without cleaning the area which could be quite dangerous.

Gratitude that updating is being consulted so well and will be done- thank you!

It would be fabulous to get a tennis court!

A waterfountain, or water sprinkler area for kids

Covered shelter area for emergency use or intermittent use by homeless especially in very bad weather.

I think some soccer facilities would be welcomed as it has a large user base in Victoria due to its year round play. Also, a small turf or pocket field for pick up games does not disrupt a large area of users. There is very little soccer infrastructure in VicWest

Leave the current dog area alone! If you want to improve the dog park, just fence the current area so that it's more safe. Do the community garden in the secondary ball diamond area.

How did you hear about the survey?

Response	Count	
City of Victoria website	6 6.6%	
Facebook	50 54.9%	
Twitter	2 2.2%	
Neighbourhood Association	6 6.6%	
Postcard	5 5.5%	
Signage at Victoria West Park	5 5.5%	
Word of mouth: friend, family member, neighbour etc	5 5.5%	
<u>Other, please specify...</u>	12 13.2%	
<i>Total: 91</i>		

Have Your Say website

email from Citizen Engagement

Email from the city mail list

Email about the engagement update (also saw the postcard)

Building notice

email

signage at the park and also posted in my condo elevator

Open House

poster in condo building

THSL

Several dog owners who were very irate about the suggestion that the dog area be moved and replaced by a garden. I tried to write on the signage on the fence, but the pen that is supplied doesn't work.

usergroup, Victoria Slopitch League

Do you want to be added to our email list to hear about upcoming news for Victoria West Park? (Your email will not be shared publicly and will only be used to contact you about updates to this park.)

Response

Count

[Yes, please contact me!](#)

31 36.5%



[Email address:](#)

No, thanks.

54 63.5%



Total: 85

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27 of 29

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28 of 29

Open House

The City hosted an open house on Tuesday, October 27. 40 residents shared their feedback about the proposed improvements to Vic West Park. The City provided hot chocolate and cookies. Information was available about all areas of the park and staff answered questions. Residents were invited to write down thoughts on each of the themed display boards.

General Comments

- More light along pathway between lawn bowling club and apartment buildings – west side of park (4)
- Retain the hedge between the skate park and the lawn bowling club or put up screening on current fence until the new hedge grows (2)
- Yes to lighting connecting Wilson Street to Esquimalt Road (2)
- Extend the hedge near the skate park along the lawn bowling club
- Make sure cedar fence along lawn bowling club is maintained
- Not in favour of off leash area- no way to enforce staying in that area and responsible owners
- Love the playbox idea – question the placement – put it closer to playground area, not a good fit with skatepark and it wouldn't be seen from the playground
- Quit asking get going. Thanks

Improved Off-Leash Area

- Great location (2)
- Add digesters that would recycle dog waste rather than bin which staff would have to empty and take to the landfill (2)
- Seating needed
- It's a shame the surface is gravel and not grass.
- Use a material that doesn't absorb dog urine and make it smell worse
- Make water fountain bowl large enough for dogs to play in
- Chain link fencing plus divider for small dog area and all dog area, good location
- One comment in support of non-peak hours shared off-leash area
- One comment against non-peak hours shared off-leash area

Community Garden

- Fabulous, the more the better in Victoria (2)
- Great social opportunities, reduces isolation, brings community together
- Opportunities to share food and learn new skills
- No community garden – it brings rodents, looks untidy, make more picnic area

Playground Improvements

- Would like a zipline
- Do something to eliminate needles and broken glass on the big rock and in the playground sand
- Not sure the water channel is necessary, water is always problematic – costly to build/maintain, conservation of water
- Outside exercise equipment would be great
- Electric BBQ in picnic area – check out Red Cliffe Lagoon QLD

Community Recreation

- Place used for new tree planting could be better utilized for recreation activities like soccer, ultimate, volleyball courts

Ideas Boards

- Over 60 thoughts were shared on the ideas boards which were posted in Vic West Park for two weeks.

Dogs

- No gravel in dog park, like grass, why gravel- 14
- Like the idea of a fenced dog off leash area- 8
- Keep current location of dog park- new location not big enough, need to run – 5
- Keep current location of dog park- new location not big enough, need to run – 5
- Water fountain near dog area -3
- New location is good – 2
- Also need a location for large dogs to run, add field too - 2
- Like idea of dog agility play area
- Enforce on-leash rules more strictly
- Keep dogs off fields

Playground

- Water park please, none in the area - 9
- New playground please -2

Lighting

- Lighting path between Esquimalt Road and Wilson, motion sensor lights on path – 5
- Lights at skatepark
- Lights

Basketball

- Leave basketball court as is – 3

Community Garden

- Love community garden
- Put garden by Da Vinci Centre
- Ditch community garden

Paths

- Need better path as this one gets drowned out in winter

Recreation

- Adult fitness equipment please
- Tennis courts please – not everyone is tall enough for basketball
- New tree planting area takes up valuable space – use for soccer, ultimate or volleyball
- Volleyball court

Correspondence

Two emails were received.

I understand that you are proposing to cut the basketball court in half and concrete one half. I'm not sure where this idea came from but it is something that should not be agreed to, for the following reasons.

1. The court is a court with the full standard length and is in place so why do what is proposed when the full court enables full court play.
2. There is little interest as there are no balls that can be used. Build a container for the balls.
3. For over two years I have suggested that the Court should be programmed for youth 9 to 16 years olds to teach them how to play basketball. It would then be used much more than present and help youth play the game. Isn't this something that can be advertised and help you become more fit and coordinated and so they can have fun and learn.
4. Advertise for a junior basketball players to set up the program and teach two different age groups (9 to 11) and (12 to 16) in the spring, summer and fall.
- 5 I would be pleased to help as an old senior player, many years ago.
6. This position would enable conditioning on the Court with the balls and full court play.
7. Put in place two sets of benches for teams and competition.
8. Such action is destructive and expensive. Place the money in some other area for some other improvement.

My question is if you don't use the full Court, why was it built? I know the answer to this question but do you?

Respectfully

Personal information

From: **Personal information**
Sent: Tuesday, Oct 27, 2015 2:01 PM
To: Parks (Public Inquiries)
Subject: Vic West Park Survey broken link?

Hi,

I just wanted to let you know that (as far as I could tell) your [survey link](#) on the [Vic West Park improvement page](#) apperas to be broken.

As far as my comments (which I would be happy to add into the survey if that is updated) the improvements look great, especially if (as part of the improvements to the pimary baseball field) the field in general were regraded (flattened?) perhaps with some better ariation and irrigation? I play in one of the leagues that rent the field and games can be a little dangerous with all of the mounds and divots in the field. Otherwise love the overall plan, looks like it's going to be a fantastic space for baseball, and all other activities.

Thanks.

-Scott



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