

Project Background

In January 2024 the Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) purchased the property at 3483 Hallberg Road for a new Community Park in the Cassidy area. The location is well situated to serve the entire community as Cassidy's first park, and will be an important outdoor space where residents can gather and new park programs can be supplied.

Engagement Process

The RDN has sought input from the community through an online survey on how the park should be developed and what amenities should be included. The survey was advertised through mailouts to local residences, and posters / flyers posted in key community locations. A website has been created to serve as the landing page and primary point of contact with community members about the project.

Engagement Summary

The survey was a series of poll questions to find out more about where respondents lived, the structure of their household, how they learned about the survey, and how supportive they were about upgrades for the park. Following this, they were asked to rank a series of 'Social and Community Spaces' and 'Recreation and Play' activities that were provided. These were predetermined programs based on offerings at parks of a similar nature. To ensure other opinions and ideas were heard the survey then concluded with an open ended comments form where other activities or general feedback could be provided.

Overall feedback was positive, with over 80% of respondents "very supportive" of a new park. The majority of those surveyed lived within walking distance, and this aligned with general research showing a 10-15 walk encompassed most of Cassidy. There was also representation of households with all age groups, the majority being adults, but over 50% of households surveyed having children or teenagers. 11% of respondents were seniors.

The extended comments section reinforced these points, with many respondents saying they supported a park that provided a space for children. Places for community gathering were also popular, as was keeping the existing trees and providing supportive services (ie. washrooms and garbage).

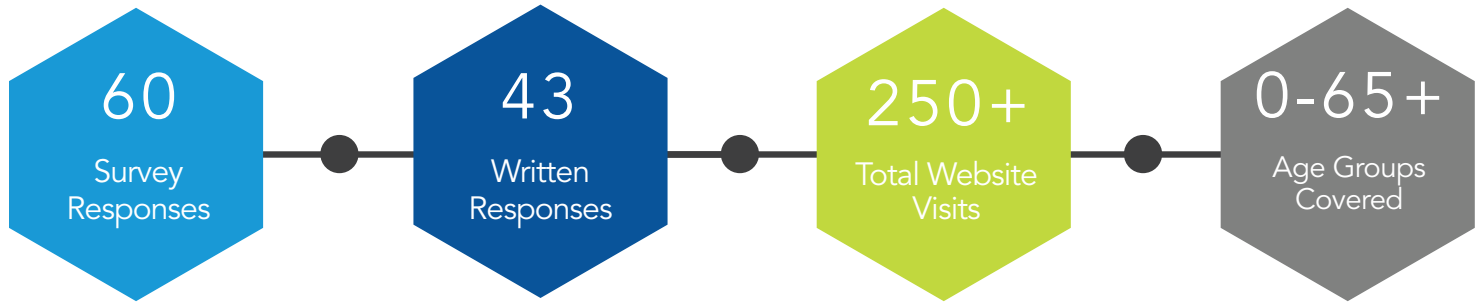
Concerns included worries the park would be a target for the unhoused or vandalism, and to alleviate CPTED concerns some of those surveyed asked for lights to allow for a safe night-time experience.

Next Steps

A concept plan will be developed using the results of the survey. Then in early July an open house will be held in the future park space to solicit feedback and comments on the concept plan. For more information on dates, timeline, and location please visit:

<https://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/hallberg-community-park>

What We Heard ...



SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS:



Over 80% of respondents "very supportive" of a new park

KEY PHRASES

GATHERING SPACES

PLAYGROUND

ALL AGES



TOP PROGRAMS FOR INCLUSION

- 1 Playground(s) for all ages
- 2 Picnic Tables
- 3 Covered Shelter
- 4 Small Sport Court
- 5 Gathering Spaces / Seating



OTHER AMENITIES MENTIONED

- 1 Open lawn
- 2 Outdoor fitness / games area
- 3 Washrooms / Garbage
- 4 Lighting
- 5 Dog park amenities

TOP VALUES

- A safe place for kids to play
- New places for the community to gather
- Activities and interests for all ages
- Time in the outdoors

WORRIES



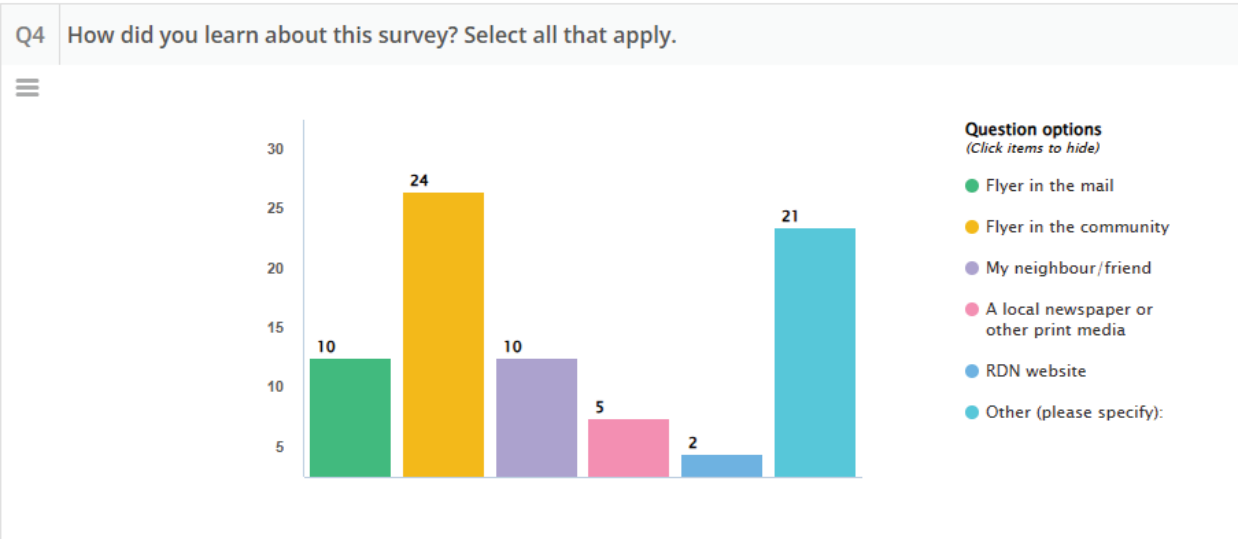
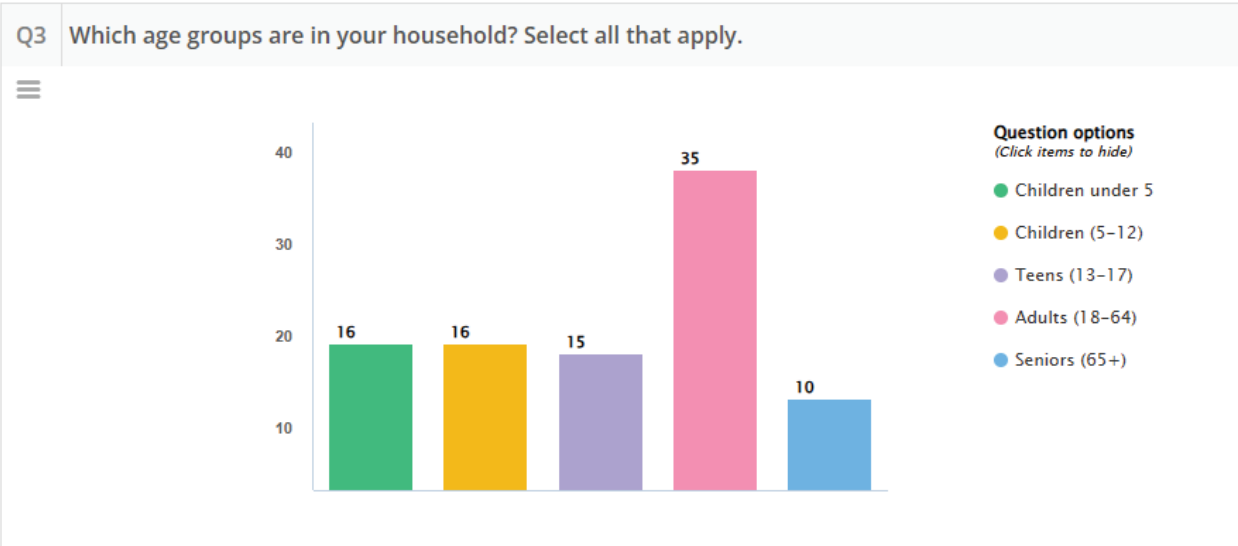
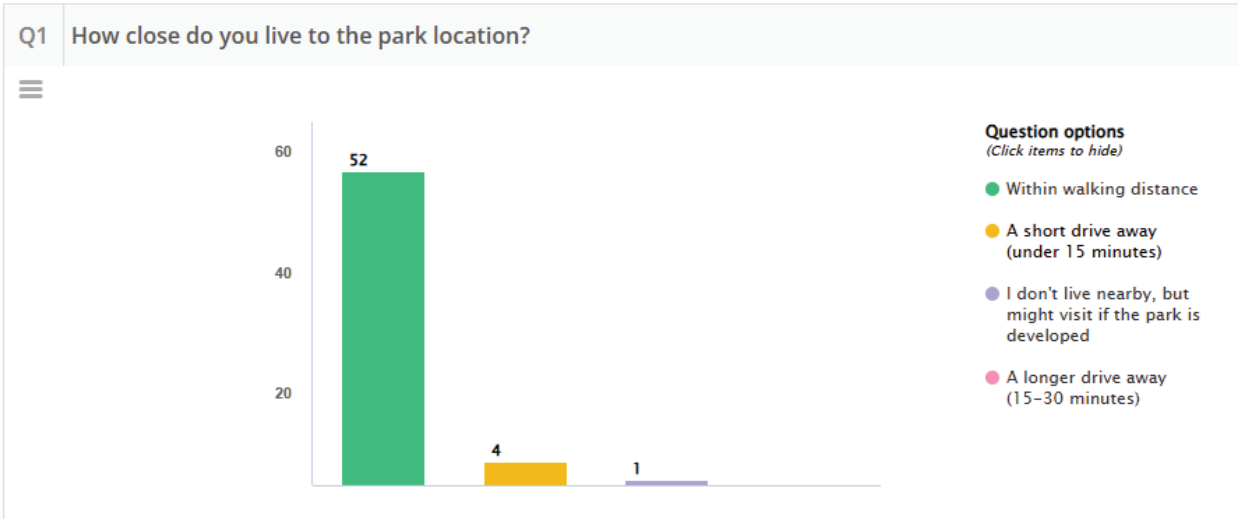
- Vandalism concerns
- Safety and security
- Night-time safety (lack of light)
- Traffic along Hallberg Road
- Encampments

Appendix A

Full Survey Results

Survey Question Results

Showing 57 of 57 responses



Q5

Social and Community Spaces - Please rank your preferred activities for this park, with 1 being your highest priority:

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Picnic tables	1.81
Covered shelter	2.17
Gathering space for events or markets	2.77
Community garden space	3.06

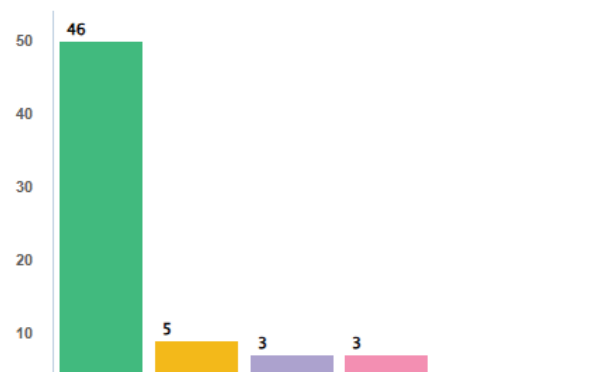
Q6

Recreation and Play - Please rank your preferred activities for this park, with 1 being your highest priority:

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Playground for children	1.63
Small sport court (basketball, hockey)	2.75
Open field area for informal play and lawn games	3.12
Outdoor fitness equipment	3.47
Games area (corn hole, ping pong, chess)	3.59

Q7

Do you support improving Hallberg Community Park?

**Question options**

(Click items to hide)

- Very supportive
- Somewhat supportive
- Neutral
- Not supportive
- Unsure
- Other (please specify)

Written Comments

1. I think all of the ideas in the survey would be a great addition to this community, it is very lacking of any sort of recreational gathering places. I believe community gardens are very healthy.
2. Lighting for the park especially for the winter when it gets dark so early. A Bathroom would also be great. Will there be parking for those that live outside of walking distance?
3. Please just provide a save area for kids to play jungle gym, swings, slide, picnic tables, covered area. Wishful thinking splash area/water park.
4. Not for the park itself. I wish we had been asked first, like they did with the streetlights idea. Far more important to us, is getting our road repaired. We live on Graham Place which is the worst road in Cassidy. And has been deteriorating for the last 25 years. Thank you.
5. Let's complete this quickly!!! Kids in the area need something to do without driving into town.
6. Playground for all age groups (toddler appropriate as well).
7. It should be a space for all ages, but the focus should be on a playground for the neighborhood kids.
8. If the park is to be developed for the use of the families that live in the neighbourhood it needs to be child friendly. While I admire land preservation efforts, they don't make for a neighbourhood park that gathers residents. There needs to be a fenced playground area - OF SERIOUSLY LARGE SIZE. There needs to be adequate seating for the similar number of children you anticipate visiting the park. The inclusion of a space for older children in the form of a basketball/multipurpose court (think hockey) is also very important. We love walking in forested trail type parks we already have several in this area, but they don't provide a space that attracts children. In conclusion, please focus on creating a family friendly area.
9. No.
10. Thank you! We are excited to have. Community space for outdoor activities within walking distance.
11. We live in the rural area and most people have lots of space. Something for the kids to play on and a gathering space for their friends with would benefit greatly. Also would like to see some speed bumps put out as people zoom up and down Hallberg, and wouldn't want to see an accident there.
12. I think the park should really focus on engaging all age groups and their family members , there is such generation gaps in the area and nothing to support community in its array of ages! ex . somewhere for the young children to engage and then something for the teenagers and most definitely a space for all members of the community to gather for their needs, otherwise you will have exclusion issues then vandalism or major discord amongst the varied community members.
13. A playground, and a small skate park / bike trail around the outside of the property would serve a large age range of minors in the community.
14. As long as the park does not become a homeless park because his homeless people live right in behind the park in the bush.
15. It would be great to see a park similar to what chase river has in their subdivision. Something kid friendly like a playground and not geared towards a hang out spot.
16. My concern is vandalism and motorbikes. Please ensure that the park is monitored and only accessible to foot traffic.
17. Washroom facilities would be nice.
18. I think signage, night time lighting and repainted crosswalks will be important.
19. High needs for garbage cans at the park. It would also be great if there was a big sand/gravol box and so many kids around here love that.

20. Washroom facilities with plumbing are mandatory. There is not room for tennis courts, badminton floor hockey. If there a playground and covered picnic area. The covered picnic shelter would support the board games suggested as well as open air markets on specific days and times.
21. The area focus should be on younger children. We have a lot of walking trails, the creek, suspension bridge, pit for riding various things, ect. Although my children are older this area is lacking a playground and safe space for kids. The road is dangerous with speeders and the closest playground is across a very busy highway.
22. Make sure any water from property is not unsafe for drinking. The well itself isn't very big either, so that needs to be improved. Another concern is to ensure this park is NOT used by homeless drug addicts who leave dirty needles everywhere like I have seen in other parks. It would be better to be completely gated in after hours. Washrooms should be part of the plans for this park too. Where is everyone supposed to park their vehicles while attending the park? It's only a half acre so it will be difficult to make this successful for everyone's use.
23. Please don't forget about older kids.
24. As long as it's not a homeless camp.
25. A community park with emphasis on kid activities/ structure is a #1 priority. Having 2 young kids right across the road makes this very exciting for our family. You have our support and help if volunteers are needed to help in any way.
26. Multi-age playground for the kids would be awesome!
27. Play park for kids is a must have. Lots of kids around the area.
28. Small bike park/pump track, possibly incorporate a skate park into it.
29. There is a lot of younger kids around and literally no space for them to go and play. They use the firehall property for semi flat and safe area for biking/skateboarding. There is no playground or park near by. Bottom line, anything would be great. We have 4y old and 10m old, so playground would be awesome, with some picnic tables and a bike track around it.
30. Please keep the trees. They add a lot to the park. They are in the corner, so don't take too much space and they will provide shade and cool air in the summer.
31. An enclosed Dog area would be wonderful for the dog to run while the park is used. Garbage can and doggy bag dispenser for sure, knowing our neighborhood.
32. On a busy road.
33. This park or playground is going to get vandalized. There are a lot of hooligans in Cassidy and reckless/careless teens that have no problem doing things for the fun of it. A high fenced dog park would be awesome!!! Porta potty for the hoomans, fire hydrant and garbage can for dogs, a bag dispenser!! A hose hook up and a water trough!!!! This would be amazing!
34. A fenced area for off leash dogs would be lovely! We have a lot of dogs in the community.
35. Would like a basketball hoop.
36. SAFETY and Cleanliness should be top of mind. Needs to well lit and tended to. HANDIcapped seating please.
37. Cassidy currently has a large herd of at least 55 elk. This needs to be taken into consideration when developing the park. Some activities such as playground for children or community garden space are not in the best interest of a rural area and would only create conflict between the wildlife and nature. A survey of what is already in the area needs to be completed as their is a children's play area in one of the trailer parks. This survey is woefully inadequate given the rural nature of this area. It appears to be designed for a more urban area - given that street lights for safety

purposes were turned down, why is the RDN trying to develop an urban style park?

38. Would like to see .. Playground area for toddlers (1-5yrs) Playground area for older children. Skatepark area.
39. No kids playground. It will get vandalized. There has already been talk of it. I would say just a fenced in space, possible dog park as there are no fenced in dog parks close by but there are plenty of kids playgrounds. Sure there are trails to walk pets but the trails are unsafe between wild life, utility vehicle users, all the garbage and debris and ticks it is not a safe space to walk your. PLEASE don't put in a kids park. It is a waste of money.
40. Having 2 children under 5, I am very excited for the prospect of a park. I love the idea of all the new playground coming up that are suitable climbing sections for all ages. I think having a basketball court is a nice idea, but takes up so much space and only allows for a few select sport and is not very multi purpose. The open field and play ground combo allows for more imaginary play, picnicking spots with families and opportunities to play many different sports. Perhaps a water source for drinking and washrooms. Though I understand that the upkeep of washrooms is tricky. Garbage disposal and lights for the winter months would be very lovely as well so the space can be utilized in the evening by children. Thank you so much seeking the neighbors input.
41. While I would like to see a successful community park for citizens of all ages I am concerned about how this would be supervised, especially at night. There are some young people roaming at late hours with nothing to do. There are homeless people who need proper care and shelter. At this point I can't envision what would be there that would enhance our community connectedness. I things need to be built from the grass roots up with support from the RDN. There needs to be a committee of local citizens who would be engaged

in maintaining the success of the park's operation.

42. Please don't make it only a dog park.
43. I don't want any of that boring modern playground equipment. Just a classic swing set and slide.