

# Grindrod Park Engagement Summary

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REGIONAL  
DISTRICT  
NORTH  
OKANAGAN

Prepared by  
**VDZ+A**

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# Engagement Overview

Grindrod Park is located 1 hour north of Kelowna, BC on Highway 97A. The park sits on the West shore of the Shuswap River and is owned by the Regional District of North Okanagan (RDNO). The park contains a community building that is owned and operated by the Grindrod Recreation Association. The current park amenities include a playground, picnic tables, fire pits, pit toilet, gravel parking and an under utilized baseball diamond. During the summer, the park hosts events such as Grindrod Days and a Garlic Festival.

In 2023, the RDNO set out to obtain public feedback on the needs and preferences for the facilities offered at Grindrod Park. The feedback was collected to inform the creation of a new masterplan and support budget decisions for future upgrades.

Between June and August 2023, engagement activities were conducted which included an in-person session with the Grindrod Recreation Association, an interactive survey booth at Grindrod Days and an online questionnaire distributed to regional residents. These activities are summarized in this report along with the results and comments received from the participants.

## Purpose of Engagement

The Regional District of North Okanagan regularly seeks input from citizens and affected parties on community priorities, land use planning, and initiatives, with the intention of making informed and balanced decisions. By understanding the perspectives, opinions, ideas and concerns of people who may be impacted by decisions, the municipality is dedicated to implementing an open and transparent process. Specifically, in regard to Grindrod Park, the municipality's goal is to inform citizens and stakeholders about the progress and consult on key priorities to update to the concept plan and finalizing of the schematic design.



### Inform

Goal: to provide balanced and objective information in a timely manner



### Consult

Goal: to obtain feedback on analysis, issues alternatives and decisions.

## In Person

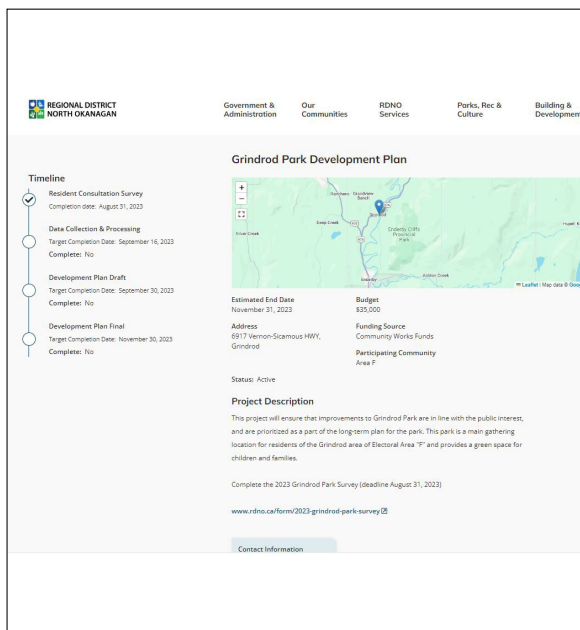


It was paramount that staff heard from the local community in person, so a team of consultants and municipal staff visited Grindrod park during the Grindrod Days festival where locals took part in interactive games to help them envision the future of Grindrod Park.

## Survey Responses



An online survey hosted on North Okanagan Website included a variety of open ended, multiple choice and ranking questions and dedicated to community and recreational amenities were promoted to residents through digital tactics including social media posts and online ads.



The screenshot shows a web page for the "Grindrod Park Development Plan" on the Regional District of North Okanagan website. The page features a navigation menu with categories: Government & Administration, Our Communities, RDNO Services, Parks, Rec & Culture, and Building & Development. A "Timeline" section on the left lists four stages: Resident Consultation Survey (completed), Data Collection & Processing, Development Plan Draft, and Development Plan Final. The main content area includes a map of the park, key details such as "Estimated End Date: November 31, 2023" and "Budget: \$25,000", and a "Project Description" section. A "Contact Information" section is partially visible at the bottom.

The example to the left shows the online engagement portal on the north okanagan website, where people had the opportunity to review the project details and fill out the survey when active.



## What we heard

# Grindrod Days



Date. July 22, 2023



Location. Grindrod Park

## Quick Summary of Event

- During the Grindrod Days event, the Regional District of Kelowna and consultant team set up a booth where they introduced a modified form of 'dotmocracy'. The purpose was to gauge people's interest in 10 main ideas for the future Grindrod Park or to encourage them to share their own ideas.
- Dot-voting, also referred to as 'dotmocracy' or voting with dots, has long been recognized as a valuable facilitation technique. It involves using dot stickers or marker pen marks to vote on ideas or options. However, the consultant team took this concept to the next level by introducing ping pong balls as a more covert and exciting way to cast votes.

# Activities Survey Game Result:

88 Grindrod residents participated in the Survey game and each participant were given three choices. Total 264 votes were casted till the end of the event. the top 3 ideas were:

## 1/ Splash Park

19% of Votes

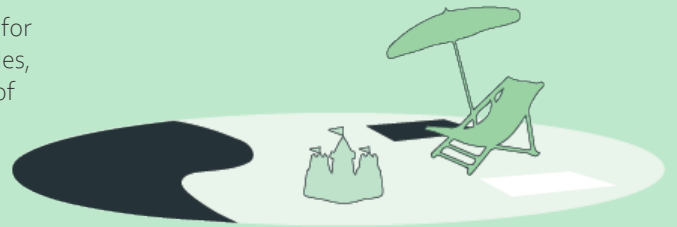
The top choice that generated the most excitement and support at the Grindrod Days event was the concept of a splash park, receiving an impressive 19% of the total votes.



## 2/ Beach and Swimming

17% of Votes

One of the top favorite votes that people cast was for improved beach access and swimming opportunities, which came in just under the splash park in terms of popularity, receiving a significant 17% of the votes.



## 3/ Playground

13% of Votes

With 13% of the vote, the concept of an enhanced playground emerged as the third most popular choice among voters. This exciting prospect sparked enthusiasm among children, who expressed their excitement for ideas such as nature play, expansive play structures, and even the addition of a zipline.



## Other Main Themes

While the top 3 themes were the most popular, it's important to mention that the following themes:

- Skate Park and Pump Track (11%)
- Walking Trail and Fitness ( 10%)
- Ice Skating Rink ( 9%)
- Dog Off Leash Area (8%)
- Paddle Sports (5%)
- Softball Diamond (4%)
- Raquet Sports (4%)



# What we heard

## Grindrod Days



The images above captures the participation of Grindrod locals in a survey game (dotmocracy), where they vote for their favorite activities during the highly anticipated Grindrod Days.

# Other Ideas:

The top other ideas and comments by the Grindrod residents: (not provided by consultant team)

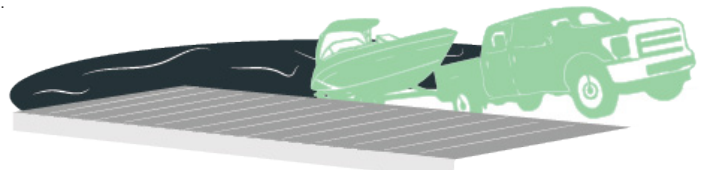
## 1/ Link the park to the rail trail

During the in-person engagement, the most frequently mentioned additional comment/other idea was the need for an improved link between the park and the existing rail trail.



## 2/ More Parking and Boat Launch

One of the most frequently mentioned comments, coming in second place (tied with another), was the desire for additional parking. Moreover, many individuals also expressed a strong need for the inclusion of a boat launch. This request aligns with their initial ask for improved water and beach access.



## 3/ Offleash Dog Area Location

The need for an off-leash dog area was mentioned by many individuals as one of the top priorities. Numerous people emphasized the importance of having a fenced-off area dedicated to this purpose, the need to properly consider its placement.



## Other Main Themes

While the top 3 themes were the most popular, it's important to mention that the following themes:

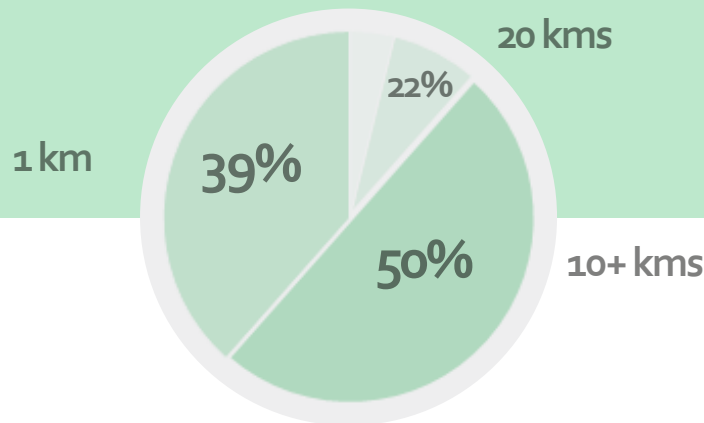
- Basketball Court
- Camping reinstated
- Frisbee golf
- Summer Concession and Access
- Soccer nets
- More Shaded areas, Gazebo, and more trees
- Salmon Fishing
- Petting Zoo playground



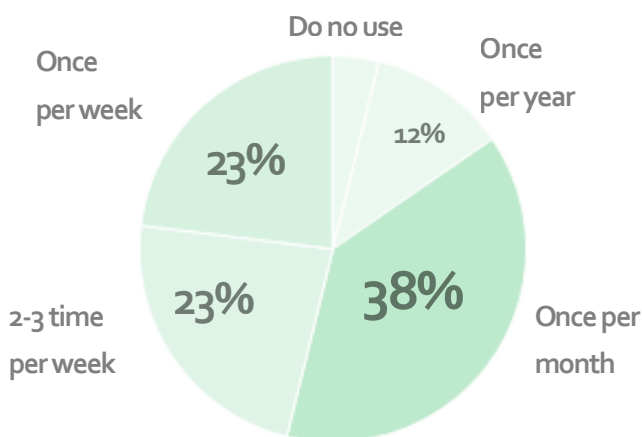


# Survey: Demographics

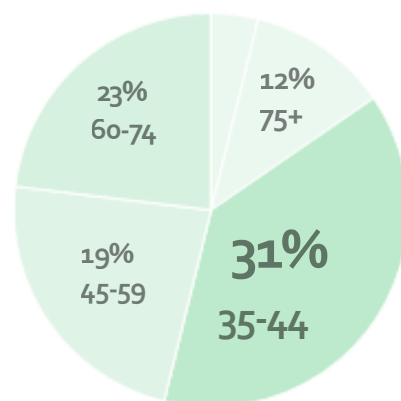
- Twenty six people took the online survey.
- Majority of people aged 35-44 took the survey with great participation from people ages 25-34 and 60-74 years old.
- The majority of respondents lived within 10kms of Grindrod Park. When the respondents were asked why they participated the number one response (60%) was that they live near the park.



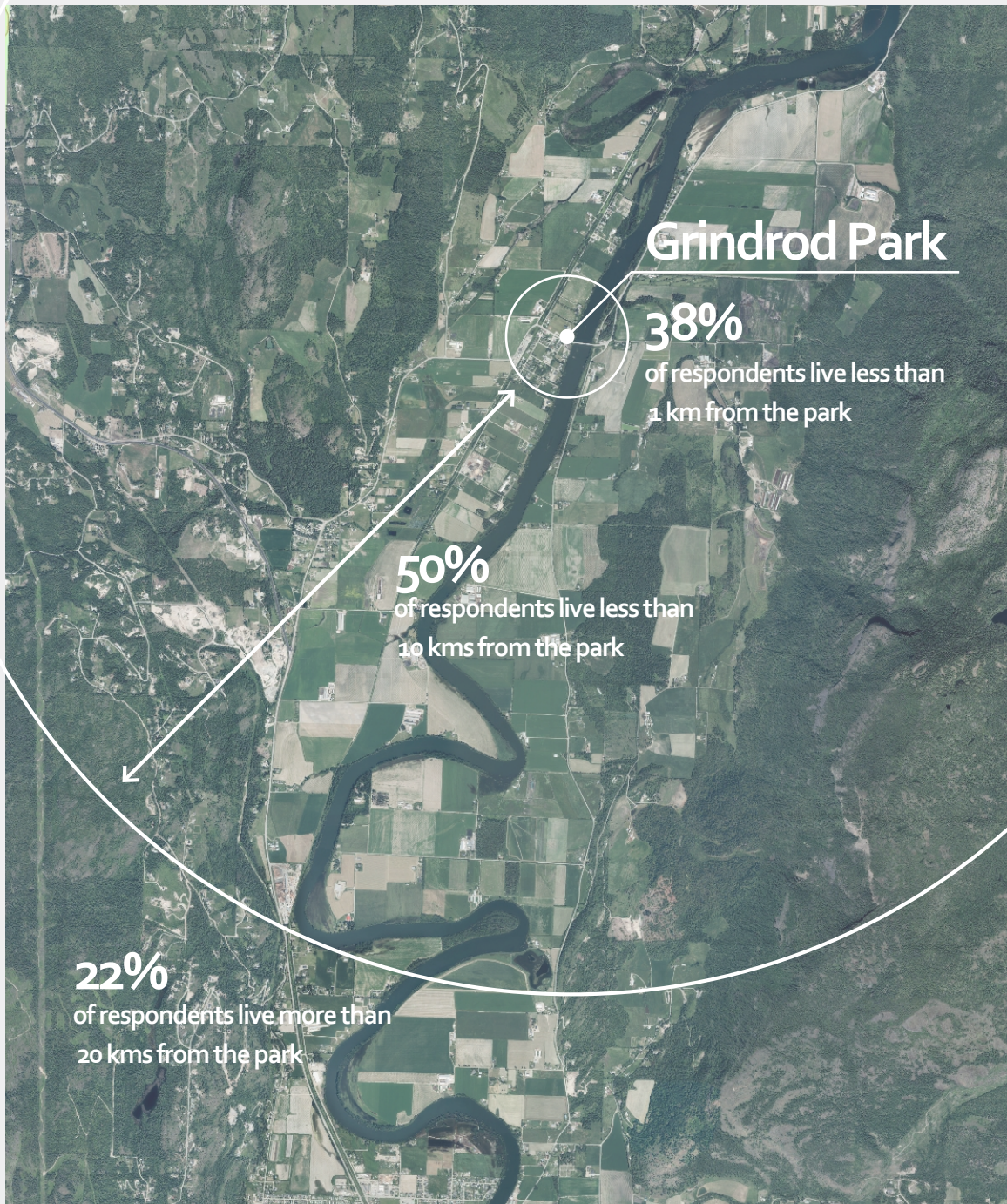
## How far do you live from Grindrod Park?



## How often do you visit the park?



## What is your age?



## Map of Survey Respondents

The majority of survey respondents primarily reside within a 10-kilometer radius of the park. Surprisingly, more than 11% of the respondents even travel distances greater than 20 kilometers to visit the park. With approximately 38% of individuals residing within a kilometer of the park, it can be assumed that these individuals have the convenience of walking or biking to the park. On the other hand, it is likely that the remaining 62% would typically choose to drive.

# Quantitative Survey Results

What activities do you most often participate in during your visits to Grindrod Park?

1

Events at the hall

28%

The survey respondents made it clear that attending events at the hall is the most popular activity in Grindrod Park. The hall serves as a hub of activity, offering everything from Coffee Houses to exciting seasonal events and bustling markets

2

Playground

21%

According to the survey respondents, the second most popular activity at Grindrod Park is utilizing the existing play structure and equipment.

3

Beach

14%

One of the top three activities that people in Grindrod Park prefer is visiting the beach. The beach offers a range of enjoyable activities, including swimming, paddling, and other water-based adventures on the river.



## 4/. Nature Viewing

12% of survey participants participate in either nature viewing or photography.

## 5/. Dog Walking

8% of survey participants participate in activities involving their dog (mainly dog walking)

## 6/. Picnic

8% of survey participants (tied with dog walking) use the park for picnics or gathering to eat with friends and family.

## 7/. Fitness

2% of survey participants currently utilize the park for fitness based goals and activities.

## 8/. Field Sports

Several people (2%) said they often participate in either soccer, football or baseball at the park.

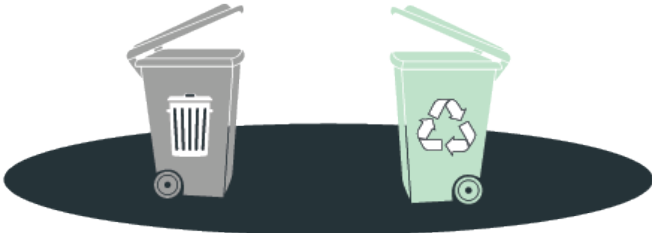
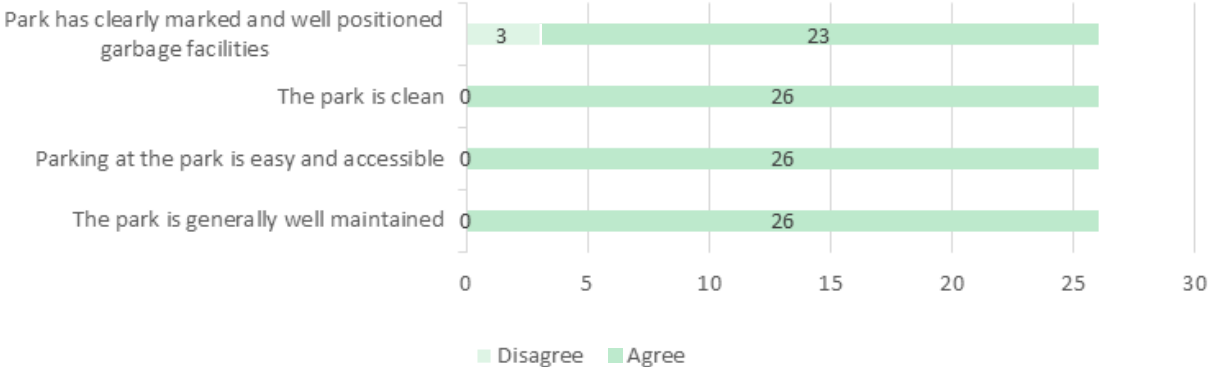
## 9/. N/A

Several people said that this question was not applicable to the way they use the park.

# What we heard

## Quantitative Survey Results

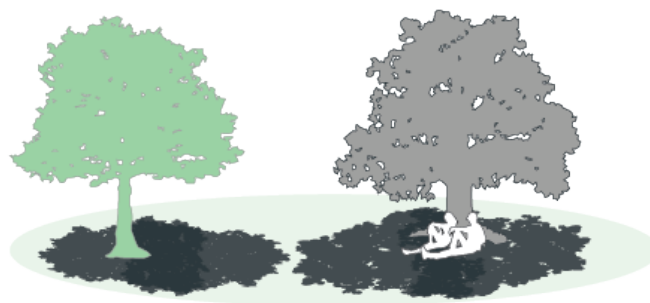
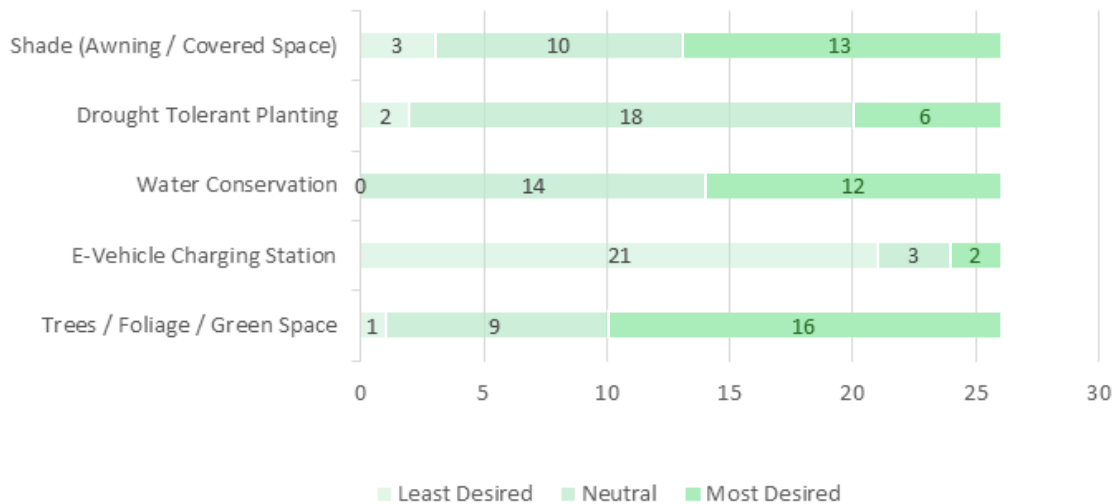
Do you agree with the following statements regarding the maintenance of the park?



## Key Takeaways

- Based on the feedback from the survey respondents, it is evident that the park is highly regarded for its cleanliness, ample parking facilities, and overall maintenance. The majority of respondents expressed satisfaction with these aspects. However, it is worth noting that a few individuals mentioned that the placement and visibility of the garbage facilities could be improved.

# The RDNO promotes creating spaces in a way that supports climate action. Which of the following eco-friendly features would you like to see in Grindrod Park?



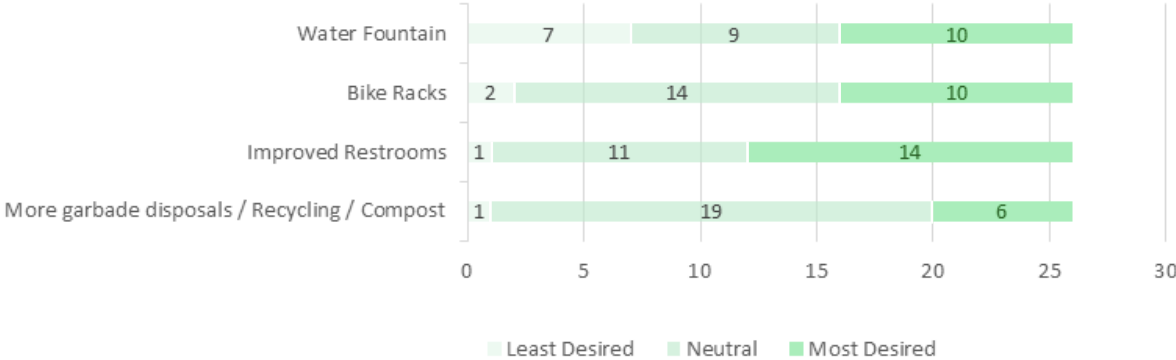
## Key Takeaways

- When it comes to climate action, one of the top priorities that people are deeply concerned about is the preservation and increase of trees, foliage, and green spaces.
- The second highest priority came for covered space.
- The third highest priority was water conservation.

# What we heard

## Quantitative Survey Results

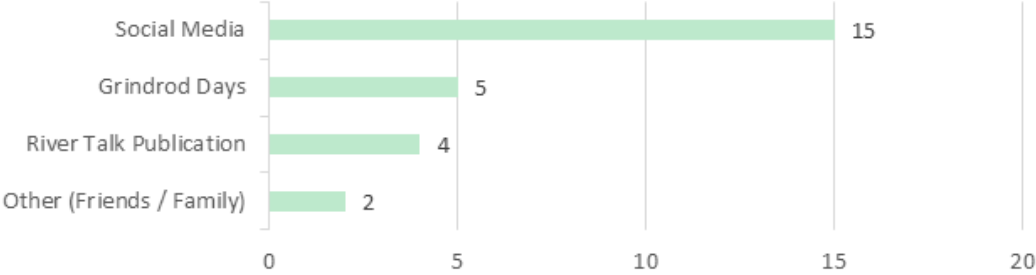
### Which furniture and amenities would make the park more enjoyable / functional



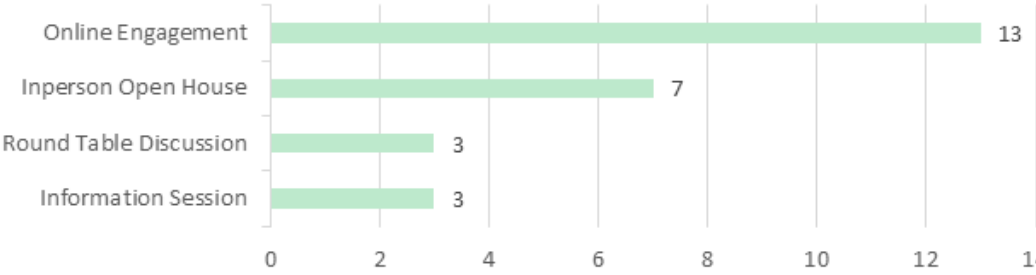
## Key Takeaways

- When it comes to site furnishings, one of the top priorities that people are deeply concerned about is improved restrooms.
- Bike racks narrowly beat out drinking/ water fountain as the second highest priority.

# How did you hear about the survey?



# How would you like to engage in future?



## Key Takeaways

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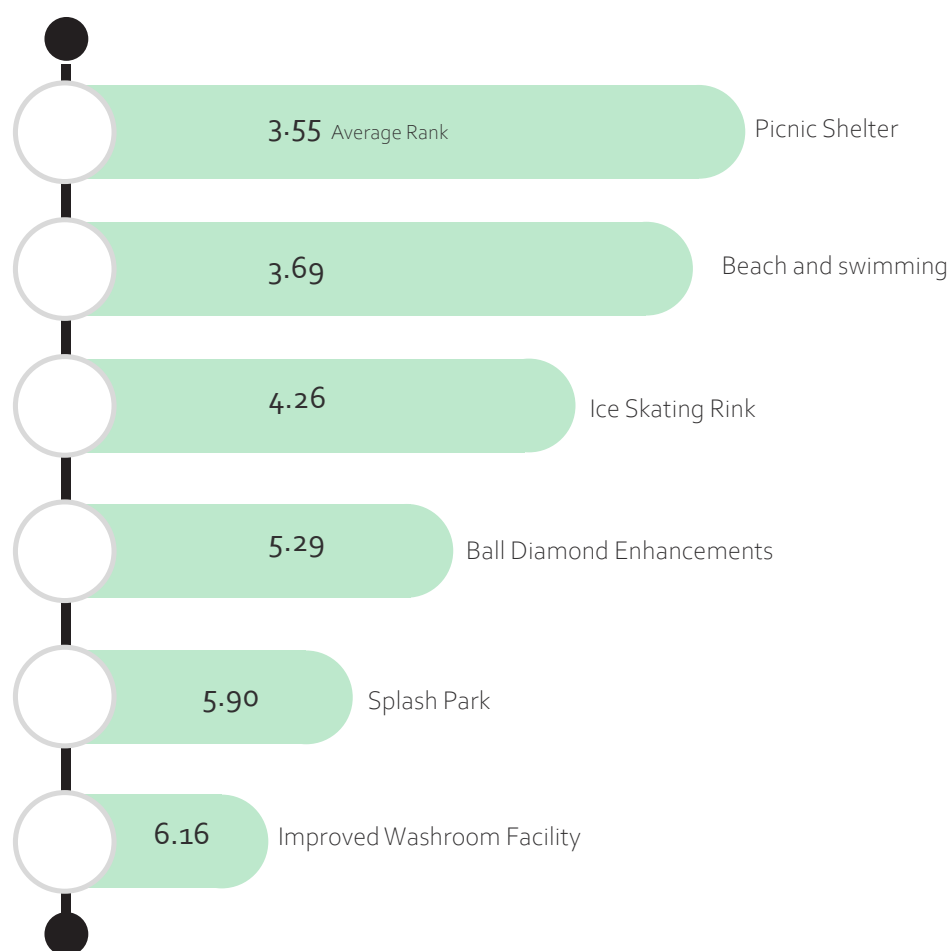
- Social media was the number 1 form of outreach for people to take the survey.
- For future engagement sessions there was a good mix between people wanted in person events and online sessions.



## What we heard

### Quantitative Survey Results

# Park Improvements /Enhancements



## Key Takeaways

- Picnic shelter emerged as the top priority among online survey votes. While other themes were discussed in-person, shelter received significant attention during online discussions compared to other responses.
- Beach and swimming access was also the second most desired enhancement for the in-person event.
- Other elements which received marginal numbers of top priority votes, not listed above off leash dog areas, sports courts, paddle sports and playground enhancements.

# What we heard

## Qualitative Survey Results

# Final Thoughts

### Any Final ideas, questions. Or comments?

A representative sample of quotes from the survey showing the main themes from this qualitative question



## Other Responses Themes:

- Entrance Road
- Areas for dogs
- 50/50 split in people asking for the ball park to stay and people asking for it to be removed.
- Expanded hall for drama/ music presentations

# What we heard

## Park Operator Interviews

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### Grindrod Community Club

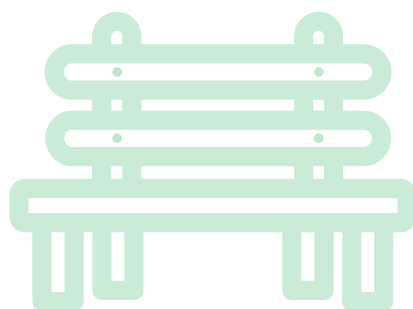
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- Need for plumbed washroom building (Club).
- Walking path is well-used.
- Hand launch most suitable for park.
- Keep northeast area un-constructed for occasional camping use with event rental.
- Concerns with ball diamonds based on historical user behaviour and maintenance costs.
- Supportive of youth ball in the park.
- Important to maintain space for Grindrod Days /Market.

### Regional District of North Okanagan

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- Need for ball diamonds based on Area F Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Need for pickleball courts and basketball court based on Area F Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Area experiences regular water restrictions so park improvements will need to consider responsible use of water in planning.
- Park is in the Agricultural Land Reserve, so park improvements beyond existing use will need to be considered within ALC regulations.



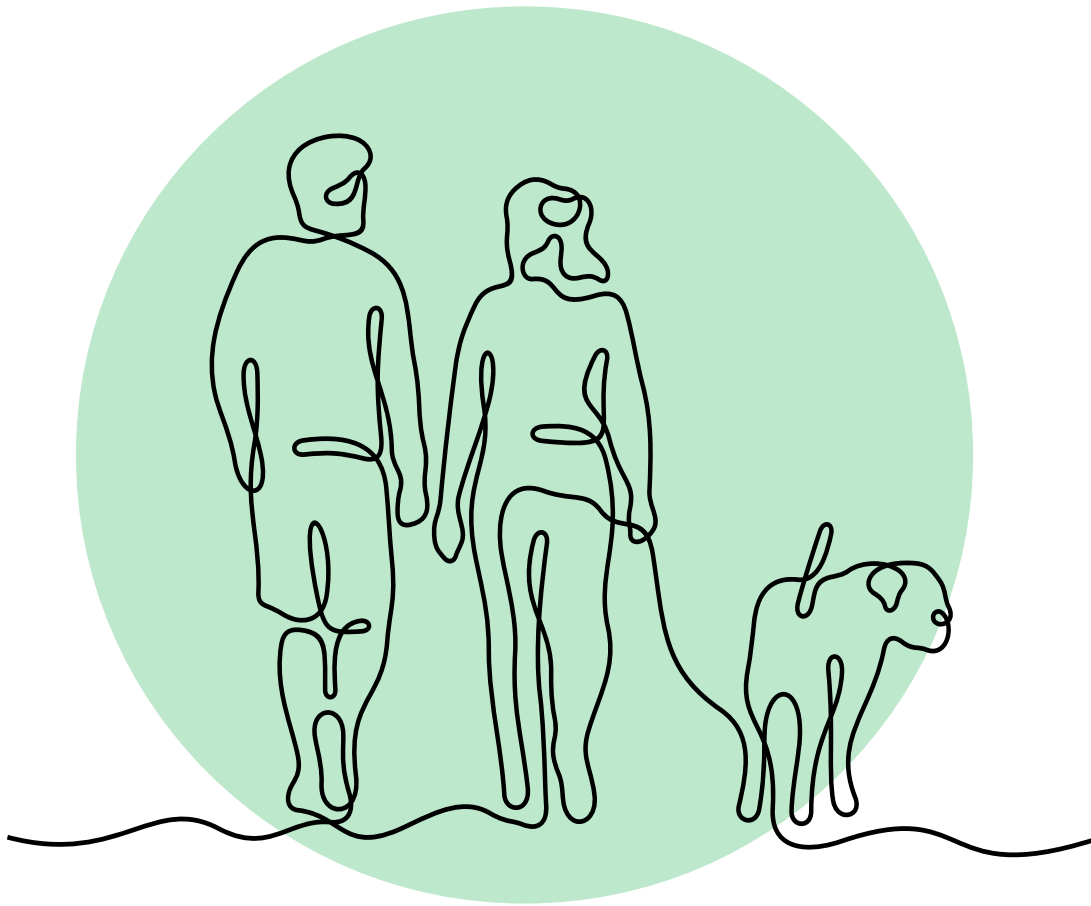


# Next Steps

This public feedback is crucial in shaping the future of Grindrod Park. The time and contribution from staff, volunteer participants and event organizers was greatly appreciated during this engagement period. The input will help create a park that meets the needs of the Grindrod community and provides more opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Municipal staff and the design consultant will review survey responses and synthesize the data into themes and priorities for new construction. With funding for park enhancements available, it is anticipated that the RDNO will invest in upgrades at Grindrod park in the near future. Respondent feedback, best practices, nearby amenities and existing policy guidelines will help decision makers determine what the next upgrades to the park should be and when and how they will be constructed.





While a variety of tactics were used to reach a diverse range of citizens (see: Public outreach), results from open surveys such as those provided do not represent a statistically significant, random sample of all North Okanagan citizens. Due to the opt-in and open nature of participation, results do not necessarily reflect the views of all residents of the Regional District of North Okanagan.

Additional efforts were made to connect with harder-to-reach communities via stakeholder and community liaison networks; however, under-represented groups and individuals remain under-represented in the overall results.

Additionally, results may not be representative of groups experiencing the greatest housing need, including those experiencing homelessness or accessing housing with supports.

# Appendix

Public Engagement boards shared at Grindrod Days

## GRINDROD PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Grindrod Days - July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023

### Project Objectives:

1. To engage the local and surrounding rural community and identify the top priorities for upgrades at Grindrod Park.
2. Prepare an updated concept design for Grindrod Park that meets the needs of all park users
3. Assist the Regional District of North Okanagan with planning for future park improvements.



## Project Timeline



Public Engagement boards shared at Grindrod Days

# GRINDROD PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Grindrod Days - July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023



## Existing Park Map



**LEGEND**

GRINDROD PARK SITE	EXISTING FENCED AREA	HIGHWAY 97A	POSSIBLE WATER ACCESS TO PARK
EXISTING INTERNAL ROAD AND PARKING	EXISTING SOFT BALL FIELDS (UNMAINTAINED)	EXISTING LOCAL ROADS	EXISTING PATHWAY AND TRAIL
EXISTING BUILDINGS ON SITE	EXISTING FENCED STORM WATER MANAGEMENT	EXISTING ENTRY / EXIT	PARKING

## Tell us what you would like to see at Grindrod Park!

Our on-line survey will be open until the end of summer.

Visit: [www.rdno.ca/form/2023-grindrod-park-survey](http://www.rdno.ca/form/2023-grindrod-park-survey)

or scan the QR code.

