

Blue Bird & Lismore Parks Redevelopment

Public Engagement Summary

March 2020

Background

Blue Bird Park was last redeveloped in 1999, therefore the park is due for an update. With the open greenspace at Lismore Park right beside it, this is a good time to think of the two greenspaces together and come up with ideas for what is needed in the community and the best way to address it in the available park spaces. Since the nearby play equipment at Bannatyne Playground has reached the end of its useful life and it is located less than a five minute walk from Blue Bird and Lismore parks, the play structure there will be removed. The intent is to focus resources on a new playground at the larger, more central site at Blue Bird and Lismore parks.



Existing Blue Bird Park structures

Engagement

During the fall of 2019, public and stakeholder feedback was gathered on park improvements in Blue Bird and Lismore parks, as outlined in this summary. The process began through meeting with neighbourhood stakeholders to discuss the current use of the parks, and vision for their redevelopment.

Community members were invited to attend a **public workshop** on October 2, 2019 to provide feedback on redeveloping the two parks. Those who were not able to attend could provide feedback through an **online survey**.

Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- City of Winnipeg website – Launched on September 10, 2019;
- News release – September 10, 2019;
- Postcards (1000)– Distributed through a combination of Canada Post delivery and hand delivery;
- Stakeholder promotion – The workshop and online survey were promoted through local stakeholders, including Brooklands School, Brooklands Daycare, and the Nor-west Community Co-op;
- Facebook posts (4) – September 10 – October 9, 2019;
- Twitter posts (3) – September 10 – October 1, 2019;
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 5,300 recipients - September 13 & 26, 2019.

Date	Activity	Description
August 27 & 29	Stakeholder meetings	Brooklands School, Brooklands Daycare, Norwest Co-op Community Health
October 2, 2019	Public Workshop	Group discussion and mapping activity (25 participants)
September 10 – October 10, 2019	Online survey	Online survey (21 responses)

To learn more about the Blue Bird & Lismore Parks redevelopment project, please visit winnipeg.ca/bluebirdlismore

What We Heard

Through our public workshop and online survey, we learned that increased safety and lighting were concerns shared by the majority of participants. There is a perception that these neighbourhood parks have been in decline for some time, and are not always viewed as safe places to gather. Blue Bird Park, specifically, being bounded by back lanes and lacking good sight lines, was said by stakeholders and workshop attendees to be in need of safety and lighting upgrades. Crime and drug use were listed as concerns by online survey respondents and workshop attendees. Brooklands School and Brooklands Daycare bring students to these parks for outdoor activities during the day, and would like to make better use of the parks if the amenities were improved. The following is a summary and breakdown of feedback received.

Public Workshop

Workshop participants were divided into four groups and worked through a number of exercises to help in visioning the types of improvements they would like to see in the parks. After placing various amenities on the maps provided, participants were asked to highlight their top priorities. Following group mapping, each participant was given five stickers to place on the final maps to 'upvote' the amenities they would most like to see in either park. A number of trends were evident in the final maps, as described below.



Figure 1 - Group mapping at the public workshop

Group mapping trends:

- All groups identified a **hockey or pleasure rink** as an amenity they would like to see explored in Lismore Park.
- All groups identified improvements to **children's play equipment** as the primary improvements in Blue Bird Park.
- All groups identified **comfortable seating areas and shade trees** as desirable amenities in both Blue Bird Park and Lismore Park.
- Three out of four groups prioritized **fitness equipment for adults** as a desired improvement.

Top five improvements by park:

(Bolded numbers indicate the number of 'upvotes' from workshop participants)

Lismore Park

1. Hockey/pleasure rink (**34**)
2. Multi-use court (Tennis, basketball, etc.) (**23**)
3. Fitness stations (**15**)
4. Walking path (**6**)
5. Cultural space/meeting area (**3**) & Picnic tables (**3**)

Blue Bird Park

1. Swings (**8**)
2. Play structure (**7**)
3. Other children's play equipment (**5**)
4. Group seating (**3**)
5. Basketball court (**1**)

Online Survey and Workshop Exit Surveys

When asked how often they visit Blue Bird and Lismore Parks (**Figure 2**), a significant number of respondents said that they have never visited these parks. Though it wasn't clear why they did not visit the parks, comments submitted through the online survey and workshop exit surveys indicated that issues related to safety were a common concern.

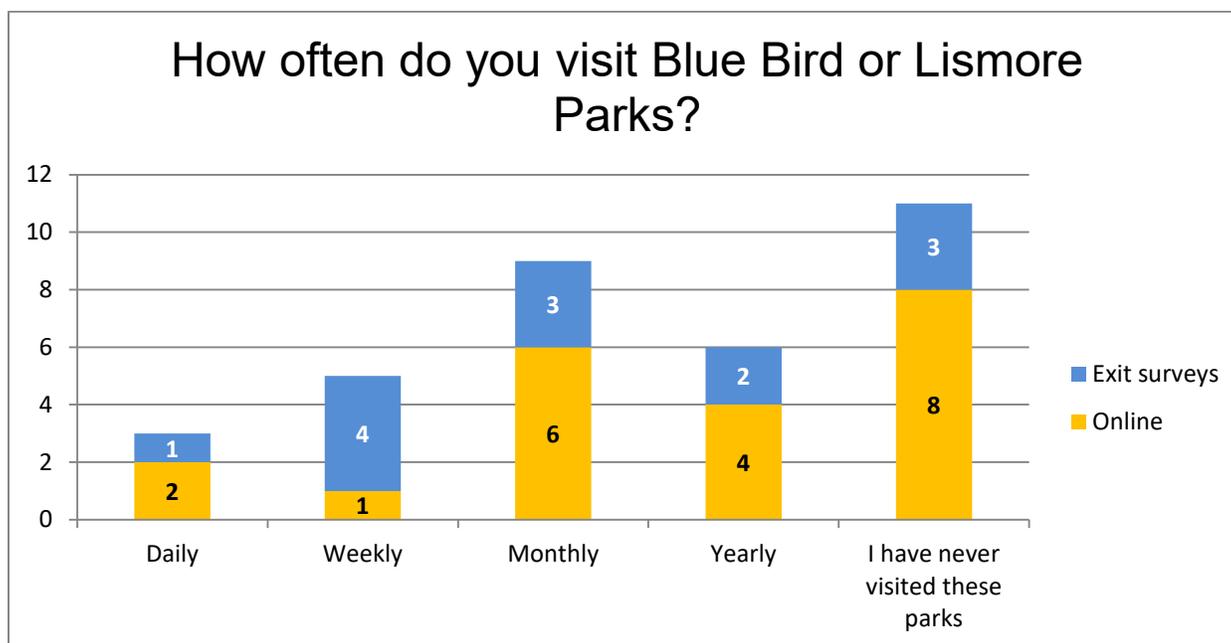


Figure 2 - Frequency of survey respondents' park visits

Related to this, when asked what type of amenities they would like to see added or enhanced in the parks, improvements to park lighting was the top suggestion (**Figure 3**). Additionally, 12 of 14 responses to the exit survey question "Are there any park issues to be addressed at Blue Bird or Lismore Parks?" listed 'lighting' as a top concern.

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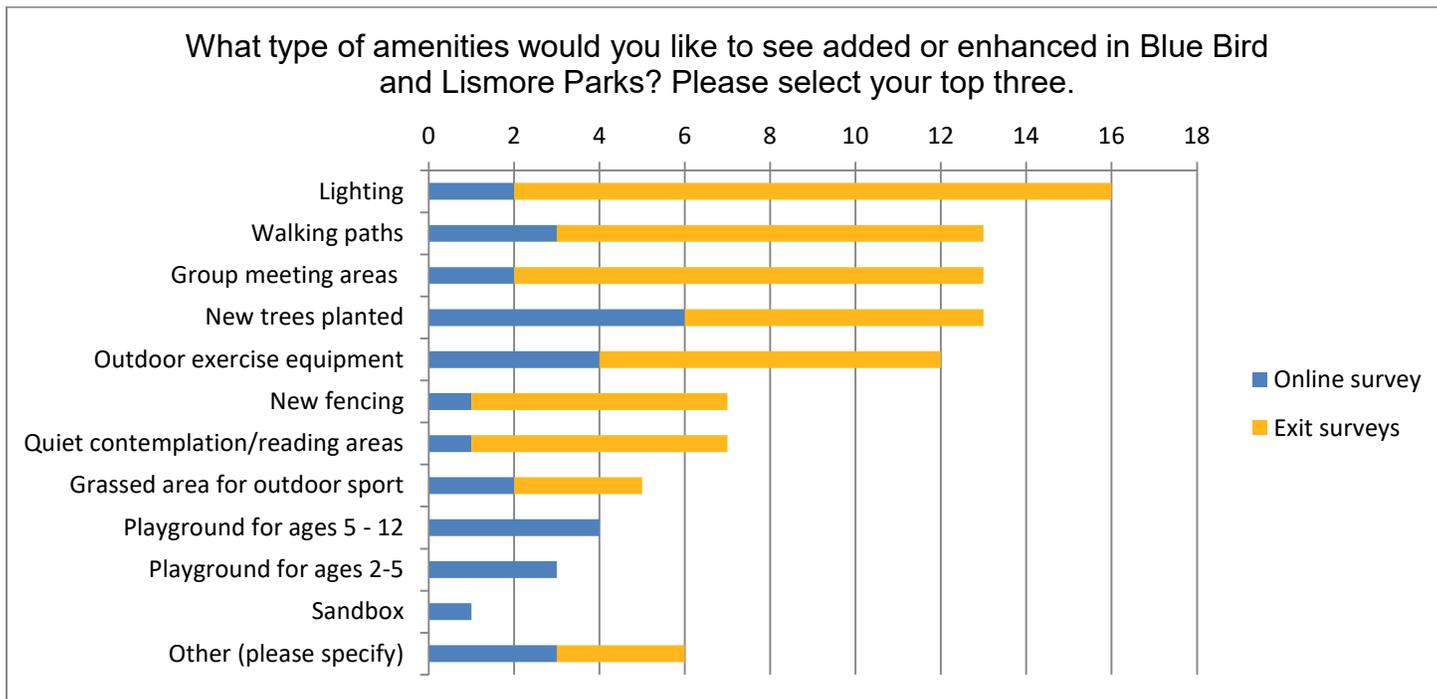


Figure 3 – Desired park improvements

When asked why they currently visit Blue Bird and Lismore Parks, the top two online responses were “To enjoy the outdoors” and “To accompany young children.” Respondents also indicated that they visit the parks for exercise, to walk their dogs, or to eat lunch or relax. Of the existing amenities in Blue Bird and Lismore Parks, online survey respondents said that benches were the most used equipment. When asked what amenities they would NOT like to see added to the neighbourhood, respondents listed housing development, skateboarding, BBQs or smoking areas, and structures that generally might be damaged or used for illicit activity.

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What We Heard	How It Was Considered*
Safety and lighting were a concern for all workshop groups, especially in Blue Bird Park, due to its location facing two back lanes, with poor sight lines and evidence of existing drug use and vandalism.	City is investigating lighting conditions and has proposed to improve park lighting. Proposed parks plan includes removing the hills in Blue Bird Park to improve sight lines and bring the play structure in view of Oddy Street.
Workshop groups all listed an outdoor hockey/pleasure rink as one of the top two amenities they would like to see in Lismore Park.	A trial pleasure rink was opened in Lismore Park in December 2019. The rink was very successful and is planned to be re-installed next winter.
All workshop groups listed children's play equipment as a high priority for Blue Bird Park, noting that the existing equipment is outdated and in need of replacement.	Proposed parks plan includes new children's play equipment.
All groups suggested that some form of group seating or gathering space be included in the park designs. One group thought that a 'central meeting area/cultural space' could act as the focal point of Lismore Park's redevelopment.	Proposed parks plan includes seating and a community gathering area.
The planting of new trees was listed as a high priority on through the online and workshop exit surveys.	A tree assessment was done as part of the preliminary design, and additional trees are proposed for Lismore Park.

Next Steps

After hearing that there was significant interest in having a pleasure rink in Lismore Park, a pleasure rink was installed on a trial basis in December 2019. The rink was very successful and is planned to be re-installed next winter. Using the public feedback received, the project team explored the costs and feasibility of various improvements and developed a proposed design for Blue Bird and Lismore Parks. The [preliminary design plans](#) are now available on the project webpage.

Depending on funding approvals, redevelopment could move forward with a Request for Proposal as early as this summer with construction potentially occurring as early as fall 2020. The designs include a play structure and swings, new benches, picnic tables, new trees, new pathways, lighting improvements, a pleasure rink, and new park signage.

Appendices are available in the [Documents tab](#).

Appendix A – Promotional materials

Appendix B – Public workshop booklets

Appendix C – Public workshop mapping feedback

Appendix C – Online Survey Results

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Appendix A – Promotional Materials

Appendix B – Public workshop booklets

Appendix C – Public workshop mapping feedback

Appendix D – Online survey results