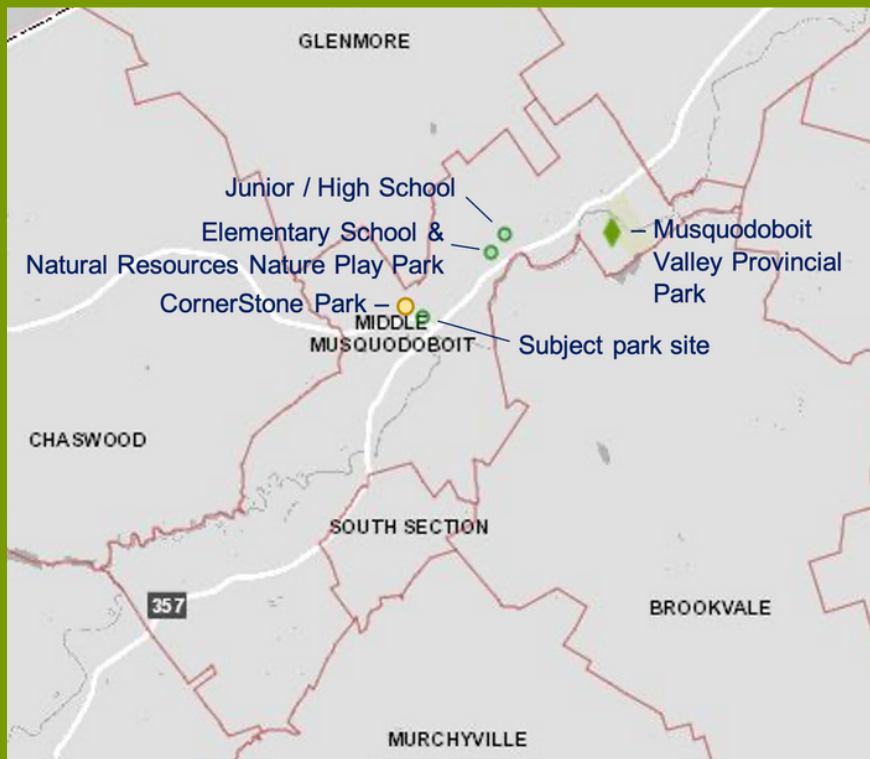


MIDDLE MUSQUODOBOIT PARKLAND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Winter 2022 Survey Results

MAP OF PARKS IN MIDDLE MUSQUODOBOIT & SURROUNDING AREAS



ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Municipality purchased Lot 74-1 Highway 224 (PID 40219396) in Middle Musquodoboit in 2021 for the purpose of constructing an outdoor recreation facility.

To determine the best recreation features for this site, Parks & Recreation staff must engage residents in the area.

BACKGROUND

The population of Middle Musquodoboit is 371 and the population of Middle Musquodoboit and the neighbouring communities is 1,123¹. There are two schools in Middle Musquodoboit: Musquodoboit Valley Education Centre, with 133 elementary students; and Musquodoboit Rural High School, with 259 junior and senior high students.

There is one existing community park in Middle Musquodoboit, called CornerStone Park. It is immediately adjacent to the subject municipal parkland and within the village centre. CornerStone Park is owned by the Province and the park is maintained by a group of volunteers. It has a gazebo, ornamental landscaping, benches, a large artistic sculpture of a hummingbird, a small lending library, two flag poles, and a parking lot. There is a playground within the elementary school grounds and a sports field and sports court within the high school grounds. The Natural Resources Education Centre, which is next to the elementary school, operates a nature play space behind the centre. The schools and Natural Resources Education Centre are all about a 15-20 minute walk from the village centre. Further afield is the Musquodoboit Valley Provincial Day Park, which has a walking loop, picnic areas, a boat launch area for canoes and kayaks, and outhouses. This park is located about a 45-minute walk from the village centre.



ENGAGEMENT METHOD

Staff began planning for in-person engagements to take place during the winter of 2022, but with the latest wave of COVID and requirements to limit community gatherings, staff had to put this method of engagement on hold. Staff pivoted and created a survey as the first step to determining what residents in the area would like at this new community park. The survey used a combination of short and long-answer questions (See Attachment A).

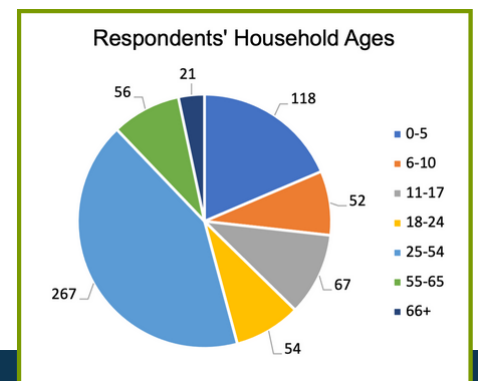
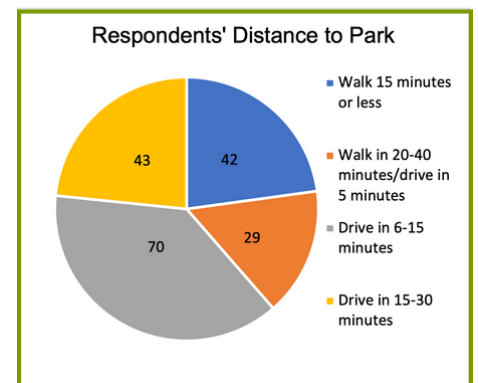
The survey was available online and paper copies were placed in prominent locations throughout the community (The Golden Bakery & Market, Reid's Bakery, the Family Resource Centre, and both schools). The Community Developer, Community Recreation Coordinator, Community Health Board Coordinator, and Library staff distributed physical copies of the survey throughout the community and promoted the survey online through social media and email lists. The Area Councillor promoted the survey in her newsletter and on social media. Acknowledging that not all residents have access to internet, a large sign was erected on the park site explaining that the site will be used as a future community park and how to take part in engagement opportunities, including the survey.

SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Staff received 190 completed surveys. 164 surveys were completed by residents from the B0N postal code area, which covers most of the Musquodoboit Valley. The remaining 26 surveys came from surrounding postal code areas. 23% of respondents live with a 15-minute walk of the site, 16% of respondents live within a 40-minute walk of the site, 38% of respondents live within a fifteen-minute drive of the site, and 23% of respondents live more than a fifteen-minute drive of the site.

86% of respondents are women, 13% of respondents are men, and 1% of respondents are non-binary. 7% of respondents identify as someone with a disability.

Survey respondents were asked to identify how many residents in their household are within certain age brackets. The 25-54 age bracket makes up the highest number of residents within the households of the respondents, followed by children aged 0-5. The 66+ age group makes up the smallest proportion of ages identified within households of survey respondents.



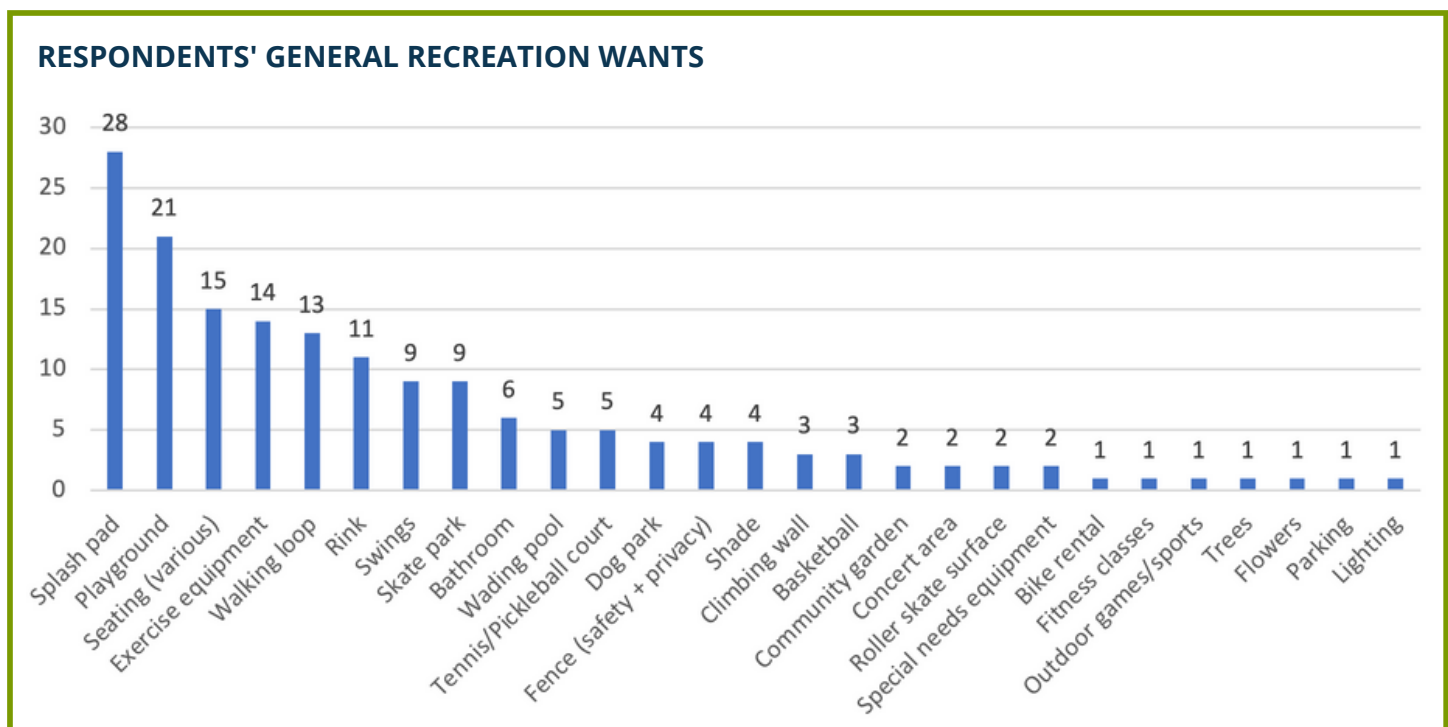
¹ 2021 Canadian Census, Statistics Canada

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

Most respondents deem a community park to be successful when it is used year-round, followed by when people of all ages and abilities use it. The fewest number of respondents believe a community park is successful when people come from afar to use it.²

HOW WILL YOU KNOW THE PARK IS SUCCESSFUL? <i>(Please rank your top 3)</i>	1ST PRIORITY	2ND PRIORITY	3RD PRIORITY
It is used year-round	66	24	24
People of all ages and abilities use it	55	57	22
It appears very popular and well-used	21	22	29
It captures what local residents think is important	16	10	12
It serves many recreational needs	12	19	36
Neighbours use it as a place to connect	9	26	39
Residents feel a sense of ownership and responsibility to the park	9	17	12
People come from afar to use it	2	12	13

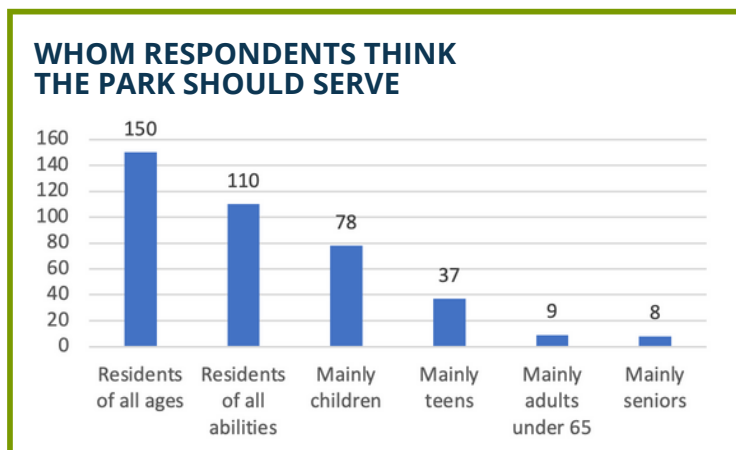
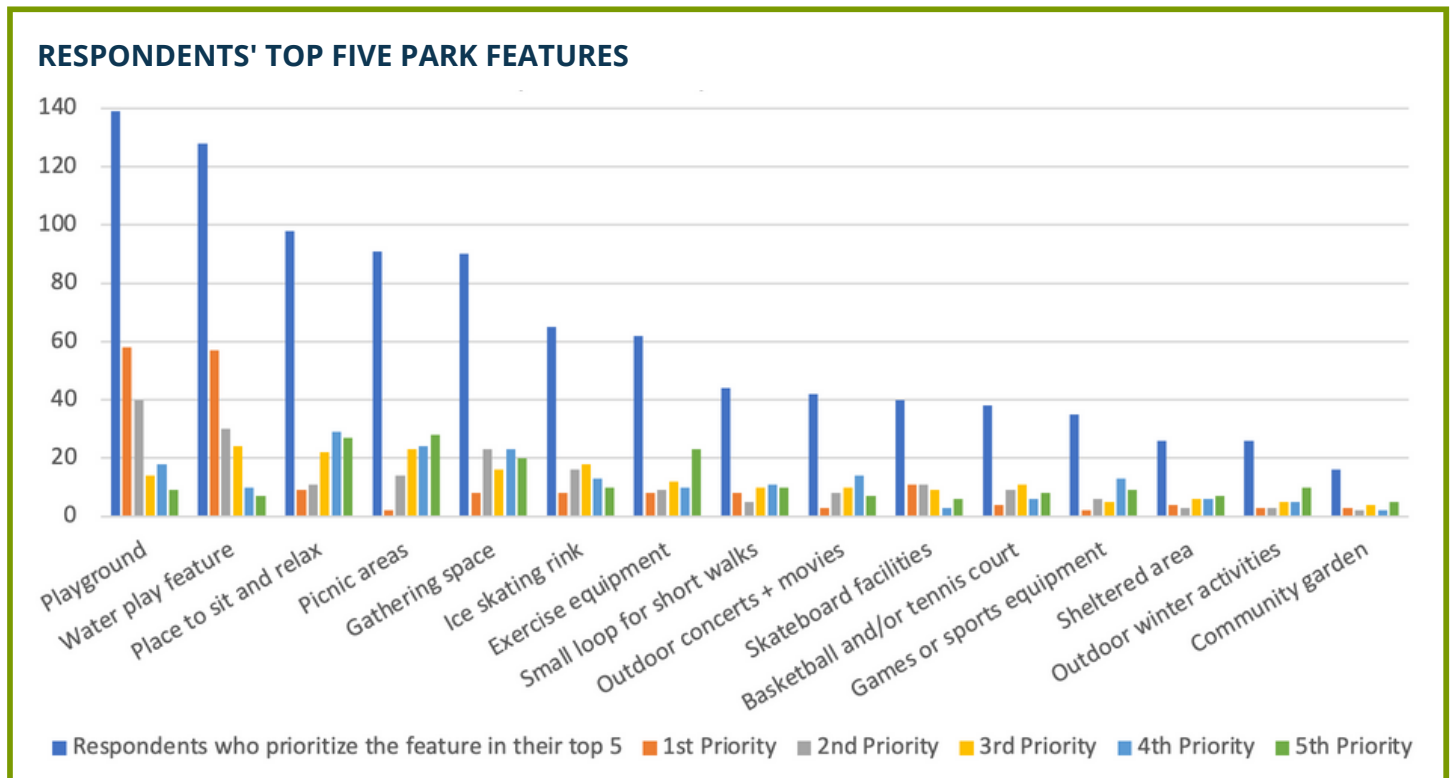
Respondents were asked an open-ended question about what features they need in the community to take part in the type of recreation they like. This allowed respondents to think freely without being influenced by a selection of possible recreation features. The most common answers, in order of popularity, were a splash pad, playground, various types of seating, exercise equipment, a small walking loop, and a skating rink. Many respondents would like to see a combination of features on the site, such as a splash pad in the summer that can be converted to a skating rink in the winter; a combination playground and splashpad; and a combination skate park and playground.



² This table shows the responses from all participants. Responses were analyzed in the same format from just participants within walking distance to the park, and the first three priorities were the same.

Respondents were then given a list of common community park features and asked to rank which features they think would best serve the community. Most respondents ranked a playground as their first priority and many more ranked a playground within their top five. A water play feature was a close second priority for respondents. In order of popularity, the following features were moderately prioritized, with at least 40 respondents ranking the feature in their top five:

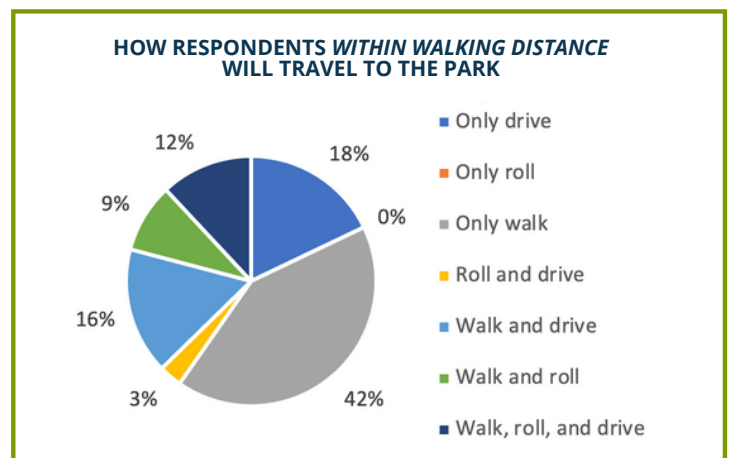
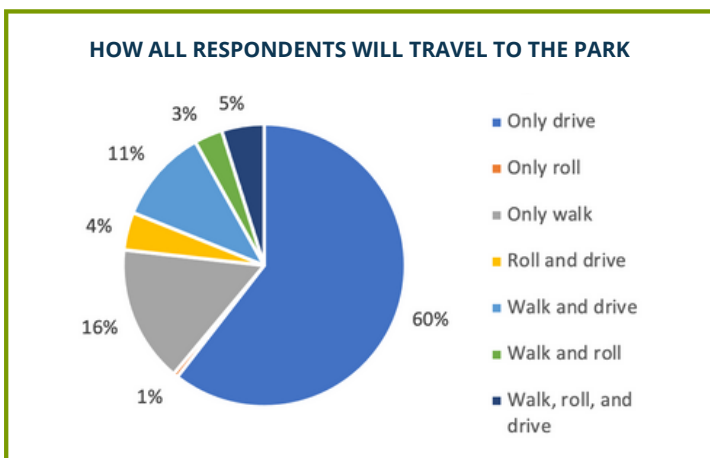
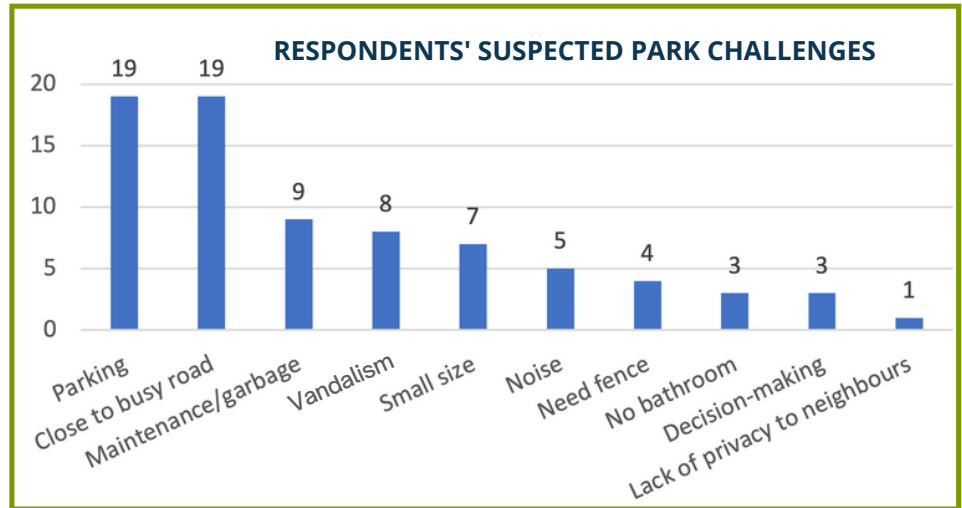
- 1. a place to sit and relax
- 2. picnic areas
- 3. a gathering space
- 4. an ice-skating rink
- 5. exercise equipment
- 6. a small loop for short walks
- 7. outdoor concerts & movies
- 8. skateboard facilities



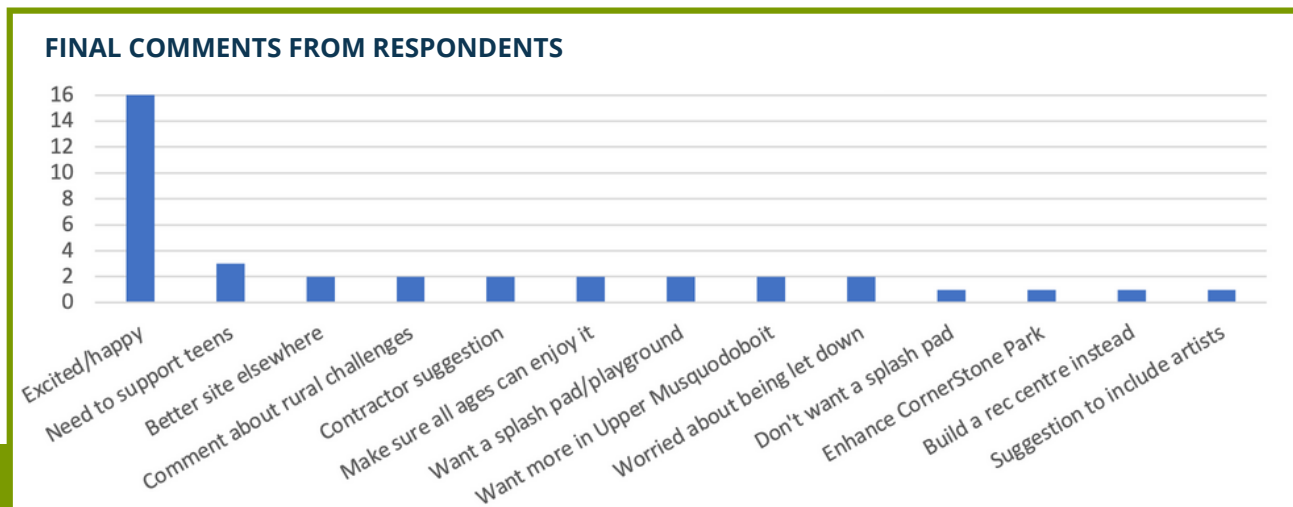
When asked whom they hope the park will serve, almost all respondents (80%) hope it will serve residents of all ages, and 58% respondents hope it will serve residents all off abilities. A notable 41% of respondents hope the park will serve mainly children. Fewer respondents hope the park will serve mainly teens, adults, or seniors. Two respondents would like the park to serve dogs and one respondent would like the park to serve tourists.

A total of 78 respondents (41% of the total respondents) suggested there could be challenges associated with developing this site into a community park. The most common concerns were a lack of parking and the proximity of the site to a busy road with high-speed traffic.

When asked how they will travel to the park, 60% of respondents said they will only drive. 16% of respondents plan to only walk to the park, and 11% of respondents plan to walk and drive to the park. A larger proportion of respondents within walking distance to the park plan to only walk to the park, followed by a combination of walking and driving.



The final question of the survey asked respondents to provide any final comments. The most common comment was that respondents are excited and happy that this engagement and project is underway.



NEXT STEPS

- **Spring 2022** - Parks staff will prepare a few design options for the community park based on the survey results, cost, and site feasibility.
- **Late Spring 2022** - Staff will present the park design options to the community for feedback.
- **Late Summer 2022** - Parks staff will finalize a park design for future capital budget consideration.

APPENDIX

MIDDLE MUSQUODOBOIT PARKLAND SURVEY

Halifax Regional Municipality purchased Lot 74-1 Highway 224 (PID 40219396) in Middle Musquodoboit in 2021 for the purpose of constructing an outdoor recreation facility. Parks & Recreation are looking for input from residents on how they would like to see this parkland used.



We invite you to complete the following survey as a starting point. As gathering limits permit, staff may plan for other opportunities for community engagement. For more information, please contact Meaghan at **902-456-9683** or **daltonm@halifax.ca**.

HALIFAX

Survey

This survey should take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete.
The deadline for completing this survey is Monday, March 7, 2022.

Responses will be kept strictly confidential, and the results of the survey will not be used in any way that will allow anyone to identify you or your responses. Your participation is voluntary, and you can discontinue your participation at any time.

1. What are the first three digits of your postal code? _____

2. Which best describes your gender identity?

- Non-binary Woman Man Trans Woman - Trans Feminine
 Trans Man -Trans Masculine Two-spirit
 Prefer to self-describe: _____ Prefer not to say

3. Please insert the number of residents in your home that fall under each of the following age categories (yourself included):

___ 0-5 ___ 6-10 ___ 11-17 ___ 18-24 ___ 25-54 ___ 55-65 ___ 66 or older

Prefer not to say

4. Do you identify as a person with disabilities?

- Yes No Prefer not to say

5. How far do you live from this park site?

- I can walk there in about 15 minutes or less I can drive there within 6-15 minutes
 I can walk there in about 20-40 minutes or drive in 5 minutes I can drive there within 15-30 minutes

6. How would you know a community park is successful? Please rank your top 3 (one being highest)

- It is used year-round Residents feel a sense of ownership and responsibility to the park.
 People of all ages and abilities use it
 Neighbours use it as a place to connect It captures what local residents think is important (e.g., culture, nature, popular pastimes, events)
 People come from afar to use it Other _____
 It appears very popular and well-used
 It serves many recreational needs

7. What does this park need for you to do more of the recreation you like?

Remember, it would have to be accommodated on this site, which is just under half an acre.

8. What community park features do you think would best serve residents of Middle Musquodoboit and the surrounding area? Please pick your top 5 and rank from 1st to 5th (1 being your top priority):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A playground | <input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating rink |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A space to gather with neighbours | <input type="checkbox"/> Skateboard facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A place to sit and relax | <input type="checkbox"/> A community garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic areas | <input type="checkbox"/> Backyard-style games or sports equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Exercise equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor winter activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A small loop for short walks | <input type="checkbox"/> A sheltered area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A water play feature | <input type="checkbox"/> A set-up for outdoor concerts and movie screenings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A basketball and/or tennis court | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Feel free to use this space to provide an explanation for your ranking

9. Who do you hope the park will serve? Check all that apply:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residents of all ages | <input type="checkbox"/> Mainly adults under 65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residents of all abilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Mainly seniors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mainly children | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mainly teens | |

10. Can you think of any challenges associated with using this site as a community park with outdoor recreational features? If yes, please write them here:

11. How would you travel to the site?

- Walk Cycle/roll Drive

12. Do you have any other comments?

In accordance with Section 485 of the Municipal Government Act (MGA), any personal information collected in this survey will only be used by municipal staff and, if necessary, individuals under service contract with the Halifax Regional Municipality for purposes relating to assessing the options for revitalizing the Sackville Sports Stadium and the information will not be presented or compiled in a manner that could potentially identify any respondent. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this personal information, please contact the Access and Privacy Office at **902-943-2148** or **privacy@halifax.ca**.