

Carrie Jane Gray Park Renewal

What We Heard Report Public Engagement 1

Table of Contents

Project Overview 3

Who We Engaged 4

How We Engaged 5

What We Asked 6-7

What We Heard 8

Comments from Public Open House Discussion

What We Heard 8-15

Survey Responses Summary

Concept Recommendations 16

Next Steps 17

Appendix A: Verbatim Comments

Appendix B: Raw Survey Data

Appendix C: Disc Golf Group Feedback

Project Overview

Introduction

On behalf of the City of Prince George, R.F.Binnie is leading the concept development of a Park Master Plan guiding the renewal and future development of Carrie Jane Gray Park.

Background

As the largest city in northern British Columbia (BC), the City of Prince George (the City) is a key sporting destination for both local, regional, provincial, and national athletes, games and championships, as well as a range of events that serve the local sporting community.

The 40 ha Carrie Jane Gray Park forms a destination component of the area's core sports and recreation network. As outlined in the 2018 Ball Diamond and Sport Field Strategy, Carrie Jane Gray Park is home to six diamond fields:

- City Field – P.G. Youth Baseball & Senior Men's
- Spruce City Stadium – S.C. Men's Fastball
- Ron Wiley Field – S.C. Minor Boys Fastball
- Carrie Jane Gray Home Park – P.G. Youth Baseball
- Boys Fastball Home Field – S.C. Minor Boys Fastball
- Rotary Field – P.G. Youth Baseball
- Volleyball courts, and a BMX track.

With its aging infrastructure and the community's increased needs, the Carrie Jane Gray Park Upgrade project is a key multi-year project supporting the development of Carrie Jane Gray Park into a premier sports facility suitable for regional, provincial, and national event hosting.

Previous Engagement

One in-person **stakeholder engagement session** was held on May 14, 2024, hosted at the Prince George Family YMCA. The format of the engagement session included a presentation by The City and R.F Binnie, followed by a round-table discussion. The presentation consisted of **8 boards** containing information on:

- Existing park context
- Site analysis
- Latest aerial image of the site
- Existing site photographs
- Precedents board

Feedback was collected from 18 participants, including internal and external stakeholders, which informed the development of three concepts presented in the first public engagement session. The WWHR from this internal stakeholder session can be found here: <https://getinvolved.princegeorge.ca/carrie-jane-gray-park-upgrade> .



Who We Engaged

The City of Prince George is committed to involving the people impacted by the decisions made throughout the Carrie Jane Park Renewal project, seeking diverse opinions, experiences and information to ensure a wide spectrum of perspectives are captured and represented.

The public was notified of the engagement process through radio and newspaper advertisements, signs, sounding boards, posters, on the PG website through notices and project website, social media posts, and media mentions.

How we reached community members:



Radio + Newspapers



Signs & Sounding Boards



Posters



Project Website

(PG Website: <https://getinvolved.princegeorge.ca/carrie-jane-gray-park-upgrade>)



Social Media Posts

(facebook, instagram)



Media Mentions

(PG Website: <https://www.princegeorge.ca/city-hall/news-notice/open-house-carrie-jane-gray-park-refurbishment-plans>)

How We Engaged

One in-person public engagement session was held on **June 26, 2024**, hosted from 4pm-10pm at the Prince George Family YMCA multipurpose room. Approximately **50 people** were in attendance. Additionally, an online survey was available for public participation between **June 26 to July 12, 2024**. The format of the in-person engagement session included a presentation (by City and R.F Binnie), followed by discussion. The presentation consisted of **7 boards**:

- Project Information
- 2 Site Analysis boards; Existing Conditions and Opportunity/ Constraints
- Visioning Board
- 3 Concepts

Below is a summary of key strategies for each concept. The boards can also be found online, on the project webpage : <https://getinvolved.princegeorge.ca/carrie-jane-gray-park-upgrade> .



Concept 1

- Spruce City, City Field, Minor Boys Field, Ron Wiley Field, & volleyball courts to remain in existing location.
- Rotary Field relocated (centre of site) & updated.
- BMX track relocated to SW corner of site & partially covered
- Passive park area & New U13 Field to replace existing Minor Girls Field
- Playground south of Fire Hall, centrally located, near proposed Lacrosse/ Hockey Box, Amenity building, and batting cages.



Concept 2

- Spruce City, Rotary Field, City Field, Minor Boys Field, Ron Wiley Field to remain in existing location.
- BMX track relocated to south SW corner of site & partially covered
- Passive park area & New U13 Field to replace existing Minor Girls Field
- Two proposed playgrounds- one south of the Fire Hall, & one SE near the Minor Boys Field.
- Proposed lacrosse/ hockey box, amenity building, & batting cages centrally located near Rotary Field



Concept 3

- Spruce City, City Field, Minor Boys Field, Ron Wiley Field in existing location, to remain
- Rotary Field relocated (centre of site) & updated.
- BMX track relocated to south of Fire Hall (centrally located)
- Passive park area & New U13 Field to replace existing Minor Girls Field
- Proposed passive lawn/ park & playground areas in SW corner of site

Common in all 3 concepts:

- Future baseball diamond at Strathcona Park, and Masich Place.
- Strathcona existing diamond to remain & surface improved.
- New marked ATF Multi-sport field (Football, Soccer, and Baseball) located south of volleyball courts (West).
- Informal disc golf areas south and centrally located, within open lawn
- New and modified parking spaces throughout the site to meet new demand

The survey was the primary tool used to collect feedback from the public with **179 total participants**, including 154 responses from the online survey and 25 from paper surveys. Below is an overview of the survey questions.

WHAT WE ASKED

Q1. Do you or members of your household go to Carrie Jane Gray Park? *If yes – what facility do you use?*

Q2. Which Master Plan Concept option is your preferred option?

Q3. What items from Concept 1 are you in support of from the specific programs / fields / and amenities presented? Consider the item listed and its proposed location. **Selections: Yes (supportive), No (not supportive), N/A. Please use the space provided to expand on your response if needed.**

- Parking areas
- New Ball Diamonds
- New Future Diamonds
- New Multi Sport Field
- New BMX location
- Retaining Existing Ball Field

Q4. What items from Concept 2 are you in support of from the specific programs / fields / and amenities presented? Consider the item listed and its proposed location. **Selections: Yes (supportive), No (not supportive), N/A. Please use the space provided to expand on your response if needed.**

- Parking areas
- New Ball Diamonds
- New Future Diamonds
- New Multi Sport Field
- New BMX location
- Retaining Existing Ball Field

Q5. What items from Concept 3 are you in support of from the specific programs / fields / and amenities presented? Consider the item listed and its proposed location. **Selections: Yes (supportive), No (not supportive), N/A. Please use the space provided to expand on your response if needed.**

- Parking areas
- New Ball Diamonds
- New Future Diamonds
- New Multi Sport Field
- New BMX location
- Retaining Existing Ball Field

WHAT WE ASKED (cont'd)

Q6. What types of amenities do you think should be enhanced or provided in greater supply at Carrie Jane Gray Sports Complex? Please select up to three (3) options that you think should be the highest priority for investment (Budget dependant). ***Selections: Enhanced, Provided in greater supply, N/A. Please use the space provided to expand on your response if needed.***

Concession / Space for concession outside

Change rooms

Washrooms

Equipment storage

Artificial Turf

Sports Box (Lacrosse, hockey)

Batting Cage

Lighting for Fields/ pathways/ access roads

Vehicle access and circulation

Paved parking lot

Pedestrian Trails

Green spaces / natural turf areas

Playground / Park space

Shade areas

Spectator seating

Warm-up areas

Cross Country Skiing

Winter-use Firepits

Other (please specify):

Q7. At what frequency do you or members of your household anticipate using the new sports fields at Carrie Jane Gray Sports Complex, as designed in any of the 3 concepts presented, in the next 1-3 years?

1. We don't anticipate using the sports fields
2. once (1) per month
3. twice (2) per month
4. 3 to 4 times per month
5. 5 times or more per month

Q8. General comments: Please use the space below to provide any additional comments on your current or future needs for Carrie Jane Gray Sports Complex?

What We Heard

Comments from Public Open House Discussion

- Roller Derby group in attendance, commented that a cover lacrosse box would also benefit group as an outdoor practice area.
- The future development of Strathcona field was appreciated by existing user groups, commented that the addition of a washroom facility would be needed as the closest current washroom is the nearby liquor store. Youth baseball was offered the use of the existing Strathcona field within the last five years but did not accept due to the washroom problem.
- Youth Rugby team in attendance and looking for additional practice space as currently using school district facilities. Have not been able to use soccer pitches in the past due to more maintenance. Rugby currently has no club house or home field.
- General comments on all three options include the proposed parking areas are too large for the space and less parking overall is required.
- Option 2 seemed to be favoured by existing user groups in attendance.
- Youth baseball, and slow pitch both agreed moving the BMX group towards the back of the park would make the sight-lines and attractiveness of the park increase.

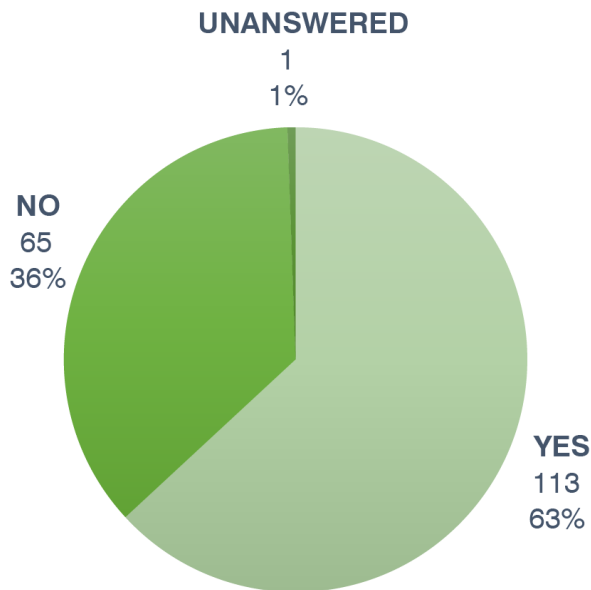
What We Heard

Survey Response Summary

The following pages provide a summary of responses collected from the survey questions, including selections and comments from respondents.

Question 1

Do you or members of your household go to Carrie Jane Gray Park?



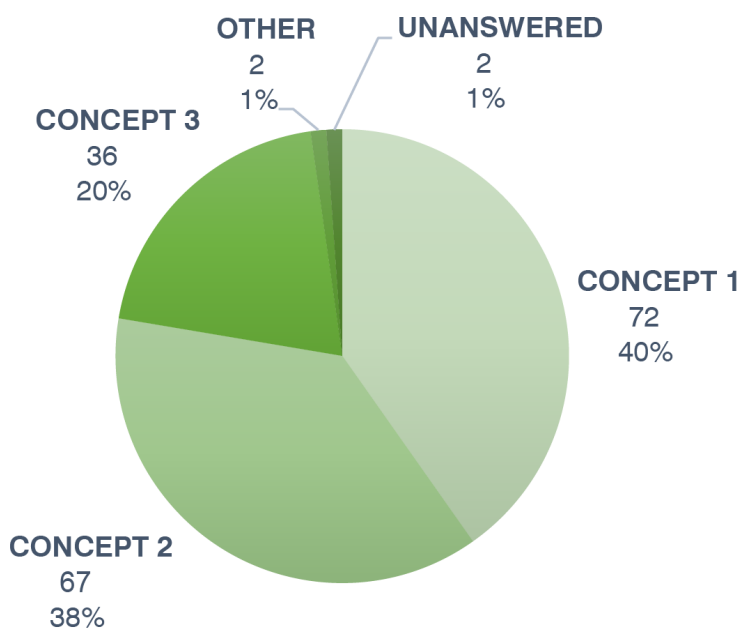
About two-thirds of respondents and/ or their household members use Carrie Jane Gray Park, while about one-third do not.

If yes – what facility do you use?

The majority of comments, explaining which facilities are used, related to ball diamonds (baseball, fastball/fast pitch and softball), the BMX track, or neighbouring facilities at Masich Place, YMCA or the Prince George Multi Sport Court and Rotary Skatepark (outside of site, north of Massey Dr.).

Question 2

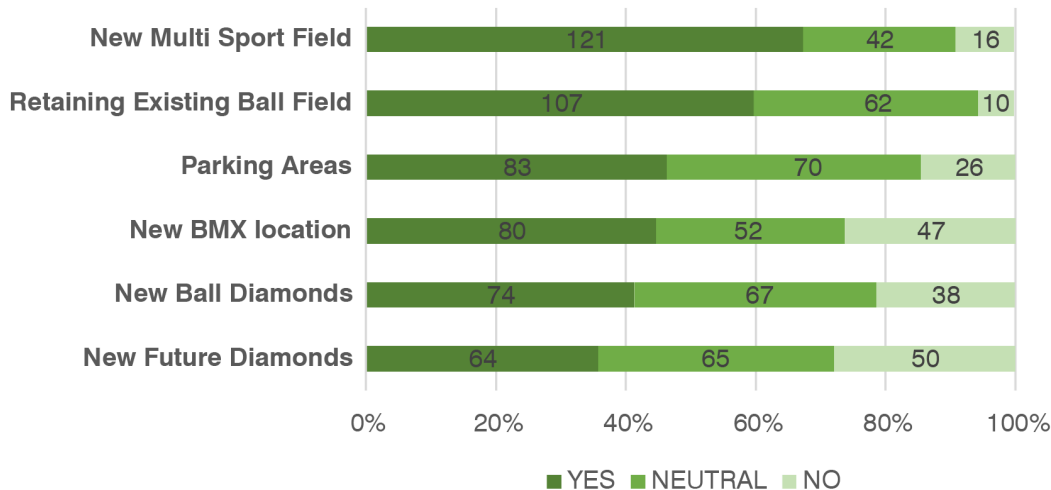
Which Master Plan Concept option is your preferred option?



The majority of respondents preferred Concept 1. However, Concepts 1 and 2 comprised over 3/4 of total responses, and were highly preferred over concept 3 and other options. Only two percent of responses were either unanswered or preferred a different option.

Question 3

What items from Concept 1 are you in support of from the specific programs / fields / and amenities presented? Consider the item listed and its proposed location.



For Concept 1, the majority of respondents support the addition of new programming, with highest support of a new multisport field. While majority of respondents are neutral to the addition of future diamonds, it is a contentious item, along with relocating the BMX track.

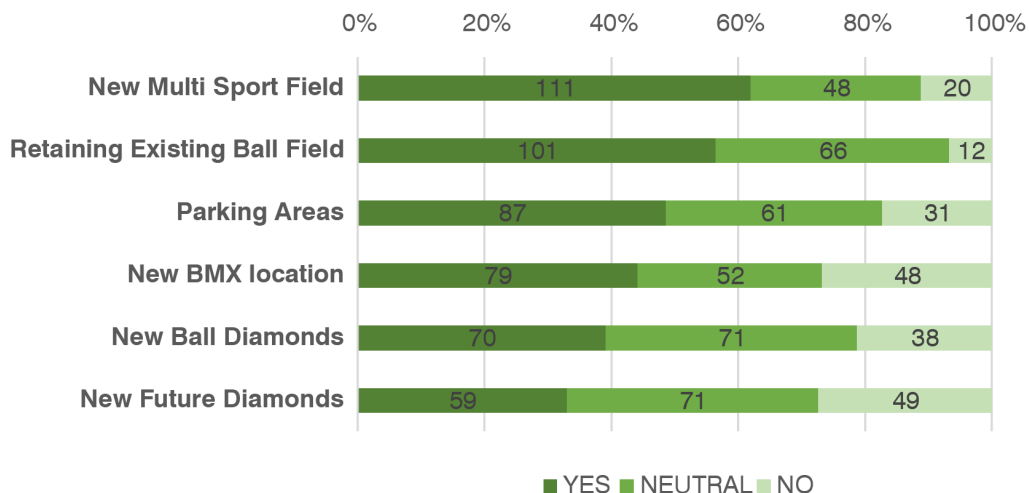
Please use the space provided to expand on your response if needed.

Below are some key design considerations noted from the comments.

- **Multisport field** shape is not optimal for spectator viewing.
- **BMX** location may be shaded and not create an optimal experience for spectators and athletes. It may also be noisy and could benefit from being further separated from fields.
- **Passive greenspace** relocated closer to the southwest treed areas.
- **Parking** could be reconsidered at Masich Place side, and consolidated to create better use of space for trails/ pathways and greenspace. Parking around minor boys field. Increased parking around City Field, but perhaps RV Parking should not be in this location.
- **Playground** kept in a central location, but proximity to lacrosse box is a concern. It could also be located closer to the U9 fields.
- **Additional needed facilities required** are warm-up spaces for each diamond, washrooms.
- **Disc Golf** located at the perimeter of the park.
- **New Future Diamonds** may not be highly utilized, and should not be located at Masich Place compromising the existing football field.
- **The new U13 ball diamond** would benefit from being a fastball field (relocating Ron Wiley) to help with large fastball tournaments, keeping the fields closer together.
- **Batting cages** could be better located.
- **An emphasis on other sports**, including: rugby, track & field, roller derby.
- **Consider covered/ indoor facilities** (covered BMX track/seating, other possible indoor facilities for tournaments, etc.)

Question 4

What items from Concept 2 are you in support of from the specific programs / fields / and amenities presented? Consider the item listed and its proposed location.



For Concept 2, the majority of respondents support the addition of new programming, and especially supportive of a new multisport field. More respondents are neutral to the addition of future diamonds, and new ball diamonds. The location of the new BMX track, and addition of ball diamonds and future diamonds are contentious items.

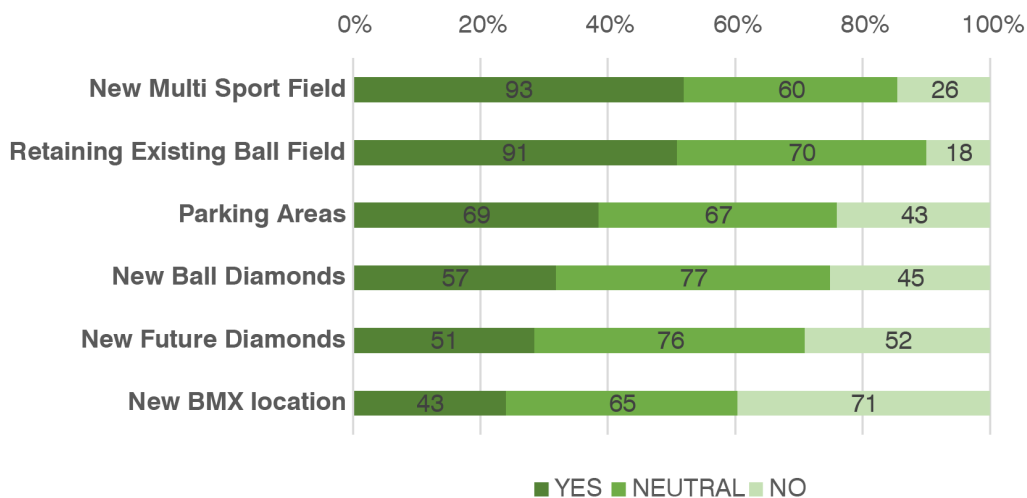
Please use the space provided to expand on your response if needed.

Below are some key design considerations noted from the comments.

- **Multisport field** shape is optimal for spectator viewing.
- **BMX** location may not be optimal location for safety and visibility.
- **Passive greenspace** relocated closer to the southwest treed areas, with addition of flexible grass areas.
- **Parking** could be reconsidered at Masich Place side, and consolidated to create better use of space for trails/ pathways and greenspace. RV Parking location is generally supported.
- **Playground** kept in a central location, but perhaps increased in size.
- **Facilities and amenities required** include warm-up spaces for each diamond, and more washrooms (located closer to the playground).
- **Disc Golf** located at the perimeter of the park, near wooded areas.
- **New Future Diamonds** should not compromise existing sports fields.
- **Keep fields together.** Suggestions on field configuration to benefit tournaments.
- **An emphasis on other sports**, including rugby, track & field, roller derby.
- **Consider covered/ indoor facilities** (covered BMX track/seating, other possible indoor facilities for tournaments, etc.)
- **Batting Cage and Hockey Box** location is generally supported.

Question 5

What items from Concept 3 are you in support of from the specific programs / fields / and amenities presented? Consider the item listed and its proposed location.



For Concept 3, the majority of respondents support the addition of new programming, and especially supportive of a new multisport field. More respondents are neutral to the addition of future diamonds, and new ball diamonds. The new BMX location has the highest opposition.

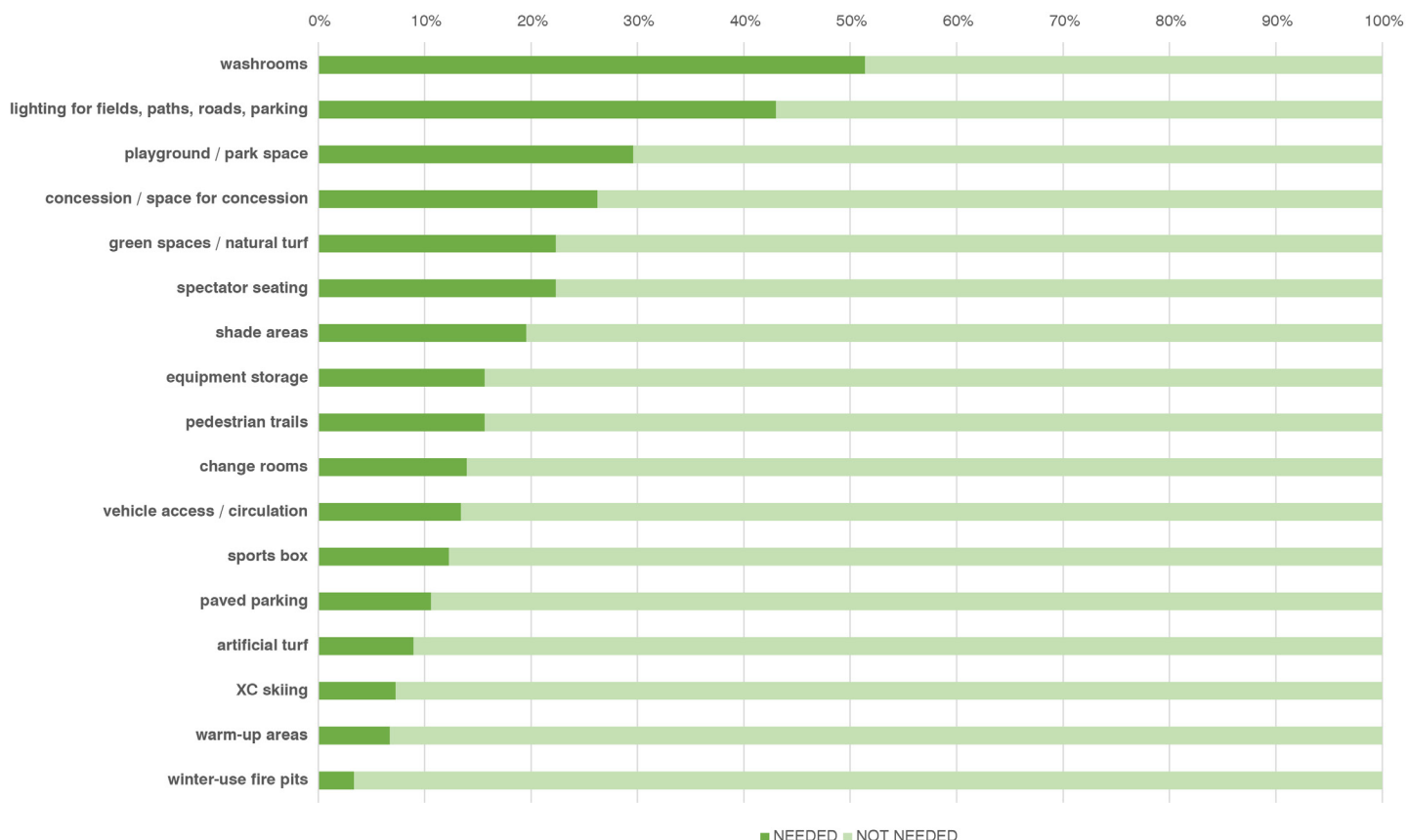
Please use the space provided to expand on your response if needed.

Below are some key design considerations noted from the comments.

- **Multisport field** shape is not optimal for spectator viewing.
- **BMX** location and shape is not optimal for experience and there is a concern for safety around the fire hall. It may also be noisy and could benefit from being further separated from fields.
- **Passive recreation and access to trails.**
- **Parking** could be consolidated to create better use of space for trails/ pathways and greenspace. RV Parking location is generally supported.
- **Playground location** is generally not supported near the slough, for concern of water, wildlife, safety/visibility, and would be best located centrally. Size of playground could be increased to support multiple age groups.
- **Facilities and amenities required** include warm-up spaces for each diamond, more washrooms (located closer to the playground), as well as locker rooms/ change rooms.
- **Disc Golf** located at the perimeter of the park, near wooded areas.
- **New Future Diamonds** should not compromise existing sports fields.
- **The new U13 ball diamond** would benefit from being a fastball field (relocating Ron Wiley) to help with large fastball tournaments, keeping the fields closer together.
- **Batting Cage and Hockey Box** location is generally supported.
- **An emphasis on other sports**, including: rugby, track & field, roller derby.
- **Consider covered/ indoor facilities** (covered BMX seating, other possible indoor facilities for tournaments, etc.)

Question 6

What types of amenities do you think should be enhanced or provided in greater supply at Carrie Jane Gray Sports Complex? Please select up to three options that you think should be the highest priority for investment (budget dependant).



The top three options selected as highest priority for investment were washrooms, lighting (for fields, paths, roads and parking), and playground / park space. The least selected item of priority was winter-use fire pits.

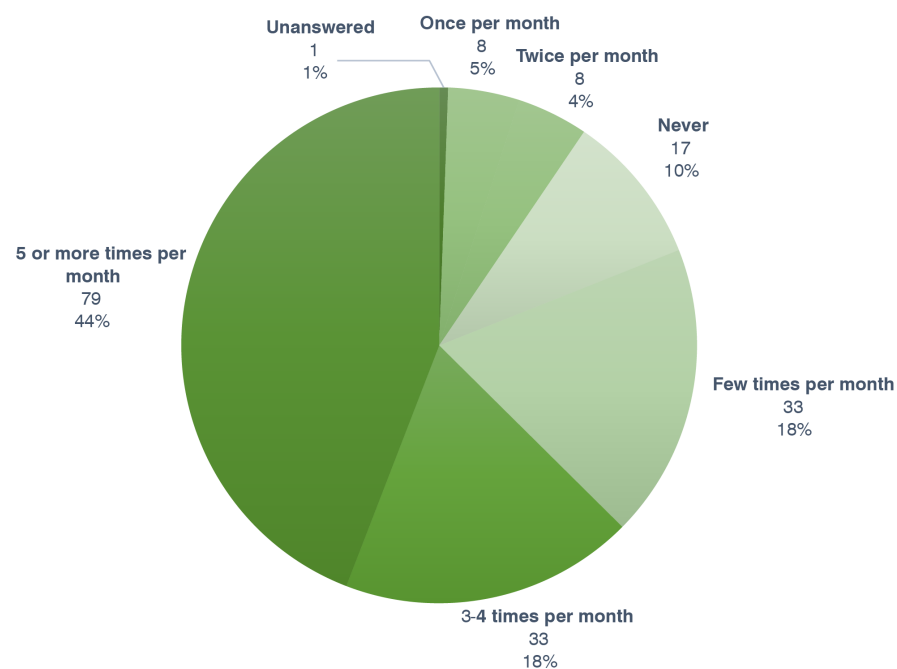
Please use the space provided to expand on your response if needed.

Below are some key amenity considerations noted from the comments.

- **Playground serving all age groups.**
- **Enhancing pedestrian connections, particularly to Heritage Trail.**
- **Treed** areas for shade.
- **Storage** for sports gear.

Question 7

At what frequency do you or members of your household anticipate using the new sports fields at Carrie Jane Gray Sports Complex, as designed in any of the 3 concepts presented, in the next 1-3 years?



Just under half of respondents and their household members anticipate using the new sports fields at least 5 times a month in the next 1-3 years. 1/3rd of respondents equally anticipate using the new sports facilities 3-4 times per month or a few times per month. About 1/6th of respondents anticipate using the sports facilities less than twice per month, and about 1/10th would never use the new sports fields.

Question 8

General comments: Please use the space below to provide any additional comments on your current or future needs for Carrie Jane Gray Sports Complex?

Below are some key themes noted from the comments.

- **Provide diverse play opportunities**, outside of baseball/fastball/softball. Most notably, rugby, disc golf, track and field, and pump track. Other sports mentioned were field lacrosse, roller derby, cricket, tennis, squash, lawn bowling, and bandminton. **The playground and multisports field were generally highly favoured in the comments.** Dedicated fields are desired for rugby,
- Providing appropriate supporting facilities for a **sports hub and tournament destination** in Prince George. Opportunities to host tournaments for a variety of sports, including discgolf, was favoured.
- **Provide four-season play for year-round use.** Both indoor and covered facilities were mentioned, most notably, covered BMX track, indoor multi-sport field and covered parking areas.
- There is an overall **concern for safety in the park**, which includes:
 - Safety of pedestrians from vehicles (e.g. cross-walks) and separating play from parking.
 - Increased or improved lighting along pedestrian and service areas after dark.
 - Emergency exits for more dangerous sports, like the BMX track, were also noted.
 - Safety/ CPTED considerations for secluded and low-visibility areas (e.g. southern treed areas), and pathways to and around Strathcona Park.
 - Addressing traffic volume and vehicular access/ egress, specifically left turns in/ and out of the park, with signalized turns.
- **Special consideration to accessibility** was a key theme, which included comments on :
 - Easy access to areas for younger children (playground and fields).
 - Consideration to multiple modes of transport (cycling, and walking paths), with an emphasis on connections to the Heritage Trail system.
 - Public access of sports facilities, providing flexible or casual usage (e.g. drop-in or outside of clubhouse hours).
 - Concern on losing access to BMX and other sports during construction/ relocating.
- There is a **concern for the cost of big design moves**, particularly in proposing moving and replacing fields, and relocating and covering the BMX track. A high-level cost breakdown for each concept could provide a general comparison of the financial impact of each design. **Improvements to existing fields could also help alleviate costs.**
- **Avoid building future diamonds on existing fields**, notably at Masich Place fields.
- **Maximizing usability of space** by consolidating different uses, most notably, parking and fields.

Concept Recommendations

Informed by overall feedback from respondents, below are some key design recommendations which will be used to develop the preferred concept plan.

- **Multisport field + spectator seating** from concept 1 recieved positive feedback.
- **BMX** Track could benefit from further seperating from fields and addressing noise.
- **Passive greenspace** location considered in treed areas, perhaps in unused space.
- **Parking** could be better consolidated to optimize use of space and improve safety.
- **Playground** location kept central, similar to concept 1.
- **Additional needed amenities/ facilities** are washrooms, lighting and playground (all ages).
- **Disc Golf** located at the perimeter of the park, in unused and suitable green areas of the Park.
- **New Future Diamonds** will be removed from Masich Place and reconsidered at Strathcona Park.
- **Batting cages and lacrosse box** locations in concept 2 (seperated from the playground) was preferred over concept 1.
- **Exploring the addition of sports** at CJGP, particularly rugby, track & field, and roller derby.
- **Considering covered/ indoor facilities** such as covered BMX track/seating, and covered lacrosse/ hockey/ roller derby box (allocating and refurbishing lacrosse box outside of CJGP to a covered Lacrosse/ Hockey/ Roller Derby box)
- **Address concerns on safety**, including but not limited to:
 - Emergency exit for BMX track
 - Further seperating pedestrians from vehicles, and play from parking.
 - Safety/ CPTED considerations for secluded and low-visibility areas.
 - Addressing vehicular access/ egress, specifically left turns in/ and out of the park, with signalized turns.

Next Steps

Overall, participants indicated a high level of enthusiasm and opinion on the concept options for Carrie Jane Gray Park.

Feedback and information from this engagement will be used to inform development of a preferred concept for the Park Master Plan. Another round of public engagement will be held in 2024 to present the preferred concept design, and be used to further inform revisions to the design concept.

Updates will be provided on <https://getinvolved.princegeorge.ca/carrie-jane-gray-park-upgrade>.
Contact us at parksandrec@princegeorge.ca.

