



Pump Track Project

What We Heard Report

Concept Phase (Fall 2023)

This What We Heard Report is the engagement summary of the feedback collected on the Concept Drawings for the Highlands Pump Track Project. This report lists the engagement activities carried out during the Concept Phase, which occurred in Fall (September-October) of 2023. During this phase, the concept drawings were shared with the community by the Highlands Pump Track Sub-Committee and the Highlands Community League Board. Highlands residents and stakeholders were invited to provide feedback to refine this concept and vision. This report summarizes the feedback received on the project concept, collected through in-person and online engagement.

Engagement Overview

Feedback was collected through:

- Online concept survey (open from September 14 through October 9, 2023):
 - Flyers distributed via mail-drop;
 - Link in the Highlands Community Newsletter and on Community League Social Media platforms;
 - On Community League Changeable copy sign
 - Link on the Highlands Community League website;
 - Posters in local businesses and Highlands EPL location
- In-person at the Highlands Community League Pancake Breakfast (September 23, 2023)
 - Stakeholders were invited to view the Concept drawings and information was provided.
- In-person at the Highlands Community League Board Meeting (October 10, 2023)
- Comments on social media.
- Emails to the Community League and in-person conversations with residents.

The following is a summary report of the results of the engagement completed in Fall 2023.

Sub-Committee Project Team

Sub-Committee Members:

- Andrew Clark (HCL Board Representative)

- Shaun Adamson
- Josh McHan
- Brennan Black

In addition, Staff from the City of Edmonton are supporting the sub-committee through the NPDP project.

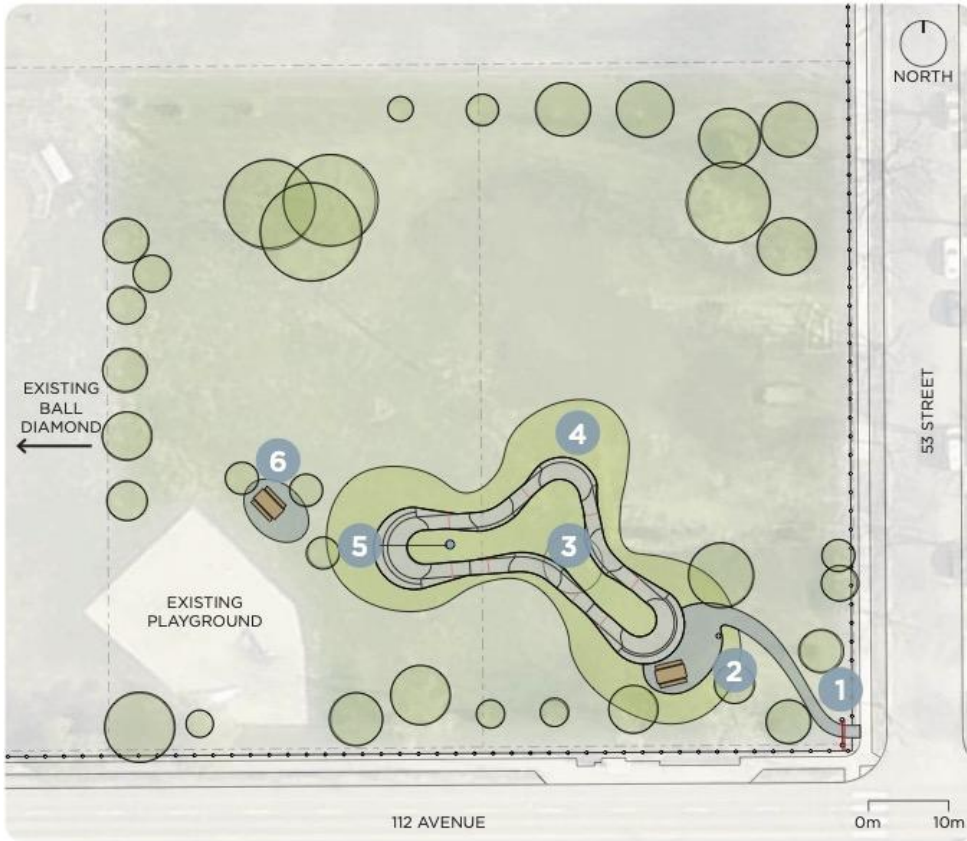
Overall Results

The project team received constructive feedback and suggestions from residents through the forms of engagement listed above. Generally, people expressed positivity and excitement about the project concept. Many people are excited about the possibility of the new neighbourhood amenity. Some residents expressed concern about not being engaged on the project before the concept phase engagement. People not in favour of the pump track were generally opposed due to: (1) concerns about the location, and (2) safety risks associated with increased crime. Additionally, the project team received constructive feedback to inform the next phase of the proposed pump track project.

Concept Drawing #1



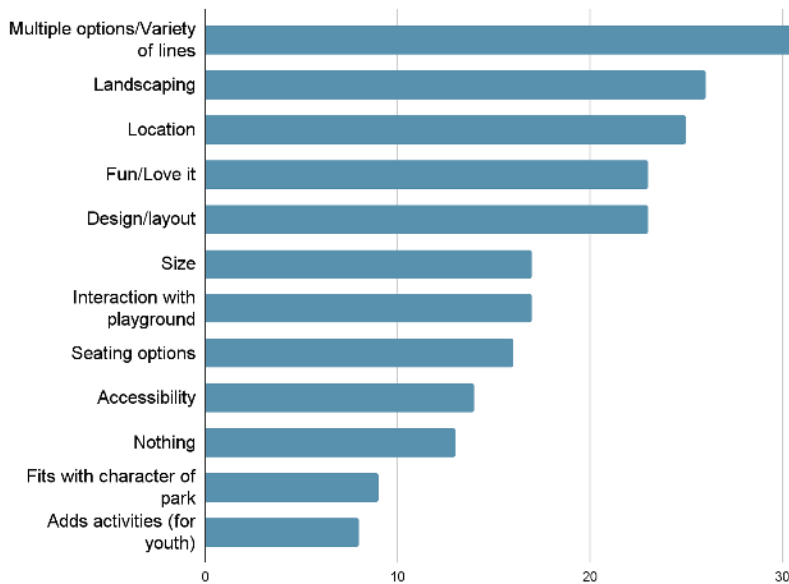
Concept Drawing #2



Online Survey

The following results are from the online survey that was distributed. The survey was open from September 14 to October 9, 2023. The survey was set so that there could be only 1 response per email address. 206 people responded to the survey.

What do you like about Concept Drawing Option 1?



In looking at Concept Drawing Option 1, 15% liked the variety of lines and having multiple route options on the track. Many respondents also liked the landscaping, location, layout, size, and general support of the project. 6% of respondents like nothing about Concept Drawing Option 1.

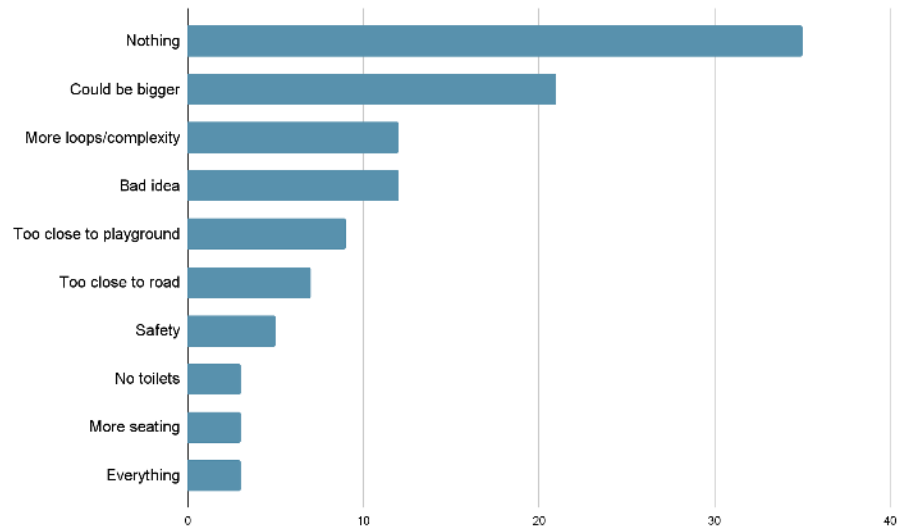
Figure 1: Survey Responses for Concept 1

Additional responses in the feedback included:

- Trees and seating areas provide site separation while still remaining highly visible. Accessibility looks good.
- I like the multiple line choices in the pumptrack. I like that the benches are between both the playground and pump track. It makes it more accessible for families.
- The course itself is interesting, with different curves and turns.
- Variety to change loops.
- I appreciate all the options are being looked at seriously. I especially appreciate the attention to landscaping!
- If approved would provide another option and destination for children's play activities.
- I think that a lot of thought has gone into the design, however, I am opposed to this park being the location.

What do you dislike about Concept Drawing Option 1?

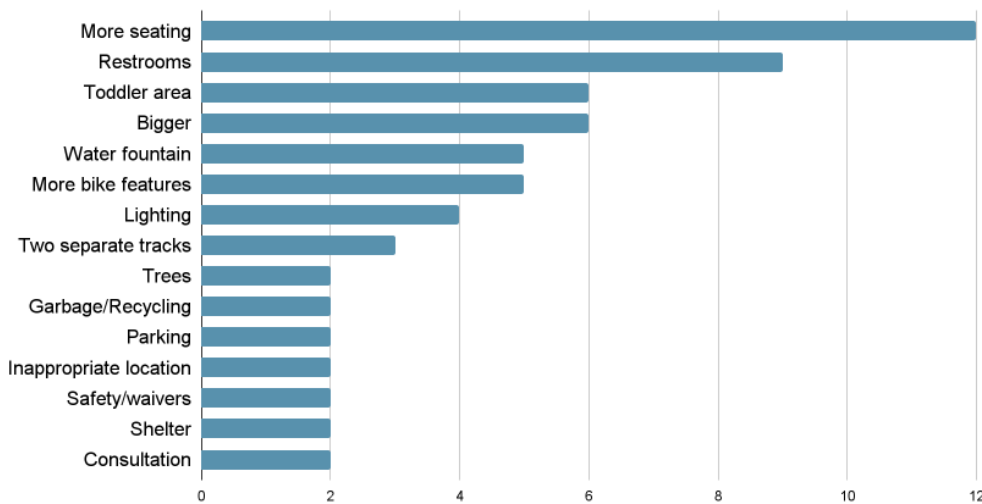
Similar to the likes about Concept Drawing Option 1, 17% of respondents disliked nothing about the concept. 10% respondents thought it could be bigger and 6% wanted more loops and complexity in the track. Again, 6% thought the Concept Drawing was a bad idea.



Additional responses in the feedback included:

- The seating area might cause unnecessary traffic along pump track.
- Wish it was a bit bigger
- Might be a bit close to the playground?
- That it's not a good use of public funding or space.
- Proximity to the road - I feel like moving it back into the park further would be nice
- Seating - it would be nice to have a few areas to sit around the pump track, so multiple families can have their own space
- Pump park is not appropriate here, we need more green space.
- Not a dislike, just a thought that with extra line options education on pumptack etiquette will be more important to avoid collisions.
- Everyone riding must share the most northern part of the track; there's no option for slower rides and faster rides to fully separate from one another.

What do you think is missing from Option 1?



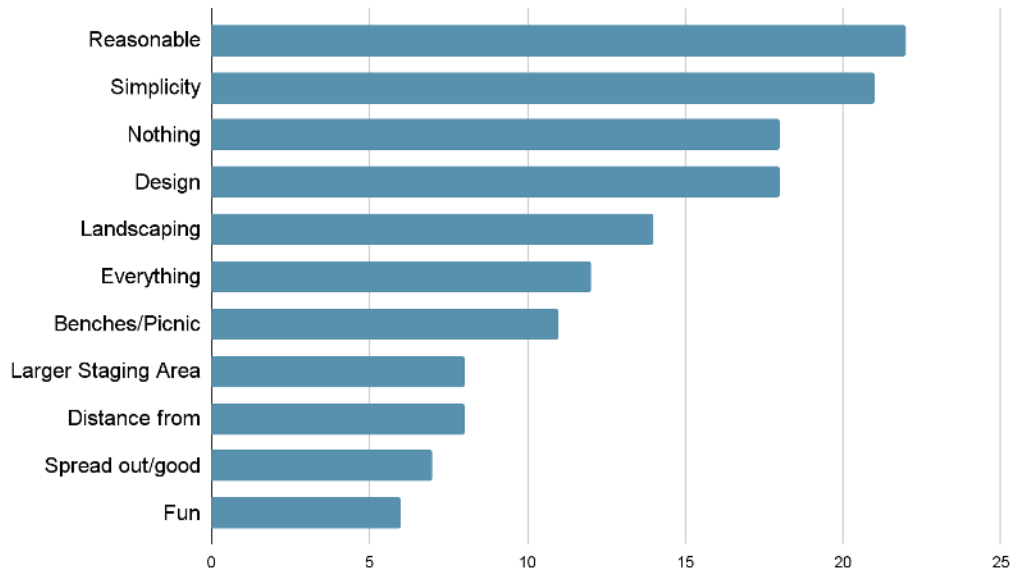
Survey respondents had constructive feedback on what they thought was missing from Option 1. 6% suggested more seating was missing, 4% suggested restrooms are missing, 3% suggested a toddler area is missing.

Additional responses in the feedback included:

- A great design allows for multiple lines for multiple skill levels. A good example would be to have an inner or side mini track for beginners that you could link up with the main track.
- Trees and noise barriers around the site.
- Yes, a bordered fence around the park and washroom facilities.
- Cannot accurately see how much seating is available. There needs to be enough seating should community members choose to watch.
- No bathrooms. I would love for there to be a toddler option as well to increase the chances that this will be a family attraction versus a "teen" attraction.
- Water fountain, potential small scale lighting
- Not that I'm aware of, because I've never used one.
- A few more park benches or seating for families watching
- Is there a possibility for a mini toddler area where they can practice?
- I would love to see a fenced dog park somewhere in the community, but this is cool too!
- Make sure there is enough garbage cans in the area.
- A water fountain and bathroom facilities would be an excellent addition.

What do you like about Concept Drawing Option 2?

In looking at Concept Drawing Option 2, 11% thought it was reasonable, with another 10% similarly liking the simplicity of the design. 9% of respondents like nothing about Concept Drawing Option 2. Conversely, 6% liked everything about it.



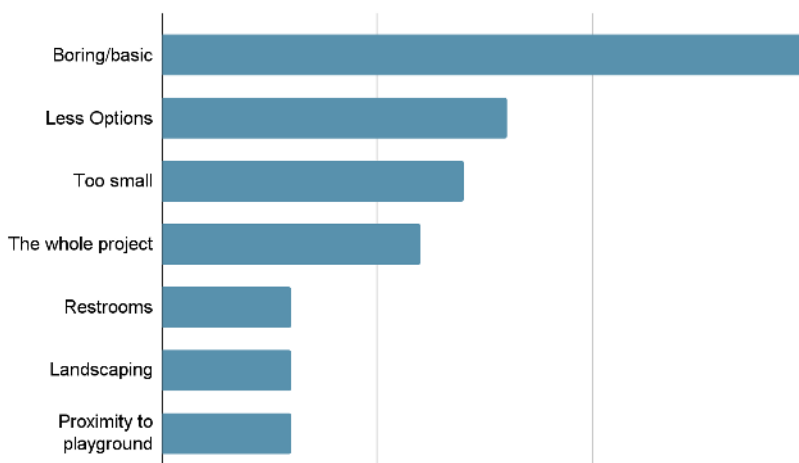
Additional responses in the feedback included:

- Trees still provide site separation. Seating area provided near staging/drop in area.

It seems compact and effective. The entrance point seems safer and better.

- This design seems more sleek and streamlined. Which could be easier for users to understand the flow of movement on the track.
- The larger staging area.
- The sinuous design adds an aesthetic and functional appeal.
- I like that the staging area (2) is a little bigger. It looks like it would welcome people from the entrance better
- Again, I think that a lot of thought has gone into the design, however, I am opposed to the Gaby Haas park being the location.
- Much more natural flow than concept 1, simple to learn and fun to use for a wide variety of ages
- Looks equally as fun! I'd be stoked with either design.
- I like that it is a bit smaller looking. Still a bad project for our area.
- Nice amenity to the park area.

What do you dislike about Concept Drawing Option 2?



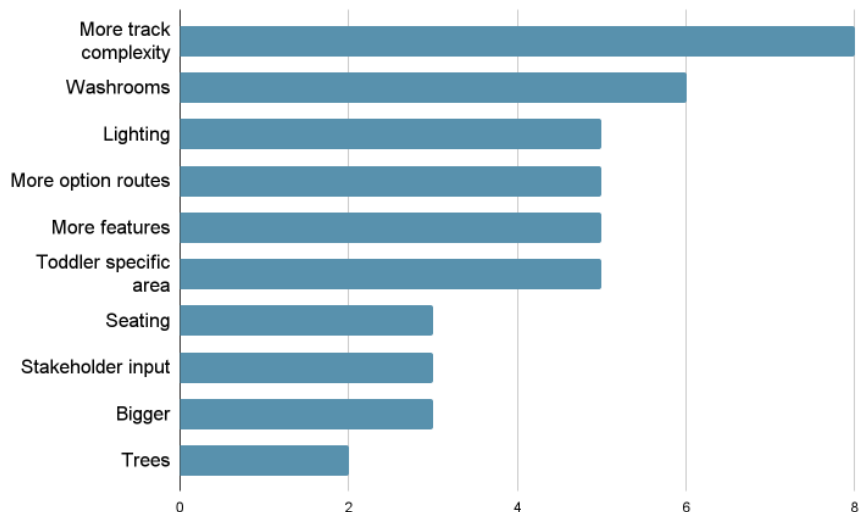
Similar to the likes about Concept Drawing Option 1, 7% of respondents thought Concept Drawing Option 2 is boring or basic. 4% dislike that there are less options on the track. 3% think it is too small. 3% dislike the whole project.

Additional responses in the feedback included:

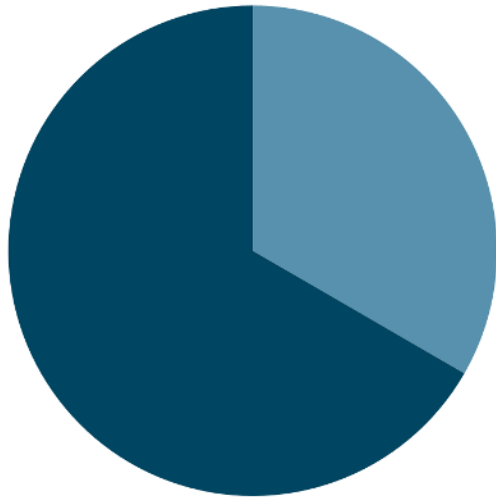
- I'd like the track to be more complex.
- There is no accommodation for riders needing a washroom facility. Therefore, I am wondering why Highlands Park was not considered as a location since it already has washroom facilities. If Highlands Park isn't viable, then why not Borden Park as it's primary focus is families, and has many amenities already in place (e.g., washrooms, benches, trails, garbage receptacles, eating areas). Gaby Haas Park borders a mature neighbourhood with very few children. Therefore, it does not seem like an ideal location. Additionally, sump pits would be a breeding ground for mosquitoes.
- Could yet have more benches.
- prefer option 1, because I think adding a middle short cut might add excitement to the track? But I would guess this design would be better for the youngest members of our community?
- Lack of landscaping directly adjacent the pump track
- It pretty plain. Needs more pumps and bumps
- The track lacks interest and I fear would be too boring.
- Too compact
- Compared with Option 1, I prefer the layout of that track to Option 2.

What do you think is missing from Option 2?

Looking at Concept Drawing Option 2, a variety of missing pieces were recommended, including more track complexity, washrooms, lighting, more route options, more features, and toddler-specific area.



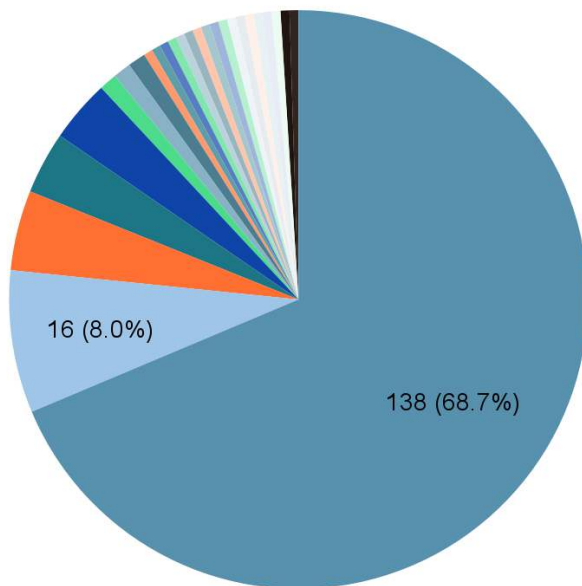
Which location do you prefer?



- Alternate Location
- Recommended Location

66.7% of respondents prefer the recommended location, on the South end of the park closer to 112 ave. While 33.3% of respondents prefer the alternate location, closer to the fence separating Mount Royal Park from Gaby Haas Park.

What neighbourhood do you live in?

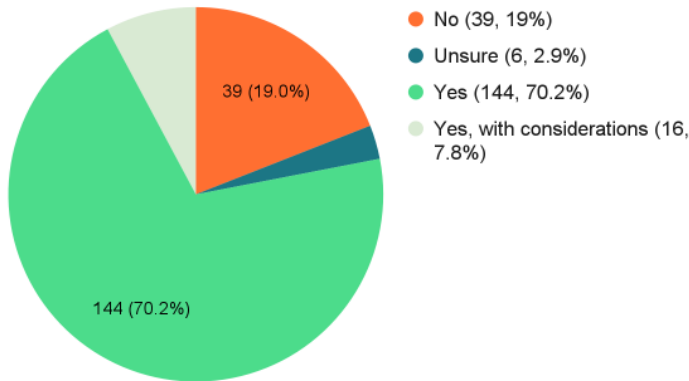


- Highlands
- Bellevue
- Beverly Heights
- Montrose
- Newton
- Delton
- Ottewell
- Parkdale
- Belvedere
- Bergman
- 16 more

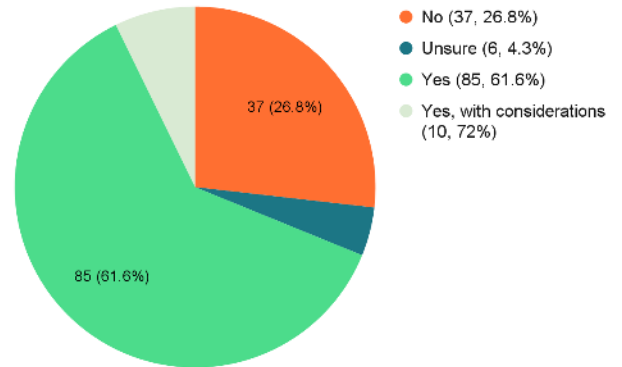
68.7% of respondents live in Highlands, 8% in neighbouring Bellevue, 4.5% in Beverly Heights, 3.5% in Montrose, with the remaining 15.3% of respondents in other nearby neighbourhoods.

In looking at the Concept Drawings, do you support the pump track project moving forward?

All responses



Highlands Residents only



Support for the pump track project remains high, with 78% of all respondents in support (those who answered “yes” and “yes, with considerations”) and 19% not in support.

Looking at the Highlands residents' responses only, 68.8% in support (those who answered “yes” and “yes, with considerations”) and 26.8% not in support.

Summary of In-Person Engagement at the Pancake Breakfast Event

The feedback received through in-person engagement at the Pancake Breakfast followed a similar pattern to the online survey. Many were surprised by the size after looking at the concept drawings. A few residents were happy to see the drawings, but still opposed to the project. Many people were curious about where and how they could express their support of the project and excited for the kids in the neighbourhood to be able to use another amenity.

Analysis

The feedback gained through all forms of engagement is going to be beneficial in the next steps of the project and prioritising different aspects of the project. Some highlights are making the track as complex and versatile as possible with many line options and crossover points. Another important finding is wanting a place for beginners to feel comfortable and to try to separate the beginner and other areas.

A number of residents are concerned about their property values decreasing and for the change to the park. Our feedback has shown that this group is in the minority.

What Happens Next?

The next steps are to refine the concept drawings and come up with a preliminary design. We look forward to the next step and to future engagement opportunities. Fundraising will continue and we are excited about some of the opportunities coming up.

People can reach out to shaun@highlandscommunity.ca to provide feedback or be included in future updates. The community league website, [Highlands Community League Edmonton](#) is also a good place to see future updates and communication. Future updates and communication will be sent to those who requested it with their email address in the survey.