

# ST. JAMES COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS

## Phase 2 Public Engagement Summary

February 2020

### Background

Proposed funding in the amount of \$1.4 million, representing the appraised value of the Vimy Arena lands, has been identified in the City of Winnipeg's (City) 2019 Capital Budget forecast for 2020 to provide new, enhanced, or refurbished park and recreation amenities in the St. James community.

The project encompasses the Sturgeon Creek, Lakewood, Crestview, Heritage Park, and Buchanan neighbourhoods.

In phase 1 of the project, the City collected public feedback to determine a list of parks and recreation improvement options to present to the community in Phase 2.

### Promotion

Public engagement opportunities were promoted using the following methods:

- City of Winnipeg website – launched September 23, 2019
- News release – September 24, 2019
- Facebook and Twitter posts – September 24 - 30, 2019
- Paid online advertisement (Facebook and Instagram) – September 24 - October 10, 2019
- Posters at 5 community and recreation centres – September 25, 2019
- City of Winnipeg public engagement newsletter with over 5,300 recipients – September 26 & October 10, 2019
- Canstar Metro Newspaper advertisement – October 2, 2019

**Table 1: Engagement activities**

Date	Activity	Format	Participation
September 23 – October 18, 2019	Budget allocator survey tool	Online	339 respondents
October 7, 2019	Workshop #1	In-person	27 attendees
October 10, 2019	Workshop #2	In-person	9 attendees*

\*Unprecedented snowstorm may have influenced participation

### Engagement

Following Phase 1 of public engagement, 13 parks and recreation improvement options, plus additional amenities were developed based on input from the community. Some options represented new amenities and others are updates to existing amenities.

In Phase 2 of public engagement, St. James residents were asked to provide feedback on the 13 different options while keeping in mind their cost and the overall project budget of \$1.4 million. Residents could provide feedback in-person or online.

At the in-person workshops, attendees were provided with large table maps and labels that represented the 13 improvement options. Each group worked together at their table to develop a preferred plan within the project budget. Groups then shared their plans and participants used ballots to show support for their favorite plan(s).

The online engagement mirrored the in-person workshop. A budget allocator survey tool was developed with the thirteen options and renderings of each option. Respondents were instructed to develop a preferred plan without exceeding the \$1.4 million budget.

More details on the public engagement opportunities can be found in Table 1.



Image 1: Workshop participants share their plan.



Image 2: Mapping exercise at the workshop.

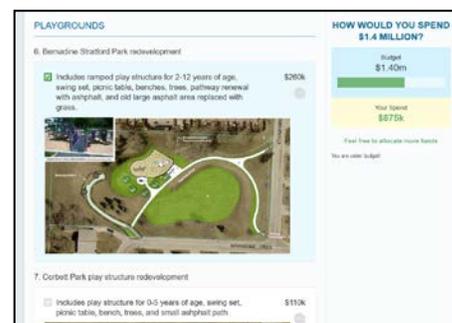


Image 3: Online budget allocator survey.

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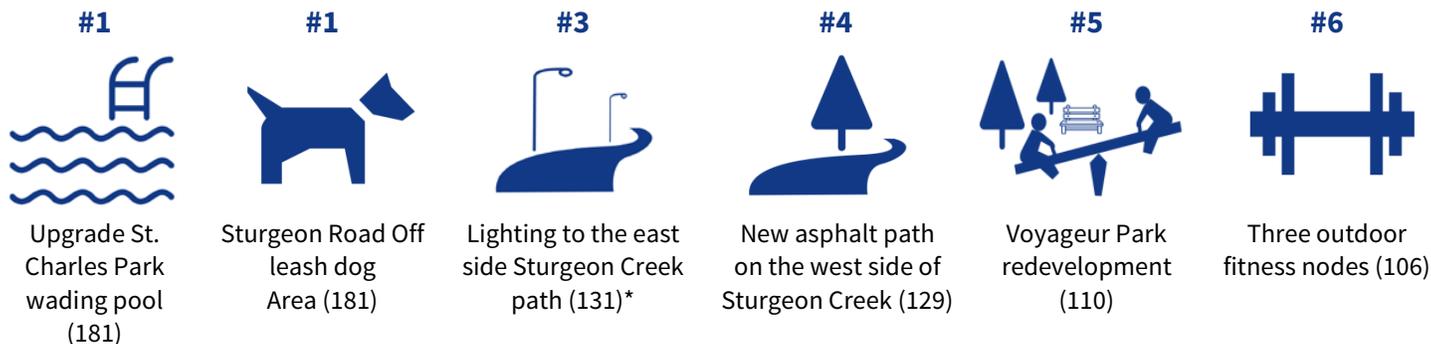
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### Key Findings

Each time a survey participant or workshop group chose an option for their plan, it was counted as one selection. Survey respondents and workshop participants selected the following as their top six parks and recreation amenity options:



*\*Lighting would only be added if east side pathway was upgraded to asphalt*

#### Top Path Improvements

1. Lighting to the east side Sturgeon Creek path (131)
2. New asphalt path on the west side of Sturgeon Creek (129)
3. Asphalt existing granular path on the east side of Sturgeon Creek (96)

#### Top Playground Improvements

1. Voyageur Park redevelopment (110)
2. Bernadine Stradford Park redevelopment (96)
2. Corbett Park play structure redevelopment (96)

#### Top Court Improvements

1. Vimy Courts renewal (96)
2. Crestview Village courts renewal (87)

Workshop groups had different methods for selecting options, such as:

- Spread options out to distribute funds across the area
- Focus on the area near the former Vimy Arena
- Avoid the area near the former Vimy Arena
- Focus amenities on creating one central recreation hub
- Focus on upgrading existing amenities
- Select options to appeal to a wide range of demographics

*Note: (x) represents the number of times a theme appeared in the online survey comments or workshop notes*

### What We Heard

The off leash dog area and Voyageur Park redevelopment scored high at both the in-person workshops (#1 and #3, respectively) and in the online survey (#2 and #5, respectively). The option for a new north/south path through Voyageur Park and the new gravel path on the west side of Sturgeon Creek scored low at both the in-person workshops (tied for #13) and in the online survey (#17 and #16, respectively).

Upgrading the wading pool scored high in the online survey (#1), and one group included the wading pool in their plan at the in-

person workshops.

A new asphalt path on the west side of Sturgeon Creek scored high in the online survey (#4) and medium at the in-person workshop (#8). Reasons for selecting the path included an improved experience over the current unofficial grass trail (3) while reasons for opposing the path included impacts to nature (3) and the proximity to homes (1).

Full survey and workshop results are in Appendix A.

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### How Input Was Considered

Following phase 1 the project team balanced public feedback, levels of service standards, available operating budgets, and existing recreation amenities to provide the options available for feedback in Phase 2. In phase 2, public feedback was the most important factor in selecting the recommended projects. Geographic distribution was also considered. City-wide plans and strategies like the Off Leash Dog Area Master Plan or the Pedestrian and Cycling Strategies may also influence the final designs and final locations of improvements. Not all projects could be selected as part of this project. Projects that were not as popular in public feedback were not recommended. Projects will remain on a list of future potential upgrades for consideration if funding becomes available in the future. Tables 2 and 3 explain why projects were chosen. Table 4 provides an explanation of how general input was addressed in the recommended projects.

### Recommended Projects



Upgrade St. Charles Park wading pool

\$350,000



Sturgeon Road off leash dog area

\$175,000



Lighting and upgrade to asphalt on the east side Sturgeon Creek path

\$685,000



Voyageur Park redevelopment

\$120,000

*\*As part of Voyageur Park redevelopment*



Three outdoor fitness nodes\*

\$60,000

**Total: \$1,390,000**

Table 2: Why projects were chosen

Project	Rationale
Wading Pool upgrade	The wading pool upgrade (including new spray features and rubberized surfacing) was the highest scoring option in the public engagement. This investment will add play value and extend the life of this aging community amenity.
Offleash dog area	The off leash dog area scored second in the public engagement. The current off leash dog lacks fencing, parking and other amenities such as benches. A new off leash dog area will increase the available amenities. The final location of a new off leash dog area will need to be reviewed and align with the Off Leash Dog Areas Master Plan requirements and process.
Upgrade path on east side of Sturgeon Creek	Lighting along the east side Sturgeon Creek path scored third in the public engagement. To accommodate the lighting, the path will also be upgraded to a 3.5 m wide asphalt path. The upgraded path and lighting will benefit the community by completing a large gap in the active transportation network identified in the Pedestrian and Cycling Strategy.
Voyageur Park redevelopment	Voyageur Park redevelopment scored fifth in the public engagement. This was the highest scoring park redevelopment. The cracked asphalt pad requires removal and residents would like to see better use of the space.
Outdoor fitness nodes at Voyageur Park	Three outdoor fitness nodes scored sixth in the public engagement. Voyageur Park was selected as the location for the fitness nodes to add additional amenities to the space. Locating the fitness nodes along the Sturgeon Creek path was also considered, however it was determined to be too close to the existing Pat Phillips Park fitness trail.

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**Table 3: Why projects were not chosen**

Project	Rationale
Pathway upgrades on west side of Sturgeon Creek	The west side Sturgeon Creek path scored fourth in the public engagement. The path cannot be located overtop of current informal trail and would require bank stabilization. The distance between the new path location higher up the bank and adjacent homes was a concern. Other residents also preferred that one side of the creek be left in a more naturalized state and indicated that the east side of Sturgeon Creek already has a path.
Crestview Village Courts renewal	The Crestview Village Courts renewal was not a high scoring option during public engagement. Residents indicated that the Crestview Village site lacked parking. This project will remain on a list of future potential upgrades for consideration if funding becomes available in the future.
Vimy Park Courts renewal	The Vimy Park Courts renewal was not a high scoring option during public engagement. This project will remain on a list of future potential upgrades for consideration if funding becomes available in the future.
Other park redevelopments and pathway	These options were not popular in the public engagement and were not included in the recommended projects due to limited funding availability. These projects will remain on a list of future potential upgrades for consideration if funding becomes available in the future.

**Table 4: How input was considered**

What We Heard	How it was Considered
The effects of lighting to the security and enjoyment of adjacent properties and path users must be considered. (10 comments)	Timers and light sensors for path lighting and shields to direct light downwards and away from residences will be investigated to balance the needs of path users and adjacent residents.
The impacts of paths and lighting to wildlife and the natural feel of the Sturgeon Creek Greenway are important to residents. (8 comments)	Timers and light sensors for path lighting and shields to direct light downwards towards the path will be investigated to minimize impacts on wildlife. A new path will not be constructed on the west side of Sturgeon Creek, which will help maintain the natural feel.
Tennis court renewals should include a balance of court sports, such as basketball and pickleball. (6 comments)	No court upgrades were selected for this project based on the public engagement results. Court options and upgrades will remain on a list of future potential upgrades for consideration if funding becomes available in the future.
Funds should also be used for planting trees and shrubs in parks and along paths, like the Sturgeon Creek Greenway. (6 comments)	The City will explore using any leftover funds from the \$1.4 million project budget to plant trees in parks and along paths.
Trees should be incorporated into the off leash dog area for mental stimulation and aesthetics. (3 comments)	The final location of a new off leash dog area will need to be reviewed and align with the Off Leash Dog Areas Master Plan requirements and process. Trees will be considered during this review.
Parks and recreation amenities should be accessible, including the surface types selected for court renewals. (3 comments)	No court upgrades were selected for this project based on the public engagement results. Other amenities will meet the City's Accessibility Design Standards.

### Next Steps

In phase 2, public feedback was the most important factor in selecting the recommended projects. Projects have been recommended to Council as part of the 2020 budget process. Subject to Council approval and funding, design of some projects will begin as early as 2020 with construction expected

to begin in 2021. Some projects will require additional planning and more detailed design prior to construction.

### Appendices - available in the [Documents tab](#)

- Appendix A – Public Engagement results
- Appendix B – Workshop data
- Appendix C – Online budget allocator survey data
- Appendix D – Promotional materials

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