

Town of Whitchurch–Stouffville **PARKS PLAN**

Phase 1: What We Heard Report



Table of Contents

- 1 | Introduction 1**
 - 1.1 Project Timeline 2

- 2 | Phase 1: Setting Priorities 4**
 - 2.1 Stakeholder Engagement 4
 - 2.2 Public Engagement 6

- 3 | Engagement Findings 8**
 - 3.1 Key Themes and Takeaways 8
 - 3.2 Stakeholder Engagement Results 10
 - 3.3 Public Engagement Results 15

- 4 | Looking Ahead 34**
 - 4.1 Conclusion 34
 - 4.2 Next Steps 35

INTRODUCTION

1 | Introduction

Our parks, trails, and open spaces are places for people to interact, develop social ties, and for recreation and exercise. As the Town continues to grow, a Parks Plan is being developed that will guide the development of a well-connected network of parks, trails, and open spaces to support a vibrant and healthy community for all residents and visitors.

A Parkland Dedication By-law Update will complement the Parks Plan by setting requirements for developers to provide parkland as part of new development within the Town.

The Parks Plan will support decision-making for the acquisition and investment in parkland across the Town, and will include a needs assessment and review of provision targets for:

- All existing parkland within the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.
- Town-owned properties that currently serve other uses but could serve as potential candidates for future parkland.
- Future growth areas as identified in the Town's New Official Plan, including MTSA's (Stouffville GO and Old Elm GO Major Transit Station Areas) and other Strategic Growth Areas (Western Approach Mixed Use Area, Downtown Core Area).
- Public open spaces not owned by the Town but used by the public, such as school board properties, utility corridors, conservation lands, and more.

The Parks Plan will also include an assessment of new park typologies and associated amenities to help meet provision targets. The plan will act as a tool to identify which park typologies are best suited for different development and growth scenarios in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

1.1 Project Timeline

The Parks Plan is being undertaken in three phases:

Phase 1: Setting Priorities (Spring 2024)

Goals, priorities, and recommendations for the Parks Plan will be developed and informed by input from the public, Town Council and staff, and key stakeholders.

Phase 2: Parks Plan Development (Fall 2024)

The draft and final Parks Plan will be developed, informed, and refined by continuous input from the public, Town Council and staff, and key stakeholders.

Phase 3: Parkland Dedication By-law Update (Winter 2025)

The Parkland Dedication By-law will be prepared and presented to Council for adoption.



PHASE 1: SETTING PRIORITIES

2 | Phase 1: Setting Priorities

The Town of Whitchurch–Stouffville engaged with stakeholders and residents to support the development of goals, priorities, and recommendations for the Parks Plan.

The objectives of Phase 1: Setting Priorities were to understand:

- The size and location of existing parkland and potential for enhancement or expansion to support population growth and intensification.
- The role of new and existing parkland as multifunctional spaces to meet a wide range of recreational interests.
- The pedestrian link between parks to create a comprehensive and connected park and open space system.

2.1 Stakeholder Engagement

A range of stakeholders were engaged to understand their perspectives on parks, trails and open spaces in the Town. A total of 62 stakeholders participated across 5 engagement meetings.

A summary of stakeholder engagement findings is provided in **Section 3.2**.



Technical Advisory Committee (15 attendees)

- Thursday, April 25th, 1-2:30pm
- Virtual on Microsoft Teams
 - » BILD GTA
 - » York Region Public Health
 - » York Region District School Board
 - » York Region Catholic District School Board
 - » Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
 - » Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
 - » York Region, Natural Heritage and Forestry

Town Steering Committee (12 attendees)

- Friday, April 26th, 9-10:30am
- Virtual on Microsoft Teams

Office of the CAO, Legal Division

Community Services Department,
Parks Division

Development Services Department

- Policy Planning Division
- Development Planning Division
- Economic Development

Whitchurch–Stouffville Public Library

Engineering and Public Works

- Development Engineering

Finance

Community Stakeholder Meeting #1

(2 attendees)

- Tuesday, April 30th, 6–8pm
- In-person at Town Municipal Offices
 - » Accessibility Advisory Committee
 - » Stouffville Pickleball Players

Community Stakeholder Meeting #2

(5 attendees)

- Thursday, May 2nd, 6–8pm
- Virtual on Microsoft Teams
 - » Steer Friends
 - » Stouffville Horticultural Society
 - » Stouffville Baseball Association
 - » Stouffville Softball Association
 - » Heritage Advisory Committee

Building Industry Meeting

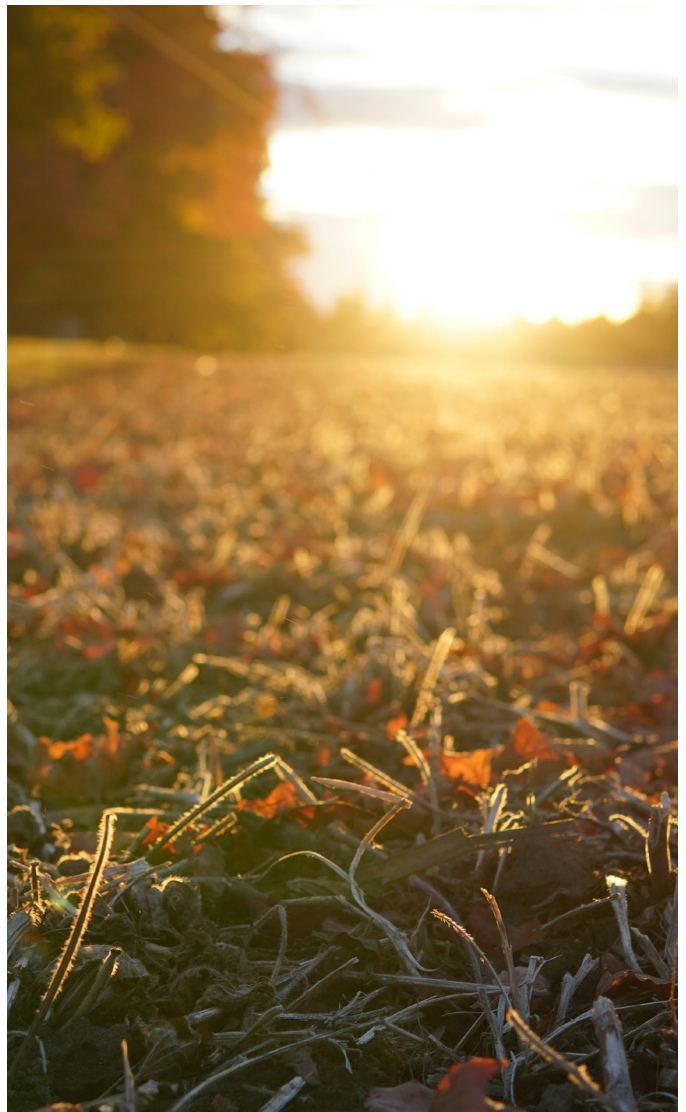
(28 attendees)

- Wednesday, May 22nd, 9–11am
- Virtual on Microsoft Teams
 - » Membership from the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) Greater Toronto Area

2.2 Public Engagement

Information about the Parks Plan and Parkland Dedication By-law Update was provided on the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville’s engagement website at www.townofws.ca/parksplan.

An online survey was live from April 8 to May 12, 2024 and received a total of 95 responses. A summary of public engagement findings is provided in **Section 3.3**.



ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS

3 | Engagement Findings

3.1 Key Themes and Takeaways

The following four key themes and takeaways were generated through in Phase 1 of the project, through stakeholder engagement sessions and the public survey results. **Section 3.2** summarizes stakeholder engagement meetings and **Section 3.3** describes the results of the public survey.

- 1. Building connections:** A park system that is connected is important to residents and stakeholders. Participants currently describe their park system as “limited, small, lacking and disconnected,” although still feel their parks are “nice” and have positive impacts on elements of their well-being. When thinking about the future, residents wish to see their park system be “connected,” “natural,” and have “trails.”

Improved connectivity (through trails and other pathways) would support residents’ desires to cycle and walk, as well as improve their mobility to local parks and open spaces.

Throughout stakeholder engagement sessions, participants described the opportunities to build connectivity through smaller parks in existing communities, as well as connections to other regional greenspaces to support active recreation and economic development.

- 2. Let’s play:** Opportunities for active recreation, sports and play are some of the most requested facilities and amenities in Whitchurch–Stouffville. When thinking about some of the smaller park types that could be considered in Town, participants shared that they would like active recreation and sports facilities like baseball diamonds, basketball and pickleball courts to be included in these spaces.

Stakeholder engagement sessions revealed, and were confirmed by survey responses, that there is a perception of pressure on the Town’s sports facilities, especially with increased population growth. Participants report having to travel to adjacent municipalities to access facilities and having difficulty scheduling youth leagues and adult leagues. Overall, participants feel that current sports facilities are not meeting demand.

- 3. Keep it green:** Parks have a positive impact on participants' connection to nature and the element of the Town's parks that participants appreciate most is their ability to access nature. Throughout the survey, residents describe their preference to see Whitchurch–Stouffville's parks remain places for the protection and appreciation of nature, including wanting to see native plantings, support for biodiversity, green space, botanical gardens and plenty of trees.
- 4. Activities for Kids:** Activities and amenities for kids, such as playgrounds and splash pads, were discussed as a popular feature that residents appreciate and would like to see more of. In particular, the age range for specific amenities was referenced, with requests for play structures for toddlers, smaller kids, kids of all ages—even adults. Shade, seating, and picnic areas were identified as additional amenities supporting smaller park types and allowing caregivers to enjoy parks while youth enjoy play spaces.



3.2 Stakeholder Engagement Results

Throughout the series of five stakeholder engagement sessions, participants expressed their ideas around opportunities and challenges for the Town of Whitchurch–Stouffville’s parks, trails and open space system. Given that each workshop was targeted to different stakeholder groups with different levels of interest and direct involvement in the maintenance, operation, and programming of Town parks, the key takeaways from each session are quite unique.

3.2.1 Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee of the Parks Plan was comprised of those who have more direct involvement with the maintenance, operations, and administration of parks and open spaces in Whitchurch–Stouffville and surrounding regions.

A central conversation was around the opportunities for joint use agreements with school sites. While this presents an opportunity to improve access to open space, there are significant perceived challenges with land acquisition, operations and maintenance.

In particular, participants described challenges with determining clear and appropriate shared use agreements, responsibilities around operations, and managing expectations for after-hours use. The appropriate public use of school sites was discussed, as conflicts between users can occur, such as off-leash dogs, especially during school hours. In addition, participants suggested the sharing of secondary school sites to meet open space needs, as the requirements and boundaries required may enable more public use than the shared use of elementary school sites.

The Stakeholder Advisory Committee identified low-density areas in Town as an opportunity to plan ahead, while privately-owned publicly-accessible spaces (POPS) and strata parks may be appropriate for more developed areas. In both scenarios, improved connectivity (e.g., active transportation networks, trails) were identified as important to maintain and enhance.

Additional considerations from the Stakeholder Advisory Committee include:

- Continued community engagement
- Support for health and well-being
- Equitable access to public space and amenities
- Connectivity for human and natural systems
- Supporting youth and older adults
- Continue to seek out partnerships

A follow-up email from the TRCA on June 19th, 2024, provided additional feedback and consideration for the Town's Parks Plan. The TRCA detailed the significance of their conservation work in the Town and called for a holistic approach to the Parks Plan that would "balance the need for, value and function of parks, trails and natural areas." In particular, the TRCA owns and operates several properties in Town, such as Bruce's Mill Conservation Park, that attracts locals and tourists alike. These spaces provide diversity to the Town's municipal park system.

The TRCA, through their participation in the development of other policies and strategies focused on conservation and natural open space management, have a wealth of knowledge on the ecological value of the Town's natural assets and expressed interest in continued involvement in the Parks Plan and Parkland Dedication By-law development process.

3.2.2 Town Steering Committee

The Town Steering Committee includes representation from various departments who play a role in the development, maintenance and operations of parks, trails and open spaces.

The Town Steering Committee, much like other stakeholder groups and members of the public, expressed concerns around fragmentation and connectivity. It was suggested that POPS and linear parks (also referred to as “sliver parks”) could support cycling and walking to improve mobility and connectivity, and that there is a need to improve trail connections in infill areas.

Participants emphasized the role that parks could play in tourism and economic development in the Town. Opportunities to build connections to other regional greenspaces was identified as an opportunity. For example, partnerships with York Region, Durham Region, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and Parks Canada could be considered to enhance trail connections south to Rouge National Urban Park and east to Durham Region.

Partnerships with local schools (through joint use agreements) and the Whitchurch–Stouffville Public Library (through programming opportunities) were suggestions for improving access and experiences on a neighbourhood-scale.

New park typologies, such as POPS are seen as an opportunity to increase parkland supply, particularly in high density communities. An opportunity to reduce the Town’s responsibility for maintenance through POPS (i.e., maintenance responsibilities shifting to private landowner) is considered desirable; however, the size, function and role of POPS within a system of hierarchical parkland distribution needs to be considered. Participants suggested the development of guidelines or toolkits to support developers in meeting the Town’s expectations for well-designed and programmable public spaces of any type.

Despite interesting opportunities to explore new ways of providing parks, trails and open spaces in Town, these new typologies (i.e., POPS and linear parks) are considered to come with trade-offs and new challenges. For example, there may be additional maintenance considerations with new park typologies and as new materials are introduced in parks (e.g., access for maintenance vehicles). In addition, land acquisition and budget constraints are some of the larger challenges the Town may face when seeking to provide parks of any size or type.

Town staff recommended enhancing diversity for parks moving forward, including the diversity of locations and programming opportunities. The Old Elm MTSA was specifically suggested as an area to implement new programming and park typology opportunities.

3.2.3 Community Stakeholder Meetings #1 + #2

A range of Community Stakeholders were invited to participate in a series of meetings for the Parks Plan. Invitations were extended to a range of organizations and committees that represent user groups and interests such as sports, ecology and nature, equity and diversity. Despite low attendance, participants were eager to provide insight into how their users experience parks, trails, open spaces and their amenities in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Since many participants represented various sport organizations, many of the conversations centred around the provision of sports facilities and amenities across Town. They expressed that new development (both in Town and on the periphery) places pressure on existing amenities and sports fields. The provision of sports fields (such as baseball diamonds and pickleball courts) are considered to not be keeping pace with growth, increased population density and new interest in certain sports.

Sports fields and parks that support tournaments were identified as useful assets for boosting economic activity, generating revenue, and attracting visitors or new residents.

Connectivity is considered important. Participants specified that the Town would benefit from more trails and paths for biking and walking to support residents with mobility and active recreation.

Finally, there is the perception that increased construction costs (and development charges not keeping pace) and project timelines can slow down progress on improving access and connectivity in the park system. Further, the delay between receipt of cash-in-lieu funds and spending of those funds means that land value often increases, and the Town gets less value for parks than originally planned for.

3.2.4 Building Industry Meeting

A meeting was held with the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) to share introductory presentations on two concurrent and interrelated projects: the Parks Plan and Parkland Dedication By-law Update project, as well as the Community Benefits Charges By-law and Strategy project.

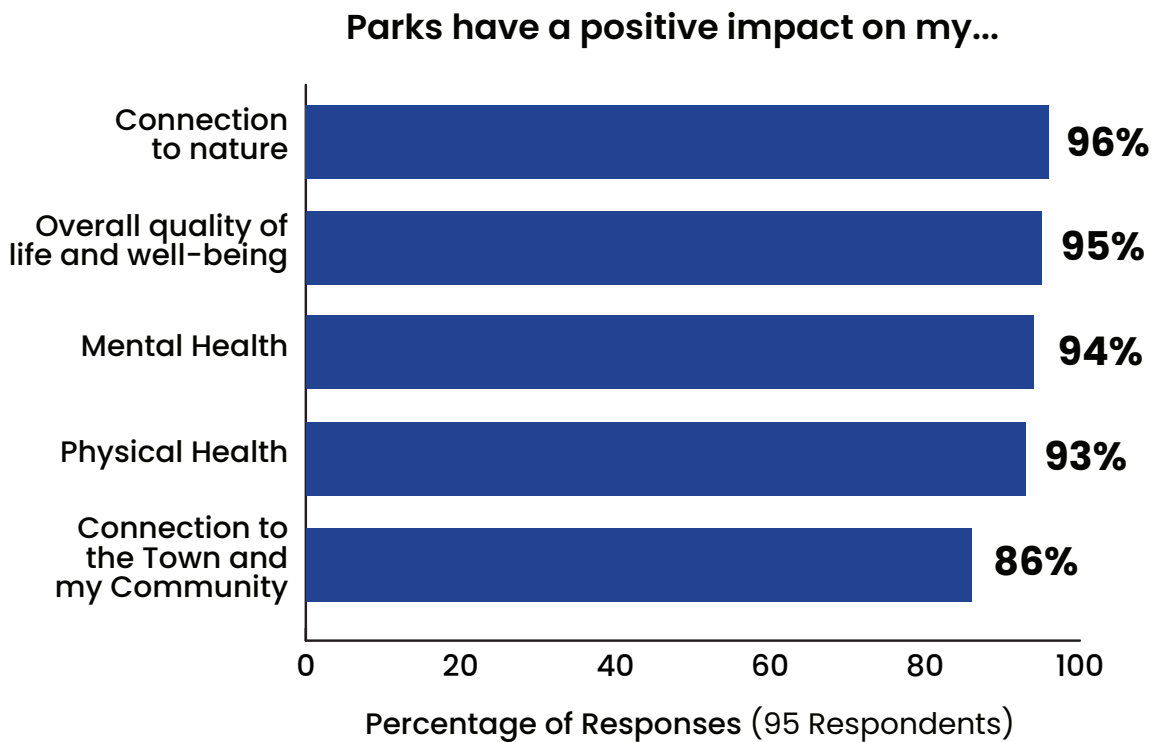
An opportunity to ask questions to the project team was offered. No comments or questions were received at this meeting.



Impacts of Parks on Wellness

Participants responded to the impact that parks have on elements of their well-being, with most components receiving high response rates, such as connection to nature at 96% and overall quality of life and well-being at 95%. Parks were indicated as having positive impact on mental health and physical health, at 94% and 93% respectively.

Parks were less frequently selected by participants as having a positive impact on connection to the Town and their community at 86%.



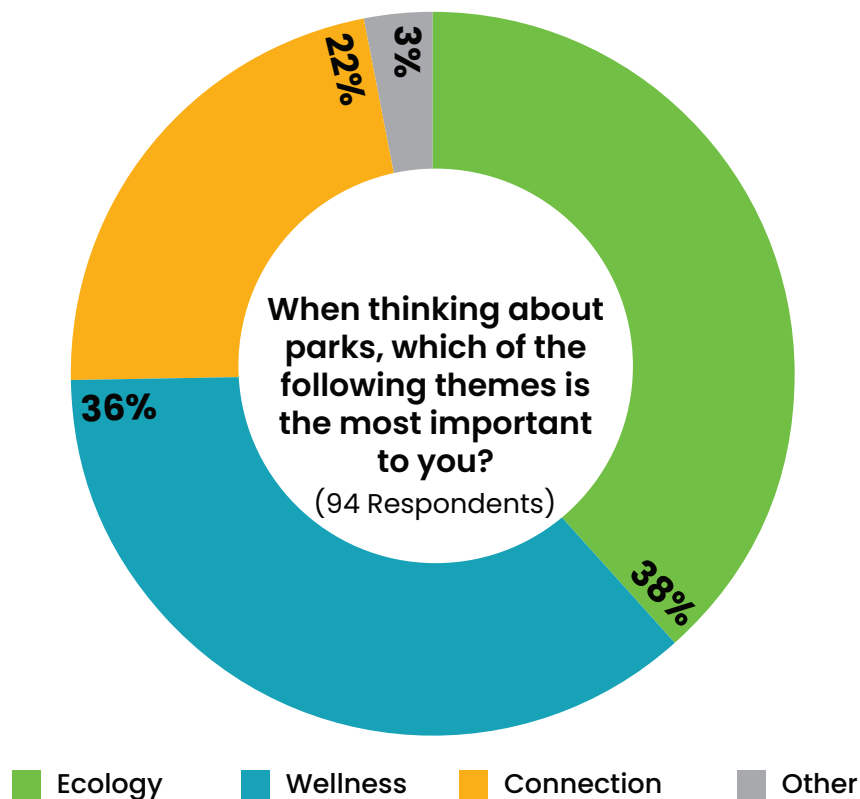
Park Themes

Participants were asked which park themes were most important to them. The options presented were ecology, wellness, connection, or 'other'. This question provides the Town with a broad understanding of the topics that are of interest to participants and potential issues of importance that need to be addressed in the plan.

The theme that resonated most with participants was "ecology" (38%), followed closely by "wellness" (36%).

Connection was the least important factor to respondents, at 22%. Parks were considered to have the lowest positive impact on residents' connection to their Town; however, throughout other responses, participants suggested that the park system must be connected through a trail network and overall system connectivity.

Those who selected "other" specified physical activity, connection to nature, and all of the above (indicating that all three themes were important to them).



Park Appreciation

Participants expressed variability in what they appreciate most about parks in Whitchurch–Stouffville.

Nature-oriented and passive recreation opportunities are appreciated most:

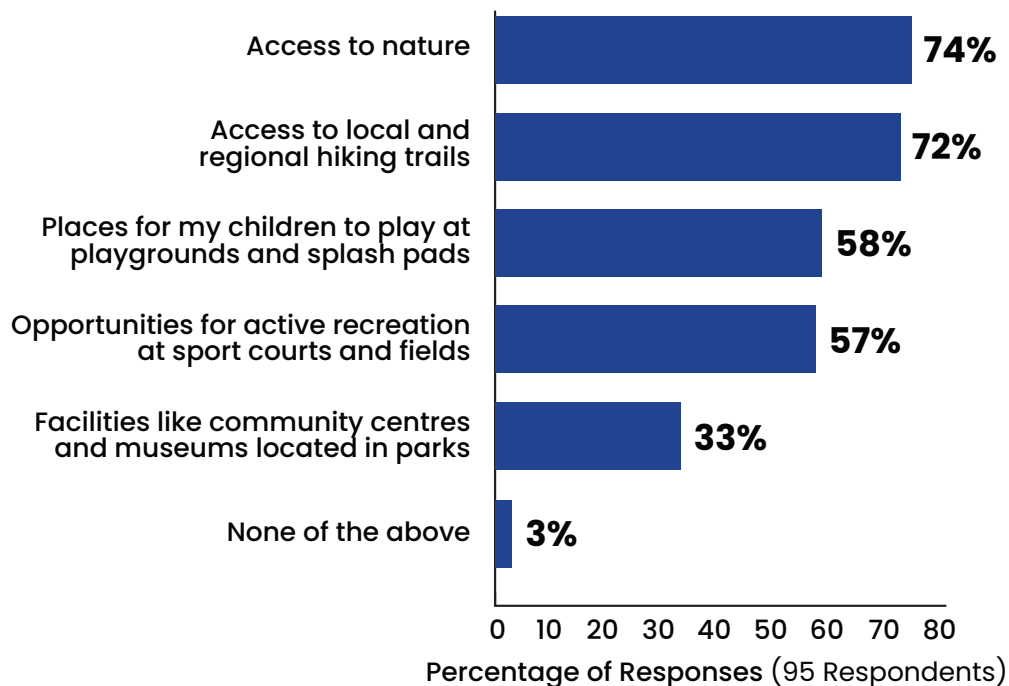
- 74% of respondents said they appreciate the Town’s access to nature
- 72% of respondents said they appreciate the Town’s access to local and regional hiking trails

Youth-oriented and active recreation opportunities received:

- 58% of respondents said they appreciate the Town’s playgrounds and splash pads
- 57% of respondents said they appreciate the Town’s sports courts and fields

Facilities like community centres and museums that are co-located in Town parks were the least appreciated at 33%.

What do you appreciate about parks in the Town? Select all that apply.



Future Vision for Parks

Participants' vision for the future of parks, trails and open spaces in Whitchurch–Stouffville align strongly with responses to questions in this section, highlighting residents' preferences for connectivity in the park system, nature-oriented spaces, access to trails, and spaces that feel safe, accessible, community-oriented and have amenities for kids.

The most frequently mentioned words include:

- Connected (13)
- Natural (12)
- Trails (11)
- Community (8)
- Safe (8)
- Accessible (8)
- Kids (8)
- Trees (7)
- Nature (6)
- Clean (5)



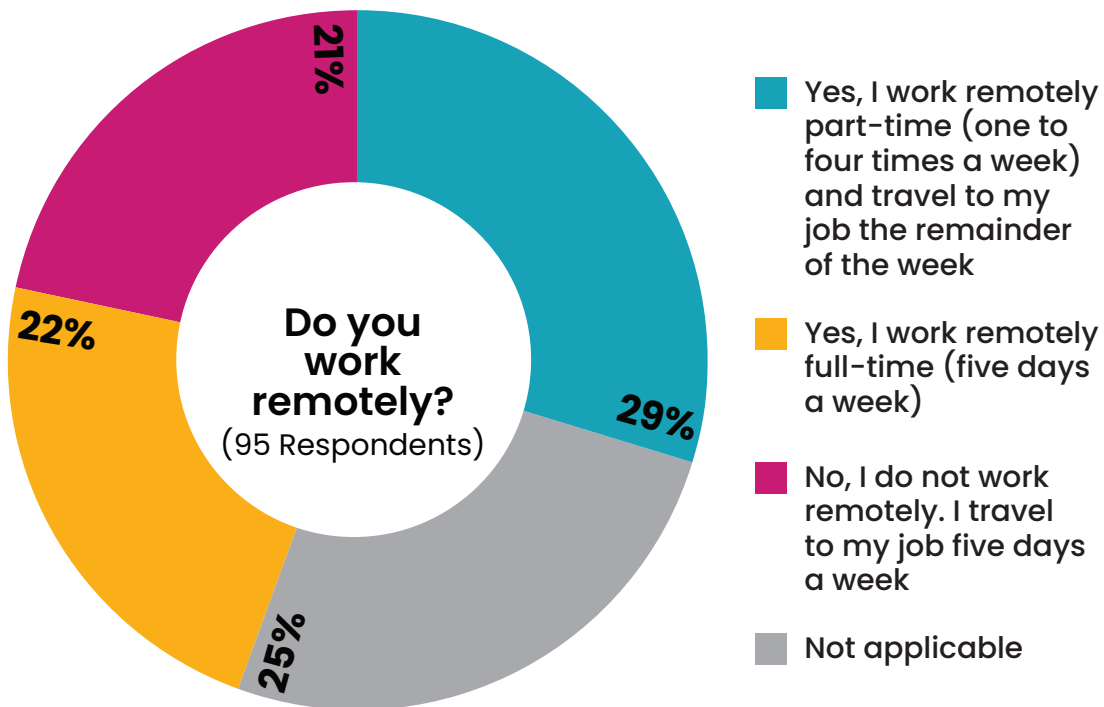
3.3.2 Remote Work and Park Use Trends

In the second section of the survey, participants were asked to answer questions about their work and how they use parks in relationship to employment arrangements.

Residents' Employment Arrangements

Participants demonstrated a relatively uniform split between various employment arrangements, with working remotely part-time the most common response at 29%. Many participants work remotely full-time (22%) or work on-location full-time (21%).

The remaining participants (25%) selected not applicable, which may include scenarios such as being retired, students, full-time caregivers for children and/or other family members, and more.

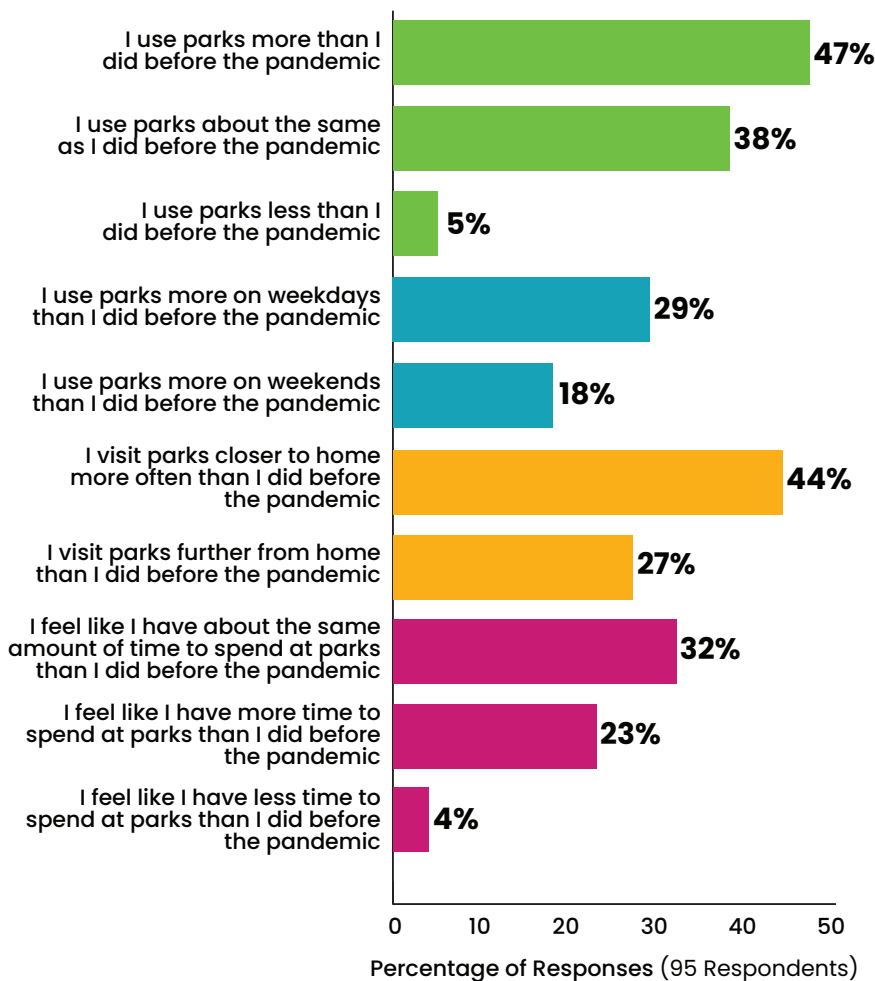


Changes in Park Use Post-Pandemic in Whitchurch-Stouffville

In general, participants' park use has shifted since the pandemic towards increased park use, particularly on weekdays and in park spaces closer to home. 47% use parks more than before the pandemic, with 29% using parks more on the weekdays and 44% visiting parks closer to home.

More respondents indicated that they feel like they have about the same amount of time to spend at parks as they did prior to the pandemic (32%), while some feel like they have more time to spend in parks (23%). 27% of respondents said that they visit parks further from home than they did before the pandemic, which may relate to those who feel they have more time to spend in parks (23%) or who visit parks more on weekends (18%).

How has your park use changed since the pandemic? Use the following options to share how you use parks now compared to before the pandemic. Select all that apply.



Remote Work Patterns

Of respondents who work from home either full-time or part-time, 55% say they visit parks more than they did before the pandemic (compared to 47% for all respondents). 35% of remote workers visit parks more on weekdays than they did before the pandemic (compared to 29%) and 57% visit parks closer to home (compared to 44%) and 39% visit parks further from home (compared to 27%). This increase in park use aligns with participants' perception of their availability, with 33% saying they feel they have more time to spend at parks (compared to 23% for all respondents).

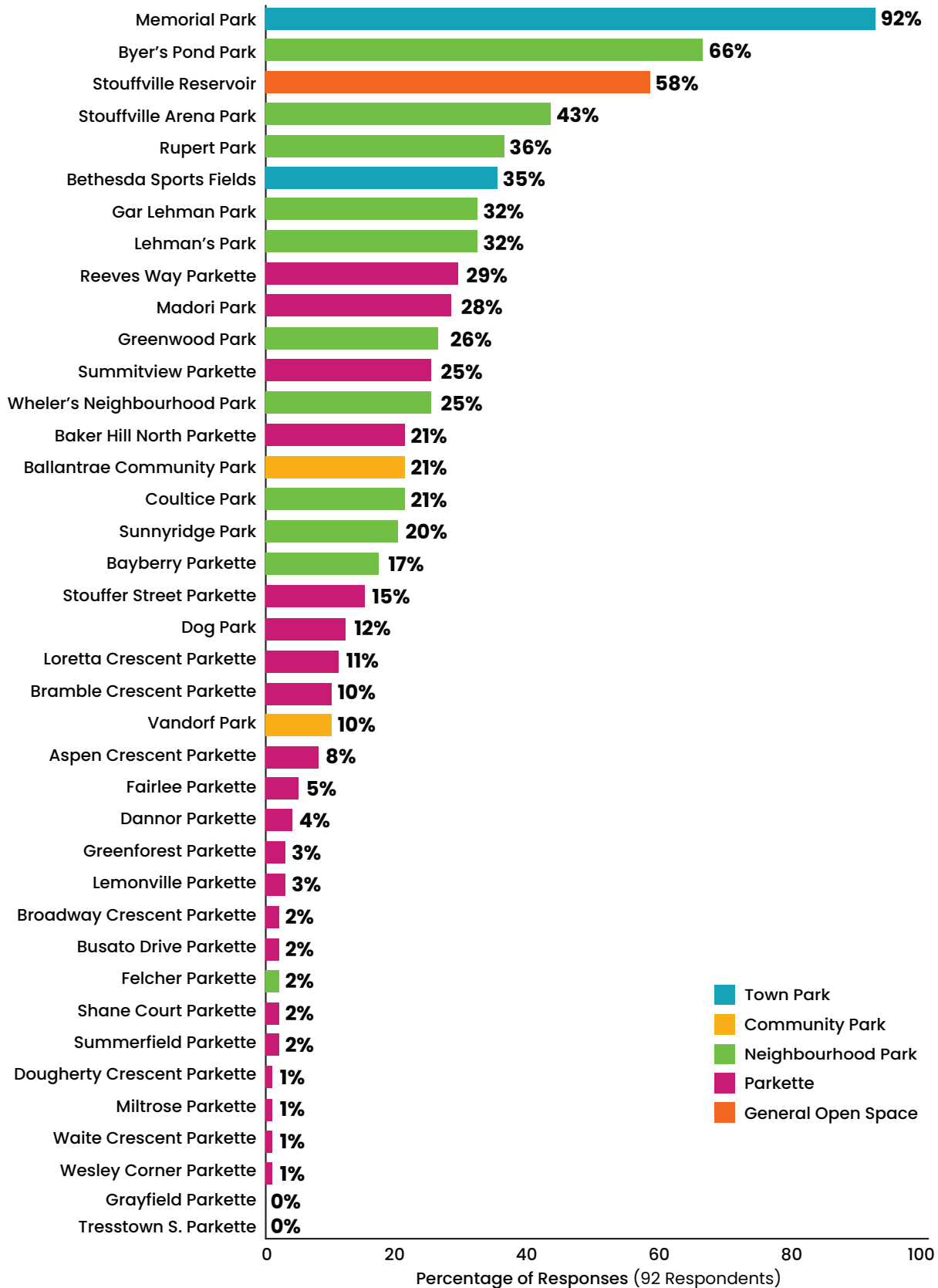
3.3.3 Park Preferences and Barriers

Participants were asked questions about the park types that they prefer to visit and which individual parks they have visited recently.

Many of the town’s larger parks, such as Memorial Park and Byer’s Pond Park, have been visited by a large number of respondents in the past year – likely due to the large number of sport and leisure amenities, as well as events hosted in the parks.



Which parks, trails and open spaces have you visited in the past year?



Participants prefer to visit neighbourhood parks (31%) which includes those like Byer's Pond Park, Stouffville Arena Park and Rupert Park.

25% of participants responded that they prefer to visit trails, many of which are provided through the regional trail system (York Region) and at conservation areas (Toronto Region Conservation Authority and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority). There are, however, local trails operated by the Town, such as Stouffville Reservoir and connected to parks such as Memorial Park, Byer's Pond Park and other open spaces.

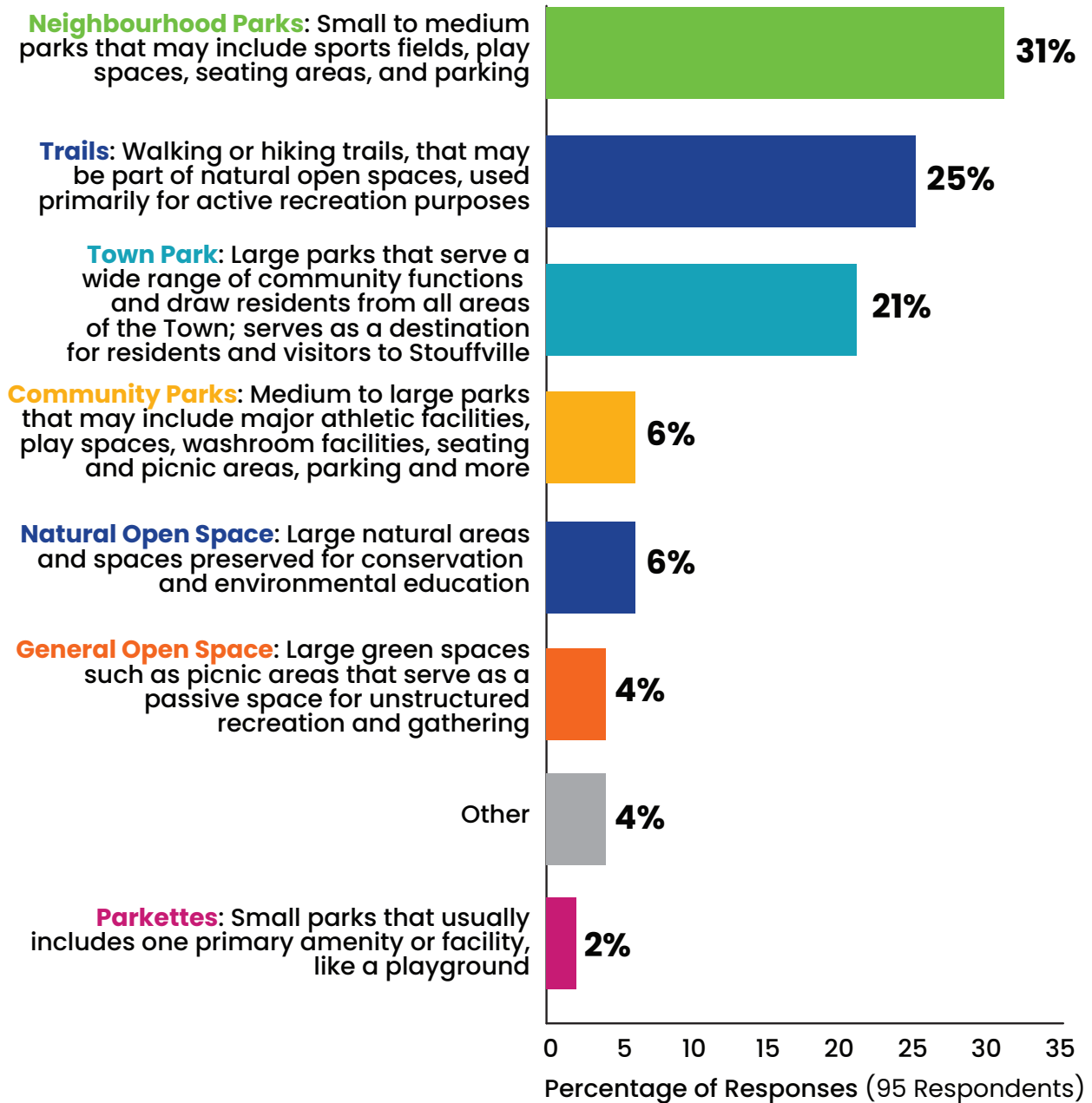
Town parks include Memorial Park and Bethesda Sports Fields, which were preferred by 21% of participants, despite being the least common park type in Town. On the other hand, parkettes are the most common park type, but are the least preferred at 2%.

Community parks, which includes Ballantrae Community Park and Vandorf Park, are preferred by 6% of respondents. This relatively low response rate may be due to the ambiguity of park types from a resident perspective, with neighbourhood parks and community parks similar in function and amenities and difficult to distinguish from one another. In addition, Ballantrae Community Park and Vandorf Park are located in areas with lower population density.

Finally, natural open spaces and general open spaces are not considered to be a preferred park type with 6% and 4% of responses, respectively. Stouffville Reservoir is a general open space and was visited by 58% of respondents, despite being a preferred park type for only 4%.

Preferred Park Types

Which type of park do you prefer to visit?



Preferences for Smaller Park Types

When thinking about the Town's future growth, if smaller parks (including POPS and strata parks) are incorporated to fill in the gaps between your home and existing neighbourhood parks, which activities would you like to see included?

We asked participants how the Town should design and program smaller parks like POPS and strata parks. Responses were coded and analyzed for themes, of which the following were the most frequent. The number in brackets indicates how many times each theme was mentioned.

- **Age-inclusive playgrounds and equipment** (42 responses): Participants expressed a high demand for age-inclusive playgrounds and outdoor play equipment. Specifically, participants noted that existing structures were not inclusive for older age groups, such as teenagers and adults, and that climbing structures, swings and workout equipment would be welcomed additions.
- **Sports facilities** (39 responses): When considering smaller park spaces like POPS and strata parks, sports facilities were mentioned as an amenity they do not feel they have enough access to and that there is a gap in available sports facilities across Town. The most frequently requested sports facilities were basketball, baseball, pickleball, and soccer.

- **Passive recreation spaces** (37 responses): Participants noted there are not enough passive recreation spaces that include seating like benches and picnic tables in their local park spaces. Participants would like to see these spaces to be adequately shaded and accompanied with garbage bins.
- **Active and connected trails** (33 responses): Participants indicated that smaller park spaces could support connectivity through trail networks. Specifically, respondents wished to see longer trails and improved connectivity between them.
- **Greenspace** (22 responses): Participants shared the importance of greenspace and “greenery” within park spaces, with a preference to see more trees, vegetation, flowers gardens and more.

In responses to this question, participants indicated the following amenities are less suitable for small urban parks such as POPS and strata parks:

- Splash pad (13)
- Community gardens (7)
- Off-leash dog parks (7)

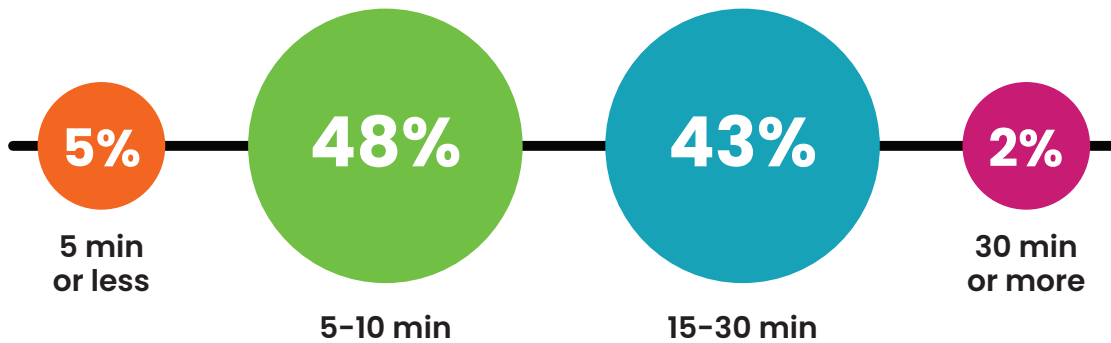
Travel Distance to Local Parks

Many residents in Town have access to parks close to home, with 53% identifying that they can access a local park within 15 minutes or less. Only 5%, however, have access to parks within 5 minutes from home and an additional 2% of respondents spend over 30 minutes travelling to a local park.

The difference in access to parks may be due to:

- The Town is large and many parks are concentrated in Stouffville, meaning that some community members, particularly those in more rural areas, may need to travel further distances to access park amenities that are desirable to them.
- Respondents do not identify which method of travel they use to access their local park. Residents who walk or cycle to parks may spend more time in transit than those who drive.

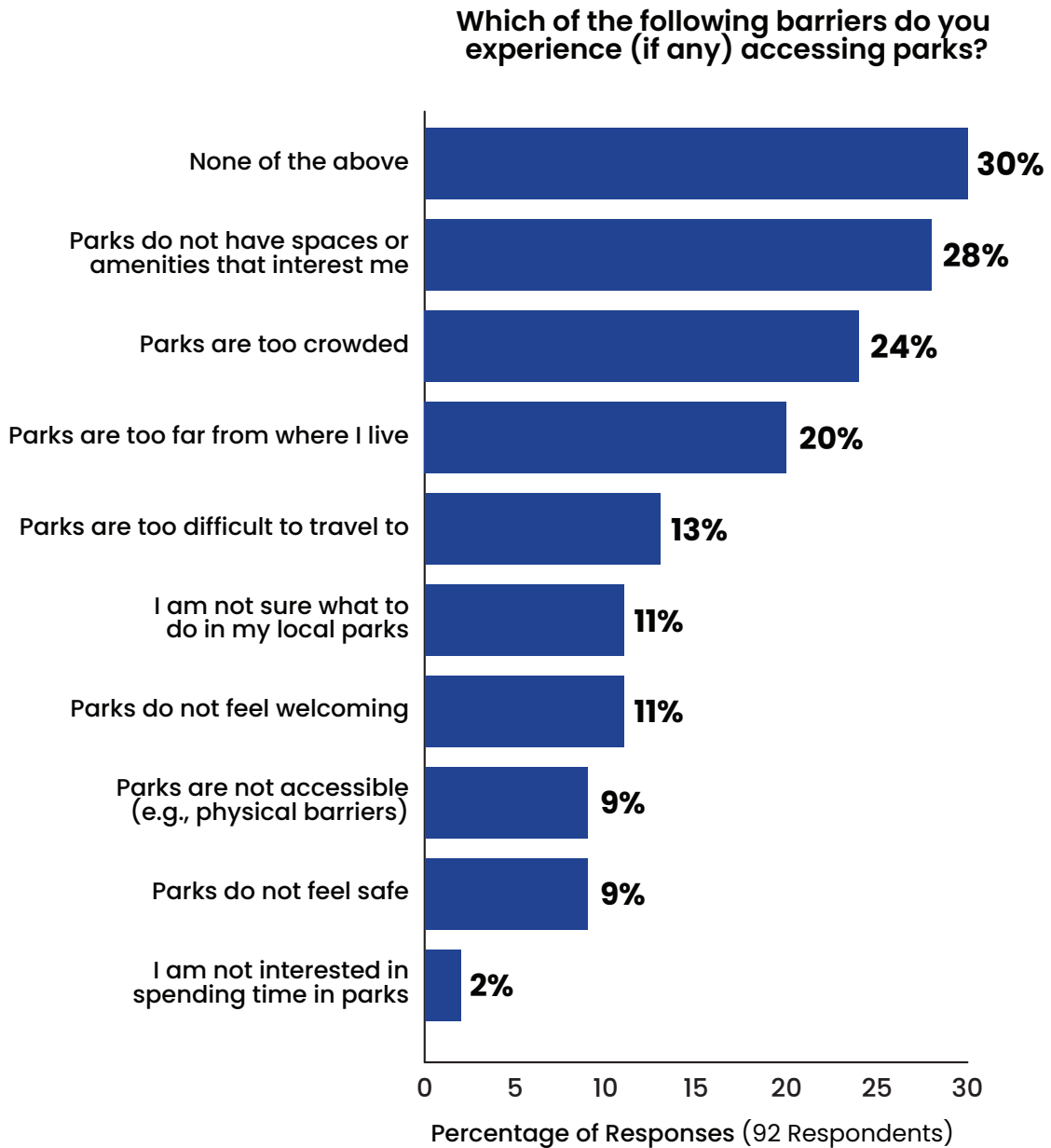
In general, how long does it take for you to travel to a local park regardless of whether you travel by walking, cycling, driving or transit? (95 Respondents)



Barriers to Accessing Parks

When thinking about the barriers that prevent them from accessing parks in Town, the most common response was indicating that none of the barriers were applicable to them (30%).

The most common barrier was that parks do not have spaces or amenities that are of interest to them (28%), followed by crowding (24%) and distance from home (20%). Perceptions that parks are not welcoming (11%) or safe (9%) were less common.



Barriers for people who self-identify as having a disability (visible or invisible)

10 survey respondents

Participants who identified as having a disability more frequently indicated that:

- Parks are not accessible (e.g., physical barriers) (40%)
- Parks do not have spaces or amenities that interest me (40%)
- Parks do not feel welcoming (30%)
- Parks are too crowded (30%)
- Parks do not feel safe (20%)

*Due to small sample size, results cannot be considered statistically significant.

Barriers for people who self-identify as a member of a racialized group

13 survey respondents

Participants who identified as being a member of a racialized group more frequently indicated that:

- Parks are too far from where I live (38%)
- Parks are too crowded (31%)
- Parks do not have spaces or amenities that interest me (31%)
- I am not sure what to do in my local parks (31%)
- Parks are too difficult to travel to (23%)
- Parks do not feel safe (23%)

*Due to small sample size, results cannot be considered statistically significant.

Barriers for people who were born outside of Canada

12 survey respondents

Participants who identified as being born outside of Canada more frequently indicated that:

- Parks are too far from where I live (33%)

*Due to small sample size, results cannot be considered statistically significant.

Additional Comments

Is there anything else you would like us to know about your use of parks, trails and open spaces in the Town of Whitchurch–Stouffville?

When asked whether there was anything else they would like to share, participants reiterated themes and suggestions shared throughout other survey questions, particularly with feedback surrounding three themes:

- Improving trail connectivity
- Supporting natural spaces
- Increasing the availability of sports facilities

Participants provided suggestions to improve current trails including developing longer trails and improving connectivity between existing trail segments, as well as connections to points of interest such as retail districts or community centres. Further, safety was another request related to trail improvement. These suggestions included non-obtrusive lighting and visibility on isolated trails.

Regarding increasing the presence of nature, participants expressed the importance of keeping existing park space and enhancing greenery, vegetation and shaded spaces. Specifically, participants described the role that green space plays in supporting their mental health and wellbeing.

Lastly, participants would like to see more spaces for children and adults to participate in sports to support an active lifestyle, including more baseball diamonds, basketball courts, soccer fields, pickleball courts and more. Participants are open to multi-purpose spaces and facilities that can accommodate multiple sports.

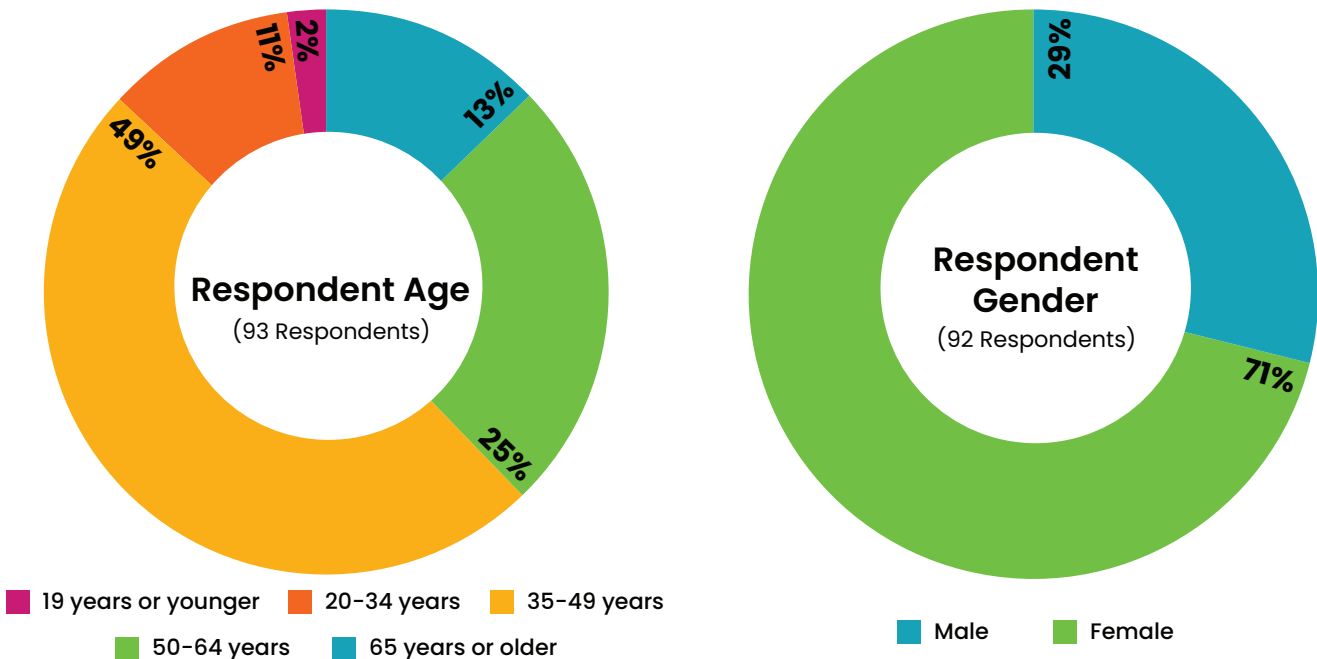
3.3.4 Participant Demographics

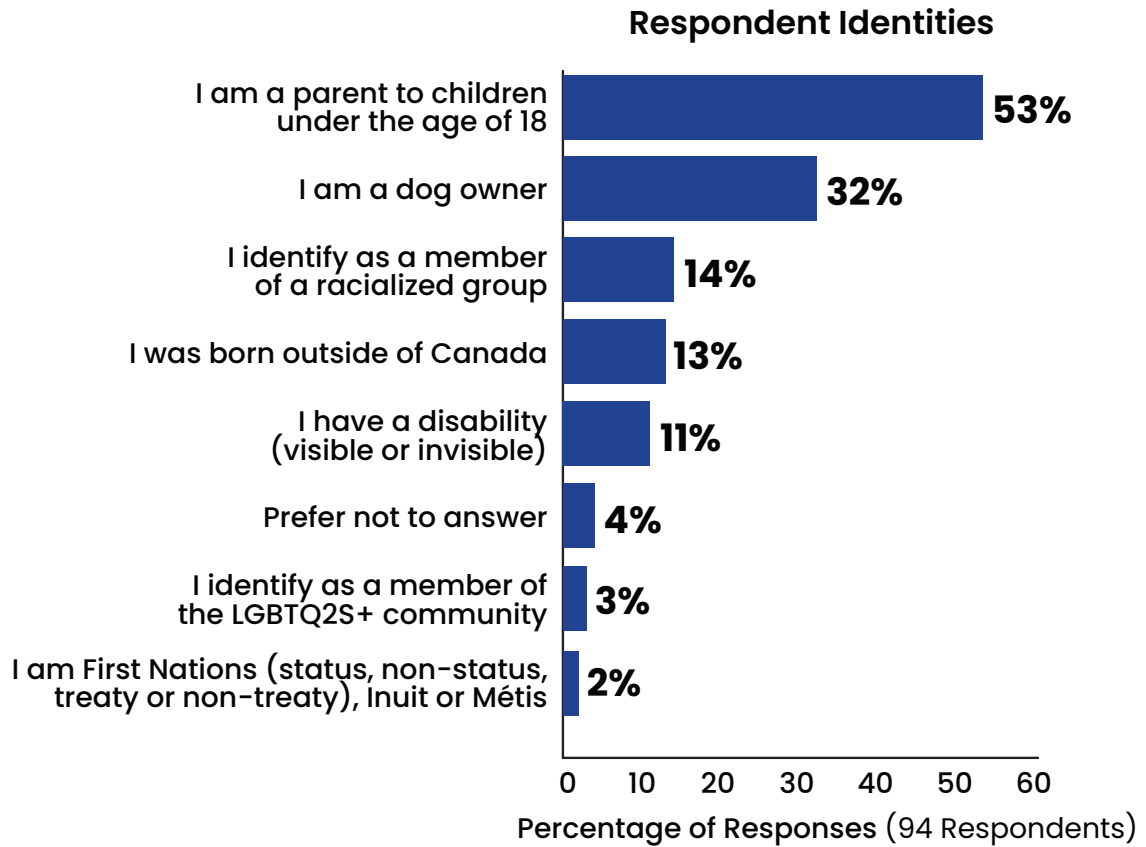
Participants were invited to answer optional demographic questions, providing information such as their age, gender, and other identities. This data was collected anonymously to offer the Town valuable insights into the perspectives and priorities of diverse community groups.

The collection of demographic data serves multiple purposes:

- It helps identify potential gaps in representation among survey respondents.
- It allows for analysis of how different groups within the community may have varying priorities or concerns.
- It supports the Town's commitment to equity and inclusion in its planning processes.

By utilizing this anonymized demographic information, the Town can ensure that its planning and decision-making processes are more representative and responsive to the diverse needs of all community members.





LOOKING AHEAD

4 | Looking Ahead

4.1 Conclusion

Whitchurch-Stouffville's park system is cherished by residents and stakeholders, with engagement participants highlighting the existing trails and access to nature as assets to the community. Despite these assets, there are several suggested areas of improvement for the Town's parks to ensure the system keeps pace with population growth and aligns with the way current residents envision using their local parks, trails and open spaces.

Whitchurch-Stouffville is experiencing significant growth, particularly among young families. The survey highlights several key desires for park development that reflect this pattern of growth:

- Building better connections between parks, trails and pedestrian networks to support active recreation and mobility.
- Providing enhanced opportunities for organized sports and informal recreation.
- Preserving the Town's natural areas for quiet reflection and environmental connection.
- Designing parks to serve as multi-generational park spaces, catering to young children, teenagers, and adults.

As Whitchurch-Stouffville continues to expand, parks will play an increasingly crucial role in community life. The insights gathered from this engagement phase provide the Town with a clear vision and direction for park planning. This information will inform specific recommendations to ensure that parks meet community needs and continue to enhance the quality of life for residents.

4.2 Next Steps

In Phase 2: Parks Plan Development, taking place in fall 2024, the draft Parks Plan will be developed and shared with stakeholders and members of the public through a series of in-person and virtual engagement opportunities.

The draft Parks Plan will be informed and refined by continuous input from the public, Town Council and staff, and key stakeholders in Phase 2, which will culminate in the development of the final Parks Plan.

In Phase 3: Parkland Dedication By-law Update, anticipated for winter 2025, the Parkland Dedication By-law will be prepared and presented to Council for adoption.



