



Glen Park Improvements: Public Engagement

What We Heard Report

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About the Project

The City of Coquitlam is working towards the next phase of improvements for Glen Park.

Glen Park is a 6.7 hectare (16.7 acre) park located in the City Centre neighbourhood. More than half of City Centre residents live within a 10-minute walk of Glen Park, including nearly 3,000 children.

Guided by the Glen Park Master Plan, which was adopted in 2011, earlier improvements to the park include a fenced off-leash dog area, a picnic area, a plaza and playground along Pipeline Road and the creation of a passive lawn area, known as the Great Lawn.

This next phase of improvements (previously referred to as Master Plan Phase 3) will be informed in part by public engagement conducted in fall 2023. The improvements will be balanced with technical studies (including arborist and geotechnical reports), preservation of the existing natural character, available budget and other approved City plans including the Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan.

The goal of the engagement process was to seek public and interest holder input on potential park updates. Outreach included an online public survey, discussions at Council Advisory Committee* meetings, two in-person pop-up booths at the City Centre branch of the Coquitlam Public Library, and an online open house session.

Project Timeline Update

Since the engagement in fall 2023, the Province of B.C. introduced new housing legislation that changed how Coquitlam can fund important infrastructure projects such as park improvements. In response, the City paused many new and on-going projects in 2024 — including Glen Park improvements — while new funding programs were developed. With progress made on adapting to the Provincial legislation, the City resumed planning for the Glen Park improvements in the second half of 2025. This work is one of several priorities identified in the 2025 Business Plan.



**Council Advisory Committees engaged: Coquitlam Youth Council, Multiculturalism Advisory Committee, Sports and Recreation Advisory Committee, and the Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee.*

Key Insights

Glen Park is a popular neighbourhood park used by locals.

89% of survey participants reported living within five blocks of Glen Park, and **80%** of respondents indicated they arrive at Glen Park by walking.

Most people visit the park to access nature, relax or play.

More than half of survey participants reported the top reasons for visiting the park were to spend time in nature/outdoors (**64%**), relax (**55%**) and bring children to play (**54%**).

Glen Park serves as an important connection route through City Centre.

Almost half (**48%**) of the survey participants reportedly travel through Glen Park to and from the City Centre. In the open-ended feedback, some participants asked for paved trails and better lighting, safer pedestrian crossings around the park, and improved connections between neighbourhoods, schools and transit through continuous, accessible paths in the park.

Washrooms and an enhanced playground were the top priorities for future amenities.

When asked to prioritize possible future amenities for the park, **62%** of participants selected a new washroom as the top priority. An enhanced playground came second at **51%**.

Participants expressed different opinions about the dog park.

Some participants valued and supported the dog park, asking for improvements like drinking water. Others worried about its location so close to Glen Elementary and suggested moving it elsewhere.

Protecting the natural environment alongside park improvements was a priority.

In the open-ended feedback, almost a quarter of the responses (**23%**) spoke to maintaining or expanding the trees/tree canopy in Glen Park to preserve the urban forest.

Open-ended feedback highlighted safety concerns, including requests for more lighting in the park.

Close to one in five respondents who left open-ended feedback (**19%**) raised safety concerns or suggested safety improvements, with lighting and visibility in the park emerging as the main theme. Other top themes included concerns about safety in the forested areas, crime in the park, road safety for all users around the park, and the safe use and security of washrooms.

What We Asked

Throughout the engagement process, we asked participants about their **connection to Glen Park** including **how close they lived to the park, how often and why they visited the park and where in the park they spend the most time**.

In both the pop-up sessions and the online survey, we asked **what barriers prevent participants from visiting the park more often**. Given a list of options, we asked participants to **prioritize their top five potential amenities for the park**.

Survey participants were also able to share other considerations for the park in open-ended feedback and **demographic information** that helped to provide context to the data.



About this Engagement

What We Did

From September 20 to October 16, 2023, the City of Coquitlam gathered input on Glen Park Improvements (Phase 3) from the community through meetings and workshops with advisory groups, a virtual open house, neighbourhood pop-up events and a public survey.

The engagement opportunity was shared with locals via park signage, printed materials and community posters, emailed out to the City's news subscribers and Let's Talk subscribers, posted on the front page of the City website and shared via digital ads online and in the community.

Participation and Awareness

Public survey



471
submissions

Let's Talk
Coquitlam

Over **1,500** Visits to
LetstTalkCoquitlam.ca/GlenPark



Over **30,000**
people reached via the
City's social media channels
(Facebook, Instagram, X)



50 participants
shared input via small group
discussions and interviews.

From September 6 – 27, 2023, there were four additional engagement sessions involving the following Council Advisory Committees:

- Coquitlam Youth Council (CYC)
- Multiculturalism Advisory Committee (MAC)
- Sports and Recreation Advisory Committee (SRAC)
- Sustainability and Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC)



100 people participated in pop-up events at
the Coquitlam Public Library, City Centre branch
on September 28, 2023 and October 14, 2023.



10 people attended the
virtual open house event on
October 5, 2023.

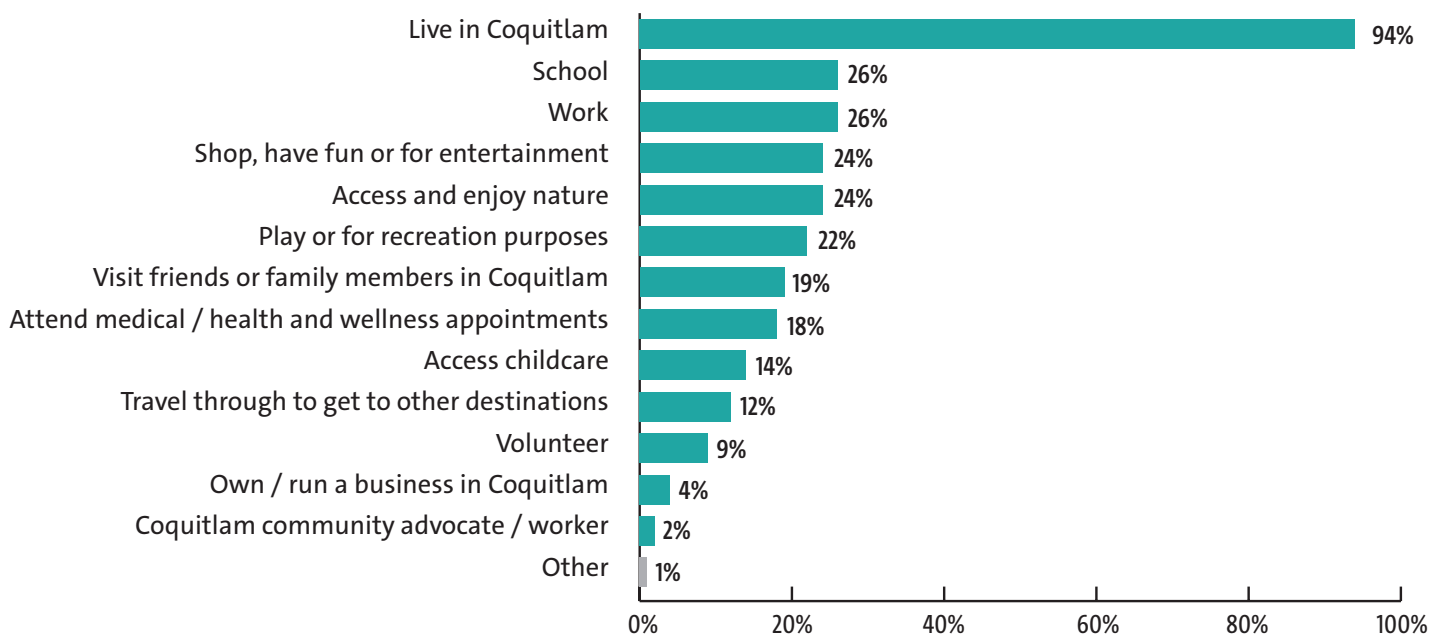


Who We Heard From

Demographic data can help provide context for the survey results by highlighting who participated and what their experiences are. The following demographics represent survey respondents only, and do not include participants at engagement events and other types of outreach. Sharing demographic information was optional (participants were able to select that they 'Prefer not to say'). Some totals may not equal 100% due to rounding or because participants were able to select multiple answers.

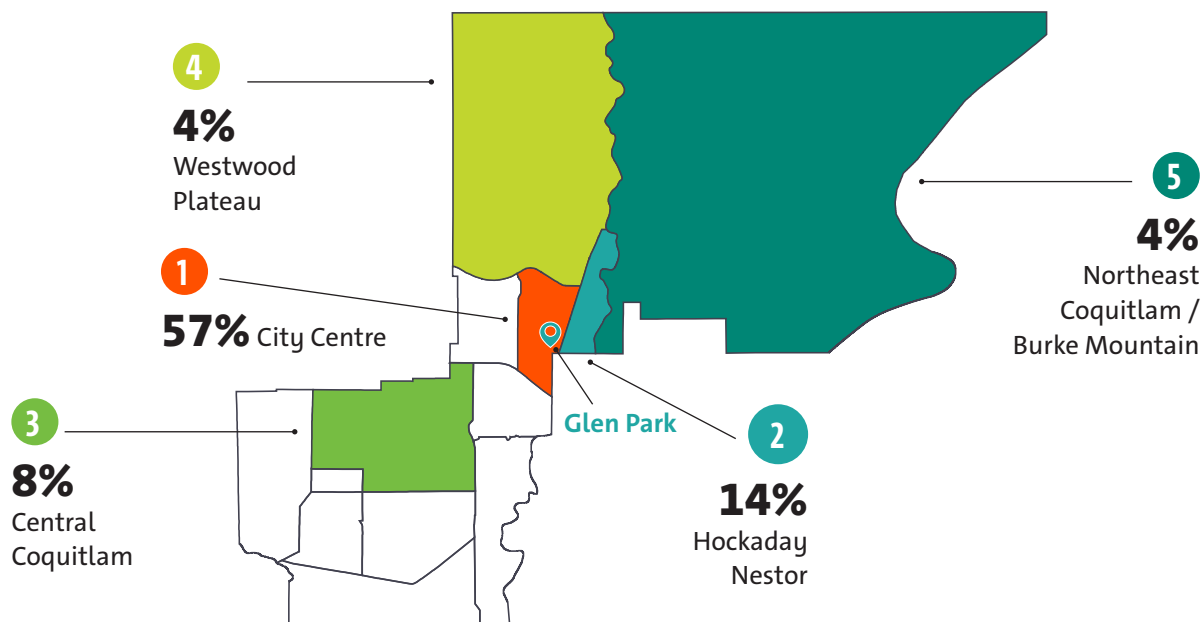
Connection to Coquitlam

Nearly all survey participants (**94%**) were Coquitlam residents, with **42%** living here for 10 or more years.



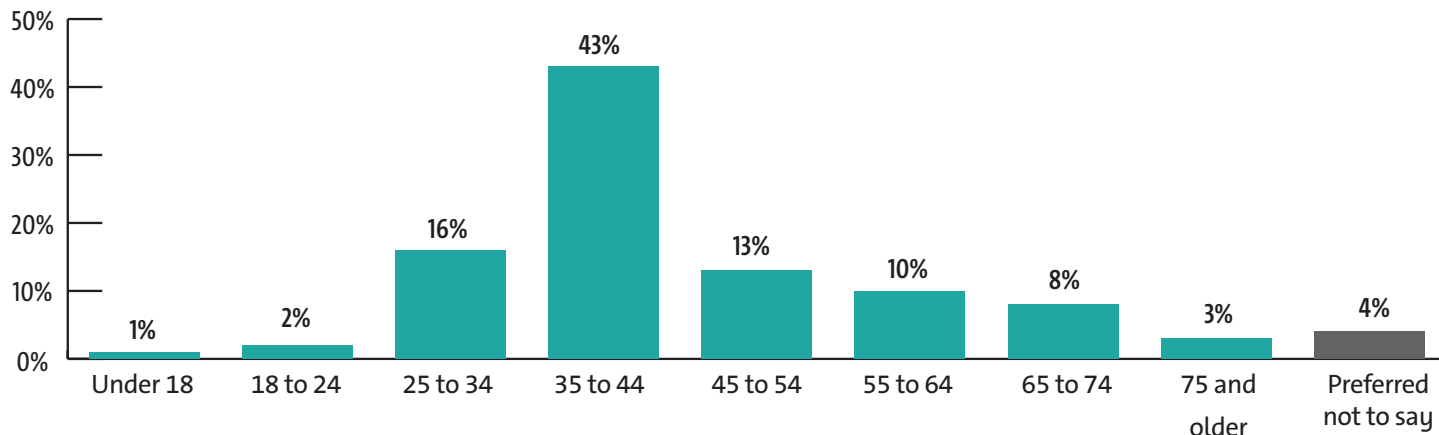
Top Neighbourhoods Represented

Almost all Coquitlam neighbourhoods were represented; however, due to the project being location-specific, the top neighbourhoods included:



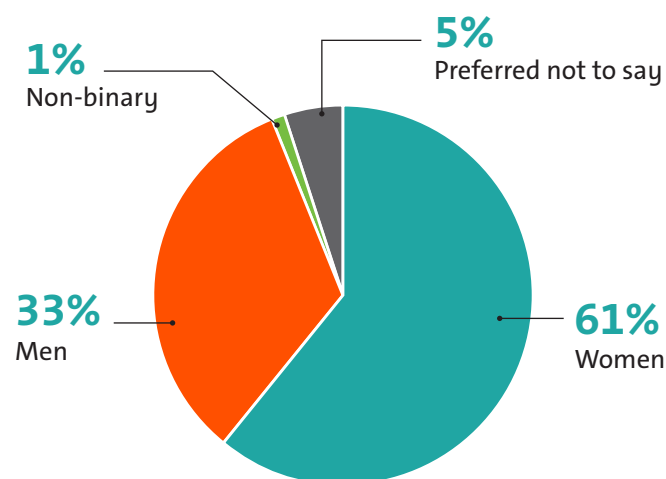
Age

We heard from a wide range of ages, with the largest age group represented being those 35 to 44 year olds (**43%**).



Gender Identity

Most participants were women (**61%**), followed by men (**33%**). A small number (**1%**) identified as non-binary.



Gross Household Income (GHI)

Information about household income came from the 'Additional identities and lived experiences' question, which only some participants answered. From these responses, **10%** of all participants reported GHIs under \$50,000, and **22%** said they live in a single-income household (GHI unknown).

Additional Identities and Lived Experiences

Survey participants included those with a variety of identities, backgrounds and lived experiences. Choosing from a provided list, the top five represented identities/experiences were:



Children / youth (18 and under) in their household (**45%**)



The primary language spoken at home is a language other than English or French (**23%**)



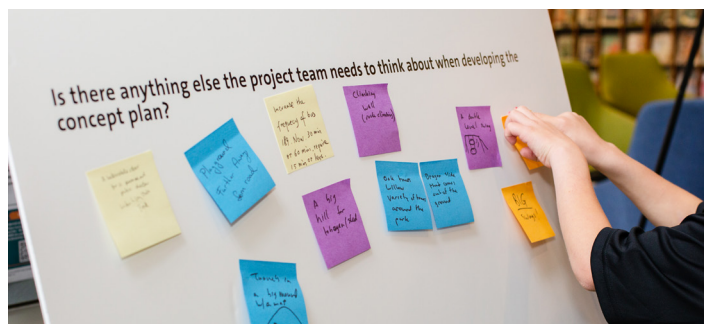
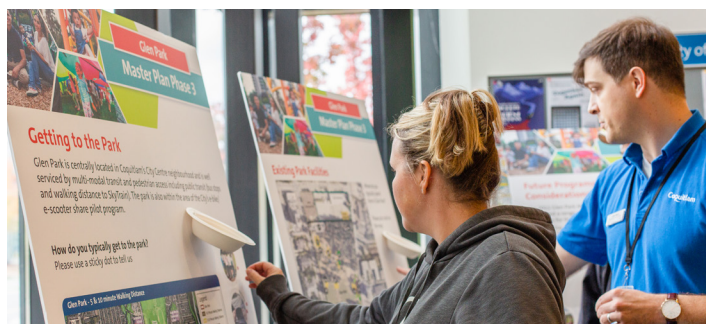
Single income household (**22%**)



From a racialized community / person of colour (**18%**)



Newcomer to Canada (less than 5 years) (**13%**)



What We Heard

Summaries may not equal 100% due to rounding or because participants were able to select multiple answers.

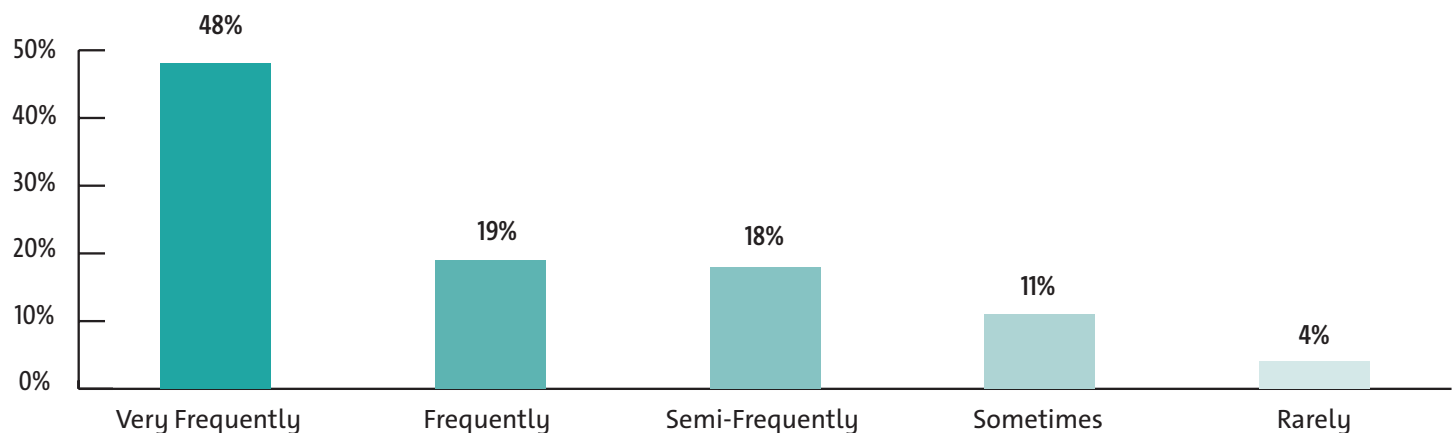
Most survey participants live close to the park.

We asked respondents about their connection to Glen Park. The top connections were:

- They live close to Glen Park (**83%**)
- They or someone in their household visits Glen Park (**66%**)
- Someone in their household attends Glen Elementary (**22%**)

Most respondents visit the park frequently, with almost half coming more than once a week.

67% of participants visit the park once a week or more, while **29%** visit the park either a few times a month or once every few months.



Very frequently is defined as more than once per week, frequently is defined as about once a week, semi-frequently is defined as one to three times per month, sometimes is defined as once every few months, and rarely is defined as a few times per year.

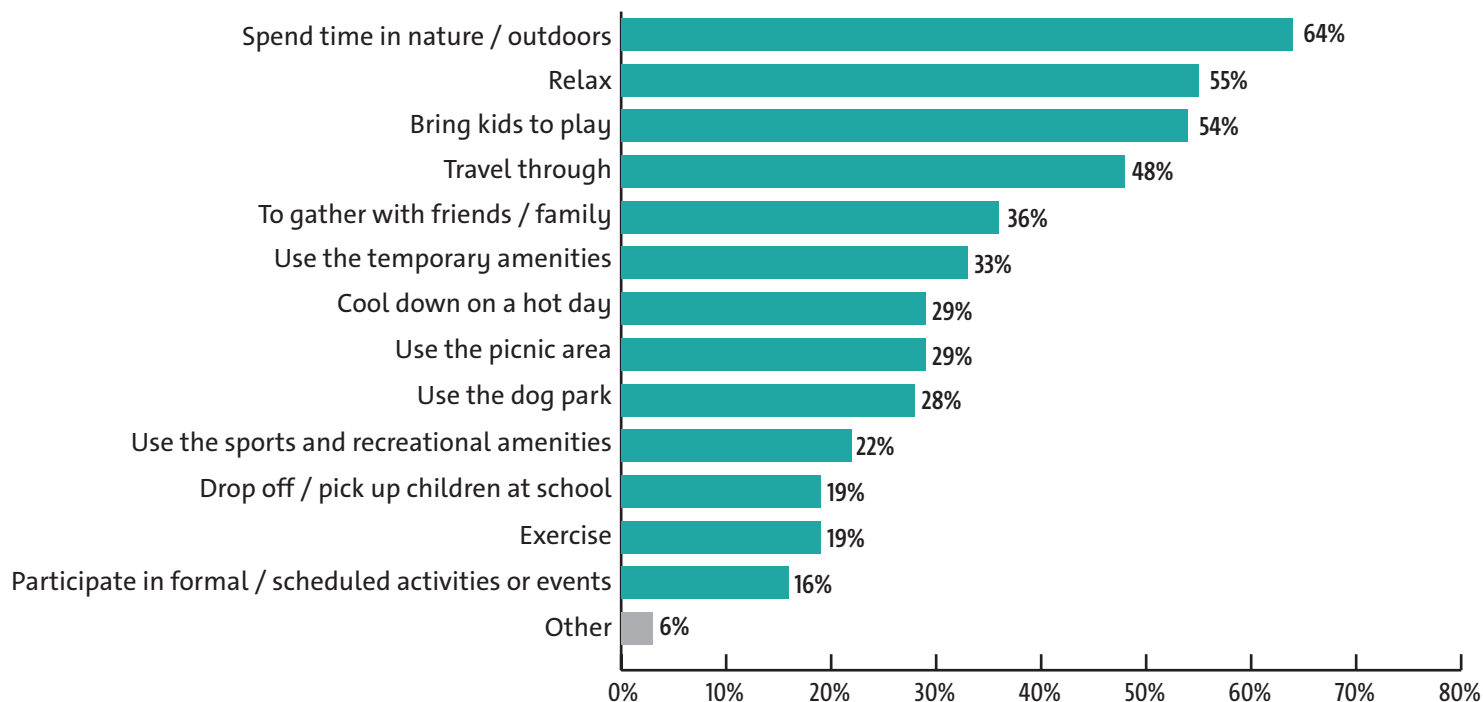
Walking is by far the most popular way to get to Glen Park.

Respondents shared all the ways in which they get to and from Glen Park. The top modes of transportation were:



Spending time in nature was the most popular reason for visiting the park.

While spending time in nature / the outdoors was the most popular reason for visiting Glen Park (**64%**), more than half of participants said they come to Glen Park to relax (**55%**) and for kids to play (**54%**).



Barriers to visiting the park more often included a lack of amenities and safety concerns.

While nearly half of respondents (**42%**) said they experienced no barriers to visiting Glen Park, the most common reasons for visiting less often were a lack of amenities and safety concerns.

- No barriers (**42%**)
- Lack of amenities (**38%**)
- Safety (**18%**)
- Difficulty finding parking (**10%**)
- Transit access (**1%**)

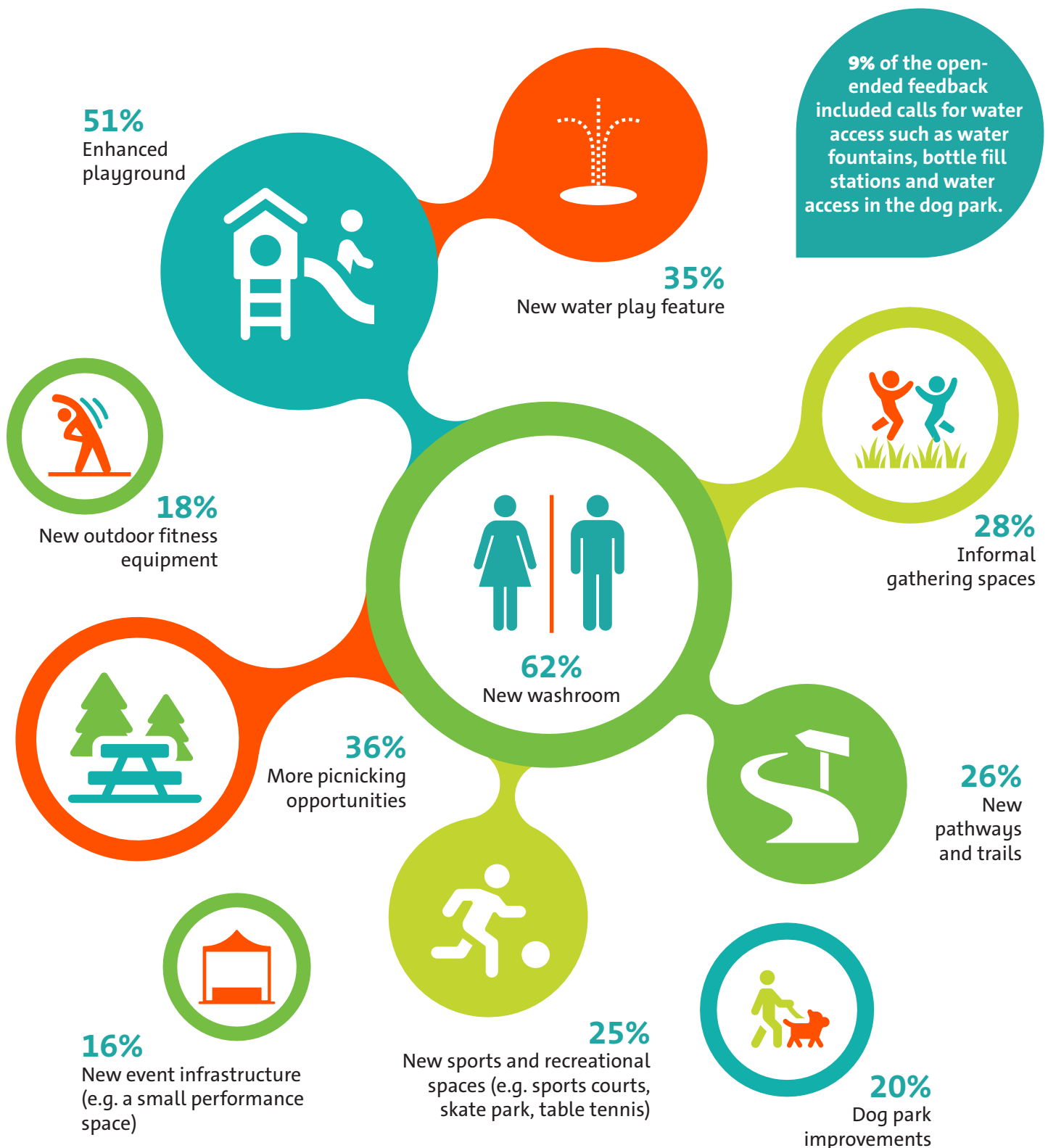
Of the **13%** of survey respondents who specified other reasons why they did not visit the park more often, the most commonly identified reasons included:

- Lack of washrooms (19 mentions)
- Lack of drinking water fountains including water source for dogs (10 mentions)
- Darkness / lack of lighting (9 mentions)
- Homelessness / drug use (6 mentions)
- Inaccessible curbs, paths and sidewalks, including lack of paved trails (5 mentions)

In the open-ended feedback, safety concerns related most often to lighting and visibility, while washrooms and water fountains were some of the most requested amenities.

Adding a washroom and enhancing the playground were the most popular future amenities.

We asked survey respondents to identify the potential future amenities that were the most important for their household, with the top ten being:



In open-ended feedback, improving park amenities and protecting natural areas remained top priorities.

Over **50%** of participants shared additional feedback about what they would like the project team to consider for Glen Park. The **top five categories** that emerged from the open-ended responses were:



48% New or updated amenity requests, with accessible washrooms as the top request



23% Calls to maintain/protect the forest, and/or expand tree canopy



21% Related to children and access to a variety of play opportunities, including playgrounds for a variety of age groups



20% The need to maintain open, wild, natural and/or passive green space



20% Safety related

In-person engagement feedback reflected survey feedback, with some small differences.

In addition to the survey, the City engaged **more than 150 participants** through other activities. Their feedback mostly matched the survey results, with a few unique contributions.

More than half (**55%**) of this unique feedback consisted of additional requests and ideas for amenities that participants would like to see in Glen Park, such as swing seating, passive recreation spaces and built-in games (e.g. chess and backgammon boards in tables, hopscotch).

Other feedback heard during in-person engagement that did not come up in the survey focused on:

- Activating the park through events and programming (**9%**) such as family story times, light shows, fireworks and holiday celebrations
- Improving transportation and park access (**9%**) with requests for bus frequency, additional crosswalks and road safety improvements (all of which are outside the scope of park improvements)
- Planting specific types of trees (**5%**) including oak, willow, cherry blossom, magnolia and drought tolerant species
- Enhancing safety and crime prevention measures (**5%**) ranging from speed limits to a community police outreach program at the park
- Adding specific seating and trail features (**2%**) such as seating away from the playground area, big swings for adults and a perimeter trail around the park

A notable difference between in-person and survey feedback was views about events in the park compared to concerns around noise in the park. During in-person engagement, a number of requests were expressed for more events (especially from Youth Council). In contrast, **4%** of the survey responses were from those living in close proximity to the park who had noise-related concerns (from events, activities or nighttime noise).

Next Steps

Balanced alongside technical studies (including arborist and geotechnical reports), preservation of the existing natural character, available budget and other approved City plans, the feedback received through the public engagement process will help to refine planned improvements for Glen Park.

Park improvements are being coordinated with nearby projects, including active transportation and road safety improvements along Pipeline Road.

Follow along at LetsTalkCoquitlam.ca/GlenPark for updates on future park improvements plans as they develop.

