



Project overview

Playgrounds are public spaces that enable children to come together, learn from each other and build relationships. Inclusive playgrounds are meant to be engaging, fun spaces where everyone can play regardless of their abilities. These playgrounds challenge the most active children while also providing enclosed areas for quiet and creative play. Some have unique features like braille directional signage for those who are blind or partially sighted and accessible sway rides and swings. The equipment is easy to approach and use by children and caregivers with mobility devices and incorporates communication boards to help non-verbal individuals or those with hearing impairments communicate with friends and family.

Through funding available via the Alberta Government Municipal Stimulus Program, plans for 10 inclusive playgrounds went into planning. Playground locations were chosen based on meeting the following requirements: existing playground onsite enabling easier development; site large enough to accommodate the larger format of an inclusive playground; access to either a parking lot, accessible street parking or close to major transit routes; preferably near a public washroom and; the route/pathway to the site is accessible.

Many of these playgrounds were built in partnership with [Parks Foundation Calgary](#).

Engagement overview

An [Inclusive Playgrounds](#) portal page was open for input from September 29, 2021, through October 28, 2022. The page was designed to help evaluate our inclusive playgrounds by receiving feedback from users about their experiences at the inclusive playgrounds. By evaluating the user experiences, we can continue to improve on playground design and features that best meet the collective needs of Calgarians.

A map with location points and a brief description of each inclusive playground was provided.

What we asked and why

Tell us about your experiences at our inclusive playgrounds:

What we asked	Why we asked
1. Which playground site did you visit?	To get a sense of use/awareness of the location of the playground site



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2. Indicate your level of satisfaction with your groups experience at this site today	To evaluate the user experience while visiting this playground site
3. How long was your planned stay at the playground?	To gain a better understanding of planned length of stay in relation to meeting expectations
4. Did you stay as long as planned?	Did the length of stay meet expectations as related to plan
5. What park features would facilitate a longer or improved stay:	To help identify potential improvements to the playground site's design and features
6. What quadrant of the City do you live in?	To help identify location and use of playground sites in each quadrant of the City
7. Were the playground equipment choices suitable for your family in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was the equipment the right fit in terms of ergonomics? • Would you be helped by fencing/enclosure of the playground? • Seating choices? • Was the equipment challenging enough? • Was the equipment too challenging? • Enough shade? 	To evaluate the current playground equipment and suitability for the users
8. Who is part of your group today, including you?	To provide us with demographic data for planning and improvements of inclusive playgrounds
9. Please provide any additional comments or feedback about this site	To capture additional comments/feedback that we might have missed through the online engagement

What we heard

The following are results from the survey responses received. Where applicable, supporting verbatim comments are provided (these are not altered for spelling or



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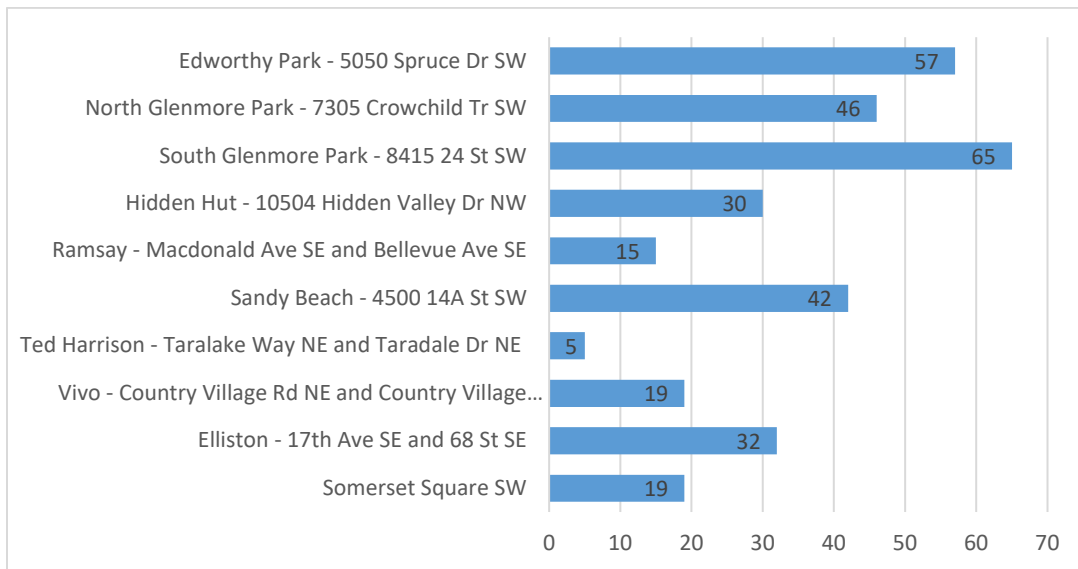
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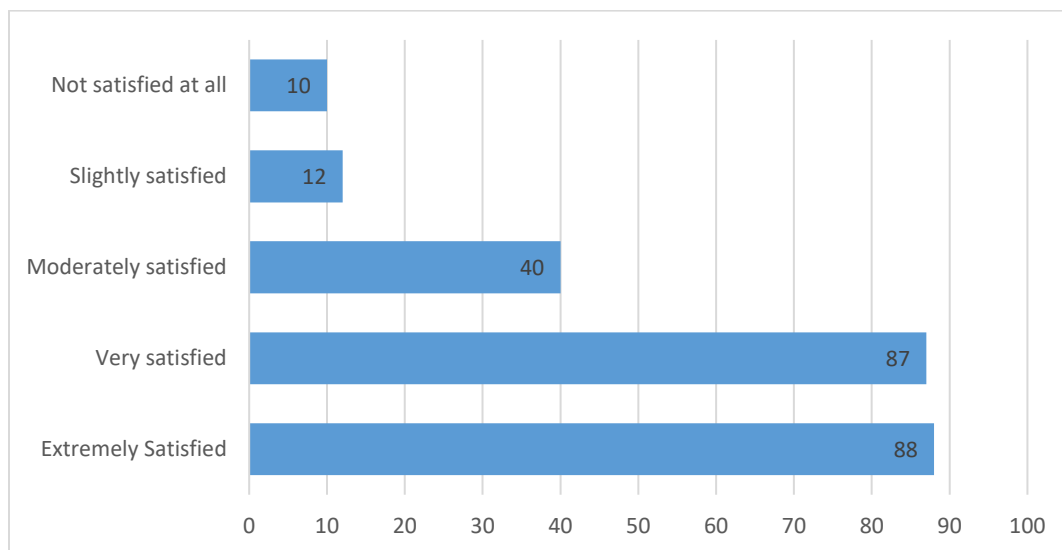
grammar and presented as recieved). Full verbatim of responses are also provided by clicking the link, to provide full transparency of comments received.

Shows the question type and repsonse rate. Provided to show the number of responses the report is reflective of, meant to show distribution and not to seen as voting as comments/responses recived could represent a mix of feedback.

Which playground site did you visit? Multi Choice | Skipped: 17 | Answered: 227 (93%)



2) Indicate your level of satisfaction with your groups experience at this site today? Multi Choice | Skipped: 7 | Answered: 237 (97.1%)

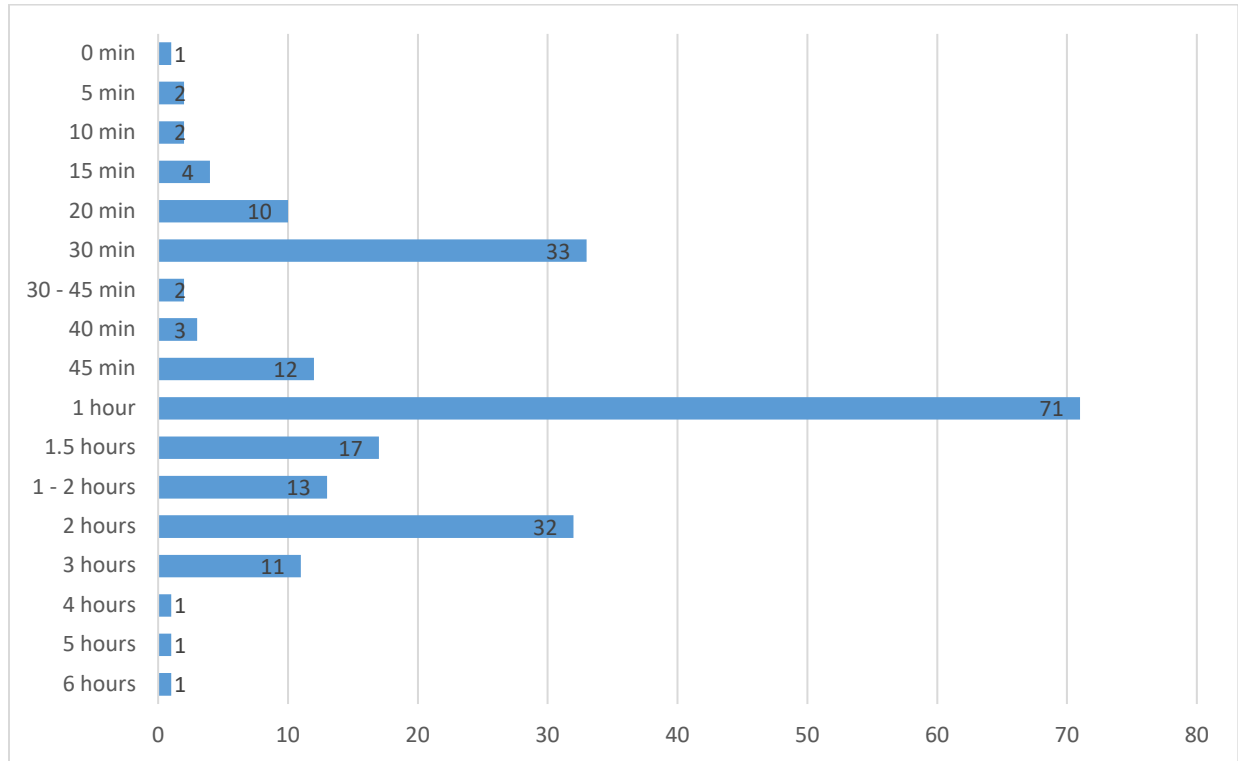




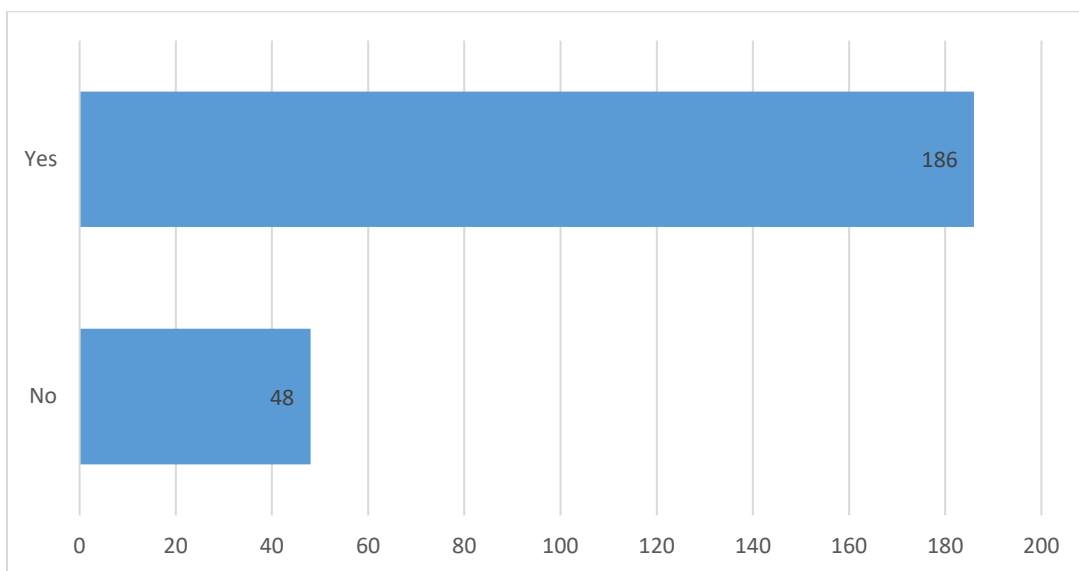
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3) How long was your planned stay at the playground?

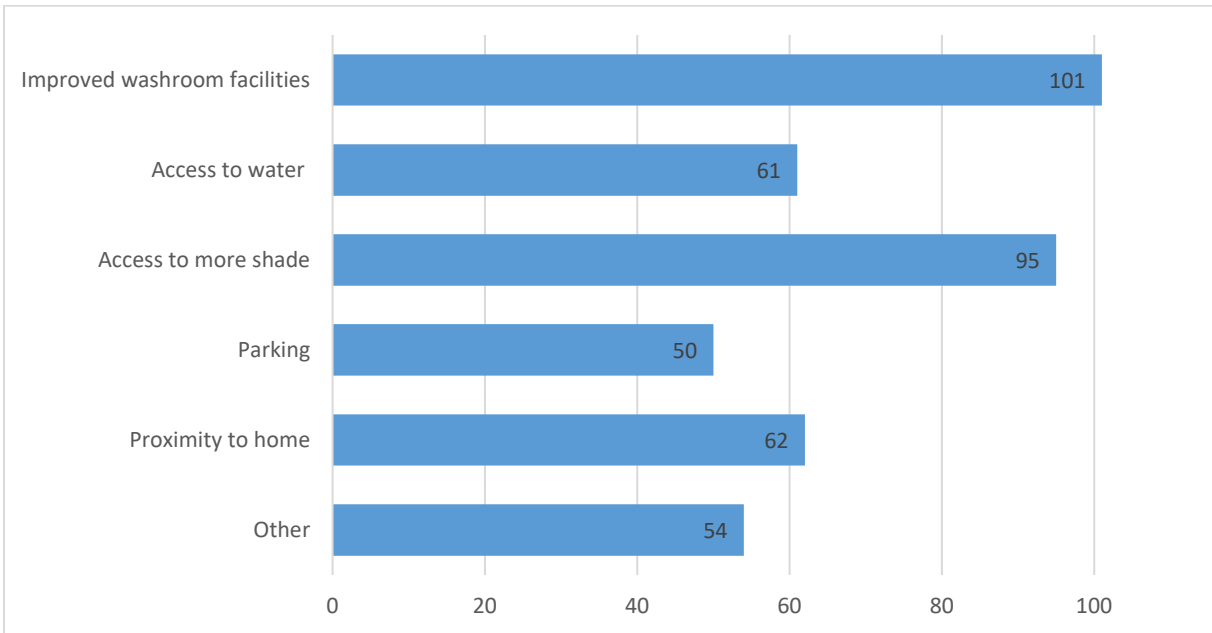


4) Did you stay as long as planned? *Multi Choice* | *Skipped: 10* | *Answered: 234 (95.9%)*



5) What park features would facilitate a longer or improved stay: Multi Choice |

Skipped: 28 | Answered: 216 (88.5%)



Other comments reflected the following themes: (for full verbatim comments [click here](#))

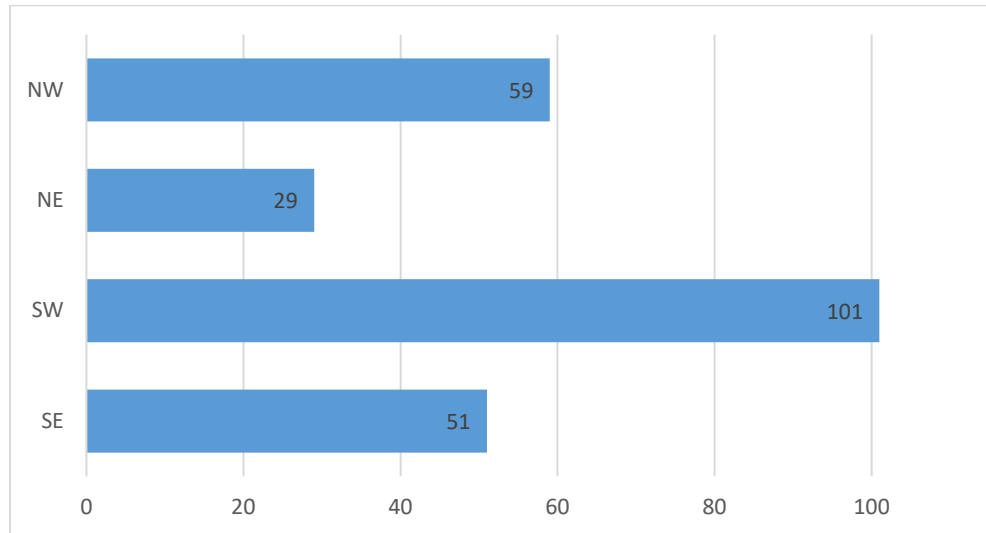
Themes	Supporting Verbatim Comment
Needs a fence/more fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs a fence around the playplace More fencing Enclosed fenced space
More seating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More seating around playground More newer benches and also spaces to chill at the park, outside facility's for washrooms and to chat about stuff around the area. More tables & benches with shade
Improved safety and safety concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street lighting! there are no light fixtures installed so in the winter time it is impossible to play after 4-5 pm Better and more engaging playground that is safer for children aged 2-5... More space, and having a fence to provide a barrier for my son who is on the Autism spectrum and is a flight risk.



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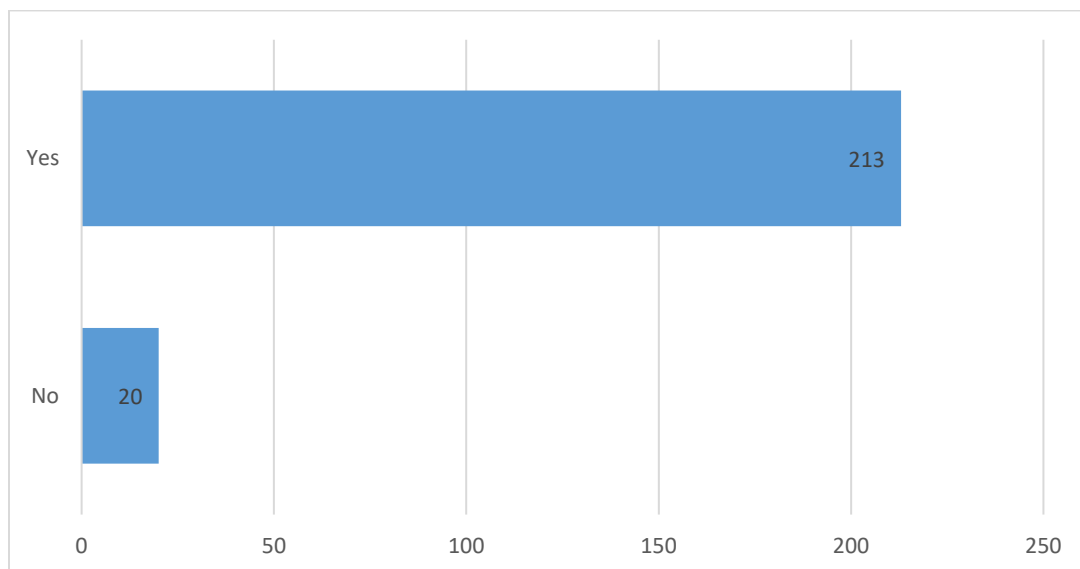
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6) What quadrant of the City do you live in? *Multi Choice | Skipped: 4 | Answered: 240 (98.4%)*



7) Were the playground equipment choices suitable for your family in terms of:

Was the equipment the right fit in terms of ergonomics? *Multi Choice | Skipped: 11 Answered: 233 (95.5%)*

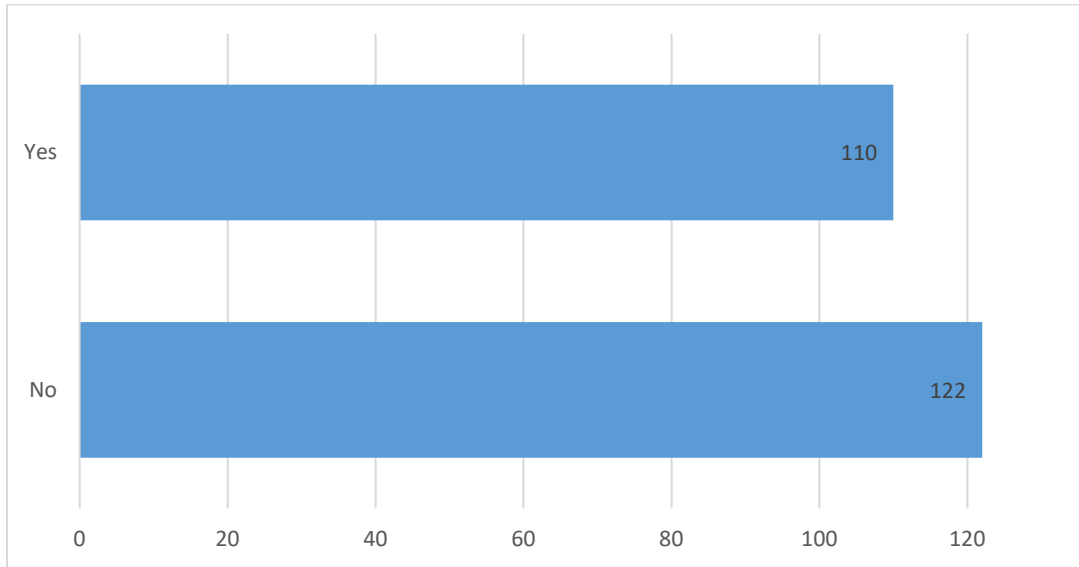




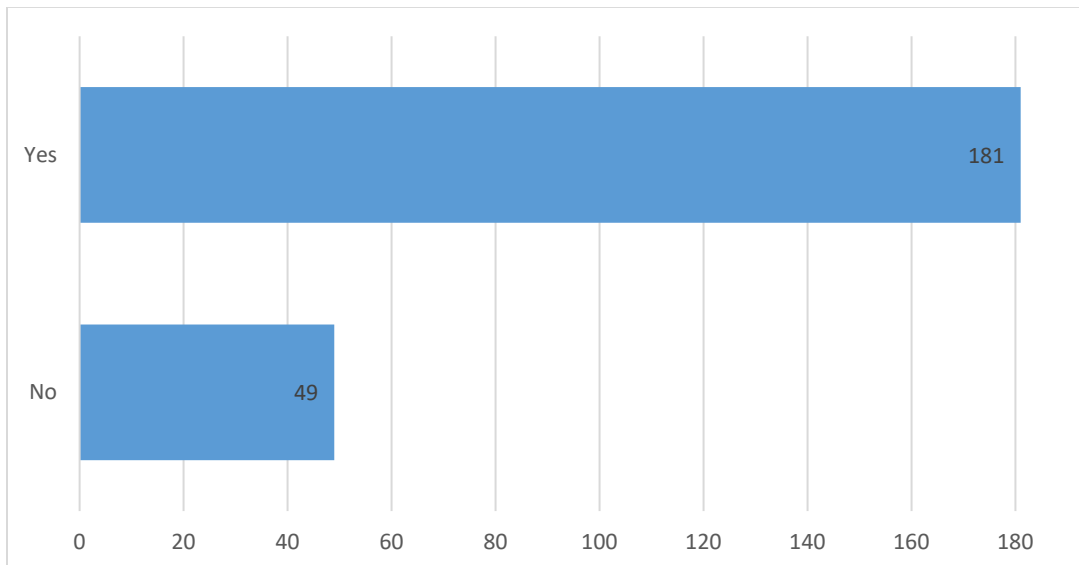
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Would you be helped by fencing/enclosure of the playground? *Multi Choice | Skipped: 12 | Answered: 232 (95.1%)*



Seating choices? *Multi Choice | Skipped: 14 | Answered: 230 (94.3%)*

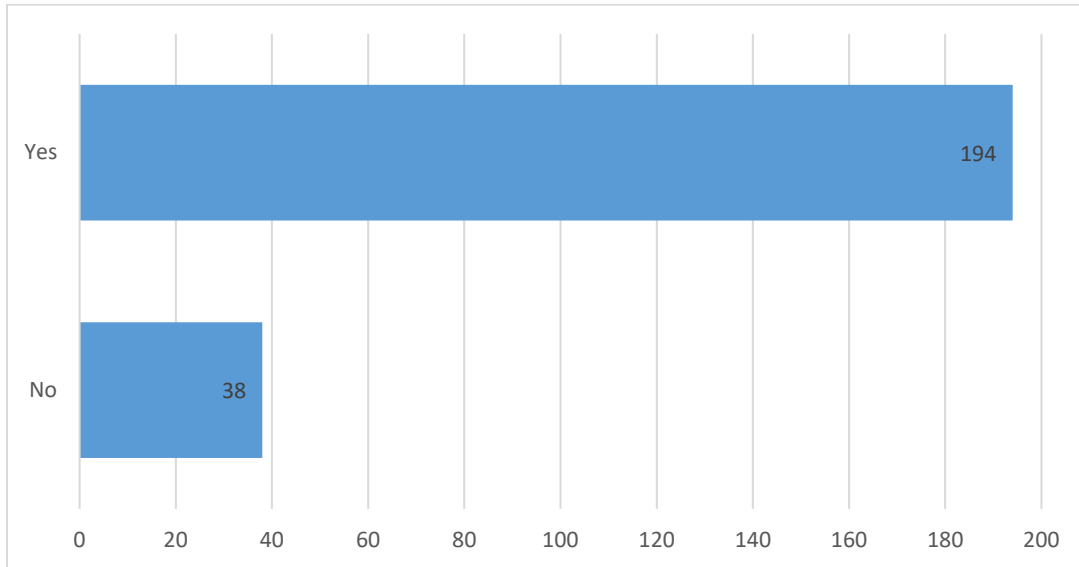




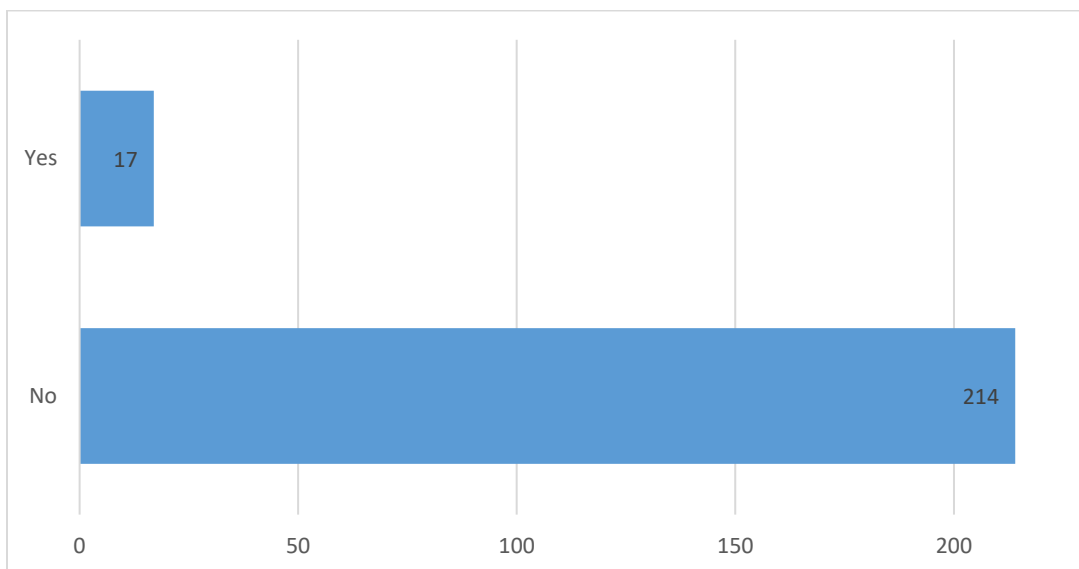
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Was the equipment challenging enough? *Multi Choice | Skipped: 12 | Answered: 232 (95.1%)*



Was the equipment too challenging? *Multi Choice | Skipped: 13 | Answered: 231 (94.7%)*

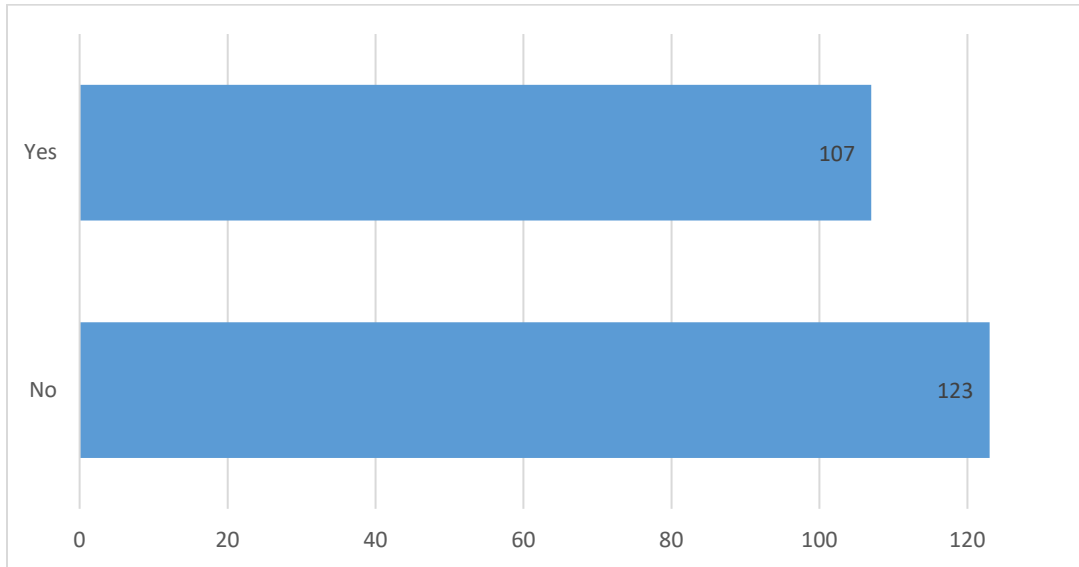




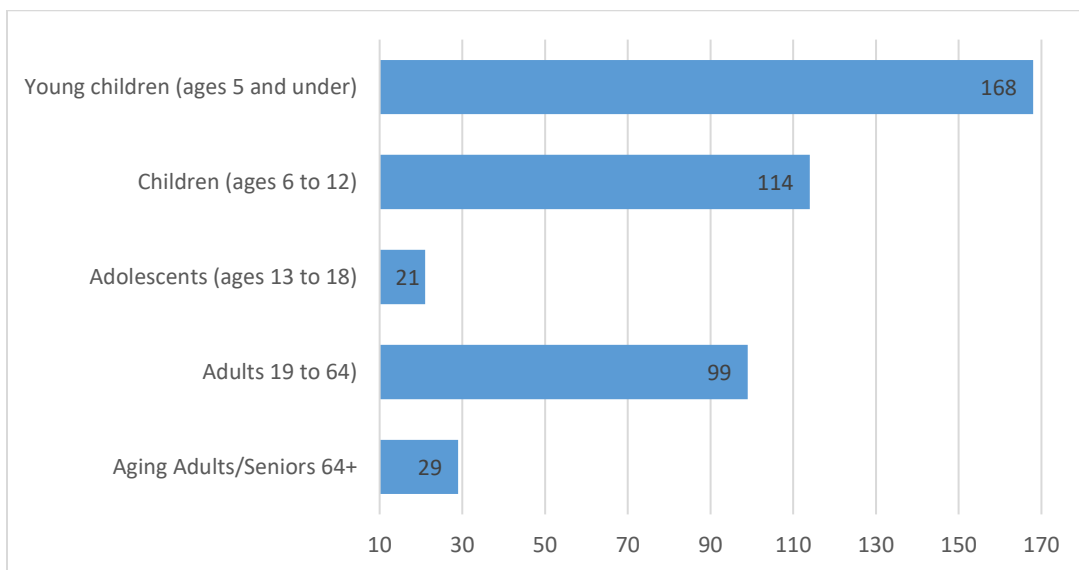
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Enough shade? *Multi Choice* | Skipped: 14 | Answered: 230 (94.3%)



8) Who is part of your group today, including you? *Multi Choice* | Skipped: 8 | Answered: 236 (96.7%)





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9) Please provide any additional comments or feedback about this site (long text)

Long Text | Skipped: 108 | Answered: 136 (55.7%)

Comments reflected the following themes: (for full verbatim comments [click here](#))

Themes	Supporting Verbatim Comment
Overall positive comment about the playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Overall loved it. My toddler fell off of a tall play structure and it was slightly too easy for him to get that high due to all the ramps.Thank you very much! This is a small step in the right direction.I've never seen a good balance between accessible and challenging, this does both very well!
Loved the playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We absolutely loved this playground. There was something for everyone to do, and the kids were totally engaged. We will be back soon!We love the park and it's proximity to our home.Kids loved this playground it was fun for both 6 and 8 year old. Loved the parking lot, easy access and lots of parking! It was about 15-20 min drive from home, but we'll worth the trip, will be coming back a lot!
Needs fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">My Lil one is autistic and a fenced playground would help him not to run towards the lake and attempt to jump in or chase the ducksI was here 3 weeks ago and there was a fence, now there is no fence, what's the purpose of an inclusive playground if there is no fence?We live in McKenzie Towne and there are zero fenced in play spaces in our area so we typically drive to Okotoks. This was a long drive to find a park that is fenced but it's worth it since our autistic son has zero sense of safety and runs off on us. Fencing is the most important part of a park to us due to my son being a runner. Build more fenced play spaces in other quadrants of the city I know many mamas with ASD kids who do t go to parks because their kids are runners, fences are essential.



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Next steps

Your feedback is greatly appreciated and will influence the design of future inclusive playgrounds within The City of Calgary. This is in alignment with the Council-approved [Inclusive Play Spaces Implementation Plan](#).