

Tallgrass Park construction

Public engagement report

October 2021

Project Overview

The City is creating the first neighbourhood park for the Tower Ranch development called Tallgrass Park. Before the design is finalized, we wanted to hear what the public thought of the proposed design.

The park construction is scheduled to begin Spring 2022 and development plans include a playground, small entry plaza, pathways, park furnishings, terracing, signage, landscaping and irrigation.



Engagement Overview

Residents of the Tower Ranch neighbourhood and surrounding areas were asked what they thought of the proposed design of this brand-new park, and how they anticipate they will utilize Tallgrass in the future. Feedback was collected through the *Getinvolved* engagement portal that outlined the design and followed up with a survey. This survey included 12 multiple-choice and open-ended questions and originally ran from Sept. 7 until Sept. 19. Promotion included geo-targeted facebook ads, social media postson instagram and twitter, a media release, ebulletin sent to more than 4,000 subscribers, as well as posted on kelowna.ca. Letters were mailed to residents and signage was placed around the area of the new park encouraging passers-by to complete the survey.

The Tower Ranch area is getting its first neighbourhood park! Before construction of the new Tallgrass Park begins in Spring of 2022, we want to hear from you. Visit <https://getinvolved.kelowna.ca/> to share your thoughts on the proposed design and help shape this future park.



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The Tallgrass Park survey has been extended! You now have until September 26th to leave your mark on the new park. Visit getinvolved.kelowna.ca/ to learn about the proposed design, complete our survey and leave a question for the designers.

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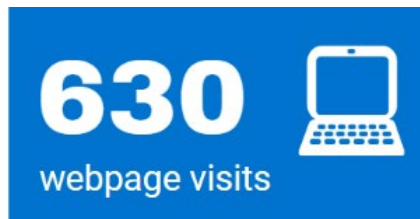
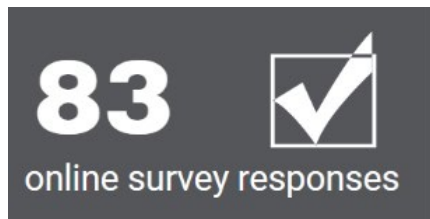
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Given the location is currently undeveloped and in a new neighbourhood, there is limited current use and residency in the surrounding area. The survey did not receive many responses during the first half of this timeline. As a result, the survey was extended until Sept. 26, with corresponding promotional support. An additional ebulletin was sent to more than X subscribers. Stakeholders in the area were also emailed encouraging them to share the survey with their audiences. These efforts helped grow the number of webpage visits, and survey responses.

Results from surveys such as this are a collection of opinions and perceptions from interested or potentially affected residents and are not a statistically significant random sample of all Kelowna residents. Due to its opt-in and open methods, results are qualitative in nature



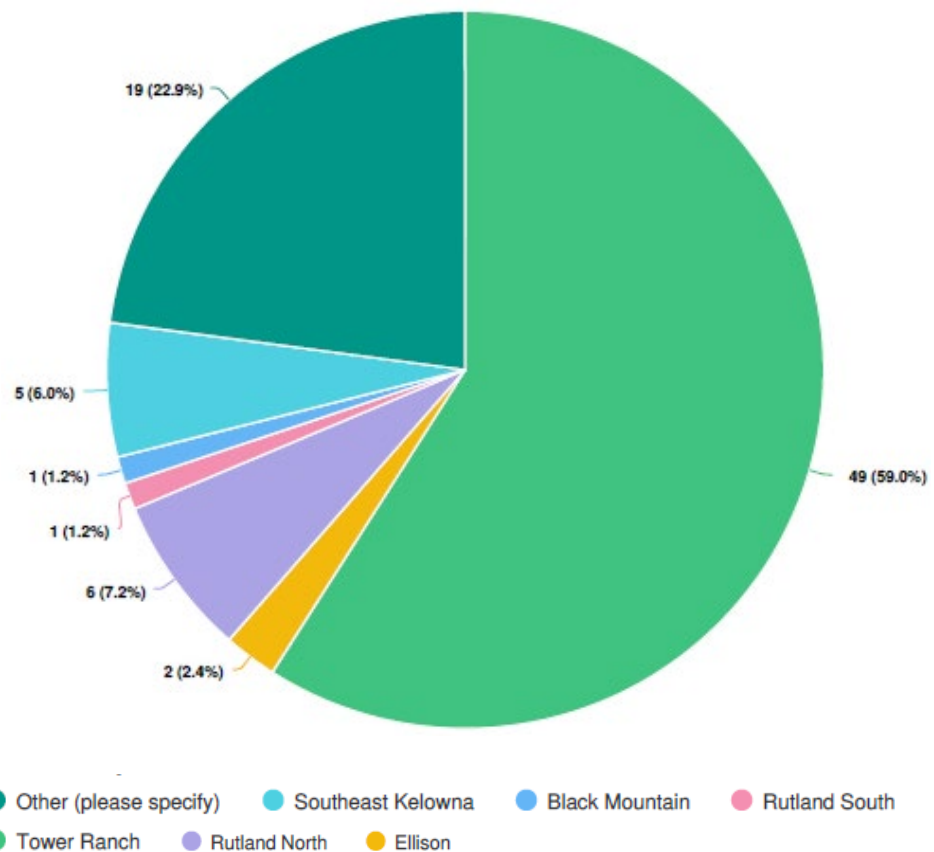
During the engagement period there was a total of 630 webpage visits to the Get Involved page, with 83 of those visitors participating by completing the online survey.

Respondent demographics

Over half of the respondents reside in Tower Ranch with 46 per cent between the ages of 45-64, and 41 per cent aged 25-44. Those who responded "other" to where they reside specified they lived in in Glenmore, Lower Mission, and Downtown Kelowna.

Of respondents who indicated they would bring children to the park, most said the children would be toddlers ages 1-3.

In which neighbourhood do you reside?

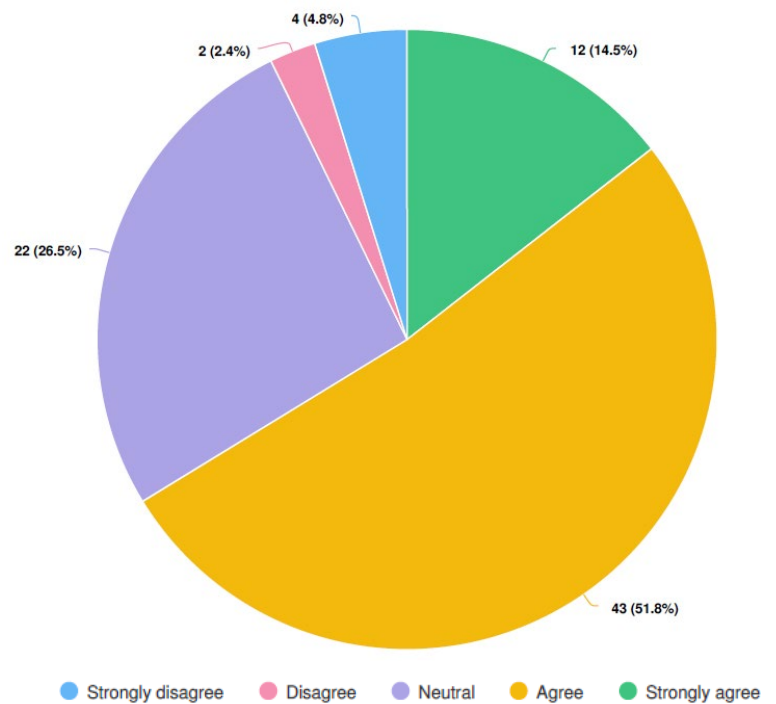


Favourability with proposed design

More than 60 per cent of respondents indicated they “agree” or “strongly agree” with the concept design proposed by the City. Comments included:

- *“I am glad that even in a small neighbourhood park, room has been found for native plantings. The balance of natural space and play space seems good.”*
- *“I like the play area and the sitting areas”*
- *“I like the planting areas”*

Agreement with proposed design

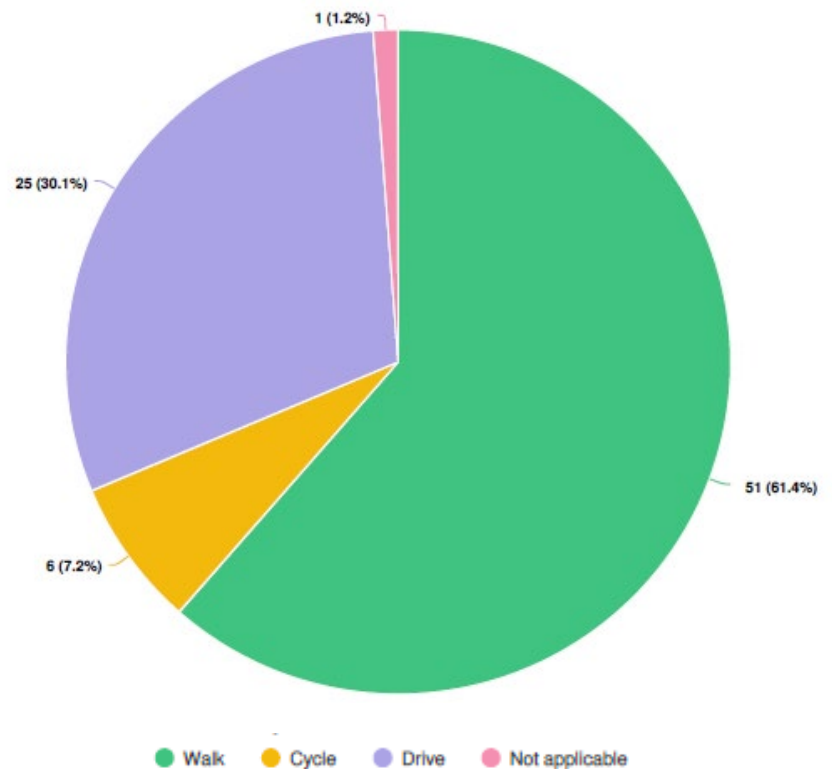


Travel to and from park

The most common method of travelling to the park was walking at more than 60 per cent. Driving was the second most popular response at 30 per cent.

- *“There is no room for parking therefore no parking sights may be required.”*
- *“Is there parking? I live somewhat nearby but would either bike or drive.”*

How would you travel to the park?



Importance of park design

Respondents were asked to rank the importance of the design aspects of Tallgrass to ensure the final rendering captures what the neighbourhood wants.

Respondents indicated the top 3 features include:

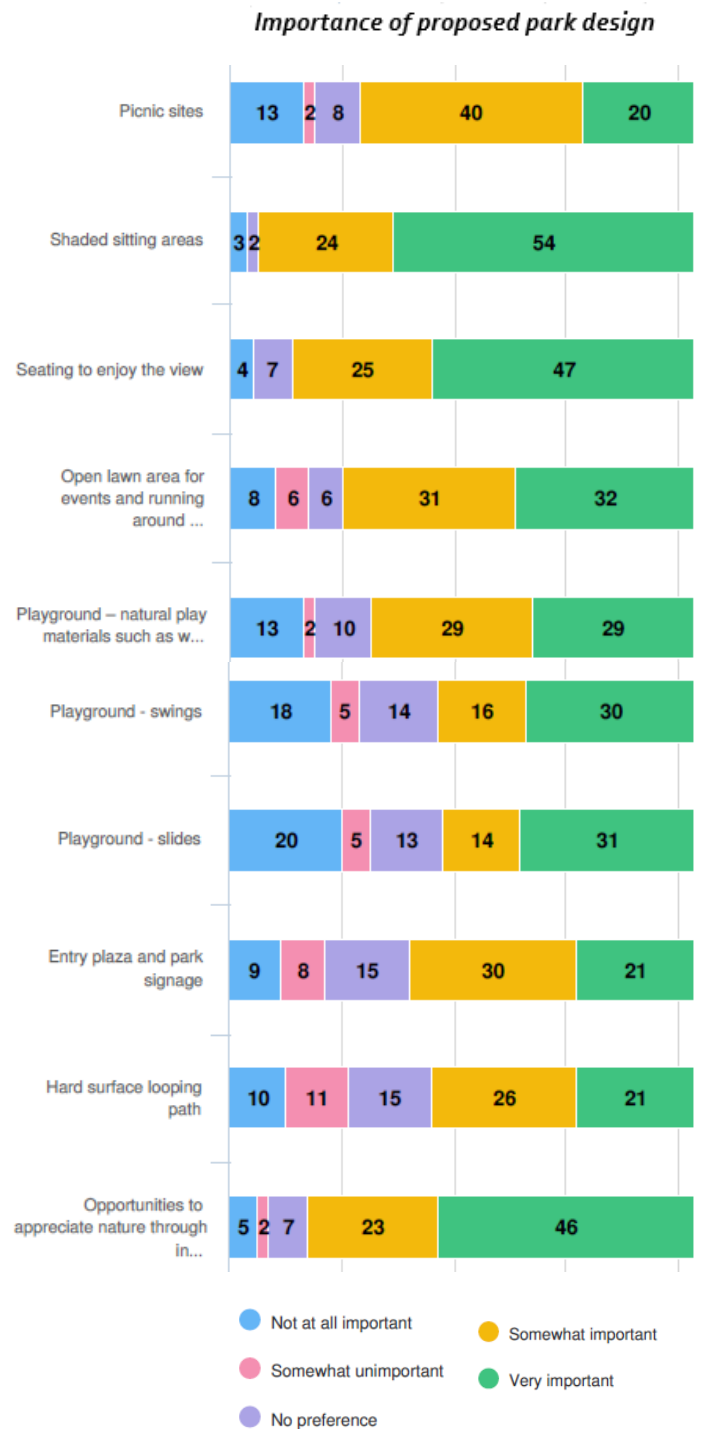
- shaded sitting areas
- seating to enjoy the view
- Opportunities to appreciate nature through increased native tree and shrub plantings

Playground climbing structures also rated highly. The top three selections show respondents see this park as less of a play place, and more of an area to relax. Comments include:

- *"Looking forward to having a beautiful green park with many trees. As this is a quiet neighborhood, I would hope the emphasis is on beauty and enjoying nature and not just a playground."*
- *"need more area for park like sitting for adults."*
- *"I like the plantings, trees and seating area. That is what is important to me."*

Even though respondents showed a lot of interest in Tallgrass being heavily focused on seating and relaxing, there were still comments supporting a playground.

- *"Playground playground playground. Please."*
- *"I live right across from park with kids, we'd love kids playground and a basketball half court similar to Mugford Park."*
- *"Love that it has a playground. There are younger families moving in so it's important, plus having some green space."*



Importance of park priorities

The overall park priorities are similar to the results above, with shade and aesthetics being a priority over park features.

Top three most important priorities according to respondents:

- shaded areas
- "aesthetics"
- "accessibility"

Comments like the below focus on accessibility and the overall look and feel, and may correspond to the age range of the majority of respondents.

- *"Make sure parking allows for wheelchair access/ramping to sidewalk"*
- *"It would be nice if the park could be accessibility friendly for children with mobility issues/concerns and/or their caregivers"*
- *"We need tree shaded areas, not concrete"*
- *"I think it looks great and look forward to trying it out with the family. I hope there is lots of shaded areas to sit near the playground."*
- *"The design variety. That it is not just for kids. There are more "senior" walkers in this whole neighborhood than children so a balance is needed."*

There were also a few comments pertaining to dogs and the new park.

- *"No dogs allowed, the community has a hard time picking up after their dogs"*
- *"I have no concerns with the proposed design. I am only concerned that neighbours with dogs use this area as an off leash dog park."*
- *"please do NOT allow dogs off leash. Children need a safe place to play. lots of dog walking trails available up here."*

Importance of priorities in proposed park design



Next Steps

City staff and the design consultant are reviewing survey responses and synthesizing the data into themes from most commented on to least.

Acknowledging the feedback and the comments regarding the need for parking at Tallgrass, neighbourhood level parks do not qualify for additional parking. Views to the north and the west play a big role in the design of this park. Terraced seating on the eastern hillside is being explored as well as overlook benches near Foxtail Terrace.

The park construction is scheduled to begin Spring 2022.

